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## **Children's Service Advisory Committee**

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MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2005 at 18:00 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Meehan (Chair), Harris, Adamou, Adje, Bax, Jean Brown, Hoban, Engert, Santry and Stanton

### **AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. 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 at item 13 below.

**3. 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 interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if 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.

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

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Service Advisory Committee held on the 17 October 2005.

**5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

To consider any requests received in accordance with Standing Orders.

**6. SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2005 PERFORMANCE DATA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE (PAGES 7 - 12)**

To inform Member's of the Children's Service Advisory Committee of the performance of the Children's Service against national and local indicators.

**7. IMPACT OF ADOPTION ACT (TO FOLLOW)**

**8. FRAMEWORK I UPDATE**

To provide members of the committee information on the training provided to staff on the Framework I System.

**9. UPDATE ON CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

Oral presentation by David Holmes , Deputy Director of Children's Service

**10. THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Video Presentation( To be introduced by Marian Wheeler – Service Manager)

**11. URGENT BUSINESS**

To deal with any new items of urgent business admitted at item 2 above.

YUNIEA SEMAMBO  
Head of Member Services  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
London N22 8HQ

Jeremy Williams  
Principal Support Officer  
Tel: 020-8489 2919  
Fax: 020-8881 5218  
Email: [jeremy.williams@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.williams@haringey.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**17 OCTOBER 2005**

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

Councillors \*Meehan (Chair), \*Adamou, Adje, Bax, \*Jean Brown, \*Engert, \*Harris, Hoban, \*Santry and Stanton.

\* Members present

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>CSAC18.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>None Received</p>	HMS
<b>CSAC19.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b> (Agenda Item )</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2005 be confirmed and signed.</p>	HMS
<b>CSAC20.</b>	<p><b>JULY/AUGUST PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b> (Agenda Item 6 ):</p> <p>We received the performance report for July and August, which contained key performance data relating to children looked after, child protection, referrals and assessments, family support and staffing for members of the committee to consider. The data was compared to key performance indicators, which the Council was obliged to meet and contained the statutory requirements and local time scales for meeting these targets.</p> <p>We were informed that there had been 255 referrals received in the month of July and 233 in August. The performance for completion of initial assessments stood at 31.7% against a target of 56%. The committee conveyed its concern at the speed of which assessments were being completed. They were informed by officers that this issue was a priority and that they would be implementing measures to improve performance in this area. Officers further explained that social workers were diligently ensuring that the quality of initial assessments were of a high standard. We were advised that Haringey completed a greater number of initial assessments than other London boroughs. Officers advised that they would complete research to find out why this was the case and would report their findings in the performance report at a future meeting.</p> <p>In July 50% of core assessments were completed within timescales and 19% in August. Committee members were assured by officers that core assessments were being completed and there was not a backlog of cases. We were further informed that a new management information database was being implemented which would allow social workers to keep an electronic social care record. All local authorities were required to implement an electronic system for recording cases. Staff were being trained on the new e- care system and this had led to a delay in the speed of recording cases. This had now been rectified and all outstanding case</p>	



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	<p>5. That a report be provided to the committee in January detailing out comes of the implemented new strategy.</p> <p>6. That the report back on staffing include details of the long term employment of agency staff.</p>	<p>CH/DH</p> <p>CH/DH</p>
<p><b>CSAC21.</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOLS ON EXCLUSIONS &amp; ALTERNATIVE PROVISION</b>  (Agenda Item 7):</p> <p>The report gave account of proposals for the development of provision to young people who had been excluded from school and/or were hard to place and sought the views of the committee. The documented proposals formed an important part of the Haringey Secondary Strategy and Building Schools for the Future Programme.</p> <p>We noted that the main part of proposals were based on devolving resources to schools and commissioning schools to make provisions enabling, the majority of children and young people to be retained in a school setting. To help achieve this, it was proposed that Children Services retained the resources that would ensure that children and young people were able to access specific support for their needs.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That we note the report.</p>	
<p><b>CSAC22.</b></p>	<p><b>ADOPTION SERVICE UPDATE REPORT: APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2005</b>  (Agenda Item 8):</p> <p>The purpose of the report was to update the committee on the progress of permanency planning in the adoption service. The report focussed on the progress being made on granting of adoption orders and contained end of year projections.</p> <p>We noted the information provided on all children currently in the adoption process, this included reasons for understanding the delays i.e. with placing children with suitable families and received an update on each adoption order currently in progress. We were also related the factors which were considered when making a decisions on adoption. We noted that 4 new adopters had been approved between April 2005 and September 2005 and that there would the recruitment strategy for this financial year would include trying to recruit more adopters from, African Caribbean, Central African and Turkish communities which there was a need for.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That we note the report.</p>	
<p><b>CSAC23.</b></p>	<p><b>EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN</b>  (Agenda Item 9):</p>	

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The purpose of the report was to update the Committee on the educational achievement of looked after children in the borough and inform members of the continuing work to enable looked after children to achieve their educational potential which would in turn improve their life chances. It was recognised that there were a number of reasons for looked after children not attaining the same educational achievements as their peers at key stages and in their GCSE's. It was also recognised that although the educational achievement of LAC in Haringey is at or above the national average, there was still a great need to target reducing the gap between looked after children and their peers. The main areas which had been previously identified by members as affecting attainment included:

- Lack of stability
- Missed schooling
- Lack of support with their education when faced with difficulties
- Lack of help for carers of LAC to support a learning environment
- The need to improve help for children in care with their emotional , mental and physical health

These issues were being addressed by the Children's service and its partners and we were presented with information on the strategies and resources which would be undertaken to improve support to looked after children and young people.

There were in total 297 Looked after children in school and 61 in alternative provision. We were provided with information on the number of initiatives taken to support their educational attainment and these included:

- The Director of Children's services communicating with Schools which had looked after children as pupils to communicate the importance of raising attainment of looked after children
- Additional tuition for 43 looked after children
- Additional teaching assistant support
- Funding to support preparation of KS2 SATs
- LAC children in years 7, 8, 9 had 10 had been visited by a teacher
- Homework club established for looked after children in Yrs 10 and 11
- Social Inclusion Panel ensures that any looked after children without educational provision is given priority for a school place
- 142 computers allocated to individual looked after children
- Training sessions for carers for supporting children through the primary and secondary school process

We noted the significant improvements that had taken place and agreed the importance of continuing to support the educational achievements of looked after children. We asked to receive a further report once the 2005 comparative data was received and that information on educational

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	<p>attainment include A-level and degree achievements of looked after children.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That we note the report.</li> <li>2. That we receive a further report with 2005 comparatives and information on A-level and degree attainments among looked after children.</li> </ol>	JD
<b>CSAC24.</b>	<p><b>PROVISIONAL ATTAINMENT DATA FOR KEY STAGES 1-4, GCE A LEVEL AND ATTENDANCE INCLUDING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY THE COUNCIL</b> (Agenda Item 10)</p> <p>We were presented with the provisional results for key stages 1, 2, 3, GCSE's and A-levels. These results were provisional and were provided to the committee to provide an understanding of steady improvements made in these areas over the last 5 years. A more detailed report was due to be presented to the Executive in November.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That we note the report.</p>	
<b>CSAC25</b>	<p><b>MISSING FROM CARE, MISSING FROM HOME, - JOINT PROTOCOL &amp; PRACTICE</b> (Agenda item 11)</p> <p>Members of the committee were issued with the joint protocol and practice guidance for dealing with children missing from care or home. The guidance and protocols had been created to ensure that there was an effective response across agencies when a child or young person goes missing or returns. The guidance had been agreed by the Haringey Area Child Protection Committee and been compiled in consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Social Services</li> <li>• Haringey Police Missing Persons unit</li> <li>• Haringey Education service</li> <li>• Haringey Teaching Primary care trust</li> <li>• Haringey Children's right service</li> </ul> <p>The booklet provided committee members with an understanding of what would practically be done when a child is missing and detailed the responsibilities of the Police, agencies, officers and senior managers.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That we note that the guidance has been received by members of the committee.</p>	
<b>CSAC26.</b>	<p><b>ORAL UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN</b></p>	

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	<p>The Deputy Director advised the committee that the Children's service was currently information gathering to start developing the Children and young people's plan. The committee was asked to put forward their views on what the priorities should be included in the plan and were asked to forward these to the deputy director, David Holmes within the next 2 weeks.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That officers note the need to address health issues of young people as part of the plan.</li><li>2. That members of the committee contact the Deputy Director, within the next 2 weeks with their suggestions of priorities for the Children and Young People's plan.</li></ol>	DH
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GEORGE MEEHAN  
Chair



Agenda item:

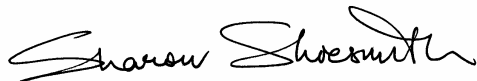
**Children's Services Advisory Committee**
**On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005**
**Report Title: September/October 2005 Performance data for Children's Services**
**Report of: The Director of the Children's Service**
**Wards(s) affected: All**
**Report for: Information**
**1. Purpose**

1.1 To inform Members of CSAC of the Children's Service performance against national and local indicators.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members of CSAC are asked to endorse the contents of the report.

**Report Authorised by:** Sharon Shoesmith  
 Director  
 The Children's Service

**Signature:**


**Contact Officer:** David Holmes  
**Telephone:** 0208 489 3154  
**E-mail:** [david.holmes@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:david.holmes@haringey.gov.uk)

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 This paper contains children's social care performance data for September and October including data relating to looked after children, child protection, referrals and assessments, family support and staffing.

**4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development**

4.1 Not applicable

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

5.1 Not applicable

**6. Background**

6.1 This paper contains children’s social care performance data for September and October including data relating to looked after children, child protection, referrals and assessments, family support and staffing.

**7. Description**

7.1 This report is the latest in a series of regular monitoring reports for CSAC

**8. Consultation**

Not applicable

**9. Summary and conclusions**

**September & October 2005 data**

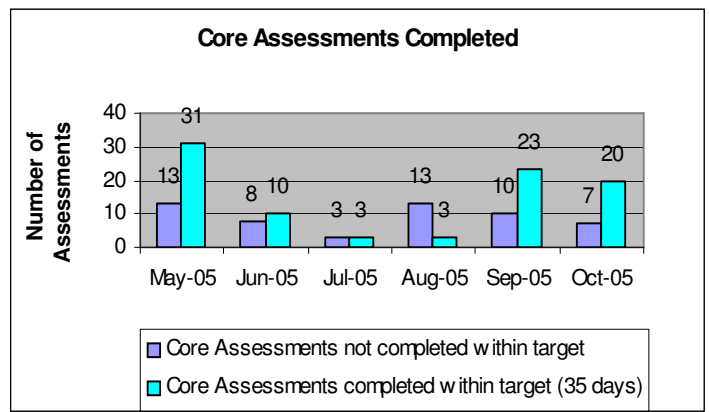
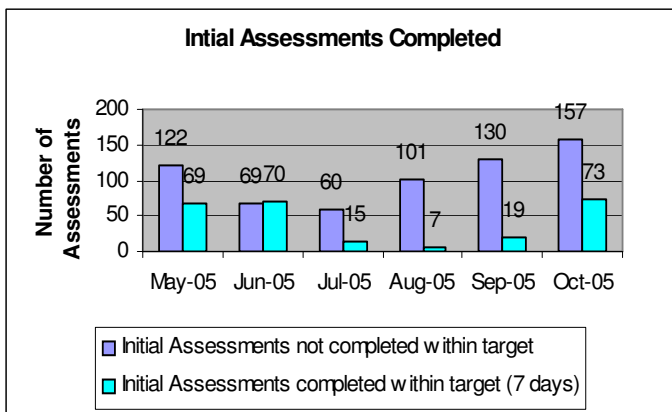
**9.1 Referrals and Assessments**

9.1.1 195 referrals were received in September and 227 in October

9.1.2 13% of initial assessments were completed in timescale in September and 32% in October. The year to date position for initial assessments in timescale is 29%. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 56%.

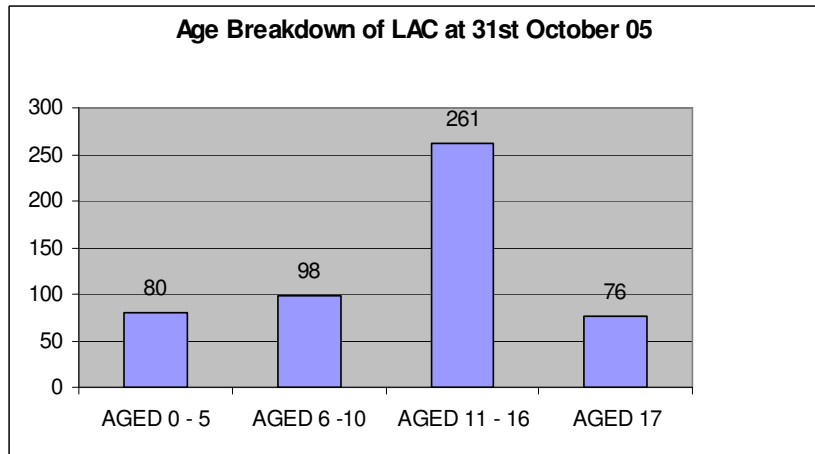
9.1.3 70% of core assessments were completed in timescale in September and 74% in October. This indicator now forms part of the PAF (Performance Assessment Framework – PAF C64) set of indicators from April 2005. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 50.6%. The average of our comparator Boroughs was 55.4%. Our current year to date position is 57.5%.

9.1.4 An oral update on current assessment performance will be presented to Members of CSAC at the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November.



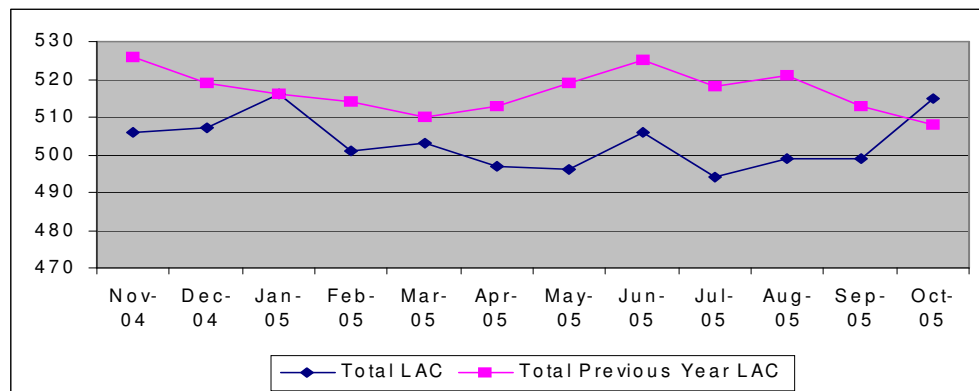
**9.2 Children Looked After**

9.2.1 The number of children looked after in September was 499 and this went up to 515 in October. The age breakdown of children looked after is demonstrated in the graph below:



9.2.2 At the end of September 92 LAC were unaccompanied minors and the figure was 104 in October.

9.2.3 The following table demonstrates the differences in the total numbers of children looked after in comparison to the same period in the previous year. If we compare the number of children looked after at the end of October 2005 compared to the same time last year, we see that there are now 9 more looked after.



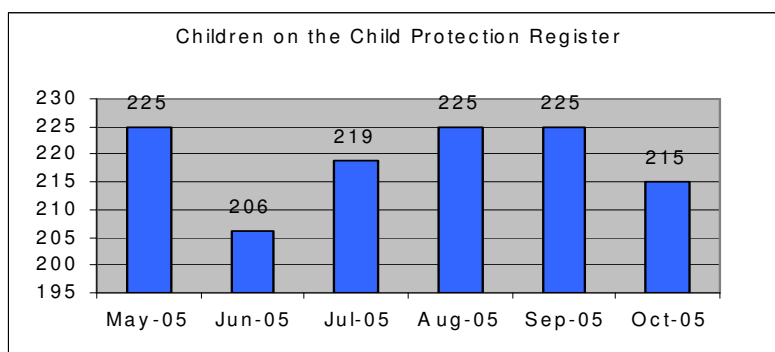
9.2.4 In September 18 children started to become looked after and 17 ceased. In October the figures were 28 started and 12 ceased. 8 children became subject to care proceedings in September and 20 in October.

9.2.5 93% of looked after children had a review in timescale in September and 93.3% in October.

- 9.2.6 In October 425 children required a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and, of those, 87% had one in place.
- 9.2.7 85% of looked after children had an up to date visit at the end of September and 84% at the end of October.
- 9.2.8 The proportion of children looked after placed in foster care or placed for adoption was 73.7% in September and 71% in October. The proportion of children under 10 placed in foster care or placed for adoption (PAFC22) was 95% in September and 95% in October. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 98.4%, which put us into the top performance banding. From April 2005 this is no longer a PAF return.
- 9.2.9 The percentage of children who communicated their views to a statutory review (PAF C63) in September was 97.5% and in October 99.1%. Our outturn for this indicator was 93.7% in 2004/05 and our target for 2005/06 is 98%.
- 9.2.10 99.5% of looked after children had an allocated worker at the end of October, meaning that only one looked after child did not have an allocated worker. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 98.8%. In 2003/04 the average of our comparator boroughs was 97%.
- 9.2.11 Information on children missing from care will be reported on quarterly as agreed at CSAC in May. The next update will be given at the December meeting.

**9.3 Child Protection**

- 9.3.1 The number of children on the Child Protection Register went down from 225 in September to 215 in October.



- 9.3.2 Excellent performance around children on the Child Protection Register who were reviewed in timescale has continued throughout the year to date, with 100% of reviews being completed in timescale since April. The London average for this indicator in 2003/04 was 98%.
- 9.3.3 The percentage of children on the Child Protection Register who were visited in timescale in September was 95.8% and 96% in October. This figure excludes those children registered in the last week of the month.

9.3.4 There were no children on the Child Protection Register without an allocated social worker at the end of October.

#### **9.4 General overview of performance**

9.4.1 This report shows generally good or improved performance across the range of statistical responsibilities. Our performance around allocation of children looked after and children on the child protection register remains good, although we need to continue to carefully manage this area to ensure that cases are re-allocated prior to workers leaving Haringey.

9.4.2 The number of family support cases without a named social worker was 39 at the end of October. 3 were in the District Teams, 27 in the Disabled Children's Team and 9 in Unaccompanied Minors.

#### **9.5 Key Thresholds**

9.5.1 From April 2004, four of the PAF indicators now form part of the key thresholds that limit the judgements made for children's services if they are not met; these limits may in turn result in limits to star ratings. Current performance around these indicators is as follows:

9.5.2 PAF A1 – Stability of Placements of looked after children. This indicator looks at those children with 3 or more placements in the year. Our outturn for 2004/05 was 14.7%, which put us in the top performance banding (<16%). We have set a target to reduce this to 13% for 2005/06. Our performance at the end of October was 11.8%.

9.5.3 PAF C20 – Reviews of Child Protection cases. This calculates the percentage of children due a review in the year, reviewed in timescale. The 2004/05 outturn for this indicator was 100%. The year to date position for this indicator is 100%.

9.5.4 PAF A2 – Educational qualifications of looked after children. This indicator looks at all children aged 16+ who have left care in the year with one or more GCSEs at grades A\*-G (or GNVQ equivalent). The 2004/05 outturn for this indicator was 34.2%. Our plan for 2005/06 is 45%. The year to date figure at the end of October is 32.6%.

9.5.5 PAF C23 – Adoptions of children looked after. By the end of March 2005 the percentage of children adopted was 5.1%. Our plan for 2005/06 is 6% (approximately 20 children). 8 children had been adopted by the end of October

#### **9.6 Staffing**

9.6.1 The staffing position in the Children's District Teams for the end of October is summarised in the attached appendix 1, including a breakdown of agency staff in service for less than 3 months and more than 3 months

9.6.2 Both Service Managers are covered by permanent members of staff

- 9.6.3 There are 6 Senior Team Manager posts, 4 are covered by permanent staff, and 2 by agency workers.
- 9.6.4 There are 14 Team Manager posts, 13 are covered by permanent staff, and someone is acting up into the other post.
- 9.6.5 There are 15 Senior Practitioner posts, 7 are covered by permanent staff, one member of staff is acting up into the post, 4 are covered by agency workers and 3 are vacant.
- 9.6.6 There are 59 Social Worker posts, 28 are covered by permanent staff, there are 29 agency staff and 2 vacant posts.
- 9.6.7 There are 10 Social Work Assistant (SWA) posts, 9.5 are covered by permanent staff and there are 0.5 vacancies. There are 4 Social Services Officer posts, all are covered by permanent staff.

## **10 Recommendations**

- 10.1 Members of CSAC are asked to endorse the contents of the report.

## **11 Comments of the Director of Finance**

- 11.1 The activities mentioned above form part of the core activities of the authority for which budgetary provision in 2005/06 has been made.

## **12 Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

- 12.1 Legal Services have been consulted on the contents of this Report and have no specific comments.

## **13 Equalities implications**

- 13.1 The improving performance within the Children and Families branch of the Children's Service assists socially disadvantaged service users, especially children. The trend around growing numbers of children subject to safeguarding concerns suggests that more of these service users are being appropriately protected.

## **14 Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

- 14.1 Appendix 1 – Staffing, including graph on agency staff – length of time in service
- 14.2 Appendix 2 – Timescales for key indicators