

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 12 January 2017

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to November 2016

Report

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 and 3 contain performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus.
- 1.3. Section 4 provides an overall assessment relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent.

2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. **438 children were in care** on the last day of November 2016 or 74 per 10,000 population including 39 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a gradual increase in the level of children in care in comparison to the position at the end of March 2016 - 31 more children in care. However reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2015/16 places us within the inter-quartile range of our statistical neighbours (a rate of 69 per 10,000 population), although the current rate remains above the London (51) and national average (60) rates.
- 2.2. At the end of November, 91% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**. Performance in this area has consistently remained above target since February 2016 as a result of activity tracking in weekly meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care.

- 2.3. At the end of November, 84% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area improved slightly since the reported position in August 2016 (82%) and is closing the gap with the 90% target. The longer term trend is a positive one and we have seen a step change in performance. This can be illustrated by a comparison of pathway plans as at April 2015 when only 22% of plans were up to date, this increased to 58% by October 2015 and by April 2016 we had achieved 77%. The improvement trend has continued this year and it is hoped that with continued focus we can achieve the 90% target.
- 2.4. A similar improvement trend on **Personal Education Plans** can be observed although current performance has declined since the August school holidays. 81% of school age looked after children have an up to date PEP as at the end of November. There is a current requirement to ensure PEPs are reviewed and updated termly as opposed to every six months so the next update will report the proportion of PEPs reviewed since the last term. This area continues to be a priority for performance tracking.
- 2.5. At the end of March 2016, there were 35 pupils in Year 11 who were looked after continuously for 12 months or more. Of these, 13 (37%) attained 5 **GCSEs A*-C incl. English & Maths** – a significant increase compared to 28% in 2015.
- 2.6. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to November 2016, 9% of children had **three or more placement moves**, below the statistical neighbour average (10%). 75% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years had been in the same placement for at least 2 years, slightly above our statistical neighbour average (67%).
- 2.7. 95% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of November, above the 90% target. This relates to 3 children with late LAC reviews.
- 2.8. At the end of November, 95% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, above target and continuing the positive trend.
- 2.9. Data for the period July to September 2016 confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 32.5 weeks, an improvement from the 37 weeks in Q1 and better than the 2015/16 average (34 weeks). Q2 data for 2016-17 shows 44% were concluded under the 26 week statutory timescale.
- 2.10. The outcomes for 36% of **care proceeding cases** issued between July and September 2016 was for children to remain with or reunify with their parents compared to 54% of children in 2015/16. In a further 27% of cases issued, children remained in their family of origin under SGOs and in 36% of cases children were placed on care/placement orders, an increasing trend compared to 2015/16.

3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. In the year to November 2016, only 15 permanency orders have been achieved (8 adoptions and 7 special guardianship orders (SGOs) – 11 fewer than the same period last year and the lowest recorded for many years. There have been a few unborn babies and 1 relinquished case recently but there seems to be a trend towards placement with families- kinship or connected persons as opposed to adoption or SGOs. National quarterly data suggest that this is a trend being observed elsewhere with reduction noted in new decisions, placement orders, adoptions and adopter registrations.
- 3.2. **Of the children that have ceased to be looked after this year 8.5% have been adopted** which compares with 15% nationally and 8% in London but this is lower than the 11% achieved in 2015/16. Special guardianship referrals continue to be low and it is likely that no more than 12 will be achieved by the end of the financial year. If SGOs are included, almost 16% of those who ceased to be looked after achieved legal permanency this year.
- 3.3. Timeliness of children placed for adoption this year is higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). In the year to November 2016, **children waited an average of 604 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This relates to a relatively small number of adoptions (8) and includes 1 adoption in September where the person was adopted after more than 4 years in care. Although this may be a positive outcome for the young person, it does skew the average on this key indicator of timeliness.
- 3.4. Haringey's latest 3 year rolling average position as published in our Adoption Scorecard in March 2016 was 691 days for the period 2012-15, higher than the national threshold and England position of 593 days but close to our statistical neighbour average of 696 days. Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data.
- 3.5. The 2015/16 trend towards the reduction in the number of **care proceeding applications** has shifted towards an increasing trend in Q1 2016/17. This trend has continued in Q2 and reveals a significant increase in applications in respect of children under 1.
- 3.6. 85% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in November. Performance in this area has remained below target since October 2014 mainly due to recording issues. Performance on visits continues to be tracked at performance meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care but is starting to show improvement from this additional regular focus.
- 3.7. 83 or 19% of Looked After Children at 30th November were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey**. Performance is worse than the 16% target however fewer children are being placed 20 miles+ and there are good reasons for these placements outside the borough many linked to complex care requirements or long term foster care arrangements. Although higher than national levels this proportion is only slightly above the average for London and

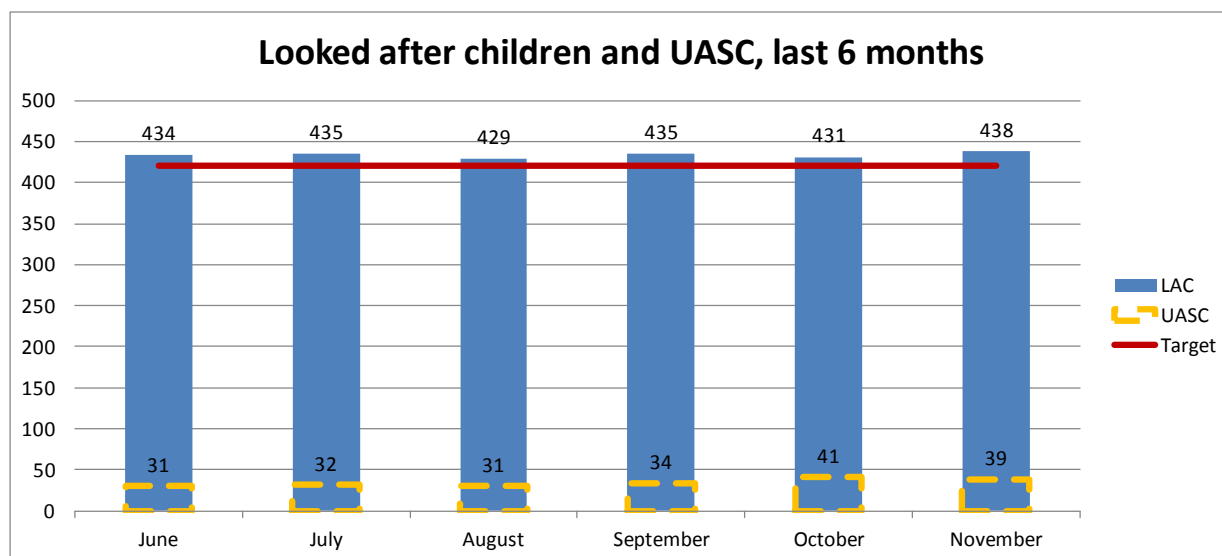
our Statistical Neighbours (18%) and is an improvement from the position at the end of March 2016 (23%).

- 3.8. 83% of the current LAC cohort had an **up to date dental visit** as at November 2016. There were 65 children without a recorded up to date dental check of which 37 have not had a visit since entering care. Detail of the children without a dental check and due a medical visit has been provided to target those with outstanding visits. The service is also liaising with the designated nurse to ensure timely notification of all children who become looked after.
- 3.9. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training (EET)** for 2016-17 is comparatively poor and below average levels reported for England and London. Approximately 30% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 are recorded as in EET down from 47% of 19-21 year olds and 57% of 17-18 year olds in 2015/16. This is lower than the national and London average comparator data (49% & 54% for 19-21 yr olds and 61% and 62% for 17-18 year olds). Haringey also reported a higher proportion where **the local authority did not have information about the care leavers activity** (19% compared to 12% average for London and 11% nationally) in 2015/16.
- 3.10. In 2016/17 around 50% of **care leavers are in suitable accommodation** down from 74% (for 19-21 year olds) and 71% (of 17-18 year olds) last year. Again this performance is comparatively low as nationally 83% of care leavers aged 19-21 are in suitable accommodation and 88% of 17-18 year olds.
- 3.11. The 2015/16 published data shows Haringey has a lower proportion of **care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21** who were *in touch with the Local Authority* at 81% compared with 87% nationally and in London. The data also reveals that we have a higher proportion (13%) where the young person no longer requires services compared to 3% nationally and in London. It is a similar picture for the 17 & 18 year olds although this data is experimental.
- 3.12. Regular meetings are held between the performance team and Young Adult Service to review and address the low position of care leavers in EET and suitable accommodation. A returning service manager has been allocated responsibility for updating the information on the system relating to the current care leaving cohort.

Overall Assessment of Children in Care

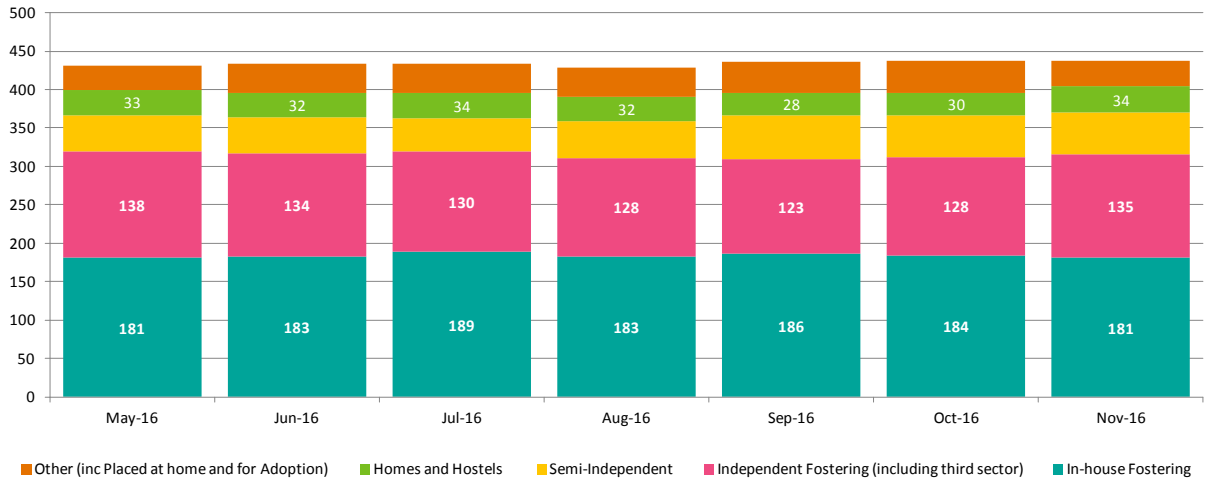
Looked After Children

- 4.1. There has been a 30% reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children since 2012 compared with a 3.9% reduction in London and a 5% increase nationally. Over the last 6 months, the number of Looked After Children has increased slightly however our current rate of 74 per 10,000 population although higher than the national (60) and London average rate (51) is in line with the average rate for our statistical neighbours and relative to deprivation.



- 4.2. In the year to November 148 children have become looked after and 107 have ceased to be looked after, a net change of 41 children or 8% increase. Abuse and neglect remains the biggest category of need for children starting to be looked after, in 2015/16 this accounted for 51% of children coming into care in Haringey. We have also seen an increase in the category of Absent Parenting (19% up from 11% in 2014/15) largely due to increases seen in the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and in family dysfunction (11%).
- 4.3. The profile of children starting to be looked after and in care is covered in a separate presentation provided for the Committee. The legal status of children coming into care is tracked. We are seeing increasing proportions coming into care and accommodated under section 20. In the year to November 68 or 45% of children becoming looked after, came into care on a legal status of Section 20 and 27% came into care via a Police Protection Order. 110 or 23% of our current LAC cohort at the end of November were accommodated under section 20 most of these in the older age group between 15 and 17 years old.

LAC placements by type



4.4. The graph above shows the breakdown of looked after children by placement type. The majority of children in care are in foster placements – 41% were placed with in house carers whilst 31% were placed with independent fostering agencies. Overall, the number of in-house placements is on an upward trend whilst the number of IFA placements is gradually reducing.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

5.1. Priority 1: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.