

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 24 March 2015

Agenda item: 9

Wards: All wards

Subject: Performance monitoring

Lead officer: Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, Children Schools and Families

Lead member(s): Councillor Maxi Martin; Councillor Martin Whelton.

Forward Plan reference number: n/a

Contact officer: Naheed Chaudhry, Service Manager Policy, Planning and Performance.

Reason for Urgency: The Chair has agreed the late circulation of this report.

Recommendations: That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel;

A. Note the current level of performance as at January 2015 for the reporting year 2014/15 (appendix 1)

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. To provide the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel (CYP panel) with a regular update on the performance of the Children, Schools and Families Department and key partners. Data provided in appendix one is as at the end of January 2015. At the point of publishing this report the February 2015 data had not yet been validated (report due to be published 16 March 2015)

2. **DETAILS**

2.1. At a Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in June 2007 it was agreed that the Children Schools and Families department would submit a regular performance report on a range of key performance indicators. This performance monitoring report would act as a 'health check' for the Panel and would be over and above the more detailed performance reports scheduled to the Panel which relate to specific areas of activities such as the annual Schools Standards report, Corporate Parenting Report, safeguarding performance report etc. This performance index is periodically reviewed and revised by Members. A new dataset was agreed at the January 2015 Scrutiny meeting and this will be implemented from April 2015 in line with the new financial year.

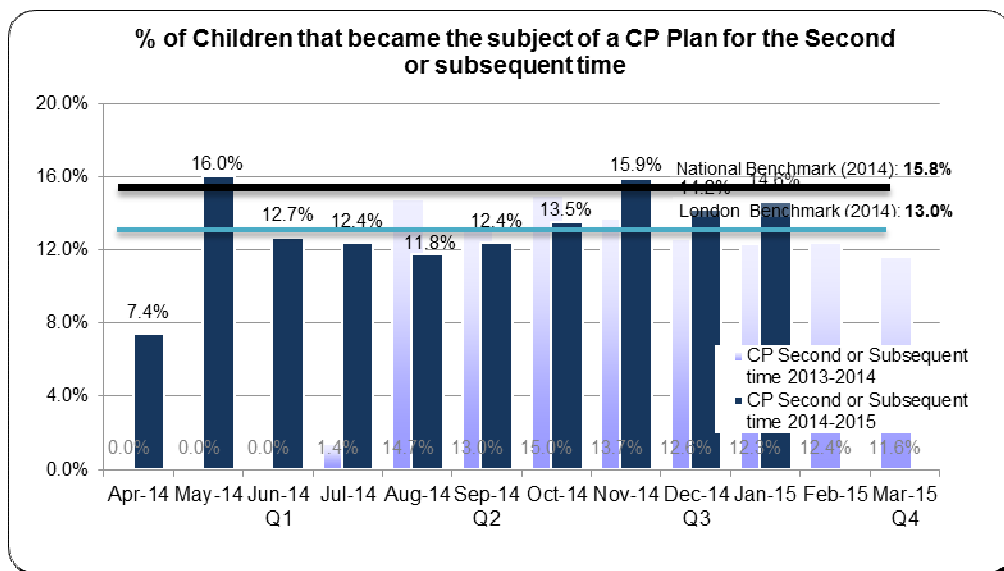
2.2. **January 2015 Performance commentary**

2.3. Appendix one presents the performance dataset for 2014/15. Comments are provided below on exception only for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber.

2.4. **Line 6 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time (NI 65) – Red.**

2.5. 15% of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time. This indicator relates to 26 children with previous plans (new child protection plans started). A second plan is established where concerns which led to the original plan re-occur or where new concerns arise. It should be noted in January six family groups represented 15 of the 26 children on a second or

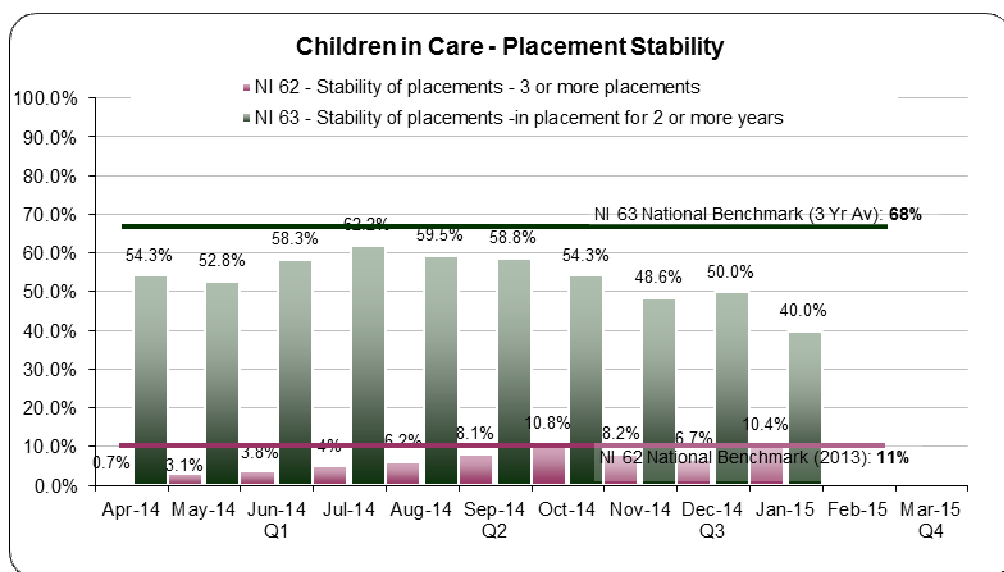
subsequent child protection plan. Due to the small numbers of children in this cohort one or two larger sibling groups can skew performance considerably. Although higher than Merton's norm, this indicator remains in line with the national average of 15.8% (CIN 2013/14) and just above the London average 13%. Members may like to note that the national average for 2013/14 (15.8%) has increased from last year (14.9% 2012/13).



2.6. **Line 12 Stability of placements of Children in Care (length of placement) – Red.**

2.7. This length of placement indicator refers to a small cohort of children under the age of 16 who have been in care for 2 and a half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more.

2.8. Of the total number of children in care only 35 children meet these criteria, 40% of these relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more years. This equates to 14 of 35 children.



2.9. Twenty one children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years. Again, the smaller nature of our authority and therefore smaller cohorts of children can skew performance. The national three year average for this indicator for

placement length is 68% (LAC 903). On an annual basis Merton is performing below the national benchmark, however in a like for like comparison of a three year rolling average we are in line with the national performance (Merton three year average 66%). It should be noted that the placement length indicator is complemented by the placement moves indicator (3 moves or more), Merton's January performance of 10.4% remains inline with the national benchmark of 11% (2013/14).

- 2.10. Moving forward placement stability remains a key focus for the authority and Corporate Parenting Board, a task and finish group has been established to review and where possible improve placement stability. The task and finish group is due to report to the Corporate Parenting Board in May 2015.

4 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1: CYPP performance index 2014/15 (January 2015)

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1.1 CSF Performance Management Framework <http://intranet/departments/csf-index/csf-performance.htm>

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