



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – January 2010 Data
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<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 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 January 2010 was 558 compared to 555 children in December 2009 (113 per 10,000 population compared with 90 per 10,000 for our statistical neighbours in 2008/09). Of the 558, 44 children are unaccompanied minors. These numbers have remained consistent for some time.

2.1.1. 21 children became looked after in January and 23 children ceased to be looked after. Care proceedings were initiated on 17 children in January.

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.

2.2. Children Missing from Care – in the month of January 2010, 22 children went missing from care. The total number of occasions these children went missing in that period was 49. On 18 occasions children went missing for more than 24 hours. On 33 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 committed an offence whilst they were missing from care (a 13 year old boy).



2.3. Allocations. All children had an allocated worker at the end of January.

2.4. Visits to CiC. 93% of CiC had an up to date visit at the end of January. 37 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.

2.5. NI 66 Reviews in timescale. The percentage of CiC for whom there was a review held in timescale was 92.6% at the end of January. Out of 526 children who had been looked after continuously for the previous 4 weeks, 487 had been reviewed within the required timescales. The number of reviews held out of timescale in the year to date is 39.

2.6. Adoptions and special guardianship of CiC. 22 children have been made subject to a special guardianship order in the year to date, the target is 28 by the end of March 2010. 12 of these were special guardianship orders and 10 adoption orders.

2.7. 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 January is 69.6%. Of 135 children who had been looked after for at least 2.5 years, 94 were in the same placement for at least 2 years.

2.8. 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, 13.9% of children have had 3 or more placements (78 out of 558). Our target for this indicator is 11%. Since April 09, 62 children have had 3 or more placements and 119 children have had 2 placements.

2.9. Personal Educational Plans (PEP). 76% of CiC have a PEP in place at the end of January. Out of 425 children who require a PEP, 326 have one. 61% of these are up to date (200 out of 326). Social workers are working very closely with schools to ensure PEPs are uptodate. Designated teachers have recently had training from the Children in Care education team to help ensure this happens.

2.10. 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 January is 67.7% (364 out of 538).

2.11. 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



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dental check within the previous 12 months. The position at the end of January is 51% (276 out of 538).

2.12. Outcome indicators for children in care – Appendix 1 .

2.13. 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 January is 77.1% (37 out of 48 who turned 19 in the year to date).

2.14. 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. 60.4% of young people who have turned 19 in the year to date were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday (29 out of 48 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.

2.15. Audits of Quality

2.15.1. A new audit framework was developed and implemented throughout September with the first set of audits focusing on quality of practice completed in October. A random sample of cases are selected from across Children and Families and allocated to Heads of Service and Senior Team Managers for auditing, these audits are completed monthly. In January a themed audit tool was devised based on the standard quality of practice audit tool, to look specifically at how the new format of the child protection core assessment is working. 4 Children in Care cases were audited in January.

2.15.2. The audit looks at 3 domains/sections in relation to the child protection core assessment (strategy discussion, CP core and conference). Of the 4 cases audited, 2 cases were rated as good across all 3 domains, 1 case was rated as adequate across all 3 domains and 1 case was rated as inadequate for strategy discussion and adequate for the following two domains.

2.15.3. 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. A monthly report and overview is presented to the Children and Families Performance Management Team for discussion. The February audits will return to using the standard quality of practice audit tool, however themed audits may be used in the future to look at specific areas of practice across the service.