

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	09/02/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Children and Families Service Performance – Month 7 2022/23 (October 2022)	<b>Public</b>  <b>Appendix 1 (Non-public)</b>  <b>Appendix 2 (Public)</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	<b>1, 2 and 3</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Clare Chamberlain, Interim Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> 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 October (month 7) 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 is continuing to increase. During the first and second quarters (Q1 and Q2) of 2022/23, there were 376 contacts and, in October, 70 contacts, in keeping with the trend. At the end of the first six months in 2021/22, the total number of contacts was 256. It is predicted that the total number of contacts for 2022/23 will be higher than the previous year, in keeping with an annual trend.
8. The number of Children in Need also continued to increase from 18 at the end of the financial year 2021/22 to 22 at the end of Q2 in 2022/23. However, it has decreased to 18 at the end of October 2022.
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 October 2022, there were 11 CLA. Of these, 55% were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded one contact in October 2022, with 1% of the 70 contacts received at the front door. For the year to date, 12 of the 446 contacts (3%) had passed through the MASH.
11. There were 39 Early Help referrals in quarters 1 and 2 of 2022/23. In October there were four referrals. June saw a particularly high rate of 24 referrals. Year to date there have been 43 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. Year to date, 91% of assessments were completed within 45 days. There has been variation across the months which can be a combination of factors, including the needs of the case, or awaiting information. In 2021/22 the year-end figure was 71%.

13. There were 57 care leavers at the end of October. 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. Strategic implications – This report represents a picture of the Children and Families Service which includes both statutory requirements and early intervention and prevention work (known as Early Help). The work of the service helps meet Corporate Plan Priorities 1, 2 and 3 for families, children and young people.

15. Financial implications – N/A

16. Resource implications – N/A

17. Legal implications – N/A

18. Risk implications – N/A

19. 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.

20. Climate implications – N/A

21. Security implications – N/A

### **Conclusion**

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

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

### **Ellie Ward**

Head of Strategy and Performance  
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1535

E: [Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk)