1. Introduction

1.1 This report provides the Cabinet Member with an overview and analysis of performance in the Children’s Care and Support portfolio area. The figures in this report relate to Q3 2016/17 or the latest data available. The performance dataset is appended to this report to provide the required detail for reference purposes.

1.2 The appended dataset has been developed specifically for the Social Care and Health integration portfolio meetings. It does not include all monitoring and indicators reported on across the care and support division.

1.3 This performance report aims to bring to the Cabinet Member’s attention those indicators that have been flagged as areas of interest. It outlines performance indicator strengths and areas for improvement and progress against delivering local targets for 2016/17.

1.4 Following the June portfolio performance meeting, performance colleagues were asked to review the 11 performance indicators included in Councillor Worby’s portfolio area and key tasks for 2016/17. Out of the 11 performance indicators included, there are 3 specifically related to Children’s Care and Support:

- The number of children subject to child protection plans;
- Care Leavers in employment, education, or training (EET); and
- Number of turned around troubled families as part of the Troubled Families programme (phase 2).

1.5 The above indicators are reported on in the main portfolio performance report with outturns for January 2016/17 included in the one page summary reports.

1.6 Please note this report contains the following appendix;
Appendix 1 – The dashboard of Children’s Care and Support key performance indicators.

2. Children’s Care and Support Performance

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 the latest available benchmark position (National, Statistical Neighbour (SN) and London), 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 A number of performance indicators are currently performing well and RAG rated green in the dataset.

- **Number of referrals and referral rate to social care per 10,000 children:** In the month of December 2017, social care referrals increased to 271 compared to 223 in November 2016. This is largely due to the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Looking at the quarterly position, there were 839 social care referrals in Q3 compared to 525 in Q2, an increase of 60%. The year to date position in 2016/17, however is still lower than this time last year - 1965 compared to 2407, a decline of 18%. Based on current trends, the LA rate per 10,000 is likely to decrease to around 430 by the end of 2016/17 and this will be considerably lower than all comparators – 532 (national rate), 491 (London rate) and 700 (SN rate). This represents a good direction of travel for reducing demand in social care, a key priority for Programme SAFE and Ambition 2020, but also needs to be considered as an Ofsted inspection line of enquiry if the borough’s rate falls considerably lower than comparators.

- **Percentage of contacts going on to referral:** In Q3, the number of contacts increased by 10% to 2331 compared to 2118 in Q2. The conversion rate from contacts to referral increased by 5% over the quarter from 25% to 30%. Performance is in line with the local target. Several actions have been taken in the last year as part of the Early Help and MASH project under Programme SAFE and the recruitment of permanent managers has contributed to this good direction of travel.

- **Repeat social care referrals:** Up to the end of Q3 2016/17, 13.7% (270/1965) of referrals have been repeat referrals, a slight decrease on the previous month’s figure of 14.1%. Performance remains below our target set at under 20%. Performance is below national and statistical neighbours, and in line with London averages.

- **Reviews of Children Protection cases within timescales:** The percentage of child protection cases reviewed within required timescales remained strong at 100% in Q3 and performance is above similar areas, national and London averages. This compares to our 2015/16 end of year performance of 96.9%

- **Looked after children cases that were reviewed within required timescales:** 96% of looked after children reviews were completed in timescale in the...
year to Q3 2016/17 compared to 93% as at the end of the year 15/16. This is good performance and exceeds our target set at 95% plus. Performance is above national, statistical neighbours and London averages.

- **Percentage of children looked after with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March:** As at the end of Q3 2016/17, 30 out of 418 (7.2%) looked after children had experienced 3 plus moves during the year. This is a cumulative indicator and performance is good. It is important to note that this indicator includes all placement moves even when the move is positive, for example, placed back with parents, moving to independent living, kinship care and moving from residential to foster care.

- **Number and % of children coming into care under Police Protection Orders:** In the month of December 2016, 3 children entered care on police protection bringing the year to date figure up to Q3 2016/17 to 28 children out of 146 children entering care on police protection -19.2%. Performance is now below the London average of 20%, which is very good performance. Overall, significant progress is continuing to be made in this area with numbers falling from a high 134 in 2013/14 to 54 in 2015/16, a decline of 43% to 24% of all admissions to care over the last two years since our last Ofsted inspection. The 2016/17 direction of travel is also very good.

2.3 There are indicators **RAG rated amber (close monitoring required)** in the latest monthly dataset, many of which are improving;

- **Timeliness of assessments (45 days):** The timeliness of assessments is now monitored in terms of a statutory assessment to be completed within 45 days. 72% of statutory social care assessments were completed within 45 days in the year to date up Q3 2016/17, a 2% increase on the previous quarter. Performance remains below the year end 2015/16 performance of 76%, and our target of 80%. Performance is RAG rated amber based on direction of travel and progress to target.

- **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. 12 children (5.5%) were de-planned in the year to Q3 who had been on a plan for 2 years or more and performance is just above the local target of up to 5%.

- **Percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time:** Up to the end of Q3, 16.6% (29/208) of children had been subject to a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time. This is an increase on 2015/16 performance of 7.7% and we are above our target of 10-15%. Performance remains in line with the national, and statistical neighbour averages for children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, however.

- **Number and rate of looked after children:** The number of children looked after decreased from 421 to 418 over the last quarter. The rate per 10,000 is now 69, a similar position to our year end 2015/16 figure (69). The
borough still has however, a higher rate of looked after children per 10,000 compared to London and nationally, but is in line with similar areas.

- **% of school age looked after children with an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP):** As at the end of Q3 2016/17, 91% (221/242) of school aged looked after children had an up to date PEP compared to 93% in Q2. Performance has improved year-on-year over the last five years and we are just short of our target set at over 95%. National data is not published for PEPs so benchmark data is not available.

- **% of care leavers in suitable accommodation (at age 19, 20 & 21 from 2014):** Q3 performance has increased by 2% to 77% compared to Q2 (170 out of 215) of care leavers living in suitable accommodation. Performance remains below London, national and statistical neighbour averages. It is important to note that of the 45 care leavers not in suitable accommodation, 8 are in Prison and 37 are not engaging with the Council.

  (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.)

- **Percentage of children looked after in the same placement for at least 2 years during the year:** Q3 2016/17 performance remained at 62% compared to the previous quarter. We remain 6% lower than the local target set of 68% and RAG rated Amber.

### 3.0 Performance (Risks)

#### 3.1 The following indicator is currently RAG rated red based on our latest position and are therefore considered, a cause for concern:

- **Looked after Children with up to date Health Checks:** At the end of Q3, the percentage of looked after children in care for a year or more with an up to date health check was 77% - a 1% increase on Q2 performance and higher than the Q3 2015/16 figure of 74%. Although this is lower than our end of year 2015/16 figure of 94%, we predict that we will reach our target of over 90% by end of year.

- **Child Protection visits completed in 4 weeks:** Monitoring and reporting is now on 4 weekly child protection visits and our target is 100%. As at the end of Q3 2016/17, 88% of child protection visits were completed in 4 weeks, a decrease on the Q2 figure of 92%. All managers across the division have been set a target of 100% for 4 weekly child protection visits.

- **Percentage of Core Groups within timescale:** Q3 data shows a decrease from 87% to 83% of Core Groups completed in time. This compares to 84% at year-end 2015/16. Performance needs to increase to over 95% to be in line with target.