



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	30 th June 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 2013 – March 2014 performance indicators (2013/14 year) for looked after children and care leavers.	

1 Review of Performance Indicators for Children's Services

Children & Families Performance Assessment Framework 2013/14

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 Alongside the National Indicators, we continue to report against the existing performance framework indicators. The service has identified all key measures through developing the 2013/14 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.

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

- NI 61 Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption
- NI 62 Stability of placements of children looked after
- NI 64 Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more.
- NI 66 Timeliness of looked after reviews
- NI 67 Reviews of child protection cases
- NI 148 Employment, education and training for care leavers

1.6. Performance in respect of the key indicators:

- NI 61 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. As at the end of March 2014 there have been 23 adoptions of which 17 children were placed within 12 months of best interest decision to give Ealing a performance of 73.9% for the year to date.
- NI 62: the stability of placements for looked after children- Stability as a whole leads to better outcomes for children. However, some children will require three or more separate placements during a year if they and others are to be kept safe. A low percentage represents good performance. The target for all local authorities is to achieve less than 16% of children who are looked after who've had three or more placement moves.

Age plays an influential factor in determining whether a child will experience multiple moves. Research has found that babies will experience three or more placement moves before they reach their first birthday. The most at risk group are 11 to 15 year olds, with over 70% of placements breaking down. The risk of placement breakdown increases the older the child is at the start of their first placement. However, it is important to note that children who've had a number of placement moves does not always equate to negative outcomes. Some placement changes are positive, for example, a child is adopted or is moved to be closer to their birth family. Ealing's draft performance at the end of March 2014 equate to 46 children having had three or more placement moves to give a performance figure of 11.9%. It is significant to note that three children (in the cohort) had placement moves intended to be temporary, but which slightly exceeded the threshold of 21 days for being counted as a temporary placement. It is also worth noting that the denominator for this measure, the number of looked after children, has decreased significantly by 19 children from the end of December (when it stood at 406). These are two factors that have contributed to Ealing's performance of 11.9%.

- NI 64 tries to establish whether child protection plans are effective, working towards specified outcomes, which should lead to the child's name being removed from the register within two years. Good performance (less than 10%) is generally low. On the other hand, a high (poor) figure for NI 64 would mean that the local authority is not providing the necessary services to bring about changes in the family situation that would allow a child to be removed from a CP plan within two years and instead children are ceasing CP at a much later date. This has not been the case for Ealing, where performance has been very good. Ealing's draft performance as at the end of March 2014 was standing at 3.2% representing good performance.
- NI 66 uses reviews to measure the effectiveness of the monitoring of the care of looked after children. The Review plays an important role in delivering a successful care plan, and therefore, effective and timely reviews help ensure that the care plan is appropriate for the child's needs. A high percentage indicates good performance. As at the end of March 2014 the timeliness of looked after reviews was 98.9% (draft). A performance of 95% or higher indicates excellent performance.
- NI 67 uses reviews as a measure of the effectiveness of the interventions provided to children who are subject to a child protection plan. A high score represents good performance. As at the end of March 2014, excellent performance has continued with all children subject to a CP plan having had their reviews completed on time to give a performance of 100%.
- NI 148 looks at employment, education and training (EET) for care leavers. Research shows that care leavers experience high levels of

unemployment and are at risk of homelessness and social exclusion. NI 148 shows 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.

From the first of April 2013, the definition for this measure was changed by central government and now includes young people who have turned 19, 20 and 21, expanding the cohort significantly. The previous definition looked at 19 year olds only. This indicator is collected every quarter. At the end of March 2013, Ealing's achieved a performance of 73.5% of all 19 year old care leavers in EET i.e. 36 young people (out of 49) who turned 19 in the year were in EET. A performance of 73.5% in 2012-13 was the highest performance figure Ealing has achieved since records began in 2005-06. Ealing's performance for 2012-13 far exceeds the 2012 national average of 64%. Ealing's draft performance at the end of March 2014 that looks at the total number of 19, 20 and 21 year olds in EET was 64.0%. This equates to a total of 150 young people of which 96 were in EET.

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.

2. **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	16 06 2014	16 06 2014	approved

Report History

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Authorised by member:	Cabinet	
Date drafted:	09 06 2014	Report deadline: 20 06 2014
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Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:	
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