

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 1 April 2014</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Performance Assessment – April to February 2013/14</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Lisa Redfern, Director of Children's Services (Acting)</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Margaret Gallagher – Performance Manager</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b> All	<b>Non Key</b>
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to:

- Children and Families - Contacts, referrals, assessments and Child Protection - current performance to February 2014.

1.2 Appendix 1 provides further detail in the form of a monthly performance monitoring report with tables and graphs for each of the agreed measures, grouped by topic. The scorecard shows monthly and year to date performance against target, long term trends and benchmarking where applicable. It contains service analysis to explain why the data looks the way it does, what action is going to be taken, by when.

## 2. Performance Highlights/ Key Indicators

**Corporate Plan indicators** relating to:

Priority 2: Enable every child and young person to thrive and achieve their potential; and

Priority 4: Safeguard children and adults from abuse and neglect wherever possible, and deal with it appropriately and effectively where it does occur.

- In general, there has been a downward trend in the number of **children subject to a child protection plan**. Children on a plan have reduced by 30% since the end of March 2013, 80 fewer children. At the end of February there were 188 children subject to a plan, a **rate** of 33 per 10,000 population below the 2012/13 rate for our statistical neighbours (40), our 2012/13 rate of 47 and our target rate of 43 ([page 6](#)). The main issue to be concerned with here is ensuring our threshold is set at the right level.
- A **children and families single assessment** went live from 1 July and initial and core assessments were replaced with simple and complex assessments. 1091 of these assessments have been **completed** in the year so far, **77% in 45 working days** against a target of 85% ([page 5](#)). New assessments are being undertaken in a timely manner due to tighter management and systems changes.
- 83% of **children assessed were seen within 10 days** in the year below the 95% target but more children have been seen in 10 days in recent months (87% in February) ([page 5](#)). This indicator has now improved due to system and practice changes and weekly management scrutiny of practice and I am now confident that the management and systems are in place to ensure this continues to improve as children deemed at risk must be seen in 10 days.
- 9.9% of **child protection plans** that ceased this year **lasted 2 years or more** close to our statistical neighbour position of 9%. Our target is 7%. ([page 6](#)).

#### Related safeguarding indicators

- 10% of children have become the **subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** in line with our 10% target.
- There have been 5181 **Child contacts** recorded in the year. Current numbers suggest around 1,000 fewer contacts in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13 ([page 4](#)).
- **Referrals** are also reducing, 20% reduction forecast in addition to a 14% reduction on numbers in 2011/12. This is equivalent to a referral rate of 275 per 10,000 population (projection of 300 rate for 2013/14) and low compared to our SN rate of 545 for 2012/13 ([page 4](#)).
- The rate of **re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral** at 14% is in line with our target (16%) and our statistical neighbours ([page 4](#)).
- 90% of **child protection cases have been reviewed within timescale** for the current cohort, below the 100% target and below levels achieved by our statistical neighbours ([page 8](#)).
- 96% of **child protection visits** completed in the month as at the end of February exceeding the 95% target ([page 8](#)).
- There has been a 3% reduction in the number of **children in care** since the end of March 2013. 523 children were in care on the last day of February 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 93).

For more detailed analysis and graphical illustrations, trends etc. see Appendix 1.

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

#### **3.1. Requires further analysis to understand what this is telling us.**

The number of **child contacts** in the year to February is 5,181, an average of 470 per month and 80 fewer contacts per month compared with 2012/13. Contacts from both the Police and the Health service have reduced, these being the two largest sources of contacts. An average of 55 fewer contacts per month were received from the Police (from 224 to 169) and 11 fewer monthly contacts from health (from 96 to 85). The variation in referrals is less pronounced with an average 5.5 fewer referrals per month with the largest drop from the Health service. The conversion rate from contact to referral is highest amongst schools and education services at 63% although this relates to less than 500 contacts. 26% of contacts from the Police convert to referral up from 21% in 2012/13 and 34% from Health services.

#### **3.2. Good**

The **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Screening** process continue to quality assure the information received and gather information proportionately in order to establish whether a referral for assessment is required.

#### **3.3. Analysis of contacts that progressed to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** in the year to February 2013 revealed that the main source of referral was the Police followed by voluntary organisations and then schools/education. A graph showing the source of contacts which progressed to MASH is attached at Appendix 3.

#### **3.4. Referrals** have decreased steadily over recent years linked to First Response Multi-Agency Team and MASH. There have been 1,583 referrals in the year to February 2014 and Haringey's projected **rate of referral per 10,000 population** of 300 remains significantly below that of our statistical neighbours (545 in 2012/13).

#### **3.5. Good**

Haringey's rate of **re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral** at 14% is in line with our target (16%) and our statistical neighbours. In the year to February 2014 this relates to 219 re-referrals out of 1,583 referrals.

#### **3.6. Performance has now improved.**

The Child and Family Assessment has replaced the Initial Assessment with the target for the new National (SP11F) performance indicator being set at 95% for a **child being seen within ten days** of the assessment start date. In the period July to February 83% (815 out of 985) children were seen within 10 days of their assessment, below the target. However performance is improving in this area with 87% of children seen in 10 days in the month of February (103 of the 118

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<sup>1</sup> Safeguarding Performance Information Framework

children), this is the highest achievement in the last seven months and since monitoring begun.

**3.7. New management is in place – response rates and practice improved.**

A new weekly performance scorecard has been launched with effect from 17 February and provides data down to team and individual level to aid performance management. Performance and quality meetings occur on a fortnightly basis where managers discuss assessment deadlines and any pressures occurring for the teams. The emphasis for this meeting is equally around focusing on practice expectations.

**3.8. Requires improvement**

Since the introduction of the new children and families single assessment in July 2013 a target to complete 85% of **assessments within 45 working days** was set. In the year to February 1091 assessments have been completed, 77% within the 45 day target. 27 of the 118 assessments completed in February were simple assessments and 91 were complex assessments. 11% of assessments have been completed in 10 days and 50% in 35 days, 27% between 36 and 45 days..

**3.9. Good – requires improvement**

The **rate of children subject to a child protection plan** is 33 per 10,000 population (188 children). Lower than the target rate in our Corporate Plan, Haringey's current rate is close to the average of 36.5 for our statistical near neighbours as at Quarter 3 2013/14 and similar to rates in Newham, Wandsworth and Kingston Upon Thames. Published data for 2012/13 puts Haringey's rate within the range of our statistical neighbours rated good or outstanding (between 26 and 66).

**3.10. Practice improved – but – we always need to check that our thresholds are correct**

234 children have **become subject to a plan** in the year to February and 317 children have **ceased to be subject to a plan**, a net decrease of 83.

**3.11. Requires improvement – and closer management action**

9.7% of **child protection plans last two years or more** (31 out of 314 children) close to our statistical neighbours (9%). A system to routinely scrutinise cases which have gone over 18 months is in place whereby the child protection advisor and Head of Service consider the need for an on-going plan on a case by case basis. Case file audits including the quality of CP plans and learning from cases that last more than 18 months specifically a drill down to examine progress are scheduled in the Quality Assurance programme.

**3.12. Good practice**

10% or 22 out of 230 children have become the **subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** this year which is lower than the 13% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2012/13 and in line with our 10% target.

**3.13. Requires improvement and intensive and rigorous management action**  
For the current cohort 90.4% of **child protection cases have been reviewed within timescale** this year (94 out of 104), below the 100% target.

**3.14. Good performance**

96.2% of **child protection visits were completed in the month** at the end of February, better than the 95% target. This relates to 177 visits made in the month out of 184. Systems are in place for managers in Safeguarding and Support teams to check occurrence of visits, the timely writing up of visits and the quality of both social work and recording.

**3.15. Requires improvement – Management action in place to address this**

91.3% of **Children in Need visits** were completed in line with the required frequency as at the end of February (210 out of 230).

**4. Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** February Performance Monitoring Report including analysis and benchmarking for Contact, Referrals & Assessments, Child Protection and Looked after Children