



**Haringey** Council

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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# **Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee**

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TUESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2010 at 18:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Adamou, Alexander, Allison, Engert, C. Harris, Patel and Reith (Chair)

### **AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

**2. 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. New items of exempt business will be dealt with at item 14 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 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.

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

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2010.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**6. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE IN HOUSE FOSTERING SERVICE. (PAGES 7 - 12)**

This report outlines the proposed changes to the in-house fostering service which are intended to improve both recruitment of foster carers and the service itself.

**7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES JANUARY 2010 (PAGES 13 - 20)**

To provide a monthly update of performance monitoring activity in relation to Children in care.

**8. HARINGEY'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL (PAGES 21 - 26)**

This report sets out the proposal to establish a Head for the Virtual School for Children in care.

**9. STOCK TAKING EVENT - CHILDREN IN CARE (PAGES 27 - 30)**

To set out initial arrangements for a Haringey Stocktake.

**10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items admitted at item 2 above.

**11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the items below as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1 & 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

**12. MANAGING CIC WITH CHALLENGING NEEDS (PAGES 31 - 36)**

This report outlines the range of support available to assist with children in care with challenging behaviour, and gives some examples of the type of needs that are being met.

**13. CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

To provide a verbal update on safeguarding issues pertinent to the remit of the Committee.

**14. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items admitted at 2 above.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of next meeting : 12 April 2010

Ken Pryor  
Deputy Head of Local Democracy and Member  
Services  
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22 February 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 25 JANUARY 2010**

Councillors Adamou, Allison, Engert, Peacock and Reith (Chair)

Apologies Councillor Alexander, C. Harris and Patel

Also Present: Ana Beaumont, Eleanor Brazil (part), Chris Chalmers, Roy Choudhury, Denise Gandy, Rashma Toora.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC87	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Alexander, C. Harris and Patel. Cllr Peacock substituted for Cllr C. Harris.</p>	
CPAC88	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC89	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CPAC90	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December be agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CPAC91	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Confirmation was provided that there were currently no disabled CiC (Children in Care) placed at Hazelmere.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the following information be forwarded by email to Committee members by 5 February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention rates of in-house foster carers and a breakdown of number and types of carers.</li> <li>• Details of the number of CiC who came through the EDT (Emergency Duty Team).</li> </ul> <p><b>Leaflet setting out mechanisms by which CiC can raise concerns/make complaints:</b> a draft leaflet had been developed, with consultation to be undertaken with a small group of young people prior to anticipated publication by mid February.</p>	<p><b>Head of Res &amp; Plcmts</b></p>

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	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Draft leaflet to be forwarded to Committee members by 12 February.</p> <p><b>Attendance at homework club on a half termly basis to obtain the views of CiC:</b> agreed that Cllr Allison would continue with this role and report back to the Committee as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Booklet for ward Cllrs and governors setting out guidance on responsibilities in relation to corporate parenting:</b> agreed that sufficient information on the subject had been forwarded to allow the action to be considered complete.</p> <p><b>Re-offending rates for CiC:</b> agreed that information be provided on rates at the next meeting and then routinely reported alongside accompanying offending rates as part of performance data monitoring.</p>	<p>Head of Res &amp; Picmts</p> <p>Cllr Alison</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>DDCF</p>
CPAC92	<p><b>PROGRESS REPORT - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARE LEAVERS</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report setting out the employment and training opportunities for care leavers, at the support of the Leaving Care team. It was confirmed that 70.2% of Haringey's care leavers were currently engaged in education, employment or training which exceeded the national average.</p> <p>Members proposed that green industries be considered as an area for future focus for employment or training opportunities due to its increasing profile in line with the development of the green agenda.</p> <p>The Committee were advised of the recent establishment of a 16+ forum consisting of key partners such as Connexions, Haringey Guarantee etc to ensure a co-ordinated approach to prioritising and securing opportunities for care leavers. The forum also aimed to increase links with local businesses and neighbouring boroughs to allow benchmarking of best practice. An Education, Employment and Training Action Plan was also in place to address gaps in provision. Key future targets included improving the promotion of opportunities to young people and staff and data monitoring to allow a targeted approach for those young people identified as not being in education, employment or training.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That a update report be provided to the Committee in 6 months time to include a breakdown of young people classified as 'unemployed for other reason' e.g. due to pregnancy, being in custody etc. In addition to provide information on the support and opportunities available for young care leavers with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Dep Head Service (Leaving Care Team &amp; Asylum)</p> <p>Dep Head Service (Leaving Care Team &amp; Asylum)</p>
CPAC93	<p><b>SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE TO FIND SUITABLE HOUSING</b></p> <p>The Committee received a presentation on duties relating to the housing of care leavers and the housing options available, including private sector rented and supported housing. The Committee requested a</p>	<p>Head of</p>

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	<p>breakdown of information on the type of housing allocated to care leavers over the previous two year period.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding the financial support provided to care leavers when moving into a permanent home, confirmation was provided that local authorities had a duty to provide funding to every looked after child for those purposes and Haringey provided £1.5K which was similar to other LAs</p> <p>The Committee were advised of the significant impact of the recent Southwark court ruling, requiring all 16 and 17 year olds presenting to the Council as homeless to be considered as Looked After Children. Confirmation was provided that information was being gathered to assist in forecasting future demand and financial impact to monitor against statistical neighbour information. Improvements had been made to co-ordinated working between the Housing Service and Children's Service teams including introduction of new protocols and a new dedicated Southwark team in place to manage the new demand.</p> <p>One area of concern expressed by Members was how a realistic picture of housing provision in the borough, particularly the shortage of two bedroom properties, was conveyed to care leavers. Confirmation was provided that a multi-disciplinary approach was used to manage housing expectations e.g. through teenage pregnancy co-ordinators, and the feasibility of covering housing information in PSHE sessions in schools was being investigated.</p> <p>The Committee requested that figures be provided at the next Committee meeting on the number of pregnancies amongst CiC population in the borough.</p>	<p><b>Housing Support &amp; Options</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC94</b></p>	<p><b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - DECEMBER 2009 DATA</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report setting out the December performance monitoring data in relation to CiC within the Children and Families service. The Committee requested that in future performance data be provided in tabulated form to allow easier comparison between current and past performance.</p> <p>The continued significant increase in the number of CiC was noted, including the impact of the Southwark judgement.</p> <p>In response to a query as to whether the Special Guardianship Order and adoption target would be met by March considering the time limitations, confirmation was provided that performance was highly dependent on the court system. The target was however considered to be realistic, with a number of cases in the system awaiting assignment of court dates.</p>	<p><b>DDCF</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC95</b></p>	<p><b>CONSULTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE - STOCK TAKING EVENT PROPOSAL</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a tabled report setting out proposals for</p>	

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	<p>obtaining the views of CiC in the coming year, to be led by recruitment to the newly created post of Participation and Children's Rights Officer for CiC. Mechanisms for engagement proposed included the organisation of a consultation event in the autumn, the use of an online forum or telephone surveys and the creation of a film or book.</p> <p>The Committee recognised the importance of developing long-term mechanisms of engaging and seeking the views of CiC including the establishment of a CiC Council. However, the Committee strongly emphasised the importance in the short term of organising and hosting an annual CiC stocktake event locally as a matter of urgency, in order to capitalise on the recent national event and the commitment made by the Committee to run a similar event in Haringey. The replication of themes used at the national event could be used to allow a comparison to be drawn with views expressed by CiC in the borough. It was requested that this event be hosted by June 2010 which would allow time for informal consultation with young people.</p>	<p>Lead Officer for Participn /CYP Particip n Strat Officer</p>
<p><b>CPAC96</b></p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL HEAD TEACHER: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report setting out proposals to adopt the Department of Children, Schools and Families national 'virtual school' model to track, monitor and raise attainment levels for CiC. Particular benefits of implementing this approach would be the extension of CiC educational support provision to 3-19 year olds as well as to CiC placed in the borough by other local authorities.</p> <p>The virtual school staffing group would primarily consist of staff from the current CiC Education team, managed by a Head Teacher to lead on ensuring educational outcomes for CiC through for example, attending head teachers meetings within the borough.</p> <p>The virtual school would be underpinned by a governing body to maximise outcomes for CiC by supporting and challenging the work of the virtual school. It was agreed that membership of the governing body should include at least two Corporate Parenting Committee members and proposed that membership be extended to include at least two ex care leaver in order to provide an alternative perspective.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding establishing a clear line of authority to underpin the work of the virtual school, including mechanisms by which schools could be held to account where concerns in relation to CiC were identified. It was advised that successful training had been undertaken with designated teachers within schools in the borough to take the approach forward. The Committee considered that it would also be important to inform school governors in the borough about the new virtual school and its purpose in order to ensure successful sign up to the concept.</p>	<p>Team Mangr CiC Educ</p> <p>Team Mangr CiC Educ</p>
<p><b>CPAC97</b></p>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no new items of urgent business.</p>	



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CPAC98	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That as items 13 to 14 contained exempt information (as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government 1972; namely information likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and information relating to any individual) members of the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
CPAC99	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 7 December be agreed as an accurate record.</li> <li>• That the reports from recent Regulation 33 inspections of children's homes be forwarded to Committee members. It was noted that the contract for undertaking Regulation 33 visits would expire in March whereby consideration would be given for inspections to be undertaken by staff from outside the service and young people.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee requested that their thanks be placed on record to the work of the staff at Muswell House towards improving standards at the home.</p>	Head of Res & Plcmts
CPAC100	<p><b>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</b></p> <p>The Committee were updated on a new child protection case that had arisen over the new year.</p> <p>The Committee noted the retirement of the Chair of the Fostering Panel and the selection of a replacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee requested that a structure chart for the Children and Young People's Service be circulated to members following confirmation that the management team was nearly fully staffed.</li> </ul>	DDCF
CPAC101	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no new items of exempt urgent business.</p>	
CPAC102	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the following be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies in place for managing CiC with particular challenging needs, including suitably anonymised examples of the complexities of</li> </ul>	DDCF

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	cases. • Progress report on improvements to the in-house fostering service.	<b>Head of Res &amp; Picmts</b>
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Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair

Agenda item:

**[No.]****Children and Young People's Advisory Committee      On**

Report Title: In –house fostering service	
Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): n/a	
Report of: <b>The Director of The Children and Young People's Service</b>	
Wards(s) affected: <b>All</b>	Report for: <b>Information</b>
<p><b>1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)</b></p> <p>This report outlines the proposed changes to the in-house fostering service which are intended to improve both recruitment of foster carers and the service itself</p>	
<p><b>2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Recommendations</b></p> <p>Members of the Corporate Parenting AC are asked to note the contents of the report</p>	
<p>Report Authorised by:    Eleanor Brazil           Deputy Director           Children and Families</p>	
<p>Contact Officer: Roy Choudhury <b>Telephone:</b>      3635  <b>E-mail:</b>                    roy.choudhury@haringey.gov.uk</p>	
<p><b>4. Director of Finance Comments</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Head of Legal Services Comments</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b></p>	

## 1. Background information

### Proposed Changes to the Fostering Service

We are very aware of the importance of the in-house fostering service and this is increasingly so as the numbers of children in care has risen and the complexity of the needs of the children has also increased. The benefits of a good in-house service which can respond flexibly, is local so children can remain in the same school or other provision, and contact with families is easier, are well understood. Our policy is and should be to only use the independent fostering sector where our service cannot meet the specific needs of a child or children. However to achieve this, we must ensure continued proactive and successful recruitment of new carers, excellent support to existing carers and robust attention to maintaining high quality from our carers.

Difficulties in the service in achieving this in the past few years have been apparent. Support was provided by the Tavistock over a 2 year period but this did not create the positive difference in service delivery that is required. This does not mean that there was not good work being done by many staff within the service but it has not had the impact that is needed. More recently the Deputy Director commissioned a review by an independent consultant to understand the challenges facing the service, how they were being addressed and how they could be improved. This work was completed in December 2009, and discussed with members of the fostering team in January 2010. This proposal to restructure the service follows from that review.

Over the past three years the fostering service has failed to reach local performance targets for recruitment of new foster carers. The demand for local in-house carers has increased significantly during 2009, when numbers of children in care has risen by over 50 at any one time, making it more urgent that the issues within the fostering service are addressed.

During the past year we have extended our recruitment campaign and this has had some impact. However the fostering service has not been able to maximise the potential of the campaign for a number of reasons. No single operational manager has an oversight or responsibility to oversee the recruitment of foster carers and this has resulted in poor co-ordination in responding to enquiries and delays in the processing of applications.

The present structure of the fostering service can be found in Appendix 1. The social workers in the under 11s and over 11s teams are required to support existing foster carers who have children placed with them, as well as undertaking initial assessments and more detailed assessment (home studies) for prospective foster carers. The support that is provided to current foster carers by the social workers to prevent placement breakdown, is always a priority and this has had an impact on the capacity of the service to assess new foster carers.

In response to these and other concerns the Deputy Director commissioned the review to identify the way forward. The review identified a number of issues such as working practices, working environment and communication which are not relevant to this proposed re-structure but will be responded to by developing an action plan with the managers and staff of the service as part of the implementation of the new structure.

What is clear from the review and from the factual information on recruitment, numbers of carers, numbers of allegations in relation to quality of care provided by carers, is that currently the work of the Fostering Service needs to significantly improve. This is unlikely to happen without restructuring the service, and alongside that addressing the identified issues in relation to systems, processes and working practices that act as barriers and blockages to good practice.

### **Proposed Changes**

The numbers of carers has been falling due to deregistration and retirement of foster carers. In addition we are currently supporting a reduced number of private fostering arrangements, having received fewer notifications.

In October 2009, to improve recruitment, a pilot recruitment and assessment team was created from the existing fostering service resources. One social worker from the over 11s team, one from under 11s team and one from the private fostering team, formed the team.

The pilot Recruitment and Assessment Team is being led by a team manager who currently has responsibility for the private fostering team. The team manager oversees all foster care recruitment and is expected to increase efficiency and also drive up the quality of our foster carers as well as the quality of the assessments.

1. It is proposed that a permanent team will now be established to have responsibility for recruitment. Further work is required to consider whether private fostering remains within this service as part of Kinship care or would be better located in another part of the service ie Safeguarding and Support.
- 2..To amalgamate the Under 11 and Over 11 team into one task centred fostering team to focus on support, stability and retention of foster carers. The aim is to change the focus of support to foster carers from basic advice and guidance to an approach which is inclusive of the emotional impact of caring for looked after children and the practicalities of managing this on a day to day basis. This new team is to be led by an experienced and qualified team manager and supported by 2 senior practitioners, who will have a reduced caseload of foster carers in addition to 6 experienced social workers.
3. That an action plan will be drawn up to address the issues of working practice, communication and poor environment that negatively impact on the quality of the work of the service.

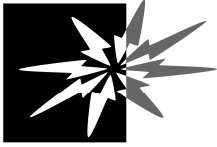
4. The link between the Fostering Service and Placement Service needs to be strengthened. The teams need to work more cohesively to improve the matching and thereby improving stability for the looked after children of Haringey. For this reason we are moving the placement service to be co-located at 40 Cumberland Road to enable better integration and support of the new commissioning and placement service. The Placement Service will now become fully responsible for all the steps in the placement process for in house placements. Fostering duty will no longer be used to contact in house carers.
  
5. To support all the above process and to manage the creation of the new Commissioning and Placement service a slight alignment of the business support unit with the creation of one senior Finance office and one senior Admin Officer sitting underneath the Service Business manager will be necessary.

The proposed structure for the Fostering Service as a part of the new Commissioning and Placement Service can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Advertising Campaigns**

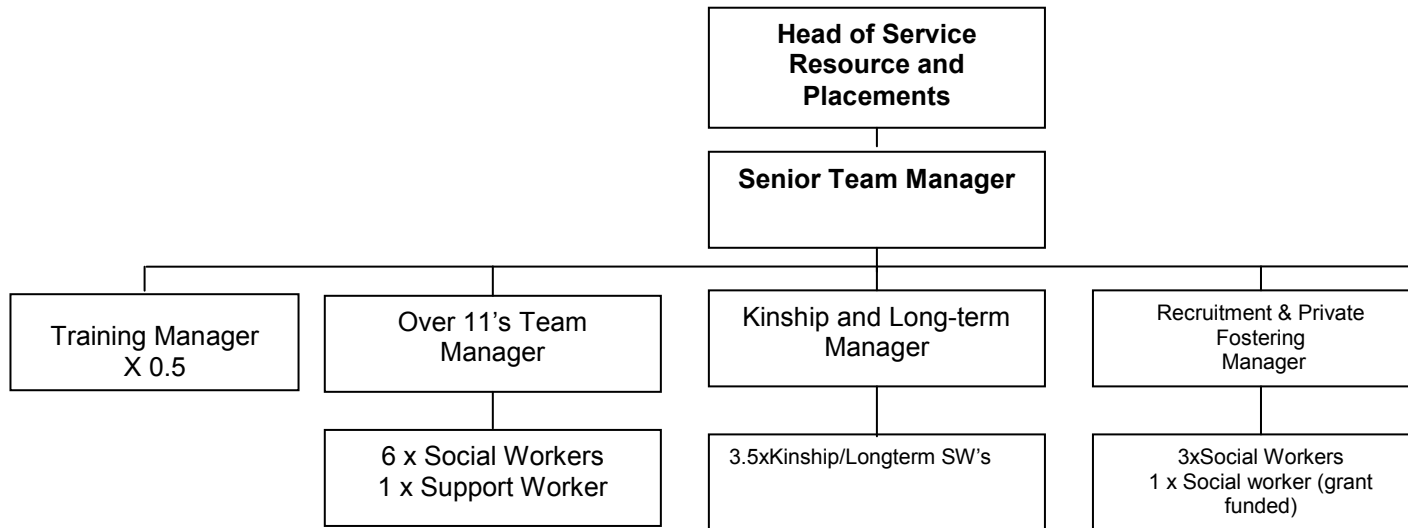
Alongside the re-organisation of the service, we are reviewing the way in which we advertise for new foster carers. We need to ensure that recruitment is both effective and very identifiably a Haringey recruitment process. The review will focus on the whole recruitment process and specifically include:

- The quality of adverts used
- A more targeted recruitment campaign which links advert placement with take-up and conversion (into carer applications) rates and is more focussed on the target audiences
- The initial information pack sent out to interested people and the timeliness with which that is done
- The timing and agenda for the information sessions
- The follow-up and subsequent assessment and training programmes
- Approval and induction processes

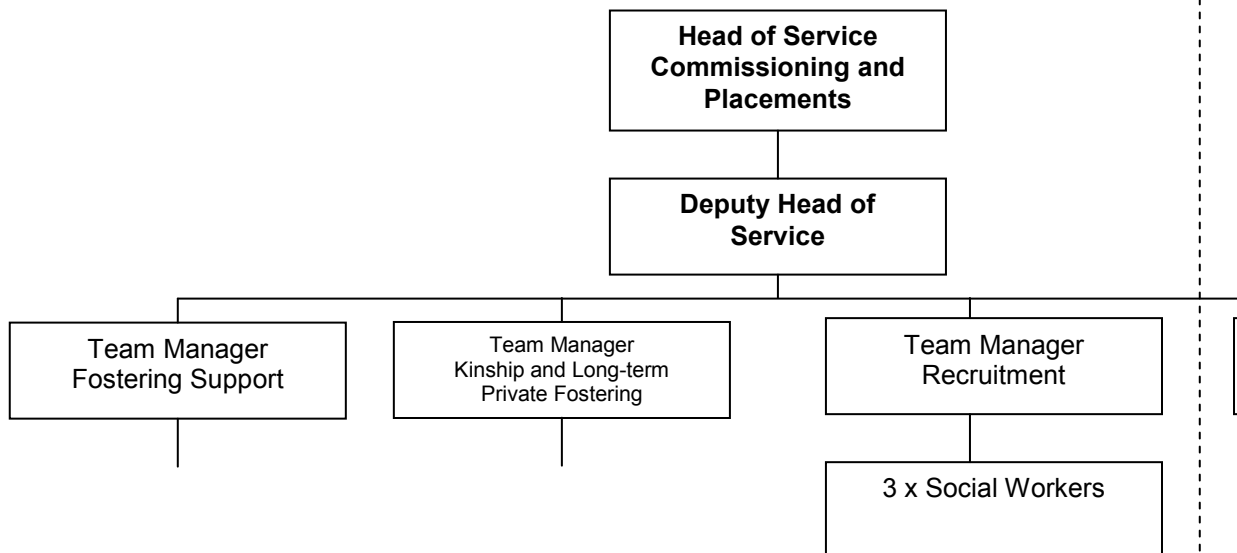


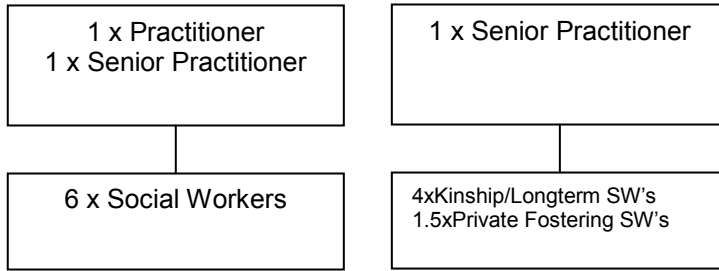
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**Appendix 1 – Current structure of Fostering Service**



**Appendix 2 – Proposed structure of Fostering Service**









**Haringey** Council

<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – January 2010 Data
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Eleanor Brazil
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010

**1. To provide a monthly update of performance monitoring activity in relation to Children in Care (CiC) within the Children and Families Service.**

**2. Background information**

2.1. The total number of CiC at the end of January 2010 was 558 compared to 555 children in December 2009 (113 per 10,000 population compared with 90 per 10,000 for our statistical neighbours in 2008/09). Of the 558, 44 children are unaccompanied minors. These numbers have remained consistent for some time.

2.1.1. 21 children became looked after in January and 23 children ceased to be looked after. Care proceedings were initiated on 17 children in January.

2.1.2. Since early 2008 we have seen increasing numbers of children in our care population, this number stabilised throughout most of 2009 but is now beginning to increase.

2.2. Children Missing from Care – in the month of January 2010, 22 children went missing from care. The total number of occasions these children went missing in that period was 49. On 18 occasions children went missing for more than 24 hours. On 33 occasions children went missing overnight – the 18 occasions in addition to those who went missing for over 24 hours are young people who go out in the evening and return the following morning/day. One young person committed an offence whilst they were missing from care (a 13 year old boy).



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2.3. Allocations. All children had an allocated worker at the end of January.

2.4. Visits to CiC. 93% of CiC had an up to date visit at the end of January. 37 children did not have an up to date visit. Further follow up is being done on these cases to ensure that if visits have taken place that they have been recorded accurately on framework i.

2.5. NI 66 Reviews in timescale. The percentage of CiC for whom there was a review held in timescale was 92.6% at the end of January. Out of 526 children who had been looked after continuously for the previous 4 weeks, 487 had been reviewed within the required timescales. The number of reviews held out of timescale in the year to date is 39.

2.6. Adoptions and special guardianship of CiC. 22 children have been made subject to a special guardianship order in the year to date, the target is 28 by the end of March 2010. 12 of these were special guardianship orders and 10 adoption orders.

2.7. NI63 - This indicator is based on children under 16 who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for at least two years or are placed for adoption. The position at the end of January is 69.6%. Of 135 children who had been looked after for at least 2.5 years, 94 were in the same placement for at least 2 years.

2.8. NI62 - This is an indicator of the number of children who have had 3 or more placements during the year. In the last 12 months, 13.9% of children have had 3 or more placements (78 out of 558). Our target for this indicator is 11%. Since April 09, 62 children have had 3 or more placements and 119 children have had 2 placements.

2.9. Personal Educational Plans (PEP). 76% of CiC have a PEP in place at the end of January. Out of 425 children who require a PEP, 326 have one. 61% of these are up to date (200 out of 326). Social workers are working very closely with schools to ensure PEPs are uptodate. Designated teachers have recently had training from the Children in Care education team to help ensure this happens.

2.10. Health Assessments. Children in Care are expected to have a health assessment undertaken once a year. Although this indicator is only collected annually, to assist us in monitoring progress in this area we have developed an indicator which looks at the percentage of children who have been in care for over a month who have had a health assessment within the previous 12 months. The position at the end of January is 67.7% (364 out of 538).

2.11. Dental Checks. Children in Care are expected to have a dental check at least once a year. As above, we have developed an indicator which looks at the percentage of children who have been in care for over a month who have had a



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dental check within the previous 12 months. The position at the end of January is 51% (276 out of 538).

2.12. Outcome indicators for children in care – Appendix 1 .

2.13. NI 147 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation. This indicator looks at care leavers who were in suitable accommodation on or around their 19th birthday. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at the end of January is 77.1% (37 out of 48 who turned 19 in the year to date).

2.14. NI 148 Care leavers in Education, Training or Employment. This indicator looks at care leavers who were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday. 60.4% of young people who have turned 19 in the year to date were in Education, Training or Employment on or around their 19th birthday (29 out of 48 who turned 19 in the year to date). These figures are based on low numbers who have left care so far and will vary considerably from month to month.

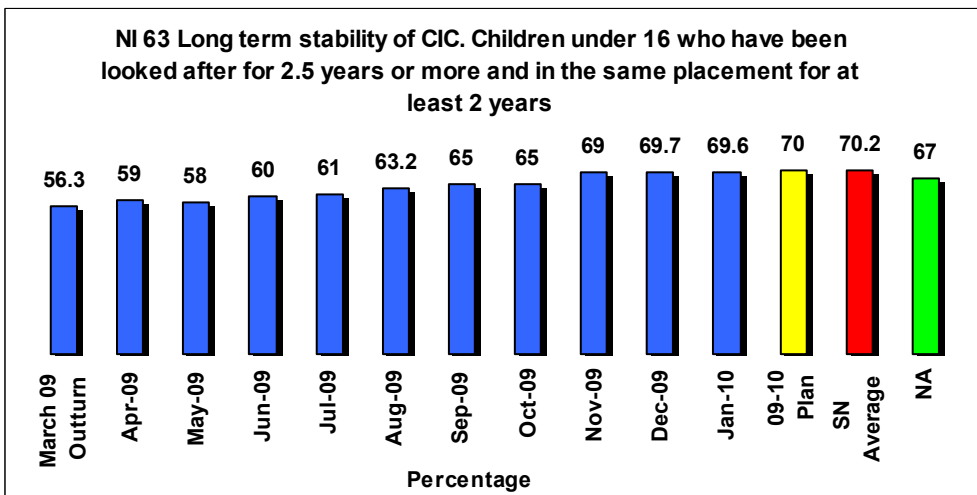
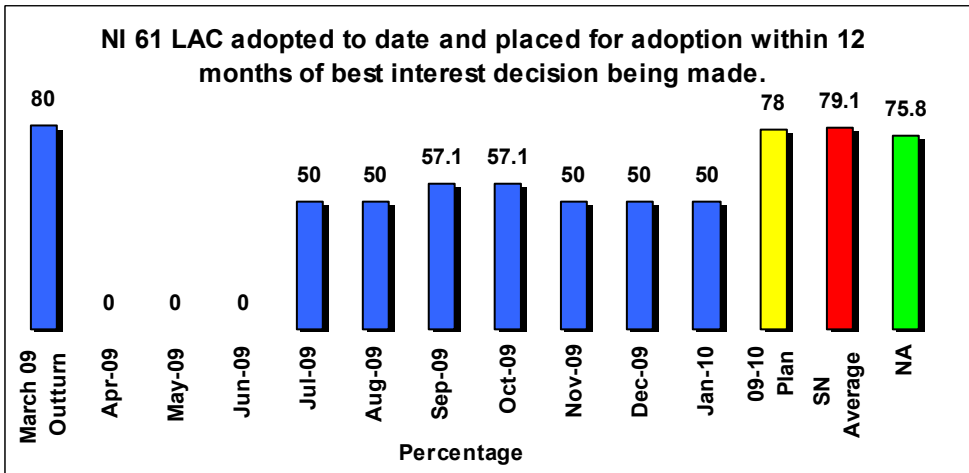
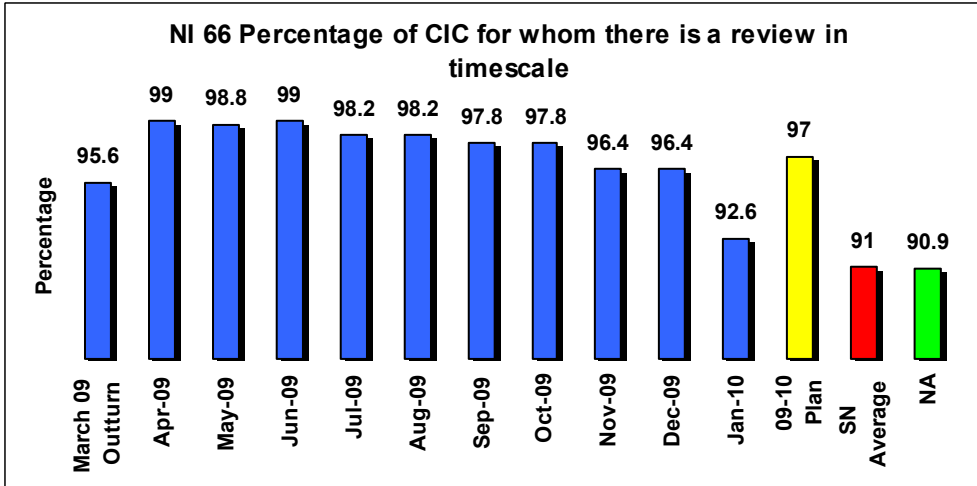
2.15. Audits of Quality

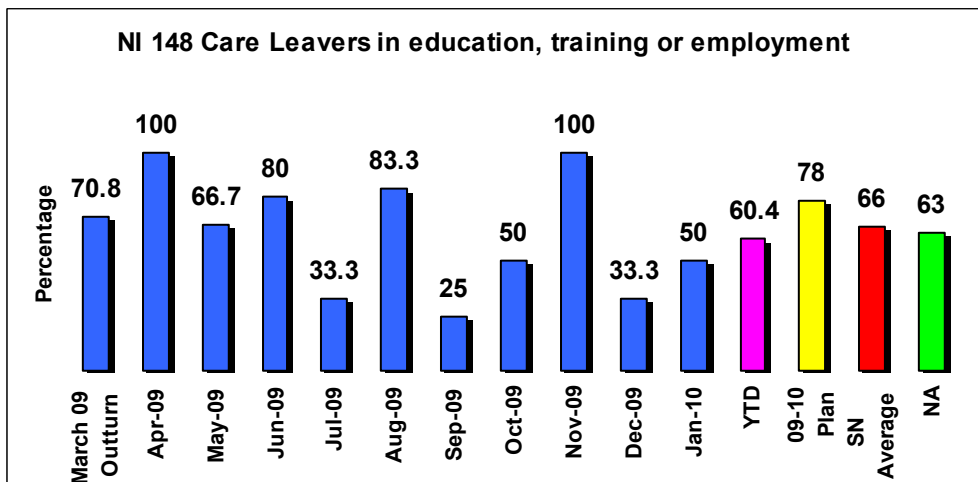
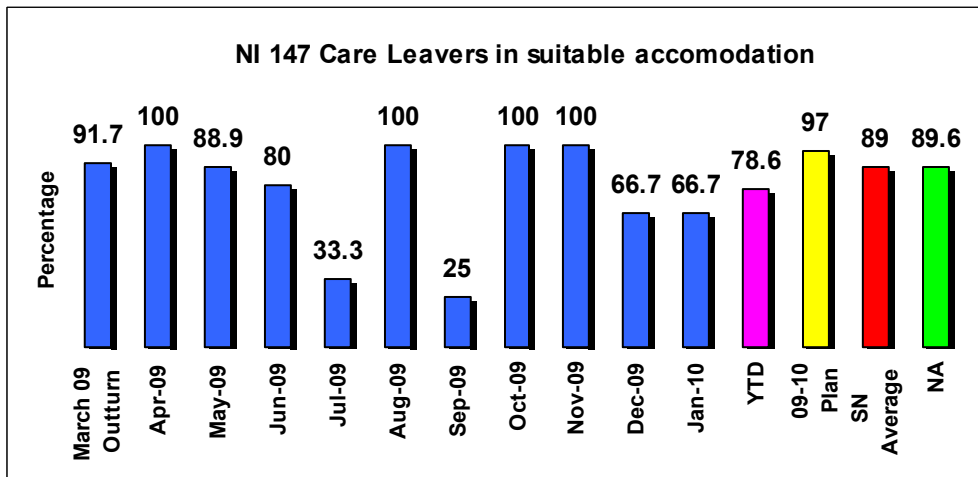
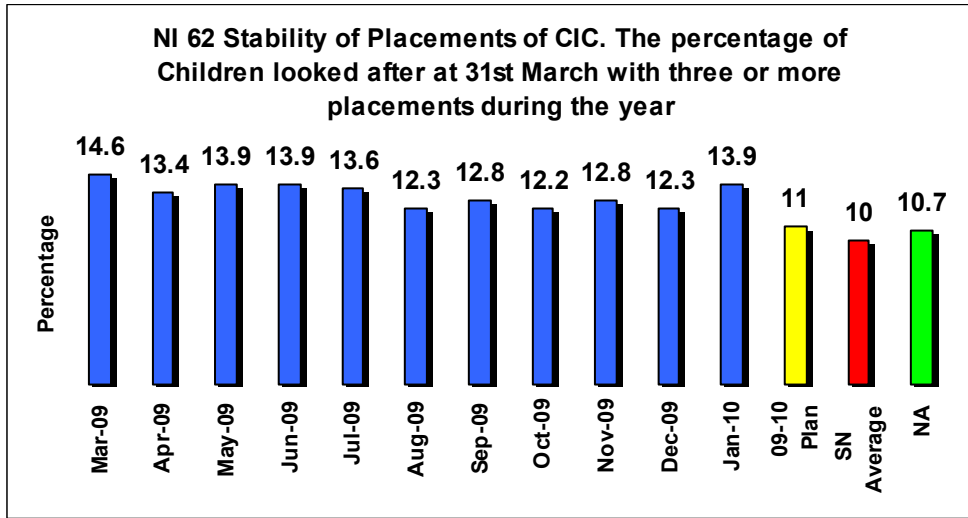
2.15.1. A new audit framework was developed and implemented throughout September with the first set of audits focusing on quality of practice completed in October. A random sample of cases are selected from across Children and Families and allocated to Heads of Service and Senior Team Managers for auditing, these audits are completed monthly. In January a themed audit tool was devised based on the standard quality of practice audit tool, to look specifically at how the new format of the child protection core assessment is working. 4 Children in Care cases were audited in January.

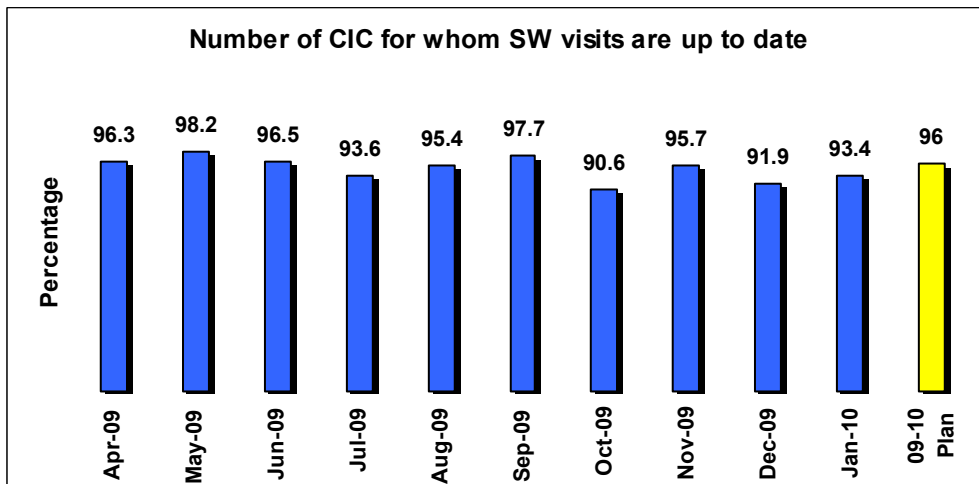
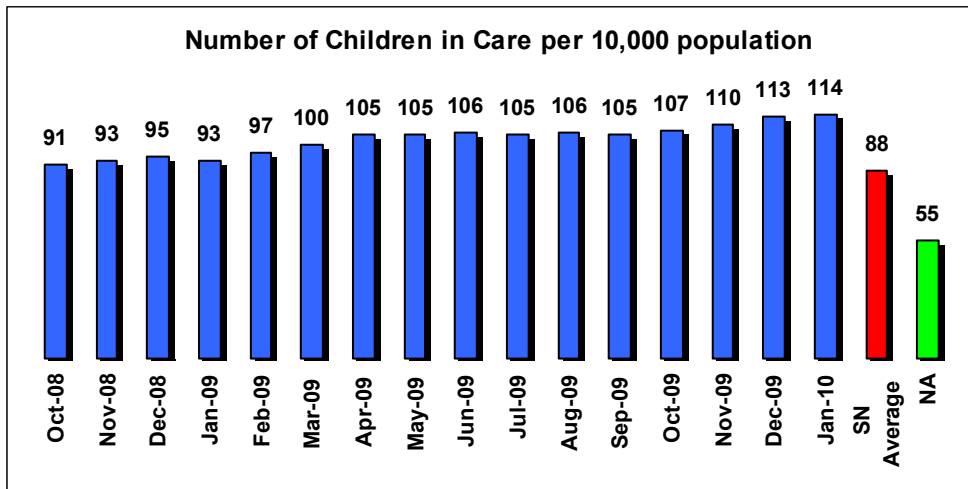
2.15.2. The audit looks at 3 domains/sections in relation to the child protection core assessment (strategy discussion, CP core and conference). Of the 4 cases audited, 2 cases were rated as good across all 3 domains, 1 case was rated as adequate across all 3 domains and 1 case was rated as inadequate for strategy discussion and adequate for the following two domains.

2.15.3. Heads of Service are responsible for following up actions in relation to all audits rated as inadequate. A sample of these audits will be re-audited on a quarterly basis to ensure any identified issues have been followed up and relevant action taken. A monthly report and overview is presented to the Children and Families Performance Management Team for discussion. The February audits will return to using the standard quality of practice audit tool, however themed audits may be used in the future to look at specific areas of practice across the service.

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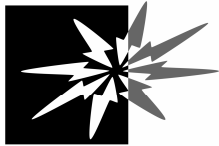






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Haringey Council

Agenda item:

**[No.]**

<b>Children and Young People's Consultative Committee      On</b>
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Report Title: <b>Haringey's 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL' Head proposal December 2009</b>
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Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): n/a
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Report of: <b>The Director of The Children and Young People's Service</b>
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Wards(s) affected: <b>All</b>	Report for: <b>Information</b>
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<b>1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)</b>
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This report sets out the proposal to establish a Head for the 'Virtual School' for Children in Care.
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<b>2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)</b>
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<b>3. Recommendations</b>
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Members of the Corporate Parenting CC are asked to note the contents of the report
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Report Authorised by: Eleanor Brazil Deputy Director Children and Families
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Contact Officer: Attracta Craig <b>Telephone:</b> 2446 <b>E-mail:</b> attracta.craig@haringey.gov.uk
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<b>4. Director of Finance Comments</b>
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<b>5. Head of Legal Services Comments</b>
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<b>6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
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## 1. Background information

### **Haringey's 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL' Head proposal December 2009**

The DCSF has recommended Local Authorities to adopt the model of a 'Virtual School' to track, monitor and raise attainment levels for all children in care. The recently published 'Improving Educational Attainment of Children in Care (Looked After Children) 2009 states:

'The 'Virtual School' in each Local Authority will 'rigorously track the schooling of every child in care, making sure ...that schools know when they have a child in care ...on their roll, and the school is putting in place appropriate additional targeted support for this child/children.'

Haringey has achieved very positive educational outcomes for Children in the Care of Haringey, Following year on year progress since 2005 Haringey Children Care now achieve above the national CIC averages. (See report for Corporate Parent Committee Nov '09).

Haringey's highly effective Children in Care Education Team, works in close partnership with colleagues in schools and services both in and out borough. This work is currently limited to raising the educational attainment of Haringey Children in Care aged 5yr – 16yrs.

The remit of the Virtual School would extend from 3 year olds in nursery provisions to 19 year olds in Key Stage 5 provisions.

There are 3 groups of children in care referred to in the DCSF documentation:

- Children in Care of **other authorities** educated in Haringey schools
- Children in the Care of Haringey educated in Haringey schools
- Children and young people in the Care of Haringey educated outside Haringey.

#### Head of the Virtual School

The 'Virtual School' Head would report to the Deputy Directors in Children and Families and School Improvement and Inclusion Services to improve systems for all Children in Care, prioritizing this group's access to targeted interventions, continuity of schooling and better life outcomes.

#### The 'Virtual School' Head will:

- contribute at a strategic level across the CYPS in narrowing the attainment gap for all CIC, including other borough CIC
- provide education reports on progress to the 'Virtual Governing Body'
- provide data on CIC in Haringey schools to SIIS colleagues and improve coordination of its' use

- lead work with SIIS colleagues, including SIPs, in prioritizing CIC in schools
- be included in Headteacher meetings, as appropriate, to raise the profile and needs of Children in Care. This would include 'In Year Fair Access Panel'; dissemination of new strategies; launching of support initiatives
- influence decision making panels through regular attendance of – Resources Panel, Complex Needs and SEN panel
- chair the multi-agency Attendance Forum and ensure systemic issues are resolved at a strategic level
- manage the Children in Care Education team which will become the 'Virtual School' staff

### Safeguarding

The Virtual Head will ensure Risk Assessments are in place for all trips and visits undertaken.

All staff under the management of the VSH will have up to date CRB checks in place. Photo or film images will not be released to any third party without explicit consent from young person and person with parental responsibility.

### The 'Virtual School' staff

1 administrator

1 data manager

1 attendance officer

1 Connexions PA – in partnership with Connexions in Haringey schools and targeted services

Children in Care Senior Teacher – Early Years and Primary, Training Co-ordinator

Children in Care Senior Teacher – Project Development to raise educational engagement and attainment, 3yr-19yr

Teacher – Key Stage 5 (new post)

Children in Care Teacher – monitoring and tracking Key Stage 3 and 4, also managing the weekly after school study club for CIC

Educational Psychologist 0.4 – oversight of transition of children and young people with complex needs, in collaboration with Haringey Education Psychology and SEN Services. Education Advisor on the Long Term Care Panel.

### The 'Virtual School' and Transition:

Approximately 20% of children and young people in care have Statements of SEN and have complex needs. The Virtual School through its tracking and monitoring system will ensure the 'Progression Guidance 2009/10' is implemented and used to inform planning. Transition reviews will be monitored and the 14-19 SEN Transition Panel will be kept up to date to enable young people's needs are met post 16 as appropriate.

The 'Virtual School' will:

- narrow the gap between the achievements of children in care and those of their peers; promote good educational outcomes.
- accelerate rate of progress of children in care by promoting their inclusion in additional targeted school based interventions;
- work closely with the School Improvement and Inclusion Service and School Improvement Partners to ensure that all Children in Care attending Haringey schools achieve the highest educational outcomes.
- work closely with Foster Carers, Social Workers, staff in residential units and across the range of education provision. This will ensure that all share high expectations of Children in Care and are clear about their roles in achieving positive outcomes for Children in Care
- ensure that robust procedures, strategies and systems are used to implement key legislation and guidance including:
  - Every Child Matters
  - National Strategies
  - The Common Assessment Framework (2006 updated July 2009)
  - The SEN Code of Practice
  - Revised Admissions Code
  - Revised Ofsted Framework (2009)
  - Progression Guidance 2009-10
  - Improving Educational Attainment of Children in Care (2009)
  - The Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children – Statutory Guidance for School Governing Bodies (2009)
  - Apprenticeship, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009
- advise School Improvement Partners and be part of the 'Vulnerable Children Conversations', to ensure Personal Education Plans are in place as part of the essential documentation required by Ofsted
- seek the views of children and young people 'on roll' of the Virtual School to inform the development of services and practices designed to enhance their life outcomes
- work with Head and Designated Governors for Children in Care, to ensure that robust monitoring of the progress of individuals in their school is embedded in school systems (using the statutory guidance).

The Virtual School 'Governing Body' will:

- develop cross-service agreement and multi-agency responsibility in the form of a strategic plan to prioritize the educational attainment of children in care
- set targets for the implementation of the strategic plan
- monitor performance and achievement and report to Corporate Parent Committee, the Children's Trust and the Children in Care Council
- ensure all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities and are provided with regular feedback on the impact of their work;
- support and challenge the work of the Virtual School to maximise outcomes for Children in Care
- contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan, JAR and other reviews as required
- work with Young London Matters and other Local Authorities to self review and co-ordinate good practice with and for other authorities

It is proposed that the corporate parenting advisory group considers the membership of the 'Virtual Governing Body' which will oversee the work of the Virtual School and Local Authority network supporting children in care. Membership could include the following:

- Assistant Director of School Improvement and Inclusion
- Director of Children and Families
- 2 'Parent Governors' from the Corporate Parenting Committee
- Strategy Manager for Attendance and Welfare
- Primary, Secondary and Special Head teachers' representatives
- Haringey Primary Care Trust
- Senior Foster Care Manager
- Chair of The Haringey Local Fostering Association
- Tottenham Hotspur Foundation Community Manager
- CYPS participation manager
- Youth Offending Service manager
- CAHMs and Tavistock representation
- Youth Service manager

The 'Virtual School' Council

The 'Virtual School' Council will be a sub-committee of the Children in Care Council and will have an advisory/consultative role. The 'Virtual School' Council will be involved and consulted in the evaluation processes relating to the virtual school. The participation of young people and feedback on interventions will be formally sought and actively encouraged to inform the development of this work.

'Virtual School Council' and 'Virtual Governing Body' will provide feedback to the Children's' Trust on the progress of children in care in Haringey.

The Virtual School is a development from the very successful, well established work of the Children in Care Education Team which would be incorporated into the Virtual School

Changes to CIC Ed Team structure

One current teacher post would be promoted to extend the development of education and apprenticeship opportunities to Key Stage 5. This would build on the very successful partnership established with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation Community.

A new teacher post would deliver close tracking and monitoring of Key Stage 5 students to increase success at L3.

The current Team Manager post for CIC Ed team would be re-designated as Virtual School Head.

**Agenda item:****Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee****On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

Report Title: A Haringey Stocktake

Report of **Mark Gurrey, AD Performance**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Mark Gurrey, Assistant Director, Performance

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**Report for: **Non Key Decision****1. Purpose of the report**

To set out initial arrangements for a Haringey Stocktake.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to agree the date for the stocktake and to the plans for its conduct.

**3. Reason for recommendation(s)****4. Other options considered**

4.1. N/A

**5. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

5.1. There will be some minor costs involved in setting up the stocktake which can be absorbed in base budgets

<p><b>6. Head of Legal Services Comments</b></p> <p>6.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>7. Head of Procurement Comments</b></p> <p>7.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>8. Equalities &amp; Community Cohesion Comments</b></p> <p>8.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>9. Consultation</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b></p>

## Background

13. In the Autumn 2009, the Secretary of State, Ed Balls oversaw a 'ministerial stocktake' to review services to children and young people in public care. Part of the stocktake was to hear directly from children and young people about their experiences of care and how it could be improved.
14. A report, 'Care matters: A Ministerial Stocktake 2009' was subsequently published and the Secretary of State wrote to all DCS's and Lead Members on 6<sup>th</sup> December. In that letter, he acknowledged a number of improvements in the services delivered nationally but also spelt out two key messages that each local authority should address as a result of feedback from young people:
  - The continued use of black bags when children move placements
  - A reminder that children in care can stay with friends without their parents being subject to CRB checks
15. He reissued guidance to all Lead Members and for other Councillors that detailed a number of questions they could and should ask that would enable them to carry out their role as corporate parents.
16. Finally, he reiterated the expectations that local authorities would appoint 'virtual head school heads'; that they would actively participate in the 'Care2Work' programme and that they would enable the construction of a 'Children in Care Council' in their area.



17. The Corporate Parenting Committee asked that this authority replicate that stocktake and ensure that the voices of children and young people in Haringey's care are heard and that actions are taken as a consequence.
18. In order to carry out this work, the following is proposed.
19. Officers have been in contact with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and they have agreed to host and facilitate the event. We have identified two potential dates – either May 22<sup>nd</sup> or June 12<sup>th</sup> – both are Saturdays to ensure no disruption to school attendance. It was the view of the Foundation that the first date would be preferable as it would allow for the possibility of one or two players to be around to meet the attendees.
20. Two repeated sessions will be held – one for 7-11yr olds and one for 12yrs and over. The sessions will be used to ask the attendees a number of key questions about their experiences of care, whether that is about the quality of their placement, their contact with their families or how often they see their social worker. We will use electronic voting equipment to capture responses.
21. The Foundation has also offered each group a tour of the stadium and facilities and refreshments will be on offer. We will be working with officers who lead on participation and with Barnados (with whom we have a contract for an advocacy service) to maximise attendance and participation – and to ensure the event is an enjoyable one for the children and young people involved.
22. Once the responses are in and collated, officers will work on responses to them and build them into action planning – it is crucial that the children and young people are given feedback and have a clear sense that something is happening as result of their input. It is proposed that this Committee should oversee and monitor the progress of that action plan once complete.

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Document is exempt

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