



CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Information Paper for the Board Meeting on 7 February 2014

QUARTER THREE STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD

KEY POINTS

- The dashboard identifies the progress of each of the five Cafcass Strategic Priorities (2013-15) from September to December 2013 and points up the trends from the previous quarter.
- All five strategic priorities are judged to be making good progress.
- The dashboard has been subject to scrutiny by the Performance Committee and their comments have been incorporated

1. AIM AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Board with a summary of progress towards its Strategic Objectives based on a review of the third quarter of the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION FOR THE BOARD

- 2.1 To review the progress presented in the Strategic Dashboard incorporating comments raised by the Performance Committee arising from their scrutiny of the dashboard..

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The dashboard identifies the progress of each of the five Strategic Priorities for the quarter and indicates how we are 'trending' from the previous quarter. The measurement key provides a guide to the RAG scoring and symbols which are used in conjunction with the Corporate Management Board's best judgement to show progress. The dashboard is augmented with a further layer presenting progress against each programme which supports the Strategic Priority.

4. CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT/PROPOSAL TO DELIVERY OF THE 2013/15 CAFCASS STRATEGIC PLAN

- 4.1 This report deals specifically with progress towards achievement of the Cafcass Strategic Plan and also includes all significant operational programmes and policy developments for the current year.

5. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER

- 5.1 Where performance against particular areas is, or is at risk of falling below the expected level then the Board have the opportunity to consider options to bring delivery of the strategic objectives back on line.
- 5.2 Overall the dashboard shows continuing good progress against all five strategic priorities. The improvement in quality of casework was validated through the second national audit and other sources of evidence. Performance against key indicators remains a continuing area of strength. We are maintaining our prominent role nationally and locally in delivering the family justice reforms with the positive feedback from the PLO pilot reflective of this. Evidence of our improving practice in addressing diversity is a particular area of focus in this update with a significant range of activities demonstrating the focus being given to this by all service areas. Progress with the deployment of new ICT as well

as the development of the new Electronic Case Management System (ECMS) are well underway with tangible benefits to practice and productivity continuing to be reported.

6. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN

- 6.1 The delivery of safe, high quality and timely services remains a priority for service delivery. Timely and appropriate monitoring of strategic objectives will ensure opportunities to deliver and improve our work in this area are maximized.

7. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Delivery of the Strategic Plan is supported through the annual budget setting cycle.

8. RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 Risks to delivery of strategic and operational objectives are kept under careful review by the Board and its Committees through the monitoring and reporting of progress towards milestones and completion of actions, assigned to named individuals.

9. DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

- 9.1 Ensuring that Equality and Diversity are central to all our work remains a key strategic and operational priority. Timely and appropriate monitoring of strategic objectives will ensure opportunities to deliver and improve our work in this area are maximized.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 10.1 No additional comments required.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 11.1 No additional comments required.

Anthony Douglas,
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31 January 2014