

**Report for:
INFORMATION**



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Management Information Summary – Children Looked After
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Portfolio(s)	Schools and children' services
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Committee
Date to be considered	Thursday 18th October 2018
Implementation Date if Not Called In	Not Applicable
Affected Wards	All
Area Committees	All
Keywords/Index	Performance Assessment Framework, performance indicators.
Purpose of Report:	To provide a brief analysis on the April 2018 to August 2018 performance and for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers.

1 Review of Performance Indicators for Children Services

Children & Families Performance Assessment Framework 2018/19

1.1 The use of Performance Indicators (PIs) in assessing performance enables the council to evaluate its current performance, monitor improvements and inform service development. Performance is reviewed monthly by operational service management and by the departmental senior management team.

1.2 The external inspection and assessment of services led by Ofsted uses the indicators as part of the evidence to inform their assessments of the council's performance. These indicators, however, must be considered as part of a broader set of performance evidence including inspection and review, regular liaison and monitoring of services and the commissioning and delivery of services with partners, particularly with the schools service and health.

1.3 The service has identified all key measures through developing the business planning processes, service and team plans and it is through monitoring these alongside the indicator set that we will make ensure that we achieve what we have set out to do.

1.4 To set the performance data for CLA and leaving care in the context of the whole remit for safeguarding, the report contains information on assessment and child protection activity as follows:

Performance April 2018 – August 2018

1.4.1 Looked after children

As at 31st August 2018, there were 342 children and young people looked after by Ealing compared with 338 at the same time last year. This represents one of the lowest number of children looked after in 10 years. The equivalent rate of CLA per 10,000 local under 18 population is 41.8, which is below the national (62) and London picture (50).

Between April 2018 and August 2018, 78 children and young people have become looked after; this is down by 10% (9 children) in the same period last year. In the same period this year, 67 children and young people have become looked after, down by 29% (28 children) from the previous year.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been rising in recent years. It has risen by 155% in the last 5 years from 20 2013/14 to 51 at end of March 2018. This year saw a peak at 57 in July 2018.

1.4.2 Child Protection

At the end of August 2018, there were 229 children and young people subject of a child protection (CP) plan. This is one of the lowest numbers in last 5 years, the lowest being in June 2017 with 200 children on CP plan

The equivalent rate per 10,000 under 18 local population is 28.0, which is below all our comparators.

This year so far, a total of 92 children and young people were made subject of a CP plan, whilst 115 have been deregistered from the CP register.

1.4.3 Re registrations of children & young people to child protection plans

At the end of August 2018, CP re-registrations were reported at 21% which equates to 19 out of the 92 children and young people registered in the year who were previously on a CP plan.

Of the 19 children, two were last registered 5 months previously, three children from two families last registered within the past 12 months and the remaining 12 children previously registered between 1 and 9 years ago, indicating a period of stability for majority of the families.

1.4.4 Timing of Children and Family Assessments (CFAs) assessments

Data shows factors captured from completed child and family assessments (CFA) in the last two years show clear indication of increasing parental factor (parent/carer) which could have led to increasing children becoming subject to child protection plan. These includes alcohol misuse +66%, drugs misuse +38% and parents being subject of domestic violence +21%. Domestic Violence being the prominent factor of all completed assessments.

Senior managers are implementing a series of actions to further improve CFA performance via regular monitoring, reducing internal timescales target and a clear commitment to reduce the time children and families should wait for completion of assessments.

Performance at end of August 2018 is reported at 84.1% and is above the 4-year average of 83.5%

1.5 There are several key measures for children looked after (CLA) and child protection, they are as follows:

Performance April 2018 – August 2018

1.5.1 Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption (NI 61)

Between April and August 2018, one child has been adopted and was within 12 months of being placed for adoption; this has improved significantly on this time last year's position when there were no children adopted within 12 months of being placed for adoption.

This measures the effectiveness of an important part of the adoption process and timescales. When placing children for adoption, the timeliness in which they are adopted will be affected by how easy or difficult it is to find an adoptive placement. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

1.5.2 Stability of placements of children looked after (NI 62)

A stable placement for our looked after children is important to their health and well-being and we have been doing well in minimizing children with frequent placement moves.

10 children or 2.92% of all looked after children at end of August have had 3 or more placement moves during the year, which means nearly 97% of the children in care are living in stable environments.

Placement moves are regularly monitored by senior managers however, some placements moves are essential to keep children and families safe and from harm.

Good performance is indicated by a low percentage which means fewer placement moves for our children.

1.5.3 Child protection plans ceased lasting 2 years or more

This measure provides an indication on the effectiveness of social care work towards specified outcomes which should lead to the child being removed from the CP register within two years. Good performance is typified by a lower percentage.

Latest figures show 2 (2%) of the 115 children de-registered to date have been on plan for 2 years or more.

In 2017/18, 6.2% (19) of children de-registered have been on a CP plan lasting for 2 years or more, this is a 0.4% rise from previous year. Performance is in line with London and our neighbours' average.

1.5.4 Timeliness of looked after children reviews

Provisional performance at end of March 2017 shows 98.96% of children looked after having had their reviews completed within timescales during the year. This is an improvement from 97.97% reported in 2015/16. Service managers are regularly monitoring data to ensure CLA reviews are being completed on time.

Provisional performance in August 2018 shows 94% of reviews have been completed within timescales. To put in context, 19 children out of a 336 currently may have had out of time reviews; managers are verifying review dates for accuracy.

1.5.5 Reviews of child protection cases

Ealing children services strive to ensure all child protection reviews are carried out on time, and we have demonstrated that by maintaining a high performance over the last few years, achieving between 99% and 100%, where our comparator's range between 92% to 96%.

Latest data shows 99% of CP reviews have been carried out on time this year. There were two children of the 162 who had their reviews completed out of time.

All cases are required to be reviewed within 3 months from the start of the plan and then 6 months thereafter. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

1.5.6 Employment, education and training (EET) for care leavers

Ealing continue to exceed expectations by supporting many of our care leavers into education, employment and training.

2017/18 provisional performance shows Ealing have supported nearly 70% of all our care leavers to gain work and/or supported them into full or part time training and education; significantly above our comparators of around 50%.

Similar performance (provisional) for Quarter 1 in 2018/19, where 71% of care leavers are in education or employment or training.

Research shows that care leavers experience high levels of unemployment and are at risk of homelessness and social exclusion. The monitoring of whether care leavers are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is used to show the performance of local authorities in improving outcomes for young people leaving care, so that they are enabled to achieve, to make a positive contribution and to be offered the opportunity to secure their future economic well-being. A higher percentage would represent good outcomes for young people.

2. Other Implications

2.1 Risk Management

The service has in place a risk register linked to the current business plan and priorities. The register is reviewed regularly by the senior management team and where appropriate remedial and action in mitigation are considered and agreed.

2.2 Links to Strategic Objectives

Children Services is key to delivering the strategic objectives of supporting young people to be safe, healthy and prosper. The vision will be achieved by working on shared priorities with key partners and stakeholders via the Children and Young People Board.

2.3 Equalities and Community Cohesion

An Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken for each area of development within the services

2.4 Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:
None.

2.5 Property and Assets
None.

2.6 Any other implications:
None.

2.7 Consultation

Consultation arrangements across internal partners, external partner agencies and strategic partnerships will be to be determined and managed through the Children and Young Peoples Board.

Background papers – None

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Internal Director	Director C&F	Oct 2018	Oct 2018	

Report History

Decision type: For information)	No	Urgency item?
Authorised by member:	Cabinet member:	Date report sent:
Date drafted:	report drafted:	Report deadline:
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:	
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