

Data as at end of January 2024

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 January 2024 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)

| Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Latest published statistics (2022-23) | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| No | Indicator | LA rolling 12m (Feb23 - Jan24) | LA rolling 6m (Aug23 - Jan24) | Direction of travel (RAG rated where low/high is stated) | Target | Low/High is good | RIG Q2 Sefton | RIG Q2 NW | LA | SN | NW | Eng | Compared to mid-50% LA | Analysis | | | |
| 1 | Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)* | 631.7 | 629.0 | ↓ | 650 | - | 706.7 | 507 | 823 | 630 | 530 | 545 | Higher | The rate of referrals per 10k children (rolling 12 months) has fallen from 641.3 to 631.7 since last month. This rate was at its peak at 892 referrals per 10k in November 2022. Rolling 6 months rate of 629 - a slight increase compared to last month. However this is expected as the number of referrals have increased since the return of schools after the festive break. Both rates are below target and on par with stat neighbour group, but still above NW and England. | | | |
| 2 | Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral (%)* | 24.4% | 23.0% | ↓ | 22% | Low | 27.2% | 22.5% | 27 | 24 | 22 | 22 | Higher | Re-referral rate in rolling 12 months continues to fall and has fallen from 25.7% to 24.4% this reporting period - lowest since Nov 22. Compared to 23% 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 24.4% is par with stat neighbour group, but slightly above NW and England. | | | |
| 3 | Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)* | 799.9 | 757 | ↓ | 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 820.1 to 799.9 this reporting period. The 6 month figure (757) 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 (%)* | 68.1% | 79.0% | ↑ | 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 reporting period, from 67% to 68.1%. However, monthly analysis has shown vast improvement in the last three months. This is reflected in the rolling 6 month figure of 79%. Sefton has the lowest completion rate of all 24 local authorities in North West. However, is recent month's performance is sustained, then this would result in Sefton on par with NW and slightly below stat neighbours and England average. | | | |
| 5 | Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)* | 274.3 | 252 | ↓ | 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 252 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** | 30% (Jan24) | - | ↓ | 20% | Low | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Target is to reduce the percentage of agency staff from 50% to 20% and The latest figure from January 2024 of 30% shows very good progress has been made. | | | |
| 7 | Number of children cared for in unregulated and unregistered placements** | 36 (Dec22) | 33 (Jan24) | ↓ | 19 | Low | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | The target of children cared for in unregulated placements is to reduce the number by 50%. The baseline figure was 38 children in April 2023 and this figure fluctuates each reporting period, but has yet to fall under 30 children yet. | | | |

| No | Indicator | Latest published statistics (2022-23) | | | | | | | | | | | | Analysis |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|--|
| | | LA Jan23 ChAT | LA Jan24 ChAT | Direction of travel | Target | Low/High is good | RIG Q2 Sefton | RIG Q2 NW | LA | SN | NW | Eng | Compared to mid-50% LA | |
| 8 | Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children) | 71 | 70 | ↓ | - | - | 78.5 | 65.8 | 99 | 72 | 69 | 63 | Higher | The rate of children per 10,000 who were subject of an ICPC over a 6 month period is at the same level as a year ago. This would result in a rate similar 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% | 85% | ↓ | - | High | 84% | 79.3% | 91 | 80 | 80 | 78 | Higher | Compared to the same period last year, ICPC timeliness rate has fallen however, the current 6 month rolling rate 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 | 453 | ↓ | - | - | 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 (517), but higher than benchmarking group. |
| 11 | Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children) | 66 | 55 | ↓ | - | - | 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 number of CP children in Sefton is under 300 for the second consecutive month. 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 (%) | 14% | 21% | ↑ | - | 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, albeit higher than the same period last year. |
| 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 | 114 | 112 | ↓ | - | - | 117 | 97.2 | 113 | 90 | 97 | 70 | Higher | The number of looked after children has fallen over the last two months to 600. 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 (%) | 62% | 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 by the end of the reporting year. |
| 18 | Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%) | 88% | 96% | ↑ | - | High | - | - | 98 | 90 | 92 | 89 | Higher | Percentage rate has increased since this time last year. Above benchmarking groups. |
| 19 | Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%) | 3% | 2% | ↓ | - | - | - | - | <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 (%) | 20% | 20% | ↔ | - | - | - | - | 21 | - | 15 | 12 | Higher | Percentage rate has remained the same since the same period last year. This is line with last year's figure and above benchmarking group. |

| No | Indicator | LA Jan23 ChAT | LA Jan24 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 | | | |
| 21 | Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%) | 93% | 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 ** | 93% | 98% | ↑ | - | High | - | - | 91 | 88 | 90 | 88 | In range | The rate of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation has increased compared to same period last year. Above benchmarking group. | |
| 23 | Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%) - Latest snapshot ** | 47% | 47% | ↔ | - | High | - | - | 47 | 53 | 54 | 56 | Lower | Young people in employment, education or training (EET) has remained the same 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