

Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 July 2009
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director of Children’s Services, Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, Councillor Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	CLA & CPP Activity and Performance Report

1. Summary

FOR INFORMATION

This report sets out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP), plus key performance indicators for the end of May 2009.

Key Points:

- Core assessment performance has improved to above target (see full details from Terry McCarthy below).
- Initial assessment performance has dropped and robust management action is being taken to improve the situation.
- CLA missing 25+ days of school - Target of 10% already exceeded. Separate report provided from Education Welfare Service.
- The number of children placed out of borough has increased significantly. This is being investigated and is partly due to data cleansing at the year end (improved identification of placement address).

2. Additional Information on Core Assessments

The panel requested additional information on core assessments because the 2008/09 target was not reached.

Under the Government publication *Assessment of Children in Need and their Families*, Core Assessments are “detailed” assessments which address the;

- child’s developmental needs;
- parenting being offered;
- wider family and environment factors.

These assessments should be completed within 35 working days and must be completed whenever a child:

- is subject to a child protection (section 47) assessment;
- is being looked after or this is under consideration;
- is an unaccompanied asylum applicant;
- appears to have other very complex needs.

The LAA target for 2009/10 requires 81% of Core Assessments to be completed within 35 working days. This target was being met up to May 2009 however it is expected to drop below the target in the June 2009 performance figures. The reason for this has been unexpected staff absences due to illness and special leave.

On 29th May all social workers were instructed that all Core Assessments must be completed within 35 days. Practitioners and managers have accepted this as an important measure in meeting the needs of the children and maintaining public confidence in the service.

It is therefore anticipated that the short-term drop in performance expected in June will recover over the next three months.

Weekly performance monitoring information is being used to ensure that no Core Assessment goes beyond its 25th day without a manager reassuring themselves that the assessment is nearing completion.

The team has also implemented a Quality Audit Form which addresses the quality of Core Assessments against eleven key criteria. All assessments must be audited as meeting at least 80 marks (out of 100) before the assessment can be signed off by the manager. Completing the assessment within 35 working days is an important aspect of this quality audit.

The staff development programme currently being implemented in Duty and Assessment includes mentoring and training to support practitioners in meeting the requirements of the quality audit.

Terry McCarthy
Service Manager – Referral and Assessment

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Performance Issues

This report provides latest performance on statutory indicators for children's social care. The Panel may wish to provide direction following an analysis of current performance.

5. Contacts

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