



Derby City Council

## Minutes of Children and Young People's Performance Surgery

**Date** 24 February 2012  
**Venue** Saxon House, 5<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room  
**Start Time** 10:00am  
**End time** 11.15am

### Attendees:

Councillor Evonne Williams (EW)	Heather Greenan (HG)
Andrew Bunyan (AB)	Sharon Hancock (SH)
Jacqui Jensen (JJ)	
Mark Barratt (MB)	

### Apologies:

Councillor Sara Bolton (SB)  
 Councillor Faye Winter (FW)

### a) EI&ISS PM 04 – Fewer children with safeguarding plans

SH talked through the performance template highlighting the reasons for the measure being presented to the surgery for discussion...

- In year performance is adrift of target (Quarter 3 actual of 56.2 per 10,000 population versus a target of 51.00 per 10,000)
- The end of year forecast is below target (Quarter 3 forecast of 52.88 per 10,000 versus target of 51.00 per 10,000)
- Performance does fluctuate from month to month but there has been a general deterioration since 2008/09.
- Comparative performance is worse than national and comparator group averages.
- It is worth noting the strong correlation between rate of safeguarding plans and levels of deprivation / child poverty.

JJ presented an overview into the issues that have resulted in current performance levels and key actions...

### Issues

- There is an underlying issue regarding the number of plans relating to emotional abuse (reflecting 41% of overall plans), in particular children living in homes with Domestic Violence (DV)). However analysis shows that outcomes are no different between those with Child Protection (CP) plans and those without. This shows there is little benefit in having a CP plan in such circumstances. Instead more work is being carried out with DV perpetrators directly through Multi Agency Teams (MATs) accompanied by targeted, individual sessions with children. It is therefore anticipated that CP rates will fall in a safe manner. JJ feels an appropriate level for an authority of Derby's size is around 235 plans (currently 268).
- There remains a key issue in addressing DV however it is difficult to monitor DV effectively given the huge number of referrals to police in Derbyshire / Derby. Feedback is obtained through MATs and it is hoped DV will be tackled through the Multi Systemic Therapy programme and Troubled Families work. A multi agency DV triage system works well in sharing intelligence, allocating across the partnership as appropriate and acting where required.
- Since the Baby P case, local authorities have seen a considerable rise in safeguarding plans. AB felt that working with a smaller number of high risk children was more focused than spreading resources across a large number of cases. Robust challenge and reflective discussion with social workers will ensure that children are kept safe and child protection plans are issued appropriately.

### Action plan

- Development of MATs and targeting of children's centre activity towards vulnerable families will contribute to bringing CP rates down safely.
- The Keeping Families Together Strategy is currently being consulted upon internally before being shared with partner agencies. This strategy will underpin the authority's early intervention approach.

### Additional actions agreed at Surgery

- Develop a robust action plan to support the Keeping Families Together strategy.

### **Further review**

To be monitored closely with review after six months (August / September 2012).

#### **b) SS PM 07 – Children in care per 10,000 population aged under 18**

SH talked through the performance template highlighting the reasons for the measure being presented to the surgery...

- In year performance is adrift of target (Quarter 3 actual of 89.80 per 10,000 population versus a target of 84.00 per 10,000)
- The end of year forecast is below target (Quarter 3 forecast of 85.30 per 10,000 versus target of 84.00 per 10,000)
- The total number of children in care has increased since 2010 (420 to 489 as at 19/02/2012).
- Comparative performance is slightly above national and comparator group averages.
- It is worth noting the strong correlation between rates of children in care and child poverty.

#### Issues

JJ / MB presented an overview into the issues that have resulted in current performance levels and key actions...

- Derby has positive outcomes for adoptions, with adoption rates of 12% compared to 9% national average.
- However, there is nothing to evidence why the number of children in care in Derby is higher than other local authorities.
- More robust assessment procedures, with fast tracking to adoption as appropriate, will help to bring rates down. Early intervention and assessment through IMAT teams and social care teams will also assist (graded care profiles to identify neglect quickly). There also needs to be greater focus on discharges from care. This will require considerable cultural change across children's services to ensure all staff are working towards the same aims.
- MB emphasised the need for close working with schools to monitor attendance and improve inclusion of children in care.
- Officers believe it will take between 3 and 5 years to bring children in care rates down safely.

#### Action plan

- Commission and implement Multi Systemic Therapy programme.
- Evaluate and develop the Family Group Conferencing Model to engage families at an earlier stage.
- Implement Family Intervention Project for the most challenging families.

- Improve practice within the Exiting Care team by identifying common causes of delay.
- Keeping Families Together Strategy will also underpin a reduction in children in care rates.

**Further review**

To be monitored closely with review after six months (August / September 2012).