



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 30 April 2013	Item Number:	
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Title:	Performance Assessment – Year to February 2013
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Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler/ Libby Blake
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Lead Officer:	Margaret Gallagher
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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, 530 children on the last day of February or 92 per 10,000 population, which remains higher than the level in similar boroughs but a significant reduction on this point last year (rate 101).
- **Contacts and referrals** both increased in February with contacts projected to be at similar levels to 2011/12 and referrals projected to decrease by around 25% on 2011/12.
- The number of **children subject to a child protection plan** increased by 34 since the end of March 2012 (318 in total) and although there was a reduction in the number and rate in February, the rate at 55 per 10,000 population compares to a rate of 40 for statistical neighbours.
- 8% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** higher than the London position of 5.5% but only 4.5% of children became the **subject of a child protection plan for a second and subsequent time** lower than proportions reported by our statistical neighbours.
- 97% of **child protection visits** completed to timescale
- 88% of **children in need visits** were completed in time

2.1. *Contacts, Referrals and Assessments and Child Protection*

2.1.1. The **number of contacts** increased slightly to 507 in February. The year end figure is projected to be close to last year's outturn (an annual projection of 6,694 contacts compared with 6,722 in 2011/12) but the number of contacts remain significantly lower than 2009/10 and 2010/11.

2.1.2. 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 50% 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. Contacts are only progressed to referral when the threshold criteria for statutory intervention has been met.

2.1.3. An on-going exercise within the screening team has included discussing with professionals who refer whether the LSCB threshold has been applied. This has been an interesting exercise and opened up the debate regarding the level of concern being expressed and whether alternative approaches are appropriate. The Haringey 54,000 programme is going to assess whether this exercise has had an impact on outcomes.

2.1.4. Haringey's current proportion of **referrals going on to initial assessment** at 96% 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). A report on the evaluation of the pilot is being prepared with assistance from the 54,000 programme.

2.1.5. 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**. One of the areas being looked at is the matching of those who were referred by social care for a CAF, what happened to those cases along with a comparison against all CAFs. CAFs initiated by social care staff increased by 25% in Q2 compared to the same quarter last year which is a significant trend as we know the majority of CAFs completed by social care staff are for Family Support or CIN child care provision. We are not convinced that this is an effective use of social work resource and tells us where the need to improve access to resources pathways is. This might also indicate an increase in the cases being effectively 'stepped down' as well as ensuring effective joint working for children subject to CP plans that will then facilitate 'step down' arrangements in the future.

2.1.6. 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 February this relates to 24 re-referrals out of 141 referrals.

2.1.7. Performance on **initial assessments** carried out in 10 days remained in line with January 74% in February, 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 service is committed to improving performance in this area. Regular performance meetings occur with managers to track any out of date assessments. Social workers are now provided with calendar reminders and a list each Monday of assessments due.

2.1.8. The **distribution of working days taken to complete an initial assessment** for February shows that in addition to the 74% completed within 10 days, 25% 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 February 9% of initial assessments were completed in 21 days plus.

2.1.9. There was also a decline in performance in February with 60% 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 February 21% of cores completed took more than 61 days to complete.

2.1.10. The rate of **children subject to a child protection plan** is the lowest it has been since July, 55 per 10,000 population in February (318 children), a reduction of 27 children on a plan since last month. February would be the first month where recent practice developments could have impacted. The reduction in numbers is likely to reflect the focus on this issue since December 2012. A map using a gradient system illustrating the numbers of child protection cases by ward is attached at Appendix 2.

2.1.11. The rate (per 10,000 population) of children subject to a plan remains considerably higher than comparator authorities. There has been a considerable increase in the number of children becoming subject to a plan this year (8 became subject to plan in February and 344 in the year to date), a net increase of 48 in the year to February. A linear projection suggests an increase to around 375 children becoming subject to a plan in 2012/13 and 320 ceasing which would result in a net increase of 55 children becoming subject to a plan compared with a net figure of -36 in 2011/12. In 2011/12 more children ceased rather than became subject to a cp plan. 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. There are also some challenges around workloads which results in a longer time being taken to work these children through the system.

2.1.12. 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.

2.1.13. 8% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** (24 out of 299 children) in the year to February and slightly higher than statistical neighbours. The CPA's have together with the respective managers reviewed the most long standing 26 children who come from 8 families. It is anticipated that three of the children would be removed from plans at the next conference in March 13, care proceedings have been issued in respect of 3 sibling groups of 7 children as concerns have escalated, they will be removed from plans if interim orders are granted. In respect of a further two families a clear decision was made at conference to continue the CP Plan, the remaining children have a review CP conference in March – at this stage it is uncertain whether a decision will be made to continue or end the plan. A system to routinely scrutinise cases which have gone over 18 months is in the process of being established and will start reporting in July 2013.

2.1.14. 4.5% or 15 out of 337 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 comparator boroughs.

2.1.15. 96% of **child protection cases** were **reviewed within timescales** in the year to February. Of the eleven children without up to date reviews throughout the year as of the end of February six do not have a current up to date review, there are on occasions sound practice based reasons for delay.

2.1.16. 97% of **Child Protection visits** completed to timescale in the month of February, exceeding target for the 3rd month running. Systems are now in place for managers in Safeguarding & Support teams to check both occurrence of visits, the timely writing up of visits and the quality of both social work and recording. It was agreed that cases held within other teams will also be monitored by Service managers in Safeguarding and Support from January.

2.1.17. Children in Need visits were similar to January, 88% in time in February, which although below target is above levels achieved in 2011/12. A review of CIN cases is being undertaken to consider whether all open cases require social work allocation and indeed whether children's needs would be best met by case responsibility being held elsewhere. It is probable that a number of cases should be moved and held within family support teams.

3. Appendices

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

- **Appendix 2: Child Protection Plans mapped by Ward**