

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

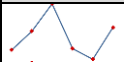
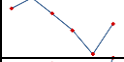
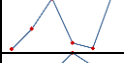
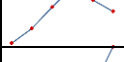
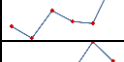
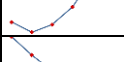

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Children, Young People & Education Committee - indicator sets

Demand	Keeping children safe	Looking after children well	Schools
Education	SEND	Workforce	Budget (under development)

Demand

	2019/20	2020/21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	National (19/20)	North West (19/20)	Stat Neighbours (19/20)	Trend
Social care contacts	15086	10149	803	912	1072	811	749	934	-	-	-	
Early Help contacts	9973	12199	1084	1166	1046	918	737	967	-	-	-	
Referrals to social care	4005	3049	211	263	340	227	213	355	-	-	-	
% of domestic abuse referrals to children's social care	23.2%	23.5%	17.5%	21.7%	27.7%	33.5%	29.7%	26.5%	-	-	-	
Child In Need rate per 10,000 population	369.0	381.6	367.4	360.7	376.4	370.2	369.1	392.8	323.7	371.5	428.7	
Child Protection rate per 10,000 population	41.9	47.1	49.9	48.7	49.6	51.7	55.3	53.0	42.8	50.4	54.0	
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	120.0	121.6	122.4	121.8	121.3	121.3	121.5	120.6	67	97	101	

Supporting narrative

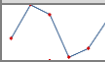
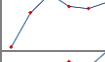
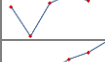
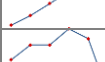
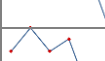
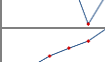
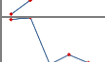
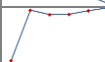




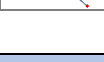
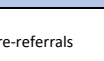
Overall demand on Children Social Services is consistent, but still hasn't reached pre-pandemic levels. With the exception of the number of referrals that seen an increase in Quarter 2. Children's Social Care and Early Help contacts seen a reduction during this period. Some of the variations seen in Quarter 2 can be partly explained by the school summer holidays that coincided with a reduction in demand.

An audit review of the Integrated Front Door (IFD) was completed in September 2021, and work is required to ensure thresholds for safeguarding are consistently applied.

The Children in Need population has remained at a similar level at the end of Quarter 2 in comparison to Quarter 1, and is below the rate of Statistical Neighbours. This partly reflects the strength of Early Help services, particularly the role of Family Matters in supporting children and families. Work will be completed on the Children in Need cohort to ensure children are being appropriately supported, and decisions and plans are effective.

The Child Protection and Children Looked After numbers are stable. There is a cohort of children looked after where there is a plan for discharge. These are children placed at home with parents or in foster placement (inc. those placed with family members). Arrangements are being put in place, including additional staffing resources to progress plans. However, the majority of these children will continue to remain looked after to end of the financial year (April 2022).

Keeping children safe

	2019/20	2020/21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	National (19/20)	North West (19/20)	Stat Neighbours (19/20)	Trend
% of Early Help cases closed with outcomes met	80.3	91.6	90.8	96.9	95.1	87.4	89.0	94.2	-	-	-	
% Repeat referrals within 12 months period YTD	27.6	23.5	18.0	19.6	20.5	19.9	19.8	20.1	22.6	22	20.5	
% Assessments completed within timescale YTD	82.6	78.1	73.0	70.6	73.3	74.0	73.5	74.9	83.8	80.7	86.6	
Children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry Rate per 10,000 YTD	183	183.2	14.7	29.5	47.5	65.9	76.3	94.2	167.0	177.0	205.0	
% of children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry that led to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	33.3	33.1	36.4	41.0	41.0	46.0	42.9	26.4	-	-	-	
% Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) taking place in the month and within timescales	76.4	57.3	67.4	85.7	67.4	76.9	36.5	61.0	-	-	-	
Child Protection Plans ceased Rate per 10,000 YTD	75.8	51.3	3.9	10.8	16.3	20.1	23.6	30.2	56.0	68.0	68.0	
% of children on second or subsequent Child Protection Plan YTD	19.4	27.4	31.8	32.1	24.6	26.2	24.9	23.7	21.9	22.8	22.8	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child in Need (CIN)	-	-	-	76.6	69.7	70.3	75.6	80.4	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child Protection (CP)	-	-	-	81.0	79.0	74.8	82.8	81.8	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Children Looked After (CLA)	-	-	-	76.7	94.9	93.4	91.7	90.3	-	-	-	
Reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system	254	219	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Reduce young people re-offending (%)	50	40	40	40	40.7	-	-	-	35.6%	-	-	
Reduce the use of Custody (rate per 100,000)	0.30	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.1	-	-	-	0.13	-	-	

Supporting narrative

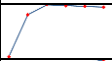
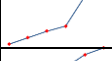
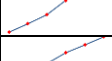
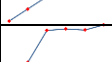
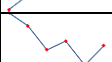
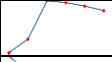
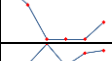

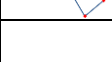

Repeat referrals have seen a slight increase during Quarter 2 in comparison to Quarter 1. This increase is in proportion with the increase seen in referral rates. The rate of re-referrals remains below that of Statistical Neighbours.

Children and Families Assessment performance continues to improve as reflected in Quarter 2, but it remains below target. Work has been completed by the Service in reviewing assessment timescales, clearing outdated assessments and strengthening management review systems. As such, it is expected that performance will continue to improve in this area.

The timeliness of Section 47 to Initial Child Protection Conference performance has been low. This has been seen during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. In September, the Service introduced revised arrangements, strengthening tracking arrangements and management oversight. This has led to improvement and its expected that performance will achieve the monthly target of 80%.

Youth Justice data is produced quarterly in rolling 12 month periods. Quarter 1 data was published in September, Quarter 2 data is not due to be published until December. Youth Offending Team (YOT) are compared to statistical families by the Youth Justice Board (areas with similar deprivation and other factors as determined by the DfE). In the most recent reporting from the YJB (October 2021) all three KPIS for Wirral show an improving trend based on previous data periods. FTE is less than the YOT family average (99/100,00 compared to 134/100,000) re-offending rate is broadly in line (40.7% re-offending rate compared to 39.1% YOT family) and use of custody is higher than YOT family but extremely low volume (0.1/1000 compared to 0.04/200 YOT family). Of note is that only 4 of 11 Family YOTs used custody in the reporting period, hence the Family average is extremely low. The more significant factor is Wirral decreasing trend.

Looking after children well

	2019/20	2020/21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	National (19/20)	North West (19/20)	Stat Neighbours (19/20)	Trend
CLA - social worker stability	Report under development								-	-	-	
% CLA visits completed within timescale	-	-	-	76.7	94.9	93.4	91.7	90.3	-	-	-	
% Completed health assessment reviews YTD	87.0	86.8	1.8	11.3	20.4	27.7	70.1	75.5	90	93	92	
% Completed dental checks YTD	88.0	24.7	2.2	9.6	17.6	29.9	40.9	47.1	86	88	86	
% Completed Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) YTD	97.0	97.2	11.0	23.9	37.0	48.4	56.6	65.3	81.0	85.0	80.0	
% of CLA adopted in year	17.0	14.8	0.0	3.3	10.6	10.9	10.7	11.9	12	15	15	
% of CLA placed with Foster carers	70.5	70.8	71.4	70.8	69.7	70.1	69.0	69.9	72	67	72	
Timeliness of Adoption process A10 (426 days national target) Average days	590	356	0	290	1128	1086	1011	912	363	-	340	
% Care leavers in suitable accommodation (Age	95.0	95.7	98.0	97.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	96.0	85.0	89.0	91.0	
% Care leavers in Education , Employment or Training (EET) (Age 19-21)	48.0	51.0	50.6	56.1	59.8	55.8	58.1	58.6	53.0	49.0	53.0	
Missing Episodes	1477	918	136	120	147	123	82	102	-	-	-	
% of CIN who are open to CAMHs service	Report under development								-	-	-	
% of CP who are open to CAMHs service	Report under development								-	-	-	
% of CLA who are open to CAMHs service	Report under development								-	-	-	
Average waiting time for CAMHs service	Report under development								-	-	-	

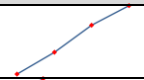
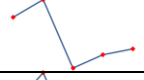
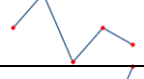
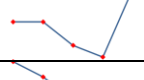
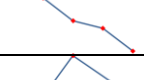
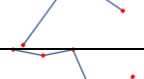
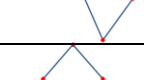
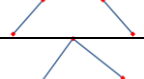
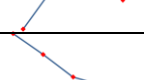
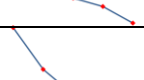
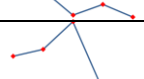
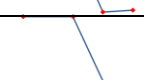

Supporting narrative

The health data for children looked after are cumulative figures. This includes health assessments, dental checks and the completion of SDQ's (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires). Due to the impact of the pandemic this will impact on these areas, however services are now operational and there will be a necessity for children to be offered appointments. The service has implemented emotional health and well being screening for children who start to become looked after. This will be completed by the Children Looked After emotional health & well being commissioned service (Omoo). This is a positive and should support placement stability and educational outcomes.

The timeliness of adoption for children significantly exceeds National rates and those of Statistical Neighbours. The reasons explaining this are multi-faceted. There have been several children subject to Placement Orders between 2016-19, but have only recently been adopted, children with plans for adoption have had complex needs and whilst the plan for adoption has been right there has been challenge in matching with suitable adopters and final Adoption Orders being granted. Children whose care plan for adoption has been since post 2019, these are being timely progressed.

Missing is showing a decreasing trend in Wirral over a 4 year period. Monitoring is done through local Operations Meeting and Pan Mersey governance. 19/20 and 20/21 have been impacted in the short term with reduced missing episodes. Return Home Interview offers are currently just short of 94%, which is outstanding. Longer term trends have seen length of missing episodes reduce. A full report on child exploitation and children missing will be presented to committee in January.

Schools

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	Current National	Trend
% of school age pupils eligible for (FSM) Free school meal	19.5	21.5	24	25.8	-	20.8	
% of under 5's who are engaged with the Early Years Service	68	76	45	51	53.7	-	
% of under 5's who have sustained engagement the Early Years Service (3 of more)	60	62	58	60	59	-	
% of 2 year olds benefitting from funded early education	78	78	76	75	80.81	62	
% of 3 & 4 year olds benefitting from funded early education	98	96	93	92	89	88	
% School capacity - places available vs pupil numbers (school)	89.4	89.8	89.6	-	-	-	
Overall School Attendance %	94.9	94.3	94.9	87.8	92.1	90	
Overall Unauthorised Absence %	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	-	
Overall Persistent Absence %	12.6	15.9	14.0	-	-	-	
% Exclusions - suspensions	4.6	3.3	1.9	1.38	0.34	3.76	
% Exclusions - permanent	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.023	0.0078	0.06	
Number of children known to be electively home educated	145	171	275	17	24	-	
Number of Pupils who are not in receipt of full-time education and subject of an agreed part time timetable (Indicator once named - Pupils who are missing more than 25hrs of education a week (CME25)	-	-	171	171	37	-	

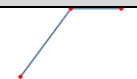
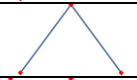
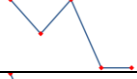
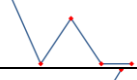
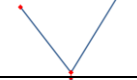


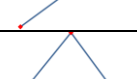


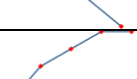

Supporting narrative

The percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) is increasing due to the transitional protections put in place by the DfE to minimise the impact of the rollout of universal credit. The transitional protections ensure that any pupil in receipt of FSM on 31 March 2018 or after, should continue to receive free school meals until the end of the universal credit roll out period, and then until their phase of education ends. This covers until at least summer 2023 and applies even if their circumstances change and they would no longer meet the eligibility criteria. As a result FSM eligibility is not being ended.

Attendance - data relates to September 2021 only. Wirral Authority attendance rates are broadly comparable with national average so far this year.

The total size of our Electively Home Educated (EHE) cohort at the end of September 2021 was 233 - during the reporting period Q2 we received 24 new notifications of children being home educated. We have strengthened our capacity to manage our statutory duties in respect of this cohort of children, and 3 additional EHE monitoring teachers have recently taken up post on a casual basis. These staff have begun to establish contact with EHE families to explore the suitability of arrangements put in place by parents. The Attendance Service liaises closely with colleagues in SEND with respect to children with EHCPs who are withdrawn from formal schooling by parents, and also with allocated Social Workers in respect of EHE children open to Children's Social Care. During Q2 we received 37 new notifications from schools of pupils being placed on part-time timetables (as a time-limited intervention to support the child during a particularly difficult period).

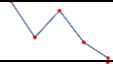
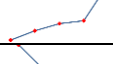
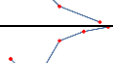
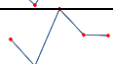
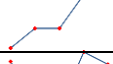
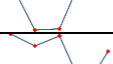
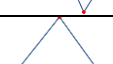
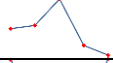
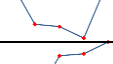

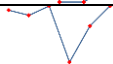




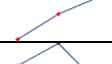
Education



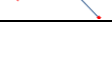

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Current National	Trend
% achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	57	60	60	-	-	65	
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	0.01	0.03	0.01	-	-	-0.21	
% of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	85	84	85	83	83	86	
% of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	87	84	86	84	84	86	
% Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	22	18	23	-	-	17	
% Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2	22	23	22	-	-	21	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.6	0.73	0.84	-	-	0.7	
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	69.4	70.5	69.3	-	-	71.8	
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	-	70.5	69.3	-	-	48	
% of young people aged 16 and 17 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or categorised as 'not known'	1.7	1.6	1.5	-	-	2.8	
% of early years settings good or better	90	94	96	98	98	97	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers achieving good level of development in early years foundation stage profile	-	17.7	23.5	-	-	18	

Supporting narrative

2016/17 and 2017/18 attainment date has been included for the purpose of demonstrating trend. There was no published data relating to 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to the pandemic.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
% Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 week timescale (Excluding Exceptions)	59.4	32.5	52.4	28.94	17.26	58	62.5	80.44	
% of requests that went to tribunal	5.14	7.63	9.47	10.26	20	-	-	-	
% of mediations that were followed by appeals to tribunal	60.9	32.4	21.3	-	-	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	7.93	6.93	8.68	9.06	9.25	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	15.75	14.12	17.59	16.01	15.97	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	4.48	5.93	5.93	8.4	8.67	-	-	-	
% of Early Help Episodes with (SEND) Special Educational needs and disabilities	27.3	25.77	25.82	27.61	27.21	-	-	-	
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan- Overall School Attendance %	90.9	88.9	90.6	81.6	88	85.1	84.7	83.3	
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan Overall Persistent absence %	26.1	31.2	25.6	-	-	42.2	44.3	30.9	
Number of pupils with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan who are electively home educated	9	10	18	4	1	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	19.59	18.29	18.22	17.87	19.61	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	14.73	11.66	15.83	16.01	17.14	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	23.11	23.32	19.88	19.89	20.81	-	-	-	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall School Attendance %	92.9	92.3	93.4	86.7	91	93.4	94.2	94.1	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall Persistent absence %	20.8	23.8	19.3	-	-	16.2	16.2	24.2	
Number of pupils with (SEN) Special Educational Need support who are electively home educated	0	2	39	5	6	-	-	-	

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
Key Stage 2 (RWM) Reading, Writing, Maths EHCP - % at Expected Level	2.9	6	2	-	-	9	9	9.5	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	-1.08	-0.85	-1.12	-	-	-1.17	-1.31	-1.29	
Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing, Maths (SEN) Special Educational Need support - % at Expected Level	18	21	23	-	-	25	24	25.7	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (SEN) Special Educational Need support	-0.36	-0.29	-0.42	-	-	-0.43	-0.59	-0.5	

Supporting narrative

A review of the current process for the 20 week statutory timeline is currently underway, a new approach will commence during autumn term 2 to address delays with processes that can lead to timelines slipping.

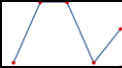
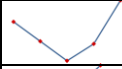
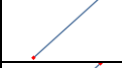
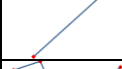
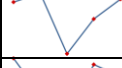

Additional capacity has been added to the SEND assessment team for the remainder of the financial year, this is to address the increase in the number of assessments that have been requested.

Additional capacity to support the educational psychology team has been commissioned to address the backlog of assessments needing to be completed.

A link with the University of Manchester means we now have trainee educational psychologists working with the team, it is hoped they will address the long standing of recruiting educational psychologists once they have finished their training.

Attendance - data relates to September 2021 only. Wirral Authority SEND attendance rates are currently exceeding national, regional and statistical neighbours so far this year.

Workforce

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	National	North West	Statistical Neighbours	Trend
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts	24%	31%	31%	24%	28%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff	19%	15%	11%	15%	23%	-	-	-	
New starters - Social Workers	-	-	-	13	23	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - Social Workers	-	-	-	15	29	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence	15.89	16.75	10.88	14.25	16.17	-	-	-	
Average caseload for social worker	15.2	14.6	14.2	15.1	14.9	16.3	17.9	17	

Supporting narrative

The above data shows an increase in the vacancy rate over time and thus impacts and correlates to the agency rate also increasing. This also links to the turnover data at the end of Q2 stating that we have had 6 more social worker leavers than starters. A hypothesis conclusion can then be drawn that this has impacted the increased FTE sick days lost as less permanent social workers are available to do the same amount of work. A detailed report on this data was presented to committee in October 2021.

The social work workforce census is currently underway. Once complete, we will look to include benchmarking data for comparison.

Budget

Supporting narrative

Under development - further work required to align performance and financial reporting.