

Committee: Children, Schools and Families

Date: 6th November 2019

Wards: All

Subject: Performance Report

Lead officer: Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families

Lead member: Cllr Kelly Braund, Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Contact officer: Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships

Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The report summarises performance information up to quarter 2 (19/20). It is accompanied by the performance index providing the most recent performance data against agreed indicators.

2 DETAILS

Corrections

2.1. The report contains two corrections from the last performance report (6th November):

- Indicator 1: Number of common and shared assessments (CASA) undertaken
Last quarter's figure amended to read 23.
- Indicator 3: % of Education, Health and Care Plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale
We are now able to provide monthly figures. Last quarter's figure to be replaced by monthly figure of 47%
- Indicator 16: Average number of weeks taken to complete care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks.
We have amended Q1 figure to 28 weeks. This figure is a validated figure provided by Cafcass. The previous figure (31) was calculated internally. We will only report validated data from hereon in.
- Indicator 20: Stability of placements of looked after children – length of placement (in care 2.5 years, placement 2 years)
Previous data (23%) inadvertently reported the proportion of children whose length of placement did not exceed 2 years. The correct figure for Q1 and Q2 is 73%.

- Indicator 21: % of looked-after children who are placed with agency foster carers.
This figure has been corrected for Q1 and now reads 34%.
- Indicator 39: % of agency social workers
This figure has been corrected for Q1 and now reads 15.1%

Performance Overview

2.2. The table below summarises changes to ratings since the last meeting.

Table 1: Summary of rating changes

Indicator Number		Description	Rating change	Narrative / Action
2		% Single assessments authorised within the statutory 45 days.	G to R	This figure has been adjusted to ensure we are consistently counting from point of contact with the service. This is now a more accurate reflection of practice but means that this has brought performance down. The AD and Head of Service have agreed actions to improve timeliness.
11		Number of children subject to previous child protection plan (ever)	A to G	Amber rating has been removed for this indicator as performance is measured within acceptable range (12-20%). Performance is at 20% and therefore within acceptable range.
16		Average number of weeks taken to complete Care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks	n/a to R	This indicator has now been rated Red (previously un-rated). During Q2, the service worked with one family (two children) for which care proceedings went on for 52 and 59 weeks respectively. Given the relatively small number of care proceedings in Merton, this impacts on the figures.
27/28		Number of permanent exclusions (primary/secondary)	Not a target measure	There has been a significant drop in numbers. This is due to the fact that the figures are collected by academic year (September – August).

Indicator review

- 2.3 The following indicators were added in June 2018 and have been reported on since October 2018:

7	Average Caseload of workers for children subject to a Child Protection Plan
15	Average Caseload of workers for looked-after children.

- 2.4 The way in which services are configured means that social workers have mixed case loads. This makes reporting against this measure challenging.
- 2.5 Committee members are therefore invited to consider replacing the above indicators with a generic indicator about average caseloads per social workers.
- 2.6 These figures will be presented alongside benchmarking data. This will make it possible for members to understand Merton's relative performance.

COMMITTEE DECISION: To replace indicator 7 and 15 with a combined indicator outlining average case loads.

- 2.7 As a result of changes to the way in which reports are developed to report on performance, it is currently not possible to report against indicator 8 ' % of quorate attendance at child protection conferences '.
- 2.8 Information for indicator 16 'average number of weeks taken to complete care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks' is supplied by Cafcass. The figure has not yet been made available.
- 2.9 We are proposing to split indicator 23 ('number of looked after children who have been adopted and agency special guardianship orders granted') to report on these two issues separately. With the agreement of the committee, this will be instated at the next scrutiny committee.

COMMITTEE DECISION: To separate indicator 23 into its constituent parts.

- 2.10 Information for indicators 33 (% of CYP (16/17 year olds) not in education, employment or training) and 34 (% of CYP education, employment and training status 'not known') is supplied externally. The data for September was not available in time for this meeting.
- 2.11 Information for indicator 37 (TF: number of families engaged in the expanded programme) was not available in time for this meeting.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. No specific implications for this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. N/a for this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None

- 7** **LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1. None
- 8** **HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1. None
- 9** **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1. None
- 10** **RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 10.1. None
- 11** **APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- Children, Schools and Families Structure Chart
- 12** **BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1. None