

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE

<b>TO:</b>	<b>ADULT CHILDREN AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>3 FEBRUARY 2016</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE UPDATE</b>		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>CLLR JAN GAVIN</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND EARLY HELP</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>BOROUGHWIDE</b>
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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to give an update to the Adult Children and Education Committee on the progress of Children's Services since the last meeting.
- 1.2 At the time of the last meeting, members received a paper on Safeguarding Activity (minute 17) which set out improvements needed. Evidence of some of those improvements is starting to emerge.
- 1.3 The development of a performance dashboard for Looked After Children has helped to improve performance by enabling managers to have a 'real time' view of performance within the team. Through the use of the dashboard managers are able to see the exceptions in performance and view individual children's records to ensure that progress is made.
- 1.4 The dashboard report replaces the information that was contained within the Purple Book in relation to Looked After Children. We believe that it has become a useful management tool within a very short space of time. The fact that it is based on current data within the system means that the service no longer has to wait for the Purple book to be issued, meaning they can be much more proactive about performance than previously. 'Real time' information directly from Mosaic enables staff to view performance at any time during the week.

- 1.5 Viewing the performance in this way has already had results in the number of visits to looked after children on time, the number of children with an up to date care plan and the number of children who have had their health assessments.
- 1.6 The monthly operational Performance Board (previously known as 'Getting to Good') considers the performance and provides critical challenge to the service. Following this meeting a commentary is added to the dashboard and this final data is saved as the overview of that month's performance. This agreed data is then used to inform the Corporate Performance Report and performance updates for the Children's Services Improvement Board.
- 1.7 Further dashboards have been commissioned for Child Protection and for Children in Need to assist managers in having oversight in these key areas.
- 1.8 The presentation will demonstrate the use of the dashboards as used by the service.

## **2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress made within Children Education and Early Help Directorate since the last update and the use of the performance dashboards.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee monitors the use of the dashboard in improving performance.

## **2. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 2.1 This report is in line with the overall direction of the Council by meeting two of the following Corporate Plan priorities:
  1. Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable;
  2. Providing the best start in life through education, early help and healthy living.
- 2.3 The directorate's delivery of the Strategic Aim "To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all" will be monitored through the Quality Assurance Framework and through the oversight of the Children's Services Improvement Board.
- 2.4 The Quality Assurance Framework and Children's Services Improvement Board will be an additional mechanism for improvements and dissemination of best practice in relation to all service delivery areas within Children, Education and Early Help, including monitoring how the Directorate responds to youth

offending, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour issues including substance misuse.

- 2.5 A regular quality assurance and performance monitoring framework will assist in addressing health inequalities for our service users and will help us to identify and address with partners how they can assist in addressing this issue.

### **3. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to the decision as a good overview of the quality of service delivery will address any inequalities and seek to remove them.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Whilst there are no legal implications in relation to this report, it is important to note that under Children's Services legislation, we are required under a general duty of the Children Act 2004 to address the quality of services and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This framework establishes a clear mechanism for doing so.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.