

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Safeguarding and SEND Sub Committee	Dated: 13/10/2025
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Q1 2025/26	Public Report : For Information
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
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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 2025 to 30th June 2025 (Q1). 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 remains high but shows a gradual year-on-year decline. In the first three months of 2025/26, there were 166 contacts. If this trend continues, the total for the year is projected to be around 664 contacts. This is lower than last year's figure of 709, which was itself a decrease from 807 in 2023/24.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has increased over the three months from 6 in April 2025 to 14 at the end of June 2025.
9. The number of Children in Care by the City of London Corporation has increased during the quarter from 4 in April 2025 to 6 at the end of June 2025.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 1 contact in the first 3 months of 2025/26 (1% of referrals). It is estimated that the total number of MASH contacts in 2025/26 will be lower to the number in 2024/25 which was 16.
11. There were 2 Early Help referrals in the first quarter of 2025/26. It is estimated that the total number of referrals will be lower than the previous years (24 in 2024/25 and 16 in 2023/24).
12. In the first quarter of 2025/26, 100% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This marks a significant improvement compared to 63% in 2024/25 and 83% in 2023/24.
13. As of the end of June 2025, 48 care leavers were being supported. This represents a gradual decrease from 55 in March 2024 and 49 in March 2025.

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 outcome 5 "Providing Excellent Services" of the Corporate Plan.
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 2025 to 30th June 2025, 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 Q1 2025/26 (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

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