

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 25 July 2023

Report Title

CYPS Performance Report 2022/2023 Outturn

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Nicola Curley – Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Service

Report Author(s)

Anne Hawke, Head of Service, Performance and Quality, CYPS
01709 823246 Anne.Hawke@rotherham.gov.uk

Cathryn Woodward, Interim Performance Manager, Performance and Quality, CYPS
01709 334236 cathryn.woodward@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report includes the performance outturn for the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023 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

Your recommendations should be clear about what approval is being sought. If your recommendations are not clear to decision makers and others reading this report, it may be that you don't get the decision you need.

Your recommendations should be worded in the style below:

1. It is recommended that Members consider and accept the CYPS Annual Performance Report and accompanying scorecard for the outturn 2022/2023.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 CYPS Performance – Members Scorecard – Q4 (March 2023)

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 2022/2023 Outturn

1. Background

- 1.1 This report evidences the council's commitment to improvement by providing performance information which enables 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 report, which provide trend data, graphical analysis, and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 1.2 The report provides a summary of performance under key themes across Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) including Early Help and Family Engagement, Social Care, Education and Inclusion at the end of the 2022/2023 reporting year and represents the monthly report for March 2023.
- 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 the directorate. 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 During 2022/2023 a review of existing performance reporting arrangements for Members was undertaken by the CYPS Leadership team, Councillor Cusworth (Lead Cabinet Member for CYPS), Councillor Clark (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB)). This work led to the streamlining of key performance data and a new scorecard was agreed. A workshop was carried out with Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission (with OSMB Members invited) in March 2023 and the new arrangements are now in place (see appendix 1 for the new scorecard).

2. Key Issues

2.1 Early Help and Family Engagement

- 2.1.1 Overall, there was increase in demand for early help services in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. The increase in contacts inevitably increased assessments, step downs and step ups overall.
- 2.1.2 To reflect increased demand, we provided more parenting courses to support families, with an increased percentage completing the courses. We also provided more family group conferences following increased referrals being accepted and continued to provide an edge of care service to provide intensive family support
- 2.1.3 Whilst we had increased demand, performance sustained in many areas, and improved in others.
- 2.1.4 **Summary of what was working well against some Early Help key measures during 2022/2023**
- 2.1.5 In 2022/23 we continued providing children and families with swift engagement on accessing our service. Our contacts into the front door for Early Help (including step downs, co-working requests, and partner recording) increased from 2470 during 2021/2022 to 3133 in 2022/2023. Of those that progressed to an Early Help episode (758 from 534 in 2021/2022), month on month we exceeded the target of 75% of those receiving initial contact within 3 working days of allocation, and although we had an increase in demand, we improved from 88.8% last year to 89.3% this year.
- 2.1.6 The increase continued with assessments climbing from 683 in 2021/22 to 755 in 2022/23. Although we didn't quite reach last year's very high level of 91.4% of assessments complete in time, families could still expect their assessment and plan to be completed without drift and delay, as performance remained above the 85% target at 87.6%. During the year, one quarter of assessments were completed by our partners (25.6%).
- 2.1.7 With more coming through the front door of the service, we also had an overall increase in step downs in 2022/23 at 367 compared to 322 in 2021/22.
- 2.1.8 During 2022/2023, 92% of children aged 0-5 living in the 30% most deprived areas were registered with one of our children's centres. This is an improvement of 5% from last year when performance reached 87%. Likewise, we have improved from 72% to 78% of 0-5's, in the most deprived areas, accessing Children's Centre activities. We are still aspirational at achieving our ambitious target of 95% for registrations and remaining above the 65% target for those accessing activities. The development and implementation of the Family Hubs programme will help deliver this.
- 2.1.9 As predicted in last year's annual report, the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system reduced from 183 (Jan-Dec21) to 153 (Oct 21-Sept 22). Likewise, there was a reduction in reoffending in a 12-month period from a rate of 25.0 (July19-Jun20) to 19.8 (Apr20-Mar21). We had hypothesised that the increase in previously reported data was partly due to court closures in the pandemic and expected to see a decrease. As always with Youth Justice

Service data, we are reliant on published benchmarking which is always in significant arrears.

2.1.10 **Summary of areas of continued focus against some Early Help key measures during 2022/2023**

2.1.11 When families have been stepped down to Early Help, a joint visit is expected to take place within 14 working days of the agreement to step down. This is to ensure that families experience a warm handover and to prevent disengagement when statutory services withdraw. Both Locality and Duty teams were below the 85% target for the year at 71.5% and 63.3% respectively. This is a regular focus in the joint Early Help and Children's Social Care management meeting. Visits do always take place; the complexity comes with arranging mutually convenient times between all parties involved. For this to be a meaningful visit, there are times where visits are delayed.

2.1.12 Our annual performance (average taken between Dec-Feb each year) for young people not in education or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known was 7.2% combined. This is higher than our ambitious target of 5% and our previous year of 4.9%. The annual 'Not Known' figure was 2.3% meeting the individual target of 2.5% and by the end of March was at 1.5%. It is positive that we have fewer young people 'Not Known' as we are able to proactively work with those who we know are not in education, employment, or training. Those NEET were at 4.9%; higher than the previous year of 3.6%. Only 4 of our Looked After young people residing in Rotherham were NEET, and none of them were in the 'Not Known' cohort. Reduced placements through provision closure and an increase in complexity (mental and emotional health difficulties culminating from the pandemic) are contributory factors for those young people Not in Education, Employment or Training. There is a significant focus on this area of work including embedding quality assurance activity and using our performance data effectively. This will help to ensure that as many of our children and young people are in some form of education, employment or training and therefore improve outcomes.

2.2 **Social Care**

2.2.1 Whilst the numbers of contacts going through to Early Help increased in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22, the numbers coming through the front door for social care have decreased. This positively suggests we are helping children and families at the earliest possible time through preventative support, avoiding crisis and intervention.

2.2.2 Whilst some of our targets and tolerances have not been met, many of them have improved on last year's performance, including our children in need, those with a child protection plan and also the numbers of children in care, which evidences a gradual and safe progression for children open to social care.

2.2.3 Likewise, we have seen a slight reduction in children supported by our Evolve Service for CSE with a small increase in those needing support for CCE.

- 2.2.4 Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2022/2023**
- 2.2.5 The rereferral rate has reduced from 18.3% last year to 17.2% this year, well within the target of less than 22%. This provides confidence suggests we are improving practice at case closure as rereferrals generally reflect the quality of the plan at closure.
- 2.2.6 To monitor our numbers of children with an open referral for Social Care and to compare ourselves nationally against other authorities, we monitor rates of children against our 10,000 (k) population figure. This gives us a comparable figure to benchmark against.
- 2.2.7 Our CIN per 10K population has reduced from 380.5 last year to 378.6 this year, steadily getting closer to our target of less than 375.5.
- 2.2.8 Our rate of S47's per 10k population has improved on last years 284.93 with 278.2 showing a safely declining position.
- 2.2.9 Our rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10K population is within target at 70.4, a reduction from 82.7 last year, continuing to exceed our target to be lower than 85.
- 2.2.10 Our rate of Children in Care per 10k population improved slightly from last year's 97.8 to 96.7 this year, just missing our target of less than 95.2. However, this data includes a number of Unaccompanied Minors (36/545) as Rotherham supports the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children which was set up by the government to ensure a more equitable distribution across local authorities, in order to meet the overall best interests of these vulnerable children. Inevitably, this has increased our overall numbers of Children in Care in the year 2022/23. Calculations without the 36 Unaccompanied Minors would see our rate of Children in Care drop to 90.3 per 10k pop.
- 2.2.11 We have an increase in our number of care leavers this year with 319 on 31st March 2023 compared to 292 in 2022. Again, we have seen an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in this cohort. Our performance remains positive in respect of our exceeding our targets with 97.2% of young people living in suitable accommodation. At the end of the year, 69.6% of care leavers were in education, employment or training, which although isn't good enough, is actually well above are statistical neighbours (53.1%) and national comparisons (52%). We remain ambitious for our Care leavers. The Leaving Care service action plan will focus on improving this in 2023/24.
- 2.2.12 We have a number of timeliness measures to provide transparent management oversight on day-to-day practice to see how each area of the service is performing.
- 2.2.13 We have improved our performance of Initial Child Protection Conferences complete within 15 days of an S47 reaching 88.7% in time compared to 74.1% last year, bringing us much closer to our target of 90%. We monitor the

timeliness of ICPC on a weekly basis, and the service manager for safeguarding works closely with her counterparts and team managers around timeliness of requests for ICPC.

2.2.14 We visit our children with a Child Protection Plan on a 2-week cycle. We are above our local target of 95% of visits in time at 95.1%, an improvement on last years 87.9%.

2.2.15 We review all children with a child protection plan on a 6-month cycle following their first 3 month review. Our year end outturn not only improved on last year's figure of 94.4%, but reached 98.2% for the year (target is 98%+), with some months reaching 100%. These reviews provide check and challenge as to whether a child's plan needs to continue, cease, or if they are to be signposted to another area of the service. This ensures the right level of support is in place for our children and also contributes to overall caseload numbers, ensuring plans are not open longer than is needed.

2.2.16 **Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2022/2023**

2.2.17 Whilst the numbers of contacts for Social Care have reduced, the percentage of contacts with a decision within 1 working day has declined from 80.3% last year, to 72.1% this year. Recent additional Service Manager capacity within First Response means this can be now a targeted piece of work and an opportunity to review MASH process, considering new ways of working to improve performance, consistency and provide assurance of overall efficiency. The MASH also receives a very high number of notifications from South Yorkshire Police which do not meet thresholds for Children's Social Care. We are working across the region to agree a solution to this, asking the police to triage and quality assure their own contacts in the first instance, subsequently reducing the volume of contacts received by the service moving forward.

2.2.18 Performance on assessments for children's social care has remained almost identical to the previous year, with an average of 88.6% taking place within 45 working days of referral. This figure sits in the Amber range of our targets and tolerances and has therefore been targeted at Performance Board. Further analysis and dip sampling has highlighted some areas for improvement within the process, including system changes. An action plan is in place to work through some of the easier resolutions and to plan in some longer-term development work.

2.2.19 For children in care, we have seen a decline in our placement stability this year. The percentage of long term children in care in stable placements of more than 2 years has declined from 70.2% to 65.2%, taking this measure from Green to Amber in the RAG rating. The percentage of children with 3 or more placement moves also remains amber at 9.7%, sitting above our target of 8%. We continue to work on our placements sufficiency strategy to recruit more inhouse foster carers and open residential provision within Rotherham with a commitment to improve stability of placements that are closer to home. 77% of our children are in family-based settings compared to 79% last year.

- 2.2.20 Rotherham had the largest number of adoptions in the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) during the year with 24 adoptions taking place, although this was lower than the previous year when there were 32 adoptions. The average days between a child becoming looked after and being placed with an adoptive family was 492.5 days, just missing the 487-day target. However, the recovery from Covid arrangements has had a significant impact on the Sheffield Family Courts ability to make timely decisions. Despite our number of applications to court reducing by 25% there has been a significant increase in applications in South Yorkshire and the availability for court sittings and of specialist expert witnesses to provide assessments and evidence has caused delay. Work with the courts is ongoing to improve this.
- 2.2.21 The average number of days between receiving a placement order and being matched to an adoptive family was 197.4, missing the national target of 121 days, but shows a significant improvement on performance last year when it was 292.2 days.
- 2.2.22 In a small cohort of children, where it is often the right thing to do to take more time finding the right family for an older child or sibling group and ensuring that placement is successful, the average wait for a family can increase.
- 2.2.23 Children in care receive visits within their first week of entering care, then go on to a cycle of 1-3 months depending on their placement type. For these children we aim to achieve 98% of visits in time, but at the end of March 2023 we were slightly below the target at 95.6%, which is a very slight reduction on last year's performance of 96.8%.
- 2.2.24 We review care plans every 6 months and with a target of 95% in time. We were between the Green and Amber tolerance with 91.5% this year, a slight reduction from 94.3% last year. We have since made a change in practice to the way that we schedule updates to care plans, that we believe will improve quality and timeliness over the coming year.
- 2.2.25 Due to recording systems across both Health, and Social Care, our health and dental assessments appear to be below target. This has been discussed in detail at our Performance Board, and at our Corporate Parenting Panel, with reassurance from both Health colleagues and our Head of Children in Care, that these assessments are much higher in compliance than reported. Work is underway to input the data into our Case Management System so that the data can be refreshed and represent a true reflection of activity.

2.3 **Education**

- 2.3.1 The year-to-date figures referenced in the March 2023 Members Scorecard include Term 1 and Term 2, as we are still in Term 3. We will report on the full academic year end data and attainment results in the Members Scorecard, during the Autumn Term.
- 2.3.2 Whilst education data is reported termly, we continue to check and challenge our education performance at the monthly CYPS performance board, working

collaboratively with colleagues across the service to take a whole service approach on impact and outcomes.

2.3.3 **Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2022/2023**

2.3.4 At the end of Term 2 we had 90% of 2-year-olds taking up an education place, an improvement on 87.6% at outturn last year and exceeding our target of 85%. This is important in respect of giving children the best start in life impacting their future education, and overall potential involvement with the remaining CYPS services. We work closely with Social Care colleagues to identify any children on a Child Protection Plan (CP) or who are Children in Need (CiN), not taking up their eligible places, sharing information to provide further support. This work is having positive outcomes in that the take up of early education by CiN/CP children has increased significantly.

2.3.5 99% of primary children were allocated one of their 3 admission preferences on National Offer Day in 2023, an improvement on 98.5% last year.

2.3.6 96% of secondary children were allocated one of their 3 admission preferences, a slight decline from 97.5% last year, but still achieving the target of 96%. A preferred education setting is important for both children and their families in their everyday lives. It is positive that we have remained above targets for these.

2.3.7 Outturn for the academic year 2021/2022 for overall attendance was 93% for primary and 90% for secondary schools. At the end of Term 2 this year, performance is currently 93.5% for primary with secondary schools at 90.5% showing a slight improvement on last year's outturn so far. Our School Attendance Matters Pathway SAMP is utilised when attendance becomes problematic. This pathway champions good school attendance through a welfare-based model to addressing absence. Attendance issues are viewed as a symptom rather than a cause and schools engage positively with this pathway. Highlighted as a model of good practice exemplar by DFE, the EHA underpins SAMP, prior to enforcement action, support is agreed and provided by schools, partners and/or Early Help to understand familial issues that may be affecting attendance.

2.3.8 **Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2022/2023**

2.3.9 When a child misses more than 10% of sessions, this is classed as persistent absence. Outturn for the academic year 2021/2022 was 25.4% for primary and 29.3% for secondary schools. At the end of Term 2 this year, performance is currently 18% for primary with secondary schools at 23.8% which is pleasingly below last year's outturn so far, although outturn results will not be known until after the Summer Term (Term3). Experimental official statistics on a subset of schools provide an early indicator that persistent absence has increased nationally (GOV.UK).

- 2.3.10 The number of children missing from education was 150 at the end of Term 2. For the outturn last year there was a total of 181. Focus remains on processing school referrals in a timely manner to support safeguarding of children leaving borough and ensure places can be made available for children awaiting allocation.
- 2.3.11 At the end of term 2 we had 435 children Elective Home Educated (EHE), another significant increase on the 336 at the end of last year. The increase in enquires for EHE are being monitored closely. Focus remains on early intervention. For example, in this academic year 99 involvements have resulted in children remaining in school where parents were considering withdrawal to EHE. 60 children have returned to school from EHE in the same period.
- 2.3.12 At the end of Term 2 we had 253 suspensions in primary school, edging closer to last years out turn figure of 277. Likewise, we had 3254 for secondary by the end of Term 2. For the last full academic year, there were 3923. The growth in suspensions and permanent exclusions is reflective of challenges that are evident both on a regional and national level. Rotherham remains in line with statistical neighbours across these data sets. Education services have continued work across the school system to support the enhancement of inclusive education practice through area wide inclusion panels and providing outreach support which is targeted towards pupils remaining in mainstream education.
- 2.3.13 There had been 6 permanent exclusions by the end of Term 2 in primary schools, suggesting an improving picture on the 12 we had during the last academic year (2021/2022). Secondary schools had made 62 permanent exclusions by the end of Term 2, already exceeding the 57 we had for the outturn last year. As with suspensions. Nationally, it is being reported that exclusions are rising. Our exclusion team continues to support schools wherever possible and address through early intervention offer.
- 2.3.14 Our Children in Care have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is updated termly. Performance at the end of the last academic year showed that 95% of our children and young people had an up to date plan. At the end of Term 2, 82.1% of plans were showing as up to date, however, this is partly due to the lag in the completion of secondary school PEPs towards the end of the spring term. This will be back to normal levels as incomplete PEPs will be finalised and signed off by schools.

2.4 **Inclusion**

- 2.4.1 Whilst we have not met set targets for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), the team has been through significant changes whilst working through the Written Statement of Action, completing an extensive recruitment drive, whilst experiencing another increase in demand.
- 2.4.2 Recruitment is now complete and there is strong leadership within the team. The intensive CPD training programme continues for the EHCP team from National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN).

2.4.3 The Performance Team continue to be involved in EHCP performance meetings and are working on further developments to the data dashboard which continues to embed more effective use of data.

2.4.4 **Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2022/2023**

2.4.5 There was another increase in children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) during the year, with 3019 at the end of March 2023 compared to 2640 in 2021/22. The growth of EHCPs in the borough is reflective of growth of EHCP cohorts nationally. The Department for Education (DfE) has set out a national Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision improvement plan due to systemic issues in relation to the national SEND system which is a causational factor in growth of EHCPs. Rotherham remains on target across its High Needs Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE which has a clear strategic oversight in making sure that children and young people get the right support at the right time without an EHCP been a determining factor.

2.4.6 Our reporting shows that during 2022/2023, 42.1% of our EHCP's were issued within the 20-week timeline, below the target of 58%. National reporting is measured over a calendar year and not a fiscal one so for 2023 we will be reporting between January and December rather than April to March. Using this timeframe, our actual performance during 2022 was 51.6%, which although still below target, is higher than the national comparison of 50.7%. In addition, our backlog of plans has now reduced significantly, and performance for new plans continues to improve. Year to date performance for 2023 (Jan-June) is currently 53% with performance continuing to improve month by month (81.5% in June 23).

2.4.7 Data shows that 30.9% of EHCP Transition Reviews were completed by the statutory deadline, below the target of 70%. This data is being scrutinised by the EHCP team and the Performance team. System based recording issues are having a detriment on the effective recording of this measure. A clear action plan is being developed across the EHCP team to make sure recording of reviews is uploaded in a timely way to supportive effective oversight, eradicate system issues and support improvement in this measure which supports strong transition for our SEND children and young people.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Members to consider and accept the CYPS Performance Scorecard for March 2023 (Out-turn 2022/2023) as attached – Appendix 1

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 N/A

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 N/A

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 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

10.1 There are no Equalities and Human Rights implications with this report

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no CO₂, Emissions or 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 for children, young people, and their families, including via the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP), the CYPS Performance Board, the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Early Help Steering Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. All 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 the Directorship Leadership Team and the continued development of the Performance Management Framework mitigates this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any decline 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

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Nicola Curley – Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Service	11/07/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author: Anne Hawke, Head of Service, Performance and Quality, CYPS
01709 823246 Anne.Hawke@rotherham.gov.uk
Cathryn Woodward, Interim Performance Manager, Performance and Quality, CYPS. Cathryn.woodward@rotherham.gov.uk*

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