

27 November 2012

To: All Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Dear Member,

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee - Tuesday, 4th December, 2012

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

6. MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 1 - 4)

To consider the work plan and other issues arising from the minutes.

7.

PERMANENCY POLICY (PAGES 5 - 22)

The Committee to consider and endorse this policy in December 2012 with a view to informing the development of a clear policy statement on how best to secure permanent placements for children within the care system.

8. CHILDREN IN CARE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT (PAGES 23 - 26)

This report is a review of progress made by the Children in Care Service in relation to service development including the issues previously addressed through the Looked After Children Action Plan.

9. TRANSITION AND LEAVING CARE (PAGES 27 - 38)

The Committee to consider information on the transition process for young people leaving care.

**10. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT-
PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR TO OCTOBER 2012 (PAGES 39 - 66)**

This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children.

11. MISSING CHILDREN (PAGES 67 - 70)

At the joint meeting in October, it was agreed to provide a report back to the December meeting of Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee advising on the process and risk assessments in place for children in care taking unauthorised leave from their placements and also for children missing from care.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of items 13, 14, 15 as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1, 2, and 3: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. Also information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14. PROGRESS REPORT FOLLOWING AN OFSTED INSPECTION OF A COUNCIL CHILDREN'S HOME (PAGES 71 - 82)

This report sets out the progress made with the implementation of the OFSTED action plan for a council children's home.

15. UPDATE ON REGULATION 33 AND 34 VISITS (PAGES 83 - 90)

The Committee to consider proposals on a format and new arrangements for undertaking Regulation 33 and 34 visits and monitoring .

Yours sincerely

Ayshe Simsek
Principal Committee Co-ordinator
0208 489 2929

Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2012/13

Corporate Parenting meeting Date	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
19 Feb 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance 2. Matters arising 3. Six Monthly report on Adoption service 4. Fostering Service report (to include update on restructure and new arrangement. 5. Invitation to Barnardos to talk about Miss u project 6. Support to LAC when they are in custody <p>Reports to be sent to Marion Wheeler by 04 Feb</p> <p>Ayshe to publish by 10th February 2012</p>	Margaret Gallagher Wendy Tomlinson/Lesley Kettles Wendy Tomlinson/Janice Darling AS Linda James/Chris Chalmers
23 April 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance 2. Matters arising 3. IRO Annual report 4. Reg 33 Visits 5. Scrutiny Review update on Corporate Parenting(if available) <p>Reports to Marion Wheeler by 9th April</p> <p>Ayshe to publish on 14th April 2012</p>	Margaret Gallagher Rachel Oakley Rob Mack
16th May 2012	<p>Joint meeting with Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on MST programme <p>Reports to Marion Wheeler by 2nd May 2013</p> <p>Ayshe to publish on 8th May 2013</p>	

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Date of meeting	Action required	Status	Owner
11 Nov 10	Regular update on Foster Care Consortium joint working - information to be added to matters arising report for each meeting.	Wendy adds any required information or provides a verbal update to each meeting	WT
22 Sep	Feedback on the work of the Procurement specialist that will be recruited to work on behalf of the boroughs in the NLSA to look at category management of children services costs ,including benchmarking fostering and residential placement costs to inform future collective negotiations on price.	Future report	WT

Update from Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 22 November 2012

The committee met on the 22nd September and considered the following: performance data and trends in relation to Contacts, referrals, assessments and Child protection, an analysis of visits made to children subject to child protection plans and an audit completed by the independent member on out of time initial and core assessments.

They agreed for the Independent Member take a closer look at how thresholds of need were being applied when she examined a sample of new referrals to social care. The results of this audit will be considered by the committee at their next meeting in January.

When considering the analysis on the visits made to children subject to child protection plans, they requested further clarification on the number of disabled children being visited and the frequency of visits.

They gave their support to the implementation of a single assessment which will hopefully address the high number of Initial and core assessments requiring completion and agreed to monitor to the implementation of this.

The committee requested further information on the number of section 47's (child protection investigations) completed in comparisons to statistical neighbouring boroughs.

The committee agreed to compile a short report to next ordinary full council meeting listing the areas they have looked at over the year and how matters raised by members have been taken forward.

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Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	Item number	
Title:	Draft Permanency Policy		
Report authorised by :	Marion Wheeler Assistant Director		
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers Head of Service Children in Care		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: N/A		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations sets out the clear expectation that Local Authorities should where necessary secure permanent care arrangements for the children in its care. This has been strengthened in the revised regulations 2010.

“Permanence is the framework of emotional permanence (attachment), physical permanence (stability) and legal permanence (the carer has parental responsibility for the child) which gives a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity. The objective of planning for permanence is therefore to ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond.

Permanence provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and families from family support through to adoption. One of the key functions of the care plan is to ensure that each child has a plan for permanence by the time of the second review, as set out in the statutory guidance to the 2002 Act. Achieving permanence for a child will be a key consideration from the day the child becomes looked after.”

- 1.3 The Children and Families Service has developed the basis for a policy document to support social work staff in their work to assist families and safeguard children effectively, providing the current guidance in the document



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attached as an appendix to this report. All major Council Strategies and Policies must be considered by the Cabinet for decision, and so the work to date has been brought to the Cabinet Lead Member for Children for her early advice on the opportunity for local emphasis in the policy, prior to her decision.

- 1.2 The Lead Member for Children wishes to review this document with the benefit of advice from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to ensure that the Policy that underpins the work of the service contains a policy steer that is distinctively local to Haringey. Following CPAC on September 4th research documents were circulated to members to assist with background information with regard to this policy.
- 1.3 Areas that might be suitable for further consideration and a policy steer to the service are:
 - The priority to be given to inter-country adoption
 - The place that Special Guardianship should have in securing permanent placements for children.
 - The balance to be struck in securing permanency in placements with family members, as opposed to the use of families with no prior link to the child .
 - Whether there any characteristics of our local population to which additional attention must be paid when considering decision making for children requiring permanent alternative families.
 - Particular issues with regard to sibling placements where there is a significant age gap between siblings and legal permanency for both or all may not be achievable.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Committee contribute their views following access to the research papers.
- 2.2 That a final copy of the policy is then circulated to the Committee in advance of the key decision.

3. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 Draft Permanency Policy



Appendix 1

DRAFT

Permanency Policy

Children and Young People's Services

August 2012

DRAFT



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Document Control

Version	Status November 2012	Author Chris Chalmers, Head of Service, Children In Care;
Document Objectives: This document describes our approach to ensure permanent placements for 'looked after' children or a child who may become 'looked after'.		
Intended Recipients: All Children and Families division staff		
Monitoring Arrangements: Regular case reviews through staff supervision and the Independent Reviewing Service.		
Training/Resource Implications: All staff in Children and Families Division will be made aware of their role and for implementing this policy. A series of training days are in place.		
Approving Body and Date Approved	Directorate Management Group Directorate Management Team Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, Decision Taken by lead member xx	
Date of Issue	November 2012	
Scheduled Review Date	June 2013 (six month review) June 2014 (on an annual basis)	
Lead Officer	Chris Chalmers, Head of Service, Children In Care	
Path and file name		



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy sets out Haringey Council's commitment to ensuring that all children in our care are given the opportunity to live safely and securely in a family. It describes our approach to planning for permanent placements for 'looked after' children or a child who may become 'looked after' because the parents are unable to meet the child's long term needs.
- 1.2 We believe that the most appropriate place for most children to live is with their own birth families. To this end, Haringey provides a variety of services to support families including the provision of accommodation to children for short periods away from their families to relieve stress or help the family cope with a crisis, short breaks for disabled children, parenting support services delivered through children's centres and extended schools.
- 1.3 Where parents are unable to meet the needs of a child, Haringey will assist, wherever possible, in securing a placement within the child's wider family.
- 1.4 Where it is not possible for children to live with their families and they are looked after by the local authority, (or at risk of becoming looked after), the highest priority is to secure a permanent stable placement as speedily as possible which meet the child's needs.
- 1.5 This policy is linked to our Corporate Parenting Strategy.

2. Scope and Definition

- 2.1 This policy covers all 'looked after children' living in Haringey.
- 2.2 Where children cannot return to their own family plans will be made for an alternative family placement, which may include adoption, or, for older children, a stable foster placement to prepare the young person for transition to adulthood. Consideration will first be given to securing permanency through adoption or special guardianship but where this is not considered to be the most appropriate plan for a child, a permanent placement with foster carers will be sought.
- 2.3 A permanent placement describes a specific family or care setting where a child is expected to live for the duration of his/her childhood. The intention is to provide a framework of emotional, physical and legal conditions that give a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity.



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- 2.4 This may include an arrangement in which the local authority exercises Parental Responsibility under the terms of a court order. It will also include children who are looked after by agreement with their parents or any other person who holds parental responsibility.
- 2.5 The strategy encompasses all working practices that underpin the achievement of plans for permanence for children looked after by the London Borough of Haringey. The intention is to achieve consistency in this work area across all sections of the Children and Young People's Service. This policy will influence work by all professionals with children, their families, foster carers and adopters.

3. Aim

- 3.1 The aim of this policy is:

Aim

To provide high quality permanency plans for our looked after children, which ensure that if they cannot live with their own family they will have the best chance of an alternative permanent family home

- 3.2 The policy sets out a set of principles and values which will prevent drift and delay in permanence planning for children, in order to effect permanent placement as early as possible for children who cannot remain at home.

4. Roles and responsibilities

- 4.1 *The Lead Member:* as a member of the Council Executive, has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The LMCS is also democratically accountable to local communities and has a key role in defining the local vision and setting political priorities for children's services within the broader political context of the Council. (Ref: Statutory guidance on Roles and Responsibilities of DCS and LMCS)
- 4.2 *The Director:* The DCS has professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The DCS is responsible for securing the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers. (Ref: Statutory guidance on Roles and Responsibilities of DCS and LMCS)



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- 4.3 *Assistant Director, Children and Families*: is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy across the Children and Families Service and with relevant partners.
- 4.4 *Head of Service for Children in Care*: is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness of permanency planning within the scope of the policy.
- 4.5 *Deputy Head of Service for Children in Care*: has responsibility for ensuring high standards of practice and timeliness in the implementation of this policy.
- 4.6 *Casework supervising managers*: have responsibility to lead on care planning for children taking into account relevant research and current best practice including ensuring timely permanency planning.
- 4.7 Social workers will obtain the views of the child and all relevant family members and take these into account in developing the care plan and undertaking the actions required to progress the permanency plan.
- 4.8 *The child's independent reviewing officer* has a key role to provide independent review, advice and challenge to the plan and advocacy for the child.

The statutory duties of the IRO are to:

1. monitor the performance by the local authority of their functions in relation to the child's case;
2. participate in any review of the child's case;
3. ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority; and
4. Perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.

The primary task of the IRO is to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects the child's current needs and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child.



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5. The legal context

- 5.1 Local authorities may only intervene in 'family life' in specific circumstances. Any intervention must be necessary and proportionate and in accordance with law.
- 5.2 In many cases, the local authority will work with parents by agreement to secure the welfare of a child. In some cases, it will be necessary to seek an order from a family court.
- 5.3 A child may become 'looked after' by a local authority:
- with the agreement of the parents/any person with parental responsibility (section 20 Children Act 1989)
 - under an emergency protection order which lasts for a maximum of 15 days (section 44 Children Act 1989)
 - under an interim care order which can be renewed (section 38 Children Act 1989)
 - under a care order which lasts until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier or replaced by another order (section 31 Children Act 1989)
 - with the independently witnessed agreement of any parent with parental responsibility to placement for adoption (section 19 Adoption and Children Act 1989)
 - under a placement order which permits the authority to place the child for adoption (section 21 Adoption and Children Act 2002).
- 5.4 In accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010, there must be a care plan for every child who is looked after. By no later than the second statutory review, the care plan must include a plan for permanency. The second statutory review must take place within 4 months of the child becoming looked after.
- 5.5 Permanency plans may include:
- the return of the child to the care of both parents or one parent
 - the placement of the child with a relative or friend or other person connected to them
 - the placement of the child with adopters
 - the placement of the child with long term foster carers



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5.6 The legislative and regulatory framework for the permanency policy is listed in Appendix A.

5.7

6. Principles

6.1 The principles below are inherent to the full range of permanency options in situations where a child cannot remain at home.

Principles

- All children have a right to a family life.
- Where possible, this should be within the child's birth family.
- Where it is not possible for children to live with their birth parents, alternatives within their wider birth family or family friends should be explored.
- Where children need to be looked after by the local authority they must be placed within a safe, stable and loving alternative family
- Decisions about the permanent placement of children will respect the child's ethnic origin, cultural background, religion and language. The needs of children with additional needs and disabilities will be taken in account as part of the planning and matching process. There must always be due regard to the need to avoid delay in striving to meet these needs.
- The wishes and feelings of every child must be respected. Every young person has a right, commensurate with their age and understanding, to participate in decision making about where they should live on a permanent basis and the degree of contact they should maintain with their birth family.
- The views of parents must be considered whenever possible.
- Every young person must have support services available to meet their assessed needs.
- Every young person must have readily available assistance in the event of difficulties or placement breakdown.
- Every young person must have information about how to make complaints or representations if required and how to access advocacy services.



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Living with relatives or friends

6.2 All children who are believed to be at risk of significant harm will be the subject of a core assessment. If the core assessment concludes that the child cannot safely remain at home, every effort must be made to identify whether the child can be safely placement with relatives or family friends. This will be either as an interim measure to facilitate a return home or – if a return home is clearly not in the child’s best interests – as the preferred permanency option. Social workers will establish at an early stage which friends or relatives might be available to care for a child and will undertake an assessment of their ability to care for the child in conjunction with the Kinship Team. This will, avoid the kind of delays which can occur during court proceedings where this work has not been done. (See Kinship Care Policy under development)

Adoption

- 6.3 Adoption remains the most appropriate and legally secure plan for a very young child who cannot remain with their birth parents
- 6.4 Adoption transfers parental responsibility for the child from the birth parents and others who had parental responsibility for the child, including the local authority, permanently and solely to the adopter(s). The adopters legally become the child’s parents. The order lasts for the whole of the child’s life. The child will cease to be looked after by the local authority.
- 6.5 Research strongly supports adoption as a primary consideration and as a main factor contributing to the stability of children, especially if under four years of age, where rehabilitation to family is not possible. Adoption is also be the right plan for older children in some circumstances.

Special Guardianship

- 6.6 Special Guardianship addresses the needs of a significant group of children who need a sense of stability and security but where the absolute legal break with their birth family that is associated with adoption does not meet the child’s needs. It also provides an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option.
- 6.7 A special guardianship order gives parental responsibility to the special guardian. The parents do retain parental responsibility but their ability to exercise this is extremely limited. The intention of the order is that the special guardian will have sole responsibility for all the day-to-day decisions regarding the care of the young person. The order will last until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier. The child will cease to be looked after by the local authority.

Residence Order



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- 6.8 A Residence Order may be used to increase the degree of legal permanence in a placement within the wider family network or with a foster carer (as, of course can Special Guardianship) where this would be in the child's best interests.
- 6.9 Residence orders give parental responsibility to the person named in the order. The parental responsibility is shared with the parents who must be consulted about key issues such as education. The order will last until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier. The child will cease to be looked after by the local authority.

Long term or permanent foster care

- 6.10 Long term, or permanent, fostering may be the appropriate choice for a significant proportion of older children. It provides an appropriate family environment in which to meet the child's permanence needs. Where it is necessary that a child continues to be looked after by the local authority, permanent fostering may meet the child's needs for security, continuity, commitment and identity. Fostering has been proven to be particularly appropriate for older children who retain strong links to their birth family and do not want or need the formality of adoption.
- 6.11 It is important that the local authority formally agrees to the placement becoming a long term placement. For all children under the age of 13 years the formal decision is ratified by the Agency Decision Maker after consideration and recommendation made by the Adoption and Permanency Panel. The intention will be for the placement to continue until the child is 18. The child will continue to be looked after by the local authority.

Residential care

- 6.12 It is recognised that residential care can provide a positive environment for some children for time limited periods, however children must only be placed in a residential establishment as an exception. Where such a placement is made it should usually be no more than one year in duration and it is not accepted that residential care will be a permanency option. In any situation where a young person's needs would be best met in residential care for longer than a year, agreement must be given by the relevant Head of Service.

Ceasing to be 'looked after'

- 6.13 Where a child will cease to be looked after by the local authority, ie through adoption or special guardianship or residence order, the applicants need to have a clear understanding of the long term implications of this. They need to be aware of their increased responsibility for the child in their care and fully understand and accept that they are taking on the role of a parent.



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For all above orders independent legal advice may be made available to the prospective carers as part of their preparation.

7. Planning for permanence

- 7.1 A set of procedures has been devised, further to guidance that is already available for staff, in order to inform the achievement of appropriate permanent outcomes for all children without undue delay.
- 7.2 Social workers who undertake assessments of a child's needs in relation to permanency plans must ensure that they are outcome focused. The first assessment to be undertaken will be the core assessment which will underpin early decision making for all children's permanency plans. They must include consideration of stability issues, including the child's and family's needs for long term support and the child's needs for links with birth family, including contact with his or her parents, siblings and wider family contact. Social workers must ensure that the child's permanency plan is clearly linked to previous and current assessments of the child's needs. This will include any assessments made by independent experts within court proceedings.
- 7.3 Before a decision can be made to permanently place a child outside his or her family careful assessment must be made of the feasibility of returning the child, either to the care of parents or family and friends. Such assessments take time. All steps have to be taken, without pre-judging the outcome of assessments, to put alternative plans in place to minimise delay. It is essential that a family group conference is arranged as part of this assessment.
- 7.4 There can be unintended consequences of sequential planning, elongating the process of securing a permanent family for a child. The prevention of delay is assisted by social workers making use of parallel planning. Where children are subject to care proceedings this type of planning will be required as part of the care plan. Parents, children and young people must be kept informed and involved at each stage of decision making in a way that is appropriate to their age and understanding.
- 7.5 Assessment of sibling groups must be undertaken to establish the extent and quality of relationships in a sibling group in order to assess whether or not they should be placed together. It is important to ascertain the perceptions and wishes of the child and their family, to assess the shared experience of siblings and each of the children's individual permanence needs. Siblings who are looked after should be placed together whenever possible although it is recognised that in some cases this will not be appropriate.



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- 7.6 Joint placement should therefore be strongly encouraged but not assumed as placement together is not the only way to maintain sibling relationships. Particular difficulties arise when there is a significant age gap between siblings and younger siblings then lose out on the opportunity to achieve legal permanency. Where brothers and sisters are not placed together arrangements should be made as part of each child or young person's care plan to enable the brothers and sister to live together providing this meets the assessed needs of each child. It is important to assess the extent and quality of relationships in a sibling group, whether they are already living together or not. Usually, and especially where there is a pre existing and meaningful relationship, it will be important to actively seek to maintain sibling relationships within any permanency plan.
- 7.7 Research with regard to sibling placements emphasises that the most enduring relationships people have are likely to be with their siblings. The impact on separated siblings of losing vital support, a shared history and continuity can be detrimental to children's continued stability in substitute family placements. More successful outcomes frequently occur for children who are placed with their siblings. Children should however only be placed with their siblings After the assessment referred to in 7.6 has been undertaken. No assumptions should be made on sibling connection in isolation of other crucial factors, such as the chance to achieve legal permanency, primarily through adoption but possibly through special guardianship.
- 7.8 Contact must primarily be for the benefit of the child rather than the parents and other significant adults. Appropriate contact plans can be integral to the success of any permanent placement. Contact, in whatever shape or form, can provide an opportunity for a young person to make sense of their history and their current placement. It can avoid myths building up about the birth family and strengthen a child's ability to make sense of their history. However research indicates that for some children contact can be traumatic and serve to reinforce abuse they have suffered. Very careful assessment, observation and regular review of contact is essential.

8. Equalities and diversity

- 8.1 Recording of equalities data is mandatory under the Equality Act 2010. Ofsted requires equalities monitoring data on age, sex, race and disability.
- 8.2 In order to meet the needs of children and young people in Haringey, Framework-i also allows for the collection of data on religion. Hence the following information should be included in case records:
- Data relating to: age, sex, race, disability, religion



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- The communication and language needs of service users and carers should always be considered; for example where a child, young person or their carer may need interpreter, written material in an alternate format or a language other than English.
- Arrangements should be made for advocates, interpreters, relatives or friends, to assist any child, young person or carer where necessary.
- The Commissioning and Placements Service must ensure, through recruitment and commissioning arrangements, that there are sufficient placements to meet the permanent placement needs of all looked after children.

9. Audit

9.1 We will audit and monitor the implementation of the permanency policy to ensure that the care provided to individuals is achieving the aims and desired outcomes.

9.2 We will carry out quality assurance and audit checks through:

- Monitoring of all children's permanency plans through the monthly Permanency Tracking meetings
- Adoption and Permanence Panel
- Regular case reviews
- Supervision arrangements and audit processes across the Children and Families Division which underpin continuous service improvement.

10. Training

10.1 All staff in Children and Families Division will be made aware of their role and for implementing this policy.

10.2 Workshops have taken place across the entire Children and Families Division to take place from May 2012 onwards. These will continue on a six monthly basis. Colleagues from legal services, virtual school and LAC health will assist in conveying the key principles and raising the profile of permanency planning.

11. Review

11.1 An initial review of the new policy and procedures will be led by the Deputy Director, Children and Families, in February 2013.

11.2 Following that review, the policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner if new legislation, codes of practice or national standards are introduced) to ensure that the care provided to children and young people is still achieving the desired outcomes.





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Appendix A: Legislative and Regulatory Framework

The legislative and regulatory framework for the permanency policy is listed below:

- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Adoption and Children Act 2002](#)
- [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 and Guidance](#)
- [Children and Adoption Act 2006](#)
- [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations, 2010](#)
- [National Minimum Standards Fostering 2011](#)
- [Adoption National Standards 2011](#)
- [Adoption Guidance 2011](#)
- [Fostering Service Regulations 2011](#)
- [Family and Friends care – statutory guidance 2011](#)

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Haringey Council

Report for:	CPAC	Item Number:	
Title:	LAC		
Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler		
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report is a review of progress made by the Children in Care Service in relation to service development including the issues previously addressed through the LAC Action Plan. The restructure of the service is now far more embedded with timeliness in care planning consistently monitored. The permanent staffing establishment has made a huge impact on progress of casework in terms of stability and building relationships with service users. The profile of Aspire is now increased with far more influence on shaping the service through young people's participation. We are listening more actively to their priorities and striving to achieve these.

The Homesafe Team (Southwark Judgement cases) has developed considerably with much stronger joint work with other services, including the beginnings of partnership work with other services to achieve early help. Activity across the service is based on more robust commissioning arrangements, for example, the SLA with Legal Services, the new Tavistock Haringey Service contract, MST (Multi Systemic Therapy) and close monitoring of placement agreements through the Placements and Resources Service.



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2. Background information

2.1 Children and Young people for whom rehabilitation is the plan

A significant proportion of children who have been subject to care proceedings have returned home since the April 1st this year. 38 children have returned home to date with appropriate support packages in place. In some instances practical support has been given in the form of items of essential furniture for children's bedrooms, purchase of school uniform etc. Some families have been linked to FIP and other relevant support services. In situations where there is higher risk Supervision Orders have been made in order for the oversight to continue in a more formal way. The introduction of the MST project has given the opportunity for intensive (24/7) intervention to families and Haringey have made full use of places available on this project. Outcomes are so far very positive.

2.2 Children and young people in long term care

Independent reviewing officers and team managers have much improved oversight of long term plans for children in care. This has impacted positively on thorough review of children's progress and suitability to return home. Closer attention has been paid to looking differently at young persons' needs and the strong links that some may have with their families. There is an awareness that, whether we plan for this or not, young people may start to have more contact with their families and if this is properly planned we can help them far more positively. There are some instances where, when children are older and home circumstances have changed considerably, it is more realistic to look at their rehabilitation home to one or both parents. In a few circumstances, where long term foster placements have broken down, family members have stepped forward to offer care and have been assessed as kinship foster carers. There are six young people where Special Guardianship orders are currently being considered. Six young people have been rehabilitated home, including one case involving two siblings where the care order was rescinded, with a few more expected shortly.

2.3 Move from residential to a family placement

There is regular review of options for young people in residential care. The (draft) permanency policy emphasises that residential care is not to be accepted as a long term option for children in care. When young people have suffered repeated foster placement breakdowns and are exhibiting exceptionally challenging behaviour residential care is sometimes necessary for a limited period of time. Young people are regularly reviewed in the context of the Resources Panel and move on plans are made at the earliest suitable opportunity.



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2.4 Semi independent provision

For some young people of 16+ there has been a measure of success in moving them to semi independent placements. They have actually benefited from fewer constrictions as long as there has been effective key work support and consistent social work support. The possibility for those of 17 and a half years old to start bidding for permanent accommodation and hopefully to move to their own flats at 18, without having to move between different temporary housing has lent stability to the later stages of the care experience for looked after children.

Six young people have moved from residential care to semi independent so far this year and 13 have moved from foster care to semi-independent. This type of accommodation presents more obstacles for young people who have a greater level of vulnerability. The overview is that there are less young people moving to semi independent as a greater number are remaining in foster care. This is obviously positive in terms of their placements being more settled but also indicates that young people requiring semi independent accommodation now have more complex needs than previously. The other factor in this reduction is that we have a lower number of unaccompanied minors. The completion of our training house (with three places) provides more intensive support to prepare young people to move on and take up their own Council tenancies. We hope that this will be the first of several such properties.

2.5 Transition at 18

This is referred to in some detail in the Transitions and Leaving Care report being presented on 4 December. We have established more robust advance planning for transition at age 18. 39 have turned 18 so far this year with a further 21 becoming 18 before the end of the year.

2.6 Special guardianship and adoption orders

Permanency planning has been strengthened with the roll out of workshops on permanency planning and a permanency policy is now drafted and ready for sign off. There is far more scrutiny of timescales in the achievement of legal permanency for children in care. There is much more effective use of the monthly tracking meetings chaired by Heads of Service across the Permanency Team and Children in Care Service. We have 18 SGOs and 9 adoption orders to date as an outcome of care proceedings. The Court Team anticipate at least five further SGOs this financial year with a further six adoption orders. The target for 2012 is 30 permanent orders. We should therefore be successful in achieving at least 38 SG and adoption orders by March 31st 2013. In addition we have a total of 23 children placed in adoptive placements. A number of these are very recent placements and will therefore not result in adoption orders before March 31st 2013.



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During 2013 we will commence the tri-borough court project, working in partnership with Barnet, Enfield and Barnet Court. Our key objective in this piece of work is to reduce length of care proceedings (with good quality outcomes) to reflect the new care proceedings target timescale of 26 weeks in accordance with the recent family justice reform. This project will underpin work already started with regard to achieving timely adoptions for LAC with avoidance of delay being pivotal.

3. Conclusion

The Children in Care Service has put a range of initiatives into place to safely reduce numbers of looked after children. For those in longer term care the far more stable staff group, development of the management team and continual thorough review of care plans has added impetus to the planning for all children. Key objectives referred to in this report are ongoing, in particular the emphasis on participation of young people themselves, the tri borough court project and drive to achieve legal permanency through adoption and special guardianships.



Haringey Council

Report for:	CPAC	Item Number:	
Title:	Transitions and Leaving Care		
Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler		
Lead Officer:	Emma Cummergen		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

In Haringey, we are working with 327 young people who have left care, 70 of whom are former unaccompanied minors, and 50 of whom who are young parents. A small proportion are disabled, with a high proportion having suffered some degree of mental ill health during their time in care. This can often emerge again in early adulthood with symptoms of depression. Some young people also suffer significant health concerns such as diabetes, HIV, MS, and sickle cell and struggle to manage their health effectively once the health resources they received as a child are no longer available.

Research suggests transition to adulthood is becoming more and more difficult, and that for the general population there is a longer term reliance on family support. This poses problems for our young adults who are often estranged from their families, or for whom family contact remains dysfunctional and abusive.

2. Background

2.1 Pathway Planning and the Panel

In Haringey, approximately 70 young people turn 18 years old and leave care each year and transfer to the Young Adults Service (YAS). This year's figure is 57 young



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people. I currently manage both the YAS service and one team in the Young People in Care (YPIC),

which results in additional oversight and monitoring of this process and scrutinising where changes are necessary. Chris Chalmers, CiC Head of Service and Annie Walker, Deputy Head of Service, Court Team also have management input to this.

Transitional planning is initiated as a looked after child approaches their 16th birthday when the first Pathway Plan is prepared. This plan sets out how the young person will be helped to achieve independence. This plan is reviewed at the child's six monthly LAC review, and whilst LAC reviews cease at the 18th birthday, this plan continues to be reviewed and revised until the young person's case is closed. (Usually at age 21)

Each young person is also reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel at 17 ½. The purpose of the panel is to ensure appropriate planning has been initiated, taking account of the young person's longer term needs, accommodation and support requirements. Nearly all cases are now discussed at Panel at least six months in advance of a young person becoming 18. In addition to this the panel decisions are also tracked in terms of progress, overseen by the Head of Service, at monthly review meetings.

2.2 Accommodation

A significant proportion of our LAC are placed outside of Haringey. However, we can only access permanent social housing within the LB Haringey. This poses additional hurdles for young people who decide to return to Haringey to obtain permanent accommodation and therefore have to leave their "home" areas. To counter this we have established :

- Staying Put guidance (drafted and about to be signed off) which supports young people still in education, or with additional vulnerabilities to remain where possible with their former foster carers to complete their education, or provide a bridging gap until the start of university. This guidance is already being followed in principle in advance of the formal sign off.
- A leaving care 'training house' with the onsite support of a lead tenant. The purpose of which is to provide young people with an opportunity to enhance and evidence their independent living skills and gain confidence before moving to permanent accommodation. The project is a pilot for the next three years which has been initiated in partnership with Housing and Homes for Haringey.
- In 2011, in conjunction with Housing Services, we have set up a quota of 60 one bed accommodations so that care leavers are now more effectively prioritised and nominated for permanent housing. Tenancy and budgeting workshops run alongside this quota and focus on the practical skills young people need to acquire to hold their own tenancies.



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- For those care leavers who are parents, we are currently negotiating with Housing to establish a small quota for their particular needs.
- A noticeable gap in provision is those who have significant support needs, but do not meet thresholds for adult services. There is limited support via our vulnerable adults team's housing provision, and young people remain in children's local authority provision until we are able to effectively negotiate and plan something different for them. It is likely for some that they will eventually need ongoing support from adult services.
- Unaccompanied Minors require specialist transitional planning. For the majority, immigration remains unresolved prior to their 18th birthdays with extensions having to be applied for at 17 ½. If at age 18, there is still no decision regarding their asylum application, these young people cannot apply for permanent housing and usually remain in local authority shared provision, most likely on a rent only basis. There has been an increase on the number of young people receiving All Rights Exhausted decisions who then face deportation
- For care leavers who do not wish to return to the borough, or cannot for issues of safety, we have some limited success in assisting them to apply for housing via the Local Authority where they live. For others we provide rent/deposits in order for young people to access private tenancies. There are barriers to this such as not being able to find a rent guarantor post 21 years of age, and their rent becoming unaffordable on their 22nd birthday due to changes in their welfare benefit entitlements. This is therefore not an option we encourage and it has to be a last resort. For young people who are EU, consequently barred from accessing social housing due to not having exercised their treaty rights this currently is our only option.

2.3 Education, Training and Employment Support

In recent years the Virtual school in Haringey has extended its support and oversight to care leavers post 16 to counter some of the disadvantage. The committee has recently received presentations on Haringey's Virtual School response to national and local trends for CIC however the E18gteen project has had particular impact for young people leaving care resulting in 40 places for our care leavers.

Haringey has successfully supported approximately 45 students each year in or to begin university. Support for such young people include

- visits to Middlesex university
- Into University workshops on site
- virtual email account dedicated to young people at University
- drafted higher education guidance setting out financial support offered.



Haringey Council

With regard to those wishing to seek employment we have in place links with Jobs for Haringey, various providers such as KIS as well as Youth Community and Participation. However the reality is that short term and low paid employment opportunities open to many care leavers with limited qualifications will not necessarily make them better off.

We are constantly exploring other initiatives. One example of this is our recent project in partnership with five other LA's and the Marriott hotels to create an opportunity for six Haringey care leavers to have work experience in the Marriott hotels, in both London and Germany. It is hoped this will lead to fulltime employment for the candidates.

2.4 Finances post 18 and the welfare benefits system

The current system compels care leavers to claim benefits, including housing benefit, as soon as they reach legal adulthood in order to fund or part fund continuing placements.

Limited children's services budgets mean that, even as good corporate parents, we must ensure that our young people have maximised the income they are entitled to receive from the benefits system. Uncertainty of outcomes and delays in processing claims add more stress when young people are dealing with important transitions in their lives, such as starting a new college course, establishing their first home, coming out of custody.

In addition to these benefits, the service's fee matrix sets out under what specific circumstances our care leavers can expect additional financial support for. The service has also had to increase support, such as emergency cash payments, to young people who have been sanctioned by Dept of Work and Pensions and left unable to provide for themselves.

2.5 Welfare Reforms

Care leavers are currently expected to apply for housing benefit to cover the costs of all or part of the rent. Experience tells us that the majority of our young people find it difficult to manage their rent payments, when the benefit is paid directly to them, and end up very quickly in rent arrears, threatening their tenancies. Currently it is possible within the current system to arrange payments are made direct to the landlord. It is however unknown whether this arrangements will be maintained and possible within the new welfare reforms.

It is hard to gauge the impact of the forthcoming welfare reforms as information directly relating to care leavers is not yet clear. Younger care leavers are exempt from the shared room rate that restricts people under 25 to a Local Housing Allowance payment equivalent to a room in a shared house. However, at age 22 care leavers are no longer exempt from this and so the properties they may have been able to resettle into become unaffordable and a move to a room in a shared



Haringey Council

house a necessity to avoid homelessness. This also adds impetus to achieving Council tenancies for all those who are entitled to them. This will at least ensure affordable social housing for our care leavers.

3. New Developments for Care Leavers

- 3.1 At the close of National Care Leavers Week this year, Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Children and Families wrote to all directors of children's services with information about new developments for Care Leavers and asking us to review our work on supporting care leavers into independence (Appendix A)
- 3.2 Matters to consider include the Care Leavers Charter (Appendix B) , the data pack for review of policy and benchmarking our authority against best practice, the care 2 work programmes, the 'Staying Put' arrangements, Junior ISA Accounts and the Care Leavers grant.
- 3.3 I have asked the Head of Service for Children in care to lead on a short piece of work, consulting with members of ASPIRE and other representative children in care and care leavers and consult them on their views about the Charter and other matters raised in the communication from the minister.
- 3.4 Haringey currently supports care leavers with a £1500 grant to meet the costs of transition to independence. We support around 70 young people leaving care a year. To increase this grant to £2000 as suggested would place a £35,000 pressure on the budget. We are currently undertaking some work with our procurement team to explore options for maximising the "buying power" of the grant through bulk order discount, possibly as part of our NLSA partnership. We will include consultation with Aspire and care leavers as part of this work and ensure that young people's views are properly included in any proposals to Members about taking this forward.
- 3.5 The outcome of the consultation, the early findings from our review of the Care leavers data pack benchmarking and recommendations for members to consider will be presented at the February 2013 CPAC

4. Conclusion

There are numerous challenges for young people leaving care to manage during transitions to adulthood. The service is undertaking to make these processes as smooth as possible in order for outcomes to be improved across our care leaver population as a whole. We are working with Aspire, and all our care leavers, to listen to the outcomes that young adults wish to us to work with them to achieve. We are proactive in signposting and supporting young people to access housing, education and employment which will be their foundation to successful and fulfilled adult lives in the community. New initiatives are regularly explored and we are



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pleased to have established positive, evolving working relationships with a range of partners, in particular with our colleagues in housing, youth services, Tottenham Hotspur and Virtual School.

Appendix A



Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Ms Libby Blake
Director of Children's Services
Haringey London Borough
The Children's Service
48 Station Road
Wood Green
London
N22 7TY

30 November 2012

Dear Director

Improving Outcomes of Care Leavers

I am writing to you, as Care Leavers Week draws to a close, to thank you for all you are doing to support young people leaving care, to bring to your attention a number of important new developments and to emphasise the importance of the setting up home allowance in helping young people to make the transition to independent living.

As many of you know, I grew up alongside foster children. I know how important and difficult the transition into adulthood can be for them, and for all children in care.

Unfortunately the latest figures show an overall reduction in the number of care leavers in employment, education and training, and that slightly fewer are living in suitable accommodation. But the wide variations between local authorities are very striking; we need all local authorities to learn from the best.

Data Pack

That is why we have today published a data pack on care leavers, complementing those already published on adoption, children's homes and the education of looked after children. The data pack underlines, for instance, the clear links between good outcomes, the number of placement moves and the

age when young people leave care. Of particular concern is that nearly one in five children still leave care at aged 16. I hope you will find it very helpful in reviewing your policies and benchmarking your performance.

Charter

Yesterday we also published a Charter for Care Leavers. It has been produced by care leavers themselves, and is all the more powerful because it reflects their aspirations and expectation in their own words. They are very clear that they want us to:

- respect who they are, and remember that they are individuals
- listen to them and place their views at the heart of decisions made about them. If you don't agree explain why.
- provide them with practical help and support
- value their strengths and help them learn from their mistakes
- not forget them when they are no longer anybody's statutory responsibility

I intend to throw my weight behind the Charter and do all I can to help make it become a reality. I hope very much you and your authority will sign up to the Charter and discuss with your Children in Care Council what needs to be done to help embed its principles in day to day practice.

From Care2 Work / Employment

I want us to maximise the employment opportunities for care leavers. I know that in the current financial climate this is not easy. But some local authorities have nonetheless increased the number of care leavers in employment, or in education and training, through focussed action and support. The Government certainly has a role to play here. That is why **last week we announced that we would be tendering for a contract to increase employment opportunities for care leavers, building on the work of the *From Care2 Work* programme.**

This brings the voluntary sector into partnership with national and local employers and local authorities. Thousands of care leavers have already been given opportunities they might not otherwise have had, from taster days through to apprenticeships and full time employment. I hope your authority will take an active part in this programme, if it does not do so already. For my part I will be working hard to encourage more employers to take part in the programme including hosting a seminar later this year.

Accommodation / Staying Put

I hope too that we can address the downturn in the proportion of care leavers living in suitable accommodation. I am also struck by the numbers of care leavers who have told me that they feel unsafe in their accommodation. **The best local authorities are using Staying Put arrangements** to ensure that care leavers can continue to live with and get support from their former foster carers. I hope very much that you will see such arrangements as a priority in the coming year, particularly where these young people are in further or higher education.

Financial Support – Junior ISAs

Care leavers also need financial help to make a successful transition of independent living. This is one reason why the Government is to open **Junior ISA accounts** for every looked after child who has been in care for 12 months or more, starting on or after 3 January 2011. I feel very strongly that local authorities, for their part, should pay young people leaving care adequate setting up home allowances. Whilst I accept that the cost of setting up home is lower in some parts of the country than others, the amounts paid by some local authorities is simply too low for youngsters to buy the essentials they need.

Care Leavers Grant

In September 2011 the Care Leavers Foundation estimated that it would cost at least £3,000 to enable care leavers to meet the costs of transition, but that the majority of local authorities were paying less than £2,000, and some less than £1,000. Our understanding is that you currently pay £1,500. I do understand that very difficult financial decisions are having to be made. But I hope your authority will consider increasing this to at least £2,000, and review the figure annually with your Children in Care Council. I am not proposing to set a national minimum amount for this allowance at this stage, but will consider doing so in the future if some care leavers continue to receive an inadequate allowance.

Ofsted inspection reports make very clear that the best local authorities are strong corporate parents, with Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members leading the way in their commitment to championing the needs of looked after children and care leavers. The more I talk to DCSs and Lead Members in my new role as Minister for Children and Families, the more I understand the depth of the commitment there is in very many areas. I share that commitment with you wholeheartedly, and look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

I would be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of your Lead Member for Children's Services.



Edward Timpson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Department
for Education



Appendix B

Charter for Care Leavers

A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter sets out promises care leavers want the central and local government to make. Promises and principles help in decision making and do not replace laws; they give guidance to show how laws are designed to be interpreted.

The key principles in this Charter will remain constant through any changes in Legislation, Regulation and Guidance. Care leavers urge local authorities to use these principles when they make decisions about young people's lives. The Charter for Care Leavers is designed to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers need and what the government and local authorities should do to be good Corporate Parents.

We Promise:

To respect and honour your identity

- We will support you to discover and to be who you are and honour your unique identity. We will help you develop your own personal beliefs and values and accept your culture and heritage. We will celebrate your identity as an individual, as a member of identity groups and as a valued member of your community. We will value and support important relationships, and help you manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other significant life events. We will support you to express your identity positively to others.

To believe in you

- We will value your strengths, gifts and talents and encourage your aspirations. We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future even if you have lost sight of these yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can. We will believe in you, celebrate you and affirm you.

To listen to you

- We will take time to listen to you, respect, and strive to understand your point of view. We will place your needs, thoughts and feelings at the heart of all decisions about you, negotiate with you, and show how we have taken these into account. If we don't agree with you we will fully explain why. We will provide easy access to complaint and appeals processes and promote and encourage access to independent advocacy whenever you need it.

To inform you

- **We will give you information that you need at every point in your journey, from care to adulthood, presented in a way that you want including information on legal entitlements and the service you can expect to receive from us at different stages in the journey. We will keep information up to date and accurate. We will ensure you know where to get current information once you are no longer in regular touch with leaving care services. We will make clear to you what information about yourself and your time in care you are entitled to see. We will support you to access this when you want it, to manage any feelings that you might have about the information, and to put on record any disagreement with factual content.**

To support you

- **We will provide any support set out in current Regulations and Guidance and will not unreasonably withhold advice when you are no longer legally entitled to this service. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help we will provide emotional support. We will make sure you do not have to fight for support you are entitled to and we will fight for you if other agencies let you down. We will not punish you if you change your mind about what you want to do. We will continue to care about you even when we are no longer caring for you. We will make it our responsibility to understand your needs. If we can't meet those needs we will try and help you find a service that can. We will help you learn from your mistakes; we will not judge you and we will be here for you no matter how many times you come back for support.**

To find you a home

- **We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living only when you are ready. We will help you think about the choices available and to find accommodation that is right for you. We will do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move to independent living. We recognise that at different times you may need to take a step back and start over again. We will do our best to support you until you are settled in your independent life; we will not judge you for your mistakes or refuse to advise you because you did not listen to us before. We will work proactively with other agencies to help you sustain your home.**

To be a lifelong champion

- **We will do our best to help you break down barriers encountered when dealing with other agencies. We will work together with the services you need, including housing, benefits, colleges and universities, employment providers and health services to help you establish yourself as an independent individual. We will treat you with courtesy and humanity whatever your age when you return to us for advice or support. We will help you to be the driver of your life and not the passenger. We will point you in a positive direction and journey alongside you at your pace. We will trust and respect you. We will not forget about you. We will remain your supporters in whatever way we can, even when our formal relationship with you has ended.**



Haringey Council

Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee 04 December 2012	Item Number:	
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Title:	Corporate Parenting Performance Assessment- Performance for the year to October 2012
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Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler/ Eve Pelekanos
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Lead Officer:	Margaret Gallagher / Adele Cooper
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: NA
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1. Introduction

This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children. Section 2 provides an overall assessment of performance in the service and performance highlights. Appendix 1 provides a series of tables and graphs for each of these measures, grouped by topic, showing monthly data, performance against target, long term trends and benchmarking where applicable. It also contains performance and service comments for each area to provide context.

2. Performance Highlights

- The **number of children in care** is reducing steadily, down to 536 in October from 574 at the end of March 2012. The 536 includes 26 unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The trend in London suggests falling numbers but data published by the DfE recently shows an increase nationally of 2% compared to 2011 and 13% compared to March 2008. In Haringey comparing end of March 2012 with 2011, there has been a 6.1% reduction and an increase of 35.3% since 2008. Between March 2012 and October 2012 there has been a reduction of 6.6%. The numbers and rate of children in care continue to be monitored to ensure that numbers are reduced appropriately and children remain safeguarded at home. There are a significant number of children in final stages of proceedings currently who are expected to return home and it is expected that the numbers should continue to steadily decrease.



Haringey Council

- The percentage of up to date **children in care visits** continues to exceed the 95% target.
- 15 children were **missing from care** during the month of October. In most cases we have contact with the young person. An exercise was undertaken to look at all the children/young people who have gone missing/absconded over the last 12 months (November 2011 – October 2012) with the number of times they went missing/absconded over the year. Overall we are left with about 6 persistent absconders under the age of 16; this exercise has been helpful in identifying which young people need particular input/support. The improved process for reporting to senior managers is helping to make the monitoring more effective. It is also encouraging to note how many of those who have had very unsettled periods in care have now moved into new placements where they are making improved progress. A few of the young people have returned home with some measure of success.
- At the end of September 93% of children in care **cases were reviewed within required timescales**. The service have created a localised report which provides the data and use this as a means of monitoring reviews carried out in timescale. This work is done a month in arrears.
- The proportion of **children placed in Haringey provision** has improved slightly in recent months and is at 34.5% for October, below the 38% target. Foster care (in house) placements including those placed for adoption are showing a reducing trend (from 202 in April to 185 in October).
- Of the 536 children in care 25% were **placed within Haringey**, and 75% were placed outside Haringey. Of the newly looked after children in the month who remained looked after at the end of the month none of the 12 children were placed 20 miles+ from home.
- Indicators around **stability of placements** are in line with statistical neighbours. The Commissioning and Placements team are undertaking an exercise to look at the proportion of children that have moved onto permanency this year. In addition work is being undertaken to ensure that the monitoring of providers is more systematic and proactive with the aim of minimising placement breakdown at the earliest stage.
- Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation** is below the target of 95% but monthly numbers are small and should be interpreted with care. One of the young people was managed by the Learning Disability Team and they did not notify YAS when they ceased working with her. We are developing a stronger working partnership with this service to avoid such situations arising in the future. In the 903 return (Children Looked After) 2011/12 92% of Haringey's care leavers were in suitable accommodation, higher than the England figure of 88% (2011/12).
- **Care leavers in education, training and employment (ETE)** is below target. The target set is very challenging especially when one considers the England average of 58% (2011/12). 64% of Haringey care leavers were in ETE in 2011/12. In Haringey high numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeker care leaver's present further



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challenges in this area as many have no recourse to public funds and some have issues with immigration status which prevents them from studying or getting a job.

- There have been 9 **adoptions** in the year to October, on track to meet target of 15. There have been 17 **special guardianship orders** (SGO) compared with 7 at this time last year. The 903 comparative data for 2011/12 showed that of the children who ceased to be looked after in the year 5% were adopted, this compares to 8% in London and 9% in our comparator authorities, the highest being Hackney at 17%.
- There are 66 children whose **plan for adoption** has been **approved** as at the end of October, 18 of these have been placed for adoption. If the 18 who have been placed for adoption are all adopted this year, the average days will fall to 720. Of the 66 children 24 have had the decision that they should be placed, made this year and the average days looked after for these children as at the 1st October is 444 days (this figure will continue to accumulate until all these children are placed). For the 24 children (who are not yet placed) where a decision was made this year, the average days for that adoption making (ADM) decision to be made is 345.
- The **average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption** was 722 for the period April- October 2012. This is above the 639 day national threshold (rolling 3 years for 2010/2013). This is also just above the 2011/12 figure of 715 days but we have observed improvements in our permanency tracking processes and timeliness and systems have been put in place to monitor the timelines for children throughout all the stages of the adoption process. The service has set targets for new children coming into the system. Targets of 184 days from expression of interest to decision on suitability to adopt and 118 days (3 months) from receipt of application to decision on suitability have been proposed to outstrip the 639 threshold.
- Improved monitoring systems and additional resources are speeding up family work. The average time taken from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption will begin to reduce as the number of children who have already waited a long time are placed. However, it may take some time for this to happen. Children are being matched to families during the assessment process so that they can be placed as soon as possible after the placement order.

3. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking

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Performance Analysis and Benchmarking - Children Looked After

Contents

Looked After Children - Volumes and Activity	
OP389	Children in care including unaccompanied asylum seeking childrer
OP389a	The rate of Children in care per 10,000 pop.
Op415	Children becoming looked after
Op416	Children ceasing to be looked after
Op457	Number of LAC who ceased to be looked after who had been looked after for less than a month
OP414	Percentage of Children becoming looked after previously subject to CP plan
OP458	Total No. days children have been in care (Excluding placed at home)
HY32	Percentage of children placed in Haringey Provision
Op382	Children in Care visits
Op417	Care Proceedings Initiated- (No. of children)
Op 419	Number of children missing/absconded from care at any point in the month
OP386 (NI 66)	Children in care cases which were reviewed within required timescales
Looked After Children - Stability of Placements	
HY62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves
Op63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
Care Leavers	
Op147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation
Op148	Care leavers in education, employment or training
Adoption and Special Guardianship Orders	
Op 418	Number of adoptions/special guardianship orders
Op 418a	Number of adoptions
Op 418b	Number of special guardianship orders
Op391 (NI61)	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption
HY483	Average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption for children adopted in period
Op486	Placed for adoption within 21 months of becoming looked after
	For further long term trend data, benchmarking, contextual data and performance against national thresholds, please refer to Appendix B, the Adoption Scorecard quarterly update. Please note that this is only updated quarterly.

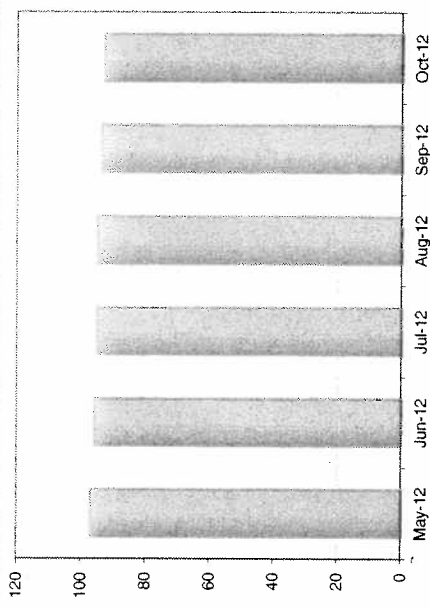
Where available, benchmarking is provided for England, London and/or Haringey's Statistical Neighbours. Haringey's Statistical Neighbours group is defined by Ofsted based on socio-demographic information relating specifically to Children's Services and comprises Croydon, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Waltham Forest and Wandsworth. The averages provided for benchmarking in this report are simple means.

Looked After Children - Volumes and Activity

This section contains a series of measures which help to provide a picture of the current children in care cohort and the service provided to them, covering the following areas: the numbers of children in care (Op389, Op389a); the movement of children in and out of care and their circumstances (Op415, Op416, Op417, Op418, Op419); service activity (Op458, HY32, Op382, Op417, Op419, Op386).

OP389 Children in care including unaccompanied asylum seeking children
OP389a The rate of Children in care per 10,000 pop

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey Number of CiC		558	553	549	549	540	536	
Haringey Rate per 10,000 pop		97	96	95	95	94	93	Data Only
Children placed within Haringey		-	-	-	26.00%	24%	-	
Children placed outside Haringey		-	-	-	74.00%	76%	-	



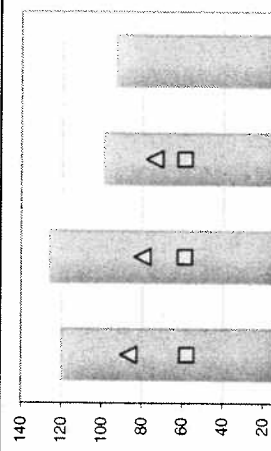
Performance Comment

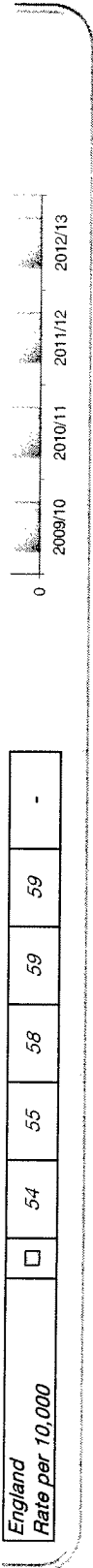
- There were 536 children in care on the last day of October (510 excluding unaccompanied minors).
- This equates to a rate of 93 per 10,000 population, a significant reduction compared to this time last year (108).
- The rate remains higher than the statistical neighbour average (74 as at March 2012), and significantly higher than the England average (59). Please note that all rates for 2011/12 and from April 2012 have been revised in line with new population estimates for Mid-Year 2011 including adjustments to Statistical Neighbour and England rates.
- The average number of children in care in our statistical neighbours was 426 (31st March 2012).

Service Comment

The numbers and rate of children in care continue to be monitored to ensure that numbers are reduced appropriately and children remain safeguarded at home.

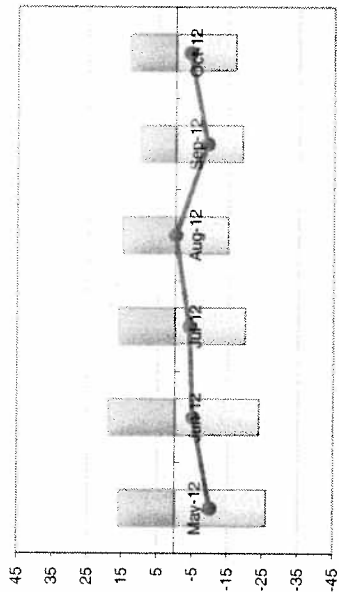
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey Number of CiC		427	492	591	618	574	536	
Haringey Rate per 10,000 pop		-	-	120	126	99	93	Data Only
Statistical Neighbours Rate per 10,000	Δ	91	88	87	80	74	-	





Op415 Children becoming looked after and
Op416 Children ceasing to be looked after

Recent trend (last 6 months)	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey (becoming)	16	19	16	15	10	13	Data Only
Haringey (ceasing)	-26	-24	-20	-15	-19	-17	
<i>Haringey Net Increase / Decrease</i>	-10	-5	-4	0	-9	-4	



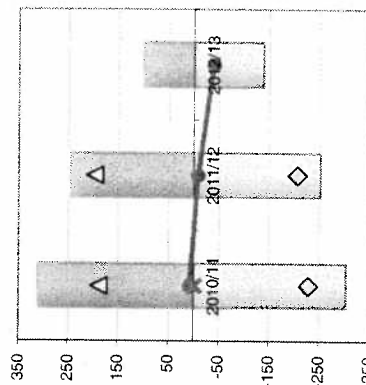
Performance Comment

- 13 children became looked after in October and 17 ceased to be looked after.
- 100 children have become looked after in the year to date and 139 have ceased to be looked after.
- The cohort has decreased by 39 children in the year to date.

Service Comment

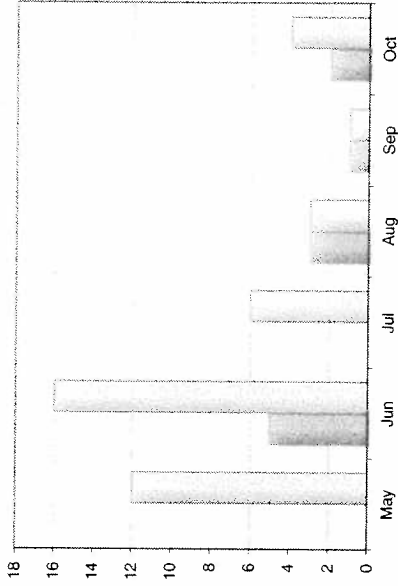
Stability in the long term social work teams has resulted in more timely management of care plans. Children are moving to more permanent care arrangements such as Special Guardianship and Adoption and where appropriate children are returning to live with family members.

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey (becoming)		-	-	-	311	245	100	Data Only
Haringey (ceasing)		-	-	-	-304	-253	-139	
<i>Haringey Net Increase / Decrease</i>		-	-	-	7	-8	-39	
<i>Stat. Neighbours (becoming)</i>	Δ	192	193	216	189	197	-	
<i>Stat. Neighbours (ceasing)</i>	◇	-212	-208	-219	-229	-207	-	
<i>Statistical Neighbours Net Increase</i>	*X	-20	-15	-3	-40	-10	-	



OP457 Number of looked after children who ceased to be looked after who had been looked after for less than a month

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		0	5	0	3	1	2	Data Only
Previous Year	Key	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	
Haringey (previous year)		12	16	6	3	7	4	



Performance Comment

- In the year to date, 15 children have been looked after for less than a month before ceasing to be looked after, compared to 46 for the same period last year.

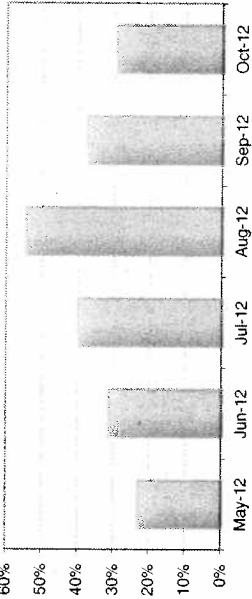
Service Comment

The service has focused on reducing the number of short term admissions to care where alternative safe arrangements can be made whilst assessments are undertaken. It is felt that this reflects better systems to manage children on the edge of care with better engagement with agencies such as the police.

There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

OP414 Percentage of Children becoming looked after previously subject to Child Protection plan

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		23%	31%	40%	55%	38%	29%	Data Only



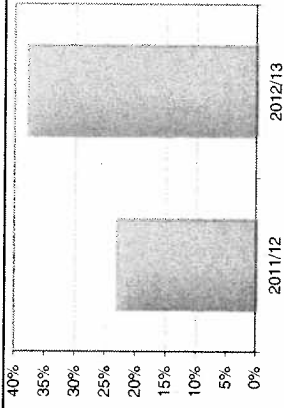
Performance Comment

The year to date figure is 38% (34 out of 90 children), up from 23% last year.

Service Comment

Caring for children away from their family home should be used when it is not possible for children to remain safely and securely at home. Child protection plans are put in place where there are significant concerns about a child's welfare, it is therefore expected that a high proportion of children and families would have been supported whilst being subject to a protection plan before they came into care.

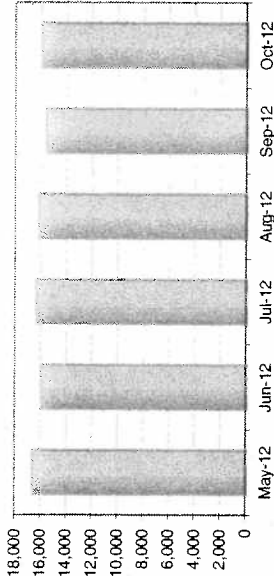
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	-	-	23%	38%	Data Only



There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

OP458 Total No. days children have been in care (Excluding placed at home)

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		16,631	15,968	16,388	16,183	15,557	15,942	Data Only



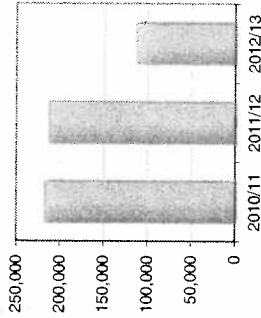
Performance Comment

- The total number of days in care in October was 15,942, higher than the previous month.
- The year to date figure of 113,018 is significantly lower than the same time last year (126,404).
- This indicator was introduced to track the volume of work as the number of looked after children would not capture children becoming looked after or ceasing to be looked after during the month which this measure does.
- This measure is looked at alongside children who ceased to be looked after who had been looked after for less than a month where there is a decreasing trend.

Service Comment


The data demonstrates the number of nights in care which is also another method of monitoring the use of care over time. The figures suggest that we are managing the churn appropriately with a reduction over time and finding other solutions for these children.

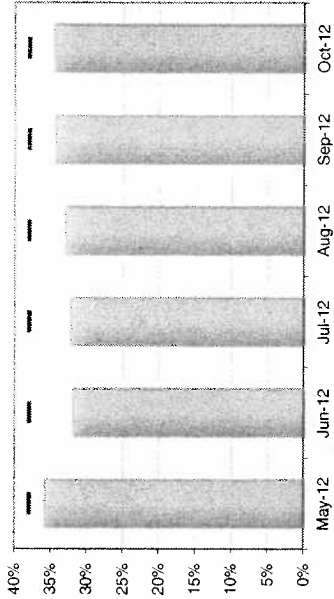
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	-	217,488	212,812	113,018	Data Only



There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

HY32 Percentage of children placed in Haringey Provision


Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		35.8%	31.9%	32.2%	33.0%	34.3%	34.5%	Amber 
Haringey Target	-	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%	

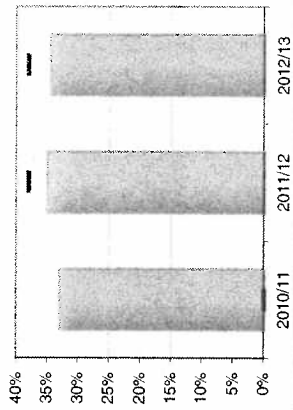


Performance Comment

- The percentage in Haringey Provision has declined since April and remains below the 38% target.
- 185 out of 536 children were in Haringey provision in October, compared to 202 out of 568 in April.


Service Comment

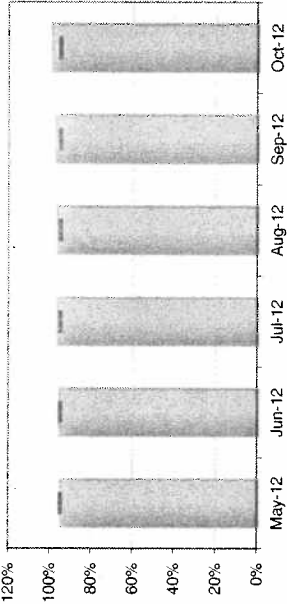
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	-	33.0%	35.0%	34.5%	Amber 
Haringey Target	-	-	-	-	-	38%	38%	



There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

Op382 Children in Care visits (% of visits due which were completed within the 6 week timescale)

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		94.8%	95.4%	96.5%	96.3%	96.9%	99.1%	Green 
Haringey Target	!	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	




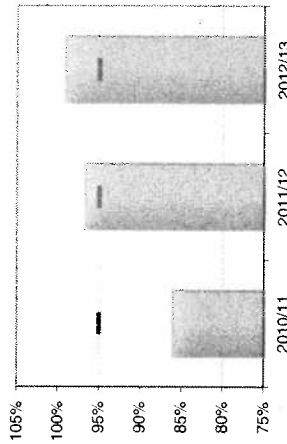
Performance Comment

- 99.1% of children in care visits are up to date, well above the 95% target and an improvement on the September position.
 - This is based on a 6 week timescale or for lower risk children 3 monthly timescale where this has been notified to performance. 5 visits were missed and the reasons why each of these visits were not made are known and tracked.

Service Comment

Whilst the current performance levels are high, the service strive to achieve 100% of visits in time.

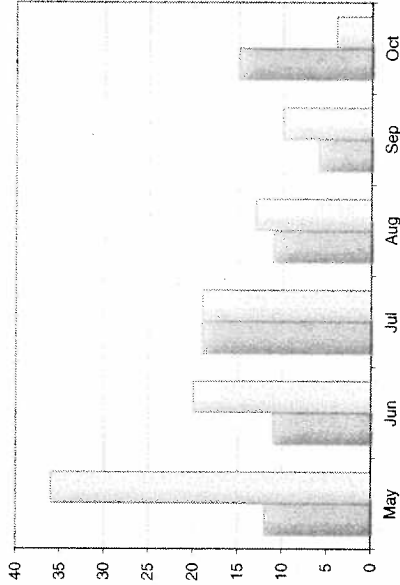
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	-	86.1%	96.7%	99.1%	Green 
Haringey Target	!	-	-	-	95%	95%	95%	



There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

Op417 Care Proceedings Initiated- (No. of children)

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		12	11	19	11	6	15	Data Only
Haringey (previous year)		36	20	19	13	10	4	



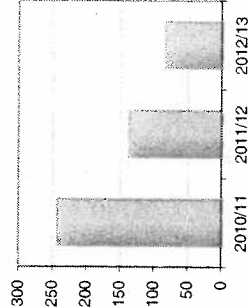
Performance Comment

- There were 15 children (10 families) where care proceedings were initiated in October and 83 (57 families) in the year to date.
- The year to date figure is lower than the 107 care proceedings initiated by this point last year.

Service Comment

There has been a reduction in the number of care proceedings issued compared to the same period last year. Care proceedings are monitored at the monthly joint Legal Services and Children and Families meetings to ensure court processes are used appropriately.

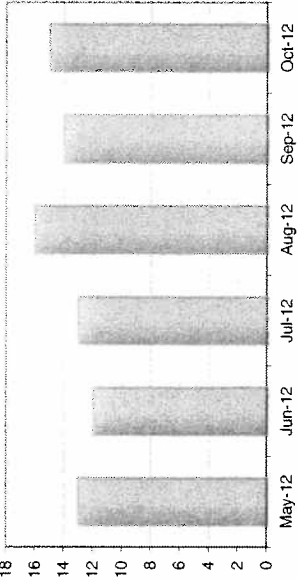
Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	-	243	137	83	Data Only



There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

Op 419 Number of children missing/absconded from care at any point in the month

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		13	12	13	16	14	15	Data Only



Performance Comment


- 15 children were missing from care during the month of October.
- 2 (plus 1 child whose whereabouts are known) remained missing at the end of the month.
- The number of children missing is lower than the level seen this time last year.
- There has been a slight increase in the quarterly numbers which monitor children who have gone missing in the 3 month period and do not include duplicate children which have gone missing in more than one month.

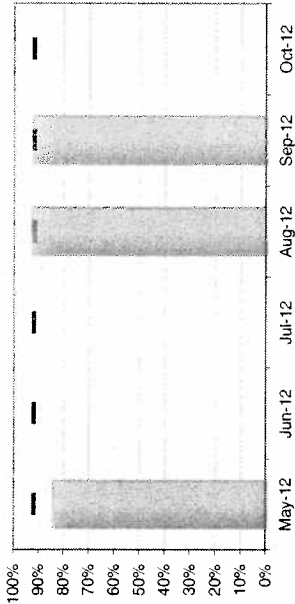
Service Comment

An exercise was undertaken with assistance from the performance team to look at all the children/young people who have gone missing/absconded over the last 12 months (From November 2011 - October 2012), with the number of times they went missing/absconded over the year. Overall we are left with about 6 persistent absconders under age of 16, the exercise has been helpful in identifying which young people need particular input/support.

There is currently no available benchmarking for this indicator. Strategy and Business Intelligence undertake regular environment scanning to ensure that benchmarking data is as complete and up to date as possible

OP386 (NI) Children in care cases which were reviewed within required timescales

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey	84.1%	-	-	-	92.9%	92.4%	-	Green
Haringey Target	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%	





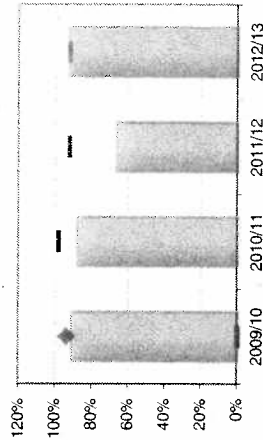
Performance Comment

-A localised system for reporting has given a figure of 92.4% for September but a figure is unavailable for October.

Service Comment

The service have created a localised report which provides the data and use this as a means of monitoring reviews carried out in timescale. This work is done a month in arrears.

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey	-	-	-	91.1%	87.8%	66.5%	92.4%	Green
Haringey Target	94%	-	-	98%	98%	92%	92%	
London	93%	92%	94%	-	-	-	-	



Looked After Children - Stability of Placements

These measures relate to the stability of placements of looked after children. The first (HY62) is based on the number of placements each child in the cohort has experienced. It gives the percentage of children who have had three or more placements during the last year (the figures shown are therefore for a rolling year e.g. June 2011 to July 2012). The second measure (Op63) is based on the length of placement; it gives the percentage of all children who have been in care for at least 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for at least 2 years.

HY62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves

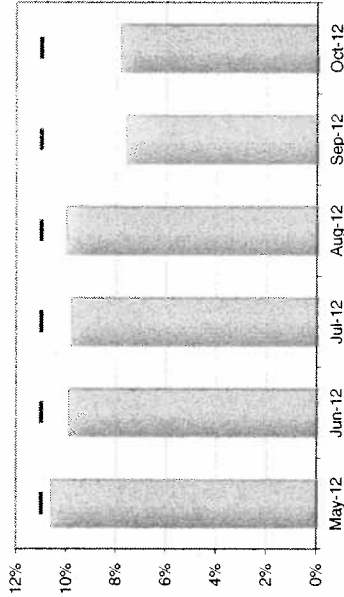
Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		10.6%	9.9%	9.8%	10.0%	7.6%	7.8%	Green
Haringey Target	-	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	

Performance Comment

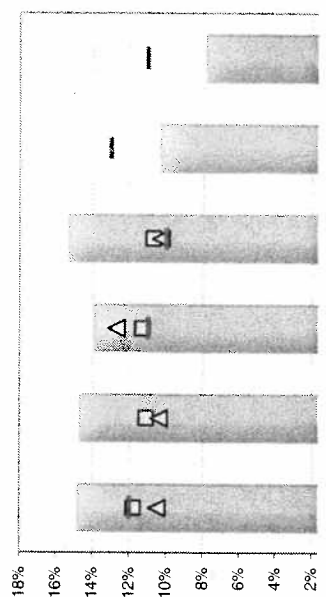
- 42 out of 536 (7.8%) looked after children have had 3 or more placements in the last year.
- This is within the target and lower than our statistical neighbours (10.3% for 2010/11).
- The number of children with two placements is also tracked and appears to be increasing (80 or 14.9% as at October).

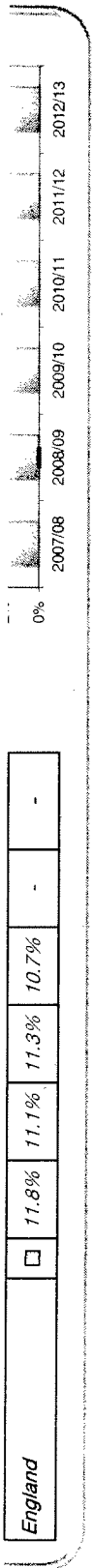
Service Comment

Not all moves are 'bad' moves as some children move to be adopted. The aim is that as far as possible we get the right placement at the point the child first comes into care and that each plan considers a child's long term needs. The Commissioning and Placements team are undertaking an exercise to look at the proportion of children that have moved onto permanency this year. In addition work is being undertaken to ensure that the monitoring of providers is more systematic and proactive with the aim of minimising placement breakdown at the earliest stage.



Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		14.8%	14.7%	13.9%	15.3%	10.3%	7.8%	Green
Haringey Target	-	12%	-	11%	10%	13%	11%	
Statistical Neighbours	Δ	10.5%	10.4%	12.7%	10.3%	-	-	
London	◆	11.2%	11.1%	11.4%	-	-	-	

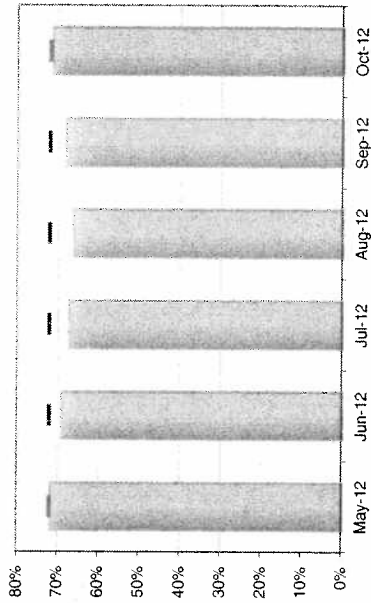




England	11.8%	11.1%	11.3%	10.7%	-	-
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Op63 Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		71.8%	68.9%	67.2%	66.3%	68.1%	71.4%	Amber
Haringey Target	■	72%	72%	72%	72%	72%	72%	

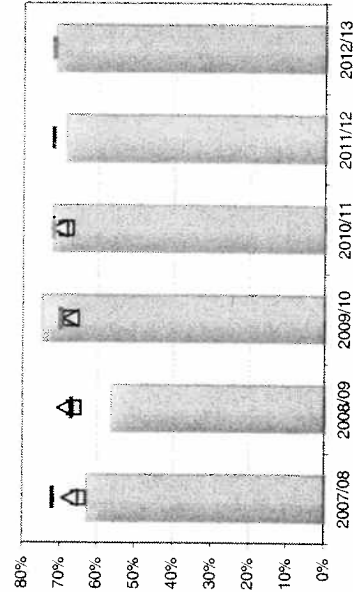


Performance Comment

- 71.4% of children under 16 (137 out of 192 cohort) who have been in care for 2.5 years have been in the same placement for at least 2 years.
- There has been a steady decline since 2009/10 although the numbers in care for 2.5 years have been increasing (192 at October 2012 compared with 158 at October 2011).
- Performance is slightly lower than the target of 72% and similar to statistical neighbour average.

Service Comment

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		62.7%	56.3%	75.0%	72.0%	68.6%	71.4%	Amber
Haringey Target	■	72%	67%	70%	72%	72%	72%	
Statistical Neighbours	△	67.3%	68.7%	67.3%	70.4%	-	-	
London	◆	66.8%	68.0%	66.6%	-	-	-	
England	□	65.0%	66.2%	67.4%	68.6%	-	-	



Care Leavers

These measures are based on young people who turn 19 in the month; 65 young people are due to turn 19 in 2012/13. Monthly percentages for this indicator are therefore based on small numbers and should be interpreted with care. The status of the young people concerned needs to be established within four months of leaving care otherwise they cannot be counted as in EET or in suitable accommodation. Accommodation is deemed suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people.

Op147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation

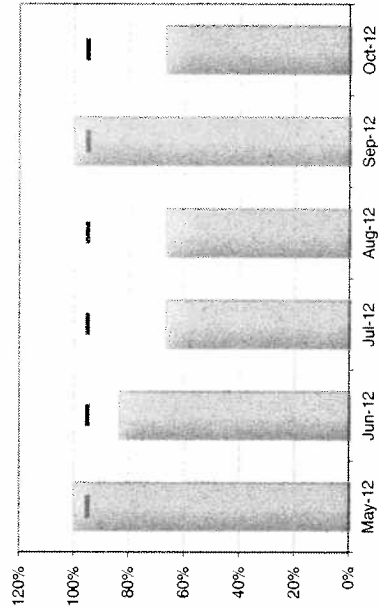
Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		100%	83%	67%	67%	100%	67%	Red
Haringey Target	—	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	●

Performance Comment

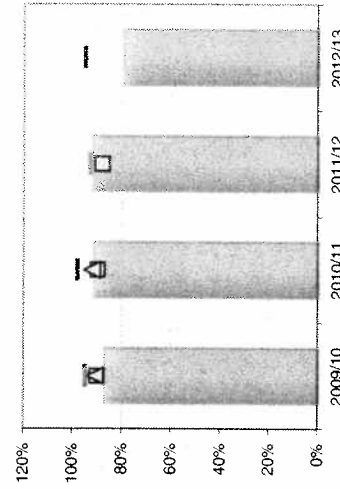
- 79% (27 out of 34) of care leavers for the year to date were in suitable accommodation.
 - This is below the target of 95% and lower than the England figure (88% for 2011/12).
 - 2 out of the 3 young people in Octobers cohort were in suitable accommodation. We were not in touch with the third young person.

Service Comment

The numbers are small and data needs to be interpreted with care. The target set is very challenging especially when one considers the high numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeker care leavers in Haringey which present challenges as many have no recourse to public funds and some have issues with immigration status which prevents them from studying or getting a job.

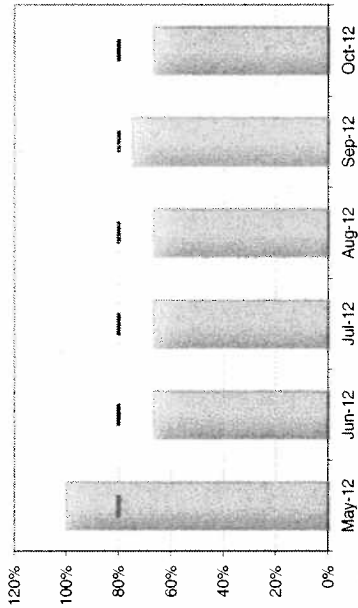


Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	-	87%	92%	92%	79%	Red
Haringey Target	—	95%	95%	95%	98%	93%	95%	●
Statistical Neighbours	△	92%	89%	91%	92%	-	-	
London	◆	90%	88%	-	-	-	-	
England	□	88%	90%	90%	90%	88%	-	



Op148 Care leavers in education, employment or training

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey	100%	67%	67%	67%	67%	75%	67%	Red
Haringey Target	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	



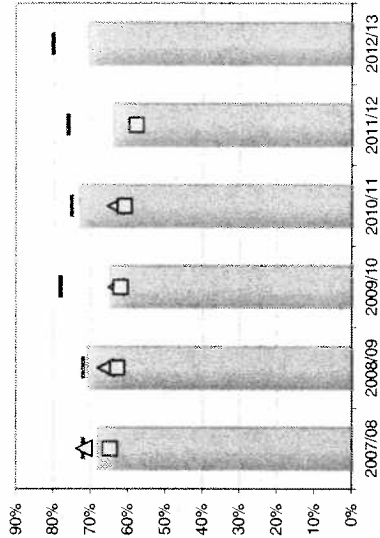
Performance Comment

- As at the end of October 24 out of 34 care leavers (71%) were in education, employment or training (EET) below the 80% target.
- This figure compares favourably with statistical neighbours and is well above the England figure (58% for 2011/12).

Service Comment

The numbers are small and data needs to be interpreted with care. The target set is very challenging especially when one considers the England average of 58%. In Haringey high numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeker care leavers present further challenges in this area as many have no recourse to public funds and some have issues with immigration status which prevents them from studying or getting a job.

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		68%	71%	65%	73%	64%	71%	Red
Haringey Target	80%	72%	72%	78%	75%	76%	80%	
Statistical Neighbours	△	72%	66%	63%	63%	-	-	
London	◆	68%	65%	67%	-	-	-	
England	□	65%	63%	62%	61%	58%	-	

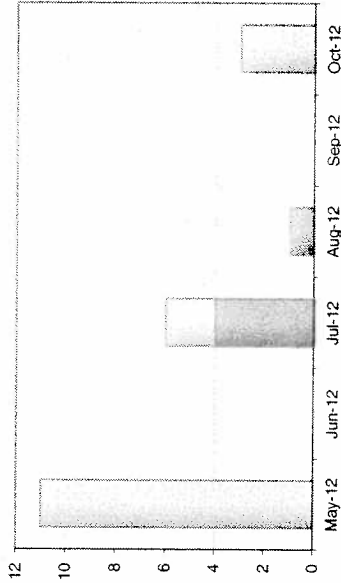


Adoption and Special Guardianship Orders

This section provides information on the volume of adoptions and special guardianship orders and the timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision (% placed within 12 months). It also provides a monthly update on the three key adoption scorecard indicators A1, A2 and A3 relating to the timeliness of the adoption process. For further long term trend data, benchmarking, contextual data and performance against national adoption indicators, please refer to Appendix B, the Adoption Scorecard quarterly update. Please note that this is only updated quarterly due to the relatively small number of children involved - more regular updates may be misleading as small variations can skew the outturns.

Op 418 Number of adoptions/special guardianship orders
 Op 418a Number of adoptions
 Op 418b Number of special guardianship orders (SGOs)

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey (Adoptions and SGOs)		11	3	6	1	0	3	Data Only
Haringey- Adoptions		0	0	4	1	0	0	
Haringey- SGOs		11	0	2	0	0	3	



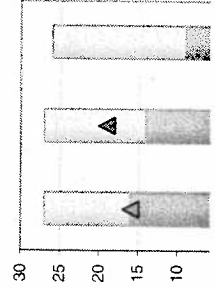
Performance Comment

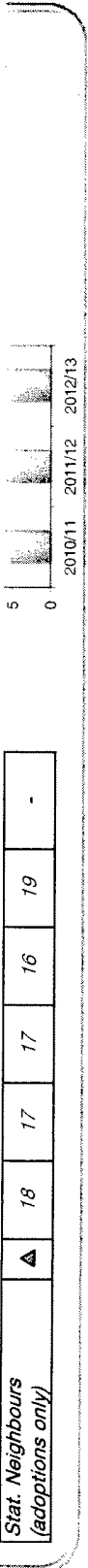
- There were 3 SGOs and no adoptions in October.
- There have been 9 adoptions in the year. The target set for adoptions is 15 and we are on track to meet this. This compares with 7 adoptions and 7 SGOs at this point last year.
- There have been 17 special guardianship orders in the year to date; more than there were in all 2011/12.
- The 903 comparative data for 2011/12 showed that of the children who ceased to be looked after in the year 5% were adopted, this compares to 8% in London and 9% in our comparator authorities, the highest being Hackney at 17%.

Service Comment

Although there were no adoptions in September or October, as at the end of October there were 66 children with an adoption plan.

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey (Adoptions and SGOs)		-	-	-	27	27	26	Data Only
Haringey- Adoptions		-	-	-	16	14	9	
Haringey- SGOs		-	-	-	11	13	17	

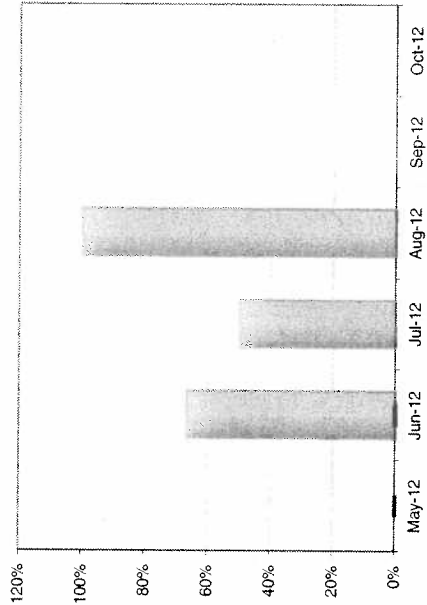




Stat. Neighbours (adoptions only)	▲	18	17	17	16	19	-
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Op391 (NI) Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption

Recent trend (last 6 months)	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	67%	50%	100%	-	-	No Target set
Haringey Target	■	-	-	-	-	-	-	



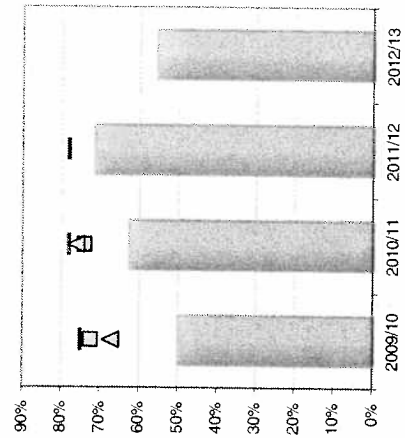
Performance Comment

- No adoptions in September or October
- This indicator is viewed in conjunction with the new adoption scorecard indicators listed below.
- In the year to October 5 out of 9 looked after children (56%) were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption.
- This represents a decline in performance from 2011/12 (71%) and is below latest benchmarking data for statistical neighbours (76% in 2010/11).

Service Comment

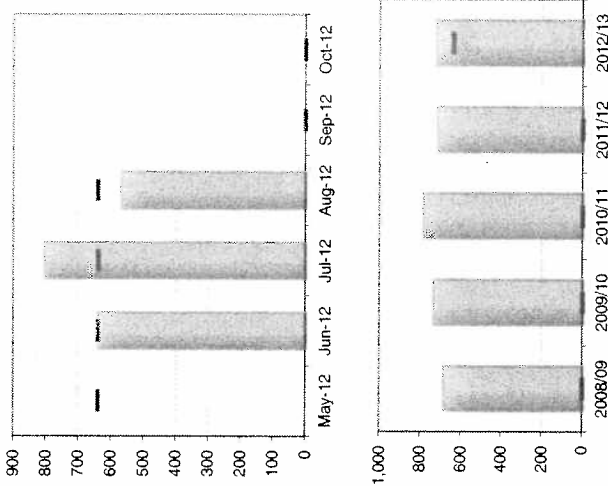
This indicator remains challenging as once the 12 months have passed, the target is not met, regardless of how long or how soon afterwards the child is placed. Permanency tracking processes are in place and increased management through adoption linking meetings will assist in achieving the target of adoption within 21 months; the new adoption scorecard indicator.

Long term trend (last 6 years)	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey				50%	63%	71%	56%	No Target
Haringey Target	■	72%		75%	78%	78%	78%	
Statistical Neighbours	△	66%	79%	67%	76%	-	-	
London	◆	71%	77%	74%	-	-	-	
England	□	76%	75%	72%	74%	-	-	



HY483 Average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption for children adopted in period (Adoption Scorecard Indicator A1)*
 * This figure relates to adopted children only (it excludes children placed for adoption)

Recent trend	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey		N/A	639	805	571	N/A	N/A	Red
National Threshold	-	639	639	639	639	-	-	●



Performance Comment

-No adoptions in September or October
 -The average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption was 722 days for the period April to October 2012. This is above the 639 day threshold maximum(rolling 3 years) which is based on national threshold levels for 2010-2013 and slightly above the 2011/12 figure of 715 days.
 - For the 16 children placed for adoption this year the average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption was 737 days and 315 days from decision on suitability to adoption.
 - The service have set targets for new children coming into the system. Targets of 184 days from expression of interest to decision on suitability to adopt and 118 days (3 months) from receipt of application to decision on suitability have been proposed.

Service Comment

There are changes to be introduced to regulations on some of these measures. There is to be a 2 month pre qualification phase which consists of information giving and basic preparation, plus medicals and CRB checks. This is then followed by acceptance of the application and the preparation and assessment period which has to be completed in 4 months. We are identifying children for families during the assessment process so that we can place as soon as possible after the placement order, and to avoid adopters waiting too long for a Haringey match and going elsewhere. Given the factors which can impact on making a placement, mainly associated with the court process, a target of 118 days, or 3 months, is realistic. We plan to achieve placement in a shorter period than this, of course. When the regulations are changed in the New Year we may need to make some adjustments to these targets, as we expect they will be more prescriptive and precise.

Long term trend	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey		-	686	736	784	715	722	Red
National Threshold	-	-	-	-	-	-	639	●

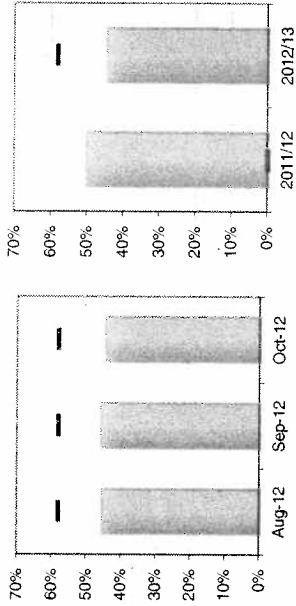
Three year average	2008-11	2009-12
Haringey	739	749
Statistical Neighbours	717	

<i>England</i>	625	636
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Op486 Placed for adoption within 21 months of becoming looked after (Adoption Scorecard Indicator A3)*

* This figure relates to adopted children and children placed for adoption. Figures shown are year to date figures as at the end of the month indicated.

Recent trend	Key	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Traffic Light
Haringey	38%	41%	41%	45%	46%	44%	58%	Red
Provisional Target	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	



Performance Comment

-As at October 44% (12 out of 27) children were placed for adoption within 21 months of becoming looked after. This is below the provisional target (based on the national average)

Service Comment

The increased volume of placements includes children who have been looked after for some considerable time which impacts negatively on the percentage placed within 21 months. We expect an improvement in the timescales for adoption in the longer term, but as we are dealing with relatively small numbers and as many of these have been looked after for some time this will impact on the rolling 3 year averages reported in the adoption scorecard. In the adoption scorecard a new indicator has been introduced (A10) which measures the same as (A1) with the exception that for time spent with foster carers who go on to adopt the child, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer rather than the officially 'placed' date. In Haringey the average days for A10 was 647 compared with 546 for England. This measure is expected to be advantageous to Haringey as it will enable us to demonstrate improvement by allowing us to exclude some of the time for a few children who spent exceptionally long periods of time in care before being adopted and thus not skewing the averages in a negative way.

Long term trend	Key	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Traffic Light
Haringey	-	-	-	-	-	50%	44%	Red
Provisional Target	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	

Three year average	2008-11	2009-12
Haringey	41%	41%
Statistical Neighbours	54%	
England	58%	

Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)
(Adoption Scorecard Indicator A2)

Performance Comment

- The England 3 year average has increased from 171 (2008-11) to 195 (2009-12)
- Our statistical neighbours average (2008-11) is 132
- Haringey's 3 year average (2008-11) is 239 days reducing marginally to 238 days (2009-12).
- The national threshold for 2010-13 is 213 days, so based on 2009-12 levels Haringey is 25 days short of the threshold.
- Measuring progress on this indicator is reliant on CAF/CASS releasing data at local authority level.

Three year average	2009-12
Haringey	238
<i>Statistical Neighbours</i>	-
<i>England</i>	195

Service Comment

Monitoring systems and additional resource are speeding up family work. The numbers will come down as the numbers of children who have already waited a long time are placed.



Haringey Council

Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	Item Number:	
Title:	Missing from Care November 2012		
Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler		
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		
Information report	Information report		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

At the Joint meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Children's Safeguarding Committee held on the 29th October there was discussion about signing up to the Runaway's Charter. Although this was not agreed, further assurance was sought on the process and risk assessments in place for children in care taking unauthorised leave from their placements as the past experience of some members had been that these children's whereabouts were predicted, rather than known by the care homes. The Committee agreed that a report come back to the December meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee advising on the process and risk assessments in place for children in care taking unauthorised leave from their placements and also for children missing from care. The report should also provide a sense of the figures, over the year, for children missing from care as the figures were lower than previously reported.

2. Recommendations

That members note the report.

3. Background information



Haringey Council

The Children Missing from Care and from Home Scrutiny review was presented to Cabinet earlier this summer and an action plan is now being worked on following this. Since November last year the Children's Service have been working in partnership with the Barnardos and Railway Children project backed 'Miss U' project which has added expertise and specialist advice to work with missing children. Internal guidance (Social Care Procedures) offers links to updated national statutory guidance, in line with the requirements of National Indicator 71, on children who run away and go missing from home or care.

Definitions of Missing

The following definitions clarify any possible blurring of understandings around those missing from care that are described as having "unauthorised absence". The service use the following definitions, which are in accordance with national guidance:

- The terms 'young runaway' and 'missing' in this context refer to children and young people up to the age of 18 who have run away from their home or care placement, have been forced to leave, or whose whereabouts are unknown.
- Unauthorised absence is where a looked-after child's whereabouts are known or thought to be known but unconfirmed, they are not missing and may instead be considered as absent without authorisation from their placement.
- Sometimes children stay out longer than agreed either on purpose or unwittingly, or fail to tell their parents/carers of their whereabouts. This kind of boundary-testing activity is well within the range of normal teenage behaviour and does not come within the definition of 'missing' for this protocol. This type of behaviour, when exhibited within a care setting such as a foster home would not trigger missing procedures either. Where, however, there is cause for concern, i.e. where there is no indication that a child is likely to return within a short space of time or where there is immediate concern for the child's safety, missing procedures will be triggered at once.
- Whenever a young person is away unplanned overnight this is recognised as the child being missing, whatever the length of time or circumstances. No assumptions are made about a child's safety whether they state their whereabouts or not. With some young people of 16 and 17 who are definitely known to spend large amounts of time at a relative's home or that of a girlfriend/boyfriend this is still viewed seriously. It is however likely that police will be less likely to act in such cases. All known addresses are visited by staff and checked regularly by police. In more difficult situations a recovery order for the safe retrieval of a young person is applied for through the court.

Actions when children and young people are missing

All staff follow a clearly defined reporting and recording protocol.



Haringey Council

- The relevant Head of Service, Team Manager and Deputy Head of Service are informed within 24 hours of a young person going missing. If this includes a period of time over a weekend then the EDT service must be notified.
- A risk assessment record form must then be completed by the social worker and their team manager as part of the 48 hour notification. This is then sent to the Head of Service, Deputy Head of Service and the Assistant Director.
- The safety and well being of our children in care are paramount and this risk assessment process will assist us with information to keep vulnerable children under close review when they are at high risk.
- A strategy meeting is held on the first available working day after the young person is reported to be missing. A review strategy meeting will then be booked within five working days of this first meeting or sooner if the risk is assessed to be exceptionally high.
- Updates are given to senior managers as routine procedure.

Return from Missing

Upon the young person's return from a missing episode they will be interviewed to ascertain some detail on what the driving factors for absconding are and how their careers and social workers can work together with the young person to improve their situation. There is now a process being put into place to ensure an independent interview, at least in cases where a young person has been missing for 48 hours or more or is a regular absconder. The intention is to use that information to inform a plan of action to safeguard the young person in the future and to address areas which are worrying them and causing them to run away. Their care plan has to be updated to include any such new information including the new risk assessment. It is essential that no factors related to a young person's absence stand alone and that all relevant factors are pulled together to create a holistic, multi agency response to a young person's needs.

Figures for missing episodes in the last calendar year (01/11/11 – 31/10/12)

There are 341 episodes recorded for children missing from care. These involve 83 children and young people. In 28 instances there are more than 3 episodes of missing. In 31 cases there is one instance of going missing. Across the different cases the majority of episodes (whether frequent or rare) relate to situations where young people have strong ties to family members but it has been deemed unsafe for the majority of them to return home permanently. A significant proportion also relate to placements in residential or foster care where young people have been unhappy in a placement and, on further investigation, it was agreed that they should move elsewhere. It is known that, after a considerable number of episodes of going missing, many of the young people have then settled much more securely after a move into a new placement when their missing episodes then ceased. From the list of young people over the last year around 9 (three are aged 17) are still persistent absconders where work is ongoing. Quite a few of the other more frequent absconders have moved placements successfully; some have left care and others now living in semi independent accommodation.



Haringey Council

Conclusion

There is continual analysis of trends and safeguards with regard to children in care. Work is being undertaken to gain a greater understanding of the push factors behind young people running away from Council care and to develop a stronger strategy to address this. A study focusing on children and young people's views (both in 2006 and then updated with their views from 2012) has recently been released by the Children's Director for England. This is being used in Haringey to further develop practice in this area. A piece of work currently being undertaken is the establishment of independent return home interviews. These are to be offered by the Youth Service on the basis outlined in national missing guidance. Overall the service is working, from a number of different angles, to drive down the number of missing episodes. They are striving to listen to young people's views and to listen to, and act upon, the concerns that young people express which can then lead to them running away.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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