

NOTICE OF MEETING

# Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

THURSDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2012 at 19:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Adamou, Allison, Bull, Corrick, Scott, Stewart(Chair) AGENDA

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### 2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at items 8 &12 below.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

(i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and

(ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

#### 4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 18)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012

To consider the draft minutes of the Joint meeting held with Corporate Parenting Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 19 - 22)

To consider the committee work plan.

#### 6. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - YEAR TO OCTOBER 2012 INCORPORATING UPDATED COMPARATIVE DATA FOR 2011/12 (PAGES 23 - 42)

This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to Contacts, referrals and assessments and Child Protection.

# 7. VISITS TO CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS (PAGES 43 - 46)

The Committee to consider analysis and data in relation to the performance figure around visits to children subject to child protection plans.

#### 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any new items of business submitted at item 2 above.

#### 9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There will be a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for consideration of the following items as they contain exempt information as defined in section 100a of the local government Act 1972(as amended by section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985):paras 1&2:namely information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

#### 10. OUT OF TIME ASSESSMENTS (PAGES 47 - 58)

The Committee to consider the findings of a qualitative audit on out of time assessments completed by the Independent member.

#### 11. CASES THAT MEET SAFEGUARDING (SECTION 47) THRESHOLD BUT DO NOT PROGRESS TO CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

The Acting Head of First Response to provide a verbal update on this.

#### 12. EXEMPT ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any new items of exempt business submitted at item 2 above.

David McNulty Head of Local Democracy and Member Services 5<sup>th</sup> Floor River Park House 225 High Road Wood Green London N22 8HQ

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#### Aden lt\_n MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2012

- Adamou, Allison, Bull, Corrick, Davies and Stewart (Chair) Councillors
- Apologies None
- Councillor Waters, Lisa Blundell, Sylvia Chew, Marion Wheeler, Phil Also Present: Dileo, Jeannette Brand, Deirdre Cregan, Michelle Robson, Chrissy Austin.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	
TEX84.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	There were no apologies for absence received.	
TEX85.	URGENT BUSINESS	
	The Chair had agreed to admit a report on Safeguarding Performance Data, for the year up to July, as a late item of business. This report had been distributed to Members of the Committee and was attached at Agenda Item 7.	
TEX86.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Cllr Adamou declared a personal interest as both her daughters worked in Haringey, one as a Social Worker for children with disabilities, and the other as a teacher.	
TEX87.	MINUTES	
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2012 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	Clerk
TEX88.	MATTERS ARISING	
	The agenda plan, listing items for future meetings, was tabled for Committee Members to consider and comment on. Since the last meeting, in July, the Chair and Independent Member had been in discussion with Cabinet Member for Children's Services about taking forward an audit on late initial assessments. Although, there was information available about the number of assessments that were completed out of timescale, there was not an understanding on how far out of timescale the assessments had been completed and the factors contributing to this. The Chair was in agreement, with the Cabinet Member, that this was an area that required further exploration. The Committee agreed the findings of the audit report would be considered at the next meeting on November 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2012.	

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	The Committee further noted that the Independent Member had been speaking with Adults Services about her proposed audit of cases where substance misuse was an issue. The audit was also intended to explore the interface between Safeguarding and Adults service. It had now been agreed to defer this report to the Committee meeting in March as there was an existing service audit of files taking place. Instead, there would be a some questions added to the audit to cover these issues.		
	The joint meeting between Corporate Parenting and the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was due to take place on the 29 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm. The items listed for this meeting included the lessons learnt from serious case reviews. It was agreed to defer this to a later meeting to allow a discussion on the Haringey 54000 change programme. The Independent Member had recommended to the Chair that it would be worthwhile for the both Children's Committees to consider a report on the Haringey 54000 programme which was putting children and young people at the centre of what the service does. This will involve moving to a higher proportion of early intervention, preventative services and reducing the need for statutory services. This was a key programme which concerned both Children's Committee's areas of responsibilities and it was felt useful by the Independent Member that this should be dealt with in a joint forum.		
	RESOLVED		
	i. The Committee agreed that a report on Haringey 54000 go forward to the Joint meeting on the 29.10.2012.	MW	
	ii. Agreed that a report on safeguarding performance data and LAC data for the half year, with benchmarking figures included, be considered at the Joint meeting on the 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2012.	MW	
TEX89.	PRESENTATION ON THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH PARTNERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS REGARDING RAISING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		
	The Committee received a presentation from Deirdre Cregan, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and Michelle Robson, Senior Practitioner for Domestic Violence. The information shared with the Committee was also provided to Social Workers as currently domestic violence was a factor (not necessarily the overriding issue) in 70% to 80% of child protection cases. It was this reason that had mainly led to the movement of the Domestic Violence team, from the Policy section of the council, to Children's services. The Domestic Violence Practitioners now had a significant position in Children's Service and also their work on Domestic Violence was more child focussed. The Practitioners demonstrated that they were able to link theory to real life cases by working with Social Workers who also took the opportunity to call upon their expertise and		

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guidance in dealing with cases where domestic violence was a factor.

Previously in 2011 a best value review had found a lack of co-ordinated services for women escaping domestic violence. This led to the establishment of Hearthstone centre for the survivors of Domestic violence providing support with housing and access to services.

MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference) was established in 2008 to enable a co-ordinated multi agency response to cases where there was risk of significant harm to an individual. MARAC conferences have, since 2010, become more child focussed and include the participation of 25 agencies.

The Committee noted the following key points from the presentation on Domestic Violence.

- DV is a gender based violence mainly affecting women.
- DV has far reaching impact on families A positive arrest scheme where the police themselves can charge
  - A positive arrest scheme where the police themselves can charge the perpetrators without the victims consent is available but rarely used.
- There is rehabilitation programme where perpetrators are encouraged in a group setting to talk through values and understand the impact of their violence. Although, the attendance of partners at this scheme is small, in certain cases this has contributed to women feeling safer and more likely to accept support from agencies.
- There was more awareness in Safeguarding and Support about violence in teenage relationships and Social Workers are more aware of the circumstances where teenagers will be more vulnerable to domestic violence i.e. a teenage girl who has a much older male partner.
- The council were taking part in a three day consultation, through the Home Office, to review partnership working in cases of Domestic Violence.
- The Domestic Violence court would be moving to a location in Tottenham to enable cases to be progressed more efficiently.
- In October the Young Persons advocate, working in the First Response team, would be working on Domestic Violence cases involving teenagers.

The Committee learnt that there was still work to be done to challenge the perceptions about Domestic Violence and educate professionals further, that Domestic Violence was unacceptable whatever the situation.

Following questions from Committee Members about the contribution of

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	key partners to reducing Domestic Violence such as the Police and Schools the following information was shared:		
	<ul> <li>That when Police are attending an incident ,where domestic violence is reported, they are under obligation to check if there are children in the household and report this to Children's Services. There was also a dialogue sheet compiled for Police Officers to complete which is aimed at ensuring there is a full assessment of the Domestic Violence incident. The questions include, finding out how much exposure to the Domestic Violence the child may have been subjected to.</li> </ul>		
	• Educating young people about how violence was unacceptable in both relationships or in the home should start from an early age and the Children's service would explore training activities aimed at young children, as young as 8, and also ensure that the teachers designated to child protection role were also aware of this training need.		
	The Committee thanked both Deirdre Cregan and Michelle Robson for their insightful presentation.		
<b>TEX90</b> .	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
	The Committee considered performance information relating to safeguarding, from the start of the year up to the month of July 2012.		
	OP 504 (The number of child contacts received) The Committee noted the increase in contacts received in July and that this could be attributed to the prominence of the MASH team. Also there was likely to have been an increase in families moving to the borough in this period. The Committee were aware that the borough had a high number of families living in HMO's (Houses in Multiple Occupation). Families living in unsuitable living conditions had additional family life pressures .There was a short discussion about the safety of children from Roma families who were offen even living in peer bounding conditions.		
	who were often seen living in poor housing conditions. The Committee noted that Children's services had a specialist worker working in the Roma community with families with safeguarding issues. First Response were beginning to map and list the ROMA families that lived in the borough. This would further help deal with any safeguarding concerns and ensure the service were able to better locate the children if needed. Members were asked to contact the First Response team, in the, first instance, should they have concerns about the safety of any Roma children they had seen in their ward.	All to note	
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performance stood at 19% against a target of 16%, this was still below statistical neighbouring borough rates. The reason for re-referral was thought to be 10 to 11% housing related and similarly could be due to a significant change in circumstance for the family which they were not in a position to cope with. The Committee further noted that some cases were recorded as re-referrals as the FWI system could not support capturing the appropriate outcome and so instead Social Workers had to close and re-open the case .The service were considering ways to improve this irregularity. The Committee agreed that a short analysis of re-referrals be completed by the Independent member in time for the November meeting to provide more understanding about the issues HC around this performance indicator.

OP368 (Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment) The Committee noted that target had been revised so that the council was aiming to achieve performance levels on par with a good and excellent services. Members questioned the increase in this target, given that the previous target levels were not being met. This led to an understanding being sought on the strategy to increase completion of initial assessments and the existing reasons for their delay. The Independent Member questioned the level of detail required in an initial assessment as some contacts, could upon initial analysis, not require a detailed initial assessment .The Committee learnt that the advantage to completing an initial assessment for contacts, meeting the social care threshold, ensured that the child was seen by a Social Worker. Other boroughs, may not complete an initial assessment for children meeting the social care threshold, and would not see the child. The Committee were further advised of the benefit of completing an initial assessment comprehensively because it would mean less information was required for collation at the core assessment stage. The Committee suggested that these issues be explored by the Independent Member as part of her audit into initial assessments.

HC

OP380 (Child Protection Visits) the Committee sought an understanding on why performance had not been close to target in the last three months, preceding July. The target was set at 95% of children on a child protection plan visited, and in June 12, the service had completed 76% of required visits. The Committee noted the visits were being made on time. However between Jan to June, in cases where there were less pressing issues, the write up of the visit had been completed at a later date. This had been realised in June and management had advised Social Workers that they could not mark a visit as being completed if they had not recorded the outcome of the visit. Hence the figures for June were well below target but figures for July had shown improvement and the service could now say with confidence that the visits to families were accompanied by a record. The Committee were concerned upon hearing this and reiterated that if a visit was not recorded on the Framework I system then it could be counted as being made. They were assured by the diligence of the Acting Head of Safeguarding in identifying this issue and sought further reassurance that the emphasis in the service was on quality not quantity. The Acting Deputy Head of

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Safeguarding explained that she was trying to create a culture in her management team, that was more confident with using the FWI system and was encouraging its active use in supervision. This was key to monitoring that required information was on the system.	
HY64 – (Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more) The children's service were close to target on this and were aware that there needed to be close adherence to this target due to the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be subject to a child protection plan within a maximum of 2 years .If this target was not being met it consequently would lead to questioning the understanding of the professionals involved, towards facilitating outcomes for the child.	
OP381 – (Children in need visits) The recording issues outlined at OP380 were also applicable to the performance of this indicator.	
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item as it contained exempt information as defined in section 100a of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended by section 12A of the local Government Act 1985) paragraphs 1&2 namely information relating to an individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	
DISABLED CHILDREN AUDITS	
The Committee had previously heard about two audits concerning the care of disabled child and had requested to consider the findings of the audits in line with their responsibilities for overseeing safeguarding practice and policy.	
The first of the audits was learning based and conducted by the Disabled Children Policy and Practice review group. It was focussed on a specific child and involved six agencies reviewing their files in the same environment and discussing any required learning points on the care provided to the child. The child's mother was also interviewed to gain her input, on the care received by her child. The Committee noted that this multi agency group had been established for 2 years and were continually examining and challenging their approach to the care of a disabled child. The group had already started examining the safeguarding of disabled children and had previously developed an action plan which was still relevant and applicable today. Key stakeholders of the group included an Independent School Head teacher and, as well as looking at individual cases, the group looked at emerging themes and how services could respond to these. The audits were also a method for examining if the agencies really worked well together.	
	<ul> <li>management team, that was more confident with using the FWI system and was encouraging its active use in supervision. This was key to monitoring that required information was on the system.</li> <li>HY64 – (Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more) The children's service were close to target on this and were aware that there needed to be close adherence to this target due to the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be subject to a child protection plan within a maximum of 2 years. If this target was not being met it consequently would lead to questioning the understanding of the professionals involved, towards facilitating outcomes for the child.</li> <li>OP381 – (Children in need visits) The recording issues outlined at OP380 were also applicable to the performance of this indicator.</li> <li>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</li> <li>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item as it contained exempt information as defined in section 100a of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended by section 12A of the local Government Act 1985) paragraphs 1&amp;2 namely information relating to an individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</li> <li>DISABLED CHILDREN AUDITS</li> <li>The Committee had previously heard about two audits concerning the care of disabled child and had requested to consider the findings of the audits in line with their responsibilities for overseeing safeguarding practice and policy.</li> <li>The first of the audits was learning based and conducted by the Disabled Children Policy and Practice review group. It was focussed on a specific child and had requested to reviewing their files in the same environment and discussing any required learning points on the care provided to the child. The child's mother was also interviewed to gain her input, on the care</li></ul>

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	The findings of this audit had also been considered by the LSCB quality assurance sub group this week. The Committee were asked to note the gaps and learning from the audit exercise which were largely in line with the proposals outlined in the White Paper (support and Aspiration – progress and next steps).	
	The second audit was completed in partnership with the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and looked at recent cases referred to the Disabled Children's team and the First Response service where the family of the child is known to both teams.	
	There were only 6 cases fitting this category, however the learning from this audit was important and included the need to classify a child as disabled at the first point of contact with the service, First Response. The low numbers of disabled children identified as being affected by DV still warranted it being an area to keep under review because the experiences of this would have a detrimental impact on the emotional wellbeing and safety of a disabled child.	
	The Committee noted that work was underway to identify the children and young people who have Health "blue folders", i.e. children who are known to Social Care but not subject to Child protection plans, but who have an additional need such as speech and language therapy. The outcome of this work would be ready for the Committee to consider after December 2012.	Clerk
	The Committee learnt that when completing the audit there was no existing research to call upon relating to Domestic Violence and disabled children.	
TEX93.	REVIEW OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE WELFARE OF YOUNGER CHILDREN IN A FAMILY IS ADDRESSED WHEN THE PRIMARY REFERRAL RELATES TO AN OLDER SIBLING.	
	The Committee had previously asked for an audit to be completed to find out how the needs of younger siblings were assessed and addressed, when the presenting issue is the behaviour of an older young person in the family. The Committee noted that 14% of contacts received by First Response relate to young people aged between 14-17 and are received from a number of sources including police, schools, and the Youth Offending service.	
	There were 7 cases reviewed by the Head of First Response and it was noted that in every case the family were referred or self referred at a point of crisis. Work with the families was over a 4 month period with intensive multi agency contributions, intervention and stabilisation, followed by ongoing social work allocation. Intervention for these families at an early stage was key and cases with similar situations would benefit from the shift in focus to universal and outstanding early help. The learning from this audit, was obtaining support for the older sibling including finding an advocate which the young person was able to	

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	communicate with such as a youth worker. The shift to early intervention, by the Children's service, will in future also help younger siblings in the family as they will get support from a young age.			
TEX94.	EXEMPT ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS			
	There were no items of urgent exempt business.			
TEX95.	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING			
	22 November 2012 7.30pm.			
	Joint meeting with Corporate Parenting Committee 29 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm.			

**Cllr James Stewart** 

Chair

#### MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE &CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2012

- Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Bull, Dogus, Reece, Scott, Solomon, Stennett, Stewart and Waters
- Apologies Councillor Adamou
- Also Present: Libby Blake, Marion Wheeler, Lisa Blundell, Wendy Tomlinson, Moira Lammond, Geoffrey Burach, Hilary Corrick.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	
JC01	APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR	
	It was agreed that Cllr Stewart chair the Joint meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee.	
JC02	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(IF ANY)	
	Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Adamou.	
JC03	URGENT BUSINESS	
	There were no items of urgent business put forward.	
JC04	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There were no declarations of Interest put forward.	
JC05	DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS	
	There were no deputations, petitions, or questions put forward.	
JC06	HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS ON SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN DATA	
	The Committee considered performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to contacts, referrals, assessments, child protection and children looked after.	
	The agreed set of measures were grouped according to topic and enclosed at appendix 1, showing monthly data, performance against target, long term trends and benchmarking data where applicable. Both the Corporate Parenting Committee and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee had considered performance information up to August 2012, in relation to their respective areas, at their recent meetings. With this in mind, the Chair asked the Assistant Director for Safeguarding to highlight any changes in performance since these	

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recent meetings.

The Assistant Director for Safeguarding provided the following key performance information:

- The downward trend for children becoming looked after continued. The Committee noted that it was critical for this indicator to continue in this manner for the service to move forward with their early help agenda.
- The upward pressure on children placed on child protection plans was being closely examined and monitored by the service as this was out of step with statistical neighbours.
- There was a slight upturn in the number of looked after children being placed in the borough. Although, it was accepted that the number of looked after children placed outside the borough was still high.
- The Children's service were aiming to ensure that all looked after children had a permanency plan and were continuing to examine how each department had a role in supporting these plans.

Following queries from the Committee about the performance statistics, the following information was provided:

- With regards to initial and core assessments not being completed within timescales, the Committee were assured that all families would have been seen by a social worker within a certain amount of time. The Committee were further pointed to the service comments, included with the performance data, which showed that there was an improvement from the previous month. The Committee were assured that this was a high priority for the Children's service and they were striving to bring this up to top quartile performance. The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee had also asked their Independent Member, Hilary Corrick, to undertake a qualitative audit into initial assessments that were completed out of timescale to understand the reasons for this. This audit would be considered at their meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012.
- Adoption scorecard There were a number of key lines of enquiry which would require a response from different parts of the service. The Children's service was actively exploring how to better streamline the processes involving adoption. It was anticipated that a review of adoption processes should bring forward ideas for improvements together with the additional resources from the Children's Improvement Board would enable more adoptions to be made at a quicker pace. The Director of Children's service advised that there was a timescale chart being considered by the Children's Service Improvement board on a regular basis and this

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	<ul> <li>set out the different timescales the service were working to for adoption. It was agreed to circulate this chart to the Committee.</li> <li>The Independent Member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy</li> </ul>	LB
	and Practice Committee advised that the key to improving adoption rates was for adoption to be considered as an early option when a child comes to care. In her experience, when children become older it was more difficult to find placements.	
	<ul> <li>Although, there were a high number of contacts with the Children's service, through First Response, they were effectively able to sift through the contacts and make referrals which were likely to require an initial assessment and entry into social care. The director was exploring setting up a new team focussed on early help that will consider those contacts which do not meet the social care threshold but where early help through universal services will help a family not get to a stage where they need social care intervention. This would be discussed in the later agenda item.</li> </ul>	
JC07	CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHARTER FOR RUNAWAYS	
	The Committee noted that one of the recommendations, of the Scrutiny Review of Children missing from care and from home, was that the council gave specific consideration to signing up to the Children's Society Runaways Charter. The Children's Society was calling on all local authorities to publicly sign up to the charter which contained a clear code for agencies with a duty to protect children who run away or go missing from home and care. The council already adhered to statutory guidance and Pan London Missing from Home and Care procedures for children missing from home and care placements.	
	The council were working with Barnardos on the Miss U project with a practitioner funded to provide support to runaways and children at risk. Therefore, as an existing working relationship with Barnardos existed, the service would need to gage whether there was a difference in the work required by the charter and the work that Barnardos did with missing children.	
	The merits of signing up to the charter were outlined together with the caution that the charter could be used in assessments of the Children's service and therefore the directorate would need to allocate additional resources to collate evidence and monitor adherence to the charter . Taking into account, that the service already had in place existing processes and procedures to adhere to the statutory and Pan London guidance, this would be an additional detailed assignment for the service to resource.	
	The Committee continued to given assurance about the level of priority	

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	given to children missing from care with an illustration of the information shared in the weekly meetings between the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Director of the Children's service. A member of the Committee advised that children and young people missing from council children's homes had been a regular concern expressed at previous Scrutiny Panel meetings so the close weekly high level attention given to this issue was welcome. However, the low numbers of children/young people missing from placements was questioned as this was believed to have been higher in the past. In relation to signing up to the charter, the Committee agreed that the main consideration should be that children are kept safe. It was reassuring that the Children's service were following statutory procedures and was tracking the children and young people that were going missing. However, as a separate but connected issue, it was felt that further assurance was needed on the process and risk assessments in place for children in care taking unauthorised leave from their placements as the past experience of some members had been that these children's whereabouts were predicted, rather than known by the care homes. These absences were equally as concerning as children missing from care whose whereabouts was not known. The Committee agreed that a report come back to the December meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee advising on the process and risk assessments in place for children in care taking unauthorised leave from their placements and also for children missing from care. The report should also provide a sense of the figures, over the year, for children missing from care as the figures were lower than previously reported. The consensus among Committee Members was that the main priority should be keeping children safe and as statutory guidance and Pan London procedures were being followed in respect of children missing from care they were satisfied that adherence to a separate charter, that would require allocation of addition	MW
JC08	HARINGEY 54000 PROGRAMME	
	The vision of the Haringey 54000 change programme was: Haringey a place where children and young people are known to thrive and achieve. The programme represented a changing relationship between the Children's service and families in the borough. The programme would balance services towards universal and good and outstanding early help that would sustain families, preventing the need for more costly services. To achieve the required outcomes, the service was aiming to release resources currently invested in higher numbers of looked after children for an earlier offer of help. This would mean shifting the budget from high cost interventions towards efficient and effective preventative	

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services. The programme approach being taken to the changes, required in the service, had been developed in collaboration with practitioners running programmes in London Authorities.

An explanation was provided of early help and its priorities were set out as well as the policy guiding this work. It was noted that this was not limited to the age of the child and could occur at any point in a child's or young person's life. The Children's service was engaging with users to find out what early help means to them to properly inform the strategy.

The policy attached was in draft form and an updated version would be sent out to Committee members. The final policy was expected to be considered by Cabinet in March. It was important to note that, the Permanency Policy would work alongside Early Help Policy and would be about finding permanent families for looked after children so they spent a less time in care.

A member of the Committee highlighted the significant reductions made to children's centres in 2011 as this would need to be factored when taking forward the offer of early help. Comparisons were made between Islington council's offer of children's centre services and Haringey's offer. In response to this, it was pointed out Islington receive higher funding for early years than Haringey and are in a position spend more on children's centres. The Children's service had been required to make past reductions to the children's centres budget as there had not been the funding in place to continue with the size of the service .The Children's service was not excluded from making budget reductions in the coming financial years and it was also not yet known if there was flexibility in the DSG grant and EIG funding to spend more on children's centres but use of these funding streams would be explored.

Continuing the discussion on children's centres and their role in early help to families, the issues listed below were highlighted. The Director of Children's services agreed to provide a written response to the Committee as information relating to budgets and savings would need to be accessed.

LB

- Had there been a review following the 50% reduction in funding to children's centres?
- The position on children's centres access to framework i.
- In the budget reductions to children's centres in 2011, there had been a significant budget allocation to external services and it would be useful to find out how this money was being spent and monitored.
- A significant proportion of Sure Start money had been top sliced for family support services and it would be important to find out the efficacy of the services being delivered as family support encompassed a number of different services working together.

#### MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE &CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2012

	1
C09	MULTI SYSTEMIC TREATMENT PROGRAMME - EDGE OF CARE - PROGRESS REPORT
	Geoffrey Burach was asked by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding to attend the meeting to present information on Multi Systemic Treatment (MST) Programme, a DFE funded project. Moira Lamond was also introduced to the Committee; she was working directly with council on this initiative aimed at mainstreaming intervention for young people on the edge of care.
	MST was initially developed in the US as a treatment programme for young people displaying antisocial behaviour and aimed at reducing youth criminal activity. The outcomes of the programme are cost savings by decreasing the public cost from youth criminal activity such as imprisonment, and putting young people into care.
	The theoretical basis behind MST examines the factors leading to delinquent behaviour and involves a therapy team working with the families. The team target multidiscipline risks in a comprehensive yet individualised way. The caregiver's co-operation is paramount to the long term positive outcomes for the child. There will be daily activities for the parents to complete to change the system in the family and ensure the intervention successes are sustainable.
	There was a contractual relationship between with the council and the Brandon centre initially for a year for two therapists to work with 9 families. These families demonstrate extreme entrenched behaviour which statutory services have not been able to work with.
	Moira Lammond explained that in practical terms, MST is a home based therapy with the therapist visiting the household and keeping regular contact with family for a time limited intervention. The aim is to keep children and young people with extreme behaviours on the edge of care at home or out of custody. The intervention can last from 3-5 months and can range from 35-75 appointments with each family. Examples were given of the different issues and the types of families that the therapists dealt will deal with. The recent achievements of the project in Haringey included:
	<ul> <li>2 children in care coming out of care and returning to their families</li> <li>Positive interventions at school</li> <li>One child successful in not getting excluded from school</li> <li>A pupil at the Octagon centre had progressed to college education</li> <li>Schools participating in the therapy and working with the therapist on behavioural plans</li> </ul>

#### MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE &CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2012

The families spoke to the therapist about the different approaches each statutory agency had when working with them .Also how the necessary input of statutory services could also make the families feel less in control.

In response to questions, the Committee learnt that:

- Currently a therapist will work with between 4-5 for families and if the council wanted to increase the families getting this specific help they would need to procure additional therapists.
- The work with the families is conducted in the home and there is no clinic to attend. Although, there is variety of interventions, this is a pragmatic therapy based on the needs of the family.
- The project had been running for 6 months and the cost of the intervention was £9.5k per child. Most of the cost for the first year is funded externally with the remainder of the funding coming from both Haringey and Waltham Forest council's.
- The referrals to MST were decided by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding following consideration at an internal safeguarding board meeting where high risk, complex, and challenging behaviours being displayed by families are considered.
- There was linkage with the troubled families' project and principles in use were similar and involved intensive work with the families.
- The Council were fortunate in that the therapist team included a specialist in substance mis-use, one of only two teams in the country.
- The therapists were usually trained in clinical psychology or were Social Workers with a master's degree. However, in addition to their professional qualifications, they were trained using the MST model before working with families. Successful working with families was closely related to the MST model.
- The therapist will take over, from the statutory agencies working with the family but will regularly confer with the agencies about their work and gain information from them about the family.

The Assistant Director for Safeguarding commented that she had been impressed at the level of engagement the therapists had displayed and how quickly they had been able to engage with the chosen families and begin working in their homes. However, as this was a new project, it was too early to tell if the changes in behaviour, facilitated by the therapist, would be sustainable once they left and the family were transferred back to universal services. The Committee agreed that it

#### MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE &CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2012

JC12 JC13	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC			
JC11	NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS           There were no new items of urgent business.			
	It was clarified that the cohort of children and young people referred to the Youth, Community and Participation service did not require the same high level of care as the young people accessing the MST programme. Although the Youth, Community and Participation had received £400k in funding this could still not support a broader youth service offer. The Youth Community and Participation service would continue as a partial service providing targeted universal services.			
	The Committee considered a report on the work of the Youth Community and Participation service intervening and working with young people and children that were on the edge of care or at risk of offending. This was a pilot project which targeted young people that did not meet the criteria to receive a service from First Response but where there was enough concern about their behaviour and relationship with their families to refer them to the Youth, Community, Participation services. The Committee noted the successes of the targeted interventions and the longer term aim of continuing with this project with a staffing structure being put in place to enhance this model that would be fully operational from January 2013.			
JC10	0 YOUTH, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE OFFER TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF CARE /AT RISK			
	would be useful to get a report back in 6 months time on the work of this project.			

#### MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE &CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2012

Chair

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Date of the meeting	Reports and background information	Officer / Member leading on the report
22 Nov 2012 7.30pm CR2	<ol> <li>Audit on a sample of initial assessments completed out of timescale.</li> </ol>	Hilary Corrick
	2. Verbal update on audit on Section 47s which do not go to Conference?	Chrissy Austin
	3. Safeguarding Performance	Margaret Gallagher
	<ol> <li>Quality Assurance audit report of recording and management oversight of statutory social work visits to Children subject to protection plans</li> </ol>	Rachel Oakley
	Ayshe to publish on 13 November 2012	
10 January 2013 7.30pm CR2	<ol> <li>Performance data for Safeguarding – standing item</li> </ol>	Margaret Gallagher
	<ol><li>Audit of new referrals to the service from a random particular week.</li></ol>	Independent Member/Hilary Corrick
	<ol> <li>Work was underway to identify the children and young people who have Health "blue folders", i.e. children who are known to Social Care but not subject to Child protection plans, but who have an additional need such as speech and language therapy. The outcome of this work would be ready for the Committee to consider after December 2012.</li> </ol>	Phil Dileo/Janette Brand
	4. Early Intervention service- The Committee would like to invite Ros Cooke, Head of Early Years to come and talk about the support provided for children in need in Children's Centres. The committee are keen that Children services places are utilised as this is seen as a key area for supporting families and stopping children becoming subject to protection plans and coming	Ros Cooke/Marion Wheeler

# Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Agenda Planning 2012/13

Date of the meeting	Reports and background information	Officer / Member leading on the report
	<ul> <li>into care.</li> <li>5. Draft Council report from Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</li> <li>Ayshe to publish agenda on 02 January 2013</li> </ul>	Ayshe Simsek
18 March 2013 7.30pm CR2	<ol> <li>Performance data for Safeguarding – standing item (Independent Member view and scrutiny of performance into Contacts, Referrals, Assessments and Child Protection has been important to committee understanding the data and deciding if there are any underlying safeguarding issues that need to be explored.)</li> </ol>	Margaret Gallagher
	<ol><li>A report on the work with families who have no recourse to public funds,</li></ol>	Chrissy Austin
	<ol> <li>A report on interface between Safeguarding and other key partner agencies which provides an understanding of their communication lines.</li> </ol>	Marion Wheeler
	<ol> <li>Report back on the operation of the MASH.</li> </ol>	Chrissy Austin
	<ol> <li>Report back on cases that were subject to planning where the parent has substance mis-use issues. This was to be covered in an audit by Adult services and findings reported back to committee.</li> </ol>	Hilary Corrick
	<ol> <li>Exploring the interface between Mental Health services and Safeguarding services in cases which are subject to child protection planning</li> </ol>	Hilary Corrick
	Ayshe to publish Agenda on 08 March 2013	

#### Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Agenda Planning 2012/13

Date of the meeting	Reports and background information	Officer / Member leading on the report
09 May 2013 7.30pm CR2	1. Performance	Margaret Gallagher
	Ayshe to publish Agenda on 01 May 2013	
16 May 2013 7.30pm	Joint meeting with Corporate Parenting	
Council Chamber	Agenda to be published on 09 May 2013	

Suggestions for committee members to get more of an understanding how different areas of safeguarding services work by visiting teams and watching them in action.

Looking at how lessons can be learnt from Serious Case Reviews in particular looking at "looking at lessons learnt" a key section from the SCR on baby Peter and how we can show that the lessons have been integrated into the work of the service (Item to be added)

Short analysis of re-referrals (agreed 17.09.2012) Hilary Corrick, to be added.

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Report for: Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 22 November 2012	ltem Number:	
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Title:	Performance Assessment – Year to October 2012 incorporating updated comparative data for 2011/12
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Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler/ Eve Pelekanos
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Lead Officer:	Margaret Gallagher / Richard Hutton

Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decision:
All	NA

#### 1. Introduction

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

• Children and Families - Contacts, referrals and assessments and Child Protection (these measures are reported to the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee)

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.

#### 2. Performance Highlights/ Key Messages

#### 2.1. Contacts, Referrals and Assessments and Child Protection

- There has been an increase in the **number of contacts** received in October (over 100 more contacts than in September). There were 608 contacts bringing levels back to those seen earlier in the year. There remains an increasing trend with a 5% increase in contacts compared with the same period in 2011.
- Referrals have also increased slightly in October but there remains a reducing trend in the number of referrals. Haringey's rate (per 10,000 population) of referrals is historically below that of statistical neighbours. In 2011/12 Haringey's annual rate of referrals was 436 per 10,000 population compared with 541 for our statistical neighbours. In Haringey a higher proportion of referrals to children's social care go onto an initial assessment. In the 2011/12 Children in Need Census 92% of Haringey's children went on to receive an initial assessment compared with 79% for our statistical neighbours. Haringey's rate of re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral at 17% is in line with our statistical neighbour rate 2011/12.
- There were 327 children subject to a child protection plan at October. This is equivalent to a rate of 57 per 10,000 children living in the borough, more than a third higher than our statistical neighbour average for 2011/12 of 40 and the England rate of 38. The number of children subject to a plan is increasing, there are 58 more children on a plan than at this time last year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of children becoming subject to a plan and a significant decrease in the number ceasing to be subject to a plan, a net increase of 43 in the year to October.
- Indicators around child protection plans lasting 2 years or more and children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time are on target and compare favourably to statistical neighbours. 27% or 77 children were subject of a plan at 31 March for between 1 and 2 years compared with 19% statistical neighbour average and 17.2% in England, Haringey percentage is the highest in London and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the country behind Bath and Wokingham. Haringey's ranking was about average in London for those subject to a plan for over 2 years and for between 6 months and 1 year.
- Performance on initial assessments carried out in 10 days improved to 70% in October, below our revised 80% target. Haringey's performance in 2011/12 of 67% was below that of our statistical neighbour average of 82% and England position at 77%.
- There was a huge improvement in performance in October with 80% of Core assessments completed in timescale (35 working days) although this position remains below the revised 85% target. Analysis of 2011/12 Children in Need published data found that Haringey had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest ranking in London for core assessments taking 61 days plus with 14% of cores taking more than 61 days to complete compared to a statistical neighbour average of 5% and 9% for England.

- Sustained improvement in line with the service focus on frequency, quality of visiting and visit recording resulted in 93% of Child Protection visits completed to timescale in the month of October, just below the 95% target. Children in Need visits have also improved considerably in recent months and now stand at 89% which although below the target is the best performance level all year and a big improvement on the peak of 82% achieved in 2011/12.
- 98% of child protection cases were reviewed within timescales in the year to October. The shortfall amounted to 4 cases 1 of which was done but out of time, 1 was an administration error by an agency chair and the other case (including a sibling) related to a family who were out of the country.

#### 3. Appendices

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

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Performance Analysis and Benchmarking - Contact, Referrals & Assessments and Child

Contents

# Contacts, Referrals and Assessments

- Op504 The number of child contacts received
- Op410 The number of referrals to children's social care
- OP410a The rate of referrals to children's social care per 10,000 pop
- Op368 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment
  - Op383 Re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral
- Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days HY59 Op60

# Child Protection

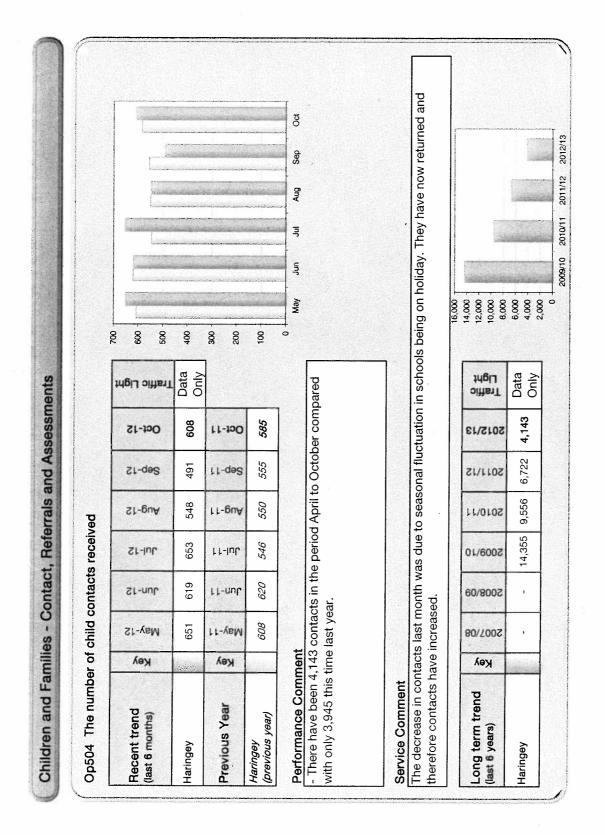
- Op388 Children subject to a child protection plan
- OP 411 Children Becoming Subject to a CP plan in the period
- OP 413 Children Ceasing Subject to a CP plan in the period
  - Op421 Children moving to Haringey on a CP Plan
    - Op422 Children moved out of Haringey on a CP Plan
      - 1Y64
- Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more
- Dp 365 Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

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**Dp380 Child Protection Visits** 

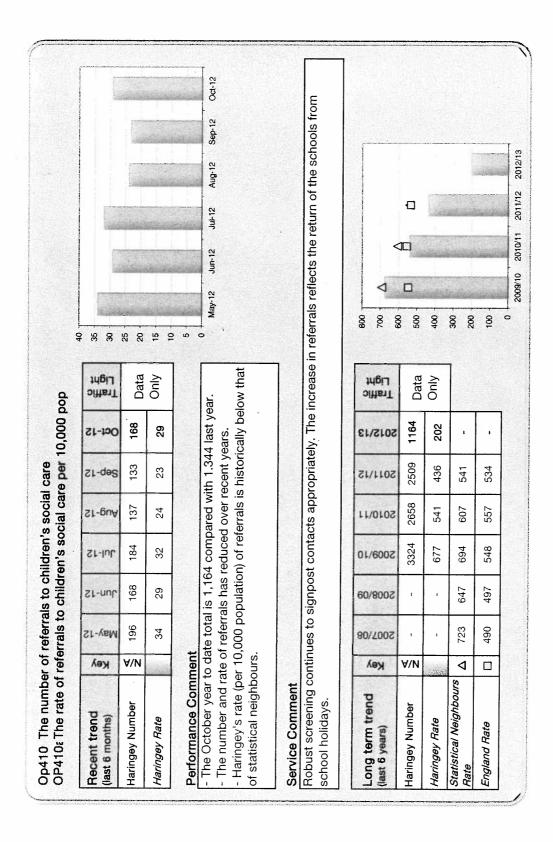
Op381 Children in Need Visits

comprises Croydon, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Waltham Forest Where available, benchmarking is provided for England, London and/or Haringey's Statistical Neighbours. Haringey's Statistical Neighbours group is defined by Ofsted based on socio-demographic information relating specifically to Children's Services and and Wandsworth. The averages provided for benchmarking in this report are simple means.



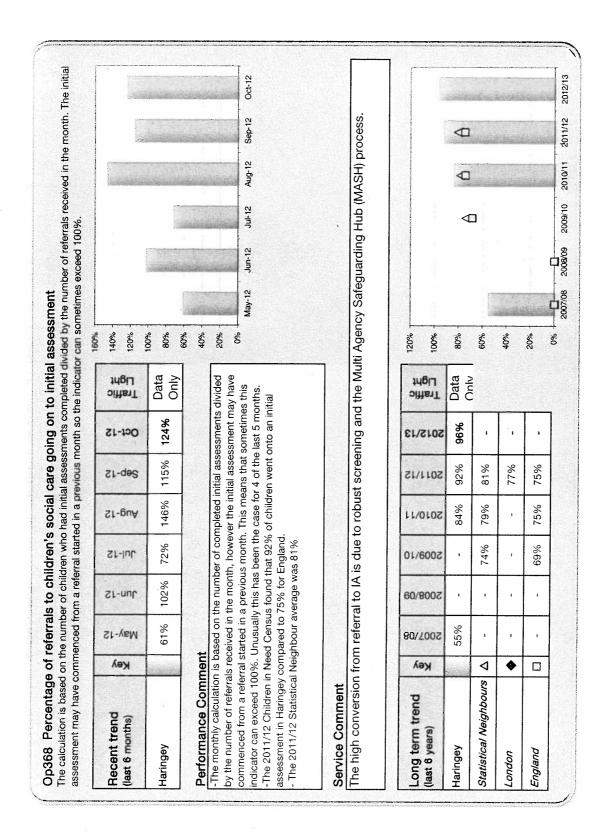
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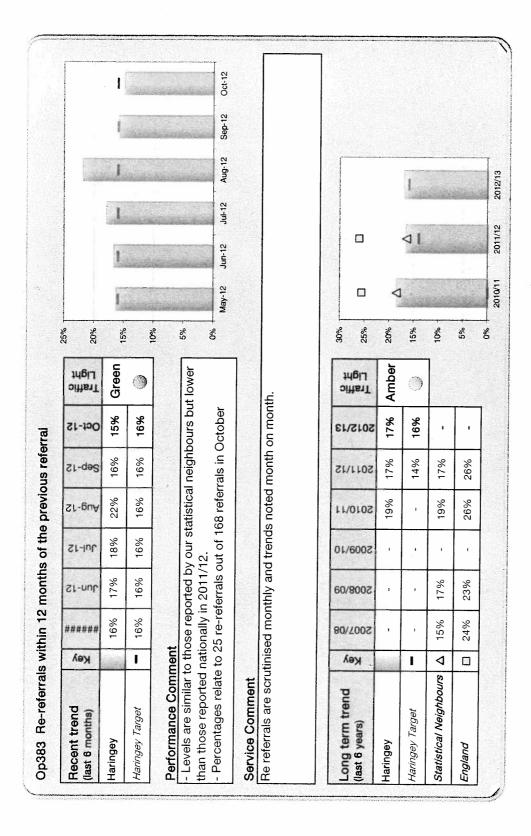


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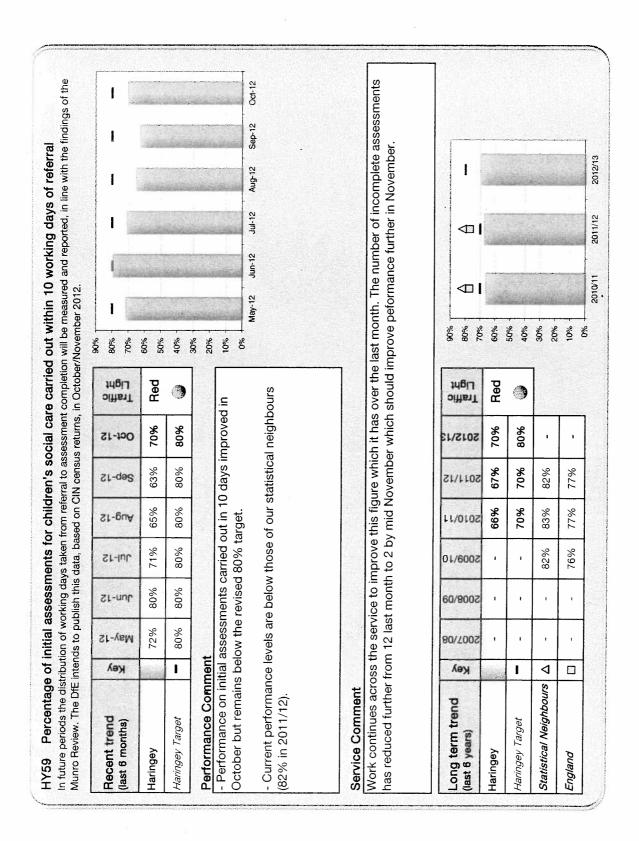


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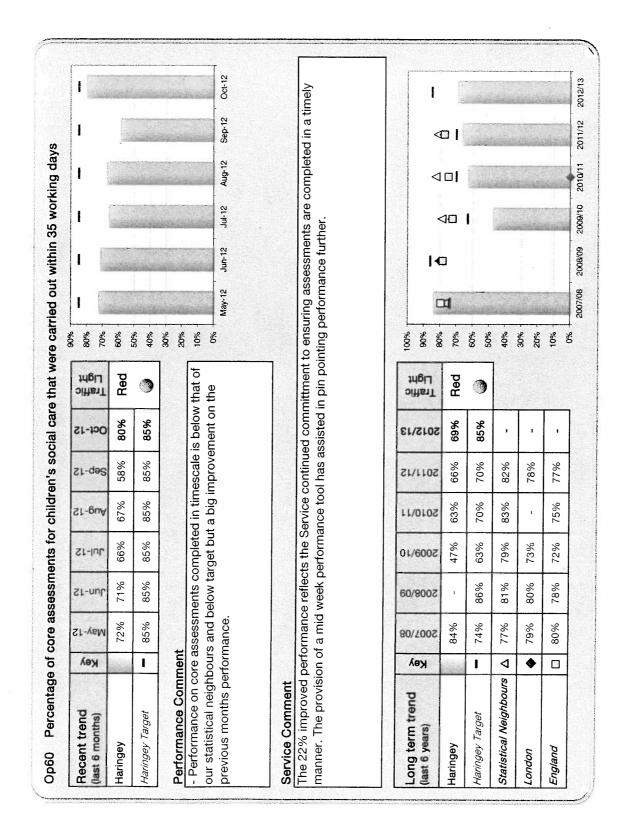


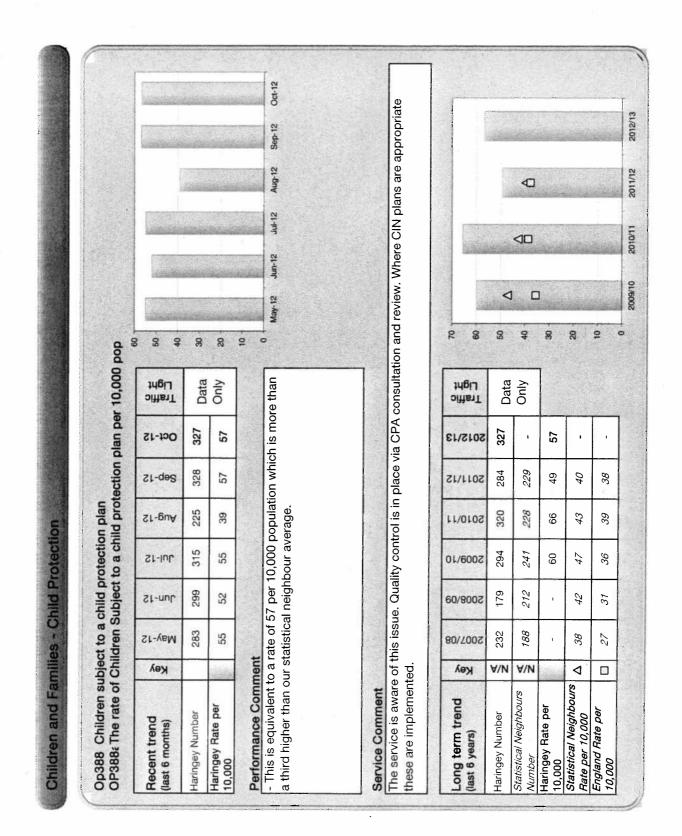
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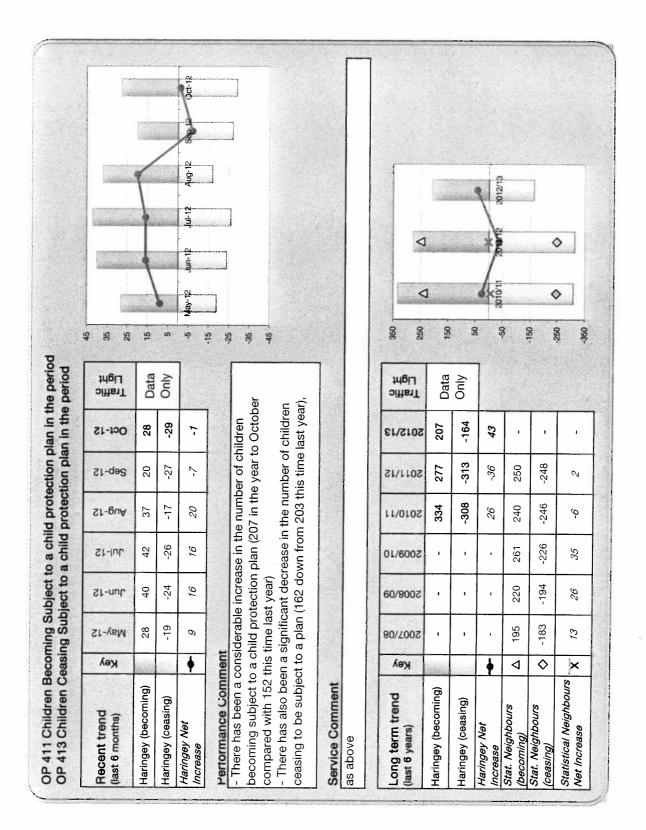
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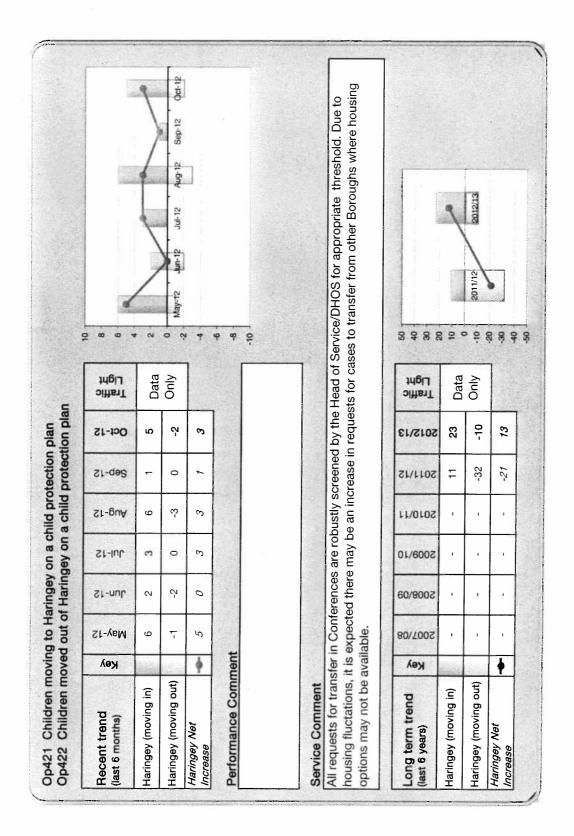


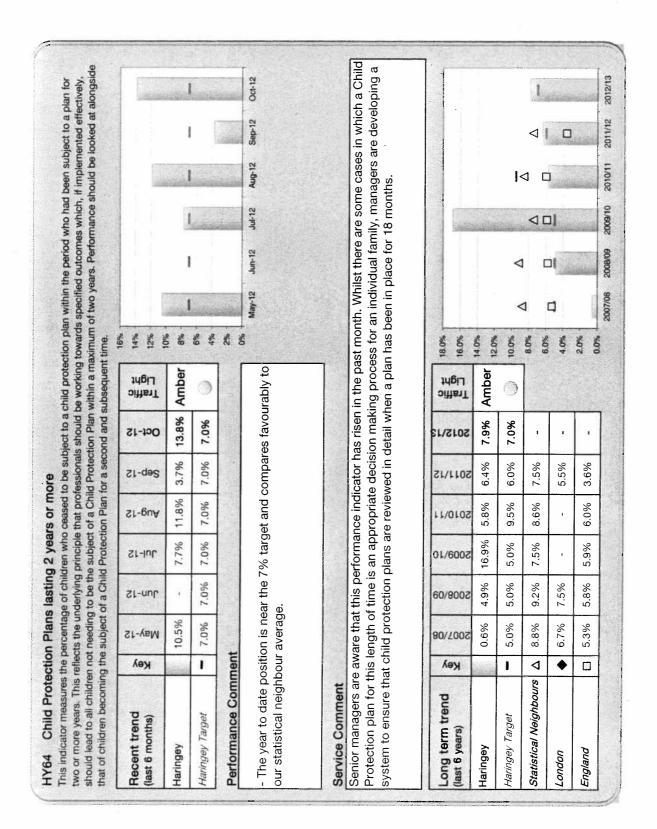
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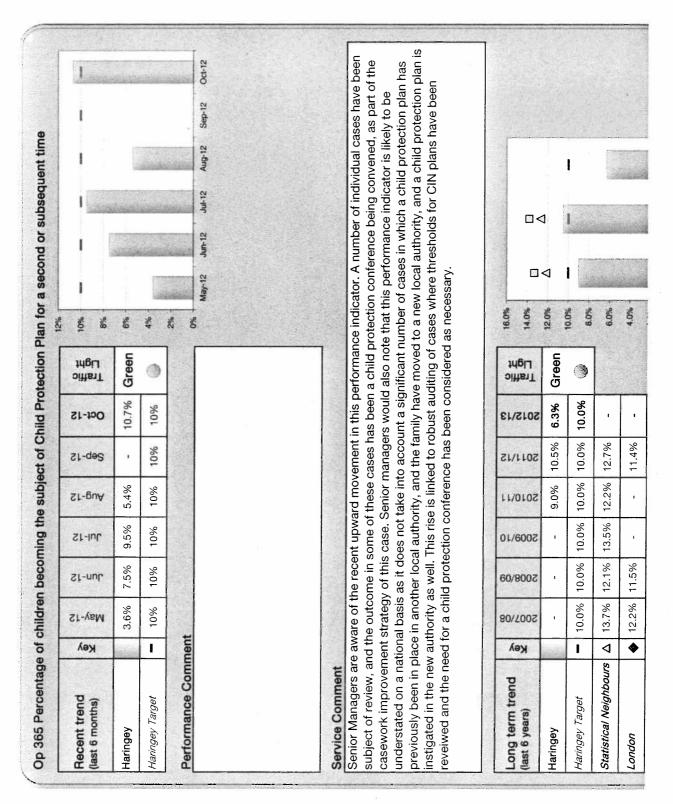




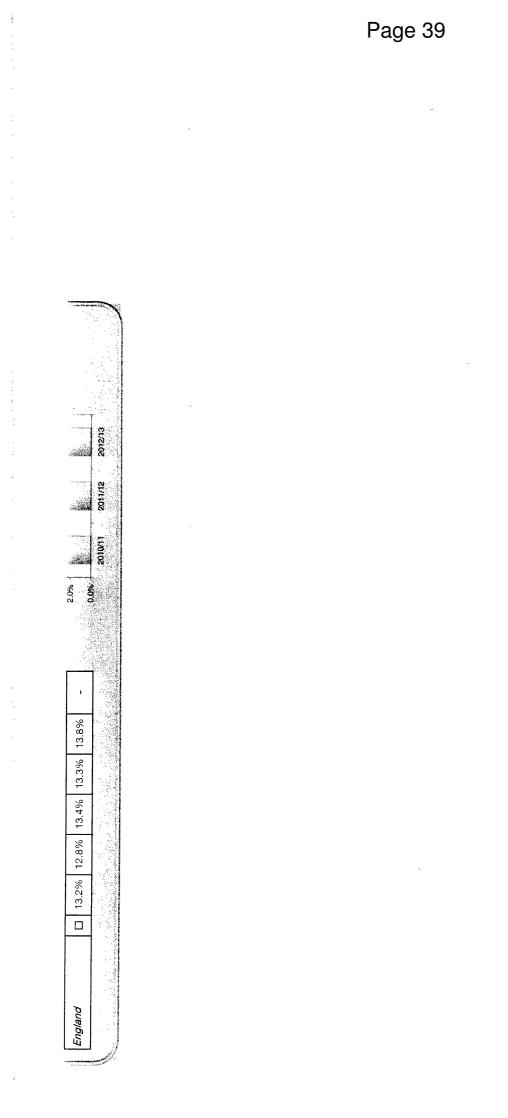


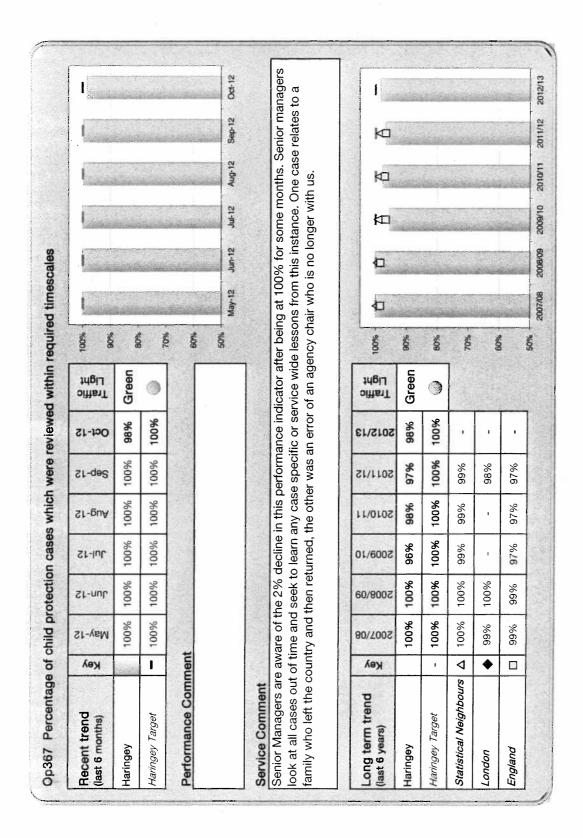


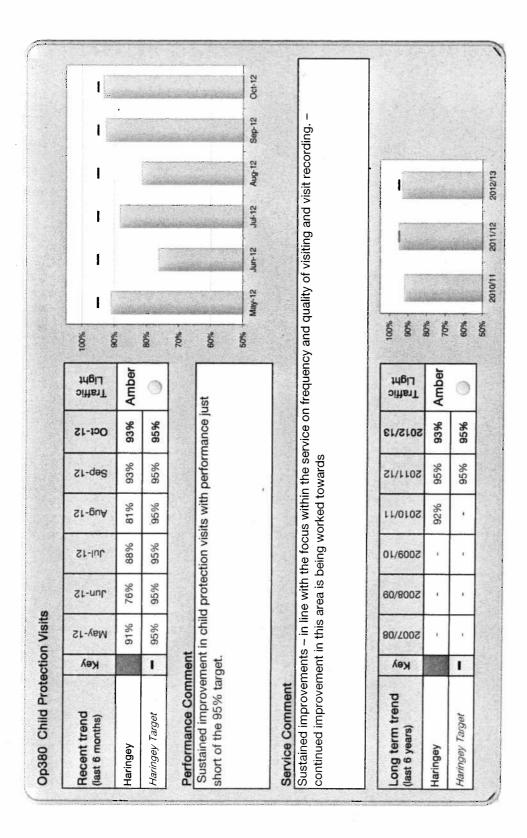




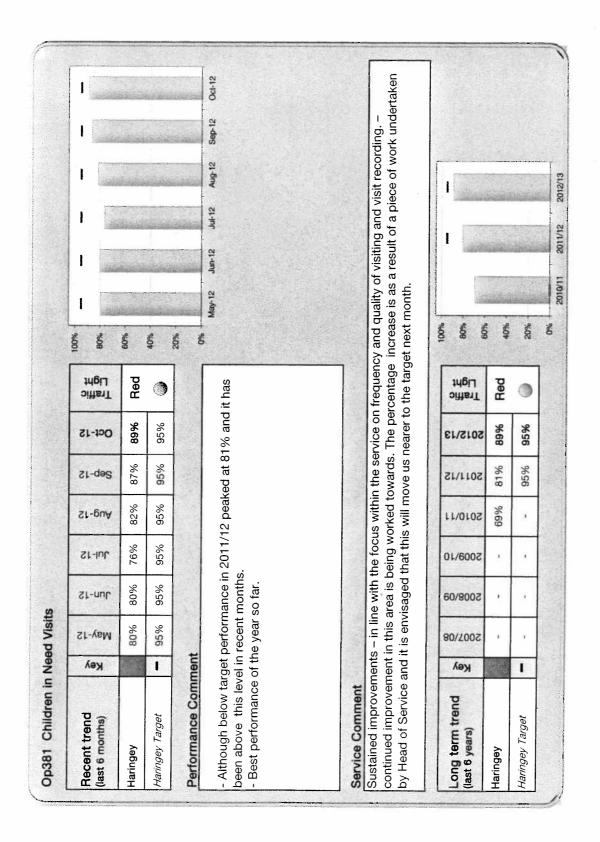
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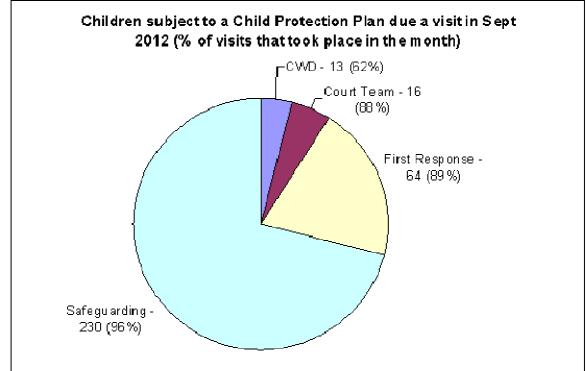
Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee	
Title:	Visits to Children subject to Child Protection Plans	
Report by:	Rachel Oakley, Head of Service, Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Practice Development	
Date:	22 November 2012	

## Introduction - Reported visits in September 2012

At the end of September there were 326 children subject to plans, 92.6% visits were recorded as having taken place within the month. This ranges as follows:

Disabled Children	62% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
Safeguarding and Support	96% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
First Response	89% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
Court Team	88% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale





## **Objective:**

To validate that there was a written report uploaded on to FWi of visits to children subject to child protections plan during the month of September 2012.

#### Methodology:

At the end of September 326 children were subject to Child Protection Plans, of this number it was reported that 92.6% (302) had had a child protection visit during the month.

A random sample of 23 children's files, within the age range of 0-17 were audited to ensure that the individual child was seen during the visit and a record was in place to confirm this.

The 23 children identified had between them a total of 32 siblings, their files were also checked to ensure that a visit had taken place and they had been seen individually by a social worker. This made a total sample of 55. Where issues of concern were identified they have been reported directly to the responsible Head of Service.

## The Template:



Visits are recorded on a Child Protection Visit template which is uploaded on FWi as a case note. The template is in "word" and is not part of an "episode", templates appear to be have been amended over time and there is not one standard format and in some cases the text has been corrupted.

As this is a standalone template there is no system built into FWI for manager's authorisation.

Of the total number of 55 children whose files were checked 78% (43) were seen and a record made of the interaction with the child and the social workers observations, this is in addition to the general family information held within the report.

### **Quality Concerns:**

Three of the children had visits entered as having taken place but there was no written record of the visit on file, four connected siblings also had no record of a visit in September.

In one instance (1 child), a template was uploaded and counted as a visit but the family were not in and therefore the children not seen.

In the case of two large families the social worker conducted the visit and copied over the record of the visit on to all the children's files, however, not all the children were seen on the visit. In one instance an older child was out, whilst in another the social worker only saw one child. The reasons why this happened were evident; however, it did mean the social worker did not have contact during the month with those children.

One visit was recorded on a child-in-need template and a further four visits were recorded in unstructured case notes.

In the cohort there were a small number of families with four or more children, in these families the attention and focus afforded the children individually tended to be less.

#### Points for consideration:

- Review and reformatting of Child Protection Visit template this has been referred to the Operational System Support Team to include in their work plan.
- Establish clarity on recording practice in relation to the recording of visits to individual children and sibling groups this will be address as part of MOSAIC which will support family based recording.
- Further thought on working with large families and how individual children are seen alone and the voice of all of the children heard, integrating learning from past Serious Case Reviews this is on the OD



Commissioning Agenda for 2013/14 and will form one aspect of the short course programme.

- Services to establish who to take ongoing responsibility for quality checking child protection visits
- Managers to re-issue the guidance on expectations for statutory visits

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is exempt

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