

Children's Services 2021-22 Directorate Measures	Q2	Commentary
PI.432 Number of Looked After Children per 10,000 of the child population	86.6	<p>Performance: What is the data telling us? We had more children exiting care than those who entered care. During Quarter 2, 27 children entered the care system and 52 children exited care. 30 of these children turned 18. We have also increased the number whose carers have been granted Special Guardianship Orders – (9 children in total) compared to 2 in Q1). This is a significant improvement from the last quarter where we had less children exiting care. This means that we are progressing children's permanence timely.</p> <p>Impact: What are the issues/risks to service delivery? Improved performance has had a positive impact on children whose permanence plan is either SGO or reunification with their parents. Delays in court have a significant impact on the time it takes to discharge care orders. This delay is related to impact of covid-19 on the court hearings.</p> <p>Assurance: Provide evidence the actions in place are having an impact and explain what is working well. We are in track to reduce the number of children who have unnecessarily remained in care, longer than planned. We have recently filed SGO Applications in support of 15 children's carers. We are anticipating that 3 to 4 SGOs will be granted monthly. Feedback from children/young people and their carers is positive We continue to work with the courts to ensure that discharge of care orders is on track.</p>
PI.426 Timeliness of Single Assessments - % Completed Within 45 Working Days (Assessment service only)	90.3	<p>Performance: What is the data telling us? We have improved our completion rate for assessments within 45 working days by 12.7%. This means that 9/10 children are having their needs assessed in a timely way, enabling decisions to be made more quickly about how those needs should be met. We have introduced a new process for Team Manager oversight, meaning that decision making is taking place earlier and more frequently during the course of the assessment. This has enabled more assessments to be concluded more quickly.</p> <p>Impact: What are the issues/risks to service delivery? Too many assessments were remaining open even though work with the family had concluded, particularly for children who were being stepped down to Universal</p>

		<p>services. The new process for Team Manager oversight is ensuring that these assessments are concluded and that more of those remaining open are the children who are requiring more detailed assessment to understand their needs.</p> <p>Assurance: Provide evidence the actions in place are having an impact and explain what is working well. Improved and more timely Team Manager oversight is ensuring that more assessments are concluding in a timely way. Frequent monitoring will ensure that this process continues to be embedded well and continues to have positive impact.</p>
<p>PI.433 Number of children subject to child protection plan per 10,000 of the child population</p>	<p>37.5</p>	<p>Performance: What is the data telling us? In September our performance in this area was 37.5, in comparison to 36.4 in August 2021 & 34.2% in July 2021. Our figures in this area have shown a small increase for 3 consecutive months. These figures remain below the Regional average of 47.3 per 10,000 of the child population. The following strategies have contributed to this position: The introduction of CP progression panels for children subject to plans over 9 months has helped us to understand why children remained subject to Child Protection plans. It has also helped us to work with the child/family and wider professional networks to determine if a child protection plan is, or has been, effective in reducing risk. Independent reviewing officers and social workers are using their SMART plans training and Assessment Training to help write plans, reports and minutes in language which makes sense to everyone.</p> <p>A key cohort of the children subject of Child Protection Plans over 9 months were young people at risk of exploitation. The roll out of the contextualised safeguarding hub and “My Safety Plans” has helped to provide more specialist intervention to young people exposed to risk due to extra familial abuse.</p> <p>There has been a continued trend in reduction of children subject to CP plans for a period longer than 9 months. In July 66 young people had been subject of a CP plan for 9 months, In August, it was 75 young people and in September it was 58 young people.</p> <p>The introduction of a pre ICPC threshold discussions with the Duty IRO and Social Worker have helped social workers to consider the threshold of risk to</p>

	<p>determine if the Child Protection threshold was met. Following the introduction of the consultations, there has been a decrease in the number of plans starting and then ending at the first CP review.</p> <p>Impact: What are the issues/risks to service delivery?</p> <p>Our data shows that we are continuing to maintain a responsive service to risk assessment and risk planning in Child Protection. Our key performance indicators in children subject to a second CP plan ever or subsequent or second CP plan in a two year period remains stable, and below our regional and statistical neighbours.</p> <p>A raise in these performance indicators could suggest that the reduction in the number of children subject to CP plans per 10,000 was due to premature ending of plans.</p> <p>Risk:</p> <p>A sudden rise in children subject to child protection plans would mean children and young people in Dudley do not have appropriate professional support in place. A sudden rise in the number of children subject to a CP plan, could impact on the allocation of social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's).</p> <p>Our sustained levels of CP population per 10,000, remains well below the regional and national average. These KPI's have not risen sharply following the re-opening of schools or nurseries. This suggests our current activity and multi-agency working is helping to offer young people the right support, on the right plan, at the right time.</p> <p>Assurance: Provide evidence the actions in place are having an impact and explain what is working well.</p> <p>The S&R service managers have been reviewing the number of CP plans ending within a 3 month period to determine if the threshold discussions taking place before an ICPC are impacting on the decision on whether the CP threshold is met. Below is a data comparison for the period before and after the introduction of the threshold discussion.</p> <p>For period Aug 2020 – January 2021:</p>
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		<p>All CP plans ended within period 287 No. CP plans ended within 3 months of ICPC/CP start date 54 % CP plans ended within 3 months of ICPC/CP start date 18.8%</p> <p>For period Feb 2021 – July 2021: All CP plans ended within period 247 No. CP plans ended within 3 months of ICPC/CP start date 33 % CP plans ended within 3 months of ICPC/CP start date 13.4%</p> <p>The above data shows there is a 5.4% reduction in the number of children being subject of a child protection plan for a 3 month period.</p> <p>Young people who have been at risk of extra familial exploitation are now receiving tailored support from a multi-disciplinary approach to risk management. The contextual safeguarding hub are continuing to work in partnership with Young People and their families to evaluate the impact of family led intervention on their outcomes.</p> <p>The IRO service have redesigned their consultation documents and leaflets for parents, children and young people to help improve understanding of the reason why a multi-agency plan is needed and ensure families have a lead role in understanding and implementing the plan, through family led decision making. The organisation are embracing Restorative Practice and the IRO's are leading the way through restorative consultations and restorative conferencing.</p> <p>The IRO Service Managers and IRO's are completing peer audits and supervision to evaluate the impact of our practice on outcomes for children and families. Feedback from Children and Families is part of this process and our learning from audits and peer supervision is embedded in our service development plan.</p>
PI.2129 % of eligible children who take up a 'Time for Two's' place in the Dudley Borough	77.7	<p>Performance: What is the data telling us? Take up 77.67%</p> <p>98.80% of applications approved against DWP target.</p>

		<p>Impact: What are the issues/risks to service delivery? More applications approved than families taking up the offer. A focus on those families to identify why they are not using childcare and education provided for 2 year olds.</p> <p>Assurance: Provide evidence the actions in place are having an impact and explain what is working well. Discussions with relevant team members, to initiate 2 minute videos on website about 2 year offer and other promotional materials. Ensure all Team members and partners are promoting.</p>
<p>PI.2250 % of closed Early Help Cases that were not open to Level 4 Services less than 6 months after closure</p>	<p>91.8</p>	<p>Performance: What is the data telling us? Family Support effectiveness is measured by the percentage of cases that received an Early Help Intervention (Early Help Family Plan) and were closed in the last 12 months, and then were not referred for a Level 4 intervention in the following 6 months after closure (Social Care referral). A total of 3,505 cases were closed in the past 12 months, of which 3,222 (92%) were not referred to Level 4 services.</p> <p>Impact: What are the issues/risks to service delivery? This data shows that the right intervention at the right time enables de-escalation of concerns with 92% of all families that Family Support works alongside. It shows that the strength of Early Help Assessments and Family Support Plans enables a targeted approach to support families to build resilience and engage with universal services.</p> <p>Assurance: Provide evidence the actions in place are having an impact and explain what is working well. Targeted audits in November 2021 on the 8% referred to Social Care will begin the journey of a deeper understanding of features that lead to the referral and will enable a plan to improve on this 92%.</p>