Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	16/04/2024
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 6 2023/24 (September 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 1st April to 31st December (month 9) 2023/24. 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.

<u>**Headlines**</u>

7. Demand continues to be high. In the first 9 months of 2023/24, there were 566 contacts. Based on this, it is estimated that there will be nearly 700 contacts over the year. This is similar to last year when there were 707, which was also higher than the total number for 2021/22. This is in keeping with an annual trend but shows a significant increase over 2021/22 and the estimate for this year.

8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the nine months from 19 in April 2023 to 17 at the end of December 2023.

9. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the three quarters from 12 in April 2023 to 7 in December 2023. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.

10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 19 contacts in the first 6 months of 2023/24 (3% of referrals). MASH contacts have already exceeded the number in 2022/23 which was 17.

11. There were 14 Early Help referrals in the first three quarters. It is estimated that the total number of referrals will be lower than the previous two years which saw a particularly high number of referrals reflecting the support provided to families as part of the Afghan Resettlement Programme.

12. Overall, during the three quarters, an average 81% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This is lower than the 90% average of 2022/23 but is an area that is being monitored.

13. There were 55 care leavers being supported at the end of December 2023. This has been increasing overall over time (42 at the end of 2020/21) but is a slight decrease on the end of March 2023 when the number was 59.

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 1st April 2023 to 31st December 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 2023/24 (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