



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

MONDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2011 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 15 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 - 10)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2010.

5. MATTERS ARISING

6. DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY (PAGES 11 - 24)

Members to consider and provide comments on the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PAGES 25 - 36)

The report provides an update of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of November 10. In addition it provides details of outturns for 2010 and targets for 2010/11.

8. CHILDREN PLACED IN CARE IN HARINGEY AS A RESULT OF THE SOUTHWARK JUDGEMENT (PAGES 37 - 44)

The committee to consider requested information on children placed in care in Haringey as a result of the Southwark Judgement.

9. SAFEGUARDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN , YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS WHEN SUPPORTING AND ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (PAGES 45 - 48)

Outline proposal to develop a strategy for safeguarding Looked After children, young people and care leavers when supporting and enabling them to access Information and Communication Technology.

10. ASSESSMENT OF HARINGEY'S PROGRESS WITH THE LONDON PLEDGE (PAGES 49 - 62)

To provide details of the Council's progress with the London Pledge.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 12,13 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. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR COPPETS ROAD CHILDREN'S HOME (PAGES 63 - 88)

Members to consider the Statement of Purpose for Coppets Road Children's Home.

13. INDEPENDENT VISITOR REPORTS (PAGES 89 - 94)

To receive details of Regulation 33 inspections made to Haringey's residential homes.

14. CHILD SAFEGUARDING

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

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting 03 March 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2010**

Councillors Alexander, Engert, Reith (Chair), Stennett and Watson

Apologies Councillor Allison

Also Present: Councillor Solomon, Marion Wheeler, Tracey Hutchings, Wendy Tomlinson, Jennifer James, Denise Gandy, Chris Chalmers.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CPAC29	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Allison. Cllr Solomon attended the meeting in her place. Committee rules 46 and 47, Part 4 Section B of the Constitution were applied.</p>	
CPAC30	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>No items of urgent business were submitted.</p>	
CPAC31	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests submitted.</p>	
CPAC32	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 September 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>That the word announced used to describe the recent inspection of the first response team be amended to read unannounced.</p>	AS
CPAC33	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Progress on CRB checks for all new Councillors involved in Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Advisory Committee. Noted that all CRB check forms had been distributed to members of the Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Policy and Practice Panel. Some Councillors were now due to attend CRB meetings with Human Resources to complete the process. The Chair had written to both political party chief whips to request that completion of the CRB check process is prioritised by members. In considering this matter it was noted that councillors would only require one CRB check and two checks may only be applicable to some staff. Agreed that members note this information and speak with Human Resources should they be asked to complete an additional check.</p>	All to note

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	<p>Update on the Director of Children’s Services planned meeting with the judiciary to discuss the delays in court care proceedings. Agreed that this item remain on the matters arising report until a significant update is received.</p> <p>Fostercare publicity materials – New materials had been created and were awaiting release following resolution of copyright issues and agreement from Lead member. There would also be a joint advertising campaign(dates to be confirmed) which would include the logo of the 5 boroughs working together as part of the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium.</p> <p>LAC Events - The chair reiterated the need for officers to invite members of the Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Policy &Practice Cabinet committees to future LAC events in good time.</p> <p>Development work on dealing with issues of isolation faced by young people leaving care -Agreed a report back to committee on this matter on the 24 January 2011.</p> <p>Change of name for Muswell House. Noted that this action was being progressed and there were no legal objections to changing the name of the Children’s Home to Coppets Road .Ofsted only required formal notification of the name change. The committee noted that the change of name would be applied when the new statement of purpose is launched this month.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>EC</p>
CPAC34	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <p>The committee received information on children in care national indicators together with key performance information as at the end of September 2010. The report further provided details of performance outturns for 2010 and the targets for 2010/11. The committee noted that the Government were undertaking a review of National Indicators and all statutory data returns and the committee would be kept informed of the changes agreed.</p> <p>We noted that for the month of September, 23 children became looked after and 22 children had ceased to be looked after. The number of care proceedings initiated in September 2010 was noted to be lower in comparison to September 09 figures. This indicated that early intervention practices were beginning to have an impact.</p> <p>Information was provided on neighbour comparator boroughs and the numbers of children in care. Haringey’s number of children in care was higher in comparison to statistical counterparts but the numbers were felt</p>	

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to be stabilizing. It was important to note, when considering the lower number of LAC reported for both Hackney and Waltham Forest, that these boroughs had larger budgets for their children's service. Hackney Council had focused the majority of their budget and organisation of their service on early intervention. The committee noted that it was too early to forecast whether this strategy was successful but agreed that it would be useful to receive a presentation from Hackney Council, at a future meeting, on the focussed work of the children's service into early intervention to enable a view to be reached on its benefits and drawbacks. Further factors to note, when considering the figures of LAC in comparator boroughs, were; the level of thresholds adhered to by each borough, whether practices followed could be considered above scrutiny and whether the different strategies followed, to reduce the number of children in care, were suitable for use in Haringey. The committee learned about the work being completed by Waltham Forest on performance and asked if there was an opportunity for taking part in a cross borough initiative on service delivery.

Chair/
DH

DH/
WT

The Council had 20 children placed in care as a result of the Southwark Judgement (16/17 year olds declared as homeless). The committee were interested in finding out about: the case history of these children, whether they had been in past contact with services i.e. through the CAF process, if they had any siblings and their ages, if there were any other young members in their family, which part of the borough they had previously been located, their schooling history and if there were gang related issues involved. Analysis of this information would improve the Council's learning about when, where, and how these children could have been identified and supported at an earlier stage. Officers responded and agreed that there was now significant statistical information available on this group of young people to allow an analytical report to be devised and be put forward to committee addressing the above points. In considering this issue it was important to note the successful work of the Housing service in trying to get these young people home.

CC

Ethnic breakdown of children in care was provided and compared to the population census to provide a further understanding of the proportion of children in care according to their ethnicity and whether this correlated to the census figures. The committee noted the over representation of Black and Mixed Race children with White European children also at a disadvantage and asked how this was factored by services. Examples given were the EIA process which enables services to assess the effects of a key policy, strategy or existing service function may have on people depending on their ethnicity, disability, gender, age, religion and belief or sexual orientation and there were various community projects involving the voluntary sector which targeted support to young people and parents in the Black, Kurdish and Turkish communities. Members further questioned the ethnicity categories used in the report which, were quite broad and could encompass a number of different ethnic backgrounds in the borough and asked how information was disseminated. The committee learned that information on ethnicity from the census was interrogated to understand and meet the needs of the local population.

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	<p>Information on the ethnicity of children, supported by the C&YP service, was also provided to the DFE on a monthly basis so that, nationally, an understanding was built on the ethnicity of children most in need. The committee acknowledged the added complexities of deprivation, low aspiration, and social interaction in gangs which cut across ethnicity and was being factored by children's services and external agencies.</p> <p>It was further reported that the largest proportion of children looked after were within the 10-15 age bracket and Members were informed of the age group of referrals in Haringey in comparison to the national average. Members were advised that the C&YP service would be undertaking analysis of this cohort of older children coming into care, as part of work on sufficiency, with findings to be reported to a later meeting of this committee.</p> <p>The committee considered the stability of placements of children in care and noted that 70% of children were placed outside of Haringey borough. A breakdown of placement types was provided to committee members. The highest number were placed with a foster carer and a significant majority of children looked after, for more than 2 years, were in out of borough placements. Members noted that 86% of children in care had received visits in their placements. The committee were assured that this was a good figure and scheduled visits were adhered to with postponements only made when there were extenuating circumstances involved. The committee learned that the Assistant Director for Children's services was completing investigatory exercise into children who had been subject to 3 placement moves. Analysis would be completed to understand the circumstances around the moves and what could have been done differently. The committee were further advised of the robust placement procedure in place which had checks in place to ensure that the carer and child were sufficiently supported and expectations about a placement set out at the start. These checks were designed to help ensure decisions made on placements were sustainable. The committee noted the typical difficult issues faced with placements such as: placing siblings together, dealing with parental interference, inexperienced carers, and housing issues. The committee agreed that a broader understanding was required by them on the location of placements termed as outside to the borough. The committee requested that a map is compiled with information on the location of all children in care placed outside of the borough by the Council and children in care placed in the borough by outside boroughs.</p> <p>The committee received an update on the continuing work to increase the number of in house foster carers. The committee noted that the placement service was continuing to build good relationships with agencies in order to increase placement options. A working agreement was being reached with the 4 North London boroughs of Barnet, Islington, Enfield, Camden, which was a result of this.</p> <p>The committee noted that 10 children had been adopted in the year to</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>DH/ MW</p>
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	<p>date which correlated with comparator borough figures and there was also an increase in the number of special guardianship orders being completed.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a report on the children placed in the care of the Council, as part of the Southwark Judgement, be considered by the committee at their next meeting on the 24 January 2011. 2. That a map is compiled together with information on the location of all children in care placed outside of the borough by the Council and children in care placed in the borough by outside boroughs for consideration by the committee on 24 January 2011. 3. That the report be noted. 	<p>CC</p> <p>DH /MW</p>
<p>CPAC 35</p>	<p>OUTSIDE BOROUGH PLACEMENTS</p> <p>The committee received a report on the procedure and factors considered for placing looked after children in out of borough provisions. The committee learned that the needs of the child are assessed by the social worker and referral made to the placements team accordingly. Initially an in borough placement will be sought however if insufficient placements are available an out of borough placement will be investigated, with the school and contact with the Local Authority, a priority, as part of this search.</p> <p>The committee noted the criteria commonly referred to when an out of borough placement is a priority. Further positive reasons for placing children in out of borough placements were also set out in the report. This included providing a close ethnically matched family which was important for meeting the cultural needs of the child. The Council were recognised and commended for adherence to this policy. The committee were assured that this policy did not add delays to the placement process but was part of how the needs of a child were assessed.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the committee note the report.</p>	
<p>CPAC36</p>	<p>FORMATION OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL</p> <p>Following the Stocktake meeting with children and young people in care as specific Council had been established to provide a regular forum for</p>	

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	<p>children and young people and care leavers to express their views about the issues that affect them.</p> <p>Two initial meetings had taken place with twelve young people attending. The group had agreed a name for the forum (Young and in Care) having 2 sub groups (one for children under 12 and another for older children, 13 and above), and a representative for the national forum. No younger children had attended the initial meetings and it was suggested to involve them and their foster carers in the Young and in Care council with service day activities. The children, attending these initial meetings, had expressed wanting a role in making things better for other children in care. Officers felt that the Council also had a responsibility in ensuring that, children attending these meetings, benefited by gaining skills in areas such as resilience. The next Young and in Care Council meeting was scheduled for 25th November at Compton Crescent. The children had shown a willingness to attend future meetings and also take part in a Corporate Parenting committee meeting. The children were interested in creating a magazine for their Council which the committee recommended could be electronic.</p> <p>The committee discussed providing a supporting role to the children in line with their corporate parenting role. Officers agreed to broach the idea of mentoring scheme with the Young and in Care Council.</p> <p>The committee welcomed the report and offered to attend a future meeting of the Young and in Care Council. Agreed that officers check the preference of the children at their next meeting on the 25th November.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the committee welcome and note the report.</p>	<p>JJ</p> <p>JJ</p>
CPAC37	<p>FOSTERCARE CONSORTIUM JOINT WORKING</p> <p>The committee considered a draft agreement which had been compiled between the London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington on forming a North London adoption and fostering consortium, NLAFC, to meet the fostering and adoption placement needs of North London children and young people. The agreement was the result of the 5 boroughs informally working together on foster care over a number of years. The agreement was not a legally binding contractual relationship between the NLAFC members but a document which set out how the five boroughs will work together on common interest areas such as training, publicity, shared placements and sharing panels on fostering and adoption. The consortium would also work in a cost effective way. The NLAFC programme manager would be employed and based in Haringey. The Council would make a reduced financial contribution to reflect the reasonable administration costs it incurs in</p>	

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	<p>managing the finances of the NLAFC and producing annual statement of accounts. The committee noted that this agreement does not enable a joint procurement of services, this maybe a future objective, but allows the consortium to look at Independent Fostering Agency placements and the reasons why some boroughs make an increased financial contribution compared to others. It was likely that economies of scale can be developed further and more strongly in this area with the 5 boroughs working together.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the committee note the agreement. 2. That the work of the NLAFC consortium is a standing item on the matters arising report considered at each committee meeting. 3. That a follow up report be considered by the committee in 6 months time. 	<p>AS WT</p>
CPAC38	<p>TOTAL RESPECT TRAINING</p> <p>The committee considered the proposed dates for taking part in Total Respect training. The training would be with children and young people in care and would cover two working days with an additional half day follow up session. The committee considered the dates and requested that weekend dates are also compiled and added to this choice of dates for members to consider.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the full list of dates be circulated to members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for consideration and attendance.</p>	<p>MW/ DH</p>
CPAC39	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as items 12 – 15 contained 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.</p>	
CPAC40	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - APPENDIX 1</p> <p>The report provided information to the committee on the ethnicity of children in care, the numbers of children who had been subject to 3 or more placements in the last 12 months and the numbers of children coming into care by age and legal status.</p>	

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	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the committee note the report.</p>	
<p>CPAC41</p>	<p>MUSWELL HOUSE</p> <p>Further to previous meetings members received an update on staffing issues at Muswell House. The committee noted the evolving relationship between Muswell House and Tavistock and recognised that the input provided by them on mental health had been important to supporting work with the 16 and above age group.</p> <p>The committee learned that the assessment process was near formalisation but assessments were continuing and using the broad principles of the, to be agreed, assessment process.</p> <p>The updated guide to Muswell House would be launched on the 26 November 2010. Staff were exploring the idea of devising a DVD to go alongside the guide to introduce young people to the residence when they first arrive. Work was also continuing on finalising the formal procedures for Muswell house and there was support from a Council re-employee on these and record books.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the committee note the report.</p>	
<p>CPAC42</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT VISITOR REPORTS</p> <p>Regulation 33 visits were continuing with more councillors trained to participate and young people trained also to inspect the homes alongside the Placements officers and Councillors.</p> <p>The committee discussed the format of the report and agreed that it be revised to be shorter and accessible. The committee suggested a tabular format which would include the following: completed actions, outstanding issues, completed actions which required monitoring, daily and long term issues separated out, indications young people had been seen and spoken to on the visit, management response to actions and young people's reactions.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1. That the committee note the report.</p>	

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	2. That the report format be revised for the next meeting and include information as detailed in the above paragraph.	WT
CPAC43	CHILD SAFEGUARDING The committee were informed that the Children and Young People's service was preparing for the next announced Ofsted inspection of the Safeguarding service which was due in January 2011. The committee noted that, with an announced visit, the Local Authority would be given a notice period prior to the inspection.	
CPAC44	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Items for the next meeting on January 24 2011.	
	1. Progress report on the status of actions arising from participation in the London Pledge.	CC
	2. Report on the use and access of social network sites for CiC.	CC
	3. Developmental work on dealing with issues of isolation faced by young people leaving care.	EC
	4. Report on children placed in care in Haringey as a result of the Southwark Judgement. (Please see CPAC 34)	CC
	5. A map with information indicating the location of children in care placed outside of the borough by the Council and children placed in the borough by other boroughs.	MW /DH
	6. Muswell House update	WT
	7. Independent visitor reports	WT

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair

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Haringey Council

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Corporate Parenting Strategy

Lead Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

Updated December 2010

Directorate**Document control****Needs completing**

Version 0.1	Status 21 December 2010	Author <i>Officer's Name, Job Title, Business Unit, Directorate</i>
Document Objectives:		
Intended Recipients: Any staff working with children in care		
Monitoring Arrangements: <i>The arrangements put in place to ensure that the policy outcomes will be achieved</i>		
Training/Resource Implications:		
Approving Body and Date Approved Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee		<i>Authority to Vary Month 20XX</i>
Date of Issue		<i>Month 20XX</i>
Scheduled Review Date One year after date approved? Or following and major legislative changes		<i>Month 20XX</i>
Lead Officer: Deputy Director Children and Families <i>(a contact person who can assist with inquiries about the policy and any other tools or supporting materials that will help the policy to be understood and successfully implemented)</i>		
Path and file name \\boh\boh-shared-data\st\st\pp&c\svr\fallf\corporate policy\corporate parenting\policy document\101221 corporate parenting policy.doc		

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1. Introduction

The concept of "corporate parenting" was introduced with the launch of the *Quality Protects* programme in 1998. The principle is that the local authority is the parent of any child in their care, and thus has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parents would provide for their own children. This includes enhancing children's quality of life as well as simply keeping them safe (House of Commons Children, Schools and Family Committee March 2009).

This Corporate Parenting Strategy shows Haringey Council's commitment to ensuring that every child and young person in our care has a right to achieve the outcomes we want for every child. We want the children and young people in our care to grow up as happy and successful as possible.

The strategy is accompanied by an implementation plan (to follow) which requires the active engagement of all staff and of elected members.

1.1 Why corporate parenting is important

The circumstances and experiences of children and young people who are in care mean that they can be subject to many disadvantages. Since the 1980s research has shown that these young people have significantly different outcomes from their peers. The most recently published national statistics show that, despite recent improvement, at September 2009:

- on average 58 per cent of looked after children in the appropriate age group achieved level 2 at Key Stage 1 and 51 per cent achieved level 4 at Key Stage 2. The comparable percentages for all children were 85 per cent and 82 per cent respectively;
- 15 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least twelve months obtained at least 5 GCSEs or GNVQs at grades A*- C compared with 70 per cent of all children;
- 9 per cent of looked after children aged 10 or over, were cautioned or convicted for an offence during the year, two and a half times the rate for all children of this age.

Poor outcomes can be due to circumstances before the young person came in to care, such as irregular school attendance, or circumstances while in care such as placement instability. In addition more recent research is showing evidence that exposure to high levels of parental stress, neglect or abuse can have a severe effect on brain development. There are clear gaps between the development of children who face such stresses and those being brought up in less stressful households, gaps which continue through life. Many children in care will have experienced such circumstances.

So children and young people in care or looked after need champions to ensure they are given opportunities to help them overcome such disadvantages and to achieve to their maximum potential. They have a right to expect the outcomes we want for every child in Haringey, that they will:

- be healthy

- be safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing

They need people to promote and encourage these outcomes on their behalf in the way that all good parents would.

2. Definition

The responsibility of local authorities in improving outcomes and actively promoting the life chances of children they look after has become known as 'corporate parenting' in recognition that the task must be shared by the whole local authority and partner agencies. The role of the corporate parent is to act as the best possible parent for each child they look after and to advocate on his/her behalf to secure the best possible outcomes.¹

In our [Children and Young People's Plan](#) the Council and its partners in the Haringey Children's Trust state that we have a special responsibility for our children in care:

We have to act as parents. Together we need to ensure that our looked after children attend school and are supported to do well; that they get regular health checks; that they make friends and have a social life and that they are helped to prepare for living independently. Above all our responsibility is to listen to them.

3. Scope

There are just under 600 children and young people in care in Haringey in 2009/10. This policy applies to all the children and young people in the care of Haringey Council.

It also applies to young people aged 16-21 (or 24 in certain circumstances) who have been in care and meet the criteria to be an eligible, relevant or qualifying young person for support or assistance after leaving care. Current definitions of these terms are in the [Children's Social Care Procedures Manual](#).

Whilst this is a Haringey Council policy the Children's Trust is keen to emphasise the role that all the services delivered by the partner organisations have in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It is everybody's business.

¹ The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Mach 2010

4. Aim

Haringey's Children and Young People's Plan 2009 –2020, developed by the Children's Trust, has adopted the following vision for all children and young people locally:

We want every child and young person to be happy, healthy, safe and confident about the future.

This policy works to put that vision in place for the children and young people for whom we are the corporate parents. It aims to ensure that:

- Young people in care can access the local services when they need them, and their experience is of the highest quality.
- Officers in different organisations know who to talk to, feel comfortable working together, share information and are jointly accountable for their work with young people in care.

5. Defining our outcomes

5.1 Involving children and young people

In Haringey we take seriously what looked after children and young people themselves expect from us. We will work to ensure that the issues identified as crucial by young people themselves² are met. All young people must be consulted about plans made for them and their reviews in ways appropriate for the individual young person.

We use a variety of measures to consult with our young people in care overall about their experiences of, and views on, being in care. This includes:

- The Director of the Children and Young People's Service meets young people in care every six weeks;
- Quarterly meetings for young people in the leaving care and asylum service;
- Stocktake – an annual evaluation³ of services by young people in care;
- The Boys Group, for primary school age boys;
- Young Advisors – young people who provide a consultancy service for professionals;
- Youth Mark Assessors who will assess and evaluate how well organisations provide services;
- Involving them in staff recruitment, the commissioning process for services and tendering for semi-independent housing;
- Training young people for regulation 33 inspections;
- Involvement in Total Respect training.

² [Celebrating success: what helps looked after children succeed](#) SWIA Jun 2006

³ [Children in Care Stocktake](#) June 12th 2010 report to Corporate Parenting Group July 2010

The Council is also setting up a Children in Care Council. A report on the proposals was submitted to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in November 2010. The report noted that initial meetings had taken place with young people in care who were suggesting that the forum should be called the Young and in Care Council (YCC). They have also proposed that YCC should have two sub groups, one for children under 12 and another for older children 13 and above, and a representative for the national forum.

5.2 What looked after children and young people want

We know from national studies that children in care want:

- to have more people that genuinely care about them;
- increased stability and consistency;
- more encouragement, support and opportunity for greater participation;
- social workers to spend time with them and act in their interests;
- social workers and others to take decisive action where their needs are not being met;
- increased support for them in their education;
- good support for those leaving care and becoming independent;
- more positive attitudes towards them.

From the stock take activity in July 2010 we know that locally:

- the majority of younger children felt safe in care but the opposite was the case for older children;
- 25% of younger children thought that help with their education was poor and 40% that help in finding good jobs in the future was poor;
- 78% of the teenagers thought that help with education and getting good jobs was poor or very poor;
- 60% of younger children said they enjoyed good activities and leisure time, but 22% had very negative responses and 64% of older children rated these experiences as poor;
- Both groups said they would prefer their social worker to visit monthly;
- Both groups had little confidence in their views being listened to.

A full summary of the results is included in the ¹ [Children in Care Stocktake](#) report to the Corporate Parenting Group in July 2010.

5.3 Outcomes

Effective corporate parenting results in the following outcomes for looked after children and young people

1. Improved care (including quality and stability of placements)

- when children are well matched to the best placement for them and supported in those placements based on care plans that are regularly reviewed are positively assessed externally by Ofsted
- Children and young people are cared for by staff or carers who are safely recruited, trained, supervised and managed to deliver the highest quality of care

2. Improved health - because children and young people have regular health assessments and their health needs are responded to quickly and

effectively

- 3. Improved emotional well-being** - Children and young people are supported to improve their emotional well being, increase self esteem and confidence so that they can contribute and make positive contributions that mean they influence the development of services and policies / plans that impact on them now and in the future
- 4. Improved educational outcomes** – in that when children and young people reach their potential with support and additional help when needed
- 5. Increased opportunities to enjoy themselves** - Looked after children have access to the same range of social activities, places to go and things to do, that are available to all young people
- 6. Children and young people are supported in planning for their future** - they are engaged in education, employment and training opportunities that will support them in achieving future economic well being and success

6. Principles

Haringey Children's Trust has adopted the [London Pledge](#). The Pledge aims to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key services and support wherever they live, go to school or access employment or training opportunities in London. The London Pledge is a commitment from all Children's Trusts and their partners to all children and young people in care and leaving care. This pledge has been developed in partnership with young people, Lead Members for Children's Services and partners from the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Principles

1. We will only promise you things that we know we can do.
2. We will care for you as an individual person with your own specific needs which we will plan to meet.
3. You will have the opportunity to talk to your social worker alone every time he/she visits you.
4. We will always involve you in the decisions we take for you and we will respect your right to make choices about your life.
5. We aim to be the best as parents and to make your experience of being looked after a positive one.
6. We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.

7. We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you.
8. We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.
9. We will take account of your particular needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality. We will take account of anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it, including anyone treating you unfairly because you are in care.
10. We will ensure you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
11. We will also ensure you receive your London Pledge entitlements, wherever you live. Any failure on the part of councils and their Children's Trust partners to deliver this will be promptly resolved.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The role of Councillors

Elected Members have a 'special responsibility'.

'When you became a councillor, you also became responsible for ensuring that the Council acts as 'Corporate Parent' for all the children in its care. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for the children in public care the outcomes that every good parent would want for their children'. Frank Dobson

- Councillors do not have to be social care experts to help looked after children. They need to make it their business to find out who and where these children are and to make sure the council is doing its very best to help them.
- Councillors who take on roles that relate to Children Services such as the Cabinet Members for Children Services who have responsibilities defined in statutory guidance, take particular responsibility.
- Councillors who do not have a direct role with children should still exercise this responsibility in their ward work, and will often do so in their role as School Governor.
- Councillors have a right and a duty to question practice.

In 2003 the DfES published *'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent'*:

If this were your child... you would want to know they were well looked after, making progress at school, getting good health care and being given the chance to pursue hobbies and interests.

If this were your child... as they grew older, you would want to know that they were being encouraged to become independent, with support if they needed it, that they were well linked in to the community and that opportunities for further education, training and jobs were opening up to them.

7.2 The role of council officers

All officers in the Council (and Children's Trust) are corporate parents.

a) Children and Young People's services (CYPS)

- The Director of Children's Services has a statutory role defined in government guidance.
- CYPS officers have additional responsibilities as they directly manage the case work and support for looked after children and young people, and care leavers.
- The Deputy Director for Children and Families has direct responsibility for corporate parenting and making sure that it does happen.
- Other officers who have regular interaction with the children and young people who are likely to hear their views on the care and services they are receiving have a responsibility to ensure that these are reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee so any concerns, issues or trends can be identified and acted on.
- Schools need to ensure that they know exactly which children and young people are looked after and be aware that they have particular responsibilities to all looked after children and young people, including those looked after at home.

b) Housing services

Officers working in housing services have additional responsibilities to looked after young people and care leavers. They must ensure:

- effective joint working arrangements with clear procedures and resolution mechanisms
- that support for independent living includes awareness amongst young people of their responsibilities to the community within which they live, and the potential consequences of their actions.

This will be demonstrated when looked after children and young people or care leavers find somewhere suitable to live and manage to sustain it.

c) Leisure and recreation services

As corporate parents, councils should encourage Looked After children and young people and care leavers to take up hobbies and interests and to make sure that culture and leisure services are accessible to them, including those children with disabilities. Services must ensure that looked after young people and care leavers have access to and are integrated into local youth activities

and achieve the same or similar goals and achievements as other children and young people.

8. The legal context

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

Built on varied legal systems and cultural traditions, the Convention is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations. These basic standards—also called human rights—set minimum entitlements and freedoms that should be respected by governments.

[The Children Act 1989](#) is the key piece of legislation with respect to corporate parenting and sets out the duties of local authorities in relation to children looked after by them. Section 27 of the Act places a duty on Housing, Education and Health Authorities to assist Social Services to fulfil their functions under the Act, and this includes assisting with the corporate parenting function.

[The Children \(Leaving Care\) Act 2000](#) set the agenda and duties of local authorities towards young people who have been looked after in bridging the gap between these young people and their peers.

[The Children Act 2004](#) provides a legislative spine for the wider strategy for improving children's lives. The Children Act 2004 places a new duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.

[Children and Young Persons Act 2008](#) reforms the statutory framework for the care system to ensure that children and young people receive high-quality care and support and to drive improvements in the delivery of services focused on the needs of the child.

[The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement Case Review](#) March 2010

This guidance sets out the functions and responsibilities of local authorities and partner agencies under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989. In particular it describes how local authorities should carry out their responsibilities in relation to care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. These responsibilities are designed to support the local authority in its primary duty set out in section 22(3) of the 1989 Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of looked after children and act as good corporate parents.

9. Equalities and diversity

In order to evidence that the needs of **all** local looked after children and young people are met the following should be recorded:

- All equalities strands should be considered throughout assessments and when services are being provided (disability, HIV/AIDS, gender, race, nationality, religion, sexuality)
- The communication and language needs of looked after children and young people and their carers should always be considered e.g. there may

be need for an interpreter or written material in an alternate format or a language other than English.

- Arrangements should be made for advocates, interpreters, relatives or friends, to assist a looked after child or young person where necessary.

10. Implementation

10.1 Governance arrangements

The responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this strategy lies with the Haringey's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee which was established in April 2009. The Committee reports to the Cabinet and full Council and is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and has three other Members of the Majority Group and three Members of the Minority Group.

The terms of reference originally agreed by Cabinet and then reconfirmed by the Council's Cabinet in June 2010 are as follows:

- To be responsible for the Council's role as Corporate parent for those children and young people who are in care
- To ensure the views of children in care are heard
- 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
- To ensure that the voice and needs of disabled children are identified and provided for
- To provide an advocacy function within the Children's Trust and the Council on behalf of children in care
- To monitor the quality of care provided by the council to Children in Care
- To ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future wellbeing

10.2 Monitor

The [Children and Young People's Plan](#) and [Safeguarding Action Plan](#) include the key activities to ensure that this policy is implemented. We will audit and monitor performance of our activities to ensure that we are fulfilling our role as corporate parents and achieving the outcomes set out in section 5.

Specifically we will monitor that:

All Looked After Children will have:

- An allocated social worker
- Statutory reviews at least as often as specified in the Children Act 1989 regulations, or more often if needed
- A care plan
- A placement plan
- A personal educational plan (for all 5 -16 year olds)
- Specific educational monitoring and support via the virtual school for looked after children
- Regular health assessments and reviews
- Free accommodation whilst they are in full time higher education
- Free access to leisure facilities
- The right to an independent advocacy service
- The right to know how to make complaints and to have their complaints investigated, with feedback
- Their views taken into account

All children leaving care will have:

- a pathway plan and personal advisor if they are aged 16 or over and meet the eligible, relevant or qualifying criteria, see section 3 above
- if they are not eligible they should be assessed as a child in need and a plan drawn up to identify the support and services which will be needed by them and their family to ensure that the return home is successful

10.3 Training

All relevant officers will be made aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities through generic and specific training.

10.4 Review

This strategy will be reviewed **annually** (or sooner if new legislation, codes of practice or national standards are introduced).

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Guidance and resources

[The Who Cares trust website](#). Gives an insight into what life in care is like and what the issues are for children in care.

[Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care](#).

[Guidance on health of looked-after children](#) – on the Department of Health website.

[The Ofsted Inspection framework](#) – on the Ofsted website.

Haringey Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2011-2014 (currently in draft)



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – October/November 2010 data
Lead Officer:	Debbie Haith
Date:	24 January 2011

1. Background

This report is an update of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of November 10. 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:

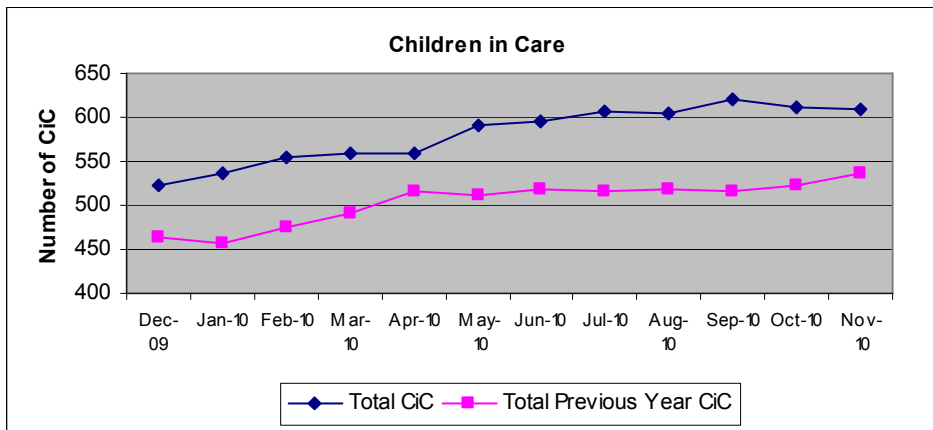
- Croydon
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Haringey
- Islington
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest
- Wandsworth



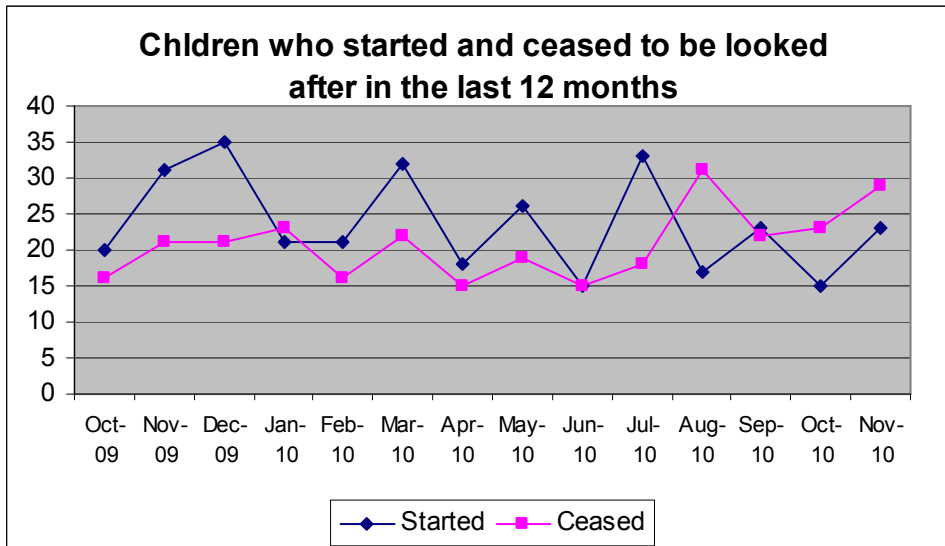
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2. Children in Care Performance Data – 30 September 2010

2.1 597 children were in care at 30 November 10 (based on a manual calculation done mid-year, this equates to an estimated 400 families). 23 children became looked after in the month and 29 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.



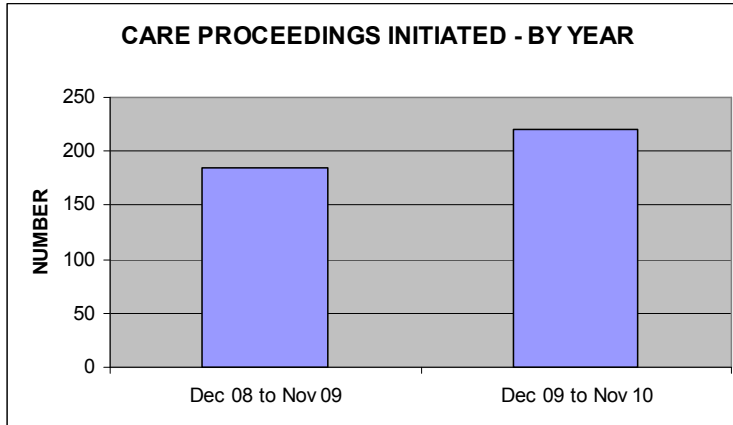
The chart below shows the numbers of children coming into care and ceasing to be in care each month over the last 12 months:



2.2 9 care proceedings were initiated in October and 17 in November. In the year to date (Apr- Nov) 156 care proceedings have been initiated. The graph below shows the increase in the 12 months to the end of November 09 and the 12 months to the end of November 10.



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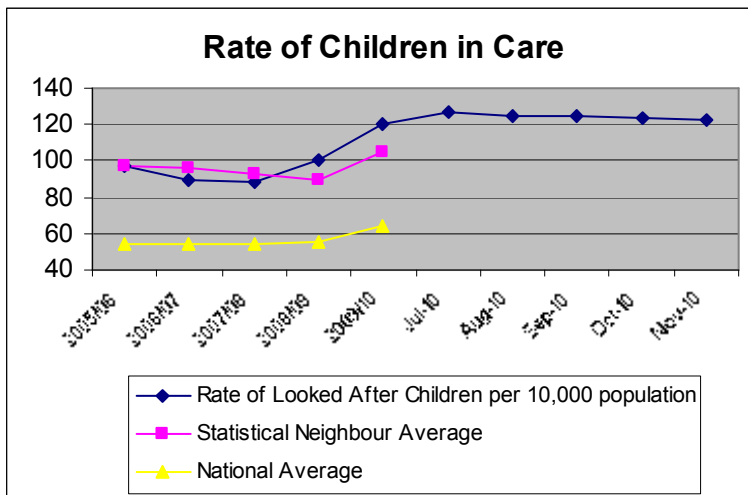


2.3 The total number of children in care equates to a rate of 122 children per 10,000 population. The table below shows a breakdown of numbers of children in care in our statistical neighbour comparator boroughs and rates per 10,000 population of children under 18. The graph shows the increase in the 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.

	2009/10	2009/10 Rate Per 10,000
Hackney	305	59
Ham and Fulham	255	82
Haringey	590	121
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



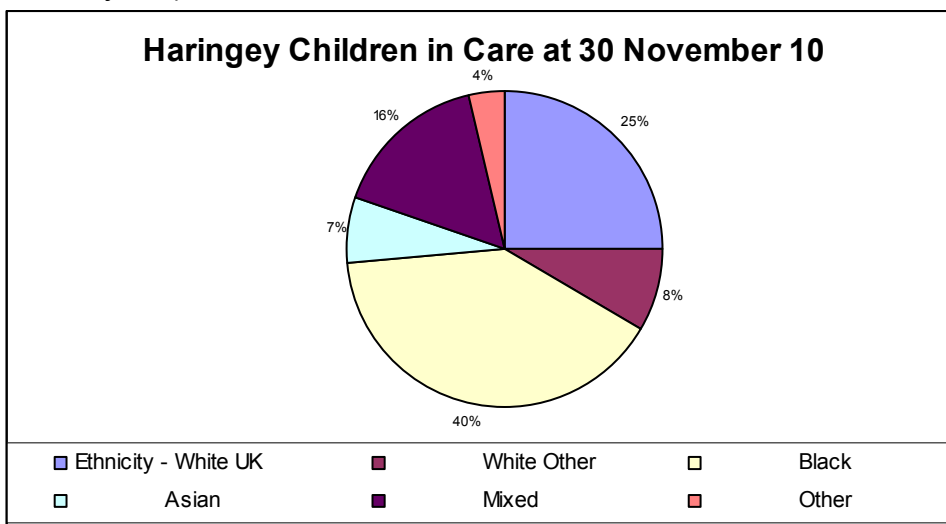
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2.4 Of the 597 children in care at the end of November 2010:

- 40 are unaccompanied minors (7%).
- 12 children are those who have been placed in care as a result of the Southwark Judgement (16/17 year olds presenting as homeless) (2%).
- 27 are children recorded with a disability and allocated to the children with disabilities team (5%).

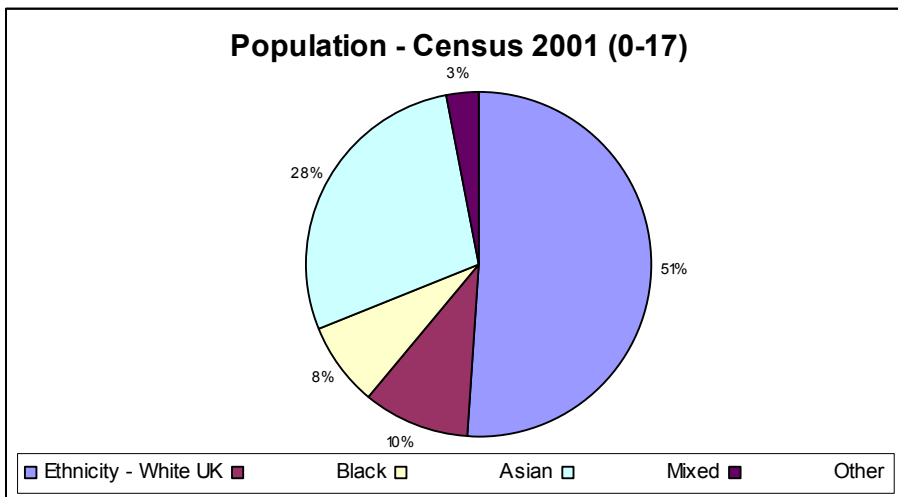
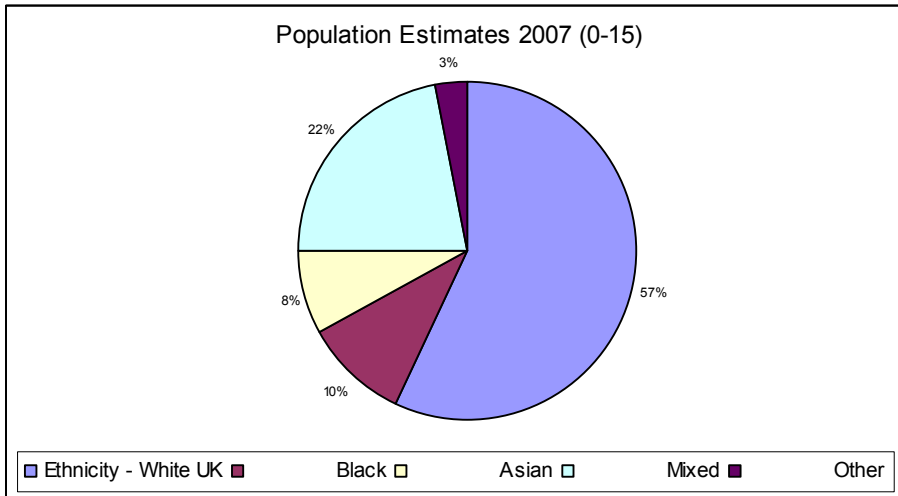
2.5 The ethnic breakdown of children in care at the end of November is detailed in the charts below, this also shows a breakdown of 2001 census data on ethnicity of children aged 0-17 in the borough and the 2007 population estimates for children aged 0-15 in the borough (estimates are not available for 0-17 year olds as these only go up to working age and then beyond):



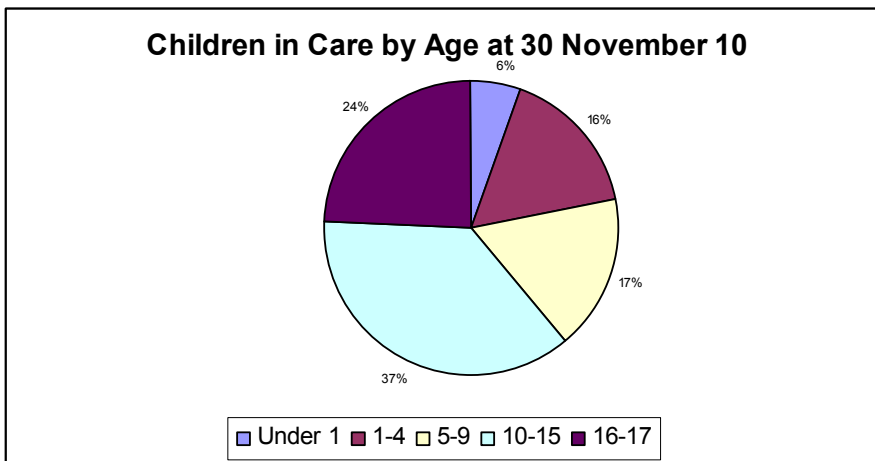
This chart shows that the largest proportion of children in care are black (40%), an over representation when compared with a population of around 8% of under 18's. It also shows an under representation of white children in the children in care population, proportionately around 2:1 of the population.



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2.6 The age breakdown of children in care at the end of November is as detailed below, the largest proportion of children we currently work with are between 10 and 15 year olds (37%) and the smallest proportion is those under 1 (6%).



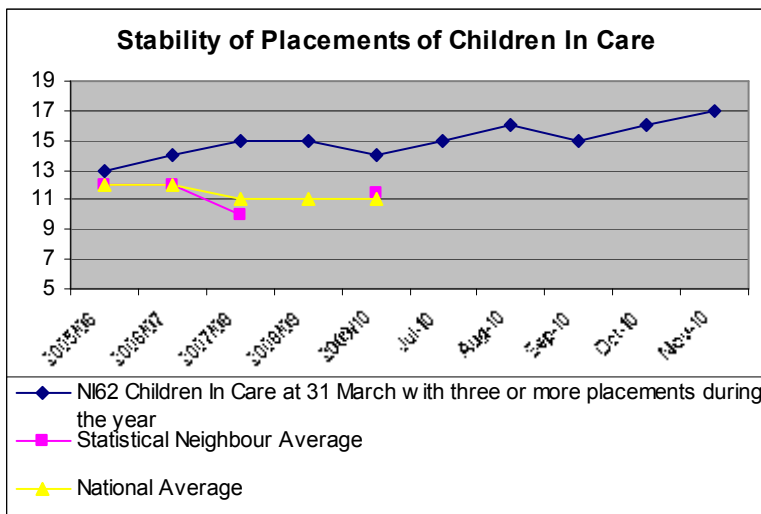
2.7 NI66 – Children in care have to have their circumstances and care plan independently reviewed every 6 months. 94% of children in care cases



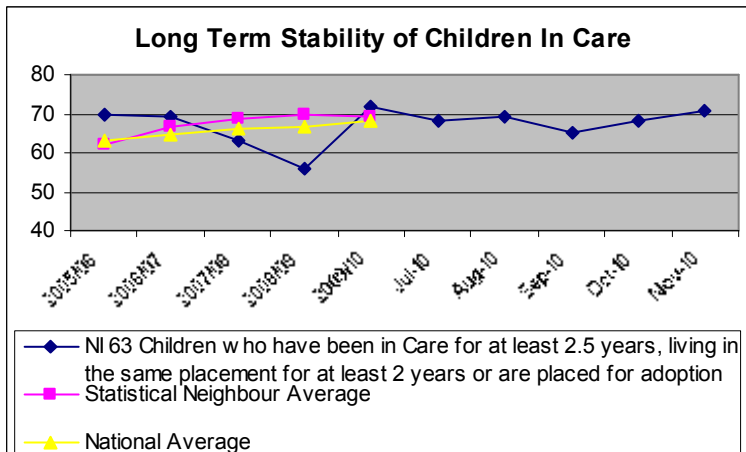
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which should have been reviewed during the year to date (Apr–Nov), were reviewed in timescale, this is 37 children who were not reviewed in timescale to date.

- 2.8 NI 62 – 65 children in care at 30 November 2010 have had 3 or more placements in the year to date (Apr–Nov = 11%). 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 17% of children have had 3 or more placements. The graph below shows comparative data for this indicator over the last 5 years:



- 2.9 NI63 – This is another measure of placement stability. 71% of children in care for 2.5 years or more had been in their placement for at least 2 years at 30 November 2010. This is 101 out of 143 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.





Haringey Council

2.10 Children placed out of borough (note that a 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 borough (note that this summary is based on September data and is updated quarterly – those shaded are those in our comparator boroughs). A map of children placed in other London boroughs is attached in appendix 1.

Haringey Child Placed in	Number of children placed outside Haringey	% of children placed outside Haringey by LA
*Other	106	17.4%
Enfield	74	12.1%
Waltham Forest	49	8.0%
Barnet	28	4.6%
Islington	24	3.9%
Redbridge	20	3.3%
Croydon	17	2.8%
Kent	16	2.6%
Essex	14	2.3%
Bexley	10	1.6%
Havering	10	1.6%
Camden	9	1.5%
Brent	7	1.1%
Hackney	6	1.0%
Lewisham	5	0.8%
Medway	5	0.8%
Newham	5	0.8%
Surrey	5	0.8%
Thurrock	5	0.8%
Total placed out of borough	415	68%

Total CiC @ 30 Sep 10	610
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* Other = A combination of LA that have less than 5 Haringey children placed in them. These are Barking and Dagenham, Bedford, Birmingham, Braintree, Bromley, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cotswold, Cumbria, Derby, Devon, Doncaster, Dudley Metropolitan, Durham, Ealing, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Sussex, Epping Forest, France, Gravesend, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hampshire, Harrow, Hastings, Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isle of Wight, Lambeth, Lincolnshire, Luton, Merton, Milton Keynes,



Haringey Council

Neath Port Talbot, North Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Powys County Council, Preston, Reading, Rochdale, Rochester, Shepway, South Gloucestershire, Southend on Sea, Southwark, Staffordshire, Stevenage, Stockport, Suffolk, Sutton, Telford & Wrekin, Tower Hamlets, Upminster, USA, West Sussex, Worcestershire, Worthing.

In addition, there are a number of children from other boroughs placed in Haringey. The breakdown by borough is tabled below:

Borough placing child in Haringey	Number of children
* Other	62
Islington	44
Enfield Council	29
Barnet	27
Camden	27
City of Westminster	11
Brent	10
Waltham Forest	10
Essex	8
Hammersmith & Fulham	8
Tower Hamlets	5
Total	241

* Other = A combination of Local Authorities that have less than 5 Children placed in Haringey. These are: Bexley, Birmingham City Council, Calderdale Council, Coventry City Council, Croydon, Denbighshire County Council, Dundee City Council, Ealing, East Yorkshire, Greenwich Council, Hackney, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kent County Council, Lambeth, Lewisham, Bromley, Luton, Milton Keynes, Manchester City Council, Newham, Peterborough, Redbridge, Rotherham, Kensington and Chelsea, Sheffield, Surrey, West Sussex, Westminster

2.11 Visits to Children in Care. 92% (549 out of 594) of children in care at the end of November (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).

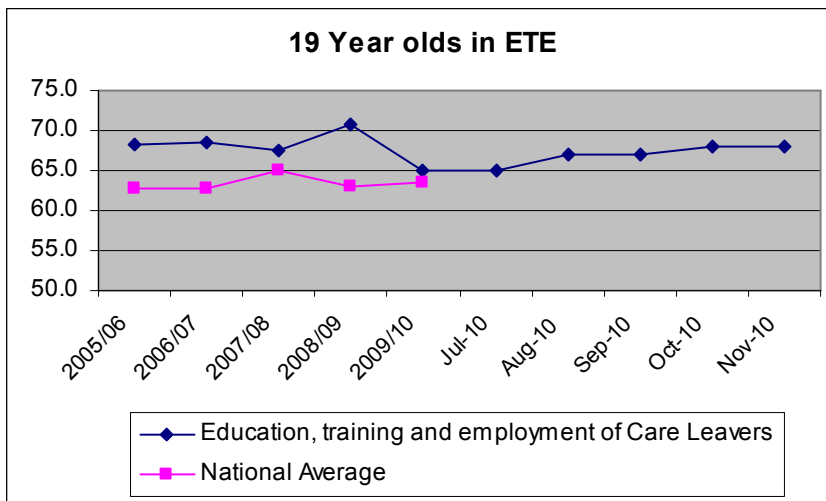
2.12 11 children have been adopted and 6 granted special guardianship orders in the year to date. NI 61 looks at children in care who have been adopted and placed within 12 months of a best interest decision to adopt, 7 out of the 11 children adopted were placed within 12 months (64%).



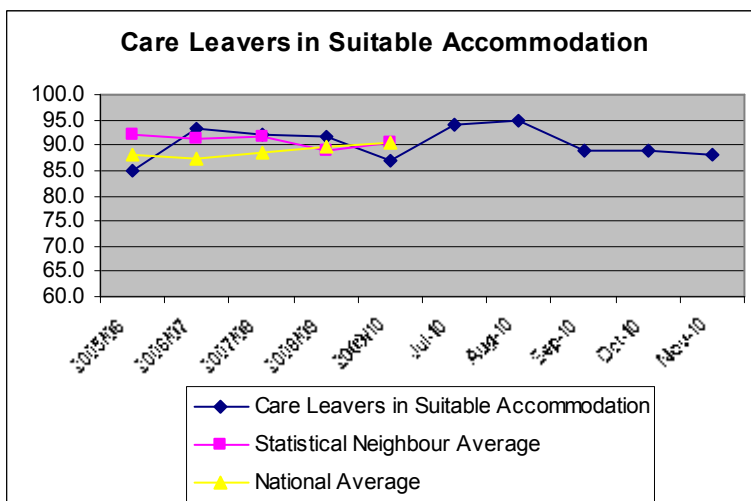
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2.13 73% of children in care were placed in foster placements or placed for adoption at 30 November 2010 and 23% were placed in residential accommodation.

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 19th birthday. This is 23 out of 34 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.



2.15 NI147 - 88% of care leavers turning 19 in the year to date were living in suitable accommodation on their 19th birthday. This is 30 out of 34 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.



3. Children missing from care October-November 2010. In the 2 months, 21 children were reported as missing/absconding from care on a total of 102



Haringey Council

occasions. Of these, 14 children went missing on 33 occasions for over 24 hours. 15 children were counted as 'absconding' from their placements on 69 occasions. 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 14 children who have been reported as missing for more than 24 hours on at least one occasion, the age breakdown is:

Age	Number
0-5	1
6-12	2
13-15	8
16-17	3

- Two siblings aged 6 months and 9 years were missing since August. They have now been located and their care episodes ceased in November.
- Of the total 14 children who went missing for more than 24 hours, 6 were in foster care.
- One young person who was reported missing was arrested for an assault on a hospital security guard after she was taken there following an allegation that she had taken an overdose.

4. 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 November:

- We have had 33 enquiries
- 14 people attended information sessions
- 12 prospective carers attended initial visits (not all from enquiries received in November). 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
- 6 new carers have been approved in the year to date



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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.



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Children Placed in Care in Haringey as a result of the Southwark Judgement
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers & Emma Cummergen
Date:	24 January 2011

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 On May 2009, The House of Lords Judgment on the case R(G) v London Borough of Southwark has given legal clarification concerning the way 16/17 year olds who are in need of housing and support are managed.

1.2 The judgement confirmed that local authorities should presume that any lone, homeless child¹ should be provided with accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, unless (based on an initial screening assessment) the child is not (in the local authority's judgment), a "child in need".

1.3 In nearly all cases the impact of a child being homeless and their parents being unable to provide suitable accommodation or care, will result in such significant challenges to the child's welfare, that he or she will be a child in need. Where the criteria for Section 20 have been met, children's services do not have discretion to use Section 17 powers to provide accommodation. The effect of providing accommodation under Section 20 is that the child becomes "looked after" within the meaning of Section 22 of the Act.

1.4 Some homeless 16 and 17 year olds will still have priority need under the homelessness legislation. They will include those whose need for accommodation did not fall within the circumstances specified in Section 20(1)

of the 1989 Act - for example, because they had been living independently for some time prior to their homelessness; and those whose need for accommodation fell within Section 20 but who did not want to be accommodated under Section 20. Such young people must be judged to be competent to make such a decision and to have had the benefit of advice about the consequences of making such a decision.

1.5 The duties of local authority children's services to accommodate children in need can not be circumvented by referring the child to a housing authority. The latter's duties under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) provide a safety net for the very small number of children who will not meet the criteria for accommodation under Section 20 of the 1989 Act. The Judgement made it clear that the Children Act duties take priority.

1.6 It is important that there continues to be a close partnership between children's services and housing authorities, in order to support local authority responsibilities under the Children Act for meeting the needs of children in need of accommodation.

¹ The law speaks of 'children' and 'children in need': for 'child' please read child or young person throughout the paper.² Article 3 of the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002. Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the council's Constitution) before taking effect.

2.0 HARINGEY'S RESPONSE

2.1 The London Borough of Haringey set up a joint protocol to clarify the roles and responsibilities between the London Borough of Haringey's Children and Young People's Services and its Housing services into the provision of accommodation and support for;

- i) Homeless families and s17 Children Act 1989.
- ii) Housing and supporting homeless 16 & 17 year olds under the Section 17 and Section 20 Children Act 1989.

2.2 In the first instance, the responsibility for establishing whether a young person is indeed a lone and homeless child primarily rests with the Housing Service. There must be evidence of prevention activity, undertaken to resolve the homelessness. Only when prevention activities have been exhausted can there be an accurate determination that the child is, and will continue to be, lone and homeless; therefore in need and requiring Section 20 accommodation.

2.3 Therefore, under the protocol, homeless 16 and 17 years old present themselves to Apex house, at that point Housing Services will try to reinstate the young person within their family or confirm their homelessness. If it is not

possible for the young person to be reinstated and homelessness confirmed, that young person will be accommodated in temporary accommodation. Haringey Housing will arrange and pay for the accommodation prior to the referral, ensuring that the young person is not 'roofless'. Children's Services will then receive the referral and will have 10 working days to complete the Initial Assessment.

2.4 Once the initial assessment has been completed and Children's Services are satisfied that the young person has enough independent living skills; and the young person does not to be looked after; and the need relates only to housing then he/she will be referred back to temporary accommodation.

3.0 HOMESAFE TEAM

3.1 The Homesafe Team was set up on the 4th of January 2010 to work specifically with homeless 16 and 17 year olds young people who are in need of an assessment under the Children Act 1989 and subject to the Southwark Judgement. The name of the team was given by the young people who are already receiving service from Children's Services.

3.2 The Team consists of one senior practitioner, two qualified social workers, one social worker assistant and one housing project worker and is currently based within the 18+ service, which is also dealing with young people in need.

3.3 Since the Homesafe Team was set up;

- 118 young people (who meet the Southwark judgement criteria) have been referred since January 2010, in addition to 44 service users taken on from First Response and meeting Southwark Judgement ruling. A total of 162 young people have been referred to the service.
- Of the 118 new cases, Homesafe Team have received 18 young people into care since January 4th, 2010.
- 59 cases have subsequently been closed with the outcomes of: in temporary accommodation, prison, moved to another local authority, or reached their 18th birthday.
- 27 young people returned to live with their families, nine remaining currently open under s17 to receive ongoing advice, support, and provision of preventative services.
- 23 young people are accommodated under Section 20.
- 21 young people are supported under Section 24 of the Leaving Care Act 2000, as they were previously s20 and turned 18 years old and therefore entitled to Leaving Care services.

- 59 young people are supported under Section 17, the makeup of which: nine of them are still living with family (as documented above), 13 due to be closed as they have reached their 18th birthday and no longer entitled to services, 13 are referred to Housing for homelessness assessment awaiting Homeless outcome (and may be referred back), 24 cases supported in private accommodation or supported housing.
- The referral rate has steadily increased since the initiation of this team and in the last 3 months has increased on average of 10 referrals/month.

4.0 IMPACT

4.1 Since the ruling came into effect, CYPS has experienced an increase in demand on their tendered accommodations for young people.

4.2 The workload pressures of the team are increasing as the referral rate grows.

4.3 In addition to accommodation, this group of 16 and 17 year olds will require an allocated social worker up until the age of 18 years old.

4.4 16 and 17 year olds who present themselves as homeless are entitled to Income Support and Housing Benefit to cover their living costs and accommodation charges. Once these young people come into care, these entitlements cease and local authorities are expected to meet these costs. Rent and support charges do vary depending on provider and the level of support required. This presents cost pressures on the local authority and has contributed significantly to the overspend in the Leaving Care Service.

4.5 It has also been noted that the trend of young people requiring an ongoing service from CPYS represents a volatile group, coming into care with often chaotic lifestyles, impacting adversely on performance in stability of placements. In addition, these young people are often, for example, involved in gang activity (sometimes therefore needing out of borough placements which are far more difficult to obtain), misusing substances, self harming and manifesting mental health concerns and a high number of young women who have babies or are pregnant.

4.6 Young people in this category who are looked after under Section 20 for more than 13 weeks after their 16th birthday also become entitled to Leaving Care services. The House of Lords cautioned against local authorities planning for a swift exit from accommodation (under Section 20) of this group of young people prior to the 13 weeks necessary to secure eligibility for Leaving Care support. In addition to the eligibility for Leaving Care services, they also become priority need for housing under the Homelessness Act 2002 (18- 21 year olds who are former relevant children have an automatic priority

need, if older but under 25 Housing have to take it into account as part of a vulnerability assessment).

4.7 There is an expectation that local authorities are responsible for supporting eligible young people until the age of 21 years, or 24 years if they are in higher education. This brings with it a range of financial and resource implications. All of these young people will be entitled to Pathway Plans, allocated social workers and personal advisors, plus funding whilst they are in education, in addition to the provision of funding of accommodation. This will put pressure on housing options for care leavers by increasing numbers who are eligible and take places on the new quota system.

5.0 ANALYSIS AND PROFILE

5.1 The current cohort of 18 young people placed under Section 20 have been audited and analysed in order for us to begin to gain a picture of the main key features and patterns emerging.

5.2 Statistics highlight we have 11 females and 7 males within this cohort, and come from either a white British background or Black British background. Only 2 fell outside these ethnicity categories.

5.3 Just under 50% have spent a period within their childhood being cared for by a relative (usually a grandparent), and therefore experiencing disrupted attachment with their primary carer. It appears from the analysis on files these young people when returned home to live with their primary carer (usually single mother) cannot maintain a secure attachment or rebuild a strong and consistent relationship. Eventually these young people are reported to be beyond their parents control. These young people continue to demonstrate difficulties in attachment and forming relationships once received into care, and maintaining contact with family and friends.

5.4 The majority of the 18 had some previous contact with the Local Authority, and certainly 99% had previous contact with First Response and come to the attention of the police. There was a clear pattern of numerous police notifications and contacts made, particularly relating to matters of mainly the males offending.

5.5 There was also a very small proportion who had more serious contact with First Response and Safeguarding relating to issues of neglect, short period of registration on the Child Protection Register and brief accommodations under s20 of the Children Act '89. Only 2 young people in this cohort had siblings in the care system currently.

5.6 Just over 50% had original referrals from addresses in the N17 area, however there was some evidence of family mobility in the background history and clearly these young people had a number of primary carers who may have lived inside or outside the borough.

5.7 All had some form of educational issues from low attendance, low attainment, and exclusions. This continues to be a part of their current profile, being either currently NEET or at risk.

5.8 Just over 50% reported some form of mental health and emotional difficulties, with current open referrals with CAMHS or counselling services. However engagement with such services would need further analysis. Self-harm was a particular feature affecting both the males and females of this group.

5.9 Four out of the 18 are reported to have suspected involvement with gangs either as a victim or suspected member. This statistic needs to be compared to our general LAC population, potentially this is a fairly high number. But this is a growing concern for many of our young people in the borough.

5.10 It was highly evident that the majority have a history of offending. 99% of the males in this group are reported to present a long history, and ever increasing seriousness of offences, with continued contact with the police, YOS, courts and some with custodial sentences. The girls profile was still high with over 50% having had some form of offending history however the escalation of offences was less stark.

5.11 A further common feature particularly for the males was substance misuse, most common being a disclosed use of cannabis affecting their motivation and capacity to make positive change. There is merit in analysing this further with regard to the link with offending patterns and behaviours.

5.12 We currently have 2 young single mothers in this cohort of Looked After Children, with both babies being known to the local authority due to parental capacity concerns.

5.13 In terms of when, where and how these children and young people could have been identified and supported at an earlier stage one would need to analyse the quality and services provided at initial contact stage for further insight. It is clear that these children and young people are identified early by services, but the impact of our interventions across the Children and Young People's Service and whether we are targeting our resources effectively to prevent these young people coming into care at a later date needs further analysis. However, it is important to acknowledge the numbers coming into care are low which would suggest services are having an impact diverting and preventing young people entering our care system. A clear starting point however is in relation to the males key features which needs to be discussed and analysed further with the Youth Offending Service to seek ways to address the escalating pattern of offending emerging, resulting in the breakdown of the family situation. A further suggestion given the difficulties these young people have with their attachments is looking at when they become first known to services at that initial contact stage, if a CAMHS referral would be relevant for family therapy.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Children and Young People's Service alongside Housing are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all vulnerable children and young people. However, the impact of the ruling and the demands it places on the Local Authority is not yet fully understood, with the ever increasing referral rate and complexity of cases.

6.2 Further analysis would be useful, particularly with the Youth Offending Service in order to consider whether there is additional work that can be done across services in terms of prevention. In addition, some further analysis with our CAMHS service to look at the patterns and difficulties emerging with regard to these young people's attachments and mental health issues.

6.3 The most important action that we, as a whole service, can take now is to work with Housing to put more robust mediation in place. In addition to this there has to be an emphasis on the use of prevention effectively at a much earlier stage to reduce the crisis point at 16/17 years old. In order to affect this, the ongoing development of family intervention services will be a major influence impacting on this burgeoning area of need.

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Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Outline proposal to develop a strategy for safeguarding Looked After children, young people and care leavers when supporting and enabling them to access Information and Communication Technology.
Lead Officer:	Debbie Haith
Date:	24 January 2011

1. Background:

1.1 A strategy will be developed in response to the need to ensure that Looked After Children, including children with disabilities and those receiving overnight short breaks, are provided with the opportunity to use computers and access the internet as tools for learning and communication whilst managing the potential risks. Although it will never be possible to remove e-safety (internet safety) risks completely, drawing together an effective package of policies, practices, education and training can lessen the impact of potential risks.

1.2 Safeguarding children and young people in the “virtual world” of the internet is a key element to staying safe for children and young people. This strategy has been developed with reference to the ICT Safety Strategies implemented in Haringey Schools and Local Safeguarding Children’s Board guidance on e-safety.

1.3 These aims apply in all circumstances but we know that the internet provides an additional means of communication with and access to children and young people increasing their vulnerability to exploitation, bullying and exposure to inappropriate content online.

1.4 Access to the internet can be by fixed or mobile technology such as mobile phones, which are e enabled. This strategy focuses on fixed technology i.e. computers.

1.5 Looked After Children and care leavers live and are cared for in a range of settings including family placements with foster carers and residential homes. Haringey will directly manage some of these placements, others will be provided under contracts with different providers. This Strategy provides a framework and set of principles in which to promote safe appropriate access to fixed technology and internet within a range of placement provisions.

2. Key Principles:

- 2.1 Children and Young People should have the opportunity to use ICT to enhance their learning opportunities, develop ICT skills and communicate in the virtual environment.
- 2.2 Carers should be provided with opportunities to develop their own skills and knowledge in ICT; the more confident carers are with ICT, the more equipped they are to monitor young peoples' activities and support appropriate use of ICT.
- 2.3 All service providers should demonstrate how they support appropriate access to ICT and have a clear e-safety policy, which is understood by staff/carers and children and young people.
- 2.4 Haringey managed services will have local e-safety policies which will be standards based and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they respond to changes in technologies and safeguards.
- 2.5 Standards will reflect wider safeguarding issues including health and safety.
- 2.6 E-safety policies will describe how safeguarding concerns will be responded to and managed.

3. Internal Residential Homes:

- 3.1 All residential homes will promote the educational value of IT usage and support young people in accessing these services and their key worker will assist them in this.
- 3.2 This should include having an open discussion with each Looked After Child about online use whilst in their care and have clear rules about online use for their homes. They will talk to the child about what they should do if they are worried following an online experience and what the supervision and monitoring arrangements will be.
- 3.3 Any computers will be in an open and public part of the residential home.
- 3.4 Given the communal nature of residential care, staff will be aware of the potential for inappropriate collective use amongst a group of young people and should supervise the use with this in mind.
- 3.5 Each residential home should evidence how they will incorporate any risks associated with internet use and staff should be willing to withhold use of the computer for particular residents or groups of residents until safety measures have been put in place.
- 3.6 Staff should be alert to the potential risk of a Looked After Child leaving the home to meet someone following time spent online and be vigilant about who the young person is going to meet if they have cause to be suspicious.

3.7 Internet access via lap tops will not be allowed.

4. Internal Family Placements:

4.1 Fostering:

4.1.1 Supervising social workers will undertake a checklist for each Haringey foster carer as either part of the assessment process or post-approval (if an existing foster carer) to gauge the foster carer's basic competence and confidence in Information Technology.

4.1.2 This will include a judgement on the carers understanding of the balance between potential risks alongside the educational benefits. The expectation is that all foster carers promote positive and safe internet use as part of a Looked After Child's development.

4.1.3 The Fostering Team will provide information on agencies that support safety in IT usage for Looked After Children including Chatdanger website, Kidsmart website, Childnet International website, Thinkyouknow website, Parents Online website.

4.1.4 Under Standard 6 of the CWDC Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care each foster carer will be expected to evidence how they will incorporate any risks associated with internet use in their home. Their Supervising Social Worker will assist them with this.

4.1.5 Foster carers need to be aware of the young person's use of any mobile technology in their home and offer a level of appropriate monitoring.

4.1.6 Each foster carer will have an open discussion with each Looked After Child about online use whilst in their care and have clear online rules for their home. They will talk to the child about what they should do if they are worried following an online experience and what the supervision and monitoring arrangements will be.

4.1.7 Should a foster carer store any records or information relating to the Looked After Child on their computer, they will do this in a secure and separate place where any child in the household is unable to access it.

4.2 Adoption:

4.2.1 Adopters of a child of any age will be made aware of the future specific issues related to an adopted child.

4.2.2 The emphasis will be on ensuring an adopted child is supported and kept safe throughout their childhood in any efforts to locate information or people relating to their history.

4.2.3 These will include the specific areas of adoption practice issues such as:

- contacting birth family members
- tracing in the future
- any internet research relating to medical issues.
- any physical risk or risk to their emotional identity as an adopted child.

5. Contracted Services:

5.1 Each provider of either an Independent Fostering Agency placement or a Private and Voluntary residential placement will be expected to provide Haringey

Placements Service with a copy of their specific Information Technology policy as part of any agreement to use their services.

5.2 This will be scrutinised by the Team Manager of the Placements Team to verify it is of a similar standard to any in-house resource offered.

5.3 If the provider is unable to offer a satisfactory standard of written expectations within the service being offered, they will be expected to adopt and comply with Haringey's policy for the Haringey Looked After Child.

Debbie Haith

December 2010



Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Assessment of Haringey's Progress with the London Pledge
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers
Date:	January 24 th 2011

1. Background:

1.1 The London Pledge has been adopted by Haringey Children's Trust. The Pledge was drawn up in 2008 to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key service and support where they live go to school or access employment or training opportunities in London. The London Pledge is a commitment from all Children's Trusts and their partners to all children and young people in care and leaving care. This pledge has been developed in partnership with young people, Lead Members for Children's Service and partners from the Community and Voluntary Sector. The main promises are outlined in the accompanying Corporate Parenting Strategy.

1.2 Haringey's progress regarding the pledge is detailed as follows:

	Pledge Principle/Promise	Evidence of Practice in Haringey December 2010 What do we do and how do children and young people see this?
Our tool to review how well we are meeting our promises		
1	We will only promise you things that we know we can do.	Promises that we make to young people are the foundation of our work to ensure positive outcomes for each and every young person in our care.
2	We will care for you as an individual person with your own specific needs which we will plan to meet.	All social care staff and partners seek to demonstrate through their work their respect for the culture, linguistic and religious needs. We provide specialist support to help those with additional needs. All health care plans are tailored to individual health needs.
3	You will have the opportunity to talk to your social worker alone every time he/she visits you.	It is an expectation that every social worker will have specific time alone with a child or young person at each LAC visit.
4	We will always involve you in the decisions we take for you and we will respect your right to make choices about your life.	Children will be involved in decisions about their care as appropriate to their age and abilities. Young people can actively contribute to their LAC review and have their views heard and acted upon.
5	We aim to be the best as parents and to make your experience of being looked after a positive one.	We ensure that every young person coming into care has a permanency plan, with a placement that suits the individual child and where possible rehabilitation to family.
6	We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.	We have a specialist LAC nurse team who ensure that the health reviews of all LAC children are completed within timescales and that any issues arising from the reviews are addressed. An outreach facility provides advice and guidance on sexual health and a specialist mental health service. All children and young people have a range of opportunities to improve their educational achievement. Haringey's Virtual School checks education provision is in place, tracks progress to ensure 'rapid and accelerated' progress is achieved following entry to care and that achievements are recognised and celebrated. Achieving educational outcomes, at and above the national average, whilst at school ensures opportunities are open to children post 16 and beyond. The LAC education service ensures that this provision is available to all and that achievements are celebrated.

		Opportunities to make a positive contribution are provided through participation in decisions and engagement in events, inspections and surveys. Training provided for those leaving care on independent living
7	We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you.	Young people will agree their health care plans and can expect health actions agreed to be carried out. All children in care of statutory school age have an up to date PEP as part of their care plan. This states educational expectations and the school support mechanisms in place to support them.
8	We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.	Consultation and reviews. CIC Council
9	We will take account of your particular needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality. We will take account of anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it, including anyone treating you unfairly because you are in care.	We always give strong consideration to all of these factors in placements and on going work with children and young people. There is a clear complaints procedure and an independent advocacy service commissioned from Barnardos.
10	We will ensure that you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Rights are adhered to through the court process and care proceedings. Rights of refugees and asylum seekers are also addressed by specialist workers.
11	We will also ensure that you receive your London Pledge entitlements, wherever you live. Any failure on the part of Councils and their Children's Trust partners to deliver this will be promptly resolved.	Six monthly reviews, chaired by independent reviewing officers check receipt of entitlement.
	We will support you to <u>Be Healthy</u>	There is an established multi-agency forum to address the health, education and placement needs of LAC

	Across London we will work together to ensure that you have access to a range of relevant health services which promote and support your emotional, physical and mental health and support you to make healthy and positive choices for your lives.	children. Designated doctors, a team of nurses who see children and young people in local authority care in their placements when required. The health team is developing the involvement of children and young people. They carry out regular audits of the service they provide and aim to use the outcomes to improve.
12	We will work to make sure that doctors, dentists and other health professionals are trained to understand your individual needs and listen to your problems so that they can give you the best possible support and treatment	The LAC nurses ensure that referrals are made for any health issues. Bounds Green Health Centre has been refurbished so that the doctor can provide health assessments in the same place as the nurses and the mental health service, providing a health service in one place with appropriately trained staff.
13	We will work with others to ensure that you get better access to the information you need and the right support to help you with any health or emotional difficulties that you may have, especially if you live outside your home authority.	Designated LAC doctors and nurses liaise across the country to ensure that the needs of LAC are met. The Tavistock Haringey Service offers therapeutic services for those young people who are placed within reach of Haringey.
14	We will ensure that we have good systems in place to share information across borough boundaries so that you do not miss out on medical appointments because you move areas.	Proper arrangements in place regarding transfer of health information between authorities.
15	Parents or carers will have access to information services and support that will help them to care for you and give them the skills they need to ensure that you have the best chances in life and are healthy and safe.	Parents have access to all the children's medical information and can seek further advice where necessary. Training is provided for foster carers. A multi-agency group, (health, CiC education and children's services managers) meets regularly to address these outcomes.
16	We will ensure that you receive vaccinations, dental checks and other health checks at the right time and that you and your carers are given the relevant information to support you in accessing	Standard provision provided by health team. Initial health assessment will check that children's immunisations are up to date.

	healthcare services.	
17	When appropriate we will ensure that you have access to the relevant sexual health information and support to enable you to make positive choices about your future.	Young people are signposted to young people services – through 4YP, LAC nurses, school nurse and local young people services.
18	We will make sure that you have opportunities to develop your personal and social skills to care for you health and well-being now and in the future.	The programme of preparation for leaving care is being redeveloped to ensure that care leavers are well prepared for independent living.
	<p>We will ensure that you can <u>Stay Safe</u>. We will work together across London to keep you safe from harm from individuals and your environment.</p> <p>We will ensure that you know how and where to access help if you feel you are being threatened or hurt in any way and we will ensure that professionals and carers know how to support those of you who have been harmed or hurt.</p> <p>We will not move you from a placement you are happy and settled in unless there is a good welfare reason for doing so.</p>	<p>We are using a range of initiatives to strengthen placement provision and to minimise placement moves. We gather as much information as possible about children’s individual needs and the type of placement which best suits these.</p> <p>The concerns of all children and young people are taken seriously. Concerns are acted upon and appropriate advocacy and therapeutic services provided.</p> <p>LSCB policies and protocol are in place. Training programmes for all agencies with a multi- disciplinary commitment to these. The LADO process is established to make sure any allegations against professional are fully investigated in order to keep children safe.</p>
19	All agencies will work to prevent you suffering harm and to promote your welfare, provide you with the services you require to address your needs and to safeguard those of you who are being or who are likely to be harmed.	
20	We will have clear arrangements and protocols in place to safeguard you if you run away or go missing from care. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed.	All agencies follow the London Procedure for Safeguarding Children Missing from Care and Home. This ensures a responsive approach to any such situation.

21	We will involve you in the selection of staff working with or for children and young people and the training of new social workers and foster carers.	Young people are trained to participate in recruitment at all levels of social care. Total Respect training provided for multi-agency professionals and councillors.
22	We will ensure that you get good information about your placement and a proper introduction to your carers (unless you have to move in an emergency). When you are moved to a new area you will receive information about the area and how to access services.	An outline of the provision will be given to each young person before placement. If there is a planned move a greater amount of information will be shared and there will be an opportunity to have introductions to the placement before moving in. The young person's social worker will visit in the first week to see how they are settling in and to help them resolve any issues which may arise.
23	We will ensure that you have access to youth support services and a Connexions adviser if you need it. Additional guidance relating to your personal health and safety is available.	Pathway plan formulated, agreed and followed from 15+. Connexions advisor based in leaving care service currently but this service will cease soon due to cutbacks. Other provision will then be in place with Connexions. Personal advisors team lead on training and employment issues.
24	If you get into trouble with the Police and end up in custody we will make sure that the most suitable person comes along to support you.	Where possible the service gives young people access to another professional who has a working relationship with the young person. In exceptional cases where a young person has taken themselves a great distance from their home area other representation may have to be used. Ongoing YOS support will be provided locally.
25	We will do our best to give you a choice in the selection of your own foster carer or placement.	Children and young people can say what they would like from a placement, needs and wishes are taken into account as much as possible and in considerable detail for more long term placements. Issues of ethnicity and religion are taken account of in both task centres and long term placements. If a child is very unhappy an alternative placement is sought after all other possibilities for improving the situation have been attempted. A move is a last option.
26	We will do our best to reduce the number of changes of social worker that you experience while you are in care.	The service is being restructured to ensure greater continuity regarding children's social workers. Wrap around Children in Care Team for all children in longer term care.
	We will support you to <u>Enjoy and Achieve</u> <u>Enjoy</u> - We will work	The following points relate to this outcome.

	<p>together to ensure that children in care have access to a broad range of positive activities and opportunities that provide them with places to go and things to do wherever they are.</p> <p>We will particularly work together across borough boundaries to ensure that access to good quality social, cultural and leisure activities feature strongly in placement arrangements.</p>	
27	<p>We will encourage and help you to access good quality affordable social, cultural and leisure activities, both in your community and across London.</p>	<p>Carers and residential units are involved in local sports activities. Primary swimming lessons are offered through education.. C&YP encouraged to attend local cultural activities that keep them in touch with their heritage communities.</p> <p>The South Africa trips with CiC education service have been a great success.</p>
28	<p>We will work to provide you with a free leisure card by 2011 to access facilities across London up to the age of 21. This may include free access to gyms, swimming pools and major cultural attractions.</p>	<p>Budget restrictions have unfortunately curtailed this type of provision.</p>
29	<p>We will support you to purchase a bike and safety equipment and we will organise proficiency training if it is something that you would like and your carers agree.</p>	<p>Many of our children in foster care have bikes. Proficiency training is accessed independently,</p>
	<p><u>Achieve</u> - We will work together across London to support you to achieve five A*-G at GCSE or equivalents.</p> <p>We will ensure that you have better access to personal computers and other materials that you may need for your education and that you are able to access the full range of educational opportunities open to your</p>	<p>Haringey Virtual School is part of the London Virtual school network, sharing ideas and improving cross London systems so that Children in Care are prioritised in the Admissions, effectively progressed through SEN systems and supported to avoid permanent exclusions wherever possible.</p> <p>Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest are starting a project with Tottenham Hotspur foundation to provide improved opportunities locally for young people post 16.</p> <p>Additional tuition is on offer to CiC up to Yr 11. Home delivery book scheme is having a positive impacting on children's reading.</p>

	<p>peers.</p> <p>We will pay particular attention to supporting you at key transition stages in your lives and ensure that you and your carers have access to high quality information, advice and guidance that supports you to make the right choices about your future.</p>	
30	<p>We will work with schools colleges and universities to ensure that you are championed to succeed in your education.</p> <p>In school you will have the support of your designated teacher and a governor champion and you will have a high quality, clear and up to date Personal Education Plan which will meet your needs and push you to succeed.</p>	<p>The Virtual School was established in April 2010, extending the oversight of the Children in Care Education team to young people in education post 16. A successful bid has secured funding to begin an innovative project across 4 London LAs to support young people who are over 16 and not in education.</p> <p>As part of the duty to promote educational achievement, the educational attainment of all young people in care is tracked. Young people who are underachieving are specifically focussed on to accept tuition, to attend Study Club, to have PEPs in place with additional school based support in place, to have SEN systems initiated.</p> <p>Gifted and Talented children are identified and targeted to extend their skills. The Aim Higher programme and links with Highgate Independent school are used to raise aspirations of potential university students.</p> <p>A comprehensive training programme for Designate Teacher's is in place. The majority of Haringey schools are using the London PEP and have had training on how to use the PEP process to promote the educational progress of CIC. Social worker's also attend training so they can fully understand the use of the PEP.</p>
31	<p>If you are leaving care for university or vocational training we will ensure that your Pathway Plan is clear about the support you will receive, including our financial contribution to your studies.</p>	<p>Growth in the number of young people attending university.</p> <p>Pathway plan in place for all 15+</p> <p>Payment structure to support training and education has been revised. £2000 bursary available for all young people attending university.</p>
32	<p>We will make sure that you have access to a computer and materials needed for your education and training. We</p>	<p>Foster homes all have access to computers. Residential homes also provide access. University students can choose to use part of their £2000 bursary to purchase a laptop if they wish. Some young people</p>

	aim to provide you with a laptop or computer at Key Stage 3 and beyond and appropriate software, providing you remain in education and training.	may decide to use their own savings to purchase a laptop when they move on to college.
33	Where appropriate we will support you to access vocational opportunities and/or apprenticeships that will enable you to fulfil your full potential.	PA's and Aftercare workers complete PPR's for all 18+ which include plans that address all support needs, action plans and aspirations. The post 16 work is emerging and we are planning on giving quite directive advice to foster carers and social workers and school DTs to support post -16 choices (by March 2010). More young people are achieving good Level 2 qualifications. This will enable more young people to become independent, self financing adults in the future.
	<p>We will empower you to Make a Positive Contribution.</p> <p>We will work together across London to ensure that your voice is heard and that you are able to participate fully in decision making about your own lives and the services that affect you.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity for your achievements to be recognised and celebrate your successes and contribute fully to the society in which you live.</p>	<p>Participation in London wide events. CWDC policy group and much more is on offer to young people in care.</p> <p>We take seriously what looked after children and young people themselves expect from us. All young people must be consulted about plans made for them. We use a variety of measures to consult with our young people in care about their experience of and views on being in care. These are detailed in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p> <p>Young people are now formally involved in reg 33 inspections of the borough's children's homes.</p>
34	We will consult you about all our services that affect you	We are striving to improve our consultation and will make increasing use of the CiC Council for this. Groups of older young people in care have been meeting regularly for years and give input into service development.
35	<p>We will make sure that you know your rights and what services you are entitled to by putting this down in writing for you.</p> <p>We will also agree with you what we expect from you and put it down in writing.</p>	Children and young people have a placement agreement. This is discussed with children and young people by the social worker at their regular meetings. Written expectations to be developed.

36	<p>We will organise meetings for children and young people who are looked after by a council in London so that we can hear from you about how you think we can best plan to meet your needs as a group and you can tell us whether we are keeping our promises.</p> <p>We will also make sure that those who are not part of meetings or a children in care council have their say.</p>	<p>CIC Council is becoming established. Methods of communicating with children in care are being developed as we want to ensure that they all know what is going on. This will include creating a website for LAC. Currently information for LAC can be found through the Haringey Youthspace website. A Stocktake event was held in June 2010 in order to gather the views of a range of young people in care.</p>
37	<p>We will celebrate and promote your achievements with you, as well as the contribution you make to the community. This will also include marking your birthday, religious festivals and making sure you have a copy of your school photo and reports.</p>	<p>Annual children in care awards at Tottenham Hotspurs. Theatre trips, Homework club. Foster carers receive an allowance to ensure that they have sufficient funds to celebrate birthdays & festivals. Those in semi-independent living receive birthday and festival allowances.</p>
38	<p>In cooperation with your parents or carers we will ensure that you have a passport or know why you don't have one.</p>	<p>This area is to be developed. However, we certainly want all LAC to have a passport as soon as possible after coming into care. We will help to obtain this and fund the cost.</p>
39	<p>Once you get to 16 years old we will ask you whether you want a mentor (e.g. 16+ worker) and arrange one for you if this will be helpful.</p>	<p>To be developed further.</p>
40	<p>We will also offer you the chance to set up and participate in a peer mentoring programme for London. This will involve care leavers supporting young people still in care to grow and achieve.</p>	<p>Care leavers have expressed interest in being involved in a peer mentoring programme. The 2008-09 programme is to be reviewed and reinstated.</p>
41	<p>In addition to your social worker, carer, family members, Independent reviewing officer and designated teacher, we will make sure that there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this</p>	<p>Barnardos Advocacy Service. Complaints process facilitates children and young people making their views known, Complaints have been analysed and key messages taken on board.</p> <p>A group of young people regularly meet with senior officers including the director to express their views.</p>

	<p>person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.</p> <p>We will also support you to contact your lead Councillor, Director of Children's Services and senior managers, as necessary and you will be listened to by them.</p>	<p>Care leavers met recently with the Council Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Handbook for CIC to be developed.</p>
42	<p>We will work with others to provide you with information about volunteering and access to opportunities to help others.</p>	<p>Volunteering discussed in the context of training and employment.</p> <p>Other opportunities are available through the Youth service</p>
	<p>We will equip you to achieve economic well-being. We will support you to achieve economic independence and well-being as you progress into adulthood. We recognise that you will need certain skills and support to live independently and we will take the relevant steps to prepare you effectively for independence and the world of employment</p>	<p>All the following points relate to this outcome.</p>
43	<p>We will open a savings account for you if you have been in care for more than 12 months and will make agreed payments into your account for you.</p> <p>You will have a say about how your money is managed and you will be able to start taking money out once you have reached the age of 18.</p>	<p>All CIC have their own saving account.</p>
44	<p>Where appropriate, we will support you to learn to drive where this will help you get into training and the right job.</p>	<p>The current fee matrix does include a section for contributing to driving lessons, however is discretionary (exceptional circumstances) and based on a course requirement and based on proposed job. (max of 10 lessons contribution)</p>
45	<p>When the time comes for you to leave care we will listen to you and act on your views about the services and support you need to help you become an independent adult</p>	<p>The support to care leavers is being reviewed. There is a quota of housing properties available to care leavers. Housing policy has been revised to place all care leavers in the highest priority band.</p>

	(including accommodation, further/higher education, training and employment).	Haringey is involved in developing a new tendering process for semi-independent accommodation for 16+. Young people are involved in the tender process.
46	We will ensure that when you leave school you will receive an offer of education, employment or training. This will include access to a careers advisor and an information and guidance session	Up until more recently all LAC were allocated to a PA or had access to connexions advisor based in LCAS. Now there is not 100% allocation but all currently have access to PA's on duty and the connexions advisor based in service (connexions availability ends Feb 2011). It is expected the s/w can act as y/p's PA and provide careers advice and complete the initial PP which includes plans for education, employment or training. All 18+ are allocated to a PA/Aftercare worker and there is a focused plan for education, employment and training options.
47	We will provide work experience opportunities and training or apprenticeships to help young people in and leaving care to develop their CV and find employment. This will include young people over the age of 18 and a range of different types of work experience and advice.	18+ PA's complete PPR's for all 18+ which incorporates opportunities for work experience, training and apprenticeships. Some young people have been given work placements in Haringey. (pre-pledge we had work placements at LCAS, Haringey also has an apprenticeship scheme. CV and interview technique workshops have been delivered by the service, and plans to increase such workshops in 2011 alongside partner agencies. 1-2-1 work is also delivered where required. Responsibilities for care leavers under 2008 Act being implemented in 2011.

2. Key Actions Arising From The Assessment:

2.1 The completion of this assessment has assisted in highlighting areas for further work, the process has also brought out strengths in existing work. Of prime importance are the continuing efforts to involve as many young people as possible in different elements of the participation agenda. Whilst all young people in care have individual opportunities to share their views it is intended that more imaginative ways of including them in other opportunities will be developed. The Children in Care Council is now up and running but we need to broaden the age bands of children who participate. Invites to children in younger age groups, as well as existing members, have been issued for the January 2011 meeting.

2.2 There is comprehensive work across Children in Care Education Service and LAC Health to meet the needs of young people and to engage them. An increasing emphasis is being placed on young people choosing the right pathways for further education be this university, vocational courses or employment. This will increase the outcomes for economic independence and well being.

2.3 One of the most pressing areas for action is the creation of web pages specifically for the use of LAC young people. There is now a range of information available through the Youthspace website which assists as an interim measure but further work will now be undertaken promptly to establish links that are solely for the use of children and young people in care.

3. Appendix: Report on Young & In Care Council's initial review of the London Pledge:

3.1 At the second meeting of members of the Young and in Care Council in November, 2010, the group looked at the London Pledge. The young people were asked to identify how they feel Haringey has done in these areas. The issues raised by young people have been shared with relevant members of the social care team.

3.2 The young people decided that to do full justice to the evaluation of the London Pledge that they needed to devote more time. This will be done during the spring term. In the interim they have asked that officers arrange for all those who are young and in care to receive more detailed information on youth centres, local leisure centres and other social engagement opportunities, as well as information on the London Pledge and the advocacy service. Officers are to circulate details to children in care about the youth space website, through which they can access this information.

3.3 The group consider the following pledges as essential to an open and honest working relationship with Haringey Children's Service and partners:

- We will only promise you things that we know we can do.
- We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.
- We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.
- In addition to your social worker, foster carer, family member, independent reviewing officer and designated teacher, we will make sure there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.

We will also support you to contact your lead Councilor, Director of Children's Services and senior managers, as necessary and you will be listened to by them.

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