

GOWM Herefordshire Improvement Board

JAR Performance Improvement Action Plan

Summary Progress Report





**(This report summarises progress between 16th August 2006 and
18th September 2006)**

Overall Summary

1. The overall project plan schedule status is judged to be green .
2. No significant threats to the successful delivery of the project have emerged during the report period.

The risk log has been amended by the deletion of two items. This reflects the fact arrival and handover to the new Head of Safeguarding and Assessment (Shaun McLurg).

3. A summary of completed items, and progress against each recommendation during the period 16th August and 18th September 2006 can be found in the following pages.

LEGEND	
	Recommendation progress on track / completed
	On track
	Not on track
	No progress

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
1. Ensure that appropriate criteria are set for the involvement of the LA's professionally qualified social care staff in child protection cases	1) Review & revise threshold criteria for duty social work involvement	New criteria drawn up.	Completed.	03/06	
	2) Seek advice and challenge from high performing LAs	Advice received, noted and acted upon.	Completed.	03/06	
	3) Introduce new protocols and thresholds	Revised criteria; shared and agreed across agencies. Survey all agencies in June	Completed.	03/06	
	4) Identify additional duty team staff	Additional posts filled. All cases allocated.	The increased level of referrals are being managed through the use of additional agency staff and the reallocation of some work to other teams. Referrals are being dealt with promptly with Section 47 cases being given the correct priority.	04/06	
	5) Review process management and case handling in duty and consider options for change.	Improvement on PIs for timely assessment: PI DIS 1704: CF/C64	Increased referral level is impacting.	06/06	
	6) Publish new criteria protocols and procedures	All staff using new procedures and revised thresholds.	Completed.	04/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
2. Ensure that these criteria are clearly understood by all concerned and consistently applied in practice	1) Review and update management and supervision system for duty social workers	PI Numbers of referrals of CIN leading to Initial Assessments on target: PI CH143 PI Number of Core Ass on target – PI CH145 Supervision log audited 6/12		04/06	
	2) Practice, file and peer audit system to be developed	Mthly file audit; Quarterly Practice audit; Annual peer audit	Monthly audits are being undertaken with any issue arising being reported to the head of Safeguarding and Assessment.	06/06	
	3) Establish new independent practice and performance team	Team Manager in post and system designed. Team in operation and auditing regularly	Completed	6/06	
	4) Confirm LSCB arrangements	LSCB established and reviewing use of new criteria; training post and development post recruitment. Guidance reviewed and reissued	The HSCB Training and Development post has been advertised and the HSCB Development Manager post re-advertised.	06/06	
	5) New threshold booklet widely circulated	Managers to check staff awareness in supervision and training sessions. Review appropriateness of referrals in audits.	Completed.	4/06	
	6) Deliver training workshops for CCM consultants 6/52	Workshops running March 06 onwards		12/06	
	7) Information Sharing Protocol to be drafted to CYPP and agreed.	IS Protocol in place and agreed by CYP's Partnership.	Subject to discussions with West Mercia Constabulary.	06/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
4. Ensure that a written record is made of all contacts with the social care duty team	1) Redesign and implement a new system for receipt and recording of referrals	PI Numbers of referrals of CIN are on target All duty cases are allocated.	Completed.	04/06	
	2) Embed the new process and monitor regularly.	Weekly case tracking and monthly file audit	Completed.	05/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
3. Ensure there is an effective workforce strategy to address the recruitment and retention problems within the local authority's social care service.	1) Recruit temporary staff to cover all vacant posts	All post filled in short term.	Work is ongoing to recruit permanent qualified social workers (interviews for two social worker posts are scheduled for 21 st September 2006) and an ongoing programme of advertisements is in place.	3/06	
	2) Advertise for social work staff: Develop social work recruitment campaign with Consultants Tribal	All posts filled Good response to adverts.		Consideration is also being given to a proposal from Human Resources to recruit American social workers through the UK Pro Agency.	
	3) Seek views of existing staff and seek views to inform strategy	Increasing rate of retention.	Completed.	04/06	
	4) Collate data and analyse current and future social care workforce requirements as basis for medium to long term plan	Improved retention rates – to be monitored. Reduced vacancy rates - to be monitored quarterly.	Retention rates are at a high level.	05/06	
	5) Link with & seek consultancy from CWDC to Widen workforce strategy to interagency children's services focus	Social care workforce needs and issues are fully embedded within wider workforce strategy.	Ongoing alongside development of Corporate Workforce Strategy.	05/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
5. Ensure there is a single referral assessment and service planning framework for children in need which is consistently and effectively applied in practice	1) Build on existing Child Concern Model to develop and agree <i>Change for Children</i> Child Need Framework	QV Rec.1 as step to CAF CCM is updated and incorporated within CAF whole system approach.		6/06	
	2) Establish interagency common processes group (CAF) to respond to national CAF guidance, to design local response and to develop an implementation plan for the County	New CAF, building on CCM, is produced and disseminated. No of CAFs completed as measure – (Local PI)	Completed.	7/06	

	3) Plan and develop a pilot project (S Wye and Children with disabilities) to test out new child need framework and to introduce common assessment system and lead professionals: consider role of referral co-ordinators and concern panels.	Learning from pilot is captured to inform new model. PI targets for referral. No of children identified with additional needs in pilot area.		9/06 -	
	4) Improve and develop existing Directory of services for children QV Rec. 15.	Directory published	The review and compilation of updated resource directory will take place within the EYDCP Service under the direction of Ros Hatherill.	12/0 6	
	5) Identify Lead Officer for Information Sharing Index and consider requirements	Index implemented		10/0 6	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME STAY SAFE					
6. Ensure the training, guidance and support needs of all staff contributing to the implementation of the Child Concern Model are addressed both in terms of the time required to undertake the tasks involved and the necessary skills	1) Training for new CAF and CCM to be planned and implemented	Programme and curriculum set up. Facilitators in place.	A programme of training is ongoing.	9/06 LR	
	2) roll out of training sessions	No of staff trained and using CAF. No of CAFs completed.		10/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME BE HEALTHY					
7. Ensure effective implementation of the multi-agency health care planning procedures for Looked After children	1) Review and audit all LAC records to check for health care plan	Audit evidence available. PI to check target: PI C19. CC Review chairs to monitor assessments completed	All LAC have a health care plan.	1/06	
	2) Clear procedures for health assessments to be agreed	Procedures in place. Review chairs to monitor actions to be completed.		3/06	
	3) Develop plan for implementation of all HC Standards	Hold HCS event 27/6/06 & Draft implementation plan	Work is ongoing to implement the National Healthy Care Standards.	10/06	
8. Improve access to occupational therapy services	1) Immediate review of OT services to identify gaps and needs	Increase in number of OTs Standard is access to assessment within 13 weeks: (Local PI)	Completed. The locally set 13 week target continues to be met (this is monitored on a weekly basis). Interviews for a team leader will take place on 6 th October 2006.	4/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME BE HEALTHY					
9. Ensure appropriate social care support for the families of children with learning difficulties and disabilities	1) Family support including short term breaks to be specified and commissioned. (Link to recent Fostering Inspection)	New service available. Monitor increase in no of breaks provided. Audit all cases every 6/12 to monitor take up		6/06	
	2) Improved support and care planning to be developed through mapping NSF / ECM pathways through development of CAF	Local care pathways in place and linking to CAF processes. No of CAF and AF assessment completed	The level of assessments undertaken in the last 6 months by the Disability Team has increased by 150%. The employment of 2 additional Family Support Workers had contributed to the management of the additional workload.	11/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME BE HEALTHY					
10. Ensure better co-ordinated transition planning for all children with learning difficulties and disabilities	1) Transitions steering group with adults' service to be set up to develop strategy.	Needs analysis / commissioning plan in place and joint transitions strategy with adult services Joint protocol in place between adults and children's services	A second draft plan is being developed.	3/06	
	2) Appoint new transitions workers & Implement new processes	Appointment of staff June 06 Improved planning for CYP. Monitor through PI SC5026 Survey CYP and carers to QA.	Completed. A new transitions worker is now in post. The pilot multi-agency single meeting for all referrals to the Kite Centre and CDC is continuing.	7/06 12/06	
11. Improve communication with parents and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in terms of both the assessment of need and planning of provision	3) To develop and implement clear standards for effective communication with cyp and families – in person, in writing and also through website	Standards drafted and consulted on. Continuing system for parental contact in place Survey parents to check progress.	A questionnaire is being developed which will assist in gathering current views and arrangements and ideas for improvements. A further workshop with Philippa Russell is scheduled to take place on 18 th October 2006.	9/06	
	2) Disability workshops to be arranged with support of Council for Disabled Children	Parents & Carers views recorded & checked out regularly – 6/12 audits Dates of meetings – Sept / Oct		10/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ECM OUTCOME BE HEALTHY					
14. Improve access to hospital in-patient provision to meet children and young people's mental health needs (tier 4 CAMHS)	1) Regional review of needs for Tier 4 service, recent patterns.	Needs analysis completed for the region. Clear criteria for nature and scale of commissioning	Further developments are dependent on the outcome of the regional strategy development which is awaited.	2/06 6/06	
	2) Regional PFI bid	Plan in place. Bid submitted	Completed.	2/06	
	3) Local review of all tiers of provision	Commissioning criteria in place. Link with Joint Agency meeting process.		9/06	
	4) Consult with cyp and families, plan and provide	Survey views and respond to these.		12/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING					
16. Improve Housing provision for both single young people and families	1) Identify £500,000 capital for single-person accommodation for vulnerable young people and care leavers	6-10 units of additional accommodation for care leavers off the open market. An additional 2 self-contained flats are being provided in partnership with a local housing association. Monitor PI SC5026.	A third additional unit of accommodation for care leavers has been acquired.	6/06	
	2) Safeguarding and Assessment Service represented on commissioning and operational groups for Supporting People	Attendance and influence on agenda. PI % of Care Leavers at age 19 years living in suitable accommodation			
	3) Protocol between housing providers and Safeguarding and Assessment Service re handling of CYP and families and homelessness where tenancy / housing is at risk	Protocol in place and working & reviewed quarterly Affordable housing targets		6/06	

	<p>3) The Council to bring homelessness and Housing Advice Services back in-house with focus on prevention including family mediation and a Safe Moves Project.</p>	<p>Improved further preventive information and advice service.</p> <p>Reduced numbers of homeless.</p> <p>Corporate reporting of strategic PIs - Use of B&B</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>The number of families housed in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation has reduced from 40 on 1st April 2006 to 13 at the end of August 2006. The figures for those housed in B&B for more than 6 weeks has fallen from 28 to 2 over the same period.</p>	<p>4/06</p>	
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JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
SERVICE MANAGEMENT					
12. Improve action planning to deliver strategic aims and objectives and, in particular, ensure that associated resourcing needs are met	1) Produce CYP Plan linked to LAA	CYP Plan published		4/06	
	2) Partnership to have workshop on governance and adopt Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework (DfES et al) (July 06)	Clear governance and accountability arrangements JP & C Policy adopted and in place	Completed. The partnership governance arrangements were agreed at the CYPPB meeting on 11 th September 2006.	7/06	
	3) CYP's Plan Forward delivery Action Plan to provide overarching strategic framework for all other plans		The C&YP Plan Forward Delivery Plan was approved by the CYPPB on 11 th September 2006.	6/06	
	4) To work with VSC through The Alliance on ensuring active engagement	VCS reps on CYPP's Board. VSC involved in all aspects of commissioning	Completed.	11/06	

	5) Partners to identify all resources for children in the area and to consider options for joint funding single or pooled funding arrangements.	List of all resources available. Progress on joint commissioning & pooling. % Increase in activity.	Service priorities and budget implications for the medium term plan have been submitted to deadline set by the Director of Resources.	9/06	
	6) This information to feed into refresh and update of CYP Plan in Autumn 2006	Revised and updated CYP's Plan.		11/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
SERVICE MANAGEMENT					
13. Improve information systems within the LA's social care services to enable better management oversight and evaluation of service effectiveness	1) Ensure that social care information needs are identified with and managed within <i>Herefordshire Connects</i> including review and specification as an urgent issue – for sign up by July 06	Improved data quality. Whole system approach in place – linking to council-wide system		7/06	
	2) To seek external advice on system requirements to ensure that new ICT systems will met children's services requirements.	Workshops held with managers. Requirements explored and specified. Informed decisions.	Visits to Shropshire and Worcestershire have been undertaken as part of the IPC Project.	6/06	
	3) Children's Services to contribute to specification, design and implementation of new systems	Clear specification in place identifying children's services needs – incl. ICS and CAF.	Incorporated in Herefordshire Connects Corporate Transition Programme.	7/06	

	<p>4) Interim system Performance Management arrangements to be put in place – file audits including Climbié, supervision recording, and collation of information re referrals, assessments and disposals on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>Data quality audits in place monthly.</p> <p>PIs on assessment rates and timeliness of assessments.</p> <p>QV P30 –32 for more on performance management arrangements and reporting.</p> <p>Internal audit sampling and audited regularly.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>	<p>5/06</p>	
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JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
SERVICE MANAGEMENT					
15. Improve co-ordination of consultation with children and young people to support their participation in strategic planning and review	1) Ensure effective co-ordination of all consultations with cyp through Herefordshire Partnership adviser	Liaison system in place to ensure this happens Maintain local timetable for activities.	The Youth Council is undertaking a major event on 21 st October 2006 which views of children and young people will be sort.	6/06	
	2) To produce and develop a framework for the involvement of all cyp and families.	Framework in place. Review every 6/12 to ensure implementation effective.		9/06	
	3) To set up Shadow CYP's Partnership Board	Shadow Board meeting and reps attending /influencing CYPP Board by March 06 Audit minutes 6/12 to assess effectiveness of involvement.	Completed latest meeting of Shadow Partnership Board – 11 th September 2006.	3/06	
	4) To involve parents and carers in CYP's Partnership Board	Parent reps attending CYP's Board		12/06	
	5) C& YP's Youth Council to be enhanced with engagement of relevant LAC	LAC engaged. Monitor no of attendances quarterly.		3/06	

	6) To adopt and implement Hear by Rights Standard	Monitor use of standard – nos using process to be monitored.		10/06	
	7) To enhance Children's service Directory to ensure it is easily accessible and able to be used by cyp and families.	Directory published. Survey uptake.		12/06	

JAR recommendation	Action Milestones	Success Criteria	Summary Progress to date	Due date	On track?
SERVICE MANAGEMENT					
17. Strengthen performance management processes involving elected members and senior officers at all levels, including the Partnership Board and the LA's Children' Scrutiny Committee	1) To draw up performance management system for the Children's Services, which can deliver the requirements of DfES Children's Services Improvement Cycle and fit with the Council's Performance Improvement Cycle.	System documented including monitoring system. Regular data set available to track progress monthly.	An interim report from IPC can be found elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting. The advertisement for the Lead Performance Management post has been placed and interviews are scheduled for early October. A Performance Management Group is now meeting weekly in order to develop performance management arrangements in line with corporate policy and ensure that requirements are met. A Management Group (Project Board) has also been established to manage the IPC Project. A timetable on new IT systems has been agreed which will see them operational in 2008.	9/06	
	2) Ensure regular performance reports to Lead Member, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet	System in place and operating: Quarterly outcome performance available. QV P31.	Ongoing.	6/06	

	<p>3) To agree governance and accountability arrangements for CYP's Partnership Board including responsibility for performance monitoring of Forward Delivery Plan for CYP's Plan.</p>	<p>TORs and governance of CYPP Board delivered and agreed.</p> <p>Forward D Plan issued and being monitored</p>	<p>Completed – agreed at Board meeting on 11th September 2006.</p> <p>Plan issued.</p>	<p>9/06</p> <p>6/06</p>	
	<p>4) CYP's Partnership to agree on process for monitoring progress on CFC, delivery of CYP's Plan.</p>	<p>All partners involved in designing and delivering FD Plan</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring on outcomes in place.</p>		<p>9/06</p>	