



Report for: INFORMATION
Item Number: 14

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Management Information Summary - Looked After Children
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Portfolio(s)	Children's Services
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Panel
Date to be considered	4 th December 2014
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 2014 – September 2014 performance indicators (2014/15 year) for looked after children and care leavers.	

1 Review of Performance Indicators for Children's Services

Children & Families Performance Assessment Framework 2014/15

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 lead by Ofsted uses the indicators as part of the evidence to inform their assessments of the councils' performance, as summarised in the annual performance ratings. 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 new 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 LAC 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 – September 2014

1.4.1 LAC and CP numbers

As at 30th September 2014, 370 children and young people were looked after by Ealing, decreasing from 385 at 1st April 2014. In year, 87 children and young people have become looked after and 105 have ceased to be looked after.

As at 30th September 2014, 302 children and young people were subject to a child protection plan, decreasing from 326 at 1st April 2014. In year, 172 new plans have been put in place and 185 plans have ceased.

1.4.2 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 the end of September 2014 shows 81.20% of assessments have been completed within timescales of 45 days, which has already surpassed the annual target of 68%. This is good performance following our year end performance of 66.60% reported at the end of March 2014.

1.4.3 Re registrations of C&YP to child protection plans

Ealing's latest performance at end of September 2014 was reported at 20.3%, which shows that from a total of 172 CP registrations occurred between April 2014 to September 2014, 35 of those were re-registrations. It must be noted that some re-registrations are essential in order to keep the child safe and from harm.

1.5 There are several key measures for looked after children (LAC) and safeguarding and they are as follows:

Performance April – September 2014

1.5.1 Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption

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.

In the six months prior to end of September 2014, 75% of children were adopted within the 12 months of being placed for adoption. During this period, 8 children were adopted. Of those, 6 children were placed within 12 months, while 2 children were only delayed by a month.

1.5.2 Stability of placements of children looked after

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. A low percentage represents good performance.

At the end of September 2014, 5.9% of looked after children have had three or more placements during the year. This equates to 22 children out of the 370 total looked after children population. Given the nature of this statistic, the figure is expected to increase gradually as the year progresses

1.5.3 Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more.

This measure tries to establish whether child protection (CP) plans are effective, working towards specified outcomes which should lead to the child being removed from the register within two years. Good performance is typified by a lower percentage.

At the end of September 2014, 4.7% of children have had a CP plan lasting for over 2 years. The figure compares favourably to the current performance of our statistical neighbours (5.5%) and is close to the current national average of 4.5%.

1.5.4 Timeliness of looked after reviews

Strong performance continues with data showing 99.7% of looked after children cases were reviewed on time at the end of September 2014. This translates to 353 reviews out of a possible 354 being completed on time. The latest performance is the highest reported since the start of the financial year and already exceeds the annual target of 99%.

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 to a child protection plan. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

Latest performance at the end of September 2014 shows 100% of all children/young people receiving their reviews on time.

1.5.6 Employment, education and training for care leavers

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 high score would represent good outcomes for young people.

As at the end of March 14, Ealing had 150 young people who turned 19, 20 and 21 years of age. Of these, 96 were in EET to give Ealing a performance of 64%. Of the 150 young people, it must be noted that 17 young people (accounting for 11.3% of the total with 11 young people belonging to the 21 year old age group) were not in EET because they were parents.

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 Community Safety

Children's Services addresses the issue of community safety through the outcome of "Making a positive contribution"; this sets out priorities for action in respect of the key areas of youth offending and anti social behaviour.

2.3 Links to Strategic Objectives

The vision will be achieved on a multi-agency basis, and key targets for delivery are set out in Ealing's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) refresh 2011/14. This plan reflects the Council and its partner's agenda for children and young people. Implementation is based around delivering improvements against the 5 national objectives to ensure that every child and young person in Ealing has the opportunity to:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-being

- 2.5 Equalities and Community Cohesion
An Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken for each area of development within the services
- 2.6 Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:
None.
- 2.7 Property and Assets
None.
- 2.8 Any other implications:
None.
- 2.9 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.

1. **Background papers – none**
Report end

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Internal				
Director	Director C&F	25 11 2014	25 11 2014	approved

Report History

Decision type: For information)	No	Urgency item?
Authorised by member:	Cabinet	Date report drafted:
		25 11 2014
	report	Report deadline:
		26 11 2014
		Date report sent:
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Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:	
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