

Children & Young People's Services

Improving Lives Select Commission

Performance report

2020/21 Quarter 3

Monday 22nd March 2021

Overview

- In the first 9 months of the current financial year (ending December 2020) the direction of travel for many indicators across is positive
- Since the national lockdown commenced the service has adapted to innovative and creative approaches
- HMIP Probation undertook a YOT inspection in September 2020 resulting in a judgement of Requires Improvement
- Ofsted undertook a Focussed Assurance Visit in October 2020, with no judgement but HMI were assured of response to pandemic
- A review of performance reporting across the Directorate is underway, which will include a review of existing scorecards and will include Education and Inclusion in future



Early Help & Family Engagement

What's working well

- Customer satisfaction remains consistently high with 100% of respondents in December rating their overall experience as 'good or excellent'
- 85.1% of families were contacted within three working days of allocation
- 92.9% of early help assessments that were in-scope were completed within 45 days during the month of December, higher than the previous quarter of 83.3%



Early Help & Family Engagement

What's working well

- In December 24.2% of early help assessments were completed by partners, (increase from 22.3% completed in November)
- The Troubled Families (Families for Change) PBR outcomes in this period were worked as one claim with 75 successful outcomes achieved which takes us to 6 ahead of schedule
- Youth offending team scaled approach contacts increased in December, with 87.5% (7 out of 8) being offered the required number of appointments in line with the intensity of the order
- Good progress against the HMIP inspection plan following the inspection, with over 50% of actions already completed.



Early Help & Family Engagement

Areas for Continued Development

- Delivering the required improvements needed in YOS, with Partners
- We are focusing on achieving our combined NEET/Not Known performance as in December we achieved 6.2% against a target of 5.8%, (6.4%) this time last year.
- We will continue to work towards increasing our Children's Centre registration rates for children living in our 30% most deprived areas, as current performance was 84% at the end of December which is below the target of 95%
- Continue to improve our PDR completion rate by the end of February (90.2% completed by the end of December).



Children's Social Care

What's working well

- The number of children in need (CiN) has fluctuated during the last year – with a high of 1284 in April 2020 to a low of 1040 in June 2020
- The number of children subject to a child protection plan as of December was 462, is a reduction of 14 children compared to October 2020
- Review Child Protection Conferences timeliness remains consistent and throughout December our review timeliness was 100%
- LAC numbers during Covid have held steady and despite the challenges up to Dec 2020 we have discharged 108 children from care



Children's Social Care

What's working well

- Looked after reviews continue to be completed in timescale in Q3. The move to virtual reviews has been a success during the pandemic, supporting and enabling wider engagement and less travel for staff and families
- Placement stability remains positive. In December, the number of children who had been in the same placement for 2 or more year rose to 68%
- There has been positive recovery in the number of adoptions finalised in this quarter (14 out of the year to date 26)



Children's Social Care

Areas for Continued Development

- Contacts with a decision made within 1 working day was 57.2% at the end of December. Work is ongoing to look at demand and process refinement
- Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC's) in timescale has been a challenge, with 38.1% held in December. This has improved significantly with January being 70% held within timescale, and will continue to be a focus
- The discharge of children from being looked after to permanence via a Special Guardianship Order has been low, after previous year on year improvement. In November this was at 7.4% with an increase in December to 11.7%. Focus continues as part of the Right child, Right Care programme of work
- This year's decline in dental checks is linked to Covid and the closure of dentists with performance in December being low at 20.7%. As dentists start to reopen this will be a priority



Inclusion

What's working well

- Timeliness of issuing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) continues to improve with 100% completed in time in December which has been helped by the implementation of the new system
- A significant number of children and young people have received ongoing support from Inclusion Services during recent school closures
- The majority of Year 6 transition reviews were carried out within statutory timescales. (85% completed by statutory deadline)
- Disability Family Support Team continue to meet their targets for timeliness of contacts and completion of initial assessments. (100% compliance)
- Numbers of EHCPs in Rotherham have been stable for the past 6 months (2371)
- Numbers of Tribunals remain low (currently 8)
- Timeliness of Statutory Assessments for EHCPs remains 100%



Inclusion

Areas for Continued Development

- Understanding the impact of Covid on young people with SEND and potential increase in demand for services
- There are 40 children in assessment for SEMH needs, this is becoming area of highest demand in Rotherham
- We will continue to progress Year 11 Transition Reviews are not yet complete and are due by 31st March 2021
- Continue to progress Annual Review recovery plan and monitor the efficacy of this (via reduction in Annual review backlog) including finalising the implementation of new case management system
- Recruitment to all vacant posts in Education, Health and Care Assessment Team (EHCAT) will support the above
- Continue to support schools with SEMH needs, including Recovery curriculum for children with V.I. / H.I. and Autism
- Continue to implement ISOS Review and SEND Sufficiency plans.
- Work with schools is ongoing to look at bespoke support in mainstream rather than move to special in first instance



Education

What's working well

- All statutory functions have continued across this term, where needed we have adapted our offers to work remotely, to continue to provide a high-quality service delivery model and statutory requirements
- During the first term Education facilitated and chaired 57 Covid 19 school/setting Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings, no currently at 72 meetings held
- The 'on time' applications for admissions rounds for entry to primary and secondary school for September 2021 are now closed and work is progressing towards national offer days for Secondary (1st March) and Primary (16th April). Rotherham's 1st preference and combined 3 preference profile has been above national and in-line with/above statistical neighbours in recent years
- Despite the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic and the number of bubble closures, attendance for the LAC cohort was 92.4%
- PEP completion has remained high at 95% with an improved representation of wider agencies involvement within planning



Education

Areas for Continued Development

- Emergency Regulation arrangements for admissions appeals have been extended to the end of September 2021 and DfE have indicated that this will be kept under review
- Ongoing work to secure capital from DfE Basic Need via annual school capacity survey and Section 106 developer contributions from new housing schemes
- Additional capacity is being provided for the Elective Home Education team whilst a review of service is completed
- Review childcare sufficiency and parental demand post Covid and work with existing and new providers where needed to meet needs
- Virtual school leading a focussed piece of work to increase the understanding of partner agencies of the corporate parenting role
- Developing the Virtual School team to include SEN specialist, to have strategic oversight of the SEN cohort and those on reduced provision
- Defined workstream to look at reduced timetables and develop strong practice around use



Questions?

