

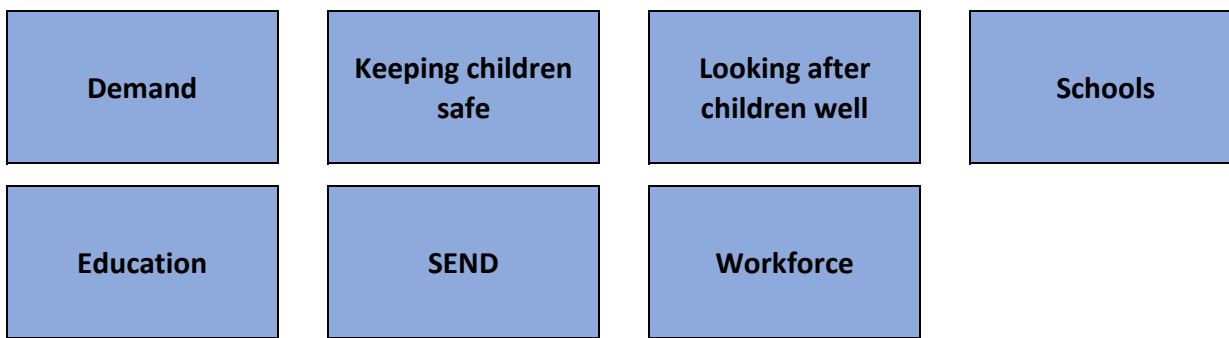


**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

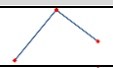
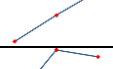

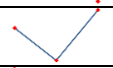
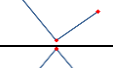

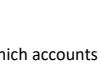
**Wednesday 16th October 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

**Children, Young People & Education Committee - indicator sets**



**Demand**

	Year-end			2024/25			National (22/23)	North West (22/23)	Stat Neighbours (22/23)	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24				
Social care contacts	10732	12252	24103	2217	2427	2296	-	-	-	
Early Help contacts	11128	9148	11114	1156	1255	1346	-	-	-	
Referrals to social care	3244	3355	4152	351	373	370	-	-	-	
% of domestic abuse referrals to children's social care	27.4%	20.4%	23.6%	31.1%	29.8%	21.6%	-	-	-	
Child In Need rate per 10,000 population	392.2	399.8	429.1	438.7	436.7	439.8	342.7	386.8	447.3	
Child Protection rate per 10,000 population	58.6	57.1	56.6	56.2	54.8	55.6	43.2	49.1	57.1	
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	121.0	118.0	118.3	116.5	116.8	116.5	71.0	96.0	111.0	

**Supporting narrative**
**Contacts**

During Q1 contact numbers have remained fairly stable with minor variables. Contacts now include all requests for services to the Integrated Front Door which accounts for an increase of approximately 26% from the same time last year. Children with 2 or more contacts in this period stands at 101 which is a reduction of 43 from 23/24. A quarter of all contacts received during this period were generated by Merseyside Police with almost a quarter of our total referrals involving domestic abuse.

During this period a higher proportion of referrals were received for 12 – 14 year olds in comparison with their peers and the highest number of contacts from individual wards were generated from Bidston St James, Seacombe and Birkenhead and Tranmere. Secondary to domestic abuse, the following categories received a higher level of contact:

- Managing behaviour
- Neglect
- Adult Crime

**Referrals**

Conversion rates from contact to referral has reduced giving us a conversion rate of around 22%. However our rate of referrals per 10,000 (654.9) is above stat neighbours (644) and also above North West (529.6) and the national (544.5).

**CIN**

The rate of CIN at the end of Q1 per 10,000 was 439.8 which places us in line with our target range (387.9 – 431.9). This has risen incrementally each quarter over the past 12 months.

**CP**

During this quarter 96 children have become subject to a child protection plan. The percentage of children subject to repeat plans (ever) has decreased from 34.1% in Q4 to 20.8% this quarter (equating to 20 children). One child became subject to a second CPP within 12 months of their previous plan ending. Our rate of children subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 0- 17 population is now in line our target range of 50.6 – 56.6 at 55.6.

**Keeping children safe**

	Year-end			2024/25			National (22/23)	North West (22/23)	Stat Neighbours (22/23)	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24				
% of Early Help cases closed with outcomes met	83.6%	88.2%	85.3%	81.9%	68.8%	80.0%	-	-	-	
% Repeat referrals within 12 months period	21.5%	23.3%	23.2%	20.2%	26.3%	21.1%	22.4%	22.4%	21.3%	
% Assessments completed within timescale	81.1%	75.5%	72.7%	69.6%	75.6%	84.2%	82.0%	79.0%	80.0%	
Children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry Rate per 10,000 YTD	207.3	214.9	210.2	17.0	37.1	56.8	191.6	209.9	274.5	
% of children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry that led to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	38.0%	31.1%	29.8%	30.4%	36.4%	33.3%	33.0%	33.0%	34.0%	
% Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) taking place in the month and within timescales	75.6%	59.5%	68.4%	74.2%	86.1%	64.7%	78.0%	80.0%	83.0%	
Child Protection Plans ceased Rate per 10,000 YTD	63.3	63.2	56.5	5.0	11.0	15.4	54.3	59.3	75.8	
% of children on second or subsequent Child Protection Plan	23.0%	31.4%	21.9%	21.4%	24.2%	20.8%	23.6%	23.8%	22.5%	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child in Need (CIN)	82.8%	78.9%	70.2%	77.7%	72.1%	75.5%	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child Protection (CP)	81.4%	74.7%	85.5%	88.6%	83.9%	86.3%	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Children Looked After (CLA)	90.5%	90.7%	91.4%	91.5%	92.3%	91.8%	-	-	-	
Reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system (rate per 100,000)	114	86	141	Quarterly KPI	Quarterly KPI	124	-	-	-	
Reduce young people re-offending (%)	41.9	41	75%	Quarterly KPI	Quarterly KPI	33.30%	-	-	-	
Reduce the use of Custody (rate per 1,000)	0.16	0.16	0.13	Quarterly KPI	Quarterly KPI	0.03	-	-	-	
Children currently open to MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation)	-	-	56	54	53	56	-	-	-	
Children removed from MACE due to lowered risk	-	-	12	5	6	6	-	-	-	

**Supporting narrative**
**Repeat referrals**

Repeat referrals during Q1 stands at 22.1% (247). Despite a continued reduction in repeat referrals we remain slightly above the stat neighbours target range of 19.6% - 21.9%. Data analysis identifies that domestic abuse accounts for 19% of repeat referrals for the same reason during this quarter.

**Assessments**

The percentage of assessments completed within timescales in June was 84.2% which is higher than our year-end figure of 72.7%. This brings our year to date figure to 76.3%. RAG rated RED and low compared to stat neighbours (target range of 81.7% - 86.8%).

This area of performance will continue to be monitored during regular service performance meetings.

**Section 47 enquiries**

During Q1 there have been 372 section 47 enquiries which is an increase from Q4 figure of 332. Of these 27% were completed jointly by children's social care and police and the remaining 73% undertaken single agency by children's social care. Approximately 33.6% progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference and 52.15% of section 47 enquiries have an outcome of continue with assessment.

**Initial Child Protection conferences (ICPC)**

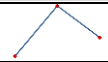
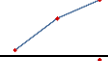


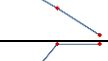

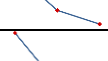

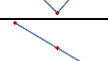
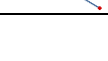
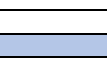
The percentage of ICPCs completed in timescale during Q1 is 63%. Whilst this has increased from our Q4 figure of 47.4% we remain below national, northwest and statistical neighbours. Primary factors that have impacted performance during this quarter is late notifications to the safeguarding unit 31.82%, assessments not completed in time 20.45% and the availability of key agencies 20.45%.

Performance will be reviewed at monthly Performance Management & Quality Assurance meetings.

**Child Protection Plans ceased, repeats and rate per 10,000**

During Q1 101 children had their Child Protection (CP) plan ended. Of these 28 children ended their CP plan due to becoming looked after. The majority of CP plans ended during Q4 evidenced a reduction of risk that could be supported through the provision of a child in need plan.

**Looking after children well**

	Year-end			2024/25			National (22/23)	North West (22/23)	Stat Neighbours (22/23)	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24				
% CLA visits completed within timescale	90.5%	90.7%	91.4%	91.5%	92.3%	91.8%	-	-	-	
% Completed health assessment reviews YTD	91.0%	78.0%	86.7%	30.8%	42.5%	49.3%	89.0%	92.0%	93.0%	
% Completed dental checks YTD	86.0%	79.0%	78.2%	2.7%	6.0%	10.2%	76.0%	77.0%	79.0%	
% Completed Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) YTD	96.0%	97.3%	91.5%	36.1%	46.8%	55.9%	75.0%	80.0%	79.0%	
% of CLA adopted in year	8.0%	11.0%	8.8%	16.7%	14.7%	12.5%	9.0%	9.0%	11.0%	
% of CLA placed with Foster carers	70.0%	69.0%	70.0%	68.9%	70.1%	70.1%	68.0%	66.0%	66.0%	
Timeliness of Adoption process A10 (426 days national target) Average days	809	652	565	1069	911	852	not published	not published	not published	
% Care leavers in suitable accommodation (Age 19-21)	94.0%	94.0%	96.5%	98.0%	96.0%	96.0%	88.0%	90.0%	88.0%	
% Care leavers in Education , Employment or Training (EET) (Age 19-21)	54.0%	59.0%	56.5%	57.9%	56.7%	58.1%	56.0%	54.0%	55.0%	
Missing Episodes	1385	1281	1349	133	128	123	-	-	-	
CAMHS referrals seen within 18 weeks	96.4%	N/A	90.0%	92.0%	100.0%	99.0%	-	-	-	

**Supporting narrative**










There has been a slight dip in timeliness of CLA visits due to staffing and performance issues which have now been addressed.







Health assessments and dental checks are cumulative figures and are expected to rise in line with national comparators.





The numbers of children adopted has been low in the first quarter but is expected to rise significantly over the rest of the year.

Timeliness of Adoption processes has improved slightly, however there remains some challenges within the court arena regarding delays in the final adoption order being granted. This is felt to be in part due to the judiciary trying to ensure that adoption orders are appellant free at the final order stage.

**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)**

	Year-end			2024/25	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Q1				
% Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 week timescale (Excluding Exceptions)	24%	36.60%	34%	17%	50.30%	56.70%	60.59%	
% of requests that went to tribunal	9.65%	5.67%	10.90%	6.36%	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	9.26%	19.90%	22.90%	23.20%	30.80%	28.80%	29.19%	
% of Children in Need with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	16.45%	20.80%	19%	19%	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	6.45%	8.80%	10.70%	11.50%	-	-	-	
% of Early Help Episodes with (SEND) Special Educational needs and disabilities	26.44%	30.40%	31.60%	31.90%	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	19.29%	16.10%	17.10%	17.20%	27.30%	27.10%	26.69%	
% of Children in Need with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	16.20%	14.30%	12.90%	14.10%	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	21.51%	21.20%	20.90%	19.20%	-	-	-	

	Year-end			Year End 2023/24	Current National	Trend
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23			
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan- Overall School Attendance %	90.60%	88.90%	87.30%	86.90%	86.70%	
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan Overall Persistent absence %	25.60%	37.10%	27.20%	26.00%	37.60%	
Number of pupils with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan who are electively home educated	18	12	20	14	-	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall School Attendance %	93.40%	91%	89%	88.0%	89.10%	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall Persistent absence %	19.30%	28.60%	23.80%	26.30%	29.80%	
Number of pupils with (SEN) Special Educational Need support who are electively home educated	39	54	59	71	-	

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
Key Stage 2 (RWM) Reading, Writing, Maths EHCP - % at Expected Level	2.50%	5%	Available next quarter	8%	8%	8.30%	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	-1.33	-1.02	Available next quarter	-1.12	-1.28	-1.27	
Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing, Maths (SEN) Special Educational Need support - % at Expected Level	20.70%	25%	Available next quarter	24%	23%	24.50%	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (SEN) Special Educational Need support	-0.46	-0.44	Available next quarter	-0.45	-0.59	-0.59	

**Supporting narrative**

The percentage of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks, at the end of Q1 was 17%. Requests for assessment has increased and demand is outweighing capacity within the SEND Referral and Assessment Team.

The Assistant Director for SEND has developed an EHCP and Annual Review Compliance and Recovery Plan. This was presented to, and approved by, the new Local Area SEND Partnership Board. Some of the actions contained in the plan, aimed at improving performance for compliance rates for EHCPs and Annual Reviews include a full restructure of the SEND Referral and Assessment Teams and the implementation of a new Quality Assurance Framework for EHCPs.

The restructure of the SEND Referral and Assessment Team includes additional posts to meet the ever increasing demand on the service. The restructure will require additional investment and the Assistant Director for SEND will be taking a paper to Policy & Resources Committee in September for approval.

Attainment results for 2023/24 will be available next quarter and be shared with Elected Members at a future Committee meeting.

**Schools**

	2022/23				2023/24				2024/25	Current National	Trend
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
% Exclusions - suspensions	1.36	0.97	1.95	6.5	1.72%	2.16%	2.35%	2.10%	1.62%	3.13%	
% Exclusions - permanent	0.019	0.017	0.035	0.12	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%	
Number of children known to be electively home educated	258	266	283	306	286	309	344	407	391	-	
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))	253	62	86	106	99	69	129	387	432	-	

	Term			2023/24						Current National	Trend
	2021/22 Summer Term	2022/23 Autumn Term	2022/23 Spring Term	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Summer Term	Year End 2023/24		
% of school age pupils eligible for (FSM) Free school meal	27.59	27.74	28.06	28.90%	28.95%	28.95%	29.39%	29.94%	29.94%	24.60%	
Overall School Attendance %	91.4	91.6	92.6	91.20%	93.60%	92.40%	92.30%	92.00%	92.30%	92.80%	
Overall Unauthorised Absence %	2.8	2.1	2.6	3.30%	2.10%	3.80%	2.50%	3.40%	2.80%	2.50%	
Overall Persistent Absence %	26.2	28.5	24.6	23.80%	19.60%	22.30%	23.80%	18.80%	21.30%	20.70%	
Overall School Attendance Open to Social Care %	-	82.6	83.9	82.90%	85.00%	83.10%	82.50%	82.83	81.70%	-	

**Supporting narrative**

The number of part time timetables continues to rise due to more schools making us aware of young people who are on reduced timetables. Locality Attendance Officers are undertaking a data cleansing exercise to ensure part time timetable reviews are tracked accurately in our case management system and are closed down when the plan ends. The Locality Attendance officers are gaining more confidence in challenging schools where the paperwork has not been completed properly.

The number of children who are Electively Home Educated stands at 391 at the end of Q1. When expressed as a rate per 10,000 population, Wirral compares favourably when compared to statistical neighbours and neighbouring authorities.

Suspensions and permanent exclusions are below the national average. This is partly due to the greater use of interventions by schools, alongside support, strategies and advice from the Local Authority. There has been a greater increase in the use of managed moves facilitated by the Inclusion Team to reduce the amount of Permanent Exclusions.

29.94% of Wirral children eligible for Free School Meals compared to a national average of 24.6%.

Overall school attendance in Wirral is 92.3% compared to a national average of 92.8%. Unauthorised and persistent absence in Wirral are slightly above the national figures.

**Education**

	Year-end			2024/25	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Q1	
% of under 5's who are engaged with the Early Years Service	51.11%	43.64%	45%	46%	
% of under 5's who have sustained engagement the Early Years Service (3 of more)	60.50%	47.94%	47%	47%	
% of 2 year olds benefitting from funded early education	83%	77.89%	94%	97%	
% of 3 year olds benefitting from funded early education	91%	90.96%	85%	82%	

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Current National	Trend
% of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	83%	81.60%	83.20%	84%	89.7%	
% of early years settings good or better	98%	97%	97.80%	98.40%	98%	
% of young people aged 16 and 17 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or Not Known	5.10%	4.10%	4.50%	NA	5.20%	

	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Current NCER National	Trend
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	69.3%	62.9%	65.2%	Available next quarter	67.7%	
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	59.5%	48.10%	42.9%	Available next quarter	41%	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers achieving good level of development in early years foundation stage profile	23.5	20.2	19.5	Available next quarter	18.4	
% 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	23%	21.5%	20.2%	Available next quarter	21%	
% achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	60%	52%	55.6%	Available next quarter	61%	
% 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%	24.1%	27.2%	Available next quarter	22%	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.84	0.92	0.44	Available next quarter	0.6	
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	0.01	-0.03	-0.11	Available next quarter	-0.02	

**Supporting narrative**

**Good Level of Development** The figure has increased by 2.3% compared to the previous year and the gap to national has narrowed to 2%, the school improvement has offered significant support to support early years practitioners over the last year and we will monitor the impact as the 2024 results are published. The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged has also reduced in the last academic year by 0.7% but the Wirral is still higher the national average by 1.6%

**Key Stage 2 outcomes** The number of children achieving the expected standard at KS2 has increased by 3.6% and the gap to national has reduced to 4.4%, this is the smallest gap in the last 5 years. We have seen an increase in the number of children achieving the expected standard in Maths, which has been a key focus for the last academic year.

**Key Stage 4 outcomes** Progress has reduced at KS4 has reduced from -0.03 to -0.11 which is a reduction of 0.08 and the gap to national has increased to 0.09. The Gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged. This has reduced from 0.92 to 0.44, we now have a smaller gap than national by 0.16.

Attainment results for 2023/24 will be available next quarter and be shared with Elected Members at a future Committee meeting.

**Workforce**

	Year-end			2022/23				2023/24				2024/25	National	North West	Statistical Neighbours	Trend
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1				
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts <b>Social Workers</b>	30%	26%	23%	20%	21%	26%	25%	25%	22%	22%	23%	24%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff <b>Social Workers</b>	22%	21%	22%	15%	13%	17%	21%	20%	19%	18%	22%	23%	-	-	-	
New starters - <b>Social Workers</b>	20	33	4	5	13	8	7	3	13	7	4	6	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - <b>Social Workers</b>	33	36	4	6	15	10	5	3	6	4	4	5	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence - <b>Social Workers</b>	16.46	14.82	13.6	4.4	3.69	3.98	2.75	3.35	3.05	3.78	3.42	4.79	-	-	-	
Average caseload for social worker	15.5	14.96	15.32	16	16.2	15	15	15.5	16.17	16.66	15.32	15.2	16.3	17.9	17	
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts <b>Children's Services Directorate</b>	20%	15%	17%	16%	15%	14%	15%	15%	17%	18%	17%	20%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff <b>Children's Services Directorate</b>	6.29%	6.10%	6.10%	6.00%	6.80%	6.30%	6.10%	5.60%	4.80%	4.60%	6.10%	5.60%	-	-	-	
New starters - <b>Children's Services Directorate</b>	98	93	31	20	27	20	26	13	33	14	31	22	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - <b>Children's Services Directorate</b>	102	86	21	22	26	15.5	22.5	18	32	13	21	25	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence <b>Children's Services Directorate</b>	12.55	12.06	3.4	2.86	2.75	3.28	3.17	3.19	4.1	4	3.4	4.11	-	-	-	

**Supporting narrative**

The data for Social Care in Q1 hasn't changed much since the 23/24 outturn. The vacancy rate has gone up slightly, and so has the agency rate. Turnover is quite stable with a net of 1 social worker in Q1. The most concerning is the average days lost per FTE has shot up. This is due to high levels of sickness absence within three particular teams, relating to a small group of staff being off long term sick.

The average caseload for Wirral Social Workers is 15.2. This is lower than the national average of 16.3.



<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Description</b>
CIN	Child in need
CP	Child protection
CPP	Child protection plan
CLA	Child looked after
DA	Domestic Abuse
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation
SDQ	Strength & Difficulties Questionnaire
EET	Education, Employment & Training
NEET	Not in Education, Employment & Training
CAMHs	Child & adolescent mental health service
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
GLD	Good Level of Development
FSM	Free School Meals
EHE	Electively Home Educated
DfE	Department for Education
CYP	Children & Young People
PA	Persistent Absence
FTE	Full Time Equivalent