

Agenda Item

Report to CYP Select Committee
26th February 2015

Report of Corporate Director, CESC

PERFORMANCE UPDATE Q3 2014-15

Summary

This report provides an overview of Children's Services performance at the Quarter 3 period of 2014-15 (i.e. as at the end of December 2014), along with further details of performance in the timeliness of the adoption process.

Recommendation

That the performance information be received.

Background

1. The Committee's agreed performance framework provides for a quarterly Children & Young People thematic update, 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. In addition, more detailed analysis of specific areas of performance may be provided based on particular priorities identified by the Committee.
2. **Appendix 1** gives the Quarter 3 performance overview for Children & Young People Services for the current reporting year.
3. The performance overview refers to two indicators relating to adoption:
 - Indicator A1: Average Time between a Child Entering Care and Moving in with its Adoptive Family
 - Indicator A2: Average Time between a Local Authority receiving Court Authority to Place a Child and the Local Authority deciding on a Match to an Adoptive Family
4. In response to a request from the Committee at its meeting on 20th November 2014, **Appendix 2** provides further details of Stockton-on-Tees performance for these two indicators, benchmarked against other Councils. This information is supplemented with a copy of the national Adoption Scorecard for Stockton-on-Tees.
5. **Appendix 3** then provides further background detail about our performance in relation to the indicator A2, including details of the family finding and matching process.
6. Officers will present these performance reports for discussion with the Committee.

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Simon Willson

Title: Head of Business Support & Improvement (Children, Education & Social Care)

Tel: 01642 527035

E-mail: simon.willson@stockton.gov.uk

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PERFORMANCE SUMMARY Q3 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. The focus now is on improving the uptake of available places by eligible families.
- At the end of November 2014, 619 children had been placed with a provider, and a further 96 children who meet the eligibility criteria were awaiting their placement, pending agreement with the parent regarding their preferred provider. There were 28 children who ended their placement during the term.
- Free places are targeted towards those children who will benefit the most, with the primary focus being on economic disadvantage. Places are available in a range of settings, including private and voluntary childcare settings; childminders; nursery classes within schools. Based on the September 2013 criteria, a child can access a place if they are looked after by the local authority or eligible for free school meals. From September 2014, eligibility criteria were extended to include:
 - families in receipt of Working Tax Credits and earning no more than £16,190 a year;
 - children with a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan;
 - children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance;
 - children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or a residence order.
- There are a number of actions being taken to improve take-up; these include work to increase participation of primary schools; sharing of information from the DWP to help targeting of families; work with social care and health teams to identify and encourage eligible families; and a range of marketing activities including local media advertisements, and development of Facebook and Twitter accounts. Additionally, actions are in hand to develop provision in Billingham, Hardwick, Norton, Ragworth and Stockton Town Centre where there are insufficient places available to satisfy demand.

2. Proportion of children aged 5 and under in each Children's Centre reach area registered with the centre.

- Latest data available, as at 10/11/2014, indicates an overall reach rate of 75.6% (9,506 children registered from an estimated 12,750 children under 5 in the borough). Performance is below the target of 85%.
- Of the 12 Centres, 2 achieved above target, 4 achieved a rate of 80.0% or above (which equates to a 'good' Ofsted judgement) and 6 Centres were below this rate.
- 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.
- In addition, as part of the Locality Forums' work on the key priority in the Family Poverty Framework of giving every child the best start in life, Eastern Locality Forum's action plan includes encouraging the take-up of children's services, including children's centres, and Northern Locality Forum have an action to publicise and promote the use of children centres. A progress update against these actions will be available later in the year.

3. Childminders

- During the Q3 period 11 childminders were inspected. 4 providers had no children on the roll. For the 7 with children on the roll, 5 were rated as good and 2 as requiring improvement. For all Stockton-on-Tees childminders inspected in the year up to 31st December 2014, 87% were judged as good or outstanding.
- Latest available Ofsted benchmarking information for childminders at their most recent inspection as at 31st August 2014 shows the proportion judged as good / outstanding was:
 - 79% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 78% for England
 - 79% for the NE Region

4. Childcare

- There were 4 settings inspected during the Q3 period, 3 of which were rated as good and 1 as inadequate. For all Stockton-on-Tees providers on non-domestic premises who have an inspection judgement as at 31st December 2014, 98% were rated as good or outstanding.
- Latest available Ofsted benchmarking information for inspection judgements for providers on non-domestic premises rated as good / outstanding as at 31st August 2014 was:
 - 95% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 83% for England
 - 88% for the NE Region

5. Children's Centres

- None of our Children's Centres were inspected during the Q3 period. For all those inspected in the year up to 31st December 2014, 50% were judged to be good / outstanding.
- The latest available Ofsted benchmarking information (as at 30th June), shows the proportion of Children's Centres rated as good / outstanding at their most recent inspection was:
 - 56% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 67% for England
 - 76% for the NE Region.

EDUCATION / SCHOOLS AND COMPLEX NEEDS

6. Primary Schools (including Academies) – proportion judged to be good or outstanding schools.

- There were no further inspections of our primary schools during the Q3 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 6th term after becoming an academy). Of the 51 remaining schools, 50 (98%) are currently rated as 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 August indicating the percentage of all schools rated good / outstanding at that time was:
 - 93% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 89% for the NE region
 - 81% for England.

7. Primary Schools (including Academies) – proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools.

- Based on the 50 of our 51 schools with a current inspection judgement, at the end of December there were 97.1% of primary school pupils attending good / outstanding schools, above our target of 56 out of 59 primary schools.
- Latest available published benchmarking data is based on the position as at 31st August 2014, indicating that the percentage of pupils attending schools rated good / outstanding schools at that time was:
 - 91% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 88% for the NE Region
 - 81% for England.

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

- There was one secondary school inspection during the Q3 period, resulting in a judgement of 'good'. One school became an Academy on 1st December 2014. Therefore, 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 6th term after becoming an academy). Of the 8 remaining schools, 1 is currently rated outstanding, 2 good, 5 requiring improvement and 0 inadequate.
- Latest available benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st August 2014, indicating that the percentage of all schools rated good / outstanding at that time was:
 - 40% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 67% for the NE Region
 - 70% for England.

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

- Based on inspections on 8 out of 12 schools that have a current inspection judgement we have 48.15% of our pupils attending schools that have been rated as good or outstanding.
- Latest available published benchmarking data from Ofsted is based on the position at 31st August 2014, indicating that the percentage of pupils attending all schools rated as good / outstanding schools at that time was:
 - 46% for Stockton-On-Tees
 - 73% for the NE Region
 - 74% for England.
- Separate reports to Cabinet and CMT have provided updates on the local authority's revised approach to school improvement and actions to drive further improvement in the quality of schools.

CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE, incl ADOPTION**10. Proportion of assessments completed in 45 days.**

- Good performance has been sustained during the quarter. At the end of Q3, 99.0% of single assessments in the year to date had been completed within 45 days (2094 from a total of 2110). Performance is in line with the previous quarter and remains above the target of 95%. All assessments that have gone beyond timescale continue to be reviewed at the Children's Social Care Performance Clinic.

11. Proportion of referrals to Children's Social Care with an active Full CAF.

- There were a total of 278 CAFs initiated during the Q3 period; this shows a good rate of improvement compared to the 283 CAFs initiated in total over the previous two quarters (April to September). The increase reflects the impact of the expanded CAF Team which has been in place since September. However, the 561 total CAFs initiated year to date is below the 700 target for this period.
- Looking at the 1654 referrals which have proceeded to Single Assessment during April to December, only 191 (11.5%) of these had an active CAF in place at the point of referral – this remains well below expectations, given that all referrals to social care are expected to have evidence of CAF involvement, other than in cases where there is an immediate safeguarding concern. Securing full multi-agency engagement in CAF remains a key priority in the improvement plans of the Council and the SLSCB.

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

- Performance of 10.6% equates to 30 children from a cohort of 283 who have been the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time within 24 months. Performance has declined slightly from the previous quarter with an increase of 14 children (12 of which were from 5 family sibling groups) during the period.
- Although outside of the target of 8% or less, it is within the agreed tolerance for the measure. All 14 cases are in the process of being reviewed to look at the appropriateness of the decision making processes.

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

- During the Q3 period there have been 6 children (2 families) ceasing to be the subject of a child protection plan who had been the subject of a plan lasting 2 years or more. Performance of 8% (18 plans over 2 years or more from 224 plans ceased) continues to remain some way behind the target expectation of 2% or below and is a drop in performance from the 2013/14 outturn of 1.3% (when there were 4 plans over 2 years from a total of 304 ceased).
- All plans are regularly monitored and where plans approach 15 months their progression is tracked on a case by case basis with a view to removing plans where appropriate and safe to do so. Decisions are being reviewed in line with practice, results of which will be reported back at Q4.

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

- At the end of the Q3 period there were 135 children who had been continuously in care for at least 2.5 years. 86 (63.7%) had been in their current placement for at least 2 years. Performance has met target expectations of 60% or more children remaining in their placement for 2 years or more.

15. Shorter term placement stability (i.e. 3 or more placements during the year).

- During the Q3 period there were a further 19 children who had 3 or more placements from a total of 388, a significant increase from the 5 at the end of the previous quarter. As a result, the rolling year performance has increased to 9.8%, outside the target of 9.0% or less.

16. Other routes to permanency

- The following number of children ceased to be in care for the reasons indicated, during the year to date:
 - 34 (42%) returned home to live with parents or relatives (52% last year)
 - 14 (17%) were the subject of a Special Guardianship Order (16% last year)
 - 6 (7%) were the subject of a Residence Order (13% last year).
 - 28 (34%) were adopted (17% last year)

17. Care Leavers.

- Of the 91 care leavers aged 16 to 21 yrs at the end of the period, 88 (97%) were placed in suitable accommodation. Of the 3 care leavers not in suitable accommodation, 2 were receiving a custodial sentence and one 21 year old has not been contactable.

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

- Performance at Q3 of 50.5% equates to 46 care leavers from a cohort of 91 who were in education, employment or training and is within the agreed tolerance for the indicator and an improvement on the previous years outturn of 48.4%.
- 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.

- For the 28 children adopted during the Q3 period, the average time (in days) between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family was 573 days, a slight decline from performance at Q2. Performance remains better than the latest reported England average of 628 days, but is below the current national performance threshold of 547 days.
- Further details of performance for this indicator are provided in appendices 2 and 3 of this report.

20. Adoption timescales - A2.

- For the 28 children adopted during the Q3 period, the average time (in days) between the local authority receiving approval from the courts to place the child and deciding on the match to an adoptive family was 270 days, a decline from performance at Q2, and higher than the latest reported England average of 217 days, and the current national threshold of 152 days.
- Further details of performance for this indicator are provided in appendices 2 and 3 of this report.

21. Children's Homes

- During the Q3 period, 2 children's homes were inspected, both of which were rated as good. As at the end of December, therefore, 100% of our Children's Homes were rated as good.
- Latest comparative data from Ofsted as at 30th September 2014 for local authority run Children's Homes at full inspections since 1st April 2014 shows that the proportion judged good or outstanding was:
 - 67% for Stockton-on-Tees
 - 60% for England
 - 67% for the North East Region.

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

- Latest local data available is a snapshot at the end of December. This shows that the NEET rate at that time was 9.5% compared to a Tees Valley average of 8.0%. The 'Not Known' rate for Stockton was 1.0% compared to the Tees Valley average of 2.3%. The combined NEET / Not Known rate for Stockton at 10.5% is in line with the Tees Valley average of 10.3%.
- Performance is better than for Q3 2013/14 (12.0% NEETS / Not Known) and is on track to achieve our target of improving on the previous year's performance so that it is better than the Tees Valley average by at least the same rate. Data for the nationally reported annual performance is based on the 3 month average for November to January, with results published in March.

COMPLAINTS, COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS**23. Latest data available is at Q2. During the period there were:**

- 27 new complaints at Stage 1 of the complaints process, 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 a request received in Q1.
- 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.
- 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.

24. There were 5 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.
25. 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.
26. Outcomes and learning from complaints are reviewed quarterly at the Children & Young People's Management Team. The Q2 report was considered at the November meeting of that group. The key issues arising are in relation to:
 - accuracy of recording by Social Workers,
 - timeliness of sharing reports with families in advance of meetings,
 - consultation leaflets for families to be reviewed to include explicit information on contingency plans should parents fail to follow the agreed plan, and
 - where there is a delay in convening an Initial Child Protection Conference within timescales a robust interim plan should be in place to ensure that children are safeguarded.