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Dear Councillor,

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2023

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following document which was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No.

Item

9

Performance and Quality (Pages 3 - 6)

Report of the Assistant Director Children's Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding) – Scorecard document, attached.

Please note, a copy of the full excel version of this document can be requested from Laura Bootland laura.bootland@sefton.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Democratic Services

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Children's Social Care Performance Scorecard											
No	Indicator	LA 12m	LA 6m	Target	Direction of travel	Low/High is good	LA	SN	Eng	Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
1	Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	693	522	650	↓	-	768	579	538	Higher	The rate of referrals per 10k children (12 months) has fallen from 830 in November 2022 to 693 in September 2023. Rolling 6 months rate of 522 is below target and benchmarking group, showing magnitude of change in last 6 months.
2	Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral (%)*	26.9	25.9	22	↓	Low	19	21	20	In range	Re-referral rate from rolling 12 months compared to 6 months shows progress has been made to reducing the number of repeat referrals and towards the target of 22%. Although progress is made, the current rate of 26.9% is above last published rate of 19% from 2021-22 (2022-23 to be published soon).
3	Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	832	769	730	↓	-	820	622	533	Higher	The rate of assessments completed (832) is on a downward trajectory since October 2022 and the 6 month figure (769) shows that greater progress toward target 730 has been made recently. Sefton has a higher rate compared to the average LA group.
4	Assessments completed within 45 working days (%)*	65.2	55	84	↓	High	79	89	84	In range	The rate of assessments completed within 45 days continue to fall and this trajectory started in November 2022. Sefton has the lowest completion rate of all 24 local authorities in the North West.
5	Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	303.5	246	250	↓	-	243	207	180	Higher	Direction of travel for the rate of s47 enquiries continue in the correct direction, with 6 month rate emphasizing the progress being made - 6 month rate has surpassed target. Although this rate would still place Sefton in the higher range when compared to benchmarking neighbours.
6	Percentage of agency social workers (%) in workforce**	-	49	20	↓	Low	50	-	-	-	Target is to reduce the percentage of agency staff from 50% to 20% and September's figure of 49% shows very slight progress has been made.
7	Number of children cared for in unregulated and unregistered placements**	-	27	19	↓	Low	38	-	-	-	The target of children cared for in unregulated placements is to reduce the number by 50%. The number in April was 38 and steady progress has been made in five months as the number is currently 27, moving towards the target of 19 children.

Children's Social Care Performance Scorecard											
No	Indicator	LA 12m	LA 6m	Target	Direction of travel	Low/High is good	LA	SN	Eng	Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
8	Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	89	58	-	↓	-	80	74	61	Higher	The rate per 10,000 children has dropped significantly from 89 to 58 children based on 6 months data a year ago compared to a snapshot taken at the end of September. If progress was sustained, this would result in a rate inline with national and below statistical neighbours.
9	Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	92	70	-	↓	High	63	82	79	Lower	ICPCs completed within 15 working days of 547 has fallen 18% points compared to 12 months ago. Rate is currently higher than 21-22, however would remain lower than benchmarking groups.
10	Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	443	354	-	↓	-	495	382	334	Higher	The rate of children in need has fallen compared to 12 months ago, which ties in with the fall in referrals into social care. Rate would be lower than statistical neighbours and North West (383.1, Regional Information Group Q1)
11	Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	70	58	-	↓	-	62	50	42	Higher	Rate of CP children have continued to fall since August 2022, where the rate was 78. The current rate would mean Sefton to be slightly above statistical neighbours and above North West (49 per 10k).
12	Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	15	25	-	↑	Low	21	25	23	In range	Sefton had a lower than average rate of repeat CP, however an increase in recent months has resulted in a percentage rate in the same range as statistical neighbours, North West and national.
13	Children who ceased to be on a CP plan whose plan lasted 2 years or more (%)	3	5	-	↑	Low	2	3	4	Lower	The percentage of children who ceased to be on a CP plan for 2 years or more has always been low, however an increase recently has pushed the rate marginally above benchmarking groups.
14	Children who are looked after (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	112	116	-	↑	-	113	90	70	Higher	Sefton's rate of looked after children has increased in the last 12 months (602, Sep 2022 v 620 Sep 2023) and rate per 10k is higher than statistical neighbours and national. Recent North West analysis shows Sefton to be 7th highest in the group.
15	Children looked after who had a missing incident in the period (%)	11	11	-	↔	-	9	11	11	In range	Rate remains static over 12 month period and inline with statistical neighbours and national. Slight increase compared to 2021-22 published statistics.

Sefton Council												Children's Social Care Performance Scorecard											
Data as at end of September (Q2)																							
This scorecard compares the latest 6 month data to 6 month data 12 months ago, as taken from the ChAT report.																							
The top seven indicators are measures being monitored in the DfE Commissioner's report and where possible, a rolling 12 month figure is used to show recent progress.																							
The scorecard also shows the direction of travel and comparisons made to published statistics (2021-22)																							
Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators.												Latest published statistics for LAs (2021-22)											
No	Indicator	LA 12m	LA 6m	Target	Direction of travel	Low/High is good	LA	SN	Eng	Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis												
16	Children looked after who were away without authorisation in the period (%)	1	1	-	↔	-	1	3	2	Lower	Rate remains static over 12 month period and low compared with statistical neighbours and national.												
17	Children looked after who had their teeth checked by a dentist in the last 12 months (%)	61	69	-	↑	High	68	71	70	In range	Percentage rate has increased since this time last year. In range with benchmarking groups.												
18	Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%)	93	88	-	↓	High	94	93	89	In range	Slight decrease compared to 12 months ago and current rate would be lower than statistical neighbours.												
19	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%)	3	5	-	↑	-	13	11	10	In range	Adoption rate has increased in the last 6 months, however is low compared to benchmarking groups.												
20	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	24	14	-	↓	-	21	17	13	Higher	Percentage rate has fallen in the last 6 months and is slightly lower than statistical neighbours.												
21	Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%)	81	96	-	↑	High	83	91	79	Lower	Percentage rate has increased in the last 6 months and is above benchmarking groups.												
22	Care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%) - Latest snapshot **	97	85	-	↓	High	92	90	88	In range	The rate of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation has fallen from 97% to 85% in the twelve months. The rate of 85 would place Sefton in the lower range when comparing to statistical neighbours.												
23	Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%) - Latest snapshot **	52	44	-	↓	High	48	52	55	Lower	Similar to care leavers in suitable accommodation, those in employment, education or training (EET) has fallen from 52% to 44% when comparing the same position 12 months ago. This rate would be in the lower range when comparing to statistical neighbours.												

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2												
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32												neighbours.
33												
34	* rolling 12 months data. All others figures are taken from the ChAT 12 months ago											
35	** snapshot at end of September 2023											
36												
37												
38												