



Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board
Audit 2 Summary Report
Transitions Audit

Introduction and Background

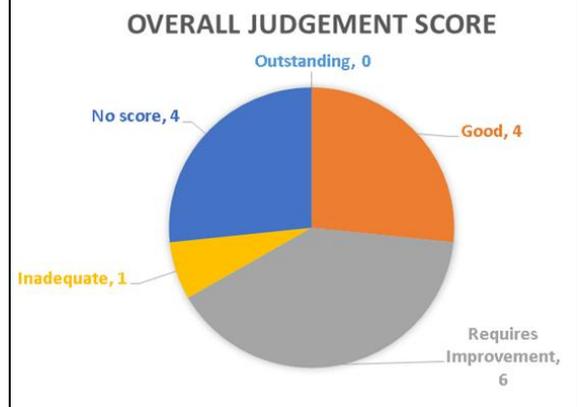
Work continues on the LSCB's multi-agency audit calendar. The theme for the second multi-agency audit of the year was 'Transitions from Children's to Adult's services'. This topic was identified via recommendations from the Serious Case Review concerning Child LA; details of which can be accessed via the LSCB's website – [http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/news/child-la-serious-case-review-\(scr\).aspx](http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/news/child-la-serious-case-review-(scr).aspx)

In line with the LSCB's multi-agency audit process, 15 cases were audited, with 5 cases included from each of the Lancashire-12 areas (East, North and Central). Audits were requested from all agencies involved with each case, this included input from Children's Social Care, Health Providers, CCG's, Education, Police, Probation, SEND, YOT, VCFS organisations and wellbeing, prevention and early help. The audit process allows single agencies to reflect on their input via completion of the individual audit tools, at this point it is expected that any single agency learning or immediate action required is escalated within individual agencies as per existing guidelines. In addition to this, the single agency audit documents are combined into a summary document for each case and discussed with auditors via multi-agency audit meetings. The audit meetings are an opportunity for cases to be considered in their entirety with the space to suggest themes emerging from the audit work, identify good practice and highlight areas of concern. The final audit report was written based on all the information collected. This includes the single agency audits for each of the 15 cases, multi-agency case summaries and the discussions held at the auditor meetings.

Scoring

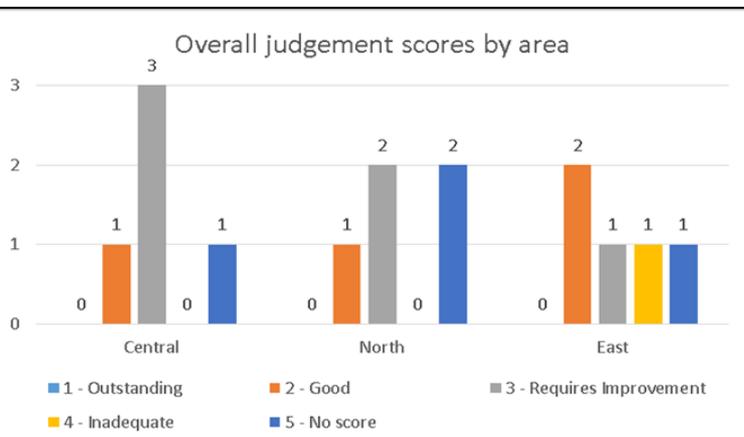
Each agency was asked to rate their involvement with the case by providing a grade (in line with CQC and Ofsted grading criteria). The score given was based on the single agency audit returns and was ratified by contributing agencies via the multi-agency audit meetings.

As the graph to the right indicates, 0 of the 15 cases were graded as outstanding. 4 were classed as good, 6 requiring



improvement and 1 inadequate. 4 of the 15 cases were not given a score, this is because there was insufficient information within the cases for agencies to be able to provide an overall score.

The second graph (left) illustrates the overall judgement scores by audit area. The judgement scores give an indication of the



quality of the transition work in place for each of the cases (and within each area), however scores alone do not fully explain the cases considered.

For the 1 case deemed inadequate, immediate single-agency actions were agreed and taken to ensure the young person is currently safe. These will be monitored by the LSCB's quality assurance and performance improvement sub-group.

Themes

1. SGO Payments – 4 of the 15 cases included in the audit were only open to CSC to enable Special Guardianship Order payments to occur, there was no clear evidence of a need for transition to adult services in these cases and some concern that CSC caseloads may be inflated if these cases are not shut down in a timely manner.
2. Missed opportunities to help young people sooner – This highlighted the importance of universal services and the fact that Early Help services are vital to help prevent cases reaching crisis.
3. Transitions from statutory services – Evidence of good multi-agency working with effective transitions for young people who have a clearly identified need and are in receipt of additional services and support.
4. Evidence of drift for cases which have existing support in place – Evidence of transition to Adult Services occur less quickly for cases that were not currently at crisis.
5. Engagement – Lack of engagement inhibited progress for many of the cases audited, with young people often being deemed old enough to make their own decision with regards to whether to engage. Questions were raised about whether young people always have the capacity to consent and whether more can be done to try to understand reasons for non-engagement.
6. Information Sharing – Lack of information sharing, particularly with GP's.
7. Protective Factor of Education – Evidence of education acting as a protective factor for some of the cases audited.
8. Need for an effective lead professional/coordination – Evidence of cases which lack professional leadership and consequently a lack of coordination for transition to Adult Services.
9. Lack of transition planning (CAMHS) – Transition to Adult mental health service inhibited by non-engagement by young people.
10. Limited evidence of voice of the child – Lack of evidence to explain how the voice of the child was used to inform their current plan / inform transitional arrangements.

Next Steps

The findings of the audit have been shared with the LSCB Board and will be shared with the Lancashire County Council's Ofsted Improvement Board. The LSCB quality assurance and performance improvement sub-group have produced a series of recommendations which aim to address the themes outlined above. These actions will be shared with the single agencies concerned and actions will be monitored by the LSCB's quality assurance and performance improvement sub-group.

The sub-group would like to encourage agencies to consider the themes highlighted above, using this report as a tool to aid discussion within teams with regards to services offered and practice in place to aid smooth transitions from children's to adult's services