

Report Title: **September/October 2005 Performance data for Children's Services**

Report of: **The Director of the Children's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Information**

1. Purpose

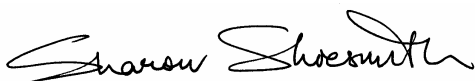
1.1 To inform Members of CSAC of the Children's Service performance against national and local indicators.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of CSAC are asked to endorse the contents of the report.

Report Authorised by: Sharon Shoesmith
Director
The Children's Service

Signature:



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3. Executive Summary

3.1 This paper contains children's social care performance data for September and October including data relating to looked after children, child protection, referrals and assessments, family support and staffing.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development

4.1 Not applicable

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 Not applicable

6. Background

6.1 This paper contains children's social care performance data for September and October including data relating to looked after children, child protection, referrals and assessments, family support and staffing.

7. Description

7.1 This report is the latest in a series of regular monitoring reports for CSAC

8. Consultation

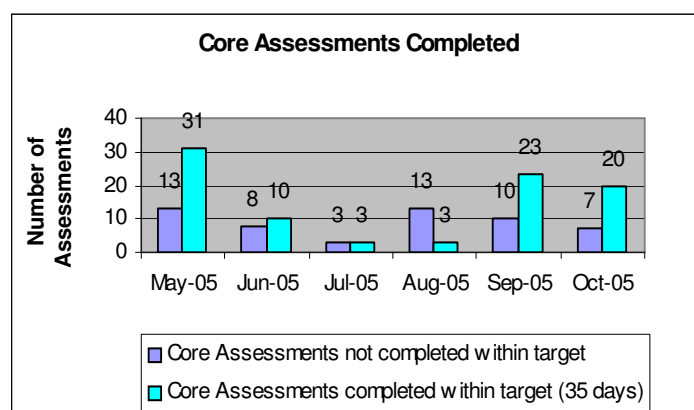
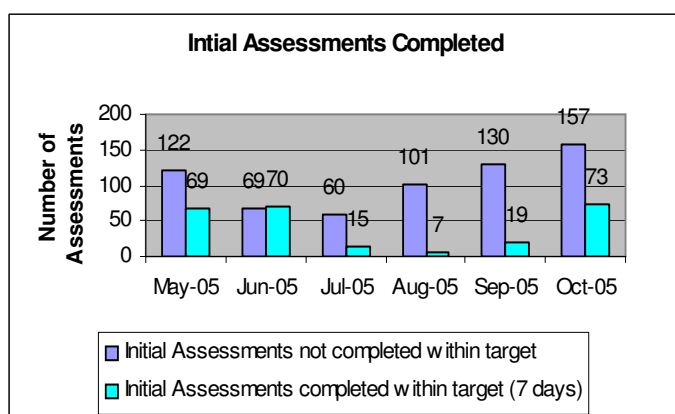
Not applicable

9. Summary and conclusions

September & October 2005 data

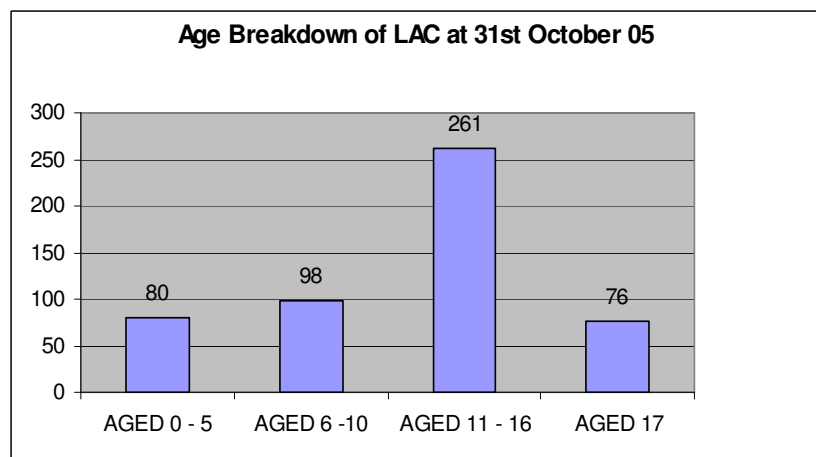
9.1 Referrals and Assessments

- 9.1.1 195 referrals were received in September and 227 in October
- 9.1.2 13% of initial assessments were completed in timescale in September and 32% in October. The year to date position for initial assessments in timescale is 29%. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 56%.
- 9.1.3 70% of core assessments were completed in timescale in September and 74% in October. This indicator now forms part of the PAF (Performance Assessment Framework – PAF C64) set of indicators from April 2005. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 50.6%. The average of our comparator Boroughs was 55.4%. Our current year to date position is 57.5%.
- 9.1.4 An oral update on current assessment performance will be presented to Members of CSAC at the meeting on 28th November.

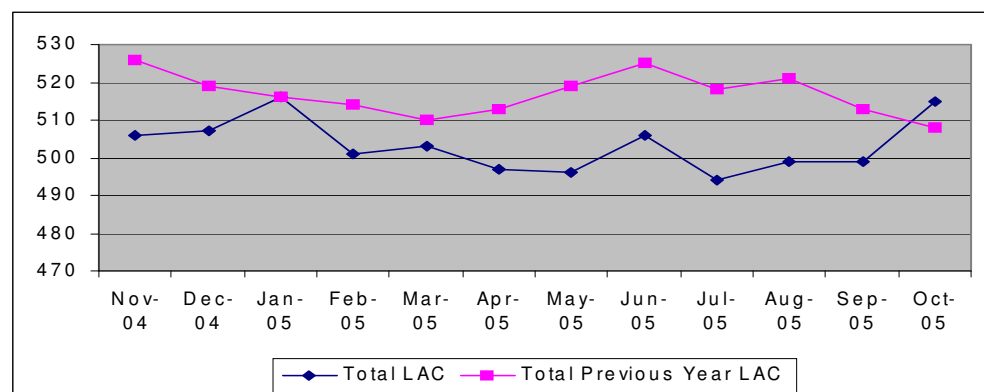


9.2 Children Looked After

- 9.2.1 The number of children looked after in September was 499 and this went up to 515 in October. The age breakdown of children looked after is demonstrated in the graph below:



- 9.2.2 At the end of September 92 LAC were unaccompanied minors and the figure was 104 in October.
- 9.2.3 The following table demonstrates the differences in the total numbers of children looked after in comparison to the same period in the previous year. If we compare the number of children looked after at the end of October 2005 compared to the same time last year, we see that there are now 9 more looked after.

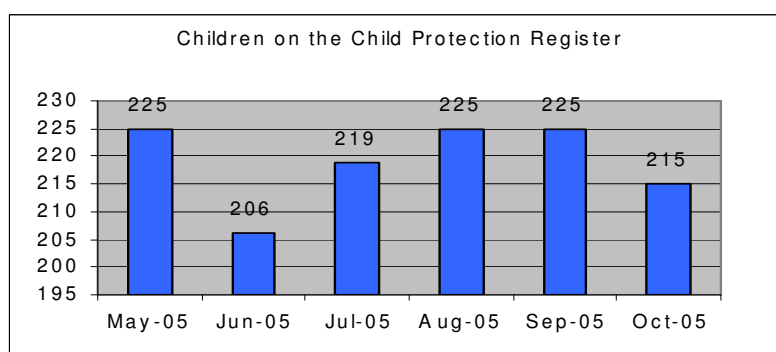


- 9.2.4 In September 18 children started to become looked after and 17 ceased. In October the figures were 28 started and 12 ceased. 8 children became subject to care proceedings in September and 20 in October.
- 9.2.5 93% of looked after children had a review in timescale in September and 93.3% in October.

- 9.2.6 In October 425 children required a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and, of those, 87% had one in place.
- 9.2.7 85% of looked after children had an up to date visit at the end of September and 84% at the end of October.
- 9.2.8 The proportion of children looked after placed in foster care or placed for adoption was 73.7% in September and 71% in October. The proportion of children under 10 placed in foster care or placed for adoption (PAFC22) was 95% in September and 95% in October. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 98.4%, which put us into the top performance banding. From April 2005 this is no longer a PAF return.
- 9.2.9 The percentage of children who communicated their views to a statutory review (PAF C63) in September was 97.5% and in October 99.1%. Our outturn for this indicator was 93.7% in 2004/05 and our target for 2005/06 is 98%.
- 9.2.10 99.5% of looked after children had an allocated worker at the end of October, meaning that only one looked after child did not have an allocated worker. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 98.8%. In 2003/04 the average of our comparator boroughs was 97%.
- 9.2.11 Information on children missing from care will be reported on quarterly as agreed at CSAC in May. The next update will be given at the December meeting.

9.3 Child Protection

- 9.3.1 The number of children on the Child Protection Register went down from 225 in September to 215 in October.



- 9.3.2 Excellent performance around children on the Child Protection Register who were reviewed in timescale has continued throughout the year to date, with 100% of reviews being completed in timescale since April. The London average for this indicator in 2003/04 was 98%.
- 9.3.3 The percentage of children on the Child Protection Register who were visited in timescale in September was 95.8% and 96% in October. This figure excludes those children registered in the last week of the month.

- 9.3.4 There were no children on the Child Protection Register without an allocated social worker at the end of October.

9.4 General overview of performance

- 9.4.1 This report shows generally good or improved performance across the range of statistical responsibilities. Our performance around allocation of children looked after and children on the child protection register remains good, although we need to continue to carefully manage this area to ensure that cases are re-allocated prior to workers leaving Haringey.
- 9.4.2 The number of family support cases without a named social worker was 39 at the end of October. 3 were in the District Teams, 27 in the Disabled Children's Team and 9 in Unaccompanied Minors.

9.5 Key Thresholds

- 9.5.1 From April 2004, four of the PAF indicators now form part of the key thresholds that limit the judgements made for children's services if they are not met; these limits may in turn result in limits to star ratings. Current performance around these indicators is as follows:
- 9.5.2 PAF A1 – Stability of Placements of looked after children. This indicator looks at those children with 3 or more placements in the year. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 14.7%, which put us in the top performance banding (<16%). We have set a target to reduce this to 13% for 2005/06. Our performance at the end of October was 11.8%.
- 9.5.3 PAF C20 – Reviews of Child Protection cases. This calculates the percentage of children due a review in the year, reviewed in timescale. The 2004/05 outturn for this indicator was 100%. The year to date position for this indicator is 100%.
- 9.5.4 PAF A2 – Educational qualifications of looked after children. This indicator looks at all children aged 16+ who have left care in the year with one or more GCSEs at grades A*-G (or GNVQ equivalent). The 2004/05 outturn for this indicator was 34.2%. Our plan for 2005/06 is 45%. The year to date figure at the end of October is 32.6%.
- 9.5.5 PAF C23 – Adoptions of children looked after. By the end of March 2005 the percentage of children adopted was 5.1%. Our plan for 2005/06 is 6% (approximately 20 children). 8 children had been adopted by the end of October

9.6 Staffing

- 9.6.1 The staffing position in the Children's District Teams for the end of October is summarised in the attached appendix 1, including a breakdown of agency staff in service for less than 3 months and more than 3 months
- 9.6.2 Both Service Managers are covered by permanent members of staff

- 9.6.3 There are 6 Senior Team Manager posts, 4 are covered by permanent staff, and 2 by agency workers.
- 9.6.4 There are 14 Team Manager posts, 13 are covered by permanent staff, and someone is acting up into the other post.
- 9.6.5 There are 15 Senior Practitioner posts, 7 are covered by permanent staff, one member of staff is acting up into the post, 4 are covered by agency workers and 3 are vacant.
- 9.6.6 There are 59 Social Worker posts, 28 are covered by permanent staff, there are 29 agency staff and 2 vacant posts.
- 9.6.7 There are 10 Social Work Assistant (SWA) posts, 9.5 are covered by permanent staff and there are 0.5 vacancies. There are 4 Social Services Officer posts, all are covered by permanent staff.

10 Recommendations

- 10.1 Members of CSAC are asked to endorse the contents of the report.

11 Comments of the Director of Finance

- 11.1 The activities mentioned above form part of the core activities of the authority for which budgetary provision in 2005/06 has been made.

12 Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 12.1 Legal Services have been consulted on the contents of this Report and have no specific comments.

13 Equalities implications

- 13.1 The improving performance within the Children and Families branch of the Children's Service assists socially disadvantaged service users, especially children. The trend around growing numbers of children subject to safeguarding concerns suggests that more of these service users are being appropriately protected.

14 Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

- 14.1 Appendix 1 – Staffing, including graph on agency staff – length of time in service
- 14.2 Appendix 2 – Timescales for key indicators