

Children's Services Improvement and Social Care Performance Measures Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

1.1 That the Children's Scrutiny Committee be asked to:

- (a) Note and comment on the contents of the performance report provided to the March 2025 meeting of the Improvement Partnership Board (see Appendix A)

2) Background / Introduction

2.1 The Children's Services Improvement Partnership Board monitors the implementation of the Social Care Improvement Plan at its monthly meetings. This includes consideration of the key performance measures agreed for the Children's Services Improvement Plan 2025.

2.2 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the attached performance report that was discussed by the Improvement Partnership Board on 4th March 2025.

3) Main Body / Proposal

3.1 The Improvement Partnership Board (IPB) is responsible for overseeing improvements in Children's Services. In December 2024, the IPB agreed a new format for the presentation of performance data and subsequently the key performance indicators (KPIs) by which improvement in performance will be measured,

3.2 The attached report is set out in the new format. Slide 3 sets out the 19 KPIs agreed by the IPB (the definitions of each of these indicators are set out in slide 27). The KPIs highlighted are those where there had been an update to the indicator:

- KPI 6 – the data presented now relates to children subject to a second or subsequent child protection plan within the last 2 years rather than “ever” as had previously been reported. This change was made in order that comparisons can be made with published data from other local authorities.
- KPI 11 – the data presented now relates to the completion of initial health assessments for children looked after rather than “health assessments up to

date” and highlights the importance of monitoring the health of children as soon as they enter the councils’ care.

- KPI 15 – now reports positively on the completion of supervision rather than negatively on children where supervision is overdue.

- 3.3 Slide 4 of the report sets out the response to changes / updates to the performance report requested by the IPB. This includes providing information about the percentage of children looked after placed in Devon or the surrounding local authorities; information about the health of children looked after and the work of the DCC / Health Children In Care Health Improvement Task and Finish Group; the addition of a new indicator for the timeliness of strategy meetings, once a new action has been added to the Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 Slides 6 to 24 set out the key performance indicators with a commentary from the managers responsible for the relevant area of the service. The data and the commentary indicate where further improvements are required or more work to understand the reasons for performance not demonstrating the required improvement.
- 3.5 Slides 28 to 31 contain the full set of performance indicators referenced in the improvement plan and reported to the IPB. Where indicators are reported as a percentage or a rate per 10,000, the underlying calculations are shown in these tables.

4) Options / Alternatives

- 4.1 The KPIs and the underlying data set contained within the attached reports is that which has been agreed by the Improvement Partnership Board.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6) Strategic Plan

- 6.1 The Improvement Partnership Board is overseeing the work to bring about improvements to children’s social care services in Devon. This aligns to the Council’s Strategic plan:
- Be ambitious for children and young people.

7) Financial Considerations

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

8) Legal Considerations

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising out of this report.

10) Equality Considerations

10.1 There are no equality implications arising out of this report.

11) Risk Management Considerations

11.1 No risks have been identified.

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

12.1 Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to review and comment on the attached reports.

Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures: Julian Wooster

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Steve Liddicott

Telephone: 01392 380364

Address: County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD