

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 6 November 2013

Agenda item: 10

Wards: All wards

Subject: Performance monitoring

Lead officer: Paul Ballatt, Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, Children Schools and Families (020 8545 4066)

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

Forward Plan reference number: n/a

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

A. Note the current level of performance as at September 2013 for the reporting year 2013-14.

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.

2. DETAILS

2.1. At the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting on 5th 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, Safeguarding performance report etc.

2.2. Appendix one presents the performance framework for 2013 -14 comments are provided on exception for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber.

2.3. Children's Social Care

2.4. **Line 2 Percentage of Single Assessments completed within the statutory 45 days (Year to Date) – Red.**

2.5. 68% of Single Assessments have been completed on time since April 2013, this equates to 382 of 566. The timely completion of Single Assessments remains under review, alongside a review of volumes of assessments currently being undertaken to ensure that thresholds are being applied appropriately and consistently. Management action will be taken as appropriate following the review. National comparator data will not be available until the next DfE Children in Need (CiN) census is published following a year end statutory return in July 2014.

- 2.6. **Line 5 Percentage of Children with Child Protection Plans visits due completed on time – Red.**
- 2.7. 80% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan were visited within timescale. A proportion of missed visits were attributed to social worker performance issues - senior management action is being taken to reinforce standards and expectations on line managers and frontline staff in order to secure improvements in the future. The other missed visits were caused by a variety of factors including parents and family non-compliance, obstructing social workers access to children and refusing to meet social workers.
- 2.8. **Line 12 Stability of placements of Children in Care (length of placement) – Amber.**
- 2.9. This length of placement indicator refers to a small cohort of children, specifically only those children who have been in care for more than 2 and a half years (912 days or more) and have been in a single placement for 2 years (730 days or more). At the end of September 2013, 28 children had been care for greater than 912 days, of these 19 children had been in a single stable placement lasting 730 days or more. This equates to 68% of children, this is in line with the 2011-12 national outturn of 68%. National comparator data for 2012-13 will be published by the DfE in December. There were various reasons for the placement disruption of the nine children in this cohort, including planned placement changes such as “moving into independent living”.

Education and Early Years

- 2.10. **Line 32 Percentage of all SEN statements issued in 26 weeks (without exceptions) – Amber.**
- 2.11. 95% of all SEN statements were issued in 26 weeks (without exceptions). This is below our ambitious target of 98% management action continues to be taken to improve our performance. However it should be noted that Merton’s performance for SEN statements issued with and without exceptions remains above the national average of 86% and the London average of 79%.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Panel’s scrutiny work programme is determined by the members of the Panel.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Panel have agreed to consider the performance report on an annual basis.

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

- Appendix 1: Performance framework 2013-14 (September 2013)

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1. None.