



CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Strategic Paper for the BOARD Meeting on 25 October 2013

SIX MONTHS STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD REVIEW AND WORK PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014

KEY POINTS

- The dashboard identifies progress on each of the five Strategic Priorities for the second quarter of 2013/14.
- The measurement key provides a guide to the RAG scoring and symbols which are used in conjunction with the Corporate Management Board's (CMB's) best judgement to show the rate and amount of progress.
- Strategic priorities are judged to continue to be making good progress but within the work programmes that support them there is variable progress.
- The detailed action plan appended to this report sets out the key activities to focus on over the remainder of the year so that continuous improvement can be maintained and demonstrated.
- Strong progress has been made in public law reform; attention now turns to making the necessary improvements in the private law programme and system
- Increasingly, new performance and productivity improvements can only be made through partnership working, and strong partnership working is amply evidenced in this update
- Quality improvement remains our major overarching strategic priority.

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 second quarter of the financial year.
- 1.2 To set out a clear list of priority activities for delivery over the remainder of the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION FOR THE BOARD

- 2.1 To review and comment on the progress presented in the Strategic Dashboard.
- 2.2 To review and comment on the list of priority activities for the remainder of the year.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The dashboard identifies the progress of each of the five Strategic Priorities for the quarter and indicates progress since the previous quarter. The Dashboard is drafted from a review of the National Business Plan which contains the Corporate Work Programme which defines and allocates programmes of work that are intended to enable the Strategic Objectives to be met.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 13 September 2013, the Board scrutinised progress in the first quarter of the year. The conclusion was we were broadly on track at that point.

For this half-year review (including a q2 review), CMB has reviewed all elements of the Corporate Work Programme to determine those that are recommended to stay in and those that are no longer a priority or need adapting to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.

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

4.1 This report deals specifically with progress towards delivery of the Cafcass Strategic Plan.

5. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER

5.1 This report presents a summary of progress towards the Cafcass Strategic Plan and Corporate Action Plan. These are appended in detail at Appendices 1 and 2.

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 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,
Julie Brown
17 October 2013**