

## Children & Families Performance Overview

Scrutiny Panel 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### 1. DEMAND:

**Contacts** have reduced (Aug 1337 from July 1861) in line with the usual August routine. We are identifying cases into the Early Help referral pathway and expect to see a reducing trend in contacts coming into Childrens Social Care.

**Referrals** in August also reduced and as above we expect to see an impact of the Early Help (EH) hub as the autumn term progresses.

Referrals of new **CIN** cases are expected to fall as per August due to the revised EH help offer and clearer referral pathways into the partnership network.

### 2. TIMESCALES:

The **MASH** have worked through a period of very high demand and now are keeping on top of decision making standards being 90% of cases being decided upon within 24hrs.

**CP** investigation work (S47) has decreased in August and we anticipate this stabilising as a trend as the new EH referral pathway settles and the continuum of need is reviewed. The numbers of **CP Plans** in place is the highest it's been for over 2 years at 456. This is being reviewed and the CP Chair group are proactivity tracking and reviewing cases to ensure care plans are being attended to. We expect the number to be high over the coming 6 months but stabilising as the review work takes effect. **CP visiting** set for every 15 working days is proving difficult for the service in light of high demands and high caseloads. The service has responded to this by bringing in new SW teams and they are now embedding. The current rate of **67%** is expected to increase in light of this as September and October progresses.

**Single Assessment** activity – this work has increased (Aug 428 from July 363) due to the demand response that has been in progress over the spring and summer. This is now being addressed robustly and as a result an increase in assessments have occurred in Aug 19 – this will continue into September. Of these assessments 58% of cases were completed in timescales and this is expected to improve in Sept as the demand picture becomes more manageable.

### 3. Corporate Parenting

LAC numbers were **512** at the point of publishing Aug Data. Our LAC rate is higher than the national average and this needs addressing. We have a range of projects in place to get ahead of this such as specialist T4 fostering and resource building to bring LAC back into the City. These are overarching strategic projects and won't come into effect till 2020. We will continue to seek to reduce LAC numbers in line with care plan progression and IRO's are reviewing cases and a new tracker has been set up. We expect this will also impact on opportunity to move cases towards SGO as this has been low over the past few months.

LAC and care leaver timeliness measures and case management standards overall remain good.

Phil Bullingham

CLT Sept 2019