

Children and Families Monthly Report - December 2015

Contents

Children and Families Monthly Report - December 2015.....	1
Qualitative measures: significant changes (+/-10%).....	2
Assessments.....	2
EH4 - Number and percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days.....	2
MASH and Children in Need (CiN).....	3
M6 - Number and percentage of referrals of Children In Need (CiN) which are re-referrals within one year.....	3
M8 - Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less and M1- Number of contacts received.....	3
Child Protection (CP).....	4
CP3 - Number and percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales.....	4
CP5 - Number and percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time.....	4
CP8 - Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 14 calendar days.....	5
Looked after Children (LAC).....	6
LAC7 - Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales.....	6
LAC8 - Percentage of Looked after Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP).....	6

Qualitative measures: significant changes (+/-10%)

Positive change – Negative change

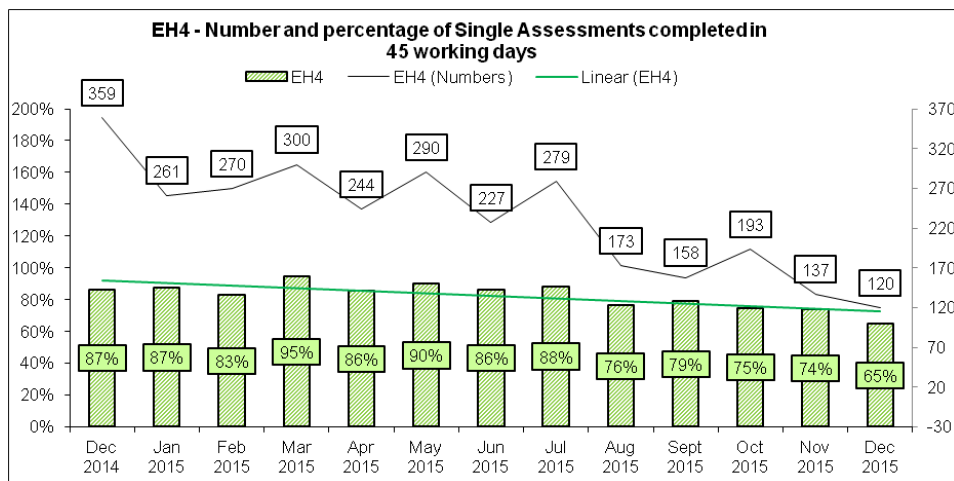
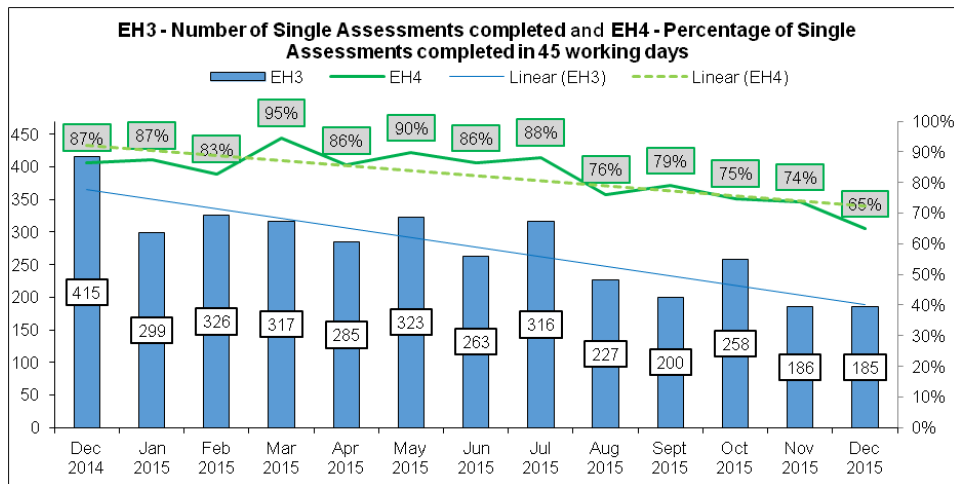
Assessments

EH4 - Number and percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days

The number of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 45 working days continues to decrease month on month, although there was a peak in performance in October 2015, when 193 SAs were completed within timescales. However, the numbers have remained under 200 from August 2015 onwards and for the last two months have been closer to 100 than 200.

It is concerning that although the total numbers of SAs completed in November and December were virtually the same, the percentage of those completed within timescales was very different – 74% in November, and 65% in December.

In November, it was acknowledged that workload and capacity pressures affected performance, which may be an ongoing issue, and could also be the reason for the negative decrease on this measure.

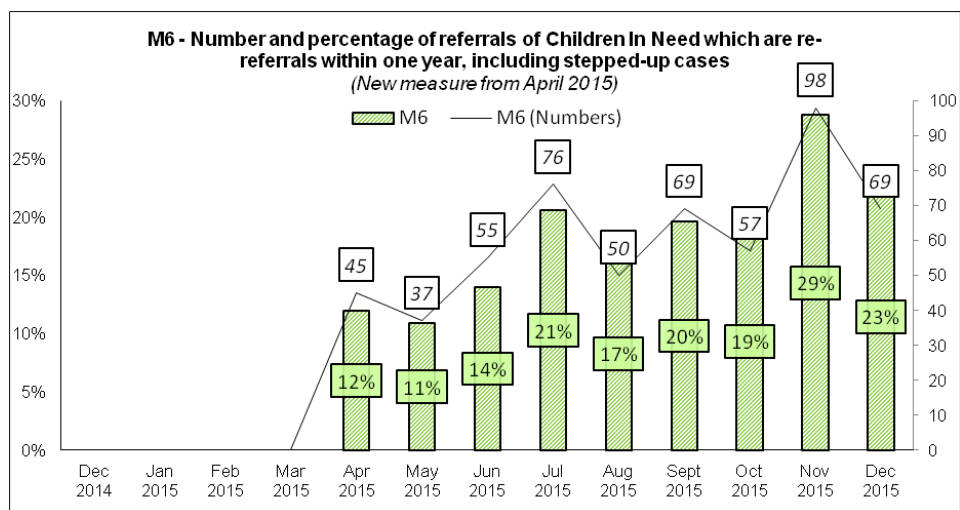


MASH and Children in Need (CiN)

M6 – Number and percentage of referrals of Children In Need (CiN) which are re-referrals within one year

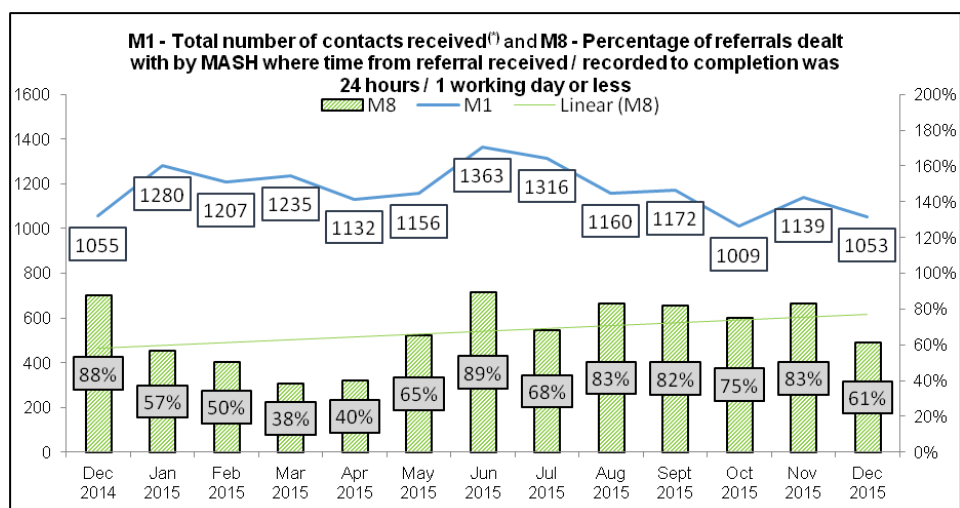
There was a 20% decrease in the percentage, and 30% decrease in the number of CiN re-referrals, when compared to the previous month. Both the number and percentage were unusually high in November, which has been acknowledged to possibly have been caused by cases being closed too soon.

Excluding November's high figure (98), the 12 month average of numbers of re-referrals is 57, which means December's value is still substantially above the average, even when excluding the exceptionally high figure of the previous month. There is currently not enough data to identify any trends on this indicator, although from the data available, it can be seen that there is a peak nearly every other month (as shown in the graph below), whilst both the number and percentage have also continued to increase. Further analysis on lengths of time between referrals will be undertaken to better understand reasons for the changes in this figure.



M8 - Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less and M1- Number of contacts received

There was a 26% negative decrease in the percentage compared to the previous month, and 30% compared to the same period last year. This is the first time in five months when the percentage has dropped under 75%. As the graph below shows, the total numbers of contacts received has also decreased when compared to the previous month, which indicates that the change in the percentage is unlikely to be due to increased workload. Staff absence and holidays may be one of the reasons affecting this figure, but further investigation is needed to understand what else might have caused the decrease.



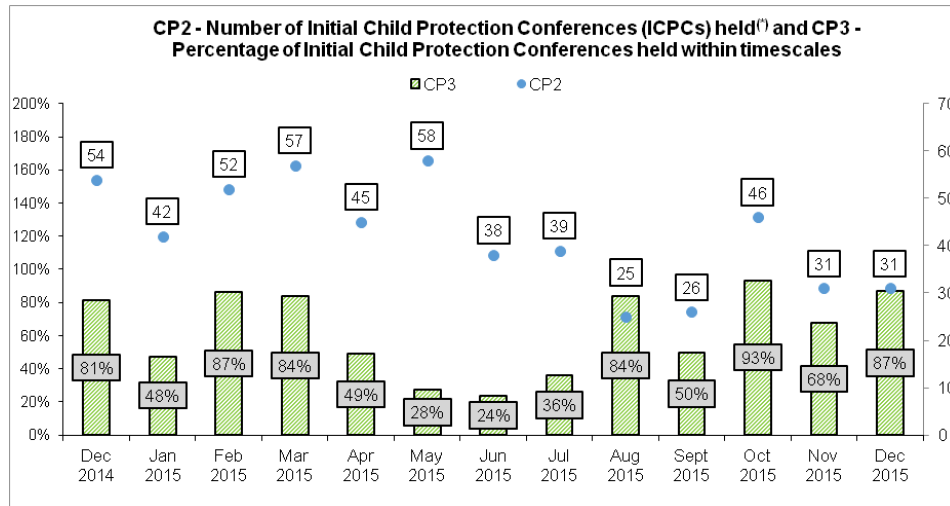
(*) M1 - Includes contacts that become referrals.

Child Protection (CP)

CP3 - Number and percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales

There has been a positive increase in both the number and percentage of ICPCs held within timescales compared to the previous month. However, the number has gone down when compared to the same period last year.

In November, it was discovered that there were recording issues which affected this measure, such as conference requests being received late, and Section 47s not being recorded, which meant ICPCs could not be added on PARIS. CP conferences being held within timescales is a statutory requirement, and it is therefore vital that seamless joint working between teams is promoted and encouraged to ensure that conferences are recorded in an accurate and timely way.



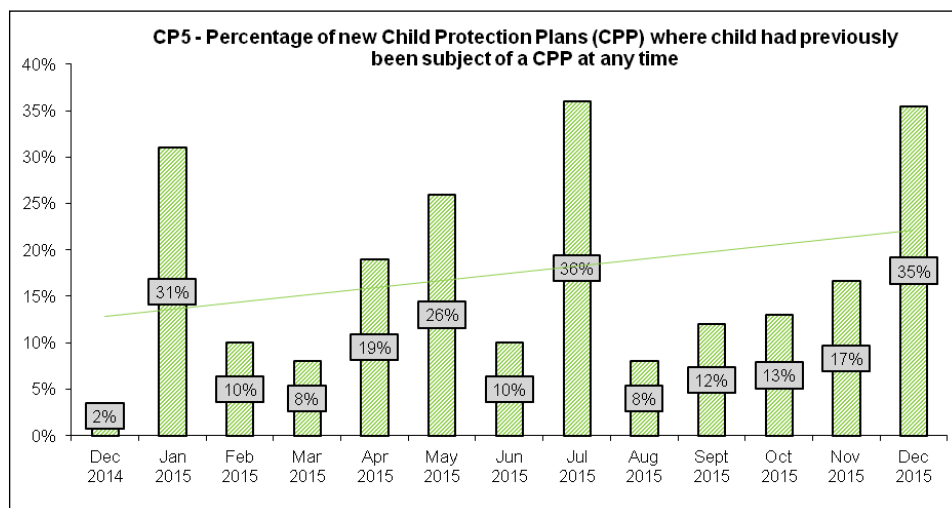
(*) CP2 - Includes transfer-ins, excludes temporary registrations.

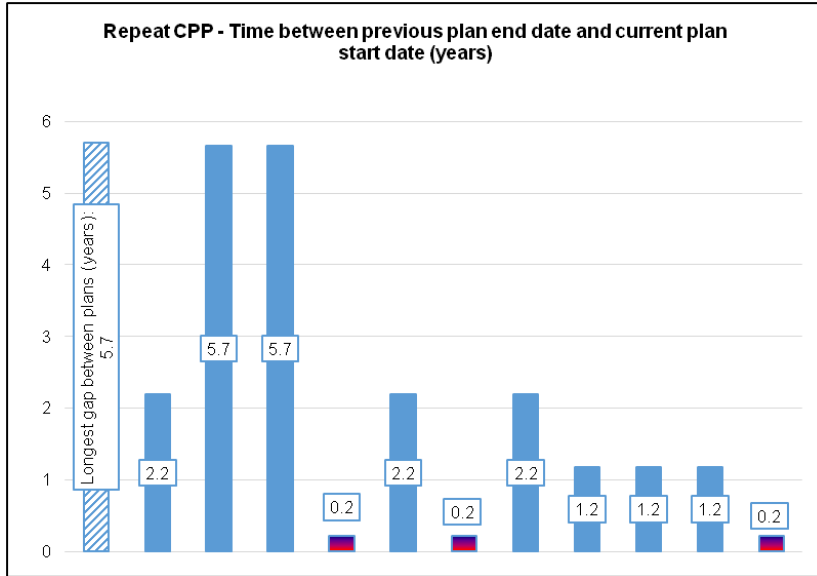
CP5 - Number and percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time

There has been a negative increase in both the number and percentage of repeat CP plans, both when compared to the previous month and the same period last year. Of the total of 11 children, five were previously subject to a plan less than two years ago, of them three less than a year ago. Of the 11 children, three had been subject to a plan twice and one three times (including the current plan).

The second graph below shows the time between the end of the previous CP plan and the start of the current plan.

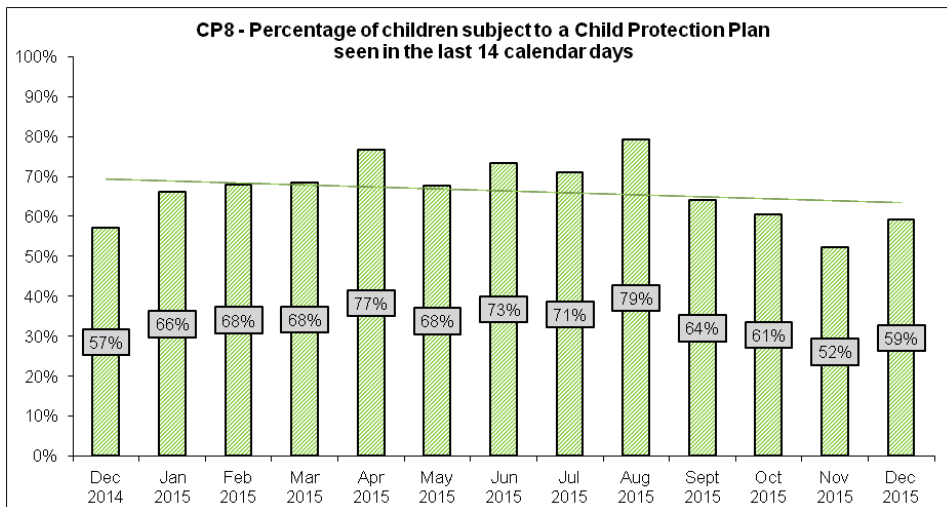
Details of these children have been sent to the relevant Principal Officer for further investigation of their circumstances.





CP8 - Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 14 calendar days

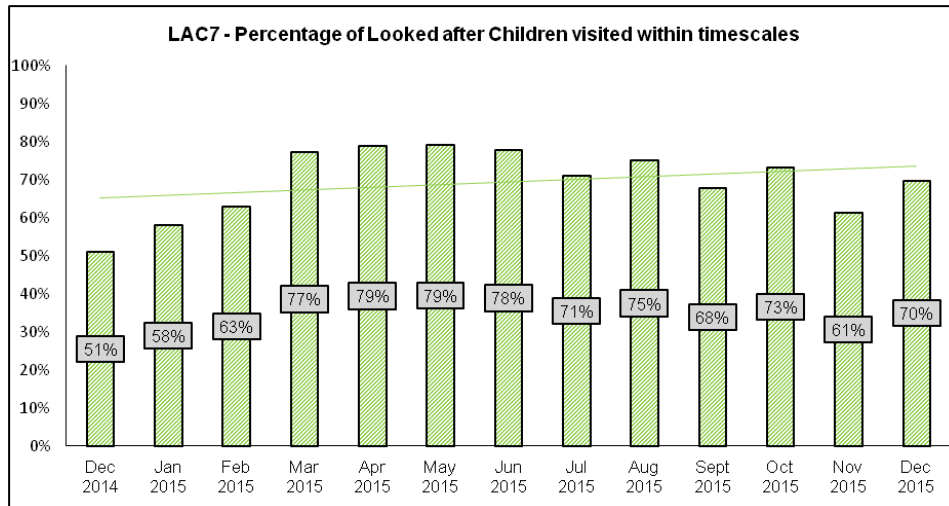
Although there has been a 13% positive increase in the percentage of children subject to CP plans seen within 14 days when compared to the previous month, this figure is now below the 12 month average of 67%. For the last two months, the figure has also now, for the first time since December 2014, been below 60%.



Looked after Children (LAC)

LAC7 - Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales

There has been a 14% increase in this percentage when compared to the previous month, and 37% when compared to the same period in the previous year. In November, it was discovered that there had been some recording issues relating to this figure, which contributed towards the reduction. This issue has been rectified by offering appropriate training and guidance to new members of staff.



LAC8 - Percentage of Looked after Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP)

There has been a significant positive development in this figure compared to both the previous month and the same period last year, and indeed, any other month during the past 12-month period and beyond. The improvement is known to be due to significant work having been undertaken by the Virtual School (VS) team across the 11 teams responsible for completion of PEPs. The work entailed, amongst other things, training of schools and social workers, mail-outs and reminders to involved persons, and the establishment of close relationships between schools, social workers and the VS team. The next stage of the project will be checking a sample of over 200 PEPs, for the purposes of feedback and quality improvement.

