# **Improvement Board Performance Report - December 2014**

#### Diagra nota

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 December, 2014 and includes all data within Frameworki up to and including 31st December, 2014.

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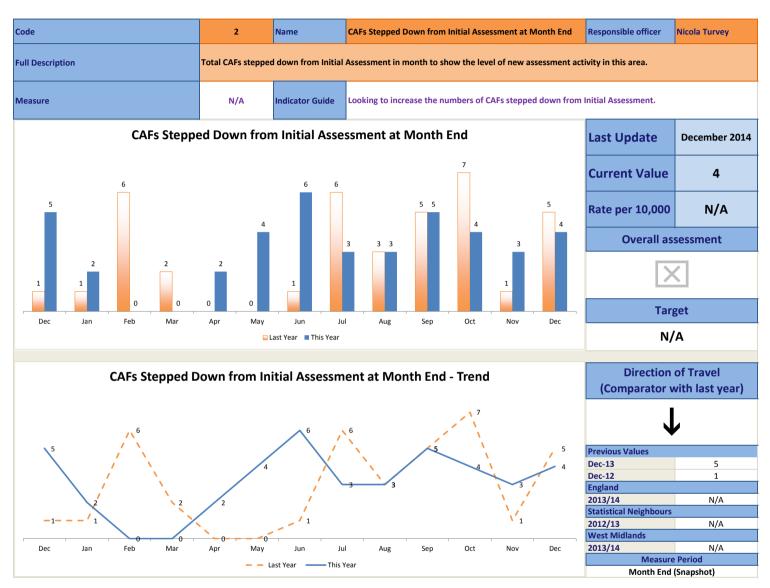
14th January, 2015



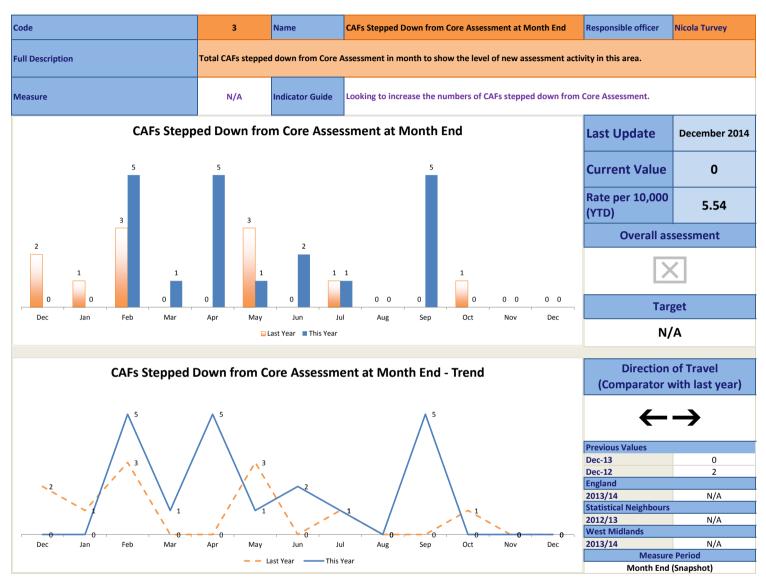




Data cleansing of the CAF Registry was completed during September 2014, and the figures throughout 2014 to date reflects improved data recording. New CAFs are being completed primarily by schools and health visitors. There are a range of identified needs including support with behaviour, parenting and mentoring for children and young people.



The number of CAFs stepped down from initial assessment continues to be variable: this reflects the trend seen in the previous year. The number of CAFs stepped down from initial assessment is the highest from the MASH and social workers are supported by the I&A coordinator to complete these and produce an action plan which ensures a package of support is in place for the family and that there is a named lead professional.



The trend of CAFs stepped down from core assessment mirrors that of the previous year. The numbers stepping down from core assessment to CAF are less than from initial assessments. The I & A Co-ordinators hold clinics in Bath Street to support workers in this process. A package of support tailored to the families needs is put in place and regularly reviewed.

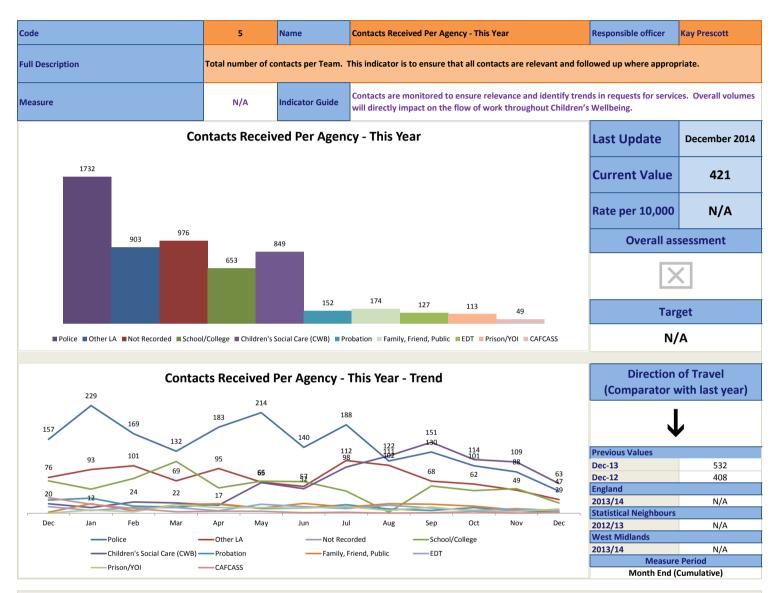
2013 data showed that approximately 52% of cases stepped down from IAs and CAs to CAF have stepped back up since which shows the process has been positive for 48% of families which were open to social care. The aim is to improve this figure through closer monitoring through the MAG and more targeted support through Direct Work Services which also assesses whether families can sustain changes made when the support ends.



The figure of 421 contacts for December 2014 is a decrease of 43.64% from the peak figure of 747 in July 2014, and a decrease of 24.09% compared to the previous month.

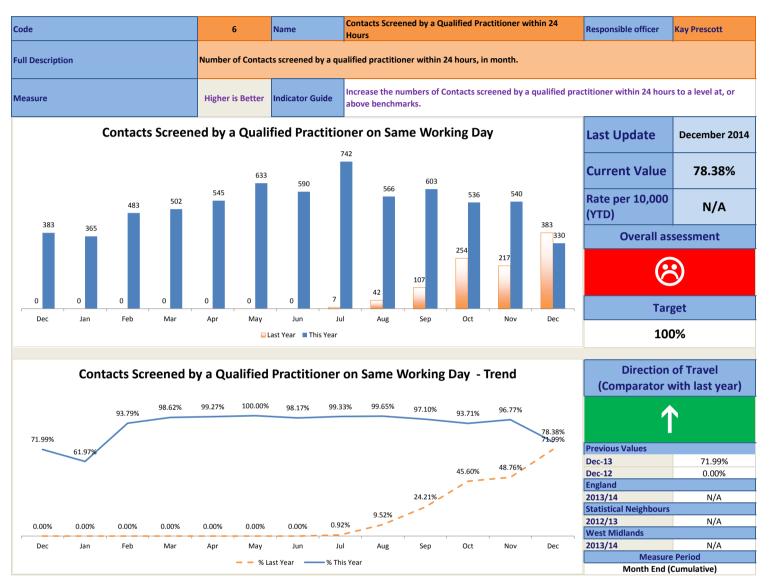
A separate process to record Missing Children contacts went live in Frameworki on 5 November 2014, and this will have contributed towards a reduction in the overall number of contacts being received. 32 Missing Child notifications were received during the month and, if these were included in the overall contacts figure, the difference between November and December 2014 would be a decrease of 18.81%.

We are implementing a new system that will differentiate between notifications and contacts, and negotiating with the Police around new systems for managing information in relation to domestic abuse.



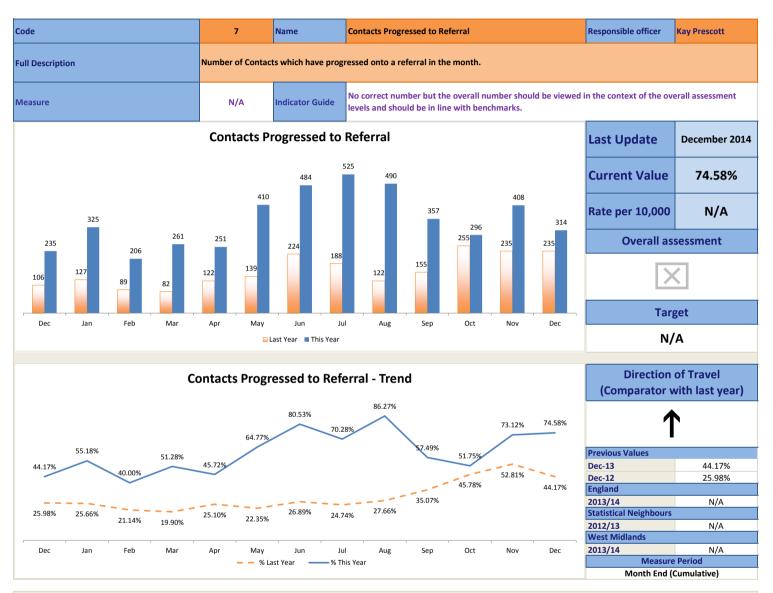
The highest percentage of contacts received in December 2014 were from the police at 19.48% and, of these, 43.90% were progressed to a referral. This compares to the CIN Census 2013-14 annual figure of 23.9% of referrals made by the Police across England.

19.00% of contacts were from Childrens Social Care (51.25% progressed to a referral), 12.59% were from other Local Authorities (9.43% progressed to a referral), 9.5% were from Health (45.00% progressed to a referral), and Schools/Colleges 7.84% (51.52% progressed to a referral)

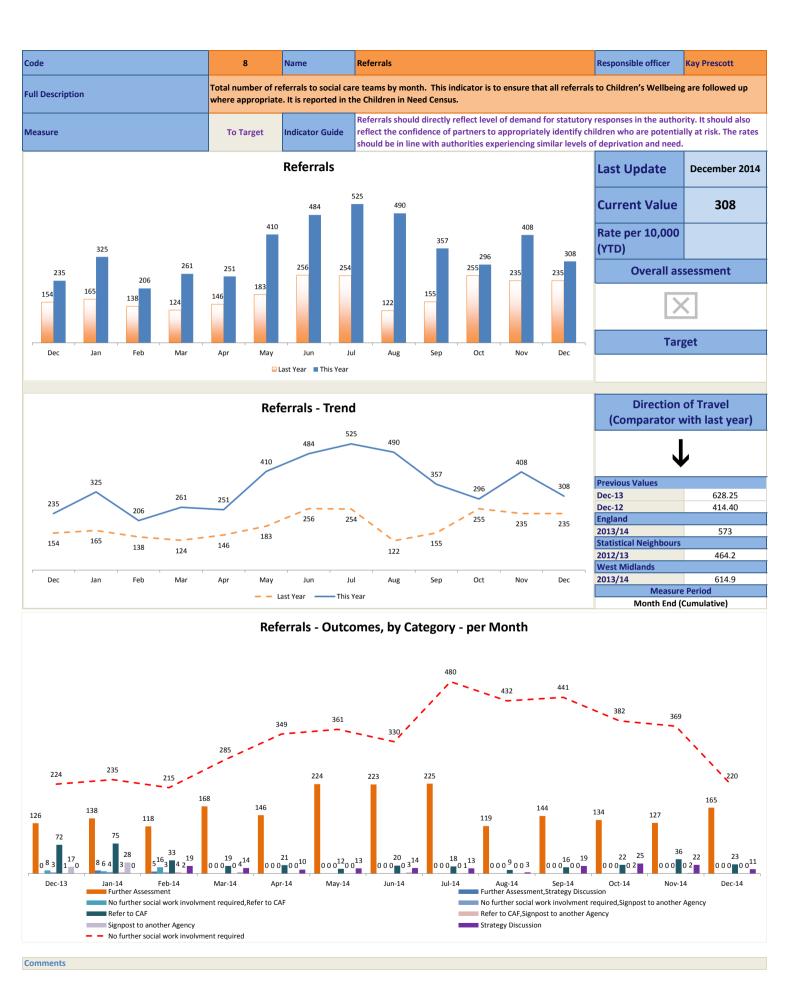


The drop in performance from the previous month is due to data recording issues within Frameworki as a result of the introduction of new staff to the computer system. This has been investigated by the Head of Service Fieldwork who audited the non-performing cases, and evidenced that all contacts had been screened on the same working day, but this had not been correctly entered on to the computer system.

Staff have received supplementary training and it is envisaged the issue will not recur. It is noted that this performance indicator operates at a higher level than the national indicator, which only requires referrals to be screened within 24 hours and not on the same working day of receipt as is the case here.



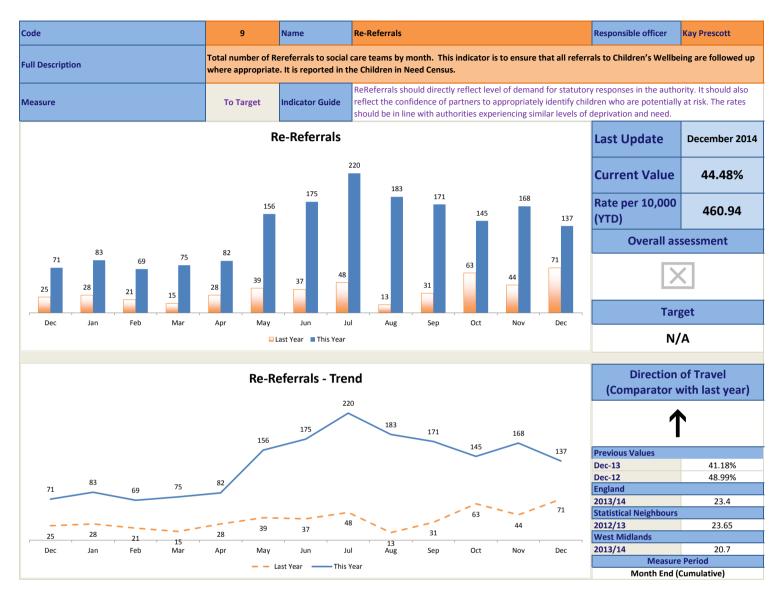
The number of contacts progressed to a referral follows the previous month, and is 40.19% less than the highest peak to date which was in July 2014.



The number of referrals in December 2014 was 24.50% less than those in November 2014. This is in line with the drop in the number of contacts during December of 24.09%. The referral rate rose following the Peer Review and again following the OFSTED inspection in May 2014. CIN Census data for 2013-14 shows the largest increase in referrals for a number of years, and anecdotal evidence from local authorities is that this is as a result of increased media attention on child protection.

The percentage of contacts received from primary agencies progressed to referral during December 2014 were:

Childrens Social Care = 51.25%
Health = 45.00%
Police = 43.90%
Schools/Colleges = 51.52%
Ambulance Service = 66.67% (6 contacts)
CAMHS = 66.67% (9 contacts)
Adults Mental Health = 40.00% (5 contacts)
Probation = 50% (2 contacts)
Nursery = 100% (2 contacts)



The number of re-referrals in December 2014 has dropped from the previous month by 18.45%, and is the lowest rate since April 2014.

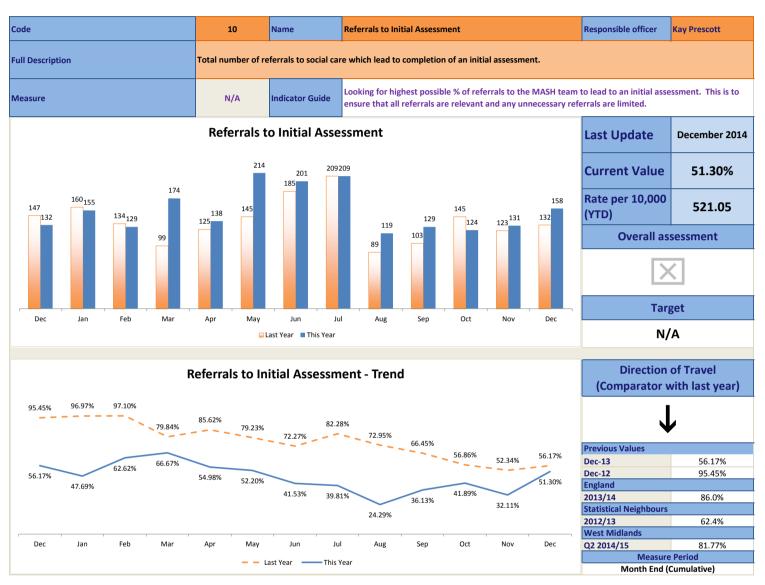
A sample audit of 148 re-referrals has been completed. This has indicated that 89 (60.14%) of either the original referral or the subsequent referrals had been incorrectly coded on the computer system. So contacts were being coded as referrals and they did not meet the criteria for progression to a referral. The elements relating to this are:

- the contact was for information only
- the outcome of the contact was no further action
- on some cases there were numbers of contacts relating to the same issue
- there were a significant number of police contacts where there had been a domestic abuse incident which did not necessitate progression to a referral
- some contacts were in relation to missing persons

This has led to the inflated figure identified above. However, the actual number of genuine re-referrals in the sample was 19.93% slightly below the national average of 23.4%. In order to remedy this situation the following actions are underway:

- the new Missing Persons module has been introduced and these are now counted seperately
- refresher training is being organised for all involved staff
- an updated monthly audit process has commenced

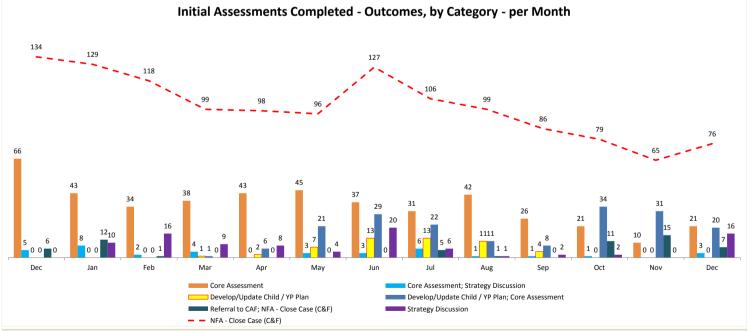
The audit concluded that there was no evidence of systematic poor case decision making, nor any evidence of a child left at direct risk.



The number of referrals leading to an initial assessment has steadily increased since August 2014, and there was an increase in December 2014 of 20.61% compared to the previous month. During December, there were 4 sibling groups of 4 children, and 4 sibling groups of 3 children who were the subject of an initial assessment.

The very low conversion rate at 51.3% compared to the national average of 86% provides further evidence of the inappropriate classification of contacts as referrals as highlighted earlier.

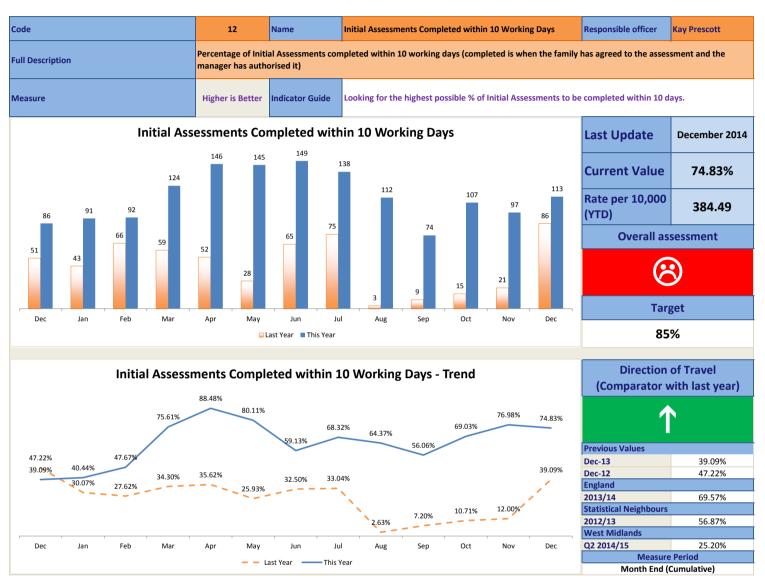




There has been a steady decline in the number of initial assessments completed since June 2014, although there has been an increase of 19.84% in the number completed in December 2014 compared to the previous month. This was due to the high number of sibling groups referred. However, the number of initial assessments per 10,000 children continues to be higher than that of our statistical neighbours and the all England average.

The number of intial assessments in December 2014 which resulted in no further action was 50.33%. This is a considerably higher rate than the recently published 2013-14 figure for all England of 19.4% and 22.2% for West Midlands authorities.

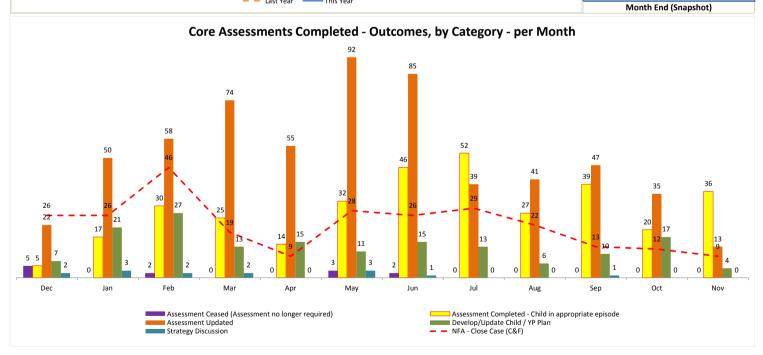
We will be undertaking further analysis of this shortly



Whilst the direction of travel compared to last year continues to improve, our local target of 85% was not met. However, performance is better than the 2013-14 all England average, our statistical neighbours and the West Midlands local authorities for the completion of initial assessments within 10 working days.

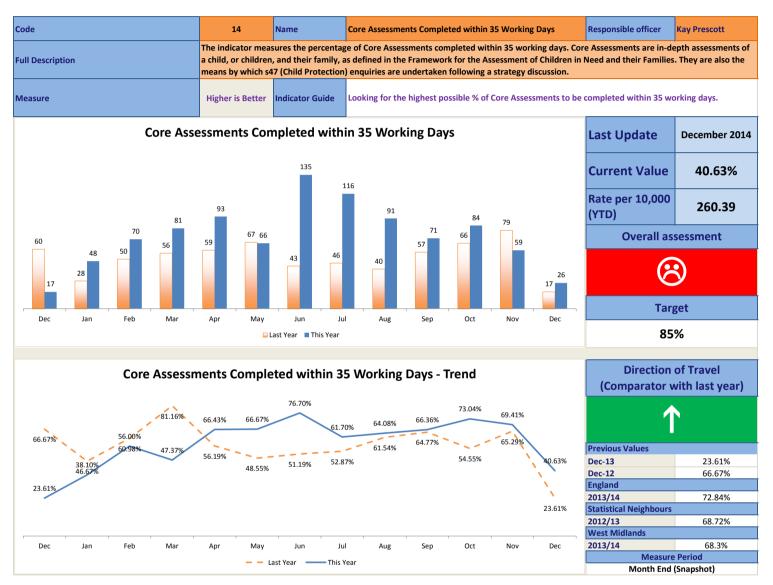
Of the 38 initial assessments completed out of timescales, 28 were completed within 15 working days and 9 within 21 working days. The one initial assessment which was completed in 22+ working days was part of a wider investigation around concerns in relation to child sexual exploitation involving a 15 year old girl. These concerns were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed in December 2014.



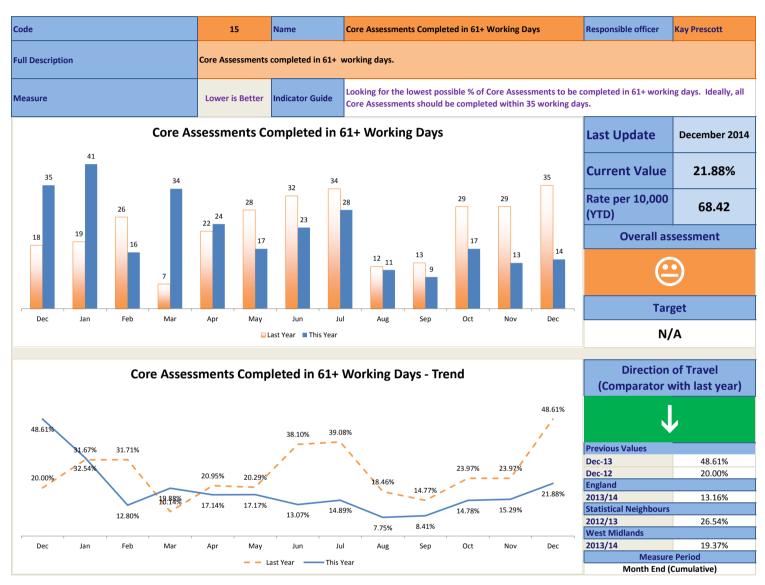


Please note that due to technical issues, the figures in the chart above showing the number of core assessments completed are transposed. The number of core assessments completed in December 2014 was 64.

There has been a drop of 24.7% in the number of core assessments completed in December 2014 compared to the previous month, and also a reduction in the number of updated core assessments completed during November and December 2014. This is due to the new, streamlined child protection processes which went live in Frameworki in November 2014 and is in line with our updated definitions of when a core assessment is required. This brings us more in line with the national average.



There has been a drop in performance of 55.93% in December 2014 compared with the previous month, and this is a repetition of performance over the same period in 2013. The number of core assessments completed within 41 days in December 2014 was the same as the previous year at 12.5%, and there was a significant improvement over 2013 in the number of core assessments completed within 50 days during December 2014 at 18.75%.



Performance in completing core assessments within 61+ working days has continued to improve during 2014 as, although the percentage has remained relatively flat since February 2014 the actual number of assessments being completed in this timescale has dropped since January 2014. The dip in performance in December 2014 mirrors the performance in 2013. A total of 14 core assessments were involved.

However, this situation will continue to be closely monitored.

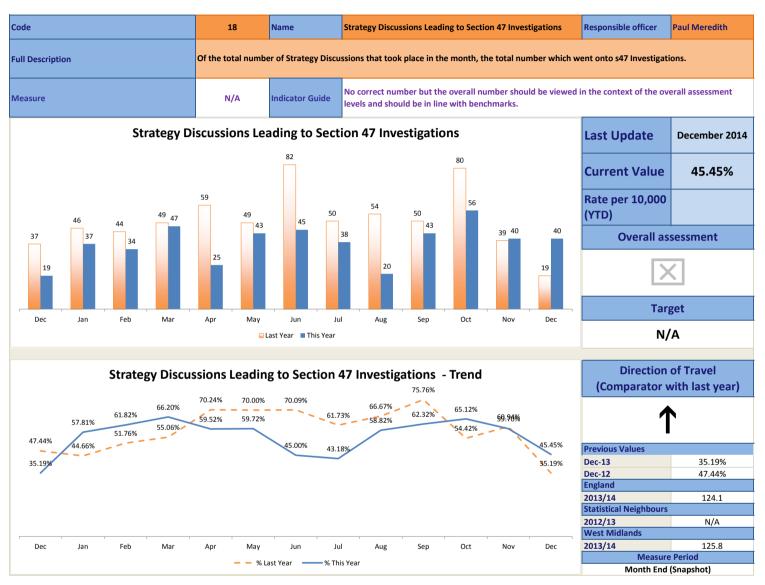


The increase of 31.34% in strategy meetings being started during December 2014 is due to sibling groups being subject to a strategy meeting during the month, including a sibling group of 9 children and another of 5 children. The increase in the number of meetings/discussions should be viewed as a positive indicator that managers appear to have more case oversight and are applying a safeguarding threshold appropriately.

As anticipated, the number of strategy meetings being started and completed in any one month has risen following the implementation of a robust child sexual exploitation (CSE) risk assessment process embedded within Frameworki, which went live on 5 November 2014. A total of 8 children were the subject of a strategy meeting following completon of the CSE risk assessment tool during December 2014.



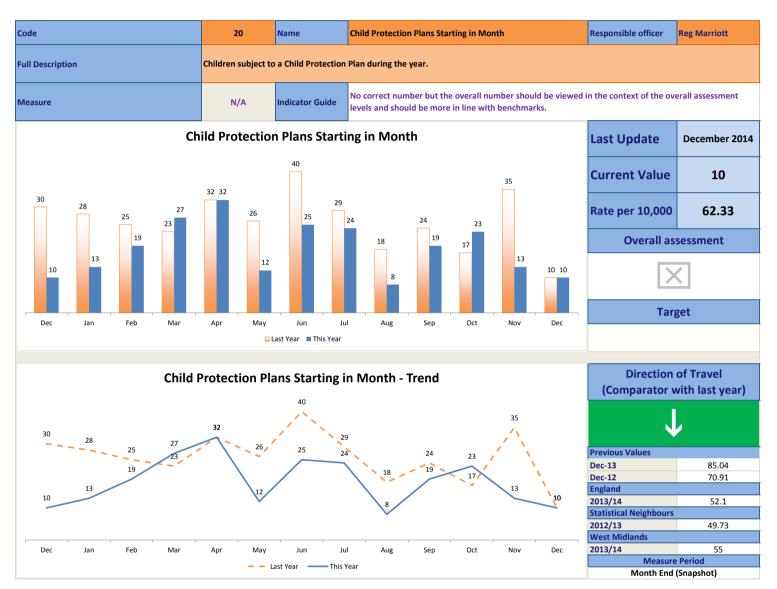
As is to be expected, MASH continue to be the primary team responsible for initiating strategy discussions and meetings.



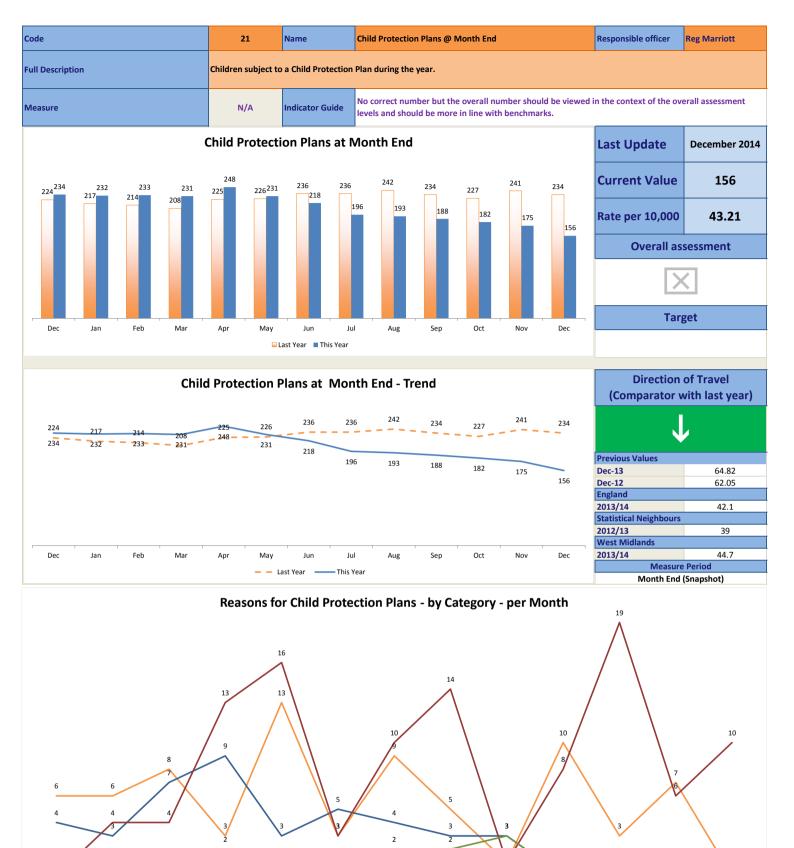
The number of strategy discussions leading to s47 investigations has been steady since August 2014.



The CIN Census data for 2013-14 shows that there has been an increase in the number of s47 investigations undertaken of just over 10% across England as a whole. The 2013/14 rate per 10,000 populaton in Herefordshire was 152.8, and it is encouraging to note that the year to date rate 124.65 per 10,000 is becoming more aligned with the national average.



13 children were considered at initial child protection conferences during December 2014, resulting in 10 children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan.



Dec-13

There continues to be a month on month decrease in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan since April 2014, with an overall reduction since this time of 37.09%. The rate per 10,000 children subject to a Plan in Herefordshire as at 31 December 2014 is 43.21, which is within range of the all England rate of 42.1 for 2013-14. The current Herefordshire rate is lower than the West Midlands 2013-14 rate of 44.7.

0

Jun-14

0

Jul-14

-Physical abuse

Aug-14

Sep-14

Oct-14

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.

0

Jan-14

Feb-14

0

Mar-14

Apr-14

Emotional abuse

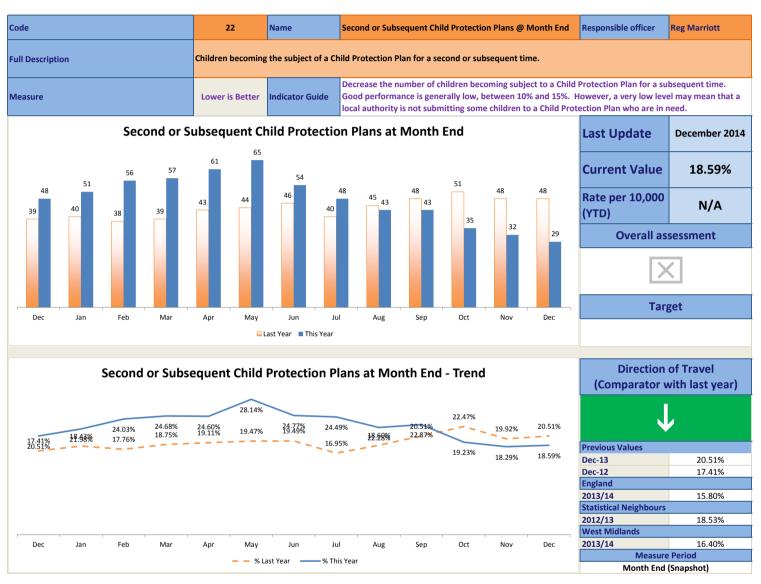
May-14

-Multiple

Dec-14

0

Nov-14

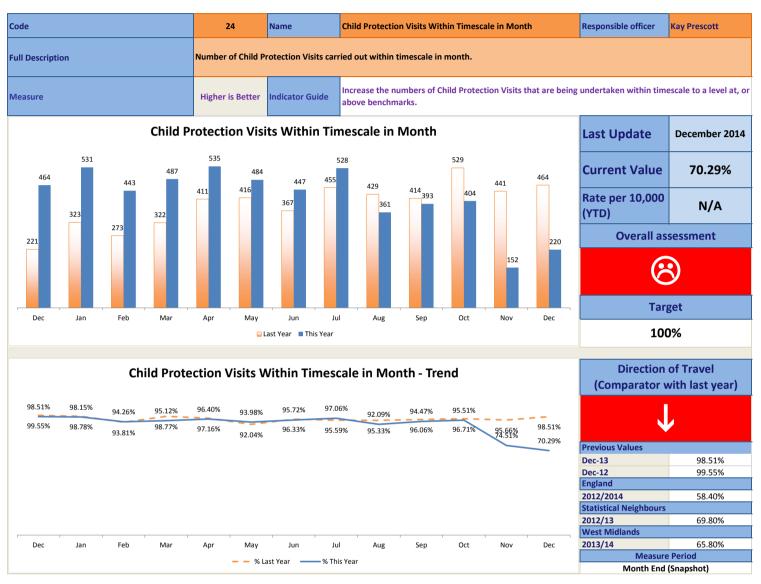


29 children are currently subject to a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time as at 31 December 2014. The primary factors that compromise parenting in these cases are domestic abuse, drug misuse and mental health issues. 13.79% of these children were subject to a Plan in 2009: 10.34% in 2010: 24.14% in 2011: 31.03% in 2012: 17.24% in 2013, and just one young person (3.45%) in 2014.

The young person concerned was a 16 year old whose Plan was discontinued in September 2014, with her two young siblings remaining subject to a CP Plan. However, in light of mother's mental health issues, difficulties in coping and increasing difficulties in the relationship between them, the young person was again made subject to a CP Plan in December 2014.



The above data shows a very positive trend over the past 12 months, and the current position reflects the riguor and greater scrutiny around children who have been subject to plans over a longer timescale. The current rate per 10,000 is below that of the all England average of 2.6%



Despite the drop in the numbers of children subject to a Child Protection Plan over the past six months of 25.8%, this is not reflected in performance with regard to the timeliness of child protection visits. However, whilst Herefordshire's local target of 100% has not been met over the past 12 months, performance has consistently been higher than the all England performance of 58.40% and the West Midlands authorities performance of 65.80% during the year 2013-14 (CIN Census data 2013-14).

As predicted in October 2014, performance in how child protection visits have been recorded in Frameworki in November and December 2014 has been compromised whilst new processes have bedded in, and practitioners familiarise themselves with the new recording processes. A meeting to discuss recording issues is scheduled for 13 January 2015.



The four children who were accommodated and also subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31 December 2014 included two siblings who were accommodated under s20 (CA1989) shortly after the initial child protection conference. They continued to be subject to a Child Protection Plan whilst accommodated due to mother's historical pattern of agreeing to the children being accommodated and then withdrawing her consent, her mental health problems and risks posed to the family by others.

The third child's Child Protection Plan was discontinued in January 2015, and the fourth child was accommodated whilst continuing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan in order to meet her specialist health needs, and parenting skills work is undertaken with her primary caregivers.



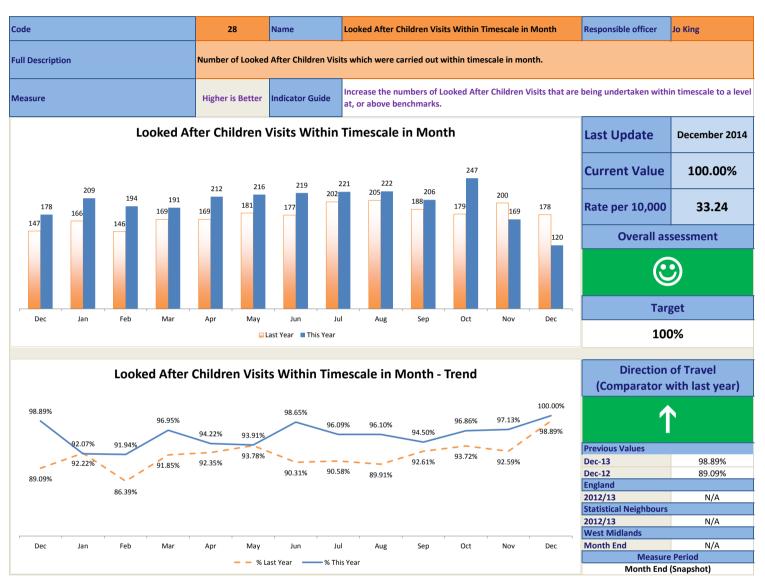
Nationally, the number of children looked after rose by 5% as at 31 March 2014. The all England rate is 60 per 10,000 children but, at a local authority level, this rate varies significantly.

In Herefordshire, the number of children looked after has steadily risen throughout 2014 (12.45% across the 12 month period) and the rate per 10,000 as at 31 December 2014 was 75.07. Whilst this is higher than the all England rate, it is lower than the Q1 figure for the West Midlands local authorities.

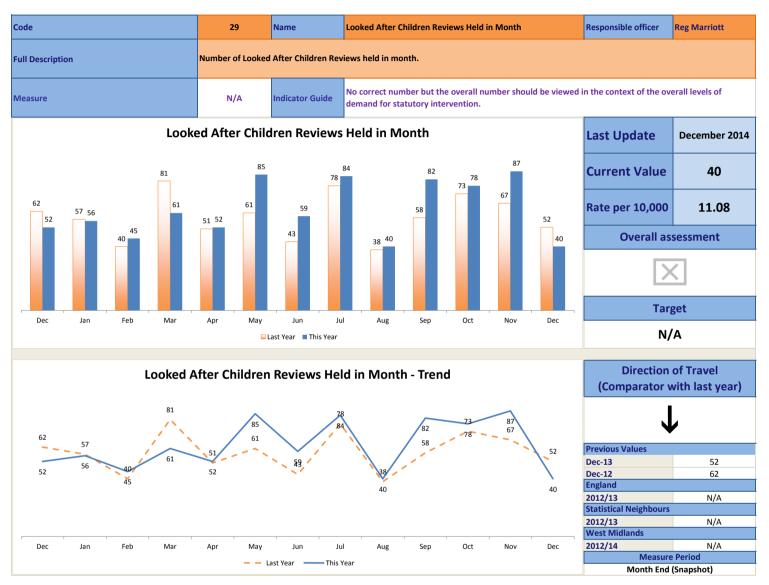
One of the areas we have noticed is a comparatively high number of young people aged 16+ years who are accommodated, and we are undertaking further investigation as to whether this is related to the Southwark judgement.



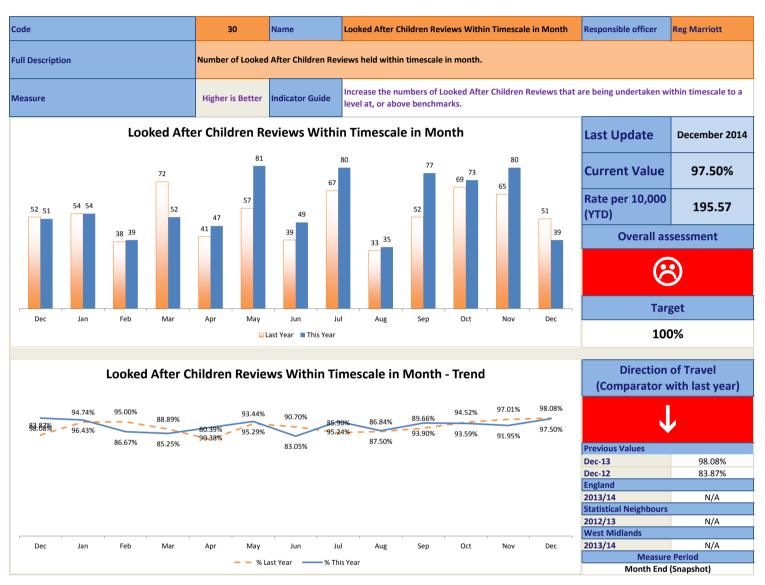
Although placement stability in Herefordshire is better than in the same month in 2013, performance was at a higher level in March and April 2014.



The timeliness of visits to Herefordshire looked after children continues to be within our locally set target, and is an improvement over 2013.



The drop in the number of LAC reviews held in December 2014 is due to the holiday period and schools not being available to attend reviews



One LAC review was out of timescale due to the IRO having to attend hospital for an urgent medical matter

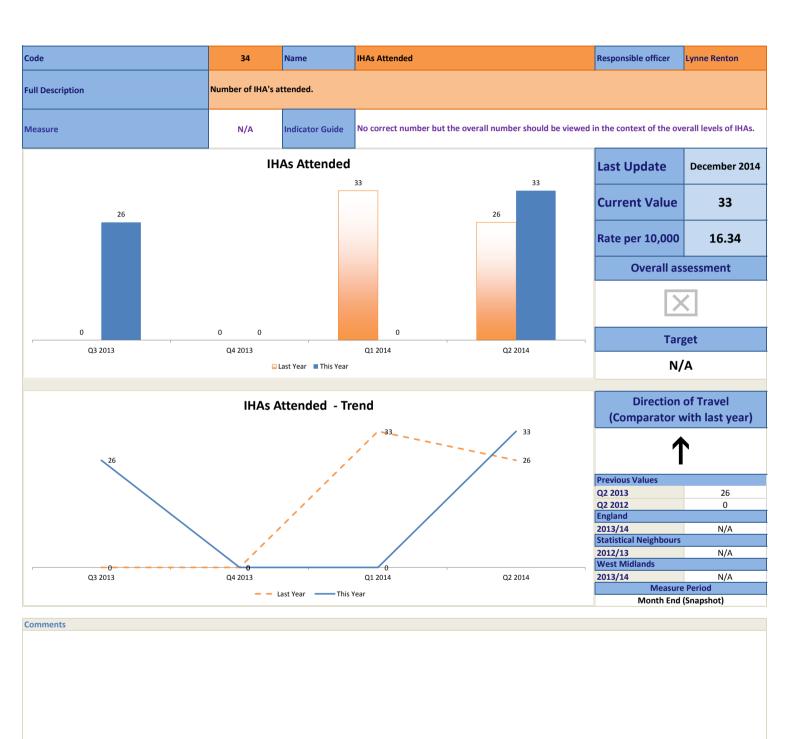


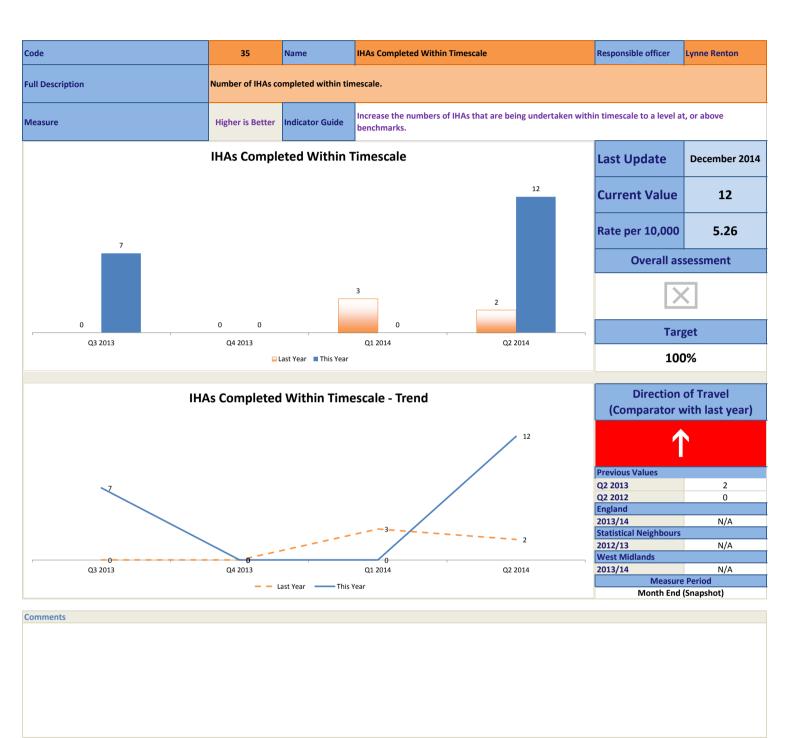
The number of contacts/referrals from Health to Social Care needs to be better reflected in table 5 above

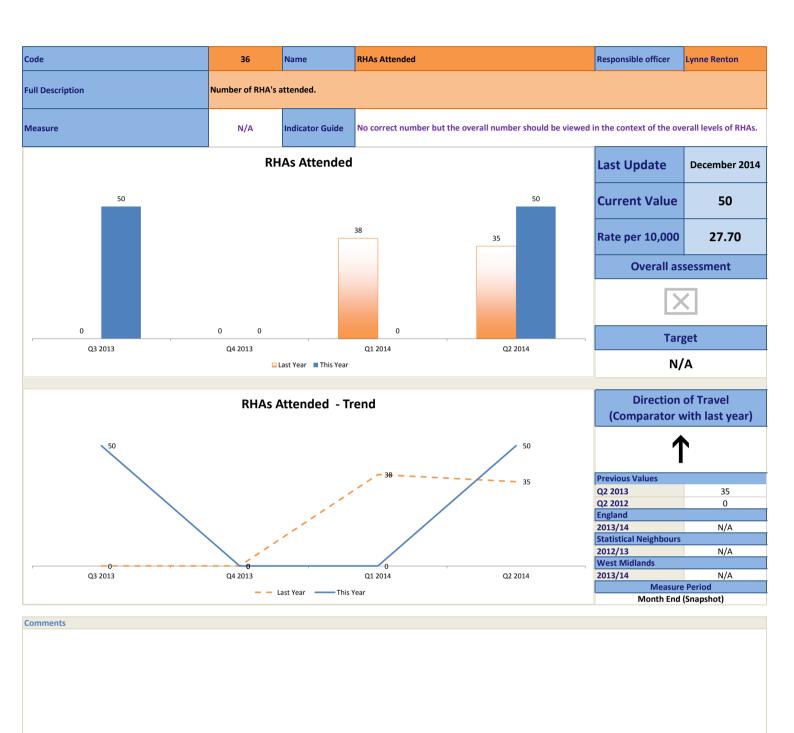


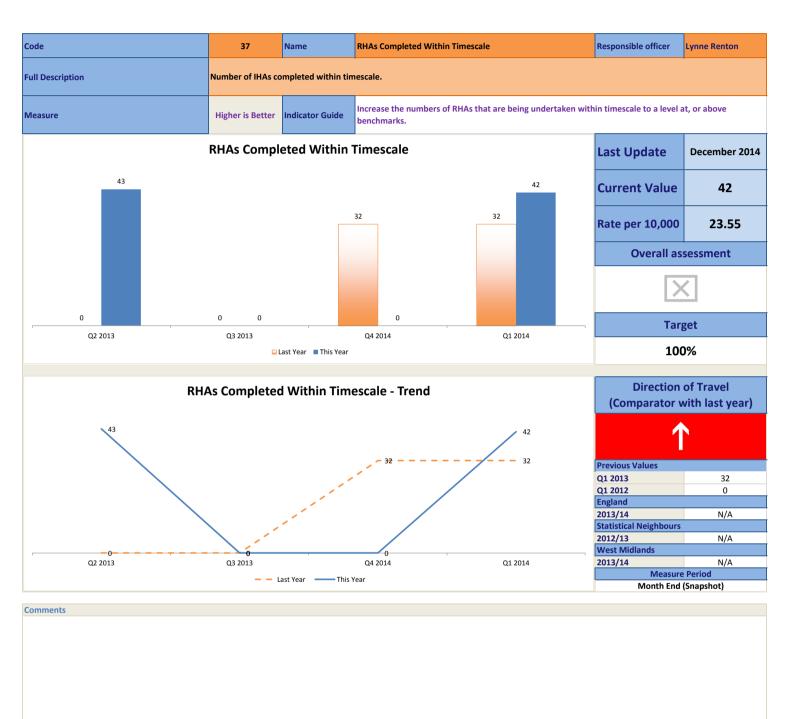


The drop in the number of child protection medicals being undertaken correlates the the drop in the number of children being subject to a Child Protection Plan









#### Herefordshire Council

Historical Data																
	Service Managers		Team Managers			Social Workers			Other Roles		Total Employees					
			SM Interim Staff			TM Interim			SW Interim Staff			SW Interim			All Interim Staff	
			as % of total			Staff as % of			as % of total			Staff as % of			as % of total	
Date	Permanent	Interim	workforce	Permanent	Interim	total workforce	Permanent	Interim	workforce	Permanent	Interim	total workforce	Permanent	Interim	workforce	<b>Grand Total</b>
31/10/2012				13	4	23.5	50.28	9	15.2				63.28	13	17.0	76.3
31/03/2013				11.59	10.1	46.6	51.93	18	25.7				63.52	28.1	30.7	91.6
30/04/2013				9.59	9	48.4	53.24	20	27.3				62.83	29	31.6	91.8
31/03/2014				11	6	35.3	48.75	26.98	35.6				59.75	32.98	35.6	92.7

	Updated Data for Last Quarter (Q3) - 30/09/2014															
	Service Managers			Team Managers			Social Workers		Other Roles		Total Employees					
			SM Interim Staff			TM Interim			SW Interim Staff			SW Interim			All Interim Staff	
			as % of total			Staff as % of			as % of total			Staff as % of			as % of total	
Date	Permanent	Interim	workforce	Permanent	Interim	total workforce	Permanent	Interim	workforce	Permanent	Interim	total workforce	Permanent	Interim	workforce	<b>Grand Total</b>
CIN North	1	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	6.49	8	55.2	1	0	0.0	11.49	8	41.0	19.5
CIN South	1	0	0.0	1	2	66.7	7.19	5.31	42.5	2	0	0.0	11.19	7.31	39.5	18.5
MASH	0	1	100.0	2	0	0.0	3	7	70.0	4.81	0	0.0	9.81	8	44.9	17.8
LAC	1	0	0.0	1	1	50.0	11.23	8	41.6	1.99	0	0.0	15.22	9	37.2	24.2
16+				1	0	0.0	3	2	40.0	7	0	0.0	11	2	15.4	13.0
CWD				1	0	0.0	0	5	100.0	2.81	0	0.0	3.81	5	56.8	8.8
Safeguarding										4.81	4.61	48.9	4.81	4.61	48.9	9.4
Quality Assurance										1	2	66.7	1	2	66.7	3.0
Adoption	1	0	0.0	0.61	0	0.0	5.31	0	0.0	2.26	0.22	8.9	9.18	0.22	2.3	9.4
Fostering				2	0	0.0	7.45	1.81	19.5	1	0	0.0	10.45	1.81	14.8	12.3
Total	4	1	20.0	11.61	3	20.5	43.67	37.12	45.9	28.68	6.83	19.2	87.96	47.95	35.3	135.9

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FTE Summaries	- upgateg for	Last Quarter	IU31 -	30/09/2014

			Vacancies/			Total
	Employees	Interims	Confirmed New	Current		Over/Under
Date	(FTE)	(FTE)	Starters	Total (FTE)	Budget	Headcount
CIN North	11.49	7.00	1.00	19.49	20.99	1.50
CIN South	11.19	7.31		18.50	20.59	2.09
MASH	9.81	5.00	3.00	17.81	13.81	-4.00
LAC	15.22	9.00		24.22	24.59	0.37
16+	11.00	2.00		13.00	13.00	0.00
CWD	3.81	5.00		8.81	5.62	-3.19
Safeguarding	4.81	4.61		9.42	8.19	-1.23
Quality Assurance	1.00	2.00		3.00	3.00	0.00
Adoption	9.18	0.22		9.40	11.43	2.03
Fostering	10.45	1.81	2.00	14.26	12.42	-1.84
Total	87.96	43.95		137.91	133.64	-4.27

Herefordshire Council