

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

**Date: 15 October 2014**

Agenda item: 9

Wards: All wards

**Subject: Performance monitoring**

Lead officer: Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director of 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.

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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 August 2014 for the reporting year 2014/15

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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 August 2014, at the point of publishing this report the September 2014 data had not yet been validated (report due to be published 6 October 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, MSCB annual report etc.

2.2. Appendix one presents the performance dataset for 2014/15 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) – Amber.**

2.4. As at the end of August 89% of all Single Assessments had been completed on time - this equates to 646 of 726 assessments. Although below our ambitious target of 92%, management action taken during 2013/14 has resulted in sustaining timely assessment completion rates for the majority of families. Management oversight continues to focus on individual teams to improve our overall performance further.

2.5. National comparator data for the timely completion of Single Assessments will not be available until the DfE publish the statistical release relating to the Children in Need (CIN 2013/14) statutory census at the end of 2014.

- 2.6. **Line 6 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time (NI 65) – Amber.**
- 2.7. 12% of children subject of a child protection plan were the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time - this indicator relates to 11 of 88 CYP with previous plans (new child protection plans started). A second plan is established where concerns which led to the original plan re-occur or where new concerns arise. It should be noted that this indicator is significantly impacted by sibling groups being subject to a second or subsequent plan - 7 of the 11 children are accounted for in three sibling groups. This indicator is in line with the national average of 14.9% (CIN 2012/13).
- 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 under the age of 16 who have been in care for 2 and a half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more.
- 2.10. Of the total number of children in care only 37 children meet these criteria, 59% of these relevant children had been in a single stable placement lasting two years or more years - this equates to 22 of 37 children.
- 2.11. Fifteen children have not been in their placements for longer than 2 years. This small cohort of children and can be skewed by sibling groups. There were various reasons for the placement disruptions including planned placement changes to better meet the needs of the children. This indicator is in line with the national benchmark of 67% (LAC 903 2012/13).
- 2.12. **Line 14 Percentage of children in care participating in their reviews – Amber.**
- 2.13. 79% of children in care participated in their reviews in the year to date through a variety of methods; this indicator excludes children under the age of 4 and therefore refers to 106 of 135 children. Where children and young people feel they need support to represent their views we provide that support through an independent advocacy service. Jigsaw4U, our commissioned advocacy and independent visitor service for looked after children and those subject to a child protection plan or Family Group Conference reported that in quarter 1 the service undertook 19 individual case reviews with child/young person/parent/family; 14 cases were successfully closed in the period; and 67% of total new referrals to the service engaged with the service.
- 2.14. Our looked after children continue to be represented by the Children in Care Council (CICC) which is regularly consulted on how to improve the support they receive. CICC continues to meet monthly. Agenda items this year have included – developing the new website for children in care and care leavers; buddy scheme; housing; gym membership; Jigsaw 4U advocacy service and discussions on ‘What makes a good [social work] visit’. In addition two representatives from the Children in Care Council made a presentation to the Merton Safeguarding Children Board in May. This is part of an initiative to strengthen links to enable looked after children’s voices to inform the work and priorities of senior managers and executive leads.
- 2.15. **Line 33 Percentage of Statements issues within 26 weeks with and without exceptions - Red**
- 2.16. 87% of all SEN statements were issued in 26 weeks (with and without exceptions - this relates to 55 of 63 children). Statutory assessment completion with exceptions continues to be challenging due to our reliance on health professionals for reports as part of the statutory process. Our performance remains above the national average for this indicator which is 86% and the London average which is 79%

(2012/13 figures). As of 1 September 2014 the service has gone live with assessments for EHC plans (Education, Health and Care plans) as per the requirements of the Children and Families Act. The completion of outstanding SEN statements will run in parallel with new EHC plans for the next few months. The service will also begin a process of transferring existing SEN statements to EHC plans over the next three years as per the requirements of the new legislation.

**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: CYPP performance dataset 2014/15 (August 2014)

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1. None.