

NOTICE OF MEETING

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 13th July, 2022, 7.00 pm (or at the rise of the meeting with ASPIRE) - 40 Cumberland Road, Wood Green N22 7SG (watch the live meeting [here](#) and watch the recording [here](#))

Members: Councillors Zena Brabazon (Chair), Felicia Opoku, Elin Weston, Collett, Isilar-Gosling, Johnson and Mahbub

Quorum: 3

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

3. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 9 below.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the consideration becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member' judgement of the public interest.

5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 10)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 and 25 January 2022.

6. PERFORMANCE FOR 2021/22 (PAGES 11 - 16)

This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

7. BRIEFING FROM THE CHILDREN IN CARE HEALTH TEAM (PAGES 17 - 20)

Report provides an update on the work of the Children in Care health team

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting: 3 October 2022

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Tuesday, 05 July 2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH
2022, 7:00PM - 7:59PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Zena Brabazon and Tammy Palmer

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the filming of meetings and this information was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies had been received from Councillor Weston, Councillor Chenot, Councillor James and Councillor Opoku.

As the meeting was not quorate, the Committee agreed to proceed informally.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 25 January.2022 the were to be circulated at the next meeting.

6. PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 3 2021/22 WITH UPDATES FOR JANUARY 2022

Mr Richard Hutton, Senior Performance Officer, presented the item and informed that paragraph 2.6 of the report should read that 59% of the total male population was shown in the graphs below and not 69%.

The Committee heard that:

- There was nothing concerning reflected in the report including for the parkway plans. All staff were working to improve the plans in any case.

- Of the new starters, there were nine male and four female infant individuals (babies) and therefore there were thirteen in all.
- Approximately one quarter of the individuals became permanently looked after.
- There were two age ranges which needed to be monitored. Some of the baby is born during the coronavirus crisis were going into care proceedings. If a home could not be found for those children via extended family members, then they would be part of the corporate parenting process there were also children who are arriving into care in the adolescent years who were converted into a full care order. Some come in late and move rapidly through the system.
- There were some others in the Enfield and Hertfordshire area who are having children removed from their care repeatedly. Haringey had availability of private housing which was an attraction for other boroughs to use as a resource.
- The corporate parenting responsibility for babies and late adolescents would likely fall to Haringey in the long term.
- If a child was placed in Haringey by another borough which was a Looked After Child, send that child would remain the responsibility of the placing borough. However, if the child was placed and was part of a Child In Need or a Child Protection Plan followed by emerging needs, then the children would eventually become the responsibility of Haringey.
- The phrase 'suitable accommodation' had a loose definition but there were some categories which defined the term differently.

The Chair felt it was important to have communication with other boroughs.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

7. PRIVATE FOSTERING STATEMENT

Ms Beverley Hendricks, Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care, introduced the item.

The meeting heard that:

- There were concerns in the safeguarding arrangements for young children arriving as refugees from the Ukraine and were invited to live in foster homes.
- Approximately 90,000 potential Ukrainian refugees have registered but the government had not provided any guidelines of the process that would take place.
- No details had yet been released regarding the safeguarding role for local authorities for potential refugees.
- If a child refugee (under 17) arrived without having gone through the set process, then they would go through the unaccompanied asylum seekers process.

Members were happy to accept the statement as presented and to proceed with the campaign.

RESOLVED:

Members indicated approval of the Haringey Private Fostering Statement of Purpose.

8. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS

Ms Emma Cummergen, Head of Young Adult Service, presented the item and stated that the project was a pilot to how elected members could be given a champion role around themed areas. This would help develop elected members to be champions of advocacy experts with access to subject expert advisors giving people greater opportunities to consult children and young people.

The Chair stated that the role of corporate parenting was an important role for councillors and greater attention to the role was long overdue. It was important to note that every councillor in Haringey had an important responsibility to the young people of the borough and it was important that councillors were reminded of this duty.

The Committee noted the presentation and thanked officers for their work and dedication.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

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MINUTES OF MEETING CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2022, 7.00 - 9.05 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Zena Brabazon (Chair), Councillor Sakina Chenot, Councillor Tammy Palmer, and Councillor Elin Weston.

In attendance: Faiz Ahmed (Head of Service Children in Care), Sandy Bansil (Service Manager, Safeguarding and Social Care), Lynn Carrington (Whittington Health), Emma Cummergen (Head of Young Adult Service), Jackie Difolco (Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention), Ann Graham (Director of Children's Services), Beverley Hendricks (Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care), Richard Hutton (Performance and Business Intelligence), Pauline Morris (Head of ESQA, Safeguarding and Social Care), Christa Ncube (Service Manager, Safeguarding and Social Care), Sarah Pike (Principal Social Worker), and Fiona Rae (Acting Committees Manager).

The meeting took place virtually.

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair informed all present that the meeting would be streamed on the Council's website.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah James and Felicia Opoku.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Senior Performance Officer introduced the report which provided an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that:

- 23% of children in care had Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The Committee also requested that the next update included the number of children in care who were waiting for an EHCP assessment.
- It was explained that there was no fixed definition for 'suitable accommodation' but that the definitions for statutory returns included some examples could be circulated to the Committee.
- In response to a question about those who ceased to be children looked after as they moved into independent living, the Head of Young Adult Service noted that these 18 young people had moved into their permanent accommodations with Homes for Haringey or Housing Associations. It was explained that there were 61 beds allocated annually for care leavers. It was noted that there were six 2 bed properties per year to accommodate a number of parents and to prevent overcrowding. It was confirmed that this allocation had been reached in this year, and in every year since it had been introduced.
- In response to a question about furnishing homes, it was noted that care leavers were able to access a leaving care grant, called a Setting Up Home Grant, of up to £2,000. The Head of Young Adult Service explained that it was often difficult to fully furnish homes with this grant, particularly given recent and significant increases in flooring costs. It was added that it was possible for people to access the grant early, if it was assessed to be appropriate, in order to provide items that would help with transitioning into independent living.
- The Head of Young Adult Service explained that there was also a programme for young people to prepare for independent living which was delivered from one of the flats, known as 'The Money House'. This was a week-long programme which explained issues such as budgeting, how to check meters, and how to undertake some basic household tasks. There was also a partnership with Metrobank, who offered bank accounts and money management support, a Life Skills Accredited Scheme, where young people got certificates for every section completed, and Mental Health First Aiding with Mind, which helped young people to navigate mental health and identify when to seek support. It was highlighted that the programme was staged as much as possible based on the individual young people. The Committee noted that it would be beneficial to visit The Money House and that this could be organised outside of the meeting.
- It was noted that the current cost of living crisis had significantly affected care leavers, a number of whom had lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee asked for a more detailed update on the costs and changing costs for care leavers to be presented at a future meeting. It was suggested that this report could be supplemented by hearing first-hand experiences from care leavers.
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial to consider whether any local businesses, including flooring providers, would be willing to support care leavers. The Chair noted that it may be useful to include the Cabinet Member for House Building, Place-Making, and Development in these discussions.
- It was acknowledged that independent living could be challenging and it was enquired what would happen for care leavers if they had any issues with their housing. The Director of Children's Services noted that the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care would be presenting a report in the near future with some suggestions about strengthening the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee role, possibly including some Sub-Committees for specific topics such as housing, and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Committee to wait for the outcome of that report.

7. HMIP THEMATIC INSPECTION ON "THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK AND MIXED HERITAGE BOYS IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM"

The Head of Young Adult Service introduced the report which informed the Committee about the outcome of the HMIP Thematic Inspection into "The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system" April – June 2021. Haringey was one of 9 local

authorities that were selected to take part in the thematic inspection. The findings and recommendations of the inspection are general and not specific to Haringey. It was noted that the inspection had found that there were significant deficits in experience for Black and mixed heritage boys in the Youth Justice System who were more likely to have multiple adverse childhood experiences, Special Educational Needs and mental health difficulties, high rates of exclusion from school, exploitation, racial discrimination, and economic deprivation.

It was explained that the report had identified Haringey as a case study and that some positive feedback had been received. It was noted that the report had found some good examples of partnership work and projects, such as the Red Snapper project, which helped to tackle mental health stigmas, the music offer, which included a partnership with Sony Music who offered internships and mentoring, and the Ether programme, which aimed to tackle stereotypes, break barriers, and address perceptions of masculinity.

It was highlighted that the HMIP report had offered 18 recommendations. The recommendations for local authorities focused on providing suitable and timely accommodation placements, to ensure that legal entitlements to education were being provided, and that placements were suitable to meet needs. In relation to the Youth Offending Service partnership boards, it was recommended that there was a vision and strategy for improving outcomes which was understood by staff, that board members provided data from service areas to identify areas of disproportionality and actions taken to address these, and to develop targets and monitoring arrangements for the partnership. It was also recommended that Youth Offending Services Managers were asked to establish effective feedback processes, to ensure that staff understood the issues for Black and mixed heritage boys, to improve the quality of management oversight, to address gaps in specialist provision, and to offer suitable support and intervention.

The Head of Young Adult Service provided an update on progress for the recommendations. It was explained that a new Quality Assurance (QA) tool had been introduced to increase management oversight and ensure that diversity and structural barriers were being addressed. A workshop on fathers had been delivered and there was now increased focus on capturing the voice of fathers. In the October half term, a workshop was delivered around the rights and responsibilities in relation to stop and search and the impact of this on young people. It was added that stop and search was now being recorded as a significant event for planning and intervention purposes.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that:

- There were 19 young people in Haringey who were looked after (this included those who automatically because looked after because they are remanded) and were in the Youth Justice System and it was enquired whether the report had recommended any specific support or changes for them. The Head of Young Adult Service noted that there were no specific points raised in the report but that it was known that this was an area for improvement. It was noted that the looked after children in the Youth Justice System cohort were more likely to have been excluded, to have more significant mental health needs, and to have unmet and unseen needs. It was explained that an audit of looked after children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was currently being undertaken. The Committee asked for further details to be presented at a future meeting.
- In response to a question about disproportionality and unconscious bias against children in care, it was noted that there was a focus on providing unconscious bias training that was being rolled out across the partnership. It was explained that the partnership worked closely with the courts and that all court reports had a 'child first lens' and decisions were challenged in the out of court disposal panels. It was highlighted that the key thing was ensuring that the children's voices were heard. It was also acknowledged that authorities may make assumptions about young people who were looked after and known in the

Youth Justice System and the Director of Children's Services suggested that this would likely be included in some of the work around stop and search.

- The Chair noted that some excellent work had been undertaken by the Haringey Learning Partnership (HLP) and that this could be used as a model for supporting some of the young people in the Youth Justice System, both those in care and others. The Committee commented that a number of the factors identified in the report were already known to be key issues. It was suggested that this highlighted the importance of ensuring that other services in the partnership were provided appropriately and at the right times to ensure that young people were supported. The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention noted that the HLP was part of the Alternative Provision (AP) taskforce and that there was funding to use some Youth Justice Service resource to support young people in the HLP.

8. VOICE OF THE CHILD GUIDANCE

The Principal Social Worker introduced the report which presented the Voice of the Child Guidance for practitioners for information so that the Committee could be assured of the focus of this issue for staff. It was noted that the Children Act 1989 stated that the voice of the child should be paramount. It was explained that the Practice Guidance had been written to assist practitioners in capturing the voice of the child in planning, decision making, and service delivery.

It was highlighted that Aspire was involved in the recruitment of senior managers in Children's Services, the training of newly qualified social workers, consultations, policy developments, new periodic surveys in Children's Services, the child centred review process, and the Fostering Panel's recent work on creating a 'what makes a good foster carer' crib sheet.

In terms of the next steps, it was noted that the recruitment was underway for a practitioner who would be setting up a Shadow Children's Board, where each partnership would have a young person working alongside them to provide views and develop processes. An apprentice Children's Engagement and Participation Officer was also being recruited and this role would be ringfenced for someone who was care experienced. It was also aimed to include Aspire in the recruitment of other, less senior posts and a training package with input from Aspire was being developed to inform new staff about how it feels to be a child in care. It was added that the HALO code, which clearly stated respect for the right to embrace Afro-hairstyles, was being implemented in foster homes. In addition, work was underway with the Children With Disabilities Service to form a group for children and young people with Learning Disabilities.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that:

- The Committee commented that significant work had been done to ensure that the voices of young people were heard. The Committee was particularly impressed with the introduction of a ringfenced apprenticeship for an individual with care experience and it was hoped that actions like this could be rolled out to other services as it would actively combat workplace discrimination. The Director of Children's Services noted that this comment sought to ensure that all considerations were taken into account but it was agreed that this wording should be amended to be clear that the voice of the child was paramount. The Principal Social Worker added that there would be training sessions on the Practice Guidance for the entire workforce to ensure that it was fully embedded and correctly used.
- In relation to ensuring that the voice of the child was heard, the Head of ESQA (Safeguarding and Social Care) noted that Children's Services was also involved in a pilot scheme called Kit Bag which distributed toolkits to practitioners to encourage more creative methods of communication with children. It was also noted that virtual working had meant that practitioners were thinking of more creative methods to ensure that the voice of the child was heard and that any warning signs were identified. It was added that

there had been some recent training with the Disabled Children's Team to learn some Makaton which assisted in extending the communication ability of staff.

- Some members of the Committee suggested that it would be useful to hear more about the advocacy service at a future meeting.
- The Chair also suggested that, in future, it could be useful to include an addendum to the Practice Guidance from children and young people which set out their thoughts on how their voices should be heard.

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF FOSTERING SERVICE APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

The Head of Service for Children in Care introduced the report which presented the Annual Report of the Fostering Service from April 2020 to March 2021 and evaluated the service provisions, key objectives and priorities for future developments.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that:

- It was confirmed that detailed ethnicity and cultural data was collected for looked after children and this was stored in the Council's system, Mosaic. It was noted that care experience and mental health were often not collected as part of wider Council and partnership data and it was suggested that it might be useful to suggest this to Public Health colleagues for future Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs).
- It was noted that there had been significant increases to the cost of living and it was enquired whether foster carers in Haringey should be paid more. The Head of Service for Children in Care noted that foster carers in Haringey were paid less than neighbouring boroughs and that the Council was in the process of trying to bring the remuneration level in line with neighbouring boroughs.
- It was noted that the service had launched the Mockingbird Project in February 2021 which consisted of one hub carer supporting eight satellite carers and allowed carers to support each other. It was explained that the project would run for at least 12 months before a formal report was brought to the Committee but that it was considered to be a success and there had been no placement breakdowns.
- In relation to a question about the ethnicity and backgrounds of foster carers, it was noted that the service was mindful and sensitive to issues of diversity in their recruitment processes for foster carers. Part of the recruitment strategy involved reaching out to underrepresented groups to encourage wider participation. This strategy had proven successful as enquiry rates from these communities had increased.
- The data suggested that more older children and young people were being fostered. It was explained that this included children who were growing up and new children who were entering care in Haringey. It was noted that it could be challenging to sustain stability in older age ranges and that the recruitment and training of foster carers took this into account. It was explained that the service was investigating more innovative approaches, such as the Mockingbird project and recruitment work with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.
- It was acknowledged that it would be important for the Committee to consider the cohorts and ages of children coming into the care service to ensure that the services provided were supporting them appropriately.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

17 March 2022

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: August 2022

Item number: 6

Title: Performance for 2021/22

Report

Authorised by: Director Children's Services Ann Graham

Lead Officer: Richard Hutton, Performance and Business Intelligence
richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key

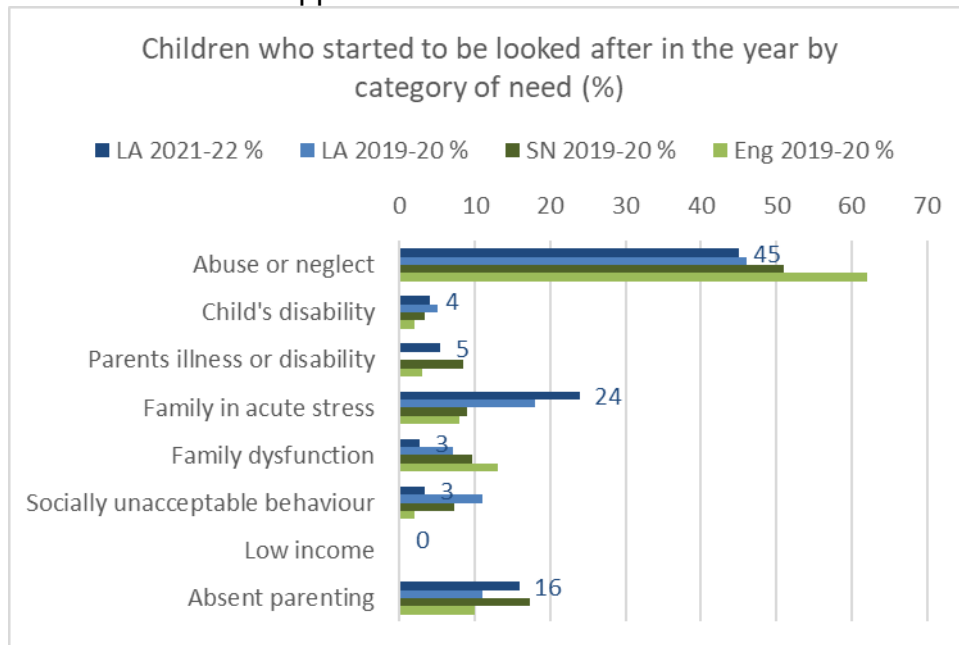
1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent.
- 1.3. The report covers the year 2021/22 with update for April and May 2022 where appropriate.

2. Overall Assessment of Performance

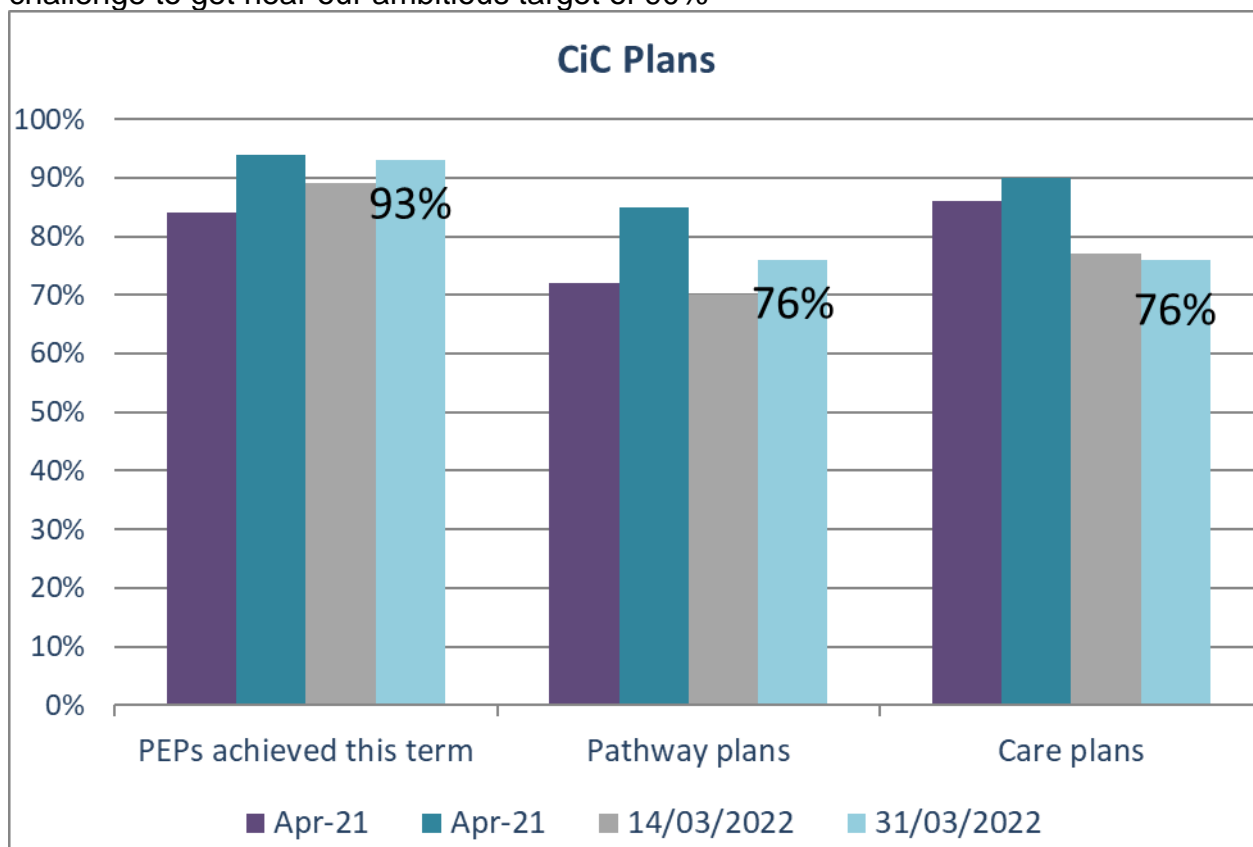
- 2.1. At the end of March 2021 **387 children were in care** (rate of 64 per 10,000). This is 4 fewer children than was reported at the end of 2020/21 and still within the interquartile range of our statistical neighbours (rate of 60-69).
- 2.2. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker (UASC) children has stayed as 26 within our 0.07% quota of 42.
- 2.3. In the last 12 months 153 children ceased to be looked after, this compares to 152 during the 12 months to March 2021. In the past year there were 50 children (33%) who ceased to be looked after and returned home to live with their parents or relatives, compared to 34% in 2020/21.

- 2.4. In 2021/22, 151 children have started to be looked after. The **rate of children becoming looked after per 10,000** has **increased from 24 to 25.4**. Haringey's rate is now higher than the average London at (21 in 2020/21).
- 2.5. There was an increase in the reason for children coming into care stated as family in acute stress, previously the second most frequent reason behind Abuse or Neglect increased to 24% from 20%
- 2.6. An example of family in acute stress is where a combination of factors including those such as, financial, housing, parental mental health and domestic violence combine to put parents in a position where they cannot cope without additional support.

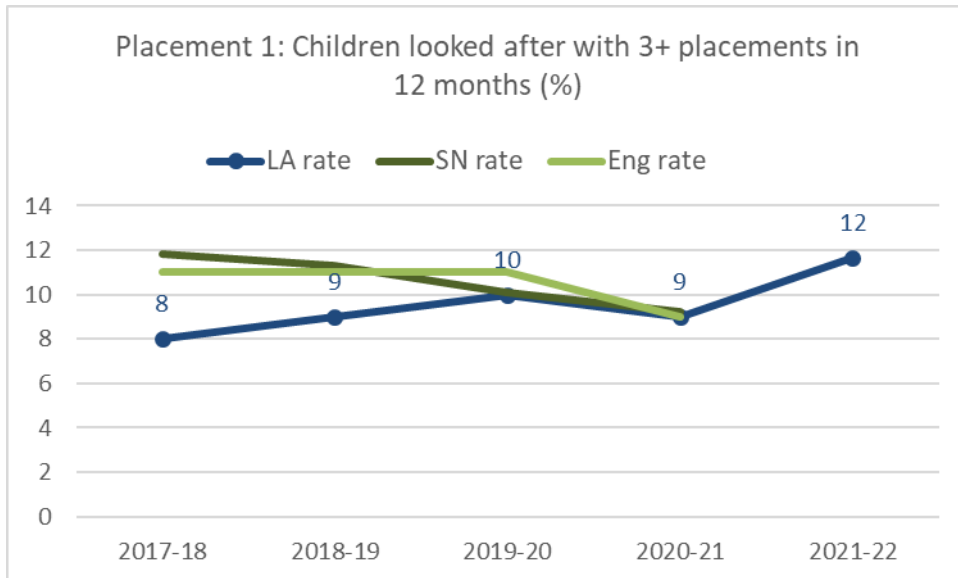


- 2.7. The number of adopted children increased since last year from 5 to 8. Of the current Children in Care population 10 are placed for adoption.
- 2.8. As of June 2022, **77%** of looked after children aged under 16 had an **up-to-date Care Plan**, (86% in 2021). The reasons for the decline in numbers relate to the following factors:
 - Capacity & complexity of cases
 - Social work pressures due to above.
 - Team manager changes
- 2.9. Of the 126 16 & 17 year olds who require a Pathway plan, despite problems with older children engaging **84%** had **up to date pathway plans** (up from 70% in 2020) an increase over & above the 80% target.
- 2.10. Personal education plans (PEPs) have been improved this year and the process is now fully embedded. Care and pathway plans have proved a

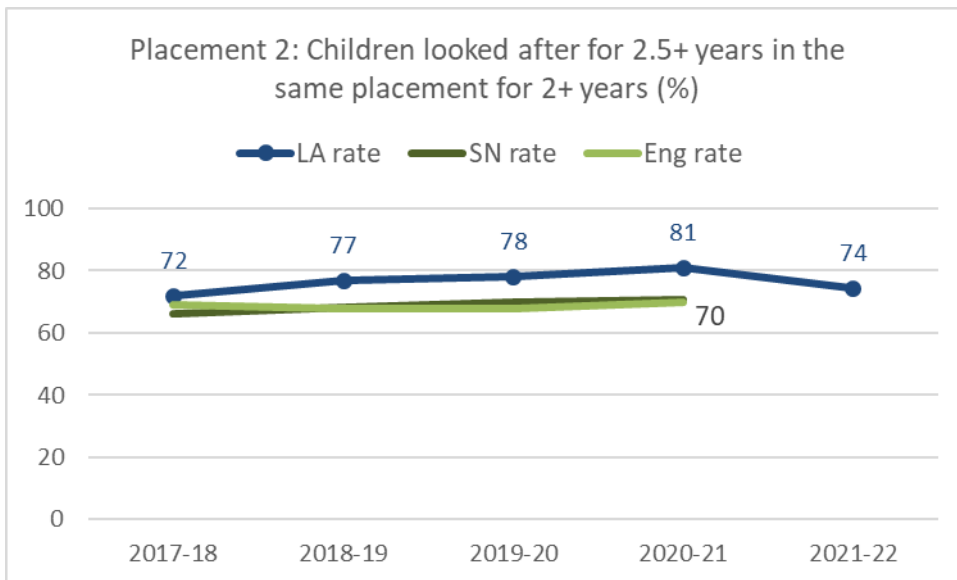
challenge to get near our ambitious target of 90%



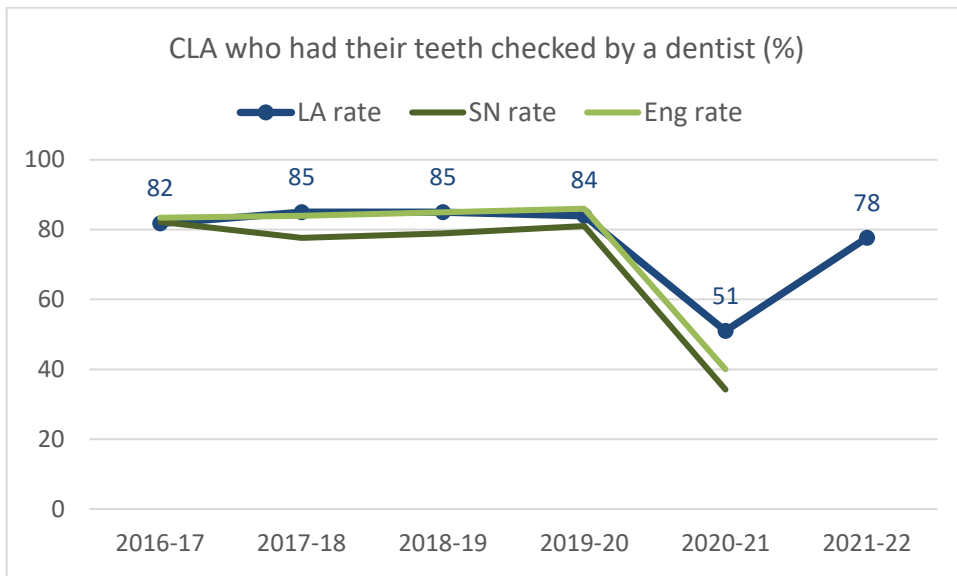
- 2.11. 81% of **Children in Care** were recorded as having up to date visits within the relevant timescales as of the last week of March 2022. This performance has been almost maintained in June at 77%. Visits to looked after children continue to be tracked at performance meetings, held by the Head of Service for Children in Care, and along with supervision and management direction noted as consistently and actively monitored.
- 2.12. At the end of March 2022, 12% of children with an open episode of care **had three or more placement moves in the last 12 months**. This is higher than last year, the London and statistical neighbour average. The following factors have impacted placements moves:
- Placements breaking down due to CLA developing more complex needs as they become teenagers
 - 17-year-olds moving into semi-independent accommodation



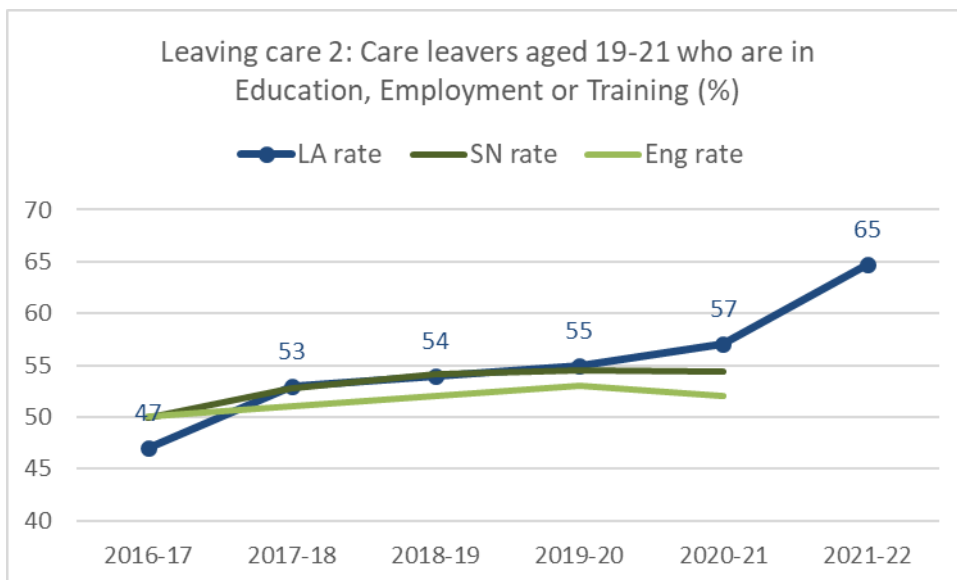
Children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years, has dipped to 74% (101 children) although it is better than statistical neighbour average of 70%. These two indicators should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey’s children in care. Which shows a positive balanced picture.



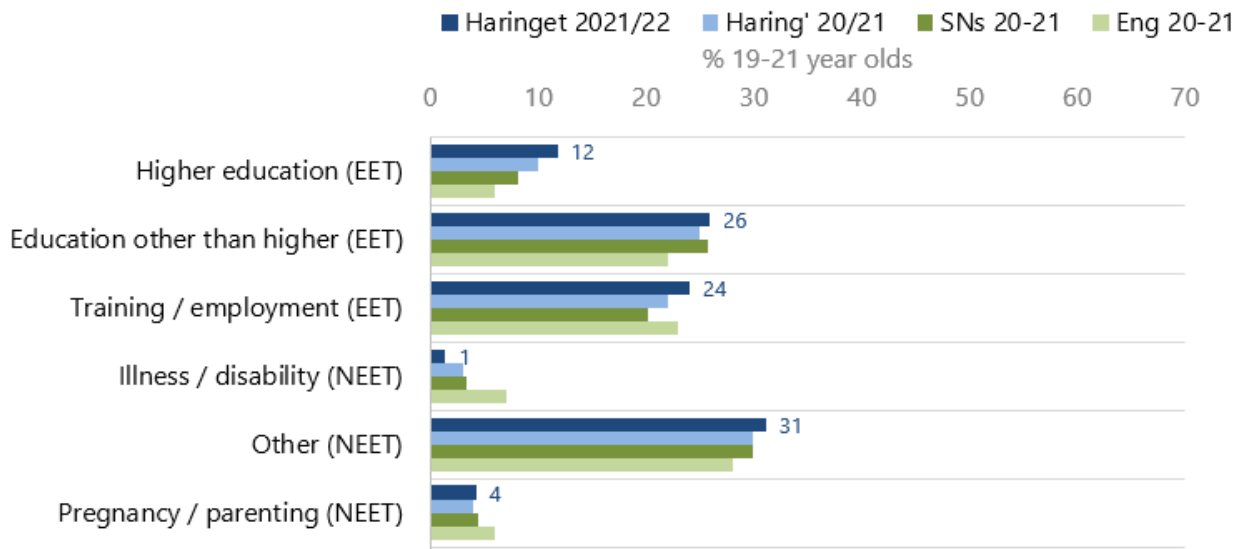
- 2.13. At the end of March 2022, the number of children who were looked after for at least 12 months with an **up-to-date health assessment** was 96%, maintaining good performance above statistical neighbours’ levels 92%.
- 2.14. At the end of March 2021 only 51% of eligible children had an **up to date dental visits. This has increased to 78% by the end of March 2022.** Unfortunately, dental checks have always been a challenging area all the more so during lockdown and COVID restrictions.



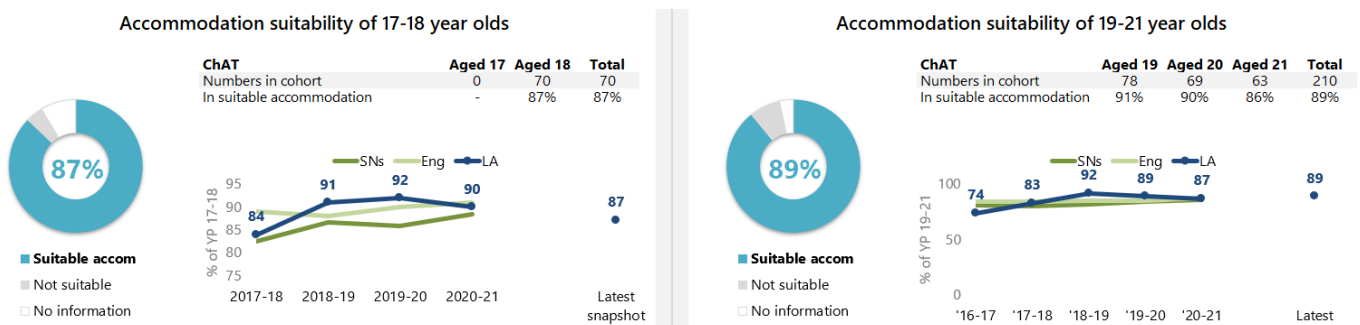
- 2.15. There are now 420 **care leavers** in receipt of leaving care services, 97% of those **aged 19-21** and 96% **17-18 year olds** were considered as **in touch with the local authority** at the end of November.
- 2.16. 147 or 65% of the 19-21 year olds and 78% (up 4pp) of the 17-18 year olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)**



Activity types of 19-21 year olds



2.17. 89% of 19-21 year old care leavers were known to be in suitable accommodation (87% in 2020/21) and 87% of 17-18 year olds (90% 2020/21).



3. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 3.1. Borough Plan 2019-2022
- 3.2. People Priority: A Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential

Report for: Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee – 13 July 2022

Item number: 7

Title: Briefing from the Children in Care health team

Report authorised by : Lynn Carrington

Lead Officer: Lynn Carrington, Designated Nurse for Children in Care

Ward(s) affected: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 Report provides an update on the work of the Children in Care health team.

2. Recommendations

2.1 For Members to note.

3. Reasons for decision

N/A

4. Background information

N/A

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

N/A

6. Use of Appendices

N/A

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

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Children in Care health team

Local authorities, as the corporate parents, are responsible for ensuring that Children in care receive regular health checks (six monthly for children under the age of five and annually for those over the age of 5), dental checks and appropriate immunisations. Statutory health data for Children in Care is reported for children who have been in care for 12 months.

The Haringey Children in Care Health Team provide health advice to:

- Children and young people in care
- Carers
- Social workers and key workers
- Relevant partners working with Children in Care.

We currently have a team of 4 nurses, one adoption advisor and support from the community paediatric medical team from Whittington Health to complete health assessments. We are based at Tynemouth Road Health Centre in Tottenham.

Assessments include diagnosis, health management and promotion, referral and follow up. We participate in joint working with social care and provide advice and support to universal professionals including primary care, health visitors and school nursing. We advise GPs and other practitioners on outstanding immunisation and child health surveillance programmes for children. We also work with the local acute and wider community paediatric services.

Throughout the last year, the statutory function has been maintained and the quality of the service provided continued. Initial and Review health assessments (IHA and RHA) have mostly returned to face-to-face delivery.

Some virtual assessments continue for children and young people who may be hard to engage with an in-person appointment, this is assessed on an individual basis. If the assessment is refused a desktop assessment from a report which provides a health history and current health needs is used to inform the health review of the young person.

During 2020- 2021 the team conducted 520 Health assessments. 7 children due for assessments were not seen during this time. 3 have since been seen and 4 refused to be seen. 6 Initial assessments were completed for out of borough teams and 20 reviews for out of borough teams. 6 Initial assessments were completed by out of borough teams for Haringey children unable to travel to Haringey.

Type of appointment	Quarter 1	Quarter2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
IHA's	25	30	28 (2 seen virtually)	30
RHA's	119 (3 seen virtually)	101 (3 seen virtually)	103 (4 seen virtually)	84 (2 seen virtually)

The team provides health assessments for Haringey children living in or outside of Haringey. Approximately 81% of children live out of borough. Data is collected monthly on the timeliness of health assessments, and it is reported annually to Department of Education via social care. Quarterly Data is provided to commissioning via Whittington Health.

Health data for children in care for 12 months on 31.3.2022.

- 96% of children in care for 12 months or more have had a health assessment. (Those in youth offending institutes not CIC prior to being remanded are not the responsibility of the CIC team).
- 77.7% have had a dental appointment. We are now able to refer to the healthy smile programme for children unable to see a dentist.
- 73% have up to date immunisations.
- 75.6% have had a strength and difficulty questionnaire completed. This is collected by First Step.

Challenges

Within the last year we have faced some challenges. Since July 2021 we have had no Designated Doctor. Dr Fayrus Abusrewil left her post in August 2021 and two long term members of the administrative team gained promotions leaving our team. This has had a significant impact on the team and performance within the last two quarters as well as staff sickness. Many appointments booked had to be rescheduled due contact with or infection with Corona virus and we have all been affected nurses, Drs, children, and their carers.

There was a delay in health reports being circulated which was identified by an audit reported to the Whittington Health Serious Incident Executive Approval Group. An investigation took place, and it was highlighted to senior management within social care by the head of Haringey children and young people service on 13.5.2022. The incident involved 90 reports completed by Drs from Health assessments which had not being circulated. These assessments took place between November 21 and March 22. The backlog identified have now been distributed.

There has been an impact of reports not being shared which included a delay of referrals being made. Social workers and carers are invited to attend assessments so if they attended or spoke to the Dr completing the assessments, they were made aware of health issues at the time of the assessments for example, children who were not up to date with immunisations, requiring dental checks or referral to other services. Foster carers have since been contacted and follow up by GP or dentists or referrals have been made. A tracking system is now in place to ensure we can identify the timeliness of reports being circulated.

Dental screening rates are low but recovering – and there is a national scheme is in place to support these following concerns we raised nationally through our network. We are now able to refer to the healthy smile programme for children unable to see a dentist.

Immunisation rates are low some children not receiving the annual nasal Flu immunisation now required and many girls and boys aged 12-13 (born after 1.9.2006 have not had the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Lynn Carrington
Designated Nurse CIC Haringey. 28.6.2022