

A black and white photograph of a woman with dreadlocks smiling and hugging a young boy in a kitchen. The woman is on the left, and the boy is on the right, leaning into her. They are both smiling and appear to be in a joyful moment. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a doorway.

Children and Learning Service Performance Report

July 2023

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Contents

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The data referenced in this report is a 'snap shot' at the end of each month. For further information please contact Laura Trevett, Strategic Performance Lead, laura.trevett@southampton.gov.uk.



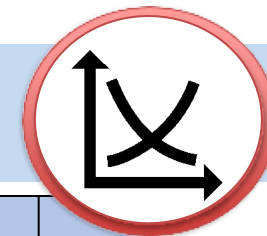
Context of Demand

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Context of Demand



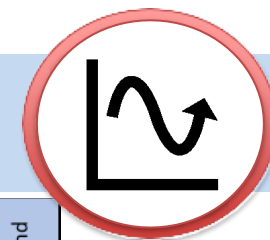
Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Trend
Number of contacts in the month	1867	1594	1959	1789	1488	1794	1428	1839	1598	2023	1544	1828	1910	↑
Number of referrals into Early Help	203	149	196	187	183	161	179	220	172	183	131	181	153	↓
Number of Early Help assessments started		130	126	111	118	100	102	112	89	110	73	74	82	↑
Number of referrals into statutory service in the month	322	318	286	314	276	396	298	343	330	433	282	301	285	↓
Number of strategy discussions held	215	224	183	198	164	288	191	200	196	217	184	185	200	↑
Number of Section 47 enquiries completed	129	168	134	158	114	193	139	103	158	169	138	126	106	↓
Rolling rate of Section 47 enquiries per 10,000 of children	356	357	368	371	360	368	364	351	353	356	359	353	350	↓
Number of C&F assessments completed	296	291	369	380	289	356	326	322	317	400	309	425	277	↓

Analysis: Contacts have remained within the higher range with a further increase in June. However, this resulted in a lower number of children being referred to Early Help and statutory Children Services. There were an increased number of assessments started in Early Help, which reflects the focus on increasing earlier activity for children and families.

Whilst we held more strategy discussions, our conversion to Section 47 enquiries reduced, which reflects the drive to robustly apply threshold decisions at these critical meetings. This has resulted in a further decrease in the rolling rate of S.47 enquiries.

The number of assessments completed within the service reduced significantly to rate more in line with the national and statistical neighbours. The service will still undertake a focused audit to better understand this area of practice.

Trends of children across the service



Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	2398	2444	2417	2362	2327	2404	2363	2401	2402	2425	2326	2304	2280	-	-	-				
Number of children open to Early Help		827	924	969	959	928	890	919	920	913	870	880	845							
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD)	683	690	618	621	621	642	648	584	538	535	639	524	493	-	-	-				
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (CWD)	261	268	270	263	256	252	249	244	243	222	209	203	217	-	-	-				
Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month	426	389	389	355	315	301	302	288	301	315	347	355	351	-	-	-				
Rate of children subject to CP plans	86	79	79	72	64	61	61	58	61	64	70	72	71	60	●	↑				
Number of children in our care	554	554	551	548	552	543	543	553	545	539	505	517	518	-	-	-	497	640	10480	80850
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	112	112	112	111	112	113	110	112	111	109	102	105	105	100	●	→	96	100	53	67
Rate of children in our care excluding UASC	107	108	107	106	106	106	103	105	103	101	95	98	98	-	-	-				
Number of children in our care who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)	24	21	24	27	31	36	35	37	37	40	38	36	37	-	-	-	20	23	820	4070
Number of Care Leavers	248	250	253	253	253	257	260	268	277	282	289	288	294	-	-	-				

Analysis:

- The number of children open to the service has been gradually reducing as demand in statutory areas has reduced.
- Families are now receiving interventions alongside assessments, which then enables them being able to step down or close. As a result, a smaller proportion of children are being held on CIN (190 less than this time last year) and CP planning, and there are fewer children in our care. Our rate of children in care has remained static over the past two months, with a reducing trend since the start of the year.
- Our cohort of Care Leavers continues to increase, and this will be a long-term trend as a large cohort of looked after children age of the service.



Performance

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Earlier & Meaningful Interventions

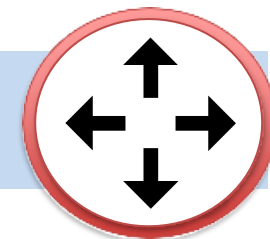


Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	28%	26%	28%	30%	27%	26%	30%	27%	25%	28%	27%	25%	35%	23%	●	↓	27%	21%	26%	21%
Number of Early Help assessments completed	99	162	99	106	92	155	84	101	113	100	61	117	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of referrals leading to NFA	4%	1%	1%	4%	3%	5%	4%	6%	5%	8%	7%	5%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days	78%	72%	78%	61%	70%	70%	78%	86%	84%	78%	85%	75%	90%	90%	●	↑	86%	87%	89%	88%
Percentage of C&F assessments completed with outcome of NFA	65%	52%	56%	57%	51%	45%	56%	53%	48%	42%	64%	55%	44%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of S47 (not CP or CLA) ended with NFA	70%	88%	72%	65%	78%	75%	84%	78%	79%	63%	70%	76%	73%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of ICPCs held in 15 working days of strategy discussion	66%	37%	67%	97%	60%	63%	52%	83%	34%	70%	77%	92%	83%	95%	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children subject to 2nd or more CP plan	27%	28%	28%	30%	31%	32%	32%	33%	32%	32%	33%	34%	33%	24%	●	↑	24%	24%	24%	23%

Analysis:

- The percentage of re-referrals into the service has increased to 35%, this is a year high and a review of the children in June being referred is underway.
- Performance regarding completing Single Assessments within timescales improved to a year high in June which is linked to the smaller number of assessments being completed. Less children were deemed as not requiring a service after the assessment had been completed.
- ICPC timeliness decreased slightly but is still better in performance than historically.
- Children subject to a 2nd or more CP plan remains at a third of all children on a CP plan, this is an area of Service Lead oversight and a gradual reduction as those children cease their CP plans is expected.

Performance - Visits to create change

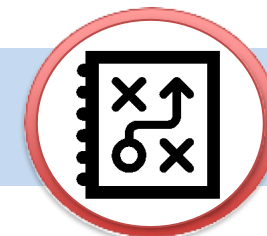


Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks	94%	93%	95%	94%	95%	97%	95%	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	95%	95%	🟢	↓
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales	85%	88%	84%	88%	89%	86%	85%	89%	92%	86%	85%	86%	94%	95%	🟡	↑
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days	87%	83%	82%	94%	87%	91%	94%	95%	93%	87%	90%	92%	90%	95%	🟡	↓
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks	98%	96%	98%	98%	97%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%	98%	98%	95%	🟢	→
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales	86%	85%	81%	84%	86%	89%	86%	81%	79%	86%	89%	92%	89%	95%	🔴	↓

Analysis:

- There is no regional or national benchmarking for our visiting KPI's.
- Child in Need visiting within the Safeguarding and Young Person Services remains strong in performance, comfortably above the target of 95%. The visiting for children with disabilities improved to close to the target as an all year high.
- Visits to children subject to CP planning has been tracking towards the target but dipped slightly in June. 98% of children are seen within the statutory timescale of 4 weekly.
- Ofsted noted excellent examples of direct work and impact of visits to children and families on Child In Need and Child protection plans. There is an ongoing push within the service to record evidence of this on a child's record consistently.

Performance – Management oversight for impact and progress



Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales	93%	90%	88%	93%	94%	95%	96%	96%	93%	93%	93%	91%	87%	95%	🔴	↓
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales	77%	75%	80%	78%	84%	90%	86%	93%	90%	89%	90%	96%	84%	95%	🔴	↓
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (CWD) who had their supervision within timescales	100%	99%	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%	98%	96%	86%	68%	95%	🔴	↓
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales	91%	83%	89%	85%	88%	95%	94%	93%	96%	86%	91%	98%	85%	95%	🔴	↓
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	82%	83%	81%	78%	76%	73%	76%	86%	86%	78%	85%	94%	85%	95%	🔴	↓
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	78%	70%	78%	39%	44%	51%	60%	45%	86%	81%	86%	92%	92%	95%	🟡	→

Analysis:

- Performance around supervision for children dipped in all areas by approximately 10% other than Care Leavers. This is linked to the high level of management activity linked to the Ofsted inspection that took place over 3 weeks in June.
- Management oversight will be a focus in all assurance clinics this month to ensure that this area of performance improves.

Performance – Multi-agency working

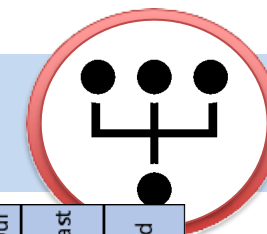


Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of children subject to child protection plans with recent core group held in time	82%	79%	73%	82%	84%	90%	77%	76%	76%	78%	77%	85%	71%	95%	🔴	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of initial health assessments within 20 working days of child becoming looked after	43%	22%	9%	23%	25%	74%	28%	26%	5%	31%	22%	60%	50%	90%	🔴	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children in care for >12 months with health assessment in timescales	75%	75%	78%	80%	81%	85%	85%	87%	86%	80%	78%	81%	79%	90%	🔴	↓	83%	93%	89%	91%

Analysis:

- Core group activity reduced in June 2023. With the inspection in June, which covers a three-week period, social workers may have struggled to record core groups that did take place. This will be another focus in the relevant assurance clinics over the next month.
- Initial health assessments for children becoming looked after dipped, we accommodated an unusually high number of children in June, 31 in total. The circumstances for the children that did not receive a health assessment in timescales will be addressed with health and fed back into Senior Management arrangements for oversight.
- The percentage of children in our care for more than a year with an up-to-date health assessment has been a generally declining trend this year, the Head of service for Pathways Through Care has established a monthly joint strategic health and social care meeting that has reviewed this performance over the last three months that has identified the delays relate to capacity within the health team. Due to the further decline in performance, this issue is being presented to Corporate Parenting Board in July 2023.

Performance – Robust Corporate Parenting



Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbourhood	South East	England
Percentage of children with an up to date Care Plan	85%	89%	89%	94%	93%	94%	91%	94%	97%	97%	97%	97%	95%	95%	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of young people with an up to date Pathway Plan (16+)	66%	70%	72%	81%	78%	77%	74%	75%	73%	71%	72%	76%	80%	95%	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Percentage of CLA children with an up to date review	98%	98%	99%	100%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%	97%	98%	97%	95%	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3+ placements during the year	16%	17%	19%	18%	18%	17%	16%	15%	15%	14%	15%	15%	14%	11%	●	↓	14%	10%	11%	9%
Percentage of CLA placed <20 miles from home	71%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	69%	69%	68%	67%	67%	76%	●	→	-	-	-	-
Percentage of CLA placed in Residential placements (H5,K1,K2) as at the end of the month	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	13%	13%	13%	13%	14%	14%	14%	14%	8%	●	→	-	-	-	-
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	23%	23%	23%	24%	24%	24%	25%	25%	26%	27%	29%	28%	29%	<36%	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of CLA in care for 12+ months, with same social worker for last 6 months	-	-	-	-	-	-	56%	54%	50%	49%	47%	59%	62%	75%	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of Children Looked After (CLA) placed for adoption at period end	43	43	38	38	34	35	29	29	23	23	13	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Analysis:

- Care planning, and care plan reviews continue to meet and exceed targets respectively. Pathway planning timeliness has improved.
- Following the increase in permanent social workers within the Pathways Through Care teams, the proportion of children with the same social worker has continued to increase. There are still agency workers where active recruitment processes are underway that will impact on this figure in the coming months.
- Placement stability remains a key focus for children in long term placements, and proactive support and interventions are being discussed and delivered through the repurposed Building Resilience Service. There is also extensive work around reunifications of children that can return to their families, and young people stepping across from residential placements back into foster care that will show as an additional move but is in the child's best interest.
- Given the number of children accommodated in June, we were able to maintain the proportion of children placed with Southampton and did not increase the proportion of children in residential placements.



Quality Assurance

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Quality Assurance - Audit insight into Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment



Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment (CSAFE)

Following a number of Serious Case Reviews that identified the need to improve our identification, assessment and intervention with families where children experienced child sexual abuse within the family environment (CSAFE), a new CSAFE framework was created and implemented in August 2020. This resulted in increased understanding of CSAFE across the service, improved assessments and interventions with perpetrators and non-offending parents, the creation and provision of specialist training internally and to the multi-agency partners, and an invitation to lead on the HIPS wide Child Sexual Abuse strategy that was launched in 2023. In April, we undertook a thematic audit of the CSAFE work being undertaken and it found –

- Evidence of impactful CSAFE work being completed by ICAS.
- Practitioners facilitate effective direct work with parents using a variety of tools/methods.
- Tangible outcomes are observed as a result including improved parental insight, overcoming of shame/guilt/denial to address the harm that had been suffered by children as well as improved capacity to mitigate future risk to them. It was notable in this area of work that many practitioners faced challenges with regards to engagement in the initial stages of work. However with resilience, empathy and persistence many of the initial obstacles were overcome to progress the work required.
- Appropriate risk assessments are commissioned where required to support good decision making. These are analytical, evidence based and supported well by good research with appropriate consideration for history.
- It was noted at times that family members were at different stages of the change process and in those circumstances more individualised plan of work would have been beneficial.
- Within case-holding teams, there has been some evidence of good multi-agency work including impactful mapping meetings and safety planning meetings.
- Also, in some instances involvement of extended family members has been observed in respect of planning and CSAFE intervention. In these teams however, whilst pockets of outstanding work was noted, generally more focus on direct work with children was required especially where children were not in receipt of support from specialist services.
- Many audits referenced practitioners having good relationships with families which would have created good foundation for meaningful direct work to be completed however the benefits of this was not fully realised.
- Ongoing focus on CSAFE within direct work training would be beneficial for case-holding practitioners especially as much of the direct work seen in this audit sample has been adult led.



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