

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thursday, 11th February, 2021
at 5.00 pm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE LISTED REPORTS

Contacts

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE (Pages 1 - 10)

Wednesday, 3 February
2021

SERVICE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:		
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	Similar	Decrease 10% or more
			↑	→	↓

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	% change from Dec-20	% change from Jan-20	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Jan-21):
M1	Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>There is an effective 'front door' with which anyone with a concern about a child can engage and receive appropriate advice, support and action.</i>	1343	1607	1555	1787	1507	1464	→ -3%	→ 3%		1400	1787	Local	Local	Local				The number of Contacts for Jan 21 has decreased by 3% and brings in more in line with the 12 month average. Schools being closed are likely to have had an impact on the number of referrals coming into MASH.
M2	Number of new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are accepted appropriately by the service.</i>	263	357	368	449	351	271	↓ -23%	↓ -33%		330	449	368	353	502				In line with the number of Contacts received into MASH, the number where a decision has been made for a referral has also decreased.
M3	Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Children and families receive the help they need at the right time, and from the best possible resource - in line with the established continuum of need.</i>	20%	22%	24%	25%	23%	19%	↓ -21%	↓ -35%		24%	28%	Local	Local	Local				The percentage of contacts that become new referrals has decreased during January. The MASH decision making continues to be scrutinised through audit and no concerns have been raised.
M2-NI	Number of new referrals of Children in Need (CiN) rate per 10,000 (0-17 year olds)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	52	70	72	88	69	53	↓ -23%	↓ -34%		65	88	Local	Local	Local				The number of new referrals of children in need rate per 10.000 0-17 year olds has decreased by 23%, There is no information to compare this with statistical neighbours. This is expected with a decrease in the number of Contacts being received into MASH.
M8-OL	Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>The safety of children is supported by referrals being dealt with in a timely manner.</i>	99%	94%	98%	98%	99%	99%	→ 0%	→ 1%	▲	98%	99%	Local	Local	Local				The conversion rate for the 1 working day decision making is at 99% for January, showing MASH are compliant with Working Together 2018, despite Navigators working remotely and the complexities of this situation.
M6-OL (val)	Number of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	19	23	27	37	32	8	↓ -75%	↓ -53%	▼	20	37	Local	Local	Local				
M6-OL	Percentage of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	7%	6%	7%	8%	9%	3%	↓ -67%	↓ -25%	▼	6%	9%	27%	23%	26%				
M4	Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation (CSE) was a factor	Julian Watkins	Simon Dennison	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	7	15	2	2	2	2	→ 0%	↑ 100%		4	15	Local	Local	Local				QA work on September peak showed that a large majority (80%) were inaccurately flagged CSE. Moving forward, the service recommends that consideration is given to a revised indicator, linked to CERAF (risk assessment) and monthly MASH Review data which counts the number of children in the contact at risk of criminal and or sexual exploitation and identifies their level of risk.

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M5	Number of children receiving Early Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CiN) assessment	Julian Watkins	Sean Holthouse	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	4	7	14	17	0	4	- n/a	↓ -69%		8	22	Local	Local	Local				Early Help Locality Teams continue to work with families to prevent escalation of need, & to refer appropriately where children are at immediate risk and in need of protection. The Early Help Hub Rapid Response Team continue to work with new referred high-end early help cases preventing escalation into Social Care. EH Locality cases are RAG rated and moderated with SW EH lead. The High EH cohort are also reviewed with EWS & schools to share risk information on vulnerable pupils. The number of CSC 'step up' cases in January was below average with 4 recorded.
EH2	Number of Children In Need (CiN) at end of period (all open cases, excluding EHPs, EHAs, CPP and LAC)	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>Children in need of help and support receive a consistent and effective service.</i>	1232	1251	1305	1348	1226	1162	→ -5%	↓ -13%	▼	1,289	1,379	Local	Local	Local				
EH5-QL	Number of children open to the authority who have been missing at any point in the period (count of children)	Julian Watkins	Simon Dennison	<i>The needs and safety of children who have been missing are responded to robustly.</i>	59	72	69	78	53	49	→ -8%	↓ -28%	▼	66	83	Local	Local	Local				After a very high Nov 19 return, numbers are back to similar rate and below the 12m average
EH3	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Children receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs; with strengths and areas of risk identified to inform evidence-based planning.</i>	248	243	285	346	410	305	↓ -26%	↓ -25%		300	410	354	365	485				The number of single assessments completed during January 21 has decreased by 26% following Dec 20 which had the highest number for a year. The slowing number of referrals being sent through from MASH has impacted on the number of single assessments being completed.
EH3a%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 10 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	4%	9%	12%	14%	16%	10%	↓ -33%	→ -5%	▲	11%	16%	11%	12%	13%				The percentage of single assessments completed within 10 days has decreased in line with the decrease in single assessments referred to the assessment service. The data shows that this is in line with statistical neighbours.
EH3b%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 11-25 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	32%	26%	32%	31%	31%	27%	↓ -14%	↑ 37%	▲	36%	49%	Local	Local	Local				The percentage of single assessments completed within 11 - 25 days has decreased in Jan 21 which is likely to be as a result of the decreasing number of referrals being transferred from MASH.
EH3c%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 26-35 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	28%	21%	16%	15%	19%	18%	→ -1%	→ -3%	▲	19%	28%	Local	Local	Local				The percentage of single assessments completed within 26-35 days is in line with the 12 month average.
EH3d%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 36-45 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	24%	30%	22%	19%	24%	28%	↑ 16%	↑ 77%	▲	19%	30%	Local	Local	Local				The percentage of single assessments completed within 36-45 days has increased which is likely to be as a result of a spike in referrals during Nov 20.
EH3e%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed over 45 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	11%	13%	18%	21%	11%	16%	↑ 53%	↓ -53%	▼	15%	21%	15%	16%	15%				The percentage of referrals completed over 45 days is currently 16% which is an increase from Dec 20. However it is in line with Statistical Neighbours, England and the South East Region. It is also significantly lower than Jan 20 which was 35%.
EH4 (val)	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	221	211	235	272	366	255	↓ -30%	→ -4%	▲	256	366							The number of single assessments completed within 45 days has decreased and was in line with the 12 month average.
EH4-QL	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	89%	87%	82%	79%	89%	84%	→ -6%	↑ 29%	▲	85%	93%							The percentage of single assessments completed with 45 days was 84% for Jan 21 which is lower than Dec 20. However, it is significantly higher than Jan 20 which shows a 65% completion rate.

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CP1	Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	Where there are concerns about a child's safety, there is a robust assessment of risk.	81	126	121	167	149	91	↓ -39%	→ -2%		121	167	119	110	155				The number of section 47 enquiries started during Jan 21 has seen a significant drop. Whilst a decrease would be expected compared with Dec 20, the low number is also due to the improvement week being undertaken with the social care managers and MASH Partner navigators looking at threshold.
CP1-NI	Rate of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started per 10,000 children aged 0-17	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	Safeguarding investigations undertaken by the service are at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	16	25	24	33	29	18	↓ -38%	→ 0%		24	33	19	14	15				The rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 children aged 0-17 years has decreased significantly for Jan 21 and was lower than statistical neighbours. This continues to be an area of focus within MASH and Partners, which has brought about improvement in threshold decision making.
CP6B	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection Plans are in place for children where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep them safe.	415	393	389	394	399	400	→ 0%	↓ -15%		408	441	350	339	427				Although the number of children subject to CPP is 15% lower than the same time in 2020, there has been a gradual increase in the number of children since September 2020, mirroring the increase in activity across the service after the first lockdown and the end of the summer holiday period. Unfortunately, the drift panel implementation was delayed in January due to staff, Covid-related sickness. When this is fully up and running in February it is expected to have an impact of the number of children. Our practice framework is due for launch in April 2021 (coinciding with the start of our new Principal Social Worker) and the work on the development of the vulnerable adolescents offer has started, with staff engagement work being undertaken in February / March 2021.
CP6B-NI	Rate of children with Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 (0-17 year olds) at end of period	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The number of children who require Child Protection Plans is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	82	77	77	78	78	79	→ 1%	↓ -14%		80	87	53	43	41				
CP2	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), excluding transfer-Ins and temporary registrations	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep a child safe, the case is progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference.	22	24	43	56	48	56	↑ 17%	↑ 229%		42	72	43	42	53				The 12m average number and rate of ICPC remain higher than SN average. Sec.47 decision making is been reviewed by the service and will also be the focus of the multi-agency MASH audits scheduled for 2021/22.
CP2-NI	Rate per 10,000 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	5	6	8	12	10	11	↑ 12%	↑ 235%		9	14	7	5	5				The 12m average number and rate of ICPC remain higher than SN average. Sec.47 decision making is been reviewed by the service and will also be the focus of the multi-agency MASH audits scheduled for 2021/22.
CP4 (val)	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	17	22	38	52	42	53	↑ 26%	↑ 253%		38	58							Monthly levels of conversion can vary, but the 12m average % conversion from conference to plan is 1% lower than the SN average. This is not assessed to be statistically significant.
CP4	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	77%	92%	88%	93%	88%	95%	→ 8%	→ 7%	▲	89%	97%	90%	87%	86%				Monthly levels of conversion can vary, but the 12m average % conversion from conference to plan is 1% lower than the SN average. This is not assessed to be statistically significant.
CP2b	Number of transfer-ins	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	1	7	0	5	3	1	↓ -67%	- n/a		2	7	Local	Local	Local				There was one transfer in during the month. When there are transfers, the service manager asks for an update from the CP chair(s) to clarify if transfer procedures have been followed.

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CP2b %	Percentage of transfer-ins where child became subject to a CP Plan during period	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	0%	100%	-	80%	100%	100%	→ 0%	- n/a		83%	100%	Local	Local	Local				There was one transfer in during the month. When there are transfers, the service manager asks for an update from the CP chair(s) to clarify if transfer procedures have been followed.
CP3-OL (val)	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) which were held within timescales (excludes transfer-ins)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	16	19	15	32	13	40	↑ 208%	↑ 900%	▲	27	50	34	33	40				There has been an improvement in performance in the past month, although the 12m average is 16% lower than the SN average. To ensure better performance a meeting has been arranged with the relevant service managers and the CP advisor.
CP3-OL	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	73%	79%	35%	57%	27%	71%	↑ 164%	↑ 204%	▲	65%	94%	81%	78%	76%				There has been an improvement in performance in the past month, although the 12m average is 16% lower than the SN average. To ensure better performance a meeting has been arranged with the relevant service managers and the CP advisor.
CP8-OL	Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 working days.	Phil Bullingham	Sarah Ward	The service is in regular contact with children subject to Child Protection planning to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	85%	62%	85%	92%	87%	88%	→ 1%	↑ 29%	▲	76%	92%	Local	Local	Local				
CP5-OL (val)	Number of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	2	13	14	17	11	19	↑ 73%	- n/a	▼	10	19	9	8	11				The % repeat CPP increases after September 2020 and the average for the period between September and January is 34%, 10% higher than the SN average. The service has commissioned an audit to explore the reasons for this trend.
CP5-OL	Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	12%	41%	37%	30%	24%	36%	↑ 47%	- n/a	▼	24%	41%	24%	22%	23%				The % repeat CPP increases after September 2020 and the average for the period between September and January is 34%, 10% higher than the SN average. The service has commissioned an audit to explore the reasons for this trend.
CP9	Number of children subject to Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the month	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where children are subject to Child Protection planning, their cases are reviewed regularly to identify progress and any barriers.	73	123	112	86	70	115	↑ 64%	→ 5%	▼	100	135	Local	Local	Local				Numbers of RCPC are comparable to the same time in 2020 and are being maintained through investment in CP chairs. CPP de-registrations have increased, as predicted, after the Christmas period.
CP7	Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where it is assessed that risks to a child have reduced there is a review of risk and the case is stepped down effectively.	25	53	42	47	37	54	↑ 46%	↑ 29%	▲	42	63							Numbers of RCPC are comparable to the same time in 2020 and are being maintained through investment in CP chairs. CPP de-registrations have increased, as predicted, after the Christmas period.
LAC1	Number of Looked after Children at end of period	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Where it is assessed that there is no safe alternative, the local authority will take children into its care for their welfare and protection.	493	485	492	503	499	508	→ 2%	→ 3%	▼	494	512	496	527	550	515	495	420	A more significant increase of 9 children came new in to our care in January so at 508 currently this is close to the maximum of 512 in July last year. The number fluctuates month to month but for the past year has ranged from 485 to 512. Work continues to keep those who can safely be supported at home from entering our care and those who are in care to safely exit care when it is safe to do so whether through reunification, SGO, CAO, Care Order discharge, adoption etc.
LAC1-NI	Looked after Children rate per 10,000	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	The level of children in care is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	97	95	97	99	98	100	→ 2%	→ 3%	▼	97	101	89	67	53				As above, the rate per 10,000 population has correspondingly ranged from 95 to 101 and is currently towards at the upper end at 100 per 10,000.

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LAC2	Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Where children meet the threshold and there are no alternatives, they will be safe and have their welfare needs addressed through accommodation by the local authority.	9	8	23	25	11	23	↑ 109%	↑ 156%	▼	15	29	47	44	46				As indicated in December's commentary the number of new episodes of care has fluctuated throughout the year and December's new entrants at 11 have more than doubled to 23 in January. The range of numbers of new entrants has been between 7 and 29 across the last year, with the average now being at 15 per month, all of which by comparison are significantly lower than our comparators.	
LAC3	Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Children will leave care in a planned way with clear networks of support around them.	24	17	16	14	12	14	↑ 17%	↑ 133%	▲	13	24	16	16	19				After a steady slowing down month by month of numbers of children ceasing to be in our care from a peak of 24 in August, January has seen a slight increase from 12 in to 14 in January, the monthly average for the year has been 13. As detailed above, work to safely exit children from our care continues and is a priority for the service going forward.	
LAC6 (val)	Number of adoptions (E11, E12)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	4	4	4	1	4	1	↓ -75%	↓ -67%	▲	2	4				50				As noted last month we continue to see the court hear the backlog of applications lodged since the commencement of the pandemic. The court is sitting one session every other month to hear adoption applications. We have a number of applications to be heard on 9/2/21.
LAC6 (%)	Percentage of adoptions (E11, E12)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	17%	24%	25%	7%	33%	7%	↓ -79%	↓ -86%		15%	33%								7% of children leaving care this month was as a result of adoption orders being granted. That is because only one application was heard this month. We have a number of applications to be heard on 9/2/21.
LAC12 (val)	Number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	6	4	4	4	1	5	↑ 400%	↑ 400%		3	6	Local	Local	Local					There were a higher number of SGO made this month. A sibling group of 3 account for 3/5 orders made.
LAC12 (%)	Percentage of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	25%	24%	25%	29%	8%	36%	↑ 329%	↑ 114%		16%	36%	1%	1%	1%					33% of children leaving care this month was as a result of orders being granted.
LAC7-QL	Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	The service is in regular contact with Looked after Children to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	73%	70%	80%	75%	85%	84%	→ -2%	↑ 15%	▲	71%	85%	Local	Local	Local					Our remedial work with IROs is continuing as further data anomalies are identified and corrected, so whilst visits on time have dropped from 85% in December to 84% in January, we anticipate that performance will go up again as data is further corrected and as LAC reviews take place in coming months as that is another opportunity to change visiting frequencies as care plans change and develop for children.
LAC10 (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	96%	96%	98%	97%	97%	96%	→ 0%	→ 3%	▲	96%	98%	Local	Local	Local					Despite a 1% decrease from 97% in December to 96% in January, authorised care plan performance remains consistently high, this being a key document underpinning all our work with the children in our care.
LAC10-QL	Number of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	473	467	480	486	482	489	→ 1%	→ 6%	▲	473	489	Local	Local	Local					The 1% drop indicated above correlates with an increase in numbers of children with an authorised plan in this commentary plan - so in real terms performance has remained steady but does not appear so because there is an increase in cases needing care plans.
LAC13	Number of current Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at end of period	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	11	10	11	16	18	21	↑ 17%	↑ 50%		14	21	25	21	35					3 more Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum have come in to our care in the past month, bringing the total at the end of January to 21, which is the highest it has been for the past year, the monthly average for the year being 14. This indicator needs ongoing oversight before we can really comment on trends.

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LAC14	Number of new unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.</i>	0	0	1	3	2	3	↑ 50%	↑ 50%		1	3	Local	Local	Local				We have seen 3 more unaccompanied minors come in to our care in the past month, this brings the overall number to 21 which is the highest it has been for a year, but again it is too soon to say yet if this is a developing trend.
LAC11-OL	Number of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.</i>	171	178	173	176	179	177	→ -1%	↑ 13%	▲	170	179	Local	Local	Local				At 177, 2 less young people have an authorised Pathway Plan in January than in December but overall the trend is for us to have more care leavers open now up to the age of 21 - for example, 177 in January 2021, 157 in January 2020.
LAC11-OL (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.</i>	94%	96%	98%	98%	97%	97%	→ 0%	→ 4%	▲	96%	98%	Local	Local	Local				No change, Pathway Plan completion remains high at 97% again this month.
NI147	Percentage of Care Leavers in contact and in suitable accommodation	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers are in accommodation that is safe and secure.</i>	84%	85%	85%	85%	83%	82%	→ -1%	→ 4%	▲	84%	86%	85%	94%	91%	92.0%	93.0%	94%	A further 1 % drop in past month which needs investigation in order to establish - do we have less young people in contact with us, or the same amount in contact but they really are not in suitable accommodation, or is there an underlying data issue because not all parts of the service that work with care leavers, use the correct casenote to record their activity which is where this data is gathered from. Analysis will be provided for next commentary.
LAC9 (val)	Number of Looked after Children (LAC) placed with IFAs at end of period	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	142	140	143	150	150	156	→ 4%	→ 6%	▼	145	156	Local	Local	Local	112	TBC	TBC	Our use of IFA has increased this month with the rise in the number of children looked after and our in house provision being at high capacity.
LAC9 (%)	Percentage of IFA placements (of all looked after children)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	29%	29%	29%	30%	30%	31%	→ 2%	→ 3%	▼	29%	31%	Local	Local	Local				As above the increase in the number of children looked after has led to a 1% rise in our use of external provision.
LAC16	Number of in-house foster carers at the end of period	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	161	161	160	159	153	152	→ -1%	↓ -12%	▲	162	168	Local	Local	Local	190	190	200	As expected the number of in house mainstream foster carers has seen a decline as the backlog of recording panel activity and closures is being addressed. However, we are now beginning to see our cohort of foster carers level out. Our loss of foster carers is not keeping pace with the gains, with a net loss of 5 in Q1/2. Reasons for resignations are known and mainly relate to retirement, personal circumstances or adopting their foster children. The recruitment strategy for 2020-23 is in place and staffing resources have been requested in order to implement the strategy and recruit more foster carers.
EH1a	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) started in the month	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	<i>Children and families benefit from an early help offer that is rooted in a good understanding of their needs.</i>	132	124	124	127	112	117	→ -6%	↓ -43%		114	139	Local	Local	Local				
EH1c	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed in the month INCLUDING adults aged 21+	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	<i>Assessments are completed for adult family members where a need for support is identified.</i>	263	250	308	265	221	223	- n/a	↑ 27%		245	308	Local	Local	Local	288	336	TBC	Number of assessments completed are slightly lower than rolling monthly average.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	% change from Dec-20	% change from Jan-20	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Jan-21):
EH 1b	Number of Early Help Plans (EHPs) opened in the month (includes EHPs completed, and those still open at end of period)	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from early help plans that meet their presenting needs.	280	252	338	275	208	197	- n/a	↑ 29%		246	339	Local	Local	Local				The rate of opened EHP's is slightly below the rolling monthly average. Teams continue to focus on timeliness standards and case closures to support families self reliance and case throughput. EH locality case holding (Snr FSW) service capacity has been intermily increased to support swift allocation of new cases & avoid waiting lists (15 -20 families per SFSW pro rata & adjusted for named staff with parenting hub course delivery). Outcome Star no longer mandated tool as part of EHA.
EH 14 b	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed, EXCLUDING adults aged 21+	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for a children where a need for early help support is identified..	177	175	204	183	159	164	- n/a	→ 7%		170	204	-	-	-				The rate of completed EHA's is slightly below the rolling monthly average. Early Help Assessments are undertaken holistically with a child 'lived experience' focus and within the Locality EH teams the Outcome Star tool is used with individual children (age appropriate) to support engagement and strength based practice.
CIN 5	Number of all Children in Need (CiN) (including Child Protection (CP) / Looked after Children (LAC) / Care Leavers	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children and families receive support safely, at the right threshold and in a timely manner; supported by the interface between Early Help and Social Care.	2256	2250	2301	2367	2247	2193	- n/a	↓ -15%		2318	2437	Local	Local	Local				Further, small reducing trend: 52 fewer cases than previous month and 15% decrease over the year.
LSC B1 7a	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEET or whose activity is not known	Derek Wiles	Debbie Blythe	Young people benefit from an effective work to engage them in education, training and employment.	tbc	tbc	tbc	0	0	0	- n/a	- n/a	▼	0	0	-	-	-				
YO 2	Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 year olds in period	Phil Bullingham	Debbie Blythe	Young people are appropriately diverted from entry into the criminal justice system through the local diversion / prevention offer.	tbc	tbc	tbc	0	0	0	↓ -22%	- n/a	▼	0	0	417	327	256				
FM 01 1	Families attached per quarter	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	Families benefit from a robust local Troubled Families offer. (Families Matter)	28	34	36	22	23		- n/a	- n/a	▲	32	44	-	-	-				Our attachment target is 223 families to be worked with (discreet target for 2020/21). The revised attachment target has been achieved in QTR 1 through existing attachments over and above the previous target (2775 above 2230). Approximately 40 additional families need to be attached per month to realise the PbR target based upon a 40% conversion rate.
FM 01 2	Payment per result (PBR) claims attached per quarter	Phil Bullingham	Sean Holehouse	Family engagement in the Families Matter programme translates into PBR, for further investment into the programme.		51					- n/a	- n/a	▲	43	51	-	-	-				147 successfully worked with families (PbR certified claims) for QTR 1, 2 & 3 (60 in Qtr 3). This is a reduction on last year's quarterly average of ~100 with evidence of C-19 impacted regression on families FM outcomes (DV, worklessness, school attendance). The targets for 2020/21 have been revised to account for the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency & an adaptation made on school attendance made for QTR 2 & 3. Staff continue to work with any family requiring support. Remedial plan developing to uplift PbR performance for Qtr 4 & 21/22 target.

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January 2021 Performance overview of Children's Social Care and Early Help:

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.

11th of February 2021.

Overarching performance summary:

The service remains resilient in terms of Covid and staff have been accessing the vaccine to enable safe engagements with vulnerable families across the city. The leadership team have set out a range of improvement activities aiming to simplify access to services for children and to balance demand pressure across frontline teams. This work will assist improvements in both the quality of our work as well as the retention of staff. The council have supported an extension of permanent roles into the service to help meet demand and we have commenced recruitment work. We still have challenges in relation to high caseloads and referral rates; we are addressing these across five key strands set out in our improvement plan.

Highlighted performance areas of focus:

- **Caseloads remain too high in Assessment, Protection and Court (PACT) and Looked after Children (LAC) teams**

Response: The service is working with the communications team regarding its recruitment campaign, which has commenced. We are receiving applicants and progressing these. We are also shifting the remits of teams to allow for wider Case-holding activity and therefore balancing out pressure.

- **The level of agency workers remains too high**

Response: Approval granted to make over-establishment social worker posts permanent. HR and finance are working in January to create the posts; alongside the other operational and support roles requested.

- **Audit completion remains low, with an impact on the Year of the Child cohort**

Response: Audit workshops for managers are being delivered January – March 2021. There will be a continued focus on Year of the Child. The service will pilot a new way of undertaking management audits, linked to service delivery plans in February / March. Thematic audits by the quality assurance unit will continue. UPDATE: we have trialled the audit training and received positive feedback. *We have started working with the Assessment Service managers on their training and are scheduling the sessions for PACT, LAC and Permanence.*

- **ICPC timeliness performance remains low**

Response: In light of ongoing performance, the QA Unit manager will meet with the HoS for social care, the relevant service managers and the Child Protection advisor to confirm an improvement plan in January 2021. *Update: Meeting has taken place with agreement for management oversight on each relevant case. January data shows some improvement.*

- **Rates of sec.47, children subject to child protection planning and looked after children are high**

Response: This will be a focus for the new analyst working in MASH, EDT and Assessment.

- **Children with CPP rate remains high**

Response: Looking forward, the Strengthening Families approach has been confirmed as one element of the Southampton restorative practice model and CP chairs will begin delivering awareness raising workshops to staff and partners. This should support the more regular implementation of safe, alternatives to CP planning. Finally, the development of our vulnerable adolescents offer (a two month development project is underway) will have an impact upon planning for the older cohort

- **Looked after children rate remains high**

Response: Analysis of entry into care in Southampton is informing the development of vulnerable adolescent provision; alongside the panel activity that has been implemented.

- **Education Training and Employment engagement for care leavers has reduced since the last Board**

Response: The service has reviewed its Skills and Development Plan. There is a recommendation that there is a focused discussion at Improvement Board on this area.

- **Use of IFA shows a small increase and in house foster placements shows a reducing trend.**

Response: The service is reviewing children placed in IFA with complex needs (alongside residential placements) as part of its panel activity and development of the residential offer. The recruitment strategy for 2020-23 is in place and staffing resources have been requested in order to implement the strategy and recruit more foster carers.

Leadership Team
DFSC 11/02/2022