

**Summary Comments on Performance Management Report for April to August 2006  
(Key JAR Indicators)**

**Referrals**

**Key Points**

- The number of referrals to the service has increased steadily since March 2006 from 175 to 229 at the end of August 2006.
- This is in line with the requirement to lower the threshold for engagement and to ensure that the service is operating in line with family comparators
- The target set for 2006/07 has already been exceeded – target set was 220: this demonstrates positive progress in ensuring that needs are referred and identified.
- Action has been taken to manage this increase workload by maintaining agency staff in duty and by moving some referrals straight through to the long term / children in need teams

**Re-referrals**

- The number of re-referrals rose slightly in May but is now evening out again
- This undoubtedly is a reflection of the significant increase in referrals generally.
- Trend in next quarter will be monitored to try to bring the figures back in line with the target for 06/07
- This number and % of repeat referrals is still far lower than that for IPF and England

**Assessment**

**Initial Assessments (Referral to assessment rate)**

- The % of referrals leading to initial assessment is steadily rising and if the trend continues upward it is likely that the target for 06/07 of 60% will be achieved.
- Additional monitoring of contacts in duty by the additional assistant team managers is assisting with this
- Double checking of entry on a weekly basis from CLIX is also improving recording and accuracy of entry.
- The rise in referrals is an additional pressure on the duty team which is being tackled by keeping staff levels up in duty and by moving some work to the long term teams
- Performance is better than for England but further improvement is required to match IPF performance

**Initial Assessments (% of IA completed within 7 days)**

- Performance appears to have deteriorated in August but if the number and the rise in the number of assessment completed is considered this is not surprising. There were 38 more IAs completed in August than in July and 15 more than in July were completed on time.

- The 06/07 target is ambitious – 05/06 outturn was on a par with IPF performance.
- Continuous monitoring of workflow through the duty team is having positive affect and is to be maintained.

### **Core Assessments**

- The number of core assessments is rising as additional staff have been recruited.
- Further progress is required to achieve this year's target and to bring performance up to IPF level.

### **Child Protection and Looked After Children**

- The number of children on the child protection register has risen in August though not significantly in comparison with numbers across the year and in relation to the target set for the year
- The reason for this is still being investigated but it is likely to be a small shift of registering several children from one or two families
- Despite an earlier prediction and target setting for a decrease in the number of LAC, this has not proved to be the case
- Investigation of the increasing numbers of children being accommodated has suggested that some agencies have not been referring children early enough and this has meant that accommodation has been required almost immediately: service manager to assess further and take any follow-up action needed.