



<u>Committee and date</u>
Young People's Scrutiny Committee
1 February 2017

<u>Item</u>
8B
<u>Public</u>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report presents Young People's Scrutiny with performance information for Quarter 2 2016/17.

2. Recommendations

- A. Members consider the report and identify whether there are any specific topics or emerging issues they would like to consider in more detail.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 Poor performance could have implications for vulnerable people (including children) who are supported by Council services and economic growth in Shropshire. In turn, there may be significant financial, legal and reputational risk to the Council, Schools (and Academies), and partners from across the public and voluntary and independent care sectors.
- 3.2 Effective monitoring and follow-up against key measures of success provides the opportunity to manage risks and ensure that Children and Young People and vulnerable adults in Shropshire remain safe and achieve the desired outcomes. Increasingly, performance reporting will reflect the impact of commissioning decisions by the Council, linking directly with the management of contracts and building on the current approach of looking at how effective the Council is at delivering its outcomes.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This report does not have any direct financial implications.

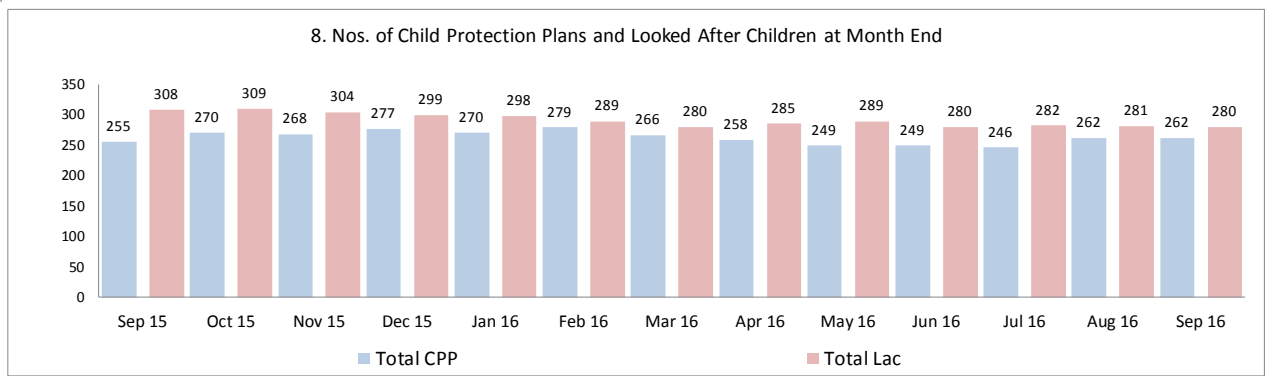
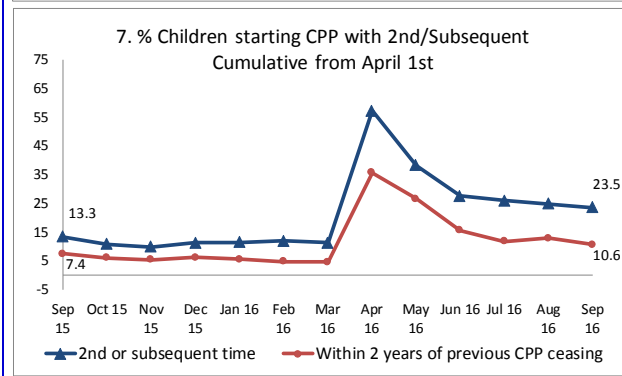
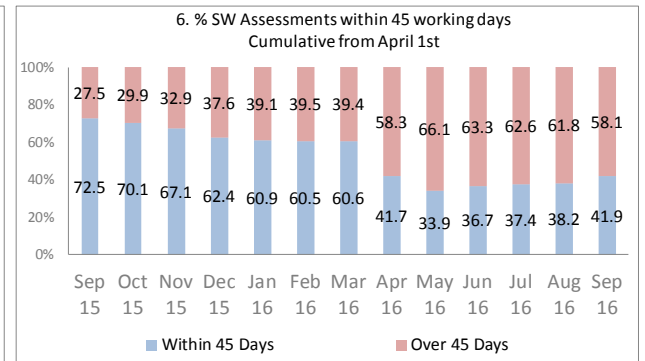
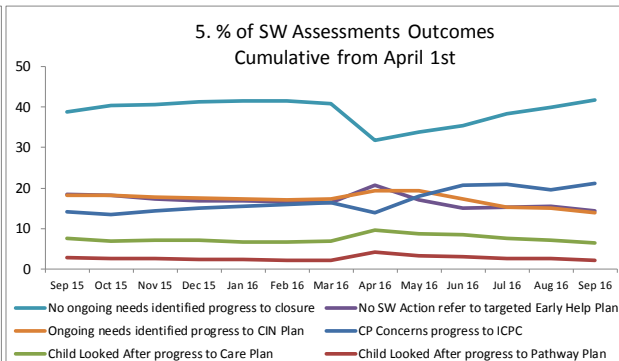
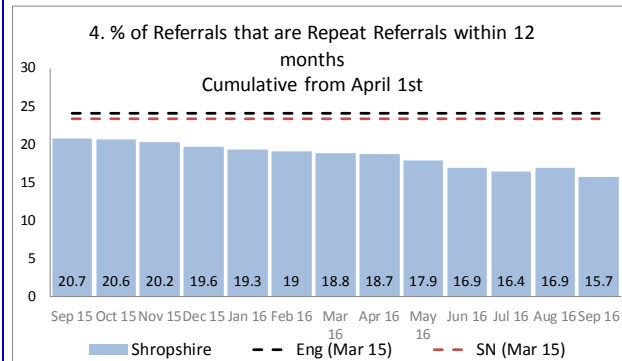
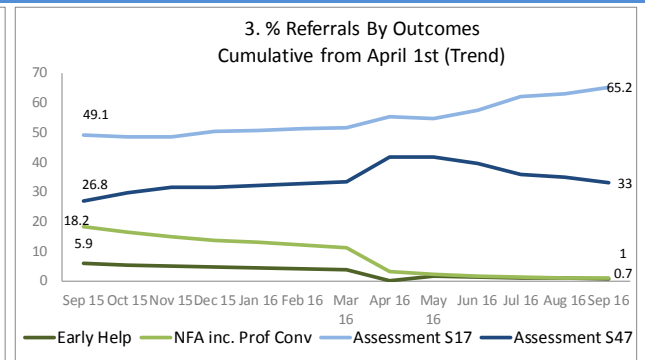
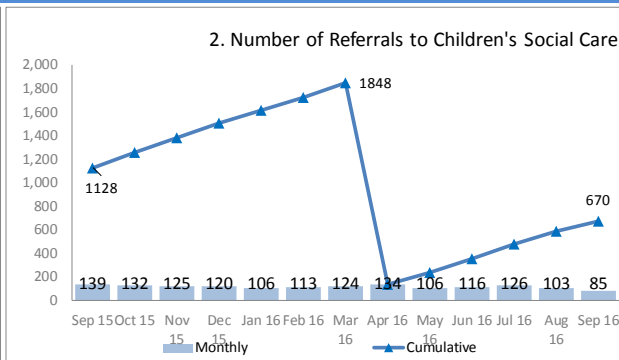
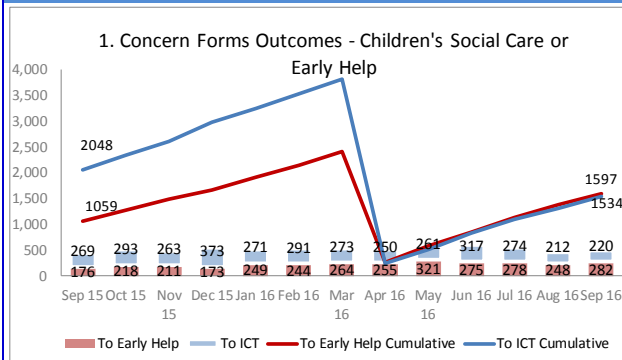


Chart 1:

The total number of contacts to date during 16/17 is in line, year-on-year, with 15/16, increasing slightly from 3107 to 3131. However, while the total number of contacts is similar, there is significant change in the outcome of contacts, with more going to Early Help than last year, and fewer to ICT:

- Contacts going to Early Help increased from 1059 at Q2 15/16 to 1597 at Q2 16/17. This represents a 50.8% increase.
- Contacts going to ICT decreased from 2048 at Q2 15/16 to 1534 at Q2 16/17. This represents a decrease of 25%.

Service Comment:

We have continued to see an overall decrease in Q2 of Initial Concerns forms going to ICT, with an increasing amount of ICs progressing to Early Help. Current systems and processes in Compass, including the Domestic Abuse Triage process promote the provision of Early Help services where it is appropriate to do so.

Charts 2/3/4:

Referrals during 16/17 continue to be lower than in 15/16. At the end Q2 16/17 referrals were at 670, which is 40.6% lower than Q2

Once children are referred to Social Care, the outcome is now nearly always a Social Work Assessment. Fewer than 2% of referrals receive no further action, or early help. This is lower than in previous years; at Q2 15/16, 24.1% of referrals did not go on to be assessed.

Repeat referrals continue to fall.

Service Comment:

The decrease in referrals is a consequence of change of process and management of contacts as Initial Concerns with a clear and consistent application of the threshold for referral and need for Social Work Assessment. We continue to see a reduction in referrals with September 2016 being the lowest number received in the last 12 months.

The reduction in repeat referrals indicates appropriate decision making and is a positive indicator highlighting effective decision making and step down arrangements.

Chart 5:

Chart 12 shows the disaggregation of outcomes for completed Social Work Assessments during the year. Since April 2016, the % of closed assessments with an outcome of No Ongoing Needs Identified - Progress to Closure has been increasing, and is now slightly higher (2.5 percentage points) than at the same point in 2015.

Service Comment:

We have seen an increase in the proportion of Social Work Assessments with an outcome of no ongoing needs identified - progress to closure due to the number of out of time assessments concluded during this quarter. This is likely to stabilise again going forward.

Charts 6:

Social Work Assessment timeliness has been increasing since May 2016. It's important to remember that this measure is cumulative, so the scale of improvement month by month can be hard to discern. The below shows the non cumulative breakdown during the year to date:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of SWAs completed in month	72	146	234	243	151	342
Of the above, number completed within 45 working days	30	44	92	94	63	176
% within 45 days	42%	30%	39%	39%	42%	51%

Service Comment:

The adjacent table highlights the excellent work undertaken to complete outstanding assessments and to keep new assessments within timescales. Our performance is starting to improve and we anticipate this will significantly improve during Q3.

Chart 7:

The % of children on a second or subsequent CPP has decreased during Q2 for both measures - within 2 years of the previous plan ceasing, and at any previous time. Of the 132 children who started plans during the year, 31 had been previously subject to a plan at any time, 14 of whom had been subject within the 2 years previous to the current plan starting.

While Q2 has seen a decrease, year on year there has been an increase. The greatest increase has been in the '2nd plan at any time' category, which increased by 10.2 percentage points from September 2015 to September 2016. The 'within 2 years' category increased by 3.2 percentage points during the same period.

Service Comment:

The 10% increase in children with a second or subsequent plan warrants further investigation. A case audit will be undertaken to identify whether the children had been subject to an EH plan in between CPPs and whether this had been sufficiently effective, or whether there is evidence of repeated patterns of abuse or neglect. This action was identified at the end of Q1, and remains outstanding. The audit will be undertaken this quarter.

Chart 8:

a) The LAC population has remained stable throughout 16/17, with similar numbers of children entering and leaving care.

b) The CPP population has remained stable throughout 16/17, though at the end of September 2016, the rate of Shropshire's CPP was higher than Statistical Neighbour and England averages. It should be noted that these comparator data are now 18 months old, with new comparator data from March 2016 due to be published on 3rd November 2016.

Service Comment:

a) It is positive that our looked after children population has remained stable, however it is important to reaffirm that our LAC strategy is not about reducing the number of LAC, but is about ensuring the right children are in care, at the right time and for the right duration. Stability of our looked after children population is as a result of similar numbers of children entering and leaving care. The three key end reasons for children exiting care are:

Increased numbers of children achieving permanency through adoption/SGO etc.
Planned return to family.
Increased numbers of care leavers turning 18 and ceasing to be looked after.

b) The CPP rate remains stable, but is higher than we would have anticipated based on other supporting data and comparisons with other authorities. This will be an area of focus going forward now that we have appointed permanent team managers and social workers, and have increased the stability of the social work workforce.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor David Minnery

Local Member

All

Appendices

None