



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 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 11 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 - 14)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2011 and for information purposes to receive the minutes of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for the meeting held on the 24th January 2011.

5. MATTERS ARISING

6. SAFEGUARDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS WHEN SUPPORTING AND ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (PAGES 15 - 18)

Outline proposals to develop a strategy for safeguarding looked after children, young people and care leavers when supporting and enabling them to access information and communications technology.

7. ASSESSMENT OF HARINGEY'S PROGRESS WITH THE LONDON PLEDGE (PAGES 19 - 32)

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

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PAGES 33 - 44)

The report will update the committee on the Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of January 2011. In addition it provides details of outturns for 2010 and targets for 2010/11.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting 19th April 2011.

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

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

Wednesday 09th March 2011

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2011**

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

Apologies Councillor Peacock

Also Present: Councillor Brabazon, Attracta Craig, Denise Gandy, Wendy Tomlinson, Debbie Haith, Emma Cummergen, Arzu Kaya, Jennifer James.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC45.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Cllr Peacock.</p>	
CPAC46.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC47.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CPAC48.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CPAC49.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Update on Director of Children Services planned meeting with judiciary to discuss delays in court care proceedings: it was updated that this meeting was scheduled to go ahead today.</p> <p>Development work on dealing with the issues of isolation faced by young people leaving care: agreed that this be added to the agenda for the March meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Regular update on Foster Care Consortium joint working: it was updated that the scope had been extended to a North London Fostering and Adoption consortium covering 5 boroughs. The primary focus remained recruitment of foster carers through a collective advertising approach including the use of Facebook etc to direct people to the dedicated consortium website at www.fosteringnorthlondon.co.uk for further information. Other prospective avenues being investigated were hosting coffee morning information sessions in conjunction with Starbucks and running an advert in the Metro newspaper. A series of information sessions were also scheduled to run within the boroughs within the next few months and the Communications Team at the Council was continuing work to improve the website and future</p>	Clerk

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	<p>campaigns. Confirmation was provided that prospective carers could make contact through both the Council and the consortium websites. Members emphasised that it would be useful in the future to be able to compare expressions of interest for fostering received directly by the Council and the Consortium and also examine conversion rates from enquiries to approval.</p> <p>In response to a query, it was confirmed that an additional future area of work for the Consortium would be foster carer and agency rates, with a dedicated post in place to examine the variability of fees charged across the boroughs with a view to achieving greater parity. The Committee requested an update on this piece of work once completed.</p> <p>Assurances were sought on the commitment of boroughs to the Consortium approach. It was confirmed that a Memorandum of Understanding was in place and financial contributions provided by each borough. Work was also underway to set objectives and success criteria for the Consortium to allow progress monitoring. A business plan for improving the Council's fostering service was also being developed including identification of targets and timescales.</p> <p>Opportunities for cross borough initiative with LB Waltham Forest on service delivery: it was updated that a collective piece of work was underway with six other North/North East London boroughs on the procurement of supported lodging accommodation. A new tender would be issued as part of the project within the next few months with a view to a new contract being in place by the end of spring. The Committee emphasised the importance of quantifying the savings to be realised from this piece of work. It was confirmed that more mainstream housing procurement for Looked After Children (LACs) would be through Strategic and Community Housing service.</p> <p>Young and In Care Council: the young people on the Council had expressed interest in introducing a mentoring scheme once the body was more established. They were also interested in working with CPAC (Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee) and invited members of the Committee to attend one of their meetings at the end of the spring term.</p> <p>Total respect training: a list of dates had been circulated including a number scheduled at weekends.</p> <p>Regulation 33 reports: the new report format was now in use.</p> <p>Hackney Council presentation on early intervention work: the Chair advised that she had met with the Chair of the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee and had agreed that issues could be referred between the two sister bodies in accordance with their respective remits. As the Hackney Council presentation would relate to safeguarding, the Committee agreed to formally refer the item to the Safeguarding Committee with CPAC members to attend if they wished. It was also agreed that the two Committees should have at least one joint meeting a year.</p>	<p>Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Clerk Clerk</p>
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	<p>operational group sitting below CPAC to allow arrangements to be put in place to reaffirm the collective responsibility for corporate parenting across the organisation.</p> <p>In relation to communicating with LACs on the Council's role as a corporate parent, it was confirmed that work would be undertaken with a group of young people to distil the finalised Strategy into an easily understandable format. The Committee also asked for a progress update on the development of a leaflet for LACs setting out the Council's corporate parenting role, the role of Members and of CPAC which had been requested at a previous meeting.</p>	<p>Chris Chalmers</p>
<p>CPAC51.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <p>The Committee considered the performance management monitoring data for the Children and Families service for October and November which included Children in Care (CiC) national indicators.</p> <p>It was advised that some recent stabilisation of CiC levels had been observed, with a pattern of more children leaving care than entering over the last few months. A question was raised on the reason for the disparity shown in rates of CiC across nearest statistical neighbour boroughs, with Haringey showing a higher than average level. It was advised that feedback received from Ofsted reaffirmed that the Council were looking after the right children and that Haringey's rate had historically been higher than most statistical neighbours even pre Baby P. There was some anecdotal evidence this might be due to the placement of large families although this wasn't routinely monitored to allow benchmarking across boroughs.</p> <p>It was advised that review work was ongoing in relation to placement stability as a key factor detrimentally impacting on LACs. In order to provide the Committee with further information, it was proposed that a Senior Independent Review Officer be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting setting out their role and outlining changes to be introduced from April including the requirement to produce an annual report.</p> <p>The Committee requested an update on adoption and permanency performance at a future meeting and the reason for associated delays in the process.</p> <p>It was commented that performance in relation to young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) appeared to have plateaued over time. It was advised that targeted work was planned in this area including a joint project with Spurs, a number of employers and other boroughs to provide a focussed, collective approach to reducing the level of NEETs. It was also noted that the Southwark Judgement had impacted on the number of young people in this cohort.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p>

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<p>CPAC52.</p>	<p>CHILDREN PLACED IN CARE IN HARINGEY AS A RESULT OF THE SOUTHWARK JUDGEMENT</p> <p>The Committee considered the above report outlining the impact of legal changes to the way 16/17 year olds who are in need of housing and support are managed. Duties under the Children Act 1989 now take priority over homelessness duties under housing legislation for this vulnerable group of young people.</p> <p>The Council has developed a joint protocol between Children's and Strategic Housing services in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities for the provision of accommodation for 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless. Housing services undertake the first assessment to establish homelessness and then refer to Children's Services for initial assessment as necessary. A Homesafe Team was established a year ago to work with and assess homeless 16/17 year olds where the Southwark Judgement applied. To date, 162 young people have been referred to the service and the rate is increasing.</p> <p>In response to a question as to whether young people received starter packs once accommodation had been found, it was confirmed that this depended on which legislation was applied – under the current tendered accommodation used by Children's Services, providers offered starter packs although it was acknowledged quality varied. For young people where homelessness legislation applied thereby meaning the young person entered temporary accommodation, starter packs were not generally provided although they would be eligible for the floating support and Connexions services provided for mainstream temporary accommodation. The tendering exercise underway for Children's Services supported accommodation would assist in ensuring greater consistency in service offer from providers.</p> <p>The Committee considered that work in relation to this vulnerable group of young people be included as an objective under the Corporate Parenting Strategy and a working group established to provide focussed work including development of early warning arrangements. It was proposed that this area of work would be more fitting for the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee and that it be considered at a future joint meeting of the Committees.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>CPAC53.</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN , YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS WHEN SUPPORTING AND ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>CPAC54.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT OF HARINGEY'S PROGRESS WITH THE LONDON PLEDGE</p> <p>Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>CPAC55.</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p>	

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as items 12 to 14 contained exempt information (as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government 1972; namely information likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and information relating to any individual) members of the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
<p>CPAC56.</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR COPPETS ROAD CHILDREN'S HOME</p> <p>The Committee were advised that a statement of purpose had been drafted for the relaunched Muswell House in line with the statutory duty. The Home would transition from a generic unit to a short term assessment unit. It was intended that the Home would ultimately offer a preventative service for placements at risk and take emergency admissions.</p> <p>The Committee considered that a maximum length stay be identified within the statement of purpose to reflect the shift towards being a short term assessment centre.</p> <p>It was advised that any further comments from Committee members should be submitted by 11 February to the Head Of Service, Commissioning & Placements.</p>	<p>Wendy Tomlinson</p>
<p>CPAC57.</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT VISITOR REPORTS</p> <p>The Committee considered an update on the Regulation 33 visits carried out on the two main Children's Homes within the borough. It was noted that a new report template was being used to highlight and track ongoing recommendations from independent visitor inspections and the association management action or response.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about certain issues being highlighted on a regular basis during Regulation 33 visits, thereby not appearing to be actioned as appropriate, for example some ongoing repair issues. It was felt that staff within the homes should be taking more responsibility for escalating repair issues appropriately and it was agreed that a system of prioritisation be introduced to allow categorisation of repairs/ faults to allow the identification of reasonable timescales within which remedial work be completed. It was also requested that clear end dates be established for completion of all management action required arising from recommendations.</p> <p>It was advised a review was underway into the allowance policy for CiC centred around providing a range of allowances depending on the situation of the child. It was agreed that these proposals be submitted for future consideration by the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair expressed serious concern about the ongoing delays in obtaining the registration certificate for the manager of Muswell House. An explanation of the source of the delays was requested.</p>	<p>Wendy Tomlinson Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Wendy Tomlinson</p> <p>Wendy Tomlinson</p>

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CPAC58.	CHILD SAFEGUARDING There were no issues at the current time.	
CPAC59.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee on 3 March be, if feasible, a joint meeting with the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee. It was requested that half an hour be set aside at the start of the meeting to serve as a CPAC only session to cover any additional Committee business.	

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2011

Councillors Amin, Davies, Hare and Rice

Apologies Councillor McNamara

Also Present: Councillor Stewart, Hilary Corrick(Independent Member) Marion Wheeler, Alison Botham and Sylvia Chew.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CSPAPC 30	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor McNamara. Councillor James Stewart attended in his place.</p>	
CSPAPC 31	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business submitted.</p>	
CSPAPC 32	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest submitted.</p>	
CSPAPC 33	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the 06th December 2010 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
CSPAPC 34	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Members noted that the report on the reconstitution of the committee was complete and scheduled to be considered at the Cabinet on the 08 February 2011. The draft report was tabled and members of the committee asked to provide any final comments to the clerk as soon as possible. The report further recommended annual joint meetings with the Corporate Parenting Committee and it was agreed to suggest a joint meeting be held in March or April.</p> <p>There was discussion around the terms of reference of the committee and the areas where there could be a cross over with the Corporate Parenting Committee. It was understood that the Corporate Parenting Committee had responsibility for Looked after Children but there could be a connection between the safeguarding aspects of children missing in care or the safeguarding aspects around the accommodation of Looked</p>	All to note Clerk

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	<p>after Children. The committee's responsibility for Looked after Children living at home was queried and it was explained that there was unlikely to be looked after Children living at home in the borough. This highlighted the need to ensure that Members of each of the children's committees had a firm understanding of the groups of children in need for whom they were concerned. Members suggested that a matrix was compiled which would set out the category and number of children in need. It could further include the committee the children were allocated to as part of the council's corporate responsibility. This information would further assist the children's committees in understanding the numbers of different children classed as in need and focussing their work around the interests of these children.</p> <p>In considering the committee work plan and noting a paper on the future of Children's Trusts, Members were advised that there was ongoing work to establish a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board. This would in time take on responsibility for safeguarding of children. It was agreed that a report on this subject be considered at a future meeting of the committee when there were definite proposals to consider.</p> <p>The training item proposed on child protection plans: challenges and issues for the March 7 2011 meeting was agreed. In the event that this was a joint meeting with the Corporate Parenting Committee, it was agreed that this training item be proposed as a joint item for consideration.</p> <p>The committee agreed that an audit of child protection cases was presented to the April 11th meeting.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>HC</p> <p>HC</p>
<p>CSPAPC 35</p>	<p>CAF ACTION PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>Members were reminded that the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) was an assessment tool used by agencies to assess a child's additional needs. The committee was provided with information on the activity undertaken to address the issues raised in the two audits of CAF practice.</p> <p>The key areas looked at were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How closely a case had been examined before a decision had been made that no additional service was required. ➤ Concerns about the Framework I data base and whether reports provided the required information about CAF activity. ➤ The back log of CAF cases in consideration by the CAF manager and the delays in a number of CAFs proceeding to the CAF panel for consideration. 	

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	<p>We noted that since the audit exercise in June 2010, 227 CAFs had been assessed between September and December. There were only 20 (10%) cases found to require no additional service for the child. This was an improvement on the previous results and showed that the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) was being used correctly, where needed, and there was more effective decision making as a result of this. We were advised that the Framework I data was under constant review to ensure it was accessible and could be reliably called upon to provide information when making assessments. We were pleased to note that the backlog of CAF cases, awaiting assessment by the panel, had been cleared. There had been extra panels convened in December and January to consider the outstanding applications. Members sought an understanding on the affect the delays would have had on clients awaiting decisions from the CAF panel and they noted the few cases where a decision would have been unduly delayed. Members were assured that the number of CAFs requiring consideration by the panel would be tracked and extra panels convened to respond to future peaks in demand as experienced in June when the audits were undertaken. We further learned about the working arrangements in the First Response team where Social Workers were having more immediate discussions with Teachers and Health visitors on CAF applications and also supporting their completion where needed.</p>	
<p>CSPAPC 36</p>	<p>FIRST RESPONSE PROCESSES AND PLANNING</p> <p>The committee considered detailed information about the service provided by First Response and the process by which referrals relating to Children and Young People living in Haringey and believed to either be in need of support or at risk of harm are managed and appropriate action taken.</p> <p>Members noted that the First Response department consists of 6 social work teams. This included the screening team, the first in the country of its kind, a multi agency triage service consisting of a core team of Metropolitan Police, Health Visitors and Social Work staff. This team has responsibility for screening contacts, made by fax and post with the First Response service about children and ensuring that appropriate action is undertaken according to the issue. There was extended support to this team from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health, the Youth Offending Service, Education Welfare and the Police Child abuse Investigation team. The duties of the remaining four teams: Social Work Team, the No Recourse to Public Funds team, the Emergency Duty Team and Local Authority Designated Officer, were also explained to the committee.</p> <p>The process for logging, processing and evaluating contacts about children was set out. It was noted that this collection of information was consistently monitored by a manager and where there was insufficient information supplied there would be proactive contact with the referrer to gather necessary additional information about the issues around the</p>	

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child. The committee noted that, due to the collated multi agency experience of the screening team, they were able to provide advice and information without the need for social work intervention when required. Examples of this provided were mothers with acute post natal depression, who could be supported by GP and health visitor and parenting advice for parents with adolescent children.

The committee were advised that contacts about children resulting in a referral to the social work teams were on average 20%. This was explained to be a good rate as it indicated that the initial contacts with the service were being dealt with effectively and only those requiring an initial assessment were being passed onto a social worker. When the committee enquired about monitoring the quality of decision making at this stage, they were advised that there was an audit exercise undertaken every six weeks to ensure that thresholds of need (agreements about levels of need and risk which will trigger referrals to universal or targeted services) were being correctly adhered to. The committee particularly noted that referrals of an urgent nature, such as those relating to child protection concerns, were dealt with immediately via a referral to the police (Child Abuse Investigation Team) and a strategy meeting.

The committee sought an understanding of the mechanisms in place to detect whether contacts were continuously being dealt with effectively. In response a number of conditions and indicators were outlined which would provide an awareness to managers of any issues and delays.

The committee continued to consider information on the initial and core assessments and discussed the complexities of dealing with cases of neglect. The committee noted that contacts regarding children or young people known to other parts of the service were passed to the named service. Similarly information on children known to other local authorities was passed to their allocated social worker. This was also the case with Looked after Children who were placed from outside the borough in the borough's 17 private children's homes. The committee noted that the Council held a general corporate parenting role for these 300 children and for children on child protection plans, living in temporary accommodation in the borough, but registered with other boroughs. The committee also noted the overriding responsibility that local services in the borough would have for these children.

An outline of the current referral rates and workload of the service was illustrated. The committee learned that families with multiple needs would require a team response. This was where the live partnership working of the screening team was invaluable. Clarification was sought and information provided on current social workloads and the committee noted the improvements made to the Framework I computer system to ensure it was user friendly.

RESOLVED

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	That the report be noted	
CSPAPC 37	<p>UPDATE ON JANUARY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>The committee considered an update on performance data for initial assessments. The data used to inform the report was available nationally and was submitted each year in May to the Department of Education. Haringey's performance on initial assessments was compared to other comparator boroughs.</p> <p>The committee was provided with the statutory context for safeguarding which local authorities had responsibility for. The two elements of safeguarding included: preventing a child from harm and promoting a child's welfare by maximising a child's opportunity for development. It was commented that there was significant focus nationally by social workers on preventing harm to a child but there was the overall question of how much social workers were promoting a child's welfare and understanding the key learning milestones of children as part of this safeguarding duty.</p> <p>The committee obtained information on the key areas looked at when completing an initial assessment which was completed within 10 working days of a referral being received. It was noted that, further to an initial assessment being completed, it could be decided that a core assessment will be required. This was a more in-depth assessment which would take 35 days to complete. Members sought assurances on the contingencies in place to prevent harm coming to a child within the 35 days that a core assessment will take to complete. In response, it was noted that, following any significant concerns about a child's welfare, proceedings would hastened significantly with court orders for taking the child into care sought before the completion of the core assessment. There was, in exceptional circumstances, available an emergency court order which could be obtained at very short notice if the situation was deemed urgent.</p> <p>The committee referred to the data on initial and core assessment and examined the rate of referrals and completion of assessments in comparison to other comparator boroughs. It was noted that the rate of completion of initial assessments had improved significantly by 2010/11. Previously performance had been lower in comparison to other comparator boroughs as it was affected by the need to complete and clear the backlog of cases. The timescale for completing initial assessments had been 7 days and this had been increased to 10 working days in 2010/2011. Other local authorities had also been using the 10 day timescale in 2010. The focus by the service had been on quality and ensuring that assessments were completed fully and correctly. The independent member of the committee suggested that the timeliness of completing assessment may be a future issue for the committee to commission work on and explore further. There was a</p>	

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	<p>balance in ensuring the quality of assessments but also allowing required action to be taken in the interest of the child by completing a timely initial assessment.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the report be noted</p>	
CSPAPC 38	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
CSPAPC 39	<p>FEEDBACK ON CORE AND INITIAL ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>The information in the example initial and core assessments provided to committee members was noted .Members were advised that conclusions and actions of the initial and core assessments were discussed with relevant agencies. Officers were working on producing new terms to aid the interpretation of information in these assessments and provide a fuller understanding on what impact the conclusions and actions will have.</p>	
CSPAPC 40	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Agreed that it be proposed to the Corporate Parenting Committee to meet jointly in March and to begin the meeting at 7.00pm.</p>	Clerk

Cllr Reg Rice

Chair



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:	17 March 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:	17 March 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.



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – December/January 2010 data
Lead Officer:	Debbie Haith
Date:	17 March 2011

1. Background

This report is an update of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of January 2011. 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:

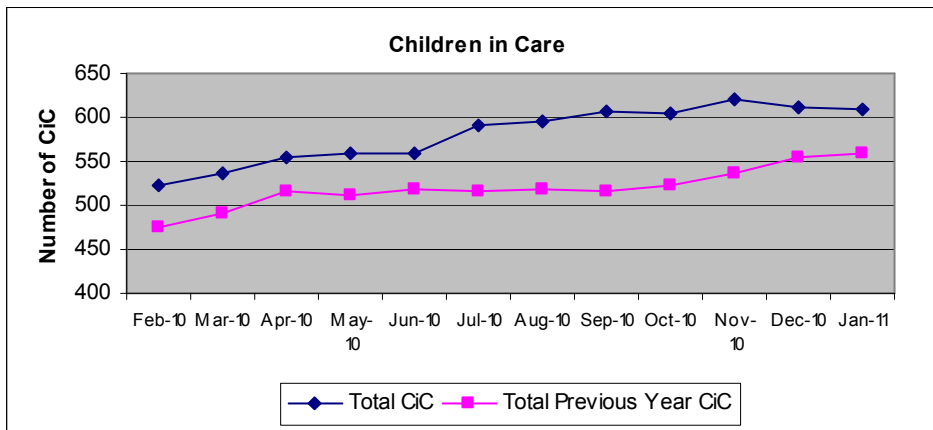
- Croydon
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Haringey
- Islington
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest
- Wandsworth



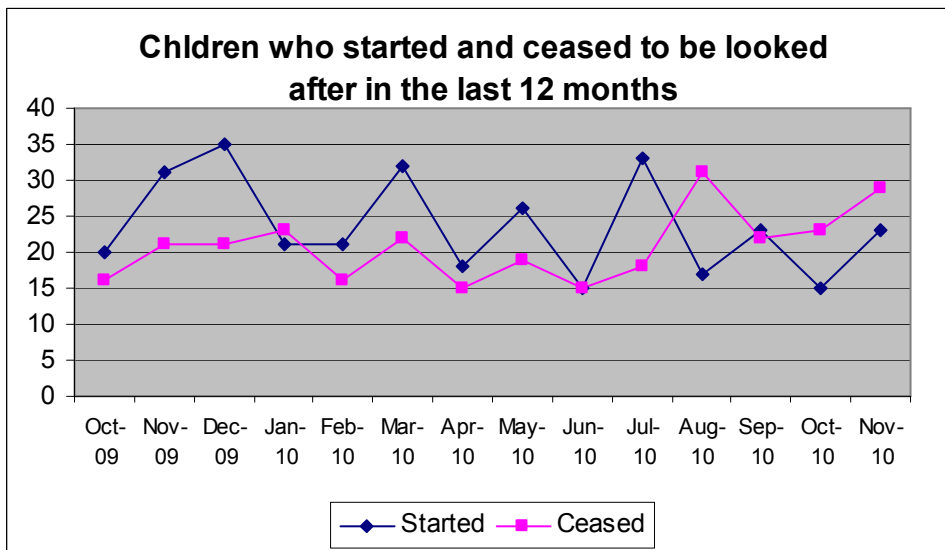
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2. Children in Care Performance Data – 31 January 2011

2.1 593 children were in care at 31 January 10 (based on a manual calculation done mid-year, this equates to an estimated 400 families). 17 children became looked after in the month and 24 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 have stabilised. 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, the number of children who started to be looked after has generally been higher than those ceasing over the year but this is beginning however the last 3 months have shown less of a fluctuation and indeed more children ceasing than starting in December and January:

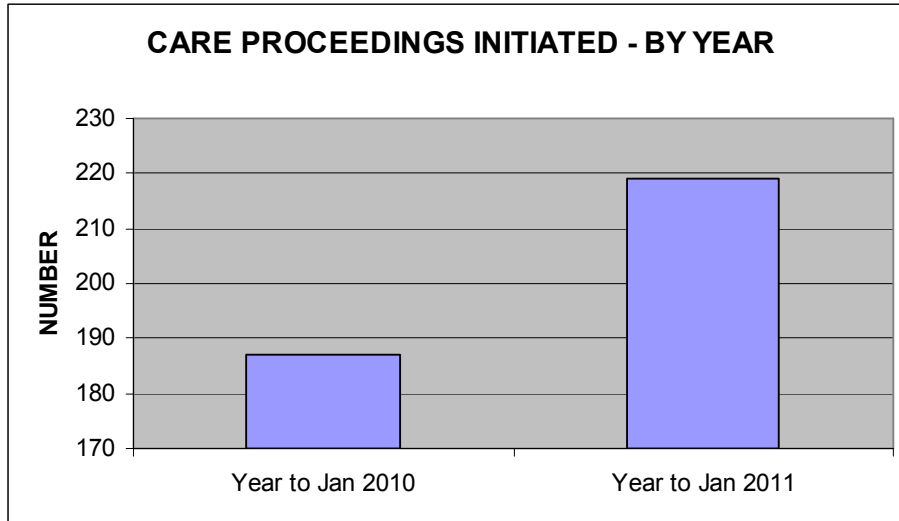


2.2 15 care proceedings were initiated in December and 12 in January. In the year to date (Apr- Jan) 183 care proceedings have been initiated. The graph below shows the increase in the 12 months to the end of January



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2010 and the 12 months to the end of January 2011. This is around 17% higher than the previous 12 months.

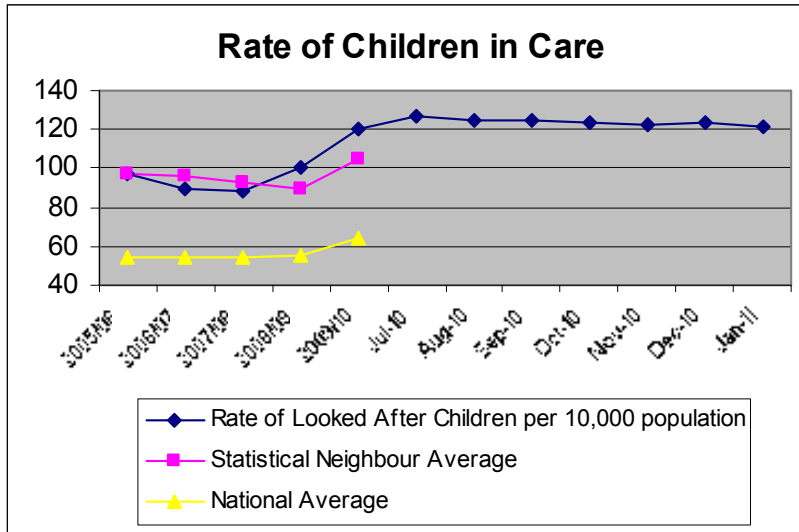


2.3 The total number of children in care at the end of January equates to a rate of 121 children per 10,000 population, a similar position to that at the end of March 2010. The table below shows a breakdown of numbers of children in care in our statistical neighbour comparator boroughs and rates per 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.

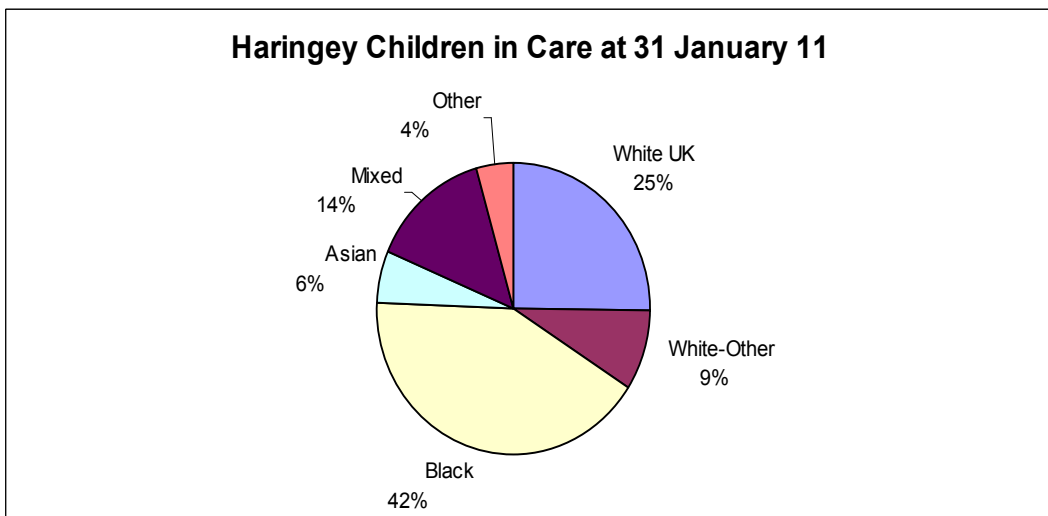
	2009/10	2009/10 Rate Per 10,000
Hackney	305	59
Ham and Fulham	255	82
Haringey	590	121
Islington	315	94
Lambeth	565	105
Lewisham	525	90
Southwark	555	101
Wandsworth	205	41
Croydon	1010	126
Greenwich	590	111
Waltham Forest	340	63
SN Average		90
National Average		58



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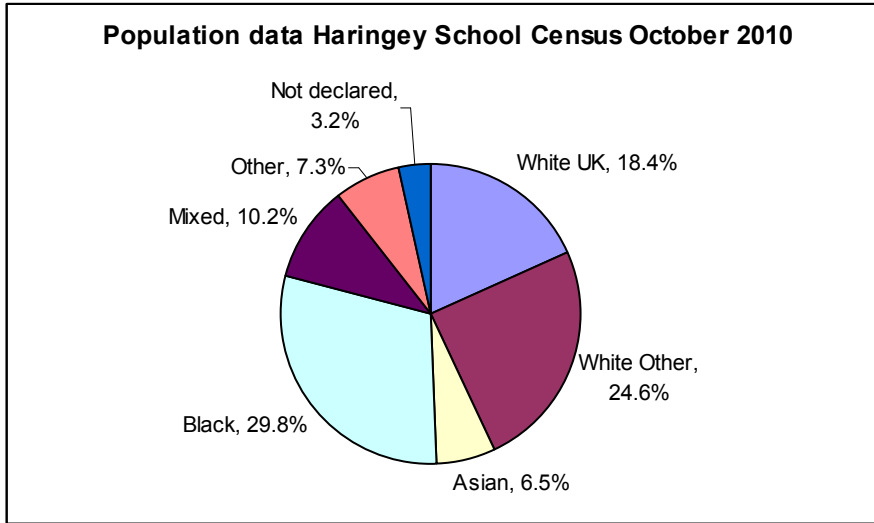
- 2.4 Of the 593 children in care at the end of January 2010:
- 34 are unaccompanied minors (5.7%).
 - 9 children are those who have been placed in care as a result of the Southwark Judgement (16/17 year olds presenting as homeless) (2%).
 - 26 are children recorded with a disability and allocated to the children with disabilities team (4%).
- 2.5 The ethnic breakdown of children in care at the end of January 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):



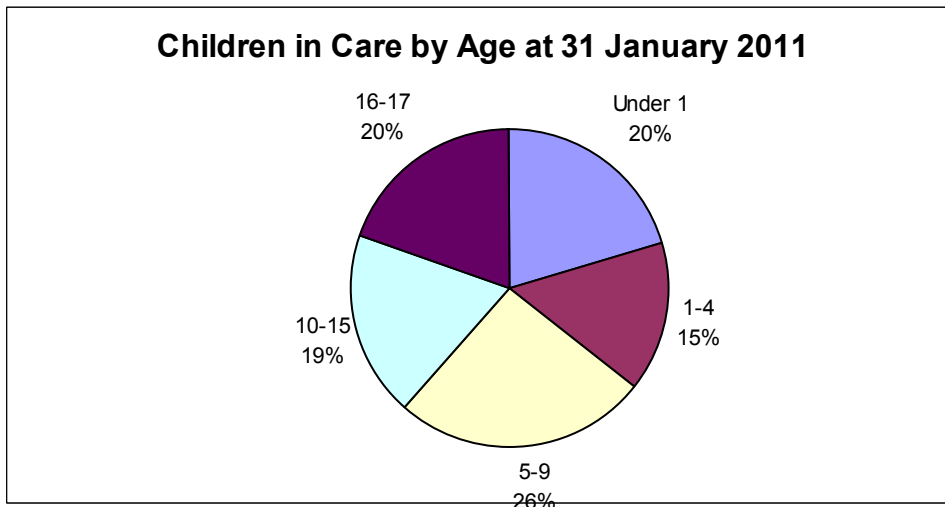
This chart shows that the largest proportion of children in care are black (42%), an over representation when compared with a population of around 30% of under 18's.



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2.6 The age breakdown of children in care at the end of January 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%).



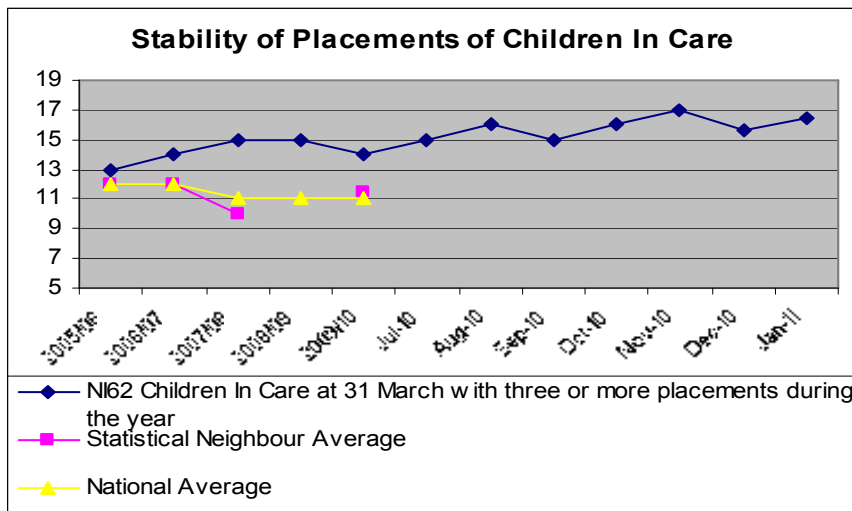
2.7 NI66 – Children in care must have their circumstances and care plan independently reviewed every 6 months. 89.3% of children in care cases which should have been reviewed during the year to date (Apr–Jan), were reviewed in timescale, this is 61 children who were not reviewed in timescale to date. This is slightly lower than comparator boroughs, however due to staff sickness/absence combined with the high numbers of children in care there has not been the capacity to deal with all reviews in a timely way.

2.8 NI 62 – 81 children in care at 31 January 2011 have had 3 or more placements in the year to date (Apr–Jan = 13.6%). 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 16.5% of children have had 3 or more placements. A review of all children with 2 or more placements in

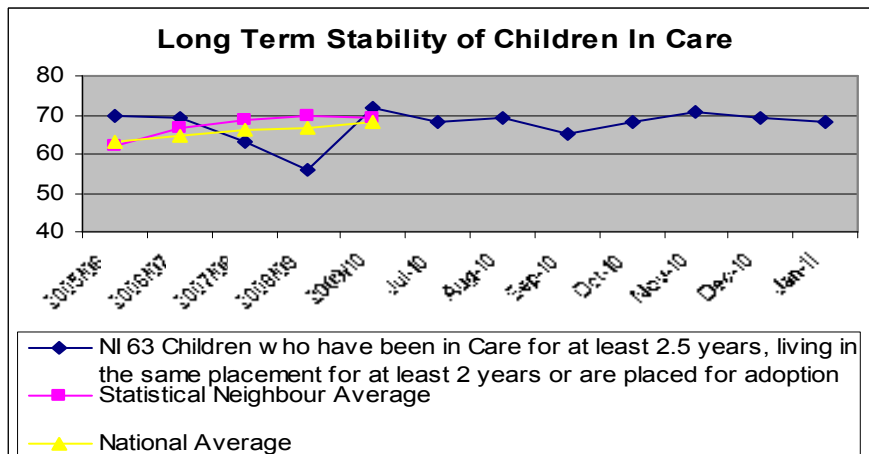


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the year was undertaken. Much of the initial movement of children relates to sibling groups being separated on initial placement until appropriate placements are found to ensure that where possible these siblings are placed together. There is also a particular pressure in this area due to the high number of children in care and difficulty in finding appropriate placements as soon as children are coming into care. Long term stability of children in care however remains at a good level and in line with averages. Findings from all analysis in this area will form part of the commissioning strategy for children’s 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. 68% of children in care for 2.5 years or more had been in their placement for at least 2 years at 31 January 2011. This is 98 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.



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


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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 December data and is updated quarterly – those shaded are those in our neighbouring boroughs). A map of children placed in other London boroughs is attached in appendix 1.

Haringey placed in	Number of Children placed outside Haringey	% of children placed outside Haringey By LA
Enfield	97	16.1%
Other	95	15.8%
Waltham Forest	41	6.8%
Redbridge	23	3.8%
Barnet	21	3.5%
Islington	19	3.1%
Kent	16	2.6%
Croydon	13	2.1%
Essex	13	2.1%
Lewisham	10	1.6%
Bexley	9	1.5%
Camden	9	1.5%
Havering	7	1.1%
Hillingdon	7	1.1%
Medway	7	1.1%
Newham	7	1.1%
Ealing	6	1.0%
Epping Forest	6	1.0%
Brent	5	0.8%
Hackney	5	0.8%
Surrey	5	0.8%

Total placed out borough	421	70%
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Total CiC @ 31 Dec 2010	600
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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,



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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	64
Islington	44
Enfield	29
Barnet	27
Camden	27
City of Westminster	11
Brent	10
Waltham Forest	10
Essex	8
Hammersmith & Fulham	8
Tower Hamlets	5
Total	243

* 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. 90% (527 out of 585) of children in care at the end of January (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 12 children have been adopted and 9 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, 8 out of the 11 children adopted were placed within 12 months (64%).

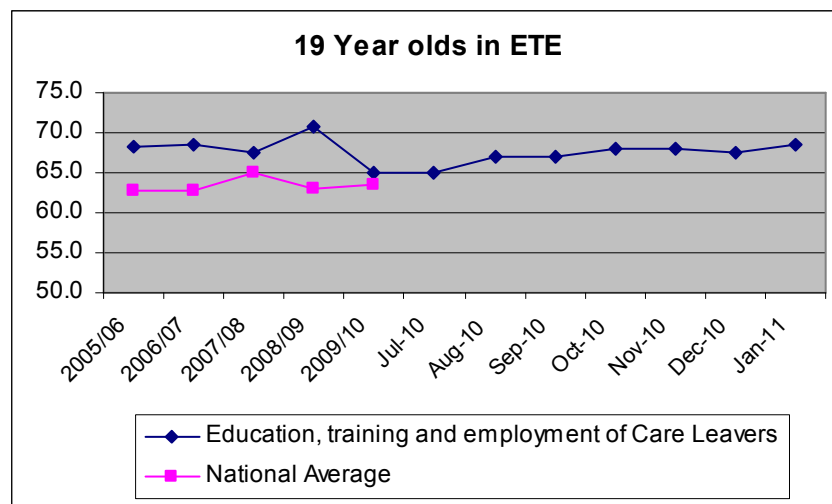
2.13 75% of children in care were placed in foster placements or placed for adoption at 31 January 2011 and 21% were placed in residential



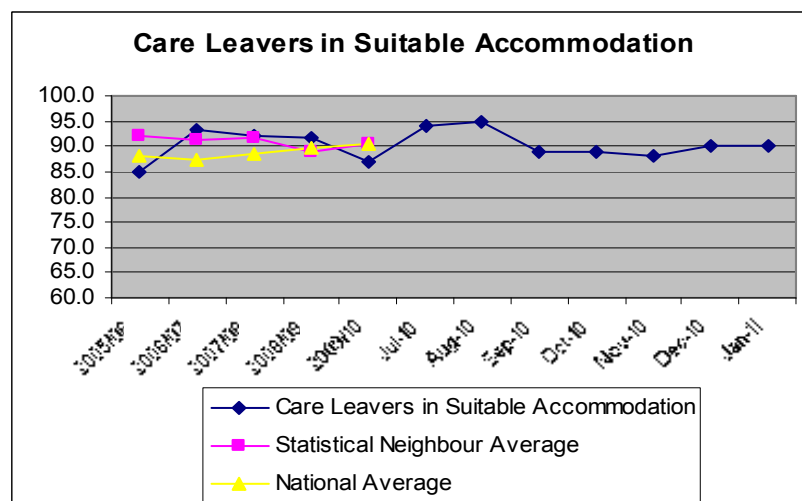
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accommodation. The remaining proportion of children are placed at home or missing from placement.

2.14 We report on two performance indicators in relation to young people leaving our care. One is a sub-set of the overall Not in Education Employment or Training activity - NI148 – 68.6% 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 35 out of 51 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 – 90.2% of care leavers turning 19 in the year to date were living in suitable accommodation on their 19th birthday. This is 46 out of 51 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 December 2010 and January 2011. In the 2 months, 25 children were reported as missing/absconding from care on a total of 104 occasions. Of these, 13 children went missing for over 24



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hours on a total of 34 occasions. 12 children were counted as 'absconding' from their placements on 70 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 13 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	0
6-12	0
13-15	11
16-17	2

- Of the total 13 children who went missing for more than 24 hours, all were in Children's Homes.

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 January:

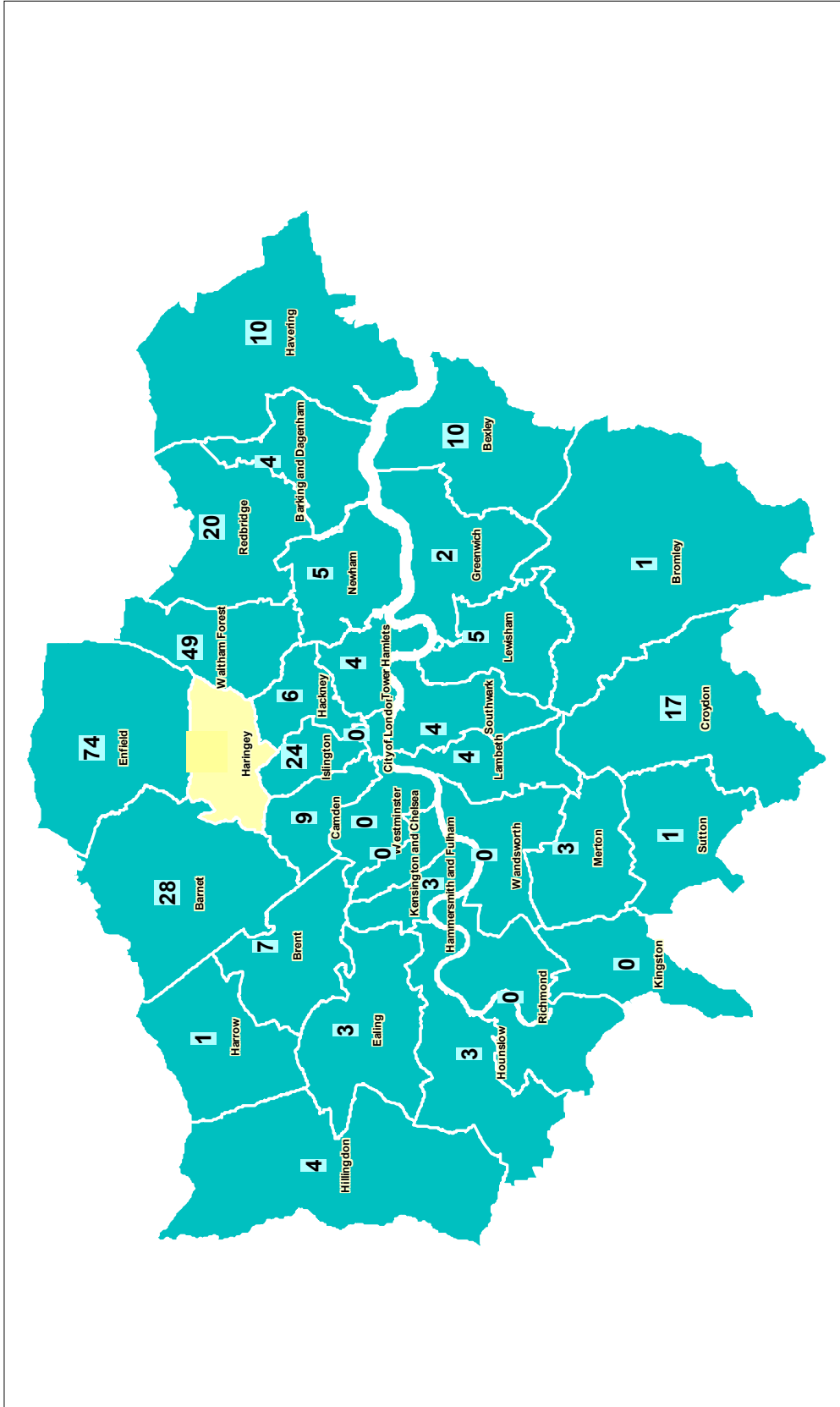
- We have had 20 enquiries
- 4 people attended information sessions
- 5 prospective carers attended initial visits. From this visit and assuming they are still interested and we believe they are potential carers, they will attend a 2 week training/preparation course and be taken through a lengthy and detailed assessment which is then presented to the Fostering Panel
- 16 new carers have been approved in the year to date (Apr-Feb)

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



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Appendix 1 – Map of Haringey Children placed in London Boroughs – updated September 2010



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