

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 20 JUNE 2019

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is asked to note the performance information presented in this report and to give comment on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel receive regular performance management reports to help members evaluate the extent to which the council and its partners are achieving key plans and objectives for children and young people's services, and to provide appropriate challenge and suggestions to improve performance.

This report presents the following standard items:

- a summary of any recent Ofsted inspections related to North Somerset Council services and/or North Somerset schools.
- a breakdown of current safeguarding audits being undertaken within Children's Support and Safeguarding services.
- an analysis of the performance of the relevant Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs) for the financial year 2018/19.

Additional data provided in this report includes:

- an overview of trends in the numbers of families receiving Early Help, Children in Need, children on a Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After, including demographic data.

To note, updates on children's attainment for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 were provided in the last report to the Panel as of January 2019.

2. POLICY

The council's Performance Management Framework includes a requirement for quarterly reporting of our performance position so that members and officers can monitor progress against our key plans and objectives and take appropriate action where progress is below target or needs additional focus.

3. DETAILS

INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

Six inspections related to North Somerset Council services and/or North Somerset schools were carried out since the last report to this panel and published on the Ofsted website. Services and/or schools are graded either 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'.

Dundry Church of England Primary School

- Inspection date: 09 January 2019
- Report published: 31 January 2019
- The school 'Requires Improvement'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50053123>

Nailsea School

- Inspection date: 07 February 2019
- Report published: 11 March 2019
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50062022>

St Georges Church School

- Inspection date: 02 April 2019
- Report published: 07 May 2019
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50075378>

St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/Methodist Primary School

- Inspection date: 24 April 2019
- Report published: 13 May 2019
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50076990>

High Down Junior School

- Inspection date: 08 May 2019
- Report published: 24 May 2019
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50079931>

St John the Evangelist Church School

- Inspection date: 09 May 2019
- Report published: 05 June 2019
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50082593>

For all North Somerset schools (as of June 2019):

Primary schools

- 16% Outstanding (10)
- 70% Good (44)
- 9% Requires Improvement (6)
- 2% Inadequate (1)
- 3% not yet inspected (2)

Secondary schools

- 46% Outstanding (5)
- 18% Good (2)
- 27% Requires Improvement (3)
- 2% Inadequate (1)
- 0% not yet inspected

Special schools and PRUs

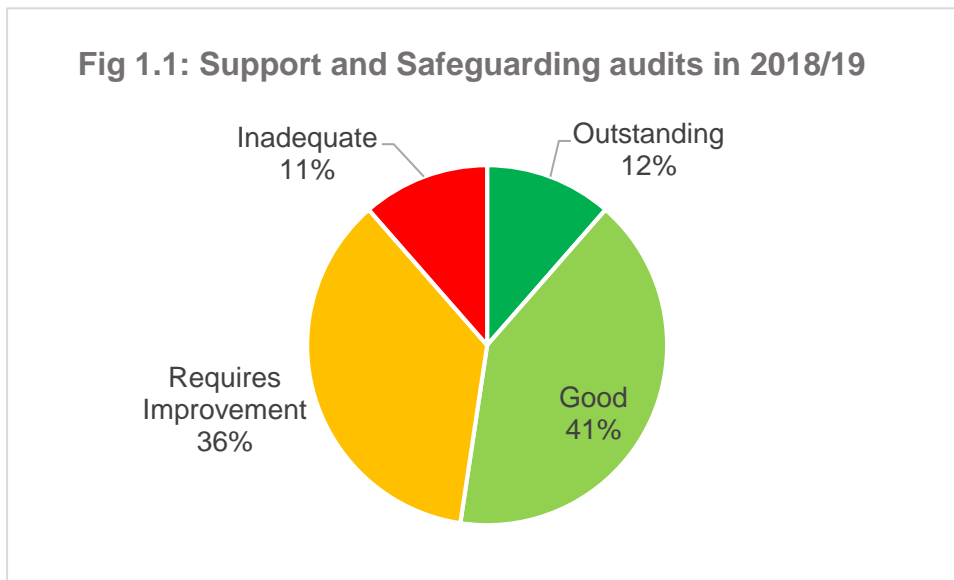
- 100% Good (4)

CASE AUDITS

Case audits are an important tool to ensure quality and consistency, and promote a culture of learning and improvement. There is a programme of regular case audits undertaken by managers across Support and Safeguarding. This includes members of the Directorate Leadership Team auditing a case chosen at random monthly as a routine part of the leadership team meeting and, in addition, the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board undertaking a programme of multi-agency audits.

The audit process within Support and Safeguarding involves grading the cases sampled with gradings ranging from 'Outstanding' to 'Inadequate', mirroring the system used by Ofsted. Findings from these case audits are fed back to teams and individual workers as appropriate.

For 2018/19, 53% of cases audited were graded as 'Outstanding' or 'Good' (fig 1.1). This is similar to that seen in 2017/18 (55%).



KEY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Each year the Directorates within North Somerset Council produce an Annual Directorate Statement (ADS). This in effect translates the commitments in the North Somerset Corporate Plan into a series of Directorate level commitments. These commitments are then measured by a combination of Key Projects and Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs). North Somerset Council Scrutiny Panels are then updated quarterly with all KCPIs related to their area of work.

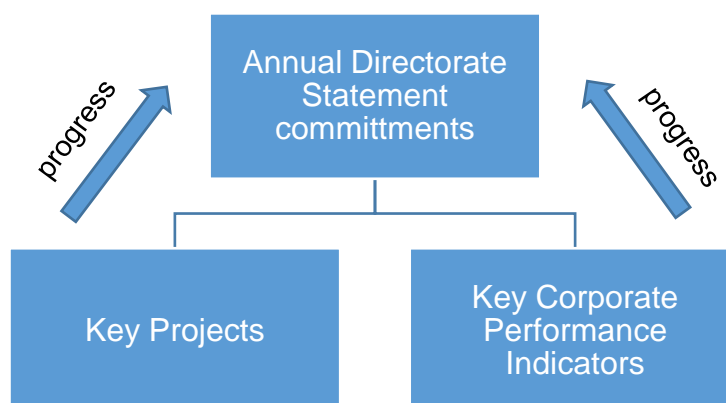


Fig 1.2 measuring performance

Table 1.1 shows the end year position (data as of Q4 for the 2018/19 financial year) of all KCPIs related to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

Table 1.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
An increase in the number of Early Help episodes	1,242 episodes	1,003 episodes	1,012 families	1,151 families	GREEN	A slight decrease in Q2 due to a data cleaning exercise but numbers have since increased.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
A decrease in the number of Children in Need	600 children	552 children	532 children	622 children	GREEN	The number of Children in Need has fluctuated throughout the year but remains within target. To note, 2019/20 we introduce a new definition for Children in Need.	Benchmarking data not available due to change in DfE definition.
A decrease in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan	138 children	129 children	140 children	146 children	RED	Q3 and Q4 of 2018/19 continued to see an increase in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan. North Somerset has remained below national and statistical neighbour's averages (as a rate per 10,000).	BETTER THAN
Increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme	933 families	987 families	1,097 families	1,237 families	GREEN	This measure met its Q4 target, with more families being worked with under the High Impact umbrella.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress	301 families	327 families	399 families	463 families	AMBER	The number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress increased in Q4 of 2018/19 but was slightly below target. Target was hit in the first month of 2019/20.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
A reduction in the number of children over the age of 10 years becoming looked after	Number suppressed	Number suppressed	Number suppressed	Number suppressed	GREEN	2018/19 has seen a decrease in the number of children over the age of 10 years entering care. <i>Please note the number of children has been suppressed due to confidentiality.</i>	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available

Table 1.1

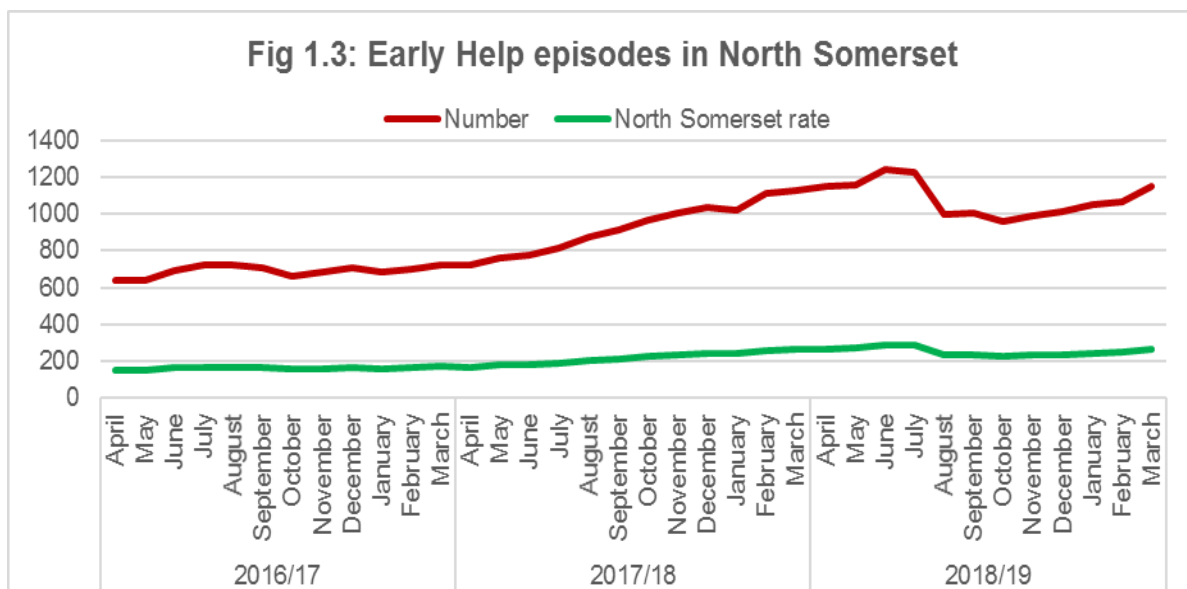
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
A reduction in the number of Looked After Children overall	231 children	226 children	230 children	242 children	RED	The numbers of Children Looked After has increase in Q3 and Q4. North Somerset has remained below national averages (as a rate per 10,000 for this indicator) but above statistical neighbours.	BETTER THAN
The number of children we could not offer a place to on the National Offer Day (primary)		0			GREEN	Good progress has been made in delivering new places at existing schools and new schools and all children who applied received an offer of a school place on offer day.	Benchmarking data not available
The number of children we could not offer a place to on the National Offer Day (secondary)		0			GREEN		Benchmarking data not available
KS1: Attainment (reading)			76%		GREEN	The percentage of North Somerset pupils achieving the expected standard in reading is higher than the England average (75%).	BETTER THAN
KS1: Attainment (writing)			71%		GREEN	The percentage of North Somerset pupils achieving the expected standard in writing is higher than the England average (70%).	BETTER THAN
KS1: Attainment (maths)			77%		GREEN	The percentage of North Somerset pupils achieving the expected standard in maths is higher than the England average (76%).	BETTER THAN
KS2: Attainment (combined)			64%		GREEN	North Somerset's average is equal to the England average but slightly higher than the South West average (63%)	EQUAL TO
KS4: Attainment 8			46.5		GREEN	KS4 North Somerset attainment 8 is marginally below the South West average (46.7) but is higher than the England average (44.5)	BETTER THAN

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING EARLY HELP, CHILDREN IN NEED, CHILDREN ON A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN AND CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Early Help

Early Help is available for children and young people up to the age of 18 and their families who may need extra support. Early Help is entirely voluntary and can be accessed without a referral. Services that offer Early Help include schools across North Somerset, Children's Centres, and High Impact Families. Services might include family support, parenting classes and help into employment.

At the end of Q4 of 2018/19, there were over 1,150 Early Help episodes, giving a North Somerset rate of 266.3 episodes per 10,000 children (fig 1.3). This rate is slightly below that seen in the previous few quarters but is due to a data cleaning exercise of episodes of more than two years duration.



Demographic analysis of the Early Help cohort throughout 2018/19 showed that:

- There were slightly more episodes open for males than females.
- Approximately 15% of all Early Help episodes were for disabled children, a strong increase on 2017/18.

The categories of referral for Early Help episodes that children were most likely to be referred in on were (and in descending order):

- Other (including the High Impact Families programme).
- Family and Environment (including support for parents around housing, employment and finance).
- Development of the baby, child or young person (including emotional and social development and self-care and independence).
- Request for 0-2 funding.
- Parents and carers (including basic care, safety and protection and emotional support and stability).

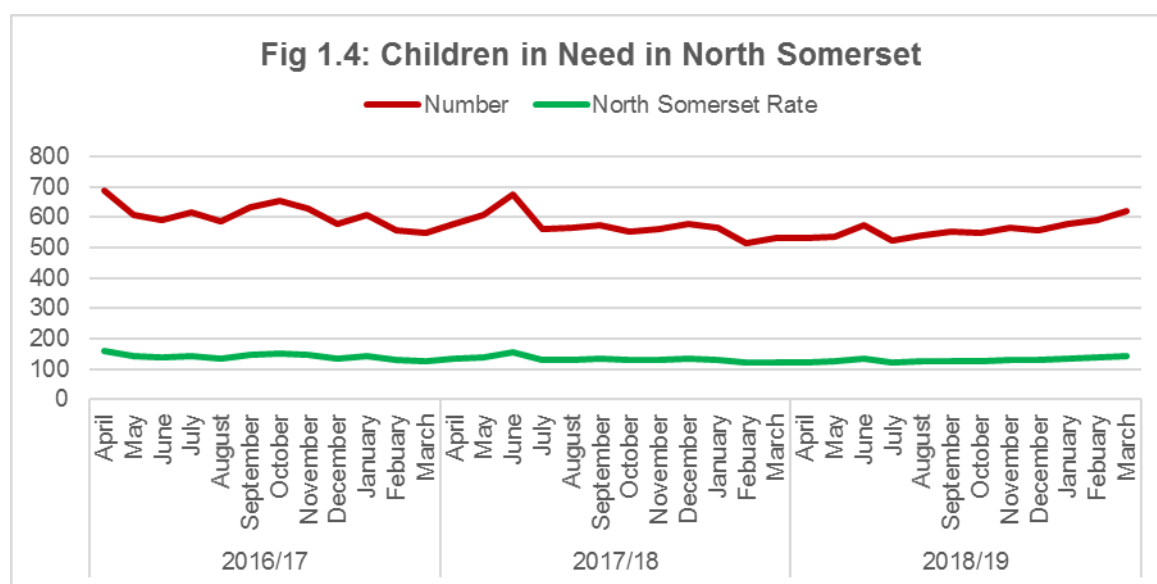
Children in Need

A child can be considered in need if there is:

- a need for local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development
- a need for local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development
- are disabled.

In North Somerset during 2018/19 the number of children in need varied between 525 and 622 children (excluding those who were under a Child Protection Plan, Looked After or Care Leavers, with numbers given as at months end), with the rate per 10,000 varying between per 121.5 per 10,000 and 143.9 per 10,000 (fig 1.4).

These rates are not currently comparable to national and statistical neighbour rates which are calculated slightly differently with new definitions being introduced in 2019/20 allowing for comparisons.



Demographic analysis of the CiN cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

- The percentage of children from a minority ethnic background who have been or are CiN is similar to what would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2019)
- Around 27% of Children in Need are disabled children.

The categories of need that CiN children are most likely to be referred in on are (and in descending order):

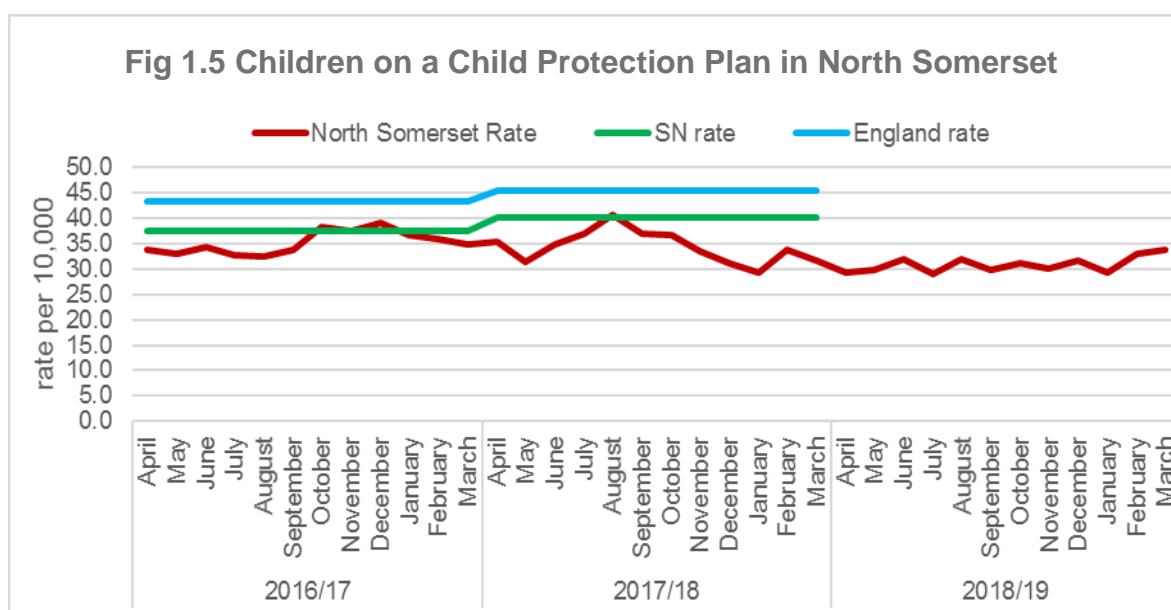
- family in acute stress
- abuse or neglect
- disability
- family dysfunction
- and parental illness or disability.

Child Protection Plans

Some children are in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. In this case a Child Protection Conference is held. If the Child Protection Conference decides that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, the local authority will draw up a Child Protection Plan. It sets out how the child can be kept safe, how things can be made better for the family, and what support they need.

In North Somerset during 2018/19 between 127 and 146 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (some of which were sibling groups and numbers given as at months end), with the rate per 10,000 varying between 28.9 per 10,000 and 33.8 per 10,000 (fig 1.5).

This rate is below both the national and our statistical neighbour rate and is significantly below the rates seen last summer.



Demographic analysis of the CP Plan cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

- Around 56% of children on a Plan are over the age of six years.
- On average, there were slightly more females than males during the period.
- The percentage of children from a minority ethnic background on a CP Plan is similar to what would be expected when compared to the profile of the population (School Census 2019).
- There has been an increase in the number of disabled children on a Plan, moving from an average of 2% to around 8% at end year. This may in part be due to better recording of disability.

The categories of need for children on a CP Plan have changed slightly throughout 2018/19 with emotional abuse being the most likely reason for a child coming on to Plan—and this has increased throughout the year—followed by neglect, physical abuse and then sexual abuse.

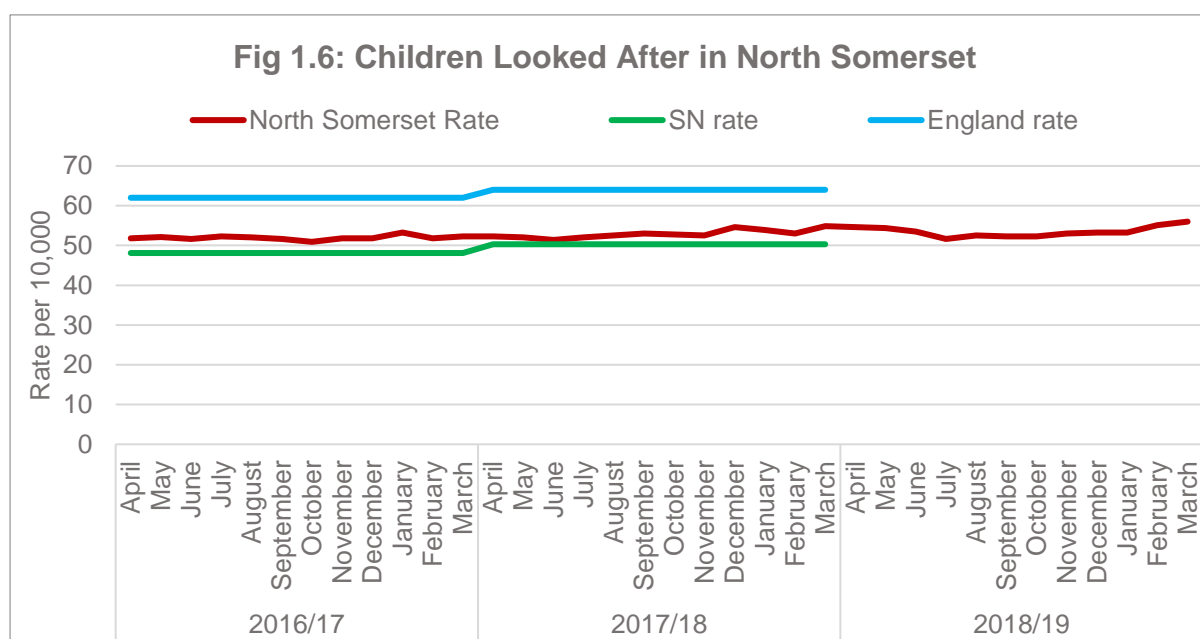
Children Looked After

When a child becomes 'looked after' the council takes on a parenting role, either with the agreement of the parents or through a court order which gives the local authority a share of parental responsibility. Looked after children cease to be looked after on reaching their eighteenth birthday, if they have not ceased previously.

The reasons for increases and decreases in numbers of looked after children are complex. The Assistant Director and service leaders tightly monitor all requests for a child to be looked after. Every looked after child is reviewed to ensure that care plans are being progressed and plans to return children home wherever possible are being actioned.

In North Somerset during 2018/19 the number of looked after children has increased to over 242 children, with a rate of 56 per 10,000 (as at months end March 2019). However, it should be noted that the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in North Somerset who are Looked After has averaged around 13 children throughout the year.

This rate is below that of the national rate but continues to remain slightly above that of our statistical neighbours (fig 1.6).



Demographic analysis of the Children Looked After cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

- There was a fairly equal split of males and females
- The percentage of children from a minority ethnic background who were looked after was slightly higher than would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2019) but it is likely that this is due to our increase in unaccompanied-asylum seeking children
- Around 12% of children who were looked after were disabled.

The categories of need that Children Looked After were mostly likely to experience (and in descending order) during 2018/19 were abuse or neglect, family in acute stress, family dysfunction, absent parenting, disability and parent illness or disability.

4. CONSULTATION

Directors have been fully consulted over the content of this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications as a consequence of this report.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The equality objectives (part of the Corporate Performance Management Framework) are regularly monitored and are reported to the Corporate Management Team and the Council's Equality Scheme Implementation Group.

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

It is important that we are aware of the areas in which we are performing well and where further action is needed to address any concerns.

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2018/19 Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 CMT performance reports
- 2018/19 Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 Directorate performance reports
- Support and Safeguarding Team quarterly reports (2016/17 to 2018/19)
- P&C Annual Directorate Statement
- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan