

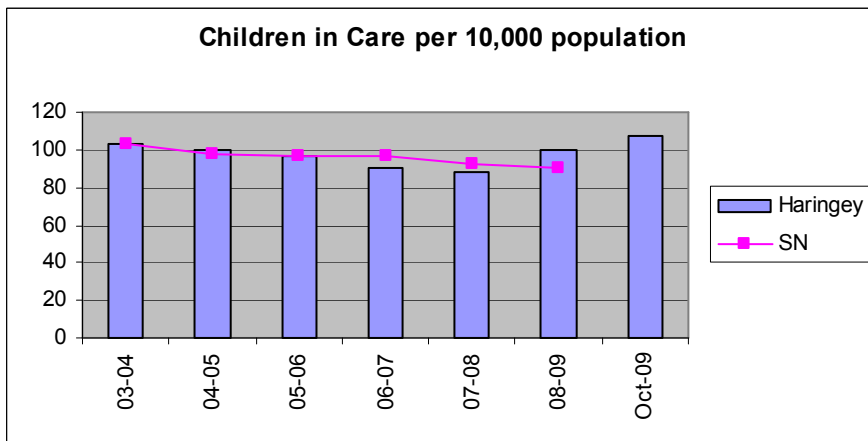
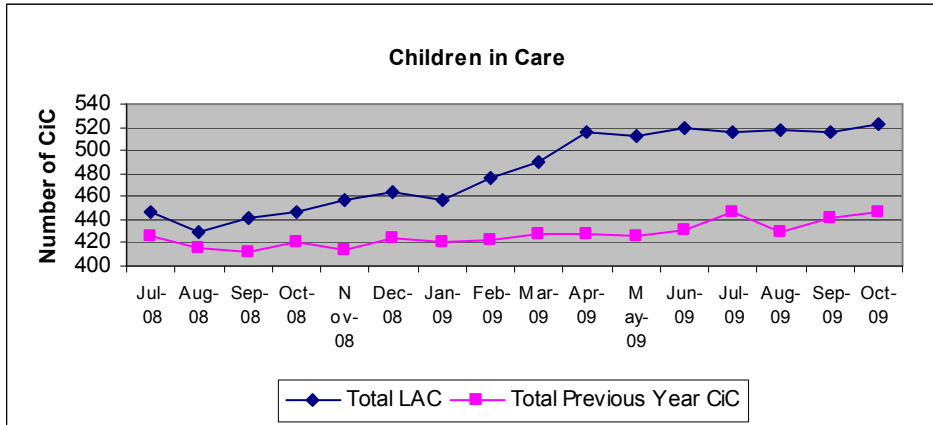


<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – October 2009 Data
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Eleanor Brazil
<b>Date:</b>	7 December 2009

**1. To provide a monthly update of performance monitoring activity in relation to Children in Care (CiC) within the Children and Families Service.**

**2. Background information**

- 2.1 The total number of CiC at the end of October 2009 was 523 compared to 515 children in September (106.8 per 10,000 population compared with 90 per 10,000 for our statistical neighbours in 2008/09). Of the 523, 49 children are unaccompanied minors. These numbers have remained consistent for some time.
- 2.2 20 children became looked after in October and 16 children ceased to be looked after. Care proceedings were initiated on 17 children in October.
- 2.3 Since early 2008 we have seen increasing numbers of children in our care population but this number is now beginning to stabilise. The first chart below compares the number of children in care over the last year with the previous year and the second chart compares the yearly position with our statistical neighbour averages over the same period.



2.4 Children Missing from Care - between August and October 2009, 25 children went missing from care. The total number of occasions these children went missing in that period was 124. On 44 occasions children went missing for more than 24 hours. On 74 occasions children went missing overnight – the 30 occasions in addition to those who went missing for over 24 hours are young people who go out in the evening and return the following morning/day. No children were reported as being harmed whilst they were missing from care. 2 Young people committed offences whilst they were missing from care – one 15 year old committed 1 offence and a 17 year old committed 2 offences.

2.5 Allocations. All CiC had an allocated Social Worker in October.

2.6 A manual audit of a small sample of 10 children in care for over a year has been undertaken to provide an indication of turnover of allocated social workers within the children in care team. 3 out of the 10 children sampled retained the same social worker for the 12 months, 4 children had 2 social workers over the 12 month period and 3 children had 3 social workers over the 12 month period. Of the 3 children who had 3 social workers, 2 changes of worker for each child related to workers leaving the council.



- 2.7 Visits to CiC. 90.6% of CiC had an up to date visit at the end of October. 49 children did not have an up to date visit.
- 2.8 NI 66 Reviews in timescale. The percentage of CiC for whom there was a review held in timescale was 90% at the end of October. Out of 503 children who had been looked after continuously for the previous 4 weeks, 492 had been reviewed within the required timescales. The number of reviews held out of timescale in the year to date is 11.
- 2.9 Adoptions and special guardianship of CiC. 16 children have been made subject to a special guardianship order in the year to date, the target is 28 by the end of March 09. 9 of these were special guardianship orders and 7 adoption orders.
- 2.10 NI63 - This indicator is based on children under 16 who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for at least two years or are placed for adoption. The position at the end of October is 65%. Of 146 children who had been looked after for at least 2.5 years, 95 were in the same placement for at least 2 years.
- 2.11 NI62 - This is an indicator of the number of children who have had 3 or more placements during the year. In the last 12 months, 12.2% of children have had 3 or more placements (64 out of 523). Our target for this indicator is 11%. Since April 09, 30 children have had 3 or more placements and 105 children have had 2 placements.
- 2.12 Personal Educational Plans (PEP). 78% of CiC have a PEP in place at the end of October. Out of 424 children who require a PEP, 329 have one. 48% of these are up to date (159 out of 329).
- 2.13 Health Assessments. Children in Care are expected to have a health assessment undertaken once a year. Although this indicator is only collected annually, to assist us in monitoring progress in this area we have developed an indicator which looks at the percentage of children who have been in care for over a month who have had a health assessment within the previous 12 months. The position at the end of October is 75% (383 out of 509).
- 2.14 Dental Checks. Children in Care are expected to have a dental check at least once a year. As above, we have developed an indicator which looks at the percentage of children who have been in care for over a month who have had a dental check within the previous 12 months. The position at the end of October is 68% (346 out of 509).



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2.15 Outcome indicators for children in care – a separate report will be presented to the next CPAC in relation to annual outcome indicators for children in care. However, we do have the following provisional information:

- Of the 48 children due to sit GCSE's, 32 sat (67%). All children who sat these exams achieved at least 1 GCSE at grades A\*-G. 26 achieved at least 5 A\*-G (54%), 15 achieved at least 5 A\*-C (31%) and 9 achieved at least 5 A\*-C including English and Maths (18.75%). All of these results are an improvement on last year.
- 88% of children who have been in care for at least 12 months to the end of September have an up to date dental check, 90% have an up to date health assessment. 20 children were identified as having substance misuse issues and 60% have received intervention. 92% of school leavers are in Education, Training or Employment.

2.16 NI 147 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation. This indicator looks at care leavers who were in suitable accommodation on or around their 19th birthday. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at the end of October is 77% (24 out of 31 who turned 19 in the year to date).

2.17 NI 148 Care leavers in Education, Training or Employment. This indicator looks at care leavers who were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday. 61% of young people who have turned 19 in the year to date were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday (19 out of 31 who turned 19 in the year to date). These figures are based on low numbers who have left care so far and will vary considerably from month to month.

### 3. Audits of Quality

3.1 A new audit framework has been developed and has been implemented throughout September with the first set of audits focusing on quality of practice completed in October. A random sample of cases were selected from across Children and Families and allocated to Heads of Service and Senior Team Managers for auditing. 11 Children in Care and Leaving Care cases were audited.

3.2 The audit is divided into 10 domains/sections (Referral and Response, Risk Assessment, Key Decisions, Key Assessment Episodes, Key Planning and Reviewing, Child/YP focused practice, Supervision/Management Overview, Direct Engagement/professional relationships, Reporting and Recording and Case Transfer and Closure). Of the 11 cases audited, overall, 5 cases were rated as good, 3 as adequate, 3 as inadequate and none as critical. The strongest area of practice in this sample was highlighted as Child and Young Person Focused Practice with



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8 cases rated as good in this area. The weakest area related to Supervision and Management Overview with 5 cases rated as inadequate in this area.

- 3.3 Heads of Service are responsible for following up actions in relation to all audits rated as inadequate. A sample of these audits will be re-audited on a quarterly basis to ensure any identified issues have been followed up and relevant action taken. This audit is to be undertaken on a monthly basis with a monthly report and overview presented to the Children and Families Performance Management Team for discussion.