



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 23 January 2014	Item Number:	
--------------------	--	---------------------	--

Title:	Performance Assessment – April to November 2013/14 including analysis of Children in Need (CIN) data for 2012/13
---------------	---

Report Authorised by:	Elaine Redding – Interim Assistant Director Safeguarding and Support
------------------------------	---

Lead Officer:	Margaret Gallagher – Senior Performance Lead
----------------------	---

Ward(s) affected: All	Report Non Key Decision:
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

1. Introduction

This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to:

- Children and Families - Contacts, referrals, assessments and Child Protection current performance to November 2013; and
- Children in Need (CIN) published data and analysis relating to 2012/13>

Appendix 1 provides further detail in the form of tables and graphs for each of the agreed measures, grouped by topic, showing monthly data, performance against target, long term trends and benchmarking where applicable. It also contains performance and service comments for each area to provide context.

Appendix 2 provides presenting need analysis for contacts, referrals and new child protection plans as at the end of November 2013 mapped by ward.

Appendix 3 provides presenting need analysis for contacts which progressed to MASH by postcode of the child within Haringey.

2. Performance Highlights/ Key Indicators

Corporate Plan indicators relating to:

Priority 2: Enable every child and young person to thrive and achieve their potential; and

Priority 4: Safeguard children and adults from abuse and neglect wherever possible, and deal with it appropriately and effectively where it does occur

- There has been a continued downward trend in the number of **children subject to a child protection plan**. Children on a plan have reduced by 35% since the end of March 2013, nearly 100 fewer children. At the end of November there were 177 children subject to a plan, a **rate** of 31 per 10,000 population below the 2012/13 rate for our statistical neighbours (40). This is a significant change from being an authority with the 7th highest number of children subject of a CP plan in London at the end of March 2013. (page 7)
- A **children and families single assessment** went live from 1 July and initial and core assessments were replaced with simple and complex assessments. 586 of these assessments have been **completed** in the year so far, 79% **in 45 working days** against a target of 85%. More assessments are being completed within 45 days. (page 6 & 7)
- 81% of **children assessed were seen within 10 days** below the 95% target. (page 6)
- 9.7% of **child protection plans** that ceased this year **lasted 2 years or more** close to our statistical neighbour position of 9% but higher than the England position of 5.2% and our 7% target. (page 9)

Related safeguarding indicators

- 10% of children have become the **subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** lower than the 13% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2012/13 and in line with our 10% target.
- **Child contacts** are on a reducing trend with current numbers suggesting over 1,000 fewer contacts in 2013/14.
- 1180 **referrals** in the year with a 13% reduction forecast in addition to a 14% reduction on numbers in 2011/12.
- The rate of **re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral** at 15% is in line with our target (16%) and our statistical neighbours.
- 90% of **child protection cases have been reviewed within timescale** for the current cohort, below the 100% target and below levels achieved by our statistical neighbours.
- 94.8% of **child protection visits** completed in the month as at the end of November just short of the 95% target.
- There has been a 6% reduction in the number of **children in care** since the end of March 2013 and a further 6.5% reduction between 2012/13 and 2011/12 compared with a 1.5% increase nationally. 508 children were in care on the last day of November or 88 per 10,000 population, which remains higher than the level in similar boroughs although a significant reduction on this point last year (rate 93).
- 105 or 30% of **Children who became subject of a child protection plan during the year** ending 31 March 2013 had the **latest category of abuse** recorded as 'emotional abuse' an increase and the 6th highest number recorded in this category in London. This remains disproportionately high when compared with the national position.

For more detailed analysis and graphical illustrations, trends etc. see Appendix 1.

3. Contacts, Referrals and Assessments and Child Protection

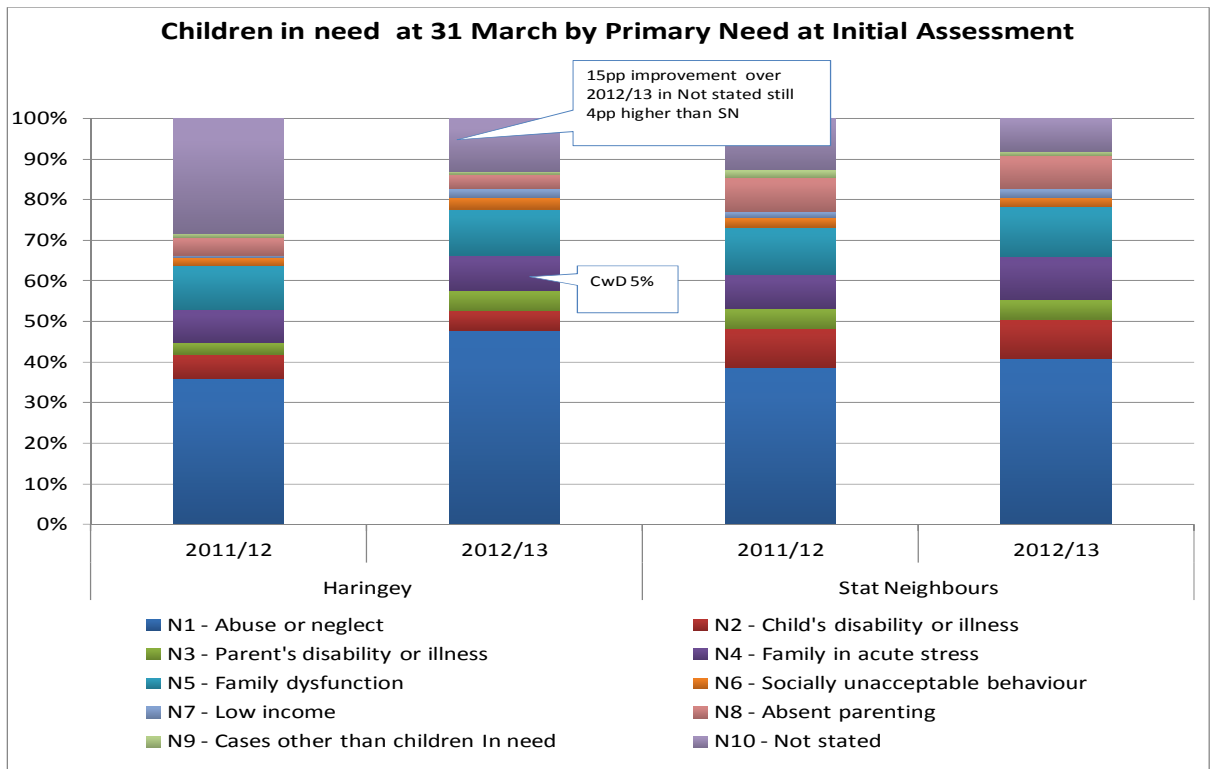
- 3.1. The number of **child contacts** increased to over 500 in both October and November, 3,659 in the year to November. This reflected a notable increase in complexity resulting in a higher conversion rate to referral. Contacts and referrals are at higher levels in recent months due to the increase in families presenting as homeless to Children's Services. Homeless families now represent 10% of all referrals to the First Response Service. This is expected to increase in the context of Welfare Reform embedding further.
- 3.2. Contacts continue to be consistently lower than the same months last year. The projected yearend figure is over 1,000 fewer contacts when compared with 2012/13, a 17% decrease. The MASH and Screening process continue to quality assure the information received and gather information proportionately in order to establish whether a referral for assessment is required.
- 3.3. Analysis of **contacts in the period April to November 2013 by presenting need** showed that the top five presenting needs were:
 - Domestic Violence;
 - Neglect;
 - Housing issues; and
 - Physical Abuse.

In comparison with the previous year domestic violence remains the most common presenting need but presenting needs of 'neglect' and 'housing issues' have moved above 'physical abuse' which was the second highest presenting need in 2012/13. The number of contacts with a recorded presenting need of child sexual exploitation have increased in recent months, there have been 42 contacts relating to this in the year to November 2013. A map of the top ten presenting needs for contacts and referrals received in the period April to November 2013 by ward is attached at Appendix 2.

- 3.4. An **analysis of contacts that progressed to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** in the year to November 2013 revealed that the main source of referral was the Police followed by voluntary organisations and then schools/education. For those where a presenting need was selected, the count for domestic violence as the outcome remained the highest, with physical abuse and neglect the next highest presenting need. A map showing the contacts which progressed to MASH by the postcode of the child within Haringey is attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.5. **Referrals** have decreased steadily over recent years. In 2012/13 as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was introduced, we received 2,156 referrals a 35% reduction on 2009/10 and 14% reduction from 2011/12. There have been 1,180 referrals in the year to November 2013 and based on numbers of referrals in the year so far a 13% reduction is

forecast for 2013/14. Whilst Haringey's referrals are reducing our statistical neighbour referrals are remaining constant with the average in 2012/13 increasing only slightly from 3,119 to 3,125.

- 3.6. Children in Need (CIN) published data for 2012/13 shows that 48% of CIN at the 31st March had 'Abuse or Neglect' **identified as the primary need at initial assessment** compared with 36% the previous year. Our statistical neighbours had 41% of children in need recorded as 'abuse or neglect'. Haringey had the 4th highest number of children in need recorded with primary need 'abuse or neglect' when compared to other London Boroughs. The illustration below shows the change in primary need categories between 2011/12 and 2012/13 at initial assessment.



- 3.7. In 2012/13 there was an 18% reduction of **initial assessments completed** in Haringey (1,893), significantly lower than the statistical neighbour average of 2,757. For 2012/13, unlike previous years, the duration of initial assessments was measured from actual start date rather than trigger date making comparisons with previous years unreliable but some comparison on duration of initial assessments can be made.

- 3.8. Haringey had 1,893 initial assessments completed, of these 994 (53%) started and finished on the same day. Our statistical neighbours had an average of 16% started and finished on the same day. 180 (10%) initial assessments had duration of 6-10 days. Our statistical neighbour had 41% of the initial assessments with duration of 6-10 days. Haringey had the 14th highest number of initial assessments with duration of 0-10 days when compared to the 26 other London local authorities with comparable data.

- 3.9. 212 (11%) of our **initial assessments** had **duration of more than 21 days** compared to 406 (18%) in 2011-12. Our statistical neighbours had 7% of the initial assessments with duration of more than 21 days.
- 3.10. The Child and Family Assessment has replaced the Initial Assessment with the target for the new National (SP11F) performance indicator being set at 95% for a **child being seen within ten days** of the assessment start date. In the period July to November 81% (465 out of 572) of children were seen within 10 days of their assessment, below the target. In the month of November 112 of the 137 children were recorded as seen within 10 days of assessment.
- 3.11. Performance monitoring has been strengthened. For example, performance and quality meetings occur on a fortnightly basis where managers discuss assessment deadlines and any pressures occurring for the teams, with monthly performance call-overs, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, and monthly Quality Board meetings, chaired by the responsible Assistant Director. The emphasis for this meeting is equally around focusing on practice expectations. An early notification system is now active that enables managers to view when a child is due to be seen. This provides a further prompt to the Social Worker to ensure the child is seen within the expected timescale.
- 3.12. For all children who have not been seen, the Head of Service reviews all cases. The main reasons are due to difficulties in gaining access to the home, the family being out of the country or the wrong address information being provided by the referrer.
- 3.13. New IT systems have been introduced to support Social Workers and have enabled teams to become more sophisticated with assessment tracking including weekly reports used by the service and subject to scrutiny at team level with target completion dates set within the assessment document to ensure manager and social worker accountability is clear within this context.
- 3.14. Since the introduction of the new children and families single assessment in July 2013 a target to complete 85% of **assessments within 45 working days** was set. In the year to November 586 assessments have been completed, 79% within the 45 day target. This requires immediate attention and improvement.
- 3.15. The **rate of children subject to a child protection plan** (CP) is the lowest it has been since pre 2007 although numbers on a cp plan have started to increase marginally over the last 2 months. The **rate** of 31 per 10,000 population at the end of November (177 children) represents a reduction of nearly 100 children on a plan since the end of March 2013. In 2012/13 Haringey's rate of children subject of a child protection plan was 46.6 and the 7th highest number in London compared with a rate of 40 for our

¹ Safeguarding Performance Information Framework

statistical neighbours. The current rate (31) represents a 35% decrease since the end of March 2013 and is now below the rate reported for similar boroughs, London and England. We must have the same rate as our statistical neighbours. Strong management, systems, practice, supervision and robust auditing is the correct method for monitoring and assessing this.

- 3.16. 147 children have **become subject to a plan** in the year to November and 241 children have **ceased to be subject to a plan**, a net decrease of 94. Projections suggest that the number of children ceasing to be subject to a CP plan will be similar to last year (around 360) but the number becoming subject will be lower, at around 220. In 2012/13 Haringey had the 3rd highest number of children becoming subject of a cp plan (351) in London, a similar number to Ealing and Croydon.
- 3.17. Further analysis on categories of abuse of children subject to a CP plan between April and September 2013 and with the multiple abuse categories removed, continues to show 'emotional abuse' as the largest category for 65% of children. This is disproportionately high when compared to the national position of 33% of children who became subject of a CP plan in 2012/13 with the latest category recorded as 'emotional abuse'.
- 3.18. 9.7% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** (23 out of 238 children) in the year to November higher than the 7% target in our Corporate Plan, higher than the England position of 5.2% but closer to our statistical neighbours (9%). A system to routinely scrutinise cases which have gone over 18 months is in place whereby the child protection advisor and Head of Service consider the need for an on-going plan on a case by case basis. At the 31st March 2013, 7.4% of children were subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more which equates to 27 out of 366 children, close to the London position of 7.5%.
- 3.19. 10% or 15 out of 145 children have become the **subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** this year which is lower than the 13% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2012/13 and in line with our 10% target. In 2012/13 Haringey had the second lowest percentage of children that became subject of a plan for a second and subsequent time at 4.6% (16 out of 351 children). The numbers almost halved when compared to the previous year in contrast to our statistical neighbours who saw a small (9.4%) increase.
- 3.20. In 2012/13 there were 214 children who had a CP review within the required timescales which represented 96.8% lower than the 99% achieved amongst our statistical neighbours. Haringey had the 6th worst performance in London on cp reviews. For the current cohort 90% of **child protection cases have been reviewed within timescale** this year (106 out of 118), below the 100% target. There were 3 groups of siblings involving 8 children in the 12 cases that were not in time so in effect 7 conferences were out of time. Four of the conferences were completed a few days late and the remaining conferences happened within 1 month of the 3 month review timescale. For all 12 cases/ children (7 conferences) where the review

timescales were not met, it appears that the reviews were booked out of timescale.

- 3.21. 94.8% of **child protection visits were completed in the month** at the end of November, just short of the 95% target. This relates to 164 visits made in the month out of 173. This includes five children who were not visited as their whereabouts were unknown. If these children were excluded performance would be over 97%. Systems are now in place for managers in Safeguarding & Support teams to check occurrence of visits, the timely writing up of visits and the quality of both social work and recording. It is intended that from January 2014 CP visits are measured as happening every 10 working days which is in line with CP plan and expected minimum visiting frequency.
- 3.22. 95% of **Children in Need visits** were completed in line with the required frequency as at the end of November (211 out of 222), which although a slight dip on the October level of 97%, achieved target and is considerably above levels achieved in 2012/13. These visits continue to be prioritised by the service.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking for Contact, Referrals & Assessments and Child Protection

Appendix 2: Analysis of top 10 Presenting Needs for contacts, referrals and new cp plans by ward

Appendix 3: Contacts which progressed to MASH by presenting need and postcode April to November 2013.