

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

**Monday, 14th July, 2025, 7.00 pm - George Meehan House, 294 High Rd, London N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [here](#), watch the recording [here](#))**

**Councillors:** Anna Lawton (Chair), Anna Abela, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Mark Grosskopf, Kaushika Amin, Ruairidh Paton and George Dunstall.

**Co-optees/Non-Voting Members:** Chloe Cordon (North Harringay Primary School) (Co-Optee), Camilla Borwick-Fox (Ferry Lane School) (Co-Optee) and Amanda Bernard (Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum).

**Quorum:** 3

### 1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note that 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

### 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 - 6)**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 13 February.

#### **7. MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE (PAGES 7 - 34)**

#### **8. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS (PAGES 35 - 38)**

#### **9. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES**

Verbal Update.

#### **10. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE Q1 TO JUNE 2025 (PAGES 39 - 52)**

#### **11. PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 (PAGES 53 - 68)**

#### **12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 69 - 78)**

#### **13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items admitted at item 3 above.

#### **14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

9 September 2025  
18 November 2025  
15 January 2026  
26 February 2026

Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
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Fiona Alderman  
Assistant Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)  
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Friday, 04 July 2025

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING Children and Young People's  
Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 13th February, 2025, 7.00 -  
8.45 pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Marsha Isilar-Gosling,  
Mark Grosskopf, Anna Lawton and George Dunstall**

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

**102. 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'.

**103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Panel received apologies for lateness from Cllr Lawton and Cllr Dunstall.

**104. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**106. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

None

**107. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January were agreed as a correct record.

**108. ANNUAL SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Panel received a report which provided an overview of safeguarding and social care activity and performance for 2023/24. The report was introduced by Richard Hutton, Senior Performance Officer and Dionne Thomas, AD Safeguarding and

Children's Social Care as set out in the agenda pack at pages 1-24. The Director of Children's services was also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion:

- a. The Panel queried the seeming assertion in the report that higher levels of adoption should be seen as a positive trend, and queried why. In response, officers advised that there were more cases of children who were currently in placements coming through the system that would result in higher adoption figures. The numbers could fluctuate significantly, but ultimately the best outcome was for children to remain with their families where possible. Where adoption was considered the best outcome, this had to be done in a timely way. Officers advised that the service undertook benchmarking around adoptions and this was monitored closely.
- b. The Panel welcomed the report and highlighted that there were a number of positive outcomes contained within it.
- c. The Panel queried the types of residential accommodation and the costs involved. In response, officers advised that costs for residential units were always the highest and that there were a range of costs within residential settings. The lowest costs was in-house foster care or children being placed with their family. This was true across the country. Officers set out that the Council had to procure placements that met the needs of the child, and were bespoke. The Council sought to pay the lowest price for residential payments that it could. It was commented that if a child had particularly high needs, a bespoke package would be commissioned and it was expected that the provider would work with the child to reduce need over time. The DCS advised that the service worked with health colleagues to share costs where appropriate and that the service benchmarked costs across London and Haringey was not paying the highest. It was acknowledged that the costs of residential payments were inflated due to the providers inflating those costs and that there was significant research to back this up.
- d. The Panel questioned the reasons for a drop in UASC and whether this was just a result of less children presenting for asylum. In response, officers advised that they didn't know why the numbers had dropped, but that the authority was ready to make referrals and offer placements in the way it should. There was a drop in the number of children being referred to Haringey from the National Transfer Scheme and there had been a drop in children presenting from particular countries. In response to a follow up, officers advised that there was a general drop across some areas of London and it was speculated that this might be partially accounted for an increase in people arriving by small boats, at the expense of other routes.
- e. In response to a question about the underlying factors that were involved in the dip in completing assessments, officers advised that they knew the quality of assessments was good and that the service had been regularly audited to that effect. The DCS advised that they had a very strong Early Help service that helped with assessment work. The service worked with Early Help officers in frontline assessment teams at an early stage and it was suggested that this might mitigate the need for assessments further down the line.
- f. The Panel sought assurances around how parents of children with learning difficulties were being supported. In response, officers advised that there was a dedicated parenting support team within Children's Services and that there were seven parenting programmes in place to support parents, including

- Cygnnet which worked with parents of SEND children. Other programmes included, sleeping behaviour and managing routine.
- g. The Chair queried the prevalence of domestic violence as a factor in assessment, in response officers advised that domestic violence was one of the most prevalent categories and that this was true across different local authorities. Officers advised that they had a range of interventions, programmes and different methods of assessment, which enabled the service to think about the most appropriate mechanism to support a particular family, who may be affected by domestic violence.
  - h. The Panel highlighted the percentage of care leavers in higher education (11%) and queried whether more could be done to increase this figure. In response, officers advised that they would always be looking to do more, but that 11% was good in relation to benchmarking with other boroughs. The London average was 8% and the national average was 6%. There was a strong aspiration that everybody should thrive and the service continually looked at how it could support care leavers. It was suggested that this did not always mean higher education and that there were also a range of apprenticeship and training options available.

## **RESOLVED**

That the service improvement and challenges contained within the report were noted, along with the actions taken during 2023/24 in response to local demand and the financial pressures experienced by the service in relation to placements

### **109. UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY FOR IMPROVEMENT**

The Panel received a report which provided an update on work to support the mental health and mental wellbeing of children and young people in Haringey, in the context of the post-pandemic period which was characterised by increasing complexity and demand for mental health services. The report was introduced by Caroline Brian, AD Commissioning & Programmes & Dionne Thomas, AD Safeguarding and Social Care as set out in the agenda pack at pages 25-43. The following people were also present for, and took part in, this agenda item: Colin McKenzie, Commissioning Project Manager (LBH); Tim Miller, AD Place, integration, Transformation & Delivery for NCL Integrated Care Board (NHS); Michelle Guimarin - NHS North Central London ICB; Penny Mitchell, Director of Population Health Commissioning for NCL Integrated Care Board (ICB); and Clive Blackwood – Head of CYPMHS at North London Foundation NHS Trust. The following arose as part of the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel sought clarification over the term neurodiversity, in response NHS colleagues advised that this related to a variety of challenges faced by young people from conditions such as ADHD or autism. It was explained that this could impact the child's ability to socialise and could also impact the wider family.
- b. In response to a question, officers advised that emotional wellbeing was a journey for young people and that various events in a young person's life, such as bereavement or separation, could have a cumulative impact on their emotional wellbeing and could impact their ability to regulate the world around them. NHS colleagues set out that there were a number of support services

- available to young people to help them work through the challenges they may face.
- c. In relation to the Parent Psychology Service, the Panel queried whether mental health services were offered to new mothers. In response, the AD for Early Help, Prevention & SEND advised that this would be provided through family hubs and they would commission perinatal services that would support the mother through pregnancy and early motherhood. NHS colleagues advised that they were working closely with the Early Help service to target perinatal services and that there was a broad level of support available in this field across Haringey.
  - d. The chair of SEND Power queried the extent to which services were operating holistically, and raised concerns about a lack of CAMHS appointments and those appointments being cancelled at little or no notice. It was emphasised a shortage of services in this area had a big impact on families. In response it was noted that there was more than one provider referred to in the report, but that North London NHS Trust was the primary provider of CAMHS in Haringey. NHS colleagues advised that they were working through the ICB to improve services and bring them up to the national standard. The service levels were outlined as no child should wait longer than four weeks for their first contact. Performance on this metric was at 64%. It was acknowledged that this needed to improve, particularly as treatment for children was due to be started within eight weeks. It was set out that the longest waiting times were for ADHD services and that the waiting time for this was up to 14 months.
  - e. The Head of CYPMHS at North London Foundation NHS Trust advised that the Trust was working with the ICB to bring in additional resources to Haringey CAMHS at the St Ann's site and that this had seen additional staffing resources put in and weekend clinics for CAMHS offered. In relation to accessing services when in crisis, the Panel was advised that a range of interim support measures were in place whilst people waited for treatment, including wellbeing calls and hosting online groups. Officers advised that the service was conducting a review of existing contracts and pathways in order to redirect and refocus the services it commissioned, in order to focus on early intervention and prevention.
  - f. SEND Power impressed on the Panel how distressing some of the stories they had heard from their peer group about their own children being in crisis and unable to access mental health service. Attendees acknowledged the impact on children and young people and emphasised that the historical lack of service provision in this area was being tackled and that the right governance arrangements were in place for partners to move forward collectively.
  - g. In relation to under-funding in this area, NHS colleagues advised that they would like to see more funding in the system as the demand had increased above any additional funding that had been secured. It was noted that through the ICB's Inequality Fund, targeted work had been done in pockets of the east of the borough with high levels of historic deprivation. This has been done in partnership with Open Door. NHS colleagues set out that there had been a 67% increase in CAMHS cases in the last year. The ICB recognised that there needed to be an equitable offer for all children and adults in Haringey around access to mental health services and that there was a recognition that there had been historical underfunding in these services in some parts of the region.



Assurances were provided to the Panel that work was being done to address this historical underfunding.

- h. The Panel requested a further update on Children's mental health outcomes come to the Panel in a years' time. **(Action: Philip).**

## RESOLVED

Noted

### 110. YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE INSPECTION UPDATE

The AD for Early Help, Prevention and SEND gave a verbal update to the Panel on the recent inspection undertaken of the Youth Justice service. It was noted that the final report was not due to be published until 3<sup>rd</sup> March, so the findings from the inspection could not be given in full. However, a summary of some of the key findings was given to Members. Matthew Knights, Head of Youth Justice was also present for this agenda item. The following was noted in relation to this update:

- The inspection involved five weeks of preparation from when the visit was announced to the actual inspection on 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> December.
- The inspectors said that they enjoyed their visit and that they particularly welcomed hearing from the children and their parents/carers.
- There was a team of nine inspectors, who spoke to 50 staff and partnership representatives about the wider youth justice system. This included: CAMHS, probation, police, social care, volunteers, SEND, children and parents.
- Across the inspection, there were 30 meetings and they looked at 40 children and held individual interviews with their case managers.
- The inspectors advised that leadership and governance was strong. It was also recognised as; child-centred, purposeful, clear on its priorities.
- Partners held each other to account.
- Data was used well and was used to drive improvements
- The leadership team were committed, passionate and working collaboratively with each other.
- Management had a good understanding of the quality of work being undertaken by staff.
- There was a key focus on empowering others to work and being truly creative and innovative.
- Staff planning was identified as being strong.
- It was identified that there was some variability in decision making in relation to assessment of practice to keep others safe.
- Work with victims needed to increase.
- Children and parents were overwhelmingly positive about the service.
- The inspectors commented that there was a real authenticity to Haringey.

The recommendations from the report will be included in the Youth Justice Plan, which will be agreed by the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

The Panel requested that the full inspection report be brought back to the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. **(Action: Philip).**

**RESOLVED**

Noted

**111. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Panel noted the work programme.

**112. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

**113. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

This was the last meeting of the municipal year. Dates for 2025-26 will be agreed at Annual Full Council in May.

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 14 July 2025

**Title:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels - Membership and Terms of Reference

**Report authorised by:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Lead Officer:** Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 020 8489 5691, E-mail: [philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This report sets out the terms of reference and membership for Overview and Scrutiny and its panels for 2025/26.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to:
- (a) Note the terms of reference (Appendix A) and Protocol (Appendix B) for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels.
  - (b) Note the policy areas/remits and membership for each Scrutiny Panel for 2025/26 (Appendix C).

**3. Reasons for decision**

- 3.1 The terms of reference and membership of the scrutiny panels above need to be confirmed at the first meeting of each municipal year.

**4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1 As agreed by Annual Council on 19 May, the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2025/26 will be:
- Cllr Matt White (Chair);
  - Cllr Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair);
  - Cllr Makbule Gunes;
  - Cllr Anna Lawton;
  - Cllr Adam Small.

- 4.2 The Committee will also include statutory education representatives, who shall attend and have voting rights solely on education matters when being considered by the main committee.
- 4.3 The terms of reference and role of the OSC is set out in the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part Four (Section G) of the Council's Constitution. This specifies key responsibilities for the Committee. This information is provided in full at **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 There is also a Protocol, outside the Constitution and provided at **Appendix B**, that sets out how the OSC is to operate.

## 5. Scrutiny Panels

- 5.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the OSC may establish a number of Scrutiny Review Panels to examine designated Council services.
- 5.2 The proposed 2025/26 membership for the four Scrutiny Panels is listed below.

Scrutiny Panel	Membership
Adults and Health	Cllr Pippa Connor (Chair), Cllr Cathy Brennan, Cllr Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Cllr Mary Mason, Cllr Sean O'Donovan, Cllr Felicia Opoku, Cllr Sheila Peacock.
Children and Young People	Cllr Anna Lawton (Chair), Cllr Anna Abela, Cllr Kaushika Amin, Cllr George Dunstall, Cllr Mark Grosskopf, Cllr Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Cllr Ruairidh Paton.
Culture, Community Safety & Environment	Cllr Makbule Gunes (Chair), Cllr Liam Carroll, Cllr Luke Cawley Harrison, Cllr Eldridge Culverwell, Cllr George Dunstall, Cllr Mark Grosskopf, Cllr Sue Jameson.
Housing, Planning & Development	Cllr Adam Small (Chair); Cllr Dawn Barnes, Cllr John Bevan, Cllr Isidoros Diakides, Cllr Holly Harrison-Mullane, Cllr Lester Buxton, Cllr Khaled Moyeed.
All Councillors (except Members of the Cabinet) may be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panels. However, no Member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he/she has been directly involved.	

- 5.3 The policy areas to be covered by the four existing Scrutiny Panels are attached at **Appendix C**, together with the relevant portfolio holders for each scrutiny body.

- 5.4 Given the Council's difficult financial situation, the terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny has been updated to allow more prominent focus on budget monitoring and performance. The Committee will still keep its strategic focus as well as oversight of customer focus and worklessness which is in response to community views expressed at the Scrutiny Café in September 2024. However, culture and leisure has moved to the remit of the Culture, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel.

## **6. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1 The contribution scrutiny can make to strategic outcomes will be considered as part of its routine work.

## **7. Statutory Officers Comments**

### **Finance and Procurement**

- 7.1 The Chief Finance Officer has confirmed the Haringey representatives on the JHOSC are not entitled to any remuneration. As a result, there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.
- 7.2 Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications then these will be highlighted at that time.

### **Legal**

- 7.3 The Assistant Director for Corporate Governance has been consulted on the contents of this report.
- 7.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint one or more sub-committee to discharge any of its functions. The establishment of Scrutiny Panels by the Committee falls within this power and is in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.
- 7.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision-making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel produces must be approved by the OSC. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.
- 7.6 The OSC can appoint two representatives to the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is in accordance with the decision made by full Council on 22 March 2010 that the making of nominations to the Joint Health Committee be delegated to the Committee.

### **Equality**

7.7 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

7.8 The proposals outlined in this report relate to the membership and terms of reference for the OSC and carry no direct implications for the Council's general equality duty. However, the Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work programme and those of its panels, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;

- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
- Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

7.9 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A - Part Four (Section G) of the Constitution of the London Borough of Haringey.

Appendix B - Scrutiny Protocol

Appendix C - Overview & Scrutiny Remits and Membership 2025/26

## **9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

# **Part Four, Section G**

## **Overview and Scrutiny**

### **Procedure Rules**

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#### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

##### **1. The arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny**

- 1.1 The Council will have one Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will have responsibility for all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2 The terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be:
- (i) The performance of all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council.
  - (ii) The appointment of Scrutiny Review Panels, with membership that reflects the political balance of the Council.
  - (iii) To determine the terms of reference of all Scrutiny Review Panels.
  - (iv) To receive reports from local National Health Service bodies on the state of health services and public health in the borough area.
  - (v) To enter into or appoint such joint overview and scrutiny committees that include the London Borough of Haringey and other boroughs for the purpose of responding to consultation by NHS bodies on proposals for substantial variation or development in the provision of health services as required by The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
  - (vi) To monitor the effectiveness of the Council's Forward Plan.
  - (vii) To receive all appropriate performance management and budget monitoring information.
  - (viii) To approve a programme of future overview and scrutiny work so as to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's and Scrutiny Review Panels' time is effectively and efficiently utilised;

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- (ix) To consider all requests for call-in and decide whether to call-in a key decision, how it should be considered and whether to refer the decision to the Cabinet or to Council.
- (x) To monitor the effectiveness of the Call-in procedure.
- (xi) To review and scrutinise action taken by partner authorities in discharge of crime and disorder functions and to make reports and recommendations to Cabinet and Council on these.
- (xii) To make arrangements which enable any Councillor who is not a Committee Member to refer any local government matter, or any crime and disorder matter, to the Committee under the Councillor Call for Action Procedure.
- (xiii) To ensure that referrals from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet either by way of report or call-in are managed efficiently, and
- (xiv) To ensure community and voluntary sector organisations, users of services and others are appropriately involved in giving evidence to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Review Panel.

1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may establish a number of Scrutiny Review Panels:

- (i) Scrutiny Reviews Panels are appointed to examine designated Council services. Scrutiny Review Panels will refer their findings/ recommendations in the form of a written report, with the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Cabinet and/or the Council as appropriate.
- (ii) Scrutiny Review Panels will analyse submissions, request and analyse any additional information, and question the Cabinet Member(s), relevant Council officers, local stakeholders, and where relevant officers and/or board members of local NHS bodies or NHS funded bodies.
- (iii) Subject to the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Review Panels will be able to appoint external advisors and/or to commission specific pieces of research if this is deemed necessary.
- (iv) Scrutiny Review Panels should make every effort to work by consensus; however, in exceptional circumstances Members may submit minority reports.



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- (v) Prior to publication, draft reports will be sent to the relevant chief officers or where relevant officers of the National Health Service for checking for inaccuracies and the presence of exempt and/or confidential information; Scrutiny Review Panel members will revisit any conclusions drawn from disputed information;
  - (vi) Following approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, final reports and recommendations will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting together with an officer report where appropriate. The Cabinet will consider the reports and formally agree their decisions.
  - (vii) Following approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reports on NHS, non-executive or regulatory matters will be copied to the Cabinet for information.
  - (viii) At the Cabinet meeting to receive the final report and recommendations, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Chair of the Scrutiny Review Panel may attend and speak.
  - (ix) After an appropriate period, post implementation, Overview and Scrutiny Committee will carry out a follow up review to determine if the recommendations had the intended outcomes and to measure any improvements.
- 1.4 When Scrutiny Review Panels report on non-executive or regulatory functions the above rules apply, except the references to The Cabinet shall be taken as reference to the relevant non-executive body.
- 1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall undertake scrutiny of the Council's budget through a Budget Scrutiny process. The procedure by which this operates is detailed in the Protocol covering the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.6 All Overview and Scrutiny meetings shall take place in public (except where exempt or confidential matters are considered).
- 1.7 The Overview and Scrutiny function should not be seen as an alternative to established disciplinary, audit or complaints mechanisms and should not interfere with or pre-empt their work.
- 2. Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels**
- 2.1 All Councillors (except Members of the Cabinet) may be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panels. However, no Member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he/she has been directly involved.

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- 2.2 The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels shall, as far as is practicable, be in proportion to the representation of different political groups on the Council.

**3. Co-optees**

- 3.1 Each Scrutiny Review Panel shall be entitled to have up to three people as non-voting co-optees, who will be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.
- 3.2 Statutory voting non-Councillor members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be paid an allowance in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme in Part 6 of this Constitution.

**4. Education representatives**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panel whose terms of reference relate to education functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, shall include in its membership the following representatives:

- (i) At least one Church of England diocesan representative (voting).
- (ii) At least one Roman Catholic diocesan representative (voting).
- (iii) 2 parent governor representatives (voting).

These voting representatives will be entitled to vote where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Scrutiny Review Panel is considering matters that relate to relevant education functions. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel is dealing with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those matters though they may stay in the meeting and speak at the discretion of the Chair. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panel will attempt to organise its meetings so that relevant education matters are grouped together.

**5. Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels**

- 5.1 In addition to ordinary meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, extraordinary meetings may be called from time to time as and when appropriate. An Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting may be called by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee after consultation with the Chief Executive, by any two Members of the Committee or by the proper officer if he/she considers it necessary or appropriate.

PART FOUR – RULES OF PROCEDURE

Section G – Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules

- 5.2 In addition to ordinary meetings of the Scrutiny Review Panels, extraordinary meetings may be called from time to time as and when appropriate. A Scrutiny Review Panel meeting may be called by the Chair of the Panel after consultation with the Chief Executive, by any two Members of the Committee or by the proper officer if he/she considers it necessary or appropriate.

**6. Quorum**

The quorum for the Overview Scrutiny Committee and for each Scrutiny Review Panel shall be at least one quarter of its membership and not less than 3 voting members.

**7. Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels**

- 7.1 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by the Council.
- 7.2 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall resign with immediate effect if a vote of no confidence is passed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 7.3 Chairs of Scrutiny Review Panels will be drawn from among the Councillors sitting on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Subject to this requirement, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may appoint any person as it considers appropriate as Chair having regard to the objective of cross-party chairing in proportion to the political balance of the Council. The Scrutiny Review Panels shall not be able to change the appointed Chair unless there is a vote of no confidence as outlined in Article 6.5 in this Constitution.
- 7.4 The Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Review process will be drawn from among the opposition party Councillors sitting on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall not be able to change the appointed Chair unless there is a vote of no confidence as outlined in Article 6.5 in this Constitution.

**8. Work programme**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee will determine the future scrutiny work programme and will establish Scrutiny Review Panels to assist it to perform its functions. The Committee will appoint a Chair for each Scrutiny Review Panel.

**9. Agenda items for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 9.1 Any member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to give notice to the proper officer that he/she wishes an item relevant to

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the functions of the Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee. On receipt of such a request the proper officer will ensure that it is included on the next available agenda.

- 9.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall also respond, as soon as its work programme permits, to requests from the Council and, if it considers it appropriate, from the Cabinet to review particular areas of Council activity. Where they do so, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall report their findings and any recommendations back to the Cabinet within an agreed timescale.

**10. Policy review and development**

- 10.1 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the development of the Council's budget and policy framework is set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this constitution.
- 10.2 In relation to the development of the Council's approach to other matters not forming part of its policy and budget framework, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Scrutiny Review Panels may make proposals to the Cabinet for developments insofar as they relate to matters within their terms of reference. The Scrutiny Review Panels must do so via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**11. Reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Following endorsement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, final reports and recommendations will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting. The procedure to be followed is set out in paragraphs 1.3 or 1.4 above.

**12. Making sure that overview and scrutiny reports are considered by the Cabinet**

- 12.1 The agenda for Cabinet meetings shall include an item entitled 'Issues arising from Scrutiny'. Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee referred to the Cabinet shall be included at this point in the agenda unless either they have been considered in the context of the Cabinet's deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda or the Cabinet gives reasons why they cannot be included and states when they will be considered.
- 12.2 Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prepares a report for consideration by the Cabinet in relation to a matter where decision making power has been delegated to an individual Cabinet Member, a Committee of the Cabinet or an Officer, or under Joint Arrangements, then the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will also submit a copy of their report to that body or individual for consideration, and a copy to the

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proper officer. If the Member, committee, or officer with delegated decision making power does not accept the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, then the body/he/she must then refer the matter to the next appropriate meeting of the Cabinet for debate before making a decision.

**13. Rights and powers of Overview and Scrutiny Committee members**

**13.1 Rights to documents**

- (i) In addition to their rights as Councillors, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels have the additional right to documents, and to notice of meetings as set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.
- (ii) Nothing in this paragraph prevents more detailed liaison between the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels as appropriate depending on the particular matter under consideration.

**13.2 Powers to conduct enquiries**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels may hold enquiries into past performance and investigate the available options for future direction in policy development and may appoint advisers and assessors to assist them in these processes. They may go on site visits, conduct public surveys, hold public meetings, commission research and do all other things that they reasonably consider necessary to inform their deliberations, within available resources. They may ask witnesses to attend to address them on any matter under consideration and may pay any advisers, assessors and witnesses a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so. Scrutiny Review Panels require the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to do so.

**13.3 Power to require Members and officers to give account**

- (i) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels may scrutinise and review decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any Council functions (Scrutiny Review Panels will keep to issues that fall within their terms of reference). As well as reviewing documentation, in fulfilling the scrutiny role, it may require any Member of the Cabinet, the Head of Paid Service and/or any senior officer (at second or third tier), and chief officers of the local National Health Service to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit:
  - (a) any particular decision or series of decisions;

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- (b) the extent to which the actions taken implement Council policy (or NHS policy, where appropriate); and
- (c) their performance.

It is the duty of those persons to attend if so required. At the discretion of their Director, council officers below third tier may attend, usually accompanied by a senior manager. At the discretion of the relevant Chief Executive, other NHS officers may also attend overview and scrutiny meetings.

- (ii) Where any Member or officer is required to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel under this provision, the Chair of that body will inform the Member or proper officer. The proper officer shall inform the Member or officer in writing giving at least 10 working days notice of the meeting at which he/she is required to attend. The notice will state the nature of the item on which he/she is required to attend to give account and whether any papers are required to be produced for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel. Where the account to be given to Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel will require the production of a report, then the Member or officer concerned will be given sufficient notice to allow for preparation of that documentation.
- (iii) Where, in exceptional circumstances, the Member or officer is unable to attend on the required date, then the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel shall in consultation with the Member or officer arrange an alternative date for attendance, to take place within a maximum of 10 days from the date of the original request.

**14. Attendance by others**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel may invite people other than those people referred to in paragraph 13 above to address it, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. It may for example wish to hear from residents, stakeholders and Members and officers in other parts of the public sector and may invite such people to attend. Attendance is optional.

**15. Call-in**

The call-in procedure is dealt with separately at Part 4 Section H of the Constitution, immediately following these Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**16. Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)**

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The Council has adopted a Protocol for handling requests by non-Committee Members that the Committee should consider any local government matter which is a matter of significant community concern. This procedure should only be a last resort once the other usual methods for resolving local concerns have failed. Certain matters such as individual complaints and planning or licensing decisions are excluded.

Requests for a CCfA referral should be made to the Democratic Services Manager who will check with the Monitoring Officer that the request falls within the Protocol. The Councillor making the referral will be able to attend the relevant meeting of the Committee to explain the matter. Among other actions, the Committee may: (i) make recommendations to the Cabinet, Directors or partner agencies, (ii) ask officers for a further report, (iii) ask for further evidence from the Councillor making the referral, or (iv) decide to take no further action on the referral.

The Protocol is not included within this Constitution but will be subject to regular review by the Committee.

**17. Procedure at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and meetings of the Scrutiny Review Panels.**

- (a) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall consider the following business as appropriate:
  - (i) apologies for absence;
  - (ii) urgent business;
  - (iii) declarations of interest;
  - (iv) minutes of the last meeting;
  - (v) deputations and petitions;
  - (vi) consideration of any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call-in of a key decision;
  - (vii) responses of the Cabinet to reports of the Committee;
  - (viii) the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.
- (b) A Scrutiny Review Panel shall consider the following business as appropriate:
  - (i) minutes of the last meeting;

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- (ii) declarations of interest;
  - (iii) the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.
- (c) Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel has asked people to attend to give evidence at meetings, these are to be conducted in accordance with the following principles:
  - (i) that the investigation be conducted fairly and all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels be given the opportunity to ask questions of attendees, to contribute and to speak;
  - (ii) that those assisting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel by giving evidence be treated with respect and courtesy;
  - (iii) that the investigation be conducted so as to maximise the efficiency of the investigation or analysis; and
  - (iv) that reasonable effort be made to provide appropriate assistance with translation or alternative methods of communication to assist those giving evidence.
- (d) Following any investigation or review, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel shall prepare a report, for submission to the Cabinet and shall make its report and findings public.

**17A. Declarations Of Interest Of Members**

- (a) If a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel has a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest as referred to in Members' Code of Conduct in any matter under consideration, then the member shall declare his or her interest at the start of the meeting or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. The member may not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter or participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting and must withdraw from the meeting until discussion of the relevant matter is concluded unless that member has obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee.
- (b) If a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel has a personal interest which is not a disclosable pecuniary interest nor a prejudicial interest, the member is under



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no obligation to make a disclosure at the meeting but may do so if he/she wishes.

**18. The Party Whip**

Scrutiny is intended to operate outside the party whip system. However, when considering any matter in respect of which a Member of scrutiny is subject to a party whip the Member must declare the existence of the whip and the nature of it before the commencement of the Committee/Panel's deliberations on the matter. The Declaration, and the detail of the whipping arrangements, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The expression "party whip" can be taken to mean: "Any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a Member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Council or any committee or sub-committee, or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote in any particular manner."

**19. Matters within the remit of more than one Scrutiny Review Panel**

Should there be any overlap between the business of any Scrutiny Review Panels, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is empowered to resolve the issue.

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (OSC) PROTOCOL 2025****1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny plays a fundamental role in the Council's governance arrangements through holding decision makers to account, policy review and development, acting as a community voice and ensuring the efficient delivery of public services. Effective scrutiny requires the commitment of the whole Council and partners, as well as creating the right culture, behaviours and attitude that sees scrutiny as a valuable contributor to the business of the Council.
- 1.2 This new protocol is a welcome opportunity for the whole Council to re-affirm its commitment to effective scrutiny, foster an effective and constructive working relationship with all stakeholders in the scrutiny process and refresh relevant policies and procedures so that they reflect best practice. It also takes into account learning from recent Haringey scrutiny work as well as the new Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities that was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in May 2019.
- 1.3 The Protocol is intended to give effect to the provisions in the Constitution relating to Overview and Scrutiny. In the event of any apparent conflict that may arise between the provisions in the Protocol and the Constitution, the Constitution shall take precedence.

**2 ROLE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 The Council is committed to creating an environment conducive to effective scrutiny. It is a statutory function and a requirement for all authorities operating executive arrangements. It is also an integral part of the Council's decision-making structure and provides essential checks and balances to the Council's Cabinet to ensure that its powers are used wisely. Whilst its legitimacy is beyond question, scrutiny should nonetheless be able to demonstrate clearly to the Council and its Cabinet, senior management team, partners and the public the value that it adds in its work and seek to make recommendations that improve the lives of local residents.
- 2.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:
  - Provide constructive challenge;
  - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
  - Be led by independent minded Members who take responsibility for their role; and
  - Drive improvement in public services.

*Challenge*

- 2.3 For challenge to be effective, it needs to be sufficiently robust. It should nevertheless be constructive and focused on matters of timely relevance to the Council and the wider community. The role of scrutiny as a 'Critical Friend' should be undertaken in a courteous and professional manner, reflecting the Member's Code of Conduct. The aim of scrutiny should be to improve decision making and outcomes for residents, not scoring political points or providing a political opposition to those who make decisions.

*Public and Community Involvement*

- 2.4 Overview and Scrutiny has an important role in articulating the concerns of residents and community organisations. It will therefore strive to facilitate their involvement in its work and, in particular, the development of its work plan, providing evidence and asking questions.
- 2.5 Overview and scrutiny will seek to ensure that the feedback that it receives is representative of the local community. It will be proactive in seeking input and seek to involve individuals and groups within it that are best placed to inform specific pieces of work. It will use a range of methods and, where possible, locations in order to best to engage with diverse stakeholders and listen to their views and experience.

## *Independence*

- 2.6 Overview and scrutiny shall be independent in both outlook and operation. The Cabinet should not seek to direct the areas that it focusses upon, although suggestions can be made for the work programme. Overview and scrutiny shall not be subject to undue party political influence, such as whipping. Members on scrutiny bodies shall also undertake their work with an open mind and make recommendations that are based on the evidence that they receive rather than pre-conceived ideas or pressure from within the political group. It should seek to be strategic and focused on the Council and its communities of interest.

## *Driving Improvement*

- 2.7 It is important that scrutiny not only provides challenge but delivers outcomes. These should aim to make a difference to the lives of residents through improving public services. This should be achieved by the making of evidence-based recommendations to the Council's Cabinet and other organisations responsible for the commissioning and delivery of public services.

## **3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 Overview and scrutiny can scrutinise any matter which affects the authority's area or its residents' wellbeing. The powers of Overview and Scrutiny were contained in the Local Government Act 2000 and consolidated by the Localism Act 2011. It can:
- Review decisions taken by the Cabinet or the Council;
  - Investigate matters affecting the borough of Haringey and its residents;
  - Contribute to policy development for the Council;
  - Make reports and recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council;
  - Review decisions made by the Cabinet but not yet implemented ("call-in");
  - Appoint sub-committees and arrange for them to discharge any of its functions;
  - Review matters relating to the health service and crime and disorder and make reports and recommendations;
  - Require members of the Cabinet and officers to attend to provide information and answer questions;
  - Invite other persons to attend meetings as part of its evidence gathering;
  - Give notice in writing to a relevant partner authority requiring that it has regard to a report or recommendations relating to its functions; and
  - Request information from a relevant partner authority that is required for Overview and Scrutiny to discharge its functions.

## **4 STRUCTURE**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall comprise five members and be politically proportionate as far as possible. The membership shall be appointed each year at the Annual Council Meeting. The chair of the Committee shall be a member of the majority group. The Vice-Chair shall be a member of the largest minority group. The Committee shall also comprise statutory education co-optees, who have voting rights on education matters.
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall establish four standing Scrutiny Panels to examine designated public services. The Committee shall determine the terms of reference of each Panel. If there is any overlap between the business of the Panels, it is the responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to resolve the issue. Areas which are not covered by the four standing Panels shall be the responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.3 The chair of each standing Scrutiny Panel shall be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and shall be determined by the Committee at its first meeting of the year. It is intended that each Panel shall be comprised of between 3 and 7 members and be politically proportionate as far as possible. The membership of each Scrutiny Panel shall be appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is intended that, other than the Chair, the other members will be non-executive members who do not sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.4 Should one of the Panels be responsible for education issues, the membership shall include the statutory education co-optees. It is intended that the education co-optees will also attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when reports from a relevant Scrutiny Panel are considered.
- 4.5 Each Scrutiny Panel shall be entitled to have up to three non-voting co-optees, who will be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis. Non-voting co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:
- To bring a diverse spectrum of experience and adding a different perspective to any items;
  - To act as a non-party political voice for those who live and/or work in Haringey; and
  - To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and an element of external challenge by representing the public.
- 4.6 Nominations for non-voting co-optees will be sought primarily from established community groups that have a working relationship with the Council but consideration can be given to specific individuals where particular expertise/experience is required that would not be otherwise available<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.7 Overview and Scrutiny bodies shall seek to work by consensus. Votes should only take place when as a last resort and when all efforts to achieve a consensus have been unsuccessful.

## **5 MEETING FREQUENCY AND FORMAT**

- 5.1 The Committee shall hold six scheduled meetings each year. One meeting shall include agreement of the annual work programme for Overview and Scrutiny. One meeting, in January, shall consider the budget scrutiny recommendations from each Scrutiny Panel. In addition, the Committee may also hold evidence gathering meetings as part of in-depth scrutiny reviews on a specific issue as and when required. An extraordinary meeting of the OSC may be called in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4 Section G).

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<sup>1</sup> There is a separate and detailed Protocol regarding the process for appointment of non-voting co-optees.

- 5.2 Members of the Council may Call In a decision of the Cabinet, or any Key Decision made under delegated powers, within five working days of the decision being made. The full procedure is given in the Council's Constitution (Part 4 Section H).
- 5.3 Pre-decision scrutiny on forthcoming Cabinet decisions shall only be undertaken at scheduled Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, in adherence with the Council's Forward Plan.
- 5.4 It is intended that each Scrutiny Panel shall hold four scheduled meetings each year. An extraordinary meeting of a Panel may be called in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4 Section G). In addition, Scrutiny Panels may also hold evidence gathering meetings as part of in-depth scrutiny reviews on a specific issue as and when required.
- 5.5 The choice of venue for meetings may have regard to the business to be transacted and the circumstances of the time. This may include meeting online for remote working or to improve access to those providing evidence to the Committee or a Panel.

## **6 ENGAGING WITH THE CABINET**

- 6.1 Legislation relating to local authority governance provides for the separation of the Executive and Non-executive Members of a Council in order to provide a check and balance on decision-making. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore shall engage regularly with Cabinet, particularly regarding its future work programme and the Forward Plan. The first of such meetings should be arranged with Cabinet prior to the first meeting of the Committee. The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels shall seek to liaise on a regular basis with the relevant Cabinet Members covering relevant portfolios regarding the progress of the work programme, agenda setting and requests for reports, attendance and updates.
- 6.2 The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive shall be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required, based upon the agenda of a meeting, but at least once a year at the meeting when the Overview and Scrutiny work programme is considered. This shall be an opportunity to discuss jointly, amongst other matters, the Council's priorities for the next year. Meetings between the Cabinet and scrutiny should focus on outcomes and be respectful and constructive, respecting the different but complementary nature of the roles and the value of scrutiny to the Council and its residents.
- 6.3 All Cabinet Members will be expected to attend either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or Scrutiny Panels as required and with reasonable notice, based upon the agenda of a meeting, but at least twice a year. Cabinet Members will be expected to provide information specific to an agenda item, to provide updates on key areas within their portfolios and to answer questions.
- 6.4 The Leader and Cabinet Members attending an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Panel meeting may be accompanied and assisted by any service officers they consider necessary. The Member may invite an officer attending to answer a question and provide information on their behalf.
- 6.5 Cabinet Members and senior officers attending formal meetings of scrutiny bodies shall strive to provide full answers to questions that are put to them. Where this is not possible due to the necessary information not being accessible at the meeting, a written answer will be provided within 7 working days of the date of the meeting. To better meet requests for information, members of the Committee

and its Panels will seek to provide advance notice of questions so that Cabinet Members and senior officers may prepare for their participation in the meeting.

### **7 RESPONDING TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Overview and Scrutiny may make recommendations to the Cabinet or any other public service providers. Recommendations to Cabinet shall be introduced by either the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the relevant Scrutiny Panel. They shall be responded to by the appropriate body within two months of their receipt. Responses shall be circulated to Members of the relevant scrutiny body before the Cabinet meeting to approve the response. Where recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny are not accepted by Cabinet, an explanation will be given of the reasons why. Where a response is requested from NHS funded bodies, the response shall be made within 28 days.

### **8 THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

- 8.1 Overview and Scrutiny will agree its own annual work programme and keep it under review over the course of a municipal year. It will have regard to corporate and strategic priorities and consult widely to inform the focus for scrutiny activity.
- 8.2 The Council's Democratic Services Team shall coordinate the development of the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny, covering the work of the Committee and of the Scrutiny Panels. The development process for this should include engagement with Members, Cabinet, senior officers, partners, voluntary and community organisations and residents, with specific opportunities provided for each of them to submit suggestions. Whilst safeguarding the independence of the scrutiny process, the Committee shall have regard to all such suggestions when they decide their work programme.
- 8.3 Decision makers should seek to involve scrutiny in the development of new policy at an early stage when proposals are being developed so that account can be taken of it when developing its work plan.
- 8.4 As part of the development of the work programme, the Committee will determine how external partners and public service providers shall be scrutinised and engage with key personnel to build the necessary relationships and awareness for this purpose.
- 8.5 The scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities, including:
- Holding the Executive to account;
  - Policy review and development;
  - Performance management;
  - External scrutiny; and
  - Public and community engagement.
- 8.6 The work programme should;
- Reflect local needs and priorities. Issues should be of community concern as well as Borough Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities;
  - Prioritise issues that have most impact or benefit to residents;
  - Involve local stakeholders; and
  - Be flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.
- 8.7 Scrutiny work will be carried out in a variety of ways and use whatever format that is best suited to the issue being considered. This can include a variety of "one-off" reports as well as in-depth scrutiny

review projects that provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate a topic and recommend improvements.

- 8.8 In deciding its work programme, the Committee shall be mindful of the need to achieve meaningful outcomes by ensuring that plans are deliverable within the timescale set and with the resources available.
- 8.9 A template shall be maintained and shared by the Democratic Services Team to provide criteria to assist with the preparation and updating of the work programme. The Team also will assist the Committee and its Panels in tracking their decisions and requesting updates on progress from time to time, following which the Chair and officer will consider whether such matters need to form an agenda item.
- 8.10 A template shall be maintained for the use of the Chairs and Officers of the OSC and Panels to assist the Cabinet and senior officers in understanding the purpose of scrutiny activity relating to specific topics and to justify requests for information or reports. Agenda planning meetings shall be arranged between Chairs and senior officers ahead of scheduled meetings to ensure clarity on any reports that are requested. A detailed scope, terms of reference and project plan shall also be prepared for each in-depth scrutiny review project prior to it starting. This shall include consideration of resources, timescale for completion and aspired outcomes.

## 9 BUDGET SCRUTINY

- 9.1 The Council's budget shall be scrutinised by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and each of the Scrutiny Panels. The role of the Committee shall be to scrutinise the overall budgetary position and direction of the Council and strategic issues relating to this, whilst each Scrutiny Panel will scrutinise areas that come within their terms of reference. Any individual areas of the budget that are not covered by the Panels shall be considered by the Committee.
- 9.2 A lead Committee member from the largest opposition group shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the Budget Scrutiny process and recommendations made by respective Scrutiny Panels and the Committee relating to the budget.
- 9.3 To allow effective scrutiny of the budget in advance of it formally being set, the following timescale is suggested:
- **Scrutiny Panel Meetings: May to November**  
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive regular budget monitoring reports budget whilst each Scrutiny Panel shall monitor budgets within their respective areas. Between May and November, this shall involve scrutinising progress with the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved at the budget setting full Council meeting in February.
  - **Scrutiny Panel Meetings: December/January**  
Each Scrutiny Panel shall hold a meeting following the release of the December Cabinet report on the new MTFS. The Committee will also meet to consider proposals relating to any areas within the MTFS that are not covered by individual scrutiny panels. Each Panel and the Committee shall consider the proposals in this report for their respective areas, in addition to their budget scrutiny already carried out. Relevant Cabinet Members will be expected to attend these meetings to answer questions relating to proposals affecting their portfolios as well as senior service officers.



Scrutiny Panels and the Committee may also request that the Cabinet Member for Finance and/or senior officers attend these meetings to answer questions.

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting: January**

The Committee will consider and make recommendations on the overall budgetary position and direction of the Council and the MTFS. Each Scrutiny Panel and the Committee shall also submit their final budget scrutiny report to the meeting for ratification, containing their recommendations/proposals in respect of the budget for the areas within their terms of reference.

- **Cabinet Meeting: February**

The recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny process that have been approved by the Committee shall be referred to the Cabinet. As part of the budget setting process, the Cabinet will clearly set out its response to the recommendations/proposals.

## 10 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- 10.1 Legislation and the Council's own Standing Orders provide for all Members to have access to information based upon their membership of Committees and on a need to know basis.
- 10.2 For Overview and Scrutiny to be effective, it needs access to relevant information and in a timely manner. In particular, it is imperative that it has the information necessary to provide effective challenge about the provision, quality and resourcing of services. It has a legal right to information and this includes enhanced power to access exempt or confidential information. This is in addition to existing rights that Councillors have to access information.
- 10.3 Overview and Scrutiny Members need access to key information about the management of the Council, particularly on performance, management, funding and risk. Members should also be given the support necessary to ensure that they understand such information. In seeking this information, they should be mindful of the capacity of the Council to resource activity and the value and outcomes likely to be gained through it.
- 10.4 Overview and Scrutiny should not rely purely on those who are directly responsible for services for information and should seek to supplement the evidence at its disposal from within the Council from other sources, including service users, other residents and partners.
- 10.5 A template shall be maintained for the use of the Chairs and Officers of the OSC and Panels to explain the basis for the request for information and to detail the information that is required and the purpose to which it will be put. Requests will be responded to positively and in a timely manner. To ensure that the information provided is relevant, officers should ensure that they have a clear understanding of the reasons why information is needed by seeking clarification if necessary.
- 10.6 It is recognised that there may be rare occasions when it may be legitimate for information to be withheld and a written statement setting out the reasons for this will be provided to the OSC and its lead officer should this occur. Cabinet Members and senior officers will nevertheless seek to avoid refusing requests or limiting the information they provide. Before a decision exceptionally is made not to share information, serious consideration will be given to whether the information can instead be shared in closed session and the reason for this stated.
- 10.7 Where a Cabinet Member or senior officer determine that information requested by the OSC should be withheld, the OSC may refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer for adjudication if it wishes to

challenge the decision. In considering the matter, the Monitoring Officer should have regard to the legitimacy of Overview and Scrutiny, the reason(s) given for withholding the information and the value to the Council and residents of scrutiny activity on this matter.

### **11 TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS**

- 11.1 One of the key roles of Overview and Scrutiny is to promote transparency and openness. The presumption therefore will be that its meetings will take place in public and the need to hold closed sessions will be avoided. Meetings that take place as part of the evidence gathering process for in-depth scrutiny reviews will also take place in public.
- 11.2 However, it is accepted that there will be limited occasions when it will be appropriate to meet in closed session because of the nature of the business or the position of the witness giving evidence. Evidence gathering activities may therefore take place outside of formal meetings if necessary or appropriate.
- 11.3 The status of meetings in terms of public or closed sessions, recording and documentation should be made clear in advance to all individuals attending to provide evidence.

### **12 OFFICER ADVICE**

- 12.1 The Code of Conduct for Officers is clear that all Members are entitled to receive impartial advice and have access to information by virtue of their membership of committees and on a need-to-know basis.
- 12.2 There is therefore an expectation that all Senior Officers will provide impartial advice to scrutiny bodies as and when required. The Statutory Scrutiny Officer and the Monitoring Officer have particular roles in ensuring that timely, relevant and high quality advice is provided.
- 12.3 There is a specific statutory requirement for the Council to designate a Statutory Scrutiny Officer. The role of this officer is:
- To promote the role of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee(s);
  - To provide support to the authority's overview and scrutiny function and to local Councillors;
  - To provide guidance to members and officers of the council in relation to overview and scrutiny's functions.
- 12.4 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer cannot be the Council's Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer.
- 12.5 The Monitoring Officer has three principal responsibilities:
- To report on matters they believe are, or may be, illegal or amount of maladministration;
  - To be responsible for the conduct of councillors and officers; and
  - To be responsible for the operation, review and updating of the constitution.
- 12.6 Where there are disagreements about Overview and Scrutiny's powers, role and remit, the role of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer will be to advocate on behalf of it and protect its independence. The role of the Monitoring Officer will be to adjudicate on such matters and, if need be, report to Full Council on any issues that may need addressing.

## **APPENDIX C: Draft Overview & Scrutiny Remits and Membership 2025/26**

<b>Scrutiny Body</b>	<b>Areas of Responsibility</b>	<b>Cabinet Links</b>
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>  Cllr Matt White (Chair), Cllr Pippa Connor (Vice Chair), Cllr Makbule Gunes, Cllr Anna Lawton, Cllr Adam Small  The Committee shall also include statutory education representatives, at meetings on education matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Deal: coproduction, codesign, participation and local democracy</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Corporate governance, performance, policy and strategy</li> <li>• External partnerships</li> </ul>	Cllr Peray Ahmet Leader of the Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council finances, budget and MTFS</li> <li>• Participatory budgeting</li> <li>• Community wealth-building:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement policies, frameworks and systems</li> <li>• Insourcing policy and delivery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Capital strategy</li> <li>• Council Tax policy</li> <li>• HR, staff wellbeing and corporate recruitment</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• IT and digital transformation</li> <li>• Data policy and reform</li> <li>• Information management</li> <li>• Elections</li> <li>• Emergency planning</li> </ul>	Cllr Dana Carlin Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs and skills</li> <li>• Local business</li> <li>• Town centres and high streets</li> <li>• Local economic growth</li> </ul>	Cllr Ruth Gordon Cabinet Member for Placemaking and Local Economy

Scrutiny Body	Areas of Responsibility	Cabinet Links
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local welfare</li> <li>Resident Experience</li> </ul>	Cllr Seema Chandwani Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality
	Cross cutting, significant or high profile issues; Matters outside the remit of individual panels	To be determined according to issue
<b>Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny Panel</b>  Cllrs Connor (Chair), Cllr Felicia Opoku; Cllr Sheila Peacock; Cllr Thay Iyngkaran; Cllr Cathy Brennan; Cllr Mary Mason; Cllr Sean O'Donovan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult social care</li> <li>Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)</li> <li>Mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>Refugee and migrant wellbeing</li> <li>Public Health</li> <li>Safeguarding adults</li> <li>Transitions (Joint with Cabinet Member for Children, Schools &amp; Families).</li> </ul>	Cllr Lucia das Neves Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-Being
<b>Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Panel</b>  Cllr Anna Lawton (Chair), Cllr Marsha Isilar-Gosling; Cllr Mark Grosskopf; Cllr George Dunstall; Cllr Kaushika Amin; Cllr Anna Abela; Cllr Ruairidh Paton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption and fostering</li> <li>Early help</li> <li>Early years and childcare</li> <li>Looked after children and care leavers</li> <li>Unaccompanied minors</li> <li>Safeguarding children</li> <li>Schools and education</li> <li>Services for children with disabilities and additional needs</li> <li>16-19 education</li> <li>Youth services</li> <li>Transitions</li> <li>Youth justice (Joint with Cabinet Member for Communities)</li> <li>breakfast clubs</li> <li>Free School Meals</li> </ul>	Cllr Zena Brabazon Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

Scrutiny Body	Areas of Responsibility	Cabinet Links
<b>Culture, Community Safety &amp; Environment Scrutiny Panel.</b>  Cllr Makbule Gunes (Chair); Cllr Luke Cawley Harrison, Cllr Liam Carroll; Cllr Eldridge Culverwell; Cllr George Dunstall; Cllr Sue Jameson; Cllr Mark Grosskopf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Unit</li> <li>• Strategic Transport</li> <li>• Air pollution</li> <li>• Liveable Neighbourhoods &amp; School and Play Streets</li> <li>• Urban Greening and biodiversity</li> <li>• Local renewable energy</li> <li>• Sustainability and decarbonisation</li> <li>• Circular Economy</li> <li>• Vision Zero (Joint with Cabinet Member for Resident Services &amp; Tackling Inequality)</li> </ul>	Cllr Mike Hakata Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment & Transport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management and Recycling</li> <li>• Fly-tipping and Waste Enforcement</li> <li>• Highways</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	Cllr Seema Chandwani Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime prevention and reduction</li> <li>• Anti-Social Behaviour</li> <li>• Community cohesion and inclusion</li> <li>• Licensing and regulatory services</li> <li>• Active citizenship and Voluntary &amp; Community Sector</li> <li>• Local food strategy</li> </ul>	Cllr Ajda Ovat Cabinet Member for Communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts &amp; Culture</li> <li>• Delivery of Borough of Culture</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Parks and Green Spaces</li> <li>• Sports and Leisure</li> </ul>	Cllr Emily Arkell Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

Scrutiny Body	Areas of Responsibility	Cabinet Links
<b>Housing, Planning &amp; Development Scrutiny Panel</b>  Cllr Adam Small (Chair); Cllr Dawn Barnes; Cllr John Bevan; Cllr Isidoros Diakides; Cllr Holly Harrison-Mullane; Cllr Lester Buxton; Cllr Khaled Moyeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Strategy and Development</li> <li>• Council housebuilding</li> <li>• Council housing services</li> <li>• Housing Major Works</li> <li>• Housing associations</li> <li>• Private sector housing</li> <li>• Housing needs</li> <li>• Homelessness and rough sleeping</li> <li>• Planning policy and enforcement (inc Local Plan)</li> <li>• Housing Improvement Board</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Williams Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning (Deputy Leader)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placemaking</li> <li>• Council assets</li> <li>• Estate Renewal</li> </ul>	Cllr Ruth Gordon Cabinet Member for Placemaking & Local Economy
If there is any overlap between the business of the Panels, it is the responsibility of the OSC to resolve the issue. Areas which are not covered by the 4 standing Scrutiny Panels shall be the responsibility of the main OSC.		

**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel 2025

**Title:** Appointment Co-opted Members on to Children's Scrutiny Panel

**Report authorised by:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Lead Officer:** Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
[philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/ Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The report seeks to notify the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the appointment of one non – voting co-opted member and two Statutory Education Co-optees (voting) to the Panel. The appointment of the co-optees was taken by Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

To note that:

- 3.1 Amanda Bernard is appointed to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as a non voting co-opted member for the municipal year 2025/2026.
- 3.2 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon are appointed as voting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, participating at meetings when educational matters are being considered.
- 3.3 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon are appointed to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel, as voting co-opted members, which has responsibility for considering educational matters

**4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 As required by the Council's Constitution.

**5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 No alternative options

**6. Background information**

- 6.1 In relation to scrutiny, the Local Government Act 2000 made provision for the co-option of non-elected members to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to bring additional expertise and skills to scrutiny work and to increase public engagement with scrutiny.
- 6.2 The Panels can appoint up to 3 non- voting members and nominations can come forward from established community groups or be individuals that provide additional expertise and skills.
- 6.3 Under the LGA 2000, councils can appoint two but not more than five parent governor representatives to each of their education overview and scrutiny committees. Haringey has decided that there should be two Parent Governor representatives appointed to its scrutiny committees and this is reflected under Paragraph 4.1 of Part 4, Section G of the Council's constitution: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panel whose terms of reference relate to education functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, shall include in its membership the following representatives:
- (i) At least one Church of England diocesan representative (voting).
  - (ii) At least one Roman Catholic diocesan representative (voting).
  - (iii) 2 parent governor representatives (voting).
- 6.4 Voting representatives will be entitled to attend a meeting and vote where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Scrutiny Review Panel is considering matters that relate to relevant education functions. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel is dealing with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those matters though they may stay in the meeting and speak at the discretion of the Chair.
- 6.5 The statutory education co-optees will also be invited to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings, when it is considering an agenda item relating to education matters as set out at paragraph 4.2 and will be provided with support and briefings to participate in these meetings when required by Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team. They will attend the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel which has responsibility for educational matters
- 6.6 The Standards Committee considered and agreed an updated protocol on non voting co-opted member appointments at their meeting in March 2025. This was in accordance with their responsibilities for maintaining high standards of conduct and considering amendments to the Constitution and recommending proposals to full Council for approval. The updated protocol is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 6.7 By bringing expertise and adding a different perspective to the business of the panel, co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:
- To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to bring an element of external challenge by representing maintained schools.



- To act in a non party political manner
- To establish good relations with members, officers and co-optees.
- To abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution in terms of the rules and procedures for Overview and Scrutiny.

6.8 It is expected that co-optees will:

- Attend formal meetings of the Panel, which are usually held in the evening.
- Attend additional meetings and evidence gathering sessions such as site visits.
- Prepare for meetings by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise themselves with the issues being scrutinised.
- Prior to meetings consider questions they may wish to put to Cabinet Members, officers and external witnesses.
- Help the Panel to make practical suggestions for improvements to services.
- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations.
- Contribute to the development of the annual work programme.
- Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.

## **7 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)**

### **Finance**

7.1 There is no payments for non - voting co-opted members and no financial implications.

### **Legal**

7.2 The Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Section 9FA Local Government Act 2000 provides that an Overview and Scrutiny committee of a local council may include persons who are not members of the Council. Part 4 Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's Consitution, applies.

### **Equality**

7.3 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

7.4 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

7.5 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

## **8 Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Non – Voting Member Protocol.

## **9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel - 14 July 2025

**Title:** Children's Social Care Performance Q1 to June 2025

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

**Lead Officer:** Richard Hutton, [Richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to Children Looked After (CLA), children on Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Children in Need (CIN).
- 1.2 Appendix i contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent and duties under section 17 of the Children Act.
- 1.3 The report covers the fourth quarter of the year 2024/25 with updates for April and May 2025 where appropriate.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Members note the performance data as set out in Appendix i.

**4. Reasons for decision**

N/A

**5. Alternative options considered**

N/A

**6. Background information**

N/A

**7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2026 High level Strategic outcomes?**

N/A

**8. Carbon and Climate Change**

N/A

**9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance ( procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

N/A

**10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix I - Progress against key Performance indicators for Children Looked After (CLA)

**11. Background papers**

N/A

# Appendix i

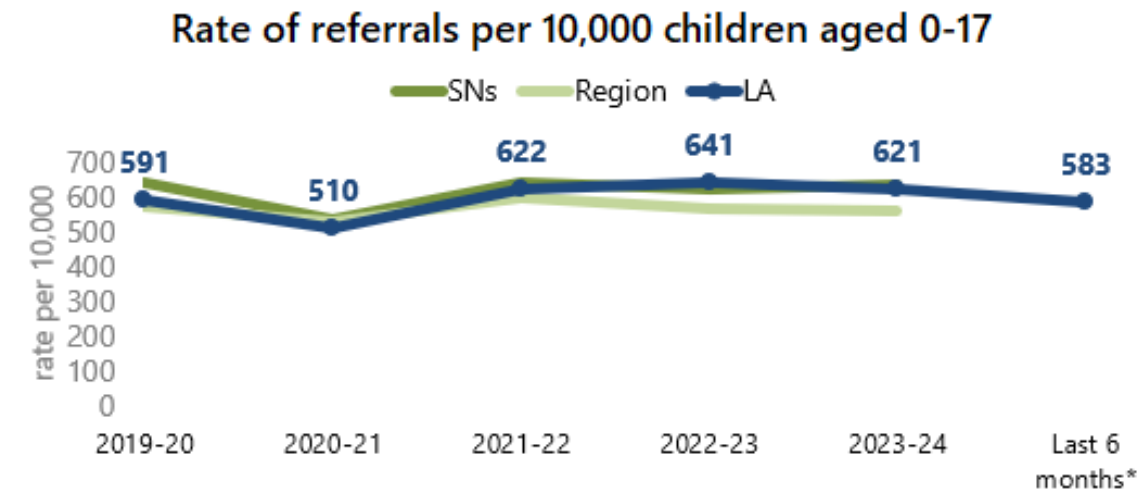


## Children's Social Care Performance to June 2025

# MASH

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub,

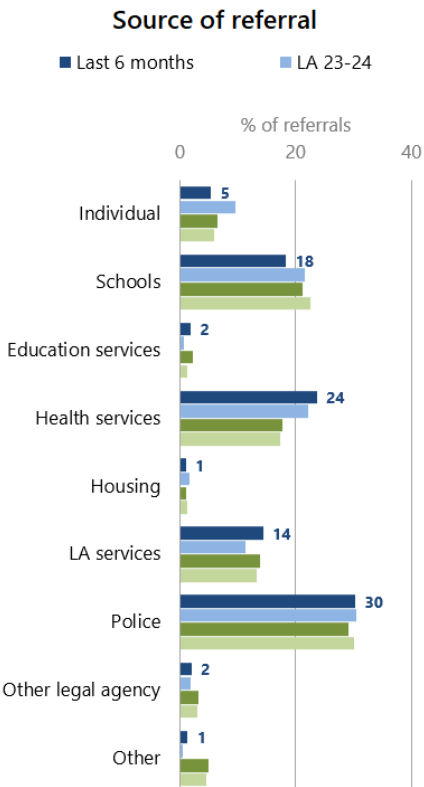
With 1,561 referrals in the past six months, the rate of referrals through MASH to the children’s social care service is lower than in the past 4 years.



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

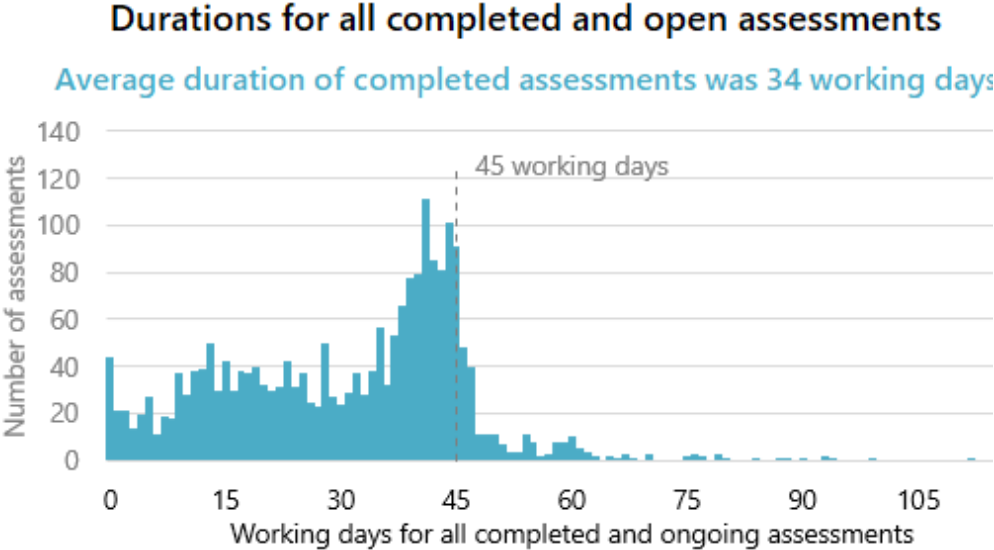


In line with our statistical neighbours and national rates the largest source of referrals to social care is the Police.



# CiN

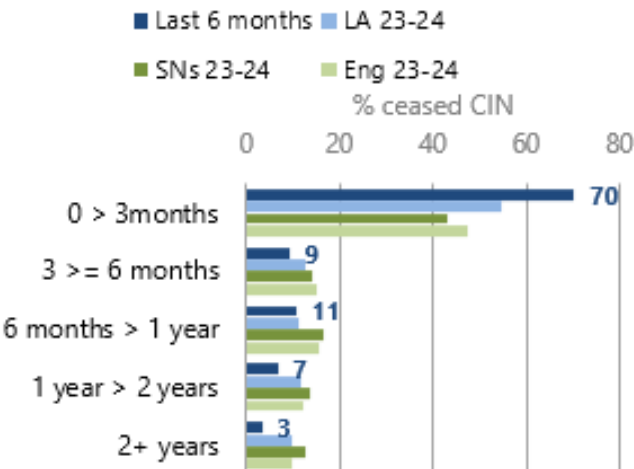
## Child in Need plans



87% of Child and Family assessments were completed in the 45 working day timeframe in the past two quarters. Which is higher than the national and London averages.

In Haringey, as with our Statistical Neighbours (SN) and LAs nationally, most CIN plans (70%) last less than 3 months.

**Comparing CIN ceased durations**

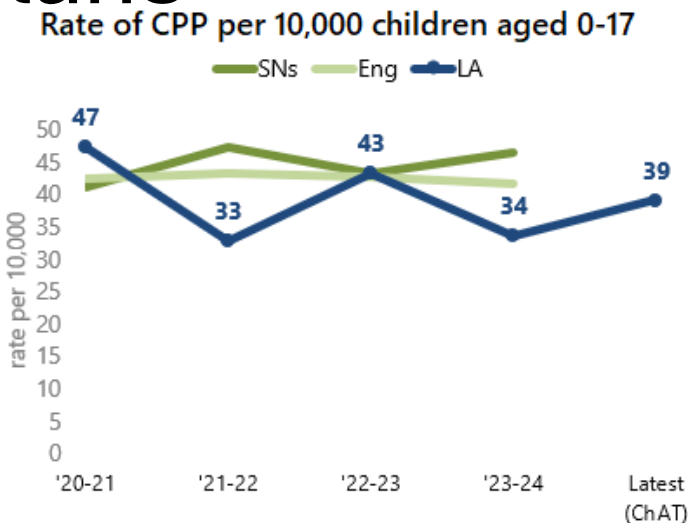
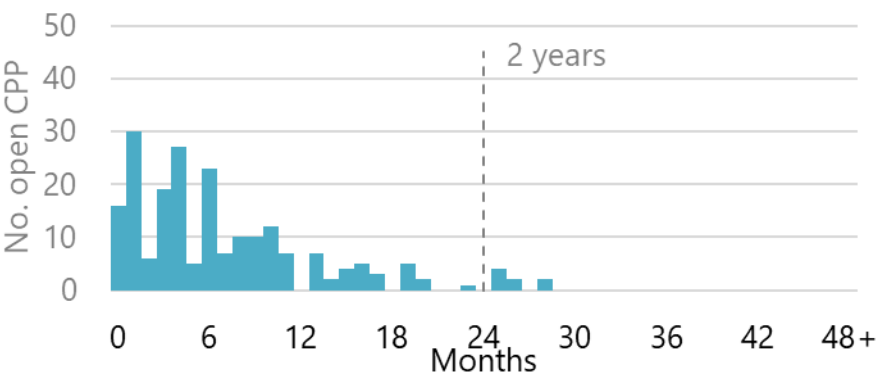


# CPP

## Child Protection Plans

The current rate of 39 (209 children) on child protection plans is in line with the national average.

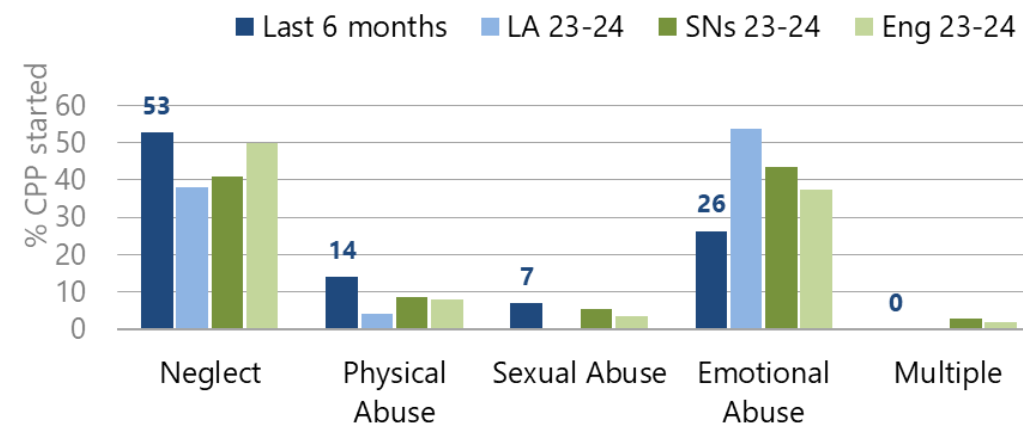
Most are open for less than 6 months



### CPP Initial category of abuse

Neglect has increased to replace Emotional Abuse as the main reason in the past 6 months.

The small number starting plans means these figures can be volatile



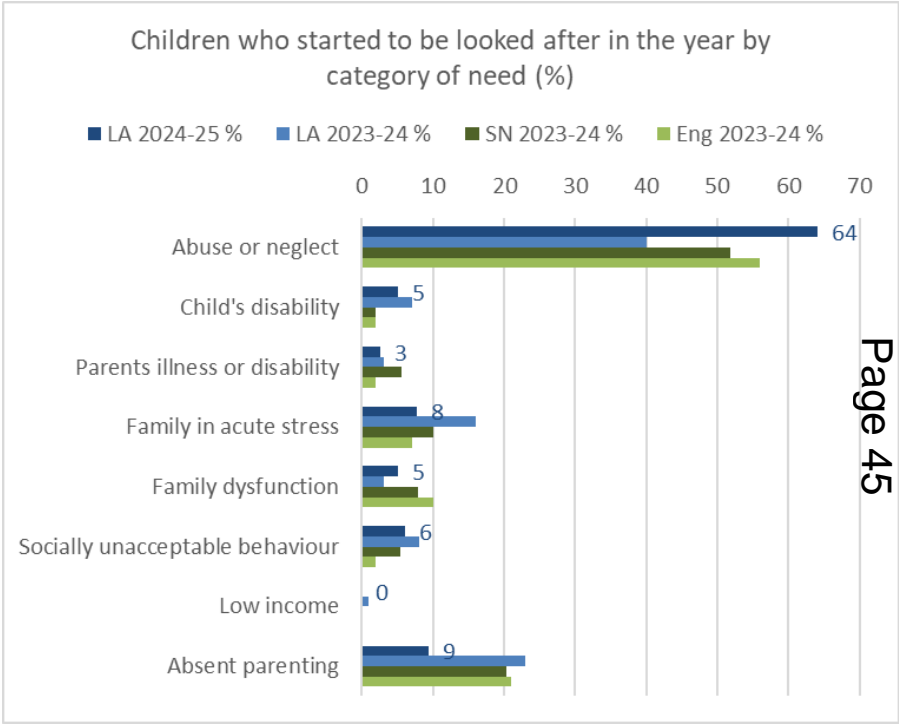
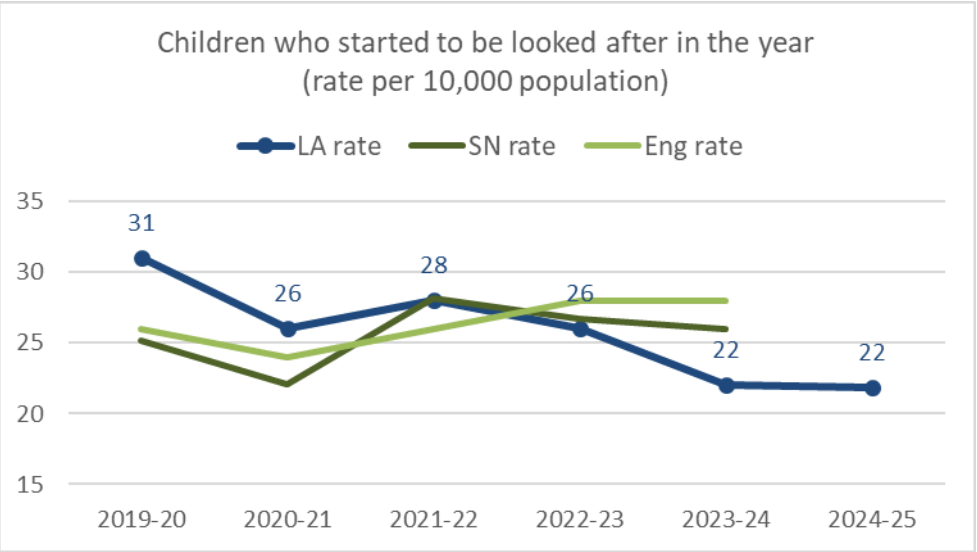


# CLA

## Children starting to be looked after

117 children started to be looked after in 2024/25, similar number to the previous year, the largest proportion were aged over 16.

	England	SNs	London	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Under 1	16%	13%	12%	24.0%	13.0%	15.4%
1 to 4	15%	11%	11%	7.0%	11.0%	12.8%
5 to 9	15%	12%	12%	9.0%	14.0%	8.5%
10 to 15	26%	30%	30%	26.0%	22.0%	27.4%
16 and over	29%	35%	34%	34.0%	40.0%	35.9%



Family in acute stress and absent parenting have fallen as a reason **for starting to be looked after**. Abuse or Neglect continue to be the largest single reason.

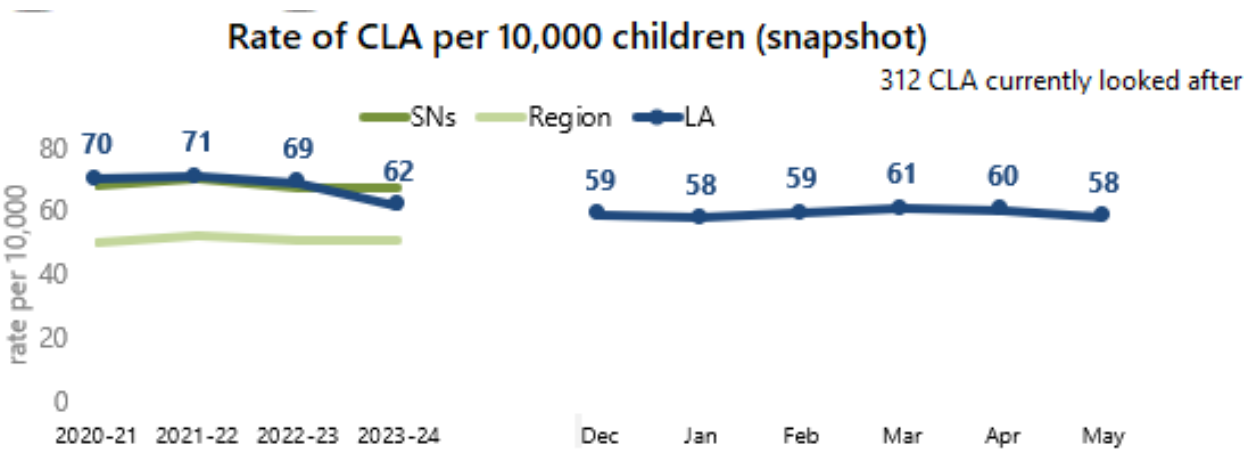
# CLA

## Children looked after



The number of CLA continued to fall in 2024/25 to 325 as of March.

Of the 312 children looked after as at the end of May, 41 are aged 3 or under (19 fewer than in March 2022).  
Five of these are placed with parents or family & friends, and one with potential adoptive parents.



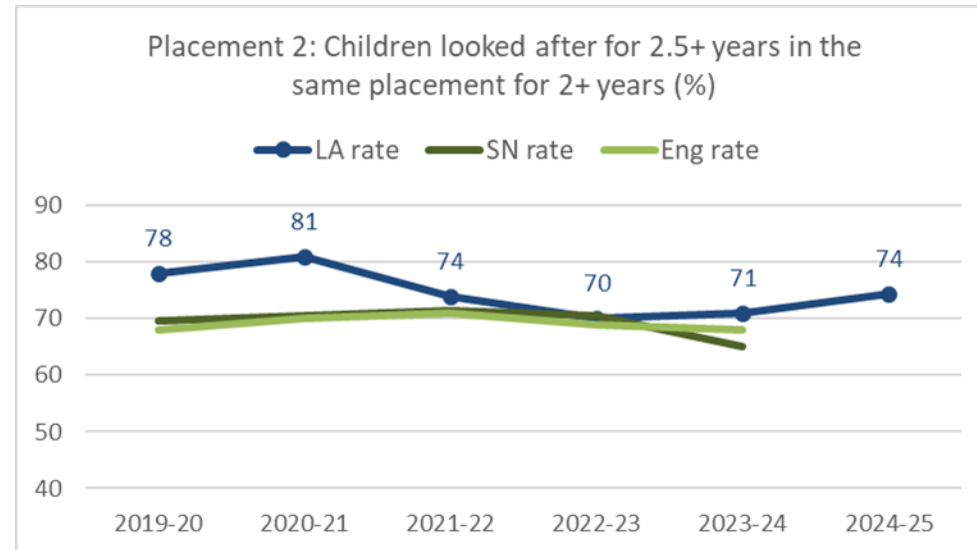
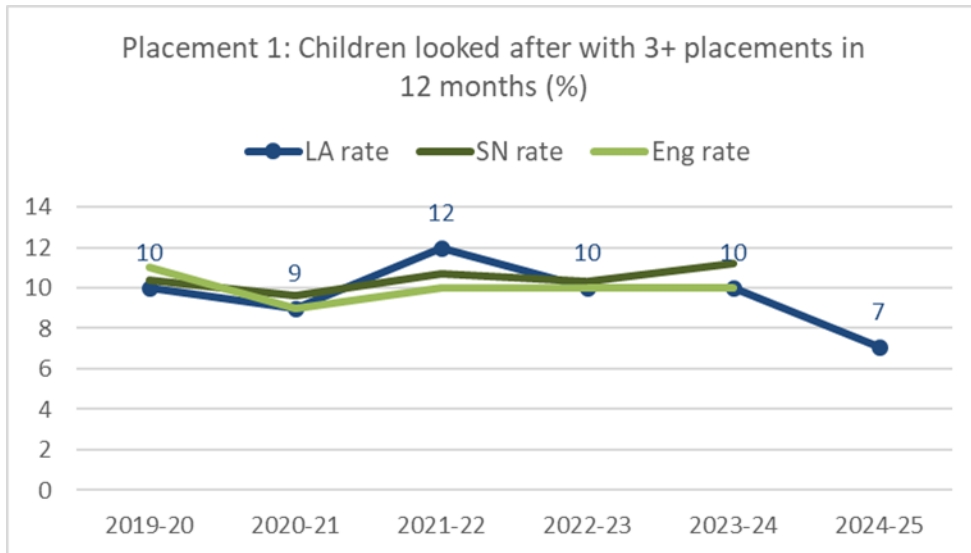
	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	May 2025
All CLA	387	372	334	325	312
Aged 3 or Under	60	54	40	41	41

# CLA

## Stability of placements



Placement stability is measured as: short term, number of placements in 12 months where a low outcome is generally better; and long term, those in the same placement for over 2 ½ years where a higher percentage is better.

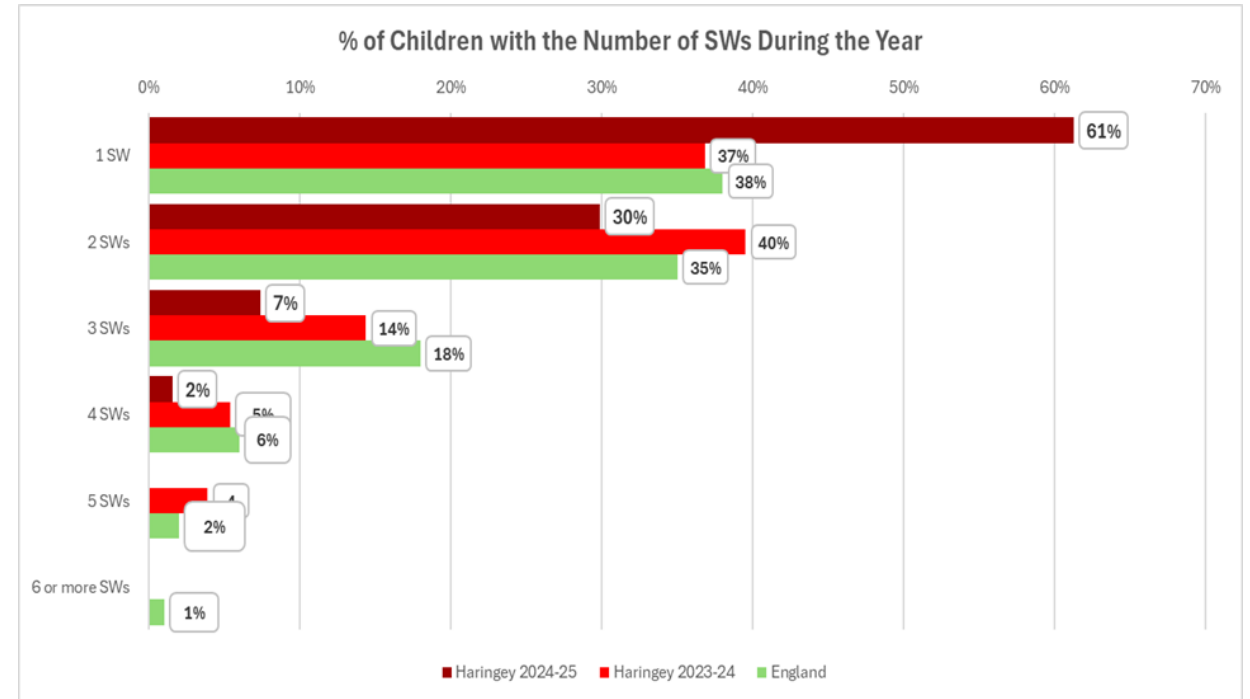
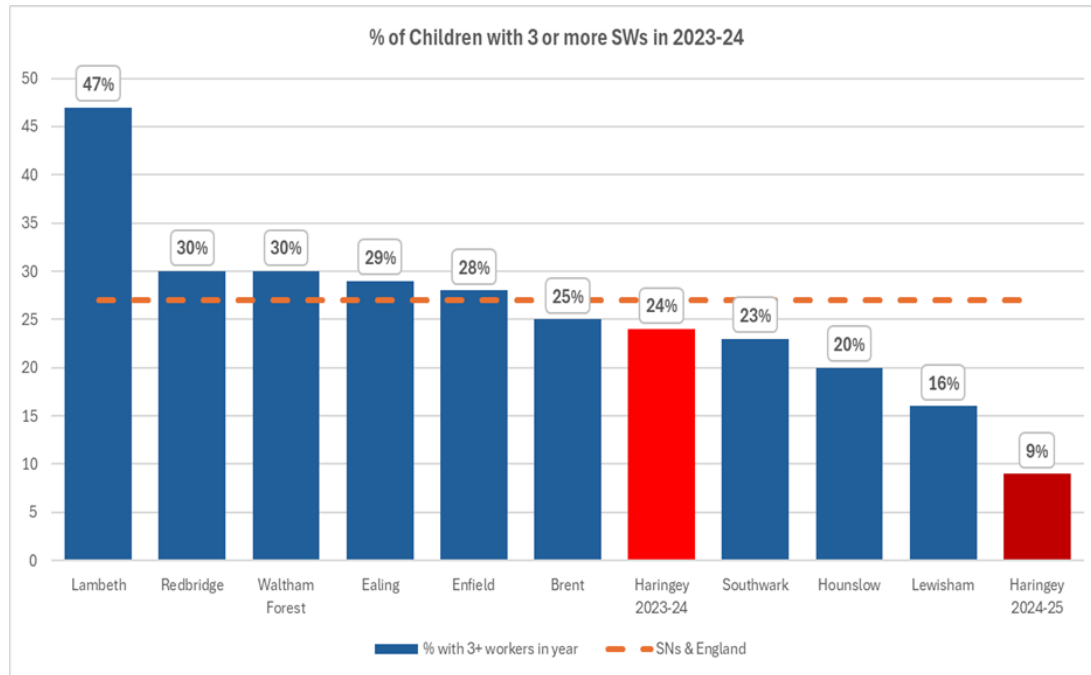


Even starting from a good place we are showing a further improvement against both indicators

# CLA

## Stability of Social workers

The number of changes of social worker for our CLA decreased last year, giving a very stable position, both when compared with our statistical neighbours and nationally.

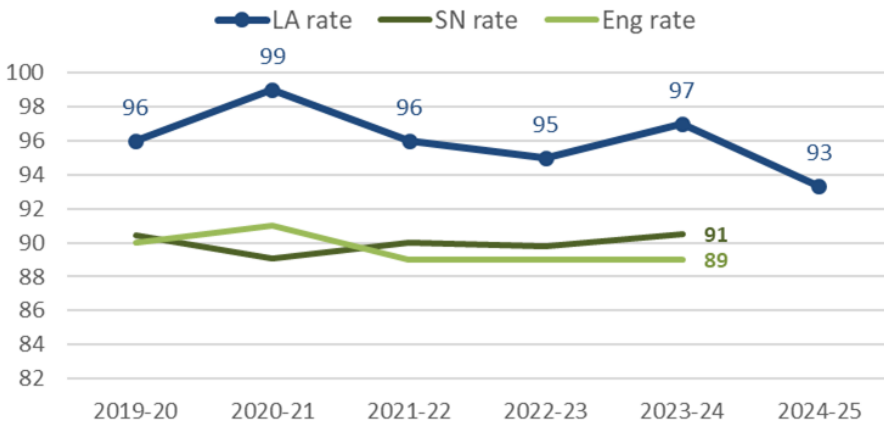


# CLA

## Health and dental checks



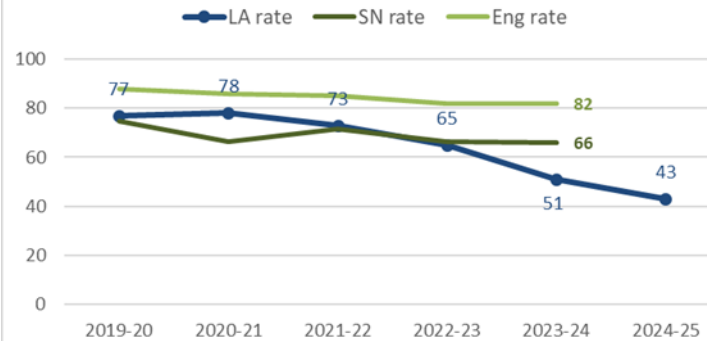
CLA who had their annual health assessment (%)



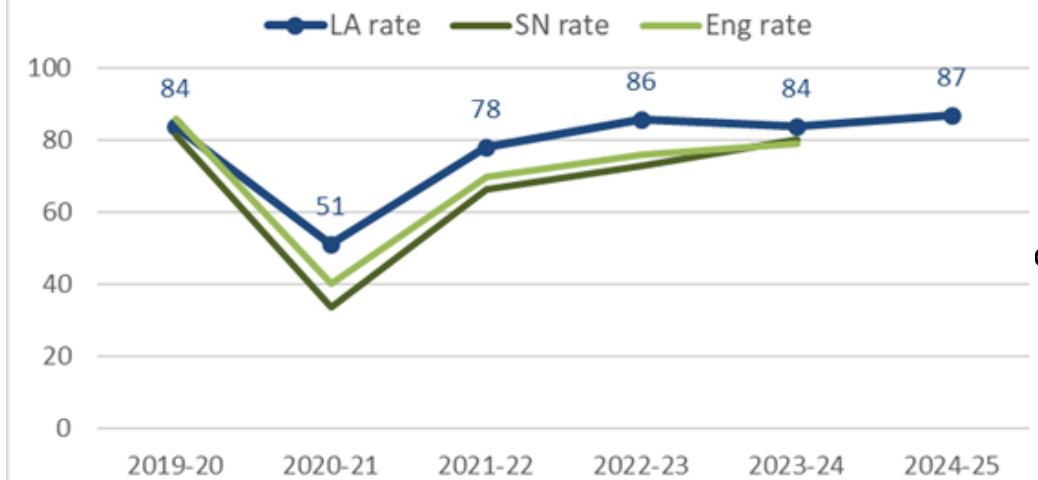
Health assessments (93%) are down but still compare favourably to both SNs and England rates.

Children with up-to-date immunisation reduced further from 51% to 43%, which is below both SNs and England.

CLA whose immunisations were up to date (%)



CLA who had their teeth checked by a dentist (%)



At the end of March 2025, dental checks were at 87%, higher than before the pandemic.

# Care Leavers

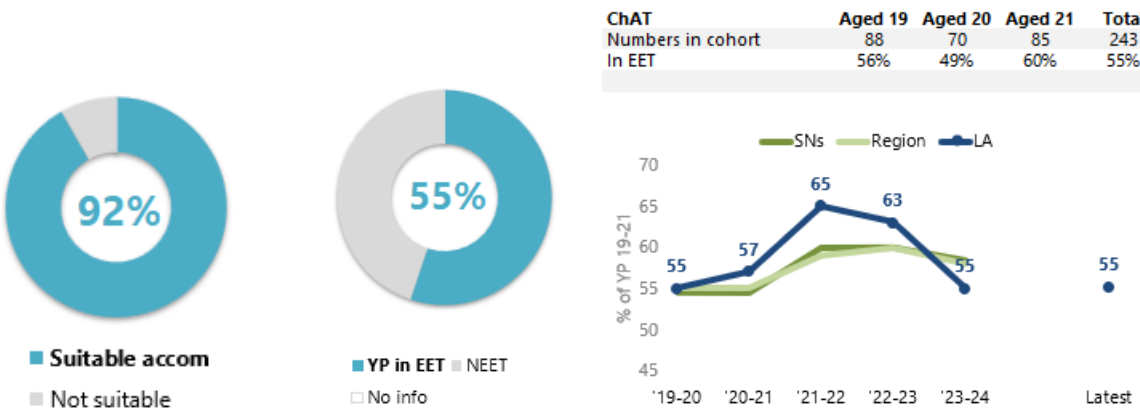


There are now 666 care leavers in receipt of, or eligible for leaving care services. In line with Ofsted definitions, the figure includes young people who are:

		Total
Eligible	Age 16 or 17 Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) Currently looked after	89
Relevant	Age 16 or 17 Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) Looked after on or after their 16th birthday No longer looked after	9
Former Relevant	Aged between 18 and 25 Previously an eligible or relevant child (see above definitions)	558
Qualifying	Aged between 16 and 21 (or 25 if in education) Looked after on or after their 16th birthday Not looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 or privately fostered after the age of 16 but before the age of 18 or were looked after prior to becoming subject to a SGO	10

As of the end of May we were classed as in touch with 100% of our 17-18year old care levers and 99% of the 19-21 year olds

19-21 year olds Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)



55% of 19-21 care leavers in EET is broadly in line with national and local competitors

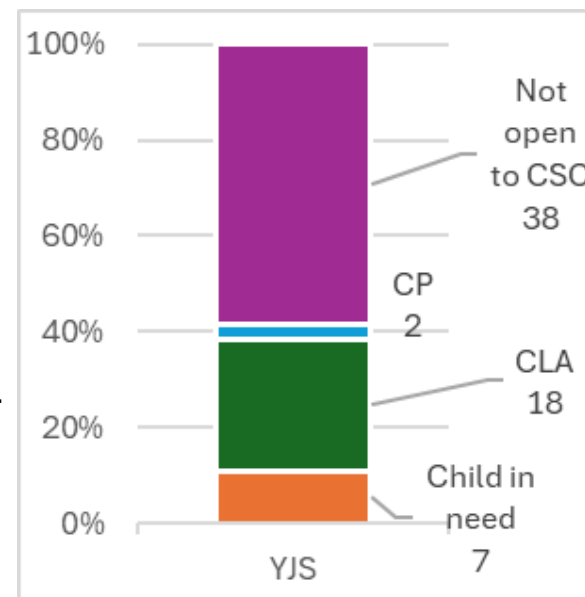
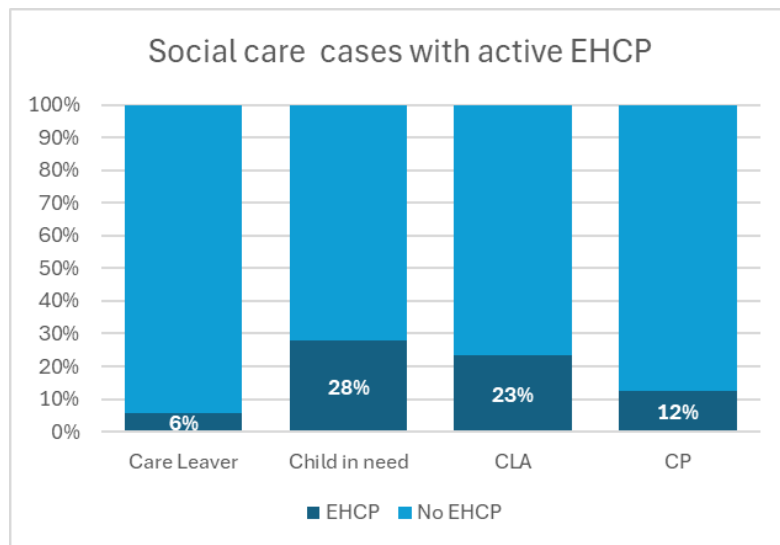
# ECHP & Youth Justice

## Youth Justice Service

As of the end of May 2025 there were 65 Active Young People on Caseload, this compares to 77 at the end of March 2023.

Of the 65:

- 28% of the current cohort are Children Looked After
- 11% are currently Children in Need
- 3% have an active Child Protection Plan



**Haringey**  
LONDON

## Education Health Care plans (EHCPs).

In 2024 the service received 590 requests for new plans, in the first 5 months of 2025 they received 263 requests. 369 were issued last year and 162 in the first 5 months of 2025 with 86% within timescale when excluding exceptional cases.

- 23% of CLA
- 28% of current CIN cases have an EHCP
- 12% of CPP

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**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel - 14 July 2025

**Title:** Private Fostering Annual Report 2024/25

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

**Lead Officer:** Sandy Bansil

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The report provides an oversight of the activity in 2024/25 in regard to private fostering.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**  
N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Members note the contents of the report

**4. Reasons for decision**

N/A

**5. Alternative options considered**

N/A

**6. Background information**

- 6.1 Following the Laming Report (2003), regulations relating to Private Fostering were amended and strengthened by Section (44) of the Children Act (2004). The following year two further documents were published: The National Minimum Standards (NMS) (2005) and the (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulation (2005), which clearly set out the role of the Local Authority, the Parent and the Private Foster carer and related professionals.
- 6.2 Under Standard (7.9) of the National Minimum Standards for private fostering, local authorities are expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including to provide a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately

fostered children within its area. (Supporting Criteria 7.9 NMS for Private Fostering).

- 6.3 Section (7.10) the National Minimum Standards requires local authorities to report annually to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board about how it satisfies itself that the health of privately fostered children in its area is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted including how the local authority cooperates with other agencies to do this.

**7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2026 High level Strategic outcomes?**

N/A

**8. Carbon and Climate Change**

N/A

**9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

N/A

**10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Annual report 2024/25

**11. Background papers**

N/A

Appendix 1

## Haringey Private Fostering Annual Report

*1st April 2024- 31st March 2025*



## Introduction

Haringey Fostering Service is committed to supporting the upbringing of children within their families of origin, wherever possible.

While Haringey Fostering Service fully discharges its responsibilities in respect of private fostering, it seeks to do so in a way that is supportive of children, young people, parents, and carers.

Haringey Fostering Service does not intend to make judgements about or interfere in the arrangements that parents make for the care of their children, except where this is necessary to safeguard the welfare of privately fostered children.

We will work together with children, young people, parents, and carers to ensure that:

- Children and young people are provided with high quality care that meets their needs
- Private foster carers are provided with support and training to help them to provide high quality care
- Birth parents feel able to seek help and guidance from Haringey Fostering Service.

Haringey Fostering Service recognises that privately fostered children are a diverse and potentially vulnerable group.

Our aim is to get it right for privately fostered children in Haringey and create a supportive culture where birth parents, others with parental responsibility, and carers feel comfortable in notifying Haringey Fostering Service of private fostering arrangements.

The National Minimum Standards for private fostering apply to Local Authorities.

Haringey Fostering Service has three functions in relation to Private Fostering:

1. To raise public and professional awareness about private fostering and the legal requirement to notify Haringey Children's Social Care/ Fostering Service about any actual or planned private fostering arrangements.
2. To respond to any private fostering notifications, assess the arrangements and to provide support to the children or young people and adults involved.
3. To promote the information advice and support that are available to: privately fostered children and young people; private foster carers and prospective private foster carers; parents and those with parental responsibility.

## Background information

Following the Laming Report (2003), regulations relating to Private Fostering were amended and strengthened by Section (44) of the Children Act (2004). The following year

two further documents were published: The National Minimum Standards (NMS) (2005) and the (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulation (2005), which clearly set out the role of the Local Authority, the Parent and the Private Foster carer and related professionals.

Under Standard (7.9) of the National Minimum Standards for private fostering, local authorities are expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including to provide a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area. (Supporting Criteria 7.9 NMS for Private Fostering).

Section (7.10) the National Minimum Standards requires local authorities to report annually to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board about how it satisfies itself that the health of privately fostered children in its area is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted including how the local authority cooperates with other agencies to do this.

### **Legal framework and relevant standards**

A privately fostered child is defined as 'a child who is under the age of 16, or 18 if the child has a disability, and is placed for 28 consecutive days or more with an adult who is not a relative.'

A relative in this situation is either a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt. The term relative also extends to include stepparents.

Partners of the mother or father of a child (who are unmarried) would not qualify as a relative, neither would extended family members such as great aunts, great uncles or parent's cousins.

### **Examples of private fostering arrangements**

- Children sent from abroad to stay with another family, usually to improve their English or for educational opportunities.
- Adolescents who, having broken ties with their parents, are staying in short term arrangements with friends or other non-relatives.
- Children living with host families, arranged by language schools or other organisations.
- Children living with members of the extended family, e.g. great aunt.

**The relevant legislative framework in relation to private fostering is outlined below**

- Children Act (1989) Guidance Private Fostering.
- Children Act 2004 (Section 44 amends Section 67 in the 1989 Act)
- The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations (2005).
- National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering.

## **Statutory Expectations**

Children who are privately fostered are amongst the most vulnerable, and the local authority must be notified of these arrangements. The local authority has a duty to assess the private fostering arrangements for the child when there is a notification received, or the local authority becomes aware that a private fostering arrangement already exists.

Under Standard 7 of the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering, the local authority is expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including providing a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area.

Local authorities are required to promote awareness of the requirement to notify and monitor compliance, and to appoint an officer for this purpose. Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) has a duty to raise awareness about private fostering issues in the community and across the partnership.

## **Promoting the Welfare of Privately Fostered Children**

A qualified social worker will undertake an initial visit to the placement within 7 days of the private fostering notification. The social worker must carry out initial checks on all household members including the privately fostered child, notify all relevant agencies of the placement and ensure that necessary links are, or will be, established with other agencies. An assessment report should be completed following the outcome of this.

Having undertaken the initial visit, the social worker will arrange for checks to be completed including, health and school checks, carers suitability declaration, local authority checks for addresses within the last 5 years, health and safety checks on the accommodation, confirmed consent of the arrangement from the person who has legal parental responsibility, DBS checks on the private foster carer(s) and household members over the age of 16 years old and also a reference to be obtained for the private foster carer(s). It may be necessary to undertake further visits to clarify matters.

If the arrangements are assessed as suitable, the social worker should confirm this in a letter to the private foster carer and parents. If the arrangements are unsuitable, it will be necessary to consult a senior manager, who may in turn seek legal advice, with a view to considering initiating prohibiting procedures and to review alternative plans for the child.

## **Monitoring, Support & Advice**

Following the initial visit, the social worker is to complete further visits: at least every 6 weeks in the first year then, at intervals of no more than 12 weeks in subsequent years, if this reduction is assessed as a safe and appropriate to do so.

The social worker should assess during these visits whether the private foster carers are promoting the cultural and ethnic needs of the privately fostered child. The child's overall development and emotional wellbeing should be considered, as should any educational and health issues. After each visit, the Social Worker should prepare a report.

The Social Worker also provides support and advice to the carer and child. This may include liaising with agencies on behalf of child/carer including health, education, and the UK Border agency, assisting them to access services, providing advice and support for example when there is a risk of breakdown of the arrangement, referrals to relevant agencies for additional support, for example CAMHS and/or other specialist services.

### **The End of a Private Fostering Arrangement**

Where notification is received that the private foster placement has ended, the social worker should ascertain the name and address of the person now caring for the child and his or her relationship with the child.

The social worker should notify the health and education agencies (as well as the new local authority where necessary) of the end of the placement in writing.

### **Private Fostering Service in Haringey**

Private fostering arrangements in Haringey are assessed by front line social workers who determine these arrangements in conjunction with their Team Managers and Service Managers, parents and the multi-agency networks around the child.

Following the OFSTED 2023 Inspection, (<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50213624>) it was found that "The identification of and response to children in private fostering arrangements" needs to improve. To address this, the Assistant Director for Safeguarding initiated through the Principal Social Worker a support surgery for practitioners to review cases open to safeguarding where the children were not living with their biological birth parents.

There were 20 surgeries held, and this supported both the practitioners and the carers to better understand pathways to permanency for children and young people. This included identifying potential Private Fostering arrangements. This further supported increased awareness, understanding and knowledge around Private Fostering arrangements within Haringey Children's Social Care.

OFSTED completed a focused visit to Haringey Children's Social Services on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50271681>, which found improvement in several areas for children in care. Although Private Fostering was not specifically mentioned it was noted that "at the last inspection in February 2023, the experiences and progress of children in care were judged to require improvement.

Senior leaders have maintained a focus on service improvement in this area of practice. Tracking and quality assurance systems have enhanced their line of sight to practice and performance. Leaders know their services well, and most importantly, the impact of these services on children and families". This focus within the service has continued.

Haringey Children's Services has a dedicated specialist private fostering Social Worker appointed, who regularly reviews the private fostering arrangements at the point that they are deemed to be residing in a private fostering arrangement.

The private fostering Social Worker is expected to provide monitoring, advice and support to the privately fostered children and carers for the first year of the arrangement through statutory visits every 6 weeks.

The Private Fostering Social Worker is based in the Fostering, Adoption and Special Guardianship Team in Children's Social Care. Children's Cases are overseen by the Team Manager and the Service Manager for Fostering, Adoption and Permanence. Private fostering arrangement assessments are authorised by the relevant Team Manager and or Service Manager.

### **Haringey Private Fostering Notifications 2024-2025**

There were 5 children open under a Private Fostering arrangement during this period. Of the 5 arrangements 1 child was open since 13/12/2021 and involvement ended 16/11/2024 when the child turned 16 years old; 1 child was open since 27/08/2024 and involvement ended when the child turned 16 years old 16/12/2024; and 1 child open since 27/04/2023 remained open until 16/05/2025 when the child turned 16.

In summary, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 there were 5 private fostering arrangements in place, with 2 of those private fostering arrangements ending before 31 March 2025 due to the child turning 16 years old. At the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, Haringey had 3 open Private Fostering cases.

There were 3 notifications of new Private Fostering arrangements received between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The referrals for the other 2 children were received in 2022 and 2023.

Of the 3 notifications, 2 progressed to the private fostering assessment stage. The remaining 1 notification did not progress as the child lived with their cousin for a short period, less than 28 days, then moved to stay with their paternal aunt before returning to the care of their father. No private fostering assessment was required due to the arrangement with the cousin not exceeding 28 days.

Overall:

- 66.66% progress to assessment
- 33.33% did not progress to assessment.

### **Table : Total Number of Private Fostering Arrangements open during 2024-2025**

There was a total of 5 known Private Fostering arrangements during this period in Haringey.



	2024-25	%
8B - Privately fostered: Overseas child who intend to return	1	20.00
8C - Privately fostered: Overseas child who intend to stay	2	40.00
8D - Privately fostered: UK child in educational placements	0	
8E - Privately fostered: UK child making alternative arrangement	2	40.00
8F - Privately fostered: Other	0	

### Notifications not accepted between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025

3 notifications were received for potential Private Fostering assessment, 1 did not progress to a private fostering arrangement assessment.

Reason for not progressing:

- 1- Young Person was living with their father. The father travelled briefly. The child stayed with their cousin less than 28 days, then moved to stay with their paternal aunt before returning to the care of their father.

### Sources of notification for the 3 notifications as of 31 March 2025

3 notifications came from the child's school. The notifications in this period are coming from an appropriate source.

It is anticipated that current and planned development work will build on this. The expectation is that referrals would also be coming from other professionals and organisations such as faith organisations, health professionals, childcare professionals, the police etc.

### The Role of Other Agencies

Those who have day-to-day contact with children and families- especially those in universal health and education services are most likely to identify a private fostering arrangement. Haringey Children's Social Care partners have a duty to notify Haringey Children's Social Care about any private fostering arrangements, to enable it to fulfil its statutory functions (as outlined above).

The responsibility of the other agencies to Haringey Children's Social Care of private fostering arrangements is underpinned by the Replacement of Children Act 1989 Guidance on Private Fostering and the duty to cooperate in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004.

It is essential that all agencies, organisations and workers who encounter children and families:

- Can recognise private fostering arrangements.

- Understand the private fostering notification requirements; and
- Can make a notification to Haringey Children's Social Care.

Partners should ensure that groups of staff have access to information about private fostering and access to relevant training.

For more information about how Haringey Children's Social Care is meeting its duty for increasing awareness of Private Fostering follow this link: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/childrens-social-care/fostering/private-fostering>

Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) has an important role in raising professional awareness of private fostering and the requirements for professionals in partner agencies to notify Haringey Children's Social Care of private fostering arrangements. There is guidance on their website at <https://haringeyscp.org.uk>

On the website, professionals and communities can also download The Haringey Private Fostering App or alternatively search "Haringey Private Fostering" within their App Store. This app has been created as a resource and training tool to help multi-agency professionals and communities develop an understanding of what private fostering is, why it may happen, and their role in identifying and engaging with families caring for a child in a potential private fostering arrangement.

Within Standard 7 of the National Minimum Standards for private fostering, the local authority is required to report annually to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Board on how it satisfies itself that the welfare of privately fostered children in its area is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted, including how it cooperates with other agencies.

### **Raising public and professional awareness during 2024-2025**

Haringey Private Fostering Team will continue to raise public and professional awareness about private fostering and the legal requirement to notify Haringey Children's Social Care/ Fostering Service about any actual or planned private fostering arrangements.

The Private Fostering Social Worker is based in the Fostering, Adoption and Special Guardianship Team in Children's Social Care. This service is the lead on providing specialist advice and support regarding private fostering across Children's Services and to external agencies. Throughout this reporting period, ongoing work has been undertaken to increase awareness and understanding within Haringey Council, borough and with external agencies and key professionals of Private Fostering and how to report a private fostering arrangement.

- Haringey's fostering webpage has been updated to include the Private Fostering link and information. This is located on the Haringey Council website.
- We have our own Private Fostering App which can be accessed via Google Play and the App Store.

- Throughout the reporting period there have been articles in Family Hubs, Haringey Foster Carers, GP and Health professionals Newsletters.
- Digital communication and in person presentation have been utilised to raise awareness with professionals across organisations through Viva Engage with a reach to 1375 staff members.
- Physical presentations have been delivered to nursery staff; Designated Safeguarding Leads and school staff and Multifaith, community groups and GP forums.
- Bi-monthly information sessions are delivered at The Family Hubs, Fostering information sessions, Wood Green Library and North Middlesex Hospital.
- We have also implemented a multi-agency Private Fostering working group to look at further awareness raising activities.
- Technology, media and advertising strategies have been used to increase reach and awareness of Private Fostering. This includes the Private Fostering app, A5 flyers with a QR code to the Private Fostering app, digital screens in Wood Green Library (6 weeks 3 x per year) and across Haringey borough for 6 weeks in August. Articles in Metropolitan Life Magazine (October edition) and Haringey People Extra (January edition).

The Private Fostering Social Worker attends training and briefings on private fostering policy and practice. In addition, the Private Fostering Social Worker attends the Coram BAAF Private Fostering Special Interest Group.

The Private Fostering Social Worker also attends meetings with other local authorities, which is a forum in which to share information and improve policy and practice.

#### **Timescale of initial visit within 7 days of the referral**

Overall, where it has been identified that children are residing within potential private fostering arrangements, visits are being undertaken to see the children in their arrangements within 7 working days. The recording system Liquid Logic (LCS) shows that 3 initial visits for private fostering were completed.

Out of the 3 initial visits recorded 2 took place within 7 days of Haringey Children's Social Care being aware of the child potentially being in a private fostering arrangement. 1 visit was conducted 10 days post notification. The reason for this is the allocated social worker seeking to complete a joint home visit with the private fostering senior social worker. Delay was due to the availability of the private fostering social worker.

#### **Ongoing monitoring and support of Private Fostering arrangements**

There was a total of 5 known Private Fostering arrangements during this reporting period in Haringey.

The Private Fostering Regulations require that all children in a private fostering arrangement are seen at regular intervals which are no more than 6 weeks in the first 12 months. If the arrangement is stable and there are no concerns, then the visiting will be completed no more than 12-weekly.

The visits are appropriately being recorded as Initial Private Fostering visits (Regulation 4 visit), 6 weekly visits and Reg 8 visits (following Private Fostering Assessment).

### Visit Summary

**Child 1-** Referred in August 2024 and was visited regularly and within timescale until the child turned 16 and involvement ended 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

#### Voice of the child

"I have been living with my host family in London since I arrived in the UK on 31/08/2024. I have enrolled at college for 1.5 terms to study Criminology, Psychology, and English Literature. I enjoy studying, but I am worried that there is no psychology teacher. I enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of London. My host family are caring and provide for my needs, including preparing breakfast, dinner, and sometimes lunch on weekends when I am at home. I have my own bedroom, and I am not worried about my safety".

**Child 2-** Referred December 2024 and was visited within timescale until the child and family assessment was completed. Ongoing visiting and engagement with the private fostering social worker have been delayed due to the carer and wider family being resistant to work with children's social care or to provide child's father's contact details. The private fostering social worker has contacted the child's Social Work Team and informed that the Private Fostering Team have been unable to engage the family and requested a joint meeting to consider the status of the child. An unannounced home visit will also be conducted.

#### Voice of the Child

"I feel fine, and I like going to school sometimes. I don't know why I only like going to school sometimes, but I do not like going to school every day. I don't have a favourite subject at school, but I have friends, and I like to play football, although I am not on the school team because I don't want to be. If I am worried about anything I speak to my uncle, I don't speak to anyone else if I am worried. I live with my uncle, aunt, her mother and my two cousins and I get along with everyone. I speak to my father every day and see him once a week".

**Child 3-** The initial private fostering notification was received from Barnet Family Court June 2024. The private fostering assessment visit was completed on 2nd July 2024 within timescale and was completed jointly with the child's Social Worker and the Private Fostering Social worker. Following conclusion of the proceedings and completion of a Child and Family Assessment, this case was transferred to the Private Fostering Team in August 2024. There after 6 weekly visits continued for the duration of the reporting period.

#### Voice of the Child

"I have not been to my dad's house, but I know where he lives when he comes to the UK. I think I have a close relationship with him. I know that my dad has struggled with his businesses, but he has always been supportive and provided for me. My dad often checks in with me on the weekends and during the week. I am often introduced to uncles I have never met before and there is always someone new that I am meeting as a relative.

I go to regular family events and outings; I have a huge family back in Uganda. I don't want to go back to live in Uganda as I like living in the UK".

**Child 4-** Referred in December 2021. 6 weekly visits were completed for the first year and then visits continued within timescale of 12 weekly until child turned 16 years-old and involvement ended November 2024.

#### Voice of the Child

"I am learning English, and I have joined a library, and I like to read. I like school and studying, but I am a bit anxious about maths. I feel that I can speak to my carer, and I like living with her and my stepsister.

**Child 5-** Referred March 2025. The initial visit was completed 20th March within timescale. 6 weekly visits were conducted for the remainder of the reporting period.

#### Voice of the Child

"I like school reading my books and my friends make me happy. I like the colour pink, and I like eating pasta and casava leaf. At home my brother makes me happy. I enjoy watching television and playing with my tablet".

#### Timescale of private fostering assessments

The private fostering regulations require that decisions about the suitability about private fostering arrangements should be completed within 42 days of the notification being received.

Of the 3 assessments initiated between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025:

- 3 were completed within the 42-day timescale (100%)

#### Age of children under private fostering arrangements as of 31st March 2025

Of the 5 Private Fostering arrangements 3 were between the ages of 15-16 years old, 1 was 11 years old and 1 was 5 years old.

#### Ethnicities of children under a private fostering arrangement as 31st March 2025

The range of ethnicities of children in private fostering was recorded as follows:

White UK	0
Asian	0
African	3
Black Caribbean	1
White European	1
Mixed Parentage	0
Chinese	0
Ukrainian	0
Other	0

## **Gender of children under a private fostering arrangement 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024- 31st March 2025**

Of the children living in private fostering arrangements as of 31st March 2025, 4 were female and 1 was male.

There were no Private Fostering arrangements recorded where a child arrangement order (CAO) or Special Guardianship Order (SGO) has been secured during this period.

### **Private Fostering Special Interest Group**

The British Association for Adoption and Fostering (CORAM BAAF) continues to facilitate a special interest group for Private Fostering. The Senior Practitioner for Private Fostering attends this special interest group.

### **Support for Private Foster Carers**

Haringey Private Foster carers are provided support via the Regulation 8 visit to the child; the carer also receives a visit/call from the Private Fostering Senior Social Worker to provide support as may be required. Private Foster Carers can access support from the Haringey Foster Carers Support Group and access training and support as required.

### **How to make a notification**

Haringey MASH: 020 8489 4470

Children's Social Care Out of hours: 020 8489 0000 or email:  
[fosteringrecruitment@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@haringey.gov.uk)

Haringey Fostering Service: 020 8489 3754, email:  
[fosteringrecruitment@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@haringey.gov.uk), or use our enquiry webform

### **Conclusion**

**Areas for development-** evidence on file of notification to agencies of the end of PF arrangement and this should also be recorded in chronology.

Transition and engagement from Referral and Assessment Service to the Private Fostering Team.

It is assumed that there are more active Private Fostering arrangements within Haringey than is known to Haringey Children's Social Services. There is a need to increase awareness within the borough amongst agencies, organisations and professionals who come into contact with children.

There are no recorded audits on Private Fostering arrangements between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. This is an area for development. However, the information gathered indicates that the timeliness of visits and private fostering assessments is good and initial visits are mostly being completed within 7 working days.

Given the size of the population of Haringey, suggests that there are more children living in Private Fostering Arrangements than have been identified, which means the ongoing awareness raising with partner agencies is critically important, to promote timely notification of any such potential arrangements.

While there is positive work being conducted to increase awareness of Private Fostering within the borough, there remains a need to improve on our early identification of children living in private fostering arrangements to ensure that these children are visited in a timely manner, assessments commenced, and support offered. This will be a key area of focus for 2025/26.

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**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 14 July 2025

**Title:** Children & Young People's Work Programme

**Report**

**authorised by:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Lead Officer:** Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 020 8489 5896, E-mail: [philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/**

**Non-Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work plan for 2025-26 for the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the current work programme for the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel and agree any amendments, as appropriate.
- 2.2 That the Panel give consideration to the agenda items and reports required for its meetings in 2025/26. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**3. Reasons for decision**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is responsible for developing an overall work plan, including work for its standing Scrutiny Panels. In putting this together, the Panel will need to have regard to its capacity to deliver the programme and officers' capacity to support them in that task.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 The current draft iteration of the Panel's work plan for 2025-26 is provided as **APPENDIX A**.
- 4.2 The Panel should give consideration to the items for the next meeting and any amendments that it wishes to make to the Work Programme for the meetings scheduled in 2025/26.

## **5. Effective Scrutiny Work Programmes**

### **5.1 An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities:**

- Holding the Executive to account;
- Policy review and development – reviews to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies;
- Performance management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement;
- External scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public;
- Public and community engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.

### **5.2 Key features of an effective work programme:**

- A member led process, short listing and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that;
  - reflects local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Borough Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities
  - prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact or benefit
  - involves local stakeholders
  - is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues

### **5.3 Depending on the selected topic and planned outcomes, scrutiny work will be carried out in a variety of ways, using various formats. This will include a variety of one-off reports. In accordance with the scrutiny protocol, the OSC and Scrutiny Panels will draw from the following to inform their work:**

- Performance Reports;
- One off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern;
- Issues arising out of internal and external assessment (e.g. Ofsted, Care Quality Commission);
- Reports on strategies and policies under development or other issues on which the Cabinet or officers would like scrutiny views or support;
- Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Cabinet or appropriate Executive body.

### **5.4 In addition, in-depth scrutiny work, including task and finish projects, are an important aspect of Overview and Scrutiny and they provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate topics and to make improvements. Through the gathering and consideration of evidence from a wider range of sources, this type of work enables more robust and effective challenge as well as an increased likelihood of delivering positive outcomes. In depth reviews should also help engage the public and provide greater transparency and accountability.**

### **5.5 It is nevertheless important that there is a balance between depth and breadth of work undertaken so that resources can be used to their greatest effect.**

**6. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1 The contribution of Scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the work of the OSC and the scrutiny panels.

**7. Statutory Officers comments**

**Finance and Procurement**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications these will be highlighted at that time.

**Legal**

- 7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 7.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 7.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an OSC has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 7.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

**Equality**

- 7.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

7.7 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;

- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
- Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

7.8 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

APPENDIX A – Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme  
2025-26

## Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

### Work Plan 2024 - 26

<b>1. Scrutiny review projects;</b> 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.		
Project	Comments	Priority
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. <b>“One-off” Items;</b> 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
<b>2023/24</b>	
<b>29 July 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member</li> <li>• Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024-27</li> <li>• Performance Update</li> <li>• Haringey local area SEND CQC/OFSTED Inspection Outcome</li> </ul>
<b>9 September 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> <li>• Haringey local area SEND CQC/OFSTED Inspection Outcome</li> <li>• Update on the key issues relating to Housing &amp; Children</li> </ul>
<b>19 November 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> </ul>

<b>(Budget)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024</li> </ul>
<b>13 January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> <li>• Exam and Test Results</li> <li>• Evaluation of Haringey's Early Help Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>13 February 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Update around Children's Mental Health outcomes and developments underway for improvement.</li> <li>• Children's Social Care; Annual Performance 2023/24</li> <li>• Update on Youth Justice Service Inspection (Verbal)</li> </ul>

<b>2025/26</b>	
<b>14 July 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Update – Looked after Children</li> <li>• Private Fostering Update</li> </ul>
<b>9 September 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q1 Budget &amp; Performance Monitoring report (Finance).</li> <li>• Youth Justice Annual Plan - Progress report</li> <li>• Haringey Youth Strategy – Action Plan</li> <li>• Children’s Social Care; Annual Performance 2024/25</li> </ul>
<b>18 November 2025 (Budget)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2 Budget &amp; Performance Monitoring report (Finance)</li> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> </ul>
<b>15 January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024-2025</li> <li>• Exam and Test Results</li> </ul>
<b>26 February 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the implementation of the Council’s Autism Strategy.</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children’s Mental Health Outcomes.</li></ul>
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