

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2015</b>
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SCC/025 – STATUTORY VISITS – LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN</b>
<b>SUB TITLE</b>	<b>INFORMATION IN RELATION TO PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE INDICATOR</b>
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<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR MAIR ROWLANDS</b>

1. This report is provided at the request of the Scrutiny Committee to share current performance within Children's Services in respect of the National Performance Indicator, SCC/025, which measures the timeliness of statutory visits to looked after children.
  
2. It is required as per regulations and procedures that when a child becomes looked after, it is necessary, as a minimum, that the child is visited in his placement within the first week of placement, then every six weeks for the first year and then every three months for the duration of the child's placement. In some circumstances, for example when a child has been placed with a relative or friend it is required to visit the placement weekly up until such a time that the carers are registered as foster carers for the Authority (Regulation 38, Fostering Regulations).
  
3. At the end of December 2014 there were 193 looked after children in Gwynedd who were placed either with foster carers (internal or agency), in residential placements (internal or out of county) or with their own parents. This is an increase on the end of 2014 figures when 185 children were looked after. Since April 2014, 49 children have become looked after for the first time. At the end of March 2013 the figure was 193.
  
4. The ages are as follows : 8 (4%) under one year old; 46 (24%) between 1 and 5 years; 49 (25%) between 6 and 10 years; 64 (34%) between 11 a 15 years and 25 (13%) over 16 years.

- 5.** The Welsh performance average in 13/14 in respect of this indicator was 85.3%, with the 'family' performance in the same year being 86.3%. Gwynedd's performance at the end of 13/14 was 83.7%. A target of figures in the range between 83 and 85% was set for 14/15. It became evident in the first quarter of this year that there were problems in relation to accurately recording statutory visits in a timely manner on the right form in RAISE in order to produce accurate data information in relation to actual performance. As a result, the Service undertook work to ensure compliance within individual teams and across the service and expectations were made clear to workers and managers.
- 6.** Performance figures for the first three quarters are encouraging:  
Quarter 1 – 88.2% (368/417)  
Quarter 2 – 89.5% (418/467)  
Quarter 3 – 87.1% (427/490)  
Aggregated figure 14/15 – 88.3% (1213/1374)  
The above figures will place Gwynedd in the first quartile in relation to performance against this indicator and I cannot foresee that any changes within Quarter 4 will negatively impact on this.
- 7.** Some visits are late (137), and the reasons for these are known to the Service. A high percentage of late visits take place between 1 and 5 days outside the timescales. The reasons for late visits are reasonable, for example the child being ill, carers not available, worker being called to Court, the worker ill etc.
- 8.** The Service will continue to monitor performance regularly and there is confidence that the integrity of data produced from the electronic system is reliable.