

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 |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| 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