

**Committee:** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 1 July 2015

Agenda item: 8

Wards: All wards

**Subject:** Performance monitoring:  
2014/15 year-end report and 2015/16 progress: May 2015

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.

---

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

A. Note the year end performance report of 2014/15 and the current performance as at May 2015

---

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.

1.2. Data provided in appendix one reports the year ending 2014/15

1.3. Data provided in appendix two against a new dataset as agreed by the Scrutiny panel reports as at the end of May 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.

2.2. The dataset reported on is periodically reviewed and revised by Members. A new more comprehensive dataset was agreed at the January 2015 Scrutiny meeting to be implemented from April 2015 inline with the new financial year.

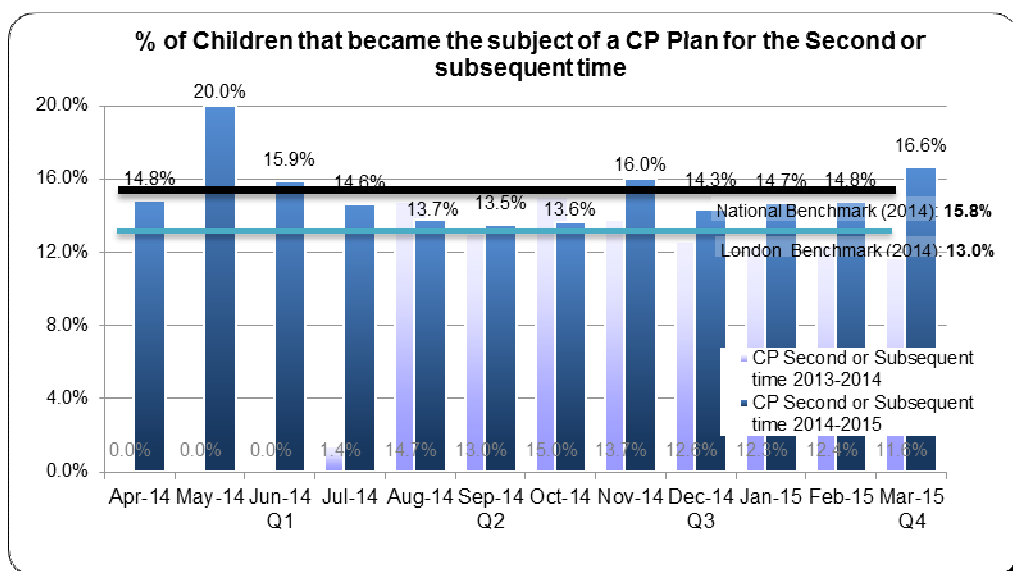
2.3. This performance report acts as a 'health check' and complements the more detailed thematic reports scheduled to the Panel which relate to specific areas of activities such as the annual Schools Standards report, Corporate Parenting Report, safeguarding performance report etc.

2.4. **2014/15 year end performance commentary**

2.5. Appendix one presents the performance dataset for 2014/15, management comments are provided below for all targets not met, as this is a year end report targets not met are reported as Red.

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

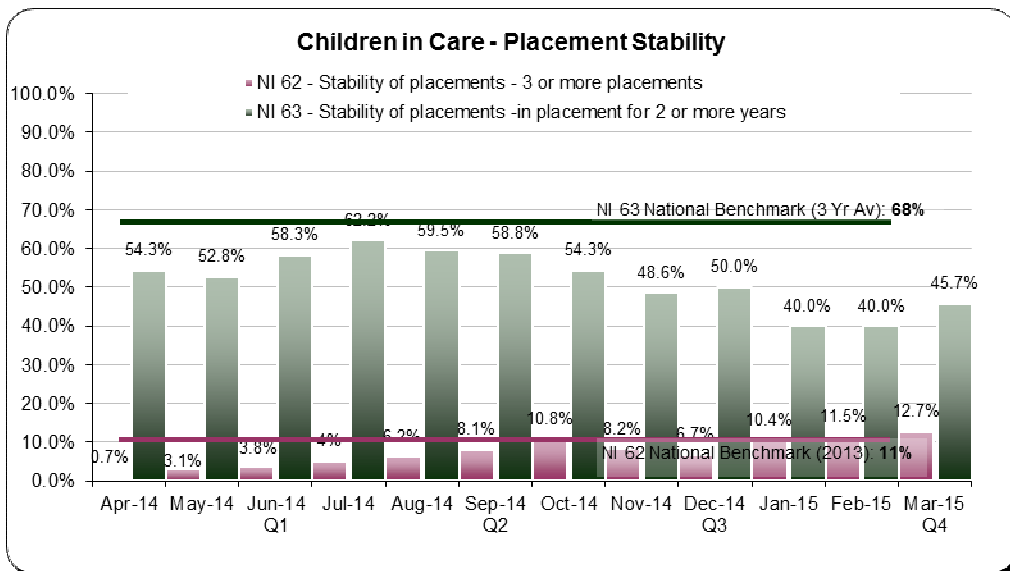
2.7. 17% of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time. This indicator relates to 36 children with previous plans (new child protection plans started). A second plan is established where concerns which led to the original plan re-occur or where new concerns arise. It should be noted in March ten family groups represented 24 of the 36 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) but above the London average 13%. Members may like to note that the national average for 2013/14 (15.8%) had increased from last year (14.9% 2012/13), 2014/15 national benchmarking data is due to be published by December 2015.



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

2.9. 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 half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more.

2.10. Of the total number of children in care only 35 children meet these criteria, 46% of these relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more years. This equates to 16 of 35 children.



2.11. Nineteen 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 March performance 13% remains inline with the national benchmark 11% (2013/14).

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. A placement stability analysis report presented to the Corporate Parenting Board identified which cohorts or children were most likely to disrupt, officers are working to apply this learning to placement management to improve stability figures.

2.12 **Line 14: Percentage of Children in Care participating in their reviews – Red.**

2.13 Over the year the percentage of children in care participating in their reviews has ranged from 87% to 66% which equates to 91 of 137 children at the year end. This indicator included all children looked after over the age of 5. In order to improve performance we are working to ensure that where a child or young person does not attend their LAC review or complete consultation papers prior to the meeting, social workers will meet with the child after the review to give an update and gather their wishes and feelings to inform their care plan.

2.14 We have also launched improved information for children and young people and guidance for practitioners to facilitate and support children to chair their own LAC reviews. All children now have information about chairing their own review, and practitioners in all teams have received the Good Practice Guidance, along with time schedules to help them to plan and prepare for upcoming reviews. This work will be followed up by a meeting with Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to discuss progress and to mitigate against barriers to implementation. An audit to gather overall feedback from children and young people on the effectiveness of their involvement in their LAC review will be completed in 2015/16.

- 2.12. **Performance monitoring 2015/16: As at May 2015**
- 2.13. **Line 10: Percentage of Children subject of a CP Plan who had a 4 weekly CP visit within timescales in the last six months prior to and including the reporting month – Red.**
- 2.14. 90% of children on a child protection plan have received all 4 weekly visits in the last six months, this is a challenging rolling indicator which does not allow for performance to improve once a single visit in the period is missed. Managers have been asked to ensure four weekly visits are completed on time.
- 2.15. **Line 11: Percentage of Children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time– Red.**
- 2.16. 35.7% of children have become subject to a second or subsequent plan since April. This indicator is not a concern at this stage in the year as the cohorts involved are so small, (5 of 14), as the year goes on Merton would expect to see this percentage reduce and move in line to national benchmark of 15%. This cohort of children remains under review by the Quality Assurance unit to ensure that appropriate decisions are made.
- 2.17. **Line 19: Stability of placements of Looked After Children - length of placement– Red.**
- 2.18. Placement stability has improved from the year end March 2015 (46%) May 54.5%, although this performance remains below the national average (68%), the placement stability task and finish group work is ongoing.

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

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

Appendix 2: CYPP performance index 2015/16 (May 2015)

4. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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