Improvement Board Performance Report - August 2014

Figures are accurate at time of Frameworki reporting, however, due to the live nature of the system, this can change subsequently. Reports were all run as at 31st August, 2014 and includes all data within Frameworki up to and including 31st August, 2014.

For further information please contact;-

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15 September 2014

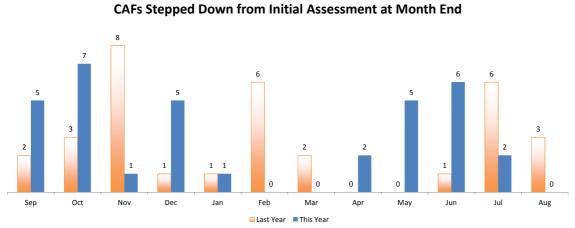




Data cleansing of the CAF registry commenced immediately following the OFSTED inspection in May 2014. 330 CAFs have been closed as part of the data cleansing action plan since May 2014 and this work is ongoing: 4 of the 8 localities have completed the data cleansing work, and the others have completed over 70% and are awaiting a response from CAF leads and recording the received response. These are primarily Education leads.

It needs to be noted that the data cleansing activity as described above has yet to be reflected in the charts above.

Code	2	Name	CAFs Stepped Down from Initial Assessment at Month End	Responsible officer	Nicola Turvey
Full Description	Total CAFs stepped down from Initial Assessment in month to show the level of new assessment activity in this area.				
Measure	N/A	Indicator Guide Looking to increase the numbers of CAFs stepped down from Initial Assessment.		_	



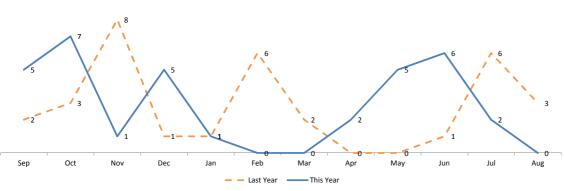
Last Update	August 2014	
Current Value	0	
Rate per 10,000	N/A	
Overall assessment		



Target

N/A

CAFs Stepped Down from Initial Assessment at Month End - Trend



Direction of Travel (Comparator with last year)



Ť		
Previous Values		
Aug-13	3	
Aug-12	1	
England		
2012/13	N/A	
Statistical Neighbours		
2012/13	N/A	
West Midlands		
2012/13	N/A	
Measure Period		
Month End (Snapshot)		

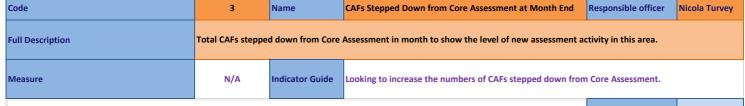
Comments

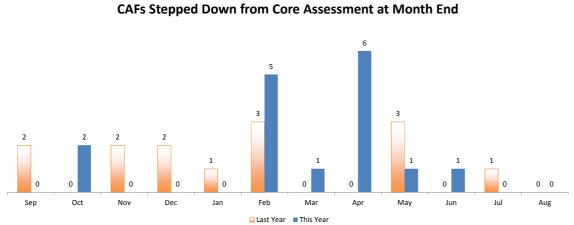
There have been 58 step downs during 2014 to date:

- 22 step downs from Initial Assessment
- 32 step downs from CIN
- 4 step downs from other social care arenas, such as from a Contact, Family Support or Intensive Family Support

A further 8 CAFs are in progress:

- 4 step downs from Initial Assessment
- 1 step down from IFS
- 3 step downs from CIN

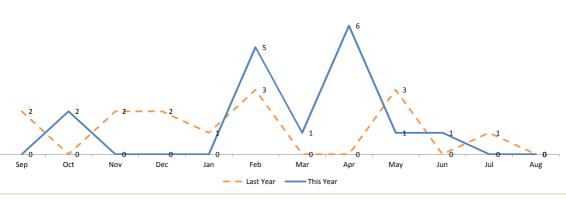




Last Update	August 2014	
Current Value	0	
Rate per 10,000 (YTD)	4.43	
Overall assessment		
X		
Target		

N/A

CAFs Stepped Down from Core Assessment at Month End - Trend



Direction	11 01 1	rave	:1
Comparator	with	last	year)



Previous Values		
Aug-13	0	
Aug-12	0	
England		
2012/2013	N/A	
Statistical Neighbours		
2012/13	N/A	
West Midlands		
2012/13 N/A		
Measure Period		
Month End (Snapshot)		

Comments

There have been 58 step downs during 2014 to date:

22 step downs from Initial Assessment

32 step downs from CIN

4 step downs from other social care arenas, such as from a Contact, Family Support or Intensive Family Support

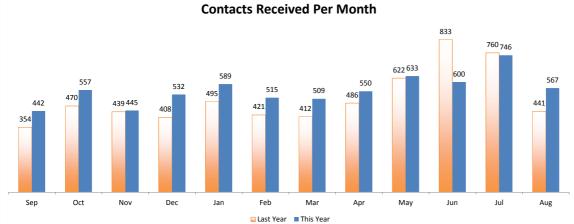
A further 8 CAFs are in progress:

4 step downs from Initial Assessment

1 step down from IFS

3 step downs from CIN





Last Update	August 2014	
Current Value	567	
Rate per 10,000	N/A	
Overall assessment		
×		

Target N/A

Contacts Received Per Month - Trend



Direction of Travel (Comparator with last year)

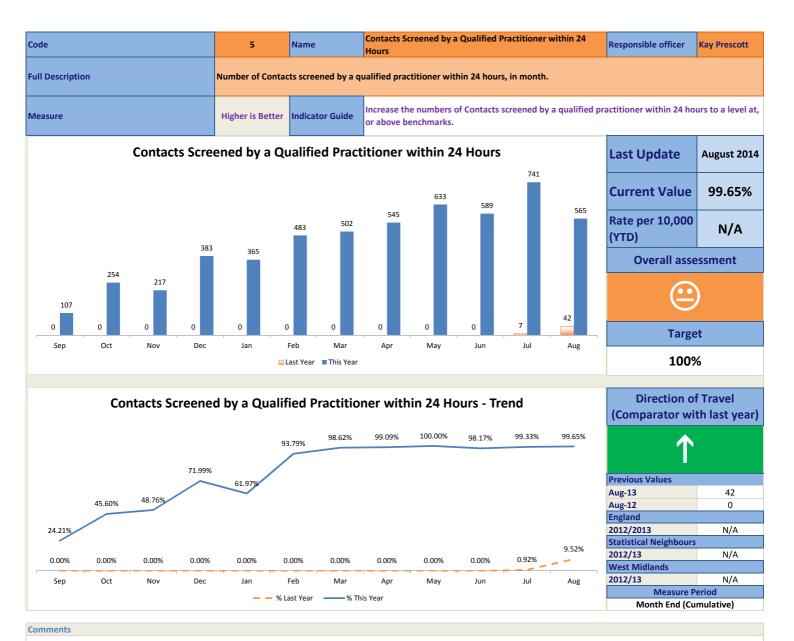


Previous Values		
Aug-13	441	
Aug-12	257	
England		
2012/2013	N/A	
Statistical Neighbours		
2012/13	N/A	
West Midlands		
2012/13	N/A	
Measure Period		

Month End (Cumulative)

Comments

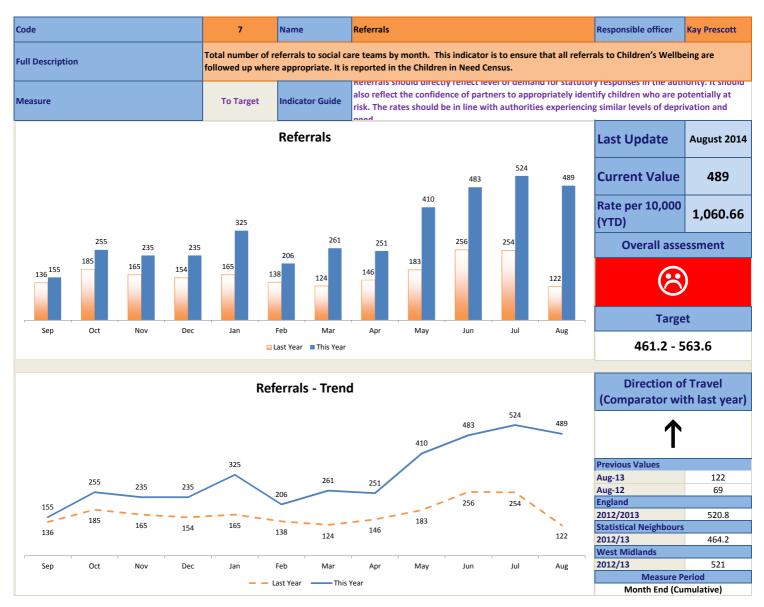
With the exception of June and July 2014, there has been a month on month increase in the number of contacts being received.





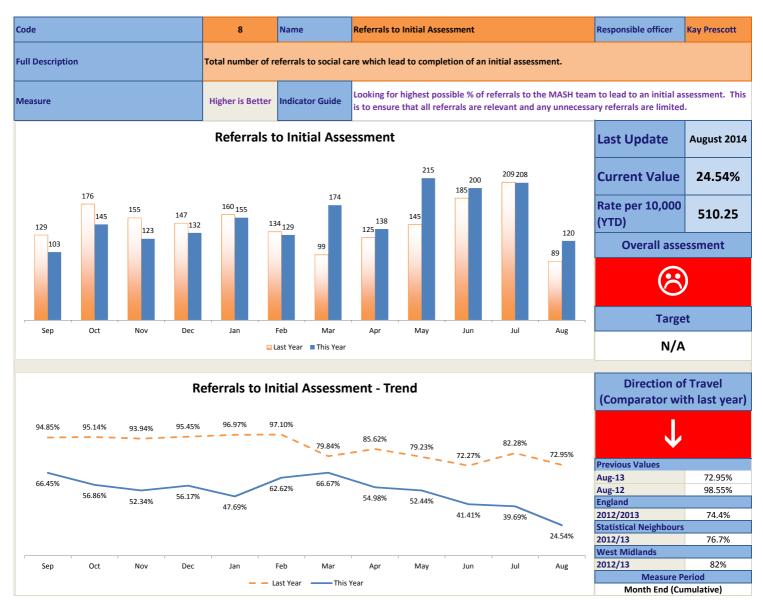
Over the past 12 months consistent managerial decision making in MASH was not embedded, with decisions around the application of thresholds being taken in isolation and predominantly by one manager who has since left the local authority. Since January 2014 there has been two MASH managers in post and it has taken some months to embed the Level of Need thresholds across both managers. The process is now clear within MASH as to when a contact becomes a referral and the situation should now stay stable for the future.

In addition, the way in which contacts and referrals were recorded on Frameworki was strengthened during May 2014, which has resulted in improved reporting. Nevertheless, the underlying reasons as to why there has been an increase in the number of contacts being progressed to a referral will be included in our audit programme.



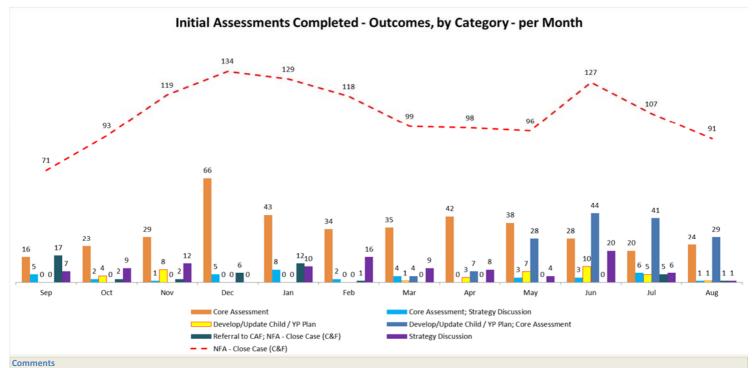
The current figure of 489 is in respect of the month of August 2014. The comparator is based on the rate per 10,000 over the year which is currently running at 1060.66, significantly higher than last year. This indicator has been assessed as red as we were within target at the same point last year with a 561.77 rate over the 12 month period.

The referral rate rose following the Peer Review and again following the OFSTED inspection in May 2014. A significant piece of work still needs to be done with partner agencies in respect of levels of need. Multi-agency training will be rolled out once the revised Levels of Need has been signed off, and planned outward facing work with partner agencies will also address the situation. Nevertheless, this rise in referral rate needs to be investigated in more depth, and will be included in our audit programme.

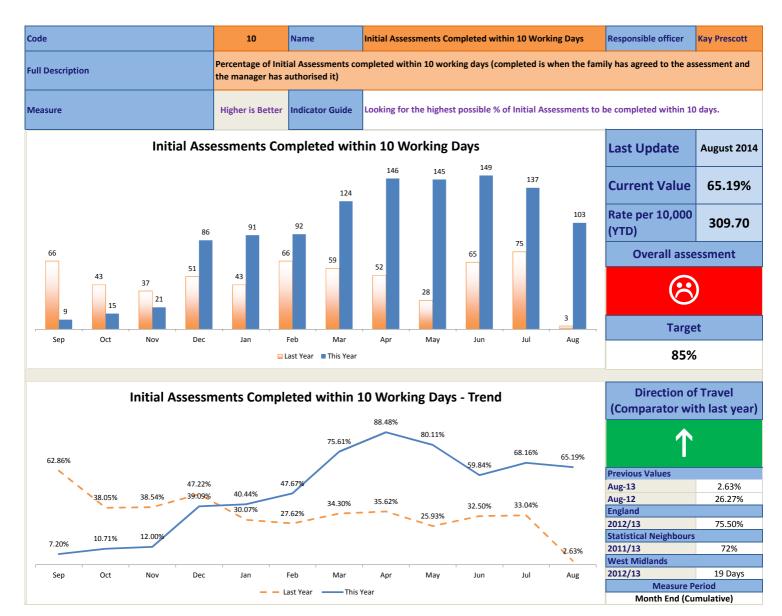


The reduction in the number of referrals progressing to an initial assessment is in keeping with how multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH) operate, and is in accordance with current Working Together guidance. There has, however, been a significant reduction in the number of referrals progressing to an initial assessment over the past 12 months, and the figure is also below that of our statistical neighbours. As a result, this indicator has been assessed as red, which may need further consideration as to whether this is appropriate.





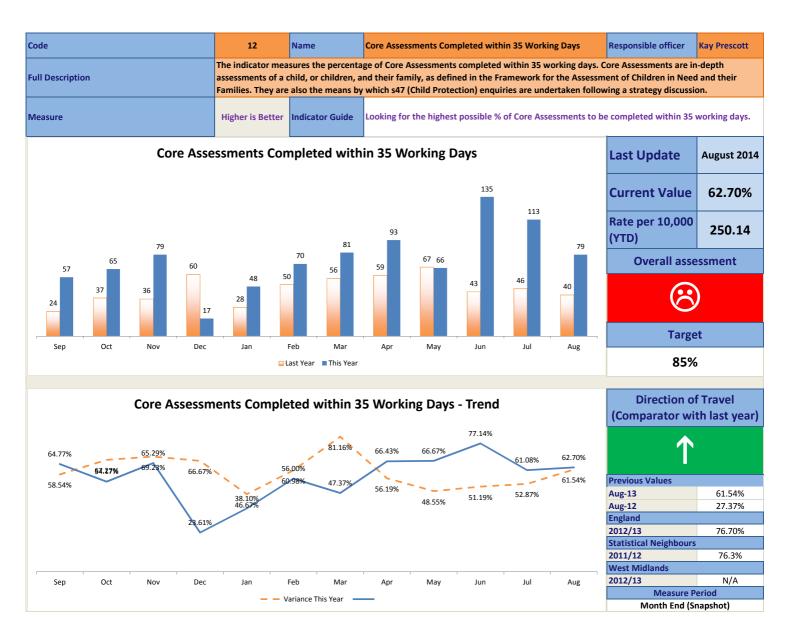
The number of initial assessments completed per 10,000 is significantly higher than of our statistical neighbours and we will need to investigate this further. Other factors that could impact on this are [a] the higher rate of contacts and referrals and [b] the operation of MASH which, as far as we are aware, is not in place in our statistical neighbour authorities. It is also not clear when, and on what basis, this target was set and this will need to be revisited as to whether this continues to be an appropriate figure.



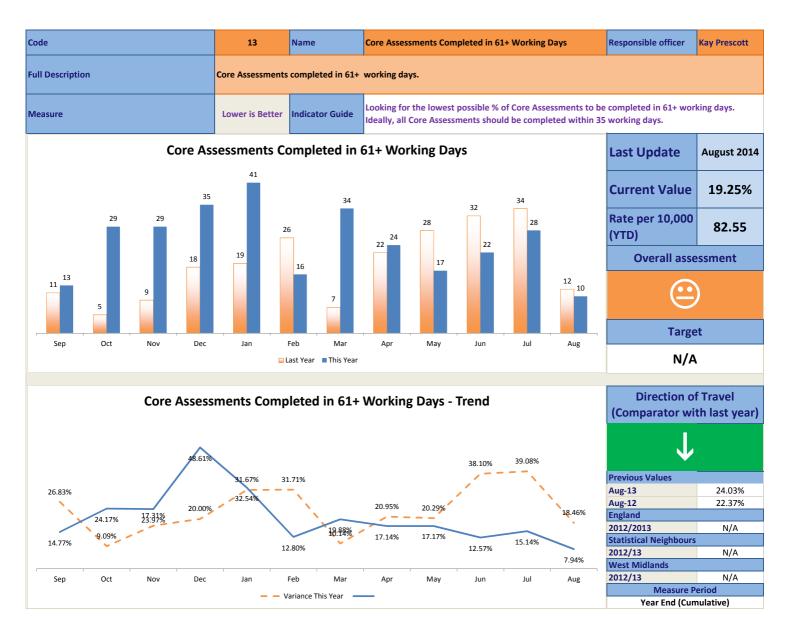
Whilst the direction of travel compared to last year has improved, initial assessments completed during the month of August have failed to meet the target of 85%. This can be explained by the referral rate unusually not dropping during the summer months, together with annual leave and sickness during the summer months making the service vulnerable due to capacity within MASH.



The number of core assessments completed during August 2014 is significantly above the target per 10,000 of 138.0-168.6, and is also higher than that in Herefordshire and of statistical neighbours in the previous year. This may well be due to the current practice of completing updated core assessments prior to every review child protection conference, which will cease when the new child protection processes in Frameworki go live w/c 22 September 2014.



The overall trend for the past 12 months has been an upward tragectory. However, over the last two months there has been a dip in peformance and, although there is a slight recovery in August 2014, this situation will need to be closely monitored.



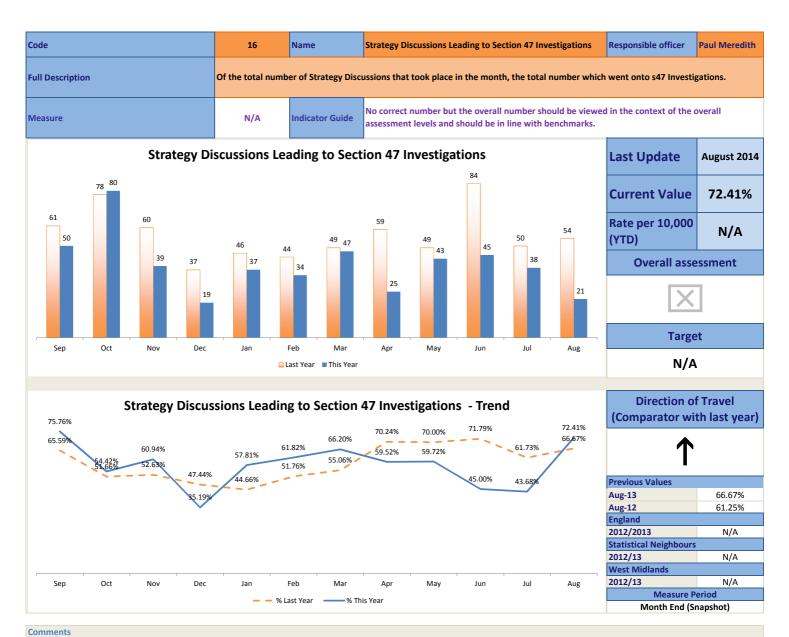
There has been a significant reduction in the number of core assessments being completed post 61 days, particularly over the past five months.

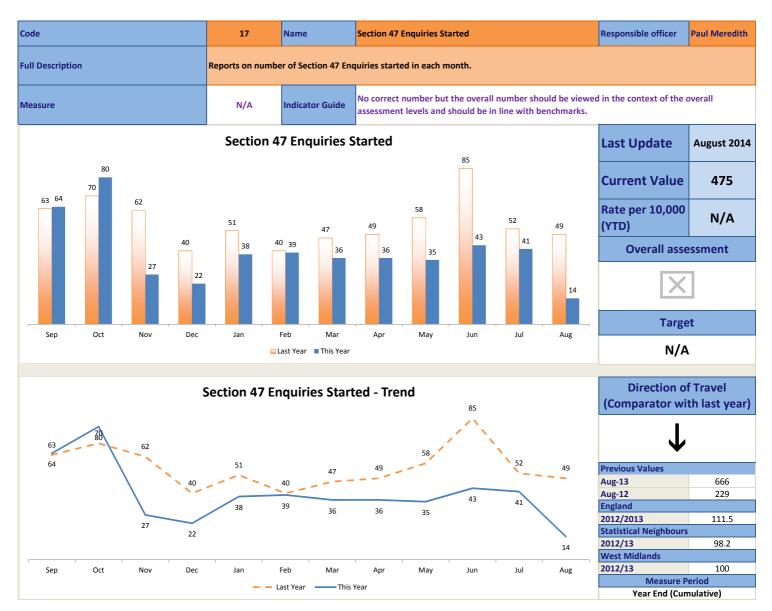


The increase in strategy discussions/meetings in during May and June 2014 is likely to be as a result of a GOLD investigation. An audit was completed in early August to examine 20 strategy meetings contributing to the overall rise in from May to June 2014. The outcome of the audit was the right decision was taken in every one of the 20 cases to trigger a strategy meeting. The increase in the number of meetings/discussions should be viewed as a positive indicator that managers appear to have more case oversight and are applying a safeguarding threshold appropriately.

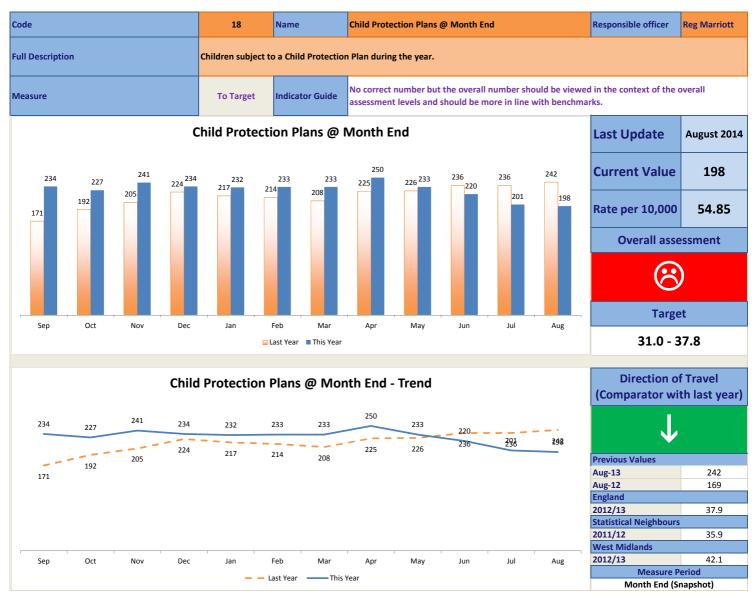


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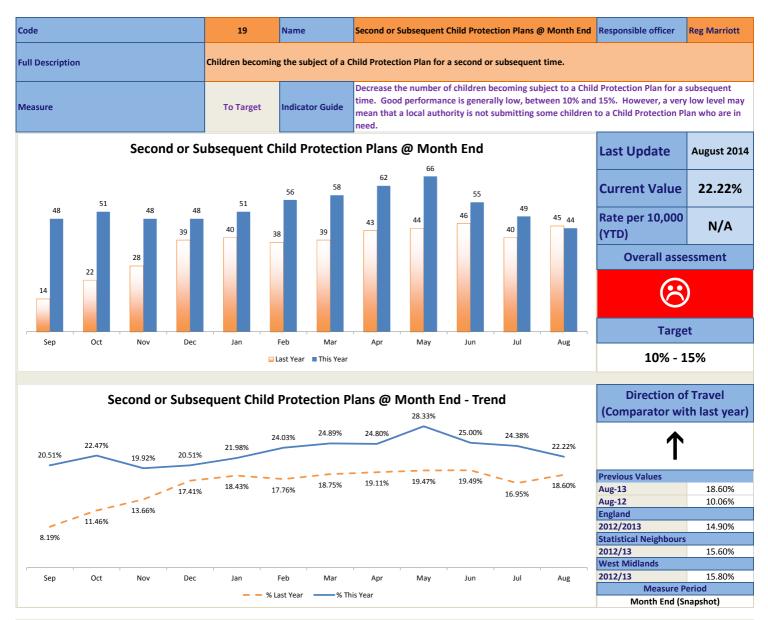


The current value of 475 is taken from a rolling 12 month period to the end of August 2014. National and Statistical Neighbour data is for a 12 month period to the end of March 2013.



Nationally, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year ending March 2013 increased slightly and this continued in Herefordshire until April 2014. Whilst the rate per 10,000 in Herefordshire is higher than our statistical neighbours and the England average, the number of children subject to a Plan has dropped from a high of 69.25 per 10,000 in April 2014 to 54.85 in August 2014 - a reduction of 20.8%. A range of factors affect this figure including referral rates into MASH, the number of strategy meetings, the number of strategy meetings leading to a Section 47 investigation, the length of time on a CP Plan - which in turn is influenced by staff turnover.

The Safeguarding & Review Service's Goal paper issued following the OFSTED inspection in April included a target to reduce the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan by 20%. This has been influenced by greater rigour and challenge from child protection conference chairs that the threshold of significant harm has been, or continues, to be met and the length of time children have been subject to a Plan. Whilst it is anticipated that the overall trend of this figure will come down over time, it is likely that there will be some fluctuations in rate, reflecting week to week variance in child protection cases coming to light.



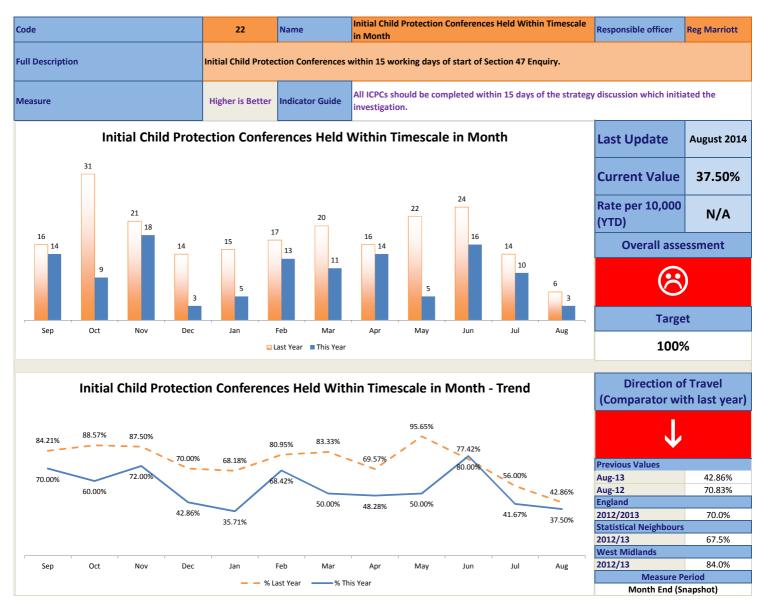
Although this indicator has been assessed as red due to missing our target percentage rate and our figures are above those of the England average and statistical neighbours, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time has reduced by 33.33% since May 2014. Quality Assurance & Compliance Managers have also completed an audit of the children concerned. This audit found children in this cohort were more likely to have their parenting compromised by substance misuse and the substance of choice was more likely to be heroin. There was an increased incidence of risk to these children from adults presenting a risk and these adults were usually extended family members. Their parents were more likely to have suffered abusive childhoods and to have additional learning needs. The audit also identified learning disability within parents as a significant factor in second or subsequent CP Plans compared to the overall number. The implications of this finding for intervention strategies and service provision will need consideration at HSCB level.

This audit has been extensively shared with teams across the Directorate, and teams have contributed to the action plan. The Audit has been shared at Heads of Service meeting, has formed the basis of a discussion with WMWA in respect of DA findings and discussions with Community Safety Partnership in respect of DA and alcohol misuse within the Eastern European community.

The audit found that robust action was not always evidenced. The Head of Fieldwork and the Performance Information Manager are currently in the process of developing a process whereby all child subject to a CP Plan will be reviewed following the second conference review by the social worker, team manager and service manager. Should it be felt that the Plan is not working then the case will be presented to Legal Panel. This process will be embedded in Frameworki in order to ensure that information is accessible and can be reported against.







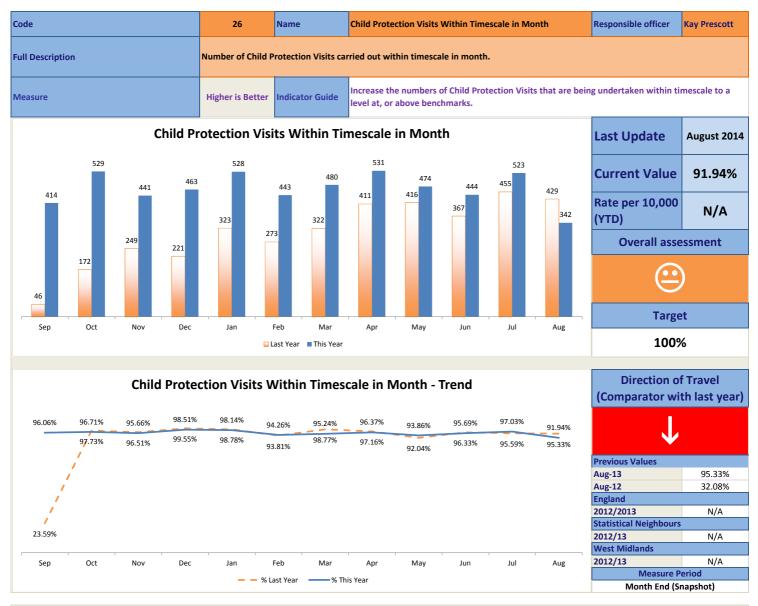
Only eight child protection conferences were held during August 2014. As a result, even a small fluctation in the number out of timescale will significantly affect the overall compliance figure. It also should be noted this period contains the major school holiday and the time when the largest number of personnel from across the professional network are on annual leave. The critical issue is the ability to get key professionals with knowledge of the family to the conference. The data in 2013 also indicates a similar drop in timeliness.

The streamlined child protection processes which will go live w/c 22 September 2014 will be more efficient, cut administrative time and facilitate the setting up of conferences. This in turn will enable administrative staff to focus on core activities such as the production of conference minutes within timescales.





Only 15 review child protection conferences were held during August 2014, of which 2 were out of timescale, which has affected the overall compliance figure. During June, July and August 2014, 139 review conferences were held of which 94.96% (132) were in timescale.



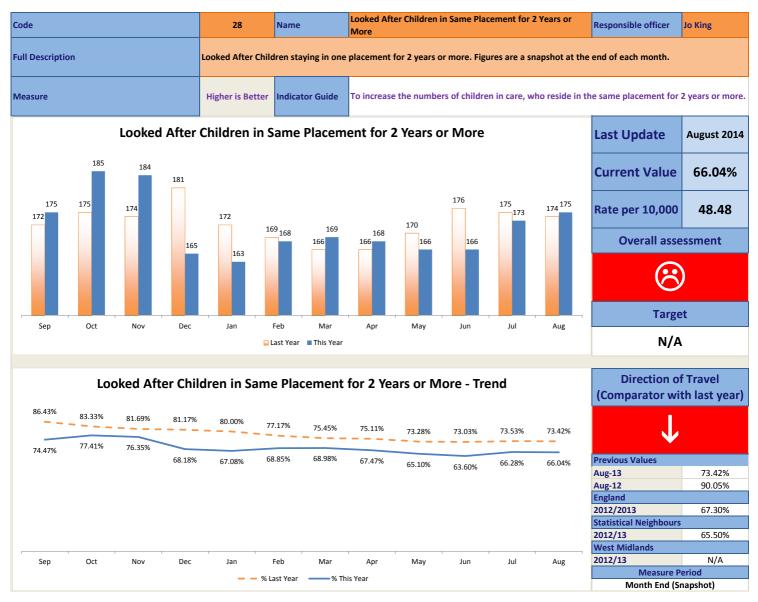
Please note there is a technical issue with how this data is visually presented: the figure for 2013 is 95.33% and for August 2014 is 91.94%.

The dip in performance is attributed to performance issues with individual workers in that visits are not being correctly recorded and copied on to siblings, together with capacity issues such as families moving out of Herefordshire but a transfer conference has not taken place, resulting in visits still having to be undertaken. There has been an improvement in performance over the past two weeks.

Performance will be addressed by [1] the go live of the new child protection processes in Frameworki which include a more straightfoward way of recording of visits (recording will be in one place instead of the existing three places on FWI), [2] better quality assurance of worker's compliance with timescales by managers, and [3] more stringent oversight at Service Manager level at weekly performance meetings. In addition it is anticipated that performance will improve now that three permanent team managers are in post.



The increase in looked after children figures over the past couple of months is as a result of data quality issues where teams had not correctly recorded placements in Frameworki. Further data cleansing is currently taking place to ensure that all placements have been ended where appropriate. The streamlining of the looked after children module in Frameworki which will facilitate and strengthen how information is recorded is currently in progress.



Although placement stability in Herefordshire is better than our statistical neighbours in the previous year, this indicator has been assessed as red due to the drop in performance since September 2013.

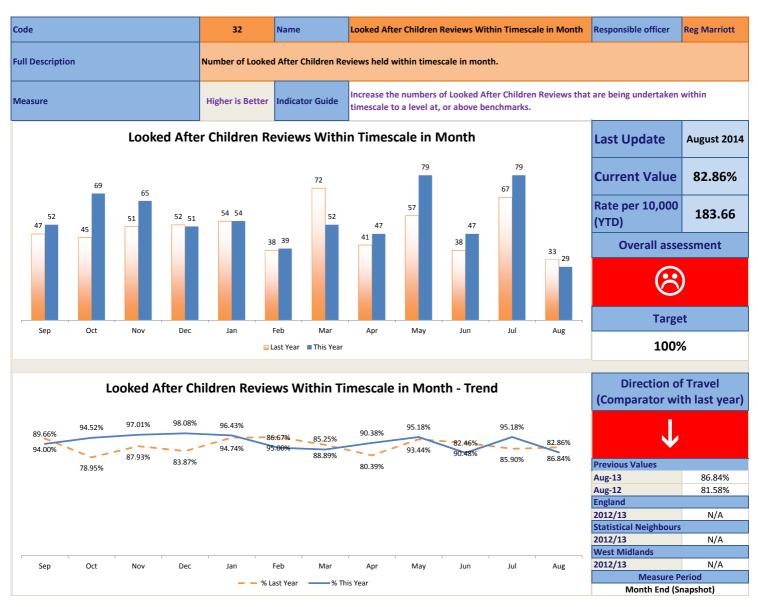
A statiscally valid sample of 83 cases of children who have [i] had placements of longer than 2 years which are current in situ and [ii] placements longer than 2 years which were current in 2011 but have disrupted since 2011 has been completed since the production of this report. Initial conclusions are that it is possible recording and data gathering methods have improved over the three years from 2011-2014, bringing us more into line with our statistical neighbours. 90% of placements being 2 years or longer in year ending 2012 would appear over optimistic, whereas the figure of 73% for year ending 2013 would appear more realistic as a result of improved statistical generation. The reduction to 66% to date may again be about the figure being more realistic, rather than patterns or trends in placement instability. There is also inconsistency in how placement moves are recorded on Frameworki, and this will be addressed as part of the LAC module reconfiguration.

Increasing the sample size will provide information about the ages of the children at which breakdowns of long term placements are most prevalent, and also whether cases in the 16+ Team contribute to the number of placement breakdowns.

Recent long term placements breaking down include one kinship placement where there were child protection concerns: one long term teen placement (drug misuse and request to move placement): and one with inappropriate behaviour towards another child in placement - all varied factors rather than a pattern.







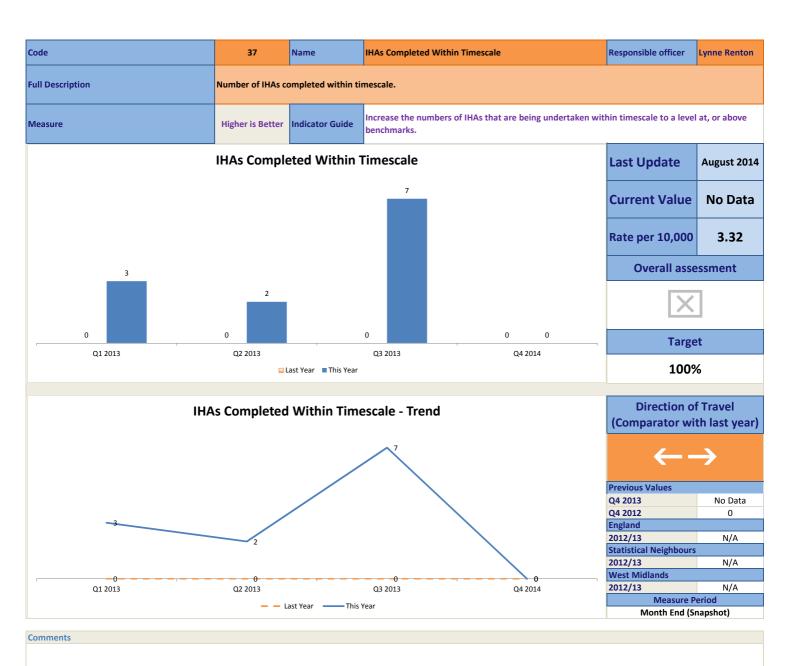
In July 2014, 79 out of 83 LAC reviews were held in timescale (95.18%). This figure drops to 29 out of 35 for August 2014 (82.86%). This dip in performance is due to the availability of involved professionals, carers or parents with the significant factors being carers going on holiday, parents on holiday, and staff turnover (cases being re-allocated or transferred within teams)











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