



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 17 September 2013	Item Number:	
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Title:	Performance Assessment – Quarter 1 2013/14
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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

- There has been a 2.8% reduction in the number of **children in care** since the end of March. 525 children were in care on the last day of June or 91 per 10,000 population, which remains higher than the level in similar boroughs although a significant reduction on this point last year (rate 96).
- There has been a continued downward trend in the number of **children subject to a child protection plan** which decreased by 136 children between January and June 2013 following a sustained process of casework audit and reflective supervision. At the end of June there were 208 children subject to a plan a rate of 36 per 10,000 population and now below the 2011/12 rate for our statistical neighbours (40)
- There was an 18.5% reduction in **referrals** between 2011/12 and 2012/13 and current levels suggest a further 17% reduction in 2012/13.
- **Re-referrals within 12 months** of the previous referral at 12% is in line with our target (16%) and a healthy position, slightly below our statistical neighbours.
- Performance on **initial and core** assessments completed in timescale although improved in June remains below target. Single assessment went live from 1 July and future reports will contain detail of the simple and complex assessments completed in 45 working days.
- 7.3% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** higher than the England position of 5.6% but slightly lower than our statistical neighbours and London.
- 8.5% of children have become the **subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** lower than the 12.7% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2011/12 but a more healthy position than the end of year figure of 4.8% in 2012/13.
- 96% of **child protection visits** completed to timescale as at the end of June exceeding the 95% target.

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

- 3.1. The number of **child contacts** continue to be consistently lower than the same months last year at around 450 per month compared to over 600 in a number of months last year. The projected yearend figure is over 1,000 fewer contacts when compared with 2012/13. Through the application of the LSCB Threshold, discussions occur as to alternative strategies of intervention through CAF and the voluntary sector. The signposting and diversion that occurs through this process is due to the consistency of advice and knowledge of support that is available, in order that step down and early help strategies are applied. A significant proportion of contacts are information requests which will have a no further action outcome.
- 3.2. The screening team have held workshops with schools to continue to improve the communication and interface. These workshops will be rolled out to other partners such as midwifery Departments and health visitors. With the work being done around early help, the offer of support will only increase for those vulnerable families where contact with the Department has been made.

3.3. **Referrals** have decreased steadily over recent years. In 2012/13 as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was introduced, we received 2,045 referrals a 38% reduction on 2009/10 and 18.5% reduction from 2011/12. Haringey's rate (per 10,000 population) of referrals is historically below that of statistical neighbours and continued reductions are forecast for 2013/14. FRMAT and MASH are the reasons for the year on year reduction. As these initiatives have been implemented, the consistency of advice given and threshold discussions that have occurred has gained the confidence of partners and the public. As Early help becomes more embedded, it is forecast that contacts and referrals will continue to reduce as partners continue to grow in confidence in terms of what they can offer before a contact to social care occurs.

3.4. In Quarter 1, 30% of **referrals did not progress beyond assessment phase** (425 out of 1396), this is the difference between contacts and referrals, the latter being a request for service. In Quarter 1 28% of contacts resulted in no further action. In Haringey the MASH and screening process continues to focus on holding discussions with referrers to ensure that only those contacts that require a statutory assessment are progressed to referral. As part of MASH gathering information in Quarter 1 of the 127 contacts which led to a MASH episode 69 (54%) were First Response initial contact/ referral, information or advice was given for 16 (12.5%) of cases, 14 (11%) resulted in no further action as they did not meet the threshold for social care and 17 (13%) went onto a strategy discussion or core assessment. The remaining few were either abandoned, information noted or case closed to social care.

3.5. Haringey's proportion of **referrals going on to initial assessment** increased to over 100% in Quarter 1. There is a 100% conversion rate from Referral to Initial Assessment. This reflects the screening process as outlined in 3.1 whereby information gathered at the screening stage and application of the LCSB Threshold determines that an assessment will be required if the decision has been made to move the contact to referral.

3.6. Analysis of all **contacts and referrals in 2012/13 by presenting need** showed that the top five presenting needs were:

- Domestic Violence
- Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Housing issues and
- Parental Alcohol and Drug Misuse

In terms of referrals 'Need for family support' is the sixth highest presenting need particularly prominent in Seven Sisters, Tottenham Hale and Northumberland Park wards. A map of the top ten presenting needs for contacts and referrals received in 2012/13 by ward is attached at appendix 2.

3.7. An **analysis of MASH data** for 2012/13 revealed that the main source of referral was the Police followed by schools/education. For those where a presenting need was selected, the count for domestic violence as the

outcome was the highest with neglect and physical abuse the next highest presenting need.

- 3.8. A **new model for early help** has been developed and is currently being consulted on. New forms/ templates will help us to track and 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. Co-ordinated working with First Response has continued to be key to our early help offer. Over the last year, duty work has enabled the provision of immediate family support to prevent family breakdown. This has involved joint visits with First Response social workers covering work on assessment, improving parenting capacity and practical advice and support. There has also been regular formal and informal liaison between both managers and practitioners of CAF and First Response Teams. Work is developing also on 'step down' from the Safeguarding and Support team and ensuring effective step up/step down practice is to be a key element of the 13/14 CAF review work. There were similar numbers of referrals from social workers in 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- 3.9. A sample of 58 CIN cases held by social work assistants in the Safeguarding and Support Team was reviewed alongside senior social work managers in December 2012. Of these 6 were already open to Family Support and a further 3 were allocated to be **stepped down** using a Team Around the Child meeting approach.
- 3.10. An area of concern identified in 2011/12 was the length of time between receipt of an assessment and its presentation at Panel. During 12/13, effectiveness of the information gathering and screening stages of the process have been improved, resulting in 59% of **CAF assessments reaching Panel** within 6 weeks of receipt of assessment. A target of 75% of assessments reaching Panel within 6 weeks is set for 13/14.
- 3.11. 84% of **CAFs** were completed for children aged 11 years and under, with the majority being completed for children in the primary phase. The figures below indicate that 36% of all CAFs were completed on children aged under 5 years (compared to 31% in 11/12), 48% for children aged between 5 and 11 years (compared to 52% in 11/12), and 15% completed on children and young people aged 11 – 18 years (compared to 17% in 11/12). The majority of CAFs are undertaken in schools with social workers completing the bulk of the remainder. The low numbers of CAFs undertaken in the early years (from both Children's Centres and early years health professionals) is a cause for concern and a catalyst for the full review and refresh of the CAF process being undertaken in 2013/14, with active engagement of partner agencies.
- 3.12. The high number of **CAF assessments** from social workers is likely to be due to three main reasons. Firstly, requests for engagement with Child Protection and Children in Need plans; secondly, step down processes using TAC meetings; and thirdly, the possibility that inappropriate referrals to First Response which do not meet thresholds are being redirected. For the first and third group of children, their journey through the system to receive

appropriate support remains unnecessarily convoluted. From 2013, this group will be captured through Framework-i to enable better analysis.

3.13. The table below shows the new cases that **services** represented at the CAF panel **took on as a result of the 898 CAFs submitted** during 2012-13. A total of 899 service allocations were made.

3.14. Note that these figures only relate to service allocation through the CAF and are therefore not complete measures of the work taken on by these services during the period. Service allocations made for CAFs originally submitted prior to January 2012 which returned to the Panel for review are not included, nor are allocations made via other referral routes.

Service Allocation

Service Allocation	2012-13 Q1	2012-13 Q2	2012-13 Q3	2012 – 13 Q4	Total
Child Development Centre	10	9	10	7	33
Disabled Children's Team	0	0	0	0	0
Early Support Provision Allocated	12	3	5	3	21
Educational Psychology Service	79	27	55	47	200
Education Welfare Service	0	0	0	1	2
First Response	0	0	0	0	0
Family Support	31	51	53	48	178
On Track	2	0	0	0	2
Occupational Therapy	3	5	1	3	14
Nursery Placement	9	19	16	9	46
Language Support Team	7	5	5	6	24
Speech, Language & Communication Service	40	25	30	48	161
Young Carers	1	0	2	0	1
Statutory Assessment Agreed	21	11	31	49	130
Tuition service	4	3	8	7	21
Youth, Community & Participation Service	3	2	10	7	19
Total service allocations made	250	171	247	239	899

3.15. There has been a reduction in the number of CAFs received that resulted in **no allocation of additional services**, compared to 11/12. This was at 20% and 22% for the first two quarters of the year, falling to 14% for the last 2 quarters. This will continue to be monitored as it is a useful indicator of outcomes for families, and where there may be gaps in service provision. The number of CAFs where there was insufficient information was also less than in 11/12 and remained very small for most of the year.

CAFs where no service was allocated

CAF where no service allocated	2012-13 Q1	2012-13 Q2	2012-13 Q3	2012-13 Q4	Total
Insufficient information provided on form to make a decision	0	3	0	1	4

Information provided does not warrant additional intervention/ appropriate services already involved	21	15	18	17	70
Service no longer required	15	11	8	6	38
Other	2	0	0	5	12
Signposted/referred to other appropriate services	5	3	3	2	12
Statutory Assessment of SEN not agreed	6	9	10	4	23
Total with no allocation	49	41	39	35	159
Total CAFs	243	182	236	237	898
No allocation as % of all CAFs	20%	22%	14%	14%	17%

3.16. In 2012-13, 15% of CAFs submitted resulted in the allocation of more than one service.

3.17. Haringey's rate of **re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral** at 11.5% is in line with our target (16%) and our statistical neighbours. For Quarter 1 this relates to 49 re-referrals out of 425 referrals.

3.18. Performance on **initial assessments carried out in 10 days** improved in June to 76% but remains below the 80% target. Although performance in this area has improved overtime it remains below that of our statistical neighbours (81.7% in 10 days). 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.

3.19. Performance meetings held on a fortnightly basis since March have targeted assessment completion date focusing on manager and social worker accountability within this context. There remain 12 Initial Assessments that need to be completed across the system. The **Child and Family Assessment** has replaced the Initial Assessment with the target for the new National (SP¹IF) performance indicator being set at 95% for a child being seen within ten days of the assessment start date. This is a higher figure than the Initial Assessment target and reflects best practice expectations.

3.20. There was also an improvement in performance in June with 68% 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 (where high equates to poor performance) 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 2012/13 13% of cores completed took more than 61 days to complete.

3.21. The performance meetings have focused on timely assessment completion as well as discussion with regard to the quality of the

¹ Safeguarding Performance Information Framework

assessments themselves. There are 22 Core assessments that remain in the system and these will be completed by 14/8/2013. The Child and Family Assessment replaces the Core Assessment with the expectation that all assessments are completed within 45 days. Target completion dates are set within the assessment document for those assessments that have been identified as simple and therefore should be completed earlier than the 45 day timescale. The performance meeting will track the progress of the Child and Family Assessment.

- 3.22. The **rate of children subject to a child protection plan** is the lowest it has been since August 2009, 36 per 10,000 population in June (208 children), a reduction of 38 children on a plan since the end of March and 136 fewer children on a plan over the last six months. Our aim is to reach a similar rate of child protection plans as statistical neighbours who are currently rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and to have the right children on plans reflecting those children who are at risk. For the first time following the regularly reported rise in plans our rate falls below these neighbours following a period of review of over long plans and thresholds. This may indicate that other families may not be being considered for a plan where in other authorities they would be. Some of our learning from Serious Case Reviews also supports this conclusion. Further audit of work in First Response is required to test this hypothesis.
- 3.23. The reduction in numbers has brought our rate below the rate of comparator authorities. 47 children have **become subject to a plan** in Quarter 1 and 111 children have **ceased to be subject to a plan**, a net decrease of 64. In 2011/12 more children ceased rather than became subject to a cp plan and the same is true in 2012/13 although to a lesser extent.
- 3.24. 7.3% of **child protection plans last 2 years or more** (8 out of 110 children) in the year to June slightly higher than England (5.6% in 2011/12) but lower than our statistical neighbours (9.1%). 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.
- 3.25. 8.5% or 4 out of 47 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 and excludes children who were on a CP Plan in another authority.
- 3.26. 99.4% of **child protection cases were reviewed within timescales** in the year so far (161 out of 162). The reason for the delay in one of the cases was due to a complicated case which was initially a transfer in and then another child came to live with Mother at a different time. This was treated as an initial but was reviewed with sibling at 6 months instead of individually at 3 months.
- 3.27. 96% of **child protection visits completed to timescale** at the end of June, above the 95% target. Systems are now in place for managers in

Safeguarding & Support teams to check occurrence of visits, the timely writing up of visits and the quality of both social work and recording. We will be exploring the recording and reporting of CP visits every 10 days as this is the next step.

3.28. 93% of **Children in Need visits** were completed in time as at the end of June, which although below target is above levels achieved in 2012/13 and the highest performance level achieved in the last 2 years.

4. Appendices

- **Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking** for:
 - Contact, Referrals & Assessments and Child Protection
 - Analysis of top 10 Presenting Needs for contacts and referrals by ward
 - Analysis of New CP Plans by category and ward for 2012/13