

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 13th November, 2023, 7.00 pm, or on the rise of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting, whichever is later - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting, [here](#) watch the recording [here](#))

Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Gina Adamou, Mark Blake, Lotte Collett, Marsha Isilar-Gosling and Sue Jameson

Co-optees/Non Voting Members: Yvonne Denny (Church representative), Lourdes Keever (Church representative), Amanda Bernard (Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum) and Holt (Parent Governor representative)

Quorum: 3

1. **FILMING AT MEETINGS**

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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**

3. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business (late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with as noted below).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

To consider any requests received in accordance with Part 4, Section B, Paragraph 29 of the Council's Constitution.

6. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

7. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

Verbal update

8. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING (PAGES 9 - 16)

9. CHILDREN IN CARE - PERFORMANCE UPDATE (PAGES 17 - 24)

10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 25 - 28)

11. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 3 above.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4th January 2024
20th February 2024

Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Tel – 020 8489 2921
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Fiona Alderman
Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Friday, 03 November 2023

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MINUTES OF MEETING Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 21st September, 2023, 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Gina Adamou, Mark Blake, Lotte Collett and Sue Jameson

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness was received from Cllr Collet and Cllr Abela.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

The Panel noted that Item 8 on Stop and Search would be taken before Item 7 on the Youth Justice strategy.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 26th June were agreed as a correct record.

7. STOP & SEARCH

The Panel received a verbal update in relation to a safeguarding project to look at Stop and Search, including a pilot programme to look at the safeguarding needs of children stopped and searched by police in Haringey. The update was provided by

Bev Hendricks, AD for Safeguarding and Social Care. Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services was present for this item. Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families was also present for this item. The following summarises the update that was provided to Members:

- The Project was initiated because of information relayed to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) about children's experiences in Haringey with Stop and Search. The information related to a child stopped and searched 12 times over a period of time and the fact that child was not referred for support. Since then, officers have spoken to a range of families and other relevant groups.
- From the above case it became clear that there was no requirement to refer the case to child welfare agencies unless the attending police officer thought that there was a safeguarding concern, based on a safeguarding criterion used by the police.
- The DCS then entered into a dialogue with the Borough Commander and it was agreed that a pilot project would be set up. Phase 1 of the project was an examination of 6 cases of children being stopped and searched, that were not referred on to the MASH following use of the police matrix, in order to see if there were safeguarding opportunities that had been missed.
- The 6 cases were examined against information held by other agencies largely Children's Social Care and it was discovered that there were safeguarding concerns that could have been picked up. From the findings of this, there was further agreement to look at a larger sample of cases.
- The project required an information sharing agreement to be agreed with the Police which took a long time.
- Officers agreed that they wouldn't publish the data before the police, partners to the pilot were ready to share and it was hoped that this would form part of the police Children First strategy and that was the reason this information was being shared as a verbal update.
- A joint conference with the Police was being organised in Haringey on 12th December 2023 where the findings of this work would be shared, and the police would set out their response.
- Phase 2 of the project involve an examination of a sample of 90 cases. Of those 90 cases:
 - 3 involved children who were Looked After Children in Haringey. But the authority was not informed of the stop and search as corporate parents.
 - 14 cases involved children from households with domestic abuse
 - 16 cases involved children with significant housing instability
 - Some of the children were known to the Haringey Learning Partnership and other young people had a range of needs including autism and SEND, (special educational needs and disabilities).
- Some of the key concerns that came out of these cases were around the fact that the details of the cases were not shared with other agencies and the only reason that these issues came to light was because the police recorded the stop and search. Officers wanted to see a trauma-led approach adopted rather than one based purely on crime prevention and detection.
- Officers have spoken to DCSs across London and received their support for the pilot.

- Officers emphasised that the project was a marathon and not a sprint and that it was felt that the project was moving at the correct pace to bring people on board and to effect sustained change.
- The DCS advised the Panel that on 24th August she met with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and that he was supportive of the business case and the impact of trauma on children who were stopped and searched. The DCS and AD for Safeguarding and Social Care would be meeting with MOPAC on this from September.

The following arose from the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel sought clarification around invites to the conference. In response, officers advised that all scrutiny councillors would be invited, with a particular focus on those from the areas of N17, N15 & N22. Police colleagues and the Directors of Children's Services from across London would also be invited.
- b. The Panel questioned whether the police were obliged to inform a child's parents or even ask about whether they had a social worker. In response, officers advised that they did not have to inform a child's parents and that the only obligation under the law was to inform if there were safeguarding concerns based on the matrix they used. Officers advised that it was expected that a change in the legal framework would be needed if police officers were required to inform parents. There was also a recognition that for some children, perhaps a minority, informing their parents may increase risk and this would need careful consideration.
- c. In response to a question, officers advised that the youngest child stopped as part of the data they had seen was 10 years old. The numbers of children stopped within a particular age group increased with each cohort.
- d. In response to a question, officers advised that the conference would involve Children in Care and that children had been engaged with throughout the wider project.
- e. A co-opted member of the panel raised concerns about a perception that nothing had changed within the police and also raised concerns that even working collaboratively with Police would not bring about any meaningful change. It was suggested that the Council should be looking at how more meaningful engagement could be taken forward with the community. In response, the DCS recognised that the issues people experienced with the police were generational. However, the DCS argued, it was her job as a Safeguarding lead to keep pushing for change.
- f. In relation to a question, the Panel were advised that the timeframe for the child stopped 12 times was between March 2022 and June 2023. Ethnicity figures for the cases considered may be released as part of the conference report, but that a level of disproportionality would not be surprising.
- g. A member of the Panel highlighted the findings of the Baroness Casey review and in particular the case studies within the report, which painted a clear picture that the issues with the Police were institutional and systemic. The Members emphasised that the key to improving the culture of the Police was public scrutiny and accountability. It was suggested that the Children's Safeguarding Board should receive reports on this issue. It was also suggested, that following the conference in December, the Cabinet Member should consider writing to the Shadow Justice Minister, as this was an area for reform considerations. In response, the DCS advised that it was not her job to

reform the culture of the police or the laws governing the way the police operated. However, she was determined slowly build confidence, in order to try and bring about a positive change for children.

- h. The Cabinet Member emphasised the fact that this piece of work was unique and that in her opinion, it was one of the most creative pieces of work done by Children's Services to try and work a different angle to what was a very difficult issue. The Cabinet Member set out that the fact that a number of children were found to be Looked After or to have Special Educational needs, showed how critical the piece of work was.
- i. Officers asked Members to use their contacts with counterparts in other boroughs to support them and their DCSs to undertake similar audits with their respective BCUs across London.

RESOLVED

That the update was noted.

8. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Panel received a report which set out the priorities within the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24. The report was introduced by Jackie, Difolco, Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9-128. The Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools were also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel queried what preparations had been put in place in anticipation of an upcoming Ofsted inspection. In response, officers set out that an external provider had been commissioned to do a diagnostic assessment of the service. This involved looking at the service, talking to staff, speaking to the Board and reviewing a sample of our cases. This provided management with a good level of assurance, particularly around the impact on young people and around governance. The diagnostic highlighted the need for strengthened management oversight. Since then additional resources have been allocated to the Head of Service and the number of Team Managers had increased from two to three, with one team focused on prevention and the other two on court work.
- b. The Panel queried the ethnicity breakdown in the report and questioned why there was no separate category for Turkish/Kurdish people. In response, officers advised that they were restricted by the ethnicity codes that were allocated to nationally to each Youth Justice Board. However, the information given to the Youth Justice Board was broken down in more detail. It just was not reflected in the report as this was set nationally.
- c. A Panel Member highlighted a recent piece of research carried out that went through the records of two million Children in Care, which found out that they were 33% more likely to end up in the criminal justice system. That number increased further for people from certain ethnic backgrounds. The Panel Member suggested that officers should be tracking this metric locally. The Panel Member also highlighted the ever worsening state of young people's

prisons and commented that it was hard to see how you could rehabilitate a person in that environment.

**N.B. Clerk's Note – the study referred to above is referenced in the following article:*
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/21/care-experienced-children-eight-times-more-likely-enter-youth-justice-system-england>

- d. The Panel questioned what the factors were that had led to Haringey having the lowest reoffending rates in London. In response, officers set out that it was about the quality of interventions that were carried out by case managers. Haringey did not reduce staffing levels in this area during Covid and this had allowed the team to carry out better quality interventions. These interventions were evidence based and therapeutic and were informed by a trauma-led approach. This was partially due to good training for staff. The Director advised that that it was a difficult area to work in and that some of the more challenging cases were around people who were not known to authorities who suddenly came into contact with the youth Justice service at a high tariff, which meant that there was no scope to undertake preventative work. There was also a grooming element involved. The Director reiterated that this was a complicated and challenging cohort to work with in order to keep them away from the criminal justice system.
- e. A co-opted member of the panel welcomed the report and questioned whether there was a summary report that could be shared with school governors. In response, officers advised that they would look at how a summary report could be shared with schools. It was noted that the Plan was very detailed as it was a statutory document but that some thought would have to be given as to how to best summarise it.
- f. The Panel questioned whether there was a co-production approach adopted to the Board and Plan at a strategic level. In response, officers set out that there was a young people's participation network that met with managers from the service on a quarterly basis. There was also a separate parent/carers forum. The discussions from these sessions were reported up to the Youth Justice Board.
- g. In response to a question, officers advised that they were developing an ongoing relationship with the Tottenham Foundation and would continue to work with them.
- h. The Panel sought assurances around whether there was engagement with CAMHS services and use of behaviour analysis. In response, officers set out that there was a CAMHS officer seconded to the team on the basis of 1.3 FTE. The CAMHS officers tended to do undertake therapeutic or behaviour work as part of the trauma-led approach. Officers highlighted that there were a number of evidence based practices adopted by the team set out at Section 21 of the report. The team commissioned a range of interventions, such as the Ether Programme that worked with young black men and looked at aspirational outcomes. These are detailed at section 22 of the Plan.

RESOLVED

That Members of the Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the report and plan, directing any comments and observations to the Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

9. SKILLS AND CAREERS: PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO NOT GO TO UNIVERSITY

The Panel received a report which provided information on the education, training and employment pathways available to young people post 16, with a focus on non-academic routes and information about the advice and guidance available to help young people make choices about their future career pathways. The report was introduced by Julie Khan, Employment & Skills Manager as set out in the agenda pack at pages 129 to 135. Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services, Jackie Difulco, AD for Early Help, Prevention and SEND, and Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools were also present for this agenda item. The following arose during the discussion of this:

- a. The Panel sought clarification about the number of internships available for young people. In response, officers confirmed that there were 12 apprenticeships available internally across the Council and that they were also looking for further apprenticeship opportunities across the borough, including in catering roles. There were 23 young people signed up for the next round and the Council was looking at providing 60 places over five years as minimum.
- b. The Panel provided feedback that the supported internships did not always reflect what students did at college and questioned how the Council was supporting creative roles such as in art or photography. In response, officers set out that there was a supported internship co-ordinator who matched young people with their area of study and that work was happening with providers to bring more of these opportunities forward. Officers set out that the supported internships were a bespoke programme working with sixth forms to match up the skills and interests of young people. Officers noted that this was a work in progress but that they tried to make sure the opportunities were as diverse as possible.
- c. The Panel sought clarification about the 2.1% of children who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) and how this compared with other boroughs. In response, officers advised that this was average across London but that this reflected steady progress from a position of Haringey being the worst performing borough on this metric. Officers also noted that performance against this measure had decreased due to an improvement in the number of children who were not known to the Council (down from 7% to 1.4%) which had increased the number of children who were NEET.
- d. Officers agreed to provide a written update on how schools were performing in relation to the Gatsby benchmarks on career guidance. **(Action: Julie Khan).**
- e. The Panel emphasised the role of networks for some young people and also emphasised the career opportunities that were available in the construction sector. In response, officers advised that there was a degree of leverage

through development and S106 agreements in relation to stipulating a percentage of local labour and apprenticeship schemes. Officers also acknowledged the role of the construction sector and the fact that opportunities in this area were available through school based work placement schemes.

RESOLVED

Noted

10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

RESOLVED

That the Panel considered its work plan for 2022-24, attached at Appendix A of the report, and whether any amendments were required.

11. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 13 November
- 4 January
- 20 February

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair

Date

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Report for: Children's Scrutiny Panel

Title: Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

Lead Officer: Tim Miller, Haringey Council and North Central London Integrated Care Board

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** n/a

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report is a background paper providing an update on work in Haringey to support the mental health and mental wellbeing of children and young people in Haringey, in the context of the post-pandemic period. Officers will present this item with accompanying slides to the Panel meeting.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Panel to note the report and discuss its content.

3. Background information

Changing needs

3.1 The pandemic and cost of living crisis have contributed to need rising by an estimated third in recent years in NCL, especially among young people. Rates of probable mental health conditions have increased among 17-19 year olds from 1 in 6 to 1 in 4, and only one in three people with mental health needs accesses mental health services. However, these are broad estimates of need and do not tell us much about the severity of need or the most appropriate response to each child or to Haringey as a borough. We have seen changes in relation to mental wellbeing in common with other areas.

3.2 There is significant rise in identification of neurodiversity, especially autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In relation to autism, where there is no element of social causes for autism, this is understood to be due to a national picture reflective of changing societal awareness. Whilst this is seen as rising need, it should be considered as rising awareness of need, which if otherwise not identified would likely lead to poorer outcomes than when it is now being recognised.

3.3 There has been a rise in children unable to return to school post-pandemic or to sustain good attendance ('emotionally based school avoidance').

3.4 Haringey has been successful in reducing school exclusions and also has not seen rises in education health and care plans for young people with 'social, emotional and mental health' needs, which have consistently fallen over the last 6 years.

3.5 We have not seen rises in hospitalisation of young people to psychiatric care.

Responses in Haringey to date

3.6 Haringey has the ambition to improve the outcomes and mental health and wellbeing for all children. The pandemic response has sharpened this focus. Services have combined increased investment, introduction of new services and more advice, guidance and resources for parents and schools so they are better support children and young people.

3.7 The partners in Haringey have for some time been using the Thrive framework to consider what each child needs at a particular time in order to thrive, and which may be:

- Advice
- Help
- More Help
- Risk support

3.8 Specific areas of action and impact in this context are set out below. Many of these were defined in the North Central London CYP mental health and wellbeing plan which was agreed post-pandemic by the NHS and Councils in NCL as a common plan of action, setting out delivery in each borough as well as pan-NCL. A link is provided in section 9, below.

3.9 The level of mental health and mental wellbeing support in schools as part of the Advice and Help offer has been increased. The 'trailblazer' of support into Haringey's East schools has now been expanded into the West of Haringey, with an additional mental health support team from the North London Mental Health Partnership, working together with the Council and local charities. Targeting issues like anxiety, depression and the issues that drive them, they offer:

- a) Targeted work: Groups, 1:1 parent interventions, 1:1 adolescent Interventions
- b) Universal school support: Webinars, workshops, drop ins (teachers and parents), community outreach support, assemblies, coffee mornings, whole class groups

3.10 The mental health teams in schools work in partnership with the Council's Anchor Approach, which is an innovative and evidence-based response to resilience, wellbeing and mental health need. It works into schools, early years, Early Help, NHS services and local charities, building capacity and

knowledge around resilience, emotional regulation, trauma and behaviour. This is an important part of the borough's overall response to mental health in the community as well as the specific needs of children and young people.

- 3.11 The borough has expanded its support for autism. The NHS has grown autism diagnostic services across all ages with investment of >£600k in Haringey since 2022 and an additional £1.2m across NCL. We have introduced social and practical support for parents and children from Markfield, and increased access adapted therapy services for young people and young adults who would benefit from additional psychological support, from Open Door. The SEND system has also responded with additional support into schools from the Language and Support Team at the Council with a clear autism support pathway and guidance for schools to utilise.
- 3.12 NHS crisis response services who lead on Risk Support, which were rapidly scaled up during the pandemic period to respond to young people at greatest risk, have continued. These include CAMHS in-reach into general hospitals including North Middlesex and Whittington Hospital, a 24/7 crisis telephone line for CYP and parents, and 2 crisis hubs offering alternatives to emergency department attendances for people in crisis needing rapid contact with services.
- 3.13 In response to numerous concerns raised by families around the cliff edge faced by young people as they leave children services and enter adulthood. Barnet Enfield & Haringey University Trust (BEHUT) the boroughs largest provider of mental health and emotional wellbeing services has launched a Transitional team for young people aged 18-25 in April 2023. This team will accept referrals for young people aged 17 and work with the young person and network of professionals to support a seamless transition into adulthood services.
- 3.14 As part of the NHS services implementing a consistent 'Core Offer' of services across the North Central London boroughs, a new Home Treatment Team is now being introduced which is based in Haringey but working across North Central London supporting children at greatest risk. Further equity of offer across NCL includes additional further specialist pathway such as Dialectic Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Eating Disorder and Forensic CAMHs. These pathways are monitored to ensure access and take up for Young People and families from the Haringey population.
- 3.15 The Council has been responding with a number of significant developments that target emotional and mental wellbeing approaches within other programmes of work. This includes the:
 - a. expansion of the Educational Psychology service in the SEND division, providing specialist assessment, advice and support to schools and children.
 - b. the Safe Taskforce programme which focuses on young people at risk of involvement in serious youth violence and which includes mentoring and psychologically informed approaches.

- c. training in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy informed approaches for Social Workers based in Schools.
 - d. significant elements of mental health support to 0-5s and their parents in the Family Hub programme, delivered in partnership with a wide range of services including the Parent Infant Psychology Service at the Whittington.
 - e. increasing the capacity of mainstream schools to meet the Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs of children. This includes trauma and emotional based school avoidance. The pathway is currently in development.
 - f. the Youth Justice service (YJS) jointly fund a CAMHS nurse but this post is currently vacant with recruitment process commencing soon. This post screens and supports children within the service with mental health needs and avoids lengthy delays that children experience if referred directly to CAMHS.
 - g. the Liaison and Diversion CAMHS practitioner post within YJS is currently vacant with recruitment process commencing soon. This post screens and supports children in police custody and supports the prevention and diversion agenda.
 - h. Vanguard clinical support within the YJS is a new initiative that focuses on clinical consultations for children with complex mental health needs within the service and they will also be providing space for clinical supervision for staff to support with vicarious trauma.
 - i. within our children centre/family hubs we offer a range of support starting with baby massage that reduces anxiety, Dancing Together, HENRY, parenting programmes and CAMHS support into our stay and plays. This ensures a preventative approach to the emotional wellbeing of children and their families.
 - j. through strategic partnerships with organisations such as Projects Futures and Trailblazers, we have successfully implemented mental health workshops and extended well-being support throughout our youth hubs. In collaboration with MIND Haringey, our staff members will be actively pursuing Mental Health First Aid qualifications.
 - k. the Youth service have received 30K funding from BBC Children in Need to undertake a programme called Target you, Target Life, providing intensive support and intervention to a group of about 15 young people aged 13-16 years old using a trauma informed approach.
- 3.16 There has been substantial work undertaken by the Council's Education Psychology Service (EPS) to develop support specifically in response to Emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) and COVID 19 which includes:
- a. developed a proposed EBSA pathway and training which is recorded and available on the SEND local offer website.
 - b. the service are planning to host an EBSA conference to be held in summer term with representatives from all services to contribute to content delivery. Content to include: current progress with pathway; managing anxiety at home; recognising early anxiety in schools; promoting children's wellbeing; workshops to develop skills in using psychology to work with children and young people (parent and schools)

- c. Increased number of parent/carer Markfield consultations with an Education Psychologist
 - d. online webinars for parents and school staff on managing anxiety
 - e. development of resources/leaflets for parents/school staff on relating to mental health and well-being, bereavement
 - f. bereavement groups with young people in secondary schools
 - g. mental health and well-being focus EPS planning meetings with SENCOs/Heads including EBSA and mental health of staff in schools
 - h. the service are regular presenters at the school well-being forum on topics linked mental health and well-being
- 3.17 The Council and NHS provide joint funding to a number of important charity programmes including the 18-25 support from Open Door, which is an important part of our transitions offer alongside statutory services, an Arts and Sports programme for 12-18s led by Open Door in partnership with other providing including Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and Deep Black.
- 3.18 The impact of these initiatives and interventions have been seen in the increasing number of children in contact with specialist services, the sustained low levels of hospital admissions and the falling number of children requiring EHCPs related to their social, emotional and mental health.
- 3.19 However, there is still significant, unmet need in Haringey's community which has major impact on young people, their families and social networks which we are not complacent about.

4. Work in development

- 4.1 The Borough Partnership in Haringey, which is the leadership forum for officers from the Council, NHS partners and the voluntary sector in Haringey focusing on health and wellbeing, have agreed that mental health across all ages is the key priority area.
- 4.2 It's Start Well Board led by the Director of Childrens Services, Ann Graham, has overseen the work described above. The partners have also committed to
- a) Further strengthen CYP mental health as a significant focus for 24/25;
 - b) Maintain focus on recruitment and workforce so that all investment translates into available capacity on the ground.
 - c) Build deeper, shared understanding as a system of the network of services and the benefits they derive,
 - d) Greater engagement with children and families to understand their experience and the needs in the community;
 - e) Building connections between services; define a clearer, whole-system offer which is easier to navigate but still comprehensive and effective.
- 4.3 The North London Mental Health Partnership is introducing a number of key changes which will benefit Haringey as part of it's wider CAMHS transformation programme driving growth in Help and More Help domains of Thrive:

- a) A new 0-5s service, complementing Haringey's existing programmes of support and addressing some of the gaps within the current support.
- b) A Single Point of Access across 3 boroughs, giving a resilient and responsive access services to support smooth access to treatment, complimented by borough based access points and close partnerships with borough services, including the Council services and key VCS partners.
- c) A Community Engagement role to outreach into the community and support deeper coproduction with the community.
- d) Developing IThrive 2, building on the conceptual framework of IThrive the next iteration will include partners across Health, Education and Social Care to support the practical and operational domains of IThrive.

4.4 The Council are leading on the development of a 'graduated response' to social emotional and mental health as part of the support offer to schools under the Safety Valve programme, which will refresh and strengthen the schools based offer focusing on whole school approaches and will consider trauma-informed approaches.

5. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

5.1 The work outlined in this report particularly supports the following Council high level outcomes:

- a) Best Start in Life; the first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundations to thrive.
- b) Happy Childhoods; all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities
- c) Successful Futures; every young person whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future.

6. Carbon and Climate Change

Not applicable

7. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance)

Not applicable

Equality

7.1 Equality and inequality are a major contributor to mental ill health, and experiences of support people receive. Commissioners monitor access and uptake of services against protected characteristics and services compliment that with hearing the experience of young people and families accessing their services.

7.2 CAMHS services now have a profile which is much closer to the borough population than was the case in the past, reflecting efforts to be more inclusive and accessible to those who need it regardless of background.

7.3 The offer of services includes a diversity of providers – e.g. NHS, Council, schools-based, community based charities – as well as means of access – including digital support via [Kooth](#), self-referral and professional referral.

8. Use of Appendices

None

9. Background papers

9.1 North Central London Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan: <https://nclhealthandcare.org.uk/our-working-areas/north-central-london-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-transformation-plan>

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Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel November 2023

Title: Children in Care - Performance for Quarter 1 2023/24 with updates to August 2023

Report Authorised by: Ann Graham, Director Children's Services

Lead Officer: Bev Hendricks, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Children's Social care

Ward(s) affected: N/A

1. Describe the issues under consideration

- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children.
- 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 First quarter of the year 2023/24 with updates for July and August 2023 where appropriate.

2. Recommendations

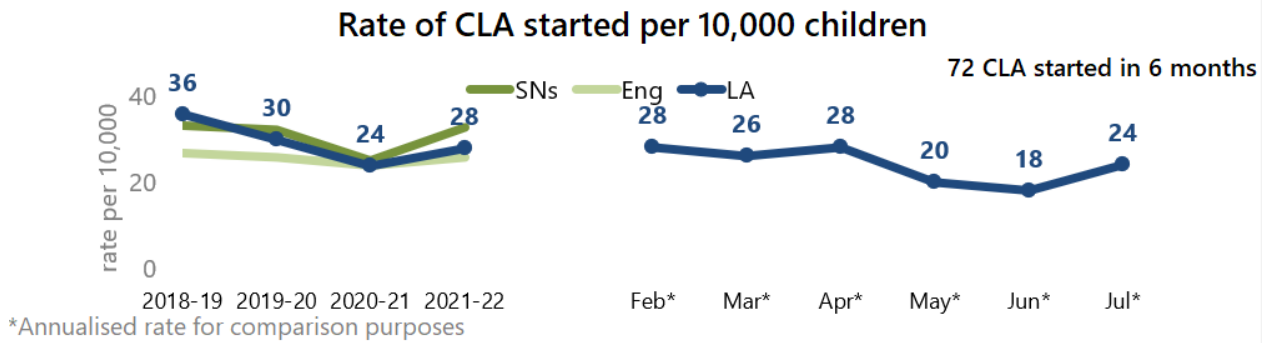
- 2.1 For Members to note contents.

3. Overall Assessment of Performance

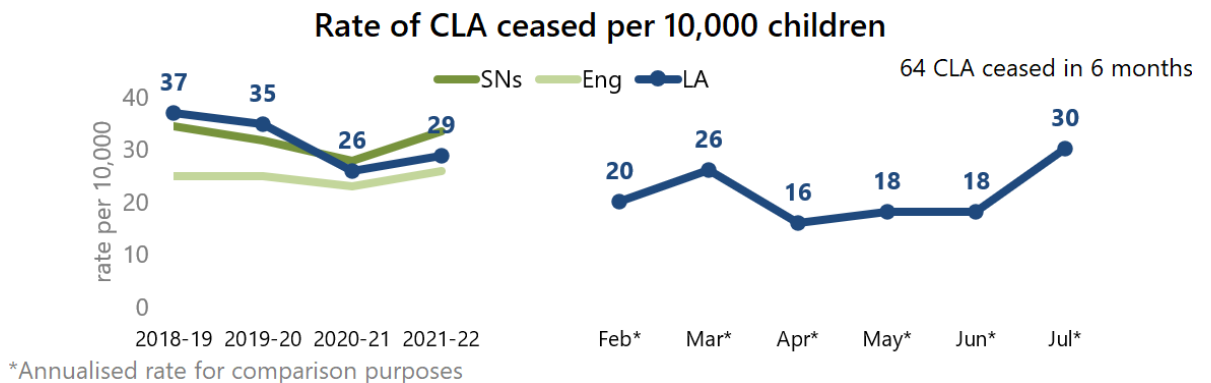
- 3.1. At the start of August 2023 there were 373 **children in care** (rate of 69 per 10,000). This is 5 more children than was reported in March 2023 and still within the interquartile range of our statistical neighbours, latest published figures, (rate of 60-69).
- 3.2. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker (**UASC**) children has increased to 35, or 0.6% 0-17 population, still some 20 below the revised national transfer scheme threshold.
- 3.3. Although the overall rate of children in care has remained stable in the past few years (the current rate matches the average of 2018-21) the rate of those

becoming and ceasing to be in care has reduced, a trend which continued in 2023 albeit with an increase in July.

- 3.4. The rate over the past 6 months equates to 75 children becoming looked after. Just above the 12 months 141 children in 2022/23



- 3.5. 64 (rate 30.0) children ceased to be looked after over the 6 months to July 2023 again with a notable increase in July.



- 3.6. Of the 375 children looked after as at the end of July, 51 are aged 3 or under (5% fewer than in May). 17 of these children have not yet reached their first birthday.

CLA aged 3 or under

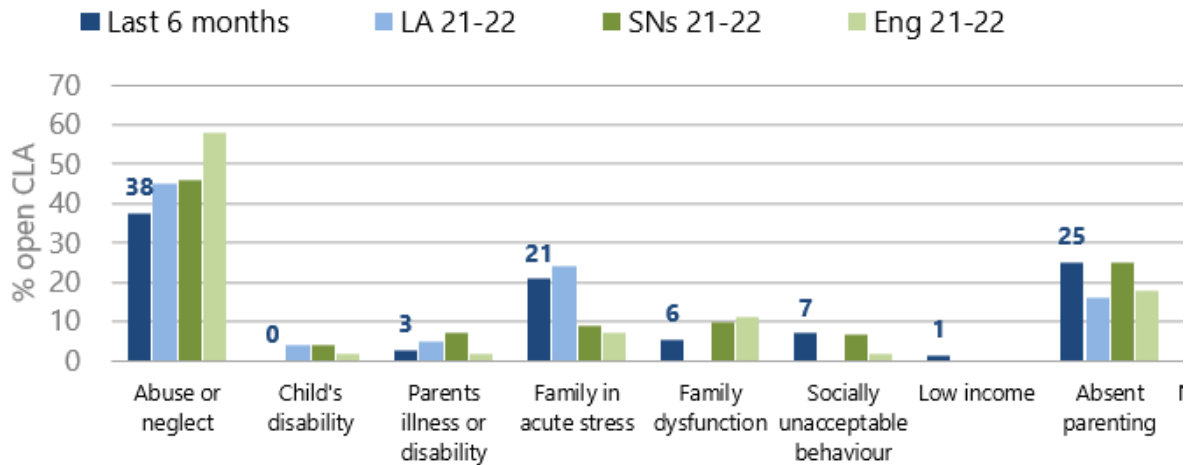
March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	May 2023	Jul 2023
49	67	60	54	56	51

Following the management audit and implementation of the actions highlighted in the last report the past 6 months data shows that ‘family in acute stress’, defined as the reason for children coming into care has reduced again to 21% (previously 25%) although still higher than last reported figures for our statistical neighbours. This has now fallen back to be the third most frequent reason for children coming into care with the top reason being Abuse & Neglect

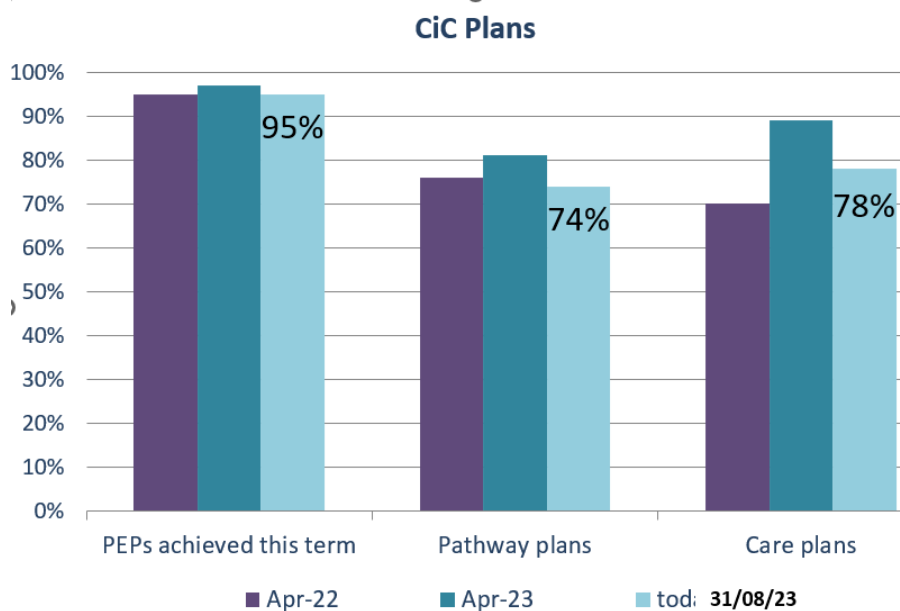
accounting for 38% of open cases at the end of July. Absent parenting has increased to 25%.

- 3.7. A family in acute stress would typically display a combination of factors such as; financial, housing, parental mental health and domestic violence, which combine leads to an increase in the number of children in need of protection and care.

Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



- 3.8. 3 children have been adopted in the past 6 months, or 5% of those who leave care, this matches our latest SN percentage. 4 young people had a special guardianship order granted in the past 6 months July.
- 3.9. As of August 2023, 78% of looked after children aged under 16 had an up-to-date Care Plans. The 90% target is especially hard to reach over the summer holidays.
- 3.10. Of the 130 children in care aged 16 & 17 who require a pathway plan, 85% had up to date plans, above the 80% target.

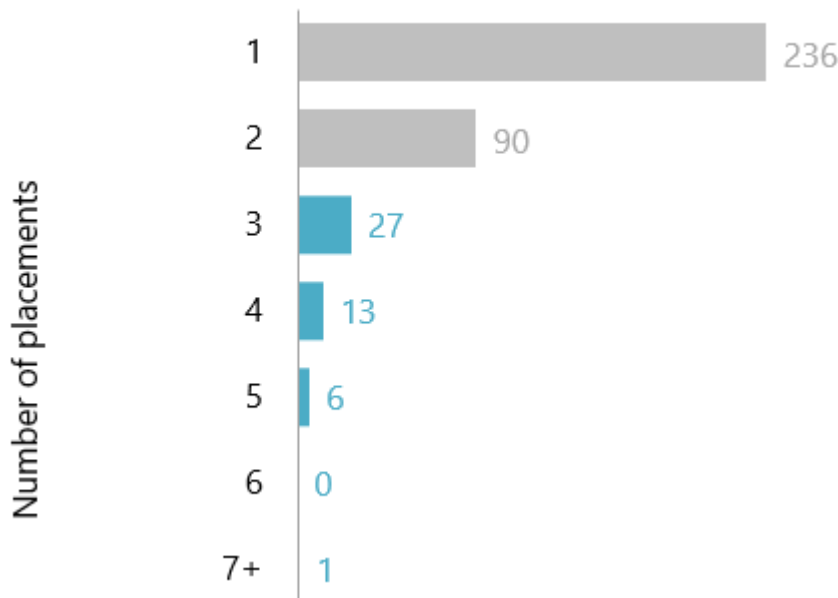


- 3.11. Personal education plans (PEPs) have performed well this year, with PEPs achieved during summer term provisionally reaching 95%.

Personal education plans (PEPs) have again improved this year and the process is now fully embedded, with PEPs achieved during spring term reaching 97%. Focus is now shifting to the quality and impact of the plans, and the outcome will feature in future reports.

At the end of August, 13% 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.

- 3.12. Placement moves are usually as part of the child's care plan and can be positive. For example, a 17-year-old moving into semi supported accommodation as part of their pathway to adulthood or a baby moving from foster care to a mother and baby assessment unit, and then on to being placed with their parents.

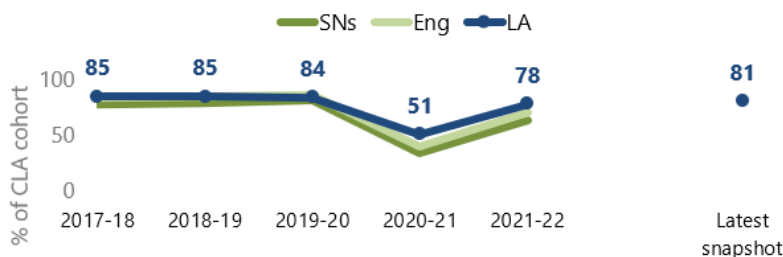
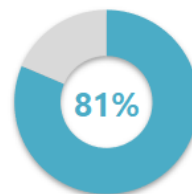


Children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years, has increased to 70 (55%) and is below levels reported by our statistical neighbours (average 70%). This indicator and the three or more placements indicator should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey’s children in care.

- 3.13. At the end of August, 97% of children who were looked after for at least 12 months had an **up-to-date health assessment**, well exceeding levels of our statistical neighbours’ (92%).
- 3.14. At the end of March 2021 only 51% of eligible children had up to date **dental visits**. This has now increased to 81%. Unfortunately, dental checks have always been a challenging area.

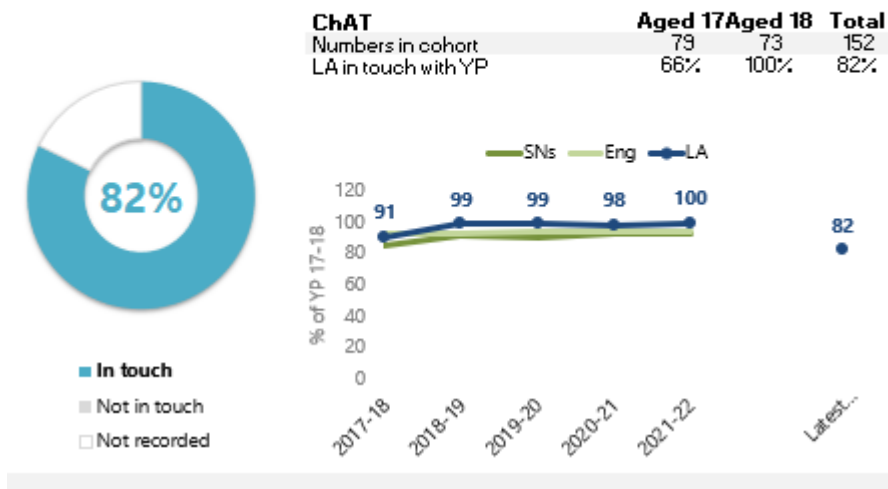
Dental checks

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

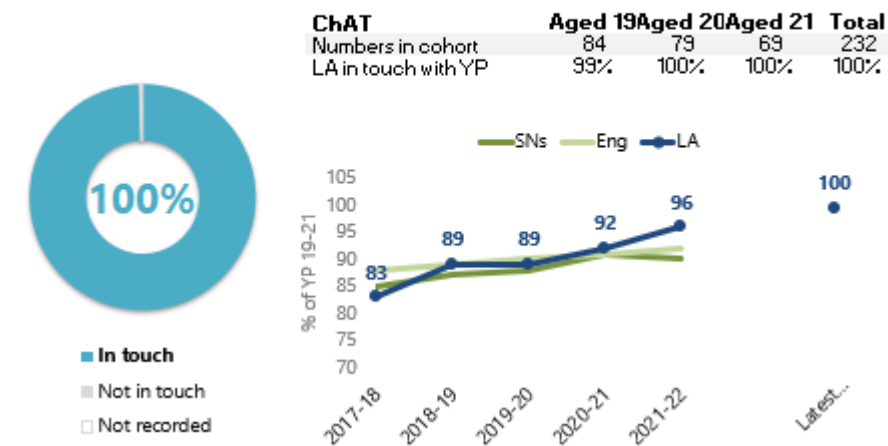


- 3.15. There are now 669 care leavers in receipt of or eligible for leaving care services and increase of 15 since the last Quarter.
- 3.16. 82% of those aged 17–18-year-olds were considered as in touch with the local authority at the end of August. The others are shown as not recorded as these young people are still in care and are newly included in this cohort, we will be recoding these details as the same as care leavers in the future.

LA in touch with 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)

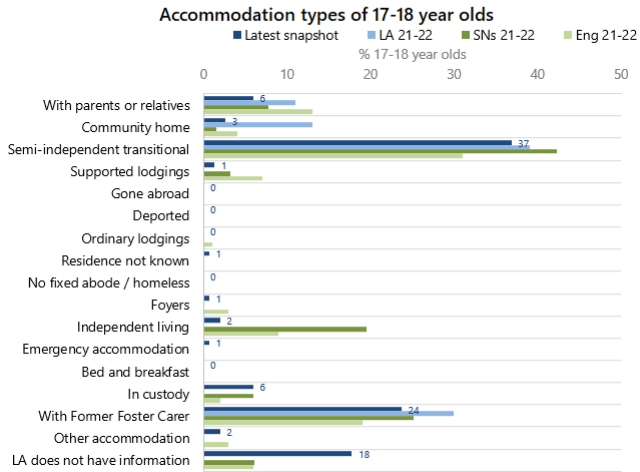
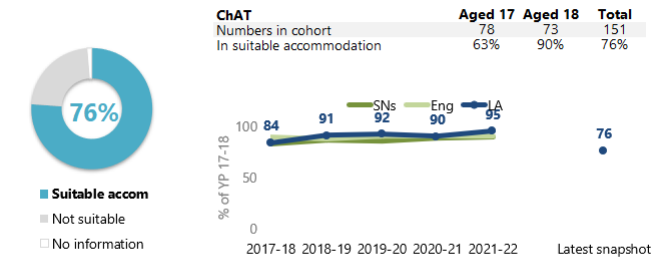


LA in touch with 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

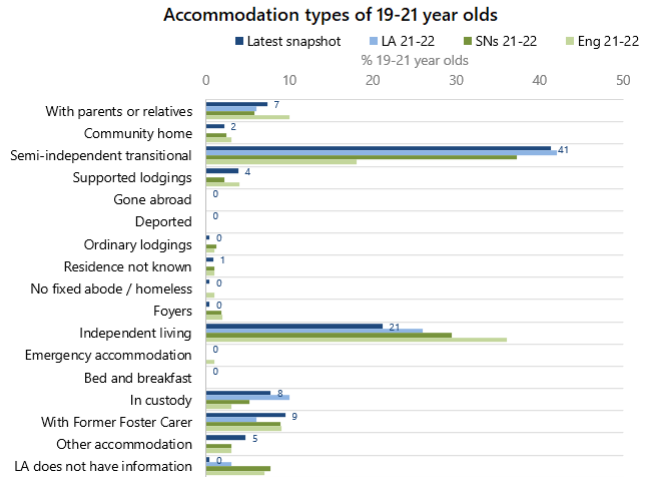
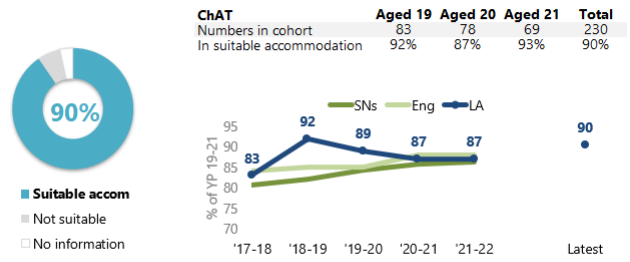


- 3.17. 100% of those aged 19–21 were considered as in touch with the local authority at the end of November.
- 3.18. 232 or 53% of the 19–21-year-olds and 51% of 17–18-year-olds were known to be in Education Employment or Training (EET).
- 3.19. 90% of 19–21-year-old care leavers were known to be in suitable accommodation and 76% of 17–18-year-olds, up 6 percentage points.

Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)



4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

5. Use of Appendices

N/A

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2023 - 24

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings, that will be arranged as and when required, and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further detailed development and scoping.</p>		
Project	Comments	Priority
Physical Activity and Sport	To look at how the Council promotes and commissions physical activity and sporting opportunities for children and young people in all parts of the borough. This will include how their views are considered in planning provision, the impact of activities on mental health and well-being and how the needs of marginalised groups are addressed.	In progress
Housing and children	To look at how housing impacts on children and young people and, in particular those who may be vulnerable or where there might be safeguarding concerns.	1.
Listening to children and young people	To consider how the Council obtains and responds to the views of children and young people in the planning and provision of services.	2.

3. **“One-off” Items;** These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.

Date	Potential Items
2023/24	
26 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Ofsted inspection of local authority children’s social care – outcome and action plan • SEND – Prevention and Early Intervention • Review on Child Poverty – Update on Implementation of Recommendations
21 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Plan • Skills and Careers • Stop and Search

13 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Mental Health and Well-Being • Children in Care Performance update
4 January 2024 (Budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Scrutiny • Exam and Test Results • Safeguarding – Annual Performance Report
20 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Haringey Children’s Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report • Children’s Social Care; Annual Report • Looked After Children (LAC) Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2026: Progress report

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