

Areas of concern / potential Concern

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Repeat Referrals into Children's Social Care within 12 months



Care Proceedings on Track to be Completed within Timescale



Volumetric - Non-contractual Measures

Contacts into Children's Social Care



Number and rate of Children in Need



Measure and performance	DMBC Response	DCST Comment
<p>A1 Re-referrals in the last 12 months</p> <p>Q2 = 27%</p> <p>Target: 22% Tolerance: 28%</p>	<p>The Story Behind the Data: A significant number of the re-referrals fail to meet the threshold for social care statutory intervention, which could be a cultural legacy of risk aversion - the conversion rate to single assessment is very high (96%) but those cases which convert from assessment to statutory services is low. Of those which do require intervention most are Children in Need cases.</p> <p>The Trust has been dip sampling in an attempt to analyse step downs at 1st referral and suggests that two causal factors:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > referrals which are stepped down to Multi-agency Early Help and single agencies which do not receive adequate or any intervention; > South Yorkshire Police Force referrals; <p>The Trust commentary identifies that a number of the re-referrals stepped down for Early Help services subsequently became re-referred within the same month and as the Trust states, further analysis is required to better understand the flows and transitions within the system. DMBC officers are triangulating data from the Early help Module To better understand the flows and pinch points.</p> <p>What is happening next:</p> <p>The proportion of cases stepped down from Social Care to Early Help services which subsequently become subject to a re-referral to Social Care, is subject to data clarification by officers of the Council and the Trust.</p> <p>The rate of re-referrals remains a concern,</p>	<p>Re-referral rates have increased slightly this quarter, within tolerance, with very little variability in the quarter. The average number of referrals reduced over the last 6 months in comparison to the same period in the previous year, yet the average number of re-referrals has remained the same. Approximately one third of re-referrals originate from the police, impacting on the rate and requiring intervention that then returns within 12 months. As new processes in EHM and LCS step up/down are embedded, we can better track the journey of a child in the case management system. New analysis demonstrates that 29% of the re-referrals in this quarter have been stepped down for Early Help services in the last 12 months, and last month 46% of the cases stepped down have stepped back up to social care within the same month. Further analysis is required to understand the Early Help offer and the reason why cases are returning back to Social Care so quickly after being safely de-escalated to Early Help. 14% of referrals which have not previously stepped down have evidence of prior multi-agency Early Help intervention before stepping up as a referral to Social Care but only 7% of these cases have had a 'reviewed' Early Help plan before being stepped up. If this rate were to increase, it is likely to positively impact on referral and re-referral rate.</p>
<p>A4 % of Children Seen within Appropriate Timescales (to include CiN, CPP, CiC)</p> <p>Q2 = 74%</p> <p>Target: 80%</p>	<p>The Story Behind the Data: The Trust advises that Children in Need are being seen, but that this is a recording issue. The Trust reports that based on case notes 79% of Children in Need have been visited, but have not been recorded on the system. A Children in Need case working group is progressing improvement and has shown an improvement of 6% since Q1. However, the Trust also reports a reduction in Children in Care and Child protection Plan visits which is being investigated again recording irregularities are suggested but this is potentially more serious, if it visits are not happening.</p>	<p>Performance for this measure has increased to 74%, now 1% below tolerance, increasing from 70%. There is some variation between each of the cohorts with timeliness for CiC visits in September at 80%, CPP 83%, Dual Registered 76% and CiN 66%. Following the sampling of CiN cases a working group has been formed and CiN visits rationalised to ensure that the recording of case contacts are accurate in LCS, further processes have been implemented across all area teams ensuring that a child must be seen and recorded within 5 days from the start of the initial C&F and then follow the routine visit of four weeks. This has already started to impact on the % of CiN visits in timescale</p>

	<p>What is happening next:</p> <p>The practice standard for visits is usually 4 – 6 weeks and there is a statutory prescription to be met in respect of children in care. Of equal importance is that children are seen alone and that the agreed frequency of visits meets practice standards and those agreed within individual plans. The issue of accurate and timely recording in respect of Children in Need visits (which are important but the lowest and least crucial has been raised and will be at all Joint Finance and Performance meetings. It is important that Children in Need are seen (which we are assured is the case) but also that this is recorded and it is these standards that must improve.</p>	<p>which has now increased by 6% from the previous quarter. When looking across all case note types we can evidence that 79% of CiN were seen within timescale, putting performance within tolerance but further work is required to embed the accuracy of recording case note types for reporting purposes to support this measure. Further investigation needs to be undertaken to understand why CiC and CPP visits have reduced, initial analysis has shown that there are some CiC which have ended but not recorded on LCS, which has a slight impact of 1% increase on the timeliness of CiC visits.</p>
<p>B8 % of care proceedings on track to be completed within 26 weeks</p> <p>Q2 = 70%</p> <p>Target: 90%</p>	<p>A decline in performance in Q2 adrift of target and tolerance. A small number of cases can easily skew this measure which means that it can slip into and out of tolerance according to case complexity and the Trust reports that the volume of cases is having a deleterious effect on performance. The Trust has been challenged on this measure and the Trust is monitoring the situation and taking action to ensure there is no drift and delay. Although this is a local measure, There is a national proxy measure which does show comparable timeliness with the national average. The Trust reports an approved restructure of its legal services to increase capacity effective from November 2018. The Trust reports that delays are due in large part to Courts not listing cases within the 26 week target where cases are still progressing through the Issues Resolution Hearing stage - this is a national trend reflected in Ministry of Justice data and is within a context of rising numbers of Children in Care.</p>	<p>Timeliness has decreased and below tolerance. 147 of the 210 cases currently in proceedings are on track to complete.</p> <p>The trend of the number of cases in proceedings is increasing month on month from 163 in September 2017 to 210 at the end of this quarter, an increase of 28%. The average number of cases in proceedings over the last 6 months has increased to 195 in comparison to 154 for the same period in the previous year. Although the percentage of cases on track to complete in 26 weeks has decreased this quarter, the actual average number of weeks in proceedings for these cases is still below the target at 22 weeks. To support the increase of cases the Trust Board has approved the proposed restructure in Legal to increase capacity, this will take place in November. Initial investigation demonstrates that there are delays due to the Courts not listing hearings within the 26 weeks where cases have not concluded at the IRH (Issues Resolution Hearing) this is also supported in Children and Young People Now, dated 2nd October where it states; 'Ministry of Justice family court data shows it took 30 weeks to dispose of a care or supervision case during April to June this year. This is two weeks longer than the same quarter in 2017 and the highest average since 2014', 'But from April to June this year, just 48 per cent of cases were disposed of within this target, which is down eight percentage points over the same period in 2017'. 'The increase in the average length of care proceedings comes as the number of children in care rises at its fastest rate in five years'.</p>
<p>FO1 Youth offending services - % currently EET</p>	<p>A decline for the third successive quarter, below target but within tolerance from what was previously consistently good performance. The Youth Offending Service management Board has agreed a new and</p>	<p>Increase of 10%. In tolerance. There is a wide variation in this measure due to changing cohort size. The Youth Offending service Management Board has agreed a new and challenging target to increase by</p>

<p>Q2 = 84%</p> <p>Target: 90%</p>	<p>challenging target to increase performance by the end of 2018/19.</p> <p>As the Trust states, cohort size is a factor which will skew values, that said</p>	<p>15% by the end of 2018/19. At the end of this quarter 16 of the 19 Young Offenders were in Education, this has increased performance by 10% on last quarter and increased by 11% since quarter 4 2017/18, now only 4% below the Youth offending service Management Target. The Youth Offending Service has a particularly strong Education Employment & Training offer for both school-age and post-16 young people. Strong links exist with local secondary schools and academies, Doncaster College and Wetherby Young Offenders Institution. In order to advocate on behalf of some of our more challenging young people, the YOS Education Co-ordinator is a standing member of the secondary inclusion panel and the Head of Service sits on the strategic education board.</p>
<p>E1</p> <p><i>Volumetric measure</i></p> <p>1898 (Q2 average)</p>	<p>Contacts remain high and have increased further in Q2. This is explicable due to high need in the community, a proportion of which is appropriate for service whether this be social care; Early Help or single agency intervention; however, a substantial proportion is not appropriate for any intervention.</p> <p>As previously identified there is a recognised need to improve engagement across the Early Help partnership including engagement by identified Lead Practitioners. Practitioners exhibit high caseloads which also compromise the effectiveness of the Early Help offer. There is also evidence of a fundamental misunderstanding of the Lead Practitioner role amongst some partners and concerns as to the capacity to undertake what is perceived to be an 'add on' to the 'day job'. There is an identified problem of Early Help cases not being picked up by Lead Practitioners, which are then becoming additions to the waiting list</p> <p>Mitigating actions: The Early Help Strategy Group continues to carry out work to investigate and seek solutions to the Early Help threshold and Lead Practitioner engagement issues identified above. A meeting has been held with Directors of academy chains to improve understanding and functionality of the Early Help offer.</p> <p>Continuous work with Health Visitors is taking place so as to improve participation with the Lead Practitioner role and there is evidence of progress being made.</p> <p>More fundamentally, the Children's Strategic Partnership will continue to work via engagement with our improvement partners, the Innovation Unit to achieve a better understanding of the tracking and progress mapping of young people within the system and embed a consistent and</p>	<p>n/a</p>

	<p>coherent shared understanding of the early help offer and more generally the children's offer across the whole spectrum of the children's system from 'universal to acute.'</p> <p>The interface of Social Care with the Early Help Hub is important. Analysis shows that 23.3% (20% in Q2) of cases which receive Social Care assessment and Social Care intervention are referred to the Early Help Hub (step downs) and a further 131 enquires to the Multi-agency Early Help Hub emanate from Social Care contacts which don't proceed to either assessment or Social Care intervention. This represents just 9.8% of the total average for contacts to social care in Q2.</p> <p>It is interesting that this latter figure has not wavered greatly over the previous quarters, which suggests that very few of those cases which do not proceed to assessment or Social Care intervention are proceeding to Early Help.</p>	
<p>E34 and 35</p> <p><i>Volumetric measure</i></p> <p>Number and rate of Children in need</p> <p>1677 396 (Q2 average)</p>	<p>Although the Q2 value has fallen, numbers remain above national and regional averages but below the statistical neighbour average. This fall may at least in part, be attributable to increased take up of single agency Early Help. It is far too early to infer this as a trend though. Children in Need plans are timely so there is no evidence of drift and delay in the system. The recorded primary need in Doncaster is 'abuse or neglect' which is considerably higher than all other benchmarks. Much of this reflects need in the community and the ongoing demand pressures at the social care front door.</p>	
<p>E18 and 19</p> <p><i>Volumetric measure</i></p> <p>Number and rate of CiC</p> <p>(589 / 89) Q2 Average</p>	<p>The rate and number show a disappointing increase in Q2 and remains among the highest in the region. The causes can be attributed to risk aversion; inappropriate application of thresholds; high need within the system or poor adoption performance. There is little evidence of the former. Although adoption performance has declined in the most recent figures. The Ofsted report provided some assurance but there is no sign of the trend of increasing numbers being reversed. The Trust cites robust appropriate transition of Child Protection Plans and the practice of the Family Court which is capturing children within this definition who would otherwise have been classified as Special Guardianship Orders.</p>	