

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT

CONTEXT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results from October 2014 to March 2015.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

From 1st April 2014, a new set of performance measures and outcomes have been reported. These measures are in line with Statutory and Inspection requirements. Where appropriate both numbers and percentages have been given to help provide context. The data for March 2015 and Year To Date (YTD) figures should be treated as indicative until the statutory returns are signed-off and submitted to the DfE (Department for Education). Any revisions will be updated following submission.

Whilst performance in many areas has improved, significant focus is being placed on areas where performance is weaker. Robust action plans, monitored by senior management, are being implemented to drive performance improvements.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 14/15	Out-turn 13/14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Q3	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Q4	YTD	Raw numbers	Service commentary
CC-1 (E)	Number of children in care (as at) (rate per 10,000)	765 (92.9)	575 (90)	584 (93)	587 (91.9)	601 (94.1)	582 (91.1)		583 (91.3)	569 (89.1)	575 (90)		575 (90)	575	Demand for Social Care services remains high with a significant number of requests for children to become Looked After by Nottingham City. Performance is better than our statistical neighbours and meets our target of 90 per 10,000 population. The new monthly looked after children analysis meeting will provide further focus of our looked after children cohort.
CC - 1a (E)	The number of children discharged as a result of a Permanent Outcome (SGO/Residence Order/Adoption Order)	72	75	85	11	5	14	30	15	9	11	35	118	118	<p>Performance for this indicator has been good. The target set has been surpassed, there has been a marked improvement on performance for the previous year and the number of children discharged from care as a result of a permanent outcome is higher than the Statistical Neighbour Average.</p> <p>We have been able to achieve this significant number of Adoption and Special Guardianship numbers due to the resources available through the Adoption Reform Grant (ARG). The grant enabled additional recruitment of staff to progress Adoption Plans. This additional staff included a further two Adoption Placement Advisors, Fast-track Social Workers, Customer Service Officers, a Marketing Officer and other personnel who have made it possible to discharge this high number of children.</p> <p>Funds ceased to be available through the ARG after the 31 March 2015, as too did the posts attached to the funding. It is anticipated that performance will be affected as a result of the reduction in resources.</p>
CC-8 (NI62)	The percentage of Children in Care that have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12 months	11.1%	11.5%	13.0%				12.3 %				10.5%		61 of 581	<p>Our performance at the end of quarter 4 is good. This is represented by a 2.5% reduction in the number of children who experienced three or more moves in the last 12 months when compared to the 2013/14 out-turn. On average our performance was better than our Statistical Neighbours with 0.6% less children experiencing three or more placement moves. We surpassed our target for 2014/15.</p> <p>Factors that have contributed to our performance include training and support available to foster carers and improved placement matching.</p>
CC-9 (NI63)	The percentage of Children in Care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years	66%	66%	63%	63.6%	64.7%	67.1%		65.1%	67.3%	65.9%		65.9%	114 of 173	<p>Our end of year performance was in line with the Statistical Neighbour Average, on target and showed an improvement on performance when compared to the previous year, with 2.9% more children experiencing two or more years in the same placement.</p> <p>Factors that impact on our performance remain complex and include:</p>

															<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive placement moves associated with the de-escalation of our most complex children in care i.e. the movement of children from placements offering intensive care packages to more mainstream placements. - Positive placement moves associated with children moving into adoption placements and other permanency options. - Positive placement moves associated with children moving back to their birth families for example connected persons. - There is limited availability across all placement type which at restricts choice and matching sometime leads to a placement move. - Moves which are part of the child's Care Plan, for example children moving from an assessment unit to a settled care bed within the same provider.
CC-10 (R)	The percentage of Children in Care reviewed within the appropriate timescale	Not published	97%	97.6%	97.4%	97.4%	97.1%	96.6 %	96.9%	97.5%	97.6%	98.7%	97.6%	1826 of 1870	A 2.1% increase in the number of children reviewed within the appropriate timeframe was recorded for the last quarter of the 2014/15 financial year. This brought our YTD performance slightly above target (by 0.6%) and on par with our 2013/14 performance.
CC-11 (R)	The percentage of reviews where the child participated	Not published	90%	95.5%	91.3%	91.3%	92.2%	95.4 %	92.8%	93.9%	94.1%	94.2%	94.1%	1377 of 1464	Performance for 2014/15 is (4.1%) above our target of 90%. There has been a minor (1.4%) drop in performance when compared to the previous year. Work is underway to ensure Independent Reviewing Officers meet with all children prior to reviews as this offers a participation opportunity.
CC-12 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health assessment	Not published	85%	71.8%	84.5%	83.6%	82.3%		85.9%	86.5%	85.9%		85.9%	446 of 519	Robust arrangements with our health partners, coupled with the improved input from administrative / business support colleagues have enabled an increased number of Health Assessments to be undertaken in timescale. We still face challenges in Health Assessments being undertaken when children are placed out of the local authority. Address this issue will remain a focus during 2015/16.
CC-13 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with up-to-date dental checks	Not published	90%	82.5%	88.3%	86.4%	83.0%		81.9%	75.4%	76.5%		76.5%	397 of 519	While the number of children in care registered with a dentist increased by 12.2% from quarter 1 to the quarter 4 12.2% (to 83.4%). There has been a fall of 6% in the percentage of children with up-to-date dental checks. Colleagues in health are working towards embedding a recall system. This will involve follow up activities being initiate by health care professional where it has been established that a young person is not registered and/or does not have an up-to-date dental check. Follow up activities may include contact being with the primary carer who will be instructed to undertake remedial action within a specified timeframe.
CC-14 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	Not published	85%	84.1%	73.2%	73.9%	69.1%		67.2%	72.0%	75.1%		70.8%	262 of 370	Improving the quality and number of up-to-date SDQs is a priority for 2015/16. Following our participation in the national NSPCC project that focuses on the emotional well-being of children in care, strategies using SDQ scores to measure outcomes are to be embedded. Strategies will drive performance in this area.
CC-30 (R)	The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan started within the last 6 months.	Not published	97%	New measure from Sept 2014	74.4%	74.5%	67.9%		71.1%	78.3%	84.1%		84.1%	281 of 334	Over the last quarter of 2014/15, we continued to improve our performance in relation to the number of young people with a Pathway Plan started. This has coincided with the introduction of the e-Pathway Plan. The focus remains on improving performance so that targets can be met (or surpassed). Our focus is also to ensure quality by the production Pathway Plans (for Eligible young people) at Looked After Children Reviews to be quality assured.
CC-31(R)	The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan completed/authorised in the preceding 6 months	Not published	97%	New measure from Sept 2014	54.5%	55.3%	55.7%		55.9%	57.5%	62.9%		62.9%	210 of 334	Although we saw a steady increase in performance over the last quarter of 2014/15, this area of work requires significant attention in order to improve performance and reach set targets. It is anticipated that the introduction of monthly monitoring and the new Pathway Plan Tracker will help managers better drive performance and ensure plans are completed in a timely way.

CC-25 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP)	Not published	95%	93%	95.0%	92.0%	93.0%		93.0%	93.0%	95.0%		95.0%	324 of 347	The YTD figure shows that performance was on target and represented a 2% increase on our performance in 2013/14. Our aim is to ensure the quality of information recorded improves into better drive attainment.	
CC-29 (R)	The percentage of placements that are over 20 miles from Nottingham	10.3%	To monitor	20%				17.0 %					16.0%	16.0%	77 yp	The YTD figures for 2014/15 show a 4% reduction in the number of children placed over 20 miles from Nottingham. Activities that have contributed to this reduction include regular Placement Panels where all elements of a placement are review, including location.
CL-1 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 19 years old	88.4%	90%	89.6%				88.2 %					80.4%	84.9%	45 of 53	We are challenged by the cohort of people who chose not to engage with the Leaving Care Service or who are serving custodial sentences as they cannot be recorded as being in suitable accommodation. This area performance continues to be the subject of fortnightly scrutiny. There is a robust protocol in place with Nottingham City Homes to prevent eviction and homelessness. Nottingham's performance compares well to our statistical neighbourhood group. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a trend in reengagement of young people with the Leaving Care Service and partner agencies over time. This may account for the increase in percentage of 21 year olds in suitable accommodation.
CL-2 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 20 years old	Not published	85%	83.3%				100 %					83.3%	83.1%	59 of 71	See commentary for CL-1 (R)
CL-3 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 21 years old	Not published	80%	77.0%				100 %					84.6%	94.9%	56 of 59	See commentary for CL-1 (R)
CL-4 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 19 years old	55.1%	55%	45.5%				52.9 %					50.0%	49.0%	25 of 51	Performance continues to be a challenge currently for Nottingham City. While this is the case, EET YTD figures across all age ranged show an increase in performance when compared to 2013/14 outturn. In order to improve performance, a dedicated Personal Advisor will be recruited to the Authority's Leaving Care Service. It will be their responsibility to create opportunities to engage young people in education, employment and training activities. We will also continue to work closely with Futures and our Apprenticeship Scheme to take advantage of further opportunities.
CL-5 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 20 years old	Not published	55%	31.8%				50.0 %					55.6%	50.7%	36 of 71	See commentary for CL-4 (R)
CL-6 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 21 years old	Not published	55%	40.5%				59.1 %					38.5%	54.2%	32 of 59	See commentary for CL-4 (R)