



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 18 March 2013	Item Number:	
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Title:	Performance Assessment – Year to January 2013
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: NA
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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

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

- The rate of **children in care** continues to decrease, 533 children on the last day of January or 93 per 10,000 population, which remains higher than the level in similar boroughs but a significant reduction on this point last year (rate 104).
- The number of **children subject to a child protection plan** increased by 61 since the end of March 2012 (345 in total) and the rate has increased and stands at 60 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 40 for statistical neighbours.
- 8.3% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** higher than the London position of 5.5%
- 98% of **child protection visits** completed to timescale
- There have been 10 **adoptions** in the year to January, on track to meet the target of 15, and 25 **special guardianship orders**.
- In the year to date, **children waited an average of 711 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This is higher than the 639 day national threshold but an improvement over Haringey's three year average for 2009/12 (749).
- In the year to date, **children waited an average of 455 days from entering care to moving in with adoptive parents** (including foster parents who subsequently adopt), compared to 647 days in 2009/12.
- The proportion of **children placed in Haringey** is 26% and 74% are placed outside Haringey. 81% were placed within 20 miles of Haringey.
- 19 children were **missing from care** during the month of January, including 10 who were missing for more than 24 hours and 5 who remained missing at the end of the month including 3 whereabouts known.

2.1. Contacts, Referrals and Assessments and Child Protection

- The **number of contacts** received continued at the lower level seen since December at 464 in January. The yearend figure is projected to be close to last year's outturn (an annual projection of 6,755 contacts compared with 6,722 in 2011/12) but the number of contacts remain significantly lower than 2009/10 and 2010/11. 28% of contacts in the year to date proceeded to referral compared with 34.3% in 2011/12.
- An analysis of presenting need at point of contact in October and November 2012 compared with the same period in 2011 showed an increase in contacts in the following areas.

Presenting Need	Oct/ Nov 2011	Oct/Nov 2012	change
Domestic Violence	20%	22%	+2%
Housing	7.2%	8.3%	+1.1%
Neglect	6.3%	8.1%	+1.8%
Physical Abuse	6.4%	8.7%	+2.3%

- And a corresponding decrease in these areas:

Presenting Need	Oct/ Nov 2011	Oct/Nov 2012	change
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Need for Family Support	10.4%	1.9%	-8.5%
Universal Services	4%	0.6%	-3.4%
Child has a disability	3.75%	1%	-2.75%
Child Mental Health Issues	2%	0.8%	-1.2%

- **Referrals** have decreased steadily over recent years and are on track to do so again with the end of year number projected to be around 57% of that in 2009/10 and around 75% of referrals in 2011/12. 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 the MASH process determines the nature of the intervention as at the contact stage it is identified whether no further action is required therefore contacts are only progressed to referral when the threshold criteria for statutory intervention has been met.
- Haringey's current proportion of **referrals going on to initial assessment** at 97% is high comparatively. The high conversion reflects the robust screening described above. The First Response Team is piloting the Single Assessment model (this does not delineate between Initial and Core assessments).
- There is a considerable amount of work around early help analysis underway which should enable us to evidence whether the reduction in contacts and referrals is as a result of us meeting need earlier either through CAFs or provision of universal services.

To this end one of the areas being examined, compared and analysed is presenting need at referral and at assessment. The Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework has provided a list of potential child and parent risk factors identified at assessment. The framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families sets out the principles that underpin all work with children in need and in particular the three domains of the conceptual framework: child's development needs; parenting capacity; family and environmental factors. Recording against these risk factors will commence from March 2013. The factors have been defined by the DFE and will become statutory reporting requirements from April 2013. A list of the factors at assessment is attached at Appendix 2.
- Haringey's rate of **re-referrals within 12 months** of the previous referral at 16% is in line with our statistical neighbours and at a similar level to that reported in 2011/12. In January this relates to 15 re-referrals out of 124 children.
- Performance on **initial assessments** carried out in 10 days declined to 73% in December, short of the 80% target and 73% in the year to date. Although performance in this area has improved overtime it remains below that of our statistical neighbours.
- The **distribution of working days taken to complete an initial assessment** for December shows that in addition to the 73% completed within 10 days, 13% were completed within 5 days of the 10 days expectation. Analysis of CIN published data showed that Haringey had the 3rd highest percentage of initial assessments completed in 21 days plus, 18% compared with a statistical

neighbour position of 9% and 10% in England. In January 12% of initial assessments were completed in 21 days plus. Haringey is likely to implement single assessment from April 2013. It will replace the Initial Assessment, CP Core and Core assessment but the approach to monitoring and reporting timescales locally is still to be agreed.

- There was also a decline in performance in January with 69% of **Core assessments** completed in timescale (35 working days), below the 85% target. Analysis of 2011/12 Children in Need published data found that Haringey had the 4th 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. In January 14% of cores closed took more than 61 days to complete.
- The rate of **children subject to a child protection plan** has increased over the last year at 60 per 10,000 population. This equates to 67 additional children on a plan than at this time last year (345 children in total) and remains considerably higher than comparator authorities. There has been a considerable increase in the number of children becoming subject to a plan this year (28 became subject to plan in January and 328 in the year to date, a net increase of 61 in the year to January). A linear projection suggests an increase to around 400 children becoming subject to a plan in 2012/13 and 330 ceasing which would result in a net increase of 70 children becoming subject to a plan compared with a net increase of just 2 in 2011/12. Some analysis around chairs of CP conferences and individual thresholds is being undertaken alongside some examination of cases before they come to conference by First Response and challenges around workloads where children may be taking longer to work through the system. The top two recorded presenting needs for children who became subject to a children protection plan were for domestic violence (141 children [75%]) and for drugs (60 children [43%]).
- The primary factors that are considered likely to contribute to the high numbers of children on a CP plan in Haringey are, thresholds for cases being taken to initial conference, thresholds once a CP plan has been made in relation to subsequently removing a child from a child protection plan service provision once a CP plan is in place impacting on duration of CP plan. A recent audit of CP cases highlighted all the above issues as being in need of attention, and feedback from the peer challenge also highlighted issues in respect of thresholds. In Quarter 3 87.6% (120 out of 137) of children who had an initial CP conference became subject to a CP plan.
- Audit of CP cases held within Safeguarding and Support is now complete – This audit identifies issues of thresholds and effectiveness of CP plans. Themes identified provide learning and possible direction for S and S social workers and CPAs. Safeguarding and Support management team is actively considering this audit information with a view to addressing the practice issues raised.
- Cases currently transfer from First Response to Safeguarding and Support following Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) – the timing of this transfer is variable – Audit clearly identifies that this transfer point/system is not effective. It

is planned that from April 1st that Safeguarding and Support attend all ICPCs and take case responsibility from that point. This should allow for CP plans to be progressed. HofS from First Response and Safeguarding and Support have met together and with the CPAs to ensure plans are moving towards this change becoming implemented on April 1st.

- In terms of **children becoming subject to a child protection plan** First Response Service and the CPA group have now begun to consider/audit all cases where the social work plan is to take a case to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). Issues of threshold and consistency need more consideration but the auditing and introduction of management and CPA oversight at a crucial point in assessment prior to the case being taken to conference should help identify themes and issues and will allow re-consideration of support/early help that may, if provided, avoid the need for a Child Protection plan.
- 8.3% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** (22 out of 265 children) in the year to January and slightly higher than statistical neighbours. Individual cases with child protection plans lasting longer than 14 months are routinely considered by senior managers in Safeguarding and Support and the child protection advisor. There have been a number of cases involving large sibling groups but further work is required to look at this alongside the number of children on plans and to gain more understanding of risk both around individual cases but also to identify possible themes in relation to children thought to need extended child protection planning. 4.6% or 15 out of 327 **children have become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** this year which is lower than the 12.7% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2011/12. This may relate to children being on plans rather longer than in other boroughs.
- 96% of **child protection cases** were reviewed within timescales in the year to January. There were 9 children for whom reviews were out of timescale. In Haringey we apply a higher standard and performance would be closer to 100% if we consider that reviews do not have to be held after 3 months (as if following an ICPC) for children who had been placed on a Haringey CP plan following a transfer in CP conference. Some authorities might consider that those children who transfer in are already into the review cycle – and should therefore be reviewed after 6 months.
- 98% of **Child Protection visits** completed to timescale in the month of January, the highest performance level in the year and exceeding target for the 2nd month running. **Children in Need visits** improved slightly to 89% in January, which although below target is well above levels achieved in 2011/12.

3. Appendices

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

- **Appendix 2: Parental and Child Factors at Assessment**