

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

**Date:** 11 February 2014

Agenda item: 8

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 December 2013 for the reporting year 2013-14.

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## 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 is as at the end of December 2013 and Quarter 3, at the point of publishing this report the January 2014 data had not yet been validated (report due to be published 3 February 2014).

## 2. DETAILS

2.1. At the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 below on exception only for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber.

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

2.4. As at the end of quarter three 72% of all Single Assessments have been completed on time. Although below target there has been an improvement in performance following a review and management action taken in October 2013. All Single Assessments are now completed by the First Response team in the MASH. In November 90% (43 of 49) of all Single Assessments undertaken were completed on time, in December this improved further to 92% thus demonstrating the impact of action taken. National comparator data will not be available until the next DfE Children in Need (CIN 2013/14) census this will be published in July 2014 following a year end statutory return.

- 2.5. **Line 5 Percentage of Children with Child Protection Plans visits due completed on time – Red.**
- 2.6. As at the end of December, 83% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan were visit within 28 days of their last visit, this relates to 142 of 171 children. The Service Manager for the Central Social work team is able to provide assurance that all relevant children have now been seen. A numbers of those children not seen within timescale are attributed to parents and family non-compliance preventing required levels of access to children. In small number cases the transfer of cases between departing and receiving social workers had resulted in records not being updated in a timely way. These matters are being looked into and addressed with managers. Benchmarking data on child protection plan visits is not published.
- 2.7. **Line 6 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the Second or subsequent time (NI 65) – Red.**
- 2.8. As at the end of Quarter three, 13% of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject to a plan for the second or subsequent time, this indicator relates to 21 of 167 children. This indicator is impacted by large sibling groups being subject to a second or subsequent plan, 12 of the 21 children are accounted for in five sibling groups. A second plan was agreed for these children as the categories of concern increased and in some cases changed for these children. For example in one case a child came off a child protection plan, returned home and soon after became subject to a subsequent plan, the authority has taken action and started care proceedings. Merton's reporting is line with the national average of 14.9% (CIN 2012/13 data).
- 2.9. **Line 11 Stability of placements of Children in Care - number of moves (3 or more moves in the year) – Red.**
- 2.10. This placement stability indicator refers to those children who have who had 3 or more placements during the year. Nationally 11% of children move from placements three or more times (LAC 903 Census 2012/13). In Merton as at end of December 13% of our children in care in had 3 or more moves, this related to 20 of 159 children. Of these 20 children, three moved to return back home to live with their parents or relatives. Placement stability remains high on our agenda with an increasing pool of internal fostering provision and more effective management of challenging young people we are seeing this improve over time. We are in a better position at the end of quarter three than at this time last year and as at the end of 2012/13. All placements of looked after children are tracked by Service Managers in monthly tracking meetings to ensure that good quality care plans are in place for every child in care. Tracking meetings aim to ensure that children are appropriately placed and supported to minimise disruption and emergency moves.
- 2.11. **Line 12 Stability of placements of Children in Care (length of placement) – Amber.**
- 2.12. This length of placement indicator refers to a small cohort of children, children in this cohort are under the age of 16, been in care for 2 and a half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more.
- 2.13. At the end of December 2013, of the total number of children in care only 29 children meet these criteria, of these, 10 children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years with 5 of these children belonging to one of two sibling groups. This is a small cohort of children and can be skewed as in the case here by sibling groups. Therefore 66% of relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more this equates to 19 of 29 children. There were various reasons for the placement disruptions, including planned placement changes such as "moving into independent living". This data is in line with the

national benchmark of 68% (LAC 903 2011/12). National comparator data for 2012/13 has not yet been published by the DfE.

2.14. **Line 32 Percentage of Statements issues within 26 weeks without exceptions - Amber**

2.15. 94% of all SEN statements were issued within 26 weeks (without exceptions), this is in line with the national average of 93% and better than the London average of 90% (2012/13 figures). Percentage of SEN statements completed within timeframe with and without exception also continues to perform well against Merton's last year's outturn and above both National and London averages.

**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 (December 2013)

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1. None.

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