



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

TUESDAY, 6TH JULY, 2010 at 18:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Alexander, Allison, Engert, Peacock, Reith (Chair), Stennett and Watson

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 9 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 12 April 2010.

5. MATTERS ARISING

**6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - 2009/10
OUTTURN (PAGES 7 - 14)**

To receive a summary of the Performance Outturns for Children in Care National Indicators for 2009/10.

7. CHILDREN IN CARE STOCKTAKE JUNE 12TH 2010 (PAGES 15 - 20)

To inform Members of the Committee about the event, information gathered and planned response.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE (PAGES 21 - 22)

To consider the terms of reference for this body for the Municipal year 2010/11.

9. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted under 2 above.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of 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.

11. REGULATION 33 VISITS (PAGES 23 - 70)

To receive details of regulation 33 inspections made to Haringey's Residential Homes.

12. MUSWELL HOUSE

To receive details and feedback from the OFSTED inspection held on 21 June 2010. (to follow)

13. CHILD SAFEGUARDING

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

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting: 23 September 2010.

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29 June 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 12 APRIL 2010**

Councillors: Amin, Adamou, Alexander, Allison, Engert and Reith (Chair)

Apologies: Councillor C Harris

Also Present: Mark Gurrey, Linda James and Wendy Tomlinson.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC118	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr C Harris who was substituted by Cllr Amin.</p>	
CPAC119	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC120	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CPAC121	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CPAC122	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Leaflet setting out mechanisms by which CiC can raise concerns/make complaints: Although no comments had been made by Members on the revised leaflet, Cllr Allison agreed to meet with the Deputy Director to discuss concerns that she had.</p> <p>Housing allocated to Care Leavers: Members requested that this information be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>Pregnancies amongst CiC: As of March 2010 there were 18 young mothers and a further 6 pregnancies (aged over 16) and 1 Under 16 who was pregnant, but had subsequently had a termination. It was agreed that a report be presented to a future meeting setting out the strategies in place to support teenage parents.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>DG/CB</p> <p>CC</p>

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	<p>Stocktaking Event: Officers to confirm the date of this event.</p>	MG
	<p>Adoption and Fostering Panel: Following concerns raised officers agreed to investigate whether medical information from Health was always available to the Panel's Health Adviser.</p>	MG
CPAC123	<p>FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.</p> <p>The Committee was provided with an update on foster carer recruitment and retention throughout 2009-10 and set out future reporting proposals for 2010- 11 and beyond.</p> <p>It was accepted that in order to meet both the outcomes for children and as a key part of the budget management strategy there was a need to improve the pool of good quality foster carers, especially as there was a high drop out rate. There was also a need for a greater variety of carers. It was noted that although Haringey was in an adoption consortium with four other boroughs it was not considered likely to be so successful for fostering as the boroughs were competing with each other for carers.</p> <p>Details of the recruitment process including the advertising campaign and the information meetings held for prospective households was noted, together with the key stages that a prospective carer had to pass before approval. During the current year it was proposed to arrange sessions for prospective carers to hear from existing carers and to meet some young people who had or were in foster care to talk about their experiences and what they wanted from a foster carer. As part of the improvements being made to the recruitment process it was planned that there would be information days held at community centres, places of worship, schools and the Tottenham Carnival.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Committee would be regularly informed of the processes that an applicant had to pass through before being approved as a foster carer, and the reasons why carers left the service at any stage of the process. It was also important that systems were in place for monitoring the quality of the placements. Currently this was achieved through visiting the child and through link workers supporting and supervising carers.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Committee receive regular updates with detailed numbers of those going through the various stages of the recruitment process (including how the prospective carer heard about the opportunity), those leaving the service and the reasons, systems in place for monitoring quality and details of the information days to be organised. 	MG
CPAC124	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FEBRUARY 2010</p>	

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	<p>The Committee considered a report setting out the February performance monitoring data in relation to CiC within the Children and Families service.</p> <p>The number of children in care had continued to rise and stood at 560 as at the end of February. Details of the number of children who went missing during February were noted. Also the Committee were advised that only 5 CiC did not have an allocated social worker at the end of February. The number of cases reviewed in the required timescales was noted, together with the number of adoptions and special guardianship orders made in the year to date.</p> <p>As requested at the previous meeting Members received a breakdown by age of the number of CiC who had received health assessments and dental checks over the previous 12 months. Members expressed concern over the low numbers of 6-10 year olds who had an up to date health assessment and dental check.</p> <p>In response to a previous request the Committee was advised that of the 247 over 10 year olds in care, 28 had offended of which 9 lived in Haringey. It was noted that more analysis was needed in order to provide details of those that had re-offended. Although there had been difficulties in the past with obtaining accurate data this had now been addressed. It was pleasing to note that there were no live ASBO's involving children in care. Members were concerned that information needed to be available on the offending records of CiC, whether or not they were living in the borough. It was important that this was recorded on Frameworki.</p> <p>Members noted that the figures for NI61 – CiC adopted to date was likely to have been affected by the increased volume of care proceedings going to court and consequent pressures on court time.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the next meeting receive a report with case examples of both in and out of borough placements and how the children and young people's service worked with the Youth offending service. 2. That the next meeting receive a report on the offending and re-offending records of CiC That officers confirm the reasons for the lower than expected figures for CiC being adopted. 3. That the next meeting receive a report on the number of young people leaving care in education, training or employment. 	<p>RT/LJ</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>RT</p>
<p>CPAC125</p>	<p>QUALITY OF PRACTICE AUDITS – CHILDREN IN CARE</p> <p>The Deputy Director gave a presentation on the new comprehensive quality audit which had been implemented in order to ensure that improvements in the quality of social work practice continued. The first set of audits focusing on quality of practice were completed in October 2009 and had been carried out monthly thereafter. A random sample of cases had been selected across 10 sections of Children and families.</p>	

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	<p>More specific themed audits would also be carried out periodically where a need was identified. Heads of Service were responsible for follow up actions on any audits that were rated as inadequate and a sample of these were re-audited on a quarterly basis and notified to the Assistant and Deputy Directors. It was noted that there were occasions when the service did not agree with an auditors inadequate findings.</p> <p>A summary of the number of cases audited, overall ratings and section ratings was noted. Although it would appear that there was a drop in standards in February 2010 it was noted that the number of cases audited was considerably less.</p> <p>The programme for the coming year there was to be a mixture of continuing with auditing random cases and themed audits. For April a themed audit would be carried out involving households living with domestic violence.</p> <p>Members noted that OFSTED welcomed the audit tool and that it was seen as an example of good working practice.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Committee be kept informed of any themed audits involving children in care.</p>	
CPAC126	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no new items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC127	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>RESOLVED:</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>	
CPAC128	<p>CHILDREN IN CARE WHO GO MISSING</p> <p>In response to the previous meeting a report was presented on the systems in place to monitor children who went missing from care. There was a monthly performance management group that routinely looked at all episodes of children that had been reported as missing in the previous month.</p> <p>Examples of specific individual cases and action taken was given. It was noted that where possible the authority tried to avoid locating children a</p>	

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	<p>long distance away, but there were occasions when this was beneficial.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That details regarding a recent unaccompanied asylum seeker who went missing be provided to Members. 2. That a further report be presented setting out anonymised Care Plans setting out details of support given. 	RT
CPAC129	<p>MUSWELL HOUSE – STAFFING</p> <p>The Committee was updated on progress with regard to the current staffing structure and recruitment to posts at Muswell House.</p> <p>It was noted that all posts had been recruited to and CRB checks were in the process of being completed. It was hoped that all the staff would be in post and trained by the end of April.</p> <p>Tavistock had also recruited into the 1.5 posts and their staff should also commence by the end of the month.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That a further report be presented to the Committee in due course once the new structure had time to embed.</p>	WT
CPAC130	<p>REGULATION 33 VISITS</p> <p>The Committee were provided with inspection reports from Regulation 33 visits undertaken during January and February 2010 to Muswell House Adolescent unit and Haringey Park children's homes.</p> <p>It was noted that, in future the visits would be undertaken by a Panel consisting of a young person, a member of staff from the Fostering and Placement team? and two Councillors. Visits would take place at times when young people were likely to be present. It was also suggested that in future reports should include details of action taken by the Manager of the homes and that inconsistencies between homes should be ironed out.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the inspection reports for Muswell House and Haringey Park Children's Homes be noted and that future reports would include details of action taken by home Managers.</p>	
CPAC131	<p>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>There were no new cases reported.</p>	
CPAC132	<p>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p>	

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	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>CPAC133</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting receive details of the number and location of children placed in homes outside of the borough.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and attendance throughout the year.</p> <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6 JULY 2010</p>	

Clr Lorna Reith

Chair



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – 2009-10 Outturn
Lead Officer:	Mark Gurrey
Date:	6 July 2010

1. Background

This report is a summary of the Performance Outturns for Children in Care National Indicators for 2009/10. In addition it provides details of targets for 2010/11. **Please note that these figures are PROVISIONAL outturns and are currently subject to validation – final figures will be available and submitted on 30 June which is after the deadline for producing this report when further more detailed analysis will be available.**

2. Performance Data

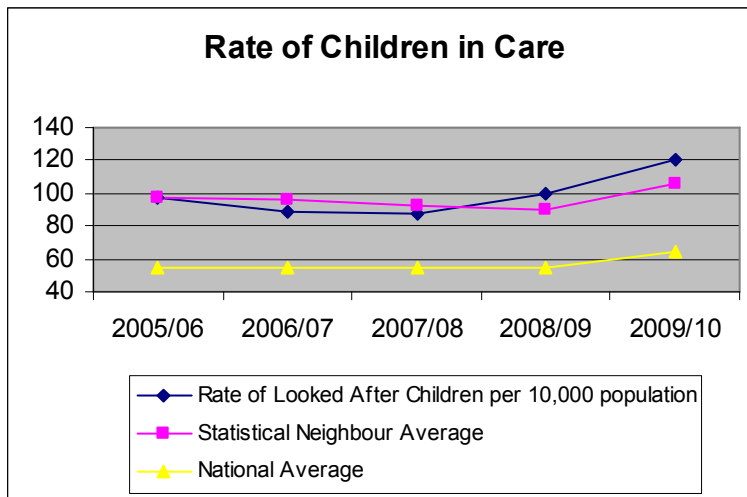
- 2.1 591 children were in care at 31 March 10. This is a rate of 121 children per 10,000 population. 347 children became looked after in the year and 260 children ceased to be looked after in the year. Members will observe the increase over the last 12 months which is reflected nationally.
- 2.2 The table below shows the rates of children in care per 10,000 population under 18 compared with the previous year and national average.

	Haringey 31/3/09 Rate per 10,000	Haringey 31/3/10 Rate per 10,000	National Average 31/03/2009	Haringey 31/3/09 Number	Haringey 31/3/10 Number
Number of Children in Care	100	121	55	492	591



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The graph below shows the estimated National Average uplift for 2009/10 of 17% - official benchmarking data is not yet available. However, an ADCS survey of 75% of all LAs reported an increase in children looked after of 17% across the country. It is clear that our numbers have risen more than those of our statistical neighbours, even allowing for this increase:



2.3 The age and ethnic breakdown of children in care is as follows:

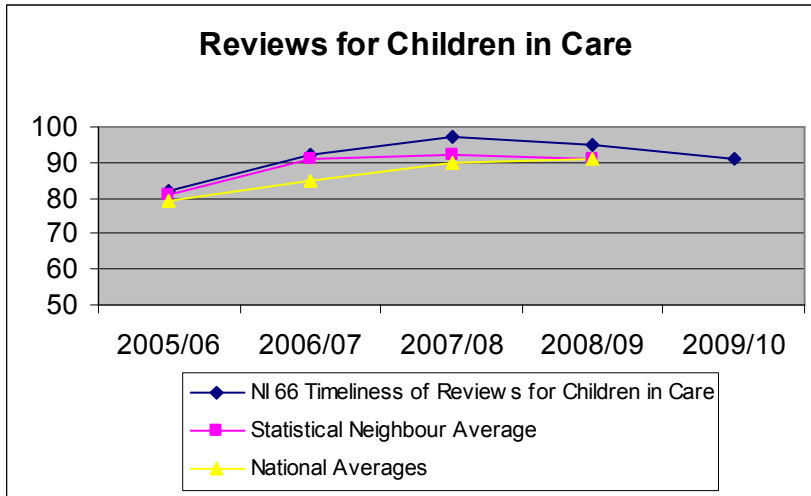
Ethnic Group	% LAC
White	34%
Mixed	16%
Asian/Asian British	6%
Black/Black British	40%
Other Ethnic Groups	4%

Age Group	% LAC
Under 1	5%
1-4	17%
5-9	15%
10-15	36%
16-17	27%

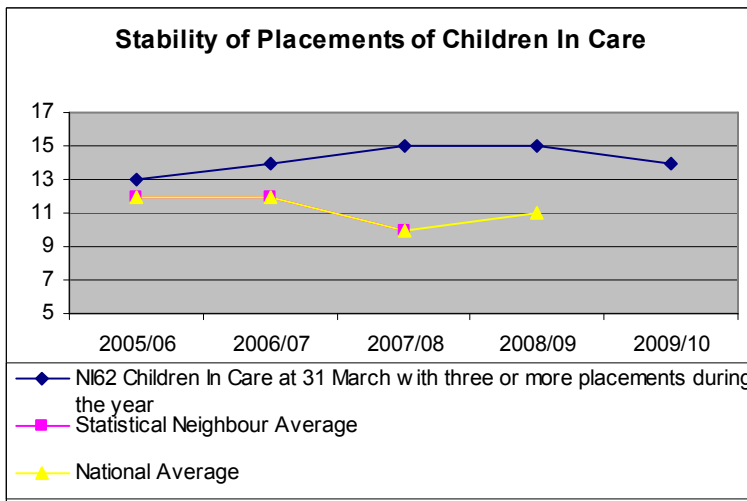
2.4 NI66 – Children in care have to have their circumstances and care plan independently reviewed every 6 months. All of our children were reviewed and of those, 92% of children in care cases which should have been reviewed during 09/10, were reviewed in timescale. This is slightly lower than the 2008/09 position of 95% and in line with the 2008/09 national average of 91%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



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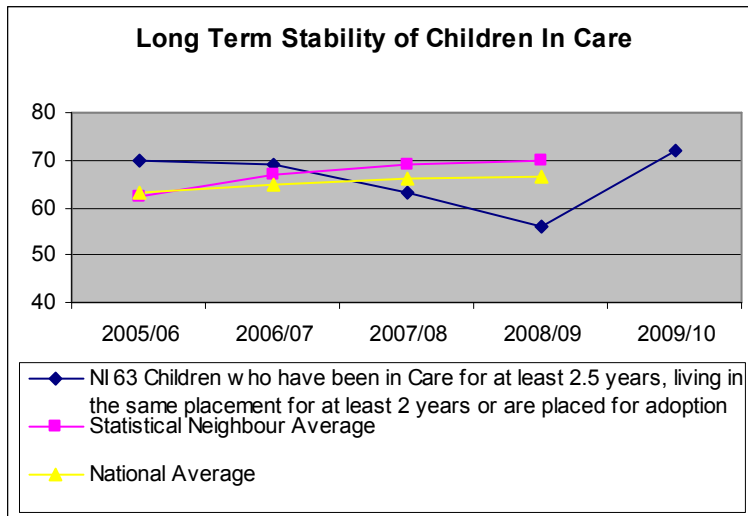
2.5 NI 62 – 13.7% of children in care at 31 March 10 had 3 or more placements during the year. This is 81 out of 591 children in care who had 3 or more placements in the year. This has decreased from the outturn of 14.6% in 08/09 but remains under 16% which was rated as good performance in the previous banding system. The outturn is higher than the national average of 10.7%. The target for this indicator in 2010/11 is 10%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



2.6 NI63 – This is another measure of placement stability. 72% of children in care for 2.5 years or more had been in their placement for at least 2 years at 31 March 10. This is 98 out of 136 children who were looked after for 2.5 years or more and in their placement for 2 years or more. This is much improved from the 2008/09 position and is higher than the national average. The target for this indicator in 10/11 is 72%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



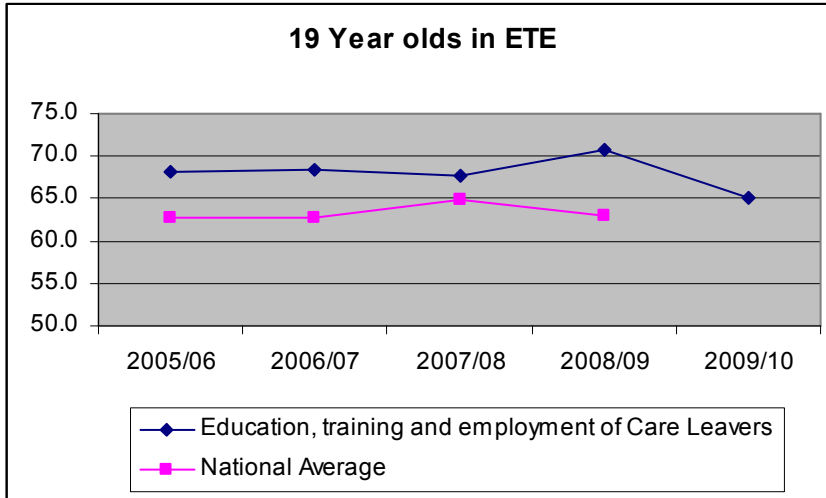
Haringey Council



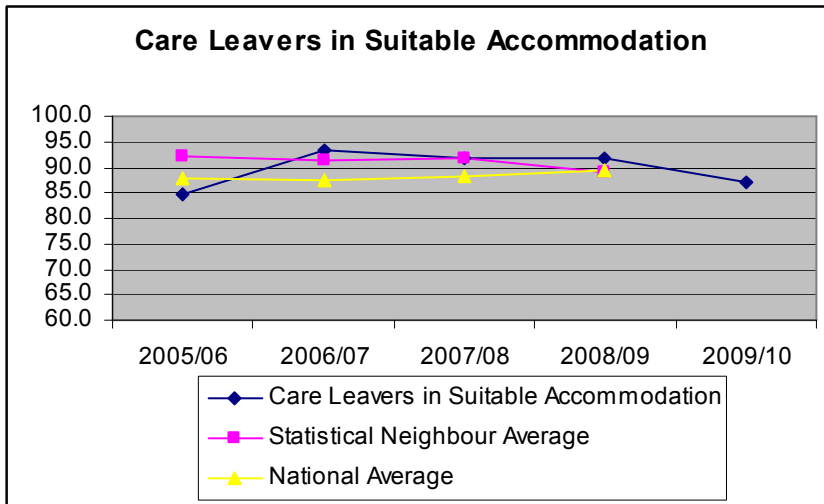
- 2.7 25 children were adopted or granted special guardianship orders during 09/10, an improvement on 22 children in 08/09. NI 61 looks at children in care who have been adopted and placed within 12 months of a best interest decision to adopt. 50% of the 12 children adopted were placed within 12 months. The 08/09 national average for this indicator was 76%.
- 2.8 73% of children in care were placed in foster placements or placed for adoption at 31 March 10 and 26% were placed in residential accommodation.
- 2.9 We report two KPIs in relation to young people leaving our care. One is a sub-set of the overall NEET activity - NI148 – 65% of care leavers who turned 19 in the year were in education training or employment on or around their 19th birthday. This is 35 out of 54 young people who turned 19 in the year. The 2010/11 target for this indicator is 75%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



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2.10 NI147 - 87% of care leavers were living in suitable accommodation on their 19th birthday. This is 47 out of 54 children who turned 19 in the year. This is a slight decrease from last year's position of 94%. The target for 2010/11 is 92%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



3. Individual Data

3.1 Attached to this report is an appendix showing the data relating to children in care health and educational outcomes – this is known as the OC2 return. This is reported each year in the Autumn (to capture the previous academic years results) The key headline is the improvement in educational outcomes for our children – although numbers are small and results will vary year on year as a consequence of the particular cohort being measured.



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4. Foster Carer Recruitment

In the last CPAC prior to the election, officers undertook to report quarterly on performance in relation to the recruitment of foster carers. As reported above, 73% of all our children are placed in foster care. However, of those more than half are placed with carers provided by the independent sector. These placements are on average twice the cost of our in-house carers and often at some distance from the borough.

The pressure to increase the numbers of in-house foster carers is therefore significant and a considerable amount of work is underway to increase and improve our performance in this area – including the construction of a more accessible and professional website and improved marketing materials.

Since April till mid –June, we have had:

- 100 enquiries
- 15 did not go forward
- 32 attended information session
- 14 of those did not go forward
- 18 will move to an initial visit

From this visit and assuming they are still interested and we believe they are potential carers, they will attend a 2 week training/preparation course and be taken through a lengthy and detailed assessment which is then presented to the Fostering Panel.

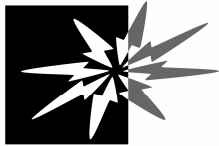
From start to finish this process can take six months and there is generally a high attrition rate – 10% conversion from initial interest to be coming a carer is considered normal.

Future reports will capture more detail especially on the original route to us and some reasons for fall out at different stages.

Table 3

Indicator	2007 OC2	2008 OC2
Section 1: Total children		
Total Children Looked After for 12 months or more at 30th September	323	298
Section 2: General Education		
Eligible for full-time education	238	230
Of these:		
Number who were covered by a Statement of Special Educational Needs	0	62 (27%)
Received a permanent exclusion from school	0	0
Missed at least 25 days education for any reason	38 (16%)	30 (13%)
Section 3: Key Stage 1		
Number in year 2 at school who were eligible for the end of KS1 tasks and tests	11	11
Of these:		
The number who sat all these tasks and tests	9	11
Number who attained level 2 in the reading task or who achieved at least level 3 in the reading comprehension test	54.5%	9 (81.8%)
Number who attained at least level 2 in the following tests:		
Writing task	45.5%	8 (72.7%)
Mathematics task/test	72.7%	9 (81.8%)
Section 4: key Stage 2		
Number in year 6 at school who were eligible for the end of KS2 tasks and tests	21	19
Of these:		
The number who sat all of these tests	18	16
Number who attained at least level 4 in the following:		
English	52.4%	11 (57.9%)
Mathematics	42.9%	12 (63.2%)
Science	52.4%	14 (73.7%)
Section 5: Key Stage 3		
Number in year 9 at school who were eligible for the end of KS3 tasks and tests	35	27
Of these:		
The number who sat all these tasks and tests	22	20
Number who attained at least level 5 in the following tests:		
English	34.28%	11 (40.7%)
Mathematics	40.0%	9 (33.3%)
Science	40.0%	11 (40.7%)

Indicator	2007 OC2	2008 OC2
Section 6: GCSEs and GNVQs		
Number in Year 11 who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations	40	40
<i>Of these:</i>		
The number who sat at least 1 of these examinations	24 (60%)	27 (67.5%)
The number who obtained at least 1 GCSE (or equivalent) at grade A* to G	60.0%	25 (62.5%)
The number who obtained at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to G	50%	19 (47.5%)
The number who obtained at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to C	27.5%	9 (22.5%)
Section 7: Offending		
The number aged 10 or over at 30 September and looked after for at least 1 year	248	224
<i>Of these:</i>		
The number convicted or subject to final warning or reprimand during the year for an offence committed while being looked after	23 (9.3%)	36 (16.07%)
PAF C18	2.5	4.1
Section 8: Development		
Number age 5 years old or younger at 30 September and looked after for at least 1 year	39	31
<i>of these:</i>		
The number whose developmental assessments were up to date	100%	30 (97%)
Section 9:		
The number of all children whose immunisations were up to date at 30 September	268 (83%)	251 (84.2%)
Section 10:		
The number of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September	299 (92.6%)	277 (92.9%)
Section 11:		
The number of children who had their annual health assessment during the year ending 30 September	310 (96%)	277 (92.9%)
PAF C19 (average of dental checks % health assessments)	94.27%	92.90%
Section 12:		
The number of children identified as having a substance misuse problem in year ending 30 September	32 (9.9%)	23 (7.7%)
<i>of these:</i>		
The number who received an intervention for their substance misuse in the year	21 (62.5%)	15 (65%)
The number who were offered an intervention but refused in the year	11 (34.4%)	8 (35%)
Section 13: Position at 16 or over		
The number in Year 11 at school who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations	40	40
<i>Of these the number who at 30 September:</i>		
Were in full-time education	33 (82.5%)	30 (75%)
Were in full-time training	2 (5%)	5 (12.5%)
Were in full-time employment with planned training	0	0
Were in full-time employment with no planned training	0	0
Were in part-time employment, education or training	0	3 (7.5%)
Were unemployed as a result of ill-health or a disability	0	0
Were unemployed for any other reason	5 (12.5%)	2 (5%)



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

**Children and Young People's Consultative Committee
On 06 July 2010**

Report Title: Children in Care Stocktake June 12th 2010

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **n/a**

Report of: **The Director of The Children and Young People's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Information**

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

1.1. To inform members of the Committee about the event, information gathered and planned response to this.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1 n/a

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members of the CYPCC are asked to note the contents of the report

Report Authorised by: Mark Gurrey
Interim Deputy Director;
The Children and Young People's Service

Contact Officer: Chris Chalmers, Head of Service, Children in Care
Telephone: 0208 489 3635
E-mail: chris.chalmers@haringey.gov.uk

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 The financial implications of these activities are monitored as part of the council's monthly budget management process. Given current pressures

across all Council budgets, the support costs especially to the Children in Care council are under review. If they cannot be protected, support will come from core service areas.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. Financial Implications

7.1 See comments above

8. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 As we progress this work, there are a number of key groups we need to ensure have their voices heard – they include those who are disabled; those who are placed out of borough and those whose first language is not English.

10. Background

10.1 This event was set up in response to a request from the Corporate Parenting Committee that Haringey ensure that the views of young people in care were taken. The intention was to run a local version of the National Stocktake for Children in Care organised in 2009 by the then Secretary of State. Questions for consideration were therefore adapted from those used in the National Stocktake. The purpose was to use the information gathered from this to inform future planning for Children in Care and related services. Whilst there are regular opportunities for those young people of 16plus to meet with senior managers, including the Director of CYPS, the younger children have no such avenue. We also need to establish a Children in Care Council in Haringey and this event was viewed as a precursor to work on this project. A Children in Care Council comprises of a representative group of young people in care who will put across views on key issues for children in care, to both the CYPS and to elected members.

10.2 The Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, who undertake a range of partnership work with Haringey's children in care, particularly in relation to education, kindly offered to host the stocktake for us. They also provided staff members to assist in planning and running the day. The young people attending were invited to attend within age groups; 7-12 and 12-18. Invites were sent to those young people who had been in care for at least 3 months. Given the fact that very young children could not be included and those newly entering care were also not invited the total invite list amounted to around 250 young people. The programme included a session to vote on all the topics using an electronic voting system, a time to relax and have some refreshments and then we concluded with a tour of the Tottenham stadium. For the older group we also had an impromptu discussion whilst they were eating their refreshments.

The Stocktake Event

10.3 On the day itself a total of **40 young people** attended the event, split across the two groups. Numbers on the voting system reflected slightly less children as just a few didn't feel sufficiently confident to fully take part. One young man actually sat out of the room for the voting but did come in and join in the refreshments and tour afterwards. The younger group included at least 2 five year olds as they had come along with older siblings. There were also a few young people there above the age of 12 because, again, they had come with siblings. In the older group we included a 19 year old care leaver who had come to help with the event. One overriding impression that all of us who worked at the event went away with was of how accommodating all the young people were with each other. Whilst each young person was focused on their own participation they also seemed very happy to make sure the views of all present were included. Older ones helped the younger children with the voting and when comments were made within the group everyone demonstrated respect for the different views expressed. The atmosphere was calm, accepting and inclusive. Jennifer James, Head of Service for Participation, took each group through the questions offering explanations where appropriate.

Outcome of the Voting Exercise:

The younger group; 5-15 years old

10.4 The majority (68%) responded that they were kept safe in care very well or well. The others stated just about OK. There were some negative (22%) very poor responses when children were asked about whether they enjoyed good activities and leisure time. Nearly 60% were positive in their responses but the large amount of inadequate experiences were

concerning. The response for education and help with this had 25% voting to say “very poorly”. Although this was the younger group 40% said that Haringey were poor or very poor in their help to young people in care to get good jobs in the future. They were divided on how often social workers should visit young people but the majority, 54.55% said monthly visits (as opposed to quarterly, or less) were their preferred option. (This is what they currently receive). Finally a significant proportion of those attending felt that their views would make not much or would make no difference to our planning for them.

The older group; 12-19 years old

10.5 In contrast to the younger group the majority of this group did not believe that Haringey were doing well at keeping young people safe. In fact 50% voted that this was very poor or poor. On the question regarding activities and leisure pursuits the score was also low, with 64% voting poor or very poor on this. When it came to assisting with educational and getting good jobs responses were low again in particular regarding jobs, with a 78% voting poor or very poor in this area. There was also little confidence in opinions of young people being listened too. On the issue of social worker visits scores were similar to those of the first group with once a month coming in at the highest percentage.

10.6 On the list of choices in the last two areas there was resounding support for not moving young people when they are aged 15 or 16, i.e. during their GCSE year. Even higher percentages were given when it came to better leisure activities, helping young people to stay with their foster carers and more money for young people in care who go onto higher education.

10.7 During the informal discussion over lunch there was some debate about how young people had felt discriminated against for being in care. Around one third of the group had experienced this either often or sometimes.

10.8 Another issue that came up in the discussion were their reviews. Young people wanted more of an opportunity to contribute to their reviews without feeling they might be offending their foster carer (and thereby causing problems for themselves). There was overwhelming support for reviews taking place in a more neutral venue than a foster carer’s home. A further point was made about lack of opportunity for young people to go away on activities with others of their age rather than as a family unit with carers. Possibly an adventure activity week or maybe a trip organised by a youth organisation. One young person stated that a chance to have some

space away for himself would have been much appreciated when he was in foster care.

10.9 Interesting points were made about the lack of balance between encouraging young people to be independent but not nurturing them enough. (Put in different words by the young people but this was the essence of what was said). One young woman commented that being in care was more than enough in terms of having to be independent. She said “more help from you (i.e. Haringey)” would be essential to make the experience of being in care more positive.

11. Summary and Conclusions

11.1 Prior to the event it had been totally accepted that urgent work is required to establish a Children in Care Council. We informed the young people who attended on the day that specific resources are now being set aside to make this possible. We explained that work towards this would be ongoing and we hoped to start the process of appointments to the Council during the autumn. There is clearly a pressing need to forge ahead with this as soon as possible.

11.2 We also need to run some focus groups to further explore points raised by the participants on June 12th. The young people were impressive in the way that they put across their views and it is vitally important to make sure that more such opinions are captured and acted upon. This will assist the Council and the Children in Care Service to better plan for the needs of those in our care. Some of those who gave their views were care leavers, or almost leaving care, and they could be very helpful in engaging younger children in care.

11.3 The service will construct a response to all the points raised on the day and ensure they are fed back to those who attended – it will be important that they know their views have been heard and acted upon.

11.4 All who attended the event are being contacted by the Barnardos Children’s Rights Service (with whom we have a temporary contract at the moment) to receive feedback in a user friendly format. This will also be conveyed to all our young people in care. We also wish to inform all children in care of the next steps regarding focus groups and ongoing communication with them (possibly through newsletters and web information plus other events that can help them to keep in touch with each other and the planning for all children in care). We have a clear responsibility to ensure that all views are listened to and valued.

12. Consultation

Jennifer James, Head of Service Children's Networks North and Lead for Participation and Chris Chalmers, Head of Service Children in Care.

Approximately 10% of young people in care who are old enough to share their views.



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Terms of Reference
Lead Officer:	Carolyn Banks
Date:	6 July 2010

1. Purpose

To consider the terms of reference for this body for the Municipal year 2010/11

2. Background information

When this Committee was originally set up in April 2009 it was agreed that its terms of reference would be the subject to a review by the Cabinet member for Children and Young People after one year in operation. Accordingly the Cabinet Member has requested that this meeting consider and comment on the terms of reference for the Committee.

3. Terms of reference

The Cabinet at its meeting on 15 June noted the current terms of reference as follows:-

- (1) To be responsible for the Council's role as Corporate parent for those children and young people who are in care.
- (2) To ensure the views of children in care are heard.
- (3) To seek to ensure that the life chances of children in care are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment and access to training and employment to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood.



Haringey Council

- (4) To ensure that the voice and needs of disabled children are identified and provided for.
- (5) To provide an advocacy function within the Children's Trust and the Council on behalf of children in care.
- (6) To monitor the quality of care provided by the council to Children in Care
- (7) To ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future wellbeing.

4. Membership and officer support

This will be made up of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Chair), three other Members of the Majority Group and three Members of the Minority Group. The quorum would be 2.

The committee will report to the cabinet on a twice yearly basis and to Full Council annually.

The group will also be supported by officer representatives from:

- Strategic and Community Housing Service
- Health Service
- Children and Young People Service

5. Recommendation

That consideration be given to the current terms of reference and whether any changes should be recommended to Cabinet.

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