

TITLE	Children's Services Performance Indicators
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 18 September 2013
WARD	None specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Pauline Maddison, Interim Strategic Director, Children's Services

Overview

A decision was taken to change the corporate reporting requirements for 2013-14 and this report replicates these changes.

The main changes are:

- The new, larger set of indicators which underpin the corporate objectives, linked to the key themes of “Keeping Children Safe”, “Narrowing the Gap” and “Opportunities for All”.
- Most internal performance indicators are now reported quarterly. External indicators, such as exam results, are reported as they become available, frequently annually.
- Although not currently being reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Children’s Services monitors a wide range of indicators (including some being reported here) monthly and/or quarterly. The frequency of reporting is decided on a “management by exception” basis within the service.

Members are asked to consider the indicators being reported on and advise Children’s Services of any areas where they would like further information; either as an item for a regular report or on an ad hoc basis.

Table of indicators

A commentary on each indicator is provided in the following tables, with an overarching comment below each key theme.

When preparing the RAG ratings (Red, Amber or Green), the tolerances vary between indicators. These tolerances have been agreed with the Corporate Leadership Team and are set on a different basis for each indicator, usually reflecting the performance of our statistical neighbours.

Areas where the current performance is greyed out are either new indicators, for which there is no information yet, or national indicators where no information relevant to the 2013/14 financial year has yet been published.

Table 1 Children

No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	Actual Score	Traffic Light Status Qtr 1	Direction of travel	Notes
Keeping Children Safe										
5	Safeguarding: Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep - Dec 2012 47.6%, Jan - Mar 2013 30.4%	12 to 14%	Low	26.0%	Red		For Apr - Jun 2013 fewer than 5 families were subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, including some large families. 23 children came to plan during the quarter.
6	Safeguarding: % of referrals that are repeat referrals to Children's Social Care	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep - Dec 2012 18.7%, Jan - Mar 2013 35.4%	20 to 23%	Low	27.7%	Amber		The higher referral rate was caused by children moving across LA boundaries and subsequent referrals for different issues.
7	Safeguarding: % of assessments completed within 45 working days	Quarterly	Previous quarter	New indicator	75 to 85% (Focus on timeliness and quality)	High	n/a			New indicator reflecting the combination of initial and core assessments into a single assessment – commences during September 2013
7a	Safeguarding: % of initial assessments completed within 10 working days	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep - Dec 2012 89.2%, Jan - Mar 2013 75.7%	76 to 85% (Focus on timeliness and quality)	High	67.9%	Amber		Problems due to staff turnover in April have been resolved with the recruitment of permanent staff and performance in May and June was around 87%.
7b	Safeguarding: % of core assessments completed within 35 working days	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep - Dec 2012 87.9%, Jan - Mar 2013 61.1%	77 to 85% (Focus on timeliness and quality)	High	65.2%	Amber		Problems due to staff turnover in April have been resolved with the recruitment of permanent staff and performance in May and June was around 87%.

No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	Actual Score	Traffic Light Status Qtr 1	Direction of travel	Notes
8	Looked after children: % of children who have had three or more placements within the year	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep-Dec 2012 9.2% Jan - Mar 2013 9.3%	7 to 9%	Low	1.10%	Green		This indicator builds from zero in April, so early quarters appear low.
9	Looked after children: % of children achieving permanence	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Sep-Dec 2012 9.2% Jan - Mar 2013 9.3%	16 to 18%	High	5.8%	Amber		This indicator builds from zero in April, so early quarters appear low.

Keeping Children Safe Indicator Commentary

The percentage of children subject to a subsequent child protection plan can move significantly between quarters, due to the small numbers of children coming to a Child Protection Plan and the size of their families.

At the current time, initial and core assessments are still in use. The new single assessment process will be introduced during September with the 45 day target being measured from that date. Initial and core assessments are taking longer than hoped, but staff action has been taken to remedy the situation.

Narrowing the Gap

10	Key Stage 2 attainment: The gap between the performance of those children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers	Annual	Previous year	Gap of 31.0 percentage points. 2011/12 FSM 66% Non FSM 90%	Gap of around 25 percentage points.	Low				In 2011/12 there were 90 Free School Meal Pupils and 1656 Non Free School Meal pupils
11	Key Stage 4 attainment: The gap between the performance of those children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers	Annual	Previous year	Gap of 41.6 percentage points. 2011/12 FSM 26.2% Non FSM 67.8%	Gap of around 35 percentage points.	Low				In 2011/12 there were 75 free school meal pupils and 1628 Non Free School Meal pupils .

No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	Actual Score	Traffic Light Status Qtr 1	Direction of travel	Notes
12	% of young people who are classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Quarterly	Corresponding quarter for previous year	Jun 12 4.4%, Sep 12 5.7%, Dec 12 3.6% Mar 13 3.6%	Below 4.5% at year end	Low	3.7%	Green		
13	% of young people in vulnerable groups who are classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Quarterly	Corresponding quarter for previous year	New indicator	Cohort too small – should simply aim for a reduction	Low	19.1%	n/a		Vulnerable groups include looked after children, young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, young offenders, young people who are parents or who are pregnant.
14 42	Youth Offending: first time entrants to the Youth Justice System	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Jun 12 - 8, Sep 12 - 4, Dec 12 - 7, Mar 13 - 10	Reduction on previous year	Low	9	Green		A new definition of pre-court disposals introduced in April 2013 might impact on numbers. This is being closely monitored within the service.
15	Youth Offending: rate of re-offending	Quarterly	Previous quarter	24.3%	Reduction on previous year	Low	16.8%	Green		Baseline: Last completed 12 month cohort was 27/111 = 24.3%

Narrowing the Gap Indicator Commentary

Figures for young people not in education, training or employment have dropped since the corresponding quarter in 2012. The data on vulnerable young people in this cohort is being collected for the first time, so has not been given a traffic light status this quarter. The Youth Justice figures are showing an improvement, but this might be impacted in coming months by changes to pre-court disposals and the way these have to be dealt with by the service.

Opportunity for All										
16	Key Stage 2 attainment: % of pupils achieving Level 4 in both English and mathematics	Annual, (two updates – provisional and final)	Previous year	2011/12 Average all pupils 89%	Average all pupils 90%	High				

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17	Key Stage 4 attainment: % of pupils achieving 5+A*-C GCSEs (inc English and mathematics)	Annual, (two updates – provisional and final)	Previous year	2011/12 Average all pupils 65.6%	Average all pupils 70%	High				
18	Raising standards in schools: % of schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Dec 2012 published data, (43 schools) 72.9%	78% (46 schools)	High	78% (46 schools)	Green		At the end of June 46 schools were in the category of good or better
18a	Raising standards in schools: % of primary schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter		78% (40 schools)	High	74% (39 schools)	Amber		
18b	Raising standards in schools: % of secondary schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter		78% (6 schools)	High	88% (7 schools)	Green		

Opportunity for All Indicator Commentary

The target of 46 schools being judged by Ofsted to be good or better was reached in May, but the school improvement team will be working with schools to maintain or improve standards as other schools go through the inspection process.