

Data as at end of December 2023

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.

Indicators 8-23 compares the latest 6 month data from December 2023 to 6 month data 12 months ago, as taken from the ChAT report.

The scorecard also shows the direction of travel and comparisons made to published statistics (2022-23)

No	Indicator	LA rolling 12m (Jan22 - Dec23)	LA rolling 6m (Jul23 - Dec23)	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q2 Sefton	RIG Q2 NW	Latest published statistics (2022-23)					Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
									LA	SN	NW	Eng			
1	Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	641.3	601.9	↓	650	-	706.7	507	823	630	530	545	Higher	The rate of referrals per 10k children (rolling 12 months) has fallen from 657 to 641.3 since last month. This rate was at its peak at 892 referrals per 10k in November 2022. Rolling 6 months rate of 601.9 shows the magnitude of change in last 6 months. Both rates are below target and below stat neighbour group, but still above NW and England.	
2	Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral (%)*	25.7%	22.8%	↓	22	Low	27.2%	22.5%	27	24	22	22	Higher	Re-referral rate in rolling 12 months has fallen from 26.1% to 25.7% this month. Compared to 22.8% of re-referrals in the last six months, this highlights the progress being made and the rate is slowly moving to the target of 22%. Although progress has been made, the current 12 month rate of 25.7% is above benchmarking groups.	
3	Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	820.1	766.5	↓	730	-	855	833	919	667	597	557	Higher	The rate of assessments is on a downward trajectory since June 2023 and has fallen from last month from 847.1 to Dec 820.1. The 6 month figure (766.5) shows that greater progress towards the target of 730 has recently been made. Despite the continued fall in rate, Sefton still has a higher rate compared to the benchmarking group.	
4	Assessments completed within 45 working days (%)*	67.0%	75.1%	↑	84	High	59.0%	79.6%	74	84	79	82	Lower	The rolling 12 month rate of assessments completed within 45 days has slightly increased from last month, from 66.1% to 67%. However, monthly analysis has shown vast improvement in the last three months. This is reflected in the rolling 6 month figure. Sefton has the lowest completion rate of all 24 local authorities in North West.	
5	Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	282.4	248.9	↓	250	-	312.6	200.7	378	222	210	192	Higher	Direction of travel for the rate of s47 enquiries continue in the desired direction - the 6 month rate of 248.9 emphasising the progress being made in recent months. If this is sustained, then this would be inline with the target of 250, but would still place Sefton in the higher range when compared to benchmarking neighbours.	
6	Percentage of agency social workers (%) in workforce**	50 (Apr23)	49 (Sep23)	↓	20	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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**	36 (Dec22)	30 (Dec23)	↓	19	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The target of children cared for in unregulated placements is to reduce the number by 50%. The number in April 2023 was 38 and steady progress has been made in five months as the number is currently 30, moving towards the target of 19 children.	

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No	Indicator	LA Dec22 ChAT	LA Dec23 ChAT	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q2 Sefton	RIG Q2 NW	Latest published statistics (2022-23)				Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
									LA	SN	NW	Eng		
8	Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	74	65	↓	-	-	78.5	65.8	99	72	69	63	Higher	The rate per 10,000 children has fallen based on 6 months data a year ago compared to a snapshot taken at the end of December 2023. If progress was sustained, this would result in a rate below with statistical neighbours and North West.
9	Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	94%	89%	↓	-	High	84%	79.3%	91	80	80	78	Higher	Although the ICPC timeliness rate has fallen in recent months, the current rate for rolling 6 months is still above benchmarking neighbours. Monthly analysis shows improved performance in the last three months after a dip in completion rates during the summer.
10	Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	541.8	456.4	↓	-	-	438.8	365.5	517	390	387	343	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. Current rate is significantly lower than at the end of 2023, but higher than benchmarking group.
11	Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	65	54	↓	-	-	59.1	50.2	63	50	49	43	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.
12	Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	16%	25%	↑	-	Low	18.4%	10.9%	18	23	24	24	Lower	Rolling 12 months data shows Sefton has a lower rate of repeat CP compared to benchmarking group. Monthly analysis shows a higher rate in the last four months compared to the start of the year, resulting six month rate now inline with group.
13	Children who ceased to be on a CP plan whose plan lasted 2 years or more (%)	4	6	↑	-	Low	-	-	4	4	5	4	In range	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) *published stats from 2021-22	112	114	↑	-	-	117	97.2	113	90	97	70	Higher	The number of looked after children continues to fluctuate in the range of 606-626 this reporting year. The 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	10	↓	-	-	-	-	10	12	12	11	In range	Rate remains static over 12 month period and inline with statistical neighbours and national.
16	Children looked after who were away without authorisation in the period (%)	1%	2%	↑	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	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 (%)	63%	67%	↑	-	High	-	-	87	74	77	76	Higher	Percentage rate has increased since this time last year, but is currently below benchmarking groups. However, this rate usually increases throughout the year and is expected to be inline with benchmarking group.
18	Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%)	91%	94%	↑	-	High	-	-	98	90	92	89	Higher	Percentage rate has increased since this time last year. In range with benchmarking groups.

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19	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%)	1%	1%	↔	-	-	-	-	<1%	10	9	9	In range	Adoption rate remains stable. but is very low compared to benchmarking groups.
20	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	30%	23%	↓	-	-	-	-	21	-	15	12	Higher	Percentage rate has fallen since the same period last year - however, if the current rate of 21% is sustained, then this is line with last year's figure and above benchmarking group.
21	Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%)	92%	74%	↓	-	High	-	-	100	91	81	79	Higher	Percentage rate has fallen since the same period last year and is currently below benchmarking groups.
22	Care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%) - Latest snapshot **	94%	90%	↓	-	High	-	-	91	88	90	88	In range	The rate of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation has slightly fallen compared to same period last year. However, the current rate is line with benchmarking group.
23	Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%) - Latest snapshot **	50%	43%	↓	-	High	-	-	47	53	54	56	Lower	Similar to care leavers in suitable accommodation, those in employment, education or training (EET) has fallen when comparing to the same period 12 months ago. This rate is slightly below when comparing to benchmarking group.

* rolling 12 months data. All others figures are taken from the ChAT 12 months ago

** snapshot at end of December 2023