

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Wednesday
Date: 13 September 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 26 July 2023.	1 - 4
4.	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE The Panel to meet Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families); and Allison Parkinson, Director of Children’s Services, to receive an update on Children’s Social Care.	
5.	CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE SCORECARD The Panel to receive the Early Help and Children’s Social Care scorecard.	5 - 14
6.	CHAIR'S UPDATE The Chair to provide a verbal update on activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel will take place on Wednesday 8 November 2023.	
8.	URGENT ITEMS To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.	

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Children's Services Scrutiny Panel 26 July 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.40pm

Present: Councillors Roderick (Chair), Tilbrook (Deputy), Fitzpatrick, Howarth, Karim, McLaren, Robinson, T Smith

Apologies: Councillors Martin, Owen

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 7 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

11. CARE LEAVERS

The Panel welcomed Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services; Tony DeCrop, Assistant Director; and Susan Harris, Head of Service, to receive an overview of care leaver services to inform a review into the effectiveness of services and support to care leavers in Tameside.

Members received a Corporate Parenting summary, as at April 2023. This included a snap shot of data related to the number of children in care and care arrangements. It was reported that the overall number of care leavers in Tameside has increased year on year, with data provided from 2015/16 onwards. The current position does show a slight reduction in numbers for the first part of 2023/24. It was added that the growth can be attributed to the borough having a higher than average population of children in care and an increase in age 21+ cohort following the extension of statutory duties.

Further introductory and contextual detail was provided on the Leaving Care Service, caseloads, capacity and the structural phases of a service redesign. Support, and outcomes were also detailed in relation to the Cared for Children Health Team and outcomes associated with education, employment and training for care leavers. This included:

- Relaunch of a 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 / trainee offer

The Panel received a summary of the Care Leavers improvement journey, with direct reference made to a review undertaken in May 2022 by Mark Riddell, DFE Care Leavers Specialist Advisor, with findings and a series of recommendations for improvement. The DFE letter was

included within the meeting papers and a separate presentation provided detail against each of the recommendations and actions taken to deliver the changes.

The Director of Children's Services advised members that Tameside is very much still on a journey of improvement for care leavers. The service has taken on board all of the recommendations for improvement and recognises the need to offer a better service for care experienced young people in Tameside. It was added that recent investment and a recruitment exercise has successfully appointed a new permanent Service Manager for Care Leavers, a new Participation and Inclusion Officer, to achieve a sharper focus on the caseloads and capacity of Personal Advisors.

It was reported that data shows Tameside as a potential outlier, in relation to statistical neighbours, for the number of care leavers age 21+ that remain open to services. Going forward it is important to plan how services work with this cohort in order to assess vulnerability and risk, undertake more targeted work, having effective and informed pathways that enable safe and timely transition work and step down from services at the right time for each individual.

Reference was made to some of the positive action taken by the Council with the addition of care leavers as a protected characteristic category for equality impact and assessment when looking to mitigate negative impacts and outcomes at a local level.

Councillor Fairfoull and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The Virtual School, with a reporting of only one dedicated worker for care leavers.
- Concerns around outcomes for care leavers not in employment, education or training (NEET) – cross service and partnership working (public and private sectors).
- The social and health inequalities for care leavers – mental health and homelessness.
- The role and capacity of Personal Advisors given caseload numbers, growth in demand and how the new structure will support and improve this going forward.
- The areas in need of more target work and strengthening gaps in accommodation and housing.
- The choice and quality of accommodation made available to care leavers in Tameside.
- The Council's offer for care leavers and how to ensure this covers all young people placed outside the borough when it comes to accessing housing, education and employment options in different areas of the country.
- The systems and/or safeguards in place within the Council and housing partners that aim to reduce and remove a need for care leavers to present as homeless or access temporary accommodation.

Actions: That a working group is established to review the effectiveness of services and support for care leavers in Tameside. The Chair sought the interest of panel members and confirmed that the working group will consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Councillors Fitzpatrick, Howarth, Martin, McLaren.

12. CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

The Panel received an update on progress against indicators set within performance scorecards measuring Early Help and Children's Social Care outcomes.

13. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair presented the agreed Scrutiny Annual Work Programmes for 2023/24.

14. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised members that a meeting of the Executive with Scrutiny Chairs and the Chair of Overview took place on 22 June 2023, to discuss activity and plans for the year ahead.

The Scrutiny Annual Work Programme report is to be tabled at the next meeting of Overview Panel on 1 August 2023.

The Chair had recently visited Manchester Council to meet with the Scrutiny Chair and Executive Member for Children's Services.

15. 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.

16. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

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July 2023

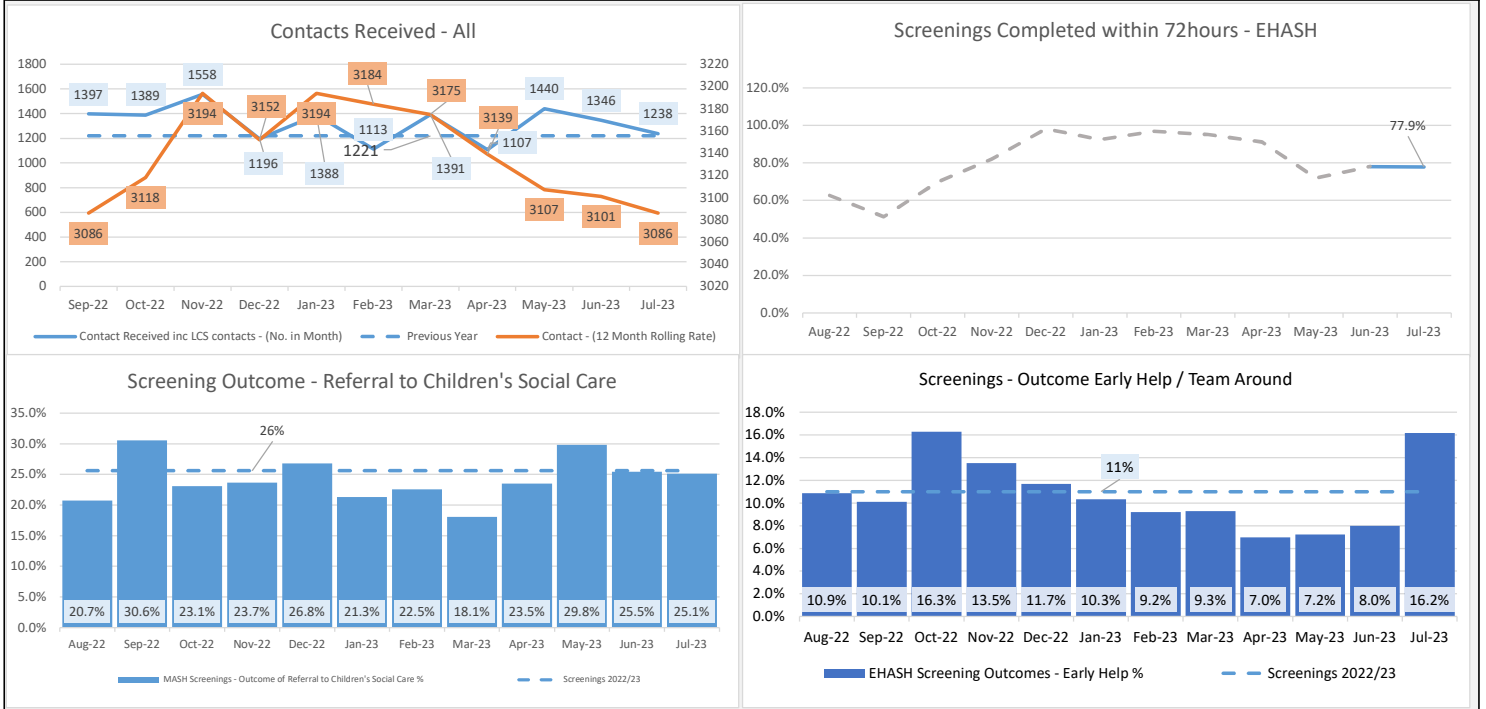
CHILDRENS SERVICES PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SCORECARD

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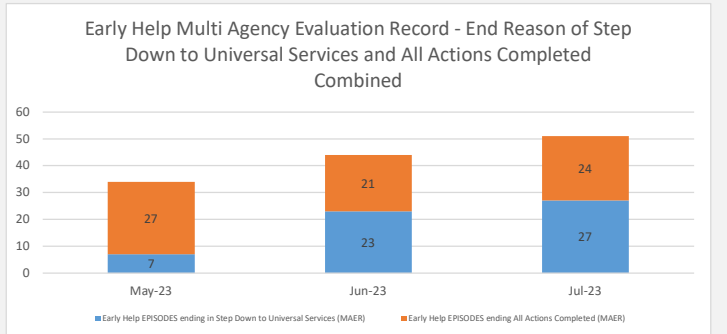
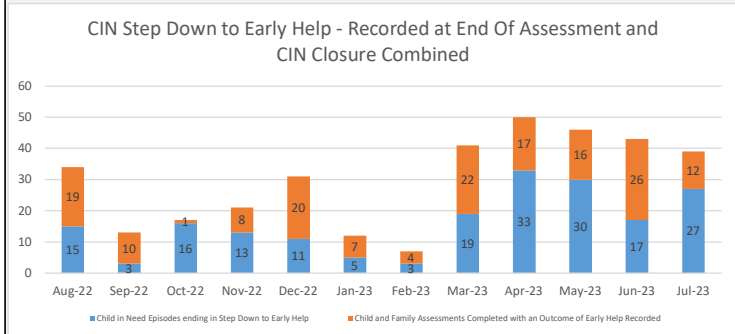
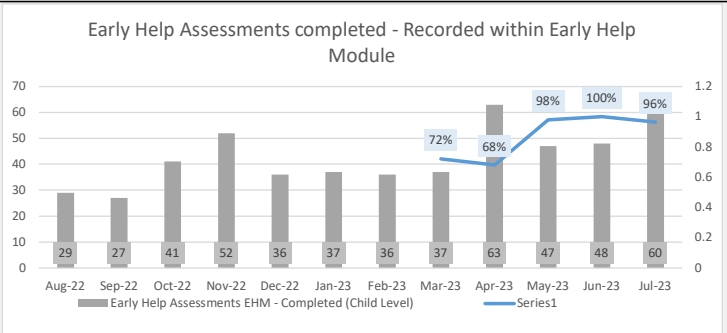
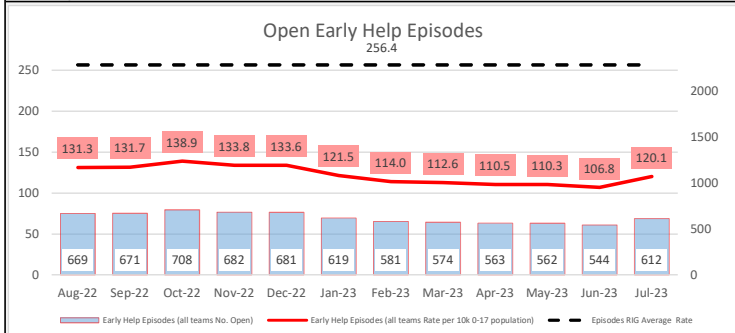
Agenda Item 5

Summary Performance Charts



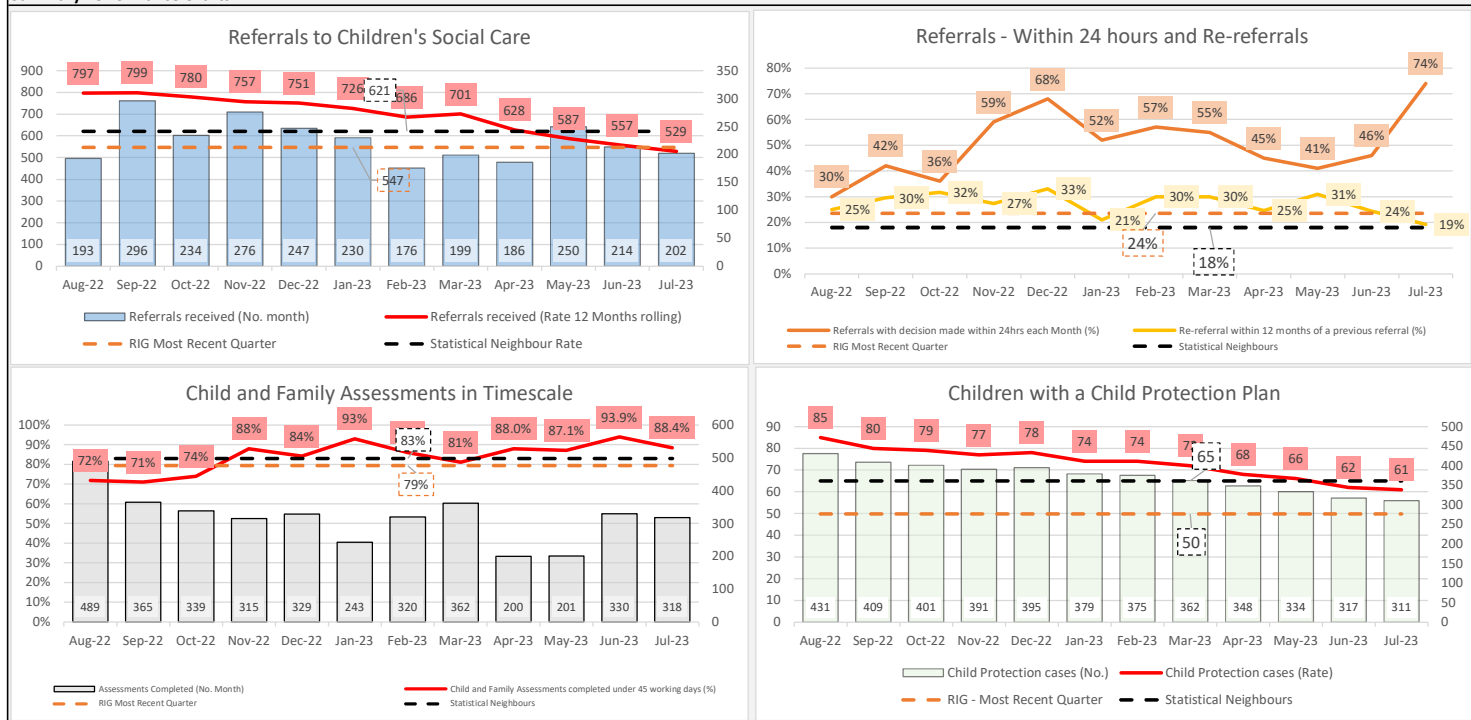
Ref	Indicator	Current	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average	North West Average	Statistical Neighbour Average	England Average	Direction of Travel
FD1	Contact Received inc LCS contacts - (No. in Month)	1238	1350						↓
FD2	Contact - (12 Month Rolling Rate)	3086	2732						↓
FD2a	EHASH Contact (No)	1224	1343						↓
FD2b	EHASH Contact Ending Prior to Screening (No)	347							↓
FD2c	EHASH Contact Ending Prior to Screening (%)	28%							↓
FD2d	Requests for Information Received	28							↓
FD2e	EHASH Screenings Completed	736							
FD2f	EHASH Screenings Completed within 72hrs	78%							
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)	15%	20%						
FD8b	Requests for Information Completed	20							
FD8c	EHASH Screening Outcomes - Referral to Children's Social Care %	25%	26%						
FD8d	EHASH Screening Outcomes - Early Help %	16%	11%						
FD8e	EHASH Screening Outcomes - Referral to Other Agency %	1%	13%						
FD8f	EHASH Screening Outcomes - Information and Advice %	57%	53%						
FD16	Domestic Abuse Notifications Received	200							

Summary Performance Charts



Ref.	Indicator	Current Performance	Previous Year	Target	Greater Manchester Average	North West Average	Statistical Neighbour Average	England Average	Direction of Travel
EH2	Early Help Episodes (all teams No. Open)	612	570						↑
EH3	Early Help Episodes (all teams Rate per 10k 0-17 population)	120.1	111.9						↑
EH6	Early Help Assessments (all agencies no open quarter)	Not Yet Available	602						
EH7	Early Help Assessments recorded within EHM - Open at month end Number	67	59						↑
EH9	Early Help Assessments EHM - Completed (Child Level)	60	34						↑
EH9a	Early Help Assessments Completed in Timescale 45 days % each month	96%							
EH10	Early Help Assessments ending in Step Up to Children's Social Care (Multi Agency Evaluation Record)	6	4						
EH10a	Early Help EPISODES ending in Step up to Childrens Social Care (Episode End Reson)	1							
EH10b	Early Help EPISODES ending in Step Down to Level 2 (MAER)	11							
EH10c	Early Help EPISODES ending in Step Down to Universal Services (MAER)	27							
EH10d	Early Help EPISODES ending All Actions Completed (MAER)	24							
EH11	Child in Need Episodes ending in Step Down to Early Help	27	9						
EH11a	Child and Family Assessments Completed with an Outcome of Early Help Recorded	12							

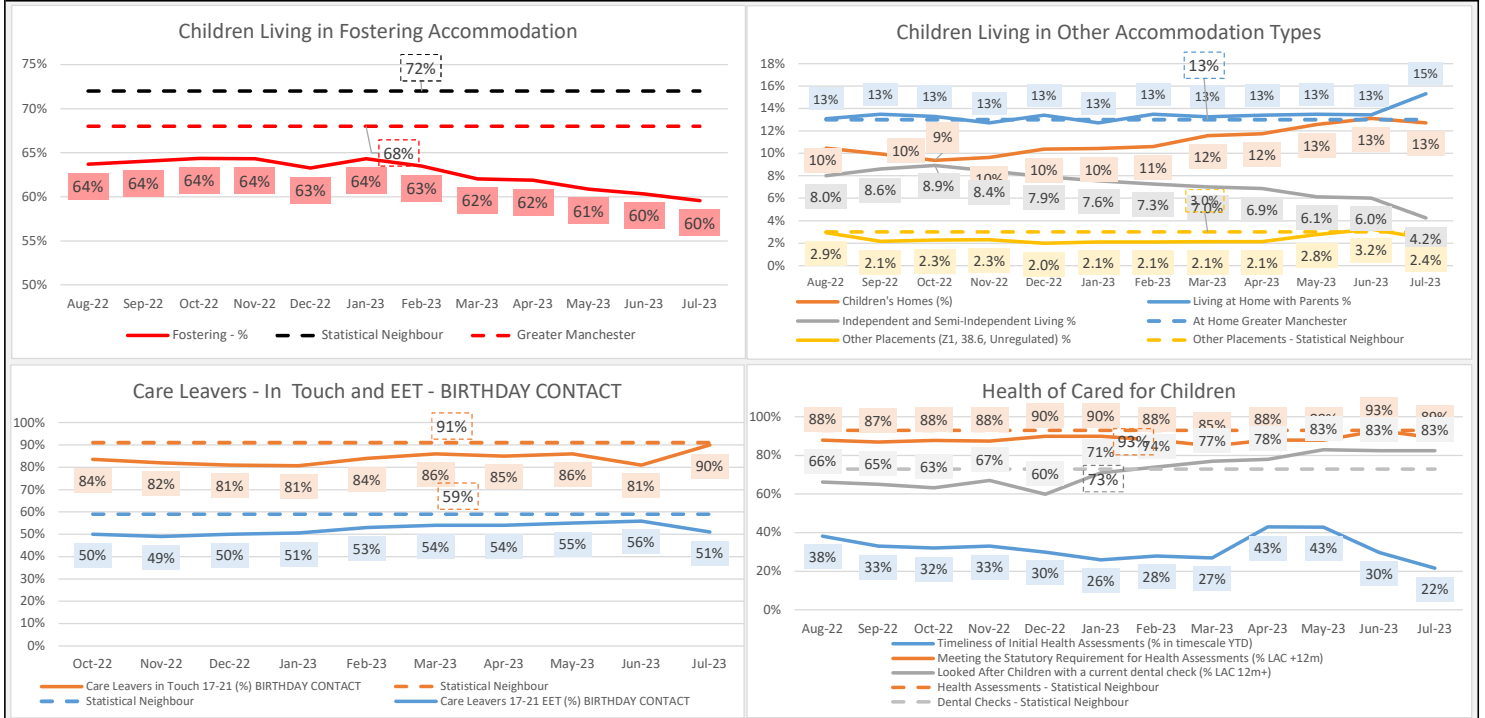
Summary Performance Charts



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)	202	280						↓
CIN2	Referrals received (Rate 12 Months rolling)	529	701	612	700	548	621	538	↓
CIN3	Referrals with decision made within 24hrs each Month (%)	74%	46%						↑
CIN4	Re-referral within 12 months of a previous referral (%)	19%	28%	20-24%	21%	21%	18%	20%	↓
CIN5	Referrals where a child was found to be not in Need after Assessment.	15%	30%	29%	24%	25%	25%	29%	↓
CIN6	Assessments Completed (No. Month)	318	383						
CIN7	Assessments Completed (12 Month Rolling Rate)	748.5	900		715	594	688	533	
CIN8	Child and Family Assessments completed under 45 working days (%)	88%	76%	85%	81%	81%	83%	84%	↑
CIN9	Strategy Meetings (No. Completed Month)	151	151						
CIN10	Strategy meetings (12 Month Rolling Rate)	331	353						
CIN10a	Strategy Meeting Attendance by Key Agency - Police (%)	100%							
CIN10b	Strategy Meeting Attendance by Key Agency - Health (%)	87%							
CIN10c	Strategy Meeting Attendance by Key Agency - Education (%)	86%							
CIN11	Strategy Meeting Outcome - S47 (% Month)	65%	74%						
CIN12	Strategy Meeting Outcomes-No Further Action (% Month)	29%	21%						
CIN13	Section 47s Completed (no. Month)	101	113						
CIN14	Section 47s Completed (12 Month Rolling Rate)	246	268		212	189	267	180	
CIN15	Section 47s Completed - % Conference Outcomes ICPC (YTD)	32%	39%		42%	41%	40%	38%	
CIN16	Child in Need Plan (No.)	392	513						
CIN17	Child In Need Reviews that were due completed in timescale (% YTD)	71%	74%	80%					
CIN18	Child Protection cases (No.)	311	348		281	246	326	211	
CIN19	Child Protection cases (Rate)	61	68		56	49	65	42	↓
CIN20	Child Protection - Statutory visits in timescale (% CP 1 Month+ with a visit within the last month)	90%		95%					↓
CIN21	Number of Times a Child was Reported Missing (No Month)	170	145						↑
CIN22	Number of Incidents where a Missing from Home Interview was Offered (by month end)	133							
CIN23	Missing incidents completed return home interview with 72hrs (No)	84							
CIN24	Number of Children with one or more missing incident each month	91	79						↑
CIN25	Complex Safeguarding - Referrals into the Complex Safeguarding Team (Quarterly)	32							

CIN26	Complex Safeguarding - Referrals into the Complex Safeguarding Team Closed NFA % (Quarterly)	50%	46%						
CIN27	Complex Safeguarding Team - Cases Open to Complex Safeguarding Team (Quarterly)	29	37						

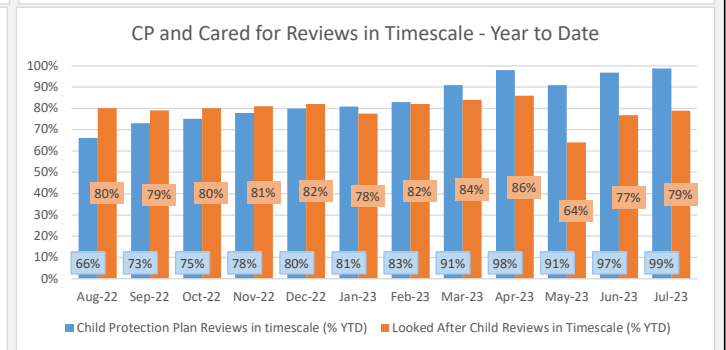
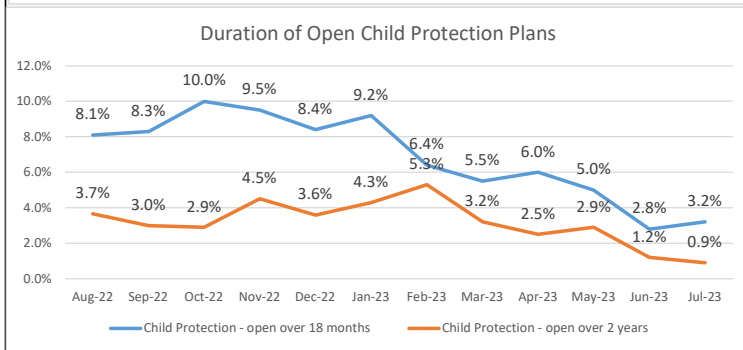
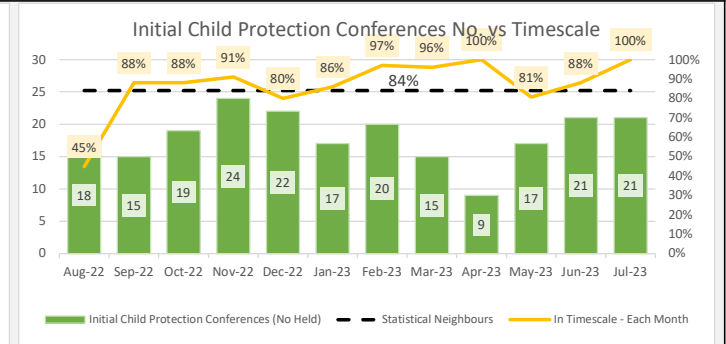
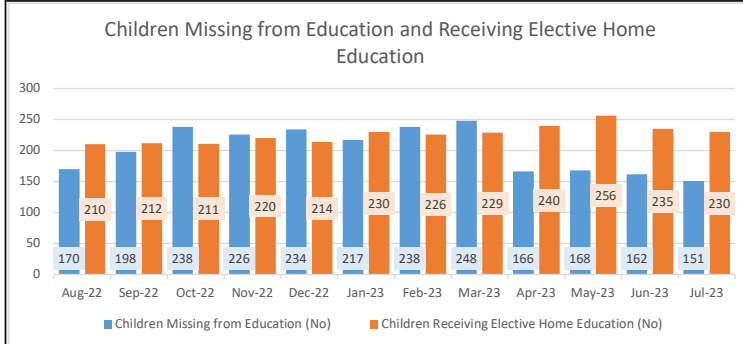
Summary Performance Charts



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.)	660	656	552	457	487	573	352	↑
CF2	Cared for Children (Rate)	130	131	110	91	97	114	70	↑
CF3	Cared for Children - Statutory Visits in Timescale (%)	78%	83%	90%					↑
CF4	Cared for Children with 3 or more placements in a 12 month period. (%)	10%	5.0%	<7%	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%	68%	73%	72%	72%	73%	71%	↔
CF6	Cared for Children subject to 3 or more changes of Social Worker in the last 12 months (%)	34%	29%	10%					↑
Where We Live									
CF7	Within Tameside (%)	58%	59%	>65%					↔
CF8	Fostering - No.	393	407		450	437	477	463	
CF9	Fostering - %	60%	62%	71%	68%	66%	72%	70%	↔
CF10	Placed for Adoption (No)	18	20		13	13	20	20	
CF11	Placed for Adoption (%)	2.7%	3.0%		2%	2%	3%	3%	
CF12	Living at Home with Parents No.	101	87		86	79	46	46	
CF13	Living at Home with Parents %	15%	13%	8%	13%	12%	7%	7%	↑
CF14	Children's Homes (No)	84	76						
CF15	Children's Homes (%)	13%	12%						↔
CF16	Independent and Semi-Independent Living No	28	46						
CF17	Independent and Semi-Independent Living %	4.2%	7.0%						
CF18	Secure Units No	1	3						
CF19	Other Placements (Z1, 38.6, Unregulated) No.	16	14		13	13	20	7	
CF20	Other Placements (Z1, 38.6, Unregulated) %	2.4%	2.1%		2%	2%	3%	1%	
Outcomes									
CF21	Timeliness of Initial Health Assessments (% in timescale YTD)	22%	27%						↓
CF22	Timeliness of Initial Health Assessments (% in timescale MONTH)	0%	27%						↓
CF23	Meeting the Statutory Requirement for Health Assessments (% LAC +12m)	89%	85%	96%	93%	92%	93%	89%	↑
CF25	Looked After Children with a current dental check (% LAC 12m+)	83%	77%	80%	69%	74%	73%	70%	↔
CF27	Looked After Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (%)	21%	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 (%)	86%	86%	93%	94%	95%	91%	93%	↔
CF30	Care Leavers in Touch 17-21 (%) BIRTHDAY CONTACT	90%	92%	93%	94%	95%	91%	93%	↑

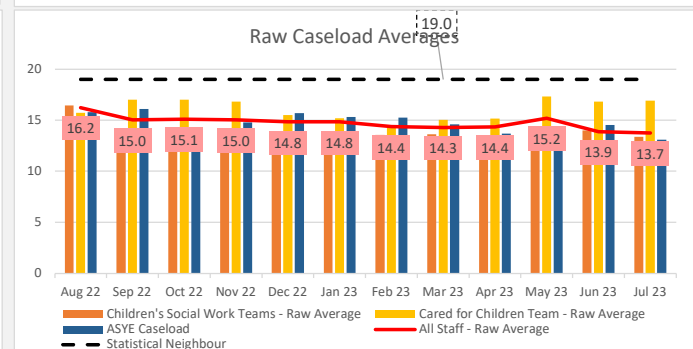
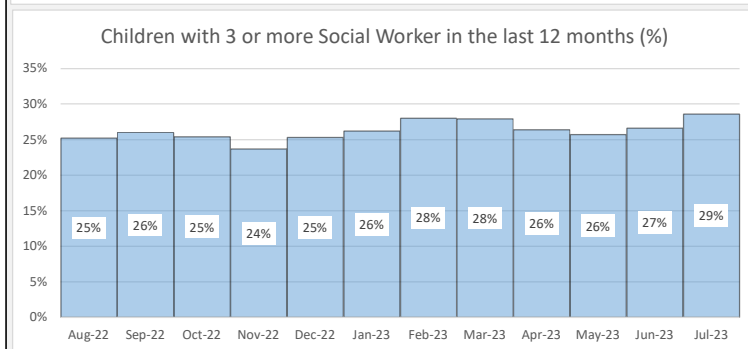
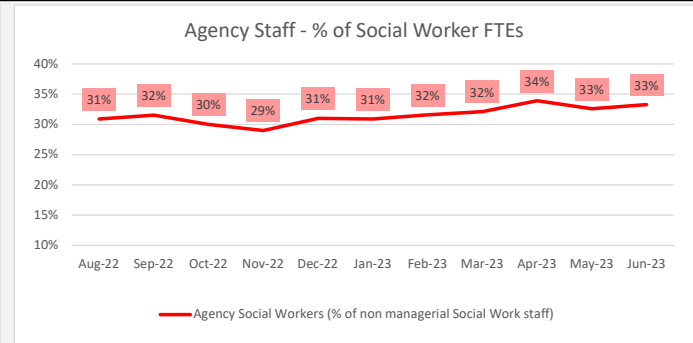
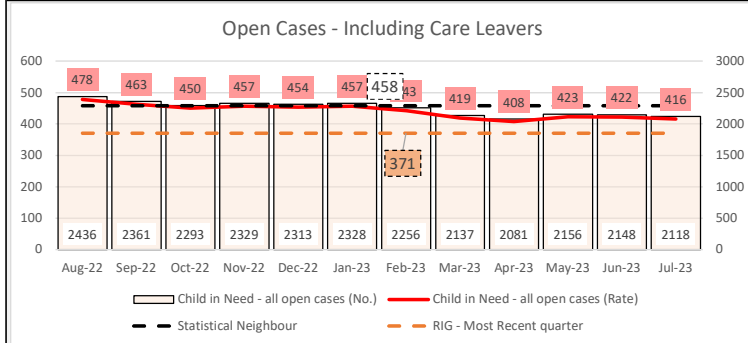
CF31	Care Leavers 17-21 EET (%) BIRTHDAY CONTACT	51%	54%	52%	55%	54%	59%	58%	↓
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Summary Performance Charts



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
SG1	Children Missing from Education (No)	151	248						↓
SG2	Children Receiving Elective Home Education (No)	230	229						↓
SG3	% of Children receiving Elective Home Education who are open to Children's Social Care	1.3%	2.2%						↔
SG4	Child in Need (all open cases) with a Education Health and Care Plan (%)	15%	15%						↑
SG5	Children with Initial Child Protection Conferences held under 15 Working Days (% YTD)	92%	72%	83%	81%	79%	84%	79%	↑
SG6	Children with Initial Child Protection Conferences held under 15 Working Days (% IN MONTH)	100%	72%						↑
SG7	Initial Child Protection Conferences (No Held)	21	18						
SG8	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Police	71%	59%						
SG9	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Health	95%	85%						
SG10	Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conference by Education	92%	77%						
SG11	Child Protection Plan Reviews in timescale (% YTD)	99%	86%	91%	87%	87%	89%	89%	↑
SG12	Child Protection Plan Reviews in timescale (% Each Month)	99%							
SG13	Child Protection - open over 18 months	3.2%	5.5%						↑
SG14	Child Protection - open over 2 years	1.3%	2.5%	2.1%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%	2.5%	↑
SG15	Looked After Child Reviews in Timescale (% YTD)	79%	87%	95%					↑
SG16	Audits completed (No Month)	Not Yet Available	11						
SG17	Audits completed (YTD)	Not Yet Available	132						
SG18	Audits rated good / outstanding (% YTD)	Not Yet Available	35%	45%					
SG19	Audits Requiring Improvement (% YTD)	Not Yet Available	52%						
SG20	Audits Inadequate (% YTD)	Not Yet Available	13%						

Summary Performance Charts



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.)	2118	2137	2175	2074	1929	2300	1677	↓
WF2	Child in Need - all open cases (Rate)	416	427	433	413	384	458	334	↓
WF3	Newly Qualified Social Worker on ASYE (% of Social workers FTE)	19%	20%						
WF4	Agency Social Workers (% of non managerial Social Work staff)	35%	32%	14-22%					
WF5	Children with 3 or more Social Worker in the last 12 months (%)	29%	28%	15%					↑
Caseloads									
WF6	All Staff - Raw Average	13.7	14.3	16-18					↓
WF8	All Social Work Teams - Highest Individual Caseload	24.0	40						↓
WF9	Children's Social Work Teams - Raw Average	13.4	13.6						↓
WF10	ISCAN - Raw Average	16.0	11.2						↔
WF11	Cared for Children Team - Raw Average	16.9	15						↑
WF12	Adoptions Team - Raw Average	5.2	5.5						↓
WF13	Leaving Care Team - Raw Average	29.6	-						↓
WF14	ASYE Caseload	13.1	14.6						↓

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