Children's Services Performance Report

Quarter 3 2019-20







Executive Summary

What's working well?

- The Cardiff and Vale **Regional Safeguarding Board Awards** evening was held in November. This was a successful event and the Adolescent Service won an award recognising the commitment of the staff in the service. The annual **Bright Sparks awards** were also held during the quarter and were once again a success, celebrating the achievements of our children who are looked after and care leavers.
- Approximately 120 of our children went to **Winter Wonderland** and the sheer joy was inspiring. In addition to this, young people from the Youth Offending Service made and sold **Christmas wreaths** and spent the proceeds on gifts for our care leavers.
- The **Adolescent Resource Centre** has been developed to provide a regional service and is now operating jointly with the Vale of Glamorgan. The soft launch will take place early in Quarter 4.

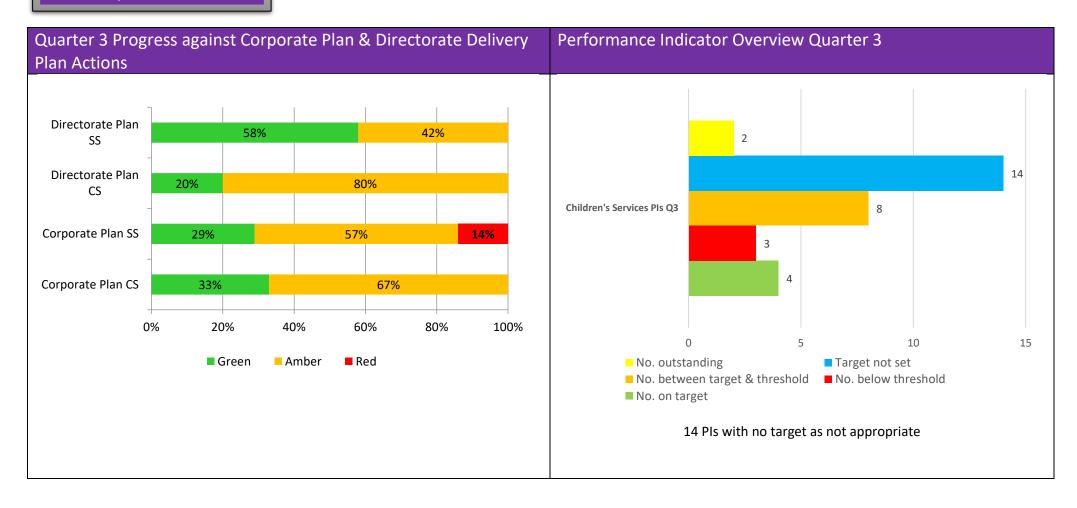
What are we worried about?

- **Performance in Children's Services** continues to be closely monitored and the number of children looked after continues to be a concern (972 at 31st December from 885 at the end of Quarter 3 2018-19). This does, however, include increasing numbers of children in kinship and family placements. A further area of concern is monitoring the timeliness of children looked after reviews and statutory visits, which have been affected in recent quarters by recording issues in the review team. However, focussed work has had an impact and improvement is anticipated by year end.
- **Children's Services workforce** recruitment to vacant social worker posts is ongoing, but progress continues to be slow. The Children's Services vacancy position for the quarter is 32.9%, with on average 62 / 188 posts vacant during quarter 3.
- Resource to meet demand following the planned implementation of the Extended Entitlement of care leavers.

What do we need to do?

- Key priority actions are underway in 4 key areas placements / fostering, accommodation and delivery of the assessment unit, practice and workforce.
 - o **Fostering** conversion of 31 currently ongoing full assessments to approved foster carers.
 - o Assessment unit delivery by October 2020.
 - o **Practice** quality assurance and performance in key areas.
 - Children's Services workforce implement market supplement by April 2020 whilst longer term proposals are developed to retain social workers in Cardiff, through ensuring competitive rates of pay and ensuring that social workers are fully supported.
- **Extended Entitlement** of care leavers work in relation to the proposal will take into account the existing structure and capacity of the service to meet the requirements of the proposed new duty.

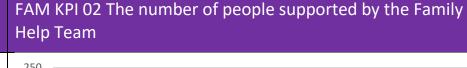
Quarterly Performance



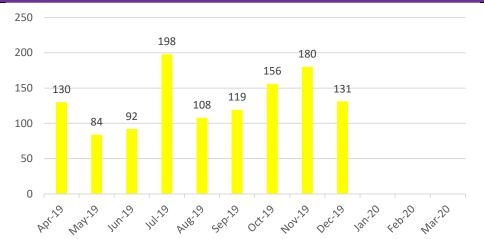
Key Performance Indicators – Corporate Plan

FAM KPI 01 The number of people supported through the Gateway

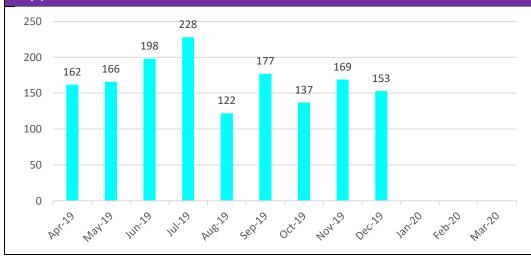
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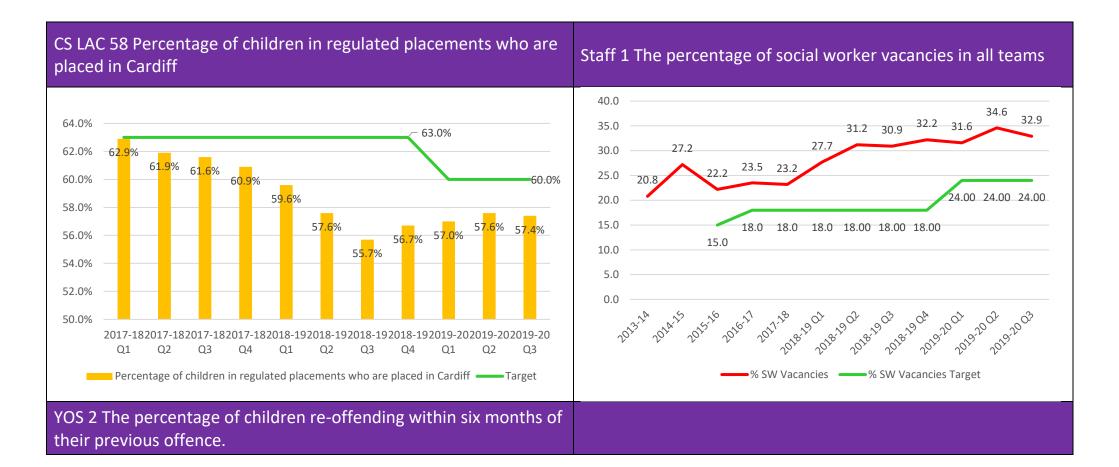
FAM KPI 03 The number of people supported by the Support4Families Team.

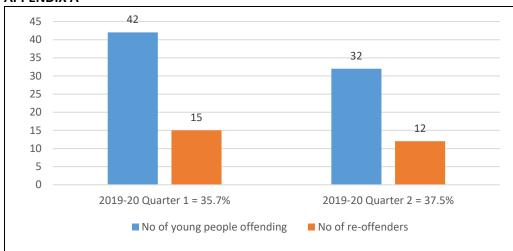


FAM KPI 01 The **number of people supported through the Family Gateway** = 2,187 = The number of enquiries and well-being contacts.

FAM KPI 02 The number of people supported by the Family Help Team = 467. Number of households = 219.

FAM KPI 03 The number of people supported by the Support4Families Team = 459.





CS LAC 58 The percentage of children in regulated placements who are placed in Cardiff = 57.4% (399 / 695). The PI counts only children placed within the LA boundaries and excludes children placed in neighbouring authorities close to their home area and attending Cardiff schools. Please see page 22 for a breakdown of placements.

Staff 1 = 32.9% **vacancy rate** for Quarter 3. For more detail, please see Workforce section on page 23.

YOS 2 The percentage of children re-offending within six months of their previous offence = 37.5% (12/32). Time lag in reporting Quarter 3 result due 31^{st} March 2020. 12/32 young people re-offended committing a further 30 offences. Re-offenders committed an average 2.5 further offences. 83% of re-offenders have committed offences of less or the same seriousness and 50% re-offended within 3 months of the original sentence / outcome.

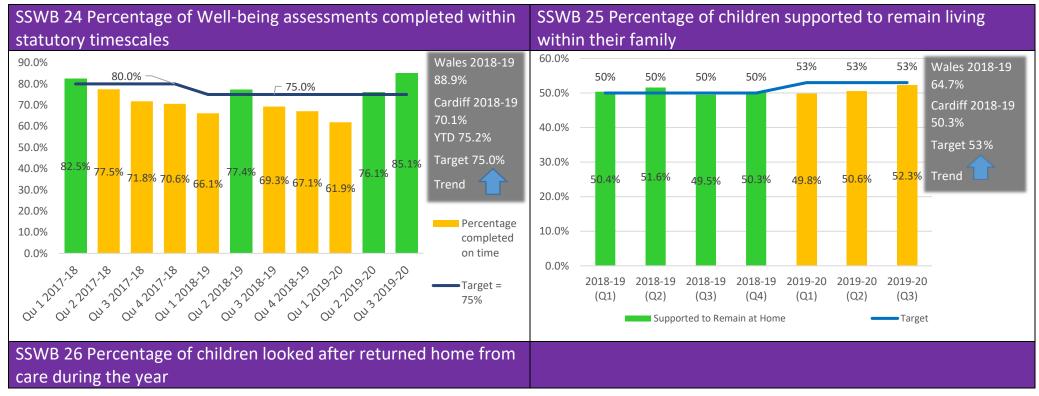
Prevention and Well-being / Independence

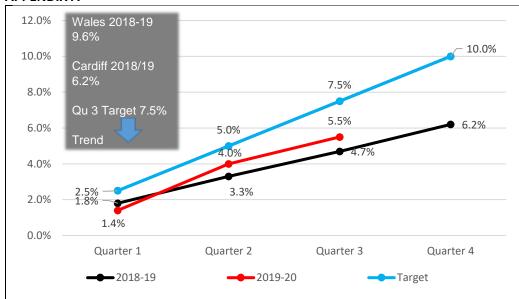
What's working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
Full launch of the Gateway and Family Help Service took place in November.	 A tool to measure outcomes for families (distance travelled) is required to ensure that people receive the right support at the right 	Draft framework developed – pending sign off from other agencies.
 Processes between the Gateway, Family Help and Support for Families have improved. 	time.	
Support4Families have a full permanent team.	 Need to ensure that Support4Families do not absorb cases which need to be referred to statutory Children's Services. 	 Complete case audits and review service improvements and delivery.
 Social worker has been identified to specialise in completing assessments for young carers when requested to identify any support required. 	 Young carers and parents may not have access to services they find helpful and may be reluctant to contact the Gateway. 	 The formal launch of the Gateway provided families with advice on their services; the YMCA will support and advise parents and families about the Gateway.
 Social worker from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub is available for advice and support to early help services on safeguarding matters. 	 Voice of the young person needs to be further embedded in the Youth Offending Service. 	 Ensure we are systematically engaging young people in service design and development, ensuring the child's voice is as the heart of what we do.

• Engagement with young carers is working well – Introduction of a full set of procedures in the • Work is in progress. e.g. work undertaken via the YMCA to inform the Youth Offending Services in line with the development of a co-produced service National Minimum Standards. specification for a new service. Enhance partnership working - work closely with the Gaps in partnership working in the Youth Offending Service. Youth Service, Community Safety Partnership and the third sector to embed sharing intelligence and good practice. Management capacity to drive forward key Immediate appointment of additional interim areas and emerging needs. management capacity and urgent review of permanent capacity required. Deliver further work to engage parents as partners. Need to engage families to offer holistic support and to engage parents as safeguarding partners. Consider placing a Youth Offending Service worker in • Lack of Youth Offending Service presence in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub to identify cases the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub to ensure at the front door and respond with appropriate robust response to crime. provision. Arrangements are in place for a survey to be More work to do fully embed rights and developed to for care leavers, and to work coparticipation in everything we do. productively with care leavers to effectively develop the service to meet their needs. A session is being arranged to engage children and Delay in progressing development of Parent young people in the review of the Corporate Participation Charter. Parenting Strategy. Implement the Mind Of My Own app which will give young people an instant and convenient way to express their views, wishes and feelings, and social workers a smart way to record them.

• Implement next phase of locality working model.

Work required to understand the impact of poverty on families. Page 1.1. Page 1.2. Pag



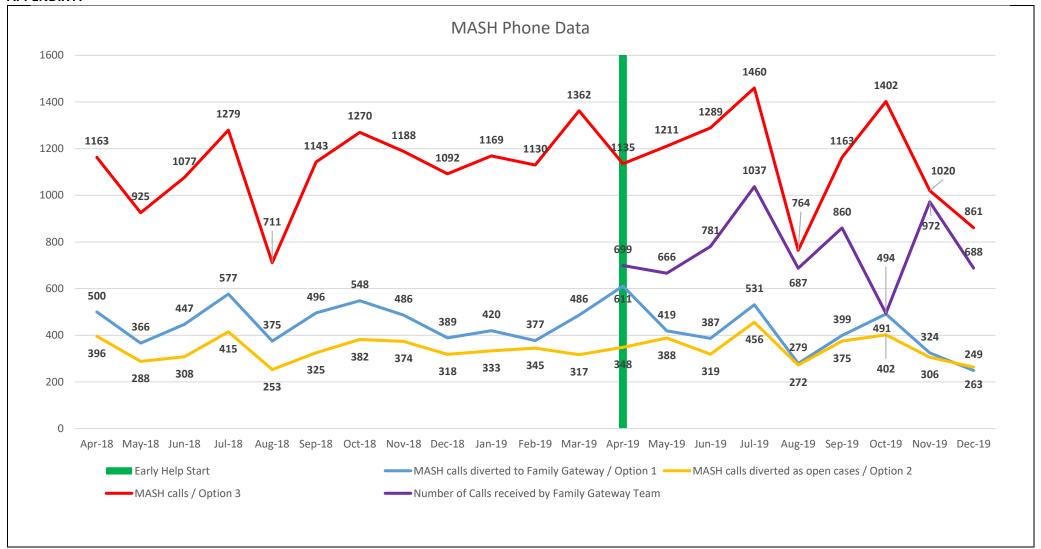


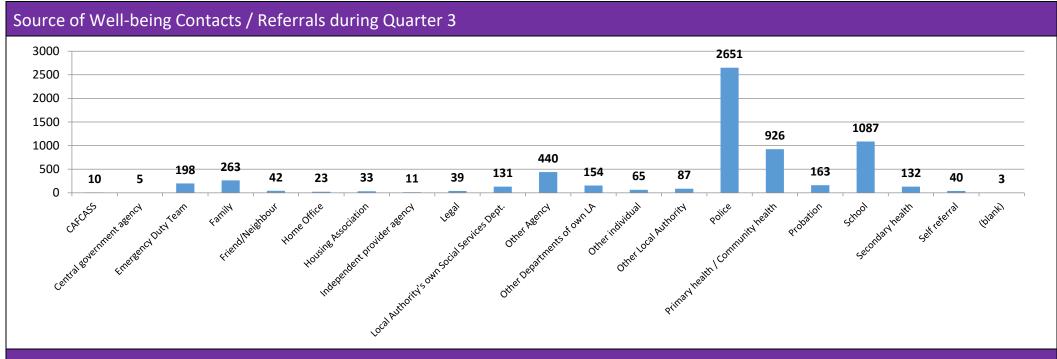
SSWB 24 = 843 / 991 = 85.1% of well-being assessments were completed within statutory timescales during Q3. Performance is above target despite a 5% increase in the number of assessments that were completed this quarter, 991 compared to 947 during Quarter 2. This is in the context of a 20% decrease in the number of contacts requiring a well-being assessment, 538 compared to 673 in Quarter 2. The number of well-being assessments that were incomplete at the end of Quarter 3 was 314, an increase of 6.4% from 295 at the end of quarter 2, however, only 34 were out of time compared with 98 in Quarter 2.

SSWB 25 = % of **children supported to remain living within their family** = 1,067 / 2,039. Of the 2,039 children with a Care and Support Plan at 31st Dec 2019, 1,067 were being supported to live at home (i.e. were not being looked after).

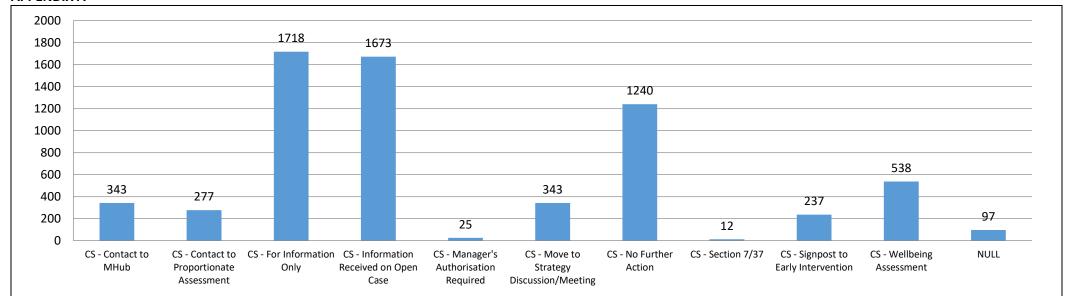
SSWB 26 = 5.5% of **children looked after have returned home from care** during this year to date = 61 / 1,117. Quarter 3 target = 7.5% Provisional result. Actual result will be populated from the Looked After Child Census. Of the 1,117 children who have been looked after during the year to date, 61 have returned home. This PI is cumulative, and performance will improve as we progress throughout the year. In addition to the 61 children who were returned home from care, 168 children were in the care of their parents, but remain subject to a Care Order, and 126 children were placed with relative carers. It is noted that our judiciary have indicated a reluctance to discharge Care Orders, and continue to make new Care Orders as opposed to other orders, e.g. Supervision Orders.

MASH diverted calls

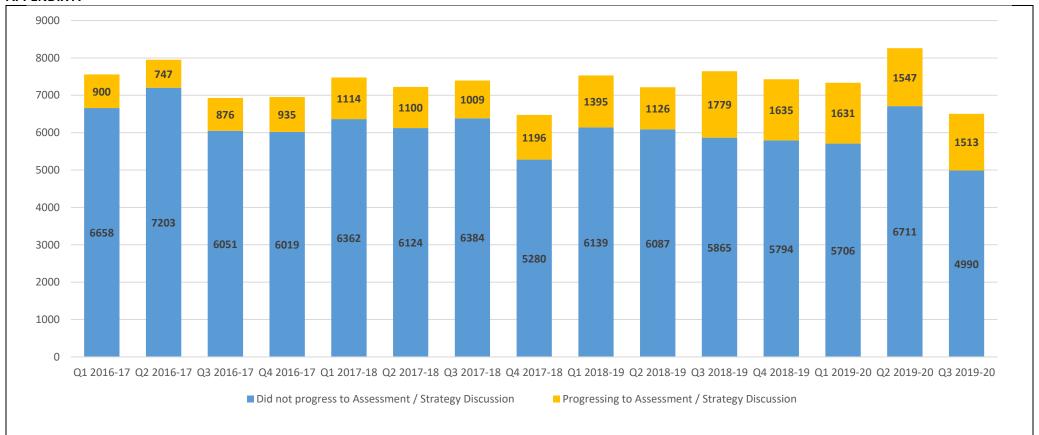




Outcome of Well-being Contacts / Referrals during Quarter 3



Proportion of Contacts Requiring Assessment



During Quarter 3, 23.3% (1,513 / 6,503) of contacts have progressed to assessment / strategy discussion, compared to 18.7% (1,547 / 8,258) last quarter.

Assessment and outcome focused care planning / Care & Support – including Transition

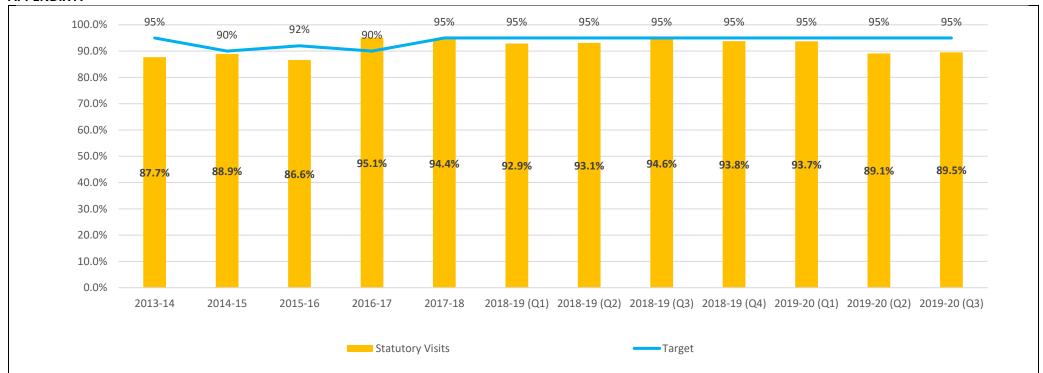
What's working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
 Tools to measure the effectiveness of Signs of Safety have been developed. 	 Need a better understanding of the impact that Signs of Safety is having on families. 	Further develop the reporting system to gather feedback about the impact of Signs of Safety on families.
Regular briefings are held, and attended by		
colleagues from Health and Education.	 Delay in implementation of care planning protocol. 	Care planning protocol to be sign off early in Quarter 4.
Case reflection meetings are also held regularly		
are working well - champions are now holding these meetings within the teams.	 Need to ensure that the service is ready for the implementation of the regional Transition Protocol for young people with learning 	Self assessment tool being developed.
Quality Assurance of CareFirst forms for use of	disabilities and Additional Learning Needs.	
Signs of Safety has commenced and a system will be developed to feedback to team managers to	Regional Transition Protocol needs to be adapted	Protocol to be adapted.
support them to instil confidence within their teams.	to include all young people who are transitioning.	1 Totocoi to be adapted.
	Joint Continuing Care Protocol cannot be finalised	Awaiting publication of guidance.
 Performance in respect of timely completion of well-being assessments improved and exceeded 	until Welsh Government guidance is published.	
target with 85.1% being completed within statutory timescales (target is 75%).	 Need to develop a shared understanding of partnership working to manage transitions for children with mental health issues. 	Obtain Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services agreement to draft operational policy.
Regional Transition Protocol for young people		
with learning disabilities and Additional Learning Needs developed and ready for sign off.	 Electronic induction pack has been delayed due to issues with SharePoint 	SharePoint is being set up for the Induction Pack and policies to accessible to all workers.
 Agreement reached regarding pilot of integrated processes for continuing care. 	 Improvement in completion of the backlog of children looked after review reports in the Independent Reviewing Officer Service in Quarter 	Maintain focused work to complete children looked after review reports.

- Partnership working with Health colleagues and third sector organisations across both visual impairment and hearing impairment within Adult and Children's Services is developing well.
- An engagement event was attended by young people to determine the best way to engage young people in developing services to increase wellbeing and more effectively engage with parents, Education and Health when seeking to improve mental health services for children.

3 needs to be maintained.

- Need to enhance services for children with disabilities and their families.
- Ty Storrie is now working at pre-transfer capacity with plans to increase sessions. In addition work is underway with domiciliary care providers to expand the market for children's sessional support.
- This work has been completely aligned with the recommissioning of domiciliary care services for adults and it features as a discrete cohort of services within the recommissioning timetable.

SCC/025 The percentage of statutory visits to children looked after due in the year that took place in accordance with regulations



N.B. Data for 2019/20 is provisional

Key Stats

Percentage of well-being assessments completed within statutory timescales

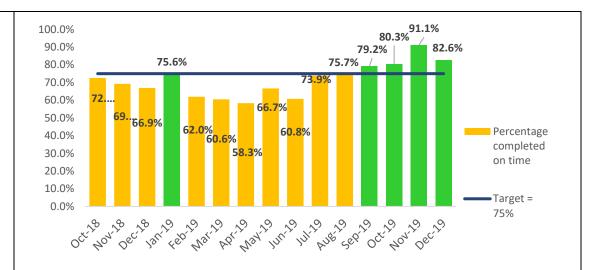
During Quarter 3, the percentage of well-being assessments completed within statutory timescales = 85.1% (843 / 991)

Target = 75%

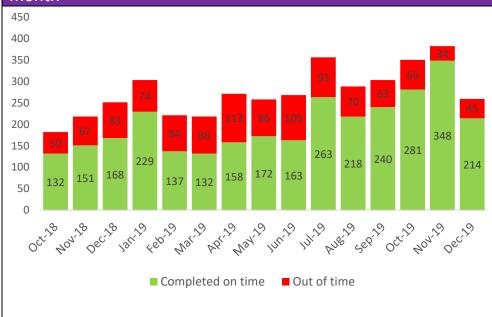
The number of incomplete well-being assessments at end of Quarter 3 was 314, 34 of which were out of time.

No. of children and young people in receipt of Direct Payments during Quarter 3 = 173

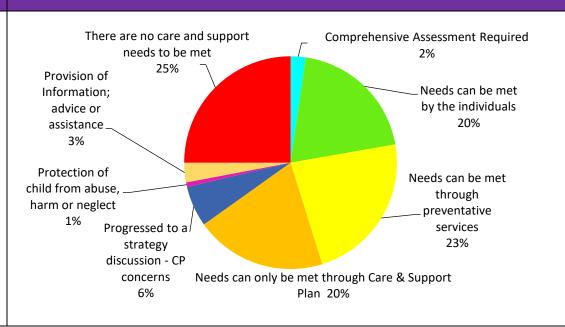
Number of children and young people working towards Direct Payments at Quarter 3 = 31.



Number of well-being assessments completed during the month

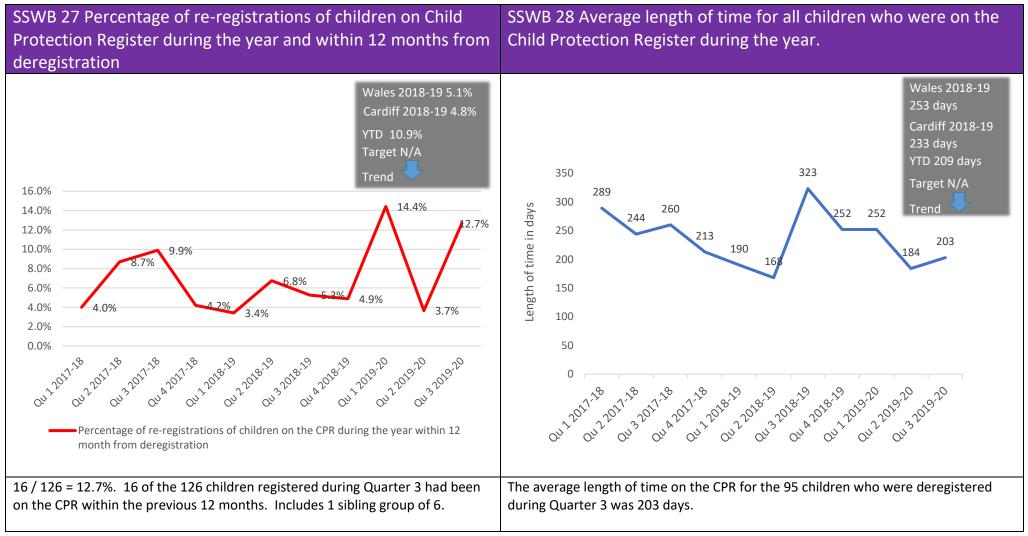


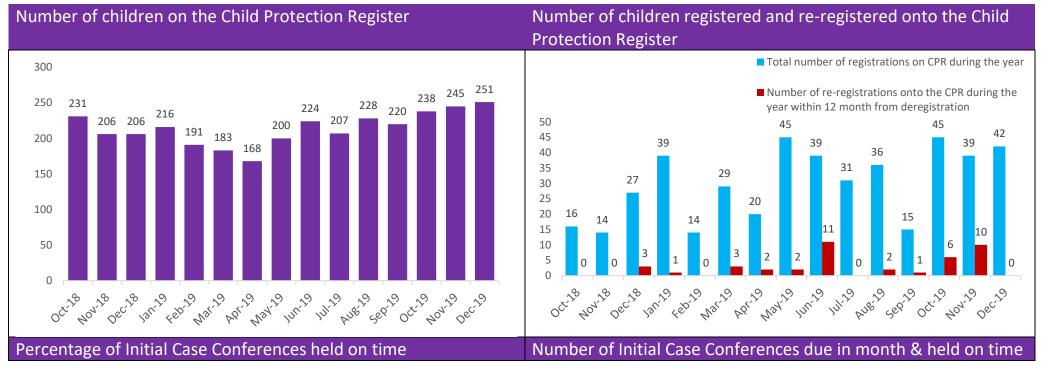
Well-being assessments completed by outcome during Quarter 3

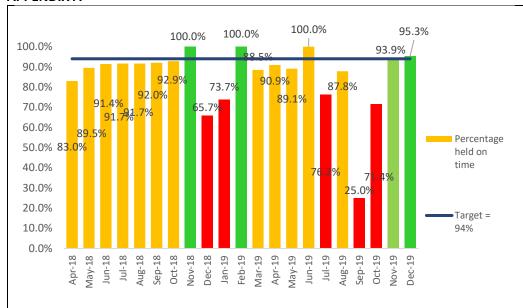


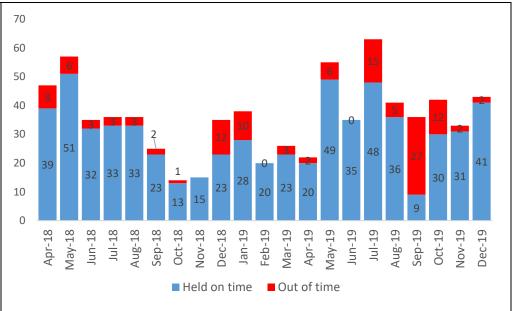
Safeguarding

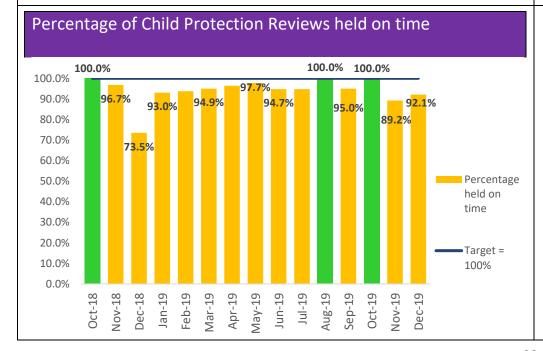
What's working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
 New 'Wales Safeguarding Procedures' launched in partnership with Welsh Government and Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Boards during National Safeguarding week in 	 Engagement and participation of community groups during National Safeguarding Week in November. 	Develop links with community groups to ensure participation and engagement is strengthened.
November.Effective working partnership links with the	 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) model review needs to be completed and a new model implemented. 	 Agree arrangements with partners (including IT system).
Safeguarding Business Unit leading, e.g. National	model implemented.	
Safeguarding Week 2019.	 Need to ensure a clear multi-agency model of practice is in place for responding to all forms 	 Implement the action plan arising from the Exploitation Strategy.
 New Operational Manager in post overseeing Support4Families, the Multi Agency 	of exploitation.	Embed a contextual safeguarding approach in order to effectively manage the risks associated with
Safeguarding Hub and the Intake and Assessment teams.		exploitation cases.
 Continued reduction in the number of overdue Section 47 enquiries. 	 Availability of reviewers and panel chairs to undertake Child Practice Reviews. 	 Develop a framework to ensure there is a pool of suitably trained and experienced reviewers and panel chairs.
The Exploitation Strategy has been approved by the Regional Safeguarding Board.		



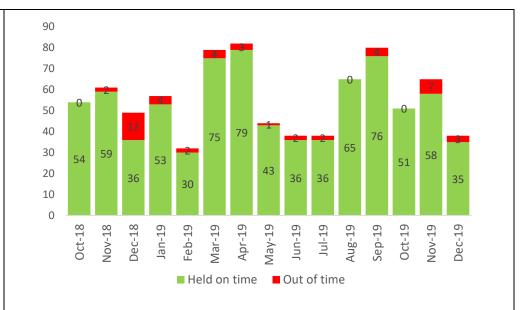




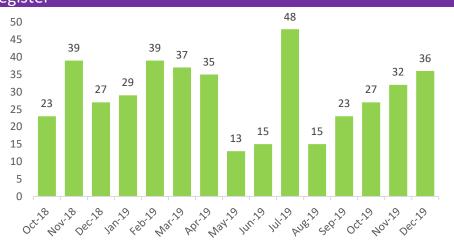




Number of Child Protection Reviews due and held on time during the month



Number of children removed from the Child Protection Register



% of Initial Case Conferences held on time = 86.4% (102 / 118)

All of the 16 late conferences, have since been held. 7 were late due to an admin error (2 sibling groups), 5 at the family's request to ensure the mother could attend (2 sibling groups), 1 was late to ensure the school could attend, another to ensure a translator was available, 1 was due to the social workers absence and another was late to be held with their sibling's conferences.

% of Child Protection Reviews held on time = 93.5% (144 / 154)

10 reviews for 4 sibling groups and 1 individual were late during the quarter. Four reviews, 2 sibling groups, were late as other LA, weren't available on time, (transfer out conferences). 2 were late, siblings as mother couldn't attend, due to family illness. 2, siblings, were late due to an admin error. Another 2 were late, siblings, due to panel not being quorate. All conferences have since been held.

Children Looked After

	What's working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
•	Children's Commissioning Strategy was presented to Cabinet in November 2019. The Strategy evidences our need and sets out our direction of travel for the next 3 years.	continues to be a concern (972 at 31st	the priorities in the Children's ning Strategy, including conversion of 31 ngoing full assessments to approved foster delivery of an assessment unit.
•	Social media and online marketing is impacting on the volume of enquiries (31 full assessments ongoing at 31 st December 2019).	most vulnerable children, including scarcity of fostering and residential provision for children and young people with more complex needs.	
•	Meetings with fostering and residential providers to look at improving the provisions for children looked after in Cardiff.	after reviews and statutory visits has been reduced con affected in recent quarters by recording available with	ork has had an impact and the backlog has nsiderably. Accurate reporting will be hen the backlog has been cleared.
•	Work to develop a small emergency unit is being taken forward alongside work to open an	issues in the review team.	
	assessment unit. One property has been identified with Housing and another is being sourced.	Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and improv	e on faith groups and minority ethnic groups re links with partner agencies to improve the Cardiff children needing to be placed out of
•	Engagement with residential providers is very positive with lots of interest in setting up new homes in Cardiff.	 All young people need to have their Pathway Plan reviewed and updated into the new format by the end of March 2020. 	progress.
•	A Marketing Officer for adoption has been appointed and a process is in place with a timely response.	accommodation to ensure that care leavers accommodation needs are fully met. being review Housing Op	om Young Person Gateway is consistently wed with support being offered from otions Centre to move clients who are
•	Compliance with Court timescales remains good and we are continuing to work on a practice	accommoda	suitable for Private Rented Sector (PRS) ation into this type of accommodation. A Services guarantee scheme is being finalised

guidance document for social workers.

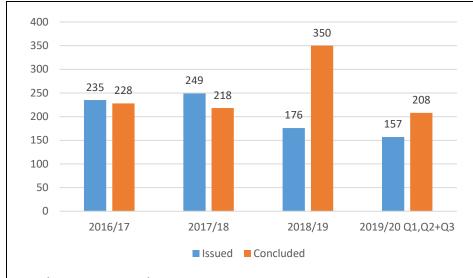
- Pilot with the Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service to accelerate the discharge of Care Orders where parents are in agreement. The intention is for children who are looked after under Placement with Parent Regulations to cease being looked after where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- The Personal Adviser Service is now under the Adolescent Service following the restructure. This allows for a more robust and cohesive service that effectively engages with partners to share resources, and ensure a more effective transition for care leavers.
- There are strong links between the Adolescent Service and the Into Work Service, with referrals being made to allow care leavers opportunities to access education, training and employment.
- Consistent representation at Housing Panels to ensure accommodation needs of care leavers are met and effectively monitored.
- Revised Pathway Plan in place.
- The annual Bright Sparks awards were held and were once again a success, celebrating the achievements of our children who are looked after and care leavers.
- Youth Offending Service made and sold Christmas wreaths and spent the proceeds on gifts for our care leavers.

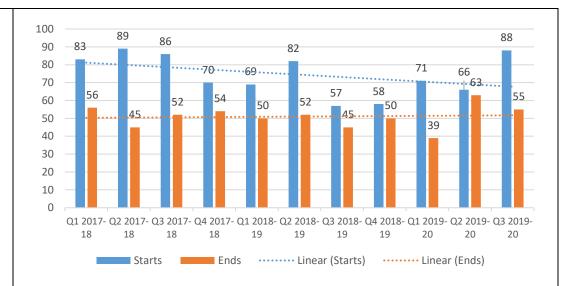
- Resource to meet demand following the planned implementation of the Extended Entitlement of care leavers.
- Permanency planning for children and young people is under developed.
- Numbers of children waiting for adoption 12 months after Placement Order made (65, 21 of whom are not yet placed). Although there is a reduction from Quarter 2 when there were 68, children; 28 of whom were not placed).
- Delay in completing the review of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

which will further assist care leavers to secure suitable PRS accommodation.

- Work is ongoing and will take into account the existing structure and capacity of the service to meet the requirements of the proposed new duty.
- Develop robust permanency planning arrangements.
- A Marketing Officer for adoption has been appointed and a process is in place with a timely response. We are building information about where enquiries are coming from to inform our recruitment and with the aim of increasing appropriate enquiries that convert to applications.
- Engagement session planned for Quarter 4 so children and young people can be actively involved in the review of the Strategy.

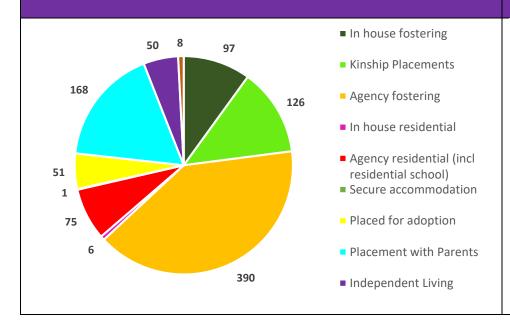
Key Stats	Number of children looked after
972 children looked after. 88 children started to be looked after in the quarter (up from 66 in Qua 2). These children comprised of 15 sibling groups and 51 individuals. To average number of children starting to be looked after was 1.33 (1.55 in Quarter 2 and 1.34 in 2018-19). 55 ends of being looked after this quarter. 399/ 695 (57.4%) children looked after in regulated placements are planwithin Cardiff, increasing to 77.0% when taking neighbouring authorities into consideration. 99.1% of children looked after allocated to a social worker. Permanence secured for 26 children through adoption since 1st April 20.	the n 800 731 756 784 802 830 866 869 885 900 934 936 ced es 200 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 934 936 885 900 936 936 936 885 900 936 936 936 936 936 936 936 936 936 936
Care Proceedings issued and concluded during year	Starts and ends of being looked after





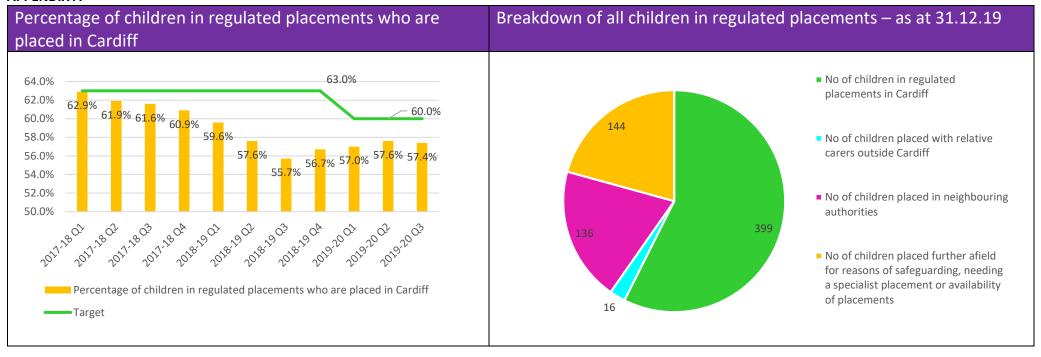
Q3 data is provisional

Breakdown of placements by type – as at 31.12.19



Timeliness of Children Looked After Reviews





Workforce

	What's working well?		What are we worried about?		What do we need to do?
has be	video content for the social media channels een prepared and we are continuing to work e Social Work Cardiff branding and website nt to be able to promote Social Work Cardiff.	•	Social worker vacancies – 32.9% in Quarter 3 from 34.6% in Quarter 2. However the result of significant recruitment activity has started to become evident with the net result of social workers starting and leaving the Council being	•	New secondment scheme introduced with very good progress made - additional places have been offered and taken up by unqualified staff wishing to undertake the social work degree. Recruitment to secondment scheme for 2020 will commence in
media poten	itment and Comms have met with a social advertising specialist to explore full atial of social media opportunities and estand new options.		positive (+4 for the Quarter 3 period).	•	March. Implement market supplement by April 2020 whilst longer term proposals are developed to retain social workers in Cardiff, through ensuring competitive rates of pay and ensuring that social
	itment of agency social workers to anent positions.				workers are fully supported.
	nal promotion of social workers.	•	Ability to produce reliable and comparable workforce data due to the ongoing changes in Children's Services. These include the creation of	•	Continue weekly workforce monitoring meetings until a stable baseline position is established.
qualif Oppo once	per of students who stay with Cardiff upon ying. By providing excellent Practice Learning rtunities the incentive for students to remain qualified is high. Discussions and advice with nts prior to qualifying has proved productive.		permanent posts, use of agency staff to take forward work enabled by various temporary funding streams (such as the Integrated Care Fund) and the use of agency "managed teams" to support us to meet demand pressures and our commitment to cover maternity leave and sickness absence.		
practi qualif requir	oring staff during their first three years of ce. The support and training given to newly ied social workers is over and above the rements of Social Care Wales.	•	Improve exit interview data - good progress has been made on developing mechanisms to gather relevant information (e.g. Operational Managers meet with social worker who hand in their notice),	•	Further develop systems to capture and understand the reasons why people are leaving. Explore the possibility of automatic notification via Digigov of leavers.
	off are being supported to follow the nuing Professional Education + Learning		and some intelligence has proved useful. However,		

(CPEL) pathway during 2019/20. High numbers will
continue to be supported during 2020/21.

Improved data collection in relation to workforce.

uptake of exit interviews continues to be poor.

- Supervision audit highlighted the need for improvements in this area.
- Sickness levels this quarter have increased to 14.71
 FTE days lost; annual forecast is 20.60 FTE days
 lost, which exceeds Children's Services target of
 12.9 considerably and is the fourth highest across
 the council.
- Revise and implement Supervision Policy.
- Additional training on Supervision Skills will be provided from April 2020.
- Sickness is monitored in detail at weekly Children's Management Meetings. Further analysis to be undertaken to better understand the issues around long term sickness.

Key Stats

During Quarter 3:

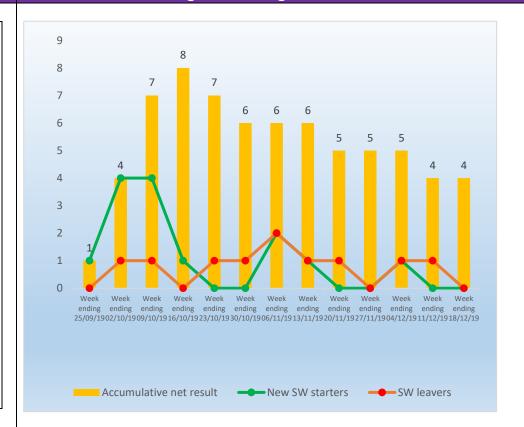
14 new Social Workers started filling 11 grade 7 posts and 3 grade 8 posts = 14 posts filled.

10 Social Workers left: 2 grade 7, 7 grade 8 and 1 grade 9 Social Workers left the LA = 9.4 vacancies created.

The net result of social workers starting and leaving the Council is an increase in 4 social workers over quarter 3.

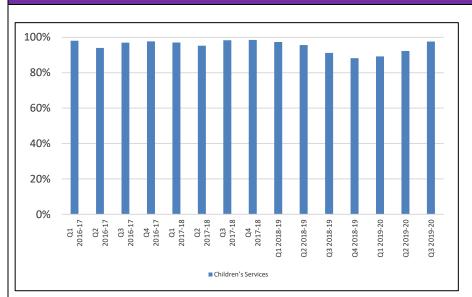
As at the end of December 2019. Average caseload 17.5 cases. Maximum caseload = 33 cases. Minimum caseload = 4.

Social workers starting and leaving the Council



Sickness

Return to work interviews



As at quarter 3, 82 / 84 return to work interviews held, 2 pending.

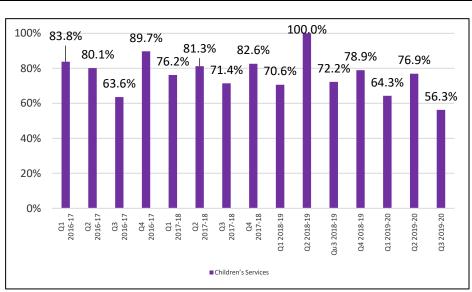
Source: Digigov

FTE Target = 12.9	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20	Q3 2019-20	Q4 2019-20
CS Sickness FTE days lost per person	4.77	10.00	14.71	
CS Sickness FTE days lost per person forecast	20.52	22.00	20.60	

Qu 3's result for 2018/19 = 8.73, this year's 3rd quarter result of 14.71 shows an increase of 5.98 days lost to sickness.

Corporate HR Data

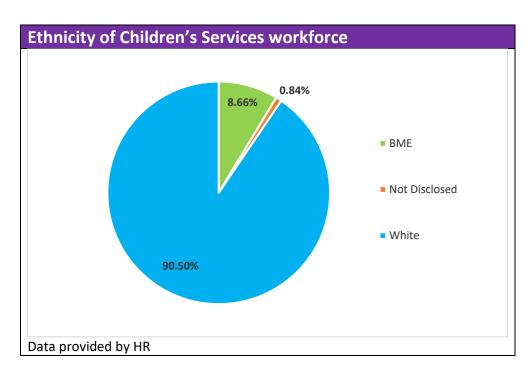
Sickness stage interviews completed

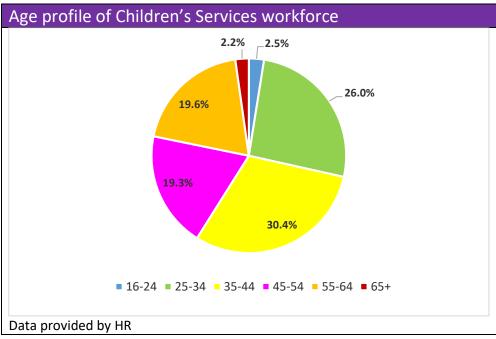


As at quarter 3, out of 16 triggers hit, 9 stage interviews were held. 4 missed, 0 were pending and 3 were not conducted (discounted).

Source: Digigov

Profile of Children's Services staff





As at 31st December 2019.

Social Worker's given reasons for leaving employment:

	20	016-2017		2017 -2018 2018-2019			Quarters 1,2&3 2019-2020					
Exit Reasons	PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER	SOCIAL WORKER	Total									
Alternative Employment	3	10	13	2	11	13	0	13	13	3	17	20
Dismissal - Long Term Absence	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0		0
Following Maternity Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
No Reason Given	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	4	4	0	4	4
Normal Retirement	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	1
Personal Reasons	1	2	3	2	4	6	1	7	8	1	2	3
Total	4	18	22	4	20	24	1	28	29	4	25	29

Source: Digigov

Quality

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
 An overarching Social Services Quality Assurance Framework is being drafted to oversee arrangements in Children's and Adult Services. Mechanisms are in place for the Director to be provided with a Quality Assurance overview in 	 Capacity to drive forward the new Quality Assurance Framework and avoid drift in delivery until vacant Quality Assurance Officer post recruited to. 	Recruitment to vacant Quality Assurance Officer post underway. The position is currently filled via Matrix.
relation to Children's Services, Adult Services and Resources on a monthly basis. This includes areas such as performance, case audits, compliments and complaints and internal and external reviews for example.	 Completion of case file audits by Team Managers remains low. This makes it difficult to compare cases across teams and identify areas of strengths / weakness within case management. 	 Monthly case audits. Supervision and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) audit to form part of a rolling quarterly audit programme with dip sampling of MASH cases in between.
Children's Services quality issues will be discussed regularly at dedicated quality and performance Children's Management Meetings. The outcome of these meetings will feed the mechanism mentioned above.	 Overview of audit activity is required, including a tracker and audit process flowchart. 	Mechanisms to be developed.
Quality Assurance of CareFirst forms for use of Signs of Safety has commenced and a system will be developed to feedback to team managers to support them to instil confidence within their teams.		

Case file audits
48 (year to date)

Supervisions
Data development

Training Exit interviews Data development Data development