

Performance Information

As of 3rd July 2018:-

Current Children Looked After (LAC):	490	(Rate = 152.3)
Current Child Protection (CP):	222	(Rate = 69.0)
Current Children in Need (CIN):	1059	(Rate = 329.1)

The rate per 10,000 is now being calculated using the mid 2016 population estimate of 32,180.

Assessment and Care Planning

The assessment and care planning teams have recruited to all vacancies and newest starters are in post – there is a rolling recruitment campaign in order to recruit to the new teams that are within the new structure – these are scheduled to take place between now and August.

Performance reporting has improved, as has social workers evidencing the work that they were completing within performance reporting. We are now working on the improvement plan to improve the evidencing within case notes of the direct work completed with children. SMART planning training has been completed and we are working on implementing this within the written plans for children.

The consultant social worker to manage the Front Line package of training and five Middlesbrough candidates has now been recruited and is due to commence early August. Our first five candidates are now confirmed, have been on shadow training days and will commence the Front Line training in September 2018.

Children's Homes

The Children's Homes Operations Manager continues to drive practice and quality care, with the aim of all four homes achieving an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating.

The 'Children's Homes Project' is progressing as a strand of the Believe in Families Programme to consider existing and new provisions. This project is informed by the work undertaken as part of the 'Sufficiency Strategy'. The focus of additional provision will be edge of care support, with the aim of reducing the numbers of looked after children and additional in-house resources for those children who need to become looked after.

South Tees Youth Offending Service

STYOS has now received notification of the core grant settlement for the 2018/19 financial year, and funding has been matched to last year. However, the remand allocation has seen a significant reduction in funding and has been discussed at YOS Management board.

From 1st July 2018, STYOS will be working with all young people who receive a 1st Youth Caution from the Police, which will increase the prevention offer to young people in South Tees.

The strategic Youth Justice Plan is currently in the process of being written. This will be a two-year plan covering the period 2018-2020 and sets out a number of key priority areas for the service. The plan will also reflect upon the previous year and focus upon the future areas of development and growth in addition to responding to thematic inspections that have taken place over the last year.

Troubled Families

The Troubled Families team are in the process of recruiting three workers to work within a whole family model to engage those families who present with complex issues. They will also promote the Troubled Families ethos with partners and stakeholders in line with the Strategic Troubled Families outcomes plan. They will be working as part of a multi-disciplinary team responsible for undertaking assessments and planning interventions, working in innovative and challenging ways with partners to enable all family members to reach their full potential and achieve sustained progress.

Strategic Services

The Service continues to support the Directorate with its drive for improvement with regards to quality of practice and strategic development. The Quality Assurance Framework and Performance Framework are being embedded. The entire Directorate are now auditing, and re-audits are beginning to demonstrate the impact of audit on practice. A monthly performance cycle is supporting improvements to practice as demonstrated by improved performance measures. This work is supporting the Directorate's self-assessment and subsequent targeted challenge. It is also developing a change in the culture in the Directorate of a sharpened awareness and use of performance data to support improvement down to frontline staff. Further work is required to support the quality of auditing and further develop the quality of data. A monthly assurance report is authored by the Service for Children's Services Improvement Board, chaired by the Chief Executive. The report presents progress against the improvement plan and identifies key areas of good practice and areas for improvement.

The Believe in Families transformation programme is progressing well and is satisfying the quality assurance measures from the PMO office. Governance is in place across the programme and key actions are all on target. A performance framework is in place. The communication strategy for the programme is being brought together with assistance from the Communications Team. A Finance Review group has been established to drive the monitoring of reduced over spend, savings and expenditure to support the delivery of the programme and offer an additional source of challenge to the programme. The group is chaired by the Director of Partnerships and Prevention, and has membership from the

service area, Finance, Commissioning and the BIF programme team. The group focusses on BIF, but has extended its remit to ensure wider Children's Service spending is on track, to support the overall reduction of over spend and the achievement of a saving.

The Participation Strategy is in development. However, elements of the plan are in delivery including the development of the young people's participation groups and the development of the Children's Trust participation sub-group, which supports learning from user feedback from the Safeguarding Partnership. The Voice of the Child practitioner has led on the Feelgoodboro event, being held on the 14th July 2018. The event is aimed at children and families in Middlesbrough to raise awareness of the services available to them as residents. A number of activities have been organised for the event, including craft workshops, go-karting and a showcase of police vehicles.

Councillor Michael Carr
Executive Member for Children's Services