

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Monday, 16th January, 2023, 7.00 pm (or at the rise of the meeting with ASPIRE) - 2nd Floor - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [here](#) and watch the recording [here](#))**

**Members:** Councillors Zena Brabazon (Chair), Felicia Opoku, Elin Weston, Lotte Collett, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Cressida Johnson and Ahmed 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 10 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's judgement of the public interest.

**5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 6)**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2022.

**6. PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 2 2022/23 (PAGES 7 - 14)**

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. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY**

To consider a verbal update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

**8. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS**

To consider a verbal update on the Corporate Parenting Champions.

**9. HERSLEY FEEDBACK**

To consider a verbal update on the Hersley Feedback.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of next meeting: 28 February 2023.

Nazyer Choudhury, Principal Committee Co-ordinator  
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Fiona Alderman  
Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)  
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Friday, 06 January 2023

## **MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2022, 7:00PM – 8:33PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Zena Brabazon, Elin Weston and Johnson

**ATTENDING ONLINE:** Councillors Ahmed Mahbub and Marsha Isilar-Gosling

### **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 Collett.

### **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That minutes of the meeting of the 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### **6. PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2022/23**

Mr Richard Hutton, Senior Performance Officer, presented the item. There was a detailed discussion on the performance data and members asked several questions and points of clarifications.

The Committee heard that:

- When a young person had been in care for a certain period of time after their 16th birthday, the young person would be entitled to leaving care services. This meant that the individual would have an allocated personal advisor and be given financial and moral support. Efforts would be made to ensure that the individual would be settled into permanent accommodation, that the individual's aspirations would be supported including furnishing. Support would also be provided for emotional wellbeing and

mental health needs. Work would be done with the multi-agency set-up for any interconnected issues, such as the use of drugs.

- Regular dental checks were provided, but there were some underlying issues. This had been escalated to Public Health England. There was a small programme within London whereby if a young person was unable to get a dental appointment, then one could be provided. This included urgent dental appointments or routine checks which would have a waiting period of two to four weeks. It was important that dental appointments be encouraged.
- In relation family acute stress points, when cases escalated from Early Help, this was largely due to the complexities of parental consent and barriers that impact parental engagement that could be provided by Early Help. When cases were tracked, there had not been any cases which had gone to court which had not satisfied the criteria. For families in acute stress, there was more work done at the earlier intervention processes, partly due to mental health issues. A child could not be taken into care simply on the bases that the family was suffering from financial hardship.
- During the coronavirus crisis, social workers were one of the only resources that were available for young people and this had a long-term effect on service delivery across the system. Efforts were underway to redesign how the issue would be addressed. There was a challenge regarding the number of care leavers with undiagnosed mental health support needs. The stress was becoming visible amongst care leavers. Therefore, there was a lot of the pressure on social workers and the young adult service to advocate and to intervene.
- The target for pathway plans was being met (at 84%) and this was being tracked on a fortnightly basis.
- In relation to children in care, the competing priorities were the same, although there had been some movement in the summer. A high number of young people had turned 16 recently and the Council was now planning at the age of 15 and a half years of age regarding their prospective future. Soon all young people would have a pathway plan where required.
- Young people reaching the age of 25 having issues such as not being able to contact their personal advisor would be referred to Adult Services for a Care Act assessment. Work was being done with GPs to see what community resources or treatment could be put in place. There was floating support available to assist with young people in their own accommodation. Haringey also had a contract with MIND to provide therapy to young people virtually or in person. General support could always be given to any young person even if they were over the age of 25.
- The locality model led by the Adults team had adopted the transitional safeguarding protocol. This means that over time there were agencies that would ensure that any young person who needed further support beyond the age of 25 in Haringey would have a place to turn too. The specific individuals would be identified on the year of the 25th birthday and conversations would be held with them regarding their future support needs. However, it was more challenging to arrange support for those young people who did not live in the borough.
- In relation to a comment re the data the breakdown for the number of children in care and the method of the LA duty to care for them is denoted by those under a Care Order, S.20 and UASC.

- There were eight children who were in semi-independent accommodation. They were in the age group of 16 years and older. Only two were not meaningfully engaged in education, two were working, two in education and two were in further education.

The Committee noted that paragraph relating to conflicting and challenging priorities required more detail especially the kinds of challenges that the young people and the service was facing.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

### **7. ADOPT LONDON NORTH (ALN) ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

Ms Lydia Samuel, Adopt London North, presented the item. A discussion was held as Members sought further clarification and commented on various areas of interest.

The Committee heard that:

- One of the difficulties with CAMHS was that often some young people were seen as low risk when assessed in crisis because they had supportive parents and were seen as having a stable home environment. There had been individuals who had been released from hospital after suicide attempts. However, there was a project underway across London to try and get funding nationally to help improve pathways and have more clear areas of responsibility for adoption support and CAMHS responsibilities.
- Through the adoption support fund, therapy could be provided for every family that needed it. The type of therapy could be decided upon their need and this could include family therapy. A total of £5,000 worth of therapy could be accessed per year. There was difficulty when the issues bordered into clinical need and CAMHS involvement would then be required.
- CAMHS could be invited to a future meeting.
- The issue needed to be brought forward to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Haringey always had a relatively high number of adoptions in comparison to the other North London boroughs. The boroughs may have differences in the sizes of their populations. Some of the experiences of Haringey related to the number of single parents where there was a combination of challenges such as substance use, mental health and experience of domestic abuse.
- People who foster normally continued to foster, although some people went on to adopt.
- People intending to go into adoption needed to meet a financial stability threshold and this was a particular challenge for those who lived in London. The participants would normally need to have spare bedrooms and adequate space. It was likely that the cost of living crisis would have a negative effect on those who came close to meeting the criteria for adoption. It was likely to have a less immediate effect on fostering, but

fostering was likely to be affected. Efforts were being made to target financial assistance for those looking to go into adoption.

- Some local authorities had been able to allocate housing for foster carers. This was more difficult to do for those looking to adopt did not have a child identified to them and therefore was not yet approved for adoption. However, even if an individual was approved to adopt, they were told they could not increase their property size unless their home was overcrowded.
- The adoption orders had been affected by the delays in the courts partly due to the coronavirus crisis. Proceedings were also generally taking longer. As children got older, it became harder to get them into adoptive placements.
- Even when the court process was efficient, there was still pressure on timings. The service was now moving to more strategic operating model to ensure that any issues that aggravate delays would have a mitigated approach.
- If there was an early permanence arrangement in place whereby the prospective adopters were fostering until the adoption was confirmed, then those carers would receive a fostering allowance. They would also have access to adoption pay and adoption leave. There was more intense and willingness to consider early permanency.
- They will also other existing adoption allowances. Some families received them based on the needs of the child or based on their own needs and would receive them until the child is an adult. However, these allowances were based on the child. Those requiring financial support would be best served by being attached an allowance to them at the beginning before a child was allocated them. The North London boroughs were committed to this type of approach.
- The assessment process was meant to take about six months. The first stage of the process was taking longer and would take around four months and stage two process was taking about 5 months - a total of nine months.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## **8. UPDATE FROM THE CHILDREN IN CARE HEALTH TEAM**

Ms Lynn Carrington, Whittington Health NHS, presented the item. Members sought clarifications on the report and made queries on the data.

The Committee heard that:

- The full health report should be completed and uploaded within two weeks, but this was not happening. In relation to nurses' reports, there was long-term sickness within the nursing team and the team was struggling to complete reports. The new doctors had started in September 2022.
- A further update would be provided when the situation stabilised and an update would also be provided regarding recruiting for the post of the designated doctor.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In relation to Corporate Parenting Champions, the training was ready to be implemented. The first programme of training be completed after the half term and the second week in December 2022. These would be sessions that lasted an hour and a half. In the New Year, the same format would be implemented in January and the second week of February. After this, a launch would be organised for March 2023.

The Chair felt that a full set of responses would be gathered from all members of the Committee.

Any expressions of interest should be please shared with Ms Beverley Hendricks, Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Social Care.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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**Report for:** Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: January 2023

**Item number:** 6

**Title:** Performance for Quarter 2 2022/23

**Report**

**Authorised by:** Director Children's Services Ann Graham

**Lead Officer:** Richard Hutton, Performance and Business Intelligence  
[richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/**

**Non-Key Decision:** Non key

## 1. Introduction

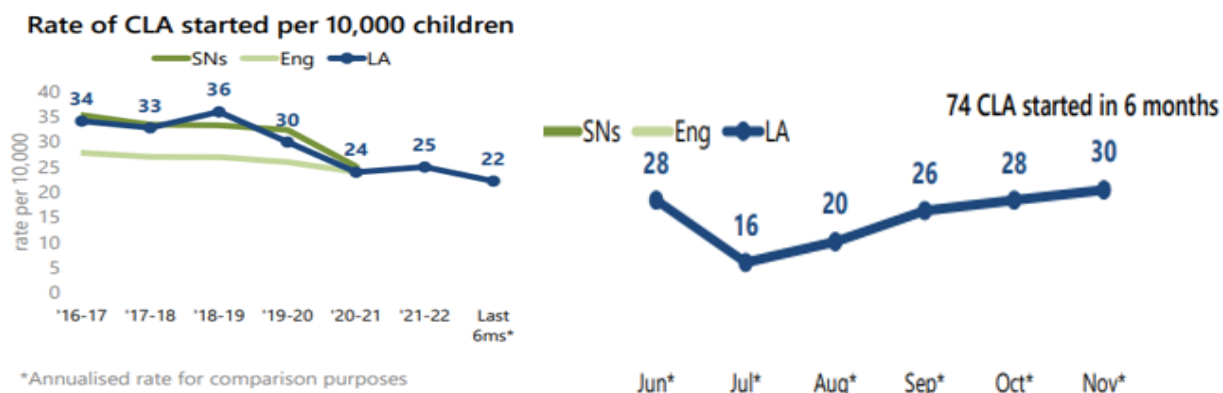
- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas 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 second quarter of the year 2022/23 with updates for October and November 2022 where appropriate.

## 2. Overall Assessment of Performance

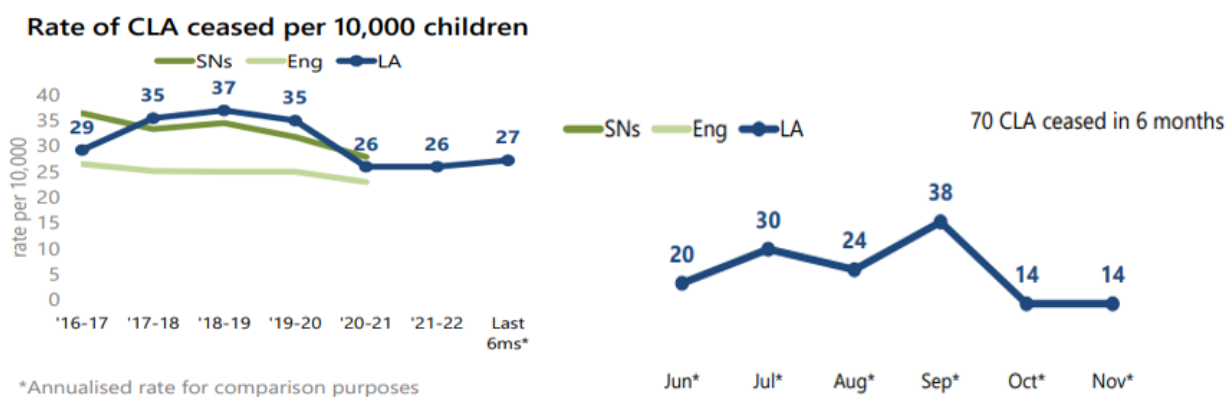
- 2.1. At the end of September **370 children were in care** (rate of 62 per 10,000). This is 17 fewer children than was reported in March 2022 and still within the interquartile range of our statistical neighbours (rate of 60-69). The children in care figure at the end of November was 380.
- 2.2. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker (**UASC**) children remains stable at 25, or 7% of open looked after children's cases and still 34 below the revised national transfer scheme threshold. There is an expectation that the number may increase now that the national transfer scheme threshold has increased from 0.07% of the child population to 0.1% but this has not yet shown in the figures. 0.1% of the child population equates to 59 USAC being placed in Haringey up from the previous quota of 42.

Although the overall rate of children in care has remained stable in the past few years the rate of those becoming and ceasing to be in care has reduced, a trend which has continued in 2022.

- 2.3. The rate of 22 equates to 66 children becoming looked after over the 6 months to September but more recent data shows a slightly increasing trend with an annualised rate of 30 per 10,000 children at the end of November equating to 74 children becoming looked after in the 6 months to November 2022.



- 2.4. 81 children ceased to be looked after over the 6 months to September 2022 or a rate of 27 per 10,000 but the number of children ceasing to be looked after in October and November reduced to nearly half the rate bringing the annualised rate of children ceasing to be looked after down to 14 per 10,000 children or 70 children in the 6 months from June to November.

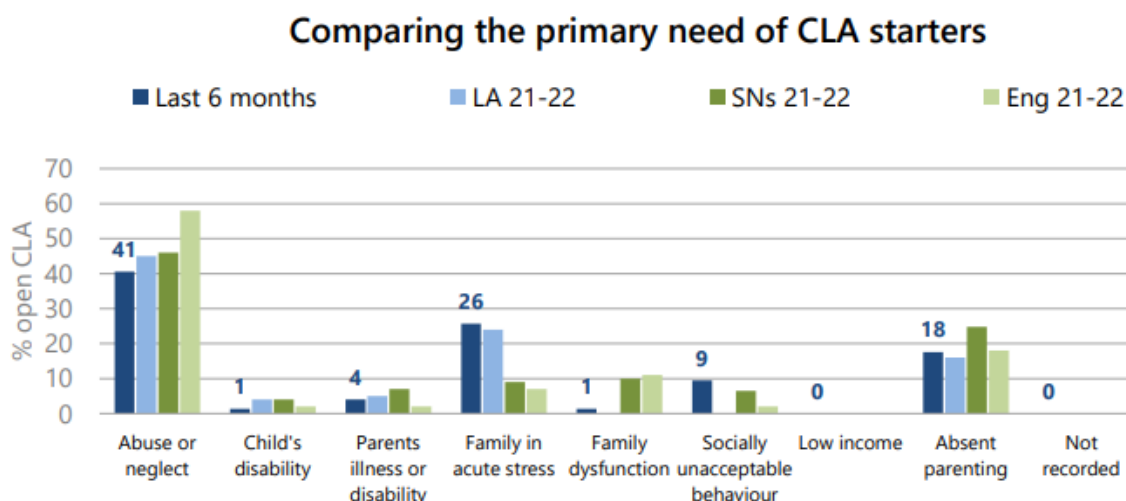


- 2.5. Of the 380 children looked after as at the end of November 61 are aged 3 or under (4 fewer than as of August 2022). 23 of these children have not yet reached 1 year old and 8 were between 1 and 3 months old.

CLA aged 3 or under

March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	Novemb er 2022
49	67	60	61

- 2.6. The past 6 months data shows that 'family in acute stress' given as the reason for children coming into care has reduced slightly from the 34% reported last time to 26% although still significantly higher than last reported figures for our statistical neighbours. This remains the second most frequent reason for children coming into care with the top reason being Abuse & Neglect accounting for 41% of open cases at the end of November.
- 2.7. A family in acute stress would typically display a combination of factors such as financial, housing, parental mental health and domestic violence, which combine to put parents in a position where they cannot cope without additional support.



- 2.8. An audit of cases with family in acute stress was undertaken by the MASH Service Manager to further understand this increase. The findings were:
- 7 out of the 10 cases audited were categorised using family in acute stress when there would have been a more appropriate category that could have been used.
  - 5 out of the 10 were siblings of the lead child
  - 4 out of the 5 siblings had a different category of need which was more appropriate
  - 3 out of the 10 were linked to siblings with mental health concerns
  - None of the category of need changed after the case progressed. This is important because it demonstrates the complexity of issues within families and the range of needs practitioners and social workers are required to address.

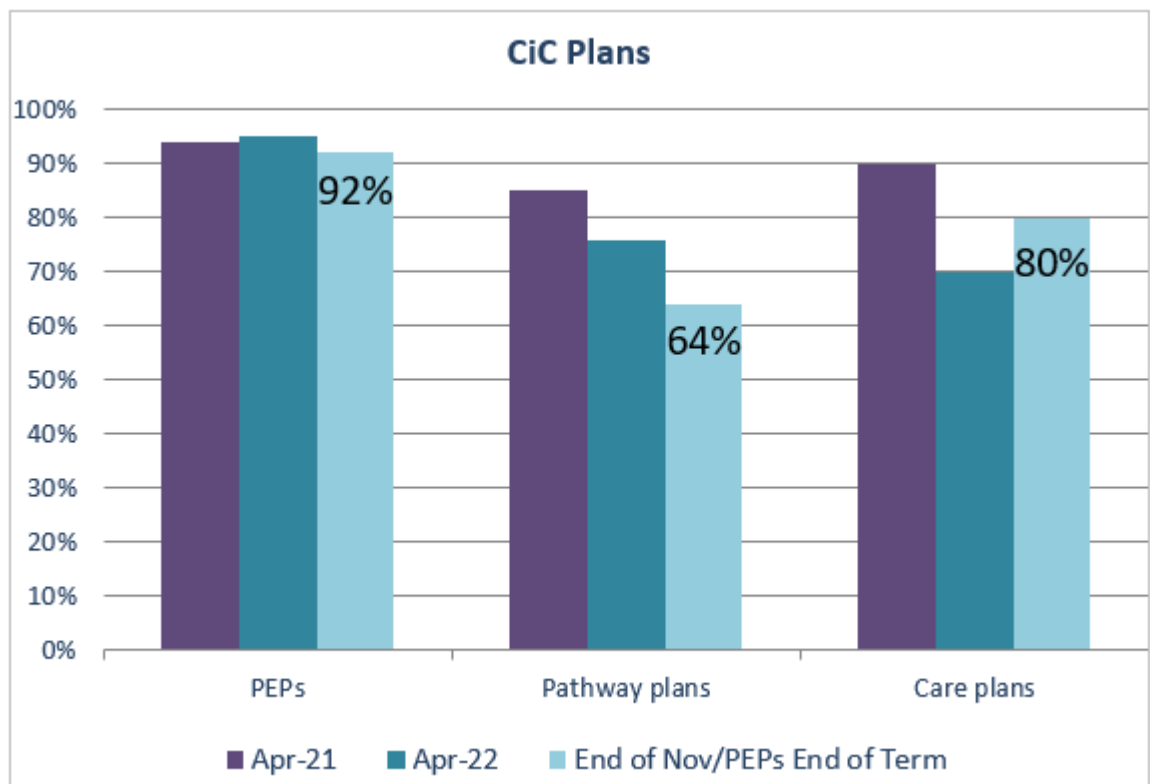
As a result of the audit the following actions have been taken:

#### **Actions**

Ensuring that the recording system is adjusted to capture parental mental health as a clear category of need and supporting the practitioners through learning to consistently identify and then record the need.

<b><u>Actions</u></b>
Amend the referral form so that a child's mental health category of need is clearly identified and including changes to the Mosaic self-harm concerns.
Training sessions to be completed with administrators in MASH to further build their skills to how best to categories referred needs.

- 2.9. Six children have been adopted in the past 6 months, 9% of those who leave care, this is slightly higher than the data for the same time last year. 6 children (9%) also had a special guardianship order granted in the past 6 months as of November 2022.
- 2.10. As of November 2022, 80% of looked after children aged under 16 had an up-to-date Care Plan, (77% in June). This reflects an improvement in performance since April and is now closing the gap to achieve the 90% target.
- 2.11. Of the 106 children in care aged 16 & 17 who require a pathway plan, 64% had up to date plans (80% for those cases in the young adult's service) remaining overall below the 80% target.
- 2.12. Personal education plans (PEPs) have been improved this year and the process is now fully embedded, with PEPs achieved during summer term reaching 93%. The position on young people with an up-to-date PEP at the end of Autumn term is 92%.

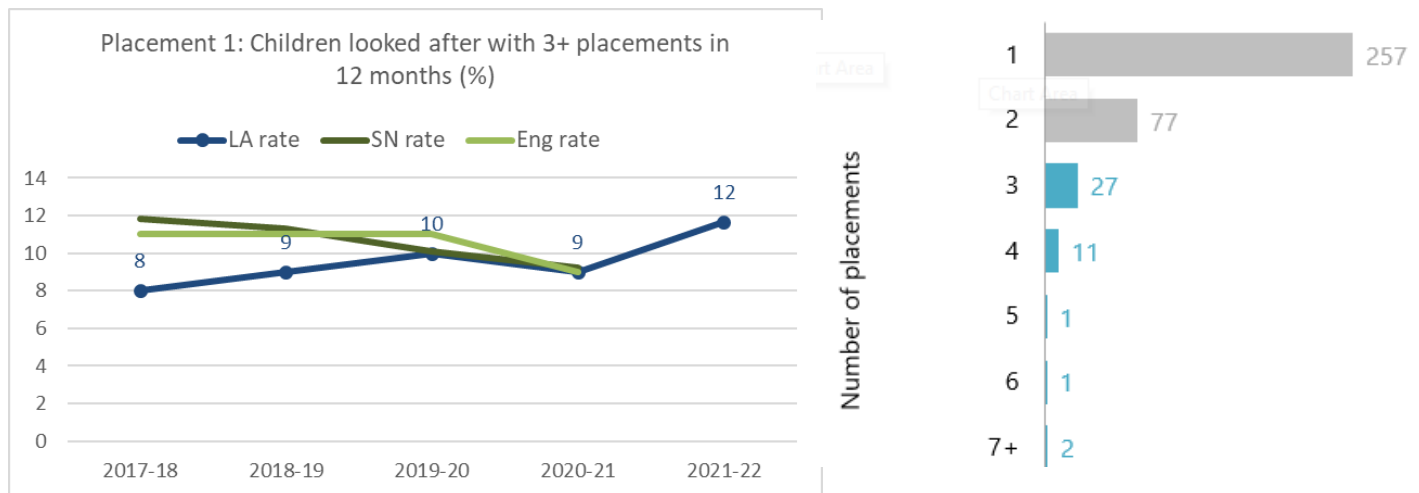


2.13. 78% of **Children in Care** were recorded as having up to date visits within the relevant timescales as of the last week of November 2022. Visits to looked after children continue to be tracked at performance meetings, held by the Head of Service for Children in Care, and along with supervision and management direction noted as consistently and actively monitored.

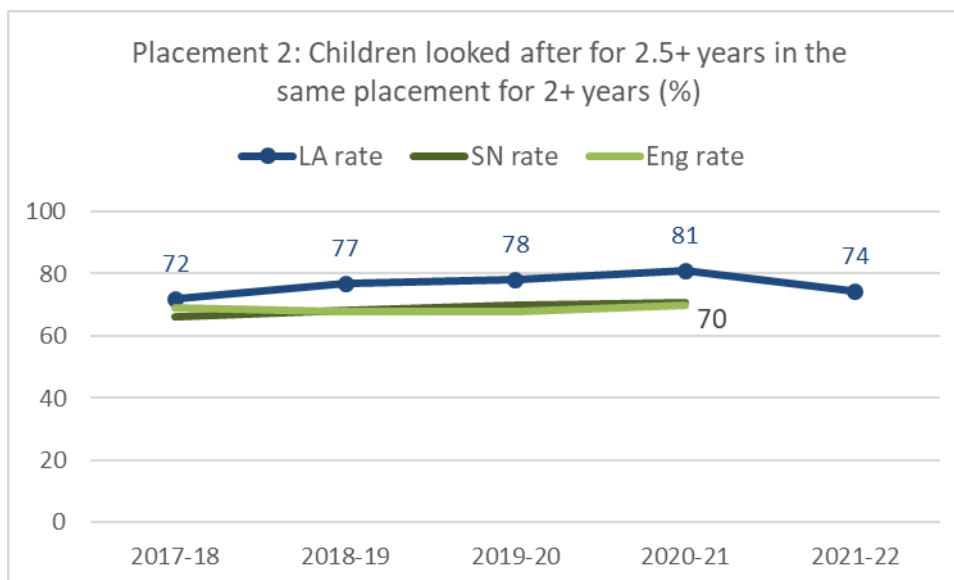
2.14. At the end of March 2022, 12% of children with an open episode of care **had three or more placement moves in the last 12 months**. This is now higher than the London and statistical neighbour average. The following factors have impacted placements moves:

- Placements breaking down due to CLA developing more complex needs as they enter adolescence
- 17-year-olds moving into semi-independent accommodation

The current position is slightly improved at 11.8% (33 children with 3 or more placements out of 279). This means 88% of children in care have had only one, or zero placement moves in the past 12 months.



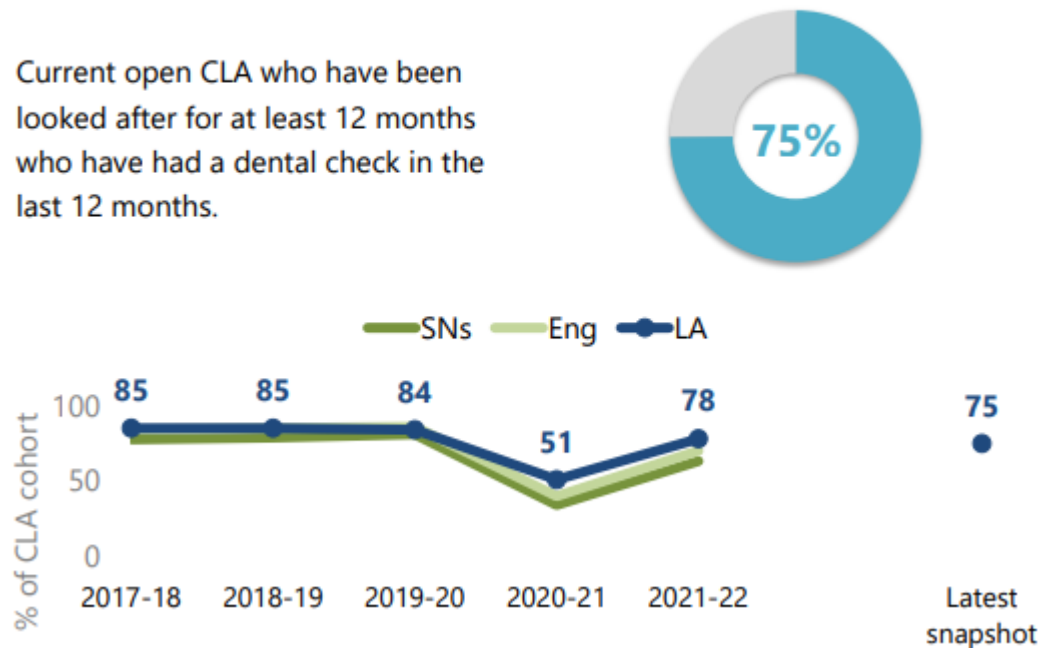
Children **under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years**, has dipped to 56% (73 children) and is below levels reported by our statistical neighbours (average 70%). This indicator can fluctuate, the 56% represents 23 fewer children in the same placement for at least 2 years. This indicator and the three or more placements indicator should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey's children in care.



- 2.15. 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%. The November 2022 figure shows further improvement with 97% with an up-to-date health assessment, well exceeding levels of our statistical neighbours' (92%).
- 2.16. At the end of March 2021 only 51% of eligible children had up to date **dental visits**. This had increased to 78% by the end of March 2022 and is now at 75% albeit that is an improvement from the 63% reported last time. Unfortunately, dental checks have always been a challenging area, even more so during lockdown and with COVID restrictions.

## Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



2.17. There are now 436 **care leavers** in receipt of leaving care services as of the end of November, up 16 since March.

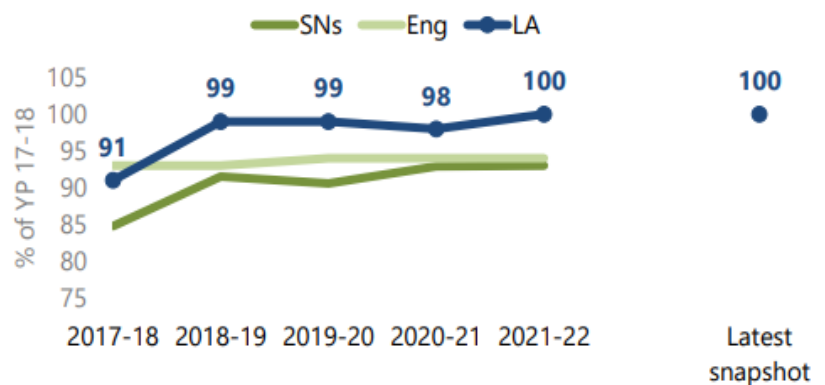
2.18. **99.5% of those aged 19-21** and **100% 17-18-year-olds** were considered as **in touch with the local authority** at the end of November.

## LA in touch with 17-18 year olds

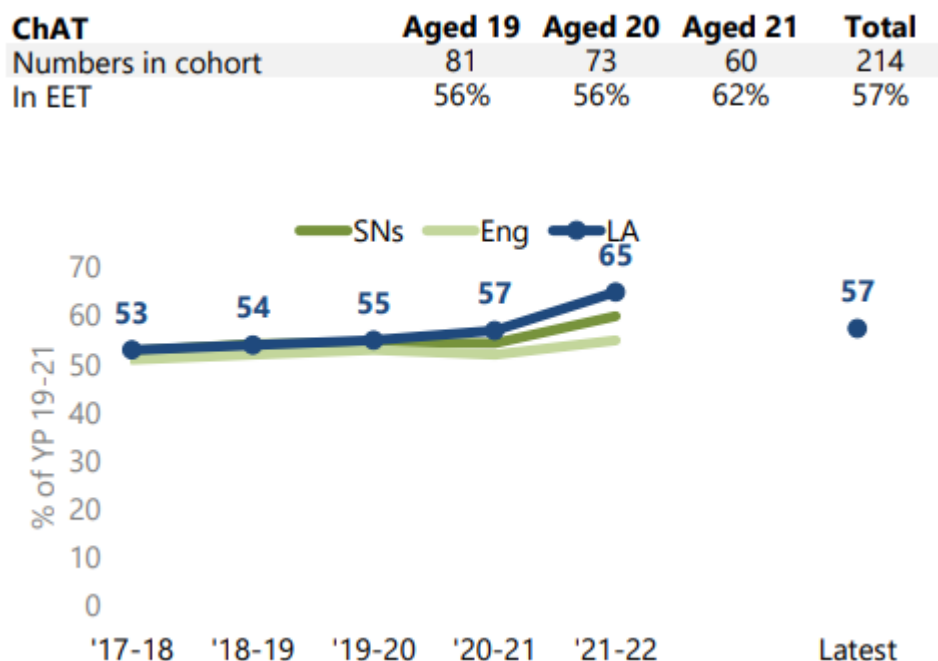
ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	3	70	73
LA in touch with YP	100%	100%	100%



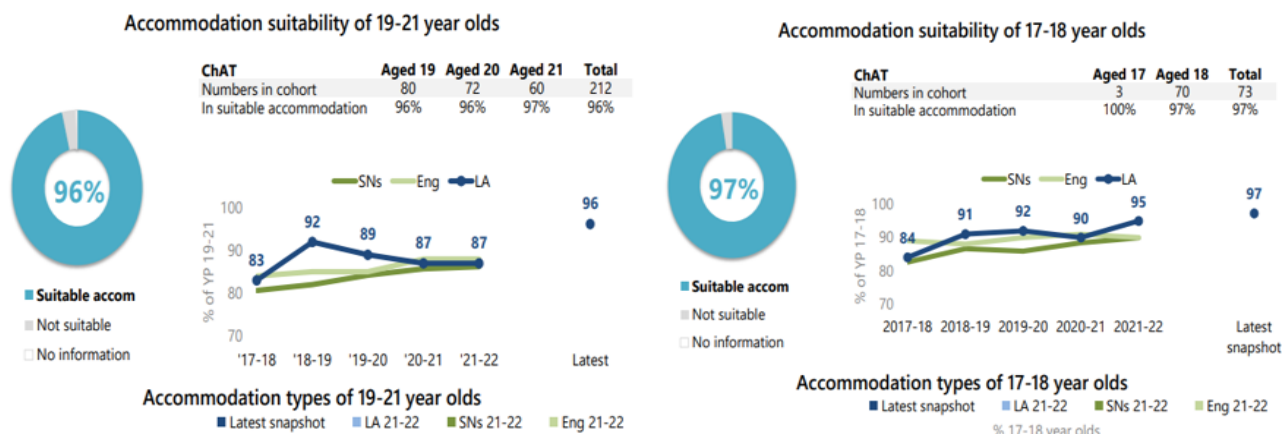
■ In touch  
■ Not in touch  
□ Not recorded



- 2.19. 214 or 57% of the 19–21-year-olds and 71% of 17–18-year-olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)** 19–21-year-old care levers in EET



- 2.20. 96% of **19–21-year-old care leavers** were known to be in **suitable accommodation** (89% in June) and 97% of 17–18-year-olds (87% June).



### 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