

## Agenda Item

Report to CYP Select Committee  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Report of Corporate Director, CESC

### 2013~14 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

#### Summary

This report provides an overview of performance in the delivery of children and young people services during 2013~14.

#### Recommendation

That the performance information be received.

#### Background

1. **Appendix 1** gives an overview of key achievements during 2013~14, along with a summary of key challenges for the year ahead, and reference to some of the emerging issues which are likely to impact on future delivery and performance of services.
2. **Appendix 2** gives further detail regarding the performance indicators that underpin some of the key achievements referred to in Appendix 1.

#### Peer Review

3. A Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic took place from 25 to 27 March 2014, undertaken by a team of experienced peer reviewers from other Local Authorities. It was commissioned to help evaluate the impact and progress of actions implemented in response to the Ofsted inspection of child protection in January 2013. It had a particular focus on social work practice and decision making in the recently formed Assessment Teams, and longer term intervention in cases involving domestic violence and neglect.
4. A copy of the report from the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic is attached as **Appendix 3**. The report has confirmed much of our own evaluation of progress and areas for improvement. Page 3 of the report highlights key messages from the review. It is pleasing to note that the review team felt there was a strong commitment from social workers and managers to keeping children safe; there were no immediate safeguarding concerns in any of the cases examined; and the team found clear signs of strong senior management leadership of safeguarding.
5. An improvement plan is being drawn up in response to the areas for improvement identified from both this Diagnostic review, and from the earlier Critical Friend Review of child protection arrangements, undertaken by colleagues from Northumberland County Council in January 2014 (as reported to this Committee at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014)..
6. Officers will present the overview of performance, and peer review report, for discussion with the Committee.

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## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES – 2013~14 OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND EMERGING ISSUES**

### **Achievements**

1. Sustained high standards in primary schools - high proportion judged good / outstanding by Ofsted.
2. Progress in narrowing the gap in attainment for free school meals pupils.
3. School attendance – pupil absence rates remain better than national / regional rates for primary pupils; improving rates in secondary sector.
4. Exclusion rates remain low.
5. Education of looked after children – continued good levels of school attendance; proportion placed in schools rated as good / outstanding is higher than the proportion for all pupils.
6. Initial Teacher Education (ITE) provision judged as outstanding by Ofsted.
7. Children's Centres – those in the targeted areas (30% most deprived) are meeting their reach targets.
8. Achieved target for free early education and childcare places made available for eligible 2 year olds.
9. Continued improvements in quality of childminders / childcare - proportion judged good or outstanding higher than the national average over the year (last Ofsted published data). This was a previous area of scrutiny by the Committee.
10. Continued good levels of performance regarding child protection plans – relatively few 'second or subsequent' plans and plans lasting more than 2 years, indicating effective support and outcomes for the children and families involved.
11. New single assessment process introduced in February 2014, in line with new national 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' requirements.
12. Short term placement stability for looked after children being maintained within target levels, despite increasing numbers.
13. Exit Surveys of Care Leavers reflected positive experiences for children who have been in long term care.
14. Continued an improving trend in timeliness of adoption decisions.
15. Effective use made of other routes to permanency - returning home; special guardianship orders; residence orders.
16. Robust arrangements in place for monitoring children who are vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked.

17. Effective tracking and monitoring of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, Training) despite the challenging economic climate – rate of NEETs / Not Known continues to be better than the Tees Valley average.
18. Improvement in obesity rates (data from 2012~13 school year, national child measurement programme) – the rate for Reception age children was lower (better) than the national rate. For Y6 pupils (aged 10 or 11) – some improvement, but still higher than the national average.

## **Challenges**

1. School capital strategy and pupil places.
2. Narrowing the gap in outcomes for vulnerable groups – SEN; Looked After Children; those on free school meals.
3. Increasing the number of secondary schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding.
4. Educational progress and attainment of looked after children.
5. Implementing Special Educational Needs reforms (0 to 25 yr olds).
6. New Ofsted inspection frameworks
  - Single Inspection Framework for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, introduced November 2013;
  - from April 2015 this Ofsted framework will become part of an integrated inspection framework alongside inspectorates from other agencies;
  - inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement, introduced May 2013.
7. Ensuring take up of childcare places available for free access for targeted two year olds; and assuring the quality of childcare providers.
8. Continuing high levels of need and demand for social care services.
9. Delivery of the Children's Board 'Big Ticket' Programme of service review and transformation.
10. Implementation of joint venture with Spark of Genius.
11. Implementing recommendations from Peer Reviews in relation to safeguarding arrangements.
12. Ensuring consistent quality of casework practice.
13. Recruiting experienced social work staff.
14. Appointing to the new Principal Child and Family Social Worker (PCFSW) post, in line with new national 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' requirements.
15. Continuing strong national policy focus on improving the adoption system.
16. Recruitment of foster carers and adoptive parents.

17. Implementation of the revised Early Help Strategy; ensuring full engagement of agencies in CAF.
18. Further reduction in the proportion of NEETs.
19. Healthy lifestyle issues – obesity; alcohol misuse; breast feeding; maternal smoking.
20. Children’s emotional and mental health – needs assessment and development of a local strategy.

**Emerging issues**

1. Implementation of revised Children and Young People partnership arrangements within the Health & Wellbeing Board structure.
2. Future role of local authorities in school improvement.
3. New models nationally for delivery of Children’s Services.

## CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES – PERFORMANCE UPDATE Q4 2013~14

## A. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES)

1. **Percentage of young people in Y12 – Y14 (aged 16~19) who are NEET.** The combined rate of NEETs and Not Known, along with the proportion of young people in learning, provide indicators of the effectiveness of services in working with young people to identify their needs and support them in to some form of further education or training.
  - Based on the position at the end of Q4 (31 March), our NEET rate was 8.9%, with 84.9% of the cohort in learning and 1.0% not known.
  - The Tees Valley average at Q4 was 8.0% NEET, 83.0% in learning and 3.8% not knowns.
  - Stockton-on-Tees, therefore, has a better combined NEET / Not Known rate (9.9% compared to 11.8% for the Tees Valley overall); and a higher proportion 'in learning' (84.9% v 83%)
  - Based on the November to January '3 month average' data used for the national benchmark measure, the NEET rate was 8.6%, higher than the Tees Valley average of 8.1% and England average of 5.4%.
  - The "Not Known" position based on the Nov~Jan 3 month average snapshot shows a rate for Stockton of 1.7%, significantly better than the England average of 8.9% and Tees Valley average of 4.6% .
  
2. **Proportion of pupils attending good or better schools** - based on the latest national data made available by Ofsted (provisional, as at March 2014), for all primary and secondary schools including academies but excluding nurseries, pupil referral units and special schools:
  - 89.2% of pupils were attending good or outstanding primary schools, compared to 79.5% for the England average and 87.7% regionally.
  - 58.1% of secondary school pupils were attending good or outstanding schools – a decline in performance from Q3 and behind the England average of 73.2% and regional of 72.1%. The Education Improvement Service continues to monitor schools closely and target support according to risk.
  
3. **Proportion of schools judged to be good or outstanding.** based on the latest national data made available by Ofsted (provisional, as at March 2014), for all primary and secondary schools including academies but excluding nurseries, pupil referral units and special schools:
  - 91.2% of primary schools were judged as good or outstanding, compared to 80.2% for the England average and 87.9% regionally.
  - 50.0% of secondary school were judged as good or outstanding, behind the England average of 70.5% and regional of 67.6%. The Education Improvement Service continues to monitor schools closely and target support according to risk.
  
4. **Proportion of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, within two years.** Year end (at 31 March) performance of 4.4% equates to 15 children and young people who have been the subject of a of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, from a cohort of 339. During the Q4 period, there was just one extra child subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. Performance was within target and an improvement on the 2012/13 period.

5. **Proportion of child protection plans lasting two years or more** – Year end performance of 1.0% equates to 4 children and young people who were the subject of a child protection plan lasting 2 years or more from a total of 413 children ceasing to be the subject of a plan at 31st March. Performance was within target and an improvement on the 2012/13 period.
6. **Timeliness of assessments** – This is the final time of reporting on both core and initial assessments, due to the new single assessment process being implemented from the beginning of February.
  - Year end performance on core assessments completed within 35 days was 70%, i.e 1057 Core Assessments from a total of 1510. Performance was within target and a significant improvement on the 2012/13 period.
  - For initial assessments, year end performance of 50.1% equates to 1082 Initial Assessments completed within 10 days from a total of 2161 initial assessments. Despite some progress over the year, performance has been well below target expectations.
  - Early reporting on single assessments indicates very high levels of timeliness – 99%+ within 45 days.
7. **Free early education / childcare places available for eligible 2 yr olds** - At the end of the Q4 period, there were 571 available free early education and childcare places available for eligible 2 year olds. 353 have been taken up and there are currently 183 children waiting to be placed. Performance has met the government target of making 571 places available from September 2013.
8. **Long term placement stability for looked after children** - this indicator is concerned with the percentage of children aged under 16 at 31 March, who had been in care continuously for at least 2.5 years, and who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement last for at least 2 years. Performance at the year end (31 March) of 51.8% equates to 58 children and young people from a cohort of 112 who had been in their current placement for 2 years or more. Although performance remains below target, regular review of this indicator at the Children's Social Care Performance Clinic continues to show that many of the placement moves before the two year period are in fact planned moves to appropriate forms of permanency, as opposed to unplanned moves that might risk stability of the child's support.

## **B. GENERAL THEMATIC PERFORMANCE ISSUES**

**Ofsted inspections of settings** (based on latest available national data from Ofsted):

9. **Children's Homes:** – latest data from Ofsted relates to the period of October to December 2013, but there were no inspections of our children's homes during that period. Based on outcomes of the last inspection of each of our 6 homes, 4 (67%) were rated as good and 2 (33%) as adequate, compared to a national average of 14% outstanding, 57% good and 25% adequate and 5% inadequate.
10. **Childminders:** (provisional data) – based on latest available national data from Ofsted for all childminders inspected between September 2012 and August 2013, the proportion rated as good or outstanding in Stockton-on-Tees was 70.4%, above the national average of 66.7%.
11. **Childcare:** (provisional data) - based on latest available national data from Ofsted for those inspected in the year up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013, the proportion rated as good or outstanding was 70.0%, above the national average of 66.7%.

12. **Children's Centres:** (final data) – for the 6 inspections in the year up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, the proportion rated good / outstanding (67% good / none outstanding) was below the national average of 68% and regional average of 73%.

13. **Looked After Children placement stability and permanence** - despite the continuing demands of higher levels of children in care, the following indicators represent positive performance.

- **Shorter term placement stability** (i.e. 3 or more placements during the year) has remained within target range. The year end performance at 31 March was 7.8% (30 children who had three or more placements, from a total of 383). This represents a good improvement on the Q3 position of 8.4% and the previous year's outturn of 11%. Performance has met and exceeded the target of 9.0%.
- Effective use continues to be made of **other routes to permanency**. Of the 150 who ceased to be in care at Q4:
  - 78 (52.0%) returned home, in line with the previous year's performance.
  - 25 (16.6%) were the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, in line with the previous year's performance of 16.3%.
  - 19 (12.6%) were the subject of a residence order, significantly lower than the previous year's performance of 21.7%.
  - 28 (18.6%) children have been adopted, representing a good improvement on the previous year's performance of 12.4%.
- With regard to the timeliness of the **adoption** process, of the 28 children placed for adoption during the year at the end of March.
  - The average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family was 508 days. This is a significant improvement on the previous year's performance of 668 days, and is better than the latest 3 year England average (2010/13) of 647 days and the national performance threshold of 608 days.
  - The average time (in days) between the Local Authority receiving authority from the Courts to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family has also continued to show improvement. At the end of March, the average time was 229 days compared to 340 days for the previous year – narrowing the gap to the latest 3 year England (2010/13) average of 210 days and national performance threshold of 182 days.
  - It should be noted that average timescales measures do not always reflect the complexities of individual decisions or the quality of placement decisions made for the children involved. Nevertheless, performance overall represents a significant improvement on the previous year and a continuing improvement trend during 2013/14.

14. **Care Leavers-** of the 117 care leavers aged 16 to 21yrs during the period:

- all but 5 (a 16yr old, an 18yr old, a 19yr old and two 21yr olds) were in suitable accommodation;
- 47.9% were in EET, with a reducing pattern of engagement across all age groups, although the highest proportion of these, are 18 and over.