

BRIEFING NOTE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

TO: Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel

DATE: 8th March 2012

SAFEGUARDING SERVICES PERFORMANCE BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 2012

ACTIVITY DATA

Referrals and assessments

Month	Contacts	Referrals	Initial assessments completed	% IA completed in timescale	Core assessments completed	% CA completed in timescale
Apr 11 to Jan 12 Outturn	4845	2580	1783	66.3%	479	89.6%
Apr 10 to Jan 11 Outturn	5002	2716	1953	57.7%	520	86.7%
Forecast outturn 2011/12	5814	3096	2140	66.3%	575	89.6%
2010/11 Outturn	6071	3377	2447	56.8%	636	87.7%

The forecast outturn for the full year Apr 11 to Mar 12, based on 10 months activity, shows a decrease in all referral and assessment activity on 2010/11 outturns. Apr 11 to Jan 2012 compared to Apr 10 to Jan 2011 shows all activity decreased also. % Initial Assessments and Core Assessments completed in timescale has improved compared to same period in 2010/11.

Child Protection

Total number with Child Protection Plans on 31st March 2011 was 231

Month	S47 started	CP listings	2 nd or subsequent	CP de-listings	Delisted over 2 yrs	CPP at end of month
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Apr 11 to Jan 12	377	227	28	217	9	241
14/02/2012						236

Number with CP plans had increased from 31st March 2011 to 284 at 31st August 2011, but has now reduced to 236 as at 14th February 2012.

Looked after children

Total number of looked after children on 31st March 2011 was 518.

Month	Admissions	Discharges	Balance	Total as at end of Month
Apr 11 to Jan 2011	103	138	-35	483
Apr 10 to Jan 11	126	114	+12	507
14/2/2012	110	142	-32	486

Numbers of looked after children has decreased from 31st March 2011, due in part to more children being discharged, but also fewer children being admitted. From 1/2/12 to 14/2/12 there have been 7 admissions and 4 discharges

Placement type

Month	LA Res	Ind Res	Other Res	LA FP	Other LA FP	Agy FP	Rel / Fr FP	Pl own Parents	Pre Adop Placement	Secure Unit / YOI	Others
Jan 12	17	19	0	184	7	101	92	25	29	1	8

Numbers in Independently provided foster placements (IFA's) have decreased by 18 from 119 at 31/3/11.

Process and Performance

Statutory Visits, Supervision and Workload (December 2011)

Vulnerable Children's Service

	IRS1	IRS2	IRS3	SFS1	SFS2	SFS3	SFS4	SFS5	SFS6
CP stat visits % in TS				80	98	100		93	95
LAC stat visits % in TS				60	100	100		91	100
Supervision	100	100	50	25	100	33.3		86	78
Average Caseload	4.4	7.9	9.1	22.1	15.1	18.	18.25	18	20

Looked After Children's Service (December 11)

	LAC1	LAC2	LAC3	TLC
CP stat visits % in TS				
LAC stat visits % in TS	100	93	100	90
Supervision	100	100	100	100
Average Caseload	16	18	20	25

Children's Specialist Services Briefing for Children & Young People's Scrutiny and Performance Board 8 March 2012

Total number Looked After Children	483
% Looked After Children reviews in timescales (Dec 11)	92.9%
Looked After Children NOT allocated	0
Total children with Child Protection Plan	241
Child Protection plan NOT allocated	0
Child Protection conferences in timescales (Dec 11)	100%
Total Children in Need (inc LAC, CPP, TLC)	2316
CiN NOT allocated	112
Initial assessment completed in timescale	66.3%
Core assessments completed in timescale	89.6%

Assistant Directors Summary

I am pleased to report that we are bucking the national trend and the number of children looked after continues to decrease. This is due to both slightly less children being admitted and more children being discharged either to birth family with support or to forms of permanence. Walsall continues to be one of the top performers in adoption.

The percentage of Initial Assessment in 7 days has improved significantly over the last few months and we should hit our target of 65% by the end of March. Next year if the target remains we will expect to maintain a rate of at least 75%.

The key difference is having stabilised the workforce since November and halved the number of agency workers, managers can now concentrate on quality. Caseloads remain reasonable and staff receive regular supervision.

The CIPFA Looked After Benchmarking Club 2011 shows we are one of the highest performing authorities out of the 15 local authorities in most areas and delivering at a lower gross cost of £665 per looked after child, compared to the average of £777.

Michelle Whiting
Assistant Director Children's Services – Specialist Services