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CHILDREN'S SERVICES QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE 2023/24

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. The Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will introduce the Quarter 2 2023/24 performance report for Children's Services. This report will enable the Committee to assess the progress being made in improving outcomes for children in need and children looked after.

**Performance reporting**

2. The range of performance data relating to Children's Services is contained in **Appendix A** to this report. The following data is reported on:
  - Demand - Contact / Referrals to Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and on Open Cases
  - Demand - Well-being Assessments completed within 42 working days
  - Demand - Section 47 Assessments completed within 10 working days
  - Number of children on the Child Protection Register (CPR), registrations and de-registrations
  - Looked After Starts, Ends and Total Number of Children Looked After
  - Number of children and young people receiving Care and Support
  - Number of care leavers over time by age, open to the Personal Adviser team
3. In line with the Children's Services Strategy Strands of Shifting the Balance - Place, People and Practice, the data is then categorised as follows:

- ***Shifting the Balance – Place - Ensuring a range of support in the community and a variety of homes for children are available in Cardiff***
  - Total Children Looked After (CLA) by Placement Type – as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016
  - Total CLA by Placement Type – as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023
  - Placement Location as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022
  - Placement Location as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023
  - Number of Children Returned Home from Care
  - Accommodation Strategy / Fostering Update – narrative
  
- ***Shifting the Balance – People - Supporting a permanent workforce***
  - Percentage of Social Worker Vacancies in all Teams
  - Net Result of Social Workers Starting and Leaving
  - Sickness Update
  - Workforce Strategy Update – narrative
  
- ***Shifting the Balance – Practice - Developing our practice and procedures***
  - Interventions Hub - Outcomes following intervention at Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC)
  - Interventions Hub - Outcomes following intervention from Think Safe!
  - Reviewing Hub - Step downs following Care and Support Plan (CASP) Review
  - Reviewing Hub - Safeguarding procedures to be considered
  - Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences on Time
  - Percentage of Initial Core Group Meetings on Time
  - Percentage of Child Protection Review Conferences on Time
  - Percentage of Child Looked After Reviews on Time
  - Percentage of Visits to Children on the CPR On Time
  - Percentage of Statutory Visits to CLA On Time
  - Percentage of Visits to CASP On Time
  - Child Protection Plans in Place

- Children looked after plans in place within 10 working days of start of being looked after
- Care and Support Plans in Place
- Pathway Plans in Place Within 3 Months of Becoming Eligible
- Child Protection Allocations
- Child Looked After Allocations
- Care and Support Allocations
- Personal Advisor Allocation
- Percentage of care leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of education, employment or training in the 12 months since leaving care
- Percentage of care leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of education, employment or training in the 13-24 months since leaving care
- Operating / Practice Model / Quality Assurance Update
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) - Number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System
- YJS - Percentage of Children Re-offending Within 6 Months of their Previous Offence
- YJS - Number of Young People in Receipt of a Prevention Service from the Youth Justice Service
- YJS - Percentage of Children with an Order Ending During the Period Who Were Living In Suitable Accommodation
- YJS - Percentage of Children with an Order Ending During the Period Who Were in Suitable Education, Training or Employment
- YJS - Percentage of Children with an Order Ending During the Period Who Had an Identified Special Education Need and Disability (SEND) / Additional Learning Need (ALN)

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

4. The scope of the scrutiny of this report is for the Committee Members to review the information provided to the Committee in **Appendix A** and to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member.

## **Way Forward**

5. At this meeting, Councillor Ash Lister (Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's)); and Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to answer any questions Members may wish to ask.
6. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, concerns or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet Member and Director of Children's Services.

## **Legal Implications**

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided in the report, **Appendix A** and at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director of Children's Services.

**Leanne Weston**

**Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer**

**29 November 2023**