

Children's Social Care Performance Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Data and intelligence around practice outcomes are key in driving continuous practice improvement.
- 1.2 This report is to provide Members of the Committee with an overview of performance in Children's Social Care. At this time, reporting has changed due to the move to a new case management system, Mosaic. Since the new performance framework is in the first phases of development, this report will use the data routinely provided to the Children's Development Board along with information from our operational reports. Previously, reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been based on monthly reporting from the now obsolete TED case management system.

2.0 Background

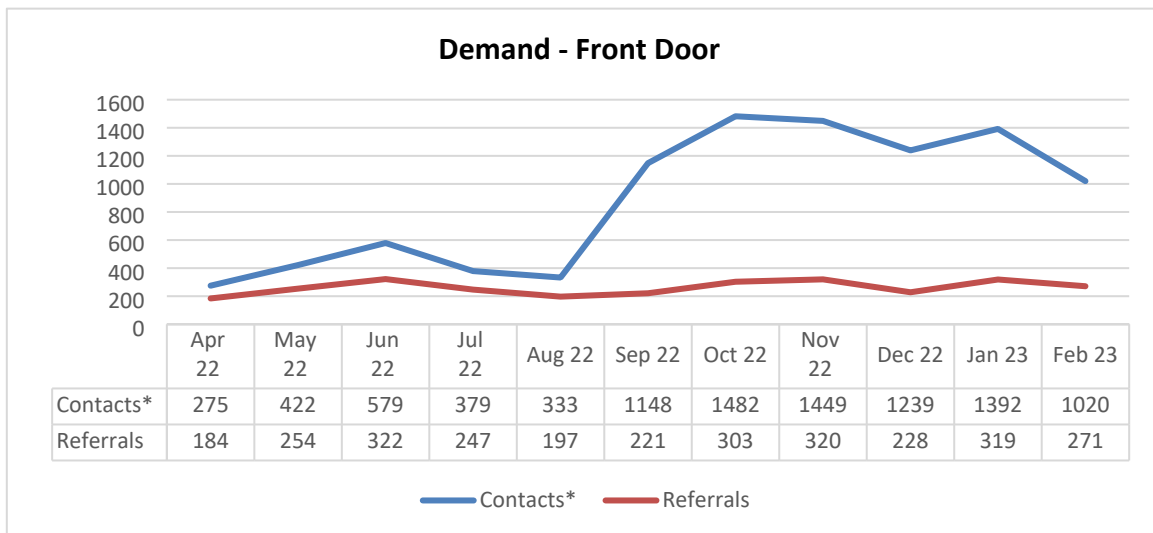
- 2.1 Children's Social Care migrated to a new case management system (Mosaic) on 14th November 2022 and are working with Business Intelligence to redevelop reporting across the board, encompassing Annex A and inspection readiness, statistical returns, operational reports, and the performance framework.
- 2.2 The programme of works is extensive, however, conversations with our peers in Local Authorities both regionally and nationally have assured us that Barnsley is not unusual in its position post-migration and that the timelines in place for the development and implementation of new reporting are in line with their experiences.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 Whilst development is ongoing, Heads of Service and Service Managers maintain management oversight and assurance using a combination of highlight reports provided by Team Managers, and operational reports which report on information from Mosaic, which are reviewed and discussed at fortnightly Head of Service performance clinics.

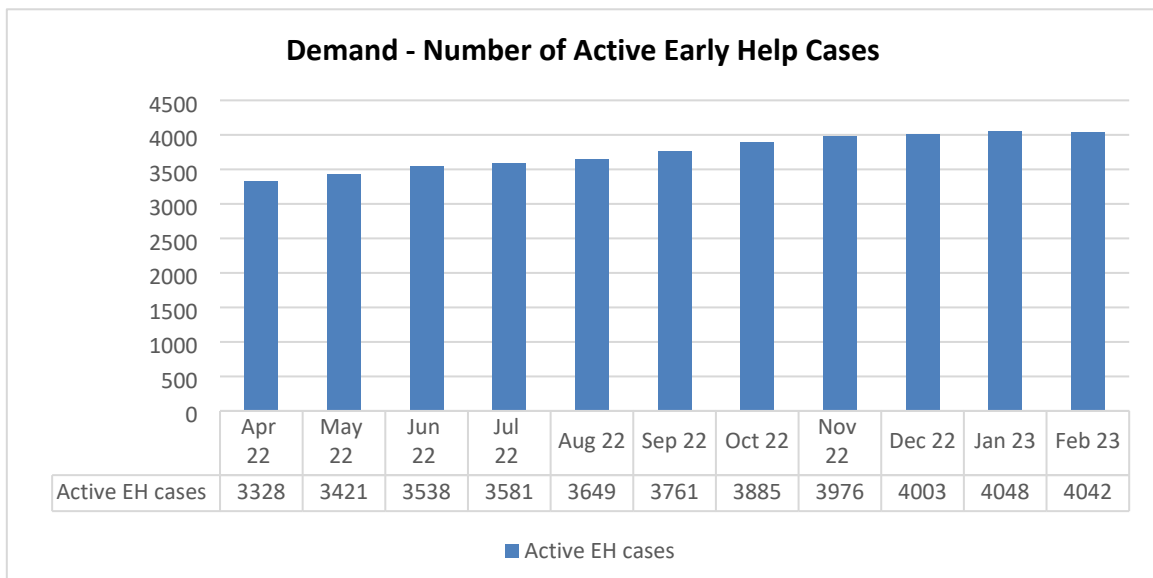
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- 3.2 At the Front Door, the number of contacts at the end of February 2023 is 1020, lower than the end of January (1392), and is now the lowest it has been since the process for recording contacts at the front door changed on 12th September 2022. Therefore, the data on decision making between August 2022 and September 2022 is not comparable due to the change in process.
- 3.3 The number of referrals is generally proportional to the number of contacts received. At the end of February, the number of referrals is 271, lower than the previous month (319).



* The process for recording contacts changed on 12th September 2022, therefore the data up to August 2022 is not comparable to the current process.

3.4 By the end of February 2023, the number of active Early Help cases was at 4042, which was the second highest for 2022/2023. The numbers gradually increased from 3328 in April 2022 to 4048 in January 2023, with a slight decrease in February 2023.



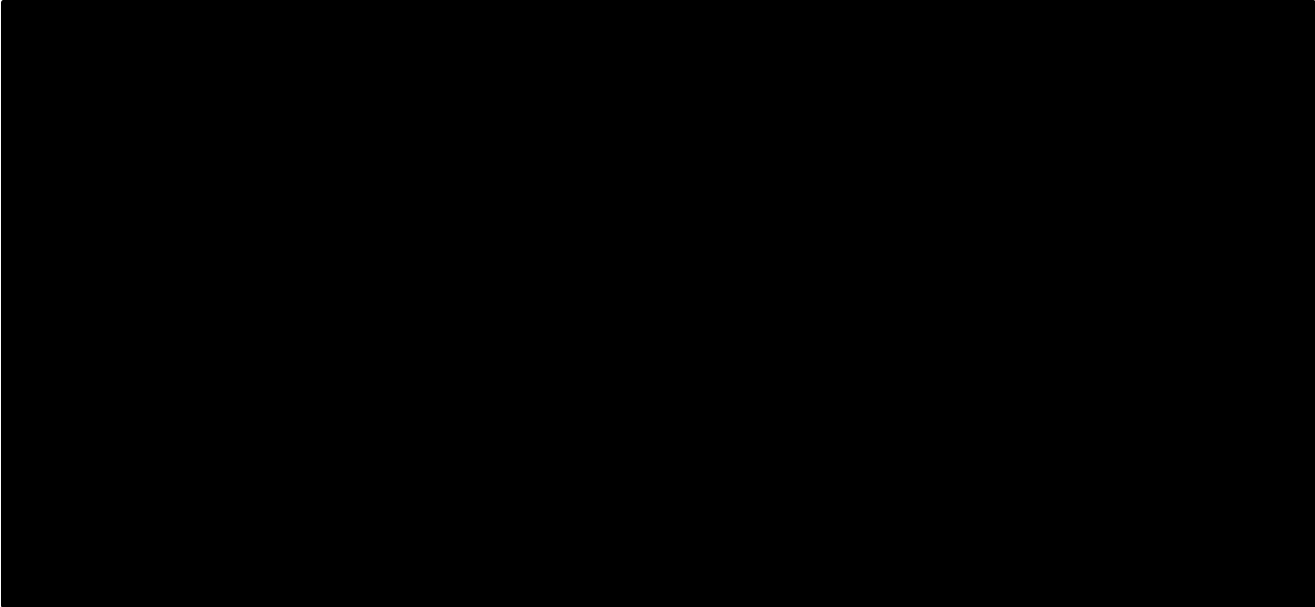
3.5 The number of children in need across services (open CIN episodes including CIN, CPP, CIC, assessments, adoption support, CL) at the end of February is 1732. Throughout 2022/23, the number fluctuated between 1500 and 1800, but it remained consistently high in November (1792), December (1733) and January (1773).

3.6 The number of children with a CPP at the end of February is 292, which is slightly lower than the January figure of 294. The January figure was the highest it has been throughout 2022/23.

3.7 The number of Children in Care at the end of February is 398, rising from 393 at the end of January. This is the highest it has been throughout the year.

3.8 [REDACTED]

3.9 [REDACTED]



Performance and Compliance

- 3.10 The percentage of decisions made on all contacts and referrals in one working day at the end of February is 57.1%, which is higher than the previous month of 48.1%. The highest performance since August 2022 (77.2%).
- 3.11 The percentage of decisions made on contacts progressing to referrals only, in one working day is 62.0% at the end of February, increasing from the previous month's performance of 47.2% and the highest performance since August 2022 (84.0%).
- 3.12 For case supervisions completed in a month, across all services, performance at the end of February is 50.0%, which shows a slight decrease since the previous month (52.8%). But is higher than the months of October (37.3%), November (45.7%) and December (45.4%).
- 3.13 In February there were 1113 CIN visits completed, 565 CP visits completed, and 296 visits completed. While reporting around the timeliness of visits from Mosaic is in development, Team Managers are currently manually tracking visits to children, which is then presented in highlight reports to Service Managers and Heads of Service and discussed in fortnightly performance clinics. The highlight reports demonstrate that most children are being seen in a timely manner, and for the few children who have not been seen, the managers are aware of why this is the case.

The following indicators have been reported on quarterly and so the latest information for performance and compliance is at the end of Quarter 3.

- 3.14 The percentage of re-referrals in the last 12 months was 17.9% in Q3, which is lower than the Q2 figure of 20.2% and remains below the national benchmark of 22.7%.
- 3.15 The percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time ever was 12.6% in Q3, reducing from 16.3% in Q2. This remains below the national benchmark of 22.1%.
- 3.16 The percentage of S47 investigations proceeding to Initial CP conference within 15 days rose to 100% in Q3 from 98% in Q2 and continues to exceed the national benchmark of 83%.
- 3.17 The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 engaged in education, employment or training was 57.4% in Q3, this is a reduction from 64.7% in Q2, but remains above the national benchmark of 52%.
- 3.18 The percentage of children in care in family placements decreased in Q3 to 85.4% from 88.8% in Q2 and remains below Barnsley's target of 90.7%.

- 3.19 The number of children in care placed in Barnsley by other Local Authorities was 239 at the end of Q3, decreasing from 252 in Q2.
- 3.20 The number of reported children missing from care incidents in Q3 was 49, a decrease from 74 in Q2. The total number of children involved reduced to 15 in Q3, from 23 in Q2.
- 3.21 The percentage of children in care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) increased to 97.4% in Q3 from 94.9% in Q2, remaining below the internal target of 100%.
- 3.22 School attendance for children in care is measured cumulatively from the start of the academic year. Attendance at the end of Q3 was 95.9% for primary-aged children in care, decreasing from 96.8% at the end of Q2. For secondary-aged children in care, attendance decreased to 88.8% at the end of Q3, from 91.0% at the end of Q2.
- 3.23 Total persistent absence was 11.6% for primary-aged children in care in Q3 increasing from 10.3% in Q2. Total persistent absence was 27.9% for secondary-aged children in care in Q3, increasing from 23.0% in Q2.
- 3.24 0.9% of primary children in care had one or more fixed-term exclusion in Q3, this figure had remained at 0% for the past six quarters. 10.9% of secondary-aged children in care had one or more fixed-term exclusion in Q3, increasing from 2.5% in Q2.
- 3.25 The percentage of children in care that went on to adoption was 2.6% in Q3, this is a decrease from Q2 where the percentage was 14.3%. The performance for year-to-date/rolling 12 months of 12.3% remains below target (16.5%) and Barnsley's 2021/22 outturn of 19.4%.

4.0 Future Plans & Challenges

- 4.1 Children's Social Care and Business Intelligence will continue to work together on our agreed data and reporting priorities, with the performance framework. One of the key priorities in the Children's Development Plan is being at the forefront of that development work.
- 4.2 We will continue to focus on data quality and recording in Mosaic, providing a robust foundation on which to build our performance and intelligence reporting.
- 4.3 We will maintain the pace of ensuring inspection readiness, including Annex A reporting.
- 4.4 We will continue to develop operational reports to reflect what is currently happening in service, allowing Team Managers, Service Managers and Heads of Service to have management oversight, and will continue to embed these in the fortnightly Head of Service performance clinics.

5.0 Invited Witnesses

5.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting to answer questions from OSC:

- Carly Speechley, Executive Director, Children's Services, BMBC
- Cllr Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson, Children's Services, BMBC

6.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

6.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What preparations were made to ensure a smooth and efficient transition from the TED case management system to Mosaic?
- When do you anticipate your collaboration with Business Intelligence will be completed to report to OSC according to the data provided by Mosaic? What factors are impeding this deadline?

- Is there a pattern for an increase in children in care over the winter months, as seen through the reported higher rates from November to January?
- What factors lead to the incapacity for visits to children? What further support can Members as corporate parents provide to prevent this?
- Which aspects of our children in care services have been key factors in the council outperforming some of CIC national benchmarks, such as the number of re-referrals?
- What factors do you think led to a decrease in the percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training between Q2 and Q3?
- What factors are impeding reaching the 90% Barnsley target for children in care within family placements?
- Why do you think there has been an increase in exclusion for children in care?
- What review is undertaken regarding excluded children's Personal Protection Plan (PEP) between the council and the respective school? What alternative provisions are available for them?
- Has the cost of living crisis impacted the number of people adopting children?
- How do you think the recent Ofsted Inspection went?
- What statistical data do you hold about the demographics of children in care in the borough?

7.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

None included.

8.0 Glossary

8.1 Annex A – this consists of 11 lists of child-level data that Ofsted request from the local authority at the start of the inspection.

CIN Child in Need

CPP Child Protection Plan

CIC Child in Care

CL Care Leaver

S47 Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, allowing enquiries to be initiated where a child is suffering from or at risk of harm.

9.0 Officer Contact

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12th April 2023