



**Haringey** Council

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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# **Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee**

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THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2010 at 18:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD,  
WOOD GREEN, 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 16 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 - 8)**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PAGES 9 - 18)**

To update members of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of September 2010.

**7. OUTSIDE BOROUGH PLACEMENTS (PAGES 19 - 20)**

The report provides information on the process and factors considered for placing children in care outside the borough.

**8. FORMATION OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (PAGES 21 - 36)**

The report provides information on the progress made on compiling a forum for Children & Young People in care and care leavers.

**9. FOSTERCARE CONSORTIUM JOINT WORKING (PAGES 37 - 46)**

To consider a memorandum of understanding which is a draft agreement reached between the boroughs of Haringey, Islington, Camden, Enfield and Barnet with the purpose of meeting the placement needs of North London children and young people.

**10. TOTAL RESPECT TRAINING**

Committee members to consider the dates for Total Respect Training and advise attendance.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011  
Follow up half day Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
Follow up half day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

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

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of items 12,13,14 and 15 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. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - APPENDIX 1 (PAGES 47 - 48)**

Statistical information contained on Children in Care

**13. MUSWELL HOUSE (PAGES 49 - 54)**

To provide an update on Muswell House Children's Home.

**14. INDEPENDENT VISITOR REPORTS**

To consider specified performance data for Children in Care. **To Follow**

**15. CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

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

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of next meeting 24 January 2011

Ken Pryor  
Deputy Head of Local Democracy and Member  
Services  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
London N22 8HQ

Ayshe Simsek  
Principal Committee Co-ordinator  
Tel: 0208 489 2929  
Fax: 0208 489 2660  
Email: [ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk)

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

Also Present: Debbie Haith, Wendy Tomlinson, Attracta Craig, Chris Chalmers, Rashma Toora and Emma Cummergen.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC14	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Peacock and Cllr Alexander.</p>	
CPAC15	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC16	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CPAC17	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CPAC18	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p><b>Adoption and Fostering Panel</b></p> <p>The Deputy Director CYPS reported that she had asked the Designated Nurse to investigate the administrative problems that had occurred with regard to the sharing of medical notes . Proposed that Cllr Solomon( member of the Adoption Panel) and Cllr Peacock (member of the Fostering Panel) be informed of this action.</p> <p><b>Data in the performance report relating to looked after children with a statement</b> . Noted that future educational information would now include this.</p> <p><b>Suitable neutral venues for LAC review meetings</b> . Members were informed that the child should be asked their preference for the location of these meetings. Agreed that officers follow up on this to</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>WT</p>

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	<p>ensure that this practice is continuing.</p> <p><b>Progress on CRB checks for all new councillors involved in corporate parenting and safeguarding.</b> The committee agreed, as a matter of urgency, that this action is further followed up with the Assistant Chief Executive for People and Organisational Development to ensure that all the newly appointed councillors to this committee and those interested in taking part in regulation 33 visits have had a CRB check.</p> <p>The committee noted that updates on Foster Care would be included in the performance report which is a standing item on the agenda for the committee.</p> <p>The committee requested an update on the number of Councillors taking up corporate parenting training.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>DH</p>
<p><b>CPAC19</b></p>	<p><b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – JULY 2010 DATA.</b></p> <p>The Committee received an update of children in care National indicators and outcomes for 2010 together with targets for 2010/11 and other key performance information as at the end of July 10. The committee were asked to note that comparative data for 2009/10 would be published in the Autumn and with this in mind there would also follow, to the next meeting, information on the full profile of regulated services provided to children in the borough.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been an increase to 621 children in care as of 31 July 2010. Members noted that 33 children had become looked after and 18 children had ceased to be looked after during July. Details of the number of care proceedings initiated both during July and over the previous 12 months was reported. The committee noted that there had been a 25% increase in care proceedings in Haringey compared to this time last year. Although the national average of children in care had risen by 17% it was noted that the figure had risen by a greater amount in Haringey. Officers verbally reported that the numbers of looked after children had stabilized in August and September. The committee sought information on the timescales for court care proceedings and asked whether the number of siblings involved had an impact on the length of the proceedings. Officers advised that in theory the number of siblings involved should not be a factor however there could be issues such as locating special guardian's. There was an increasing concern about delays in care proceedings and the Director of Children Services was seeking to initiate a meeting with the judiciary to discuss this urgent matter further. The Chair advised officers of the need collate information and data on delayed care proceedings in readiness for any possible Pan London investigation on this matter.</p> <p>Details of the age and ethnic breakdown of placements across boroughs were noted. The committee requested that a further comparison be made between the ethnic group numbers of LAC against the ethnic breakdown of the borough to understand any possible correlations.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>DH</p>

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Also, when considering the age ranges of LAC, it would be useful for the committee to understand the number of children entering these categories that were newly located in the borough. Officers provided information to the committee on the procedures followed for children with care plans moving to the borough with assurances given of the careful scrutiny given to care plans. The committee noted that previous assessments are reinitiated should the Social Worker feel that there is inadequate information provided. Discussion and information further followed on the knowledge the local authority has of children moving into the borough and what the usual channels are for receiving this information. The committee noted that only children which have come into contact with other boroughs children's services will be known to services when relocating.

DH

The committee sought further assurances about the welfare of LAC when placing them outside of the borough. Officers advised the committee that when placing children in outside borough residential settings, the homes chosen were either rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. Upon request committee members could be supplied with details of the commonly used homes in order to access Ofsted reports. Further clarification was sought on the stability of outside borough placements with responses provided by officers on the following:

- the numbers of LAC placed outside the borough,
- the types of placements i.e. residential or foster care available,
- the level of contact being made with LAC located outside the borough,
- how outside borough residential settings are chosen for LAC,
- the reasons for placing the children out of the borough,
- length of placements and reasons for some placements being more stable and successful than others.

The committee requested that the next performance report includes more detailed information on out of borough placements taking into account the above points discussed and provides a breakdown of the data on the stability and long term stability (N163) of placements for children in care. Information should also be included on the type of cases encountered, and whether court proceedings delays are also having an impact.

DH

The committee sought information and assurances on the procedures and guidance followed for children termed as "missing" from either a residential setting or foster care setting. The committee learned that placement teams in boroughs were notified of significant incidents where LAC are involved. Officers in Haringey Children's services ensured that protocols for missing children were understood by residential homes both inside and outside of the borough. The committee were pleased to note that the attendance of LAC children at school was tracked on a daily basis as this was a speedy way of signalling to the local authority any immediate absences and also highlighting any possible issues if a child has variable attendance at school.

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The committee discussed adoption and special guardianship orders as part of NI61. Information was provided on special guardianship and adoption targets.

As agreed, at the previous meeting, an update was provided on foster care recruitment and this would continue to be reported upon in the performance report. The committee noted that the service had been restructured with the recruitment team now separated to deal solely with the recruitment of foster carers. Officers spoke of the necessity of providing a good customer service to potential foster carers as this made the difference in their recruitment. The services was improved and Members of the committee were welcome to assess the service provided if they wished. The Chair enquired about what work was being done with other local authorities to jointly source foster carers as realistically the local authority and neighbouring boroughs were all targeting the same potential foster carers. Officers reported that there was some early work being completed with four other north London boroughs on: pooling and sharing foster carers services, negotiating costs of IFA foster carers (as different boroughs paid different rates for the foster carers used) training of staff and foster carers. The committee reiterated the need to continue speedily with the work of developing this consortium as it would enable a better and cost effective service to be achieved. The Chair asked to be informed of any high level issues and offered to speak with relevant counterparts, at the 4 north London boroughs, to hasten and resolve issues when required.

WT

The Committee were interested in finding out what percentage of enquires, for foster caring, were received from the west of the borough and also suggested that recruitment leaflets on foster caring could be distributed at the next Muswell Hill and Crouch End Area Assembly meetings. The committee also recommended that officers find out the dates of up and coming area assembly meetings, in the west of the borough, so as to seek agreement from area assembly chairs to include leaflets on fostering at these meetings.

WT

WT

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the performance report includes information on the full profile of regulated services provided to children in the borough.
3. That the performance report provides information on out of borough placements as per the committee's discussion and provides a breakdown of the data on the stability and long term stability (N163) of placements for children in care.
4. The committee agreed that the performance report further contain comparisons between the ethnic group numbers of LAC against the ethnic breakdown of the borough. That the report further add details of number of children entering the age range categories of

DH

DH



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	LAC to understand if they are newly located in the borough.	DH
<b>CPAC20</b>	<p><b>VIRTUAL SCHOOL - UPDATE</b></p> <p>Local Authorities were required to have a “Virtual School” of Children in Care with specific responsibility to track, monitor and raise education attainment. Details of the staffing establishment of Haringey’s Virtual School, which had been in place since April 2010 was noted. In considering this report the Committee was pleased to note that the Virtual School had been short listed under 4 categories of the forthcoming Children and Young People Now magazine awards.</p> <p>Provisional GCSE results were given for the 48 children in Year 11 who had been in care continuously for a period of more than 12 months. All 32 young people who sat GCSE exams achieved a level one qualification or above. It was pleasing to note that the four young people who had attended the Pupil Support Centre achieved one or more GCSE’s at level one (grades D- G) and all of them have secured college placements. Six young people achieved A and A* grades. It was noted that the extension of the Virtual School to post 16 would allow these young people’s progress to continue to be monitored beyond secondary school. The committee learned that, the 31% of Looked after Children gaining 5 A*-C grades, had been the subject of early intervention work at key stage 2 and therefore it was especially pleasing that this extra assistance had resulted in good grades for these children. The committee further requested circulation of supplementary information about the numbers of LAC passing A levels and those progressing onto university. Noted that the continuation of the Virtual School to provide post 16 services would enable this information to be held.</p> <p>Details of training delivered to all designated teachers, social workers and foster carers between April – July 2010 was given together with an evaluation of a DT conference held in July 2010. Officers were pleased to note that there had been significant positive feedback on the training event by teachers on promoting rapid and accelerated educational progress of children in care. This was evidenced by good sign up to online training which should in turn help support better completion of Personal Education Plans.</p> <p>The committee recommended that the good news on LAC attainment should be shared with the School Standards committee to continue raising the expectations about what Looked after Children can achieve.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>1. The committee congratulated the young people for their</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>All to</p>

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	<p>achievements and thanked the Virtual School project team for their hard work and commitment.</p> <p>2. Agreed that invitations be sent to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee members for the forth coming awards ceremony for LAC taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.</p>	<p>note</p> <p>AC</p>
<p><b>CPAC21</b></p>	<p><b>EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARE LEAVERS AND INFORMATION ON NEETS</b></p> <p>As requested the Committee received an update report on the number of young people leaving care who were defined as NEET (not in education, employment or training), details of employment links established by the leaving care and asylum service and the support provided by the service to young people to young people to help with finding employment and training.</p> <p>The meeting noted that there were 482 young people who were in education, training or employment and 127 who were NEET's (not in education, employment or training). A detailed breakdown of the ethnicity of the young NEET people was given together with suggested barriers to employment.</p> <p>The Leaving Care and Asylum service offered a variety of support to help young people obtain employment, training or education. In particular they worked in partnership with a range of other agencies and organisations. These links needed to be further developed in order to meet the needs of the young people and it was noted that there were areas for further development.</p> <p>The committee was interested in finding out about the emotional support received by LAC who were leaving care and living alone. Discussion was focussed around what support the local authority currently provides with feelings of isolation and what support is provided after normal working hours to care leavers. There was work being completed by the leaving care team on negotiating contracts for providers of accommodation ,to ensure out of hours support is available to care leavers. Further suggestions put forward from the committee for supporting care leavers were: calling upon older care leavers who may want to provide advice and support to new care leavers , also utilising care leaver events to allow connections to be made and experiences to be shared. The committee also discussed the pros and cons of placing care leavers with similar peers and concluded that there should be more development work on dealing with the issues of isolation.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. The report be noted</p>	<p>RT/EC</p>

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	<p>2. Agreed that paragraph 19.2 concerning the offer of apprenticeships/ employment opportunities for care leavers is revisited.</p>	RT/EC
<b>CPAC22</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no new items of urgent business.</p>	
<b>CPAC23</b>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That as items 11 - 13 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>	
<b>CPAC24</b>	<p><b>MUSWELL HOUSE</b></p> <p>Further to previous meetings Members received an update on staffing issues at Muswell House. They also received more information in relation to the input from Tavistock Haringey in assisting with developing the work that would improve Muswell House's performance in forthcoming inspections.</p> <p>An assessment process and statement of purpose was currently being finalised and a draft updated young people's guide was due to be completed.</p> <p>There was discussion on the progress made by Muswell Hill House and a proposal made on changing the name of the Children's home to signify this. The name Coppetts Road Children's Home was suggested. Agreed that the Deputy Director for Children's services investigate the process for doing this.</p> <p>The committee welcomed the officer responses added to the Ofsted findings contained in the report . Agreed that actions which had been completed are only removed from the table once considered and notified to the committee.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The report be noted</li> <li>2. That an updated response to the Ofsted inspection be considered at the next meeting of the committee.</li> </ol>	<p>DH</p> <p>WT</p> <p>WT</p>
<b>CPAC25</b>	<p><b>REGULATION 33 VISITS</b></p> <p>Members received an update on Regulation 33 inspections on the three Haringey residential homes i.e. Haslemere, (although not within the remit</p>	

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	<p>of the Committee) Haringey Park and Muswell House.</p> <p>Monthly inspections of the homes were carried out by a combination of Councillors, one of the four staff from the Placements team and from June onwards included young people. The committee noted the recent issues raised by the visitors for resolution by the 3 homes.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. That the report be noted</p>	
<b>CPAC26</b>	<p><b>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</b></p> <p>Ofsted report on the announced inspection of first response team was due to be published on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.</p>	
<b>CPAC27</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>	
<b>CPAC28</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS – ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Muswell Hill House Update Formation of the CiC Council Update on Fostercare Consortium ]</p> <p>Information to be included in the performance report as set out in CPAC 19.</p> <p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11 November 2010</b></p>	<p>WT DH WT  DH</p>

LORNA REITH  
Chair



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<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – August/September 2010 data
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Debbie Haith
<b>Date:</b>	11 November 2010

## 1. Background

This report is an update of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of September 2010. In addition it provides details of outturns for 2010 and targets for 2010/11.

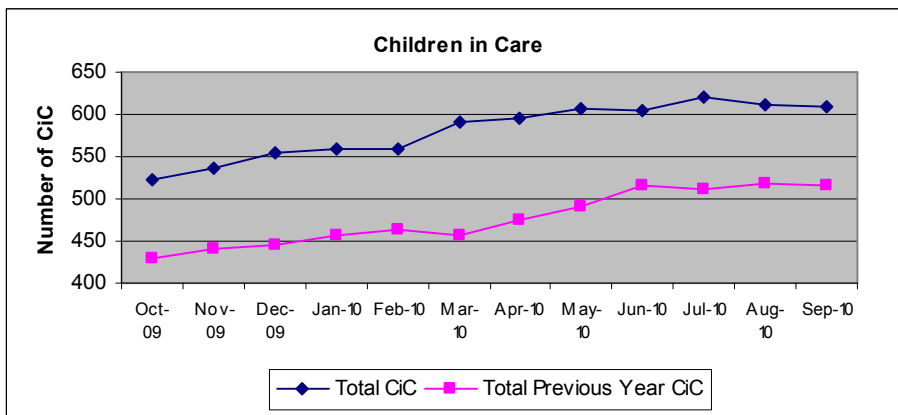
- 1.1 Note that the Government is currently undertaking a review of National Indicators and all statutory data returns. We will update Members of any changes to our statutory reporting requirements following the outcome of this review but will continue to report on this data until such time.
- 1.2 Haringey's Ofsted Statistical Neighbours group includes the following boroughs:
- Croydon
  - Greenwich
  - Hackney
  - Hammersmith and Fulham
  - Haringey
  - Islington
  - Lambeth
  - Lewisham
  - Southwark
  - Waltham Forest
  - Wandsworth



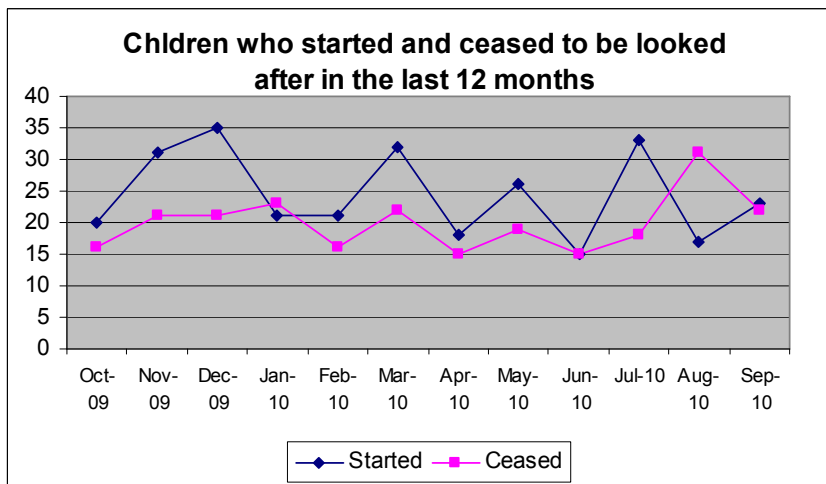
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**2. Children in Care Performance Data – 30 September 2010**

2.1 610 children were in care at 30 September 2010 (based on a manual calculation done mid-year, this equates to an estimated 400 families). 23 children became looked after in the month and 22 children ceased to be looked after in the month. Although there has been rapid increase over the last year, the overall numbers of children in care are beginning to stabilise. The chart below shows the month by month changes to the total numbers of children in care compared with the previous year.



The chart below shows the numbers of children coming into care and ceasing to be in care each month over the last 12 months:

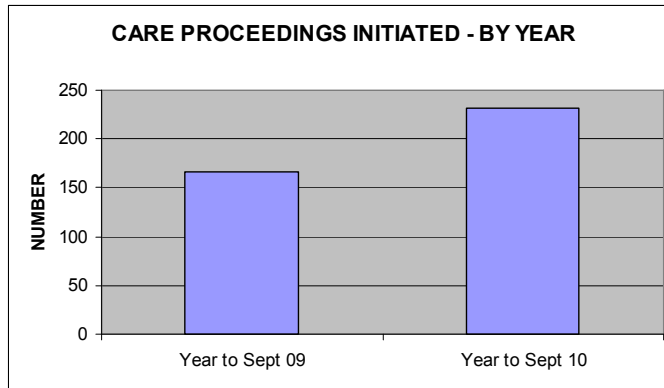


2.2 25 care proceedings were initiated in September. In the year to date (Apr-Sep) 130 care proceedings have been initiated. The graph below shows



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the increase in the 12 months to the end of September 2009 and the 12 months to the end of September 2010.

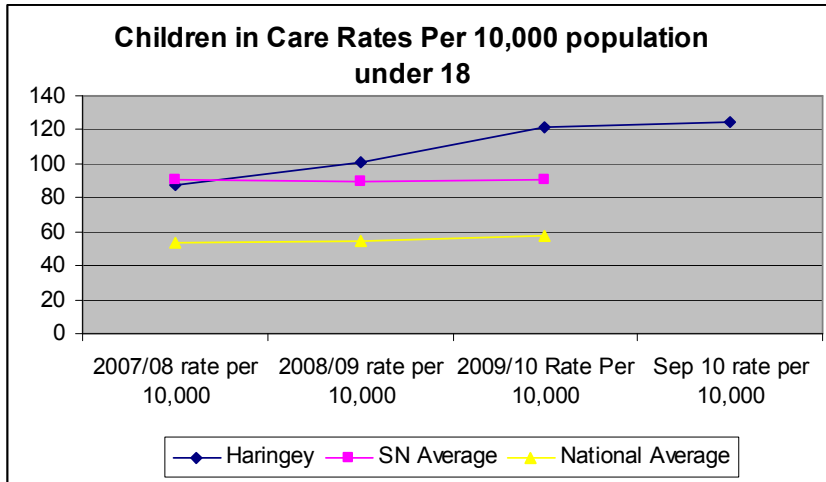


2.3 The total number of children in care is at a rate of 125 children per 10,000 population. The table below shows a breakdown of numbers of children in care in our statistical neighbour comparator boroughs and rates per 10,000 population of children under 18. The graph shows the increase in the rate of children in care in Haringey over the last 3 years compared with our statistical neighbours and the national picture. Although our rate is beginning to slow it is higher than average and second highest of our comparator boroughs below Croydon. Lambeth is demographically our most directly comparable borough.

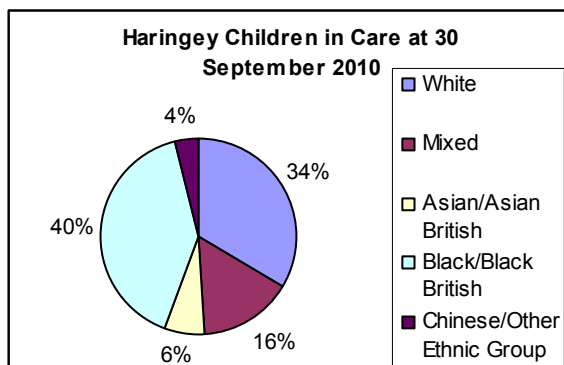
	<b>Numbers of CiC at 31/03/10</b>	<b>2009/10 Rate Per 10,000</b>
Hackney	305	59
Ham and Fulham	255	82
<b>Haringey</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>121</b>
Islington	315	94
Lambeth	565	105
Lewisham	525	90
Southwark	555	101
Wandsworth	205	41
Croydon	1010	126
Greenwich	590	111
Waltham Forest	340	63
SN Average		90
National Average		58



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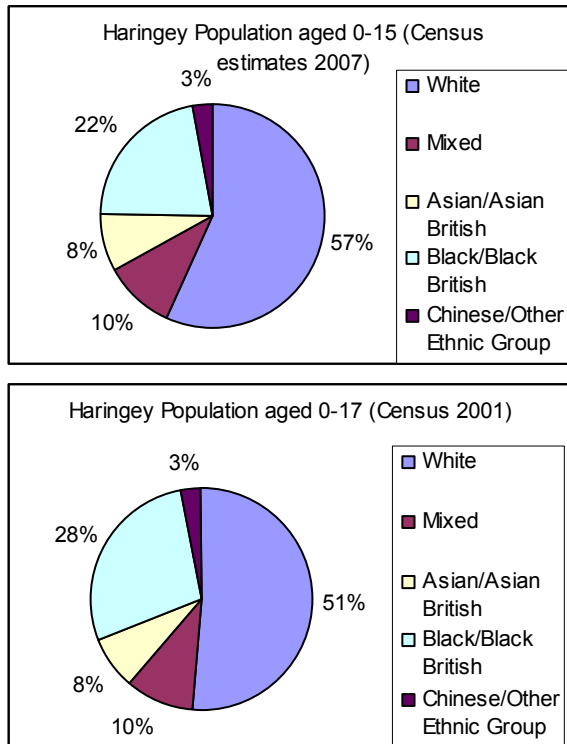
- 2.4 Of the 610 children in care at the end of September 2010:
- 42 are unaccompanied minors or unaccompanied minors leaving care (7%).
  - 20 children are those who have been placed in care as a result of the Southwark Judgement (16/17 year olds presenting as homeless) (3%).
  - 30 are children recorded with a disability and allocated to the children with disabilities team (5%).
- 2.5 The ethnic breakdown of children in care at the end of September is detailed in the charts below, this also shows a breakdown of 2001 census data on ethnicity of children aged 0-17 in the borough and the 2007 population estimates for children aged 0-15 in the borough (estimates are not available for 0-17 year olds as these only go up to working age and then beyond). A more detailed breakdown is listed in appendix 1:







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- 2.6 The age breakdown of children in care at the end of September is as detailed below, the largest proportion of children we currently work with is 10-15 year olds. The table also shows the proportion of children coming into care between April and September, and the proportion of referrals received to date, again showing that the largest proportion of children is within the 10-15 age bracket:

Age Group	LAC @ 30 Sep 10	National Average 2009/10	LAC commencing Apr-Sep 10	National Average 2009/10	Referrals Received in period
Under 1	5.9%(36)	6%	12% (19 )	19%	16%(211 )
1-4	16.6% (101)	17%	18% (29)	20%	25%(325 )
5-9	15.9% (97)	17%	18% (28)	16%	24%(310)
10-15	36.6% (223)	39%	41% (64)	33%	27%(350)
16-17	25% (153)	21%	11% (18)	12%	8%(108)
			<b>158</b>		<b>1304</b>

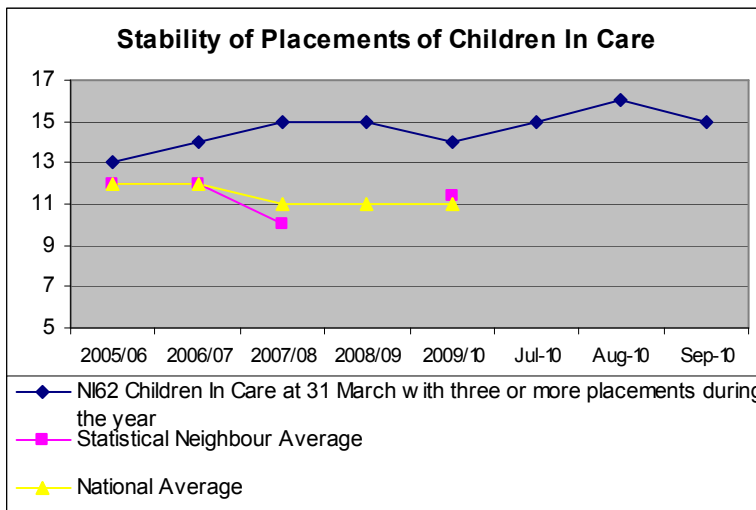
The above table also shows the national average of children in care and coming into care in 2009/10 by age where the national picture is not hugely different from that of Haringey. We are currently doing some more work to explore this cohort of children and the reasons for them coming



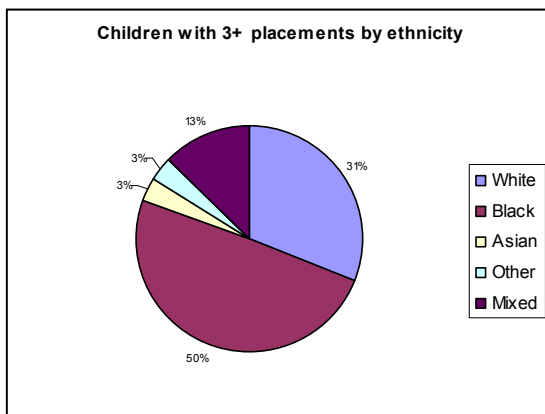
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into care as part of a bigger piece of work around sufficiency. Findings will be reported to a future meeting of CPAC.

- 2.7 NI66 – Children in care have to have their circumstances and care plan independently reviewed every 6 months. 95% of children in care cases which should have been reviewed during the year to date (Apr–Sep), were reviewed in timescale, this is 28 children who were not reviewed in timescale to date.
- 2.8 NI 62 – 41 children in care at 30 September 2010 have had 3 or more placements in the year to date (Apr–Sep = 6.7%). Good performance in this area is indicated as achieving less than 16% of children in care moving 3 or more times in the whole year. In the previous 12 months 15.2% of children have had 3 or more placements. The graph below shows comparative data for this indicator over the last 5 years:

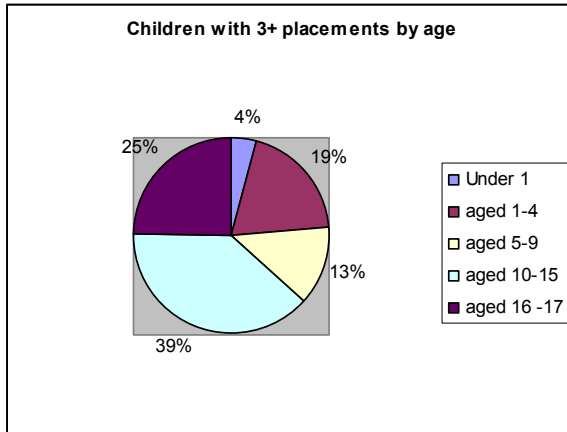


The breakdown below looks at all children who have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months by age and ethnicity, a number breakdown is provided in table 2 in the attached appendix:

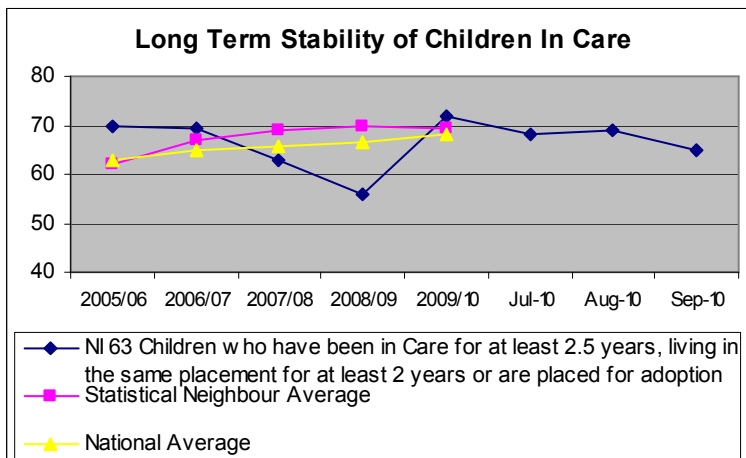




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2.9 NI63 – This is another measure of placement stability. 65% of children in care for 2.5 years or more had been in their placement for at least 2 years at 30 September 2010. This is 92 out of 141 children who were looked after for 2.5 years or more and in their placement for 2 years or more. The target for this indicator in 10/11 is 72%. The graph below shows comparative data for this indicator.



2.10 **Children placed out of borough** (note that children placed in foster placements out of borough will include those placed with a Haringey foster carer living outside of Haringey). Around 70% of children looked after are placed outside of Haringey, the breakdown below details the proportion of children placed outside of Haringey by placement type:

Placement Type	No of Children
Fostered with relative or friend	8%
Placed with other foster carer	68%
Homes subject to children homes regs	10%
Residential not subject to children homes regs	9%
NHS or other medical establishment	0.2%
Family centre/Mother & Baby unit	0.2%



**Haringey Council**

Young Offender Institute or prison	1.2%
Residential School	2%
<b>Total out of Haringey placements</b>	<b>427</b>
Total in Haringey placements	183

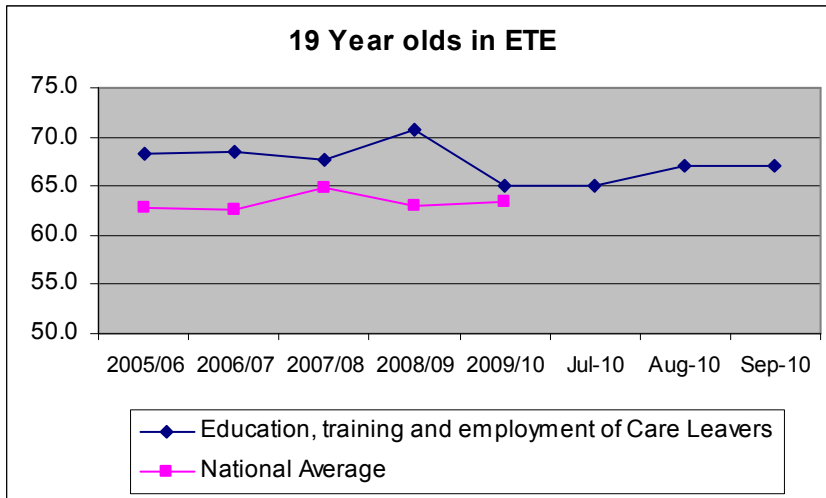
The table below details children who had been in care for 2.5 years or more and in the same placement for 2 years or more at the end of September broken down by those in in-borough placements and those in out of borough placements:

	<b>In borough</b>	<b>Out of borough</b>	<b>Total</b>
Children in care for 2.5 years or more	22	119	141
Children in placement for 2 years or more (and in care for 2.5 years or more)	13	79	92
<b>NI63</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>65%</b>

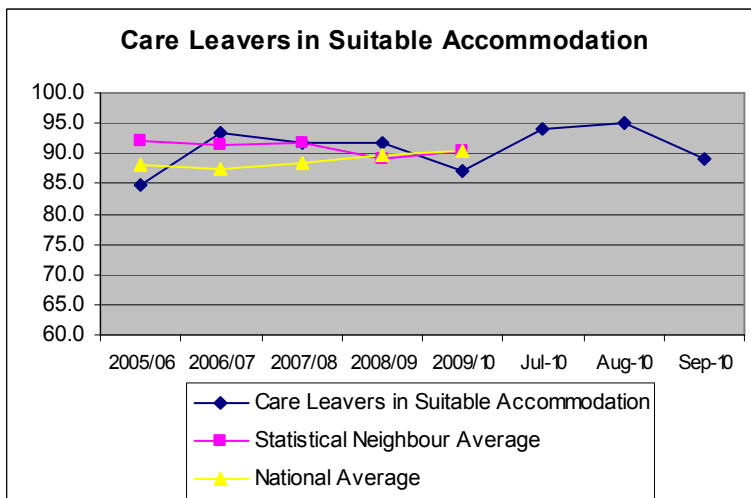
- 2.11 Visits to Children in Care. 86% (515 out of 597) of children in care at the end of September (excluding those who came into care in the last week of the month) had a visit completed in timescale (6 weekly or 3 monthly where agreed by a manager). 155 out of 173 (90%) of children placed inside the borough had a visit in timescale and 360 out of 424 (84.9%) of children placed outside of borough had a visit in timescale.
- 2.12 10 children have been adopted and 5 granted special guardianship orders in the year to date. NI 61 looks at children in care who have been adopted and placed within 12 months of a best interest decision to adopt, 6 out of the 10 children adopted were placed within 12 months (60%).
- 2.13 73% of children in care were placed in foster placements or placed for adoption at 30 September 2010 and 24% were placed in residential accommodation.
- 2.14 We report on two performance indicators in relation to young people leaving our care. One is a sub-set of the overall NEET activity - NI148 – 68% of care leavers who turned 19 in the year to date were in education training or employment on or around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is 18 out of 27 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.



Haringey Council



2.15 NI147 - 89% of care leavers turning 19 in the year to date were living in suitable accommodation on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is 24 out of 27 young people who turned 19 in the year. The target for 2010/11 is 92%. The graph below shows movement in this indicator over the last 5 years.



2.16 **Children missing from care July – September 2010.** In the 3 months July to September 2010, 36 children were reported missing on a total of 235 occasions. Of these, 23 children went missing on 73 occasions for over 24 hours. 114 children were counted as ‘absconding’ from their placements. A majority of the young people who abscond (i.e. are missing for less than 24 hours) are in Care Homes where they are reported to the police either when they breach their curfew or leave the home late at night and do not return until the following day.

Of the 23 children who have been reported as missing for more than 24 hours on at least one occasion, the age breakdown is:



**Haringey Council**

Age	Number
0-5	1
6-12	6
13-15	8
16-17	8

- Two siblings aged 6 months and 9 years have been missing since August and are believed to have been abducted and taken to Romania by family members. They are still being actively searched for.
- Of the 23 children who went missing for more than 24 hours, 9 were in foster care.
- None of the children who were reported missing/absconding and subsequently found were reported as having been harmed or came to the attention of the police for any other reason.

### 3. Foster Carer Recruitment

73% of all our children are placed in foster care. 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.

In the month of September:

- We have had 29 enquiries (42 in August)
- The next information session is to be held in October – positive applicants from September were visited at home (18 attended an information session in August)
- 12 prospective carers attended initial visits (not all from enquiries received in September). 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 (13 attended initial visits in August)
- 6 new carers have been approved in the year to date – this will equate to 8 approved placements

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

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

On 11 November, 2010

<b>Briefing for:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Placements Out Of Borough
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Wendy Tomlinson  Telephone: 020 8489 3635 E-mail: Wendy.Tomlison@Haringey.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	11 November 2010

### **1. What Is The Procedure For Placing Children Out of Borough?**

The needs of each child or young person are assessed by the child's allocated social worker. The type of placement required is established as part of the assessment and a referral to the placements team is then completed.

Placements will then attempt to locate a placement for the child within areas identified. On occasions where provisions required are not available within borough, the placements team will recommend widening the search and ask for the social worker to prioritise school and contact.

### **2. On What Basis Do We Commonly Make A Decision To Place Out of Borough?**

There are many different reasons where a placement out of borough is required, please see below for the most common examples:

Specialist Provisions – There are various different specialist areas where consideration can be given for young people to be placed outside Haringey as per examples below:

- SEN (Specialist School Placements).
- Physical disabilities.
- Learning disabilities
- Young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Children with harmful sexual behaviour (Perpetrator or Victim)

- Children exhibiting significant Mental Health Issues.
- Specialist mother and baby units and foster care.

Sibling Groups – Unfortunately there are not many carers in Haringey who are able to care for sibling groups. Therefore consideration is given to move children out of borough to ensure that sibling groups remain together.

Ethnic Match – There are occasions where it is deemed essential that a child or young person is placed within a family that meets their cultural needs. Within Haringey we have a very diverse pool of carers, however, there is a need sometimes to place away from the borough to ensure there is an appropriate match.

Kinship – Placements where family member is identified to care for child where family member lives outside of the borough.

Threats of abduction – Where there is an assessed risk of a child being abducted by a family member.

Threats of Physical Violence – On occasions a child is assessed to be at serious risk of physical violence from a member of family or community following disclosures and subsequent accommodation.

Domestic Violence – Where young people are fleeing significant domestic violence from former partners.

Education Provision – Where a young person has chosen to attend college/education outside of the borough, consideration can be given to locate alternative accommodation out of borough.

Gang Affiliation – Where young people are fleeing threat of violence from gang members within the Haringey area.

Youth Offences – Where court restrictions are given by a Judge restricts the areas that young person can live.

### **3. What Checks Do We Undertake With Providers Before We Choose To Place With Them?**

When a placement is made with a non-contracted provider the following checks are made by the placements service to ensure that the placement is appropriate:

- Inspection of provision by Placements Team.
- OFSTED Reports checked.
- Reference from other placing Local Authority.
- Provider PAN London registered – review previous monitoring report.





Agenda item:

**[No.]**

**Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee On 11 November, 2010**

<b>Briefing for:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee</b>
<b>Title:</b>	The Formation of Haringey's Children in Care Council
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Jennifer James  Telephone: 020 8489 5049 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jennifer.James@haringey.gov.uk">Jennifer.James@haringey.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date:</b>	11 November, 2010

1. Following on from the 6 June 2010 'Stocktake' meeting with children and young people in care, a specific council has been set up to provide a regular forum for children and young people in care and care leavers to express their views about all issues which affect them.
2. The aims of the council will be to:
  - promote the views of children and young people by creating regular opportunities for them to come together to share their collective experiences, so that they can be listened to and be supported to help effect positive change for those in care;
  - provide opportunities for children and young people in care to be consulted on matters that affect them;
  - provide all children and young people in care with information about the council and to raise awareness in adults of their needs;
  - reflect the diversity of children and young people in care;
  - strengthen the resilience of children and young people in care.

3. Children and young people were invited to attend two meetings to discuss the purpose of the council, how it will work and to agree their priorities for the first year. No children in care turned up for the first meeting, which was scheduled to take place on Saturday, 16 October. Twelve young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three attended the second meeting which took place on Tuesday 19 October, 2010. Six of these young people were in care before they were sixteen. The others entered care after sixteen. A care leaver also brought her four month old baby to the meeting.
4. The meeting was lively and informative. The young people's experiences of being in care are varied and they were very willing to share their views on how services could be improved for all those in care.
5. The group have proposed a name, "Young in Care Council" (YCC) and intend to work towards establishing two sub groups; one for children who are twelve and under, the other for those who are thirteen and older. The young people would like membership of the YCC to be open to all children in Haringey's care and to include representatives for disabled children, fostered children, those in residential units, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and ex-care leavers. They also wish to create a logo.
6. The overriding aim of the council will be to make things better for children and young people in care.
7. The council wish to explore the possibility of inviting members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to future meetings and welcome the opportunity to send reports to or attend CPAC.
8. A member of this group has agreed to represent the Young in Care Council at national forums and will be attending a meeting with the Children's Minister, Tim Loughton, in November. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for representatives from London's CiC Councils to talk to the minister about how to make improvements happen.
9. To find out how other local authorities are meeting the requirement to provide CiCC officers have attended meetings with other London based participation workers.
10. To encourage the engagement of more children and young people in care, participation officers will plan another event, in consultation with the young people.

### **Background information**

On 12 June, 2010, Haringey Council asked children and young people in their care to evaluate the services provided to them. Copies of the reports based on the responses from both the junior and senior groups are attached.

### **Options for consideration**

There is not an agreed model for children in care councils. The ideas and proposals within this report are still being developed by young people. We are at the early stages of establishing the council and it is imperative that our children and young people in care play a meaningful role in developing the council. To encourage their participation, they must feel that they have some ownership of the whole process.

### **Legal Implications**

DCSF White Paper, **Care Matters: Time for Change**, 2007 sets out the framework for Children in Care Councils.

*“Whatever structures exist in a children’s services authority, children’s participation is an essential part of the process. We expect every local authority to establish a Children in Care Council to ensure that every child has the opportunity to air their views. In making these arrangements the local authority should consider in particular the needs of disabled children and very young children. Through the CiCC, children and young people would be able to put their experiences of the care system directly to those responsible for corporate parenting including the DCS and Lead member, who should demonstrate how they will maintain contact with children and young people in care.”*

The main legislation in respect of the CiCC is the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, which is underpinned by the white paper.

### **Policy Implications**

Policy and procedures related to hearing the voice of children and young people will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and Care Matters.

The Children in Care Council will enable the views of looked after children and young people, including those from Black and minority ethnic communities and those with disabilities to be sought and taken into account.

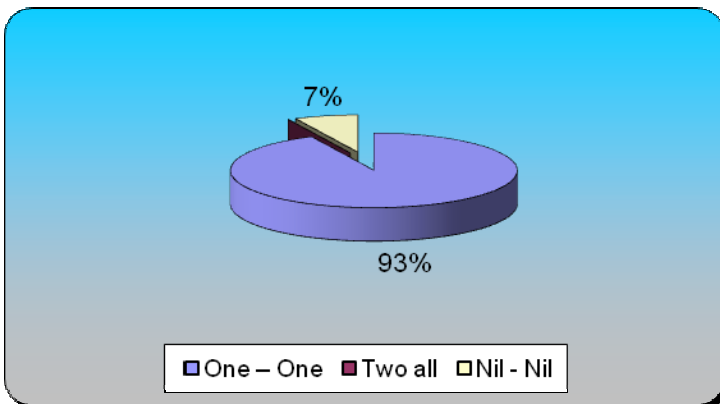
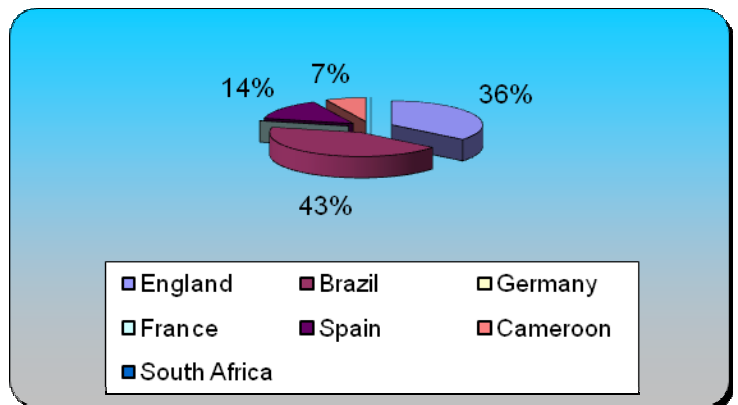
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On the 12<sup>th</sup> June, Haringey Council asked children and young people in their care to evaluate the services provided to them. The results will be used to help improve our services to children in care in Haringey.

### 1. Who won the first world cup game?

Bit of a trick question but most of you got it – no-one – it was a draw!!

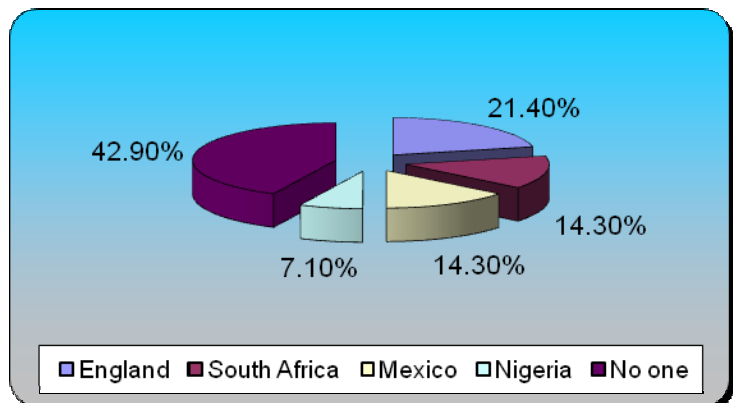


### 2. What was the score?

So, what was the score? Again, most of you got this one too – it was One - One!

### 3. Who will win the world cup?

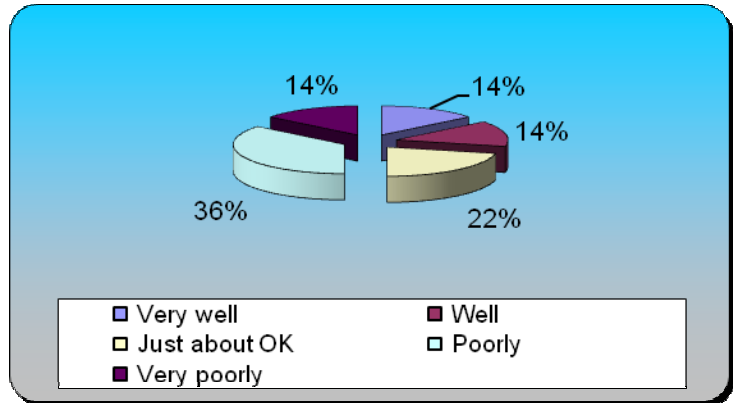
The winning predictions weren't quite so spot on though – 2 of you got it right with Spain, while 42% went with the favourites, Brazil.



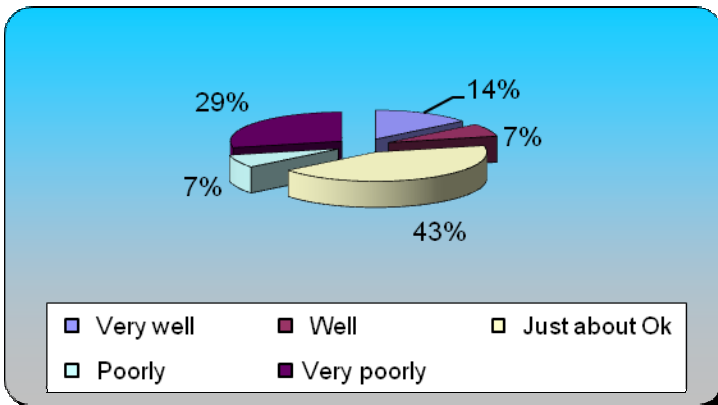


#### 4. How well is Haringey doing at keeping young children in care safe?

When asked about how we were doing keeping young people in care safe, half of you thought poorly or very poorly. A further 22% thought we were doing just about ok, whilst the remaining 28% thought we were doing well or very well.



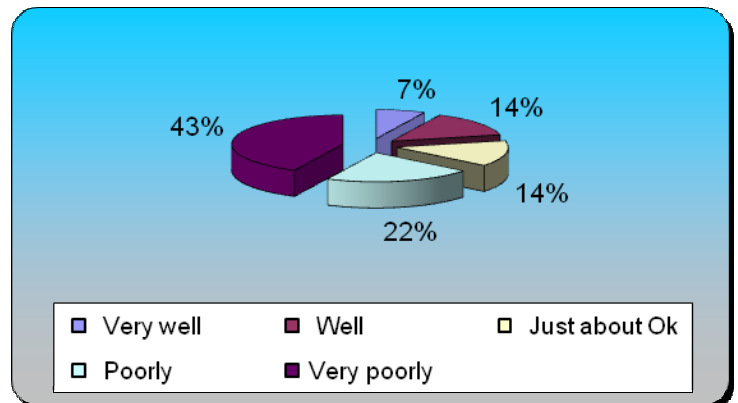
#### 5. How well is Haringey doing at keeping young people in care to healthy?



When asked how we were doing at keeping young people in care healthy, the response was more positive with over 80% of you thinking we were doing very well, well or just about ok.

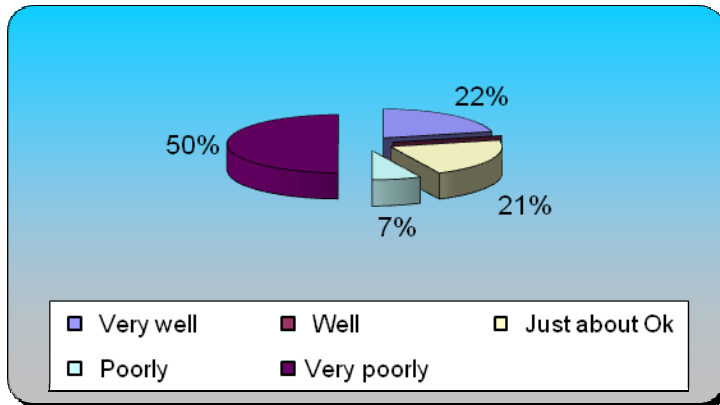
#### 6. How well is Haringey doing at making sure young people in care enjoy good activities and leisure time?

We then asked you how well we were doing at making sure young people in care enjoy good activities and leisure time, but again the result was rather disappointing – over half of you rated us at doing either poorly or very poorly.





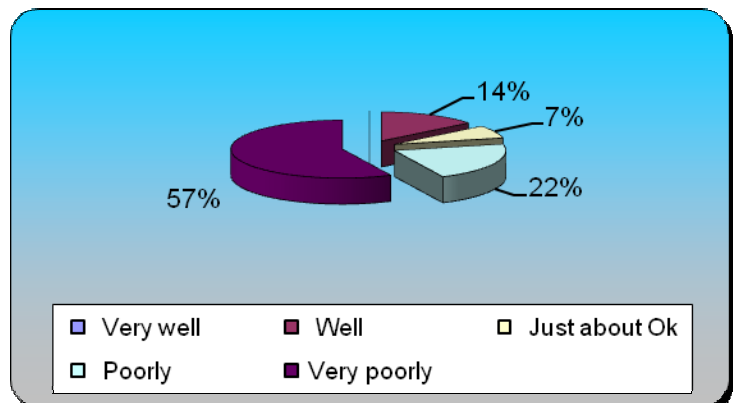
### 7. How well is Haringey doing at helping you to achieve well school or college?



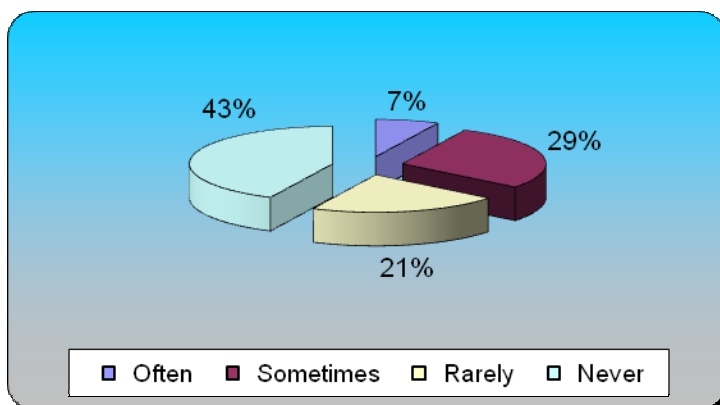
It seems we are doing better at helping you to achieve well at school or college though – almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of you thought we were doing well or very well.

### 8. How well is Haringey doing at helping young people in care prepare to get good jobs in the future?

When it comes to preparing you to get good jobs however, Haringey don't seem to be helping you so much - 11 out of 14 of you thought we were doing poorly or very poorly at this.



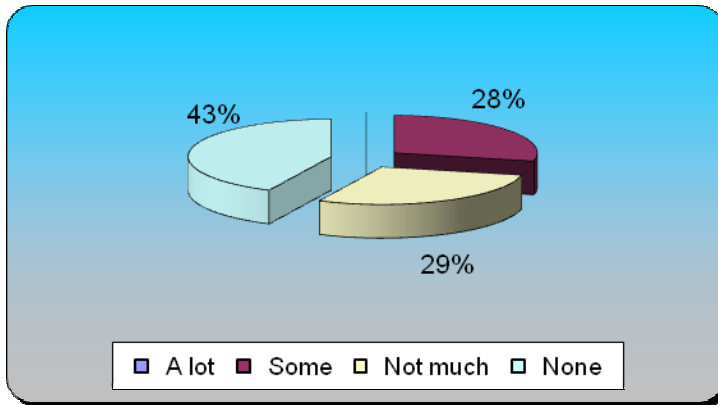
### 9. Have you ever been discriminated against by other people just because you were in care?



When asked whether you had been the victim of discrimination just because you were in care, 9 out of 14 of you said never or rarely whilst 4 said sometimes and 1 often.



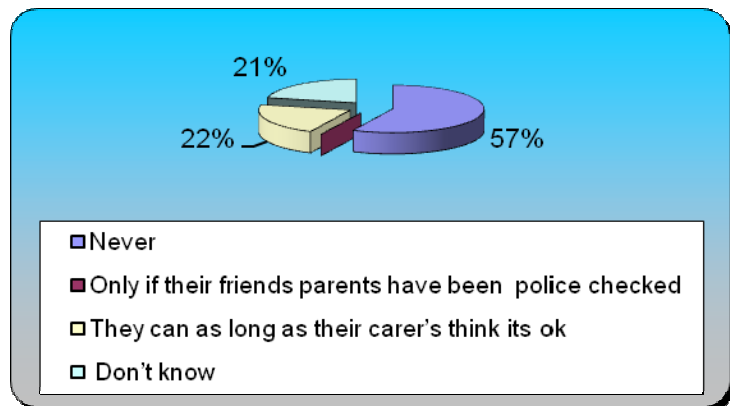
### 10. How much difference do you think your opinions make to what happens for young people in care in Haringey?



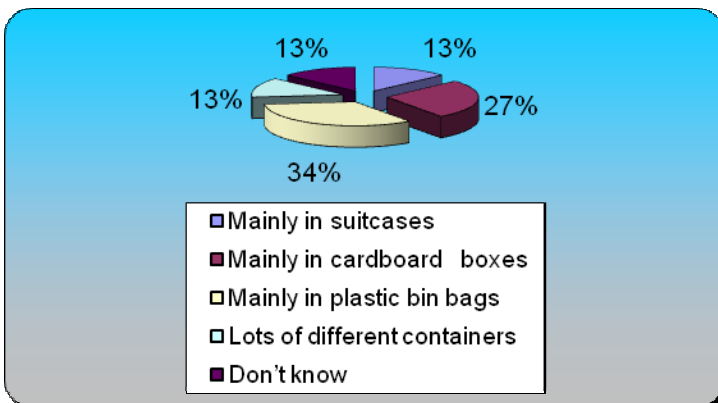
Whatever your opinions may be, not many of you felt that they could make much of a difference to what happens for young people in care in Haringey. 10 out of 14 of you thought they made no or not much difference and only 4 of you thought they might make some.

### 11. Are you allowed to stay overnight at a friend's house?

Over half of you (8 out of 14) said never, a further 3 said as long as their carer agreed to it, and another 3 didn't know.



### 12. The last time someone you knew moved to a new placement in care, how were their possessions taken to the new place?



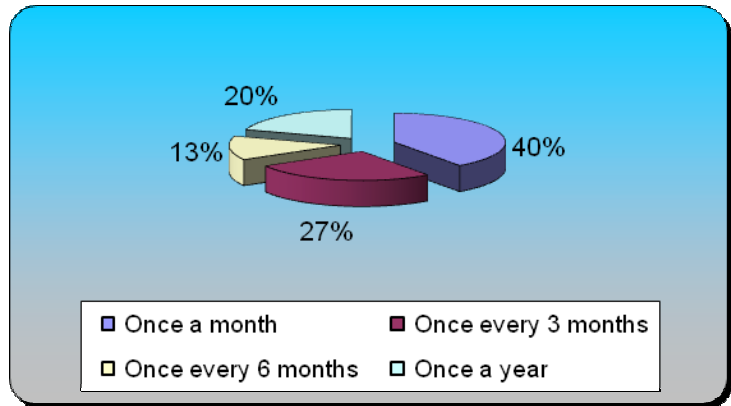
This question got mixed responses. The most popular answer was in plastic bin bags, followed by cardboard boxes but equal numbers of you also said suitcases, various containers or that you didn't know.



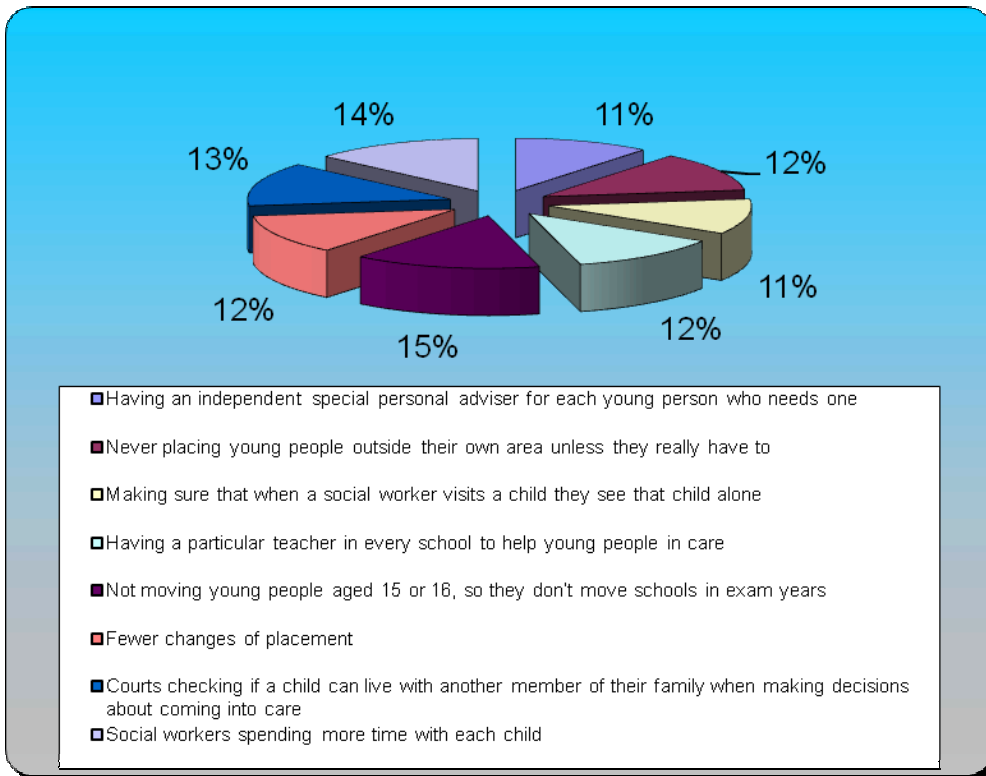


### 13. How often should a child get a visit from someone from the council?

Most of you were in favour of frequent visits: 6 of you said once a month, 4 said once every 3 months, 2 said every 6 months and 3 said once a year.



### 14. Here are some changes the Government is working on for young people in care. Which ones do you think will make the biggest positive difference for young people in care?

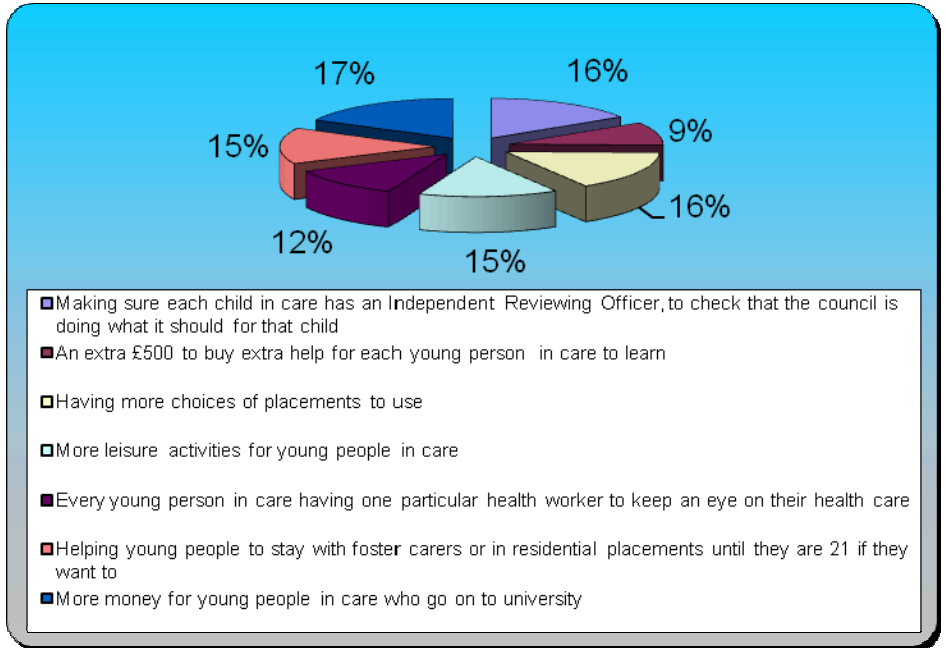


All of the suggestions were rated by at least 8 of you although the most popular (only just!) was the suggestion that young people in care should not be moved between the age of 15 and 16 to prevent them moving schools during exam years.

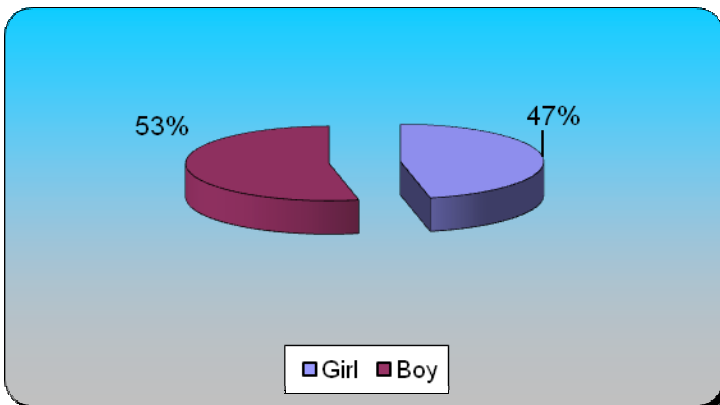


**15. Here are some changes the Government is working on for young people in care. Which ones do you think will make the biggest positive difference for young people in care?**

Once again, all the suggestions were popular, with at least half of you thinking that each one will make a substantial difference to young people in care. The most popular however, again only just, was to give young people more money to go on to university.



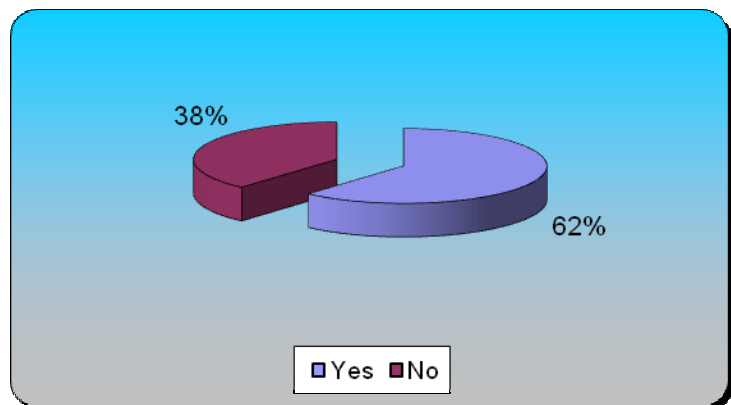
**16. About you**



As a group, you were pretty equally matched – 7 girls and 8 boys.

**17. Time to see the football?**

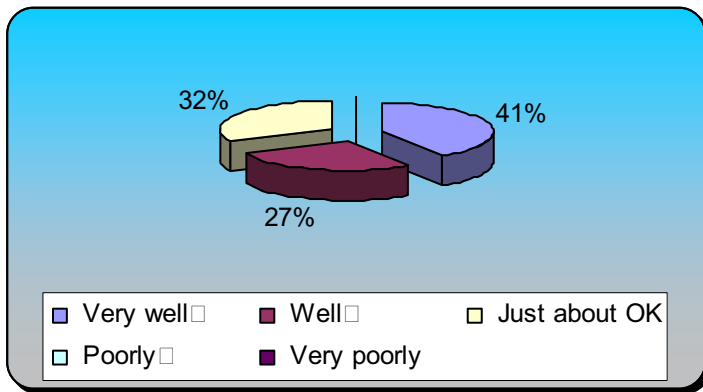
And most of you had time to see the football too – 53%.





On the 12<sup>th</sup> June, Haringey Council asked children and young people in their care to evaluate the services provided to them. The results will be used to help improve our services to children in care in Haringey.

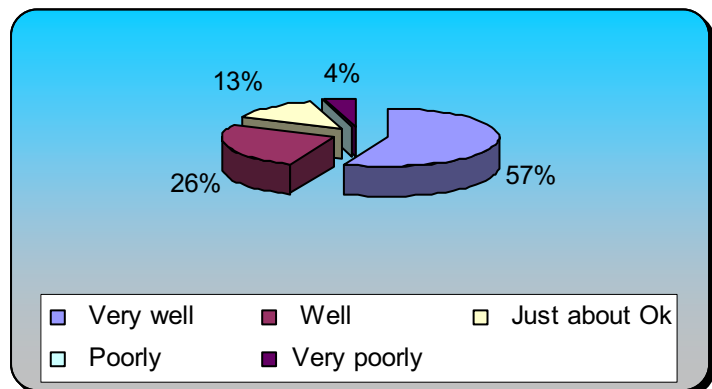
### 1. How well is Haringey doing at keeping young people in care safe?



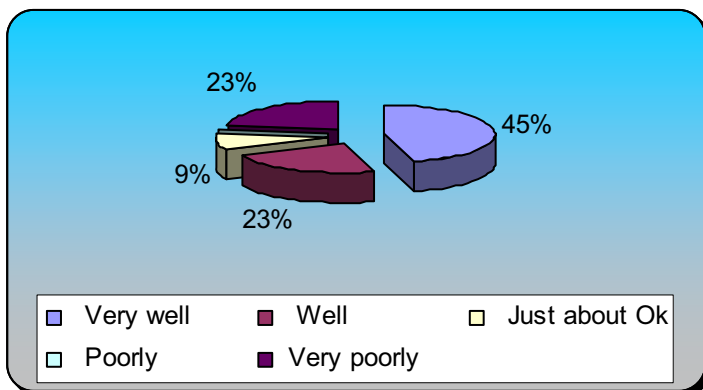
When asked how well we were doing at keeping young people in care safe the responses were all positive. Over 40% of you thought we were doing Very well, almost 30% thought we were doing Well and the rest thought we were doing Just about OK.

### 2. How well is Haringey doing at keeping young people in care healthy?

Again, most of you said we were also doing either Very well, Well or Just about OK at keeping young people in care healthy. There was one dissatisfied customer however, who thought we were doing Very poorly 😞.



### 3. How well is Haringey doing at making sure young people in care enjoy good activities and leisure time?

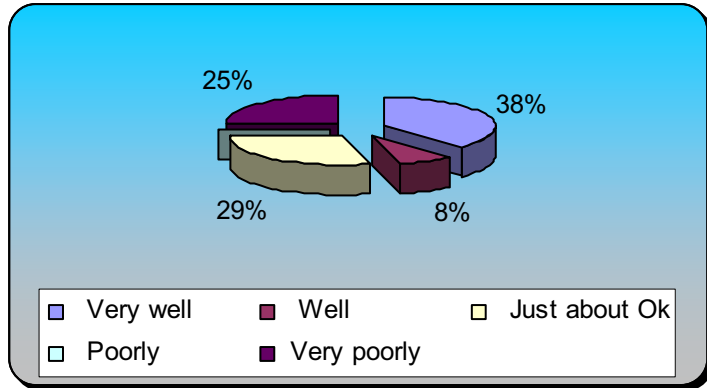


When it comes to making sure you enjoy good activities and leisure time however, the results weren't quite so positive. While almost half of you said 'Very well', almost a quarter also said 'Very poorly'.

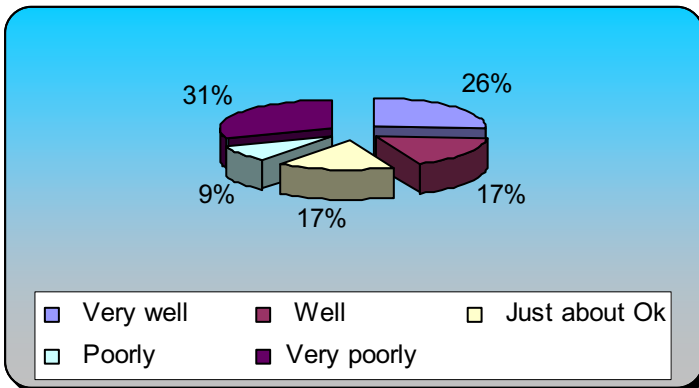


#### 4. How well is Haringey doing at helping you to achieve at school or college?

A bit of a mixed bag when it came to helping you to achieve at school and college too. Again although most of you responded positively, 25% of you thought we were doing Very poorly at this.



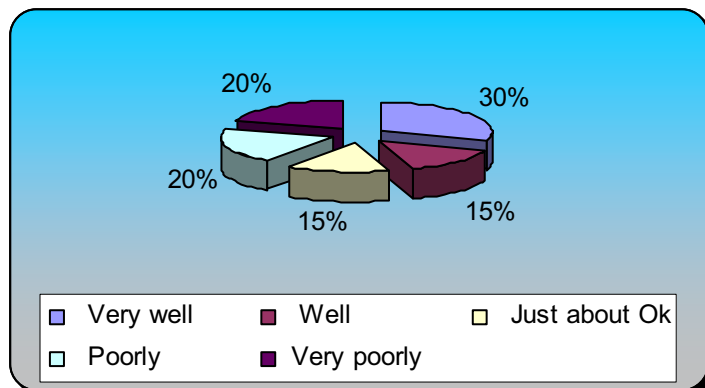
#### 5. How well is Haringey doing at helping young people in care to make a good contribution to the community?



The response was similarly mixed when we asked you how well we were doing at helping you to make a good contribution to the community. While 7 of you (over 30%) thought we were doing Very poorly, 6 of you (26%) also thought we were doing Very well.

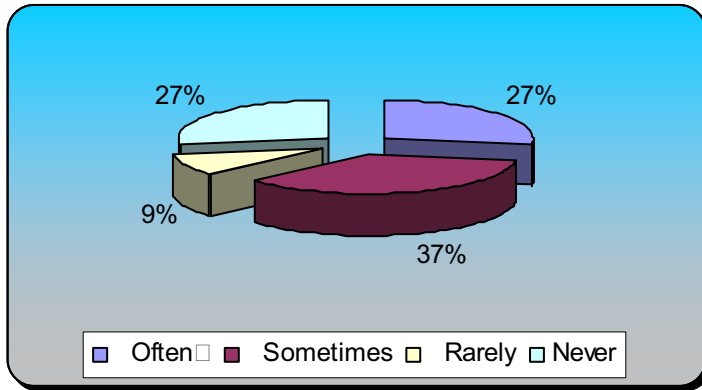
#### 6. How well is Haringey doing at helping young people in care prepare to get good jobs in the future?

In terms of preparing you to get good jobs in the future, your ratings were also pretty mixed. 40% of you rated us as doing Poorly or Very poorly, while 45% thought we were doing Well or Very well.





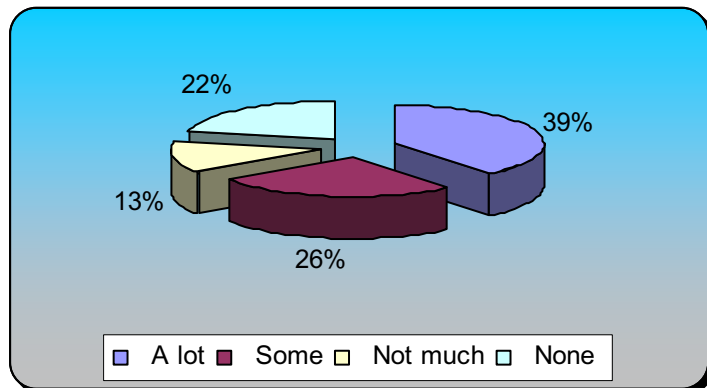
## 7. Have you ever been discriminated against by other people just because you were in care?



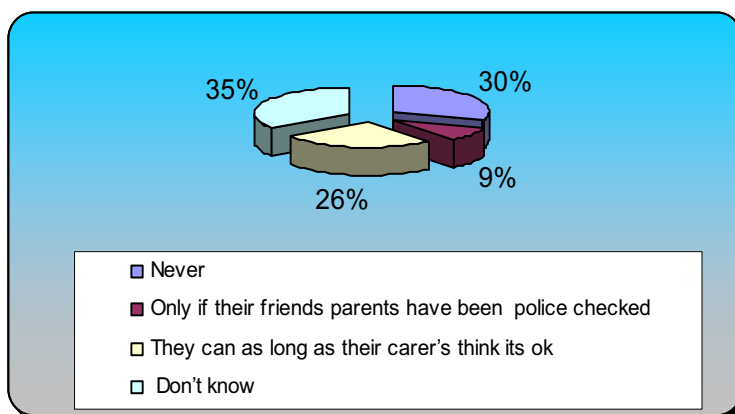
When asked whether you had been the victim of discrimination just because you were in care, only 27% said you hadn't. The rest of you had all experienced abuse, whether this was rarely, sometimes or often.

## 8. How much difference do you think your opinions make to what happens for young people in care in Haringey?

Positively, 15 out of 23 of you (65%) thought that your opinions make a difference to other young people in care in Haringey. Only 5 of you thought they would not make any difference at all.



## 9. Are you allowed to stay overnight at a friend's house?

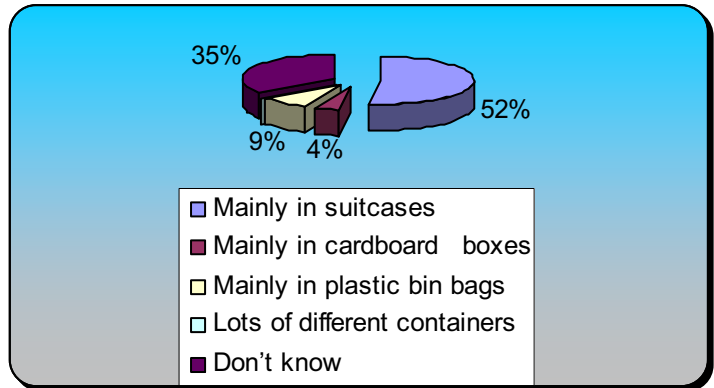


When we asked you whether you were allowed to stay overnight at a friend's house, the most frequent response (8) was that you didn't know! Of those that did know though, 7 said they were never allowed, 6 were allowed as long as their carer thought it was ok and 2 were allowed if their parents had been police checked.

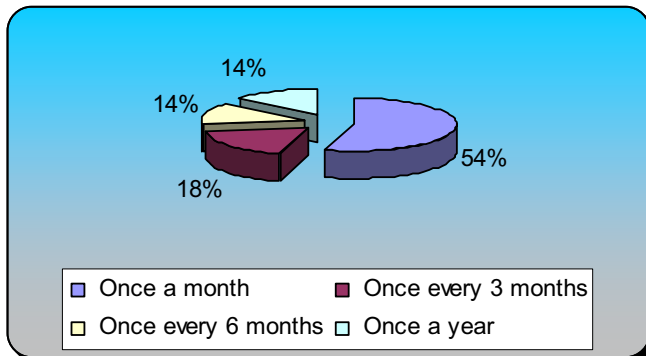


### 10. The last time someone you knew moved to a new placement in care, how were their possessions taken to the new place?

The most popular response to this question was that their possessions were moved in suitcases, although 35% of you said that you didn't know.



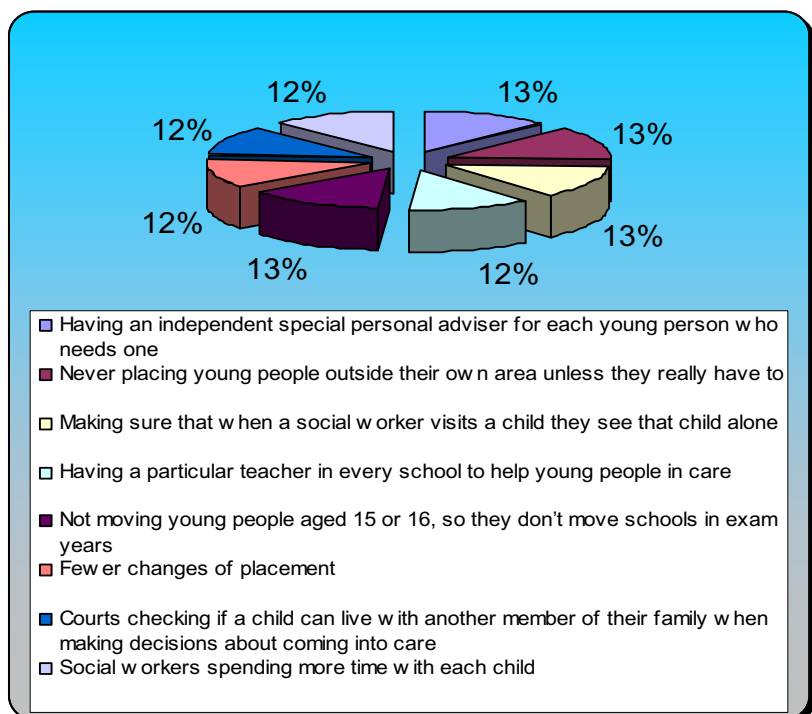
### 11. How often should a child get a visit from someone from the council?



When we asked you how often a child should get a visit from someone from the council, most of you (12 out of 22) thought once a month. Of the remaining 10, 4 answered once every 3 months, 3 once every 6 months and 3 thought only once a year.

### 12. Here are some changes the Government is working on for young people in care. Which ones do you think will make the biggest positive difference for young people in care?

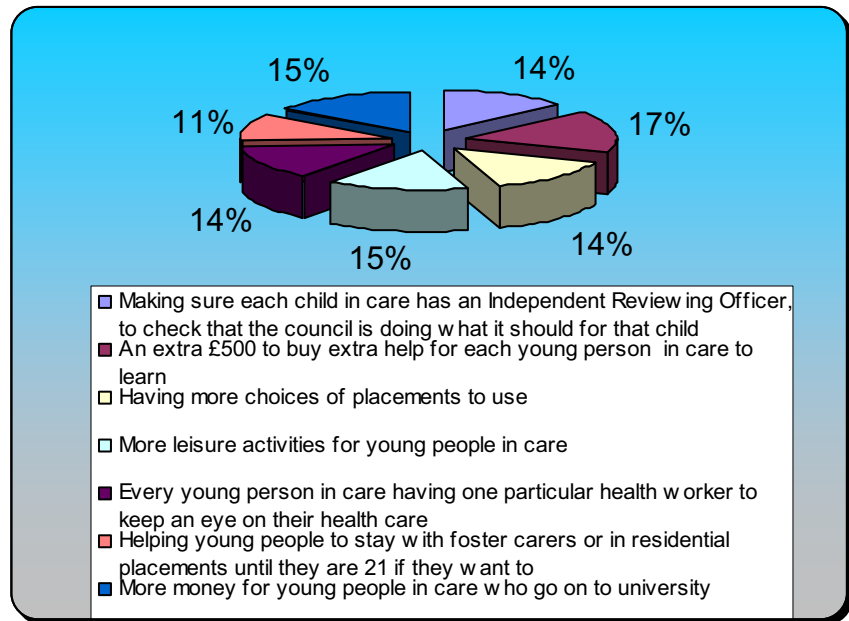
Popular suggestions! Almost all of you (between 19 and 22) rated each suggestion as having the potential to make a positive difference for young people in care.



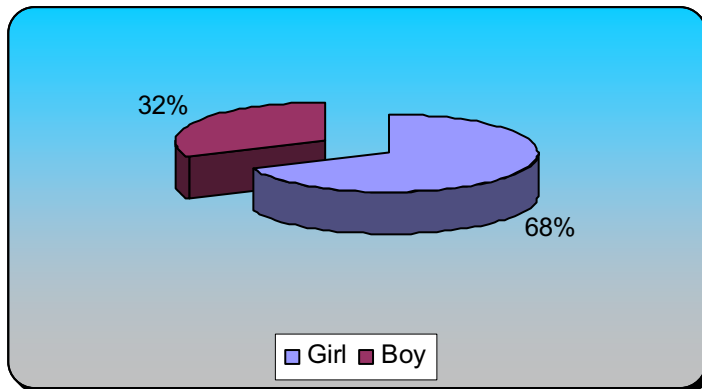


**13. Here are some changes the Government is working on for young people in care. Which ones do you think will make the biggest positive difference for young people in care?**

Again, you rated all suggestions as being able to make a positive difference to young people in care. The most popular though (only just!) was giving an extra £500 to buy extra help for each young person in care to learn.



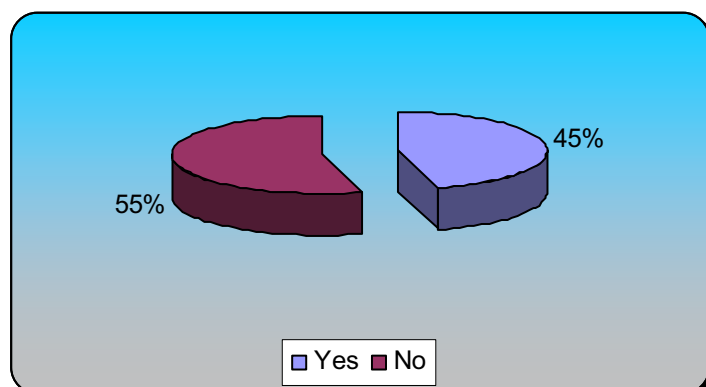
**14. About you**



As a group you were rather female dominated! 15 girls compared to only 7 boys.

**15. Time to see the football?**

And lastly, when we asked you if you had time to see the football, the response was fairly evenly split, however ever so slightly more of you said you didn't.







A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE NORTH LONDON  
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING CONSORTIUM

THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM ARE:

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

AND

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

AND

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

AND

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

AND

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

---

AGREEMENT RELATING TO:

The establishment of the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium

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**THIS AGREEMENT** is dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2005

**BETWEEN:**

**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET** of Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, London, NW4 4BG, (the “First Authority”) and

**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN** of Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE (the “Second Authority”) and

**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD** of Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3XA (the “Third Authority”) and

**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY** of Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8LE (the “Fourth Authority”) and

**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON** of 222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR (the “Fifth Authority”)

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the “North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium” or “NLAFC”

**INTRODUCTION**

- (1) The parties to this Agreement (“the NLAFC Members”) are all Local Authorities who have joined together to form a Consortium.
- (2) The purpose of the NLAFC is to meet the placement needs of North London children and young people, to recognise the life long implications of adoption and fostering for all parties, to identify and address areas of common interest to member agencies and to work in ways that are rational and cost effective.
- (3) NLAFC members wish to enter into this Agreement to record their respective rights and obligations to each other.

**1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

1.1 In this Agreement the words and expressions listed below shall have the following meanings:

<b>NLAFC Programme Manager</b>	Means the individual employed by the Fourth Authority for this purpose. A copy of the Job Description and Person Specification is attached at Appendix 1.
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<b>Lead Authority</b>	Means the NLAFC Member that has taken on the responsibility of managing and administering the setting up of a legally binding contract, which the NLAFC proposes to enter into.
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<b>NLAFC Member</b>	Means the parties to this Agreement
<b>North London</b>	Means the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington
<b>Quarterly Meetings</b>	Means the meetings between the Service Managers and the Consortium Manager one of which will include Team Managers
<b>Reduced Financial Contribution</b>	Means the financial contribution made by the Fourth Authority after deduction of reasonable administration costs incurred in managing the finances of the NLAC and producing an annual statement of accounts.
<b>Service Manager</b>	Means a manager able to make decisions relating to the commitment of resources
<b>Service Users</b>	Means adults or children who are involved in the process of adoption
<b>Six Weekly Meetings</b>	Means the meetings between the Adoption and Fostering Team Managers and the Consortium Manager

1.2 In the construction of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) references to legislation include all subsequent legislation amending replacing or re-enacting it and any regulation made or guidance issued under it (where appropriate);
- (b) references to Clauses, Schedules and Appendices are to clauses, Schedules and Appendices to this Agreement unless stated otherwise;
- (c) references to the masculine include the feminine and references to the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (d) the index and headings are for ease of reference and do not affect its interpretation;
- (e) references to any party include their successors and assignees;
- (f) terms defined in any relevant guidance have the same meaning in this Agreement except where the definitions conflict when the meaning in this Agreement shall take precedence; and
- (g) references to organisations include all bodies, persons, companies, trusts and unincorporated associations

## 2. DURATION

2.1 This Agreement commences on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and will continue until terminated in accordance with clause 12.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE NLAFC**

3.1 The objectives of the NLAFC are to:-

- 3.1.1 Ensure that the promotion of equality and the elimination of discrimination are central to the work of the NLAFC members
- 3.1.2 Support members in achieving Ofsted requirements, adoption and fostering standards and targets
- 3.1.3 Provide staff development and training opportunities
- 3.1.4 Ensure compliance with the legislative framework
- 3.1.5 Achieve best practice in adoption and fostering
- 3.1.6 Allocate resources to ensure the NLAFC operates on a sound financial basis
- 3.1.7 Regularly exchange information about children needing placement and available families
- 3.1.8 Value the involvement and perspective of service users in all aspects of the work
- 3.1.9 Design, develop and commission services that are inclusive, efficient and cost effective
- 3.1.10 Enable information resources and skills to be shared and initiatives monitored e.g. the preparation and assessment of adopters and foster carers
- 3.1.11 Achieve uniformity and consistency as appropriate
- 3.1.12 Liaise with other consortia on local, regional and national basis to improve practice
- 3.1.13 Respond jointly to matters of common concern
- 3.1.14 Liaise with central government departments
- 3.1.15 Work closely with named Voluntary Sector organisations in relationship to domestic and inter-country adoptions

### **4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NLAFC**

- 4.1 The NLAFC Member's agree that this Agreement does not intend to create and nor create a legally binding contractual relationship between the NLAFC Members
- 4.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute or be deemed to constitute a partnership between the NLAFC Members
- 4.3 Where the NLAFC enters into a legally binding contract, each NLAFC Member shall become a separate party to that legally binding contract and severally liable only
- 4.4 The NLAFC as an individual body shall have no legal existence other than that held individually by the NLAC Members

### **5. LEAD AUTHORITY**

- 5.1 The roles, responsibilities and obligations of the Lead Authority shall be determined by the NLAFC Members on a project to project basis and exercised subject to the approval of the NLAFC Members.

- 5.2 The Lead Authority, with the assistance of the Programme Manager, shall manage and administer the setting up of a legally binding contract, which the NLAFC Members propose to enter into.
- 5.3 Each NLAFC Member shall take turns to provide a chair for the NLAFC. The function of this position is to chair the panel of Service Managers and to provide professional support to the Programme Manager.
- 5.4 Notwithstanding clause 5.3, flexibility will be allowed to choose the most appropriate NLAFC Member to take on the role of the chair where the NLAFC Member whose turn it is to take on the role is unable to do so.

## **6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NLAFC MEMBERS**

- 6.1 Each NLAFC Member (except the Fourth Authority) shall make equal payments to the Fourth Authority's Children and Young People's Services Directorate for the purposes of funding the NLAFC. The Fourth Authority shall make a Reduced Financial Contribution to reflect the reasonable administration costs it incurs in managing the finances of the NLAFC and producing an annual statement of accounts.
- 6.2 The Fourth Authority shall submit evidence of the reasonable administration costs they have incurred (as referred to in 6.1 above) at one of the Quarterly Meetings for the NLAFC Members to approve. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 6.3 The monies paid in by the NLAFC Members (as referred to in 6.1 above) shall be used for:
- 6.3.1 Paying the salary of the Programme Manager
  - 6.3.2 Managing and running the NLAFC
  - 6.3.3 Achieving the objectives of the NLAFC as set out in clause 3 above.
- 6.4 The payments referred to in clause 6.1 above shall be made on a yearly basis, and the level of contribution to be paid shall be decided by the NLAFC Members during the half day meeting referred to in clause 10.1.3. In deciding the level of contribution to be made, the NLAFC Members shall take account of the spending level within the previous year.
- 6.5 Should a NLAFC Member choose to leave the NLAFC prior to the end of any legally binding contract, which the NLAFC Members have entered into, that NLAFC Member shall remain responsible for their own payments due under that legally binding contract.
- 6.6 Where the NLAFC Members have entered into a legally binding contract, if an NLAFC Member fails to exercise any contractual rights or utilize any benefit under that contract that will not justify a decrease in payments, which the NLAFC Member is required to pay under clause 6.1.

**7. VOLUNTARY ADOPTION AGENCIES**

7.1 The NLAFC also includes two Voluntary Adoption Agencies:

7.1.1 Norwood Ravenswood of 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Broadway House, 80-82 The Broadway, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4HB, and Company Number: 03263519, Registered Charity Number: 1059050

7.1.2 Vacancy

7.2 The Voluntary Adoption and Fostering Agencies :

7.2.1 Are not involved in any decision making in the NLAFC

7.2.2 Do not contribute financially to the NLAFC

7.2.3 Are not parties to this Agreement

7.2.4 Do exchange ideas and share knowledge with the NLAFC Members

**Notice Period/ Replacement of Voluntary Adoption Agencies**

7.3 Should one or both of the Voluntary Adoption Agencies want to leave the NLAFC, the Voluntary Adoption Agency must serve one (1) calendar month's written notice on the Lead Authority

7.4 Where the NLAFC Members, by majority agreement, require one or both of the Voluntary Adoption Agencies to leave the NLAFC, the Lead Authority must serve one (1) calendar month's notice on the relevant Voluntary Adoption Agency

7.5 Where either or both of the Voluntary Adoption Agencies have left the NLAFC, the NLAFC Members may seek a replacement Agency by writing to all or any of the Voluntary Adoption Agencies operating in North London. Any Voluntary Adoption Agency invited to join the NLAFC must be registered with Ofsted.

**8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

8.1 Any disputes shall initially be brought to the Six Weekly meetings, at which the dispute shall be discussed with a view to finding a solution.

8.2 If the dispute cannot be resolved at the Six Weekly Meeting, the dispute shall be brought for resolution to the next Service Managers Quarterly Meeting.

8.3 If the dispute cannot be resolved by the Service Managers, a meeting of the Assistant Directors and/or Lead Officers for Children's Services of each NLAFC Members' Borough shall be convened. The Assistant Directors and/or Lead Officers shall then decide how the dispute shall be resolved.

**9. TERMINATION / WITHDRAWAL AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

9.1 The NLAFC Members may terminate this Agreement at any time upon the unanimous agreement of the parties or upon the agreement of the majority of NLAFC Members still being NLAFC Members immediately before the decision to terminate the Agreement is taken.

9.2 The NLAFC Members recognise that the success of the NLAFC depends upon the mutual co-operation of all the NLAFC members and the withdrawal of any member may have serious administrative and financial repercussions for the remaining NLAFC Members and any NLAFC Member withdrawing from the NLAFC shall:

9.2.1 give twelve months notice in writing of withdrawal to all other NLAFC Members

9.2.2 i compensate the remaining NLAFC Members for any expenses reasonably incurred by them as a consequence of the withdrawal.

**10. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS / STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**10.1 Meetings**

10.1.1 Quarterly Meetings shall be held for the purpose of monitoring any legally binding contract that the NLAFC has entered into. The Service Managers' of each NLAFC Member shall be committed to attending each Quarterly Meeting.

10.1.2 Adoption and Fostering Team Managers or their duly authorised representative and the Programme Manager shall meet at the Six Weekly Meetings to ensure access to the services under any legally binding contract that the NLAFC Members have entered into.

10.1.3 A meeting of half a days duration each year shall be held for Adoption Team Managers/ Fostering Team Managers and Service Managers to plan the strategic direction of the NLAFC for the proceeding year. This meeting will count as one of the Quarterly Meetings.

10.1.4 During the proceeding year, three further meetings shall be convened for Service Managers to meet and monitor the progress of the strategic plans that have been put in place.

**10.2 Appointment of the Chair**

10.2.1 Each Chair shall be appointed from the Service Managers of each NLAFC Members' borough council, and shall usually serve for a period of 12 calendar months.

10.2.2 The appointment of the chairperson will take place in September of each year.

**11. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 11.1 The NLAFC Members agree to keep confidential all information that is shared between them in relation to children, prospective and approved adopters and foster carers, birth family members and other Service Users in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. All NLAFC Members agree to comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- 11.2 The foregoing restriction shall not apply to:
- (a) information which at the time of disclosure is generally available to the public other than by breach of this Clause;
  - (b) information which is lawfully received from a third party without restrictions;
  - (c) information which is in possession of the receiving party (without restrictions) before the date of receipt from the disclosing party;
  - (d) information which is required to be disclosed by law.
- 11.3 This Clause shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement.

**12. PUBLICITY**

- 12.1 The NLAFC members recognise their respective public reputations and legal responsibilities. Each NLAFC Member shall use all reasonable endeavors not to harm or compromise these.

**13. WAIVER**

13.1 The failure of any party to this Agreement to exercise any right or remedy shall not constitute a waiver of that right or remedy. A waiver is only effective if communicated to the other parties in writing.

**14. NOTICE**

- 14.1 Any notice or other document to be served under this Agreement may be delivered or sent by prepaid first class recorded delivery post or facsimile process to any of the NLAFC Members to be served at the address of that NLAFC Member identified at the head of this Agreement or at any other address or to any other fax number or address as it may have notified to the other party.
- 14.2 In proving service of a notice or document it shall be sufficient to prove that delivery was made or that the envelope containing the notice or document was properly addressed and posted as a prepaid first class recorded delivery letter or that the facsimile message was properly addressed and despatched.

**15. FORCE MAJURE**

**Neither party shall be liable to the other for any failure to perform its obligations under the agreement where such performance is rendered impossible by circumstances**



**beyond its control , but nothing in this condition shall limit the obligations of the NLAFC Members to use their best endeavors to fulfill their obligations under this agreement**

**16. GOVERNING LAW**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law and the parties hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

**17. EXCLUSION OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS**

17.1 Unless the right of enforcement is expressly provided, no third party shall have the right to pursue any right under this Agreement pursuant to the Legally binding contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

**18. SURVIVAL OF CLAUSES**

The following clauses shall survive the expiry or termination of this Agreement  
Clause 1 Definitions and Interpretations  
Clause 14 Confidentiality  
Clause 17 Notices  
Clause 20 Survival of Clauses

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXECUTED AS A DEED  
THE DAY AND YEAR FIRST BEFORE WRITTEN:**

The Common Seal of  
**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET**  
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised Officer

The Common Seal of  
**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**  
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

---

Authorised Officer

The Common Seal of  
**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**  
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

---

Authorised Officer

The Common Seal of  
**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY**  
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

---

Authorised Officer  
The Common Seal of  
**THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON**  
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

---

Authorised Officer

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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