

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	19/06/2023
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 12 2022/23 (March 2023)	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: Judith Finlay Executive 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 March (month 12) 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 2022/23, there were 707 contacts – higher than the total number for 2021/22. This is in keeping with an annual trend but shows a significant increase.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the year from 24 in April 2022 to 19 at the end of March 2023. Over the year, there were 22 different children who were a child in need. This is consistent with the previous 2 years.
9. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the year from 13 in April 2022 to 9 in March 2023. However, over the year, there were a total of 21 different CLA. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 17 contacts in 2022/23 - 2% of the 707 contacts received at the front door – a lower rate than the previous two years (4% and 7%)
11. There were 53 Early Help referrals during 2022/23. June saw a particularly high rate of 24 referrals. The last two years (2021/22 and 2022/23) saw a particularly high number of referrals reflecting the support provided to families as part of the Afghan Resettlement Programme.
12. Overall, during the year, an average 90% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This is vast improvement on previous years.
13. There were 59 care leavers at the end of March 2023. This has been increasing over the year and is an increase on 54 at the end of 2021/22 and 41 in 2020/21.

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 2022 to 31 October 2023, 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 2022/23 (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

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