



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

Quarter 4 Performance Report 2020/21

Children and Learning O&S Sub-Committee

6 July 2021

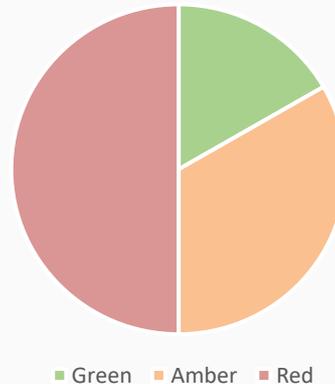
About the Children and Learning O&S Sub-Committee Performance Report

- Overview of the Council's performance against the indicators selected by the Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- The report identifies where the Council is performing well (**Green**), within target tolerance (**Amber**) and not so well (**Red**).
- Where the RAG rating is '**Red**', '**Corrective Action**' is included in the presentation. This highlights what action the Council will take to improve performance.

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES INDICATORS

- 6 Performance Indicators have been reported to the Children and Learning Overview & Scrutiny sub-committee during 2020/21.
- Performance data is available for all 6 indicators this quarter.
- All 6 indicators have been given a RAG status.

Quarter 4 Indicator Summary



In summary, of the 6 indicators:

- 1 (17%)** have a status of **Green**
- 2 (33%)** have a status of **Amber**
- 3 (50%)** have a status of **Red**

Quarter 4 Performance – Children’s Services

Indicator and Description	Value	Tolerance	2020/21 Annual Target	2020/21 Q4 Target	2020/21 Q4 Performance	Short Term DOT against Q3 2020/21		Long Term DOT against Q4 2019/20	
% of Contacts progressing to Early Help	Higher is better	+/-5%	30%	30%	28.5%	↓	30%	↑	26%
% of LAC aged under 16 who have been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years and living in the same placement for at least 2 years*	Higher is better	+/-10%	70%	70%	57.5%	↓	59.5%	↓	69.1%
% of former relevant young people at age 18-21 who are in education, employment or training	Higher is better	+/-5%	75%	75%	61.2%	↓	67.6%	↓	75.6%
% LAC with an up to date pathway plan in place	Higher is better	+/-10%	70%	70%	66.3%	↓	73.1%	-	N/A

*Also includes children who are placed for adoption and whose adoptive placement together with their previous placement last for at least 2 years

Quarter 4 Performance – Children’s Services (contd.)

Indicator and Description	Value	Tolerance	2020/21 Annual Target	2020/21 Q4 Target	2020/21 Q4 Performance	Short Term DOT against Q3 2020/21	Long Term DOT against Q4 2019/20		
% of LAC cases with supervision in the last three months	Higher is better	+/-10%	95%	95%	100%	↑	98%	-	N/A
% of Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments that are completed within 20 weeks	Higher is better	+/-10%	72%	72%	48%	↓	53%	-	N/A

Highlights

The **percentage of LAC cases with supervision in the last three months** ended the year at 100%. Regular monitoring at weekly performance meetings has led to sustained improvement in this area and from April, performance will be measured against the new supervision standard, which is a 2 monthly cycle for LAC and CIN cases, and monthly for CP cases. A priority for 2021/22 will be securing further improvement in the quality and consistency of supervision.

The **percentage of contacts progressing to Early Help** is down compared to the previous quarter but has increased when compared to the same point in the previous year. An Early Help worker is based in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to support and improve the identification of cases that would benefit from Early Help intervention, whether by the Early Help Service or universal services. This *may* lead to further reductions in the percentage of contacts progressing to the Council's Early Help service, with the intended outcome being that families receive the right services at the right time. It is also worth noting that this indicator captures contacts that progress to Early Help Assessments and does not include contacts that progress to Early Help Universal Plus services. The Head of Service for MASH, Early Intervention and Edge of Care is working closely with the Performance Team to improve the way in which Early Help activity is captured and reported on.

The **percentage of LAC with an up to date pathway plan in place** dipped slightly in the final quarter of the year, which is attributed to capacity issues, as there were a high number of vacancies within ISS during this period. Performance is reviewed weekly and at the time of writing, is back above target. The IRO service also continues to check at LAC reviews that a pathway assessment has been completed by 15 years and 9 months. The equivalent indicator for over 18 year olds (which was highlighted as below target last quarter) has also improved significantly. In addition to the timeliness of plans, young people need to be engaged with the pathway planning process and their voice evident, and this remains an on-going priority for the service in 2021/22.

Improvements required

The percentage of LAC aged under 16 who have been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years and living in the same placement for at least 2 years has remained relatively stable throughout 2020/21, but is lower than previous years and now below the London average. The quality, sufficiency and stability of placements for children in care is a priority for the service over the coming year. Challenges relating to availability and choice of placements have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and Havering is not alone in experiencing this. The proportion of children with three or more placement moves has decreased compared to last year which is positive; however we know that too many young people still experience placement breakdowns and there is more to do. A high proportion of the children in our care are teenagers, many of whom have experienced trauma and display challenging behaviours, and we require skilled and dedicated carers to provide a home for these children. In response, we delivered a ten week training programme for foster carers alongside their supervising social worker - facilitated by a systemic family therapist - providing strategies and exploring new ways for carers to relate to their foster child. A Placement Stability Panel has been in place since December 2020, alongside a New to Care and Edge of Care Panel. These are both chaired by the Head of Quality Assurance with the view that a child's plan is scrutinised at the point of coming in to care and then again if they move to a second placement within 12 months.

Improvements required (Cont..)

The **percentage of former relevant young people at age 18-21 who are in education, employment or training (EET)** has reduced compared to the previous quarter. As noted previously, COVID-19 has had an adverse effect on many of our young adults, especially those working in retail, hospitality, health and hair and beauty, which can now be seen in these figures. Workers have provided laptops to all young people who needed one, and have ensured that a keyworker within the unit is available to offer support. There is a greater focus within pathway plans on EET and outcomes are being closely monitored in supervision, with multiple strategies being implemented to ensure that young people do not drop out of education due to the increasing challenge of COVID-19 restrictions, and resulting impact on their emotional and psychological wellbeing. Our Future Mentors Scheme provides another layer of support to help care leavers to engage in EET and offer continued support to those young people already on a course or in employment. A number of care leavers have been offered this opportunity already, and it is anticipated that with the Cocoon now being partially open, some face to face meetings can be supported, giving confidence to care leavers to consider all of the options and opportunities within EET. The Leaving Care service also continues to liaise with the Virtual School in order to target support to sustain EET prior to young people turning 18.

The **percentage of EHC assessments completed within 20 weeks** was below target at the end of the March 2021. The main factor contributing to the dip in performance (to 48%, from 53% in Q3) has been capacity, with one case officer absent due to sickness, and the impact of additional work and training required to implement the new Liquidlogic EHC module.

The latest published data (from the annual SEN2 statutory return, released in May 2021 and covering January 2020 to January 2021) shows that nationally, the rate of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks was 58%, which is down slightly from 60.4% in 2019. Havering's performance for the same period was 60.8%, meaning we remained above the national average and similar to the London average of 61.8%.

Any questions?

