

Agenda Item

**Report to CYP Select Committee
20th November 2014**

Report of Corporate Director, CESC

PERFORMANCE UPDATE Q2 2014-15

Summary

In line with the agreed framework for reporting to the Committee on performance of Children's Services, this report provides an overview of performance at the Quarter 2 period of 2014-15 (i.e. as at the end of September 2014).

Recommendation

That the performance information be received.

Background

1. At its meeting on 28th August 2013, the Committee agreed to monitor performance information, based on a quarterly Children & Young People thematic update.
2. **Appendix 1** gives the Quarter 2 performance overview for Children & Young People Services for the current reporting year, covering performance indicators linked to priorities in the Council Plan, along with information from other sources of information about the performance and quality of services, including complaints.
3. Officers will present this overview for discussion with the Committee.

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PERFORMANCE SUMMARY Q2 2014-15

EARLY HELP

1. **Free early education / childcare places available for all 2 yr. olds meeting the eligibility criteria.**
 - We achieved the nationally set target of creating 1153 available places by September 2014.
 - There has been continued improvement in the uptake of available places from eligible families. At the end of September, 521 children had been placed with a provider.
 - There are an additional 144 children who meet the eligibility criteria and are awaiting their placement with a provider, pending agreement with the parent regarding their preferred provider.

2. **Proportion of children aged 5 and under in each Children's Centre reach area registered with the centre.**
 - Latest data available is at 22/9/2014. This shows that of the estimated 12,269 children under 5 in the borough, 9388 (76.5%) are registered with a Children's Centre - performance is currently below the year end target of 85% of children.
 - Of the 12 centres, 3 achieved above target, 3 achieved a rate of 80.0% or above which equates to a 'good' Ofsted judgement, but is below our local target. The remaining 6 Centres were below this level of performance.
 - Registration levels, and progress against reach targets, are monitored as part of quarterly performance meetings where providers are challenged regarding progress and actions being taken to address improvement.
 - Some work is to be undertaken to look at patterns of Children Centre registration, and movement of children across the Borough, given there are a number of parents who choose to use Centres outside their local area.
 - Encouraging the use of Children's Centres is also featured in the action plans for two of the Locality Forums, linked to the priority in the Family Poverty Framework for 'Giving every child the best start in life'.

3. **Early Years Foundation Stage - proportion of children with overall 'good' level of development.**
 - Provisional result of 50.1% shows a rate of improvement from 2012/13 performance of 22% (41% in 2012/13 increasing to 50.1% for 2013/14).
 - This is better than the national rate of improvement of 15.4% (52% in 2012/13 increasing to 60.0% for 2013/14). Performance has met and exceeded target expectations.

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND COMPLEX NEEDS

4. A separate report was submitted to Cabinet in September regarding School Performance 2013-14 which gave an analysis of attainment for pupils in Stockton-on-Tees schools.

5. **Primary Schools – proportion judged to be good or outstanding.**
 - There were 3 schools inspected during the Q1 period, all rated as 'good', with no further inspections during the Q2 period.
 - Of our 59 primary schools, 8 have new status as Academy converter schools, which means that they do not have a current Ofsted judgement until first inspected (usually in the 5th term after becoming an academy). Of the 51 remaining schools, 50 are currently rated good or outstanding, and 1 as requiring improvement – this is well within our local target for 2014-15 of having no more than 3 schools judged less than good.

- Latest available published benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st March 2014 indicating the % good / outstanding at that time was:
 - 91% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 88% for the NE Region
 - 80% for England.

6. Primary Schools – proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools.

- Based on the 50 of our 51 schools with a current inspection judgement (as referred to above), at the end of September 2014 there were 97.1% of primary school pupils in good or outstanding schools, above our target.
- Latest available published benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st March 2014, indicating that the percentage of pupils attending good / outstanding schools at that time was:
 - 89% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 88% for the NE Region
 - 79% for England

7. Secondary Schools (including Academies) proportion judged to be good or outstanding.

- There was one secondary school inspection during the Q1 period, resulting in a judgement of 'inadequate'. There were no inspections during the Q2 period.
- Of our 12 Secondary schools, 4 have new status as Academy converter schools, which means that they do not have a current Ofsted judgement until first inspected (usually in the 5th term after becoming an academy). Of the 8 remaining schools, 1 is currently rated outstanding, 1 good, 5 requiring improvement and 1 inadequate – outside our local target for 2014-15 of having no more than 5 schools judged less than good.
- Latest available published benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st March 2014, indicating the % good / outstanding at that time was:
 - 58% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 73% for the NE Region
 - 73% for England.

8. Secondary Schools (including Academies) – proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools

- Based on the 8 of our 12 schools with a current inspection judgement (as referred to above), at the end of September 2014 there were 29.4% of secondary school pupils in good or outstanding schools, below our target.
- Latest available benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st March, indicating the percentage of pupils attending good / outstanding schools at that time was:
 - 58% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 73% for the NE Region
 - 73% for England

9. The report to Cabinet in September on School Performance 2013-14 gave an update on the local authority's revised approach to school improvement and actions to drive further improvement in the quality of schools.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

10. Proportion of assessments completed in 45 days.

- Performance of 99.0% equates to 1221 single assessments completed within 45 days and is in line with the previous quarter's performance.
- Current performance remains above the target of 95%. All assessments that have gone beyond timescale are reviewed at the Children's Social Care Performance Clinic.

11. Proportion of referrals to Children's Social Care with an Active CAF 2.

- There were a total of 146 CAF 2s (full CAFs) recorded during the Q2 period; this is well below the local CAF target of an increase of 30% or more CAF's from the previous quarter to 221 full CAFs.
- Looking at the 1082 referrals to Children's Social Care which proceeded to assessment during the period, just 111 (10.3%) had a CAF 2 in place.
- Performance continues to remain below expectations given the new process in place for challenging all referrals where there is no CAF in place, unless there is an immediate safeguarding concern.
- In response to concerns regarding CAF performance over the past year, and following a review of arrangements with partners through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, there has been a recent expansion of the CAF team with the appointment of four new locality based CAF Support Officers who came in to post during the Q2 period. Quarterly targets have been set for the rest of 2014~15 to reflect an expected increase in CAF activity as a result of these revised arrangements.

12. Proportion of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, within two years.

13. Proportion of child protection plans lasting two years or more.

- Further information about these two indicators is given in Appendix 1, in light of the focus given at the previous meeting to this area of performance.

14. Long term placement stability for looked after children – proportion of current placement for 2 years.

- At the end of the Q2 period there were 123 children who had been in care continuously for at least 2.5 years. 75 of these (61.0%) had been in their current placement for at least 2 years.
- Performance has met target expectations of 60% or more of children in their current placement for 2 years or more.

15. Short term placement stability for looked after children (3 or more placements during the year).

- During the Q2 period there were a further 6 children who had 3 or more placements from a total of 384 (there were 2 children in Q1). Rolling year performance has increased slightly to 9.1%, in line with the target of 9.0%.

16. Other routes to permanency.

- Of the 62 children who ceased to be in care during the quarter 2 period:
 - 25 (40.3%) returned home, slightly below the previous year's rate of 48.8%
 - 14 (22.6%) were the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, similar to the previous year's rate of 20.7%
 - 5 (8.1%) were the subject of a Residence Order, below the previous year's rate of 17.1%
 - 18 (29.0%) were adopted, higher than the previous year's 13.4%.

17. Care leavers.

- Of the 59 care leavers aged 16 to 21 yrs during the period, 57 (96.6%) were placed in suitable accommodation. The 2 care leavers not placed in suitable accommodation were as the result of receiving a custodial sentence.

18. Care leavers in EET (current 16 to 21yr olds).

- Performance at Q2 of 54.2% equates to 32 care leavers from a cohort 59 who were in education, employment and training.
- Target bands for this indicator have 55%+ as 'green' rated performance, but with 50%-54% as 'amber' performance, to allow for the fluctuations in performance that arise due to the small cohort involved. Performance varies during the year, dependent on changes in the cohort and the particular needs of the young people, many of whom have high levels of need that can present significant challenges to progression into further education, employment or training.
- Improving outcomes for care leavers is a high priority for the Council as corporate parent. A NEET performance clinic tracks young people closely to try and engage them in support; development of employability skills is identified as a key need to help these young people become more aware of, and ready for, the expectations of work and training.

19. Adoption timescales - A1.

- There has been a significant increase in the numbers of children adopted at the end of the Q2 period (from 6 at Q1 to 19 at Q2). Of the 19 children adopted, the average time (in days) between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family was 548 days.
- Although this is a decline on the position at the end of the Q1 period, it is in line with the latest national performance threshold of 547 days.

20. Adoption timescales - A2.

- Q2 has seen a decline in performance, remaining below the latest national threshold of 152 days. Of the 19 children adopted, the average time (in days) between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place the child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family was 249 days, outside the latest national performance threshold of 152 days.

21. For these two adoption indicators, it should be noted that the small number of children involved means that performance can fluctuate depending on individual cases and the average timescales do not always reflect the complexities of individual decisions or the quality of placement decisions. Individual cases are tracked through the Children's Social Care Performance Clinic. Additionally, adoption is a key area of focus for the Children's Programme Board where work is ongoing to look at more innovative approaches to the recruitment of adoptive parents.

NEETS

22. Percentage of young people aged 16-19 who are NEET.

- At this stage of the reporting period, only September data is used. July and August data are disregarded by Government. For September all 1 and 2 year courses automatically are recorded as Not Known until young people's destinations are confirmed.
- For September our NEET rate is showing at 7.9% (430) and the Tees Valley average is 7%. The Not Known for Stockton is showing as 19% (1289) and the Tees Valley average is 28%. The combined NEET and Not Known for Stockton, therefore, is 26.9% and the Tees Valley average is 35%.
- Our target for this indicator is to 'Improve on the previous year so that performance is better than the Tees Valley Average by at least the same rate'. In line with the national arrangements

for reporting and benchmarking performance, the final 2014-15 outturn will be based on the three month average figures over the November / December / January period.

OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SETTINGS

23. Comparative data used in the following summaries are based on the latest available published data from Ofsted, some of which may still have provisional status.

24. Children's Homes

- During the Q2 period there were no further inspections of our Children's Homes. Latest data from Ofsted for inspection outcomes during the 1st April to 30th June period shows that the proportion of local authority-run children's homes judged good or outstanding was:
 - 67% for Stockton-on-Tees (based on latest inspections during 2013/14)
 - 54% for England
 - 75% for the NE region

25. Childminders

- During the Q2 period, 5 childminders were inspected, all rated as "good".
- For all those inspected in the year up to 30th September the proportion of Stockton-on-Tees childminders achieving good / outstanding was 100%, above the national and regional averages.
- For all childminders based on their most recent inspection at 30th June the proportion rated good or outstanding was:
 - 77% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 77% for England
 - 76% for the NE region

26. Childcare

- During the Q2 period, 1 provider on non-domestic properties was inspected, and rated as good.
- For all those inspected in the year up to 30th September, the proportion of Stockton-on-Tees childcare providers achieving good / outstanding was 100% above both national and regional averages.
- For all Childcare providers based on their most recent inspection at 30th June the proportion rated as good or outstanding was:
 - 94% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 82% for England
 - 87% for the NE region

27. Children's Centres

- During the Q2 period, one Children's Centre inspection was undertaken and judged as good.
- For the two Centres inspected in the year up to 30th September, 1 (50%) was judged to be good or outstanding.
- The latest available Ofsted benchmarking information (at the 30th June), shows the proportion of Children's Centres rated good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was:
 - 56% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 67% for England
 - 76% for the NE region

28. Following discussion at the last meeting of this Committee, members were provided with copies of reports to Cabinet, earlier this year, providing details of arrangements in place for monitoring the

performance and quality of Children's Centres, and updating on outcomes of performance management meetings with Children's Centres and the actions in place to address improvements.

COMPLAINTS

29. During the Q1 period, there were:
 - 27 new complaints at stage 1 - 18 of which received a response during the quarter, 3 were withdrawn and 6 were ongoing.
 - 8 requests for complaints to progress to stage 2
 - 1 request for a stage 3 panel
30. During the Q2 period, there were:
 - 27 new complaints at stage 1; 15 of which received a response during the quarter and 12 were ongoing.
 - 5 requests for complaints to progress to stage 2
 - 1 stage 3 panel was convened in response to the request received in Q1
31. The number of new complaints reflects a continued increasing trend compared to the whole of the 2013-14 period when there was a total of 58 at stage 1; 22 at Stage 2; and 4 at Stage 3.
32. The issues raised in the new complaints are in line with previous quarters, with the most frequent concerns being related to quality of service or the provision / communication of information.
33. There were a number (5) of Stage 2 investigation reports completed by Independent Investigating Officers during the period – these reflect the tendency towards more complex complaints, each covering a range of issues, often requiring lengthy investigations. At the end of the Q2 period, there were 16 stage 2 investigations ongoing.
34. The majority of complaints reviewed at Stage 2 during the Q1 period were not upheld. However, for Stage 2 complaints completed during Q2, the majority were either upheld or upheld in part. Where they were upheld, and this outcome was agreed by the Adjudicating Officer, complainants have been advised of steps being taken to remedy the issues involved.
35. Outcomes and learning from complaints are reviewed quarterly at the Children & Young People's Management Team. Key issues arising have included:
 - Accuracy of recording by Social Workers
 - Timeliness of sharing reports with families in advance of meetings
 - Ensuring families have explicit information on contingency plans should parents fail to follow the agreed child protection plan
 - The need to for a robust interim plan to ensure that children are safeguarded, where there is a delay in convening an Initial Child Protection Conference within timescales.