

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 13 January 2016

Agenda item:

Wards: All wards

Subject: Performance monitoring 2015/16 (November 2015)

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, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance.

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

A. Notes the current level of performance as at November 2015 (appendix 1)

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. To provide the Children and Young People 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 in appendix one is as at the end of November 2015. (At the point of publishing this report the December 2015 data has not yet been validated).

2. **DETAILS**

2.1. At a Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting in 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, Corporate Parenting Report, MSCB annual report etc. This performance index is periodically reviewed and revised by Members. A new dataset was agreed at the January 2015 Scrutiny meeting and has been implemented from April 2015.

2.2. **November 2015 Performance commentary**

2.3. Appendix one presents the performance dataset for 2015/16. Comments are provided below on exception only for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber.

2.4. **Line 3 Percentage of Education, Health and Care plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale (Year to Date) – Red (Quarterly indicator).**

2.5. 72% of all new Education Health and Care (EHC) plans have been completed within 20 weeks as at the end of Quarter two - this related to 43 of 60 plans against a target of 85%. This seasonal dip in performance during quarter two reflects challenges in obtaining professional input during the summer break. In continuing to embed this new statutory requirement we have delivered process maps to inform workflow and continued to develop working practices with other statutory agencies to ensure a timely response is provided for advice and/or professional input to an

EHC plan. We have also temporarily increased project support to manage the volume pressures associated with undertaking SEN Statement/ EHC plans transfers and responding to new EHC plan applications. The target set for this new measure was aspirational with no national benchmarking available at the time. We will be able to see national trends by mid 2016 and will review the target at that point.

2.6. **Line 8 Percentage of quorate attendance at child protection conferences (Quarterly) – Red. (Quarterly indicator).**

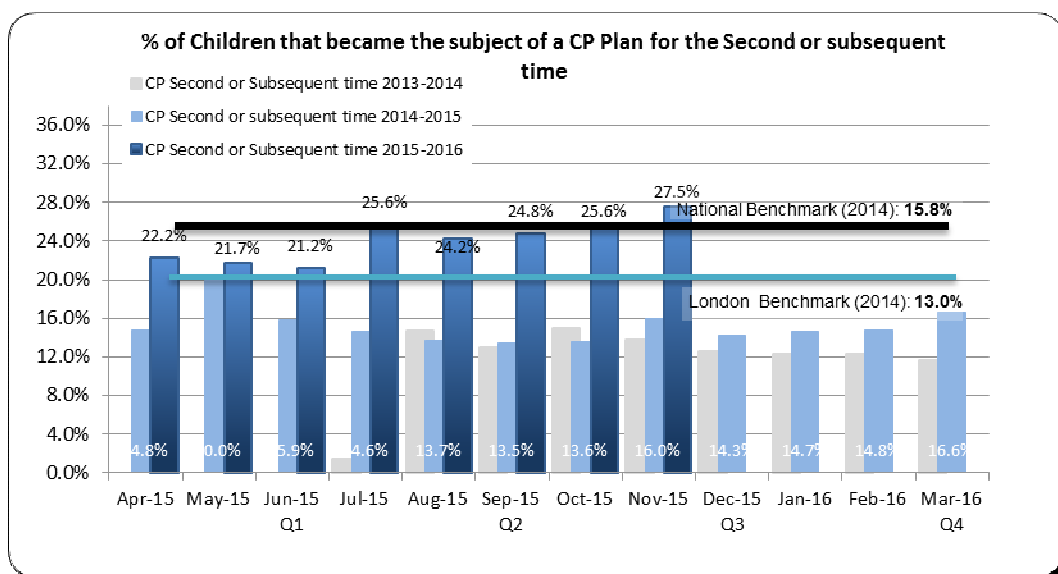
2.7. Eighty three per cent of all child protection conferences were quorate. This is below our normal average performance of c90%. No national benchmarking data is published for this indicator. The multi-agency attendance data has been reviewed by officers and there do not appear to be any patterns of non-attendance that can be attributed to any particular agencies. The Chair of MSCB has been informed of the dip in multi-agency performance. Within the department, officers have been advised to ensure that invitations continue to be sent out in a timely way. Child protection conference chairs have been advised to monitor the situation until the end of December following which the MSCB Chair will then raise the matter with agency executives if an improvement is not seen.

2.8. **Line 11 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time – Red.**

2.9. Twenty eight per cent of children subject to a child protection plan were the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time. This indicator relates to 38 children with previous plans (new child protection plans started YTD 138).

2.10. The indicator has increased significantly in 2015/16 and is higher than Merton's norm. This indicator is also above the national average of 15.8% and above the London average of 13% (CIN census 2013/14). New benchmarking data will be available by December.

2.11. An audit of all cases has been completed to examine possible causes. There are no specific common features. Some plans have been ended prematurely without sufficient evidence of change resulting in the need for a further plan at a later date. Some inconsistency was also found in the application of Child protection /Child in Need thresholds. Auditors have fed back to Child Protection Conference chairs and training workshops have been held. This training has focused on helping social workers develop Child Protection plans which are more outcome focused and which are more clearly identifying the specific changes which are required before a Child Protection plan can be ended. Managers are closely monitoring the impact of this training on this indicator.



- 2.12. **Line 16 Percentage of Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (Year to Date) – Amber.**
- 2.13. 97% of child 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. The DfE no longer publish national comparable data for this performance indicator. This is only the second time in the year when performance has dipped to 97%.
- 2.14. **Line 21 Number of in-house foster carers recruited (Year to Date) – Red. (Quarterly indicator)**
- 2.15. As at the end of September we had delivered 7 new foster carer approvals, with a further 11 in the assessment stage of the process. Although this is below our stretch target of 10 approvals by the end of quarter two and 20 in the full year, we have improved timescale for assessment of new foster carers, reducing the time taken from 6 to 5 months. We also expect new assessments to be initiated in the second part of the year.
- 2.16. We are continuing to deliver our recruitment strategy vigorously and are in the process of refreshing our annual Looked After Children sufficiency statement to ensure that we are targeting our recruitment of new foster carers on the needs of the children we have in our care.

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

Appendix 1: CYPP performance index 2015/16 (November 2015)

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1.1. CSF Performance Management Framework <http://intranet/departments/csf-index/csf-performance.htm>

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