Improvement Board Performance Report - September 2014

Please note;

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 30th September, 2014 and includes all data within Frameworki up to and including 30th September, 2014.

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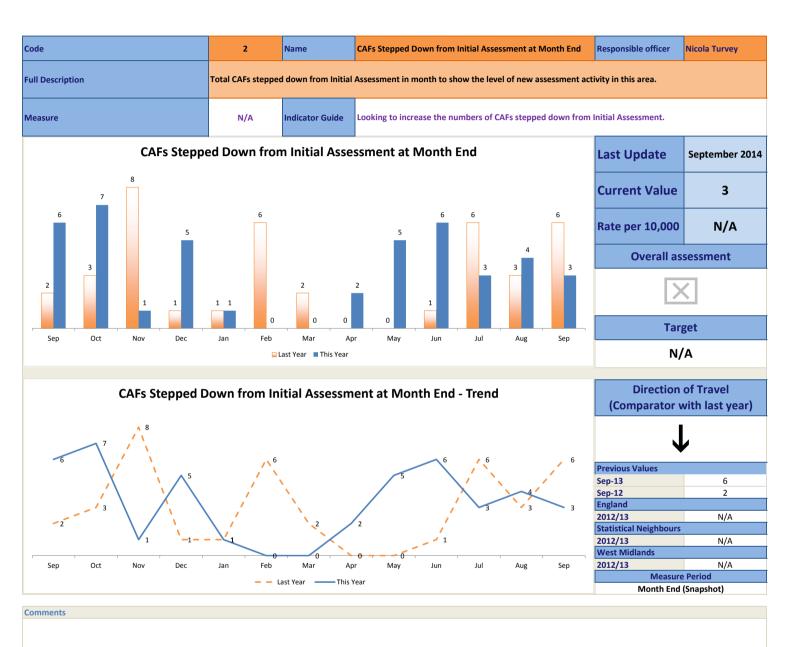
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16th October, 2014

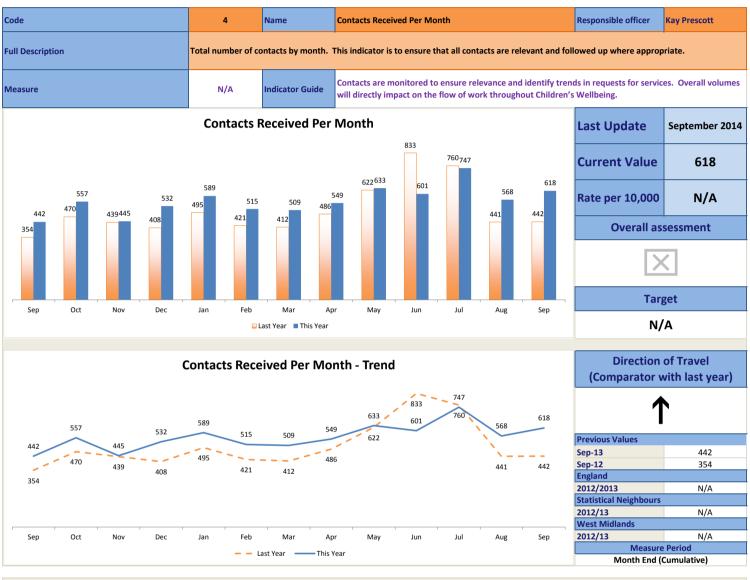




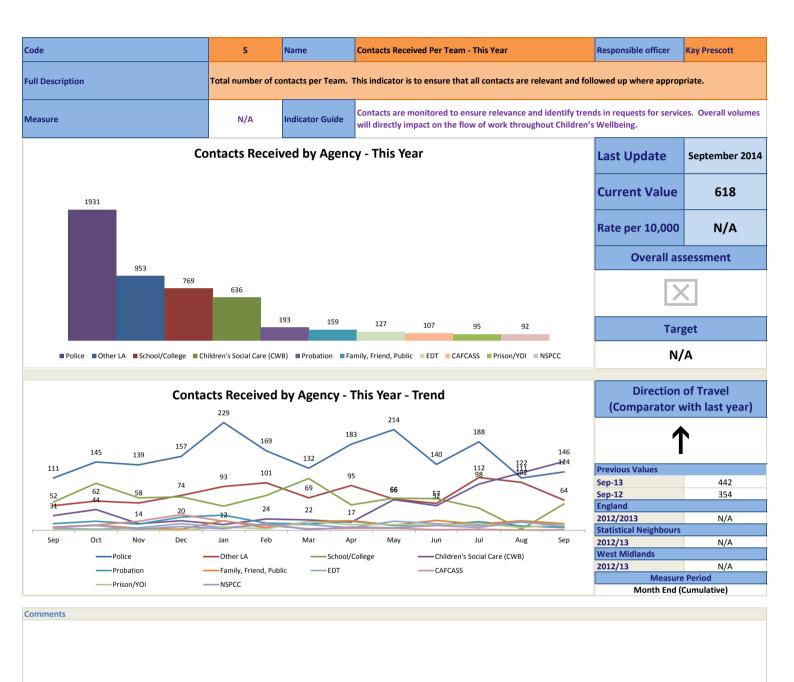
Data cleansing of the CAF Registry was completed during September 2014







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 12 month period. A separate process to record Missing Children Alerts is scheduled to go live in Frameworki at the end of October 2014, and it is anticipated that this will contribute towards a reduction in the overall number of contacts being received.

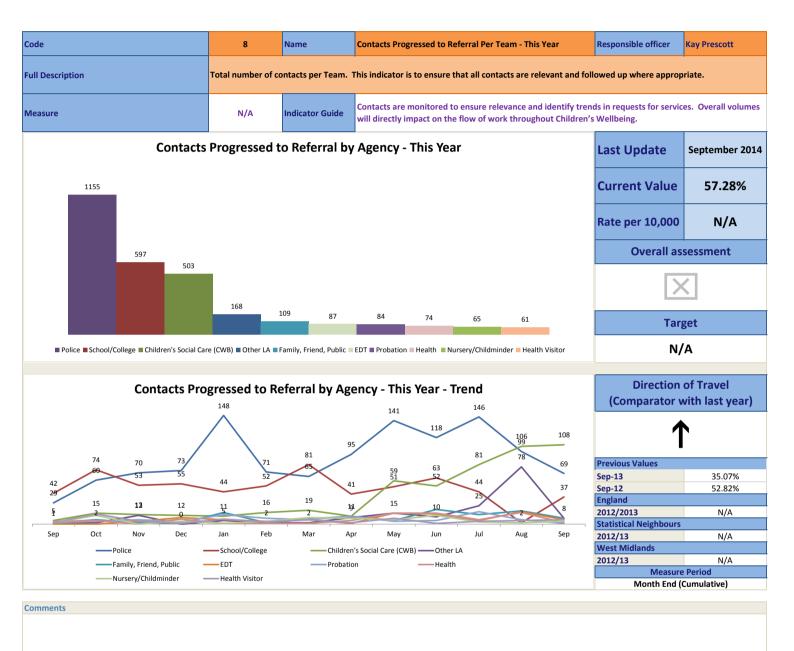






Over the past 12 months consistent managerial decision making in MASH was not embedded, with decisions around the application of thresholds being taken in isolation and predominantly by one manager who has since left the local authority. Since January 2014 there has been two MASH managers in post and 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.

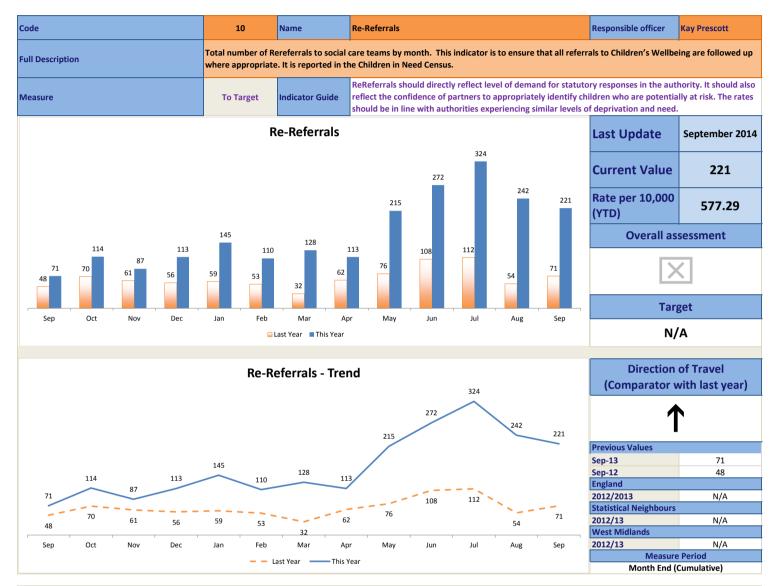
In addition, the way in which contacts and referrals were recorded on Frameworki was strengthened during May 2014, which has resulted in improved reporting. Whilst there has been a reduction of 27.75% in the number of contacts progressing to a referral in September 2014 compared to August 2014, the underlying 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.



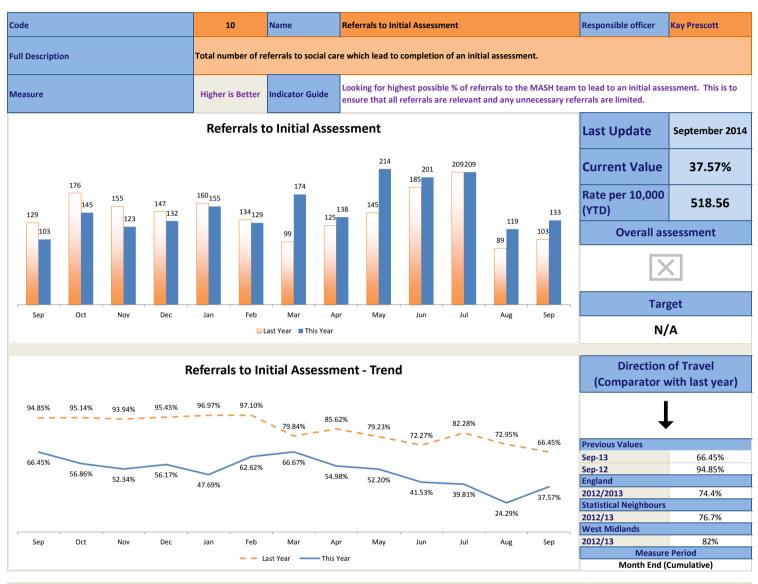


The current figure of 354 is in respect of the month of September 2014, which is a reduction of 27.75% compared to the previous month. The comparator is based on the rate per 10,000 over the year which is currently running at 1116.62, significantly higher than last year.

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 increase in the number of referrals where no further social work involvement was required has risen in line with the number of contacts received over the same period.



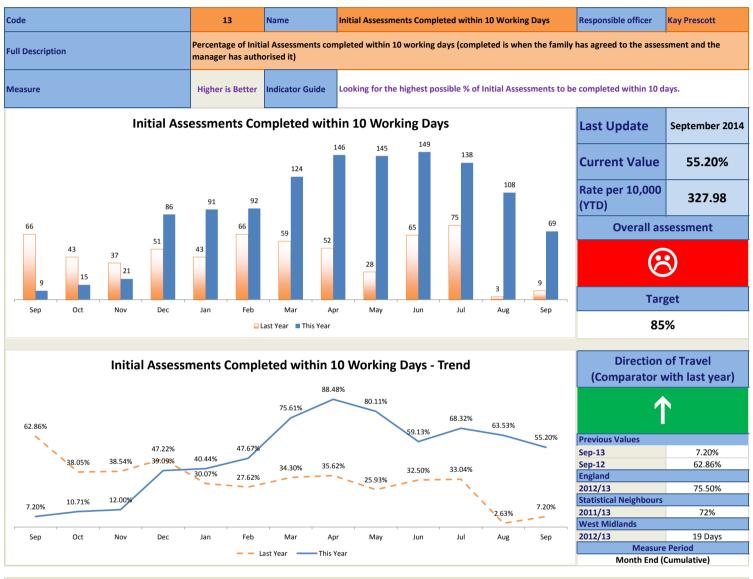
The number of re-referrals began to climb from December 2014 which coincides with the change in management arrangements in MASH, and improved reporting from Frameworki. The rereferrals trend also follows the same trend as referrals, for example a rise over the period April to July 2014, and a fall over the period July to September 2014.



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 trend may need further investigation as to whether this is appropriate.

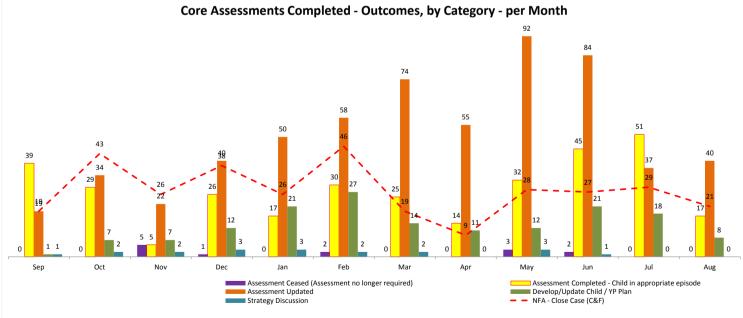


The number of initial assessments completed per 10,000 is significantly higher than of our statistical neighbours and we will need to investigate this further. Other factors that could impact on this are [a] the higher rate of contacts and referrals and [b] the operation of MASH which, as far as we are 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. There has been a decrease of 26.47% in the number of initial assessments completed in the month of September compared to August 2014, and the September 2014 figure of 125 is the same as that for September 2013.



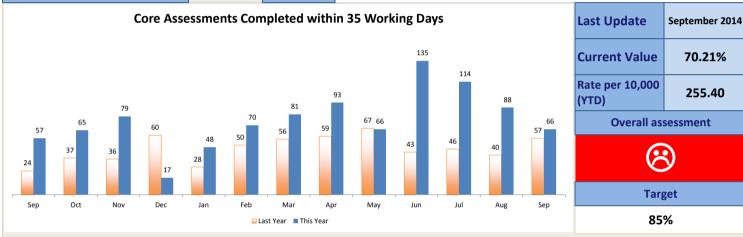
Whilst the direction of travel compared to last year has improved, initial assessments completed during the month of September 2014 have failed to meet the target of 85%. This can be explained by the referral rate unusually not dropping during the summer months, together with annual leave and sickness during the summer months making the service vulnerable due to capacity within MASH. The vacant Team Manager post in MASH was filled on an interim basis at the beginning of October 2014.



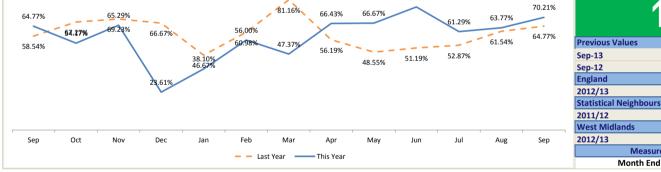


The number of core assessments completed during September 2014 is significantly above the target per 10,000 of 138.0-168.6, and is also higher than that in Herefordshire's statistical neighbours in the previous year. This may well be due to the current practice of completing updated core assessments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

Code	15	Name	Core Assessments Completed within 35 Working Days	Responsible officer	Kay Prescott
Full Description	The indicator measures the percentage of Core Assessments completed within 35 working days. Core Assessments are in-depth assessments of a child, or children, and their family, as defined in the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. They are also the means by which s47 (Child Protection) enquiries are undertaken following a strategy discussion.				
Measure	Higher is Better	Indicator Guide	Looking for the highest possible % of Core Assessments to be a	e completed within 35 working days.	







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

Direction of Travel

(Comparator with last year)

Measure Period

Month End (Snapshot)

64.77%

58.54%

76.70%

76.3%

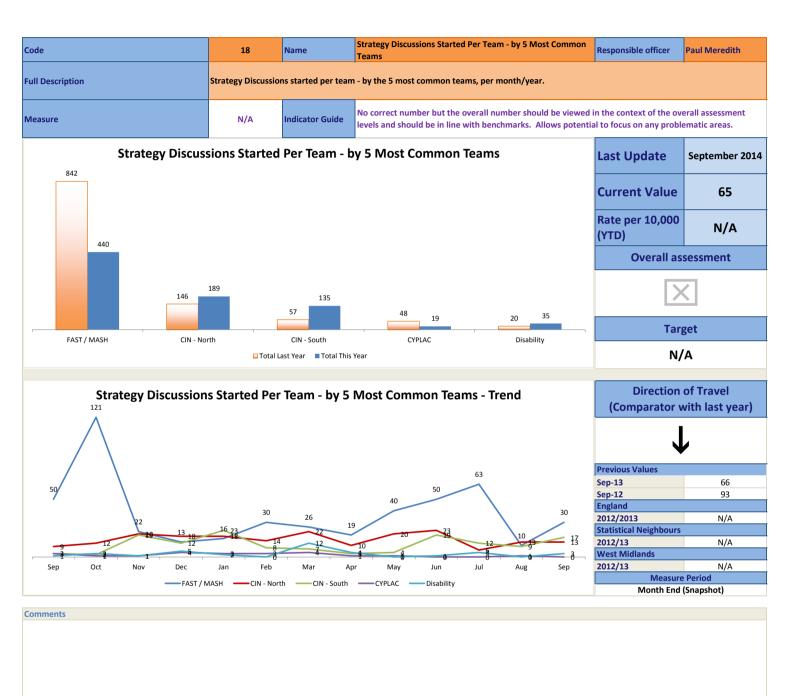
N/A

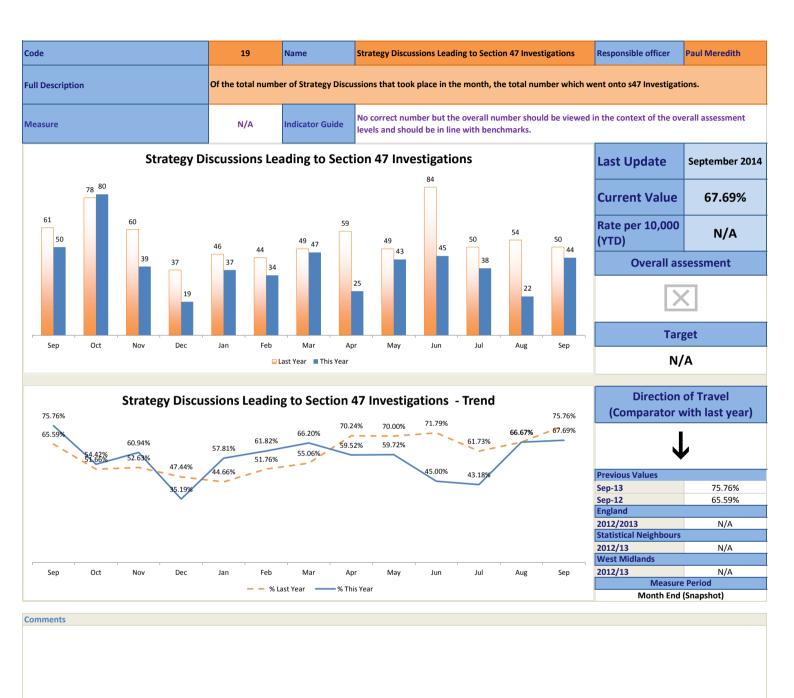


There has been a significant reduction in the number of core assessments being completed post 61 days, particularly since July 2014.



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.





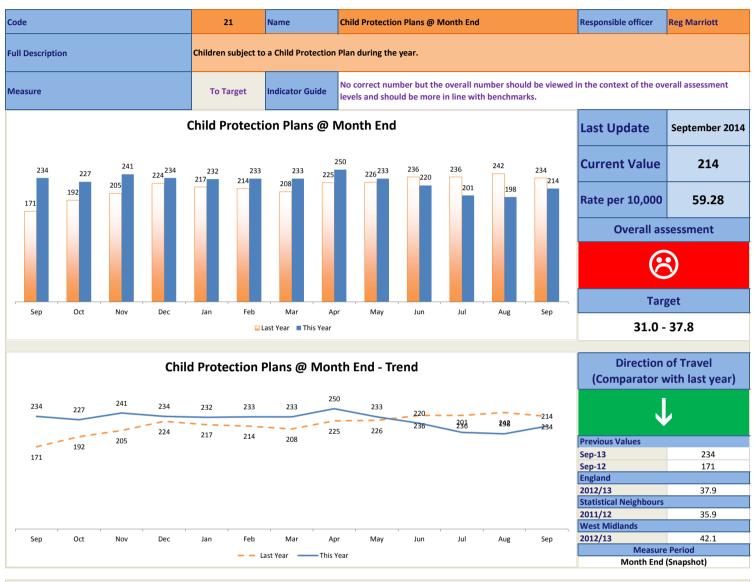


The current value of 455 is taken from a rolling 12 month period to the end of September 2014. National and Statistical Neighbour data is for a 12 month period to the end of March 2013.



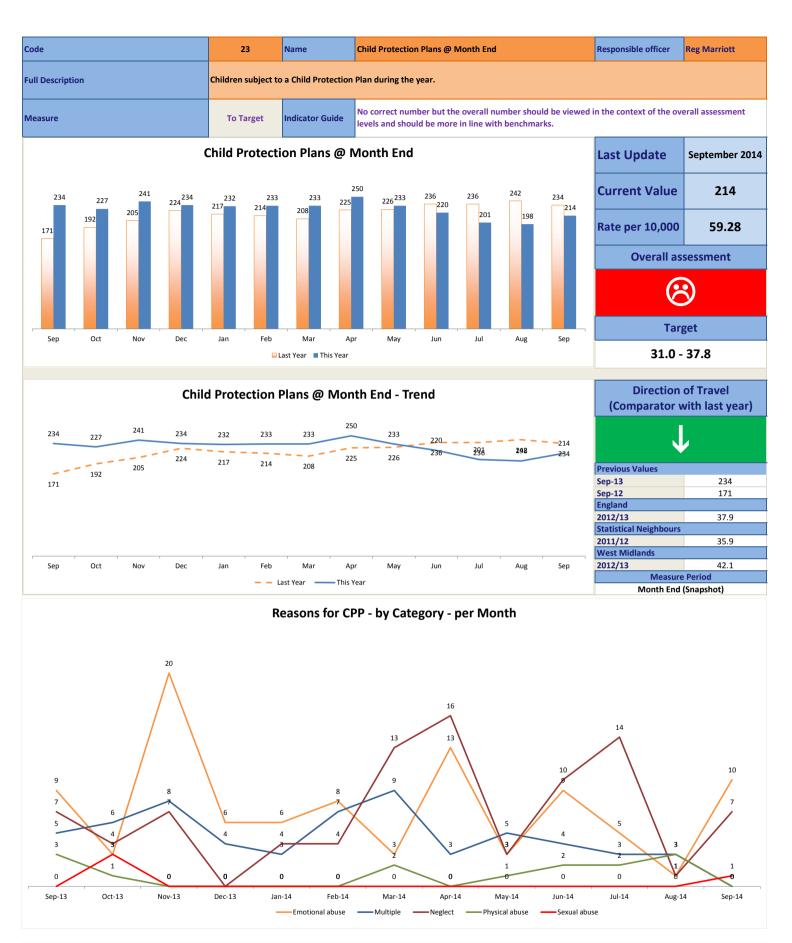
Nationally, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year ending March 2013 increased slightly and this continued in Herefordshire until April 2014, following which there has been a downward trend.

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 will continue, it is likely that there will be some fluctuations in rate, reflecting week to week variance in child protection cases coming to light.



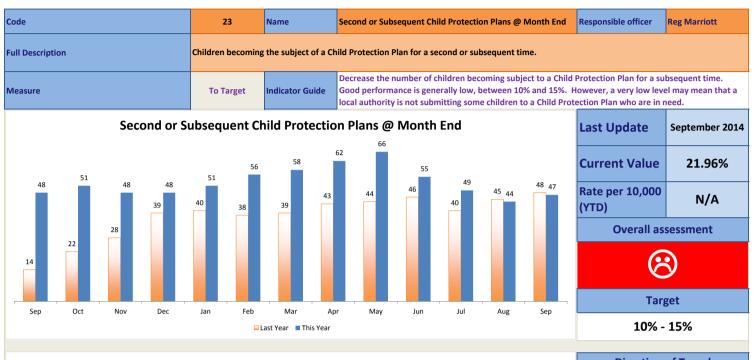
Nationally, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year ending March 2013 increased slightly and this continued in Herefordshire until April 2014. Whilst the rate per 10,000 in Herefordshire is higher than our statistical neighbours and the England average, the number of children 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.

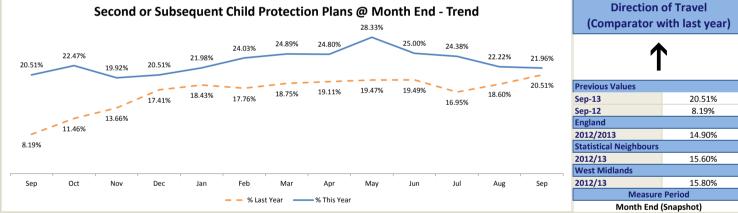
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Please note that due to technical presentation, figures have been transposed in the above chart. The value for September 2013 is 234, and for September 2014 this is 214. Nationally, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year 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.

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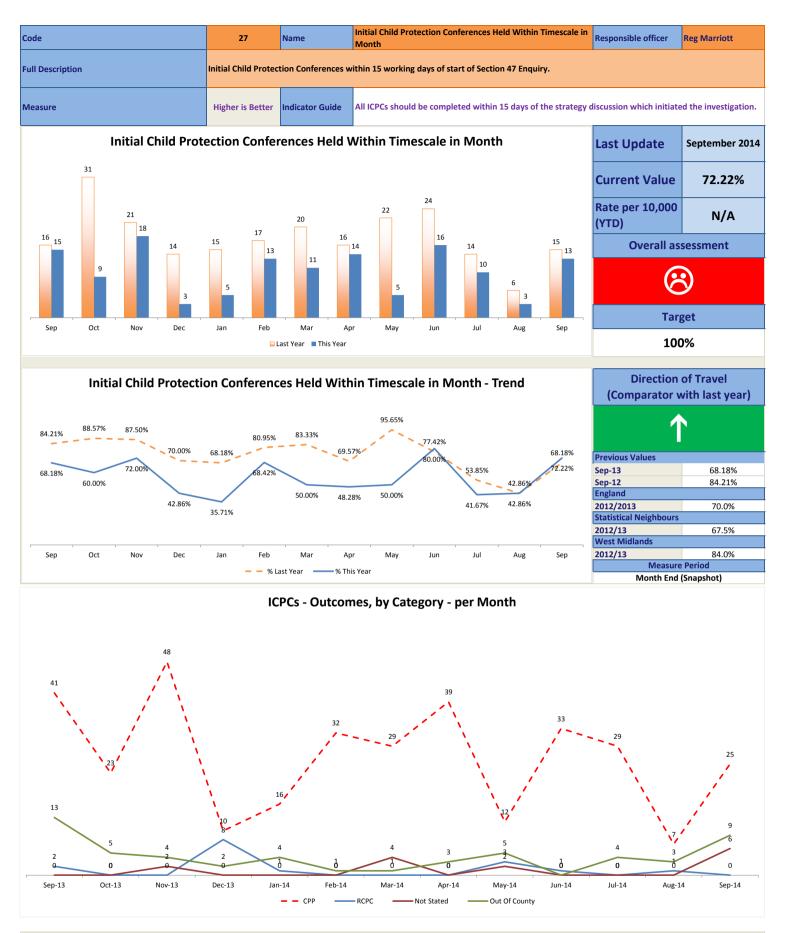
Although this indicator has been assessed as red due to missing our target percentage rate and our figures are above those of the England average and statistical neighbours, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time has reduced by 28.78% since May 2014. 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 taken in a timely way when the CP plan was not working and management oversight was not always evidenced. The Head of Fieldwork and the Performance Information Manager have developed 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 during November 2014 in order to ensure that information is accessible and can be reported against.

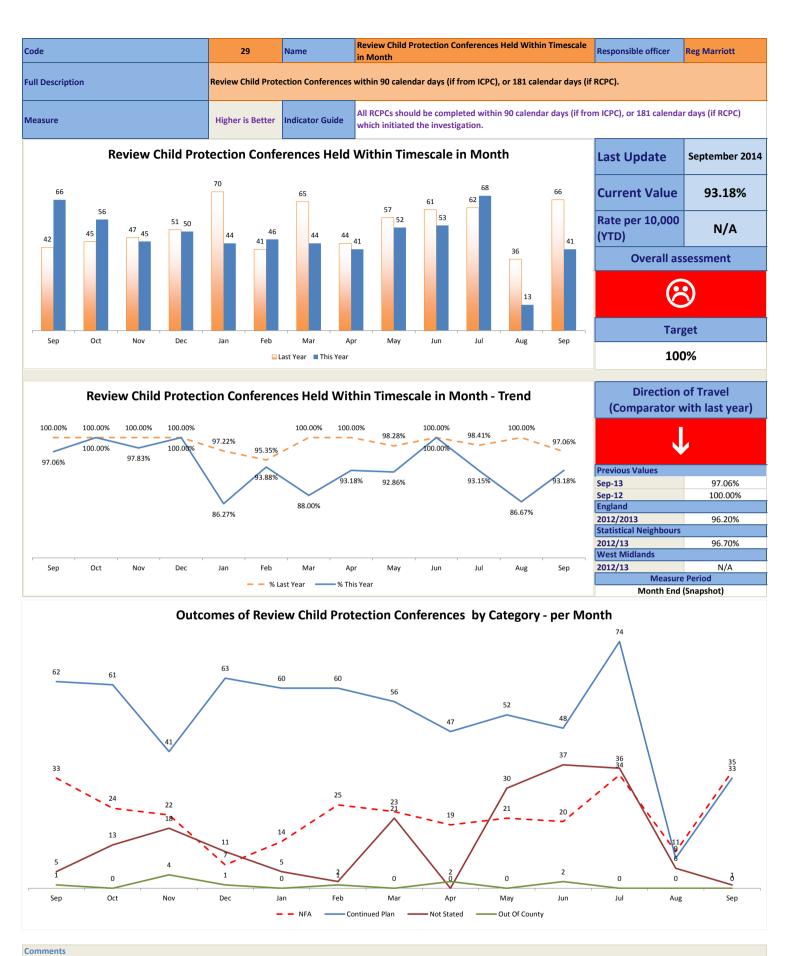






The streamlined child protection processes which will go live in October 2014 will be more efficient, cut administrative time and facilitate the setting up of conferences. This in turn will enable administrative staff to focus on core activities such as the production of conference minutes within timescales.





More rigorous compliance monitoring arrangements will be introduced in October 2014 whereby performance will be reported to the Safeguarding & Review Service Manager on a weekly basis



This is a new performance measure and is being reported on for the first time this month. Future reports will include the attendance rate as a percentage of conferences to which agencies were invited.



Comments

Again, this is a new performance measure and is being reported on for the first time this month. The figure of 25.93% is an overall attendance figure for the entire year, and includes all sectors, not just those shown in the above chart. Future reports will include the number of agencies who attended conferences as a percentage of those who were invited.



This is a new performance measure and is being reported on for the first time this month. The above figure is for the entire year and includes all sectors, not just those shown in the chart above. In addition, those agencies shown in the above chart, for example Police, Probation and Schools all have high figures for submitting reports (typically 100%) but there are other, less common attendees, where the submission of reports is extremely low, hence the overall figure of 36.61%.



Please note there is a technical issue with how this data is visually presented: the figure for 2013 is 96.06% and for September 2014 is 94.10%.

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.

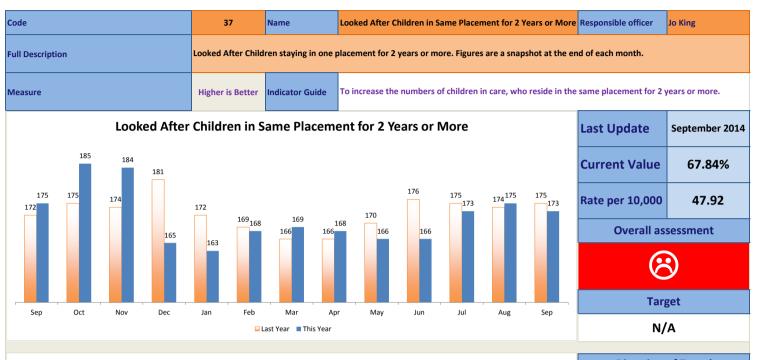
Performance will be addressed by [1] the go live of the new child protection processes in Frameworki which include a more straightfoward way of recording of visits (recording will be in one place instead of the existing three places on FWI), [2] better quality assurance of worker's compliance with timescales by managers, and [3] more straigent 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.

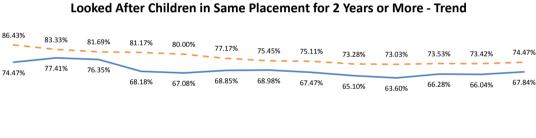




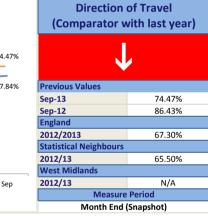
Comments

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. Consideration also needs to be given as to the appropriateness of the current target figure in the light of the England and Statistical Neighbours figures.





Mar



Comments

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

🗕 🗕 % Last Year

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

Apr

% This Year

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.

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

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.

















