

Children & Families Committee

Vital Signs Score Card

7. **Improvement Plan Progress Update**

Vital Signs Scorecard.

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RAG rating for actuals against targets (it is not appropriate to have targets for all indicators)	On target	Within 15% of target	More than 15% from target
Direction of travel shown between current and previous month (green indicates an improvement and amber indicates a decline)	▲	▼	

Indicators of Success

The indicators below will demonstrate change achieved

Rates are calculated using the 2023 ONS mid year population estimate 0-17 of 81,634 (Office of National Statistics) and are calculated as a rate per 10,000 children aged 0-17.

ID	Early Help and Front Door Responses - Early Help and Front Door information only	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target	SN av	Direction of travel
1	Number of Early Help / Front Door Referrals (in month)	628	683	690	776	602	691	661	560	384	527	403	Monitor	N/A	▼
2	Percentage of Early Help Assessments completed within 45 working days (in month)	87.0%	85.0%	82.0%	83.0%	90.0%	73.0%	84.0%	87.4%	94.0%	99.0%	96.0%	90.0%	N/A	▼
3	Percentage of Early Help episodes closed within the last 12 weeks who have been referred to Social Care (in month)	3.7%	4.7%	5.6%	4.2%	4.3%	3.8%	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	3.2%	7.5%	Below 8%	N/A	▲
4	Number of children stepped down from Child In Need to Early Help (in month)	23	26	34	16	17	29	41	18	20	9	27	Monitor	N/A	▲
5	Number of ChECS Contacts (in month)	1,036	687	749	900	642	865	935	747	817	933	912	Monitor	N/A	▼
6	Percentage of repeat contacts where previous contact was within previous 12 months (in month)	55.5%	53.4%	53.7%	51.6%	55.2%	53.1%	53.8%	50.8%	44.5%	46.1%	45.4%	Monitor	N/A	▼
7	Percentage of ChECS Contact decisions made within one working day (in month)	77.7%	86.5%	91.4%	86.7%	90.6%	95.3%	77.2%	89.6%	91.7%	93.3%	84.7%	90.0%	N/A	▼
8a	Number of Referrals (in month)	193	170	209	248	192	214	226	181	216	223	255	Monitor	N/A	▲
8b	Percentage of referrals leading to 'No Further Action' (in month)	10.0%	4.7%	2.9%	4.8%	8.3%	9.8%	10.2%	2.8%	0.5%	1.8%	0.3%	below 10%		▼
9a	Percentage of visits within 5 working days of referral (in month)	57.0%	80.8%	55.7%	57.7%	65.6%	61.8%	68.4%	58.3%	57.7%	50.8%	64.8%	90.0%	N/A	▲
9b	Percentage of referral visits within 10 working days of referral (in month)	68.0%	86.0%	70.0%	74.0%	81.0%	75.0%	84.0%	79.0%	77.0%	74.0%	82.0%	90.0%	N/A	▲
10	Percentage of re-referrals within previous 12 months (rolling 12 months)	23.0%	17.0%	16.0%	17.0%	18.0%	17.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	below 18%	19%	◀ ▶
11	Percentage of single assessments leading to closure (in month)	25.4%	40.5%	42.1%	44.0%	42.8%	53.7%	52.5%	43.0%	42.8%	48.6%	46.9%	Monitor	N/A	▼
12	Percentage of single assessments closed with outcome of Early Help	14.9%	7.9%	13.3%	11.9%	12.5%	7.8%	16.4%	13.6%	21.1%	6.9%	17.5%	Monitor	N/A	▲
13	Percentage/ number of strategy discussions held within 48 hours of referral date	51.9%	78.8%	63.5%	69.4%	52.3%	71.1%	80.6%	69.6%	83.7%	67.8%	60.8%	90.0%	N/A	▼
14	Percentage of strategy discussions with the outcome 'Section 47 enquiry required' (in month)	66.9%	68.9%	79.6%	67.9%	62.7%	59.7%	75.9%	78.5%	62.2%	68.5%	71.7%	Monitor	N/A	▲
15	Percentage of authorised Section 47 Enquiries with the outcome 'Convene initial child protection conference' (in month)	43.9%	50.0%	15.2%	33.3%	20.6%	27.1%	24.4%	16.1%	21.7%	24.1%	20.0%	Monitor	N/A	▼

Narrative:
ID 7: There has been a drop in the number of contacts resulting in a referral where the decision was within one working day. These will be srutinised to understand what led to the delay in decision making and to ensure there was no risk to individuals as a result.
ID 9b: There is a significant improvement in the timeliness of visits within 10 days of referral and being evidenced on the young persons record promptly.
ID 13: There has been a drop in the % of Strategy discussions being held within 48hrs where an immediate strategy discussion is required from referral. Again we need to ensure that this isn't putting individuals at additional risk.

ID	Robust and effective social work practice - All of CYPFS	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target	SN av	Direction of travel
16	Rate of Children in Need (CIN) per 10,000 children (month end snapshot)	100.8r	101.8r	106.2r	112.5r	118.8r	109.4r	100.4r	106.2r	108.4r	126.4r	135.9r	Monitor	N/A	▲
17	Rate of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP) per 10,000 children (month end snapshot)	34.9r	36.0r	34.1r	34.9r	35.0r	34.8r	34.3r	32.4r	30.4r	29.3r	28.9r	Monitor	38r	▼
18	Rate of Cared for Children (CIC) per 10,000 children (month end snapshot)	64.7r	64.5r	66.0r	66.4r	65.6r	68.5r	68.6r	68.6r	67.5r	67.3r	67.3r	Monitor	64r	◀ ▶
19a	Percentage of single assessments completed within 45 working days (in month)	83.1%	75.3%	63.5%	80.4%	75.3%	61.6%	74.4%	82.0%	66.5%	65.2%	76.0%	90.0%	87%	▲
19b	Percentage of single assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	83.1%	79.7%	74.7%	76.2%	76.1%	72.8%	73.1%	74.0%	73.2%	72.5%	72.8%	90.0%	87%	▲
19c	Percentage of single assessments completed within 45 working days (rolling 12 months)	82.8%	84.0%	84.3%	86.0%	85.1%	81.8%	80.2%	80.1%	78.4%	75.7%	74.0%	90.0%	87%	▼
20	Percentage of children seen during assessment (completed in month)	98.6%	93.9%	96.6%	93.8%	98.0%	95.0%	97.80%	96.2%	99.1%	97.60%	98.2%	95.00%	N/A	▲
21	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of Strategy Discussion (in month)	80.9%	85.4%	100.0%	69.3%	76.0%	80.0%	93.9%	64.7%	66.7%	82.9%	71.4%	90.0%	79%	▼
22	Percentage of current children subject to Repeat Child Protection Plans within 2 years (month end snapshot)	13.6%	13.4%	14.3%	13.5%	14.6%	11.3%	9.2%	9.8%	9.7%	8.4%	7.2%	below 15%	N/A	▼
23	Percentage of children who have a closed Child Protection plan open for 2 years or more (year to date)	2.2%	1.3%	1.0%	1.5%	1.3%	2.7%	4.6%	4.1%	3.6%	3.1%	2.9%	below 4%	4%	▼
24	Number of children with a missing episode(s) in month	52	53	61	55	56	47	59	53	49	46	44	Monitor	N/A	▼
25	Contextual Safeguarding - Number of Current Children with an active exploitation Flag (month end snapshot)	33	32	38	41	44	43	44	47	48	53	52	Monitor	N/A	▼
26	Percentage of PLO (Public Law Outline) concluding within 16 weeks	50.0%	0.0%	57.1%	60.0%	28.6%	28.6%	66.7%	66.6%	40.0%	14.3%	12.5%	90.0%	N/A	▼

Narrative:

ID 19a: There is a considerable improvement in the timeliness of assessments in the month of February. Timely assessments is the first indication that individuals are having their needs addressed quickly and that plans can be put in place to support.

ID 21: Initial Child Protection Conference timescales continue to be variable. This can result in delays in the right plans being put in place to support vulnerable families. We need to be confident that appropriate safety plans are in place to mitigate any escalating risks.

ID 22: There is a positive reduction in the % of children with a repeat Child Protection Plan. This is an indicator that previous work has either resulted in lasting improvements or alternatively that where necessary appropriate care proceedings have taken place.

ID 26: It is too early to see the impact of the court team however this will continued to be monitored to hopefully see an improvement in PLO timescales within the next 4-6mths.

ID	At risk of Care, Cared for and Care Experienced Children and Young People - All of CYPFS	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target	SN av	Direction of travel
27	Number of admissions to care in month	13	15	27	22	10	29	13	26	12	23	15	Monitor	N/A	▼
28	Number of discharges from care in month	26	17	19	11	16	13	13	24	20	24	13	Monitor	N/A	▼
29	Number of unregistered placements – Under 16 (month end snapshot)					3	2	1	2	2	3	3	0	N/A	◀ ▶
30	Number of unregistered placements – Age 16+ (month end snapshot)					0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	N/A	◀ ▶
31	Number of residential placements (month end snapshot)	44	47	46	42	42	40	41	42	44	49	50	Monitor	N/A	▲
32	Number of children subject to Police Protection Powers (PPP) who entered care in month	1	2	8	5	2	8	7	8	4	5	3	0	N/A	▼
33	Percentage of discharges from care to Special Guardianship Order (rolling 12 months)	12.1%	12.0%	12.9%	11.4%	11.1%	10.3%	9.0%	10.3%	10.6%	13.4%	12.9%	13.0%	10%	▼
34	Number of Special Guardianship Orders in place												Monitor	N/A	

35a	Number of Children in "in house" foster care provision (inc Kinship)	228	227	242	239	238	246	251	249	241	239	235	Monitor		▼
35b	Number of Children in IFA Placements	123	122	119	123	119	115	121	118	114	124	121	Monitor		▼
35c	Percentage of children placed with 'in house' foster carers (month end snapshot)	65%	65%	68%	66%	66.7%	68.1%	67.5%	67.8%	67.9%	65.8%	66.0%	60.0%	N/A	▲
35d	Total number of Mainstream Fostering Households							74	75	73	73	73	Monitor	N/A	◀ ▶
35e	Total number of approved Kinship Households							65	56	56	52	48	Monitor	N/A	▼
35f	Total number of Fostering Households							138	131	128	124	121	Monitor	N/A	▼
36	Short Term Placement Stability (month end snapshot)	13.0%	12.0%	12.0%	13.1%	13.0%	13.3%	12.4%	11.5%	11.1%	11.7%	11.1%	11.0%	N/A	▼
37	Long Term Placement Stability (month end snapshot)	64.6%	63.9%	61.5%	60.9%	61.5%	62.9%	65.3%	66.1%	67.4%	67.6%	67.6%	70.0%	N/A	◀ ▶
38a	Percentage of Initial Health Assessment Reports completed within month where paperwork was received from CE within 5 working days of admission to care	91.0%	56.0%	54.0%	26.0%	62.5%	35.0%	30.0%	60.0%	77.8%	55.6%	NYC	85.0%	N/A	▼
38b	Percentage of Initial Health Assessment Reports completed within month that were completed within 20 working days of admission to care	77.0%	66.7%	52.0%	50.0%	50.0%	36.0%	36.4%	60.0%	81.8%	52.4%	NYC	85.0%	N/A	▼
39	Percentage of children in care with health checks up to date	82.0%	81.0%	83.0%	84.0%	84.0%	84.0%	83.0%	83.0%	86.0%	90.0%	92.0%	90.0%	85%	▲
40	Percentage of children in care with dental checks up to date	71.0%	74.0%	82.0%	78.0%	75.0%	62.0%	62.0%	59.0%	57.0%	68.0%	62.0%	70.0%	75%	▼
41	Percentage of children in care with optical checks up to date													N/A	
42	Percentage of children in care with immunisations up to date						57.0%	55.0%	54.0%	53.0%	53.0%	54.0%	monitor	N/A	▲
43	School attendance rate for children known to Social Care - statutory school age in Cheshire East schools only (month end snapshot for academic year)	previous academic year				Not reported	87%	87%	87%	86%	86%	86%	89.0%	N/A	◀ ▶
44	Number of Children in Care without a School Placement - statutory school age					Not reported	5	3	3	3	5	7	0	N/A	▲
45	Number of Children in Care with a Current Suspension - statutory school age					Not reported	11	15	27	32	36	38	monitor	N/A	▲
46	Number of Children in Care with a Current Permanent Exclusion - statutory school age					Not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	◀ ▶
47a	Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17 to 18 in Education, Employment or Training (month end snapshot)	75.0%	77.0%	76.0%	77.0%	81.0%	75.0%	70.0%	74.0%	76.0%	74.0%	69.0%	77.0%	66%	▼
47b	Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17 to 18 in Suitable Accommodation (month end snapshot)	94.0%	94.0%	95.0%	93.0%	92.0%	93.0%	93.0%	99.0%	97.0%	97.0%	98.0%	95.0%	87%	▲
48a	Percentage of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 in Education, Employment or Training (month end snapshot)	58.0%	64.0%	62.0%	57.0%	56.0%	55.0%	59.0%	61.0%	66.0%	68.0%	66.0%	60.0%	56%	▼
48b	Percentage of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 in Suitable Accommodation (month end snapshot)	95.0%	95.0%	92.0%	88.0%	88.0%	86.0%	92.0%	95.0%	97.0%	97.0%	95.0%	95.0%	87%	▼

Narrative:

ID 29 & 30: As at the end February the 5 unregistered placements were all specialist provision inspected by CQC and had been notified to Ofsted.

ID 36&37: The short term placement stability has shown a slight improvement with the long term stability remaining steady. This is important to ensure that young people are in a stable home enviroment which improves opportunities for improved education and life outcomes.

ID39: There is a continued improvement in the % of our cared for young people having received an annual health check. Again good health support is cruical for improved life chances.

ID	Quality Assurance and Audit (safeguarding) - All of CYPFS	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target	SN av	Direction of travel
49	Timeliness of Reviews of Child Protection Plans (month end snapshot)	93.3%	98.6%	79.1%	94.9%	86.3%	75.0%	93.4%	92.9%	97.0%	91.9%	90.0%	90-95%		▼
50	Timeliness of Reviews of Children in Care (month end snapshot)	69.7%	79.3%	80.0%	81.5%	65.8%	63.4%	68.4%	78.0%	74.0%	77.1%	71.1%	90-95%		▼
51	Number of Informal quality assurance practice alerts	26	11	8	5	1	3	0	1	3	7	11	Monitor		▲
52	Number of formal quality assurance practice alerts	4	7	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	Monitor		▼
53	Number of good pratice alerts	13	10	0	4	10	3	8	9	5	4	7	Monitor		▲

Narrative:
ID 49: Although a small dip, timeliness of Child protection plan reviews remains in the 90% + bracket for the 5th consecutive month
ID 51&52: Whilst there has been a further increase in informal practice alerts we are not seeing an increase in formal alerts, suggesting that challenge is being addressed and resolved. It is important to highlight where there are issues in order to ensure practice can improve and young people are properly supported.

ID	Quality Assurance and Audit (auditing) - All of CYPFS	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target	SN av	Direction of travel
	<i>Month audit was allocated</i>	<i>Mar-24</i>	<i>Apr-24</i>	<i>May-24</i>	<i>Jun-24</i>	<i>Jul-24</i>	<i>Aug-24</i>	<i>Sep-24</i>	<i>Oct-24</i>	<i>Nov-24</i>	<i>Dec-24</i>	<i>Jan-25</i>			
54	Overall number of collaborative audits completed (reporting is one month in arrears due to delays in completing audits)	Not reported due to new moderation process	6	6	12	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	6 per month	N/A	◀ ▶
55	Overall percentage of audits completed within timescale		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	83%	67% (4)	100%	N/A	▼
56	Overall percentage of audits graded as good or better following moderation		0%	0%	8% (1)	17% (1)	17% (1)	0%	50% (3)	17% (1)	33% (2)	25% (1)	80%+	N/A	▲
57	Overall percentage of audits graded as 'does not yet meet good' following moderation		100% (5)	100% (5)	92% (11)	83% (5)	83% (5)	100% (6)	50% (3)	83% (5)	67% (4)	75% (3)	Monitor	N/A	▲
58	The % of audits that were down graded at moderation		20% (2)	60% (3)	67% (8)	50% (3)	83% (5)	17% (1)	0%	0%	33% (2)	25% (1)	0%	N/A	▼
59	Overall number of family help audits completed on a quarterly basis	Process commenced in quarter 2					6				7		New	N/A	
60	Overall percentage of family help audits graded as good or better following moderation	Process commenced in quarter 2					83%				43%		New	N/A	
61	Overall percentage of family help audits graded as 'does not yet meet good' following moderation	Process commenced in quarter 2					17%				57%		New	N/A	
62	The % of family help audits that were down graded at moderation	Process commenced in quarter 2					0%				0%		New	N/A	
63	Overall number of thematic audits completed in a month	Process commenced in quarter 2					12				NA		NA	New	N/A
64	Overall percentage of thematic audits graded as good or better following moderation	Process commenced in quarter 2					17%				NA		NA	New	N/A
65	Overall % of thematic audits graded as does not meet good or better	Process commenced in quarter 2					83%				NA		NA	New	N/A
66	The % of thematic audits that were down graded at moderation	Process commenced in quarter 2					8%				NA		NA	New	N/A
67	Overall number of Multiagency audits completed	Process commenced in quarter 2					5				27		New	N/A	

Narrative:

Data has only been received for collaborative audits this month. Moving forward Family Help audits will be completed on a monthly basis which will support more regular oversight of case work across the different service areas.

ID	A Stable and able workforce - All of CYPFS	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Target		Direction of travel
68	Early Help / Targeted Support - Average Caseload												Monitor		
69	Children's Social Work - CIN/CP Average Caseload	22	22	22	24	23	24	19	19	20	21	22	Monitor		▲
70	Children's Disability Team - Average Caseload	23	17	15	18	19	23	21	25	22	21	22	Monitor		▲
71	Cared for Children Service - Average Caseload (not inc Fostering Service))	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	Monitor		◀ ▶
72	Care Leavers - Average Caseload	14	16	14	14	14	14	14	15	14	16	16	Monitor		◀ ▶
73	Unallocated cases at month open where referral is over 3 working days						9	10	1	11	1	4	Monitor		▲
74	Percentage of Social Workers with more than 20 children allocated (month end snapshot)	45.3%	43.8%	45.8%	50.6%	53.8%	55.6%	36.7%	37.4%	42.4%	39.6%	48.4%	Monitor		▲
75	Percentage of Case Supervisions in time – CIN/CP Teams (month end snapshot (all workers))				52.5%	40.1%	79.0%	73.0%	66.0%	59.0%	62.0%	65.0%	Monitor		▲
76	Percentage of Case Supervision's in time – Cared for Team (month end snapshot (all workers))				59.0%	64.0%	64.0%	56.0%	60.0%	52.0%	58.0%	55.0%	Monitor		▼
77	Percentage of Case Supervision's in time – Care Leavers Service (month end snapshot (social workers))				63.0%	57.0%	98.0%	67.0%	66.0%	43.0%	61.1%	40.0%	Monitor		▼
78	Percentage of Case Supervision's in time – Care Leavers Service (month end snapshot (PA's))					67.0%	94.0%	74.0%	75.0%	69.0%	68.0%	78.0%	Monitor		▲
79	Percentage of Case Supervision's in time – Children's Disability Team (month end snapshot (all workers))				86.0%	77.0%	68.0%	79.0%	70.0%	73.0%	76.0%	63.0%	Monitor		▼
80	Percentage of Case Supervision's in time – Court team (month end snapshot (all workers))											34.0%	Monitor		
81	Percentage of Foster Carer Supervision – Fostering Service (month end snapshot)						89.0%	79.6%	90.0%	82.4%	76.0%	87.2%	Monitor		▲
82	Turnover rate for Social Workers (month end snapshot)	15.0%	14.4%	14.6%	21.8%	19.6%	24.7%	16.7%	18.5%	18.5%	21.1%	24.2%	Monitor		▲
83	Vacancy rate for Social Workers (month end snapshot)	22.4%	28.8%	29.9%	32.2%	27.6%	28.8%	26.5%	26.5%	25.6%	23.6%	28.7%	Monitor		▲
84	Sickness Average Days Lost Per FTE (Rolling Year) - CYPFS department as a whole	6.00	6.76	6.04	6.53	6.87	6.76	11.26	10.57	10.85	10.05	12.42	Monitor		▲

Narrative:

ID 69-72: Average case loads continues to be a fine balance as one busy week can result in short tem increases. The slight increase has also had an adverse impact on ID 74 with more workers having a case load of more than 20 young people.

ID 75-81: Supervision timeliness continues to remain variable and remains a key focus of the CSLT Performance board

ID 82-83: There has been an increase in both turnover and vacancy rate for Social Workers in Feb, which will require close monitoring to ensure this doesn't result in continued increase of case loads together with undue pressure on remaining worker.

ID 84: The sickness days lost reports were rebuilt in October as it was identified the reports only included episodes opened and closed in a period and excluded any ongoing absense episodes. As a result from October we are reporting a truer picture.

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