

• Safeguarding our vulnerable

Safeguard vulnerable children; keep children in their own home where it is safe to do so and identify and take action where we find exploitation of children and young people

► Quality

Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
1 % repeat referrals	Low	Month only (not quarterly data)	20%	30%	30%	35%	Red	<p>There has been a further increase in repeat referrals from 30% in Q1 to 35% in Q2.</p> <p>The % of repeat referrals is over target (good to be low) and is higher than our Statistical Neighbours (20%), the South East (24%) and England (22%).</p>	<p>There has been a further increase in repeat referrals from 30% in Q1 to 35% in Q2.</p> <p>The % of repeat referrals is over target (good to be low) and is higher than our Statistical Neighbours (20%), the South East (24%) and England (22%).</p> <p>There is ongoing audit and analysis surrounding this measure. Emerging themes are in relation to improvements required in targeted early help, the volume of domestic abuse referrals and repeat incidents which lead to re-referrals and further work required to support victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Actions: A refreshed multi-agency domestic abuse strategy will assist in addressing these issues. Additionally, Early Help services are being remodelled to better support families and avoid the need for escalation of concerns leading to repeat referrals. Further analysis is underway to explore other potential issues.</p>
2 % of children who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time	Low	Month only (not quarterly data)	18%	New	18%	23%	Red	<p>The % of children who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time was 23% compared to a target of 18%, Performance for England and Statistical Neighbours is 18% and 21% in the South East.</p>	<p>23% compared to a target of 18%, performance for England and Statistical Neighbours is 18% and 21% in the South East. Buckinghamshire is performing slightly worse compared to the South East average.</p> <p>There were an additional 24 children between April and September 2017 who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time. The age profile of these children is predominantly between 5 and 14 years. This supports the development of the Local Neglect Strategy, highlighting that there needs to be a better recognition of and response to neglect at an earlier stage.</p> <p>Actions: The Safeguarding Children Board has a plan of action in place to introduce resources and training to support frontline practitioners in their work with children and families. This underpins the recently launched multi-agency Neglect Strategy.</p>
3 % of children subject to a Child Protection Plan lasting 2 years or more	Low	Month only (not quarterly data)	2%	1%	1%	3%	Red	<p>The % of children subject to a CP Plan with a duration of 2yrs+ is above target and slightly above Statistical Neighbours (2%), the South East (2%) and England (2%).</p> <p>The rise from 1% to 3% in Q2 equates to 12 further children in September remaining on a plan for over 2yrs.</p>	<p>3% of children subject to a CP Plan with a duration of 2yrs+ is above target (2%) and slightly above Statistical Neighbours (2%), the South East (2%) and England (2%).</p> <p>This is still a relatively low number of children - representing 16 (in total) out of 579 children and has been affected by 2 large sibling groups (one group of 6 siblings and another group of 3 siblings).</p> <p>A very small reduction in the number of children (less than 5) would lead to Buckinghamshire being in line with its Statistical Neighbours, South East and England averages of 2%</p> <p>Actions: All children on a child protection plan for 9 months or more were audited by the child protection conference chairs during quarter two. The impact of this is that as of the beginning of November there had been a reduction to 8 children on a child protection plan for two years or more, which represents 1% of the total number of children on a plan.</p>

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4	<p>% of care leavers in suitable accommodation</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Month only (not quarterly data)</p>	<p>78%</p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>93%</p>	<p>86%</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>The % of care leavers in suitable accommodation is above target and is higher than our Statistical Neighbours (78%), the South East (77%) and England (83%).</p> <p>The reduction in Q2 is likely to be due to a few remaining data quality issues (following the data transfer from Swift to LCS), which are being addressed.</p>	<p>Care Services continue to source suitable accommodation for Buckinghamshire's care leavers and performance is higher than statistical neighbours, the south east and England.</p> <p>This good performance will continue to be sustained by liaising with commissioners and housing officers in and out of County.</p>
5	<p>% of care leavers in employment, education, or training (EET)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Month only (not quarterly data)</p>	<p>47%</p>	<p>64%</p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>The % of care leavers in EET is above target and is higher than our Statistical Neighbours (47%), the South East (47%) and England (49%).</p> <p>The reduction in Q2 is likely to be due to a few remaining data quality issues (following the data transfer from Swift to LCS), which are being addressed.</p>	<p>The recent dip in performance from 65% in Q1 to 60% in Q2 will be monitored closely during the coming months by Heads of Service to understand what more could be done, or what could be done differently to reduce the % of care leavers who are not in employment, education or training.</p> <p>Some new options are being considered and will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel in November to seek Champions and opportunities for shadowing/work experience/employment and training</p>

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Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
6 % of Children in Need (not including CP, CLA) seen in the last 6 weeks	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (5% tolerance)	New Definition	90%	88%	Amber	<p>The % of Children in Need seen in the last 6 weeks is 7% below the tolerance target of 95% and there has been a slight dip in performance in Q2. Benchmarking information is not available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 5% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions for this indicator where a child cannot be seen for legitimate reasons (95-100% = Green, less than 95% = Amber, less than 85.5% = Red).</p>	<p>88% of Children in Need seen in the last 6 weeks is 7% below the tolerance target of 95% and there has been a slight dip in performance in Q2. Benchmarking information is not available. There has been an increase of 94 children in need in the service over the past 3 months. Total numbers have risen from 1,311 in June to 1,407 in September. The service has maintained a high standard of intervention to children.</p> <p>Staff capacity and system issues have impacted on performance and these are being addressed. There are a number of large sibling groups being transferred – these increase the percentage of children not being seen. In particular there are large groups of children that are allocated to the workers who are currently on sick leave. Families not engaging with the CIN plan/one family out of the country which are highlighted on the visits report twice a week.</p> <p>Actions: Duty workers in Aylesbury covering for workers on sick leave is expediting children being allocated. An additional 5 Social Workers have been agreed for a period of 3 months in order to bring some stability to the service.</p>
7 % of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) Plan seen in the last 4 weeks	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (5% tolerance)	95%	95%	95%	Green	<p>The % of children on a CP plan seen in the last 4 weeks is on the tolerance target of 95%. The positive performance in Q1 has continued in to Q2. Benchmarking information is not available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 5% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions for this indicator where a child cannot be seen for legitimate reasons (95-100% = Green, less than 95% = Amber, less than 85.5% = Red).</p>	<p>95% of children on a Child Protection plans seen in the last 4 weeks is on the tolerance target of 95%.</p> <p>Performance is on target and has further improved in October. The current outturn in October for visits in the last 4 weeks is 97%, which is very good.</p> <p>Close management oversight in the service means that the reasons why some children have not been seen in 20 days are recorded and reported on each week to the Head of Service.</p>
8 % Children Looked After (CLA) seen in the last 6 weeks	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (5% tolerance)	94%	93%	93%	Amber	<p>The % of looked after children seen in the last 6 weeks is 2% below the tolerance target of 95% and is level with the Q1 performance. Benchmarking information is not available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 5% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions for this indicator where a child cannot be seen for legitimate reasons (95-100% = Green, less than 95% = Amber, less than 85.5% = Red).</p>	<p>93% of CLA seen in the last 6 weeks is 2% below the tolerance target of 95% and is level with the Q1 performance.</p> <p>Actions: Heads of Service, Practice Improvement Managers, Team Managers & Social Workers are regularly monitoring performance and taking action to effect improvement. Managers use the information available to prioritise the children dependent on the time elapsed since they were last seen. Practitioners have been supported to proactively monitor this and plan their time appropriately, forward plan to ensure that visits are made on time and contingencies are built in to accommodate cancellations.</p>

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Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
9 % of Children in Need (CIN) reviewed in time (not including Child Protection, Children Looked After)	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (15% tolerance)	New Definition	86%	81%	Amber	<p>The % of children in need reviewed in timescale is 4% below the tolerance target of 85% and there has been a drop in performance (-5%) since Q1 when it was above the target tolerance. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 15% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions (85-100% = Green, less than 85% = Amber, less than 76.5% = Red).</p>	<p>The % of children in need reviewed in timescale is 4% below the tolerance target of 85% and there has been a drop in performance (-5%) since Q1 when it was above the target tolerance. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>Issues impacting on performance include a number of unexpected staff absences and staff vacancies across some teams.</p> <p>Actions: Duty workers in some teams will be covering for staff absence if necessary. An additional 5 Social Workers have been agreed for a period of 3 months in order to bring some stability to the service.</p>
10 % of Child Protection Plans reviewed in timescales	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (5% tolerance)	96%	88%	95%	Green	<p>The % of children on CP plans reviewed in timescale is on the tolerance target of 95%. Performance has improved by 7% since Q1. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 5% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions (95-100% = Green, less than 95% = Amber, less than 85.5% = Red).</p>	<p>The % of children on Child Protection plans reviewed in timescale is on the tolerance target of 95%. Performance has improved by 7% since Q1. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>Good performance has been maintained by the service in reviewing child protection plans on time. This means that positive and timely outcomes are being achieved for children, and where this is not the case consideration is given to holding a legal planning meeting to assess if the threshold has been met for care proceedings.</p>
11 % of CLA (Children Looked After) have their reviews completed on time	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (5% tolerance)	96%	87%	97%	Green	<p>The % of looked after children reviewed in timescale is above the tolerance target of 95%. Performance has improved by 10% since Q1. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>Note: There is a 5% tolerance against the target of 100% to allow for exceptions (95-100% = Green, less than 95% = Amber, less than 85.5% = Red).</p>	<p>The % of children looked after reviewed in timescale is above the tolerance target of 95%. Performance has improved by 10% since Q1. Benchmarking information is not currently available.</p> <p>The Independent Reviewing Service is continuing to perform well in ensuring that children who are looked after by Buckinghamshire County Council have their reviews held on time. This means that the suitability of a child's placement is regularly considered and they are able to frequently express their views about being in care.</p>

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► Timeliness of the journey of the child

Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
12 % assessments completed in 45 working days	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (14% tolerance)	89%	81%	75%	Red	<p>The % of assessments completed within the 45 day statutory timescale is 11% below the tolerance target of 86% and is performing below our Statistical Neighbours (86%), the South East (83%) and England (83%).</p> <p>Note: There is a 14% tolerance against the target of 100% to align with Statistical Neighbour performance (86%-100% = Green, less than 86% = Amber, less than 77.4% = Red).</p>	<p>The 75% of assessments completed within the 45 day statutory timescale is 11% below the tolerance target of 86% and is performing below our Statistical Neighbours (86%), the South East (83%) and England (83%).</p> <p>There has been an increase in the number of new assessments, particularly in September. Staffing issues, which are being addressed, have led to a reduction in performance against target this quarter.</p> <p>Actions: Agency staff have been appointed to cover staff absence. In further response to the increased workload and staffing shortages, systems are in place to assist in transferring Children in Need at an earlier point in the assessment to reduce timescales but more importantly to get children the support and help they need as quickly as possible</p>
13 % ICPC (Initial Child Protection Conference) held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	100% (18% tolerance)	53%	56%	89%	Green	<p>The % of ICPCs held within the 15 day statutory timescale from the Strategy Discussion is above the tolerance target of 82% and is performing above our Statistical Neighbours (82%), the South East (72%) and England (77%).</p> <p>Note: There is a 18% tolerance against the target of 100% to align with Statistical Neighbour performance (82%-100% = Green, less than 82% = Amber, less than 73.8% = Red).</p>	<p>89% of ICPCs held within the 15 day statutory timescale from the Strategy Discussion is above the tolerance target of 82% and is performing above our Statistical Neighbours (82%), the South East (72%) and England (77%). This has been a marked improvement from Q1 when the outturn was 56%.</p> <p>The timeliness of holding initial child protection conferences has been sustained at or above the target of 82% over the quarter. The changes in monitoring processes have contributed to the improvements in this area.</p>

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► Sufficiency of children's placements

Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
14 % of CLA living within 20 miles of home	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	56%	38%	36%	57%	Green	The % of children placed within 20 miles from their home address is 8% below target and significantly below our Statistical Neighbours (62%), the South East (63%) and England (74%). The performance of this measure has been directly impacted by the removal of a distance calculator on LCS which was supplied by the DfE. IT are currently researching an alternative solution. In the meantime another data cleanse has been carried out and the performance as at 4th October was 57%.	Performance has shown an improvement from 53% (As at 19th July - the reported figure in the first quarter was 36% because the data was uncleaned) to 57% of children who are looked after placed within 20 miles from home. Over the first half of this year 79% of children coming into care have been placed within 20 miles of their home. For some looked after children it may be in their best interests to be placed at distance away from their home but for the vast majority this is not the case. Less children and young people living a distance away from their family, friends, and familiar surroundings will mean a reduction of young people experiencing disruptions in their education/health and their contact needs. Statutory guidance makes it clear that children should live within the local authority area with access to local services and close to their friends and family, unless that is inconsistent with their welfare. The % of children placed within 20 miles from their home address is on target but below our Statistical Neighbours (62%), the South East (63%) and England (74%).
15 % of children in care placed with own provision	High	Month only (not quarterly data)	24%	17%	16%	16%	Red	The % of looked after children placed with an in-house foster carer is 8% below target and 28% below our comparative CIPFA neighbours (44%) - Source: Children Looked After CIPFA report 2016	16% of CLA placed with an in-house foster carer is 8% below target of 24% and 28% below our comparative CIPFA neighbours (44%) - Source: Children Looked After CIPFA report 2016. There are 68 mainstream carers. Not all placements are used at any one time for reasons such as: changes in carer's circumstances (including health issues), other children's needs in placement, pending resignation or retirement. Recent recruitment activity has identified the need to increase the sufficiency of foster carers as well as carers who can meet the needs of children with disabilities and black and minority ethnic children. In 2017/18 Bucks has engaged in a number of recruitment events and we are confident we can continue to improve the capacity of our in-house fostering service. Actions: Under the Change for Children programme, four new Children's Homes will be opening. The service is working at developing our cohort of foster carers through training/information evenings and looking at additional support for carers to enable them to think more creatively about the placements they are willing to consider. This year to date we have recruited 8 new foster carers, which equates to a net gain of 5 following deregistrations.
16 % of Children Looked After (CLA) in residential care	Low	Month only (not quarterly data)	10%	11%	10%	12%	Red	The % of looked after children placed in residential care is above target and our comparative CIPFA neighbours (9%) - Source: CLA CIPFA report 2016. The rise of 2% in Q2 related to 10 further children now residing in residential placements.	12% of CLA placed in residential care is above target of 10%, and our comparative CIPFA neighbours (9%) - Source: CLA CIPFA report 2016. The rise of 2% in Q2 related to 10 further children now residing in residential placements. We have a large proportion of children with highly complex disabilities in residential care. All children in residential care are reviewed regularly to ensure the placement is appropriate and, where their needs have changed, that alternative arrangements are made. Foster carers currently with vacancies are registered for younger children and not available for adolescent children. Actions: We are training our current foster carer cohort to support them to have adolescent children placed with them. Two of the Council's new Children's Homes will open in 2018 and will enable children to live closer to their homes and professionals who can support them whilst in care. This will enable the council to direct work and improve the transition for these children into family placements.

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► Permanency for children

Measure	Good to be	Data period	Target	Mar 2017	Q1 Jun 2017	Q2 Sep 2017	Latest performance (RAG)	Benchmarks	Commentary
17 % of children waiting <14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	High	Financial year	100%	79%	67%	50%	Red	<p>The % of children waiting under 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family reduced in Q2 to 50%. Although below target, this measure is performing similarly to our Statistical Neighbours (47%) and England (47%).</p>	<p>50% of children have waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family during 2017/18, which has reduced in Q2 (from 67% in Q1), against a target of 100%.</p> <p>It should be noted that this indicator covers a very small number of children (3 in Q1 and an additional 5 in Q2), which does not include those placed on Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's). Our performance compares favourably to both our statistical neighbours and nationally. Children with more complex needs often take longer to find an appropriate family. The needs of children we are finding families for at the moment include two sibling groups of three; a child where location is an issue and two sets of twins with additional needs.</p> <p>Actions: For children with more complex needs who we are attempting to place at present, we have concentrated on planned recruitment and increased family-finding activities which have succeeded in identifying placements for most of our children whose final care plan is adoption.</p>