

**Health and Social Care
Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 21 DECEMBER 2006

7

**Children's Services Social Care Performance Scorecard
Second Quarter Outcomes July-September 2006**

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr Zahid Ali, Children's Services

Summary of report:

At the September 2006 meeting of the Children's and Young People's Scrutiny and Performance Panel, panel members agreed to receive quarterly information on a representative selection of performance indicators (PIs) in order to further scrutinise the robustness of the improvement measures across the directorate.

It was agreed to produce a balanced scorecard for an agreed set of indicators and any other exception indicator that was classified as "red" using the traffic lights system. This report covers the Children's Social Care scorecard measures for the second quarter of 2006/7 i.e. July-Sept 2006.

Background papers:

"Towards a Scrutiny Performance Scorecard" Children's and Young People's Scrutiny and Performance Panel presentation September 7th 2006

Reason for scrutiny:

To enable scrutiny of key performance indicators in accordance with statutory guidance.

Scrutiny panels are responsible for holding cabinet to account for the delivery of the Council's strategic goals and individual portfolio targets.

Resource and legal considerations:

Any resource implications arising from improving performance will be found from within approved budgets. There are no legal considerations arising from this report.

Citizen impact:

Improvement in the performance of agreed performance measures including PIs will impact on better outcomes for Walsall children.

Environmental impact:

There is no specific environmental impact from this report.

Performance management:

The scrutiny and performance panel's scorecard contains PIs that inform the overall assessment of Children's Services. These performance measures contribute towards the CPA/JAR process. All risks identified in relationship to progressing performance are found in the relevant service plans and the directorate risk register and are subject to regular review and management. PIs that have a red traffic light designation will be subject to corrective action plans.

Equality Implications:


The performance targets include actions that ensure delivery of equitable services.

Consultation:

There are no specific consultation requirements relating to this report.

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1 SUMMARY

1.1 On the 7th September 2006 you agreed to receive quarterly reports on a representative list of PIs across the Children's Services Social Care Directorate. These PIs are identified below.

1.2 KEY CHILDREN'S SERVICES SOCIAL CARE INDICATORS

1. Health of looked after children (LAC)
2. Numbers of children on children protection register
3. % Re-registrations of children on the CPR
4. LAC with 3 or more placements
5. LAC under 16, looked after 2.5 years, in same placement 2 years
6. % Core assessments completed with 35 working days
7. Numbers of LAC at end of quarter

1.3 It was also agreed that any other headline indicator in the directorate that was identified as red should also be added to the list as long as it remained red. **(Appendix 1)** shows a jargon free explanation of the selected 7 key Children's Services social care indicators.

2 SECOND QUARTER JULY-SEPT 2006.

2.1 This report covers the second quarter of the reporting cycle July-Sept 2006. Of the 7 scorecard PIs 5 are green, one amber and 1 red. The overall Scorecard outcomes are:

2006 Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel Scorecard		
	Traffic Light Status	
Children's Services Social Care Indicators	April-June	July-Sept
1. C19 Health of LAC	N/A	Amber
2. Local Numbers on CPR	N/A	Green
3. A3 Re-Registrations to CPR	N/A	Green
4. A1 Placement Stability	N/A	Green
5. D78 Long term stability	N/A	Green
6. C64 Timing of core assessments	N/A	Green
7. Local Numbers of LAC	N/A	Red

2.2 The full detailed scorecard is attached (**Appendix 2**) and will be presented to your meeting on December 21st 2006.

3 ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

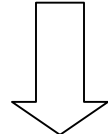
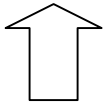
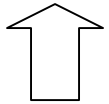
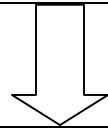
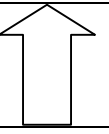
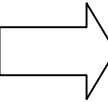
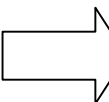
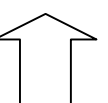

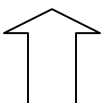

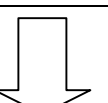
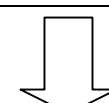
3.1 As part of our regular monthly management information a detailed ethnicity breakdown for referrals, initial assessments, core assessments, children on the child protection register (CPR) and looked after children is monitored.

INDICATOR	FULL DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	MEANING
AN INTRODUCTION TO INDICATORS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT			
C19 : Health Of Looked After Children	The average of the percentages of children looked after at 30 September who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, and who had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and had an annual health assessment during the previous 12 months. This is the average of two indicators which are calculated separately.	These are basic health requirements for all children, and should not be overlooked for children looked after. This indicator should have an association with good parenting, notwithstanding the fact that older children looked after might exercise their right to refuse medical examinations and treatments. The expectation is that a high proportion of children looked after receive this basic health care.	Current cohort of OC2 (September 2006) is 372, of these 316 had had a health assessment and 328 had had a dental check in the previous 12 months. $(316+328)/744 = 86.6\%$ is our outturn for 2006/07 Optimum performance is over 80%, currently 95% of councils performed well (70-80%) or very well.
Local: Numbers of children on the Child Protection Register	The number of children aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register on the last day of the quarter. For comparison reported as a rate per 10,000 population under 18 years.	The purpose of registration on CPR is to devise and implement a child protection plan which will lead to lasting improvements in the child's safety and overall well being.	Currently 156 on CPR out of an under 18 population of 60,915, giving a rate of 25.6. England average and Comparator average for 05/06 was 25.3 and 24.3.
A3 : Re-registrations of children on the CPR	The percentage of children registered during the year on the Child Protection Register who had been previously registered.	Some re-registrations are essential to respond to adverse change of circumstance, but high levels of re-registrations may suggest ineffective intervention. However, low levels of re-registration may mean that some children in need are not being re-registered. For these reasons optimum performance is in the range 10-15, with higher or lower performance scoring	Currently 16 re-registrations out of 122 total registrations, giving 13.1%.

INDICATOR	FULL DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	MEANING
		less well.	
A1 : Stability of children looked after	The percentage of children looked after at 31 st March with three or more placements during the year.	This is an important measure of the stability of care experienced by a looked after child. Stability is associated with better outcomes. Placement instability has been highlighted as a key barrier to improving educational outcomes.	This is cumulative through the year, but only children still looked after on 31 st March will be counted. Currently 28 have had 3 placements, compared with 33 in 2005, 30 in 2004 and 28 in 2003.
D78 : Long term stability of children looked after (New)	The percentage of children aged under 16 at March 31 who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption.	This PI replaces D35, and is a measure of the effectiveness in achieving longer term stability. Stability and the opportunity to develop and sustain strong attachments are fundamental in terms of improving outcomes for looked after children, particularly those who spend a considerable period of time in care.	The cohort for 31 st March is currently 218, of whom 124 have been in the same placement for 2 years plus 20 placed for adoption. $144/218 = 66\%$ National target for 07/08 is 80% and considered a challenge.
C64 : Timing of Core Assessments	The percentage of Core Assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement.	Core assessments are in-depth assessments of a child(ren) and their family as defined in the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. Successful meeting of the timescales can indicate effective joint working where multi-agency assessment is required, and show that concerns have been investigated in a timely, efficient way.	Currently 245 Core Assessments have been completed, with 221 being completed within 35 working days. $221/245 = 90.2\%$

INDICATOR	FULL DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	MEANING
Local : Numbers of Looked After Children at the end of the quarter	The number of Looked After Children at the end of the quarter. Reported as a rate per 10,000 population under 18 years.	Rates of looked after children will reflect differences in deprivation between councils, and may reflect differences in age structure of the under 18 population between councils.	Currently 469 children looked after, under 18 population 60,915. $468/6.0915 = 76.8\%$ England average and Comparator average for 05/06 was 60.1 and 64.6. Latest figures at end of October 06 was 465 (76.3) and end of November 06 was 456 (74.9) showing an improvement in performance.

APPENDIX 2

No.	Description	2005/06 Outturn	Target 2006/07	2006/07 Quarter 1	2006/07 Quarter 2	Future Targets	Outturn Performance compared to		RAG	COLOUR
							Year End	Quarter 1		
CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY										
PAF C19 LAA	Health of Looked after children	89% ?????	89% ?????	N/A	86.6 ?????	07/08 90 08/09 91		N/A	A	AMBER
Local Target Numbers on CPR	Numbers of children aged under 18 on CPR at end of quarter. (Rate per 10,000 under 18)	120 (19.7)	158 (25.9)	167 (27.4)	156 (25.6)	07/08 152 08/09 150			G	GREEN
PAF A3	Re-registrations of children on CPR	13 ?????	13 ?????	10 ?????	13.1 ?????	07/08 10 08/09 12			G	GREEN
PAF A1	Looked after children with 3 or more placements	13 ?????	13 ?????	13 ?????	13 ?????	07/08 10.5 08/09 10.0			G	GREEN
D78 LAA	Long term stability of children looked after (New) (Unbanded)	63%	63%	59%	66%	07/08 68 08/09 71			G	GREEN
C64	Timing of Core Assessments	76% ?????	80% ?????	89.1 % ?????	90.2% ?????	07/08 83 08/09 86			G	GREEN
Local Target Numbers of LAC	Numbers of LAC at end of quarter (Rate per 10,000 under 18)	456 (74.9)	440 (72.2)	476 (78.1)	468 (76.8)	07/08 420 (68.9) 08/09 400 (65.7)			R	RED

