

ITEM 11

Performance Sub-Group Report of the meeting held 31 January 2008

Present: Cllr Poulter, Cllr Rawson and Cllr Allen

In attendance: Keith Woodthorpe, Asst Director, Children and Young People Department and Rob Davison, OSCer.

Apologies for absence had been submitted by: Cllr Dhamrait, Cllr Willoughby and Mr Honey

1. Performance Eye Quarter 3 Data

a) Issues notified

- i) CF/A1 (BV49, CPD4c) % of children looked after with 3+ placements in the year.**

Included on the agenda as the Qtr 3 commentary stated 'We continue to perform well on this indicator. The slight upward trend was primarily due to the surge of new entrants in Sept / Oct 2007' but the traffic light showed yellow. The year end target was projected to be exceeded though the Council was currently at the wrong side of it. There was also the question why 'new entrants' would adversely translate into more individuals having 3 or more places.

Keith Woodthorpe, Assistant Director, had responded ahead of the meeting: 'Although our system shows it as yellow in terms of where it currently sits against our own targets the DCSF rate us as top band performers on this 5*. That is not to say we are complacent and in fact this indicator is on the agenda for our next performance surgery. The reason the surge in numbers affects performance is that if we have to act quickly we often have to use a placement in the full knowledge that it is very short term / temporary – sometimes for only a few nights. These count as moves and if we are dealing with a large sibling group (4, 5 sometimes 6) this very quickly puts a number of children in to the two move category in a very short period which increases the risk of more with three moves. The current position continues to show improvement. We are now at 9.35% from 9.5% last month. This means some of the three movers have fallen out of the 12 month period but still leaves us with the worry of the Sept / October surge. We monitor the children who have had two moves so that we know where our biggest risks are'.

Keith explained to the meeting that the number of looked after children meant that a 1% shift equalled three children. When there had been recent surges in the numbers becoming looked after there was a need to respond quickly to provide an immediate place for the child to stay which did not

allow the time needed for good matching, especially in the context of a shortage of foster placements. It could therefore take a couple of weeks and moves to achieve the right placement. But in doing so, this added to the statistics for change of placements. In response to a member's question he clarified that the government made no allowance for emergency placements.

He added that the department generally preferred to avoid IFAs for the initial placement, partly though cost, partly because they tended to involve further distance so could undermine the possibility of a child's return home with support. Local, in-house resources gave more chance of solving the home situation and helped keep the child at their existing local school. The Council could also find itself locked into an IFA's contractual minimum terms. IFAs were used in the longer term if necessary.

Statistically about 70% of children needing looking after the department had knowledge of and could plan for while the remaining 30% were unknown emergencies.

Keith explained that the confidence about exceeding the year's target, despite becoming currently adverse to it, was because the statistics are based on a rolling 12 months. For example, it is known which children moved in December 2006 and thus added to the statistics up to 12 months later; but if those placements have been stable since they would drop from the statistics after December 2007. He added that the snapshot position was currently 8.7%.

This issue would be the subject of the next Cabinet Member Performance Surgery to which the O&S Chair and Vice Chair and Cllr Allen as the Shadow Cabinet Member received invitations.

Members **agreed**: a) to note the information and explanations and b) to note this issue would be the subject of the next Cabinet Member Performance Surgery.

ii) CYP 1.3 (PAF CF/A3) Number of re-registrations on the child protection register

Included on the agenda because the traffic light showed red; if the thresholds were correct this might suggest that the targets should be revised in future to better accord with reality. Members could also explore whether this targets acts locally/nationally as a disincentive to de-register children because re-registration is an unwanted statistic.

Keith Woodthorpe, Assistant Director, explained that some of the data goes back many years, and some re-registrations of children first registered prior to 1997 still affected Derby's statistical performance. When unitary status was achieved in 1997 the decision was taken to keep the continuity of the records of the Derby children when disaggregated from the County Council register. A child first registered when 3 or 4 would

count as a re-registration if added again at 15. In contrast, many new unitary councils started their register from scratch so that a post-unitary registration was not linked back to any earlier county council registration and thus avoided being counted as a re-registration.

He explained that the overall numbers on the Derby register had been falling which therefore had the effect that each re-registration counted for more as a percentage. The total on the register had reduced by about 100 over the last year. Where a child is de-registered they are then treated as a child in need which ensures that their welfare is safeguarded as they remain subject to review. An audit of 60+ registrations had shown the thresholds were being applied absolutely appropriately.

A move by a family from one local authority to local authority followed by a return counted as a re-registration despite the child being continuously entered on one register or another.

On the issue of the appropriateness of the local target, Keith agreed this was a valid point but explained that OFSTED would not like to see a reduced target being set. Equally, the Council was not being penalised for its statistical performance.

He added the CPR as such ceases from the end of March 2008; thereafter the statistics will show the children who are subject to a safeguarding plan.

Members **agreed**: a) to request information on the number/percentage of the 100 children who have been de-registered during the last year who have been reregistered and b) to recheck this after a further six months.

b) Issues identified during meeting

with regard to CP4.di) and CP4.dii) members **agreed**: to ask i) for an update regarding the one school under Notice to Improve and the two schools in Special Measures and ii) whether the timescale for HMI visits/monitoring made the year end targets of zero for both categories possible in the remaining time.

2. Performance Assessment Framework (PAF)

Members gave consideration to the documents 'Social Care - Monthly Monitoring' for December 2007 and 'Social Care Data Analysis Tool'. Keith Woodthorpe explained the overlap between the social care data on Performance Eye and on PAF. PAF included monthly data for Derby plus annual comparisons with named local authorities considered as our statistical neighbours. PAF bands were ranked from 1 (low) to either four or five (top). Although most had a simple polarity (eg fewer = better, more = worse), some PAF indicators discouraged extremes at both ends of a scale. For example, long term stability of children looked after gave higher score the greater the proportion of stable placements but a low score if

over 80% as it recognised that some placements are, or become, unsuitable. The data for each indicator included month by month numbers and percentages plus bar charts.

Keith added that PAF and other performance data was largely quantitative and did not in itself measure quality. As an example, a council may achieve 100% for timely reviews of looked after children but this gave no indications of the quality: were all the relevant professionals there, were the parents there, was the young person there and did they feel able to contribute, were all the aspects gone through thoroughly, were the outcomes/actions appropriate?

Members stated that Keith's explanation of PAF would make it easier to conduct similar exercises in the future [see also recommendation at 5]

3. Performance Surgeries

a) LPSA 2 Target 2, BV46 The percentage of total absence (authorised and unauthorised absence) for primary schools, as measured by half-day sessions missed.

In addition to the report of the Performance Surgery, members had been provided with an update by Kevin Murphy, Head of the Education Welfare Service. 'The absence target for the academic year 07/08 is 5%, currently the absence levels at primary schools for the period Sept 07 to Dec 07 in Derby are running at 5.66% absence, this is in comparison to the year 06/07 which at the same period was 5.01% absence. This figure is disappointing as a lot of hard work and effort has been shown by both schools and Education Welfare Officers. This year we have had a range of seasonal virus's that have affected attendance [in] the primary sector and also the Festival of Eid occurred during the school week, which has had an impact on several schools with a high proportion of children from the Muslim Faith. We still have an issue with parents from mainly Eastern European countries whose attendance is erratic, legal interventions have been initiated on several families, however an issue that has been identified is where some of these families go missing in search of employment but do not inform school; legally the school have to keep them on roll whilst the EWS initiate our missing children protocol. [This] requires schools to keep children on roll until all the search methods have been exhausted, this does have a negative effect on overall school absence. The Head of Service is attending a conference in London regarding missing children at which this will be addressed as it is currently a national issue'.

Members **agreed**: a) to ask for answers to these questions: i) do all schools consistently apply the same criterion about authorised/unauthorised absence? ii) does a parent's letter regarding absence mean it is treated as authorised? iii) is absence for a religious event such as Eid an authorised or unauthorised absence? iv) is a child accompanying a parent looking for work an authorised absence? b) to request a list

showing any 'hot spot' schools c) to ask Kevin for feedback on i) what the London conference covered ii) what conclusions were arrived at regarding faith-related absences and those connected with East European workers and iii) whether any new initiatives were announced or are expected from central government.

- b) CPA C16** The percentage of 5 – 16 year olds engaged in 2 hours a week minimum of high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.

In addition to the report of the Performance Surgery, members had been provided with an update by Suzanne Meehan. 'Derby City receives considerable investment for Physical Education and school sport through the Government's Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links, (PESSCL) Strategy. The creation of two Specialist Sports Colleges and School Sport Partnerships has engaged every school in the City in working towards the following PSA target of '85% of young people aged 5 – 16 spending a minimum of 2 hours on high quality PE and school sport by 2008'

In June of 2007 the annual PESSCL data collection was done with every school in the City*. *(Please also note that 5 Derbyshire Primary Schools are part of the Derby East Partnership, these schools are the partner primaries of Chellaston Secondary School) DCSF released the results of this National Survey during October 2007. The results show that Derby has already exceeded this PSA target by achieving 88% across the City and represents a huge 9% increase on last year's results. This has been achieved through good partnership working and effective strategic management. Schools in Derby access over £500,000 per year through the School Sport Partnerships, to work towards this PSA target.

Key actions:

- A Strategic Management Group has recently been formed to oversee the continued work towards this PSA target and increasing physical activity levels amongst young people. The group is called PE, School Sport and Physical Activity Group (PESSPA).
- The School Sport Partnerships have just submitted applications for continued funding from DCSF for the period 2008 – 2011.
- We have recently secured outline agreement with DCSF to include Landau Forte and Kingsmead School within the Partnerships'.

Copies of the PESSCL results were also provided to members.

Members **agreed**: a) to ask for answers to these questions: i) although the data showed the quantitative target to be exceeded, how is the term 'high quality' assessed and guaranteed? ii) specifically, is this delivered by trained staff? iii) as primary schools are less likely to have PE specialists are links made with the secondary schools? iv) what effect is the B-Active initiative having on this target? v) do all schools record this activity in the same way? vi) are Extended Schools bringing in more activity and/or

raising participation vii) beyond the school based curriculum how is participation quantified? b) to invite a comment from the officer on the sub-group's observation that the time range between schools seemed to be about 65 to 120 minutes with few exceeding two hours: does this suggest schools perceive this as a target to meet but not exceed? c) to thank Suzanne for providing the range of information that prompted these supplementary inquiries.

- c) BV43 a) and 43b)** The percentage of Statements of Special Educational Need prepared within 18 weeks:
excluding those affected by 'exceptions to the rule' – BV 43a
including those affected by 'exceptions to the rule' – BV43b

Members had the Performance Surgery report. The Qtr 3 commentary on Performance Eye for 43 a) was: 'Based on the number of proposed statements projected to be issued during 2007/08, the target set for 2007/08 should be met. This calculation is based on $63/67 \times 100 = 94.03\%$ and allows for one exception' and for 43 b) was 'Based on the number of proposed statements projected to be issued during 2007/08, the target set for 2007/08 should be met. This calculation is based on $63/68 \times 100 = 92.65\%$ '. In both cases: 'In order to meet the target for 2007/08, the SEN Section will need to ensure that no further proposed statements are issued outside the time limit.'

[Post script: the following update from Liz Beswick was forwarded to members the following day:

Quarter 3:

BV43a = 87.80% target = 93.52%

BV43b = 85.71% target = 92.27%

BV43a up 3.42% from Q2

BV43b up 1.33% from Q2

As you can see we actually are improving since the drastic fall - we are working hard to make sure there are no late proposed statements and we are closely monitoring the progress. Hopefully we will hit the target if not we should only be slight off it']

Members **agreed**: to a) note that 'New software was installed to alert when proposed new statements are identified and the time required working with those' b) ask Liz what effect the new software is having in practice and c) request an update at the next meeting.

- d) LPSA 2 Target 1** Raising the attainment of under-attaining pupils across all key stages

Members **agreed** to note i) the Performance Surgery report and ii) that an update report had been requested by the full Commission to its March meeting.

4. LAA proposed targets including GOEM response

Members had a report in table form showing the proposed 35 LAA targets for Derby for 2008-11 including the GOEM response. These enabled members to variously see which indicators had been agreed, agreed in principle or with caveats, or were resisted. A rationale box gave a commentary explaining why each target had been put forward. Targets wholly or partially falling within the portfolio of the Commission had been highlighted. Members noted that several key themes of the Commission during 2007-8 were proposed for inclusion in the LAA, in particular CAMHS and teenage pregnancy. Additionally all the 17 mandatory targets fell under the Commission.

Members **agreed**: to note a) the current position and b) that the final LAA stakeholder event would be on Monday 4 February, the time and venue to be notified to members by the OSCer.

5. Future Arrangements

Members felt that the format of this meeting plus their enhanced understanding of the PAF process meant there was value in continuing the sub-group and they agreed to make the following **Recommendations to the Commission** that a) the sub-group be continued as a year long experiment, b) meetings to be held on a quarterly basis approximately two weeks after the latest quarter's data has become available c) the core membership continue to comprise the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Allen but other interested Commission members be welcome to attend d) that the three members be provided with PAF updates by e-mail on a regular basis e) ahead of a meeting the OSCer liaise with the three members to ascertain whether any PAF/Performance Eye data is likely to be focussed on in order to facilitate the attendance of the appropriate officer f) the outcomes of the meetings be reported back to the Commission including identifying any issue warranting attention by the full Commission.

RD
7/2/8