

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 3 July 2014

Agenda item: 8

Wards: All wards

Subject: Year End performance report 2013/14 and 2014/15 May performance

Lead officer: Paul Ballatt, AD 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, Children Schools and Families

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

- A. Note and comment on performance for the year ending 2013/14 as set out in appendix One.
- B. Note and comment on performance for May 2014 as set out in appendix Two.
- C. Consider any changes required to the performance dataset for 2014/15

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 5 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 act as a 'health check' for the Panel and is 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 data as at the end of March 2014 (quarter four) and is therefore a year-end performance report 2013/14 - the panel has requested 'exception reporting' throughout the year; RAG rating is used where relevant and commentary is provided where performance is deemed less than expected or desired. As this is a year-end report indicators are reported as either Red or Green - commentary is provided on an 'exception' basis for those indicators reporting as Red in section 3.
- 2.3. Appendix Two provides data as at the end of May 2014 of the current year's performance index 2014/15, commentary on 'exception' for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber is presented in section 4. At the point of publishing this report data for June was not yet complete (report due to be published 26 June 2014).

- 2.4. It should be noted that Merton maintains a policy of setting ambitious targets, often higher than national and London averages. Therefore a number of indicators although reported Red are often performing well against benchmarking. The commentary provided contextualises our performance with comparison data.
- 2.5. The panel may also like to note that bands and ranges of acceptable performance are a more helpful way of reviewing children's services performance indicators. For example a target set to ten per cent may in reality reflect an acceptable range of performance from 10% to 12%, however will trigger a Red for any performance higher than 10%. The only way around this is to set lower targets to 'work around' the performance calculation, this is not an approach supported by the Departmental Management Team.

3. YEAR END PERFORMANCE 2013/14

3.1. Line 2 Percentage of Single Assessments completed within the statutory 45 days – Red.

- 3.2. At the beginning of 2013/14 Merton implemented the use of Single Assessments in place of Initial and Core assessments, all assessment forms and business processes changed accordingly and practice was embedded and reviewed. During the year 76% (853 of 1119) of all Single Assessments have been completed on time. Although below the target of 90% there has been an improvement in performance following a review and management action taken in October 2013. The majority of Single Assessments are now completed by the First Response team in the MASH rather than by social workers across CSF. Since November month on month performance has improved with 90% plus of Single Assessments undertaken being completed within timeframe. Benchmarking data will not be available until the next DfE Children in Need (CIN 2013/14) census - this will be published in the Autumn, following a year end statutory return in July 2014.

3.3. Line 4 Percentage of reviews completed within timescales for Children with Child Protection Plans – Red.

- 3.4. 96% of child protection cases were reviewed within the required timescale, although below an ambitious target of 100%, this outturn performance is considered to be within thresholds of appropriate levels of performance and equal to the national benchmark of 96% (CIN 2012/13)

3.5. Line 5 Percentage of Children with Child Protection Plans visits due completed on time – Red.

- 3.6. 84% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan were visited within 28 days of their last visit, this relates to 149 of 178 children during the year. Benchmarking data on child protection plan visits is not published. A numbers of those children not seen within timescale are attributed to parents and family non-compliance preventing the required levels of access to children. These cases have received management scrutiny to ensure case plans are reviewed and appropriate safeguarding measures undertaken.

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

- 3.8. 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 25 of 200 children. A second plan is agreed for those children where the categorised of concern increase or in some cases change. It should be noted that this indicator is significantly impacted by large sibling groups being subject to a second or subsequent plan, 15 of the 25 children are accounted for in four sibling groups, 9 of these children are from two

large families. This outturn is broadly in line with our expectations of our target range and in line with the national average of 14.9% (CIN 2012/13).

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

3.10. 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.

3.11. At the end of March 2014, of the total number of children in care only 33 children meet these criteria, of these, 14 children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years with 7 of these children belonging to one of three sibling groups. This is a small cohort of children and can be skewed as in the case here by sibling groups. Therefore 58% of relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more this equates to 19 of 33 children. There were various reasons for the placement disruptions, including planned placement moves. . National comparator data for 2012/13 has not yet been published by the DfE.

3.12. **Line 13 Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales – Red**

3.13. 97% of children in care cases were reviewed within the required timescale, although below an ambitious target of 100%, this outturn performance is considered to be within thresholds of appropriate levels of performance and performing above the national benchmark of 90% (2011/12) and better than Merton's performance for 2012/13 of 96%.

3.14. **Line 23 Secondary fixed term exclusions (percentage of pupils on roll) – Red**

3.15. Merton has seen a reduction in Secondary School exclusions for the second year running, reducing from 12.8% in 2010/11 to 9% in 2012/13. Our 8% target was set 3 years ago as an aspirational target to reduce fixed term exclusion levels to national average levels, in 2011/12 National secondary exclusions were 7.85% and London was 7.49%. 2012/13 comparator data is not yet published.

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

3.17. 92 % of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Statements (without exceptions) were issued within 26 weeks this equates to 129 of 140. It should be noted that although below our local target we are performing inline with the national average 93% and above the London average of 90% (2012/13 figures).

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

3.19. 87% of all Special Educational Needs (SEN) Statements were issued within 26 weeks this equates to 131 of 151. A number of statements were delayed during the summer break period where statutory appendices required were received late. It should be noted that although below our local target we are performing above the national average for this indicator which is 86% and the London average which is 79% (2012/13 figures)

4. PERFORMANCE INDEX 2014/15

4.1. The 2014/15 performance indicator set is presented in appendix two. CSF monitor a mixture of output and outcome measures, indicators derive from statutory requirements and local monitoring needs. Members may wish to consider

amendments to the indicator set. Four changes are recommended by officers to reflect changes in relation to the implementation of the Children and Families Act.

- 4.2. Line 32 and 33 'All SEN statements issued in 26 weeks (with and without exception) and Line 35 number of SEN statements issued. Members should note that as of 1 September 2014 'Special Educational Need (SEN) Statements' will no longer be issued, instead the system of statutory support and assessment for children and young people age 0-25 will be replaced by Education Health & Care Plans (EHC) these will be delivered on a difference time scale with a new suite of performance monitoring. As such the dataset will be revised midyear accordingly.
- 4.3. Line 34 Provision of Short Breaks, it is recommended that this indicator be removed from 2014/15 dataset as it is no longer a key performance indicator measured by the department. Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act and the 'local offer' parents will be able to choose support from a range of services and functions therefore the shorts breaks offer will not be utilised in the same way as currently reported. CSF DMT will continue to internally monitor and review performance data in relation to children with disabilities in line with national legislative changes as when new suitable indicators are identified. From September 2014 a new replacement indicator will be identified and could be reported to the scrutiny panel as a suitable alternative.
- 4.4. As per last year performance indicators have been profiled individually based on a review of the 2013/14 actual performance and known 'seasonal' effects. Where appropriate performance indicators have been allocated a deviation allowance, this approach is as per best practice to demonstrate acceptable levels of performance.
- 4.5. Each deviation where adopted has been carefully considered taking in to account previous performance and where relevant national or London wide performance comparisons. It is felt that the deviations and profiles adopted for 2014/15 will provide a challenging yet realistic approach to performance management.
- 4.6. Where possible London and National benchmarks have been included alongside Merton's performance from last year. Although performance benchmarking is useful the department will continue to triangulate performance data, quality assurance audit activity to more holistically monitor how the needs of diverse and vulnerable groups are met and target improvements where necessary.

4.7. **PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2014/15**

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

- 4.9. 16% of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject to a plan for the second or subsequent time, this indicator relates to 8 of 49 children. This outturn is broadly in line with our expectations of our performance at this point in the year. (national average of 14.9%, CIN 2012/13).

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

- 4.11. At the end of May 2014, of the total number of children in care only 36 children meet these criteria, of these, 17 children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years with 7 of these children belonging to one of three sibling groups. This is a small cohort of children and can be skewed as in the case here by sibling groups. Therefore 53% of relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more this equates to 19 of 36 children.

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

4.13. 83% of all Special Educational Needs (SEN) Statements were issued within 26 weeks this equates to 25 of 30 this is above the London average of 79% (2012/13) and likely to improve during the year.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1. The Panel's scrutiny work programme is determined by the members of the Panel.

5.2. The Panel may wish to review the dataset for 2014/15 and make revisions.

6. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

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

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

- Appendix 1: Performance index Year-end 2013/14 (March 2014)
- Appendix 2: Performance index 2014/15 (as at May 2014)

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1. None.

This page is intentionally left blank