

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 26 March 2014

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 January 2014 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. Data provided is as at the end of January 2014, at the point of publishing this report the February 2014 data had not yet been validated (report due to be published 17 March 2014).

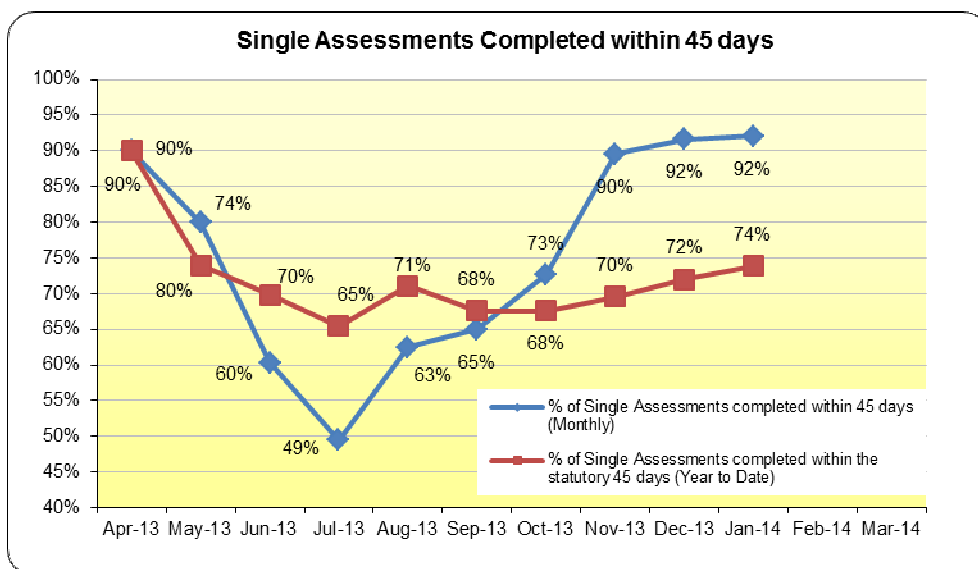
2. DETAILS

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 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 January 74% of all Single Assessments have been completed on time. Although below our ambitious target of 90% 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 both December and January this improved further to 92% thus demonstrating the impact of action taken. The trajectory of improvement is evident in the graph below.



Graph 1: Red line, Single Assessments completed within 45 days Year to Date. Blue line, Single Assessments completed within 45 days each month.

- 2.5. National comparator data for the timely completion of Single Assessments will not be available until the next DfE Children in Need (CIN 2013/14) census which will be published in July 2014 following a year end statutory return.
- 2.6. **Line 5 Percentage of Children with Child Protection Plans visits due completed on time – Red.**
- 2.7. As at the end of January, 88% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan were visited within 28 days of their last visit, this relates to 161 of 183 children. This is an on-going improvement on the last two months. 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. Benchmarking data on child protection plan visits is not published
- 2.8. **Line 6 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the Second or subsequent time (NI 65) – Red.**
- 2.9. As at the end January, 12% of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject to a plan for the second or subsequent time, this indicator relates to 23 of 187 children. This indicator is impacted by large sibling groups being subject to a second or subsequent plan, 13 of the 23 children are accounted for in four 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).
- 2.10. **Line 12 Stability of placements of Children in Care (length of placement) – Red.**
- 2.11. This length of placement indicator refers to a small cohort. Children in this cohort are under the age of 16, have been in care for 2 and a half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more.
- 2.12. Of the total number of children in care only 29 children meet these criteria, 62% of these relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more; this equates to 18 of 29 children.

2.13. Eleven children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years. Of these 5 belong to two sibling groups. This is a small cohort of children and performance can be skewed by sibling groups. There were various reasons for the placement disruptions, these include in one case a placement change to enable adoption and in other cases planned placement changes to better meet the needs of the children. This data is in line with the national benchmark of 67% (LAC 903 2012/13).

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

2.15. As at the end of January, 91% of all SEN statements were issued within 26 weeks (without exceptions) this relates to (107 of 119 children), this is in line with the national average of 93% and better than the London average of 90% (2012/13 figures).

2.16. **Line 33 Percentage of Statements issues within 26 weeks with and without exceptions - Amber**

2.17. 89% of all SEN statements were issued in 26 weeks (with and without exceptions this relates to (109 of 123 children). Statutory assessment completion with exceptions continues to be challenging due to our reliance on health for reports as part of the statutory deadline. Management action is continuing to be taken to improve the outturn our performance remains above the national average for this indicator which is 86% and the London average which is 79% (2012/13 figures).

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 (January 2014)

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1. None.

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