



**AGENDA PAPERS FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, 9 October 2018**

**Time: 6.30 p.m.**

**Place: Committee Room 2 and 3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford,  
M32 0TH**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<b>PART I</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1. <b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
To note attendances, including officers, and any apologies for absence.		
2. <b>MINUTES</b>		1 - 6
To receive and, if so determined, to agree as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2018.		
3. <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>		
Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.		
4. <b>SEN ATTAINMENT</b>		To Follow
To receive a presentation from the Interim Director Education Standards, Quality and Performance.		
5. <b>CHILD PROTECTION PLANS</b>		7 - 20
To receive a report and presentation from the Interim Director of Safeguarding.		
6. <b>HEALTHY YOUNG MINDS</b>		21 - 22
To receive a report from the Interim Associate Directorate Manager (South		

Division).

7. **ACTIVITY AND FACILITIES WITHIN TRAFFORD** To Follow

To receive a presentation from the Consultant in Public Health.

8. **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME** 23 - 24

To discuss and suggest items to be considered by the Committee during the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal year.

**JIM TAYLOR**

Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Western (Chair), Miss L. Blackburn (Vice-Chair), T. Carey, J. Coupe, J. Dillon, J. Holden, D. Jerrome, A. New, J.R. Reilly, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte, D. Acton (ex-Officio), R. Chilton (ex-Officio), Goodstadt and Khan

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Alexander Murray,  
Tel: 0161 912 4250  
Email: alexander.murray@trafford.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Monday 1 October 2018** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JULY 2018

### PRESENT

Councillors Miss L. Blackburn (Vice-Chairman), T. Carey, J. Dillon, J. Holden, D. Jerrome, A. New, J.R. Reilly, D. Western (in the Chair), G. Whitham and A. M. Whyte.

#### In attendance

Cathy Rooney	Director of Safeguarding
Karen Samples	Interim Director Education Standards, Quality and Performance
Peter Forrester	Head of Governance
Alexander Murray	Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Coupe, D. Acton and R. Chilton.

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Membership of the Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year as listed below be noted.

Councillors Denise Wester (Chairman), Linda Blackburn (Vice Chairman), Jayne Dillon, Daniel Jerrome, Adele New, Thomas Carey, Jonathan Coupe, Graham Whitham, John Holden, Amy Whyte, John Reilly, Robert Chilton (Ex-Officio), and David Acton (Ex-Officio).

#### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee received a report detailing the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference be noted by the Committee.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of personal interest were made;

- Councillor Carey in relation to his employment within Trafford as a teacher.

#### 4. SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT READINESS

The Director of Safeguarding delivered a presentation to the Committee which detailed the self-assessment work that Trafford did every year to ensure that they were prepared for inspections. The Committee were told that Trafford used peer

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review and challenge programme developed by North West Association of Directors of Children's Services (NWADCS) to assess their services annually. The document was also used by Trafford when conducting their annual conversation with Ofsted inspectors.

The presentation included the key Children's Social Care statistics and listed the key areas for creating an environment where social work could flourish. The Director of Safeguarding then went through the different types of work that Children's Social Care did, highlighted the key parts of that work, and listed the areas that were being developed. Following the presentation the Director of Safeguarding informed the Committee that the Council's duty of care was being extended to include children up to the age of 25 and that this was bringing new challenges.

After the presentation, the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions. A committee member asked what the criteria were for a child to be placed outside of the borough. The Director of Safeguarding told the Committee that the children who were placed in out of borough placements would have been placed with an in house foster carer followed by an Independent Fostering Agency. If that placement failed the Council would usually try placing the child at few other independent fostering agencies. If none of those placements worked then the child would be placed within residential care within the borough. If that placement did not work then the Council would look at out of borough placements to try to find one that worked.

Children would also be placed in an out of borough placement if it was believed that staying in the area was not an option e.g. they were involved with a local gang. The Committee were informed that there had been an increase in the number of children who are involved in gang related issues. In these cases, the children had to be placed in a secure placement which cost the Council around £7000 a month. Trafford had recently needed to place a child into secure accommodation as they had been committing crimes in the area.

The Committee were told that other children have to go into specialist placements due to mental health issues or when staying in the area is a risk to their safety. The Director for Safeguarding assured the Committee that out of borough placements were the last resort for Trafford. However, once a child was in an out of borough placement and settled the Council avoided moving them as a change could have serious detrimental effects.

The Vice Chairman asked how long it took for a foster carer to be ready to take on a child. The Director of Safeguarding responded that it took around 6 months to go from an expression of interest to the point where they are ready to look after a child. The Director of Safeguarding then went through the stages that prospective carers have to go through in order to become a foster carer. The Stages included the completion of multiple assessments and concluded with the prospective foster carer being considered by a Council panel and then agency decision makers.

Another Committee Member asked whether performance data benchmarked against Trafford's neighbours and statistical neighbours could be provided. The

Director of Safeguarding stated that the Council collected this information as part of the peer challenge and sector led improvement and confirmed that the information could be provided for the Committee.

A Member asked what the reasons were for the recent increase in the number of Court orders. The Director of Safeguarding explained that the increase was a result of an increase in placements with parents which had been seen across North West. The Committee were informed that these placements were court orders that state that there are issues within the home in question but that the children are to be left at home and with support from the local authority.

The Chairman asked how these court orders were managed by the Council. The Director of Safeguarding explained that those court orders required a large amount of work from the Council and due to the unique circumstance these cases presented a number of difficulties for social workers.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the update be noted.
- 2) That benchmarking information be provided to the Committee.

## **5. EDUCATION ASSESSMENT READINESS**

The Interim Director Education of Standards, Quality and Performance informed the Committee that she had attended a meeting that morning where it had been agreed that the self-assessment methods for education were to change so that they would align with those practiced within the Social Care. This meant that they would start using peer review and challenge model to continuously improve.

The Interim Director Education of Standards, Quality and Performance then delivered a presentation to the Committee which showed an overview of the key performance data for the Council. The presentation then went on to describe the Council's position in relation to early years/school readiness, standards at all key stages, and special educational needs. The presentation also covered which areas the Council was performing well, where the Council needed to improve and how the Council was to achieve the improvement.

Following the presentation the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions. One Member asked how attainment of pupils was tracked throughout their education when they moved around the borough or into a different area. The Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance responded that when trying to 'close the gap', the Council mainly looked at children in early years, which the Council had a good level of data for. The Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance acknowledged that it became more difficult to track children's progress when it came to children transitioning from one school and another. She assured the Committee that the Council worked hard to track children throughout their education so that the efficacy of their work could be measured.

Another Member enquired as to the powers the Council had to challenge academies. The Committee were told that Officers from the Council meet with the

Regional School Commissioners on an annual basis and that is the main mechanism through which the Council is able to affect the practices of academies.

The Vice Chairman asked how many children were educated outside of the area. The Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance was not certain of the figure but knew that not many Trafford Children left the borough for school as more came from outside of the area to attend Trafford schools. In the north of the borough there were a few who went across into Manchester to attend secondary school but not a significant amount.

Another Member of the Committee asked what research had been done on the education attainment gap and what the reason was for the gap. The Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance explained that the reason for the gap was not clear and there was a lot of research ongoing locally, nationally, and internationally to work out the reason for the gap and how to overcome it. The Council had pockets of data which were held by the data team. The data team 'drilled down' into that data and analysed the differences in attainment in order to identify any patterns that existed and RAG rate children who would be at risk of underperforming.

The Chairman mentioned that a piece of work had been done by the main Scrutiny Committee which had looked at closing the gap and this Committee could follow up on that work. The Committee requested that the report of the Scrutiny Committee be sent to Members for information.

A Member then asked the Council made sure that the pupil premium was used properly. The Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance responded that applying for the pupil premium was not the Council's responsibility but the responsibility of schools governing bodies. The Council supported schools by providing training for governors so they are aware of what the school can claim for and how to do it. The Council did provide challenge by asking schools to explain their use of the pupil premium and the Council also tried to collaborate with schools and share learning.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the update be noted.
- 2) That the report of the Scrutiny Committee on closing the gap be sent to Committee Members.

## **6. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Safeguarding informed the Committee that there were four main areas where the Council interacted with Children and Young People. These four areas were Social Care, Education, Mental Health, and through Partnership working. The Director of Safeguarding suggested that the Committee look at an element of each of these areas at each meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Safeguarding for the suggestion and asked Members to list any items that they could add to the work programme for the year. The Members suggested Education, Health and Care Plans including Tribunals

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and Exclusions, Healthy Young Minds, activities and facilities available to children, children's centres, communication between the Council, the community and new parents, Child Protection Plans, and Care Leavers to be added for items at meetings during the year.

The Councillors agreed that a task and finish group should be formed to look into Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services. The Chairman stated that the Committee would have one Task and Finish group as the topic of SEND was very broad and could require a lot of work by the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the items listed above be added to the work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year.
- 2) That the Committee form a Task and Finish Group to look at SEND services.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.33 pm

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## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: CYP Scrutiny

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Report of: Glynis Williams Acting Director of Safeguarding

Report Title

### Child protection plans- performance summary

#### Summary

There are three areas of performance that we monitor to ensure we are adequately safeguarding child. Firstly the number of children on child protection plans, ensuring this is in keeping with our statistical neighbours, secondly monitoring if children re-enter child protection for second or subsequent periods, and thirdly when they remain on plans for a longer period of time (over 2 years).

The number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP), has been generally steady this reporting year, in fact back to March 2017. We have reported monthly figures in the range +/- 4% of 250 from that point until August this year, where the number 'spiked' to 275, but has since returned to a level within the range we have been reporting.

The proportion of the cohort with a second / subsequent CP Plan is at 25.5%, equating to 70 children and young people. Whilst not the highest proportion this recording year, it has been generally higher this year than that recorded at the corresponding times last year.

With regard to child protection re-plans, we ended the year to March 2018 with 29% of plans that started in the year being a second or subsequent episode. At the time of writing, this is little changed so far this year (end of August) with 27% being a second or subsequent plan. This equates to 30 of the 112 CP plans that have started this year.

Q1 had shown significant improvement, being below 20%, but there have been 21 re-plans in the last two months and this has significantly negatively impacted this measure.

Our proportion of re-plans is therefore higher this year than the latest available figure (2016/17) for both statistical neighbours (20%) and the national average (19%).

The impact of this on children and their families is that they are potentially being supported at a more intense and intrusive level than they require. It can also be confusing for families to "bounce around" the thresholds of intervention (e.g. from child protection to child in need and back into child protection) and this can at times make sustaining positive working relationships more difficult.

Whilst we should be reassured that we are protecting the most vulnerable children in

Trafford we need to be confident that we are working at the most appropriate level and that our families are not becoming overly reliant on statutory services.

Working with families at CP level is time and resource-consuming to Trafford Council and our partner agencies. We need to ensure in future that when CP plans are ended there is a robust multi agency child in need plan in place to lessen the risk of future child protection concerns. The number of re-plans suggests that the current system is not working in the most effective and efficient manner.

The length of CP plans: both current, and those closing. We currently have 6.5% of plans that have been open 2 years+. It should also be noted that the proportion of CP closing that were open for 2 years + is 11%, approximately two times the proportion seen in statistical neighbours.

In terms of our wider plans to reduce CP numbers, length of time on a plan and number of re-plans, we believe that implementing a restorative approach will have a significant impact. There is evidence that this way of working leads to lower numbers of CP plans through a strength and asset based inclusive approach. In introducing a new model of practice, we aim to change the culture of referrals and escalation to rebalance the number of young people requiring social care services.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, our child protection conferences have been “restorative”. In preparation for this, physical changes were made to the environment to make it more inclusive and less threatening. Changes have also been made to assessment templates and correspondence to reflect a more restorative ethos. Early feedback from families is that this new way of working is less intimidating and they feel listened to. Professionals have commented that the new style of conferences is more strength-based and collaborative.

We have recently updated many features of our electronic case file recording system LCS (including the Child & Family Assessment, planning templates and introduced mandatory management oversight of assessments and plans) to reflect a more robust and restorative approach.

Our Independent Reviewing Officers and Service Managers are encouraging services to utilise professional thinking time to facilitate discussion where it is felt risks are not reducing as an alternative to escalating the concerns to ever higher levels of social care intervention.

We are in the process of refreshing and strengthening our Child in Need process as we feel that this area of work is not always treated with the same rigour as children in care or on child protection plans. Further down the threshold continuum, an Early Help Board, chaired by the DCS, has been established to create a cohesive vision for Early Help in Trafford.

In the short-term the outcome of pre-strategy meeting consultations must be shared with the Strategic Lead (Safeguarding and Front Door). By doing this we hope to be assured that a consistent threshold for child protection conferences is being applied.

We are going to meet with colleagues from Cheshire East who have a good performance record in this area to understand how they manage this issue and elicit any learning for Trafford.

**Recommendation(s)**

1. Child protection planning, in particular re-plans is one of two top priorities for children’s social care this quarter. It will receive a sharp focus from managers and leaders to address the concerns.
2. Domestic violence features heavily in reasons for a child protection plan and we need to understand what services and support we commission to target support to families.
3. I recommend that I return to the next children’s and young people’s scrutiny meeting to update you on progress.

**Contact person for access to background papers and further information:**

Name: Glynis Williams Acting Director of Safeguarding  
Extension: x5009

**Background Papers:**

**Implications**

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	
Financial	
Legal Implications:	
Equality/Diversity Implications	
Sustainability Implications	
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	
Risk Management Implications	
Health and Safety Implications	

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TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL

Pennine Care   
NHS Foundation Trust

# Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee

## Child Protection Planning –performance update

GW<sub>oct 18</sub>

Working together  
**LIVING WELL**

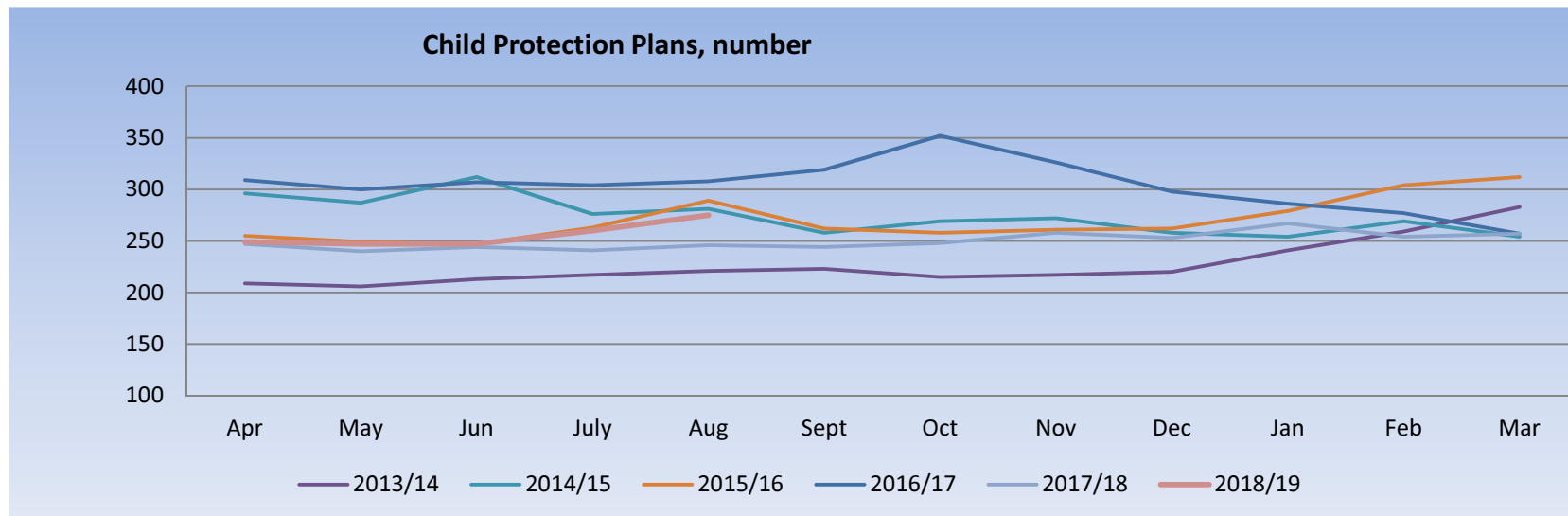
 @PennineCareNHS

 [www.penninecare.nhs.uk](http://www.penninecare.nhs.uk)



**The number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP), has been generally steady this reporting year, in fact back to March 2017. We have reported monthly figures in the range +/- 4% of 250 from that point until August this year, where the number ‘spiked’ to 275, but has since returned to a level within the range we have been reporting.**

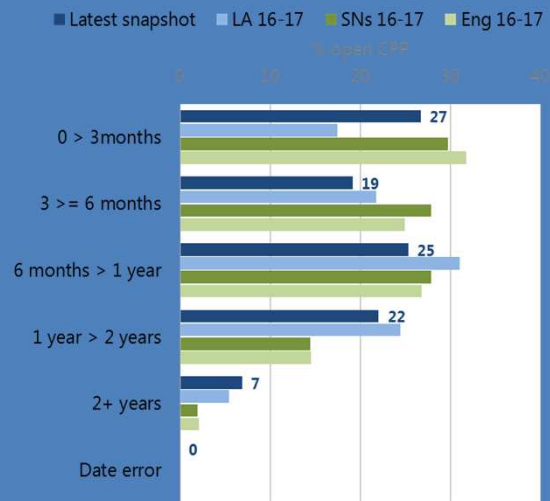
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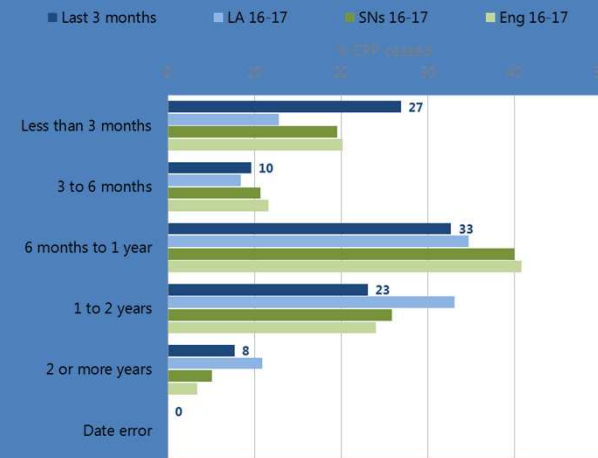


The length of CP plans: both current, and those closing. We currently have 6.5% of plans that have been open 2 years+. It should also be noted that the proportion of CP closing that were open for 2 years + is 8%, slightly down from the last full year figure of 11% but remaining approximately two times the proportion seen in statistical neighbours.

Comparing duration of open CP plans

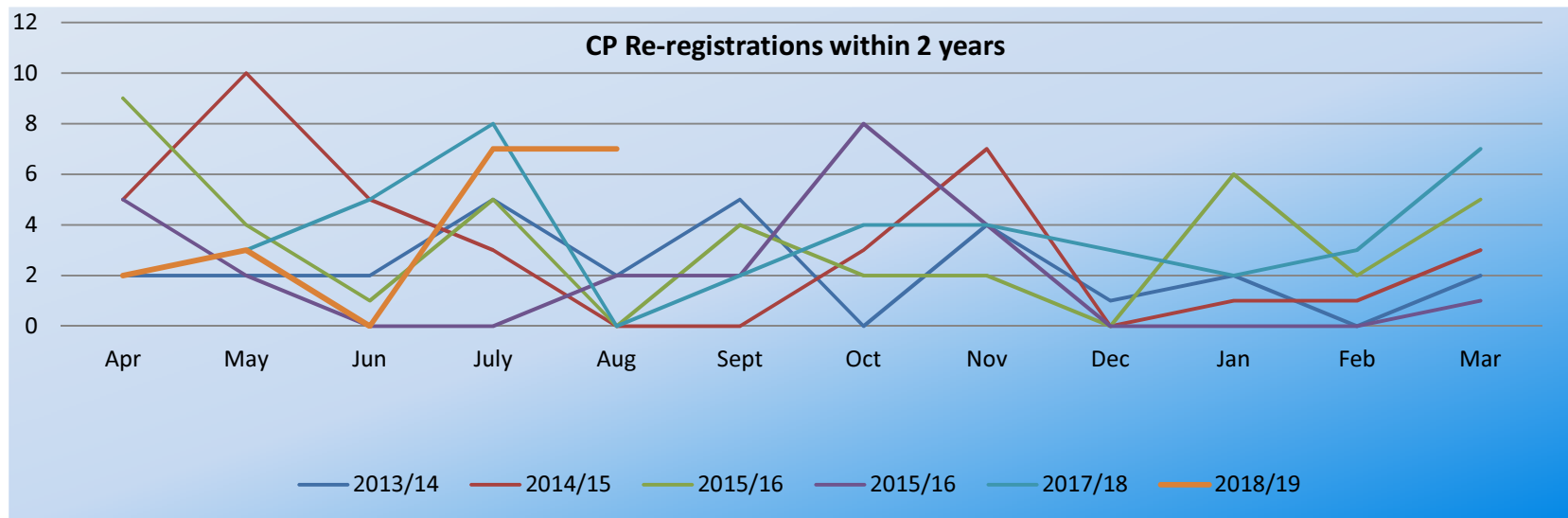


Comparing plan durations for CPP ended





**With regard to child protection re-plans, we ended the year to March 2018 with 29% of plans that started in the year being a second or subsequent episode. At the time of writing, this is little changed so far this year (end of August) with 27% being a second or subsequent plan. This equates to 30 of the 112 CP plans that have started this year. This is concerning.**







- The impact of re-plans on children and their families is that they are potentially being supported at a more intense and intrusive level than they require. It can also be confusing for families to “bounce around” the thresholds of intervention (e.g. from child protection to child in need and back into child protection) and this can at times make sustaining positive working relationships more difficult.





- Whilst we should be reassured that we are protecting the most vulnerable children in Trafford we need to be confident that we are working at the most appropriate level and that our families are not becoming overly reliant on statutory services.





## What are we doing to make improvements?

- From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, our child protection conferences have been “restorative”. In preparation for this, physical changes were made to the environment to make it more inclusive and less threatening. Changes have also been made to assessment templates and correspondence to reflect a more restorative ethos. Early feedback from families is that this new way of working is less intimidating and they feel listened to. Professionals have commented that the new style of conferences is more strength-based and collaborative.





# The new conference facilities



## What are we doing to make improvements?

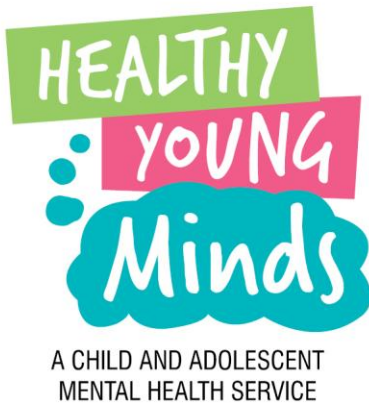
- We have streamlined assessments and plans to make them 'SMARTER' for families to understand and professionals to action.
- IRO's will undertake mandatory professional thinking time to facilitate discussion to manage risk, not be led by incident specific actions
- We will review what services we commission to ensure we target support to families.



## What are we doing to make improvements?

- The Strategic Lead –Safeguarding is overseeing all consultations on re-plans to ensure a consistent threshold is applied at referral. The Unit will lead on ensuring quality decisions are made around planning.
- We are meeting colleagues from other Local Authorities to understand good practice and embed the learning back into Trafford.





## Trafford HYM Update October 2018

A short update on service progress has been requested by Trafford Health Scrutiny Review Group. This paper provides a briefing on the significant service developments, successes and challenges for Trafford HYM service moving forward.

### Service Capacity

The service continues to see an increase in accepted referrals as identified in the paper delivered in March 2018, despite significant recent investment into the third sector as part of the Local Transformation Plan. Whilst prevention and lower level support for CYP is critical, there is still a high demand for a specialist service. Investment in the specialist service has been minimal and not consistent with investment into other comparable Healthy Young Minds provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust in 5 other Greater Manchester towns.

Following the demand and capacity exercise referenced in the March 2018 update, the CCG identified new investment into HYM services. This uplift is in response to the service having identified 5.8 WTE clinical capacity deficit. However this investment is still awaiting sign off from the CCG finance leads. Healthy Young Minds services remain responsive to all accepted referrals and the need to respond to emergency and identified high risk cases.

### Waiting Times

Whilst awaiting the uplift of investment to increase staffing there is a resulting pressure on waiting times the outcome of which is an inability to meet access targets. Recently, this has shown a small number cases exceeding the 12 weeks waiting time target to assessment. Once in service, waiting times to intervention remain within target.

### EPR

The service successfully transitioned to full EPR from 26.03.2018. Staff have fully embraced new ways of working and benefits can be seen through improved processes and admin systems, and streamlined governance of case management.

Implementation of the EPR has allowed improved reporting against all Greater Manchester CAMHS outcomes and importantly allows better understanding of the needs of CYP in Trafford.

## Service Staffing Updates

Although the service remains on the Trust risk register due to difficulties in recruiting to clinical posts, which is a national issue, the service has recently been successful in some key recruitment and HYM is very pleased to have attracted experienced CAMHS talent to the service.

Recent appointments include:

- Family Therapist
- Highly Specialised Clinical Psychologist
- Team Leader
- YOS link worker/Specialist Practitioner

Plans for reconfiguration of the leadership structure within the team have been completed. The Senior Leadership Team is now as follows:

- Lynne Pender, Service Operational Manager
- Dan Cope, Team Leader
- Dr Stephanie Jamieson, Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- Dr Kishan Sharma, Lead Consultant Psychiatrist

Trafford HYM will continue to be supported by the HYM Directorate and share and contribute to learning across 6 town HYM services.

## Challenges

There remain a number of challenges for the service which the senior leadership team will work with stakeholders to address:

- Level of demand on urgent care pathway, specifically 16- 18 years follow up
- Accommodation, split site and lack of adequate accessible clinical space
- National and regional workforce shortages
- Vacancies and sickness levels (non-work related) in the team



<b><u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK</u></b>		
<b><u>PLAN 2018/19</u></b>		
January	Details	Responsible Officer
Education Item		
Social Care Item		
Mental Health Item		
Partnerships Item		
Start well Update	Update From Committee Member who attends the Group	
Corporate Parenting Board Update	Update From Committee Member who sits on the Board	
March		
Education Item		
Social Care Item		
Mental Health Item		
Partnerships Item		
Start well Update	Update From Committee Member who attends the Group	
Corporate Parenting Board Update	Update From Committee Member who sits on the Board	

Possible additional Items
<i>Ensuring Trafford is the 'Safest Place to Live' in conjunction with the Trafford Youth Trust</i>

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