Title: Social Care Performance Report

Report of the
Commissioning Director; Children’s Care and Support
Commissioning Director; Education

Open Report: Yes
For Information

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Summary:
This report provides the Children’s Services Select Committee (CSSC) with an overview and analysis of the latest performance trends in the Children’s Care and Support portfolio areas. The report aims to bring to the CSSC’s attention those key performance indicators that have been flagged as areas of concern, for example, indicators that are RAG rated Amber or Red (middle and lower quartile position) to support the development of the Committee’s work programme for 2017/18. The report does not provide a commentary for performance indicators that are performing well (RAG rated Green) but detail can be found in the appended datasets.

The performance indicators reported on in this report represent the headline measures across statutory social care reported to senior management and the Portfolio Lead Member. A full report comprising the recently compiled data for Educational attainment and performance is scheduled to be presented to the Council’s Cabinet in November 2017. For this reason, no specific update has been included in this Select Committee Report. The November 2017 report for Cabinet will however, be made available to Select Committee Members once published.

Alongside the performance commentary are two data appendices; Appendix 1 (Care and Support performance dashboard) and Appendix 2 (the 2013-16 Adoption Scorecard). The figures in this report relate to performance as at the end of July 2017/18 for social care.

Recommendation(s)
The CSSC is recommended to:
(i) Note content of the performance report; and
(ii) Consider, based on the performance report and appended datasets, whether there
are other items which should be included in the Committee’s Work Programme 2017/18.

Reason(s)
The CSSC’s remit includes performance monitoring of children’s services. The Committee may also find that this report assists with developing its Work Programme for 2017/18.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This report provides the CSSC with an overview and analysis of the latest performance trends in the Children’s Care and Support areas.

1.2 This performance report aims to bring to the CSSC’s attention those indicators that have been flagged as areas of concern and risk i.e. indicators RAG rated Amber and Red (middle and lower quartile position) to support the development of the Committee’s work programme for 2017/18. The performance indicators reported on in this report represent the headline performance metrics across statutory social care as at the end July 2017.

1.3 Current performance frameworks are in place for children’s performance indicators and, where relevant, are presented at existing Boards and senior management meetings. These are:

- Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (B&DSCB) quarterly performance dataset;
- The Children’s Trust (now the Children’s Partnership Sub-Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board) receives performance datasets and reports across priority areas;
- Looked after children quarterly dataset presented at the Corporate Parenting Group, which meets bimonthly; this dataset provides a comprehensive profile of looked after children and care leavers and reports on adoption;
- Education Improvement Board – a sub-group of the Children’s Trust responsible for monitoring and reporting on education standards, participation, post-16 outcomes and school inspection outcomes;
- Corporate Performance Group (quarterly);
- Portfolio leads monthly performance meetings; and
- Senior management monthly meetings in social care and education.

2. Performance Overview

2.1 For each indicator, where data is available, a performance status has been applied and takes the form of a R/A/G assessment. In each case, the assessment has been made based upon performance in relation to a quartile analysis on latest available benchmark position (National), as well as progress to target. For each indicator, a direction of travel arrow is provided to note improvement or decline in performance.

2.2 There are many areas of good performance (RAG rated Green) apparent in the Children’s Care and Support performance dataset. However, this performance report is not focusing on areas which are performing well (RAG rated Green) but on key performance indicators currently RAG rated Amber and Red and, therefore, a cause of concern for the Local Authority. This approach has been taken for the CSSC to
inform the development of a scrutiny work programme that is focused on priority areas.

Performance Commentary

Social Care

2.3 The following indicators are currently RAG rated Amber (middle quartile position) based on our latest position and are, therefore, considered to be a cause for close monitoring. However, it is important to note the direction of travel as many of those indicators are improving.

- **Percentage of contacts going on to referral.** Demand in MASH is starting to gradually increase though it is too soon to tell if this is the start of an emerging trend. Although the number of contacts made to social care is not increasing and is relatively steady, the percentage of contacts progressing to a referral is increasing. 37% of contacts are progressing to referral, 10% higher than the 2016/17 April-July figure. This is impacting on the number of social care referrals; 1,137 up to end of July 2017/18 compared to 802 between April-July 2016, a real term increase of 29%. It is important to note that the proportion of referrals progressing to an actual social care single assessment or strategy discussion is not increasing; however, 71% are progressing to an assessment or strategy discussion as at the end of July compared to 16/17-year end figure of 73.5%. This means that around 3 in 10 referrals are not going onto the assessment/strategy discussion stage. This is being closely monitored and is part of the threshold audit cycle.

- **Repeat social care referrals:** Linked to social care referrals is the increasing number of repeat social care referrals. 17.2% (206/1199) of referrals have been repeat referrals in the year to date to July 2017/18, an increase on the 2016/17 performance of 12.8%. Performance is now above our target set at 15% and the London average, although performance remains below the national and statistical neighbour averages. This is not a performance risk but an area of concern given the rise in demand at the front door.

- **Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000:** The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan decreased over the last month from 292 compared to 290 in July. Our rate per 10,000 is 46.9 which is above our target of 38. We are above the London (38) and National (43) rates, but remain below similar areas (49).

- **Percentage of ceased child protection plans lasting 2 years or more:** This performance indicator measures children ceasing to be the subject of child protection plan during the year who had been the subject of the plan for two years or more. 14 children (12.7%) were de-planned in the year to date who had been on a plan for 2 years or more. This is an increase on the year-end performance of 6.5% and was caused by three sibling groups being de-planned in April. Performance has fallen from 41% in April and should continue to reduce over the coming months.

- **Percentage of school age looked after children with an up to date PEP (last 6 months):** As at the end of July 2017/18, 90.1% (208/229) of school aged LAC
children had an up to date PEP, 1% higher than June performance but 1% below 2016/17 outturn of 91%. Current performance is below target of 97%.

- **% of care leavers in employment, education or training (aged 17-21 from 2015):** As at the end of July 2017/18, performance has remained comparable with June at 53% (41/77) but is lower than end of year performance of 58%. Performance remains in line with similar areas and the national average, but is below the London average of 54%. The 2017/18 target has been increased to 57% to provide challenge and ambition.

- **% of care leavers in suitable accommodation:** July 2016/17 performance has decreased to 81.8% (63/77) compared to 83.7% in June. Performance is below our target of 83%, although we are in line with the national and statistical neighbour averages. It is important to note that of the 14 care leavers that are not classed as being in suitable accommodation, 3 are in prison and 11 we are not in contact with. (Accommodation is regarded as suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people. It would generally include short-term accommodation designed to move young people on to stable long-term accommodation, but would exclude emergency accommodation used in a crisis.)

2.4 The following indicators are currently RAG rated Red (lower quartile position) based on our latest position and are, therefore, considered to be a cause for concern.

- **Percentage of Core Groups within timescale:** 83% of child protection core groups were completed in timescale in July 2017 compared to 87% in June and 88% end of 2016/17. Performance is RAG rated Red against the local target set at over 95% and requires improvement.

- **Percentage of children looked after in the same placement for at least 2 years during the year:** 58% of looked after children had been in the same placement for at least 2 years as at the end of July 10% off target and 10% below national, London and statistical neighbours.

- **Looked after Children with up to date Health Checks:** At the end of July 2017/18, the percentage of looked after children in care for a year or more with an up to date health check was 79%. This is below our 2016/17 end of year performance of 90.9% and we remain below our target of 92%. It is important to note that performance fluctuates throughout the year and performance is better than this time last year. The annual performance is also very good increasing to above 90% for the last years exceeding all benchmarks.

- **Adoption scorecard performance:** In addition, the timeliness of adoption performance is poor as reflected in the DfE Adoption Scorecard 2013-16 published on 14 August 2017 (appendix 3). The adoption scorecard reports on adoption performance covering a three-yearly average on two key measures A1) the average time taken between a child entering care and moving into its adoptive family and A2) the average time taken from when the authority receives a Court Order agreeing to a child being adopted and the child is matched with an appropriate adopter. Within 2013-16, Barking and Dagenham on average took 715 days (around 2 years) between a child entering care and moving into its adoptive family - a longer time compared to 2012-15 at 655 days – and 289 days above the national threshold of 426 days (1 year 2 months). Additionally, the...
national threshold for the average time between receipt of a placement order and the confirmation of a match is 121 days (4 months). On average, Barking and Dagenham took 303 days (10 months), which is 182 days above the threshold. Our 2014-17 average time for both performance measures is also longer than 2013-16.

Performance has not improved and the Minister of State for Children and Families has written to the Local Authority regarding its 2013-16 adoption scorecard performance. A response to the Minister of State for Children and Families letter is currently being drafted setting out the reasons for our performance and actions to address this.

## Education

2.5 A full report comprising the recently compiled data for Educational attainment and performance is scheduled to be presented to the Councils’ Cabinet in November 2017. For this reason, no specific update has been included in this Select Committee Report. The November 2017 report for Cabinet will, however, be made available to Select Committee Members once published.

### Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

### List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 – The Children’s Care and Support Performance Dashboard; and
- Appendix 2 – DfE Adoption Scorecard 2013-16.