

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

**Date:** 10 February 2016

Agenda item:

Wards: All wards

**Subject:** Performance monitoring 2015/16 (Quarter 3/ December 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.

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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 the end of Quarter 3/ December 2015 (appendix 1)
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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.
- 1.2. Data provided in appendix one is as at the end of December 2015. At the point of publishing this report the January 2016 data had 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.
- 2.2. This performance monitoring report acts as a 'health check' for the Panel and as such 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, Corporate Parenting Report, MSCB annual report etc.
- 2.3. 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. Officers also agreed to flag with Members any additional KPIs on which there may be additional management oversight at any given point in the year.
- 2.4. With the exception of those reported below, as at 29 January 2016, no additional KPIs are of particular concern to DMT.
- 2.5. **December 2015 Performance commentary**
- 2.6. Appendix one presents the performance dataset for 2015/16. Comments are provided below on exception only for those indicators reporting as Red or Amber.

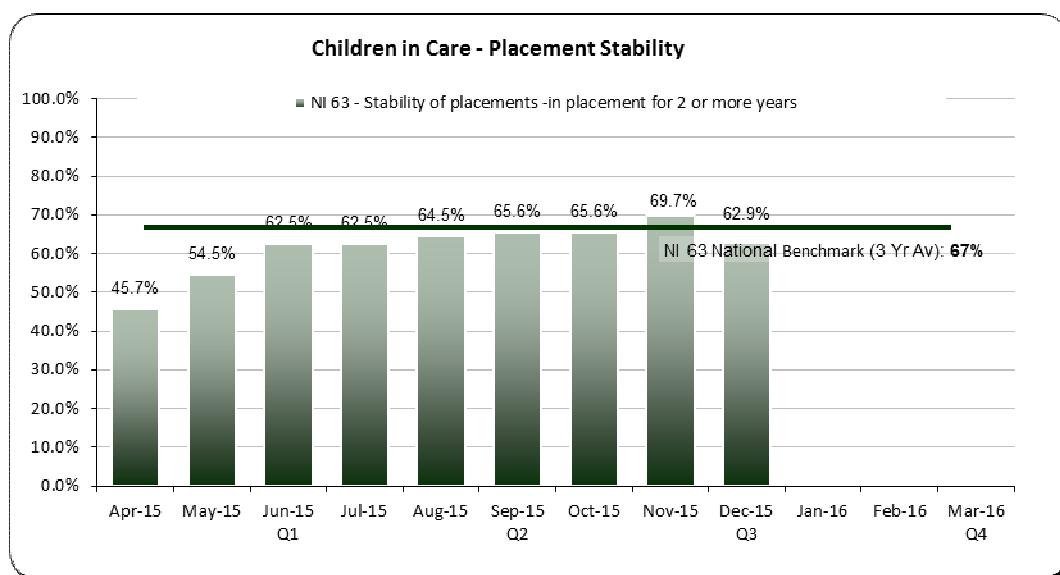
- 2.7. **Line 3 Percentage of Education, Health and Care plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale (Year to Date) – Red (Quarterly indicator).**
- 2.8. 60% of all new Education Health and Care (EHC) plans have been completed within 20 weeks as at the end of Quarter three - this related to 53 of 89 plans against a target of 85%.
- 2.9. We are continuing to embed this new statutory process but there are considerable challenges in meeting this target and converting Merton's 1033 statements to EHCPs at the same time. We are continuing to develop working practices with other statutory agencies to ensure a timely response to advise and guidance. We have also increased project support to manage the pressures of SEN/EHC transfers and new EHC applications. The SEN reform grant which has been confirmed for next year will be used to add additional capacity.
- 2.10. 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.
- 2.11. **Line 8 Percentage of quorate attendance at child protection conferences (Quarterly) – Red. (Quarterly indicator).**
- 2.12. Ninety per cent of all child protection conferences were quorate, this indicator is now back in line with our trend performance but remains below our aspirational targeted of 95%. No national benchmarking data is published for this indicator.
- 2.13. Since Quarter two (82%) when the MSCB Chair was notified of the dip multi agency conference attendance performance has improved. The multi-agency attendance data was reviewed to find that no particular patterns of non-attendance attributed to any agencies. LBM Officers continued to ensure that conference invitations were sent out in a timely way. We continue to monitor this KPI and attendance at these key meetings.
- 2.14. **Line 11 Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time – Red.**
- 2.15. Twenty six 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 39 children with previous plans (new child protection plans started YTD 152).
- 2.16. The indicator has increased significantly in 2015/16 and is higher than Merton's norm. This indicator is also above the national average of 16.6% and above the London average of 13.8% (CIN census 2014/15).
- 2.17. 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.
- 2.18. 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.
- 2.19. **Line 16 Percentage of Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (Year to Date) – Red.**
- 2.20. 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. Internal procedures exist to notify the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion

when LAC reviews are missed and he is able to seek reassurance that reviews are followed up quickly after. The DfE no longer publish national comparable data for this performance indicator.

2.21. **Line 19 Stability of placements of Looked After Children - length of placement – Red.**

2.22. 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 half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more. As at the end of December 63% of this cohort had been in placements for 2 years or more.

2.23. Since stabilised this KPI during 2015/16 this is our first dip in performance below the national average. This remains a key area of oversight for managers. Each child and young people is tracked and monitored by Heads of Service. Placement stability remains a challenge particularly with the teenage LAC cohort.



2.24. **Line 21 Number of in-house foster carers recruited (Year to Date) – Red. (Quarterly indicator)**

2.25. We had delivered 10 new foster carer approvals YTD, with a further 10 in the assessment process at the end of Q3 to help meet our stretch target of 20 new foster carer approvals. However some of pending ten foster carers may not come to approval by the end of the financial year due to delays in DBS checks being returned etc. We have improved the controllable timescale for assessment of foster carers to make the process more attractive to potential candidates, now delivered within 5 months.

2.26. We have also undertaken 3 assessments of supported lodgings to increase the pool of carers available to offer placements for young people aged 16/17.

2.27. We are continuing to deliver our recruitment strategy vigorously and have recently refreshed our annual sufficiency assessment to support us to target need.

**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 (December 2015)

**4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

