

20 December 2016

ITEM: 12

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Performance Dashboard

Wards and communities affected:

All

Key Decision:

To note Action Plan

Report of: Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care

Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter, Children's Social Care (CATO)

Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services

This report is Public

Executive Summary

This covering report introduces the Children's Social Care Dashboard. The Dashboard sets out to provide members of Children's Overview and Scrutiny with a range of performance data / measures for Children's Social Care. The Portfolio Holders for Education and Children's Social Care have established an Improvement Plan Overview Group to provide an additional layer of oversight and challenge. This is to ensure officers maintain high ambitions for the service and improvements are implemented with pace.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Children's Overview and Scrutiny consider if the current Dashboard covers the areas that the committee wishes to focus on and identifies any other areas for scrutiny.**
- 1.2 That Children's Overview and Scrutiny receive assurance as to the current functioning and performance of Children's Social Care.**
- 1.3 That Children's Overview and Scrutiny identify any areas that they would require a 'deep-dive' analysis of.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The attached report has been prepared following discussion with Children's Overview and Scrutiny. The Director of Children's Services proposed and members agreed that it would be useful to have detailed performance information in relation to Children's Social Care.**

2.2 The attached report is the first draft of the Dashboard and members are asked to consider if the information provided meets their requirements and what additional information or changes they would like.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Please see attached Dashboard.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

Members have a duty to ensure that children's social care services are performing well and safeguarding and promoting the welfare in their area. The performance dashboard is a key element in judging how well the service is delivering against its statutory requirements.

5. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

Ensuring the effective performance of Children's Social Care in protecting the vulnerable and promoting best outcomes, is a key priority for the Council.

Closely tracking performance will allow the Council to ensure best value and effective outcomes in meeting key statutory requirements.

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

It is vital that the Council understands current and future demand pressures and what these mean for the budget. An increase in demand pressures in Children's Social Care is generating a considerable overspend.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsay Marks**
Principal Solicitor, Children's Safeguarding

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide services to children in need of help and protection, failure to effectively do so could lead to legal challenges and reputational damage. Key performance indicators and accurate data allow the Council to monitor and ensure that it is appropriately discharging its statutory duties.

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Community Development Officer

The local authority and its partners must ensure that a range of services and provision is in place to protect children from all backgrounds. A focus on diversity within future Dashboards would be helpful.

6.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

N/A

7. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Performance Dashboard November 2016

8. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Performance Dashboard November 2016

Report Author:

Andrew Carter
Head of Service
Children's Social Care