

Report for:
INFORMATION



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Management Information Summary – Children Looked After
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Portfolio(s)	Children Services
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Committee
Date to be considered	22 nd March 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 2017 to February 2018 performance and for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers.

1 Review of Performance Indicators for Children Services

Children & Families Performance Assessment Framework 2017/18

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 2017 – February 2018

1.4.1 Looked after children

As at 28th February 2018, there were 340 children and young people looked after by Ealing compared with 355 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 41.6, which is below the national and London picture.

Between April 2017 and February 2018, 164 children and young people have become looked after; this is down by 6.3% in the same period last year. During 2016/17, 177 children and young people have become looked after, down by 66 from the previous year.

In the same period, 168 children and young people ceased to be looked after; this is down by 12% on last year. During 2016/17, 207 children have ceased to be looked after, down by 18 from the previous year.

1.4.2 Child Protection

At the end of February 2018, there were 256 children and young people subject of a child protection (CP) plan. The highest level in the year was back in October 2017 at 269; the increase can be attributed to large number of registrations with 47 new plans in the month of August alone, the highest monthly registrations for at least 2 years.

Despite this, CP numbers remain one of the lowest in 5 years. The equivalent rate per 10,000 under 18 local population is 30.9, which is below all our comparators.

In 2016/17, a total of 301 children and young people were made subject of a CP plan, whilst 364 have been deregistered from the CP register. Currently, 291 new CP registrations made in the year, with 259 de-registrations.

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

At the end of February 2018, CP re-registrations were reported at 18% which equates to 51 out of the 291 children and young people registered in the year who were previously on a CP plan.

Only 2 children of the 51 new CP registrations were previously subject to CP plan less than 12 months ago, the remaining children and young people's previous plans were between 2 to 11 years ago. This indicates the majority of children have had a period of stability before re-registrations.

Ealing's performance in 2016/17 is 15.3%, an improvement from 15.7% reported from previous year. Performance is below the national average of 18.7%, where good performance is typified by a lower percentage.

1.4.4 Timing of Children and Family Assessments (CFAs) assessments

Ealing Children Services have been making strong progress to ensure all Children and Family assessments (CFA) are completed on time.

Performance at end of February 2018 is reported at 91%; rising from 83% in April 2017 and above the monthly average of 89%.

The proportion of CFAs completed on time in 2016/17 is 86.3% which is above the national and London average. Performance is second highest in the last 4 years, and 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 2017 – February 2018

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

Between April and February 2018, 80% of children have been adopted within 12 months of being placed for adoption; this has improved significantly on last year's position when there were no children adopted within 12 months of being placed for adoption.

For the 2016/17 year, seven children have been adopted; of which five of the children (71.4%) adopted were within the 12 months of being placed for adoption. This is better than the 2015/16 performance of 63.6%

This measures the effectiveness of an important part of the adoption process and timescales. In particular, 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)

Performance at end of February 2018 shows 9.4% of looked after children have had 3 or more placements in the year so far. This represents 32 out of the 340 children on the register. This is below the figure reported last year at 10.1%

Performance for 2016/17 shows 12.97% or 45 children have had 3 or more placements during the year, this is better than the previous year's figure of 13.74% (51/371 children). A lower percentage represents good performance.

This measure looks at the stability of care that a child has experienced. A stable and well supported placement will lead to better outcomes for the child. However, there are circumstances that will warrant multiple separate placements during the year if they and others are to be kept safe.

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 at end of February 2018 show 18 (7%) of the children de-registered to date have been on plan for 2 years or more.

In 2016/17, 5.1% (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 have 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 February 2018 shows 94% of reviews have been completed within timescales. Managers are reviewing the provisional data for accuracy.

1.5.5 Reviews of child protection cases

Child Protection reviews are used to measure the effectiveness of the interventions provided to children who are made subject of a child protection plan. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

98.87% the children and young people subject of a plan as at 31st March 2017, who have been on plan for 3 months or more have had their reviews completed within timescales during the year. Latest performance in February 2018 is 99.4% which is above comparator's average at 94.5%.

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

Ealing have exceeded expectations and supported many of our care leavers into education, employment and training. The year to date performance (Apr-Dec 2017) shows 61.0% of 19-21-year-old and 63.0% of the 17-18 year are in EET¹, exceeding the national average of 49%.

Many Ealing care leavers attend university; 17% or 46 care leavers are at Universities at the start of the academic year in 2017 which is significantly higher than the national average of 6%².

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

¹ From 2015/16, the DfE have expanded the age profile from 19-21 to include 17 and 18 year olds therefore performance cannot be compared with previous year's data and should be treated with caution due to data being experimental

² National average stated in Ealing's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2014-17

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	Mar 2018	Mar 2018	

Report History

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