

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

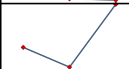
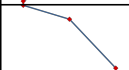
Thursday 10th March 2022

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	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	National (20/21)	North West (20/21)	Stat Neighbours (20/21)	Trend
Social care contacts	15086	10149	2787	2502	2570	-	-	-	
Early Help contacts	9973	12199	3294	2631	2618	-	-	-	
Referrals to social care	3997	3030	814	801	842	-	-	-	
% of domestic abuse referrals to children's social care	23.2%	23.5%	23.1%	29.3%	29.5%	-	-	-	
Child In Need rate per 10,000 population	369.0	379.9	376.8	393.3	398.8	321.2	367.0	403.5	
Child Protection rate per 10,000 population	41.9	47.0	49.7	53.1	58.1	41.4	47.0	51.8	
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	120.0	123.0	121.5	120.7	117.9	67.0	97.0	101.8	

Supporting narrative

Early Help Contacts to Children's Services have reduced in 2021-22 against the previous year. This is an expected decrease for which there are a number of contributory factors, including more community-based provision fully remobilised following the pandemic and an increase in the number of families accessing early help directly from providers rather than via a Children's Services referral. Early Help activity remains consistently high with an approximately 2,200-2,400 open episodes during the year, which is consistent with the previous year.

In 2021-22 we have seen an increase in the number of domestic abuse referrals to Children's Social Care. This was anticipated following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act in May 2021, which clearly identifies children in households affected by domestic abuse as victims, and places new responsibilities on Local Authorities to respond to these circumstances. The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Alliance continues to deliver the local strategy, ensuring appropriate support and access to services for children, young people and families affected by domestic abuse.

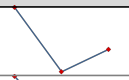
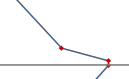
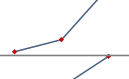
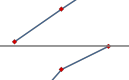




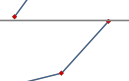
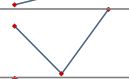
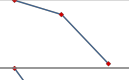
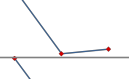
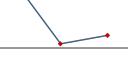

The number of children on a Child Protection (CP) plan are the highest they've been since 2018. We are seeing children having a CP conference without always having had a robust Child in Need (CIN) period of planning. Some of the challenges relate to developing a more confident workforce and partnership to manage CIN. The Manager of the Safeguarding Partnership will be arranging training for partners and professionals, particularly around thresholds of need.

Additional oversight has been introduced to ensure CP plans are progressed in a timely manner and case discussions are being held with Social Workers and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's). IRO's have increased scrutiny on these cases and escalations are progressed to prevent any drift and delay. Work is also underway with Family Matters targeted services to support and deliver bespoke interventions to children on a plan.

Where a child is subject to a repeat CP plan under the category of emotional abuse and subject to repeat plans for the same issues as previously recorded, a new process has been introduced. Prior to a consultation for an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) is held, the Social Worker/Team Manager has a reflective discussion and oversight provided by the Operations lead to consider any further support that can be offered to prevent the child returning to a CP plan.

Children Looked After (CLA) number are the lowest we've seen since 2018. Robust processes are in place to ensure the right children are coming into care. The reduction is attributable to a number of children reaching the age of 18 and a sharper focus on progressing permanency plans.

Keeping children safe

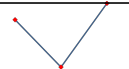
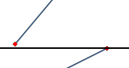
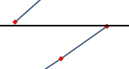
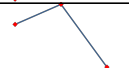
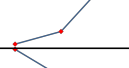
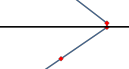
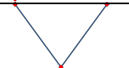
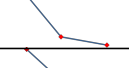
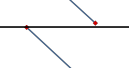
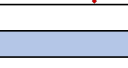
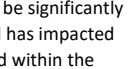
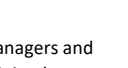
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	National (20/21)	North West (20/21)	Stat Neighbours (20/21)	Trend
% of Early Help cases closed with outcomes met	80.3	91.6	85.0	82.4	83.3	-	-	-	
% Repeat referrals within 12 months period	27.6	23.5	20.5	19.7	19.5	22.7	22.2	22.6	
% Assessments completed within timescale	82.6	78.8	77.1	78.7	85.5	88.0	86.0	87.0	
Children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry Rate per 10,000 YTD	182.2	179.7	47.9	100.5	149.5	164.4	172.1	199.3	
% of children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry that led to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	33.3	33.1	39.0	39.7	40.0	-	-	-	
% Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) taking place in the month and within timescales	76.4	57.6	73.1	56.7	88.5	83.0	82.0	84.0	
Child Protection Plans ceased Rate per 10,000 YTD	75.8	51.3	16.3	30.8	46.4	53.9	62.1	72.1	
% of children on second or subsequent Child Protection Plan	19.4	28.7	24.6	22.4	24.4	22.1	22.6	22.6	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child in Need (CIN)	-	-	69.7	80.4	75.5	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child Protection (CP)	-	-	79.0	81.8	94.1	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Children Looked After (CLA)	-	-	94.9	90.3	96.5	-	-	-	
Reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system	254	219	99	Delay in data being published		-	-	-	
Reduce young people re-offending (%)	50	40	40.7	Delay in data being published		-	-	-	
Reduce the use of Custody (rate per 100,000)	0.30	0.07	0.1	Delay in data being published		-	-	-	

Supporting narrative

Assessment timeliness continues on an upward trajectory and almost inline with that of our statistical neighbours and NW neighbouring Authorities.

Whilst we have seen a slight increase in the rate of referrals, Quarter 3 has seen a continued reduction in repeat referrals which is below statistical neighbours and the NW average. We have implemented a more robust step down procedure between Childrens Social Care and Early Help services to strengthen the support offered to families when statutory involvement ceases. This will be an area of focus over the coming months to measure the impact these arrangements in reducing repeat referrals.

Looking after children well

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	National (20/21)	North West (20/21)	Stat Neighbours (20/21)	Trend
% CLA with 2+ social worker changes in the previous two years	49.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
% CLA visits completed within timescale	-	-	94.9	90.3	96.5	-	-	-	
% Completed health assessment reviews YTD	87.0	87.0	20.4	75.5	83.6	91.0	94.0	92.6	
% Completed dental checks YTD	88.0	31.0	17.6	47.1	63.9	40.0	40.0	38.2	
% Completed Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) YTD	97.0	98.0	37.0	65.3	95.4	80.0	85.0	83.0	
% of CLA adopted in year	17.0	15.0	10.6	11.9	7.8	10.0	11.0	10.8	
% of CLA placed with Foster carers	70.5	70.8	69.7	69.9	70.7	71.0	67.0	68.0	
Timeliness of Adoption process A10 (426 days national target) Average days	486	356	1128	998	832	Not Published yet			
% Care leavers in suitable accomodation (Age 19-21)	95.0	92.0	95.0	96.0	97.0	88.0	91.0	93.0	
% Care leavers in Education , Employment or Training (EET) (Age 19-21)	48.0	56.0	59.8	58.6	59.8	52.0	50.0	50.7	
Missing Episodes	1477	918	403	308	294	-	-	-	
CAMHS referrals seen within 6 weeks	43.7%	67.6%	59.4%	55.6%	-	-	-	-	
CAMHS referrals seen within 18 weeks	64.9%	96.4%	98%	97%	-	-	-	-	

Supporting narrative

Child looked after statutory visits remain meeting high standards of compliance in terms of timescales. Changes of social worker are likely to be significantly reduced due to a stable staffing level within the permanence service, however this data is not pulled through to evidence on the form. Covid has impacted on the numbers of children accessing dental checks, and there is work to do to push up the numbers, and this is being performance managed within the service.

Work is ongoing to ensure that datasets providing up-to-date analysis of children subject to long-term matches with carers is accessed by managers and across fostering services, frontline social work teams, and commissioning services so that when placement finding is required, there is the minimal amount of drift and delay for those children whose permanence plans may not match their current placement.

Strengths and difficulties questionnaires are completed as routine for most children, which provides good benchmarks for evaluating their mental and emotional well-being needs, and pinpointing services to support them further. Oomoo continues to respond to the needs of children who are looked after, or care experienced and target services to support them. There is ongoing collaboration with CAMHS around pathways for these young people. We are working to alleviate a waiting list for access to some specific services via the Polaris component of the commissioned contracts.

Schools

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	Current National	Trend
% of under 5's who are engaged with the Early Years Service	68	76	45	51	53.7	56.6	-	
% of under 5's who have sustained engagement the Early Years Service (3 of more)	60	62	58	60	59	60.5	-	
% of 2 year olds benefitting from funded early education	78	78	76	75	80.81	86.25	62	
% of 3 & 4 year olds benefitting from funded early education	98	96	93	92	89	86.52	88	
% School capacity - places available vs pupil numbers (school)	89.4	89.8	89.6	-	-	-	-	
% Exclusions - suspensions	5.013	3.262	3.861	1.378	0.546	1.507	3.76	
% Exclusions - permanent	0.111	0.048	0.039	0.024	0.006	0.008	0.06	
Number of children known to be electively home educated	145	171	275	17	24	26	-	
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	44	42	72	-	

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Term 2020/21 Spring Term	Term 2020/21 Summer Term	Term 2021/22 Autumn Term	Current National	Trend
% of school age pupils eligible for (FSM) Free school meal	19.5	21.5	24	25.8	26.6	26.57	20.8	
Overall School Attendance %	94.9	94.3	94.9	87.8	93.8	93.4	90	
Overall Unauthorised Absence %	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.6	-	
Overall Persistent Absence %	12.6	15.9	14.0	-	15.5	20.6	-	

Supporting narrative

Since September 2021, we have had strengthened capacity to undertake casework with our EHE families. Using covid funding, we have recruited 3 additional EHE Advisory Teachers on a casual basis who are able to contact new and existing EHE families at an early stage to offer advice and guidance, and to promote a return to school where EHE arrangements are unsuitable. There is close liaison between the Lead Officer for EHE and individual EHCP Co-ordinators in respect of EHE children with EHCPs (12-4 are primary and 8 secondary) as the LA continues to be responsible to monitor the educational arrangements as part of the Annual Review. Since 1/9/21, 21 primary aged children and 24 secondary aged children have returned to school from EHE.

Wirral Authority attendance rates are broadly comparable with national average so far this year.

Education





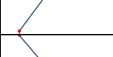
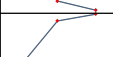
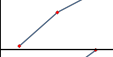
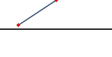

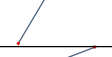
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Current National	Trend
% achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	57	60	60	-	-	65	
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	0.01	0.03	0.01	-	-	-0.21	
% of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	85	84	85	83	83	86	
% of children in good 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	




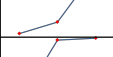

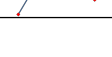
Supporting narrative





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.

The NEET performance reported as at December 2021 was 3% (225 young people). This performance illustrates a 0.6% reduction in NEET compared to the same period in 2020. The accompanying young people with a not known status is also low at 1.1%. Post 16 education attendance rates, learner behaviour, mental health and young peoples engagement continue to be ongoing significant challenges.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	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	30	23	24	58	62.5	80.44	
% of requests that went to tribunal	5.14	7.63	9.47	10.76	14.67	10.26	-	-	-	
% 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	9.18	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	15.75	14.12	17.59	16.01	15.97	14.68	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	4.48	5.93	5.93	8.4	8.67	8.68	-	-	-	
% of Early Help Episodes with (SEND) Special Educational needs and disabilities	27.3	25.77	25.82	27.61	27.21	27.13	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	19.59	18.29	18.22	17.87	19.61	19.87	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	14.73	11.66	15.83	16.01	17.14	17.82	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	23.11	23.32	19.88	19.89	20.81	21.84	-	-	-	

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Term 2020/21 Spring	Term 2020/21 Summer	Term 2021/22 Autumn	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan- Overall School Attendance %	90.9	88.9	90.6	81.6	89.7	87.4	85.1	84.7	83.3	
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan Overall Persistent absence %	26.1	31.2	25.6	-	29	37.5	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	32	42	-	-	-	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall School Attendance %	92.9	92.3	93.4	86.7	87.5	91.1	93.4	94.2	94.1	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall Persistent absence %	20.8	23.8	19.3	-	27.3	28.2	16.2	16.2	24.2	
Number of pupils with (SEN) Special Educational Need support who are electively home educated	0	2	39	5	36	12	-	-	-	

	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

Additional capacity has been extended within the SEND assessment team and Educational Psychology team to support the work in addressing existing cases. This continues to be a challenge due to continued high demand of assessments. The reduction in tribunals is a reflection in the different approach taken to work more collaboratively with parents and carers.

Workforce

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	National	North West	Statistical Neighbours	Trend
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts Social Workers	24%	31%	31%	24%	28%	29%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff Social Workers	19%	15%	11%	15%	23%	19%	-	-	-	
New starters - Social Workers	-	-	-	13	23	22	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - Social Workers	-	-	-	15	29	40	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence - Social Workers	15.89	16.75	10.88	14.25	16.17	18.65	-	-	-	
Average caseload for social worker	15.2	14.6	14.2	15.1	14.9	16.7	16.3	17.9	17	
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts Children's Services Directorate	26%	25%	17%	21%	21%	18%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff Children's Services Directorate	10.60%	6.80%	5.30%	4.20%	6.90%	7%	-	-	-	
New starters - Children's Services Directorate	124	112	88	23	29	14	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - Children's Services Directorate	85.5	95	57.5	11	6	5	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence Children's Services Directorate	14.25	14.54	10.92	2.91	3.04	2.98	-	-	-	

Supporting narrative

The vacancy rate in social care has slightly increased in the last quarter and the agency rate decreased as we struggled to bring in agency workers and we also let the innovate team go. Similar to the last quarter these two figures are bound to have an impact on the increased FTE sick days lost which has jumped to 18.65 in social care. We may see an increase of agency workers in the next and final quarter as we are seeing the number rise again this month. This has also impacted the the average caseload for social workers which has increased to 16.7, exceeding the national average.

Analysis of 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.