

NOTICE OF MEETING

AGENDA FOR THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, 21st September, 2026, 6.30 pm - Woodside Room - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ.

Watch the meeting live [here](#), or view all of our meetings on [Youtube](#)

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you wish to speak at the meeting please register by emailing the Democratic Services Officer. Contact details can be found at the end of the agenda front sheet.

Elected Members: Mark Blake (Chair), Nelly Tackie, Georgia Twigg, Seema Chandwani; Mark Grosskopf; Sarah Williams and Imad Ahmed.

Quorum: 3

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

3. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 10 below.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

6. MATTERS ARISING

7. CHILDREN IN CARE WITHIN THE YOUTH JUSTICE IMPACT REPORT (CIC ACTION PLAN) (PAGES 5 - 20)

8. IRO ANNUAL 2025-2026 (PAGES 21 - 42)

9. PERFORMANCE UPDATE (PAGES 43 - 58)

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Democratic Services Contact: Chris Liasi - Committee Coordinator
Telephone: 0208 489 4323
Email: chrisovalantis.liasi@haringey.gov.uk

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

Friday, 11 September 2026

Public Questions

Any resident, council tax payer or national non domestic rate payer of the Borough may ask the Chair of any Committee or its sub bodies any question on anything for which the Committee is responsible at any ordinary meeting. Notice of questions must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager by 10 a.m. on such day as shall leave three clear days before the meeting (e.g. Tuesday for a meeting on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the sender. Should a question be rejected, the questioner will receive a written response advising of this, including the reasons for the rejection.

Deputations

A deputation may only be received by a Committee or its sub bodies if a requisition signed by not less than ten residents of the Borough, stating the object of the deputation, is received by the Democratic Services Manager not later than 10am to leave three clear days prior to the Committee meeting.

Accessibility Requirements

If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please email Chris Liasi - Principal Committee Coordinator at chris.liasi@haringey.gov.uk. Please note that public seating is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Advice To Members On Declaring Interests

Information on declaring an interest is set out in the Council's Constitution in Part 5 Section A. However, you may need to obtain specific advice on whether you have an interest in a particular matter.

If you need advice, you can contact:

- Monitoring Officer
- the Legal Adviser to the Committee; or
- Democratic Services.

If at all possible, you should try to identify any potential interest you may have before the meeting so that you and the person you ask for advice can fully consider all the circumstances before reaching a conclusion on what action you should take.

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**MINUTES OF THE Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
HELD ON Tuesday, 4th November, 2025, 7.00 - 10.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Felicia Opoku, Zena Brabazon, Elin Weston, Lotte Collett, Cressida Johnson, Marsha Isilar-Gosling and Ibrahim Ali

10. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jackie Dificolo

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. MINUTES

There was a proposal to members regarding an event with ASPIRE and care leaders, Chris Liasi would send the invite out for December to members. There were be the opportunity for young people to sign up to workshops as they entered the event, these workshops would be broken up into champion model areas. The councillor responsible for the workstream would be present alongside a children's services officer. There would be a focus group which could be taken away for planning of the champion's model.

There would be stalls providing arts and crafts, expressions board, cooking, surveys and opportunities for children to win vouchers. This event could be up to 3 hours and would likely be held on a Saturday.

Officers had sense checked with young people what they would consider to be fun activities – spoken specifically to young people who attend aspire or leaving carers.

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September were approved.

15. IRO ANNUAL 2024-25

Nazim Hussan, IRO service manager introduced the report for this item;

- This Annual Report produced by the Independent Reviewing Service was prepared in accordance with the statutory requirement to inform the Corporate Parenting Board and senior leaders about the Council's performance in respect of children in the care of the local authority. The report covered the reporting period April 2024 to March 2025. This report's data was derived from Liquid Logic, the data system utilised by Haringey Children's Service
- The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:
- As of recent, the IRS would contact social workers two weeks in advance to remind them of the data submissions required, sometimes that information would get lost in translation, particularly when young people transferred from one service to another. Officers were working on being more robust to ensure that social workers and practitioners were aware of upcoming reviews and had sufficient time to be able to prepare for those.
- Whilst there was a national reduction in terms of the young people going into care, if you look at the reasons why young people were either diverted or returned back home at an earlier stage, a lot of that was to do with the hard work that practitioners were doing.
- There were ongoing good outcomes secured for children, many children staying within their family networks which was really important in light of the system reforms and the family's first approach. Officers were well on their way with that work which meant that many children come out of care, although the arrangements that they had prior to proceedings might be different than at the end.
- It was noted that there had been a significant improvement in terms of the timeliness of the process.
- In terms of participation, some of the young people were missing having due to vulnerabilities from care. Some of them were not in a place where they were able to have an open discussion or participate in their care meeting. The IRO's were very sensitive and attuned to the needs of young people, they would make contact with a young person outside of the review process. So, whilst that may may not be reflected in the participation code, there were other ways in which the Iro's showed that the young person's voices were being captured.
- There was a range of activities that the IRO engaged with young people. It was usually the older cohort who had experienced significant trauma who were not in a place to be able to have a conversation as part of a meeting.
- IRO's were attuned to cultural differences, backgrounds, and mindful of some of the trauma that unaccompanied minors and young people may have experienced and were sensitive to that.

- Officers were respectful of everyone's home, whether they were a professional or a family member providing care to someone who's vulnerable within their family.
- The stability within the team and the relationships officers developed with the workforce as a whole had helped contribute towards the unique position of being a critical friend, part of that would be having those challenging conversations, officers always wanted the best for young people.

16. FOSTERING ANNUAL 2024-25

Sandy Bansil, Head of Children in Care and Placements introduced the report for the item.

The purpose of this document was to report on the activity of the Fostering Service fulfilling obligations in the Fostering Services Regulations (2011) to review and improve the quality of care, and National Minimum Standards (2011) to report to the executive side of the Local Authority. It would cover performance and developments in the council's delivery of Fostering Services; how the council was compliant with key national minimum standards; the service offered to those seeking to foster and those children in care who are fostered. This report detailed the work of Haringey Fostering Service from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 and sets out plans for service development until 31st March 2026.

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- In the instance of a child having significant disabilities that required a level of adaptation to a property, officers would have the support of our health colleagues.
- There were probably more challenges with housing for children who were not in care, who may need to spend time with who are with their parents.
- Officers were in the process of developing an overnight short breaks unit and something that they were really keen to do was to make sure that it was in a package offer to foster carers.
- Next year, the team had a really exciting opportunity to report back on. Officers had wanted to support foster carers and provide more rooms so that they could have sibling groups and had been fortunate in working with the housing to have a test home.
- Members and officers would do a deep dive into the physical needs that foster families may have.
- Fewer people were putting themselves forward to be foster carers and so with that in mind officers needed to be having an effective marketing strategy. There wasn't a maximum age for fostering it was about ability. It was challenging in getting younger people to come forward wanting to be foster carers.
- One of the biggest worries in London was due to the rising house and rent prices, people could not afford to buy homes and therefore this had a knock on effect on the decrease in foster care. It was suggested that members write to minister Josh MacAlister regarding the link between the decrease in foster care and the increase in house prices/rent.

17. PERFORMANCE Q1 & 2

Richard Hutton, Performance Data and Analytics manager introduced the report for the item.

This report provided an overview of performance for Children Looked After (CLA) Services for 2025/26. The report provided comparative data by benchmarking with our statistical neighbours and looks at how our performance had grown and developed, where this was appropriate. Haringey's statistical neighbours were a group of local authorities judged by the DfE to have the most similar demographic profile and have been revised this year to account for latest comparable demographic data.

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

All children were offered a return home interview, there was a system in place where every week they met as a multi-agency group. There were police and health colleagues present and would collectively look at each child who had been missing from the preceding week. Children were offered up to three times for a return home interview. If, after three times they're still declining, then officers would probably draw a line there depending on the circumstances. These instances usually occurred with young people around the age of 13 upwards, but quite a lot of them were 17 and above, and the 17 and above year olds.

18. CARE LEAVERS EMPLOYMENT - VERBAL UPDATE

Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's was glad to hear about the positive work and wanted continuity throughout future years. Skills would become embedded in the team and the committee wanted to give support on this.

Officers were planning a launch and celebratory events in the new year, Baroness Lola Young would attend these events

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

Report for: CPAC 21 September 2026

Item number: 7

Title: Children in Care within the Youth Justice impact annual report
2025-26

Report

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

Lead Officer: Matthew Knights, Head of Service, Youth Justice

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: For Information and Noting

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report is an update from the Youth Justice Service (YJS) on the outcomes for children in care (CIC) supported by YJS with a targeted approach from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Members note contents of this report.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 This report is for information only

5. Alternative options considered

N/A

6. Background information

N/A

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 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 – Children in Care within the Youth Justice impact annual report 2025-26

11. Background papers

N/A

Progress report on outcomes for children in care supported by Haringey Youth Justice Service

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

09/08/2026

Matthew Knights

Head of Service: Youth Justice and Youth at Risk Strategy



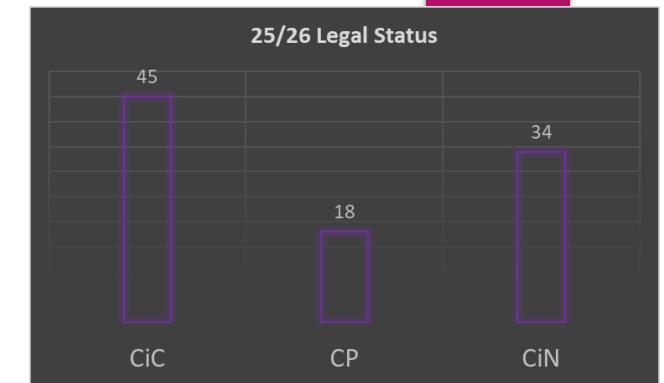
Recommendations from previous report to CPAC in 2025

- ▶ Youth Justice Service (YJS) to produce an annual progress update for CPAC on the outcomes for children in care (CIC) supported by YJS with a targeted approach,
- ▶ Complete a deep dive audit of children in care who are also supported by the Youth Justice Service over a longer period to see trends with a view to improve outcome – findings to be presented in annual progress update.
- ▶ YJS attend CPAC annually providing an overview of data, interventions, outcomes and impact for this cohort of children.
- ▶ CIC to remain a priority for the YJS in our Annual YJ Plan 2024/27
- ▶ Further focus on community intervention plans for children in care.

Annual 25/26 CIC Numbers

► We have had 251 children who have had a disposal outcome through the YJS within 25/26.

- 45 (18%) were CiC at some point over this period,
 - Of these, 23 (51%) are CiC looked after by Haringey
 - 11 (24%) were remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation
 - 19 (42%) lived outside of the Borough at some point in 25/26 (see right table).
 - 20 (44%) were placed in Haringey by other boroughs – Brent, Croydon 4, Ealing 2, Hackney, Harrow, Hounslow, Islington, K&C 2, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Surrey and Westminster
 - 14, or 31% needs were such that they required an EHCP



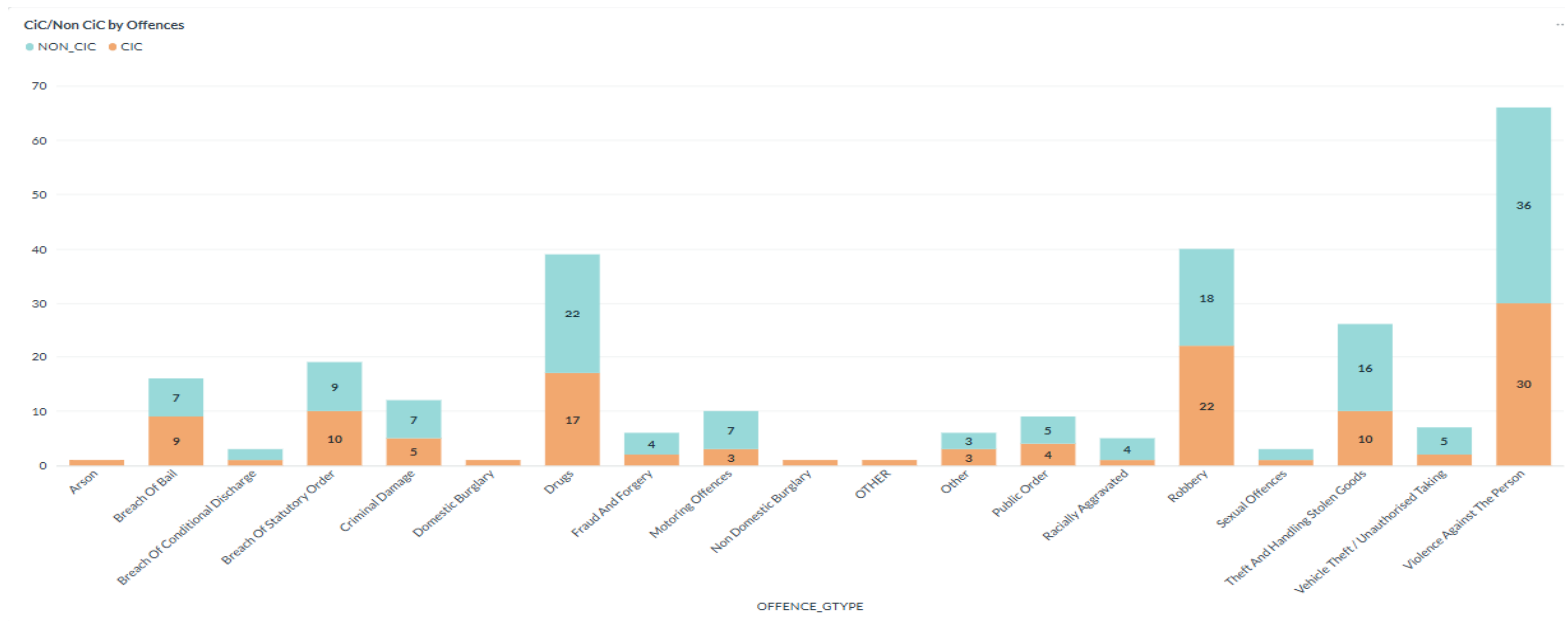
Status	No	% of Caseload
25/26 Caseload	251	
CiC	45	18%
CP	18	7%
CiN	34	14%
Total open to CS	97	

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Enfield	4
W Forest	2
Hillingdon	2
LBBD	2
Newham	2
Luton	1
Reading	1
Lambeth	1
Essex	1
Thurrock	1
West Mercia	1
Denbighshire	1
Herts	1
Harrow	1
Yorkshire	1
Tower Hamlets	1
Redbridge	1
Caernarfon	1
Camden	1

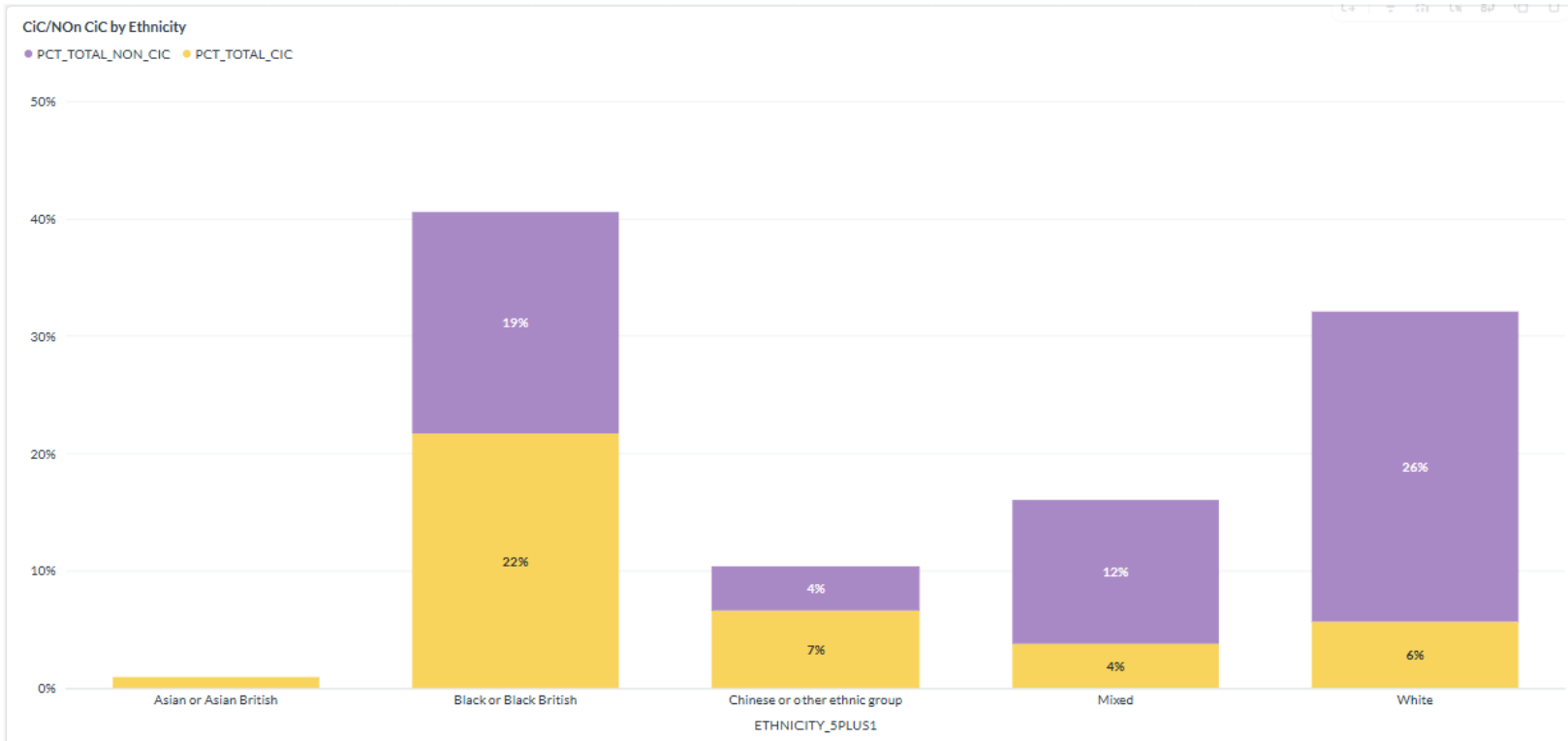
A total of 19 Haringey children were placed outside of the borough. Where children had multiple placements during 25/26, all placement addresses have been included to the right

CiC vs Non-CiC by Offence Type



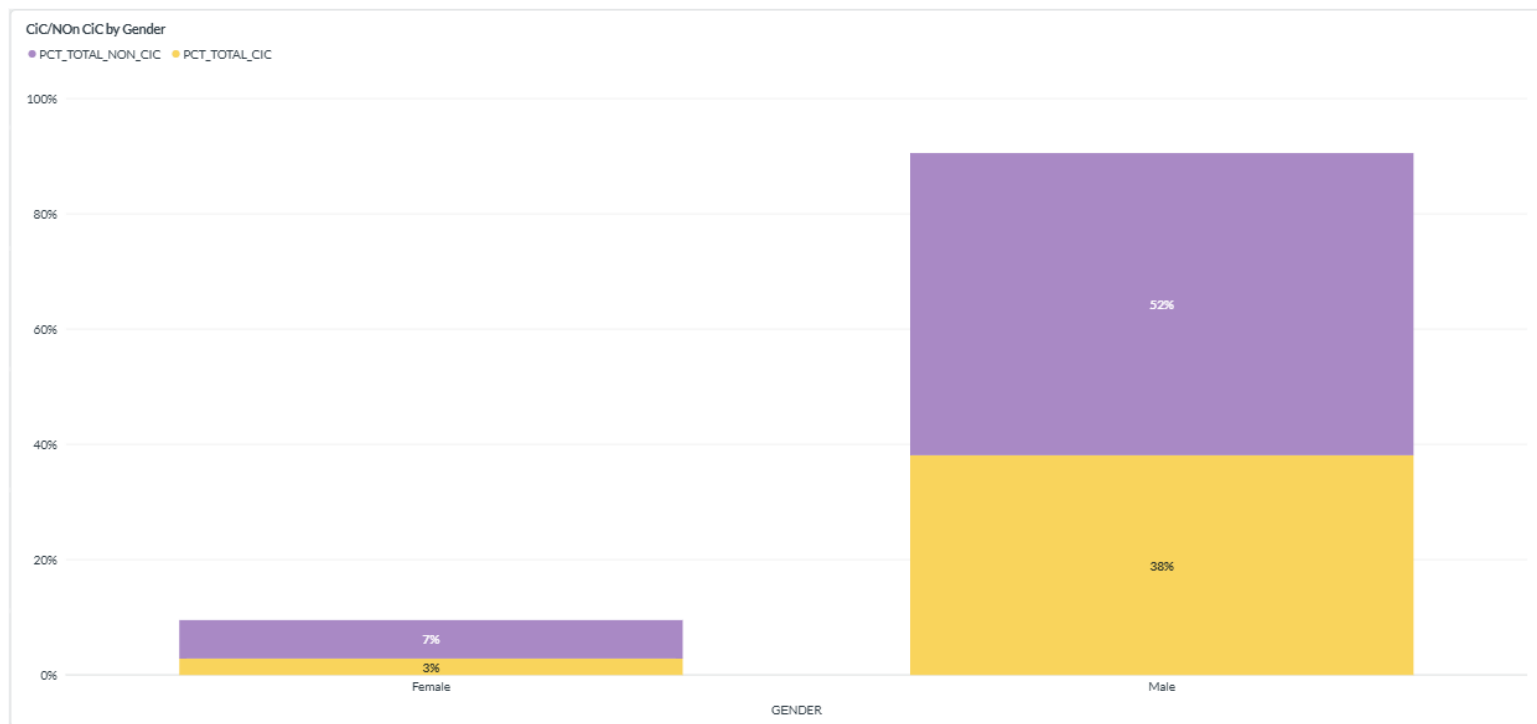
Children that are CiC are more likely to be sentenced for most offences however they are particularly disproportionate for violent, robbery and drugs-related offences. A disproportionate number are also being breached. The only areas not disproportionately high were for motoring/vehicle theft related offences

CiC vc Non CiC by ethnicity



Black children are disproportionately high. 22% of the entire population (CiC & non-CiC) were Black CiC which represents 53% of the CiC population. Higher than the CiC overall % of 18%. Mixed and White CiC % were lower at 4% and 18% respectively.

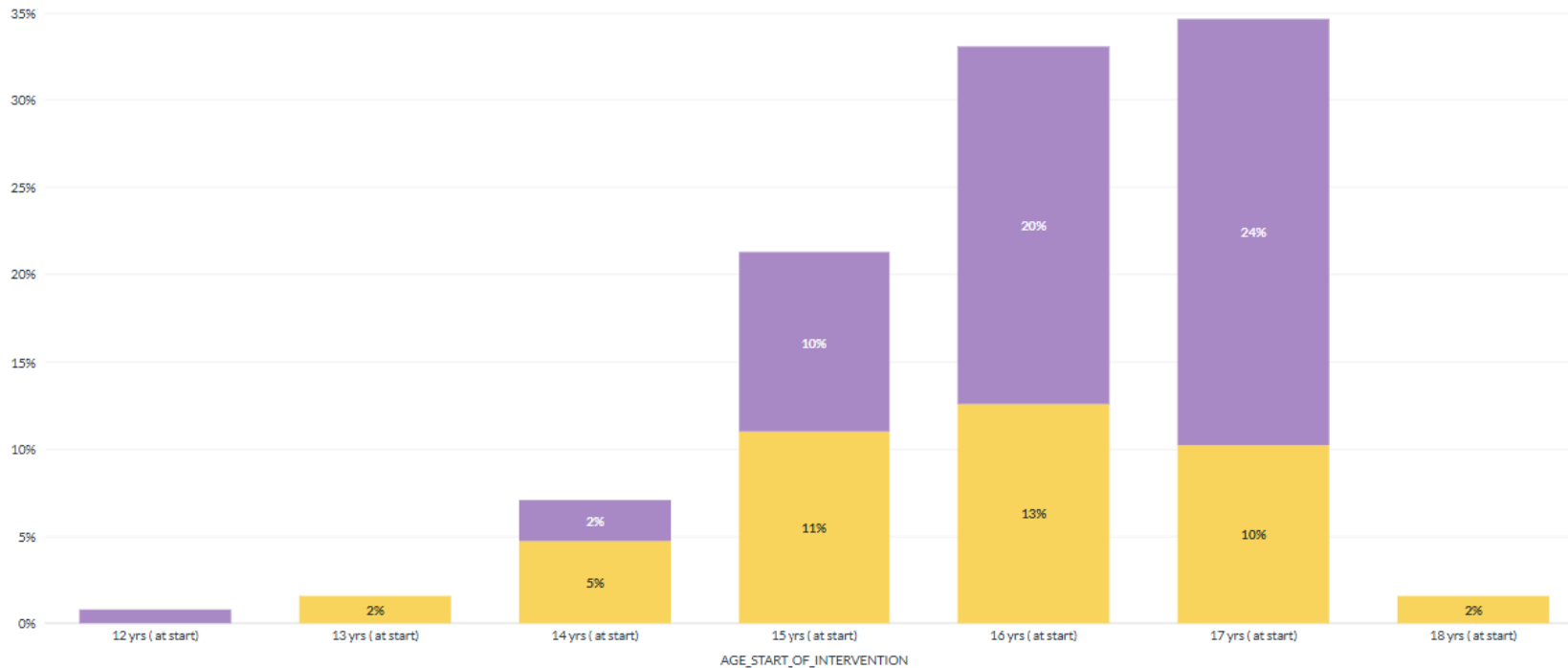
CiC vc Non CiC by Gender



Male children are disproportionately high. 38% of males were CiC and 3% of females were CiC.

CiC vc Non CiC by Age (at start of intervention)

CiC/Non CiC by Age
PCT_TOTAL_NON_CIC PCT_TOTAL_CIC



CiC children peak at 16 yrs (13%).

YJS Resources

- ▶ Mentoring services
- ▶ CAMHS Practitioner
- ▶ Speech and Language Therapist
- ▶ Substance Misuse
- ▶ Education support
- ▶ Workshops on specific topics
- ▶ Health Nurse / Sexual Health
- ▶ Additional contacts when placed out of borough

Key challenges for YJS and Partnership

- ▶ Children's legal status can fluctuate between child in need, child protection and children in care, or they become a CIC if placed in Youth Detention Accommodation or Remanded into Local Authority Accommodation.
- ▶ The percentage of Haringey children placed in borough are small which means that only a small selection of children are receiving local services
- ▶ Youth Justice, Social Care and SEND responsibilities are all different for when children are placed out of borough.
- ▶ The YJS are reliant on host boroughs to carry out YJS assessments if child is not known to Haringey YJS prior to the original offence.
- ▶ Frequent changes of placements or being placed far away can impact on the relational work with the child by the professional network. Suitability of placements and area/location can sometimes not match with needs of the child.
- ▶ Strategy meetings impacted when professionals don't attend or refuse due to different interpretation of risks or different practices across different areas eg) MET police and national police forces.

Barriers to Engagement for ETE



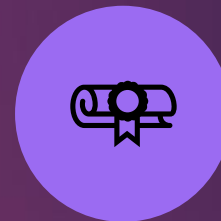
DESIRE TO WORK



LACK OF IN-YEAR
POST 16 PROVISION



LACK OF
QUALIFICATIONS



IDENTIFIED AND
UNIDENTIFIED
LEARNING NEEDS



CONTEXTUAL
SAFEGUARDING
CONCERNS

Summary of survey from children who are aged 16+ and who are not in education, training and employment (NEET) in YJS

The YJS track the NEET cohort to ensure we are doing everything possible to ensure that our children and young people have what they need to access ETE.

The YJS undertook a survey with our NEET children between February 26-May26 to capture their voices of and to identify the barriers.

Key finding were:-

- ▶ 50% want employment, making it the primary aspiration
- ▶ Main barrier: lack of support, not lack of motivation
- ▶ Top need: practical employability help (CV/job applications)

Overall:

- ▶ Children largely want to work, but face barriers around access, support, and clarity, and need practical, hands-on help to move forward.
- ▶ We ensure that we regularly review this cohort of children's NEET status and are in regular contact with the virtual school and all relevant partners to ensure children are supported to engage with education, employment and training opportunities.

The skills network – Online platform

Joint online provision between YJS & Virtual School

Main target groups:

NEETs

Post 16

Job Seekers



Improving Progression

Lead the Way with Tailored Learning and Innovative Partnerships

Traditional education alone isn't enough to engage students or prepare them for the future. With growing challenges in employability and meeting Ofsted requirements, institutions need a fresh approach. The Skills Network provides flexible, industry-aligned short courses that bridge learning gaps, boost engagement, and equip students for real-world success. Let's create a bespoke learning experience that prepares students for their next step.

16+ Post-16 Learner Provision • Short, modular units covering employability, digital, wellbeing and study skills • Mapped to Preparing for Adulthood outcomes • Flexible guided learning hours to suit your programme design • Supports NEET prevention and re-engagement pathways • Accessible, self-paced learning that does not burden staff	★ NEET and Re-engagement • Low-barrier entry points that build confidence step by step • Designed for hard-to-reach young people, including SEND and care-experienced • Wraparound learning that supports participation, not just completion • Evidence-ready reporting for NEET reduction and funding returns • Community and outreach friendly, accessible on any device
◆ Adult Learning • Provision shaped around the Adult Skills Fund framework • Digital inclusion, financial literacy, health and employability pathways • Community-based learning for residents furthest from the labour market • Supports devolution priorities and Local Skills Improvement Plans • Slots alongside existing provider relationships, not against them • Measurable outcomes • Learner Find and Assessor services	○ Staff and Workforce Development • Leadership, conflict management and team performance modules • Digital and AI literacy for frontline and office-based staff • Mental health awareness and safeguarding refreshers • Flexible CPD that fits around demanding public sector workloads • Ready to deploy quickly • Supports staff retention and professional development frameworks

Continued focus and next steps

For YJS and CYPS Joint Protocol to be reviewed and updated in line with new and relevant legislations and practices

CYPS Audit Tool amended to capture YJS involvement and children's lived experiences in Youth Detention accommodation

YJS CIC data is shared with children services and SEND management teams on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Review of the Reducing Criminalisation of looked after children protocol and create a task and finish group for oversight

Review the support for children when placed out of borough that are in need of education support via virtual school

YJS Asset Plus Assessment, CIC Pathway Plans and Safety Plans need to be shared more frequently

Continue to review the CiC cohort and ensure that relevant EHCP have been completed / Reviewed including those out of borough

New improvement targets were set to improve the lives and outcomes of our CIC cohort – these have been published in our Annual Youth Justice Plan 24-27

Implementation of the new Integrated Mental health Support Service

Exploration of developing remand foster carers

Development of LEET group to have oversight of education, employment, training opportunities for CiC

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Report for: CPAC 21 September 2026

Item number: 8

Title: IRO annual report 2025-26

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

Lead Officer: Nazim Hussain, Service Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** For Information and Noting

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report provides assurance to Members and senior leaders on the performance and impact of Haringey's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service from April 2025 to March 2026.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Members note contents of this report.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 This report is for information only

5. Alternative options considered

N/A

6. Background information

N/A

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 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

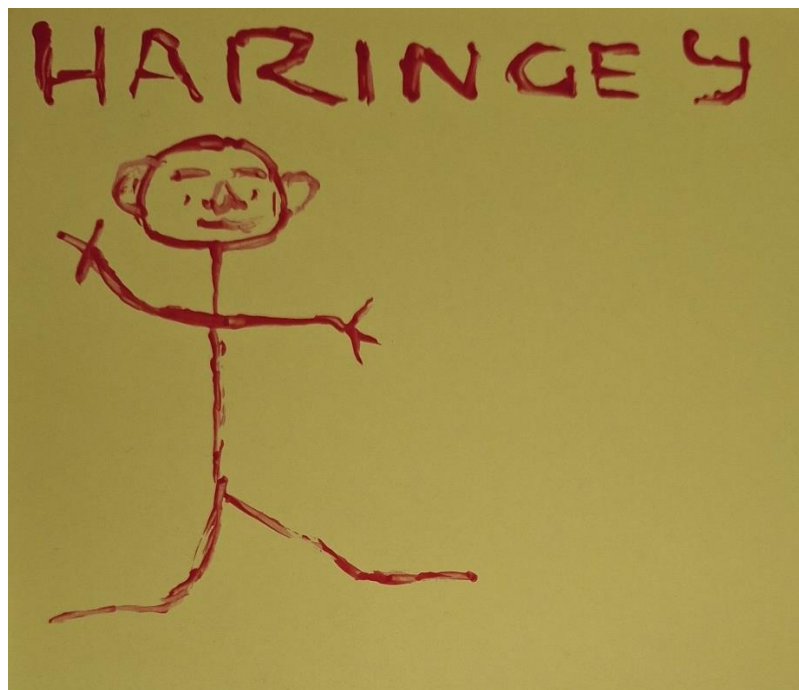
Appendix 1 – IRO annual report 2025-26

11. Background papers

N/A

Engagement, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report 2025- 2026.



Author: Nazim Hussain

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Haringey Council – Children’s Services

IRO Annual Report 2025-26

Executive Summary

This report provides assurance on the performance and impact of Haringey’s Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service from April 2025 to March 2026.

At 31 March 2026, Haringey cared for 296 children and young people, compared with 320 in April 2025. The reduction reflects fewer children entering care, young people reaching adulthood and work across services to support children safely within family networks where appropriate.

The IRO Service maintained strong statutory performance, with 96% of children having an up-to-date review and 88% of children aged over four participating in their reviews. Ofsted recognised reviews as timely and purposeful and highlighted the value IROs add through children’s participation and child-centred planning. The report also identifies areas for further development, particularly participation, permanence and matching, cultural competence, adolescent safeguarding and stronger evidence of service impact.

Service stability remains a key strength. Consistent IRO relationships provide continuity for children and enable effective oversight, challenge and tracking of care plans over time.

Purpose of Service and Legal Context

The IRO Service is a statutory safeguard for children in care, established under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 (as amended). IROs chair statutory reviews, monitor care planning between reviews, ensure children’s wishes and feelings are considered, and provide independent challenge where progress, permanence or outcomes are at risk.

- Monitor the performance of the local authority’s functions in relation to the child.
- Participate in reviews for the child.
- Ensure that the wishes and feelings of the child are given due consideration by the appropriate authority.
- Undertake any additional responsibilities prescribed in regulations.

Through oversight across individual children, IROs are also well placed to identify recurring themes, escalate concerns and highlight effective practice to senior leaders.

- Chairing and facilitating the child’s statutory review.
- Monitoring the child’s progress and care planning on an ongoing basis between reviews.

The Haringey Context

Haringey has approximately 264,300 residents, including 54,422 children and young people aged 0–17 (21%). It is one of London’s most ethnically diverse boroughs, with more than 180 languages spoken. At 31 March 2026, Haringey was caring for 296 children and young people, equivalent to approximately 54 children looked after per 10,000 children under 18. [State of the Borough profile – March 2026](#)

The Independent Reviewing Service in Haringey

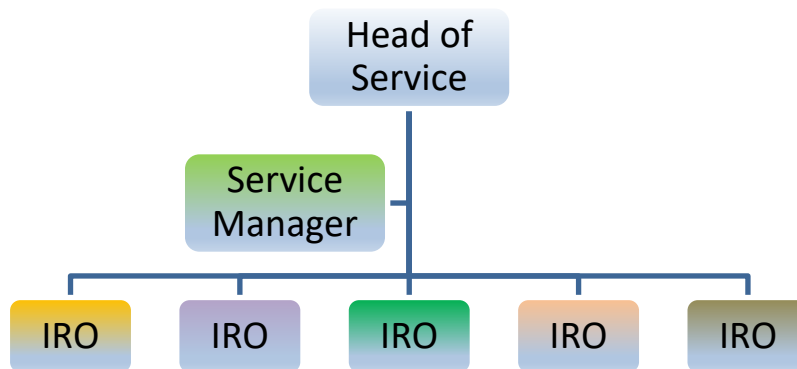
The Independent Reviewing Service sits within Engagement, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and comprises five experienced IROs. Average caseloads during 2025/26 remained just below the recommended range in the IRO Handbook, supporting effective oversight and timely intervention.

The team reflects the diversity of Haringey and collectively speaks eight languages, with interpreters and translation services commissioned where required to support effective engagement with children and families. The team benefits from a broad range of professional expertise across key areas of practice, including children with disabilities, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), care leavers, fostering, and child exploitation.

This expertise is embedded within the IRO Service through dedicated oversight and advocacy for children with complex needs, those transitioning to adulthood, and children with varied care experiences. The service includes IROs with specialist knowledge of disability services, UASC pathways and immigration-related considerations, and care leaver planning and permanence. The team also benefits from having an IRO who sits on the Fostering Panel, providing valuable insight into fostering standards, matching, permanence planning, and the experiences of foster carers and children.

The team has developed experience in supporting children at risk of exploitation through IRO participation in exploitation and risk management forums, relevant professional development and previous practitioner experience. During 2026/27, this knowledge will be further developed and used more systematically within strategic partnerships, quality assurance activity and practice development.

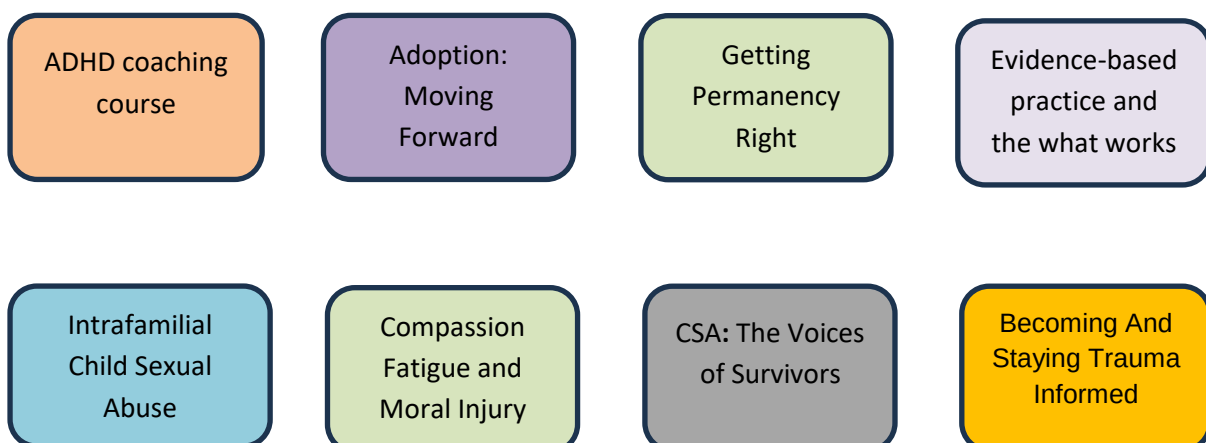
IRO Service Structure



Average caseloads throughout 2025/26 remained just below the recommended range outlined in the IRO Handbook (2011), supporting effective oversight and timely intervention where concerns, delay, or drift are identified.

Training & Professional Development of the IRO Service

Professional development during 2025/26 focused on learning that develops specialist expertise and reflective practice beyond core statutory requirements. Key areas included trauma-informed practice, intrafamilial child sexual abuse and survivor voice, adolescent mental health, permanence and adoption, compassion fatigue/moral injury, evidence-based practice and coaching. Three IROs are qualified Practice Educators and supported social work students during the year.



Team meetings and regional/practitioner forums provide further opportunities for reflective learning, case discussion and application of emerging research and reform.

Key Areas of Focus 2025-26

The priorities set for 2025/26 focused on participation, exploitation, digital safety, identity and culture, family vulnerability and ensuring the views of children who do not attend reviews remain visible. Progress against these themes is summarised below and explored through the performance sections of this report.

1. IROs will ensure that children's voices are central to all planning and review processes, promoting meaningful participation through child-led or co-chaired reviews, inclusive communication tools, and personalised engagement tailored to each child's needs and preferences.

Participation remained a strength: 97 reviews were chaired or co-chaired by young people and Ofsted positively recognised children's involvement in their reviews. The next step is to use participation data more actively to understand non-attendance and increase direct involvement.

2. IROs will ensure that risks of child sexual exploitation are identified early, by maintaining oversight of safeguarding measures, advocating for timely assessments, and challenging care plans that do not robustly address risk, safety planning, or trauma recovery.

IROs maintained oversight of exploitation and contextual risk through reviews, challenge and multi-agency forums. During 2026/27, the service will strengthen the visibility of specialist IRO expertise in adolescent safeguarding and evidence the difference this contribution makes to planning and outcomes.

3. IROs will ensure that care planning reflects a strong understanding of children's digital lives, including online risks, and that support is in place to promote digital resilience, protect against online harm, and address any exploitation concerns raised in reviews.

IROs continued to consider online activity and contextual risk within reviews, challenging plans where online safety and exploitation concerns required stronger multi-agency responses.

4. IROs will ensure that the cultural, linguistic, and identity needs of every child are fully reflected in their care and placement plans, particularly for children from Black, global majority, and underrepresented backgrounds, in line with anti-racist and inclusive practice.

IROs continued to scrutinise how identity, culture, language and heritage are reflected in care planning. Cultural competence and challenge around disproportionality will be a specific priority for 2026/27, including stronger evidence of the IRO view in permanence, matching and other decision-making forums.

5. IROs will ensure that reviews reflect the wider context of family vulnerability, such as parental mental health, domestic abuse, or substance misuse, and will challenge plans that fail to consider the impact of these issues on the child's lived experience or future support.

Reviews continued to consider parental mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse and their impact on children's lived experience, with challenge where care plans did not sufficiently address these factors.

6. IROs will ensure that the views of children and young people who do not participate in their reviews are represented and given due consideration.

Where children did not attend reviews, IROs sought their views through direct contact, visits, advocacy and alternative communication. During 2025/26, IROs undertook 29 visits and 56 additional communications outside review meetings. The service will analyse reasons for non-participation and set measurable improvement expectations for 2026/27.

Ofsted Inspection Visit

Ofsted's January 2026 inspection judged Haringey Children's Services Outstanding overall and services for children looked after Good. Inspectors described statutory reviews as "timely and purposeful" and recognised that IROs add value by supporting participation and keeping plans child-centred.

"IROs add value by supporting children's participation and ensuring that plans remain child centred."

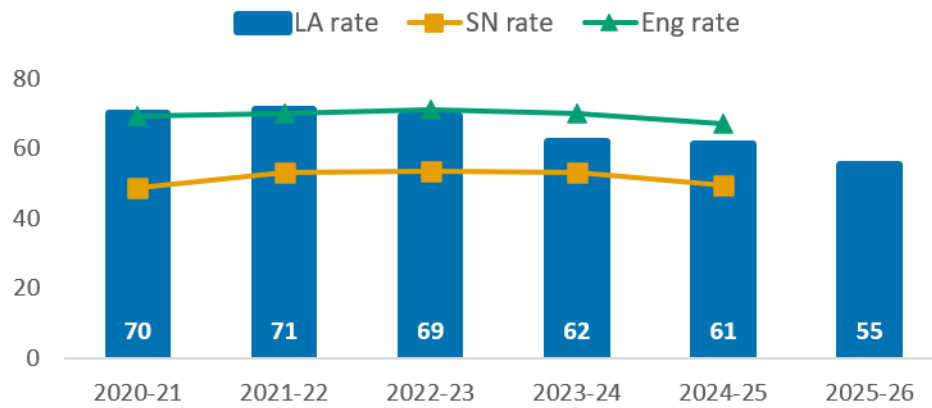
IRO oversight added strength to the quality and effectiveness of care and permanence planning, contributing to greater stability and improved outcomes for children and young people. Inspectors recognised that care planning is now "strong and purposeful", with a clear focus on children's lived experiences and long-term needs.

The full report can be seen here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50295650>

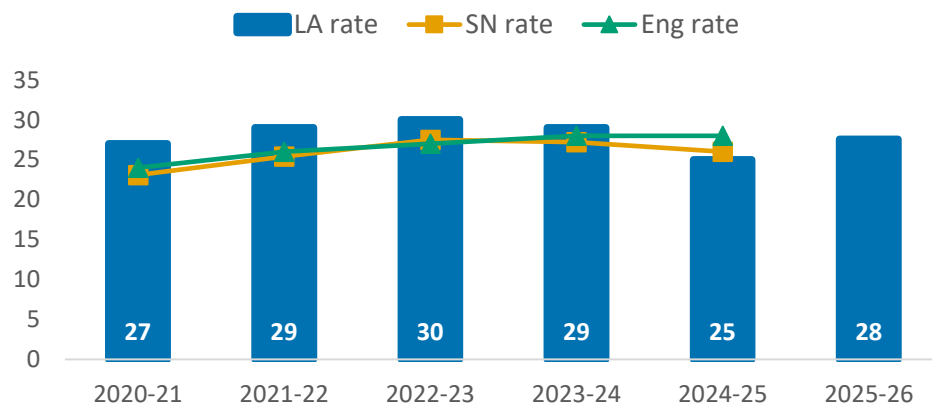
Children Looked After Reviews 2025-26

At 31 March 2026, Haringey cared for 296 children and young people, compared with 320 in April 2025. The reduction reflects fewer children entering care, young people reaching adulthood and work across services to support children safely within family networks where appropriate.

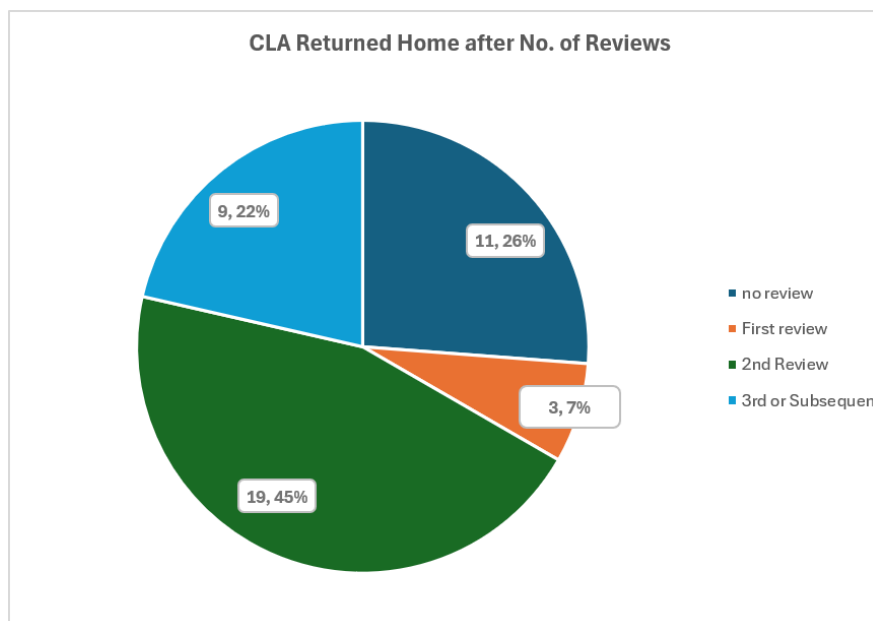
Children looked after at 31 March
(rate per 10,000 population)



Children who ceased to be looked after in the year
(rate per 10,000 population)



CLA Returned Home after No. of Reviews



The source data used for this report records 42 children and young people returning home to live with parents, relatives, or another person with parental responsibility as part of the care planning process by their third review.

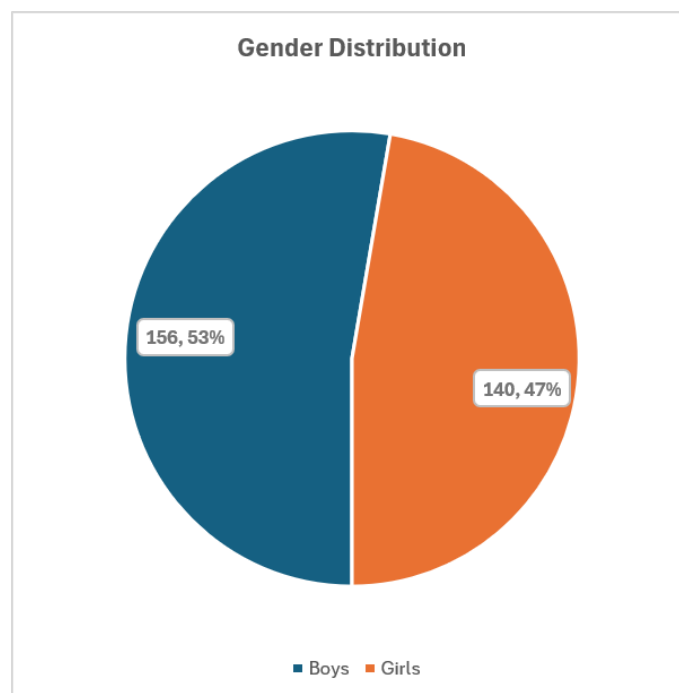
- Of the children supported through Family Group Conferences during the year, 8 children and young people successfully returned home.
- 6 children became subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

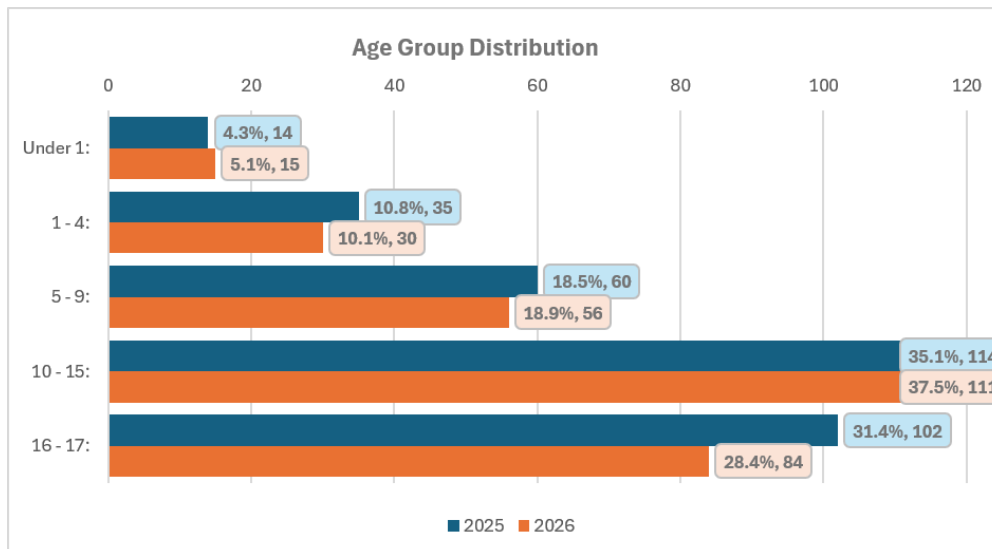
The report also records 13 children who exited care in the previous year as having been tracked during 2025/26 without re-entry with one young person re-entering care.

Looked After Population during 2025-26

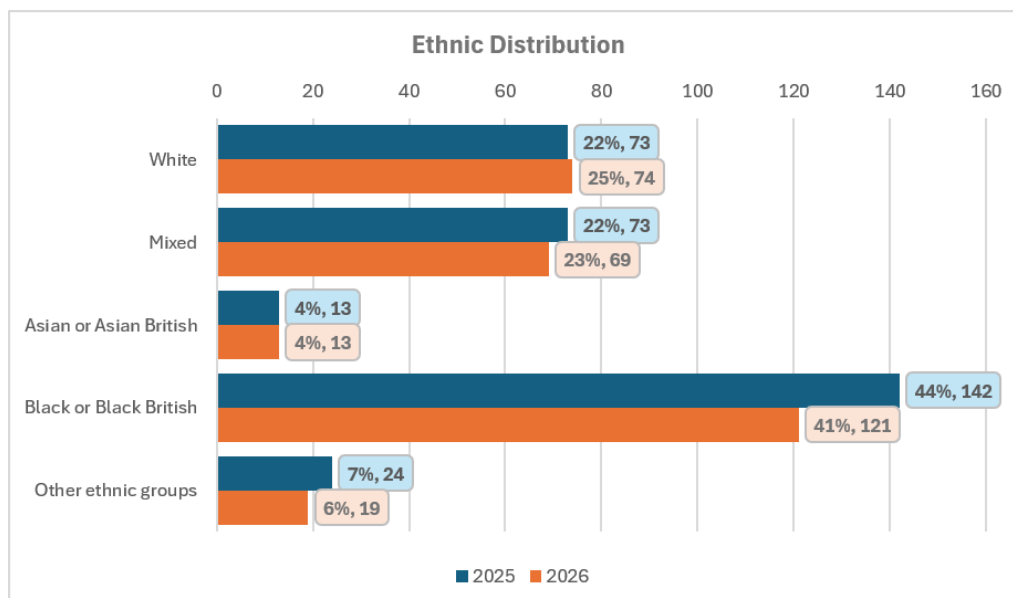
The profile of Haringey's children looked after population has remained broadly stable during 2025/26, while continuing to reflect the diversity and complexity of the borough's communities.

Boys continue to represent a higher proportion of children in care, accounting for 53% (156) of the looked after population, a slight reduction from 56% in the previous year.





The age profile has also remained consistent with both previous years and national trends. Children aged 10–15 and those aged 16 and over continue to represent the largest groups within the looked after population, each accounting for 37.5% of children in care. Overall, 66% of children and young people looked after during 2025/26 were aged 10 or above, reflecting the continued need for targeted support for adolescents and young people preparing for adulthood.



Haringey’s children in care population reflects the borough’s rich cultural diversity. During 2025/26:

- 41% identified as Black.
- 25% identified as White.
- 23% identified as Mixed Heritage.
- 4% identified as Asian.
- 6% identified as belonging to other ethnic groups.

These figures remain broadly consistent with the previous year. In comparison, Census 2021 data shows Haringey's wider population comprises 20.5% White British, 61.9% Asian, Mixed or Other ethnic groups, and 17.6% Black African and Black Caribbean residents.

The IRO Service remains mindful of the overrepresentation of global majority children and young people within the looked after population and the wider inequalities that may affect outcomes. IROs continue to promote culturally responsive and inclusive care planning, ensuring children's identity, heritage, language and lived experiences are reflected in care and placement plans and appropriately challenged where this is not the case.

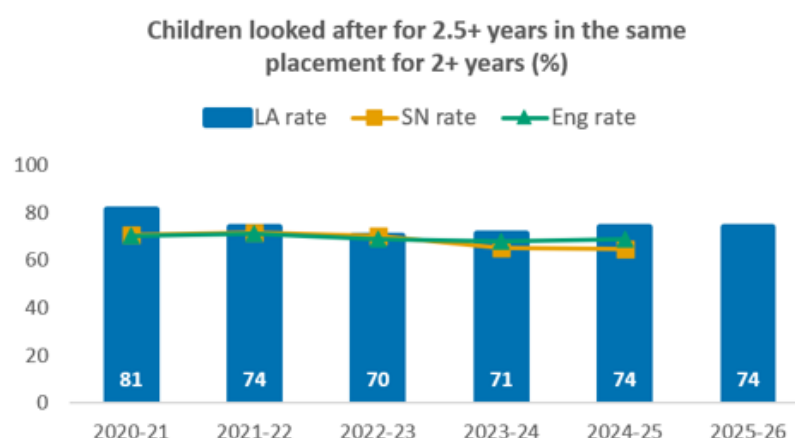
Independent Reviewing Service Performance

Once a child becomes looked after, their first review must take place within 20 working days, the second review within three months of the first, and all subsequent reviews within six months of the previous review. Reviews can take place as a single meeting or through a series of discussions, depending on the wishes, needs, age, and understanding of the child or young person.

Children and young people remain central to decisions about how their reviews are held, who attends, and how they choose to participate. Some young people attend and lead their own reviews, while others prefer to meet separately with their IRO or contribute in ways that feel more comfortable and inclusive for them.

IROs are required to complete review outcomes and recommendations within five working days and finalise review records within 15 working days following the completion of the review process.

During 2025/26, IROs completed 756 Children Looked After Reviews, compared with 690 in 2024/25. This increase reflects additional reviews being required due to placement changes, disruption or significant changes in children and young people's lives.



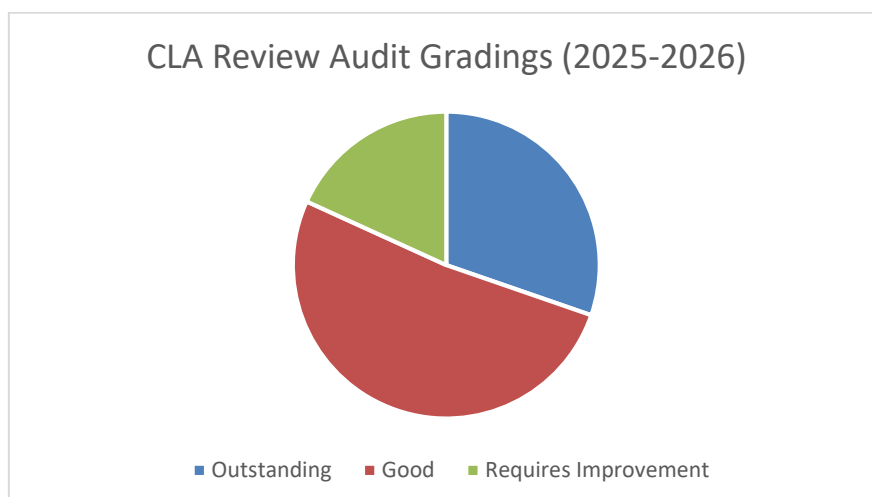
The service continues to demonstrate a strong quality assurance function through the completion of IRO Monitoring Forms following reviews. These provide oversight, analysis, and challenge in areas including care planning, statutory visits, the quality of social work reports, and children’s participation within reviews.

IROs attended a workshop focused on improving health outcomes, including immunisations. This has increased the service’s focus on immunisation status within social work reports; however, the impact on outcomes has not yet been evaluated. During 2026/27, the service will work with health colleagues to establish a baseline and monitor improvement. An IRO has also co-delivered ‘Introduction to Health’ workshops with the Whittington Health Paediatrician to help raise awareness of health services available to carers and young people.

IRO participation in fostering, exploitation, risk management and stability forums provides independent scrutiny and enables themes affecting children in care to be identified and escalated. During 2026/27, the service will strengthen how it records and evidences impact arising from IRO contribution to these forums.

Quality of Review Minutes

During 2025/26, 33 CLA reviews were audited: 10 were Outstanding, 17 Good and 6 Requires Improvement, with none graded Inadequate. The sample demonstrates a positive position but represents less than 5% of reviews; the service will increase the annual audit sample to approximately 10% of reviews in 2026/27 to strengthen assurance.



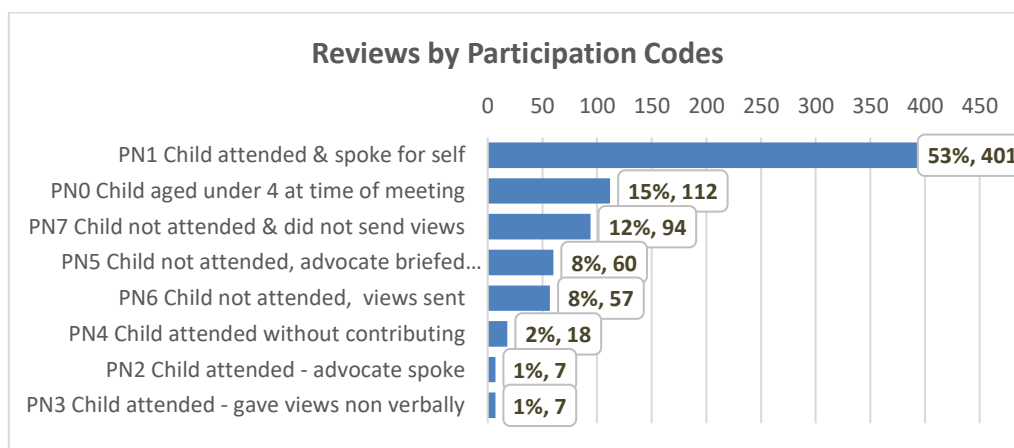
Audits identified strengths in child-centred and trauma-informed practice, accessible recording, participation and oversight of care planning. Development areas included parental engagement,

clearer attention to identity, diversity and culture, recording impact on health and education outcomes, and more consistent escalation where delay persists.

Timeliness of Review Meetings

We saw a marked improvement in the timeliness of completing looked after reviews during 2025/26, with 96% of children having an up-to-date review by the end of the financial year—an increase from 93% in 2024/25.

Children and young people's participation in reviews



During 2025/26, 88% of children aged over four participated in their reviews. 53% attended and spoke for themselves. Participation was supported through direct attendance, meetings with IROs, consultation, advocacy and communication methods tailored to individual need.

In 12% of reviews, the child did not attend and no views were recorded as having been provided. During 2026/27, the service will analyse the reasons for non-attendance, test different engagement approaches and monitor whether this proportion reduces.

The service remains strongly committed to empowering children and young people to take ownership of their care planning. During 2025/26:

- 24 young people chaired their own reviews. (increase of 4 from 24/25)
- 10 young people chaired more than one review during the year.
- 73 children and young people co-chaired reviews alongside their IRO. (increase of 10 from 24/25)
- 17 young people co-chaired more than one review.
- 144 children and young people were offered the opportunity to chair or co-chair their review but chose not to do so.

Over the coming year we will work in collaboration with our Fostering Service to look at how foster carers may help improve our success in children and young people chairing or co-chairing their reviews. For some younger children, or where particularly sensitive or complex issues were being discussed, it was not considered appropriate for them to lead their review.

Children with additional communication or neurodiverse needs were supported through tailored approaches including AAC, eye gaze, communication boards, sensory resources and trusted adults. UASC participation remained high: 48 of 50 reviews (96%) were attended by the young person, with interpreter support where required.

For children and young people with neurodiverse needs, or for those who may feel anxious about attending meetings, IROs use activities, toys, and sensory resources to help create a relaxed, engaging, and child-friendly environment. These approaches help reviews feel more inclusive, supportive, and meaningful, ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate in decisions about their life in a way that feels safe and comfortable for them.



IROs actively recognise and celebrate children's achievements and milestones during reviews. This strengths-based approach promotes confidence, resilience, positive identity and aspiration while ensuring children's successes remain central to care planning and decision making.



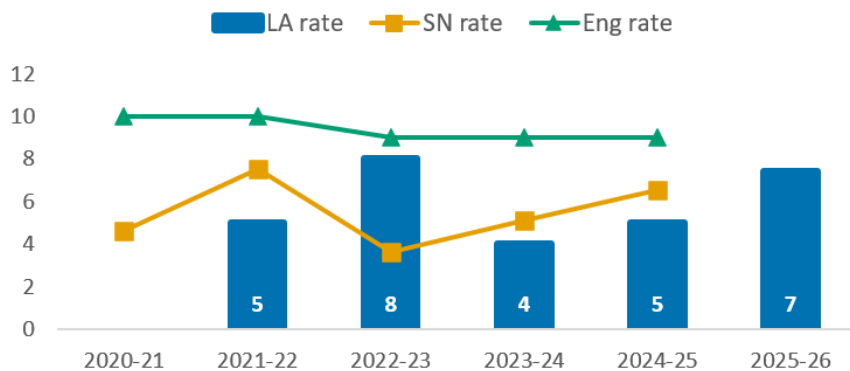
Driving forward to achieving Permanence

IROs monitor permanence through statutory and midway reviews, monitoring forms, Permanency Planning Meetings and the Permanency Tracking Panel, challenging drift and delay and ensuring children's wishes, identity and relationships inform planning.

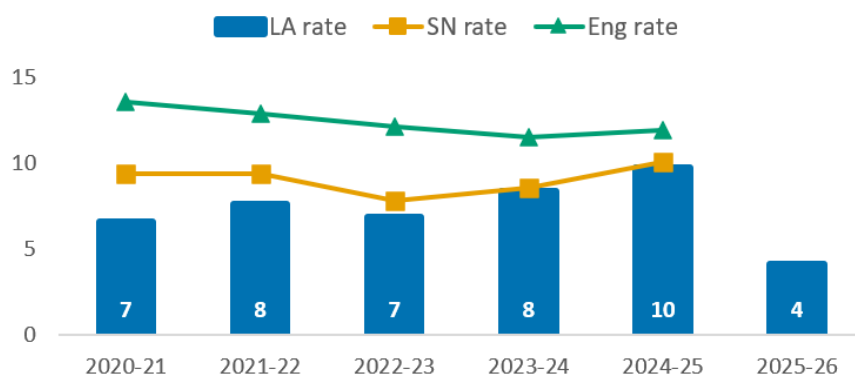
During 2025/26:

- Permanence was secured for 11 children through adoption, an increase from 7 in 2024/25, exceeding both the previous year's performance and that of our statistical neighbours.
- A further 6 children achieved permanence through Special Guardianship Orders.

Children who ceased to be looked after in the year who were adopted (%)



Children who ceased to be looked after in the year due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)



Long-term fostering remained a strength: 91 children and young people (42%) were matched with long-term foster carers. The service will strengthen the visibility of the IRO contribution to matching decisions, including consideration of identity, culture, heritage and lifelong relationships.

IRO oversight contributed to progressing long-term fostering arrangements for 14 young people aged 16 and over through the CLA review process, helping to ensure that permanence, identity, relationships and emotional security remained central to planning. These arrangements are particularly significant for older young people as they prepare for adulthood.

Dispute Resolution Process

The Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) provides a formal route for IRO challenge where concerns about care planning, delay or outcomes cannot be resolved through professional dialogue. The service seeks early resolution while retaining escalation through senior management and, where necessary, CAFCASS.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, the Dispute Resolution Process was initiated on 123 occasions, including:

- 92 informal alerts relating to 81 children.
- 31 formal escalations relating to 28 children.

This was a 32% reduction in DRP activity compared with 2024/25. The data indicates more concerns were resolved through earlier professional dialogue, although the service will continue to monitor whether reductions in formal escalation reflect timely resolution and improved outcomes.

- Securing senior management support to maintain educational stability following placement changes.
- Ensuring coordinated safeguarding responses when young people went missing from care.
- Progressing delayed regulatory assessments for kinship placements.
- Addressing drift and delay in permanence planning.

The top five reasons for use of the DRP in the period April 25 -March 2026 are:



Feedback

Feedback is gathered through reviews, audits, complaints, dispute resolution and direct engagement. Themes during 2025/26 included strong child-centred practice, clear communication, effective chairing and valued independent challenge.

“Thank you IRO, it was a lovely review, so good to see YP taking part and talking about his views.” – Team Manager

What would you keep the same about the CLA Review? *“The open and clear communication. Information is shared clearly helping me to feel well informed. The opportunities to raise concerns and celebrate progress... I would keep everything the same” - Young person*

As s new Court Guardian I have been in close contact with the CSW and IRO and we have been keeping each other up to date with any changes. It has been positive so far...-IRO very helpful ...-IRO are good... inviting the CG to looked after child reviews, planning meetings, other professionals meeting; request for discussion receives prompt responses. – feedback from Guardians via CACASS

Summary and IRO Service Priorities 2026-27

In 2025/26 the IRO Service maintained strong statutory performance and contributed to Haringey’s wider improvement journey. The next phase is to demonstrate more clearly how IRO oversight adds value: what changes as a result of challenge, how specialist expertise is used, and how improvement is measured year on year.

The 2026/27 priorities therefore focus on areas where the service can demonstrate a specific contribution and measurable improvement, aligned with Families First, adolescent safeguarding, participation, permanence and quality assurance.

Key Priorities for the Independent Reviewing Service

1. Strengthen Family Network and Relationship-Based Care Planning

Strengthen oversight of reunification, kinship and family-network planning, with clearer IRO input into permanence and matching decisions. Impact will be assessed through evidence of timely permanence, the quality of matching considerations and reunification outcomes.

2. Enhance Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Contextual Risk Oversight

Increase the visibility and contribution of IRO specialist expertise in exploitation, extra-familial harm, serious youth violence, missing and child sexual abuse. Evidence impact through case audit, escalation themes and examples of changes to safety and care plans arising from IRO challenge.

3. Strengthen Oversight of Health, Education and Wellbeing Outcomes

Strengthen scrutiny of health, education and wellbeing outcomes, including school attendance, SEND provision and immunisation uptake. Work collaboratively with Health and Children in Care services to establish relevant baselines, identify areas for improvement and monitor whether IRO oversight contributes to measurable progress.

4. Improve Participation and Inclusive Practice for Children with Complex Needs

Use participation-code data to understand why children do not attend or contribute to reviews; test targeted engagement approaches; and demonstrate year-on-year improvement in direct participation, chairing/co-chairing and the experience of children whose voices are harder to hear.

5. Strengthen Quality Assurance, Oversight, and Impact of Reviews

Increase the annual review-minute audit sample to approximately 10% of reviews. Introduce targeted audit of how identity, culture and heritage are considered within care planning, permanence and matching, and use findings to identify themes requiring service-level challenge. Track the impact and timeliness of IRO escalation and oversight, reporting not only activity but what changed for children as a result.

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Report for: CPAC September 2026

Item number: 9

Title: Children's social care performance quarter 2 2026/27

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

Lead Officer: Richard Hutton Performance, Data & Analytics Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** For Information and Noting

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for measures relating to Children Looked After (CLA), care leavers, and those who ceased to be looked after in the period.
- 1.2 This report notes the progress and the consistent, effective performance with regards to safeguarding children and young people in Haringey for 2026/27.
- 1.3 The report identifies key developments, summarises performance activity levels and details several future priorities for vulnerable children.
- 1.4 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.

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

- 4.1 This report is for information only

5. Alternative options considered
N/A

6. Background information

- 6.1 The welfare of Haringey's vulnerable children is one of the Council's highest priorities.
- 6.2 This quarterly report is intended to inform the Committee of the performance of Children Social Care Services in 2026/27.
- 6.3 Committee should be aware of the progress made against managing the safeguarding demands.
- 6.4 The report, in addition to other measures, enables Members to assure itself that the necessary arrangements are in place for the Council to effectively discharge its children social care obligations. In this regard, there is a distinct leadership role for the Leader, Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director Children's Services; also, there is a wider corporate parenting role for all members of the Council.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 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

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Appendix I

Children Looked after performance for quarters 1 & 2 2026-27 with outcomes for 2025/26 and updates for August 2026 where available

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This report provides an overview of performance for Children Looked After (CLA) Services for 2026/27.

1.2 The report looks at how our performance has grown and developed and provides comparative data by benchmarking where appropriate with our statistical neighbours. Haringey's statistical neighbours are a group of local authorities judged by the DfE to have the most similar demographic profile, these are:

- Barnet
- Brent
- Ealing
- Enfield
- Hounslow
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Redbridge
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest

1.3 The report includes oversight of Children's Social Care services and support provided for children and young people who are:

- in our care who are looked after
- care experienced young adults
- adopted children in the period

2. National Context - National Statistical Reporting

2.1 All local authorities report to the Department for Education to inform the Child in Need Annual Census and the Children in Care Return (CLA 903). The results of which are published every October on the DfE website. The CIN census covers early intervention, contacts and referrals to social care and the reasons, Child and Family assessments and identified factors, the nature and volume of child protection activity, and the numbers of children subject to child protection conferences. The 903 return covers children entering care and the reasons, the types of placements used, the legal status of children, how many children have left care and for what reasons (including

adoption) and details about care leavers and their accommodation, employment and training outcomes and how the local authority is keeping in touch with them. The CLA 903 also includes details of allocated social worker and stability.

The CLA 903 is used as a basis for publishing the educational outcome for Children looked after which is published each spring.

2.2 In addition, more detailed returns are submitted to the North Central London Regional Adoption board on children with an adoption plan, the timeliness of matching and placing with an adopter and the recruitment of adopters.

3. Local Background and Context

3.1 The department continues to support high levels of need and complexity in families for the following reasons:

- In 2024/25, 8,009 children in Haringey were living in relative poverty before housing costs. This is below the SN average (9,907), but in line with the London average (7,985).
- After housing costs this number rises to 18,111
- In Haringey this equates to 16.9% of all 0 - 16-year-olds in the borough and is the 11th highest rate of all London boroughs.
- 26% of Haringey pupils are eligible for and claiming free school meals. This is above the England average (24.6%), but below the London average (26.6%)
- Neighbourhoods in the east of the borough rank much more highly on the index of income deprivation affecting children, compared to neighbourhoods in the west.

3.2 Alongside these challenges, Haringey as a local area continues to be a strong and thriving place for children growing up in the area. It is a place that has a rich history, strong and vibrant communities, great transport links and excellent facilities with a range of cultural events. Key strengths include:

- Diverse communities where more than 180 languages are spoken.
- Over a quarter of the borough is green space – with 25 Green Flag Parks and 120 venues where cultural activities take place.

4. Our children and young people population

4.1 In Haringey, there are 53,550 children aged 0-17 years, representing 21% of the overall population (MYE 2023), largely in line with statistical neighbours and London where 21% and 22% of people are aged 0-17 respectively. Notably, the ward with the highest proportion of 0-17-year-olds is South Tottenham (29%), while the ward with the lowest is Stroud Green (15.4%). The number of under 18s is not expected to change significantly in future years and will remain most concentrated in the east of the borough.

4.2 Almost half of the pupils in Haringey schools do not have English as a first language (47.4%). After English, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, and Somalian are the most commonly spoken languages (May 2022 Census).

5. Outcomes for children and young people

5.1 **Haringey's Children in Care have above average educational outcomes** with our KS4 Average Attainment 8 Score for 2025 at 24.2, up from 20.6, against an England average of 17.3. This represents top quartile performance.

5.2 **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have higher educational outcomes**, in 2025 16 of 18 attainment measures are in the top quartile in England.

5.3 Two measures **ranked 3rd of all LAs nationally**:

- Foundation Stage - % Good level of Development SEN with Statement/EHCP and
- "Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths, Expected Standard - Pupils with Statements of SEN/EHC Plan"

5.4 **Haringey has fewer secondary pupils permanently excluded (0.01%)** and is better than the national average (0.25%) and its percentage of NEET children, those (Not in Education Employment or Training) improved (1.7%) from 1.9% in the previous year.

6. SEND Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

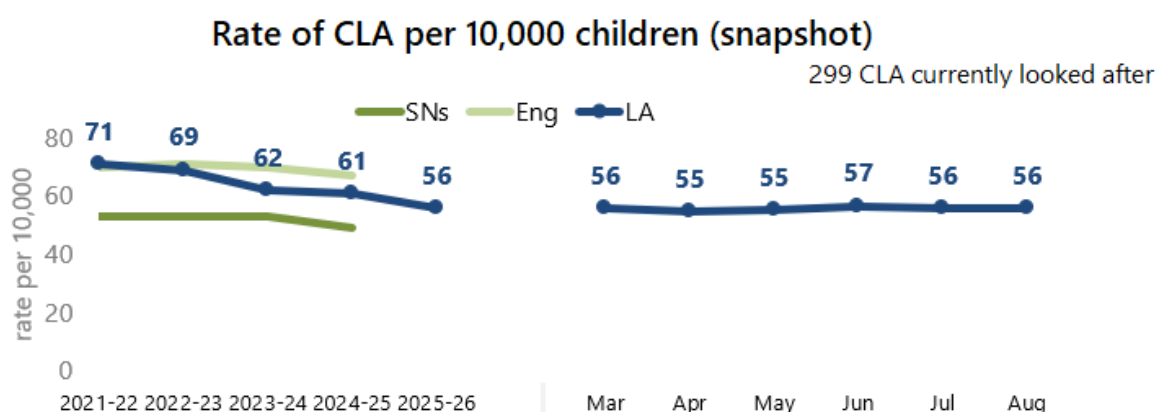
6.1 There were 363 EHCP plans issued throughout 2025, when the exceptional cases are excluded 89.6% up from 84% were issued within 20 weeks. This compares with 46.1% for England and 70% for our statistical neighbours.

7. Children Looked After

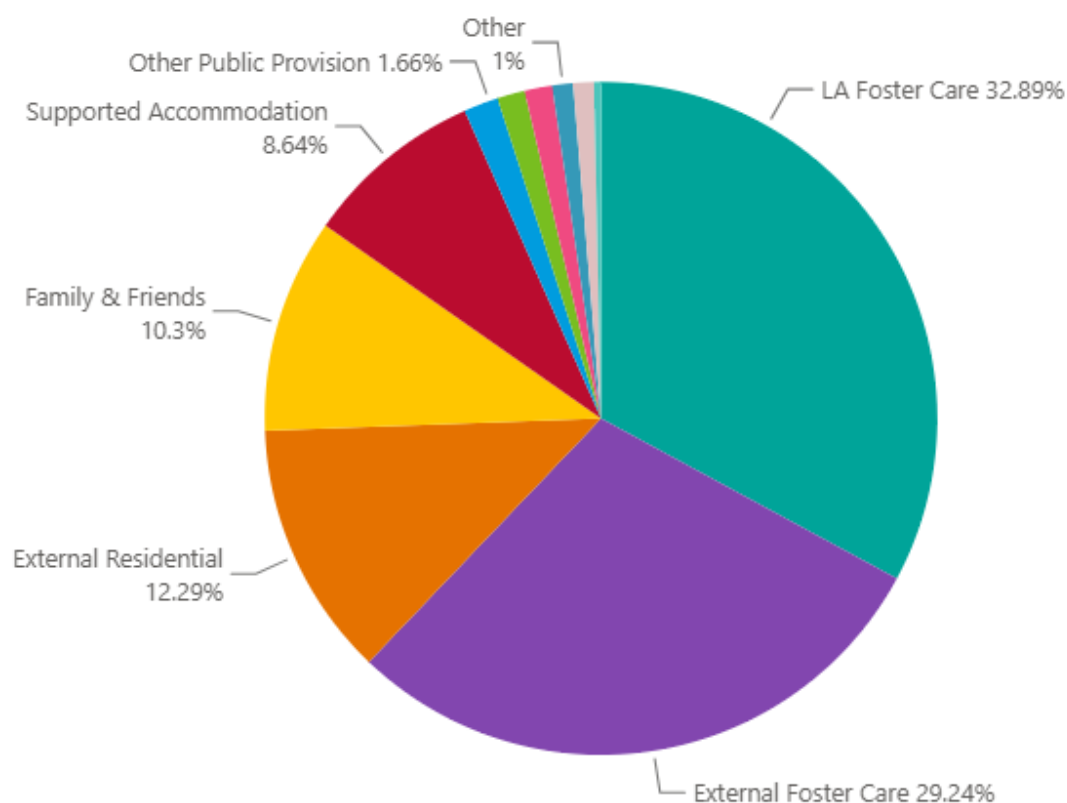
7.1 A child who has been in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a Child Looked After (CLA) also often referred to as children in care.

Children in care in general are either living with extended family members, foster carers, in a residential children's home or living in residential settings like schools or secure units. Children come into care for a variety of reasons, including because they are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with no responsible adult to care for them or children's services may have intervened because it was believed that the child was at risk of significant harm. A child stops being looked after when they are adopted, are made the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, return home unless there is a Care Order in place, or turn 18. However local authorities are required to provide information, advice and or support to most children who leave care at 18, until they are 25 years old.

7.2 At the end of August 2026, the number of children looked after was the same as in March, 299 children in our care. This has fallen from 325 at the end of March 2025. This is one of the lowest ever rates in Haringey. The rate is shown in the chart below to best compare to other local authorities.



7.3 The proportion of our CLA in different placement types is shown below



7.4 The table below shows the children in care in foster placements. Foster placements are the most used of all placement types with the proportion slightly higher than that of all England.

	Haringey Aug-26	Haringey 2025-26	SN 2024- 25 %	Eng 2024- 25 %
Foster placements	(217) 73%	(219) 74%	67%	67%

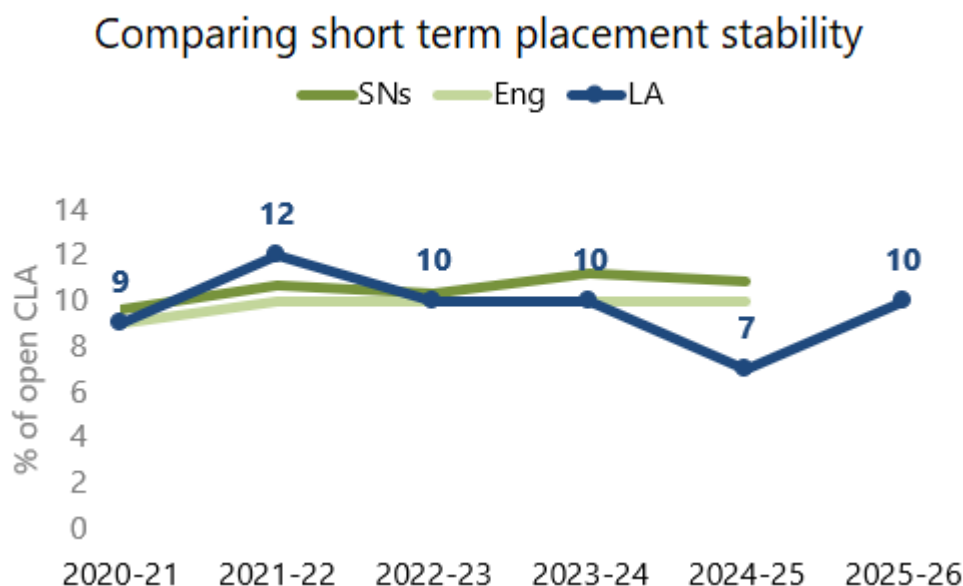
7.5 Of those children in foster placements 40% are long term matched with their foster carers, this falls within the DfE's expected range but reported to be well above the national average. This is down 1 percentage point since the last report.

7.6 224 (75%) of our CLA are placed outside of the borough at the end of August. Only 15% of children live 20+ miles away from home, improving 2024/25 (17%) and better than both SNs and England.

Local provision continues to be a challenge, and we continue to use our own residential provision, Haselmere Children's Home, to mitigate national and local challenges. We also continue to build relationships with local providers and work with our regional and sub-regional partners to address sufficiency issues.

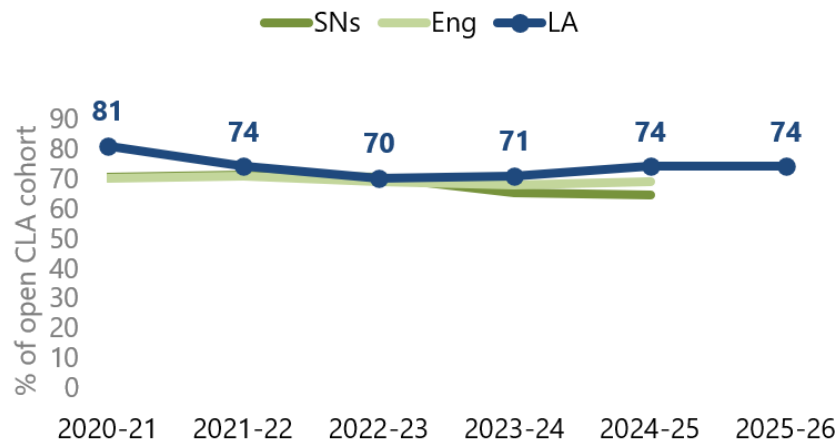
7.7 Placement stability is a key factor in children's wellbeing. This gives young people the chance to settle into a foster or residential placement over a period, Stability can be achieved only by making sure that the child is in the right placement for them. There are two types of placement stability that we measure – short term stability which looks at the number of placements for children in the last 12 months, and long-term stability which considers those children who have been looked after for more than 2½ years and have been in the same placement for more than the past 2 years. It is a combination of these indicators that gives us confidence that our children in care are in indeed in a stable environment.

7.8 Our short-term stability performance shows that 10% of children in our care had three or more placements in the past 12 months. This is a positive increase on 2024/25 but in line with recent years, statistical neighbours and the national average.



In the 12 months to August 2026, 265 of our 299 children had only one or no placement moves.

7.9 Long term placement stability is sustained at 74% from March to August 2026. Of the children who have been looked after for over 2½ years, 57 have been in the same placement for the past 2 years.



Comparing long term placement stability

7.10 Permanence planning is continually being monitored and strengthened, and we ensure that Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) have sufficient information to enable expedient and timely permanence planning. Our trackers are helping us monitor children who have not been matched with a new permanent family arrangement, and we constantly check and review children's permanency plans throughout the time in care.

7.11 The data for children who go missing from care shows us that 14% or 53 of 367 CLA were reported missing over the period last 12 months. This remains below our SN rate of 17%.

When children do go missing from placement there is a robust and effective response from children's social care and the Police. The missing co-ordinator tracks, and risk assesses children who go missing and a specialist meets weekly to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent repeat occurrences. Return home interviews are routinely conducted by specialist workers. At each child's latest missing incident 75% were offered a return home interview, with the other cases deemed inappropriate to offer at the time. The take up rate was 68% up from 48% in January.

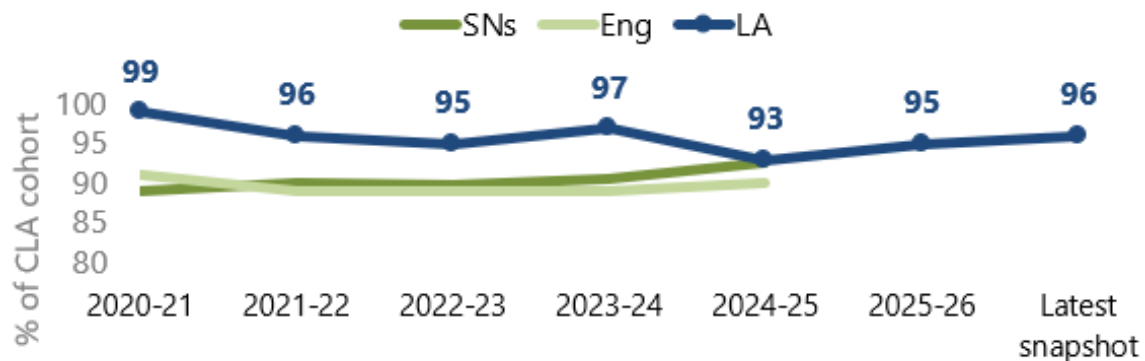
8. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

8.1 There are two means by which UASC come to Haringey. Firstly, as spontaneous arrivals, most frequently arriving at local police stations. The second is through the National Transfer Scheme, which aims to equitably re-distribute UASC across the country, especially those from Kent and Croydon, in recent years there has been a sharp decrease in overall numbers, and the second of these two routes has become the most prevalent.

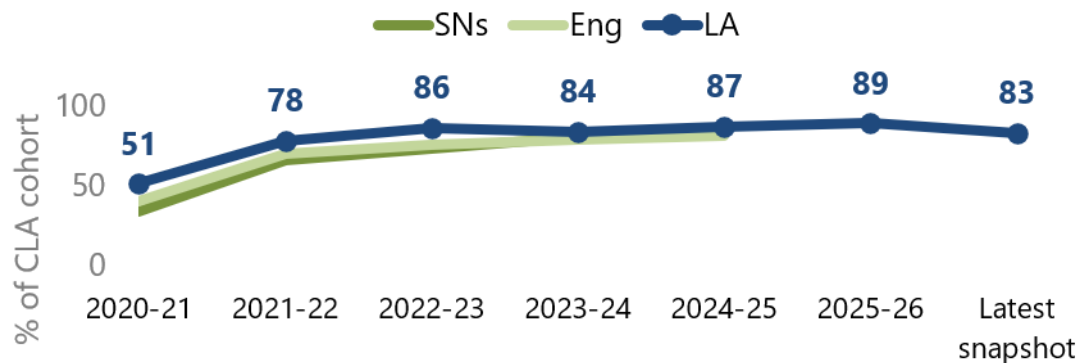
8.2 At the end of March 2020 there were 48 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in care, this fell steadily to 14 by January 2026 and is now 17.

9. Health and Dental

9.1 An impressive 96% of the 205 CLA who have been in care for over 12 months have an up-to-date health assessment recorded.



9.2 83% of the current CLA have up to date dental checks, this is a slight decrease on what was the highest rate since the pandemic.



10. Adoption

10.1 There were 11 adoptions during 2025/26, four more than the previous year, which is in line with our statistical neighbours. There have been 4 adoptions in the current year and 5 special guardianships. In total making up 13% of those leaving care.

10.2 Haringey and the ALN (Adopt London North) are continuing to strengthen practitioner knowledge around early permanence as a placement option for children,

with ALN running a number of in person and virtual training sessions for practitioners across the directorate.

10.3 A key priority continues to be the reduction of disparity in adoption for children of global majority heritage and improve the adoption system so that more adopters of Black heritage become applicants and choose to adopt through Adopt London.

11. Leaving care

11.1 For Care Leavers also known as Care Experienced Young Adults, there is a requirement for Haringey to stay in touch with the young person, keep their Pathway Plans under review, continue to provide a Personal Adviser and in some cases provide financial assistance. These duties continue until the former relevant child reaches 21 or, where the child's pathway plan sets out a programme of education or training which extends beyond their 21st birthday, they continue for as long as young person pursues that programme.

11.2 The service also works within the duty on local authorities to support all care leavers up to age 25 who can return to the local authority at any point after the age of 21 and request support.

11.3 At the end of March 2026 there were 662 care experienced young adults who were qualified for care leaver services. This has fallen slightly to 623 by the end of August.

11.4 Care leavers have different levels of support available depending on their eligibility criteria:

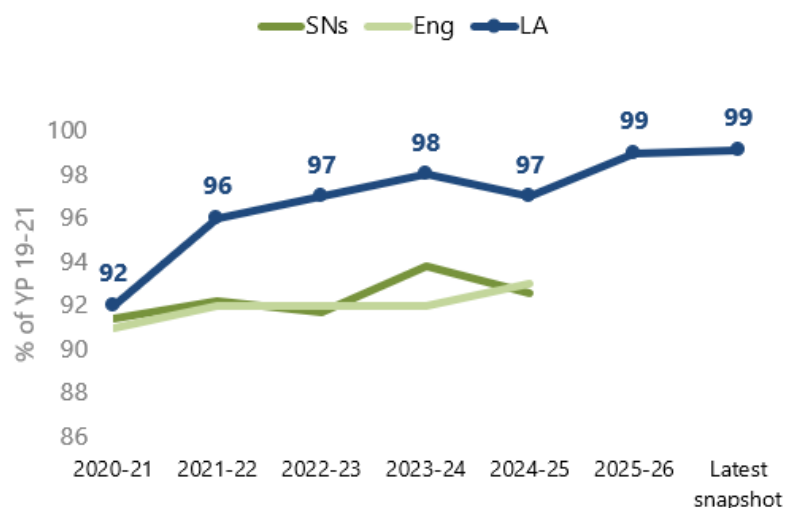
Eligible	~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~Currently looked after Age 16 or 17
Relevant	~ Age 16 or 17 ~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ No longer looked after
Former Relevant	~ Aged between 18 and 25 ~ Previously an eligible or relevant child
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"
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Cohort of Care Leavers and eligibility for services

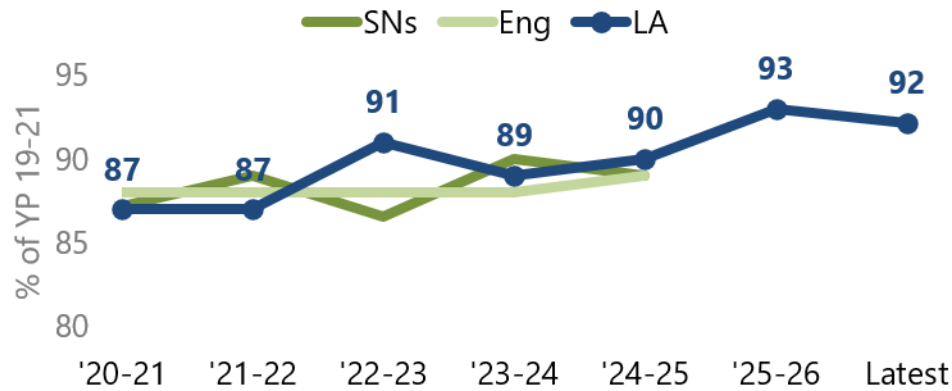
Age	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	Total
16	28	3	0	1	32
17	42	2	0	0	44
18	0	0	69	1	70
19	0	0	82	0	82
20	0	0	77	0	77
21	0	0	71	0	71
22	0	0	88	1	89
23	0	0	77	2	79
24	0	0	79	0	79
Total	70	5	543	5	623

11.5 100% of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Care leavers (UAS), including former UAS, are in touch with the Young adults service and 96% of the reaming cohort, meaning an impressive 99% of the 19-21 year olds are in touch.

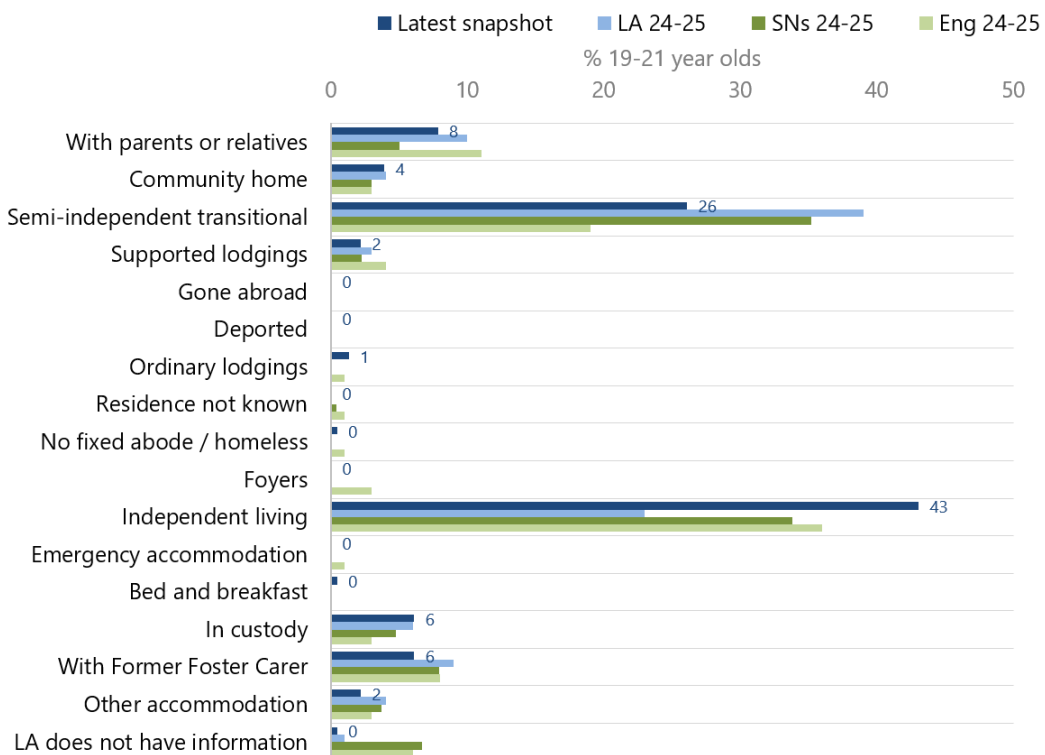


11.6 Both care leavers in suitable accommodation and those in employment, education or training Haringey have a higher percentage than both our statistical neighbours and the England rate.

Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds



11.7 Accommodation types: For care leavers aged 19-21 Independent living is now the most common accommodation type over taking transitional semi-independent.



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