

Key:



On target



Within tolerance



Off target

| <b>Theme summary – Children and Young People</b>   |               |
|--|---------------|
| <i>Under this theme the following indicators are included in the corporate basket:</i>   | <b>Target</b> |
| Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) to be engaged in a 16 - 18 learning programme with Tees Achieve                               |               |
| Proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training in line with the new RPA requirements.   |               |
| All young people to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years old from 2013 and 18 years from 2015. |               |
| Early Years attainment gap   |               |
| SEN / non-SEN gap at KS2   |               |
| SEN / non-SEN gap at GCSE  |               |
| Free school meal / non-fsm attainment gap at KS2   |               |
| Free school meal / non-fsm attainment gap at KS4   |               |
| No school remains below the floor standards by 2013  | n/a           |
| Number of young people in receipt of self-directed support   |               |
| Access to short break provision  | n/a           |
| Proportion of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, within two years                                   |               |
| Proportion of child protection plans lasting two years or more   |               |
| Long term placement stability for looked after children – proportion of current placement for 2 years  |               |
| Evaluation of TAMHS programme indicates improved outcomes for children and families accessing the service  | n/a           |
| Obesity rate for children in year 6 of primary school  | n/a           |
| Improved access to services for families and children through targeted Children's Centre provision.  | n/a           |

**OVERALL PROGRESS**

Despite the pressures on social care support and provision, the key indicators for child protection and looked after children are within or close to target. The quality of inspected provision remains good overall, although there are challenges in narrowing the gap in educational attainment for some vulnerable groups. The economic climate is impacting on access to employment and training for young people, but there continues to be good levels of young people participating in post 16 learning programmes.

## PERFORMANCE

- The overall quality of much of our inspected provision (schools; children's centres; children's homes; childcare and early years settings) remains good, although new Ofsted inspection frameworks are proving challenging.
- A new school inspection framework has been implemented by Ofsted from September 2012, replacing the previous framework which had been in place from January 2012. These changes make it difficult to make comparisons both within the last school year, and between this new school year and the previous one, due to the different judgement criteria in each framework.
- **Primary Schools:** up to the end of the previous school year (September 2011 to July 2012), we continued to have no maintained Primary schools in an Ofsted category. During the school year, 13 of our primary schools were inspected.
  - 5 Primary schools were inspected in the autumn term period under the pre-January 2012 Ofsted framework, with 3 judged as good and 2 as satisfactory for their overall effectiveness.
  - 8 Primary schools were inspected under the framework effective from January 2012, with 1 school judged as outstanding; 4 schools judged as good (62.5% good or outstanding) and 3 as satisfactory. No Primary schools were judged to be inadequate.
  - Latest available national data for those primary schools inspected during January to March 2012, indicates that 56% were judged good or outstanding.
  - As at the end of the summer term, 73% of our Primary schools were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their last inspection. National data for all schools – primary and secondary – up to the end of the Spring Term 2012 indicates that 70% of all schools were judged good or outstanding based on their last inspection.
- Five primary schools have been inspected under the new framework, since September 2012:
  - 4 have been judged as 'good':
    - 3 of these were previously judged 'satisfactory' and therefore this demonstrates a significant improvement
    - 1 retained its judgement of 'good'.
  - The judgement on the fifth school was 'Requiring Improvement'.
- **Secondary Schools:** during the previous school year (September 2011 to July 2012):
  - No secondary schools were inspected in the Autumn Term 2011.
  - Out of Stockton's 12 secondary schools (which include 2 Academies), 4 were inspected under the framework effective from January 2012, with 2 schools judged as satisfactory and 2 schools judged inadequate.
  - The latest available national data for January to March 2012 indicates that 47% of secondary schools were judged good or outstanding.
  - As at the end of summer term, 42% of our secondary schools were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection.
- No secondary inspections have yet been held under the new framework.
- A separate report has been submitted to Cabinet regarding pupil attainment for the 2011~12 school year.
- **Childcare and Childminder** quality is a priority area for further improvement, and inspection outcomes continue to indicate an improving position:
  - **Childminders:** locally generated data shows that 15 childminders were inspected between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Of these one was a No Children on Roll (NCOR) inspection and one was a Childcare Register (CCR) inspection. Of the 13 childminders who had a full inspection:
    - 11 = Good (82% - this compares to 79% for inspections over the 2011~12 period).

- 2 = Satisfactory
- **Childcare Settings:** based on locally generated data, 5 settings were inspected between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with 4 being judged Good and 1 Satisfactory.
- Changes to the framework for Early Years Inspection and to the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for provision will mean that comparisons of inspection data pre September 2012 and onwards are not reliable.
- **Children's Homes:** recent inspections reflect the more challenging nature of the new Ofsted inspection framework in place from April 2012. Three of our homes have been inspected since April:
  - one of these retained its 'good' rating for overall effectiveness;
  - two previously rated 'good' were judged to be 'adequate'.This pattern of inspection results is being reported across the sector since the new framework was introduced, and is reflected in national data for all Children's homes inspections: the proportion judged outstanding or good during the whole of 2011~12 was 80%; for the period April to June (under the new framework) the proportion has dropped to 61%.
- Analysis of **CAF (Common Assessment Framework)** activity during the Q1 period indicates:
  - CAF1 completion rates have slowed – some levelling off was expected, given the significant increase in activity over the previous year.
  - Education and Health continue to be the main sources of CAFs.
  - There is some concern over the low number of conversions of CAF1 to CAF2.
  - Figures appear to show correlation between training and the volume / quality of CAFs.
  - CAF activity is a proxy indicator for improved multi-agency early intervention and prevention. The current picture suggests that, whilst agencies are engaging well in the early stage of CAF, there needs to be some further work to evaluate the extent to which the CAF1 process is leading to effective multi-agency interventions through the CAF2 stage.
- **Child Protection Plans:** although the number of child protection (CP) plans has remained at a similar level during the quarter (277 at the end of September), this remains relatively high compared to previous years. However, performance indicators suggest that effective management of CP plans is being sustained:
  - CAF For CP plans in place over two years, the rate has improved from 3.6% at the end of Q1 to 2.9% at the end of Q2 (i.e. of 170 CP plans ceased during the quarter, 5 had been in place over 2 years): this is within an acceptable range at this point in time, given the small numbers involved.
  - The proportion of children becoming the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (within two years of the previous plan) improved from 8.3% at the end of Q1 to 4% at the end of Q2 (i.e 7 such cases, from the 175 new CP plans agreed up to the end of September). This performance is well within the target range of 0% to 8%.
  - 100% of CP cases were reviewed within required timescales – maintaining a very good level of performance.
- **Looked After Children Placements.** The number of looked after children remains at a very high level (349 at the end of September) with related pressures on placement stability.
  - Performance in shorter term stability (i.e. less than 3 placements in the year) remains good, but Q2 has seen the rate increase at a greater level than during Q1. A rate of 4.6% (16 children so far this year who have had three or more placements) at this mid-year point is close to the projection for the year end target range of 0% to 9%.

- The measure of longer term stability (over two years in latest placement) continues to be more challenging, and still below target, although slightly improved on the position at the end of Q1. At the end of September, out of 95 children in care over 2.5 years, 59 had been in their latest placement for at least two years – i.e. 62.1% against a target of 65%. More detailed analysis of cases has highlighted two factors that impact on this indicator.
  - Some of the placement moves, although they impact adversely on the way performance is measured, are in fact planned moves in to other forms of permanency e.g. special guardianships, residence orders or returning to live with parents or relatives.
  - Similarly, since we have an increasingly greater proportion of older children in care, many placement moves are for these young people moving to other accommodation such as supported lodging or hostel).
- **Adoption** – following publication, earlier in the year, of national Adoption Scorecards, and subsequent discussion with DfE officials, a ‘Permanency Diagnostic’ review was commissioned from an external team to look at our practice in relation to permanency for children in care. The final report from the review (held during October) has just been received; further details will be reported in due course. Work has also been undertaken on a wider set of measures for adoption / permanency, to be included in our local performance framework, with the following results at the Q2 stage.
  - With regard to timeliness of the adoption process, of 9 children placed for adoption during the Q1 and Q2 periods, 5 were placed within the target of 12 months from the ‘best interest’ decision (56%, against a target of 75%).
  - The average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family was 728 days during Q2 – this reflects an improving trend during the year, although remains short of the national threshold of 639 days.
  - For the average time (in days) between a Local Authority receiving Court Authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family, Q2 again reflects an improving trend to an average of 418 days – but still short of the national threshold of 213 days.
- However, as recent analysis has shown, these timeliness measures do not always reflect the complexities of individual cases or the quality of the placement decisions made for the children involved.
- Monitoring of arrangements for permanency, other than adoption, indicates increasing use of special guardianships and residence orders; and a significant increase in the number of those young people who return home to live (11 during Q1 and 33 during Q2).
- More detailed analysis of performance in permanency will be undertaken alongside the findings of the Permanency Diagnostic review.
- **NEETs:**
  - At Q2, 76.1% (18,122) of school leavers were engaged in education employment or training. 12.4% (2556) were NEET and 7.4% ‘not known’ based on the previous National Indicator definition. Work is underway nationally to develop and test new approaches to measuring and reporting on the new RPA (Raising the Participation Age) requirements from summer 2013.
  - The NEETs agenda continues to be overseen by the 14-19 Partnership Board, through the Full Participation Plan, to ensure that all partners are working collaboratively to improve progression, transition and retention of learners; and to implement the new RPA requirements.
  - NEETs engaged in a 16-18 learning programme in Tees Achieve: 177 Stockton resident NEETs were engaged in a 16-18 learning programme with Tees Achieve between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012, exceeding the academic 2011/12 year-end target of 170. This figure increases to 195 when non-Stockton residents are included.

- 76 Stockton resident NEETs were engaged in a 16-18 learning programme with Tees Achieve between 1 August 2012 and 30 September 2012. This represents 49% of the 2012/13 academic target of 155.
- **Children with disability:** indicators suggest that good progress continues in development of support for children with disability and their families.
  - There has been an increase in the numbers of children and young people supported through the use of personal budgets and is on track to meet the target increase of 12 additional children and young people receiving a personal budget
  - Latest available data (for 2011/12) shows that we have sustained our level of short break provision, with 3,592 children and young people supported with 13,459 hours of provision.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN**

### **Early Years**

- A Scrutiny Review on Quality of Childminders is being undertaken as part of the 2012~12 Scrutiny Programme.
- The EIG Review (Early Years Services) has created a new model for delivery of Children's Centres aimed at ensuring provision is targeted more effectively at those families most in need; and has strengthened arrangements for monitoring the quality of Early Years and Children Centre provision.

### **CAF (Common Assessment Framework)**

- Work in progress to further develop CAF includes:
  - Planned multi-agency audits to look at quality of practice;
  - Commissioning of a research project via the University of Teesside to examine outcomes of CAF, models of best practice, and the interface with referrals to social care services;
  - Development of some targets for the number of CAF 2s that we could expect to be completed;
  - Continued development of the CAF database, aligned to RAISE (the social care information system).

### **Social Care – placements**

- The EIT Review of Children's Social Care (to be implemented from early September 2012) will create additional capacity within the Child Placement Team, as well as establishing new Permanence Teams.
- The 'put yourself in the picture' marketing campaign has continued to run, assisting in recruitment of foster carers and adopters.
- The new Piper House children's home is now formally open and fully occupied. Ayton Place children's home is complete and ready to open, but there has been a delay in registering the home with Ofsted – the home is expected to be opening shortly, in November 2012.
- Work is continuing to explore the possibility of commissioning local residential / school placements for children with more complex needs.
- The Children's Programme Board is looking at ways in which placement pressures might be managed in the future to maximise efficiency and quality of provision.

## **CUSTOMER PERCEPTION / SATISFACTION**

Nothing to report.

**RISK**

No significant change to the risk register arising from Q2 performance.

**FINANCE**

The increasing number of children in care continues to be reflected in the major budget pressure in relation to external residential placements. Costs of Special Guardianship Orders and Independent Fostering Agencies are also increasing. Greater levels of court activity are resulting in pressures on the budget for legal fees.