

# Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	5 July 2018
Officer	<u>Local Members</u> All Members <u>Lead Director</u> Nick Jarman, Director of Children's Services
Subject of Report	<b>Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report: July 2018</b>
Executive Summary	<p>The 2017-19 Corporate Plan sets out the four outcomes towards which the County Council is committed to working, alongside our partners and communities: to help people in Dorset be <b>Safe, Healthy and Independent</b>, with a <b>Prosperous</b> economy. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the <b>Safe</b> corporate outcome.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan includes objective and measurable <b>population indicators</b> by which progress towards outcomes can be better understood, evaluated and influenced. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves.</p> <p>This is the first monitoring report for 2018-19. As well as the most up to date available data on the population indicators within the "Safe" outcome, the report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Performance measures</b> by which the County Council can measure the contribution and impact of its own services and activities on the outcomes;</li><li>• <b>Risk management</b> information, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate risk register that relate to our outcomes and the population indicators associated with them.</li></ul>

	<p>The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to consider the information in this report, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if it is comfortable with the trends. If appropriate, members may wish to consider and identify a more in-depth review of specific areas, to inform their scrutiny activity.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment:</p>	<p><b>Equalities Impact Assessment:</b> There are no specific equalities implications in this report. However, the prioritisation of resources in order to challenge inequalities in outcomes for Dorset’s people is fundamental to the Corporate Plan.</p>
	<p><b>Use of Evidence:</b> The outcome indicator data in this report is drawn from a number of local and national sources, including the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) and the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). There is a lead officer for each outcome whose responsibility it is to ensure that data is accurate and timely and supported by relevant commentary.</p>
	<p><b>Budget:</b> The information contained in this report is intended to facilitate evidence driven scrutiny of the interventions that have the greatest impact on outcomes for communities, as well as activity that has less impact. This can help with the identification of cost efficiencies that are based on the least impact on the wellbeing of customers and communities.</p>
	<p><b>Risk:</b> Having considered the risks associated with this report using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current: Medium</p> <p>Residual: Low</p> <p>However, where “high” risks from the County Council’s risk register link to elements of service activity covered by this report, they are clearly identified.</p>
	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> The Overview and Scrutiny Committees each have a primary focus on one or more of the outcomes in the County Council's Outcomes Framework: Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Safe corporate outcome, and this outcome is therefore the primary focus of this report.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p><b>Other Implications:</b> None</p>
	<p><b>That the committee:</b></p> <p>i) Considers the evidence of Dorset’s position with regard to the outcome indicators in Appendix 1; and:</p>

	ii) Identifies any issues requiring more detailed consideration through focused scrutiny activity.
Reason for Recommendation	The 2017-19 Corporate Plan provides an overarching strategic framework for monitoring progress towards good outcomes for Dorset. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements so that progress against the corporate plan can be monitored effectively.
Appendices	1. Outcomes Monitoring Report July 2018 – <b>Safe</b>
Background Papers	<i>Dorset County Council Corporate Plan 2017-19</i> , Cabinet, 28 June 2017 <a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/corporate-plan-outcomes-framework">https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/corporate-plan-outcomes-framework</a>
Officer Contact	Name: John Alexander, Senior Assurance Manager Tel: (01305) 225096 Email: <a href="mailto:j.d.alexander@dorsetcc.gov.uk">j.d.alexander@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>

## 1. Corporate Plan 2017-19: Dorset County Council’s Outcomes and Performance Framework

- 1.1 The corporate plan includes a set of “population indicators”, selected to measure progress towards the four outcomes. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves. For each indicator, it is for councillors, officers and partners to challenge the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable that the direction of travel is acceptable, and if not, identify and agree what action needs to be taken.
- 1.2 Each indicator has one or more associated **service performance measures**, which measure the County Council’s own specific contribution to, and impact upon, corporate outcomes. For example, one of the outcome indicators for the “Safe” outcome is “The number of people who are killed or seriously injured on Dorset’s roads”. A performance measure for the County Council on this is “The percentage of roads in need of maintenance”, since one of the ways we improve road safety is to ensure that roads are kept in good condition.
- 1.3 Unlike with the population indicators, the County Council is directly accountable for the progress (or otherwise) of performance measures, since they reflect the degree to which we are making the best use of our resources to make a positive difference to the lives of our own customers and service users.
- 1.4 Where relevant, this report also presents **risk management** information in relation to each population indicator, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate register that relate to our four outcomes.

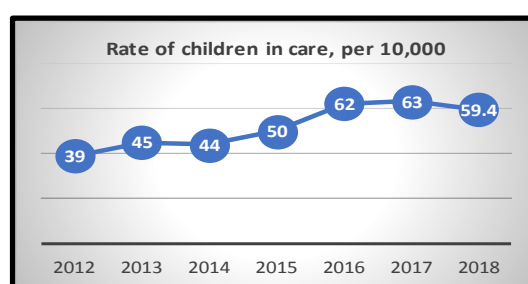
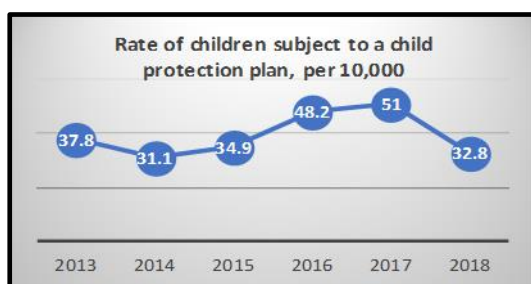
1.5 Outcome lead officers work to ensure that the commentaries on each page of these monitoring reports reflect the strategies the County Council has in place in order to improve each aspect of each outcome for residents. The commentary seeks to explain the strategies we have in place to make improvements, and then report on the success of those strategies.

1.6 Members are encouraged to consider all of the indicators and associated information at Appendix 1, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable with the direction of travel. If appropriate, members may wish to consider a more in-depth review of specific areas.

## 2.0 Suggested area of focus

### 2.1 Child Protection

2.1.1 The July Outcomes Monitoring report brings the welcome news that after rising significantly over the last few years, the rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan, and the rate of Children in Care, had fallen by the end of 2017-18. Some of this is due to improved multi-agency working, the hard work of social workers, improvements to decision making on initiating child protection investigations and conferences, embedding child protection conference chairs in area teams so that there is better joint working, and ensuring that plans do not drift.



2.1.2 There has also been a focus on preventing children coming into care in the first place. One of the ways of doing this is through the Family Focus Team, which undertakes intensive family work to try to prevent children coming into care or in supporting children to return home. The Family Focus Team was one of the first teams to adopt the 'whole family' approach to working, which is the principle that underpins Dorset Families Matter (DFM) and Family Partnership Zones. Because the DFM approach has been mainstreamed, it would be wrong to say that any single team is part or not part of the DFM programme any more, as the entire workforce is expected to work in this way. In addition, the percentage of Looked After Children adopted in the year rose from 4% in 2016-17 to 16% in 2017-18. Adoption is an important part of the strategy for reducing the number of Children in Care, so this is positive news.

2.1.3 However, some of the performance measures related to Child Protection present a less consistent picture:

- The percentage of re-referrals to children's social care within 12 months rose from 28.1% to 28.9% between Quarter 3 and Quarter 4;
- The percentage of children who become the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time rose from 19.6% to 24.7% over the same period; and
- The Children in Need rate per 10,000 rose again between Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, from 186.3 to 196.4.

The changes to the first two of these indicators is quite small and within normal parameters. However, in the Service Improvement Board investigates every case closely in case remedial activity is required. If early help services are working

successfully, then there should ultimately be a reduction, not an increase, in the number of Children in Need, so this needs continued monitoring. The Committee has had a strong focus on Early Intervention and Prevention in Children's Services during the last year, and the Director, Nick Jarman, will be bringing a further update report on the subject to July's meeting. He will also update the Committee on Elective Home Education, which has been a further topic of interest for the Committee.

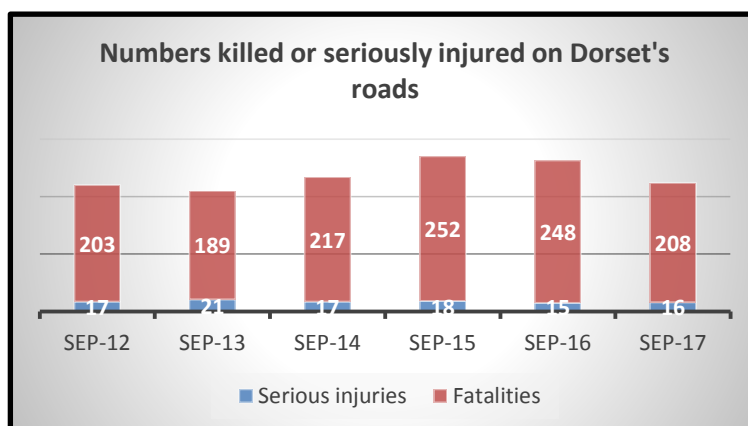
## 2.2 **Persistent Absence from School (Secondary)**

2.2.1 Persistent absence is defined as missing 10% of sessions, equivalent to about 19 school days in any one academic year. For secondary schools this rose from 13.9% of pupils in 2015-16 to 14.6% in 2016-17. This is in line with a national upward trend, although the gap between Dorset's rate and the national rate has widened (England figures increased from 13.1 to 13.5). Possible factors could include an increase in mental health/anxiety issues, and an increase in unauthorised absence due to family holidays. County Council strategies for improving school attendance include:

- a traded attendance service to schools;
- issuing penalty notices to parents;
- providing early help through Family Partnership Zones;
- providing intensive family support packages through Dorset Families Matter.

## 2.3 **Road Accidents**

The Committee has had a regular focus on this during the year, and a committee sub-group has been exploring the County Council's approach to the issue. The sub-group will report to the Committee again in July. Meanwhile, the downward trend in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads continues:



Casualty data for 2018 remains subject to change until it is signed off by the Department for Transport (DfT) in spring 2019. The number of people killed or seriously injured during the 12 months to March 2018 was 218. The trend for all casualties (KSI and slight injury) is an additional measure to help set context. There has been a relatively consistent downward trend in the total number of road traffic casualties in recent years. The 2005-09 baseline for all casualties was 1830, and the figure for the 12 months to March 2018 was 1093, 40% fewer.