

## Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Wards: All

### Subject:

Lead officer: Jane McSherry, Director of Children, Schools and Families

Lead member: Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Contact officer: Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships

### Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report summarises the performance information for 2021/22, up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for quarterly indicators, and up to August 2021 for monthly indicators, as set out in the accompanying document, the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Index 2021/22.

## 2 DETAILS

### *Exception Report*

2.1. The following indicators are marked as amber or red.

No	Indicator	Rating	Service Commentary
2	% of Single Assessments authorised within 45 days	R	The rate of assessments completed within 45 days has declined at a time when contacts and referrals to social care have increased.  The rate remains higher than national and regional averages.
16	Average number of weeks taken to complete Care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks.	R	We always strive to meet the nationally set target of 26 weeks. Due to small number of children in proceedings in Merton, delays with one family can skew our figures.  Nationally, the duration of care proceedings has increased. This is a result of court closures during the

			<p>pandemic. As lock-down eases, we should see this having an impact.</p> <p>Whilst above the nationally set target of 26 weeks, Merton's performance in Q1 (2021/22) is slightly better than the national average (44 weeks).</p>
22	Number of in-house foster carers recruited	R	See commentary below.

### **Commentary**

- 2.2. In addition, the following indicators, whilst not target indicators, will be of particular note to the scrutiny panel.

*Looked after children participating in their reviews (excludes children 0-4) (Indicator 18)*

- 2.3. We have seen a reduction in this indicator in August. This follows seasonal patterns as a number of children are away during August. We would expect this indicator to rise again in September and beyond, and will keep this under review.

*Number of in-house foster carers recruited*

- 2.4. Whilst we have appointed 1 new foster carer in Q1, this masks the wider success of our foster recruitment work. We received a total of 27 new applications. We have made 6 initial visits and 11 assessments are ongoing. We expect to see an increase in the number of approvals shortly.

### **Amendments, Corrections and Data Caveats**

- 2.5. Current system configuration and data recording issues in our social care reporting system Mosaic have an impact on our ability to report performance against some of the indicators effectively. This does not mean that the department is unable to monitor performance.

- 2.6. We are currently not able to report accurately against the following indicators:

Indicator Number	Descriptor	Commentary
8	% of quorate attendance at child protection conferences	<p>Data reporting is currently unreliable. The way in which Mosaic is currently configured does not allow an easy analysis of quoracy.</p> <p>The QA and Practice Development Team review quoracy as part of their service.</p>
19	Stability of placements of Looked After Children – number of placements (3 or more in the year)	<p>Our automated calculations have not matched manual calculations undertaken by the service.</p> <p>We are in the process of reviewing existing reports and formula to ensure accuracy.</p>
20	Placement Stability – Looked After Children (aged 16+):length of placement (in care 2.5years, placement 2 years)	<p>Our automated calculations have not matched manual calculations undertaken by the service.</p> <p>We are in the process of reviewing existing reports and formula to ensure accuracy.</p>

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**APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Index 2020/21.

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