



Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – December 2009 Data
Lead Officer:	Eleanor Brazil
Date:	25 January 2010

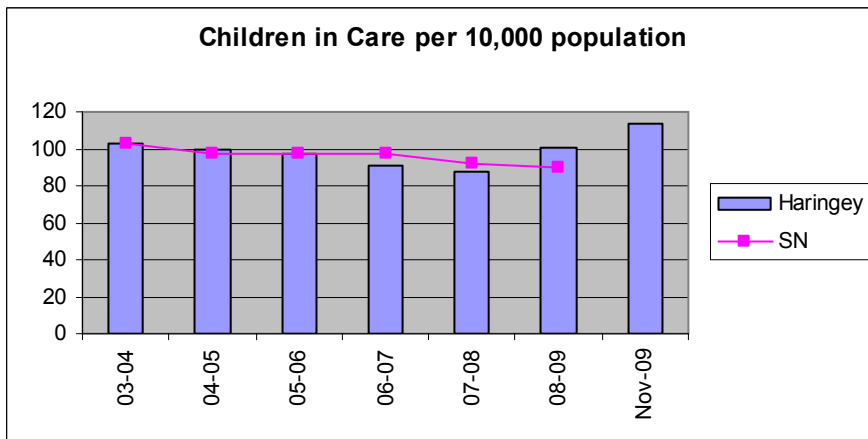
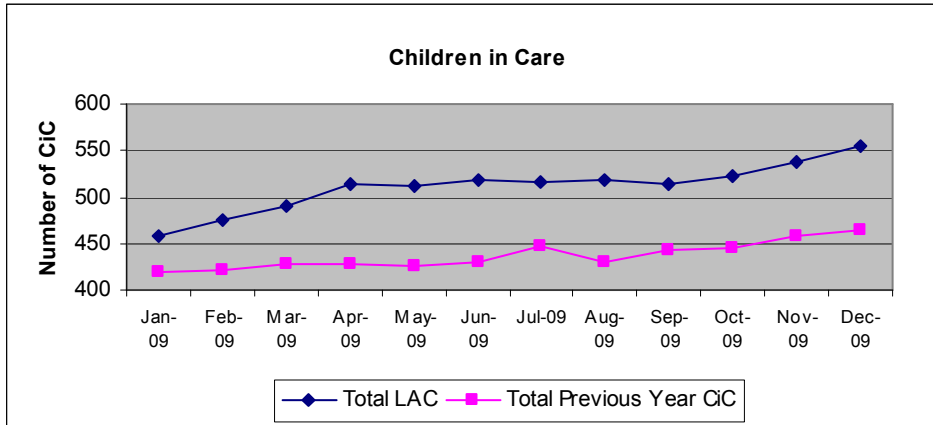
1. To provide a monthly update of performance monitoring activity in relation to Children in Care (CiC) within the Children and Families Service.

2. Background information

2.1. The total number of CiC at the end of December 2009 was 555 compared to 537 children in November (113 per 10,000 population compared with 90 per 10,000 for our statistical neighbours in 2008/09). Of the 555, 50 children are unaccompanied minors. These numbers have remained consistent for some time.

2.1.1. 35 children became looked after in December and 21 children ceased to be looked after. Care proceedings were initiated on 11 children in December.

2.1.2. Since early 2008 we have seen increasing numbers of children in our care population, this number stabilised throughout most of 2009 but is now beginning to increase. 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.



2.2. Children Missing from Care - Between November & December 2009, 26 children went missing from care. The total number of occasions these children went missing in that period was 70. On 13 occasions children went missing for more than 24 hours. On 31 occasions children went missing overnight – the 18 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. One young person was reported as being harmed whilst they were missing from care (15 year old girl). One young person committed an offence whilst they were missing from care (a 13 year old boy).

2.3. Allocations. One child did not have an allocated worker at the end of December. This case has now been allocated.

2.4. A manual audit of a small sample of 10 children in care for over a year has been undertaken to provide an indication 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 twelve month period. The children who had 3 or more social workers can be explained due to changes in worker and workers leaving the council.



2.5. Visits to CiC. 92% of CiC had an up to date visit at the end of December. 45 children did not have an up to date visit. Further follow up is being done on these cases to ensure that if visits have taken place, that they have been recorded accurately on framework i.

2.6. NI 66 Reviews in timescale. The percentage of CiC for whom there was a review held in timescale was 96.4% at the end of December. Out of 524 children who had been looked after continuously for the previous 4 weeks, 474 had been reviewed within the required timescales. The number of reviews held out of timescale in the year to date is 19.

2.7. Adoptions and special guardianship of CiC. 19 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 10 adoption orders.

2.8. 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 December is 69.72%. Of 142 children who had been looked after for at least 2.5 years, 99 were in the same placement for at least 2 years.

2.9. 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, 12.3% of children have had 3 or more placements (68 out of 555). Our target for this indicator is 11%. Since April 09, 50 children have had 3 or more placements and 120 children have had 2 placements.

2.10. Personal Educational Plans (PEP). 85% of CiC have a PEP in place at the end of December. Out of 424 children who require a PEP, 362 have one. 48% of these are up to date (174 out of 362).

2.11. 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 December is 68% (356 out of 526).

2.12. 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 December is 57% (300 out of 526).



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2.13. Outcome indicators for children in care – Appendix 1 shows a breakdown of educational and health outturns for children in care 2009-10.

2.14. 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 December is 78.6% (33 out of 42 who turned 19 in the year to date).

2.15. 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. 61.9% of young people who have turned 19 in the year to date were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday (26 out of 42 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.

2.16. Audits of Quality

2.16.1. A new audit framework has been developed was 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 in December.

2.16.1. 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, 4 cases were rated as good, 7 as adequate and none as inadequate or critical. The strongest area of practice in this sample was highlighted as Child and Young Person Focused Practice with 7 cases rated as good in this area. The weakest areas related to Key Assessment Episodes and Key Planning and Reviewing with 2 cases rated as inadequate in this area.

2.16.2. 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.

3. Options for consideration

4. Financial Implications - none



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- 5. Legal Implications - none**
- 6. Policy Implications - none**
- 7. List the proposed routing for the report through the formal decision making process**
- 8. Appendices – Appendix 1 – Outcome Indicators for Children in Care 2009-10**