

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	10/10/2022
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 4 2022/23 (July 2022)	Public Appendix 1 (Non-public) Appendix 2 (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 31 July (month 4 – July) 2022/23. It provides an overall summary of performance in each of the service areas and 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. Demand continues to be high and currently increasing. During the first quarter (Q1) of 2022/23 there were 196 contacts compared to 160 at the end of Q3 and 135 in Q4 of 2021/22. In July there were 56 contacts, in keeping with the trend. Overall there have been 252 contacts during this financial year (2022/23) compared to 551 overall for the full year 2021/22. This suggests that, overall, the rate of contacts could be higher for this year than last.
8. The number of Children in Need has also continued to increase from 18 at the end of the financial year 2021/22 to 22 at the end of Q1 in 2022/23.
9. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the quarters in 2021/22 (from 19 at the end of Q1 to 12 at the end of the financial year). Since then, numbers have been fairly constant and, at the end of July 2022, there were 13 CLA. Of these, 77% were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded four contacts in July 2022, with 7% of the 56 contacts received at the front door. For the year to date, nine of the 252 contacts (4%) had passed through the MASH.
11. There were 30 Early Help referrals in Q1 of 2022/23. In July there were seven referrals. June saw a particularly high rate of 24.2. Year to date there have been 37 Early Help referrals compared to 40 in 2021/22. Many of the referrals reflect the support provided to families as part of the Afghan Resettlement Programme.

12. At the end of Q4 2021/22 and Q1 2022/23, 100% of assessments in the period were authorised within 45 days. Year to date, all assessments (15) were authorised in 45 days (100%).

13. There were 55 care leavers at the end of July. This has been fairly constant since Q3 2021/22 but is an increase on the end of last year where, at the end of March 2021, there were 42 care leavers.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. Financial implications – N/A

15. Resource implications – N/A

16. Legal implications – N/A

17. Risk implications – N/A

18. 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.

19. Climate implications – N/A

20. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

21. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1 April to 31 July 2022, comparing it to performance from the previous month, quarter or year, and other benchmarks where appropriate.

22. 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 July YTD 2022/23 (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance

E: Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk