

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 26 July 2022

Report Title

CYPS Performance Report 2021/2022 Out-turn

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance and Quality, CYPS

sue.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 822511

Anne Hawke, Performance Manager, CYPS

anne.hawke@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 823246

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report includes the performance outturn for the reporting year April 2021 to March 2022 for Children and Young People's Services. It includes areas of performance that are working well alongside other areas where a continued focus is required.

Recommendations

The Improving Lives Select Commission is asked to:

1. Consider the CYPS Performance Scorecard for March 2022 (Out-turn 2021/2022) as attached – Appendix 1
2. Note that work is ongoing to simplify and improve Performance reporting, ensuring focus remains directed at key strategic (benchmarked) and operational (activity/demand) measures

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 CYPS Performance Report March 22

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

CYPS Performance Report 2021/2022 Out-turn

1. Background

- 1.1 This report evidences the council's commitment to improvement by providing performance information to enable the scrutiny of service achievement levels and the associated impact on the outcomes for children and young people. It should be read in conjunction with the appended performance data reports which provide trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages
- 1.2 It provides a summary of performance under key themes across Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) at the end of the 2021/2022 reporting year and represents the monthly report for March 2022.
- 1.3 Performance has been considered against local targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances. These are reviewed annually and are set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data and recent performance levels. It ensures focus on the effectiveness of services and achieving good outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.4 In addition to this annual report members are advised that strong operational performance management arrangements are in place across the service with a programme of Service and Team based performance meetings which are well embedded across early help and social care. On a monthly basis governance is provided by the CYPS Performance Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services and attended by the Directorate Leadership Team, Heads of Service from across the directorate along with the Head of Service, Performance and Quality and the CYPS Performance Manager. In addition to this an Assurance Day is held each quarter which also provides a quality focus as well as performance management including work undertaken by the Young Inspectors, the Practice Learning Days (PLDs) and the monthly audit programme. Scrutiny is also provided by the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) and Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP).
- 1.5 It is recognised that there are currently a significant number of performance measures (319 across different service areas) in CYPS. Work has commenced to look at a streamlined format of reporting that identifies those measures that it is important for elected members to know about, including those that are benchmarked and other key demand/activity measures, leaving the remaining measures to be used by the service as detailed management information. The new format will also include Education and Inclusion performance data as this is currently under development.
- 1.6 Consultation on the new reporting format has begun and progress is being made, with reporting due to commence at the end of quarter one.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Early Help and Family Engagement

Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2021/2022

- 2.1.1 Children and families can expect swift engagement from early help following a contact being made, with the timeliness rate of engagement remaining consistently high. In quarter 4; 85.0% of families were engaged within three working days of allocation, against a target of 75.0% (Quarter 3 figure 85.3%). For those families not engaged within three days (15 families); 13 were successfully engaged albeit after 3 days, one refused consent to work with early help and one moved outside of Rotherham. The 2021/22 engagement figure shows 88.8% of families engaged within the 3-day timescale.
- 2.1.2 Families can expect their assessment and plan to be completed in a timely manner and without drift and delay when working with early help. In quarter 4, performance in relation to the timeliness of early help assessments (EHA's) shows that 89.7% (131/146) were completed within 45 days against a target of 85% (Quarter 3 figure 88.2% (157/178). In 2021/22 figures show 91.4% of EHA's were completed within timescale.
- 2.1.3 In quarter 4, 36.7% of completed early help assessments (EHA's) were by partners (Quarter 3 figure 33.4%). The 2021/22 figure shows 28.9% of all EHA's were completed by partners, which is an increase on the 2020/21 figure of 22.2%. Schools continue to have the highest completion rate of EHA's from partners, submitting 80.8% of all partner assessments in 2021/22. Integrated working leads across the borough continue to provide support and oversight to partners completing EHA's.

The verified combined NEET and Not known outturn for 2021/22 is 4.9%. This measure is calculated as an average across the December, January, and February returns. This shows improvement on the 2020/21 outturn which was a combined figure of 5.6%. Draft comparison data for 2021/22 outturn shows that Rotherham's combined NEET and Not known figure of 4.9% is stronger than statistical neighbours at 5.8% and region at 5.3% whilst falling short of the national figure at 4.7%.

Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2021/2022

- 2.1.4 Registration rates at children's centres are below the Rotherham target of 95% (87%) but are 1% above quarter 4 in 2020/21. Whilst early help receives details of all new births in Rotherham the gap that was created due to the non-sharing of the list of all children under 5 registered with a Rotherham GP has hampered progress. However, we are delighted that this has now been resolved and from April 22 this data will be shared. Early help workers frequently attend the registrars to promote the range of children's centre services available to families registering the birth of their

new baby and encouraging them to register with a children's centre at the same time. An average of 30% of babies born at Rotherham hospital are registered with children's centres before the monthly new birth list is received from health colleagues, 6-10 weeks after birth. An online registration form has been available since August 2021 and has been used by 31.5% (332) of all new registrations since then, however an early help worker was with the family at 66.6% (221) of these when the online form was completed.

- 2.1.5 The latest available YOT data summary (YDS) from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) shows Rotherham first time entrants (FTE) at 225 which is related to October 20 to September 21 data. This was a rise when comparing with the same period the previous year, however this was expected as during that period courts were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic with court hearings deferred. We are reassured looking at the latest YDS data that the trend is reversing, and our rate of FTE is reducing.

2.2 **Children's Social Care**

Summary of what was working well against key measures during 2021/2022

- 2.2.1 At the end of quarter 4 (2021/22 year-end), we have seen a busy month in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) in terms of contacts received. March 22 saw 188 additional contacts to those received in February 22 and previous months. Prior to this peak in March 22, we have seen a steady decline from June 21. This reflects the work that is taking place within the MASH, as well as wider partnership work. It will be important to see how numbers are reflected in coming months as March may be an anomaly in terms of volume.
- 2.2.2 We have seen an overall reduction in the percentage of rereferrals in 12 months from 20.1% in April 21, to 16% at year-end. It is anticipated that this reduction is supported by more established practice of holding family network meetings and family group conferences to support families in supporting themselves, and robust safety plans at the point of ending social care involvement, allowing families to support themselves. This focus will need to continue.
- 2.2.3 The child exploitation cohort remains static with the majority of children categorised as high or medium risk and managed within the Evolve team. A number of young people who are open to Evolve are at high risk and require intensive support from Evolve and regularly have risk management meetings to manage the identified risk and safety plan.
- 2.2.4 During 2022, there has been some focused work on assessment timeliness across the locality service and looked after children (LAC) service. Overall timeliness for assessments completed in 45 days dropped to 76.4% in December 21, however the additional focus and management grip demonstrated during 2022 has seen the year-to-date figure rise to 88.8% which is positive. Performance in January, February and March 2022 was

consistently over 90% highlighting the impact the additional grip has had. This needs to continue to ensure timely assessments for children.

- 2.2.5 The number of children and young people on a child protection plan (CPP) have reduced and now stands at 475 children. Out of this cohort only 15% of the children have been on a plan in excess of 12 months which would be indicative of timely decision making for our most vulnerable children. When children have been on a plan over 12 months often this equates to a period of pre-proceedings work. Those children and young people who have been on a CPP beyond 12 months are the subject of regular service manager check and challenge facilitated by the safeguarding unit.
- 2.2.6 In quarter 4 we saw our population of children and young people we look after reducing to 562. This is because care plans to support permanence have come to fruition either through adoption, special guardianship orders (SGO), care arrangements orders (CAO) or discharge of care orders as children have successfully returned home to family. It is also because we are making stringent efforts to support children to remain at home with their families wherever and whenever it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- 2.2.7 Of our 562 looked after children, 9.3% had three or more placement moves within a 12-month period. The independent reviewing officer (IRO) pays particular attention to this cohort of children, ensuring that there is in-between monitoring of these children's plans.
- 2.2.8 There were 292 care leavers at the end of March 22, 96.6% of which were in suitable accommodation, 82.8% of eligible LAC and care leavers had an up-to-date pathway plan and 71.6% of care leavers were in employment, education, or training (EET).

Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2021/2022

- 2.2.9 The child in need population continues to remain stable showing a slight decrease in the period. Service managers continue to keep oversight of this work to ensure planning is purposeful for children and young people. Only 6% of this cohort have been open on a plan for 12 months or more which demonstrates little drift and delay. Those that are over 12 months continue to be the subject of service manager oversight and are deemed appropriate.
- 2.2.10 The number of children who have been the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent within 2 years has reduced slightly to 15%. Good performance (between 10 -15%) is generally low and it is also worth noting that a very low level may also mean that we are not submitting some children to a CPP who are in need. Conversely, a high level may suggest that the professionals responsible for the child's welfare are not intervening effectively to bring about the required changes. The current return is just inside the margin of 'good'.
- 2.2.11 The number of initial child protection conferences (ICPC's) held has been stable quarter on quarter (162 > 170), but a dip was seen in Q2 (133). This

coincides with the number of S47's initiated in Q2, and the percentage of S47's where the concerns of significant harm were substantiated, and child deemed to be at continuing risk of harm. It is not fully clear why this occurred in Q2, however the dip coincides with school summer holidays and so seasonal impact is a likely factor.

- 2.2.12 The timeliness of ICPC has declined at the end of each quarter throughout the year, Q1 (87%) Q2 (80.4%) Q3 (68.4%) Q4 (71.9%), with the lowest month being January 2022 at 34%. In comparison to previous years, 2019/20 (62.4%) 2020/21 (49.8%), the percentage as at the end of 2021/22 has ended higher than the previous two year. However, there is fluctuation throughout the year which requires remedial action and monitoring. Themes for late ICPC's include late requests and non-quoracy. To improve on the timeliness and create a consistency, an action plan has been agreed with Heads of Service (HoS) on timeliness of each stage of activity required for an ICPC, and further to that no ICPC will be stood down without the agreement of a HoS.
- 2.2.13 Placement stability continues to be an area of focus. While it is improving, analysis of placement breakdowns show there is additional work required to support carers grow and care for teenagers. This is both for in house carers as well as within Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs). There is also increasing awareness of the challenges all local authorities (LA's) are experiencing in the marketplace for sourcing homes. Further analysis is required as to the use of bridging placements to support searching for homes for children.
- 2.2.14 Placement sufficiency remains a key focus and Brightsparks continue to support us in recruitment work. Placement sufficiency also includes further consideration of developing the in-house residential offer. Two young people have recently moved into the new provision and are settling well. We are now seeking to increase the estate having recently placed an offer on one home as well as sourcing a further home. This will increase both the long-term provision as well as consolidate our approach to supporting children and young people at point of crisis for them and their families.
- 2.2.15 Dental assessments continue to be a concern, and an area of focus with the number of children with an up-to-date dental assessment remaining low at 44% at the end of Q4. Increasingly there is an awareness that despite efforts there is a commissioning issue within the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure appropriate numbers of National Health Service (NHS) dentists to commit to providing appointments for our children. Neglect accounts for 32% of child protection plans therefore it is fair to assume that there are children within the cohort of children without a dental assessment that have experienced neglect. The service manager is working with the looked after nurse and LAC service manager to ensure that those children receive a dental assessment, and any treatment they require. This is being addressed through the LAC Health and Emotional Well Being Partnership.

2.2.16 The average days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family rose to 292.2 at the end of March 2022. As previously noted we make every effort to secure permanence through adoption for children where there are additional complexities and consequently the A2 marker can be affected. For this last period the proceedings and final plans for 3 children been lengthened due to unique characteristics of this particular cohort which has impacted this measure.

2.3 **Education**

Summary of what was working well against key measures during Term1/Term2

2.3.1 The number of 2-year-olds taking up an early education place has followed the trend of previous years with the Spring take-up percentage slightly lower than the Autumn term. However, the take-up of 86.4% is the highest Spring take-up level since 2017. The % of LAC 2,3- and 4-year-old take-up remained strong with 100% children taking up an early education place during the term.

2.3.2 Performance across the primary and secondary School National Offer Days remained positive this year with Primary School National Offer Day (19th April 2022) achieving – 1st and 3 preference profile: 95.3% / 98.5% and Secondary School National Offer Day (1st March 2022) achieving - 1st and 3 preference profile: 93% / 97.5%.

Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2021/2022

2.3.3 The elective home education (EHE) cohort continues to increase and as of the Easter school holidays it stands at 382, which is currently a 90% increase since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the first 2 terms of the current academic year, 52 children have been supported to return to school from EHE and 126 involvements have resulted in children remaining in school where parents were considering withdrawal to EHE.

2.3.4 At the end of term 2 the percentage of LAC with an up-to-date personal education plan (PEP) had dropped well below expected levels to 78.7%, however, a number of PEPs were still being chased for final sign off before they could be counted in the final performance figures. The delay was significantly impacted by the school Easter holidays being off set in different authorities in 2022 essentially meaning that there were 3 weeks where staff had not been in school and the virtual school staff had been on leave. There is always a lag when reporting previous term data at the start of a term where virtual school staff are ensuring all PEPs have been completed and signed off. PEP meetings have been held for the majority of learners this term and once the paperwork is completed and signed off, the data will reflect this.

2.3.5 The Performance Team along with the Virtual School Heads re-ran the data in June 2022 and the refreshed performance figure for term 2 was 92.1%.

2.4 **Inclusion**

2.4.1 Ofsted conducted a SEND Inspection in July 2021, and the Inclusion service is currently working towards a written statement of action, set by the Department for Education (DfE) and monitored by the SEND executive Board.

2.4.2 There were 67 EHCP plans issued in quarter 4 with 28 of them being issued within the 20-weeks statutory timescale. This equates to 41.8% of EHCP plans being issued within timescale during quarter 4. An accumulative key performance indicator (KPI) for 20-week timeliness submitted as part of SEN 2 return in January was 62%.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 Members to consider the CYPS Performance Scorecard for March 2022 (Out-turn 2021/2022) as attached – Appendix 1

3.2 Members to note that work is ongoing to simplify and improve Performance reporting, ensuring focus remains directed at key strategic (benchmarked) and operational (activity/demand) measures.

4. **Consultation on proposal**

4.1 Consultation has begun with elected members in relation to a more streamlined approach to reporting performance.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 New arrangements for the reporting of performance to elected members to continue to be finalised and to commence with the quarter one report which will be submitted after the Quarterly Assurance Day on the 17th August 2022.

5.2 The Education and Inclusion scorecard to be finalised ready for the start of the Autumn term in September.

6. **Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

There are no financial implications with this report

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

There are no legal implications with this report

8. **Human Resources Advice and Implications**

There are no Human Resource implications with this report

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Performance and Quality assurance is a key element of the work of Children and Young Peoples services to ensure that outcomes are improved for Rotherham children and their families and that they are resilient, successful, and safe

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

There are no Equalities and Human Rights implications with this report

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

There are no CO₂, Emissions and Climate Change implications with this report

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people and their families via the Rotherham Local Children's Safeguarding Board (RLSCB), the CYPS Performance Board, the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Early Help Steering Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. All the Boards receive performance reports on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by Directorship Leadership Team and the ongoing performance meetings mitigate this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any dips in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

Accountable Officer(s)

David McWilliams, Assistant Director Early Help and Family Engagement
Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education & Inclusion

Report Author(s)

Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance and Quality, CYPS
sue.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 822511

Anne Hawke, Performance Manager, CYPS
anne.hawke@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 823246

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