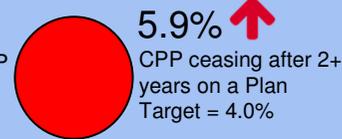
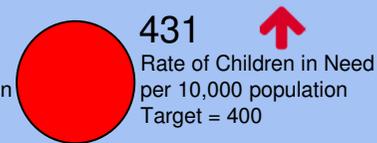
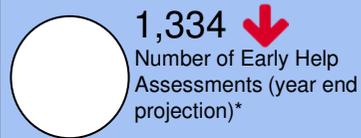


Presentation to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 2nd December 2020

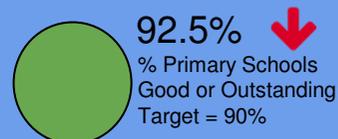
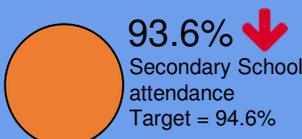
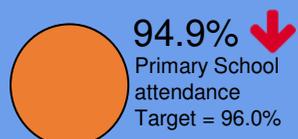
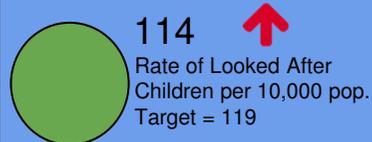
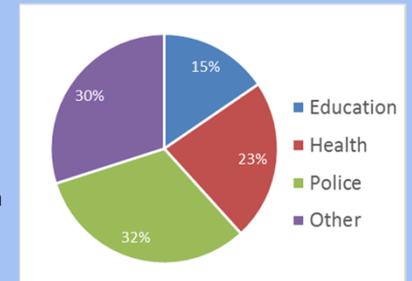
Children and Education Services Proxy Indicators March 2020 - October 2020

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Early Help referrals by agency



Key Arrow colour denotes improving or deteriorating performance compared to previous period Circle colour denotes whether performance is better than target quoted, amber is within 2% of target.

Proxy indicators

- Scrutiny committee agreed the attached proxy indicators in 2017, there has been two previous presentations on these indicators; November 2018 and August 2019 .
- This presentation, whilst drawing on the performance in October 2020, will also draw on the data presented to scrutiny in 2018 and 2019. The presentation will also refer to selective datasets that enables comparators with other local authorities /group of authorities.
- There are a number areas of performance that are red, there are a number of reasons for this which are detailed in the explanation of performance against each indicator however performance has been impacted in three broad areas ;

Proxy indicators

- A change to a more accurate form of capturing the data , some targets are stretch targets to be achieved over a three -year period from 2018 and some performance has been negatively impacted upon by COVID19 ; combined these produce mixed performance set against our targets
- Quantitative data is primarily reported through the monthly performance framework which tracks the social care service performance against targets across a range of indicators with a capacity to project year end data
- Qualitative performance is principally reported through our quality assurance framework , professional supervision , external agencies, peer review and a number of other in-house activities
- Both are driven by our strategies, continuous improvement self-challenge and political scrutiny.

Children's services -Data collection changes

- Data collection systems in early help has recently changed, the current report shows only early help assessments completed by partners it does not, as yet, account for assessments completed by early help practitioners which are currently on the ONE system. This will be picked up as part of the EYES implementation.
- We are beginning to see a trend of increased requests for early help assessments driven by both the social and economic impacts of the pandemic and relate to assistance with parenting and mental health wellbeing.
- The data collection process for performance of permanence plans at the second review has also changed . With the move to Liquid Logic we have refined the method of gathering the data, which in turn assists the service to focus on improving management oversight in this area of practice which in turn assist us deliver improved outcomes for children.

Children's services

- Referrals to social care, which were historically the highest in the country, are well below the target which has resulted from a service redesign at the front door. This service has recently been the subject of a peer review by Leeds City Council.
- The rate of children in need is higher than target , this is offset by decreasing numbers of children subject to a children protection plan and stabilised rates of children becoming looked after - this supports our strategic intention.
- Using the proxy indicators data presented to scrutiny over the last 3 years the number of children in need is marginally higher than the current performance target for this indicator. The current performance is better than our statistical neighbours but poorer than other comparators .

Children's services

- The number of children requiring a child protection plan is below target, this supports a downward trend in children requiring this form of support over the three -year *point in time* analysis and is indicative of increased confidence in managing risk. The rate of children requiring this form of support is lower than statistical neighbours, North West local authorities and Core Cities .
- The number of children required to become subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time is slightly above target; this performance is impacted by the reduction in overall numbers of children requiring a child protection intervention, as we become more proportionate in our planning, which in turn leads to a higher percentage rate . The overall numbers of children becoming subject to child protection planning for a second or subsequent time in October was 9 .

Childrens services

- Our projected year end performance indicates a marginally higher rate of children requiring a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time compared to other data sets
- Although small in number (10 in October) children subject to a child protection plan 2 years plus is above target , the three- year trend is variable in this indicator with our analysis of this performance indicating a range of practice complexities influencing performance against this indicator; analysis against comparator data indicates this is an area we require to focus on.

Children's services

- Child protection visits in timescales is below target but remains strong at 90.9%, we believe Covid 19 has impacted on this performance and is poorer than the last two years providing a three-year average of 95.2% child protection visits being on time. Each late visit is accounted for through use of business objects and discussions with practitioners.
- Like the majority of local authorities our rate of looked after children has increased in this three- year *point in time* snapshot however unlike most authorities our rate of looked after children has been stable and below target since April 2020; we believe this is due to improved planning supported by our drive for permanency at the earliest opportunity and a highly effective edge of care offer.

Children's services

- As indicated the method for collecting data measuring a permanence plan by the second review has changed providing a better indicator of this aspect of practice which given the performance requires improvement. This is one measure of our desire to ensure permanence for children is achieved at the earliest opportunity.
- The average caseloads for social workers has shown an increasing trend since September as we recover from lockdown. The average caseload held by newly qualified workers has decreased in the same time frame, this is in part explained by the increase in the number of newly qualified workers in the service following our recent recruitment drive. Both show an increase compared to the comparator dates in 2018 and 2019. Our refreshed recruitment campaign hopes to secure staff at both grades.

Childrens services

- The number of first - time entrants into the youth justice system is lower than target, principally driven by our approach out of court work
- For children's overall there is a mixed performance against targets, our attention to performance management remains a key plank of progression however they also require to set in the context of COVID 19 , our self-assessment of areas of practice that require improvement, our mechanisms to support practice and outcomes and our approach to ensuring children get the right help at the right time by the right person .

Education

- The scorecard reflects the impact of Coronavirus on all aspects of Manchester's school system.
- Ofsted Inspections were halted in March 2020. Although 8 schools and settings have had a visit from Ofsted since September these have not resulted in any change to the Ofsted rating and have generally reflected positively on the changes schools have put in place in response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- The covid-19 crisis and subsequent lockdown has followed years of sustained improvement in the school and early years system : 95% of EY settings continue to be good or better; 93% of primary schools continue to be good or better; 69% of secondary schools remain good or better.

Education

- There has been a slight decrease in the proportion of good or better secondary from August 2019; this equates to one school and still reflects the sustained improvement across the system with a 17% improvement when compared to Jan 2018 when 53% of Manchester's secondary schools were good or better.
- In November 2020, 87% of pupils in Manchester attended a good or better school (3% above national figures) with 93% of primary pupils attending a good or better school (5% above national) and 76% of secondary pupils attending a good or better school (2.5% below national) but this remains the second highest proportion in GM and is 6% above the North West average.

Education

- Early Years settings Ofsted inspections have also been halted since March.
- Ofsted have carried out interim visits to settings and childminders who were due inspection if they were inadequate or requires improvement. They specifically looked at the actions taken to meet 'welfare requirements notices' linked to the safeguarding and welfare section of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Two settings and three childminders have had visits so far and all actions have been met.
- We currently have 9 settings partially closed and 1 fully closed due to covid-19

Education

- Although not explicitly stated on the scorecard our Early Years Quality Assurance team continue to work with all settings and child minders. This has impacted on improving the quality of early years providers in the City.
- 89% of childminders and 95% of child care providers are currently judged by Ofsted to be good or better.
- 90% of 3 and 4 year olds and 83.5% of 2 year olds access their early years education in good or outstanding provision.

Education

- School attendance has been a success story in Manchester with improvements being sustained over a number of years. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic absence and persistent absence rates in both primary and secondary schools were below national figures and demonstrated the success of a multi-agency approach to improving attendance.
- Following lockdown there has again been a multi-agency commitment to improving attendance with the introduction of an attendance hotline (Over 230 calls) and continued involvement from the Early Help hubs promoting good attendance. Translated versions of FAQ have been distributed to families, a model attendance policy introduced and Welcome Back banners have been displayed. This approach looks to have been highly effective with much higher than expected attendance.

Education

- The school attendance figures in the Proxy Indicator Scorecard cannot be compared directly with previous scorecards due to the impact of Covid-19 on both school attendance and register codes.
- The attendance figures reported do not include pupils who have had to self-isolate, and therefore do not include closed bubbles or closed year groups as being absent.
- School attendance, for pupils not affected by covid-19 closures was 94%. Although this is a drop on previous years it is significantly higher than anticipated and reflects the strength of the school system in Manchester and the embedded multi-agency approach to attendance.

Education

- In Autumn half term1, Primary absence was better than secondary with 5.1% absence compared to 6.4% absence for secondary pupils.
- The largest deterioration in attendance levels has been in special schools where absence levels have increased by 4% to 16%.

Education

- The impact on covid-19 on our schools can be seen with by the use of the X code; this code is used when pupils are self-isolating or when a bubble has to close. In primary, use of the X code is 9%; secondary use of the X code is 14%
- Secondary schools and pupils have been more adversely affected by Covid related closures than primary schools. This is due to both the higher infection rates amongst secondary aged pupils and also the challenge of delivering a broad secondary curriculum in small Covid bubbles. Schools have worked extremely hard to limit the impact and to ensure a proportionate response to any positive cases.
- When pupils are at home because of self isolation or bubbles having to close schools have had a statutory duty since October 22nd to ensure that high quality remote learning is in place.

Education

- In 2018/19 permanent exclusions reduced significantly. Primary exclusions improved to below national and exclusions in secondary schools dropped to 0.2% to be level with national.
- Although the score card indicates the target of 6 exclusions has been met and this reflects a significant reduction in exclusions in half term 1, there has been an increase in permanent exclusions in November. This was anticipated by Educational Psychologists working with Manchester schools.
- Improving life chances by reducing both permanent and fixed term exclusions through our Inclusion Strategy remains one of Manchester's key priorities.

Education

- The CME team, within the school admissions service, tracks children taken off roll and will make enquiries into all cases where children are reported as missing education and their whereabouts cannot be confirmed.
- These enquiries include checking local databases, contacting neighbours, checking with other agencies such as UK borders/immigration, HMRC, GMP and health services. The vast majority of these children are located each month (on average 85%). This is reported each month to the Case Review Board and to the Executive Member for Children's Services.
- In Year Admissions are counted as CME until they have an offer of a school place. These children are currently going through the admissions process.

Conclusion

- Performance against the range of indicators is mixed . The successful implementation of the liquid logic recording system and the ongoing quality of management information reports will further develop our approach to management oversight through ongoing performance management.
- Throughout the pandemic the service has remained focussed on improvement , however practice challenges remain, there are systems and processes in place to address these issues. Requests for support have slowly risen as the impact of the pandemic manifests itself in the social and economic circumstances of our residents, we will continue to monitor this impacts closely
- Education services continue to work with schools and settings to ensure our children attend a good or better school and where self-isolation is required the remote learning offer is of good quality.

Recommendations

- Scrutiny committee is asked to consider the proxy indicators; note the trends and debate the narrative provided with the report
- Scrutiny is invited to note the early indications of increased demand for support from social care and any possible impact on these selected proxy indicators report . As a consequence members are asked to request an update of on any areas of concerns/risks to the Council in six months-time.