

Rotherham Children and Young People's Services

Assessment of Performance by Corporate Plan Priorities

2013/14 Quarter 3 Report

This report outlines outturn performance for 2013/14 against targets, with comparisons against previous performance and statistical neighbour and national data where possible. It should be read in conjunction with the 'CYPS Performance Monitoring Table – 2013/14 Quarter 3 (Appendix B) as it includes references throughout the text to the numbering structure within the table.

Below are the criteria for RAG rating the indicators.

Definition of new RAG Status	Target Met	Stat Neighbour Avg Met	National Avg Met	New RAG Status
Performance is achieving the local target and above Statistical Neighbours or National Average	✓	✓	✓	GREEN
Performance is not achieving the local target and on or above Statistical Neighbours or National Average	x	✓	✓	AMBER
Performance is below local target and Statistical Neighbours or National Average	x	x	x	RED

Comparative data relates to the latest available data and therefore date periods for some indicators may vary. It has been sourced via the DFE Local Area Interactive Tool.

Corporate Plan Exception Report (RAG rated Red)

Corporate Priority 2: Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence

Outcome: We will intervene early to prevent problems developing and protect children, young people, families and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect

Measure: Take up of school lunches - Secondary (No.10 / NI 52b)

Take up of primary school lunches in Rotherham has an outturn of 56% for the period October to December, which is above target and comparators. Performance is also 6.5% higher than the same time last year (49.5%).

Take up of secondary school lunches in Rotherham has an outturn of 37.2% for the period October to December.

Although secondary schools are not meeting targets the direction of travel is up. Compared to the same time last year (35.6%) performance is 1.6% higher.

Measure: Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral (No.12 / NI 59)

At the end of December there were 1211 initial assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month was 60.4%.

Combining the current data for completed and outstanding assessments the projected year end performance is 53%

- 21 of the assessments in drag have a key team which is not Duty
- The oldest assessment was started in May 2013

Despite ongoing efforts to improve performance at the end of the quarter it had fallen to 59% for the year so far which is 29% lower than the same time last year (88%).

During the course of 2013/14 a number of actions and systems reviews have been undertaken to improve the timeliness of social care assessments of children. Although some small improvements were achieved this was not sustained and performance, particularly in Initial Assessments, is significantly below targets and previous achievement.

To help understand the issues from a frontline perspective and identify further action a performance clinic was held with team managers.

The outcomes of the clinic are to be used and captured within the service improvement plan, in addition greater awareness and accountability is to be instilled at team and worker level by introduction of personal performance targets which will be monitored through supervision and PDRs.

Measure: Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (No.13 / NI 60)

At the end of December there were 1566 core assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month was 54%. The total year's performance at the end of the quarter had fallen to 65.5%. Performance at the end of quarter 3 is 17.8% lower than the same time last year (83.3%).

Combining the current data for completed and outstanding assessments the projected year end performance is 63.4%

- 163 CAs were completed within December
- 49 of the assessments in drag have a key team which is not Duty
- As at the 13th January there were 482 outstanding CAs. 186 (63.4%) of these were already in drag.
- The oldest assessment was started in December 2012.

There are three outstanding Core Assessments which date back to the previous reporting years. Work to clear these had been completed earlier in the year therefore these could possibly be due to data entry errors. These have been highlighted to the relevant teams to check current status, take appropriate action and ensure accurate reporting.

In addition there are a further 18 core assessments which were triggered in the 1st quarter of the year.

Measure: Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (No.14 / NI 61)

At the end of December, 27 adoptions had been completed this year. This is an increase of 8 on our position this time last year.

16 of the 27 are in timescale giving a performance of 59.3% which, although still a 'Red' indicator, is an improvement on previous quarters. At this point last year performance was 47.4%

A breakdown of the adoption waiting list is provided below with current status with a direction of travel comparison to quarter 2 positions shown in brackets.

Time since SHOBPA Decision	Total	Breakdown of Current Status			Comments
		Placement identified or placed	Active Family Finding	Revocation / change of plan likely	
Over 12 months (drag)	8 (-1)	0 (-4)	3 (0)	5 (+3)	It's likely; if Active Family Finding is not successful then revocations will be sought for these children.
6-12 months	15 (-3)	8 (-1)	4 (-1)	3 (-1)	
Under 6 Months	14 (-6)	6 (-5)	7 (-1)	1 (0)	

Extensive work and additional resources have been put in place to address the historical 'drag' which has significantly reduced over the last 18 months. An element of the adoption reform grant is being used 2013/2014 to purchase interagency adoptive placements to ensure that timely placements are made and by doing this the 'drag' should be cleared this year.

At the end of December: 33 children are placed for adoption – with 10 having applications lodged / court dates, 2 in America, 1 placement fragile and requiring support, 11 have been in placement for 10 weeks – no applications submitted (including the placement which is fragile and requires support), 10 have been in placement less than 10 weeks.

The service is projecting the same number of adoptions as last year which was 36.

An adoption survey took place in October 2013 where this year's cohort of children with a SHOBPA were reviewed to ensure placements have been identified/ or revocations submitted where plans have changed. In adoption this adoption surgery reviewed all those placed for adoption to ensure that applications to adopt are submitted in a timely manner. Service managers have agreed to include reviewing of children with a SHOBPA and those placed for adoption to ensure timeliness on a monthly basis.

The Adoption Scorecard was published on 14th January 2014 and measures performance up to March 2013. Rotherham's scorecard details the high number of children adopted and the high number of difficult to place children adopted compared to the national average.

Rotherham scores less positively on the scorecard on measures of timeliness.

The first measure of timeliness measures the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family. The scorecard records the 3 year average for 2010 to 2013 as being 659 days. This is 12 days longer than the national average, but the scorecard does note that our performance on this measure was improved in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.

Our internal performance statistics tell us that we have improved performance significantly for children adopted in 2013/14 to 575 days, an improvement of 84 days.

Importantly, the Government set performance threshold for this measure for March 2013 was 608 days, meaning we missed the target by 51 days. Our current performance in 2013/14 would mean us exceeding this target by 33 days. However, the Government threshold becomes more demanding each year and the target for this measure for March 2014 is 547 days. Our current performance of 575 days would mean us falling short of this new threshold by 28 days.

Whilst we would still miss the target based on the above, we would have narrowed the gap between our performance and the threshold by 23 days, even though the threshold target had become more demanding by 61 days.

The second measure of timeliness measures the average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. Our performance on this measure is an average of 309 days for the period between 2010 and 2013. This was significantly longer than the national average of 210 days. It was also 127 days longer than the threshold target set by Government of 182 days.

Our performance on this measure so far in 2013/14 is 267 days. This is an improvement of 43 days but it still significantly short of the new 152 days threshold target for March 2014.

This performance on timeliness is explained in large part by the high number of children we succeed in securing adoption for and the high number of difficult to place children we have adopted. We have been working hard to deal with historical cases of children who have waited a long time for adoption placements and our success in finding them this year has impacted negatively on our timeliness performance.

Measure: Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (No.17 / NI 64)

This quarter has seen a high number (104) of plans cease compared to other quarters. 10 of these had been open for two years or more, which is more than the rest of the year combined. This takes the total number of plans ceasing to 270 with 18 of these being over the two year threshold. Performance therefore is now at 6.7% and 'Red' which compared to the same time last year (4%) is 2.7% higher.

24 children are currently on plans over 2 years and represent future unavoidable performance drag.

Children with plans between 18-23 months have reduced to 8. The conference for one of these is after the 24 month threshold. Consideration should be given to rearranging this conference to avoid additional future drag.

Quality Assurance

Since April 2013 we have continued to embed quality assurance and address identified issues through service planning, workforce development and commissioning.

We have undertaken the following;

- **Thematic monthly qualitative case audit process;** 153 audits including child protection planning, looked after care planning, S.47 child protection enquiries, Family CAF, child sexual exploitation.
- **Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Looked After Children Reviews;** 654 cases reviewed resulting informal 123 concerns being raised.
- **Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences;** 504 conferences (1100 children) resulting in 52 concerns being raised through the escalation procedure.
- **Thematic practice reviews** Including; the completion and reporting of the neglect review to CYPFSP, Multi-agency conference reporting, Use of mother and baby residential assessments, factors impacting on the placement stability looked after children

Themes and issues identified within the audits have assisted in gaining a clearer understanding on the impact of the services we deliver. As a result;

- A new model of risk assessment has been developed and is being delivered across the workforce through the Triple A programme and is in the CYPs Tri-X online procedures
- A new children in need/child protection care plan has been developed, trailed within long term teams and is about to be rolled out across all social work teams (Jan 2014)
- New guidance around SMART care planning has been written and is being delivered across the workforce through the Triple A programme and is in the CYPs Tri-X online procedures
- S.47 enquires and strategy discussions are now being directly inputted into CCM
- Development of new procedures to provide feedback to referrers about the outcome of referrals to EHAT and quality of FCAF received.