

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 February 2018

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Committee of the work undertaken by Children's Services on a day to day basis and to update on the progress and implementation of developments within the areas.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1
- To note the contents of the report and to ensure that current work continues to meet statutory obligations and that work to prepare for external inspections continues.
  - To continue to meet statutory monitoring, challenge and support obligations.
  - To work with schools to support improvement and preparation for external scrutiny and support the work of the Blackpool School Improvement Board in order to improve the progress and attainment of Blackpool Children especially at KS3 and KS4.
  - To identify any further information and actions required.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 For Members of the Scrutiny Committee to be fully informed as to the day to day work of the Children's Services Directorate and have assurance that Blackpool is continuing to meet its statutory obligations for future inspection requirements. The LA remains and retains a statutory responsibility to monitor all schools in order to support improvement and raise the attainment and progress for all children in the Local Authority Area.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

#### **5.0 Background Information**

##### **5.1 Opportunity area**

Since the Delivery plan was published in October 2017, delivery has commenced:

**Priority 1 - Improving attainment in secondary schools.** Following the 2017 English GCSE results, the Opportunity Area Board wanted to intervene rapidly in English to secure an improvement in this academic year. In response an English steering group together with an English review team has been established. The English review team was requested to identify two categories of support: rapid interventions which could have an impact on current Y10s and even Y11s, and longer term interventions (which could include KS3, transition and possibly even earlier). Work on the rapid intervention support is underway and schools participating have received an individual report highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Proposals for developing a longer-term English strategy, including a consideration for a Blackpool-wide literacy programme will be identified in due course.

**Priority 2 – Inclusion.** Workshops have been held with both primary and secondary school leaders to develop ideas to form the basis of an inclusion strategy, the first draft of which will be available in the near future. The strategy will then inform potential activity to be funded by Opportunity Areas to improve inclusion, especially in secondary schools.

**Priority 3 – preparing young people for work.** Each secondary school, special schools and Post 16 college have now been allocated an Enterprise Adviser, a volunteer business representative to support the school make more effective use of businesses in schools. The project is based on research by the Gatsby Foundation showing that if a young person has four or more meaningful encounters with businesses whilst at school they are statistically less likely to be unemployed on leaving school.

##### **5.2 Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

The Duke of Edinburgh awards ceremony was held on the 11 January 2018. In this last calendar year 170 young people have been involved in Duke of Edinburgh activity.

Forty successfully achieved bronze awards, twenty silver and ten gold (seven of the gold achievers gained bronze, silver and gold status). These results are a testament to their developing resilience.

### 5.3 School Improvement

Ofsted Inspectors continue to be positive about progress in Blackpool schools. In recent months, Layton Primary School acquired 'outstanding' status and Our Lady of the Assumption Primary, Moor Park Primary and St Teresa's Catholic Primary Schools all maintained a 'good' rating.

In addition to our schools' Ofsted inspection achievements, I am particularly pleased with a developing level of expertise that supports town wide improvement. The recent Ofsted report relating to the Fylde Coast Teaching Alliance, which provides on the job training for university graduates looking to become secondary teachers, received an outstanding status for overall effectiveness. The 'Leaders and managers have a strong vision and shared a moral obligation to train the highest quality teachers for Blackpool', this is very encouraging and exactly what we need for the town and its young people. Our newly qualified teachers report increasing levels of support and guidance and a commitment to the Blackpool improvement journey

St John Vianney RC Primary school has been awarded model school status for the read/ write programme and are now able to work with local schools to spread the expertise they have acquired. This is an example of excellent teaching and learning practice for phonics and early literacy, which can be shared town-wide via our School Improvement Board.

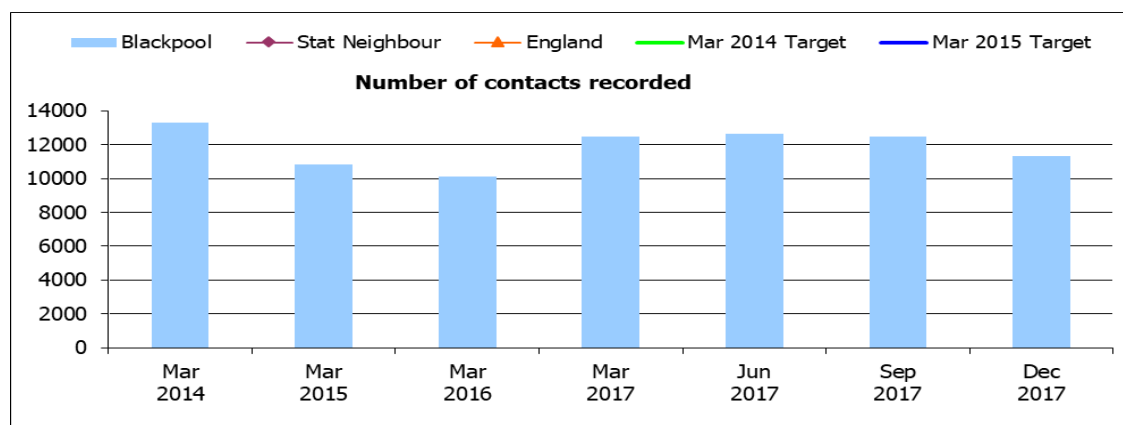
### 5.4 Demand management

The journey of the child work will be complete by mid-March with many of the changes we have identified already being progressed as they are identified.

The following outlines performance against key indicators which the Improvement Board are monitoring. This gives an indication of progress against targets and this in conjunction with audit findings gives us a holistic picture of quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

#### 5.4.1 Contacts

Data	Mar 2014	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018
Num (monthly)	-	-	-	-	995	1160	1043	1115	1013	999	779	594	447			
Num (12 mnth)	13276	10830	10111	12495	12711	12616	12616	12569	12627	12499	12162	11808	11348			



## Commentary

The target set by the improvement Board was to reduce the number of Contacts to the Service to 850 a month from over 1,000 per month. This target was exceeded quite considerably. The reduction in contacts is due to the triage taking place at the front door and cases being signposted to the Early Help Hub (EHH). Following the triage meetings the following breakdown of notifications were sent to the Early Help Hub and their destinations:

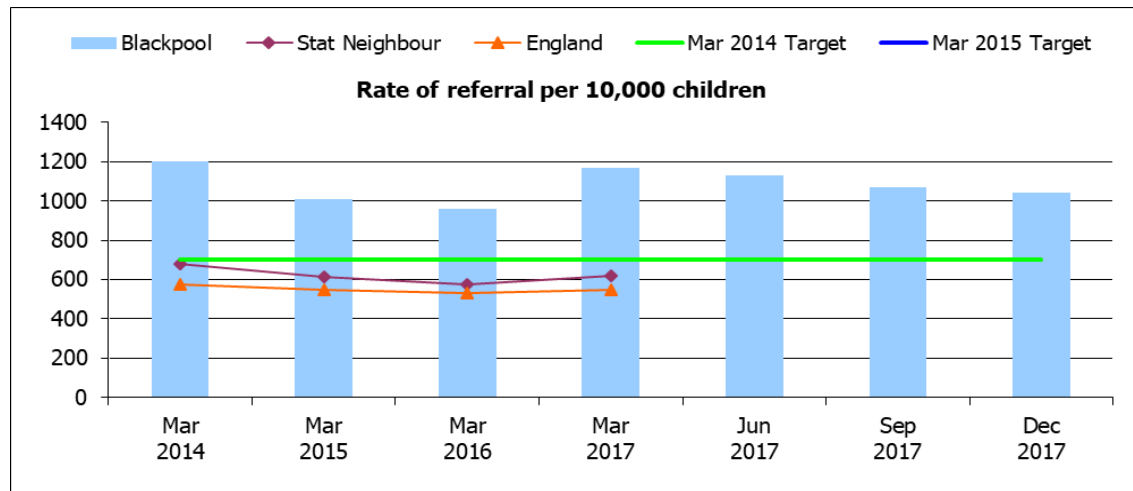
- 198 (328 children) notifications/request for service to EHH in December 2017.
- All 198 received a reflective conversation with partners
- 269 Early Help Assessments commenced by the EHH; 59 children were already in receipt of support

The role of the Early Help Hub (EHH) is being supported by the establishment of an Early Help Support Network and the use of Champions.

As a result of better triage this is signposting families to services more swiftly. In addition the percentage of Contacts leading to a referral has improved with this being 45% in December.

Changes have recently taken place with Standard Protection of Vulnerable Persons (PVPs – referrals from police) now being triaged via the EHH. The longer term vision is for the Police to triage their standard PVPs to determine the need for further intervention/triage. The multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH) is now focusing on risk management for those cases that require further multi agency discussions prior to determining whether a statutory assessment is required.

### 5.4.2 Referrals

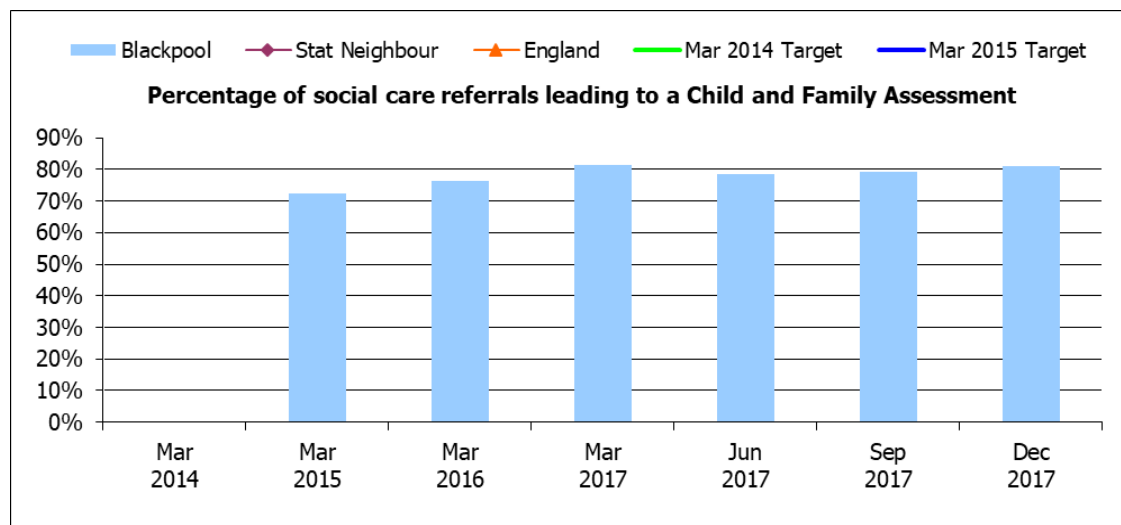


#### Commentary

The number of referrals per 10,000 has again reduced, but remains high against England and statutory neighbours; the number did however meet the target set by the Improvement Board.

The percentage of referrals leading to an assessment is continuing to increase showing 81% year to date (YTD) but month on month shows a greater increase; the December figure is 87.2%. The higher the conversion rate the more appropriate the referrals are in meeting the threshold for a statutory assessment.

### 5.4.3 Assessment



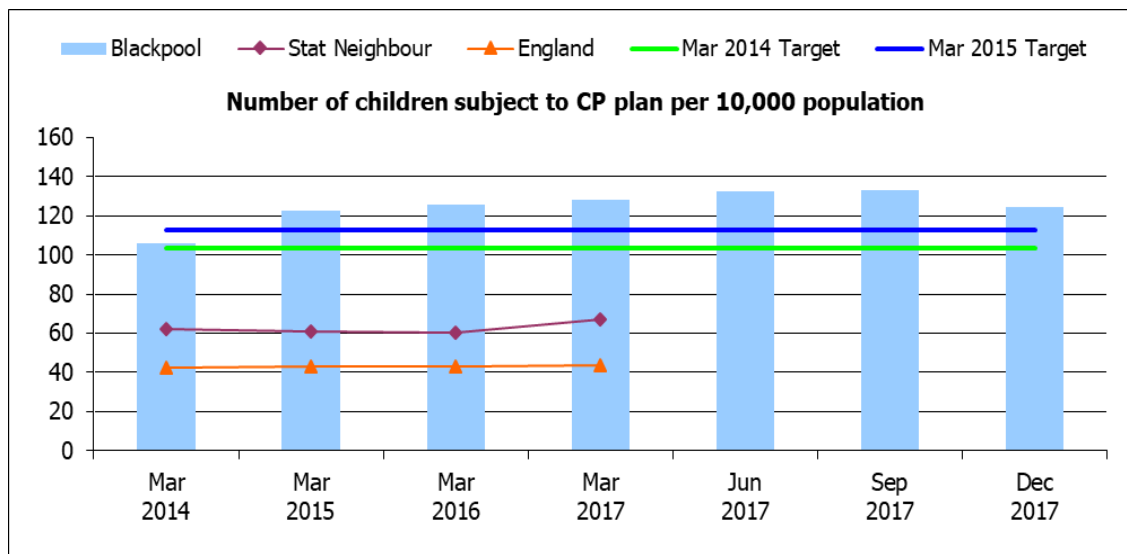
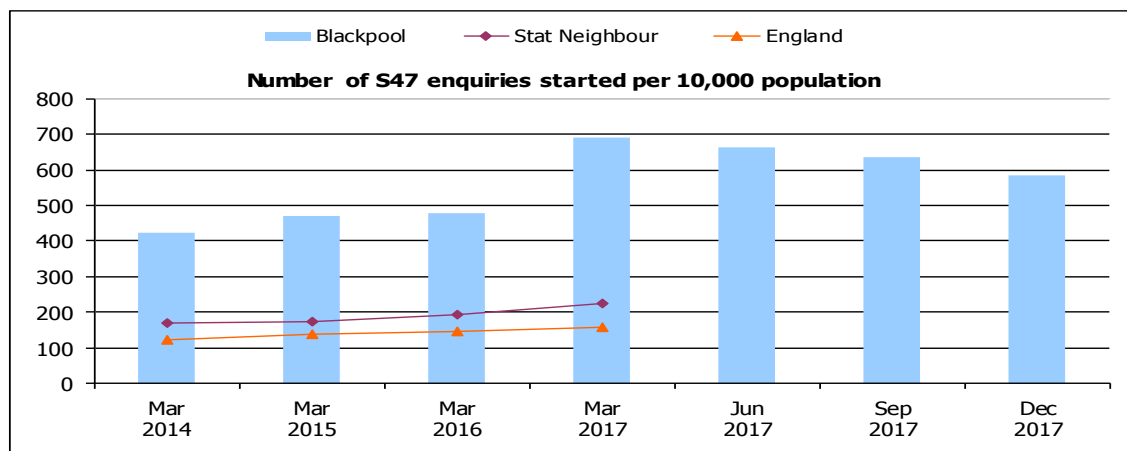
## Commentary

As outlined above the percentage of referrals leading to assessments is showing as 81% in December YTD; 87.2% for December. This is higher than the target of 60% set by the Improvement Board.

The number of Child and Family Assessments (CAFAs) completed per 10k was the second lowest in year with December at 205.

Performance data showing assessments completed within 15 working days as 29% which is close to the 30% target. These are YTD figures. Figures over the last three months shows - Oct 17 – 38.1%; Nov 17 – 31.6%; Dec 17 – 27.8%. Assessments completed within 45 working days (YTD) is showing as 77%. Figures over the last three months show - Oct 17 – 81.0%; Nov 17 – 89.9%; Dec 17 – 85.9%).

### 5.4.4 Child Protection

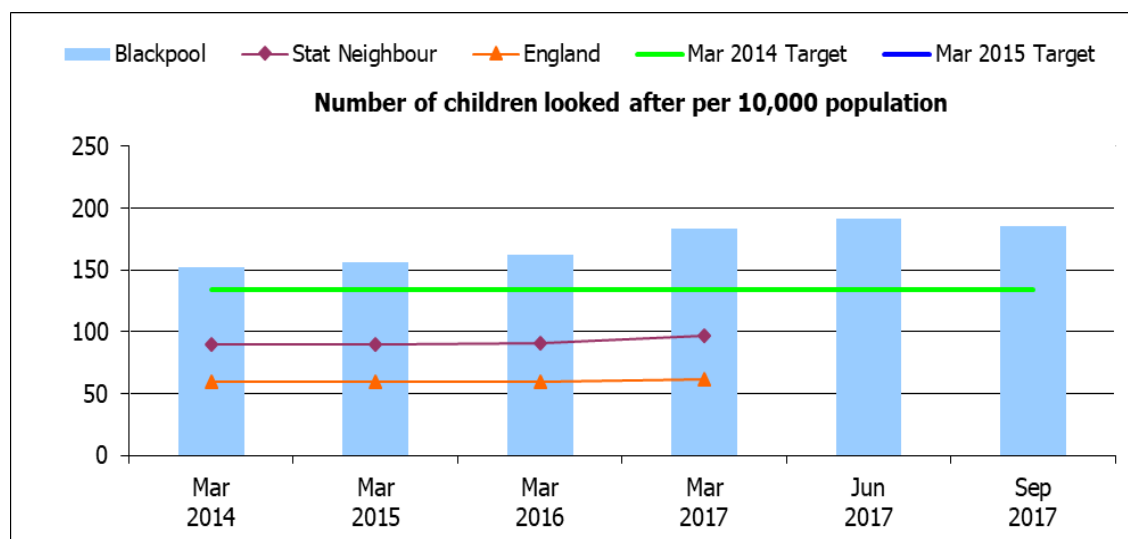


## Commentary

The number of Section 47 Child Protection Enquiries per 10,000 remains higher than England, but is reducing and continuing a downward trend. In April the figure was 1969, in December it is 1670 (299 less). If the downward trend continue it will mean 447 less Section 47s in 2017/2018 a reduction of 42%.

The numbers on CP Plans have also reduced from 385 in May to 356 in December (lowest this year), just outside the target of 350. A number of these will be stepped down and a number progressing into proceedings.

### 5.4.5 Numbers and Rate of Looked After Children

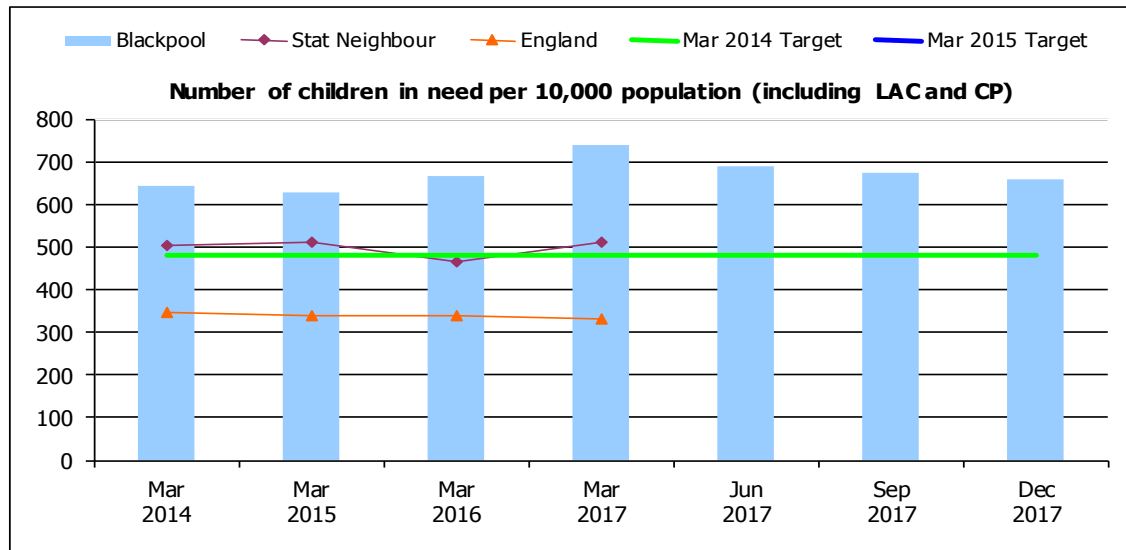


## Commentary

The number of Looked After Children (LAC) has risen slightly to 537 in December and has missed the target of 516. The number of children coming into care has stabilised, but the number exiting care has not been maintained.

An ongoing plan is in place to review the numbers of Looked After Children that could leave care. There are presently 28 children/young people who we feel could cease being in care by the end of March. These are being monitored regarding their discharge from care plans. In addition a further 20 young people become 18 so will no longer be looked after. A further cohort of care plans for approximately 60 young people are being reviewed to determine discharge or step down as appropriate. This is the most challenging area of work and requires significant experience in risk management and development of a wrap-around service offer.

#### 5.4.6 Number/ rate of current children in need per 10,000 population (including LAC & CP)



#### Commentary

The number of allocated Children in Need (CiN) (including LAC and CP) continues to reduce from 2069 in April to 1881 in December. Excluding LAC and CP the figures are 1189 in April – 1053 in December. The latter is an increase on the previous month, but is to be expected when CP plans are reducing and stepping down to Child in Need Plans.

The monthly score card attached at Appendix 7(a) supports performance management. A monthly practice improvement meeting has been established to monitor compliance performance and quality.

#### 5.5 Anti-Bullying

Following on from the very successful conference, free upskilling training for all anti bullying ambassadors in Blackpool schools has been obtained. Trainers from the Princess Diana Award charity from London delivered the training at Highfield Leadership Academy on Wednesday 17 January 2018 with over 100 young people and staff in attendance.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### 6.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a) – Performance Data Dashboard December 2017



**7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None