


CYPP - Improvement Programme 6 Highlight Report

This highlight report updates the Somerset Children's Trust Executive (SCT) about the project's progress to date. It also provides an opportunity to raise concerns and issues with the SCT, and alert them to any changes that may affect the project.

Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period.

Programme:	Programme 6 - Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service		
Delivery Group:	CSC/LSCB	Year:	2016/7
Delivery Group Chair:	Claire Winter/Sally Halls	Report Date:	21.2.17 for the period ending 31 st January 2017

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	Amber <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Status Trend:	 <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Reason for current status:	<p>Whilst most areas are on target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to appoint to the Assistant Director Quality Assurance is impacting on senior management capacity across the partnership. • Health have not been able to recruit to Clinical Psychologists posts to join the emotional health and well-being team and this means the team is not yet able to function at capacity • There remain challenges in recruiting permanent staff to South Somerset safeguarding teams. • Edge of care work is progressing more slowly than anticipated due to capacity. A Strategic Manager for Prevention will be in post from February 2017 and will drive this work forward. • Placement stability remains a concern for children who have been looked after for more than 2 and half years. Examination of the data indicates that some foster carers struggle to manage children as they approach adolescence. A revised training programme for 17/18 focussing on building carer and child resilience is one of a range of measures in place to address this. 		

2. Progress since last Highlight report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- Family group conferencing service is now fully staffed with conferences to be rolled out across the county in February 2017.
- Strategic Manager Prevention appointed – due to start in February 2017 – to develop services specifically for adolescents on the edge of care.
- Ofsted Monitoring visits for Assessment (November 2016) and Safeguarding (January 2017) stated that adequate progress is being made in Children's Social Care.
- Care leaver now engaged in work experience at Viridor and conversations with Skanska and local Chamber of Commerce underway to extend the model.
- Significant improvement in permanent staffing in South Somerset Assessment and Children Looked After teams
- The partnership CSE strategy group is making good progress under police leadership.
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children's (UASC) team is now in place, the team have been trained and all UASC children in the service are now held in this team.

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Poor response to advertisement for psychologists to join the emotional health and well-being team means the team is not yet able to function at capacity
- There remain challenges in recruiting permanent staff to South Somerset safeguarding teams.
- Edge of care work is progressing more slowly than anticipated due to staffing issues. A Strategic Manager for Prevention will be in post from February 2017 and will drive this work forward.

Placement stability remains a concern for children who have been looked after for more than 2 and half years. Examination of the data indicates that some foster carers struggle to manage children as they approach adolescence. A revised training programme for 17/18 focussing on building carer and child resilience is one of a range of measures in place to address this.

3. Key Milestones and Deliverables *(as per your plan; noting any slippage – anything significant that has an impact on key actions/outputs):*

Milestones	Planned Completion Date	Progress/Slippage/Remedial Actions
Re-advertisement of psychologist posts for Emotional Health and Well-being team	24 th January 2017	Prioritising well-being of children looked after and care leavers

4. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Rollout of Family group conferencing service across the county from February 2017
- Development of Teenage strategy, particularly in relation to edge of care support, beginning February 2017.
- Recruitment fair and "Try before you Apply" social worker recruitment initiatives during March/April 2017 with a focus on South Somerset and Taunton

5. Most significant current risk/s:

- Permanent staff recruitment in South Somerset and Taunton offices remains fragile. If we are unable to recruit to a significant number of the posts to be filled, consistent progress towards improved quality of practice may falter.
- Placement stability for children looked after has deteriorated. Placement breakdown can adversely affect children's emotional health, meaning that they require more expert care at higher cost. Delayed recruitment of psychologists to the emotional health and well-being team reduces the capacity of this team to support placements in crisis.

6.

- An overview of audit activity and the outcomes of the two recent Ofsted monitoring visits indicate that although volatility and variability in workflow and practice quality has reduced, both issues remain in the service. Sustained focus is required to maintain improved threshold understanding and adherence and to continue to develop improvements in practice.









7. Variances:


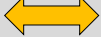



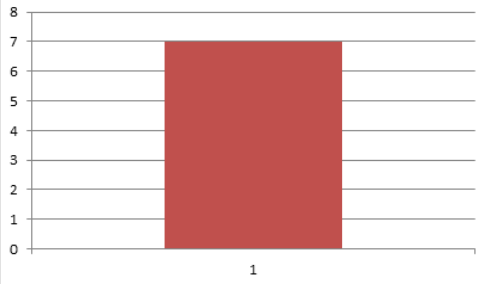
Give details of any other change to your programme (where applicable e.g. to the benefits, assumptions, timescales, quality or scope):

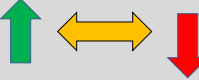
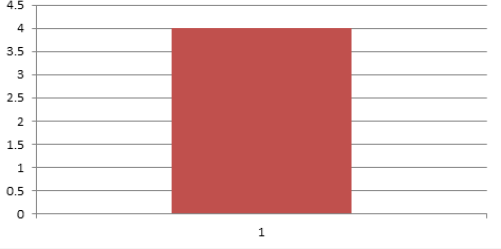



The police continue to have challenges in managing front line safeguarding duties in line with Working Together 2015. This means that child protection strategy meetings and information provided about risk to children are not always timely, reducing partnership ability to ensure that children are consistently safe.







8. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:







That the Trust continues to ensure that Agencies prioritise the needs of Children Looked After.








Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel   
1. Strengthen Family Support for Children in need of help and protection			
Percent of children on second or subsequent Child Protection Plans (within two years of the previous plans end data).	20.7% (SN average 2015/16)	12.9% (69/535) Rolling 12 months January 2017	13.9% (71/510) Rolling 12 months December 2016 
Child Protection statutory visits that took place on time	95%	92.3% Rolling 12 months January 17	92.4% Rolling 12 months December 2016 
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans for 2 years or more.	2.5% (31 st March 2016 SN average)	0.5% (2/378) January 17	0.5% (2/384) December 2016 
Length of time children are subject to a child in need (CIN) plan (<i>current, open CIN cases</i>)	3 months or less = 22.2% More than 3 months, but less than 6 months = 12.5% More than 6 months but less than 1 year = 16.3% 1 year but less than 2 years = 19.2% 2 years and over = 29.8% 31 st March 2016 SN average	0-6 weeks = 26.4% 6 weeks to 3 months = 17.4% 3-6 months = 13.2% 6 months to 1 year = 18.8% Over 1 year = 24.3% January 17	0-6 weeks = 24.1% 6 weeks to 3 months = 14% 3 to 6 months = 15.2% 6 months – 1 year = 21.9% Over 1 year = 24.8% December 2016 
Number of cases where there has been no recorded activity during the previous 6 weeks.	Internal target of 0 (excluding children with disabilities [CWD])	46 of which 13 are CWD, residual cases 33 (January 2017)	44 of which 22 are CWD, residual cases 22. (December 2016) 
Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) during the last 12 months	62.9 rate per 10,000 child population (15/16 SN average)	52.5 rate per 10,000 child population (December 2016)	48.7 rate per 10,000 child population (September 2016)
Number of children on Child Protection Plans	560 (15/16 SN average)	384 (December 2016)	371 (September 2016)

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel   
Distribution of working days taken from a referral being received to an assessment being completed	1 to 10 working days = 17.88% 11-20 working days = 18.6% 21-30 working days = 16.8% 31-40 working days = 17.5% 41-45 working days = 8% 46 or more working days = 17.6% (15/16 SN average)	0 working days = 7.8% 1-10 working days = 13.3% 11-20 working days = 17.6% 21-30 working days = 20.4% 31-40 working days = 17.7% 41-45 working days = 10.1% 45+ working days = 13% (Rolling 12 months December 2016, taken on 10 th Jan 16)	0 working days = 8.13% 1-10 working days = 14% 11-20 working days = 17.3% 21-30 working days = 20.5% 31-40 working days = 16.6% 41-45 working days = 9.3% 45+ working days = 14.2% (Rolling 12 months Sept 16, taken on 3rd October 16) 
2. Secure stability for children through improved permanence planning			
Placement stability – the number of children looked after who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years who have been in their current placement for the past 2 years	70%	54.5% (85/156) Rolling 12 months January 17	56.5% (87/154) Rolling 12 months December 2016 
Number of emergency placements made	For information only	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan-17 Emergency Placeme</p> 	Approximately 3 emergency placements made in December 2016

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel 
Number of Parent and Child placements made	For information only	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan-17 P&C Placements</p> 	3 Parent and Child Placements made in December 2016
Percentage of CLA that have been looked after for 4 months+ where a permanence plan is recorded	95%	95.14% January 2017	95.7% December 2016 
3. Improve the outcomes for Children Looked After and Care leavers through effective Corporate Parenting			
Percentage of Children looked After placed more than 20 miles from home	28.7% (15/16 SFR903 SN average)	31.5% (149/473) January 17	30.9% (150/485) December 2016 
Percentage of Children Looked After in residential care	12.2% (including: Secure units, Children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation) 2015/16 SN average	14.9% (as at 30/01/2017) Includes: secure unit inside and outside LA, Children's homes and family or mother and baby units.	4.6% (as at 10 th January 2017) (Revised methodology)
Percentage of Children Looked After with in-house Foster Carers	61.1% own provision, not exclusively own FC provision (15/16 SN average)	62.2% based on 224 children currently looked after by SCC foster care and 136 children in other foster care (as at 30 th Jan 2017)	62.2% based on 229 children currently looked after by SCC foster care and 144 children in other foster care (as at 10 th January 2017) 
Expenditure on external fostering placements, year to date	For information only	£4,943,674 (YTD January 17)	£4,305,094 (YTD December 16)

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel   
Expenditure on external residential placements, year to date	For information only	£7,279,407 (YTD January 2017)	£6,313,278 (YTD December 16)
Number of Foster Carers approved to take children over the age of 10	For information only	227 (30 th January 2017)	224 (10 th January 2017) 
Average number of days between a child becoming looked after and being placed for adoption (for all children placed)	For information only	443 (YTD January 17)	468.15 (YTD 31 st December 2016) 
Percent of Somerset children looked after who are placed within Somerset	66.4% (15/16 SN average)	73.6% taken on 30 th Jan 2017	73% taken on 10 th January 2017 
Percentage of children looked after at or above the Expected Standard in reading, writing and maths combined at key stage 2	53.1% Gap between CLA pupils and the full cohort is 26.4 percentage point difference (14/15 SN average)	18% (4/22) (provisional 2016) Gap between CLA pupils and the full cohort is 43 percentage point difference	35% in 2015 Gap between CLA pupils and the full cohort is 43 percentage point difference Not comparable with 2016 provisional figures
Percentage of children looked after achieving 5+ GCSEs A* to C.	22.8% Gap between CLA pupils and the full cohort is 43 percentage points (14/15 SN average)	20% (provisional 2016) 9 out of 44 Attainment gap between CLA and the full cohort is not yet available as comparative data has not yet been published by the DfE[6 out of the cohort of 44 achieved 5+ A*-C including English and Maths representing 14%]	17.1% in 2015 Gap between CLA pupils and the full cohort is 50.9 percentage point difference in 2015
Percentage of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	42.2% (care leavers aged 19,20 and 21) 2015/16 SN average	44.8% (124/277) of care leavers all ages (Jan 17) 17 year olds – 60% (3/5) 18 year olds – 35.2% (19/54) 19 year olds – 47.2% (25/53) 20 year olds – 39.8% (33/83) 21 year olds – 53.7% (44/82)	42.8% of Care Leavers all ages (December 2016) 17 year olds – 40% (2/5) 18 year olds – 34.7% (17/49) 19 year olds – 43.4% (23/53) 20 year olds – 37.3% (31/83)

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel   
			21 year olds – 52.4% (43/82) 
4. Commission cost effective services to improve outcomes for children in need			
Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan, who have attended their child protection conferences	For information only	7.67% (32/417) last 3 months ending January 2017	9% (36/398) last 3 months ending December 2017
Number of young people supported by PROMISE advocates in CP proceedings	For information only	62 (22 ICPC's) January 2017	40 (15 ICPC's) December 2016
Percentage of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation	84.8% (15/16 SN average)	95.3% (January 2017)	95.2% (December 2016) 
5. Strengthen Partnership working for Children in Need			
Percentage of contacts to children's social care from different agencies and their rate of conversion to referrals	For information only	Overall 18% of all contacts progressed to referral Education – 7%, conversion rate 41.2% Friends – 12% contacts, 19.6% conversion rate Health – 10% contact, 25% conversion rate LA – 11% contact, 21.6% conversion rate Other – 20% contact, conversion rate 17.9% Police – 40% contact, conversion rate 11.5% Self – 0% contacts, conversion rate 0% January 17 (last 3 months)	Overall 18 % of all contacts progressed to referral Education = 7%, conversion rate of 39.2% Friends and Family = 11%, conversion rate of 20.9% Health = 10%, conversion rate of 26% LA = 12%, conversion rate of 21.1% Other = 19%, conversion rate of 13.6% Police = 42%, conversion rate of 12% Self = 0%, conversion rate of 18.2% (2/11) December 2016 (last 3 months) 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel   
Percentage of return home interviews completed	Internal target is 50%	44.7% (YTD Jan 17)	44.1% (YTD December 2016) 
Percentage of assessments completed on time in accordance with the priorities set	90%	76.4% rolling 12 months January 17	75.6% Rolling 12 months December 2016 
Number of children who go missing more than once	For information only	183 (Police data rolling months to December 2016)	183 (police data rolling 12 months to September 2016)
Partner attendance at CSE subgroup meetings	90%	79.6% (43/54) YTD January 2017	83.7% (36/43) YTD December 2016 
Percentage of new referrals that lead to an assessment	80%	81.4% (3762/4619) Rolling 12 months December 2016	83.3% (3636/4364) Rolling 12 months September 2016 
Rate of Section 47 enquiries completed	126.9 rate per 10,000 child population (2015/16 SN average)	131.6 rate per 10,000 child population (rolling 12 months December 2016)	126.9 rate per 10,000 child population (rolling 12 months) September 2016
6. Further develop the capacity of the Social Work Workforce			
See Highlight Report for Priority 7 – “Embedding a Think Family approach across the workforce”			

Please note that rows highlighted in blue are indicators that will be updated on a quarterly basis