

Report Title: An Update Report on key Performance Issues in Child Protection	
Report of <b>Peter Lewis, Director of Children Services</b> Signed :	
Contact Officer : Mark Gurrey, Assistant Director, Performance	
Wards(s) affected: <b>ALL</b>	Report for: <b>Non Key Decision</b>
<p><b>1. Purpose of the report</b></p> <p>This report provides update on some key performance issues relating to the Council's work to safeguard and protect vulnerable children.</p>	
<p><b>2. Recommendations</b></p> <p>2.1 That the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee consider and note the report.</p>	
<p><b>3. Reason for recommendation(s)</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Other options considered</b></p> <p>4.1. N/A</p>	
<p><b>5. Chief Financial Officer Comments</b></p> <p>5.1. N/A</p>	

**6. Head of Legal Services Comments**

6.1. N/A

**7. Head of Procurement Comments**

7.1. N/A

**8. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments**

8.1. N/A

**9. Consultation**

N/A

**10. Service Financial Comments**

There are no specific financial issues arising from this report.

**11. Use of appendices / Tables and photographs**

Attached are the national KPIs for the Children and Families service

**12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985****Commentary**

13. NI 68 – this measures the conversion rate of referrals going onto be initial referrals. Outturns are increasingly closer to national and statistical neighbours. A recently agreed Threshold document which sets out a schemata to aid understanding of children's different needs and how they should be responded to. It is anticipated that as this becomes more familiar to all the agencies that this conversion rate will continue to increase.
14. NI 59 – initial assessments, once authorised, should be completed in 7 days to ensure an early and timely view is taken of children's needs. Performance against this NI continues to increase towards a declared target of 53% by December 2009.
15. NI 60 – for more complex cases, a more comprehensive assessment is required. These are known as 'core assessments' and are required to be completed in 35 days. Again the general trend is upwards towards the

December target of 63% For both initial and core assessments, the management steer in the first part of the year was towards producing quality work rather than focus solely on timescales. As overall standards in the service have improved and the quality of staff increased so there is a greater emphasis on both quality and timeliness.

16. Numbers subject to a child protection plan – this is what previously was referred to as the child protection register. There has been a recent increase in numbers and we are now probably at an more realistic level for the borough than hitherto.
17. NI 67 – children who are subject to plans should be reviewed initially after three months and then every six months thereafter. There has been a slight decline in performance due to a number of conferences having to be cancelled and then reconvened which has taken them out of timescale. Management attention is addressing this and it is anticipated that performance will improve.
18. NI 65 – this measures children newly becoming subject to a plan who had previously had a plan some time in their earlier life. Numbers are small and monthly variations are not a reliable indicator of performance.
19. NI 64 – this measures children who, when their child protection plan ceases, had had a plan for two or more years. Again monthly variation is too small to be a reliable indicator of trends. However, the indicator is a proxy measure for children whose plans are drifting and further auditing will take place to understand current performance outturns.
20. Number of children in care – Members will observe the increase over the last 12 months. This is reflected nationally and is to a very large extent a reaction to Baby Peter's case and the subsequent extra intervention all boroughs have been making with their most vulnerable children. It appears that our numbers may now be levelling out
21. NI 66 – as with children subject to plans, children in care also have to regularly reviewed. Performance in this area is good.
22. NI 63 and 62 – are both measures of the stability of children in care. 63 measures those who have been in the same placement for at least 2 of the last 2.5 yrs. Performance is somewhat below national averages but has increased over the course of the year. 62 measures how many children have three or more moves in the course of a year – performance is good (and when these PIs were subject to bandings, 0-16% was considered top performance)
23. Adoptions/SGOs and NI 61 – again very small numbers and monthly trends are not helpful.
24. NI 147 - the service explored the dip in performance in September and rectified matters for October.

25. NI 148 – is a subset of the Council's NEET figures. Care leavers are one of the hard to reach groups. Performance is measured annually.