

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	12/05/2022
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 11 2021/22 (February 2022)	Public Appendix 1 & 2: non-Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2 and 3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

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 to 28 February 2022 month 11 (February) 2021/22. 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 children's services cohorts in the City of London Corporation, there can sometimes be significant variance in out-turns. These are noted where this is an issue.

Headlines

7. Levels of demand increased further since the end of Quarter 3 (Q3) 2021/22. At the end of Q3 there were 160 contacts compared to 139 in Q2. In January and February, there were 47 and 55 contacts respectively. Year to date there have been 518 contacts compared to 257 for the whole year 2020/21.
8. Whereas the number of Children in Need in the City of London decreased further, from 15 at the end of Q2 to eight at the end of Q3 2021/22, there were 11 Children in Need in January and February 2022.
9. Visits to Children in Need have remained fairly constant at 22 in Q2 and 35 in Q3 2021/22 and then 11 in both January and February 2022.
10. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the quarters (Q1 –19; Q2 – 16; and Q3 – 12). At the end of February, the number of CLA was 11. Of these, 82% were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).
11. There were 48 CLA visits in Q2 2021/22 and 41 in Q3. In January and February, there were 14 and eight visits respectively, so the trajectory is that there will be fewer visits overall for Q4.
12. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded four contacts in February 2022, with 7% of the 55 contacts received at the front door. For the year to date, 22 of the 518 contacts (4%), had passed through the MASH.
13. There were eight Early Help referrals in Q2 and 16 in Q3. In January there were three referrals, and six in February. Year to date there have been 34 Early Help referrals compared to 12 in 2020/21. Many of the referrals reflect the support provided to families as part of the Afghan Resettlement Programme.

14. At the end of Q3, 92% (23 from 25 assessments) in the period were authorised within 45 days. Year to date, 47 out of 50 assessments were authorised in 45 days (94%).
15. There were 55 care leavers at the end of February, compared to 53 at the end of Q3, and 47 at the end of Q2. For comparison, there were 42 as of 31 March 2021.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. Financial implications – N/A
17. Resource implications – N/A
18. Legal implications – N/A
19. Risk implications – N/A
20. Equalities implications – Monitoring intelligence on all of our social care processes and associated demographics allows us to assess and then investigate if there are any unintended impacts of any processes or practices. A more detailed analysis of this will be included in the end-of-year report.
21. Climate implications – N/A
22. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

23. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1 April to 28 February 2022, comparing it to the previous month, quarter or year's performance and other benchmarks where appropriate.
24. 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 February YTD 2021/22 (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Non-Public)

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