

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13.01.15
'to follow' item**

ITEM NO: 48.00

TITLE	Children's Services Performance Indicators
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 January 2015
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director of Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Children's Services Performance Indicators underpin the council's priorities and principles to focus on every child reaching their potential and looking after the vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children's Services Performance Indicators be noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The timing of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the latest indicators available for formal reporting this cycle are the Quarterly indicators reported at the end of September 2014.

The only indicator which was rated red was: Indicator 6 Safeguarding: 'The percentage of referrals which are repeat referrals to Children's Social Care'. The re-referral rate is a proxy measure for individual children's needs not being met appropriately. We have investigated the re-referral rates and proved that one of the main issues behind the inflated figure is not family needs being incorrectly assessed or poorly met, but an unforeseen by-product of the streamlining of our processes which occurred last year (in line with national thinking); namely that we stopped recording and processing 'contacts' and 'referrals' separately. Having investigated recent changes fully, we expect that the re-referral rate will reduce and come back within expected levels by summer 2015.

Background

A set of information on performance indicators is provided to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Executive on a regular basis. The most recent report providing information for Children's Services, covering the first half year to September 2014, was provided to the last Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The following analysis of issues has been updated to include more recent information available within the service.

Analysis of Issues

The only indicator which was rated red in September 2014 was *6 Safeguarding: The percentage of referrals which are repeat referrals to Children's Social Care within a 12 month period*. There has been an interest in the re-referral rate in Wokingham as it is above the National Average. A review has been undertaken to understand the trends and issues surrounding this.

A re-referral occurs where a case has been closed and a new referral is made for the child within twelve months of the previous referral, for the same reason.

The work identified two issues including:

1. Between April and June 2014 the contract form within FWi had two boxes 'contact only' and 'contact and referral'. The 'contact and referral' box was used without appropriate thought resulting in the following:

	Total number of Referrals	Real Contacts	Real Referrals
April 2014	179	106	73
May 2014	157	77	80
June 2014	126	34	92

If the 'real' referral figure is used we would be reporting a rate of 22% - which is in line with the National Average.

Those contacts incorrectly recorded as referrals are distorting the data and showing as 'false positives' for the whole year until June 2015. These distorted figures need to go through the system before we can get meaningful data easily. This means our position will start improving from April 2015, and in July 2015 we will have our first clean data report. Meanwhile, from January 2015 to July 2015, we will produce the figures manually adjusted. This represents two thirds of the cohort

2. Some practice issues were also identified
 - Some cases are closed too soon and are re-referred after a few months
 - The 15+ age group tend to close and reopen as a number of strategies are implemented with parents and carers
 - Child Protection cases that are closed after the investigation and may come back with different issues.This represents a third of the cohort.

In addition to the Children's Social Care data, the report also contains an update on the Ofsted judgements for Wokingham schools; previously 100% of our secondary schools were judged to be good or outstanding, but the recent update now includes Oakbank, a secondary free school, has had its first inspection and been graded as "requires improvement".

An update on performance since September 2014 shows:

Balanced Scorecard update

No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	November 2014 (ytd)	RAG	
Keeping Children Safe									
5	<i>Safeguarding: Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time</i>	<i>Quarterly switched to monthly reporting</i>	<i>Previous quarter</i>	<i>See note</i>	<i>12 to 14%</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>10%</i>		
6	<i>Safeguarding: % of referrals that are repeat referrals to Children's Social Care</i>	<i>Quarterly switched to monthly reporting</i>	<i>Previous quarter</i>	<i>See note</i>	<i>20 to 23%</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>37.2%</i>		<i>Please see the explanation provided above</i>
7	<i>Safeguarding: % of assessments completed within 45 working days</i>	<i>monthly reporting</i>	<i>Previous quarter</i>	<i>New indicator</i>	<i>75 to 85%</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>94.9%</i>		
8	<i>Looked after children: % of children who have had 3 or more placements within the year</i>	<i>monthly reporting</i>	<i>Rolling 12 months</i>	<i>See note</i>	<i>7 to 9%</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>9.2%</i>		
9	<i>Looked after children: % of children achieving permanence</i>	<i>monthly reporting</i>	<i>Previous quarter</i>	<i>See note</i>	<i>16 to 18%</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>27.2%</i>		

Narrowing the Gap									
No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	August 2014 (ytd)	RAG	
10	<i>Key Stage 2 attainment: The gap between the performance of those children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers</i>	Annual	Previous year	Summer 2013 FSM6 54.3% Non FSM6 83.6% NTG 29.3 pp	Gap of around 25 percentage points.	Low	Summer 2014 FSM6 65.1% Non FSM6 87.0% NTG 21.9 pp		<i>The FSM6 gap monitors the gap in achievement between children who have received free school meals at some point in the last 6 years and children who have not. The FSM6 gap has reduced from 29.3 percentage points (pp) in 2013 to 21.9 pp in 2014.</i>
11	<i>Key Stage 4 attainment: The gap between the performance of those children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers</i>	Annual	Previous year	Summer 2013 FSM 31.0% Non FSM 73.5% NTG 42.5pp	Gap of around 35 percentage points.	Low			<i>Data for the final KS4 FSM gap will not be available until late January 2015</i>
12	<i>% of young people who are classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</i>	Quarterly	Corresponding quarter for previous year	August 2013 11.8%	<i>Below 4.5% at year end</i>	Low	October 2014 2.5%		

No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	August 2014 (ytd)	RAG	
13	% of young people in vulnerable groups[5] who are classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Quarterly	Corresponding quarter for previous year	New indicator	aim for a reduction over the year	Low			The NEET population is complex, and the definitions have changed for reporting. In October 173 (80%) of young people with LDD were in EET (the rest were either NEET or "unknown") There are 14 young parents in years 12 – 14, all of whom are not available for education or training.
14	Youth Offending: first time entrants to the Youth Justice System	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Baseline 2012/13 Q1 - 8, Q2 - 4,	Reduction on previous year	Low	April – August 2014 11		The numbers of fte are similar to those at this time of year in 2012/3 and 2013/4, around 12 in the first 6 months of each year.
15	Youth Offending: rate of re-offending	Quarterly	Previous quarter	2012/13 24.3%	Reduction on previous year	Low	33%		Data is only available for the first quarter and only monitors 15 young people out of a cohort of 64, so the data is unsuitable for RAG rating at this stage of the year. It is believed that the outturn result will be on target

Opportunity for All									
No	Indicator	Frequency of Reporting	Comparator Period	Baseline Performance	Target 2013/14	High or Low score is good	August 2014 (ytd)	RAG	No
16	Key Stage 2 attainment: % of pupils achieving Level 4 in reading test, writing TA and mathematics test	Annual		Summer 2013 81%		High	Summer 2014 85%		The summer 2014 national average is 79%
17	Key Stage 4 attainment: % of pupils achieving 5+A*-C GCSEs (inc English and mathematics)	Annual		Summer 2013 70.6%		High	Summer 2014 66%		The data for summer 2014 is based on the new DfE definition, which only counts a pupil's first attempt at an examination. Indications from schools suggest that around 73% of pupils will have achieved the old measure, which allowed for resits.
18	Raising standards in schools: % of schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter	Dec 2012 published data, (43 schools) 73%	78%	High	81% (46 schools)		The data shown is from the Ofsted Data View site as at 05/01/2015, although this reflects the situation at the end of August 2014. 77% of primary schools in Wokingham are at Good or Better as at July 2014.
18a	Raising standards in schools: % of primary schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter		78%	High	79% (39 schools)		
18b	Raising standards in schools: % of secondary schools in Ofsted categories of good or better	Quarterly	Previous quarter		78%	High	89% (7 schools)		

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

n/a

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

n/a

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Brian Grady

Telephone No 0118 974 6055

Date 5th January 2015

Service Children's Services

Email

Judith.ramsden@wokingham.gov.uk

Version No. 1