

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 3 2024/25 (June 2024)	Public – For information Appendix 1 (Non-public) – Appendix 2 (Public)
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes• provides statutory duties	Providing excellent services
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
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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 30th June (month 3) 2024/25. 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.

Key Data

7. Demand continues to be high. In the first 3 months of 2024/25, there were 196 contacts. Based on this, it is estimated that there will be nearly 800 contacts over the year. This is similar to last year when there were 807, which was also higher than the total number for 2022/23, which was 707.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the three months from 12 in April 2024 to 10 at the end of June 2024.
9. The number of Children in Care by the City of London Corporation remained the same over the first quarter – 7 CLA. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 5 contacts in the first 3 months of 2024/25 (3% of referrals). It is estimated that the total number of MASH contacts will be similar to the number in 2023/24 which was 21.
11. There were 9 Early Help referrals in the first quarter of 2024/25. It is estimated that the total number of referrals will be higher than 2023/24 but lower than the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 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 first quarter of 2024/25, an average 40% of assessments were completed within 45 days. at timescale out of time are related to a single family. This is lower than the 83% average of 2023/24 due to the assessments that were out of time are related to a single family.

13. Overall, in the first quarter of 2024/25, an average of 40% of assessments were completed within 45 days. The assessments exceeding the timescale were all related to a single family.

14. There were 53 care leavers being supported at the end of June 2024. This has been increasing overall over time (44 at the end of June 2021) but is a slight decrease on the end of June 2023 when the number was 56.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. 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 outcome 5 “Providing Excellent Services” of the Corporate Plan.

16. Financial implications – N/A

17. Resource implications – N/A

18. Legal implications – N/A

19. Risk implications – N/A

20. 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.

21. Climate implications – N/A

22. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

23. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024, comparing it to performance from the previous month, quarter or year, and other benchmarks where appropriate.

24. 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 2024/25 June (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

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