



Children Social Care Performance Report

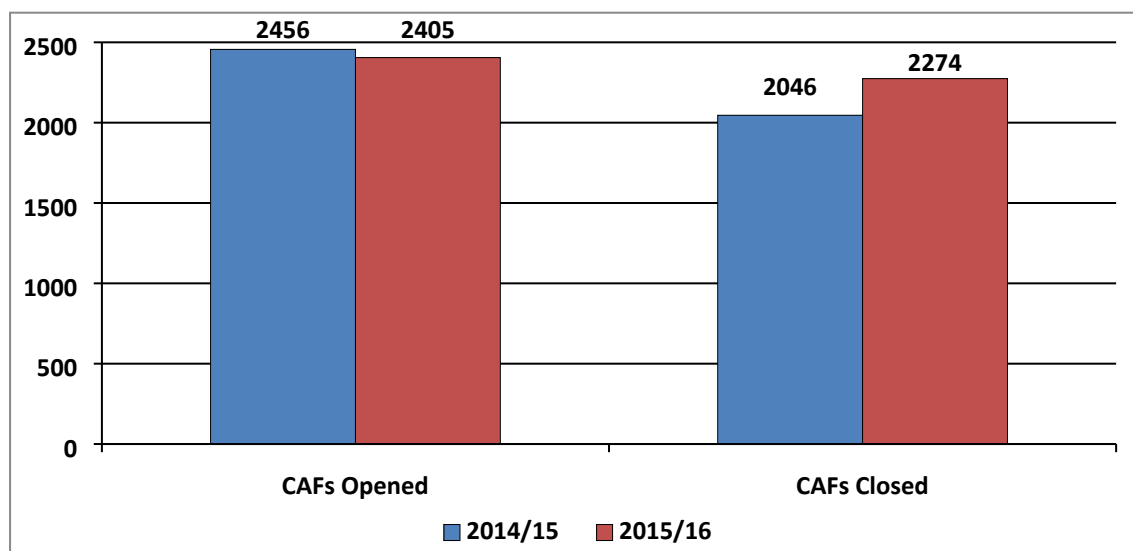
March 2015 to March 2016

Report to SB2

Please Note: This report compares data from the year 2014/15 with some data as at February 2016 as official year-end figures for the year 2015/16 will not be available until July 2016 following the completion of Statutory Returns.



1.1 CAFs Opened and Closed



Commentary

The percentage of all CAFs having action plans completed continues to improve and is currently 68.8%, against a target of 70%. This demonstrates that families who have engaged in the CAF assessment, benefit from interventions delivered in conjunction with the Early Help and Prevention workforce, and ensures outcomes for children and young people are met.

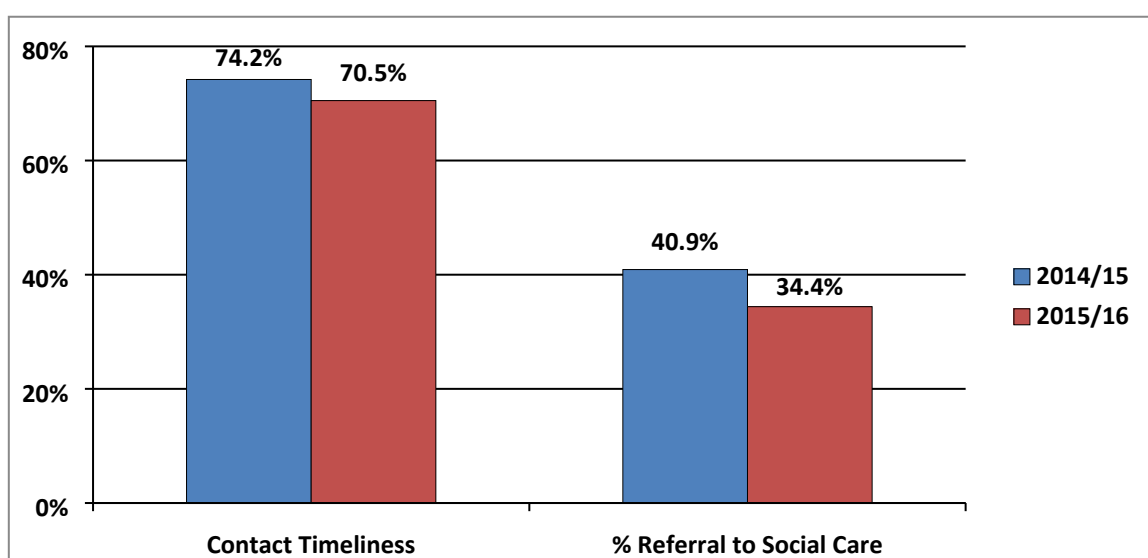
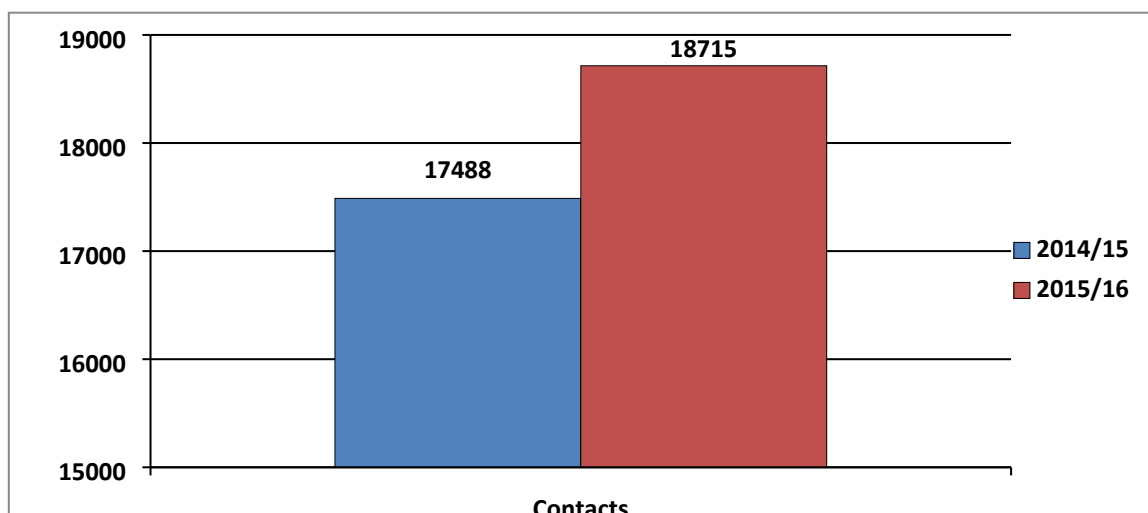
1.2 Open CAFs by Lead Agency

Department	Mar 15	Mar 16
Children & Families First	1027 (53.6%)	925 (47.5%)
Children's Centres	300 (15.7%)	317 (16.3%)
Children's Services	70 (3.7%)	84 (4.3%)
Health	52 (2.7%)	112 (5.7%)
School	467 (24.4%)	510 (26.2%)
Total	1916	1948

Commentary

Coventry City Council Early Help and Prevention Services hold 70% of all CAFs with external agencies making up the other 30%. Further work is taking place to redress the balance in holding CAFs by external agencies and supporting families at lower levels of intervention. Benchmarking work with statistical neighbours has been undertaken – there is a wide-range and variety of models in operation and there is a wide-range of performance management data. There is no standard practice to set a target that relates to the numbers of CAFs/ Early Help Assessments held by non-LA agencies. The target to increase the number of CAF's held externally is 40% should remain in place as this retains a focus - this would equate to additional 500 families being supported by a CAF at level 2.

1.3 Contacts (excluding DV Notifications)



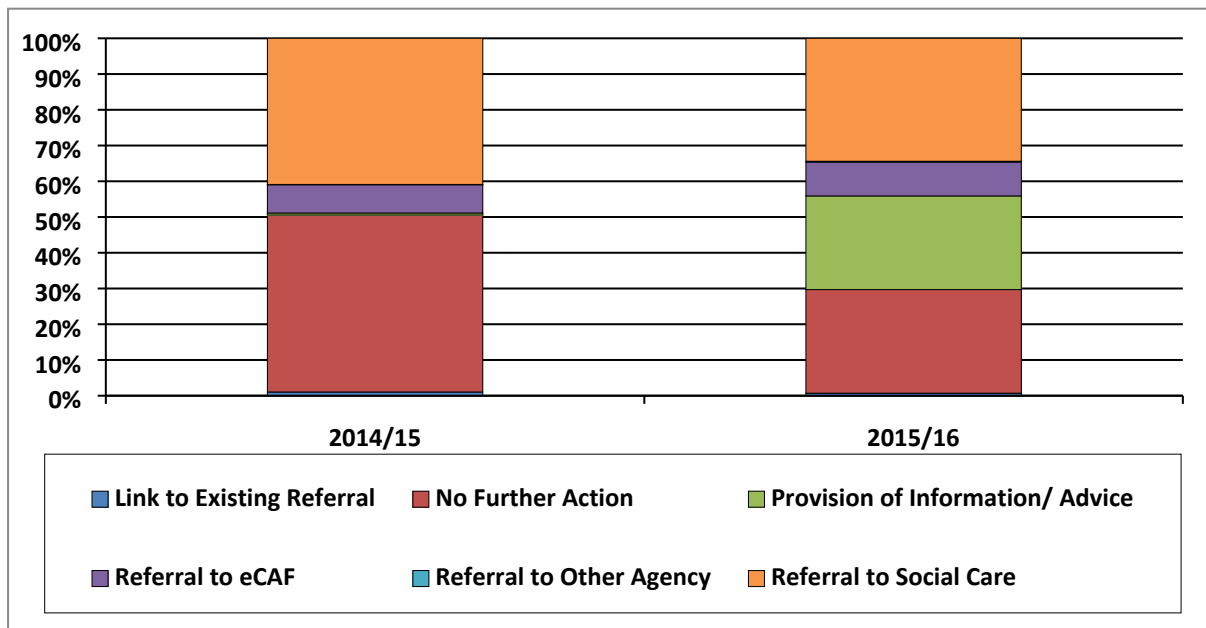
Commentary

The number of contacts to Children’s Services has increased in the last year. This is a national trend. The increase also coincides with the introduction of the MASH in Coventry—this is not unusual, agencies may use this service to obtain advice which will be formally logged as a contact, as can be seen in the next graph there is an increase in contacts were information and advice has been given alongside this.

Contact timeliness continues to be below what is expected at 70.5%, compared with 74.2% last year. Timescales have been affected by the increase in contacts along with resources within the MASH, posts has now been recruited to, and timeliness will therefore improve.

The percentage of contacts progressing to a social care referral are reducing. There are a number of reasons for this and include MASH currently operates as the front door for Children’s Services, confidence of partners and a risk adverse culture across the city.

1.4 Contact outcomes:



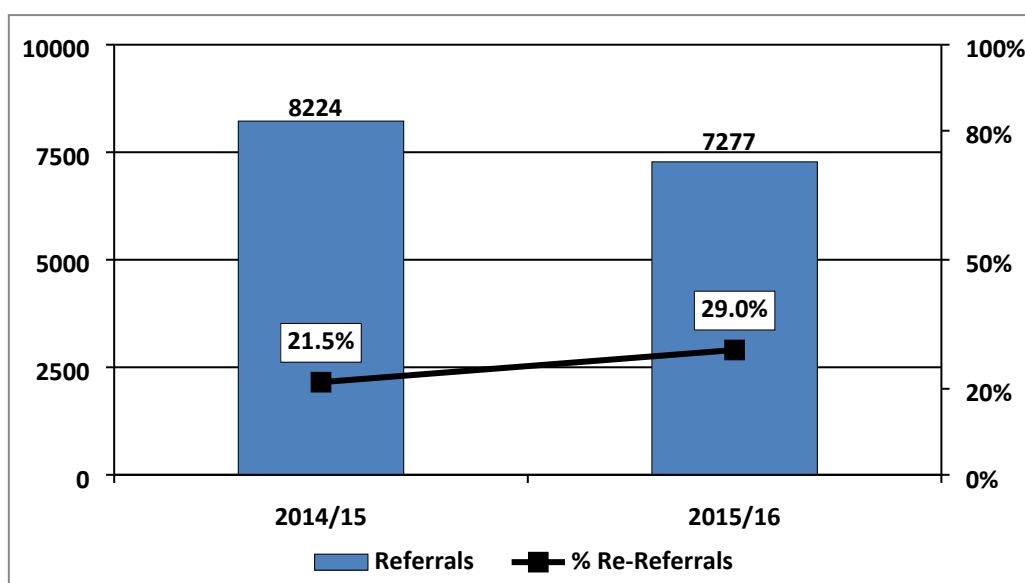
Commentary

Contacts should have an outcome within 24 hours; at present the YTD figure is 70.5% of contacts processed within the 24 hour timeframe.

A large majority of the responses to initial contacts in the MASH is responding to advice and information or No Further Action (NFA) which when combined remains at 55.2 % of the work (YTD).

It is not unusual when introducing a MASH to see an increase in agencies accessing this service for support and advice. However this has a negative impact on timeliness and also can have adverse impact with those contacts waiting to be processed for a service being delayed and this in itself is a risk to the service.

1.5 New Referrals and Re-Referrals



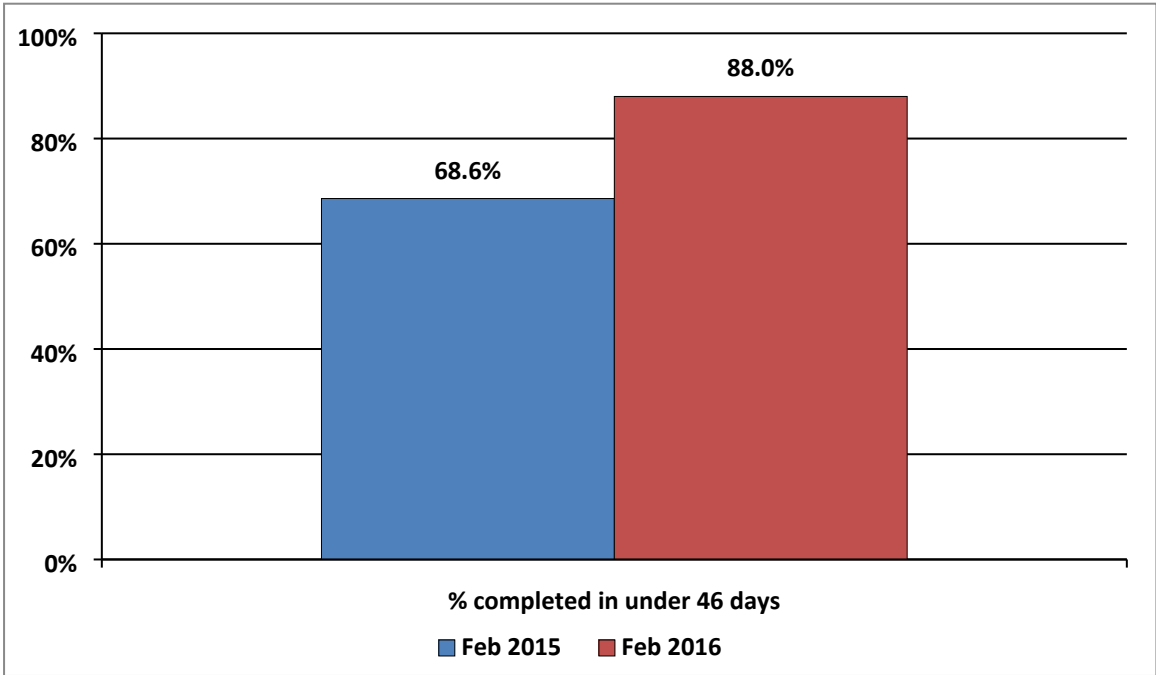
Commentary

A Referral is any child who goes on to receive a Social Care assessment for a service. A Re-referral is defined as any referral received within 12 months of a previous Referral having been received. The graph shows a steady rise in the percentage of Re-referrals since April 2015 and remains at 29%.

When comparing the Re-referral rate with Statistical Neighbours and the England average it is high and also higher than in previous years.

An Action Plan has been completed to address the issues with Step up/step down from Neighbourhoods to Early Help from the re-referral Audit completed in February 2016. A new process has been developed and is being implemented, but are too new to show any significant change as of yet as it needs to be embedded.

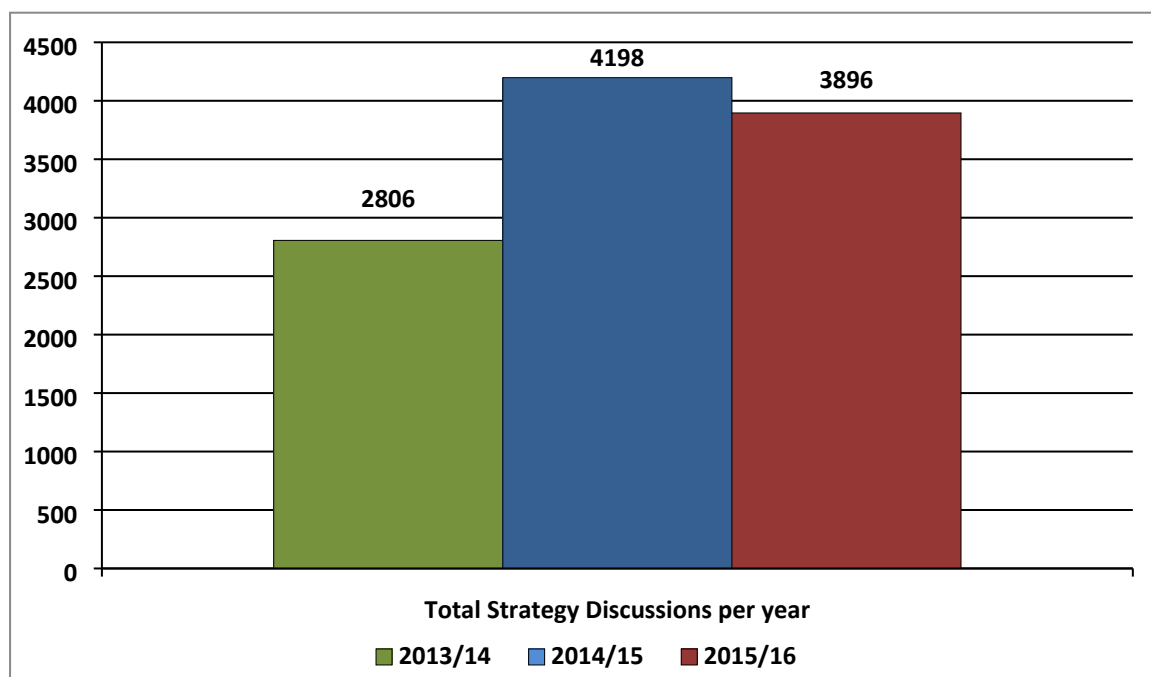
1.6 Children and Families Assessment Timeliness



Commentary

YTD, 88% of assessments are completed within 45 working days. Assessment timeliness is determined by the Manager based on the complexity of the case and therefore many may not necessarily require 45 days. The majority of assessments are being completed is between 11 to 28 days. The graph shows positive improvement compared with the same time last year.

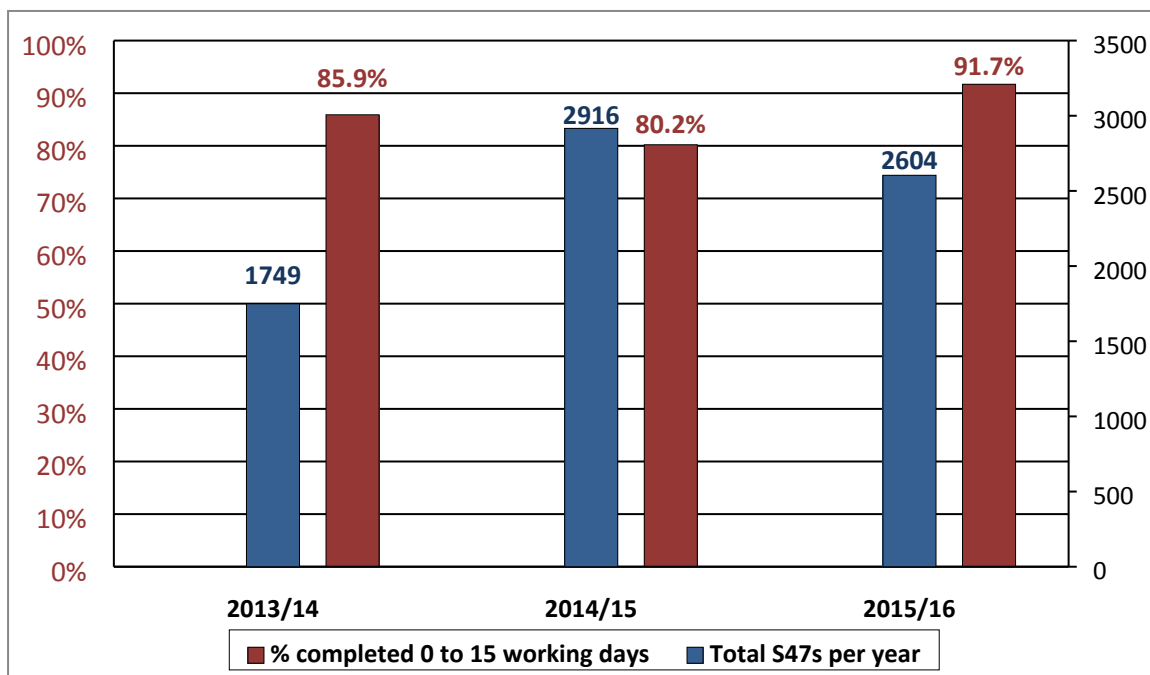
1.7 Children subject to a Strategy Discussion:



Commentary

The number of Strategy Discussions held during 2015/16 has reduced compared with the previous year. The reduction will be partly in response to the establishment of the MASH in that the sharing of multi-agency information may negate the need for a strategy as the information may diffuse the initial concern, but also allow for a more focused piece of intervention. Agencies working together to share information results in less families requiring an investigative response and more being worked as part of a child in need.

1.8 Timeliness of completion of Section 47 Enquiries:

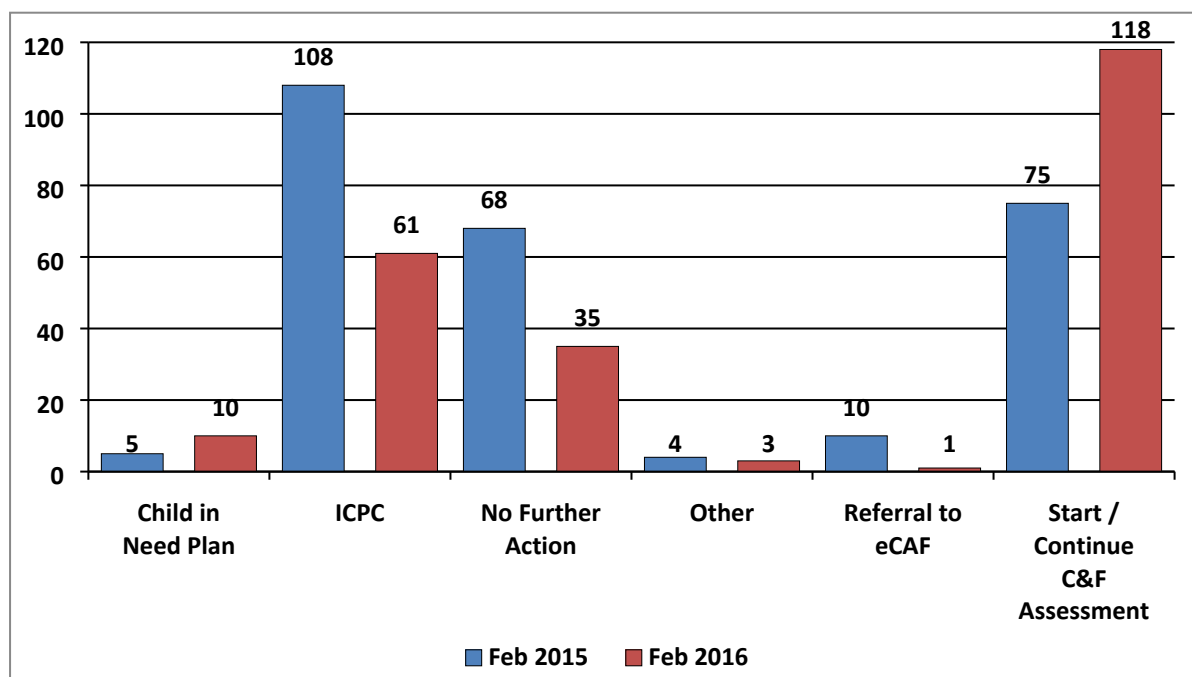


Commentary

The majority of Section 47 Enquiries are completed within 15 working days, with most completed between 0 to 10 days. This ensures that those children requiring a high level of intervention due to safeguarding concerns have a swift and prompt response.

This is showing an improvement compared with the previous years.

1.9 Outcomes of Section 47 Enquiries:



Commentary

The number of Section 47 Enquiries resulting in a Children and Families Assessments has increased in the last year. Those requiring no further action have reduced. This suggests that the section 47 process is robust and the investigation outcome identifies that there are needs which require a further holistic assessment.

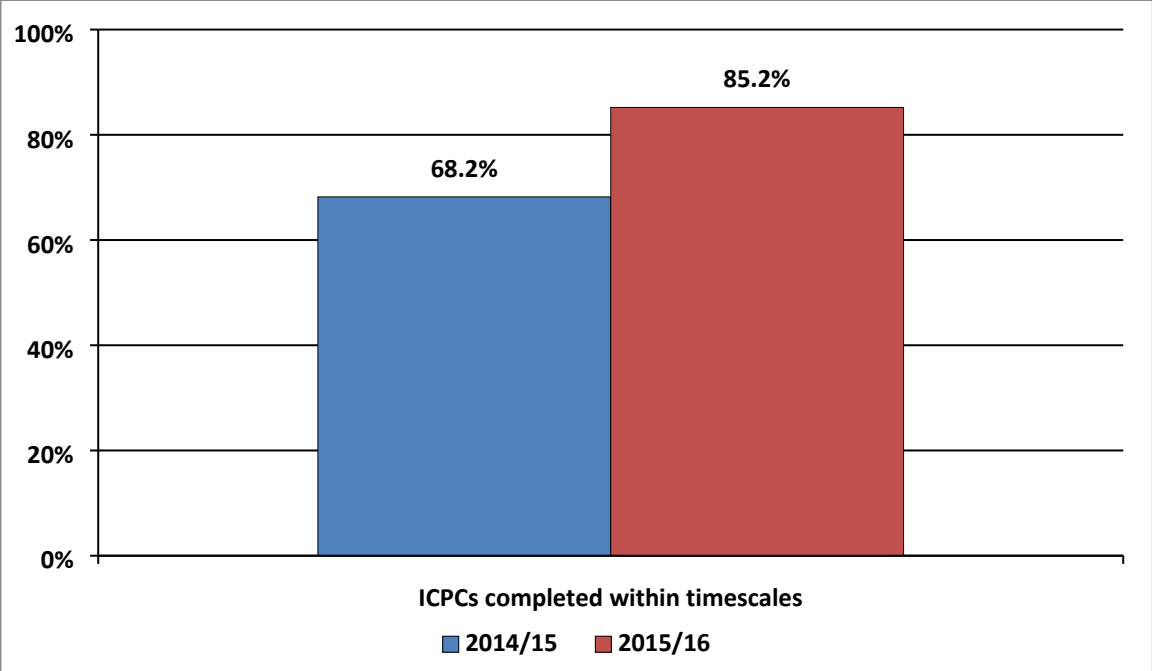
1.10 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE Quarterly Assessment Data Return – 2015/16 Quarter 3 Victims					
Current total number of children identified as 'at risk' of CSE (all three risk levels)	male: 26	female: 152			
Number of children assessed as 'serious risk' of CSE nb a child being sexually exploited	male: 5	female: 56	Of these, how many were identified in the last quarter:	male: 0	female: 17
Number of children assessed as 'significant risk' of CSE nb a child being targeted for exploitation	male: 3	female: 22	Of these, how many were identified in the last quarter:	male: 0	female: 2
Number of children assessed as 'at risk' of CSE nb a child at real risk of being groomed or targeted for exploitation	male: 18	female: 74	Of these, how many were identified in the last quarter:	male: 2	female: 30
Number of children who experienced a reduction in their risk level:	male: 0	female: 26			

Commentary

The above table highlights the number of children at Quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2015) identified as "at risk" of CSE for all 3 risk levels. This information is available quarterly and will be updated in April 2016. There is no comparable data for 2014/15.

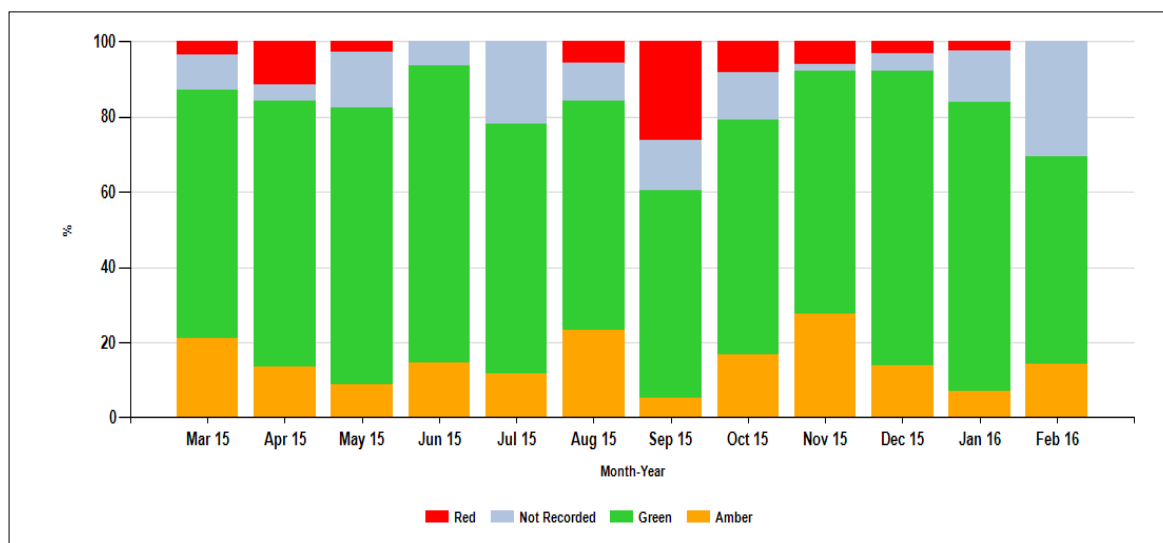
1.11 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) timeliness



Commentary

The timeliness of ICPCs overall per child YTD is 85.2%, this is a significant improvement compared with the previous year. This is linked to the significant improvement in the timelines of section 47 processes and a much more focused response to responding swiftly to those children in need of child protection.

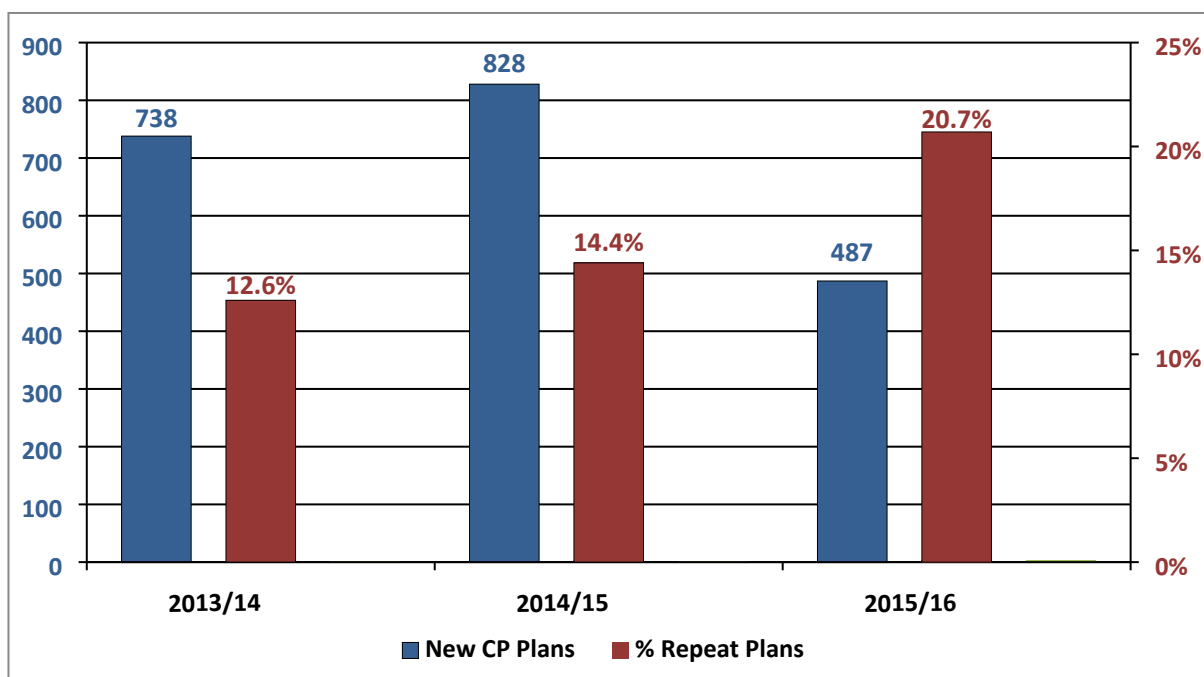
1.12 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) Participation & RAG ratings



Commentary

Participation at Child Protection conferences is not yet good enough. A meeting has already been held with Barnado's to vary the contract to introduce an opt-out process for children rather than an opt-in process. Children are being visited by conference chairs. Photos of the chairs and the conference suite are being taken to put into an information leaflet for children and young people and other technologies are also being explored. Chairs/ advocates are to offer children/ young people the opportunity to visit the conference suite prior to conference.

1.13 New Child Protection Plans and repeat plans per month



Commentary

The number of new plans has reduced considerably in the last year. This indicator has yet to show a consistent trend but is considerably lower than previous figures. The percentage of repeat plans is too high and needs further analysis. Initial analysis identified that the trends include: crisis intervention without identifying causal factors and then working with families to help them manage and recognise stressors/ risks; optimistic practice; lack of systemic practice and meaningful intervention which would lead to sustainable change; start again syndrome.

1.14 Child Protection Demographics

Age Group	Mar 2015	Mar 2016
Unborn	31	13
0 to 3	210	148
4 to 11	329	235
12 to 16	122	88
17+	5	4

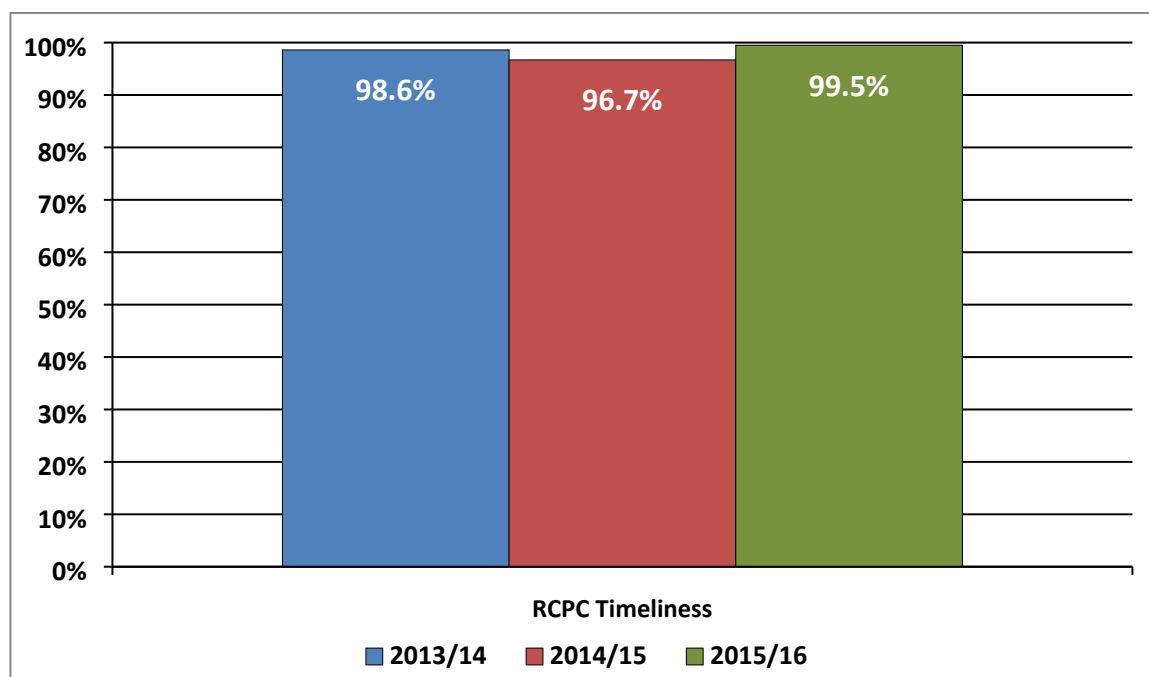
Months on CP Plan	Mar 2015	Mar 2016
0 to 5	342	229
6 to 11	201	127
12 to 17	119	77
18 to 23	27	25
24+	8	30

CP Category	Mar 2015	Mar 2016
Emotional	395	241
Neglect	225	200
Physical	37	21
Sexual	40	26
TOTAL	697	488

Commentary

There are a number of children who have been subject to a plan for 18 months, this has reduced slightly compared with the previous year. All of these have been reviewed by the safeguarding service and email alerts sent to relevant team managers. There are measures now in place to ensure that drift is avoided; an alert is sent to the relevant service manager at the second review conference (9 months) to ask for a plan to remove or escalate/ deescalate. Changes to practice and the use of signs of safety should enable plans to be shorter and more effective. This will be closely monitored and the alert system evaluated within 6 months. There is a piece of work to do around ethnicity as it appears out of sync with the demographics of the city. This has been added to the audit programme.

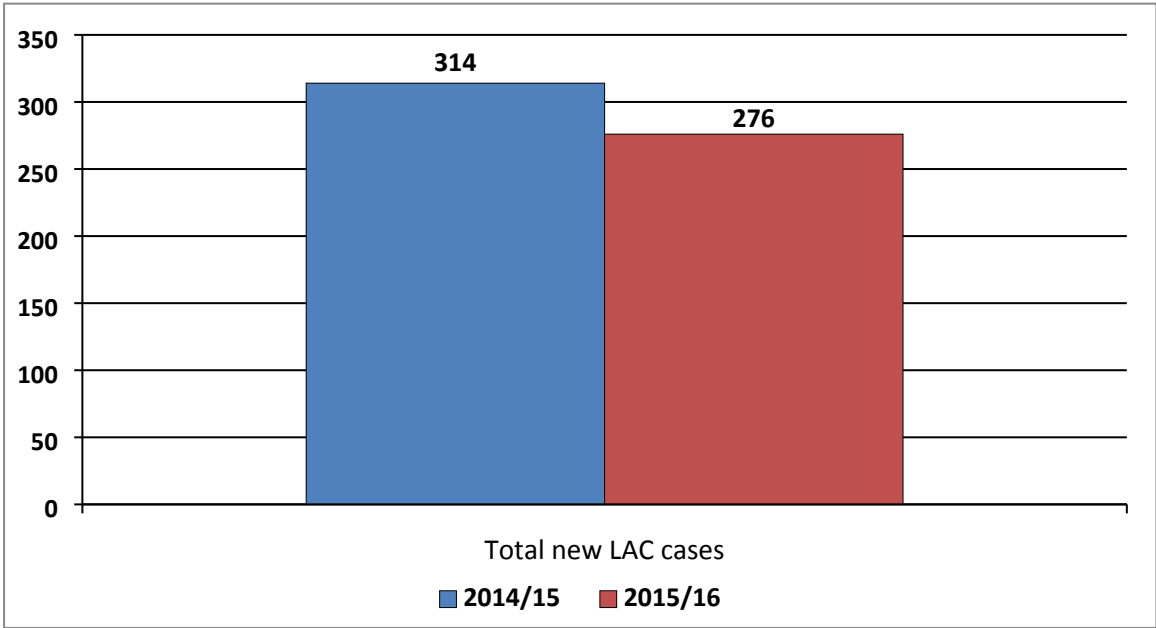
1.15 Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) Timeliness



Commentary

RCPC continue to be held on time and the indicator reflects this. Timeliness in 2015/16 is particularly good at 99.5%. More work will be completed in relation to the RAG rating to ensure themes are captured and used to improve practice. RAG ratings are reducing; this may equate to improvements but more likely equates to the more robust use of the IRO handbook management escalation process.

1.16 Children entering Care and previously looked after per month



Commentary

The number of children entering care in 2015/16 is significantly lower than the number of children who entered care in 2014/15.

The strengthening edge of care services to enable children to remain safely with their families is helping to reduce the number of children entering care. Panels were operational from 1st March 2016 and focus on children at the edge of care, placement stability and placement choice for children in care. Edge of Care Services are under review.

1.17 Legal status on entry to care

Legal Status	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
C1 - Interim Care Order	25.4%	25.6%	24.6%
C2 - Full Care Order	0.9%	1.4%	1.1%
E1 - Placement Order	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
J1 - In local authority on remand, or committed for trial or sentence	3.1%	4.3%	2.5%
L1 - Under police protection, in local authority accommodation	24.1%	25.1%	25.4%
L2 - Subject to emergency protection order	1.9%	3.1%	1.4%
V2 - Single period of accommodation under Section 20	42.9%	40.2%	44.9%

1.18 Children entering Care by Age

Age Group	% 2013/14	% 2014/15	% 2015/16
0 to 3	30.8%	33.2%	32.1%
4 to 11	34.5%	37.3%	30.4%
12 to 16	31.6%	26.4%	35.4%
17+	3.1%	3.4%	2.1%

Commentary

The numbers of children entering care is showing a reduction compared to the previous years, edge of care services have been strengthened over this period. There is an increase in the number of children re-entering care during the year and the reasons for this are being considered as part of the Edge of Care Review.

1.19 Children currently looked after & number dual registered

Date	LAC numbers	Dual registered
Q4 2014-15	587	14
Q1 2015-16	598	7
Q2 2015-16	599	19
Q3 2015-16	615	3
Q4 2015-16	585	9

Commentary

LAC numbers are relatively stable, with 585 Children Looked After compared with 587 in the same quarter in 2014/15. A number of children have exited care via adoption and Special Guardian Orders (SGO).

The number of Looked After Children as at 29 February 2016 is 605.

1.20 Children looked after: Placement Type

Placement Type	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Fostering (External)	41.7%	47.4%	44.0%
Fostering (Internal) - Family & Friends	4.8%	3.9%	3.8%
Fostering (Internal) - Mainstream	25.2%	22.8%	26.0%
Independent Living	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Placed For Adoption	7.3%	6.1%	5.5%
Placed With Parents	3.7%	2.4%	1.5%
Residential (External) - Children's Homes	11.4%	11.7%	10.4%
Residential (External) - Children's Homes (Secure Accommodation)	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%
Residential (External) - Other	0.8%	1.4%	2.1%
Residential (External) - Residential School	0.5%	0.3%	1.2%
Residential (External) - Supported Accommodation	2.9%	2.0%	1.9%
Residential (Internal)	1.7%	1.2%	2.6%

Commentary

The number of children placed in Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation currently is 14.2%, which has decreased from 16.0% in 2013/14 and 15.4% in 2014/15. This is still 5% above the most recent benchmarking figure for the All England average and 4% above the most recent benchmarking figure for the West Midlands and our Statistical Neighbours. For most other categories, Coventry remains similar to all benchmarking comparators, the only other notable difference being in the proportion of looked after children placed with parents, which appears to be lower in Coventry than elsewhere.

A Placement Sufficiency Strategy has been produced to provide a strategic approach for commissioning placements for Looked After Children, the aim is to reduce the number of children placed in residential care over 2016/17.

1.21 Placement Stability

Placements last 12 months	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
1 Placement	65.0%	65.1%	64.0%
2 Placements	25.0%	23.3%	21.9%
3 or more Placements	10.0%	11.6%	14.0%

Commentary

The number of children with 3 or more moves has increased over the 3 year period and is above national average. An audit of 25% of children in this cohort has been undertaken and an action plan is in place outlining measures are in place to reduce the risk of placement moves.

1.22 – Looked After Children LAC Timescales

LAC Review Timeliness	
2013/14	96.8%
2014/15	84.8%
2015/16	94.6%

Commentary

The % of reviews held on time continues to be over 90% the target is however 100%. There has been a slight increase in red rag ratings this is due to the increasing confidence of the IROs to challenge performance and should be seen as positive. Participation, children and young people actually attending their review continues to be below 50% even allowing for the under 4's not being included. This is an area for improvement and more creative, child centred ways of holding reviews are being considered. The Voice of the Child in Care Council is actively being consulted to assist in the development of child centred reviews.

1.23 Care leaver status

Placements last 12 months	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Eligible	33.9%	21.7%	33.3%
Relevant	6.2%	12.6%	1.9%
Former Relevant	59.9%	65.7%	64.8%

1.24 Pathway plans & demographics

Status	Total	% Pathway Plan completed
Eligible	130	80.8%
Relevant	7	42.9%
Former Relevant	244	98.9%
Total	381	91.6%
31 March 2014/15	361	88.9%

Commentary

All former relevant young people have a Pathway Plan in place. At the end of March there are 26 eligible children where pathway plans are due and this includes young people who have just become eligible, plans are in progress and the worker has up to 13 weeks to complete and further cohort where the pathway plans are overdue and target dates in March have been set with staff. These are reviewed weekly by service managers.

The demographics below provide age/gender/ethnicity of care leavers. There is no comparable data available for 2014/15.

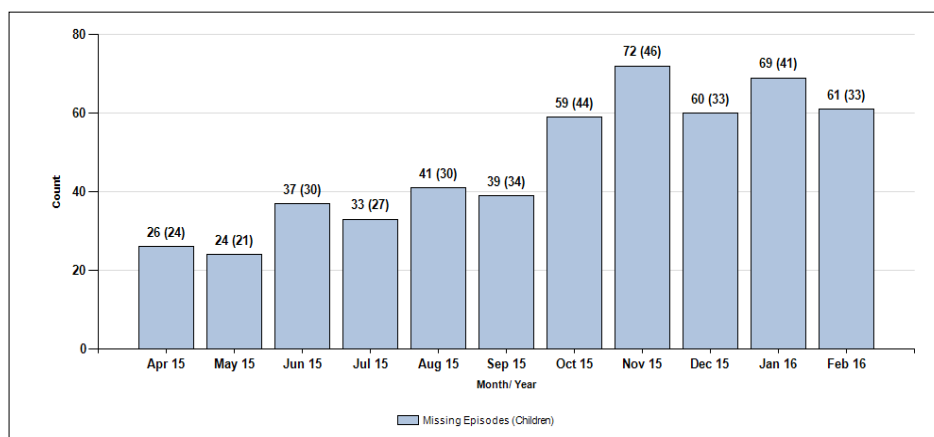
Age	Count	%
16	58	15.5%
17	70	18.7%
18	66	17.6%
19	83	22.1%
20	79	21.1%
21	11	2.9%
22	4	1.1%
23	3	0.8%
24	1	0.3%
Total	375	100.0%

Gender	Total	%
Female	177	47.2%
Male	198	52.8%
Total	375	100.0%

Disability	Total	%
Yes	62	16.5%
No	313	83.5%
Total	371	100.0%

Ethnicity	Total	%
African	26	6.9%
Any other Asian background	14	3.7%
Any other Black background	1	0.3%
Any other ethnic group	7	1.9%
Any other mixed background	1	0.3%
Any other White background	7	1.9%
Bangladeshi	6	1.6%
Caribbean	7	1.9%
Gypsy/Roma	1	0.3%
Indian	6	1.6%
Pakistani	3	0.8%
White and Asian	11	2.9%
White and Black Caribbean	16	4.3%
White British	266	70.9%
White Irish	3	0.8%
Total	375	100.0%

1.25 Missing children 2015-16



Commentary

There has been a decrease in overall number of missing episodes at 61, relating to 33 children, of which 22 are LAC and 11 are living at home. 22 young people had an RHI – which equates to 64.7%

72.7% of those RHI completed were in timescale. However, overall, taking into account those children who have not had an RHI, performance is still not as robust as it could be. Further work is on-going to analyse the information contained in the RHI to understand the patterns and trends in respect of missing.

The Protocol missing workspace is now far more reflective of data held by the Missing Team for operational purposes.

There is no comparable data available for 2014/15.

1.26 Caseloads

Neighbourhoods

Caseloads	Target	Mar 15	Jun 15	Sep 15	Dec 15	Feb 16	Mar 16
RAS	20-25	23.72	20.47	14.14	26.6	28.9	26.6
South	20-22	20.54	23.78	19.17	20.41	19.7	19.3
North West	20-22	17.02	20.49	20.06	16.6	20.7	20.6
North East	20-22	19.81	21.97	19.75	19.71	17.8	21.7

Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's)

Caseloads	Target	Feb 2015	Jun 2015	Sept 2015	Dec 2015	Feb 2016	March 2016
IROs	50-70	83	74	76	72	65	65

Commentary

Average caseloads in the Referral and Assessment Service (RAS) were 42 in March 2014, and have improved significantly over a two year period. Average caseloads have stabilised at 26-28 during the last quarter, against a target of 20-25. Average caseloads in the Neighbourhoods have also stabilised and are 19-21 against a target of 20-22.

IRO average caseloads continue to reduce and are now 65, which is a significant improvement compared to the high of 129 in October 2014.

Fostering Scorecard

Section 10: Fostering & Adoption Scorecards

Service Capacity¹⁷:

Quarter	Approved Households	Approved Places	Places Filled (%)	Places On Hold or Blocked (%)	Places Vacant (%)	Households On Hold (%)
Q1	147	236	136 (58.1%)	53 (22.7%)	45 (19.2%)	24 (16.3%)
Q2	151	258	152 (58.9%)	64 (24.8%)	42 (16.3%)	27 (17.8%)
Q3	147	237	151 (63.7%)	53 (22.4%)	33 (13.9%)	23 (15.7%)
2014/15	153	250	137 (54.8%)	66 (26.4%)	47 (18.8%)	32 (20.9%)

Recruitment & Retention¹⁸:

Quarter	New Foster Carer Households Approved	Places Gained	Foster Carer Households Deregistered	Places Lost	Net Households	Net Places
Q1	2	2	5	11	-3	-9
Q2	6	8	2	5	+1	+3
Q3	10	11	16	23	-6	-12
2014/15	27	33	17	23	+10	+10

At the end of Q3 (2015/16), 151 of 237 approved places were filled. This shows an increase in the proportion of approved places filled, having risen from 54.8% at the end of 2014/15 to 63.7%, with an extra 14 children being placed internally since 31st March 2015. There has also been a reduction in the number of places currently on hold or blocked, which was 53 (22.4%) at the end of Q3 2015/16, down from 62 (26.4%) at year-end 2014/15. Around 33 (13.9%) of places were vacant at the end of Q3, down from 47 (18.8%) at year-end 2014/15. 10 new fostering households have been approved, which has accounted for 11 newly approved places.

The Fostering Steering Group has considered the data in respect to recruitment activity and has noted the healthy number of enquiries from the new campaign. A detailed review of the assessment process confirmed that conversion of enquires and assessment required significant improvement. A recruitment hub has now been established and a more streamlined assessment process implanted which will improve the

conversion of the enquiries into approvals within a shortened timescale. The recently appointed Director of Children’s Services has set an ambitious target of a net gain of 100 placements over 2016/18.

Assessment Activity:

Year	Enquiries Started	Assessments Started (Stage 1)	Assessments Started (Stage 2)
2014/15	290	69	22
2015/16	211	40	10

Assessment Timescales:

Year	% Assessment (Stage 1) to Approval completed within 6 months
2014/15	55.6%
2015/16	20%

Enquiry-Application-Approval Conversion Rates:

Year	Enquiries	Stage 1	Stage 2	Approved	Active
2014/15	290	76 (26.2%)	32 (11%)	21 (7.2%)	7 (2.4%)

Adoption Scorecard

Number of children Adopted	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Number of children adopted	28	40	52	70	54 children have been adopted up to 31 March 2016 and 31 placed for adoption.

Indicator ¹⁹	1 year average					3 year average						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	W. Mids. 2014/15	2010/13	2011/14	2012/15	2013/16 YTD	All England 2011/14	W. Mids 2012/15	DfE Target 2012/15
A1 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	821	610	525	467	509	884	733	625	542	628	590	487
A2 - Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	402	193	170	146	213	343	280	233	171	217	198	121
A3 - Children who wait less than 18 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (changed from 19 months in 2014/15) (no. & %)	63 (46%) < 20 Months	124 (73.4%) <19 months	95 (79%) < 19 months	90 (70%) < 18 months	Not collected	92 (29%) < 18 months	165 (42%) < 18 months	228 (53%) < 18 months	260 (62%) < 18 months	51% <19 months	Not collected	no target specified

Commentary:

The Adoption score card represents the first 3 quarters of the year – Quarter four will be available following the validation of the timeliness data in April.

54 children have been adopted in 2015/16 compared with 70 last year. This lower number is as a result of the slowing number of placement orders being made, the lengthening of the adoption order application process which now allows for appeals by birth parents and conclusion of a number of legacy cases last year. Improvements in timeliness have continued in quarter 2 with timeliness now comparing very favourably with West Midlands and All England averages. The impact of the remaining 3 legacy cases which were concluded in quarter 4 see an impact on timeliness – however the Service is confident that the gains made in the past 2 years are secure and that further improvements will be made in 2016/17.