

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	02/07/2024
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 12 2023/24 (March 2024)	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 March (month 12) 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.

Headlines

7. Demand continues to be high. Overall, in the Year 2023/24, there were 807 contacts. This is higher to last year when there were 707 contacts and in 2021/22, when there were 551 contacts.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the year from 19 in April 2023 to 15 at the end of March 2024.
9. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the year from 12 in April 2023 to 7 in March 2024. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 21 contacts in the Year 2023/24 (3% of referrals). MASH contacts exceeded the number in 2022/23 which was 17.
11. There were 16 Early Help referrals in the year 2023/24. The total number of referrals is 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 year 2023/24, an average 83% 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 March 2024. 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 March 2024, 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)

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