

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Wednesday
Date: 26 July 2023
Time: 6.00 pm
Place: Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from members of the Scrutiny Panel.	
3.	MINUTES To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 7 June 2023.	1 - 4
4.	CARE LEAVERS The Panel to meet Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families); Tony DeCrop, Assistant Director; and Susan Harris, Head of Service, to receive an introduction and overview of care leaver services, to inform a review into the effectiveness of services and support to care leavers in Tameside.	5 - 42
5.	CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE SCORECARD The Panel to receive the Early Help and Children's Social Care scorecard.	43 - 58
6.	ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES The Panel to receive the annual work programmes for 2023/24.	59 - 62
7.	CHAIR'S UPDATE The Chair to provide a verbal update on activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel will take place on Wednesday 13 September 2023.	
9.	URGENT ITEMS To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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Children's Services Scrutiny Panel 7 June 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Roderick (Chair), Tilbrook (Deputy), Fitzpatrick, Howarth, Martin, McLaren, Owen, Robinson

Apologies: Councillors Patel, T Smith

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 8 March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

3. CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT

The Panel welcomed Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services, to receive a summary of improvement actions and responses during the past 12 months.

It was reported that on 5 July 2022, following an Ofsted Focused Visit to the Integrated Front Door of Children's Services, Tameside Council and partners were issued with a Notice to Improve services for children by the Department for Education (DfE). The notice requires the Council and partners to comply with a series of actions as identified by the Children Act 2004 (Section 11).

A summary report provided detail on the actions to be delivered by the Council and partners in the context of the Improvement Notice and progress made during the 12 months since inspection.

Panel members heard that the Secretary of State has chosen to appoint an advisor to provide advice to the DfE and the Council. The Council will work with the advisor until such a time that the Secretary of State is satisfied this is no longer required. Frances Craven was appointed as the DfE Improvement Advisor for Tameside in September 2022 and has undertaken multiple site and staff visits to Tameside Children's Services.

Councillor Fairfoull advised members that Frances has brought challenge and advice to the leadership team, meeting every two weeks with the Director of Children's Services and also meeting with the Executive Leader, Lead Member for Children, Chair of Children's Scrutiny, Chief Executive, Area Commander from GMP, Education Leaders, NHS System Leaders and the Leadership Team across Children's Services.

The Director of Children's Services advised that the Tameside Improvement Plan aims to deliver appropriate and sustainable improvement, covering areas identified in Ofsted's report of 6 June 2022, as well as recommendations made by the Improvement Advisor. In January 2023 DfE officials completed a 6 month progress review, with feedback and suggestions targeted at

improving communications; workforce development and progression opportunities; visibility of leaders to all staff; improved engagement with schools and education leaders to improve services further. All recommendations have been directly responded to in a refreshed action plan.

A second review is due to take place on 20 June 2023 where the DfE will test the impact that our improvement work has had on services, partners, our front line practitioners and leaders.

Panel members reviewed a document titled 'Tameside Improvement Plan on a Page' which is to be shared with staff at all levels; along with a summary report demonstrating what 'we said, we did' against improvement priorities and actions.

Councillor Fairfoull and Ms Stathers-Tracey responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The service offer and how this looks and feels for children and families.
- The refreshed improvement plan, including the role of partners and performance / outcome monitoring.
- The current position of services, ongoing pressures and immediate priority actions.
- The importance of effective Early Help and prevention services.

Resolved: That Cllr Fairfoull and Ms Stathers-Tracey be thanked for attending the meeting.

4. REVIEW AND MONITORING OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2021 TO 2023

The Chair presented a summary report of Scrutiny oversight, monitoring and review of Children Services for the period 2021 to 2023. The report will be tabled at the next meeting of Overview Panel on 1 August 2023.

5. ROLE OF SCRUTINY

The Chair presented an update and recap on the role of Scrutiny within the wider framework of the Council.

6. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity. The programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period that is to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis. Scrutiny will continue to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and areas in need of more in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:

- Research and insight on a particular issue, including desktop reviews
- Review of decisions and recommendations
- Follow-up (from previous review / recommendations)
- Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
- Consideration of decisions and reports of the Ombudsman
- Receive updates on key issues as they arise
- Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to services

The Chair presented a list of potential topics for the 2023/24 municipal year, with comments from members noted to inform the final document. Next step is for Overview Panel to receive the Scrutiny Work Programmes report on 1 August 2023.

Discussion followed on the priority of topics and the timetable for future meetings. The Chair confirmed that the following topic will now be explored to inform a future update and review:

- Effectiveness of services and support to care leavers

Scrutiny activity will continue to take place outside of the formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel will take place on Wednesday 26 July 2023.

8. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR

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Corporate Parent Summary - Apr-2023



656 Cared for Children



10.2%

of Cared for Children moved Home 3 or more times in the last 12 months



1 in 9
(74)

of Cared for Children live over 20 miles away from home

Your home

65% of Cared for Children are living with foster carers, including



3%

of Cared for Children are placed for adoption

21%

who are living with connected Family & Friends Carers.

13%

of Cared for Children are living in residential settings.

7%

of Cared for Children are living in Independent Living / Supported Accommodation

13%

of Cared for Children live with Parents

2%

of Cared for Children are living in other accomodation



99%

of school age children in care have an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (PEP)



Health Assessments

14% of children entering care had an Initial Health Assessment within 20 days

88% of children who have been in care for 12+ months have an up-to-date annual Health Assessment



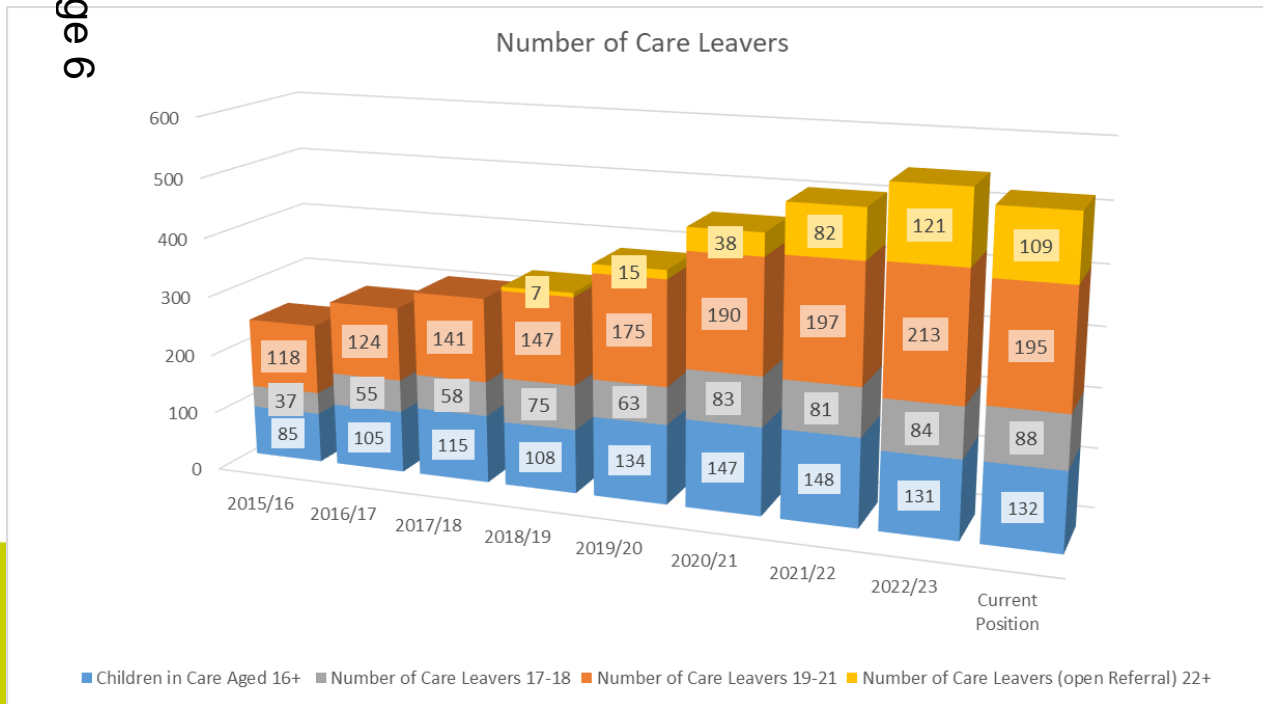


Care Leavers – Overall Numbers of Open Cases to date

- Overall numbers of care leavers have increased year on year but have reduced in the first part of 2023/24

- Growth in part driven by increase in 21+ cohort following extension of duties. Higher overall numbers of care leavers driven by higher than average population in of children in care.

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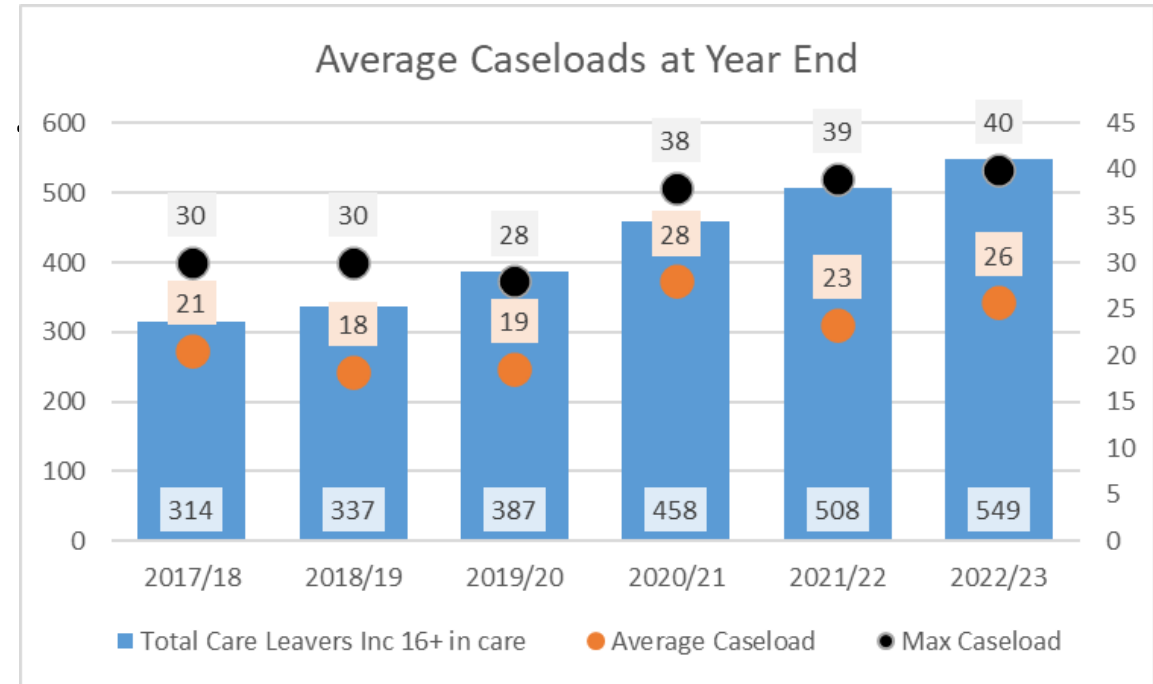
Age Group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Current Position
Children in Care Aged 16+	134	147	148	131	132
Total Care Leavers 17-24	253	311	360	418	392
% of Cohort	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Increase on Previous Year 17-24	24	58	49	58	-26
% Growth Compared to Previous Year	10%	23%	16%	16%	-6%
Number of Care Leavers 22+	15	38	82	121	109
% of ALL Care Leavers	6%	12%	23%	29%	28%
Increase on Previous Year 22+	8	23	44	39	-12
% Growth Compared to Previous Year	114%	153%	116%	48%	-10%
Number of Care Leavers 17-21	238	273	278	297	283
% of ALL Care Leavers	94%	88%	77%	71%	72%
Increase on Previous Year 17-21	16	35	5	19	-14
% Growth Compared to Previous Year	7%	15%	2%	7%	-5%



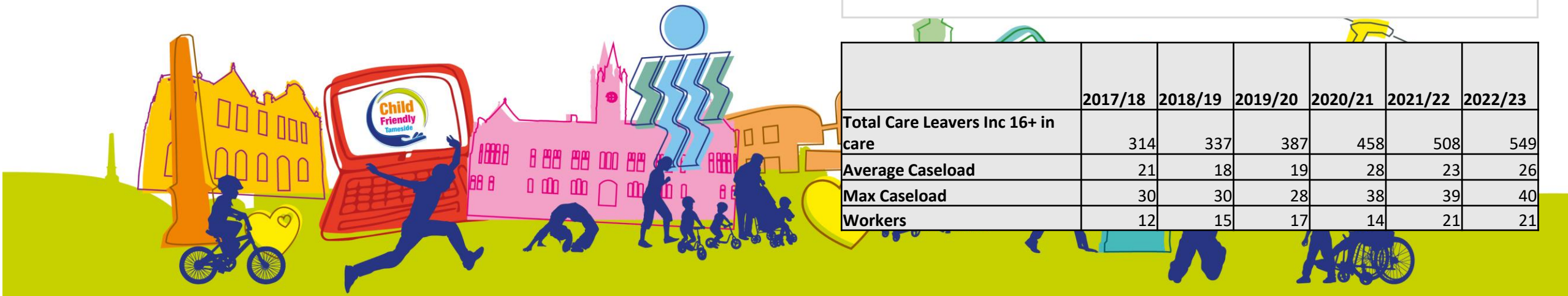
CASE LOADS AND OPEN CASES

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The chart below reflects a snapshot of average caseloads at each year end - historically Leaving Care Caseloads have include 'Eligible' children who have not yet left the local authorities care.



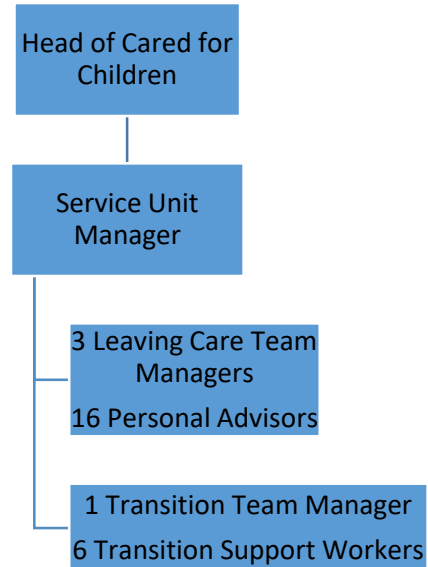
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total Care Leavers Inc 16+ in care	314	337	387	458	508	549
Average Caseload	21	18	19	28	23	26
Max Caseload	30	30	28	38	39	40
Workers	12	15	17	14	21	21





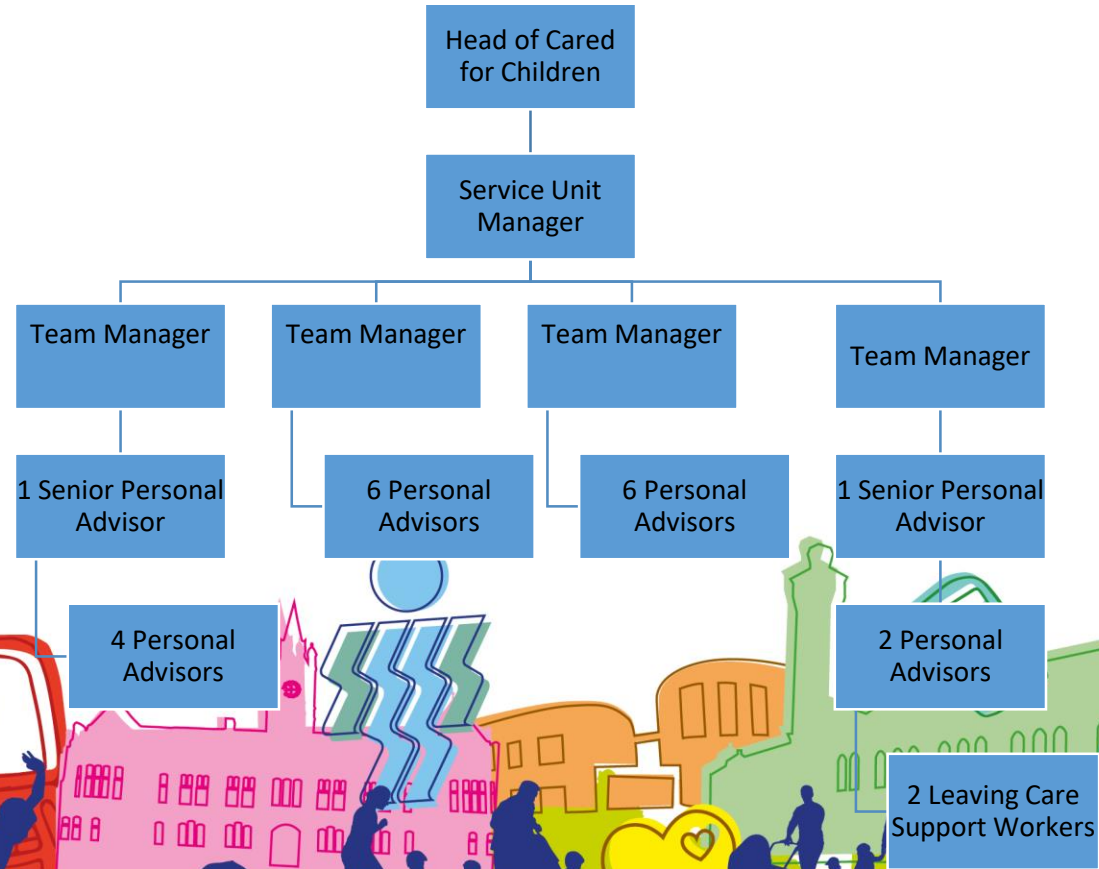
Leaving Care Service Structure -Phase 1

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Leaving Care Structure – Phase 2





Education Employment and Training

- Relaunch weekly Young Persons Drop-In
- There have been 20 Care Leavers starting jobs this year with the support of the Youth Employment Scheme
- Support is in place to maintain employment through collaborative work with the leaving care service, job centre plus and other agencies.
- Virtual School increasing the post 16 offer to Care Leavers – new role to be established
- DFE bid for targeted EET support
- Apprenticeship/Traineeship offer

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Cared For Children Health Team

- Health data for Care Leavers is currently not reported on
- Strong links in place with the Named Nurse for Cared For Children and Care Leavers
- All Care leavers receive a Health Passport
- The Named Nurse's continue to support Care Leavers post 18 – plans to develop and strengthen this offer with a drop-in at a Care Leaver Hub
- National health context -
- Care Leavers nationally face huge health inequalities. Children who have grown up in care rather than in the care of their biological parents are up to four times more likely to suffer health problems 30 years later than the general population.
- Whilst not all children in care will have experienced maltreatment, the impact of being in care has lasting effects which can lead to ongoing trauma. 45% of children in care have at least one psychiatric diagnosis, and this increases to 72% in residential care – compared to 10% in the general young person population.
- The transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services can result in delays to access services, due to a lack of a clear pathway.





Greater Manchester (GM) Mental Health Investment for Cared For/Care Leaver CYP 2023/24

- GM are working on much needed investment for Mental Health Services for Cared for Children and Care Leavers for 2023/2024 which aims to address the variation of MH services across the GM footprint and to ensure that the wider system will be supported to support, identify and understand the mental and emotional wellbeing of our cared for children and care leavers.
- A monthly transition meeting is now in place in Tameside this is a multi-agency meeting where health, social care, housing and other professionals discuss the transition of our cared for children into adult services.
- Childrens and Adult Social Care are working closer for this transition and work is still ongoing to improve the transition into adult mental health services. This work will be prioritised and focussed upon within the next 12 months





16-25 Mental Health Offer



YOUNG ADULTS (18-25) MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

GETTING ADVICE AND GETTING HELP

(Sept 2022)



Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people aged 11 to 25 years.

The digital platform, which is available on any web-enabled, internet connected device (including laptop, smart phone, and tablet) is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

No referral required – register here <https://www.kooth.com/>



Free, safe and anonymous mental wellbeing support across the UK... go to [Qwell.io](https://www.qwell.io) to get started today

Support available includes:

- Live chat or messaging with qualified mental health professionals
- Self help tools and activities
- Online community

Live chat available from:

Monday to Friday: 12pm - 10pm and Saturday and Sunday 6pm - 10pm

Healthy Minds is a talking therapies service. Providing support and treatment for those who are experiencing symptoms such as difficulty sleeping, low mood / depression, stress, worry or anxiety, feelings of hopelessness or panic attacks.

Healthy Minds also offer a service for complicated bereavements and adjustments to life events (6-12 months post incident).

The service is open to anyone aged 16 years+ self-referrals are accepted
The service is available from Monday- Friday 9-5pm



Pennine Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Phone: 0161 716 4242

Website: <https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/healthymindstameside>

Healthy Minds offers an online therapy programme called SilverCloud which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can start the therapy straight away and it can be done at a time and place that suits you. You'll also have access to the system for a year after you've been discharged from the service.

[Click here to refer to SilverCloud.](#)

Local Offer for SEND

Tameside



Derbyshire



For further information on available support or for specialist support that you will need to be referred to, please visit the

[Mental Health Local Offer](#) pages

Explore the [Health and Wellbeing College](#) for courses designed to empower you to take control of your own health and wellbeing, through learning new skills and connecting with people

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COLLEGE

Minds Matter supports people with mild to moderate common mental health problems.

Mental Wellbeing Practitioners, Peer Support Workers and Counsellors who can help you to manage and overcome your difficulties via; counselling, one-to-one support, groups, drop-in support and coaching



The services operates from Monday- Friday 9-4.30pm
It is open to anyone aged 16+ years

Self-referral accepted.

Minds Matter: 0161 470 6100

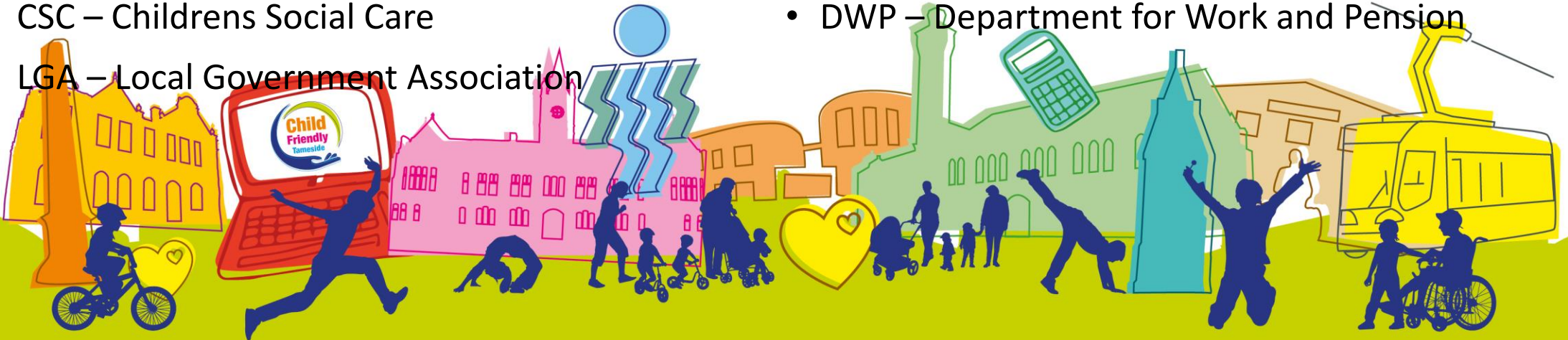
<https://www.thebiglifegroup.com/service/mindsmatter/>





Acronyms

- PA – Personal Advisor
- EET – Education Training and Employment
- NEET – Not in Education Training and Employment
- CYP – Children and Young People
- EHCP – Education Health and Care Plan
- PIRO- Pathway Independent Reviewing Officer
- CSC – Childrens Social Care
- LGA – Local Government Association
- IRO - Independent Reviewing Officer
- DFE – Department for Education
- GM – Greater Manchester
- CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- PEP – Personal Education Plan
- CPB – Corporate Parenting Board
- DWP – Department for Work and Pension





Care Leaver Service Update

Tameside Childrens Scrutiny Committee
July 2023

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Context of Care Leavers improvement journey

In May 22, Mark Riddell DFE Care Leavers Specialist Advisor undertook a two day review of Tameside Care Leavers Services and made a series of recommendations for improvement.

The following presentation outlines all the key changes he advised and our action delivered to date in response against each recommendation

Tameside took on board all of the recommendations for Improvement recognising the need to offer a better service for care experienced young people in our Borough

We have also completed successful recruitment of a new permanent Service Manager for Care Leavers, a new Participation and inclusion officer and restructured the service to have a sharper focus on the structure and increased capacity of our personal advisors





1.To develop the 'Champion Model Approach' and introduce themed Boards

- Themed boards are now in place for our Corporate Parenting Board and the agenda is agreed by the Chair Cllr Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Exec Leader (Children and Families)
- The Membership of the Board has been strengthened, we are working to improve and widen the voice of Care Leavers at the board, extending participation from the Care Leaver Forum.
- We have given protected characteristic status to Care Leavers in the Council. As part of Tameside Council Equalities strategy 2023-27 – as part of this Care Leavers will be guaranteed an interview if they meet essential criteria of job applications.





4.The Board to agree a set of Guarantees for care leavers

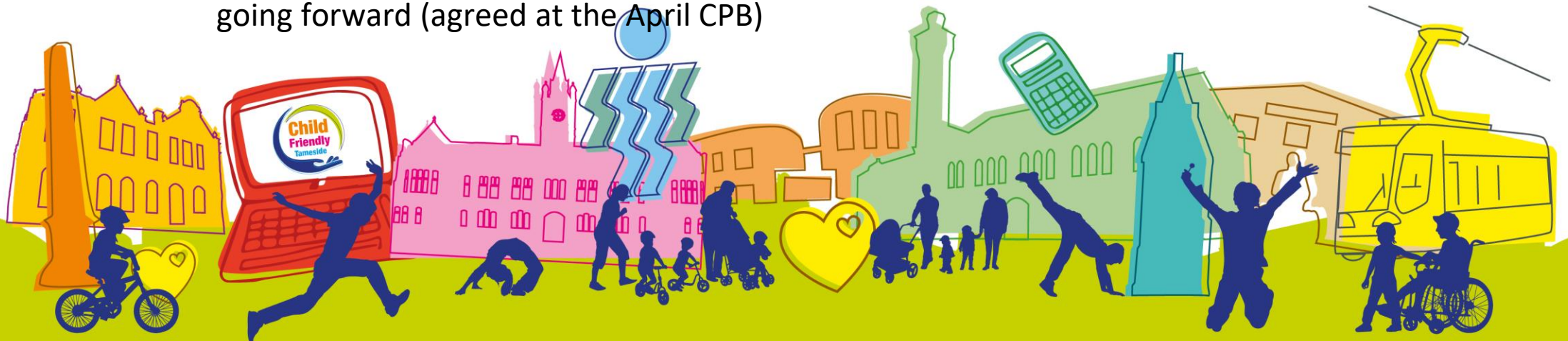
- Planning meetings regarding the review and updating as to the progress of the Care Leaver Offer has commenced in March, this includes key partners to ensure we capture all work streams relating to Care Leavers.
- It was agreed at the Corporate Parenting Board in April to prioritise a review and update of the Care Leaver Offer
- Work streams covering specific areas – EET, Heath, Accommodation, Participation and Engagement are well underway and well attended by partners





5. To profile all of your elected members

- We have secured good elected member attendance at the Corporate Parenting Board, a further review of the board's membership will be undertaken to include Housing Associations and DWP in Autumn
- There is a direct link between Corporate Parenting and the neighbourhood forums for 18 months now
- The LGA have trained all elected members around their role as corporate parents for our cared for children and care leavers in April 23
- It has been agreed that a Registered Provider for housing will be invited to attend the board going forward (agreed at the April CPB)





6.To review the existing Housing Joint Protocol and DWP Protocol.

- The DWP protocol has been reviewed and strengthened, in particular around early applications for Care Leavers.
- Working relationships between the service have been re-established following changes in personnel with the Housing options service in TMBC this is working well
- A relaunch of the joint protocol has been shared with the service and DWP colleagues in March 2023, the offer includes single point of contacts, priority applications and appointments



7. The Virtual School Head to undertake an aspirational audit of all children in care and care leavers.



- A replacement post 16 Achievement Co-ordinator was appointed to in October 2023. This post is a 3 day secondment from Tameside College providing a clear link and support for young people in this institution
- Our offer links up with the SEND and EHCP tailored requirements for post 16 Learners who are care experienced
- The Virtual School continue to build a profile of the Education, Employment and Training Opportunities that our Post 16 young people in care are accessing to understand ambitions and areas of interest.
- All young people age 16 – 18 have PEPS (data tracking). The post 16 co-ordinator ensures that the actions set out in the PEP are followed up and completed.
- Young People are supported to access the weekly young persons drop in at Tameside One





The Young Peoples drop in has been in place for a year now, therefore there has been a recent review to look at any barriers to young people accessing this resource (visit planned for later this morning).

- More young people are attending University than ever before – 25 this year including study at Cambridge
- PA's are encouraged to attend the drop in and meet young people there to encourage and promote engagement with providers.
- Further work and next steps is to audit the information collated from the PEPs to gather data, following this plan a further EET event will be held, inviting local businesses and partners to participate in Autumn 23





8. To hold a Business Event to match the aspiration audit to local business' and the community.

- Young Person's dedicated Job Fair which was specifically marketed to our Care Leavers was held in November 2022. PAs and Social Workers supported young people to attend to gather information about opportunities and to raise expectations.
- An EET conference was held as part of the same event. This was targeted at professionals working with Care Leavers to encourage an integrated approach towards EET outcomes and match our high ambition for Tameside care leavers.
- We are beginning for the first time since the end of the pandemic to see much improved performance in NEET rates for care for children and care leavers





9. To get each department in the 'family business' to make an offer or an opportunity to a child in care or care leaver.

There is an improved focus on Corporate Parenting, and an agreed offer of work placements – meetings have been held with HR colleagues to match opportunities to young people and to strengthen the support offer for young people and officers. This will be further developed with PA's.

- We are investigating ways to ensure we are able to match Care Leaver's aspirations to an apprenticeship offer using the ring fenced positions.
- We are also working to increase awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibilities and opportunities for our Care Leavers as a protected group.
- All Neighbourhood Committee chairs sit on Corporate Parenting Board plus the Chair of Childrens scrutiny committee to join up the offer for care experienced young people





10. To increase the number of ring-fenced jobs and apprenticeships by looking at vacancies across the whole council which would also allow the national living wage to be paid to care leavers.

- We have a current commitment to offer 5 apprenticeships for Care Leavers and funding for this is ring fenced
- We have 2 Care Leavers in post at present and are working to increase this to the maximum of 5
- We are scoping opportunities within Fostering, Participation and The Virtual School and College currently to extend the offer
- We have requested partner agency commitment to extend work experience, work shadowing and apprenticeships at the Childrens Improvement Board including Schools, Colleges, Police, Registered Housing Providers and NHS providers all have committed to increase their offer





10. To increase the number of ring-fenced jobs and apprenticeships by looking at vacancies across the whole council which would also allow the national living wage to be paid to care leavers.

- An EET strategy has been drafted and are establishing an EET Forum to strengthen the EET offer. This will allow us to more closely match opportunities and young people with their aspirations, have a targeted focus on NEET and support young people who may be unsettled in their EET provision to avoid/reduce breakdown.
- We are developing social value commitments within all Tameside contracts to include increased apprenticeship offers from our supply chain
- We are exploring an improved NEET Tracking and engagement offer with a review of our external contract to be brought in house from Autumn 23





11. To review the current Council Tax Exemption in relation to following Care Leavers nationally.

- A Council Tax exemption is in place, this is part of the Tameside Care Leaver offer.
- A Council Tax reduction is in place for those Care Leavers who may be in a shared tenancy.
- Plan to review the data sharing and the process of the application of this exemption/reduction and streamline this if needed.





12. To review current caseloads and to consider whether additional PA's are needed to reduce caseloads and whether a more multi-agency approach could be developed.

- Phase 1 service review/re-alignment has completed on 03/07/23, report to our internal TU/Employer group (ECG) and formal consultation now completed. Feedback sessions held with staff excited and positive about the new structure.
- New structure now being implemented, this separates the Care Leaver and Cared For function of the service. Phase 2 or the review/re-alignment is now being progressed and this will focus on an increase PA's and Team Managers needed in the service.
- In line with what the front line PA's told us, a business process review is underway imminently to ensure we reduce overly complex admin duties and maximise face to face time with young people





Remodelling of the service and adding additional capacity as recommended

- A dedicated Care Leaver Service is now being established this month. This will strengthen the team management oversight and increase number of PA's, this in turn will reduce caseloads and improve services and outcomes for children and young people.
- Whilst Phase 2 of the service review/realignment is concluded further internal funding has been agreed by Council to assist with Care Leaver improvement work – this will increase the number of PA's from 16 to 20 to deal with legacy case work and improve quality of case recording and add in additional management support





13. The LA to consider a favoured approach from adult and mental health services.

- Transition Steering Group is established with much improved join up across services
- Transition Panel is now well established to progress multi-agency planning for young people
- An Adults representative is an active member of the Care Leaver Multi-Agency Accommodation panel
- Monthly liaison Transition meetings are held between Childrens and Adults AD to improve cross service working and for escalations
- Staying Close – Mental Health practitioner role is being recruited to, this will offer further support
- CAMHs workers operate within Tameside 1 Childrens services to provide advice and support, also dedicated practitioner sits within the Cared for Service – but we could use much more capacity – a national challenge





14. To develop a clear set of pathways to adult and mental health services and for discussions around complexity to begin in care planning when children in care are approaching 14yrs.

Transition tracking has been strengthened from age 14 years, monthly Transition Panel meetings are held to discuss individual cases and plan assessments to inform care and pathway planning.

- The Transition Panel and Steering group has been established and in place since December 2022.
- Relationships between the services have been built and better established with clear pathways in place for training opportunities to be shared and for any escalations to be managed swiftly
- Care Leavers are a priority group and a targeted cohort in the Transition work stream





15. To develop a health offer 18yrs to 25yrs which could include an offer of dental prostheses and or glasses, etc.

- Designated nurse service is provided to Care Leavers up to age 25, they support the distribution of health passports, signposting and direct support to young people.
- Free Prescriptions are in place
- D Scheme – allocation of a dentist, promote the needs of Care Leavers is working well reported in to CP Board
- Plans to develop a Care Leaver Hub where health services will provide drop in support to care leavers as part of the Adolescent integrated hub in Ashton Old Library from Autumn 23





16. To develop a 21yrs to 25yrs offer which includes UASC, care leavers entering and leaving custody and young parents.

- Review of caseloads commenced in Jan 2023, some young people will close and return to the service if the need arises.
- Those in custody and UASC remain open due to level of vulnerability. We will highlight this ongoing support in the refreshed care leaver offer
- Post 21 years, assessment identifies whether the young person remains open to the service in line with care experienced adults wishes and all keeping in touch arrangements reviewed by managers





17. An enhanced digital offer to be developed as part of the local offer to Care Leavers

- Work is underway to strengthen the digital inclusion work stream for Care Leavers and promote this within the care leaver offer.
- Care Leavers Connectivity Project is led by E and S Digital Inclusion Officer.
- Digital support is available for 18-25 Care Leavers to assist with Digital connectivity / data – SIM cards with pre-loaded data are available through the Good Things Foundation databank. Free data is available also





17. An enhanced digital offer to be developed as part of the local offer to Care Leavers

- A wide range of digital skills sessions take place daily around Tameside from basic IT skills to coding and accredited courses. We sign post Care Leavers to suitable courses and work opportunities – local digital companies offer brilliant job roles for our care leavers and have taken part in digital skills events, for example Nequinox and Visual Architects
- Carer leavers are currently supported to engage in corporate parenting and other networks and forums digitally to maintain their peer networks and help to influence and shape services
- Access to a digital devices – we work in partnership with Tameside Community Computers to gift phones and laptops to Care Leavers who need equipment to support with education, employment and upskilling





18. To consider whether IRO's can continue to review Pathway Plans up to 25yrs using a RAG approach.

As part of the Staying Close quality assurance function we have recruited a dedicated Pathway Plan Independent Reviewing Officer. This is an experienced IRO with developed professional networks within Tameside

- The PIRO has implemented a RAG approach to review any pathway plans that could be out of date; and is based with the service to build relationships and availability to young people who may drop in.
- A thematic audit has been completed on Pathway Plans to assist with learning and development in the service
- Work has commenced on reviewing and co-producing the Pathway Plan utilising signs of success and signs of belonging





19. To review the current leisure offer to include a Plus 1 i.e. swimming lessons for care leavers' children.

- Care Leaver Offer – a leisure pass is included with access to gyms
- Review access to leisure to improve the offer and increase participation
- Youth Services will move across from Place to Childrens Services, this will ensure we can develop the service to prioritise our care leavers.
- The direct work model we want to deliver as part of our new Adolescent hub will enable us to offer one to one work earlier to enable young care experienced people positive network opportunities and positive peer support





In Summary

Lots of improvement and significant progress made since last May

Legacy issue in terms of volume of cared for cases - we have better grip but change needs smoothing through

Establishing permanent Leadership has been an ongoing challenge – but we are getting there with permanent Manager now in role

Still some variability in terms of quality of case work which we are addressing at pace as priority

Bringing in additional capacity is helping and Council and Partner buy-in has hugely improved

Moral in the service is generally high and positive about the changing future





10 May 2023

To Ms Alison Stathers-Tracey
Director of Children's Services
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Follow up visit by National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers.

Dear Alison

Thank you for hosting my follow up visit on 10th May. During the follow up visit I heard about the rapid progress you have made to your offer to care leavers since my two day visit. As stated in the feedback meeting I was very impressed by the leadership and management approach to have a better offer for care leavers across the whole service area. What I also saw and heard was many examples where I felt the service was 'pitching' above 'requires improvement' and that the whole approach and in particular the team approach stood out with workers who were highly responsive to the needs of care leavers. I have therefore made a number of further recommendations that will go some way in strengthening your offer to care leavers. These are my comments on progress and further recommendations:

1. The local authority accepted all of my recommendations and have made huge progress in implementing them.
2. The local authority have strengthened their offer to care leavers – they are pushing the ICB to be more responsive to care leavers, they have a designated nurse for care leavers up to 25yrs, they have 5 ringfenced opportunities in the family business but realise more is needed, they have appointed additional PA's an advanced practitioner and PA apprenticeships which will take time to embed and a new adolescent hub is currently under construction.
3. There is a really strong buy-in from elected members and senior officers within the Corporate Parenting Board and the impact is being seen by them acting a Champions. It would be good to see an advanced personal adviser on the Board.
4. The Board now has a real focus on the issues faced by both children in care and care leavers.
5. Partnership arrangements have improved but this area still requires attention for example:
 - Housing – I would like the LA to consider a review of its JWP as it came across as a statutory offer for example: care leavers get one offer, housing still use B and B, care leavers cant view properties, and it would

be good to see if a standardised housing starter pack which should include carpets and white goods for care leavers(possible use of VOID's monies). It came across that housing don't see themselves as Corporate Parents.

- DWP – changes to the advance payments have been positive. The team still talked about sanctions being applied which needs to be explored further with DWP as this makes care leavers vulnerable.
- Health – this came across as a developing partnership. Having a designated nurse for care leavers up to 25yrs is a good approach. Health again came across as an absent partner and not very joined up resulting in a complex statutory offer to care leavers which is at times failing them.
- Transitions – a stronger buy-in is needed from Adult Services around earlier planning for care leavers and a favoured approach for care leavers below thresholds alongside giving care leavers more than one chance to engage and could an adult worker be based in leaving care.

6. The local offer is good but to further enhance the offer I would like the LA to pull out your guarantees to care leavers so that these can be accessed easily and for PA's to fully understand whats on offer. Within this it would be good to see a discreet offer to care leavers 21yrs to 25yrs for UASC, care leavers entering and leaving custody and for young parents.
7. A review of the leaving care grant entitlements as staff were unsure if it was available to 25yrs. The current approach is that it has to be spent by the age of 21yrs which should be reviewed as it should be available up to 25yrs.
8. Practice across the team is at times inconsistent but this is due in part to the local offer not being owned by all partners.
9. Participation came across as mixed so it would be good to see if a participation lead could be closer aligned to leaving care.

And finally in the meeting with your care leavers they stated that things had certainly changed but there is still more to do. Here are a few comments they stated:

1. Tell us when our PA's are off work.
2. When you get to 21yrs it feels a lot different.
3. More lifestory work.
4. PA's are usually very good.
5. We want to get involved more.
6. Not sure about the local offer as we get told different things.
7. Getting financial support is hard.
8. Why does leaving care grant end at 21yrs.

Overall what I heard and saw is a good offer to care leavers and I look forward to seeing you again in the future

M. Riddell MBE

Mark Riddell MBE

National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

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June 2023

CHILDRENS SERVICES PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SCORECARD

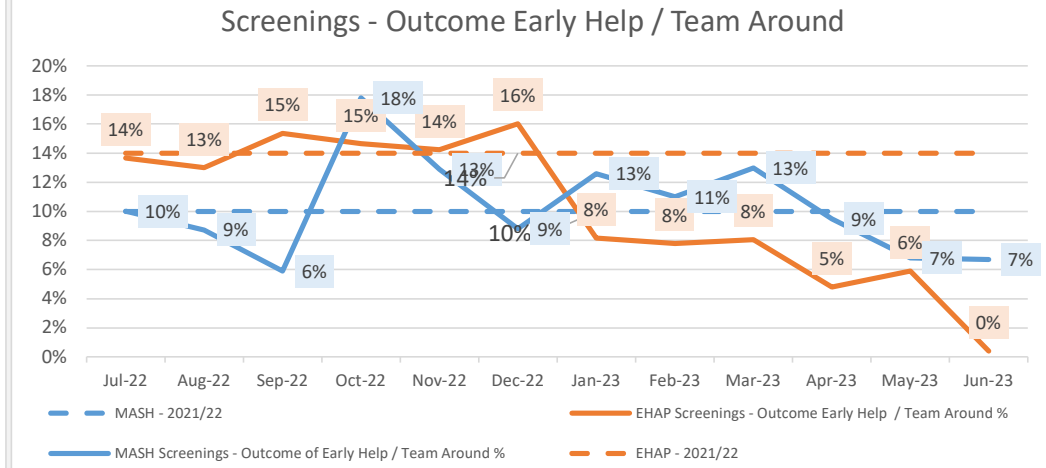
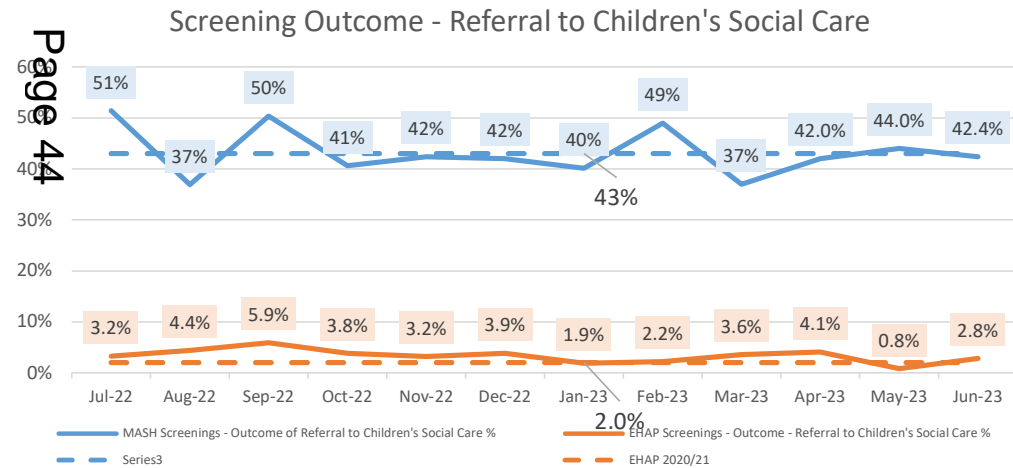
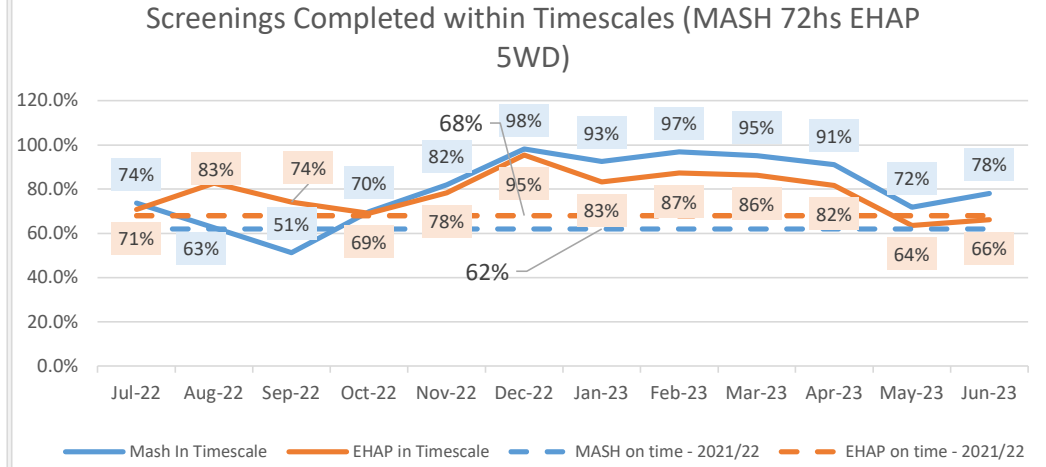
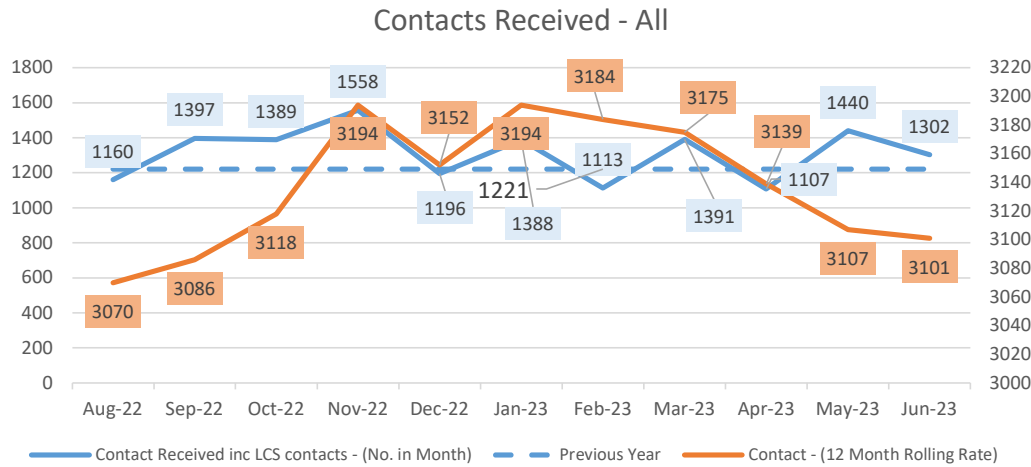
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Agenda Item 5



FRONT DOOR - Jane Darrington Head of Service - Adolescent Services

Summary Performance Charts



Commentary

There has been an increase in contacts in May and June and the high number of bank holidays in May has resulted in a knock on into June. There has been a significant increase in police referrals for May(430) and June (521) and a resulting increase in inappropriate referrals. GMP rationale is an increasing demand at the beginning of the Summer months and bank holiday impact, increase in alcohol related incidents linked to ASB, DV and impact upon risk to children. It is noted that there hasn't been an operational or week of focused action to account for the increase. There will be dip samples of contacts not progressing to screening for May and June and a sample of contact source for the same period. EHASH will also dip sample inappropriate GMP contacts and feedback findings to Anna Baker for scrutiny and there will be a remodel of the triage between EHASH and MASH police.

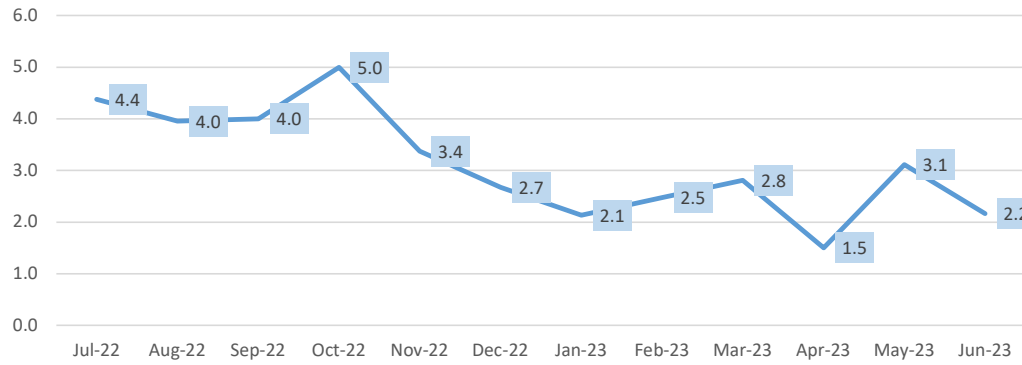
A sample of CAPS and DABS will be audited by GMP to inform learning. Other factors which will have impacted upon timeliness are LCS/VPN system disruptions which has lost one working day in June and EHASH staff sickness affecting TM, Senior Practitioners and Social Workers. Agency Team Manager to be recruited to backfill to provide resilience and ensure effective management oversight in decision making. Ongoing tracking and scrutiny by SUM and Head of Service will continue.

Team Around the setting has decreased as an outcome from screening which is a positive trend. We would expect that given the work being completed at Early Help Level 2 and the support of the Early Help Advisers that Level 2 support such as TAS will decrease from the front door due to the right referrals being received and Level 2 support being delivered prior to a referral to EHASH.

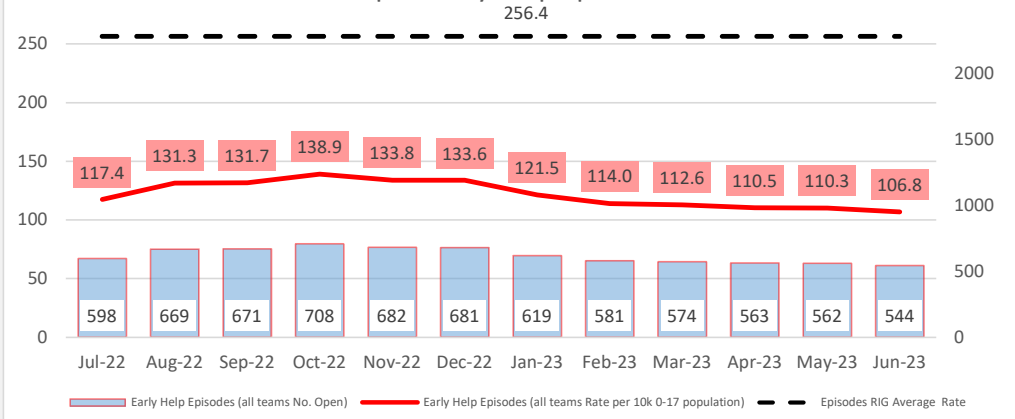
Highlight Indicators									
Ref	Indicator	Current	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average	North West Average	Statistical Neighbour Average	England Average	Direction of Travel
FD1	Contact Received inc LCS contacts - (No. in Month)	1302	1221						↓
FD2	Contact - (12 Month Rolling Rate)	3101	2910						↓
FD3	EHM Contact Received - Childrens Social Care / Out of Hours	950	767						
FD4	EHM Contact - % Received by CSC	73%	63%						
FD5	EHM Contact Received by EHAP / Neighbourhood Coordinators	350	416						
FD6	EMH Contact - % Received by EHAP / Neighbourhood Coordinators	27%	34%						
FD7	Contact Referred to children's social care (% of ALL contact in month EHM and LCS with an outcome of Children's Social Care by month end)	16%	22%						↓
FD8	MASH Screenings Completed within 72 WORKING hours each month (exclu. Requests for information)	78.1%	62%	85-90%					↑
FD8a	MASH Screenings Completed (exclu Requests for Information)	473							↓
FD8b	Requests for Information Completed	18							
FD9	EHAP Screening within 5 Working days (%)	66.1%	70%	90-95%					↓
FD9a	EHAP Screenings Completed (exclu Requests for Information)	372							
FD10	MASH Screenings - Outcome of Referral to Children's Social Care %	42.4%	43%						
FD11	MASH Screenings - Outcome of Early Help / Team Around %	7%	12%						
FD11a	MASH Screenings - Outcome of Referral to Other Agency %	2.2%							↓
FD12	MASH Screenings - Outcome Information and Advice %	48.9%	44%						
FD13	EHAP Screenings - Outcome - Referral to Children's Social Care %	3%	2%						
FD14	EHAP Screenings - Outcome Early Help / Team Around %	0%	15%						
FD15	EHAP Screenings - Outcome Information and Advice %	50%	69%						
FD15a	EHAP Screenings - Outcome of Referral to Other Agency %	48%							
FD16	Domestic Abuse Notifications Received	248							

Summary Performance Charts

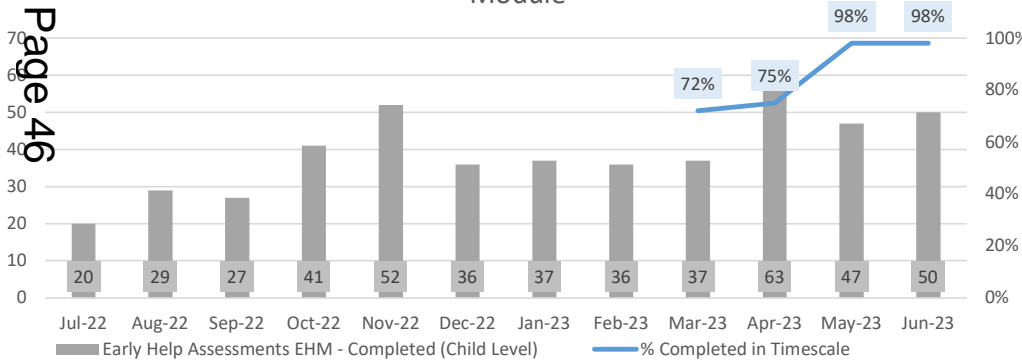
Time from Contact to Decision - Screenings ending in Early Help / Team Around (Ave Days)



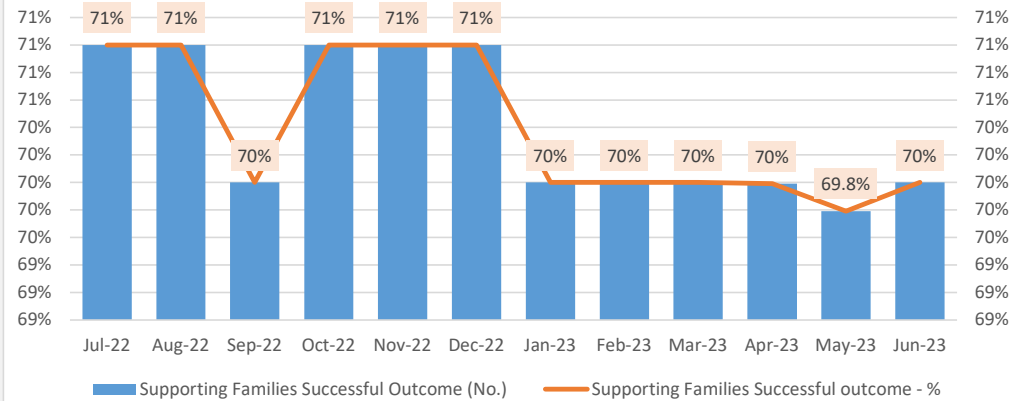
Open Early Help Episodes



Early Help Assessments completed - Recorded within Early Help Module



Supporting Families Programme - Attachments with Successful Outcomes



Commentary

Performance is largely stable with no significant areas of concern. Stepdown to Early help from Children's Social Care has increased and is remaining higher than previously seen. This is contributing to the overall reduction in Child Need Numbers when compared to last year (558 fewer open cases than end June 2022).

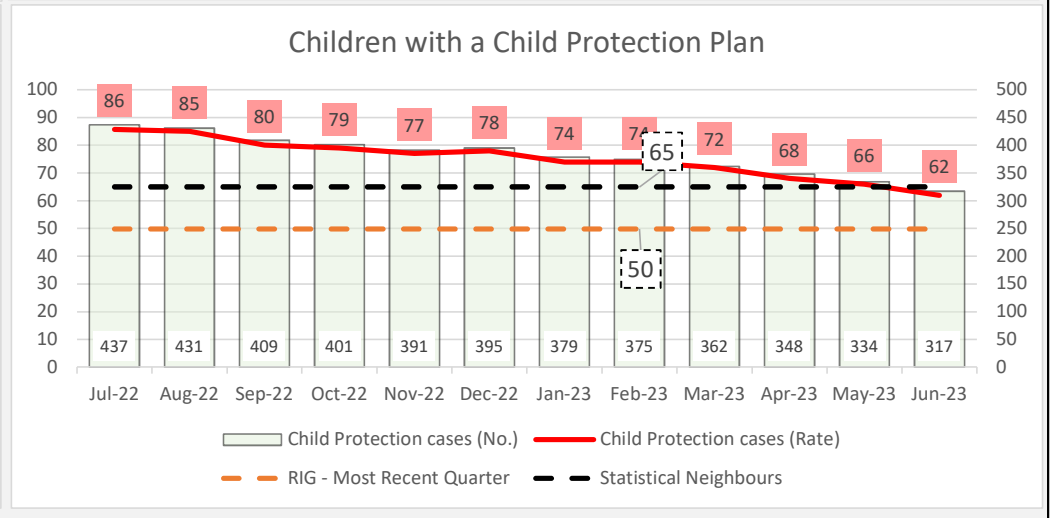
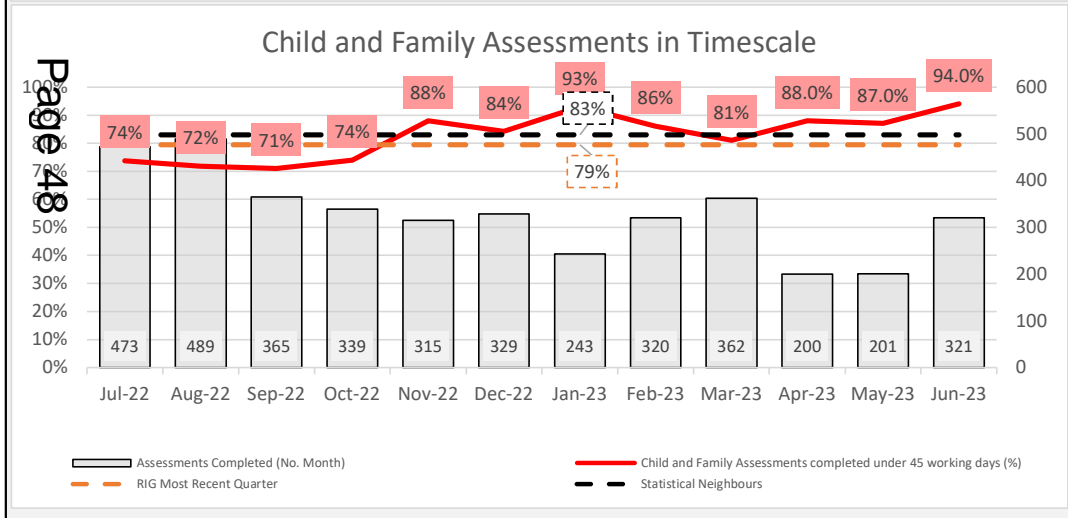
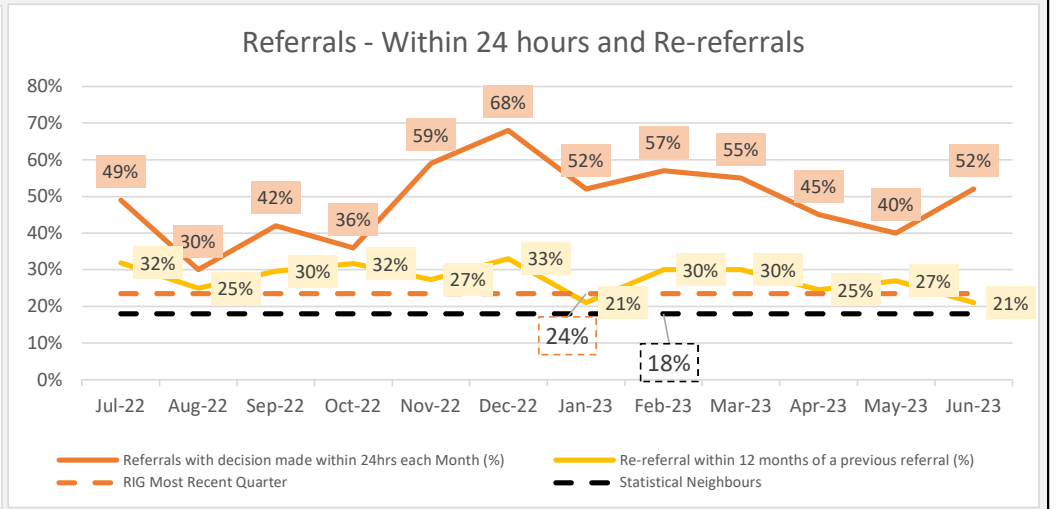
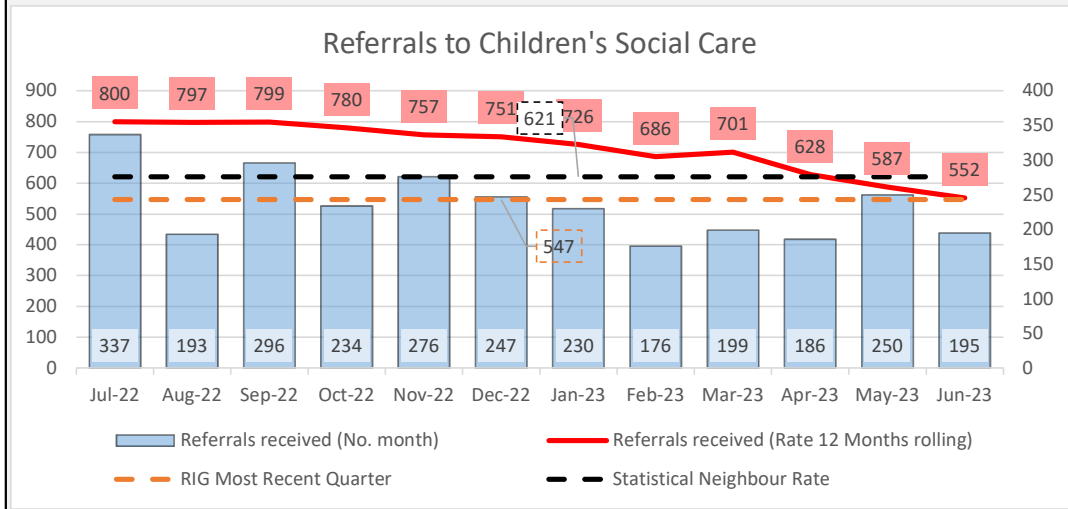
In addition early indications suggest this this also beginning to have a positive impact on re-referral rates as more cases are closing within ongoing Early Help support. Work is planned to review long term Child in Need cases to determine where additional support is needed to support de-escalation.

Timeliness of early help assessments has improved significantly due to new oversight arrangements, this prevents drift and delay of cases within the Early Help Framework.

N.B. Current dash board does not reflect new early help arrangements which have been in place from July 2023. Future dashboard will reflect new arrangements focused on managing and addressing whole system demand.

Ref.	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average	North West Average	Statistical Neighbour Average	England Average	Direction of Travel
EH1	Time from Contact to Decision - Screenings ending in Early Help / Team Around (Ave Days)	2.2	4.3						↓
EH2	Early Help Episodes (all teams No. Open)	544	570						↓
EH3	Early Help Episodes (all teams Rate per 10k 0-17 population)	106.8	111.9						↓
EH6	Early Help Assessments (all agencies no open quarter)	773	602						↑
EH7	Early Help Assessments recorded within EHM - Open at month end Number	51	59						↓
EH9	Early Help Assessments EHM - Completed (Child Level)	50	34						↑
EH9a	Early Help Assessments Completed in Timescale 45 days % each month	98%							
EH10	Early Help Assessments ending in Step Up to Children's Social Care (Multi Agency Evaluation Record)	1	4						
EH10a	Early Help EPISODES ending in Step up to Children's Social Care (Episode End Reson)	1							
EH11	Child in Need Episodes ending in Step Down to Early Help	14	9						
EH11a	Child and Family Assessments Completed with an Outcome of Early Help Recorded	26							
EH12	Supporting Families Successful Outcome (No.)	3308	2929						↑
EH13	Supporting Families Successful outcome - %	70%	70%						↑

Summary Performance Charts



Commentary

Child in Need and CP

•There has been a decrease in referrals to CSC from 250 in May to 195 in June. The rolling rate of referrals received has reduced further to 552, which is below the stat neighbour rate of 621 and is line with the North West Average of 548. The downward trajectory is in line with work undertaken to ensure families are receiving the right service at the right time; however, should the demand continue to reduce, further exploration would be needed to be confident that the demand is being appropriately managed across the continuum of need. The percentage of re-referrals in June has reduced from 27% in May to 21%, which is in line with our local target and GM averages, but remains slightly above the England average of 20%. Further work has been identified to strengthen CIN Planning and step up/step down to try and reduce the monthly fluctuations in performance and keep the percentage within our target performance.

•There has been an increase in month in the number of C & F Assessments completed and in the percentage of assessments completed within 45 days. The number of assessments has increased from 201 in May to 321 in June, with 94% completed within timescale which remains above our target of 85% and the regional, statistical and England averages of 81%-84%. From a review of the data there were 15 C & F Assessments showing as overdue at the end of June; 9 across cared for children, 2 within duty and 4 across the safeguarding teams. As per previous reporting, the timeliness of C & F Assessments remains an area of focus and is reviewed on a weekly basis. The next step is to build on the consistency and quality of the assessments being completed and ensure that they are informing the plans for children and families.

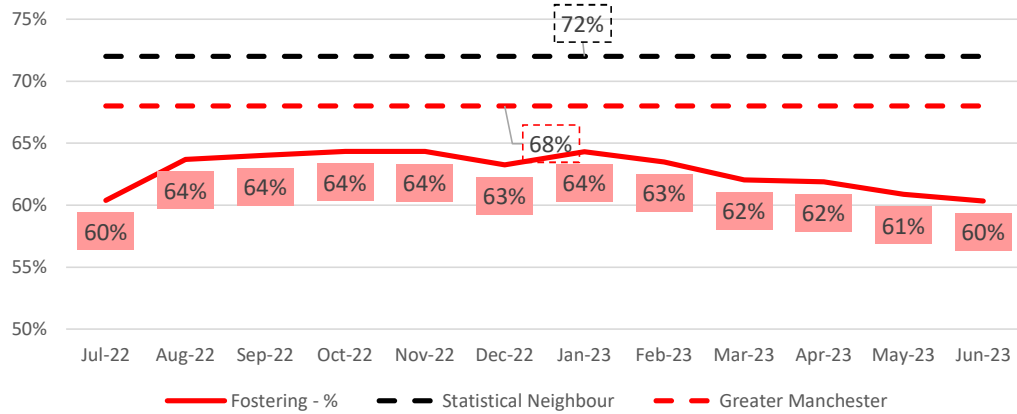
•There has been a further in month reduction in the number of children subject to a CP Plan from 334 in May to 317 in June, bringing Tameside in line with statistical neighbours. CP Plans are regularly reviewed between the respective service managers to ensure that plans are being progressed for children.

•Timeliness of CP visits remains below target at 85%. Dedicated time has been identified on a weekly basis as part of our stop the clock to focus on recording, as dip sampling has identified that visits are taking place, but are not being recorded on the system in a timely manner

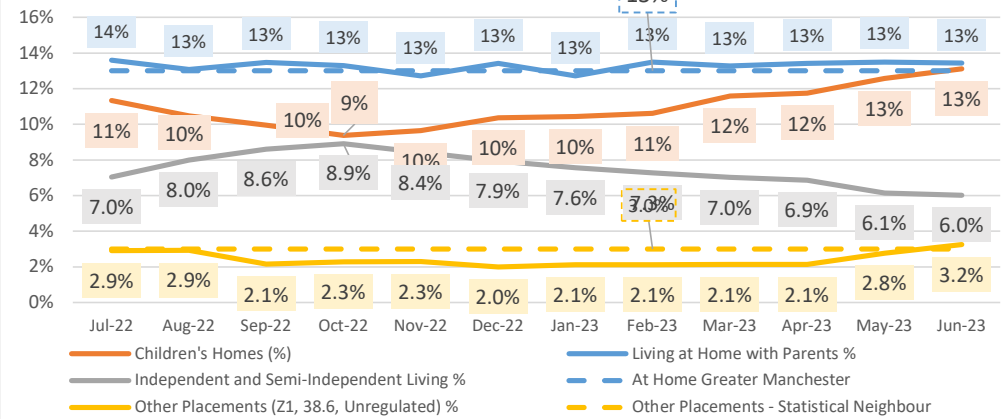
Ref	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average (2021/22)	North West Average (2020/21)	Statistical Neighbour Average (2021/22)	England Average (2021/22)	Direction of Travel
CIN1	Referrals received (No. month)	195	295						↓
CIN2	Referrals received (Rate 12 Months rolling)	552	701	612	700	548	621	538	↓
CIN3	Referrals with decision made within 24hrs each Month (%)	52%	49%						↑
CIN4	Re-referral within 12 months of a previous referral (%)	21%	20%	20-24%	21%	21%	18%	20%	↓
CIN5	Referrals where a child was found to be not in Need after Assessment.	15%	27%	29%	24%	25%	25%	29%	↓
CIN6	Assessments Completed (No. Month)	321	323						
CIN7	Assessments Completed (12 Month Rolling Rate)	777	669		715	594	688	533	
CIN8	Child and Family Assessments completed under 45 working days (%)	94%	61%	85%	81%	81%	83%	84%	↑
CIN9	Strategy Meetings (No. Completed Month)	152	114						
CIN10	Strategy meetings (12 Month Rolling Rate)	337	272						
CIN11	Strategy Meeting Outcome - S47 (% Month)	69%	77%						
CIN12	Strategy Meeting Outcomes-No Further Action (% Month)	24%	17%						
CIN13	Section 47s Completed (no. Month)	128	89						
CIN14	Section 47s Completed (12 Month Rolling Rate)	248	211		212	189	267	180	
CIN15	Section 47s Completed - % Conference Outcomes ICPC (YTD)	29%	42%		42%	41%	40%	38%	
CIN16	Child in Need Plan (No.)	413	553						
CIN17	Child In Need Reviews that were due completed in timescale (% YTD)	69%	75%	80%					
CIN18	Child Protection cases (No.)	317	348		281	246	326	211	
CIN19	Child Protection cases (Rate)	62	69		56	49	65	42	↓
CIN20	Child Protection - Statutory visits in timescale (% CP 1 Month+ with a visit within the last month)	85%		95%					↓
CIN21	Number of Times a Child was Reported Missing (No Month)	179	145						↑
CIN22	Number of Incidents where a Missing from Home Interview was Offered (by month end)	134							
CIN23	Missing incidents completed return home interview with 72hrs (No)	85							
CIN24	Number of Children with one or more missing incident each month	89	79						↑
CIN25	Complex Safeguarding - Referrals into the Complex Safeguarding Team (Quarterly)	Not Yet Available	17						
CIN26	Complex Safeguarding - Referrals into the Complex Safeguarding Team Closed NFA % (Quarterly)	Not Yet Available	46%						
CIN27	Complex Safeguarding Team - Cases Open to Complex Safeguarding Team (Quarterly)	Not Yet Available	37						

Summary Performance Charts

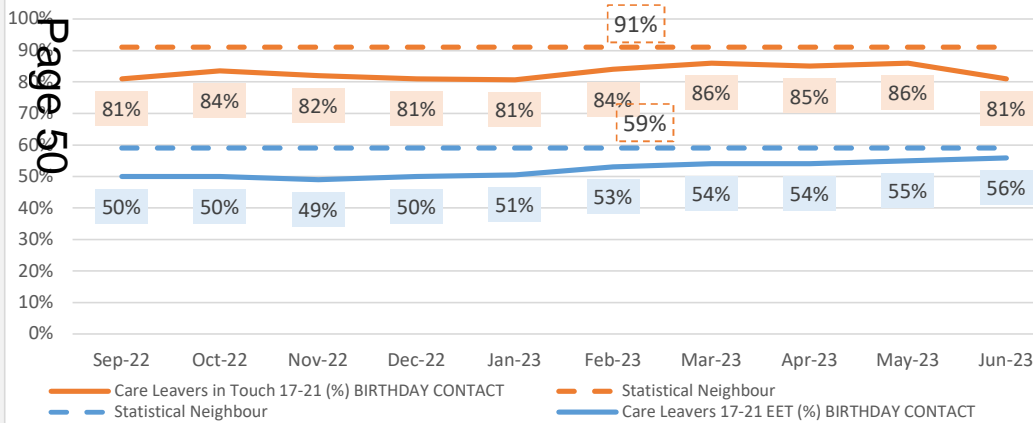
Children Living in Fostering Accommodation



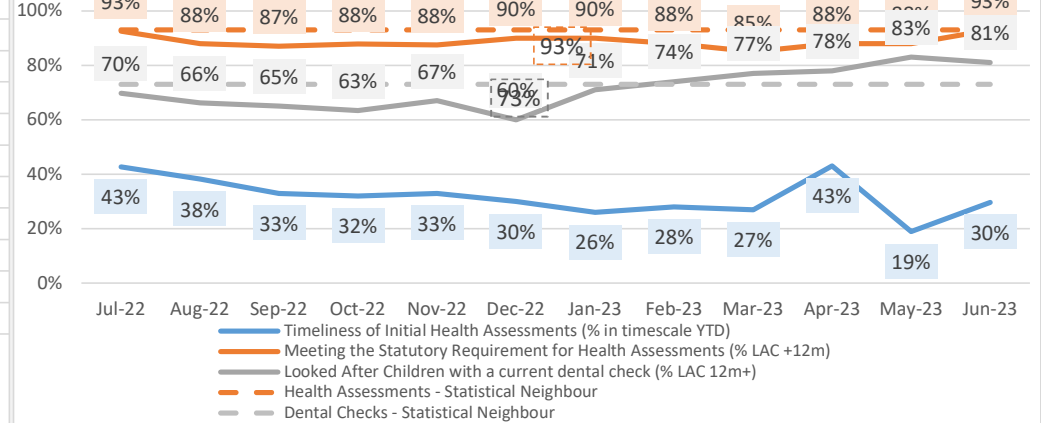
Children Living in Other Accommodation Types



Care Leavers - In Touch and EET - BIRTHDAY CONTACT



Health of Cared for Children



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CARED FOR CHILDREN

- Cared for Children numbers has again reduced slightly this month to 648, this still remains higher than the England, NW and statistical neighbour average. 86 children commenced care in the last 6 months with a slight increase of 89 children ceasing. The data for UASC remains stable with 7% of our young people commencing looked after are unaccompanied asylum seeking children whom have been dispersed under the Home Offices, National Transfer Scheme.
- Numbers of Placement With Parents remains static in June with 13% (88 children and young people), although it is in line with the Greater Manchester average it is higher than our statistical neighbour and England average. A refocus on the Placement with Parents will be undertaken to determine if we can achieve permanence via exiting the care system.

Review health assessment performance has increased this month to 93% in line with North West and Statistical neighbour averages. A meeting is planned in early July with health colleagues to review the process and see if this can be streamlined to improve.

- The initial health assessment data identifies weaker performance with 12.5% of children receiving an initial health assessment in timescale in June (2 of 16 in timescale at the time of writing 1 was completed out of timescale and 13 for which examination dates were not yet known), a meeting is planned to address further.
- Dental checks are reported at 81% achieved in the last 12 months.

- Children living in foster placements has again reduced this month by 1% to 60% this month, placement sufficiency remains an area of challenge, there is a current GM Fostering Unfiltered campaign which Tameside are part of. This supports campaigns across the Greater Manchester area. This follows on from the Foster Care Fortnight campaigns, we are utilising Foster Care Ambassadors to assist with the profile and marketing of fostering. We have events planned over the summer period.

- We have again this month seen an increase of 3 children/young people being placed in residential children’s homes from 82 children/young people 85.

- A focus continues on permanence tracking for children and young people, positively there has been an increase by 3% of children leaving care in the last 6 months via an SGO to a total of 25%. There has been a further increase in the number of children ceasing care via adoption by 3% to 9% .

- The use of unregulated ‘other placements’ continues to have an increased level of scrutiny with weekly oversight from the AD, we have 3 young people in these settings (2 are subject to DOLs) 1 setting is seeking Ofsted Childrens Home registration, 1 is a family placement (not a foster arrangement) and we are seeking a Child Arrangement Order, 1 is a bespoke provision staffed with health practitioners but is not CQC registered.

CARE LEAVERS

- The number of care leavers open to the service remains high at 513 Former Relevant and 3 Relevant entitled to a full leaving care service. The legacy of high numbers of Cared for Children in Tameside moving through the system to the leaving care service will be felt for some years to come. We have 67 Qualifiers who are not entitled to a full service but receive some level of support. A Phase 2 formal consultation commenced in June to review and redesign the service to create more capacity of PAs to reduce caseloads, compliance and improve practice. The consultation concluded in early July and the agreed structure for the service will now include 4 Team Managers, 18 Personal Advisors, 2 Senior Personal Advisors and 2 Leaving Care Support Workers. This will provide much needed capacity and foundations in the service to build upon. As part of the improvement work we want to ensure young people are allocated a PA from the age of 16 years to start building a relationship and to support with developing life skills and overall earlier transition planning.

- 86% of young people are reported to have a Pathway Plan in place, further work will be undertaken across the services to ensure that we focus on the compliance of Pathway Plans being in place at age 16 years, improve the quality of Pathway Planning and use the data to ensure that timely reviews are held.

- Following the Phase 1 restructure/redesign that 7 social workers in the service have been moved to the Cared for Children Team, this is now a 0-18 year service and will allow the Leaving Care Service to develop our offer along with partners going forward. This also removes the additional change of social worker our children in care were experiencing with previously having to move teams and worker at age 16 years. A training event was held on 29 June 2023 to support the Cared For Service with working with young people age 16 + cohort.

- Our in touch figures for care leavers (linked to the birthday contact) age 19-21 years remains high with a slight increase at 96%, it is weaker for the age 17-18 year cohort with a slight decrease to 85% this month.

- Performance in EET remains a concerns with 50% for our age 19 – 21 year olds recorded as EET. The EET engagement for the 17-18 year olds is reported at 63%, further changes may be evidenced over the summer period with young people changing, courses, training and employment.

- Suitable accommodation for 19-21 remains positive and stable at 95% and has increased to 83 % for the 17-18 year olds. Further work is being completed with the allocated workers for the younger age group to ensure the data is accurate and reportable.

- The data evidences that the average caseloads in the Leaving Care Team remains high, this will start to improve as we recruit additional PA’s under the agreed new structure (04.07.23). High caseloads currently impacts on staff morale, general compliance and quality of work, as outlined the service restructure will increase the number of PA’s and also create two senior PA roles. The senior PA roles will be case holders, but also strengthen the improvement work.

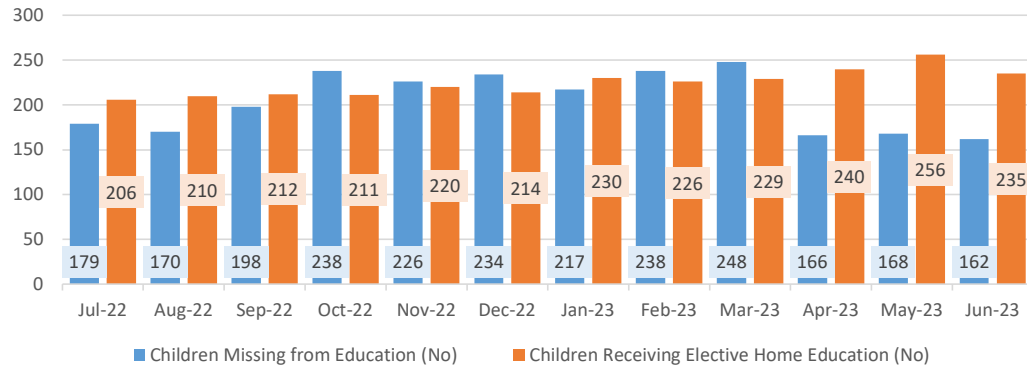
- We have 6 month funding to provide an additional Snr Manager and 4 additional PA’s. This will assist with the pace of the improvement work and overall compliance whilst we recruit permanent staff now that the restructure/re-design has been agreed (04.07.23). A 6 month senior manager has been recruited on a short term contract, following notice being served they should be in post from mid-August. We are recruiting to the 4 additional PA’s post and this will assist with the backlog of work and reducing current caseloads whilst we complete recruitment to permanent posts agreed in the new structure. new structure.

Ref	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average (2021/22)	North West Average (2021/22)	Statistical Neighbour Average (2021/22)	England Average (2021/22)	Direction of Travel
CF1	Cared for Children (No.)	648	666	552	457	487	573	352	↓
CF2	Cared for Children (Rate)	127	133	110	91	97	114	70	↓
CF3	Cared for Children - Statutory Visits in Timescale (%)	77%	77%	90%					↓
CF4	Cared for Children with 3 or more placements in a 12 month period. (%)	10%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	10%	↑

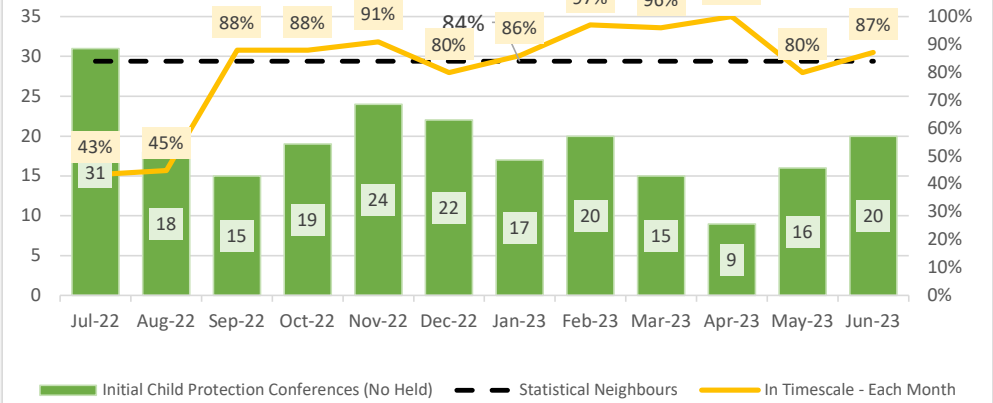
CF5	Cared for Children for 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years (% Quarterly)	71%	73%	73%	72%	72%	73%	71%	↑
CF6	Cared for Children subject to 3 or more changes of Social Worker in the last 12 months (%)	30%	34%	10%					↑
Where We Live									
CF7	Within Tameside (%)	58%	54%	>65%					↓
CF8	Fostering - No.	391	393		450	437	477	463	
CF9	Fostering - %	60%	58%	71%	68%	66%	72%	70%	↓
CF10	Placed for Adoption (No)	19	10		13	13	20	20	
CF11	Placed for Adoption (%)	2.9%	1.5%		2%	2%	3%	3%	
CF12	Living at Home with Parents No.	87	107		86	79	46	46	
CF13	Living at Home with Parents %	13%	16%	8%	13%	12%	7%	7%	↔
CF14	Children's Homes (No)	85	83						
CF15	Children's Homes (%)	13%	12%						↔
CF16	Independent and Semi-Independent Living No	39	37						
CF17	Independent and Semi-Independent Living %	6.0%	5.6%						
CF18	Secure Units No	1	1						
CF19	Other Placements (Z1, 38.6, Unregulated) No.	21	17		13	13	20	7	
CF20	Other Placements (Z1, 38.6, Unregulated) %	3.2%	2.6%		2%	2%	3%	1%	
Outcomes									
CF21	Timeliness of Initial Health Assessments (% in timescale YTD)	30%	18%						↑
CF22	Timeliness of Initial Health Assessments (% in timescale MONTH)	13%	21%						↓
CF23	Meeting the Statutory Requirement for Health Assessments (% LAC +12m)	93%	88%	96%	93%	92%	93%	89%	↑
CF25	Looked After Children with a current dental check (% LAC 12m+)	81%	72%	80%	69%	74%	73%	70%	↓
CF27	Looked After Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (%)	22%	22%						
CF28	Looked After children 3 - 15 with a current Personal Education Plan (% Quarterly)	99%	99%						↔
CF29	Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan in place (%)	85%	88%						↔
CF30	Care Leavers in Touch 17-21 (%) BIRTHDAY CONTACT	81%	93%	93%	94%	95%	91%	93%	↓
CF31	Care Leavers 17-21 EET (%) BIRTHDAY CONTACT	56%	47%	52%	55%	54%	59%	58%	↑

Summary Performance Charts

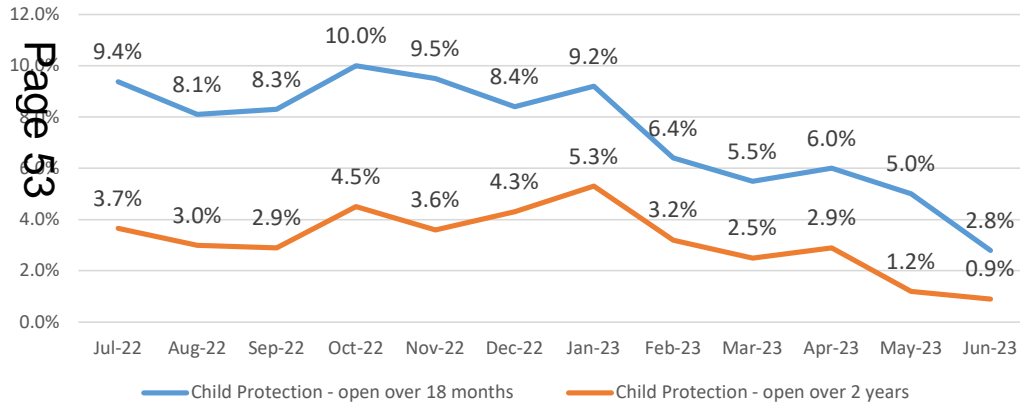
Children Missing from Education and Receiving Elective Home Education



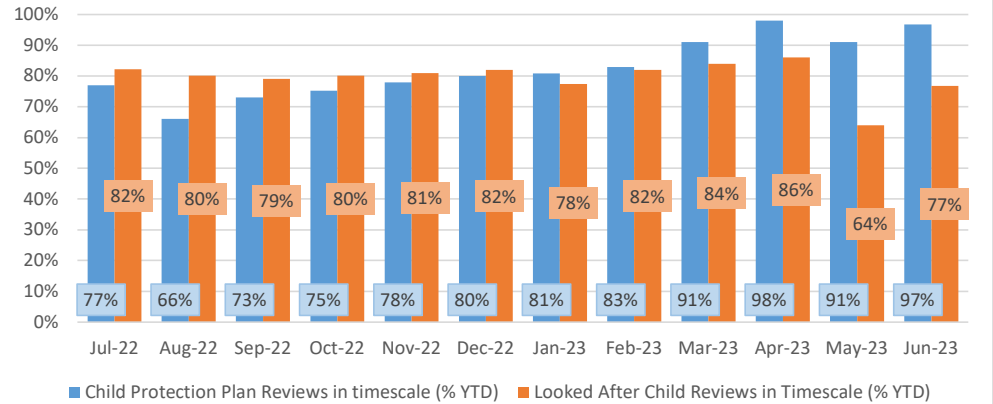
Initial Child Protection Conferences No. vs Timescale



Duration of Open Child Protection Plans



CP and Cared for Reviews in Timescale - Year to Date



Commentary

Child Protection conferences

• There are currently 317 Children subject to Child Protection Plans which is a decrease of 17 children from May 2023 and a reduction of 79 since the beginning of the year. At the same point last year there were 348 children subject to a child protection plan.

• We have now stabilised since the pandemic when figures gradually increased. By concentrating on our Early Help and Child in Need services and ensuring our young people are supported at the lowest level of intervention at the earliest opportunity, we hope to further decrease the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans.

• During the month of June, 62 Child Protection Conferences took place, 10 more than in May. 20 were Initial Child Protection Conferences that were held in person at Tameside 1, 41 Review Child Protection Conferences took place in person at Tameside 1.

• This is a slight increase on the number of conferences in May by 10.

• 87% of Initial conferences took place within 15 working days in June which is an increase of 7% on last month, and continues to be an upward trend. One unborn could not take place as the parent was unavailable, they did not have capacity and required representation. Another unborn could not take place as the mother was admitted to hospital. Both conferences were rearranged on compassionate grounds but could not be reconvened within timescale.

• 39 children came to an ICPC in June, 10 children were not made subject to a child protection plan and remained or were made subject to, Child in Need.

• 92% of Review Child Protection Conferences took place within timescales during June, an increase from last month's 86%, there remains an upward trend. This figure can change daily as social workers update the electronic system.

• The 8% not in timescale comprised of 2 conferences of one child each. One conference was out of date due to an administration error, one was rearranged as the child's father was in court and the conference couldn't be reconvened within the timescale.

Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)

• Police attendance is 80%, a change from 100% last month. This has been attributed to staffing constraints. Fortnightly Liaison meetings take place between the police and the safeguarding unit to ensure any issues are quickly resolved.

• Health attendance for May is 100%, an increase from 81% reported for the previous month

• Education Attendance for June is 92%, a decrease from 100% in May.

Following the data being run, it was identified that there was a recording issue on 2 conferences; the police and education attended one more than inputted which slightly increases the figures above.

Duration of open Child Protection Plans

• Child Protection Plans over 18 months

This is currently at 2.8%, a decrease from 5% last month.

This is 6 children in 4 families

One family of 2 children are starting court proceedings as the parents couldn't make the changes necessary to keep their children safe

One is a teenager who is on a plan and is now expecting their own child

One family of 2 children have had further concerns resulting in Sec 47 enquiries.

Two children in one family continue to need the additional support of a Child Protection Plan due to their parent's relationship.

All the children have plans in place and oversight from the conference chair.

• Child Protection Plans over 2 years

This is currently at 0.9%, a decrease from 1.2% in May.

This is 4 children in 2 families.

One family of 3 children are subject to pre proceedings with specialist assessments being undertaken.

One family is where a sibling is due to be born and therefore a further period of child protection is required.

All children with child protection plans over 12 months are discussed in a monthly meeting and have the oversight of Service Managers in Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and Child in Need and Child Protection Service areas to prevent drift and delay in progressing children's plans. It is evidenced that this has improved performance and outcomes for Children in this area.

From September 2023, a multi-agency panel will review all CP plans open beyond 2 years, every quarter, Head of Service safeguarding and Quality Assurance will chair the meeting.

• Cared for Children Reviews

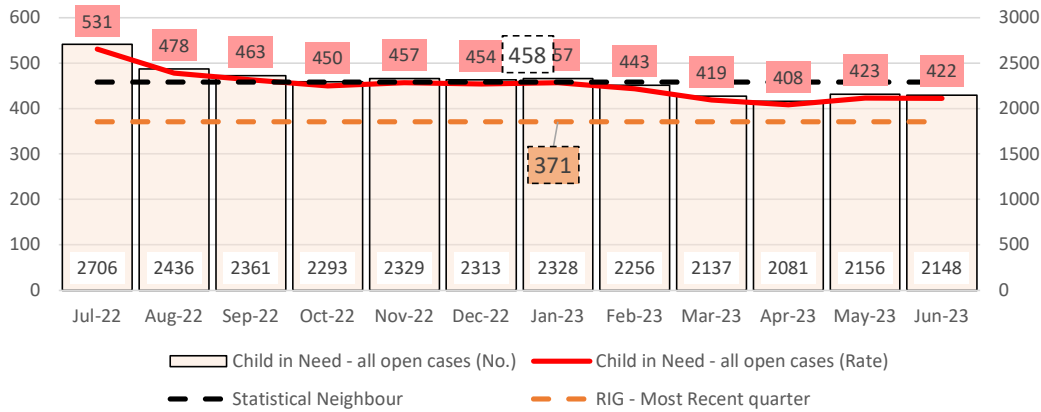
The timeliness of reviews for June is 50.6%. 85 reviews were due to be held in June; of these 49 children were recorded at month end with 43 of these taking place in timescale. There are 42 reviews showing as outstanding at the reporting date. Of these, it has been established through conversations with IRO's that the meeting has taken place and within timescale. Unfortunately, these are yet to be recorded on LCS largely due to the lack of Pre Meeting Report's (PMR) being available pre and post review. The LCS system does not allow the IRO to record the outcomes or meeting minutes if the PMR is outstanding. Additionally there are other LSC issues such as assessments/ strategy meetings that are blocking the pathway. IRO's have escalated all these issues. IRO's have been prioritising adding their outcomes when the PMR's have been received. There are work streams ongoing within CSC exploring the existing PRM's, what the barriers are to them being completed in a timely manner and also looking at how LCS can support the CFC workflow so that pathways are not blocked if certain forms are open in draft.

Ref	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average (2021/22)	North West Average (2021/22)	Statistical Neighbour Average (2021/22)	England Average (2021/22)	Direction of Travel
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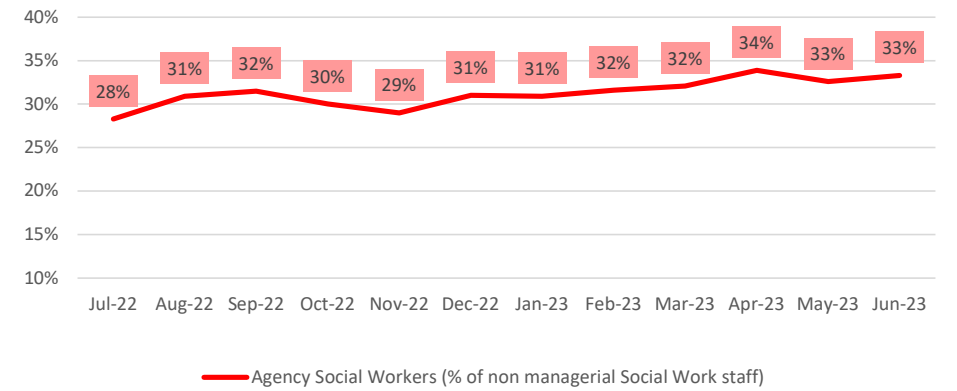
SG1	Children Missing from Education (No)	162	155						
SG2	Children Receiving Elective Home Education (No)	235	190						↓
SG3	% of Children receiving Elective Home Education who are open to Children's Social Care	1.3%	2.6%						↑
SG4	Child in Need (all open cases) with a Education Health and Care Plan (%)	15%	12%						↑
SG5	Children with Initial Child Protection Conferences held under 15 Working Days (% YTD)	87%	76%	83%	81%	79%	84%	79%	↔
SG6	Children with Initial Child Protection Conferences held under 15 Working Days (% IN MONTH)	87%	71%						↑
SG7	Initial Child Protection Conferences (No Held)	20	18						
SG8	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Police	80%	51%						
SG9	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Health	100%	73%						
SG10	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Education	92%	66%						
SG11	Child Protection Plan Reviews in timescale (% YTD)	97%	83%	91%	87%	87%	89%	89%	↑
SG12	Child Protection Plan Reviews in timescale (% Each Month)	92%							
SG13	Child Protection - open over 18 months	2.8%	10.1%						↓
SG14	Child Protection - open over 2 years	0.9%	3.6%	2.1%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%	2.5%	↓
SG15	Looked After Child Reviews in Timescale (% YTD)	77%	94%	95%					↑
SG16	Audits completed (No Month)	12	15						
SG17	Audits completed (YTD)	67	164						
SG18	Audits rated good / outstanding (% YTD)	18%	34%	45%					↑
SG19	Audits Requiring Improvement (% YTD)	70%	55%						↓
SG20	Audits Inadequate (% YTD)	12%	10%						↓

Summary Performance Charts

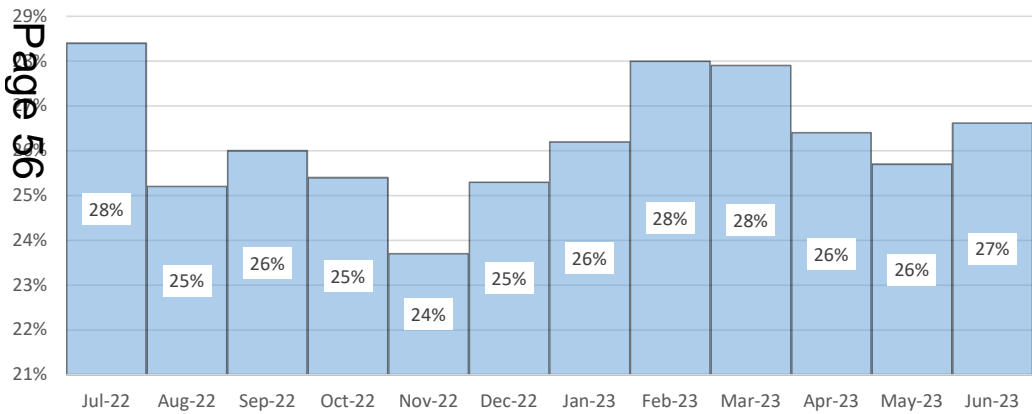
Open Cases - Including Care Leavers



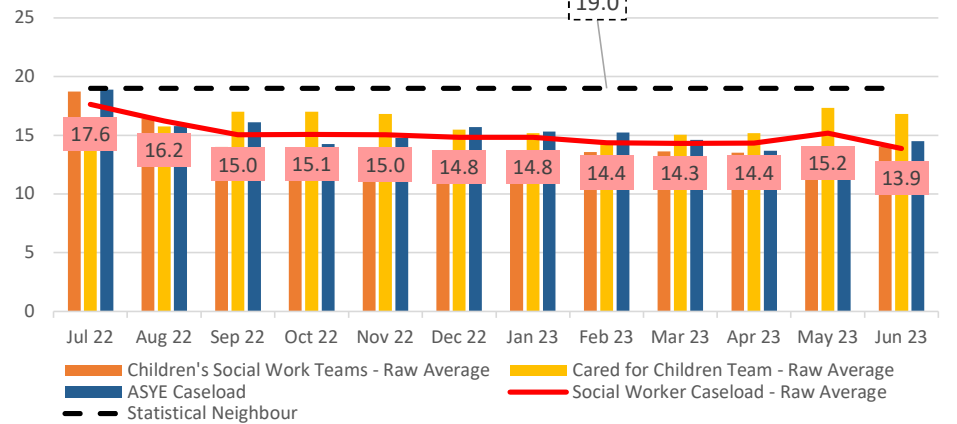
Agency Staff - % of Social Worker FTEs



Children with 3 or more Social Worker in the last 12 months (%)



Raw Social Work Caseload Averages



Commentary

After rising marginally in May overall numbers of Children in Need in Tameside have decreased in June the current rate per 10,000 0-17 year old population is 422 below the Statistical Neighbour average figure of 458 but remaining above the quarter 4 regional average of 371. The proportion of social workers that are agency remains high at 33% as does the proportion of social workers in their Assisted and Supported Year in Employment at 20%. In June there has been a small rise in the number of children with 3 or more social workers in the last 12 months to 27% following decreasing figures in April and May. This will be partially as a result of recruiting into the new CSC structure and internal staff appointments.

Overall Social work caseloads stand at an average of 13.9 this figure remains well below historic averages. Restructuring of the Leaving Care team means Leaving Care team caseloads now reflect cases of Personal Advisors only i.e. young people have left care and no longer include social work caseloads prior to leaving care. This information is now reported separately from Social Work Caseloads as a result. Commentary under the Cared for Children Page of this scorecard provides further details on actions to support the Care Leavers service.

Ref	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average (2021/22)	North West Average (2021/22)	Statistical Neighbour Average (2021/22)	England Average (2021/22)	Direction of Travel
WF1	Child in Need - all open cases (No.)	2148	2717	2175	2074	1929	2300	1677	↓
WF2	Child in Need - all open cases (Rate)	422	541	433	413	384	458	334	↓
WF3	Newly Qualified Social Worker on ASYE (% of Social workers FTE)	20%	19%						
WF4	Agency Social Workers (% of non managerial Social Work staff)	33%	30%	14-22%					↔
WF5	Children with 3 or more Social Worker in the last 12 months (%)	27%	36%	15%					↑
Caseloads									
WF6	Social Worker Caseload - Raw Average	13.9	18.5	16-18					↓
WF8	All Social Workers - Highest Individual Caseload	26.0							↔
WF9	Children's Social Work Teams - Raw Average	14.0	18.9						↑
WF10	ISCAN - Raw Average	15.0	11.8						↔
WF11	Cared for Children Team - Raw Average	16.8	16.8						↓
WF12	Adoptions Team - Raw Average	5.7	5.6						↓
WF13	Leaving Care Team Personal Advisor Caseload - Raw Average	33.2							↑
WF14	ASYE Caseload	14.5	22.9						↑

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SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES 2023/24

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity for the municipal year ahead. The programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Scrutiny activity aims to reflect priority issues across the Council and external partners. Work will continue to improve the flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods of all scrutiny activity undertaken during 2023/24. Discussion from Scrutiny Panels held in June 2023 has directly informed the list of topics and planned updates 'check and challenge', for the year ahead.
- 1.3 Each year a range of emerging topics and issues may require the attention of Scrutiny. It is therefore important to ensure efforts are best placed to support and influence effective decision-making, with a focus on improving outcomes for residents and communities.

Scrutiny activity in Tameside

- 1.4 There is a range of options available to each Scrutiny Panel as to how activity is planned and undertaken. Scrutiny Chairs will work closely with panel members in order to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and areas in need of more in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:
 - Research and insight on a particular issue, including desktop reviews
 - Review of decisions and recommendations
 - Follow-up (from previous review / recommendations)
 - Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
 - Consideration of decisions and reports of the Ombudsman
 - Receive updates on key issues as they arise
 - Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to services
- 1.5 The work programme is ambitious and it is not expected that all topics will be covered during the year, but more an agreed list from which to select items. Scrutiny will remain mindful of budget pressures, regulatory frameworks and the demand on statutory services. Through each work programme, the scrutiny of key partners will be planned where appropriate and relevant. At times, Scrutiny may also consider work and outcomes associated with individual delivery panels of the Executive.
- 1.6 In addition to the work programme, all panel members will continue to receive a regular update email to inform of upcoming activity, access to scrutiny resources, engagement and consultation with regard to local, regional and national decision-making. This provides a direct opportunity for scrutiny members to contribute and respond to the range of activity taking place both within the Council and across partners.

2. WORK PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 The Scrutiny meetings held in June 2023 provided members with the opportunity to comment and contribute to the list topics included in the annual work programmes.
- 2.2 Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings and through working groups, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This flexibility can allow responsive and timely work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of

decisions. It is also necessary to monitor and evaluate outcomes from past activity and to review the implementation of recommendations.

2.3 Where deemed appropriate, the wider development of scrutiny may include project support and service development work undertaken at the request of the Executive as a critical friend.

Planned activity

2.4 In order to prevent delay, Scrutiny Panels agreed topics to be considered at the next round of public meetings in July, as detailed below.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel – 25 July 2023

- Neighbourhood Enforcement

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel – 26 July 2023

- Services for Care Leavers

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 27 July 2023

- Domestic Abuse

2.5 On occasion a topic may require the attention of more than one scrutiny panel in order to examine a range of impacts. At such a time, a decision will be made to assign a lead panel based on both remit and the subject matter. All aspects of activity will be made available to panel members to consider and respond.

3. SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES 2023/24

3.1 The work programmes below capture the input and discussion of panel members from meetings held in June 2023. The list of topics does not reflect the order in which activity will be selected or undertaken.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

3.2 The Scrutiny Panel recognises that topics specific to growth, investment and regeneration may be closely linked and best considered in conjunction with others.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel	
•	Neighbourhood Enforcement – policy and the effectiveness of strategic, operational and place-based approach to fly tipping, street scene/cleanliness and parking etc
•	GMP – implementation of the neighbourhood model / Community Safety Partnership
•	Transport for Greater Manchester – Rochdale-Oldham-Tameside Bus Transit programme and emerging public and active travel schemes
•	Housing / Registered Provider Partnership – coordination update to include housing partners around homelessness strategy and accommodation
•	Town Centres – consultation / development and delivery phases
•	Local Plan – Places for Everyone (strategic <u>not</u> operational planning)
•	Poverty / cost of living and vulnerability – cross cutting and strategic response
•	Climate change actions / Environment Strategy implementation
•	Access to work – NEET / Routes to Work / vulnerability
•	The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas
Follow-up on past activity	
•	Homelessness and housing

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

- 3.3 The Scrutiny Panel will undertake core assurance activity across improvement activity, to include:
- Children's Social Care Improvement Plan
 - Safeguarding Partnership
 - Ofsted activity and reports

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel
• Children's Social Care Improvement Plan / Ofsted Monitoring
• Effectiveness of services and support to care leavers
• Quality and consistency of social work practice / voice of the child / timeliness of plans and assessments across the service
• Development of the Adolescence Hub – Youth Services and provision
• Mental health support / assessment (incl. CAMHS)– crisis and ongoing
• Child exploitation – joint commissioning and intervention activity
• Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools / education investment areas – future vision and pathway - Impact of Covid-19 on transition
• SEND – NHS investment
• The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas
Follow-up on past activity
• Children's Workforce Strategy – social worker recruitment and retention

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Panel will undertake core assurance activity with health partners during the municipal year and receive timely briefings, to include: CQC inspection framework
- GMIC model
 - Tameside & Glossop NHS Integrated Care Foundation Trust
 - Pennine Care NHS Mental Health Foundation Trust

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
• Mental Health pathway – crisis support and ongoing secondary care – Pennine Care discharging Care Act duties
• Domestic Abuse (JSNA)
• Tameside Carers – assessment and support for unpaid carers (Health and Care Act 2022)
• Strategy development – input to emerging strategies – e.g. Adults Social Care; and Carers
• Learning disabilities – living at home model – offer and focus on journey, support and outcomes for service users (inc. accommodation). Engagement – Big Chat
• Adult Social Care - Market Position Statement (capacity and demand)
• Tameside Provider Partnership (TPP) / GM Integrated Care (GMIC) – incl. GM, ICFT, Primary Care and TMBC reps.
• Health inequalities – improvement and prevention programmes
• Access to GP appointments (incl. Primary Care Access Service)
• Elective waiting lists – post Covid-19 impact on waits
• Access to Dental Services
• The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas

In-year monitoring

3.5 Each Scrutiny Panel will plan and undertake additional oversight and in-year monitoring, to include the following activity.

Additional in-year monitoring
• Budget updates – annual and mid-year
• Feedback and learning from complaints (LGSCO)
• Performance monitoring against corporate priorities (incl. Children’s Social Care)