

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Safeguarding and SEND Sub Committee	Dated: 01/07/2025
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 12 2024/25 (March 2025)	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 2024 to 31st March 2025 (month 12). 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 2024/25, there were 709 contacts. This is lower to last year when there were 807, and is similar to the total number for 2022/23, which was 707.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over this year from 11 in April 2024 to 6 at the end of March 2025.
9. The number of Children in Care by the City of London Corporation has decreased during the year from 7 in April 2024 to 5 at the end of March 2025. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 16 contacts in the year 2024/25 (2% of referrals). This total number of MASH contacts is lower to the number in 2023/24 which was 21.
11. There were 24 Early Help referrals in year 2024/25. This total number higher than 2023/24 (16 referrals) 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 year 2024/25, an average 63% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This figure includes three assessments related to a single family that took 48 days to complete. This is lower than the 83% average of 2023/24 and the 90% average in 2022/23.
13. This performance represents a decline compared to previous years, with 83% completed on time in 2023/24 and 90% in 2022/23. The decrease highlights a need for further analysis and potential action to address delays and improve timeliness moving forward.

14. As of the end of March 2025, 49 care leavers were being supported. This represents a gradual decrease from 59 in March 2023 and 55 in March 2024.

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 31st March 2025, 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 March (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

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