

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	12/10/2020
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 5 2020/21 (August 2020)	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services (DCCS)	For Information
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Summary

This report updates Members on service performance across the Children and Families Service.

It demonstrates where performance meets our statutory obligations and targets, and identifies where action was taken for improvement in specific areas.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Children and Families Service at the City of London Corporation provides a range of services including Early Help, child protection, and supporting care leavers.
2. The service collects and monitors a range of performance information to ensure that statutory duties are being met, and that services are delivering the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families.
3. Appendix 1 presents the performance dashboard from 1 April 2020 to the end of month 5 (August) 2020/21. It provides an overall summary of performance in each of the service areas, and then more detailed information in each area.
4. Appendix 2 provides a glossary of some of the terms used in the performance dashboard.

Current Position

5. Overall, performance across the service is good, meeting a range of statutory requirements and local targets, and comparing well with regional or national benchmarks.
6. It should be noted that, due to small numbers in the City of London Corporation, there can sometimes be significant fluctuations in percentage out-turns. These are noted where this is an issue.

Headlines

7. Levels of demand have decreased since the end of 2019/20. In 2019/20, contacts were running at 26 per month (314 at year end), whereas 21 per month were received to the end of August 2020 (104 in total). The number of children in need has also decreased from 40 at the end of 2019/20, to 31 at the end of August 2020 (a 22.5% decrease).
8. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 national lockdown on daily life, there has been good performance on visits to children and young people in the City of London. For example, 100 visits to children in need were recorded up to the end of August 2020, compared to 97 in 2019/20. There were also 52 Child Protection visits in the system in the five months to August 2020, compared to 101 for the full 2019/20 year.
9. The number of children looked after by the City of London also decreased from 24 at the end of 2019/20, to 18 at the end of August 2020. Sixteen of these young people (89%) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 24 contacts at the end of 2019/20 (8% of the 314 contacts received at the front door), whereas only five had passed through the MASH by the end of August 2020 (5% of contacts overall). There were six Early Help referrals in total to the end of 2019/20, none of which were step-downs from Children's Social Care; and there were three at the end of August 2020, two of which were step-downs.
11. At the end of August 2020, 82% (18) of the 22 assessments authorised in the 2020/21 period were completed within 45 days. This compares with 78% (53 from 67) in the year 2019/20. There had previously been some issues in relation to the timeliness of assessments and the completion of pathway plans at certain points during that year. These were addressed by additional resources, and the trajectory for both is now back on track.
12. Eight young people became care leavers in the period from the end of 2019/20 to the end of August 2020. The number of care leavers in total is 40, which represents an increase of 25% in the intervening period.

Conclusion

13. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1 April to 31 August 2020, comparing it to the previous year's performance and other benchmarks where appropriate.
14. It demonstrates strong performance across the service, with some specific areas where some action was taken for improvement. These areas are all now back on a positive trajectory.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Children and Families Service Performance Dashboard August 2020/21
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard

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