



**Haringey** Council

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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# **Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee**

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TUESDAY, 19TH APRIL, 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 16 below.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the consideration becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

**4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 12)**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2011. To also receive, for information purposes, the minutes of the joint meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee on the 17 March 2011.

- 5. MATTERS ARISING**
- 6. DISCUSSION WITH JUDY MACE, DESIGNATED CHILDREN IN CARE NURSE, ON HER WORK WITH CHILDREN IN CARE**
- 7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PAGES 13 - 24)**
- 8. ATTENDANCE OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICER TO DISCUSS WORK ON THE STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS**
- 9. DEVELOPMENT WORK ON DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF ISOLATION FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE (PAGES 25 - 32)**

The report will provide the Committee with information on the work being undertaken to support young people leaving care and tackling the issues of isolation.

- 10. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY (PAGES 33 - 50)**

Committee to consider the final draft of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for agreement.

- 11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of items 12 and 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. EXEMPT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (PAGES 51 - 52)**

To consider specified performance data for Children in Care.

- 13. INDEPENDENT VISITOR REPORTS (PAGES 53 - 58)**

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

- 14. VERBAL UPDATE ON RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES**

- 15. CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

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

- 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Ayshe Simsek  
Principal Committee Coordinator  
Tel: 0208 489 2965  
Fax: 0208 489 2660  
Email: [ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk)

11 April 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2011**

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

Apologies Councillor Alexander

Also Present: Councillor Solomon, Debbie Haith, Chris Chalmers, Attracta Craig, Wendy Tomlinson.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC60	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alexander. Councillor Solomon attended the meeting in her place.</p>	
CPAC61	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business submitted.</p>	
CPAC62	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests submitted.</p>	
CPAC63	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
CPAC64	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Members of the Committee considered the matters arising report and noted the following:</p> <p><b>The Corporate Parenting Strategy</b>  This was due to be considered by the Scrutiny Panel, for Corporate Parenting, and would return to this Committee for final consideration on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011.</p> <p><b>Update on the Director of Children's and Young People's Service planned meeting with the Judiciary to discuss delays in court care proceedings.</b> A briefing note from the Director of Children and Young people's service on his meeting with Judge Altman was attached for information.</p> <p><b>A report on the development work on dealing with issues of isolation faced by young people leaving care.</b> This report would follow to Committee in April 19<sup>th</sup> 2011.</p>	<p>Debbie Haith</p> <p>Chris Chalmers</p>

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**Regular Update on North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium**

The Committee noted that the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium had met last week and they had agreed to look at their development plans for the next financial year. This would include: exploring how the boroughs can share foster carers, share training opportunities for foster carers, examine the differences in allowances for Foster care. The Committee noted that there was a dedicated post working for the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium. This post holder would, among other work duties, be examining the spend of each member borough on Foster care providers and how a joint procurement process could be delivered. A work programme for the Consortium would be ready for consideration by this Committee after May 2011.

Clerk

It was noted that the North London Adoption and Fostering consortium website routed visitors to the Council's webpage for fostering and that this was still showing out of date information. It was agreed that the Head of Children's Commissioning and Placements consider the statistical information held and update as required.

Wendy Tomlinson

The Committee enquired about the Council's response to the Government's new initiative on Adoption which indicated allowing children to be based with families not from their same ethnic background. The Committee were advised that the initiative still advocated the best interest of the child as a priority which was what the Council followed in decision making on adoption. Placing a child with the same ethnic family was part of considering the best interests of the child and it could sometimes be the case that there were not exact racial matches made when choosing parents for adopted children.

**CPAC attending a Young and in Care Council** - It was noted that a joint meeting between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Young and in Care Council would be progressed.

**Totals Respect Training** -The Committee noted that the weekend dates for the Total Respect training were not going ahead. The previously arranged training dates of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April with a follow up session on the 02 August were available for members of the Committee to participate in.

All to note

**Registration certificate for manager at Coppetts Road** .The Committee were informed that there was frequent contact with OFSTED to ensure that they had received and were considering the necessary information required to issue the registration certificate for the Manager at Coppetts Road Children's Home. The interview process for the manager would be initiated once authorisation had been given by OFSTED.

All to note

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	<p><b>Items for the next meeting</b> The Committee agreed that the senior designated Children in Care Nurse be invited to this meeting and the Independent Review Officer would report on work completed on stability of placements. The Committee would also consider the standing items on Performance, Regulation 33 visits, and Coppetts Road Children's Home.</p>	Clerk
CPAC65	<p><b>SAFEGUARDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS WHEN SUPPORTING AND ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the key issues being considered in the development of a strategy for safeguarding looked after children, young people and care leavers when supporting and enabling them to access IT and communication technology. It was explained to the Committee that, when considering the access to information networks, this was not solely about controlling access within the home but that it was more about creating external knowledge and awareness among carers and parents about these systems and encouraging personal safety of the users. The Deputy Director for Children and Families set out the initial principles of the strategy which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people have the opportunity to use ICT to enhance their learning opportunities, develop ICT skills and communicate in the virtual environment</li> <li>• Carers provided opportunities to develop their own knowledge and skills in ICT so that they are better able to monitor use of ICT by young people and support their use of it.</li> <li>• There was the expectation from the Council that Service providers will need to demonstrate that they can support appropriate access to ICT and have a clear e – safety policy which was more advanced than the standard security programmes and understandable to carers and children.</li> <li>• Haringey managed services would need to have local e- safety policies which were communicated effectively to foster carers and other support services that were contracted and work with children and young people in care. These policies would need to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they responded to changes in technology and are able to safeguard users.</li> </ul> <p>Members commented on the initial work completed on the strategy, and sought clarity on the position of schools in this. The Committee advised that it would be worthwhile reminding staff and teachers, of looked after children, of the additional risks attached to vulnerable children and young people accessing social networking sites. It was agreed that this safeguarding element, of access to information technology, be incorporated in the Virtual School policy.</p>	Attracta Craig

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	<p>Members remarked on the disparity between section 3 and 4 of the report. Section 3 which communicated that looked after children living in residential settings were not permitted access to technology in their private rooms but in section 4, which provided guidance for Foster carers there was no mention of IT access for children being open or private. It was felt to be a need for the strategy to also keep in mind the mobile access to technology which children and young people in care may have. In response to these points, the Committee were advised that the strategy was only concerned with information technology which is owned or managed by the Council and the Committee agreed that the strategy should make this more explicit. There were however broader issues of how looked after children and young people are made aware of the dangers of internet social networking sites and a need to develop their understanding of what were safe and unsafe situations, particularly with the increased use of mobile technology where there was not a fixed control over.</p> <p>In relation to monitoring the use of mobile information technology as communicated in section 4.1.5, there was a need to also apply this rule to the residential working practices. This was because there were occasions when staff at residential settings would be taking care of the belongings of children and young people living there.</p> <p>The Committee advised that, when computer equipment was provided to foster carers for use by the children and young people in their care, clarification should be sought on their skills and knowledge of IT and the internet to ascertain any relevant training needs.</p> <p>The Committee also commented that the implementation of the strategy would be as important as the strategy itself. They recommended that the training provided to staff should be kept fully up to date with the changes in technology continually factored and the training adapted. Foster carers and staff at residential settings should be made to feel that they are confident and understanding of the uses of information technology and what Children and young people can and cannot access. Also they should feel they are able to provide advice to children and young people on what are and are not safe situations to be when online.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the forthcoming updated report should clearly distinguish the rules and principles that will be relevant to access to fixed computer technology and mobile technology. It was noted that there would be further consultation with foster carers, residential staff and young care leavers and a final version of the report to return to Committee at a forthcoming meeting.</p>	<p>Debbie Haith</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p>
CPAC66	<p><b>ASSESSMENT OF HARINGEY'S PROGRESS WITH THE LONDON PLEDGE</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the London Pledge was drawn up in 2008, and adopted by the Children's Trust, to ensure that children and young</p>	



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people in care across London had equal access to the same range of key services and support where they live, go to school, or access employment or training opportunities in London. The report set out the pledge principles and detailed how the Council were meeting these promises. The achievements in the overarching areas were: promises that were made to young people were clear, specialist looked after children nurse team established, and a complaints procedure for looked after children and young people.

When considering the health principles of the pledge, the Committee were informed that a multi agency forum had been established to address health, education and placements needs of LAC. Individual health assessments were undertaken by Doctors and follow up reviews completed by a designated Children in Care Nurse, Judy Mace, who was also due to attend the next Committee meeting of the Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> April .The joint work of the Council with Tailstock Centre was pointed to as well as the signposting of children and young people to sexual health services as part of this pledge. An enquiry was made on the attendance of young people at their healthcare meetings and it was reported that, as these meetings were not compulsory, it was usual for young people in care to sometimes not attend these meetings. In relation to health visits to LAC outside of the borough, it was noted that the designated CiC nurse from the borough would travel to outside borough locations to visit CiC with weekend visits also completed when needed. The Committee agreed that the complaints procedure for children in care should be made available and published online as previously requested.

Chris  
Chalmers

In the stay safe section of promises to young people, the Committee noted that young people will be consulted on their pathway plans. There would be contact and liaison, where needed, with the Youth Offending Service in the young persons new placement area.

The provisions of the Virtual School were highlighted in the section dealing with enjoy and achieve. In particular their work on intervention at critical learning stages to ensure that children go onto achieve between the ages of 16-19. The 18 projects, which assist young people leaving care, also helped young people access University. The Committee noted that there were 44 care leavers attending University. The Committee enquired about the support services to them and advised that there were potentially more bursaries available in future for access to with the Frank Butler trust referred to as a potential funding source. The Committee were advised that the Council would issue looked after children with a £2000 bursary that are attending University. There was a team which actively worked on accessing all potential funding sources to offer to care leavers and to improve the attraction of going to University.

In regards to encouraging a positive contribution in the community, activities relating to this pledge were well established with a range of activities for involving young people who included working with Tottenham Hotspur. The Council were promoting the independence of

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	<p>care leavers with provision of 50 housing units each year .Children and young people in care would also have a savings account opened for them by the Council. In relation to utilising access to leisure services, it was noted that within the foster carer’s allowance, there was allocation for leisure activities which allowed for the young person to pick the activities they were most interested in.</p> <p>The Committee considered the views of the Young and in Care Council on how they saw the progression with the promises made in the pledge. Following the tone and content of their response, the key message was that the Council needed to work harder on explaining how they were considering their views and what changes in services and working practices had occurred as a result of their views. The directorate gave great emphasis to listening and relating to children and young people. It was clear that there would need to be a wider representation of youth at various meetings, events and consultations. There was a need to communicate more effectively to children and young people in care the pledge and its promises regarding them so that they were more aware of them. The Committee recommended that the communication with children and young people in care should be not be in a single format but completed in an array of ways to ensure that they were fully aware of the importance placed by the Council on obtaining their views. This would also aid furthering their understanding on what services were working for them. The Committee also suggested that a further version of the Corporate Parenting Strategy could be completed which was more accessible to children and young people in care.</p>	<p>Chris Chalmers</p> <p>Debbie Haith</p>
CPAC67	<p><b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the performance report and were asked to raise any concerns by email to the Deputy Director of Children’s and Families.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
CPAC68	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The next meeting was on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 6.30pm. Councillor Peacock’s apologies were noted for this meeting.</p>	

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair

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Councillors Allison, Amin, Corrick, Engert, Hare, Peacock, Reith(Chair), Rice, Stennett and Watson

Apologies Councillor Davies, Alexander, and McNamara

Also Present: Councillor Solomon, Peter Lewis, Debbie Haith, Marion Wheeler, Sylvia Chew, Iain Lowe, Chris Chalmers, Attracta Craig,

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTON BY</b>
<b>JCCPSC 1</b>	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</b></p> <p>The Chair of Corporate Parenting Committee and Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee had discussions, outside the meeting, regarding the appointment of the Chair for these Joint meetings and had agreed that they would alternate this responsibility. The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee would begin this arrangement by chairing this first Joint meeting between these two Cabinet Advisory bodies.</p>	All to note
<b>JCCPSC 2</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None were declared.</p>	
<b>JCCPSC 3</b>	<p><b>COURT AND LEGAL PROCESS</b></p> <p>A briefing was provided to the Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice on how children's social care cases are managed through the family courts. The Joint Committee noted that there were: currently 600 looked after children, over 300 children subject to Child protection plans and also over 300 children that were the subject of 156 court proceedings. It was noted that, in the past 18 months, the number of proceedings had increased by over 17%. This had significant cost implications for the Council as the cost per set of proceedings was £4825. The circumstances and procedures for application to court for care and supervision orders were set out in the report. It was explained to the Joint Committee, that a care order would provide the Local Authority with parental responsibility for a child or young person, parents would not lose their parental responsibility and the emphasis was that the local authority would work in partnership with the parents. The thresholds for meeting a care order requirement, which the Local Authority must evidence, were outlined along with the main principles underlying court case management and the overriding objective in public law</p>	

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proceedings. There was also information on the duties which the courts and the Local Authority had in regard to the timetable for the Child. These guidelines were to ensure that there was due regard given to the significant steps in a child's life, these would include social, health and educational steps. There was also an update on the action being taken by the Local Authority to reduce the delays in the court care proceedings; this included having a dedicated team which had responsibility for children in care proceedings. There were currently proposals for external local performance improvement groups that would be multi agency and linked to local courts to provide a forum to deal with issues which arise locally such as delays in proceedings.

Members sought an understanding on the length of care proceedings, and whether these delays were being experienced solely by the Council. Members asked how the Local Authority could influence the court process to ensure that the children/young people, subject to the court care proceedings, faced as minimal amount of disruption and upheaval as possible. It was noted that the Director of Children and Young People's has been involved in discussions with the Greater London Family Panel (all judges and magistrates across London hearing care cases) and their chair (and Lead Judge for London) HHJ Altman. This has culminated in the Director being invited to join the London Family Justice Panel. This Panel, chaired by HHJ Altman, is the practice body for all London care courts where practice is monitored and new approaches developed to try and improve the work of the courts. The Panel meets quarterly and the Director will join the Panel for the first time in June 2011, though he is involved in work prior to those reviewing proposals by the Panel to the Family Justice Review being undertaken by the Government. The aim of this participation was to be in key position to communicate with principal legal counterparts the impact of delayed care proceedings and be in position to expedite them. There had already been preliminary discussions on reducing the number of court appearances. It was noted that some cases from Haringey would last over 60 weeks. The service was seeking to reduce this to at least 40 weeks. The Committee noted the causes of delays which were the number of independent expert witnesses statements being required and residential assessments. The high number of cases coupled with the delays to proceedings due to requests for extra information was also placing an increased pressure on support services for Children.

In terms of the Local Authority's role in the court process and the submission of evidence, it was noted that it could be more straightforward for the courts to consider evidence which showed physical neglect to a child with reports and photographic evidence, however it could be challenging to prove the detrimental impact of neglect on a child. Although photographic evidence of living conditions and additional reports provided by local authorities was considered, it was often the case that external expert evidence was also again requested. The Committee were assured that the Council's management of cases through the court process was seen to be paramount. The Joint Committee learned that court reports are seen by managers and

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	<p>Legal Services before submission. The care plan for the child in question would need to be signed off by the Head of Service. The Committee were reminded that the Children's service had been re-organised to enable the formation of a team dedicated to dealing with children's social care proceedings. This team work closely with legal and has a high level of expertise and skill in working with the Court process.</p> <p>The information provided was noted by the Committee.</p>	
<p><b>JCCPSP 4</b></p>	<p><b>SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORT</b></p> <p>The independent member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee provided the Committee with information on Section 47 of the Children's Act 1989 which set out the regulatory framework which Local authorities were obliged to follow for safeguarding children. There then followed a report on the Safeguarding and Support service which puts into practice these obligations. It was noted that the Safeguarding and Support team is separate to the First Response and Children in Care teams and delivers services to the most vulnerable in the borough. This service will be responsible for children that are subject to Child Protection Plans, Children in Need Plans and Supervision Orders. It was noted that there were 326 children and young people subject to Child Protection plans; this was an increase of 47% from two years ago. There were 141 children under 5 subject to CP Plans in the borough and this was an increase of 50% from Feb 2009. These increases were not dissimilar to those seen by other boroughs.</p> <p>The report set out the procedures and functions followed for Child Protection Conferences, and the Committee noted that according to London Safeguarding Procedures children and young people subject to these plans should be seen every 6 weeks. The Council were ensuring that children were seen every 4 weeks and looking to reduce this further to visits every two weeks. The report went onto explain the duties followed by Social Workers in Child Protection Plans and the additional role of the Safeguarding Panel. It was noted that there were 253 children and young people as at 28 February subject to child protection plans. Although there was no definitive time for a child or young person being subject to a child protection plan, key factors were the timing of services provided and the family's engagement with the process.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that there were 350 children/young people on Children in Need Plans. These children did not meet the criteria for a section 47 safeguarding investigation but would meet the criteria to receive a service from the Children's Social Care through Haringey's Consortium of Need and Intervention.</p> <p>Following the Baby Peter case, understanding was sought by the Joint Committee of the improvements in safeguarding in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Worker numbers and case loads</li> </ul>	

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- Supervision of Social Workers
- Sharing of Information among agencies
- Legal case work
- Auditing

The Joint Committee noted that there was a significant increase in the number of Social Workers and managers in the service with a majority of them Haringey employees which made a difference to the stability and efficiency of the service. The improvements in information sharing were easily apparent by the knowledge held by Social Workers of the contact points in service areas such as Adults and Housing.

A key issue, which was heavily emphasised by the service, was having a full knowledge of the visitors and residents to a child's home. The audits undertaken on child protection plans would also check the frequency of the visits made to a child's home. The Committee were advised that these audits were designed to identify any issues with working practices and gain an understanding of the themes emerging.

The supervision of Social Workers and practitioners and level of challenge to their work was felt to be correct. The quality working practices of the current Social Workers meant that they were more capable of dealing with challenging families. There had been training sessions around authoritative practices and ensuring that Social Workers were fully aware of the legal responsibilities around their roles. The relationship between Children's Services and Legal was reported to be very good with advice provided at the right time. There was also casework planning meetings between Children's services and Legal to challenge and scrutinise the process. There were good comments noted from new Social Workers on the manageable caseloads.

In regards to families understanding their role in the child protection plan and the expectations of them, Social Workers were trained to be clear in writing in the plan what changes in behaviour were needed from the family. In those cases, where there were issues of neglect, and the circumstances had not changed after a specified period, there would be a child protection conference to agree that care proceedings could be taken forward, this would be either through a legal order or by the family's consent.

Members asked about the proposal to having fortnightly visits to children on child protection plans and whether this would create additional work pressures for Social Workers in the service. In response it was felt, with the improvements made by the service, this would be achievable.

Members enquired about the process after a child/young person ceases to be the subject of a child protection plan and were advised that families are sign posted to universal services. It was noted that information on children and families, that have been subject to child protection plans and children in need plans, is required to be kept on record by the service for the positive reasons, that in the event the family require

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	<p>more support in the future, there is an understanding of their dynamics . This information may also be required in later years or be required by another borough if the family are moving and require support or signposting to relevant services. There would also be efforts made to obtain the family's views after the plan has ceased to counter against the feelings of stigma at having been the subject of a Child Protection Plan.</p> <p>In relation to Children in Need plans, more clarity was sought on the time period of the plans and the types of issues that would necessitate this plan as opposed to a Common assessment Framework (CAF). It was explained that some families will need a co-ordinated approach to accessing universal services as sign posting will not be sufficient. Therefore a Social worker will be assigned to co-ordinate this access for the family.</p> <p>The report and information received was noted by the committee</p>	
<p><b>JCCPSP 5</b></p>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the items below as they contain exempt information as defined in section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by section 12a of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1&amp;2; namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>	
<p><b>JCCPSP 6</b></p>	<p><b>ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF CHILD PROTECTION CASES</b></p> <p>The independent member of the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee introduced the report which accompanied the previous report on the Safeguarding and Support services and specifically focused on Child Protection Plans, their challenges and issues. The independent member had examined a small sample of 15 cases starting with referrals and assessment undertaken in the first week of November, examining their case notes in February and looking at their outcomes in the first week of March.</p> <p>The Committee noted and discussed the findings of this qualitative research. It was noted that six of the 15 cases were closed or planned to be closed. Two of the children had a Child in Need plan, two children were in the care system. The remaining 5 children had good child protection plans in place. There was concern communicated about the timescales for holding Initial Child Protection Conferences which were required within 15 working days of strategy discussions and would have helped agencies come to a quicker conclusion on the child's needs. This was attributed to pressures on the conference timetable as the need for an ICPC can only be identified at the end of strategy discussions and therefore arrangements for the conference initiated after this time. It was also important to note, the timing of the audit, which was the lead up to</p>	

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	<p>the OFSTED inspection and also the seasonal time of year for staff leave. There had been previous independent audits commissioned by the Deputy Leader on adherence of the service to quality and timing of assessments which showed good practices in place. These key service area audits had also looked at the initial responses to a referral, strategy discussions and if the child had been seen alone. Because of the good improvement of the service, the audits were now concerned with examining practices in different parts of the services. The service itself also completed a high number of internal audits to continually monitor working practices and adherence to mandatory timescales and this could be an area of work which was reported on to the next Joint Committee meeting.</p> <p>Further to considering this agenda item, the Joint Committee members noted that Members enquiries related to children's services could be sent to Debbie Haith, Deputy Director for Children and Families.</p> <p>The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and contributions to the Joint meeting. It had been useful and worthwhile for the Committee to explore and discuss the areas of child protection which overlapped between the responsibilities of both Committees. Twice yearly meetings of the Corporate parenting Committee and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee were planned and in the intervening periods the Committees would refer relevant issues to each other.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All to note</p>
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Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair





**Haringey Council**

<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Management Data in Children and Families – February 2011 data
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Debbie Haith
<b>Date:</b>	19 April 2011

## 1. Background

This report is an update of Children in Care National Indicators and other key performance information at the end of February 2011. In addition it provides details of outturns for 2010 and targets for 2010/11.

Part 2 of this report is a sample of case examples to supplement performance data. This information is exempt under schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

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:

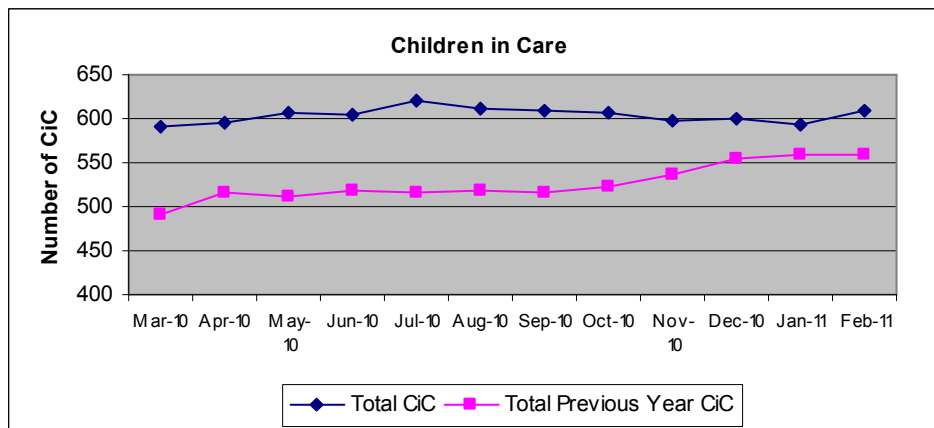
- Croydon
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Haringey
- Islington
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest
- Wandsworth



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## 2. Children in Care Performance Data – 28 February 2011

- 2.1 Following a sharp rise in numbers of children in care in 2009/10, although slightly higher, overall numbers of children in care have stabilised throughout 2010/11. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of care proceedings initiated in this year with 201 care proceedings initiated between April 10 and February 11 compared with 186 between April 09 and March 10, requiring more complex work and allocation of resource.
- 2.2 At the end of February 2011, there were 609 children in care (based on a manual calculation done mid-year, this equates to an estimated 400 families). This remains higher than comparator averages. 44 children became looked after in the month and 33 children ceased to be looked after in the month. The chart below shows the month by month changes to the total numbers of children in care compared with the previous year.

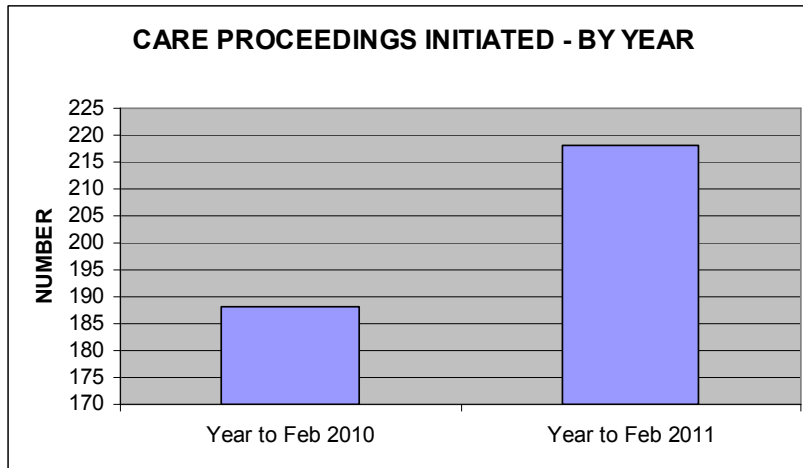


<b>Children who Came into Care by Age – Feb 2011</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>
Under 1	5
1-4	9
5-9	9
10-15	15
16-17	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>



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18 care proceedings were initiated in February. The graph below shows the increase in the 12 months to the end of February 2010 and the 12 months to the end of February 2011. This is around 16% higher than the previous 12 months.

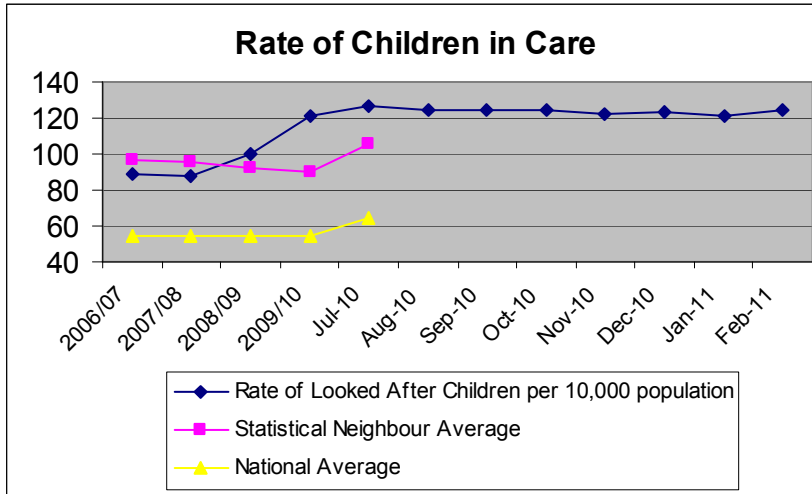


2.3 The total number of children in care at the end of February equates to a rate of 124 children per 10,000 population, a slightly higher position to that at the end of March 2010. The table below shows a breakdown of numbers of children in care in our statistical neighbour comparator boroughs and rates 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 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
<b>Haringey</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>121</b>
Islington	315	94
Lambeth	565	105
Lewisham	525	90
Southwark	555	101
Wandsworth	205	41
Croydon	1010	126
Greenwich	590	111
Waltham Forest	340	63
SN Average		90
National Average		58



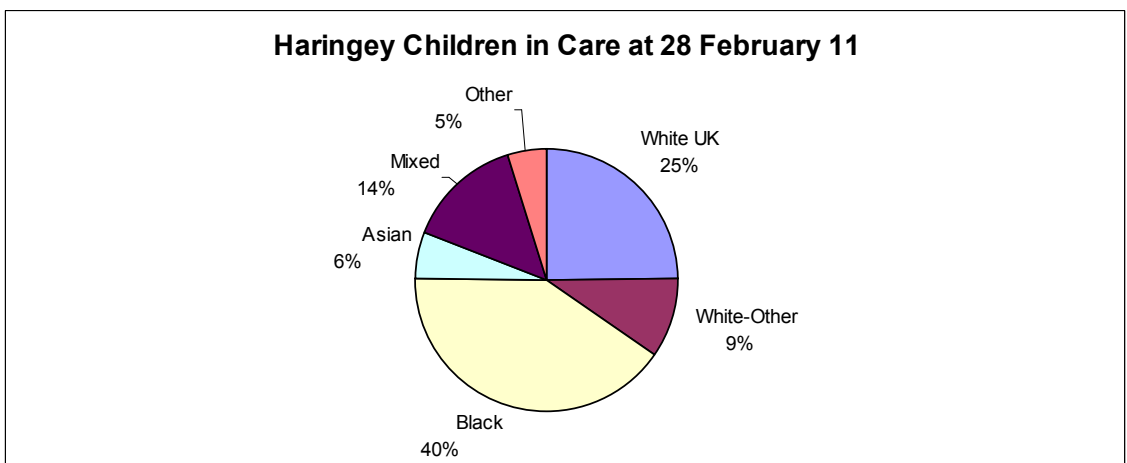
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2.4 Of the 609 children in care at the end of February 2010:

- 39 are unaccompanied minors (6.4%).
- 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%).
- 28 are children recorded with a disability and allocated to the children with disabilities team (4.6%).

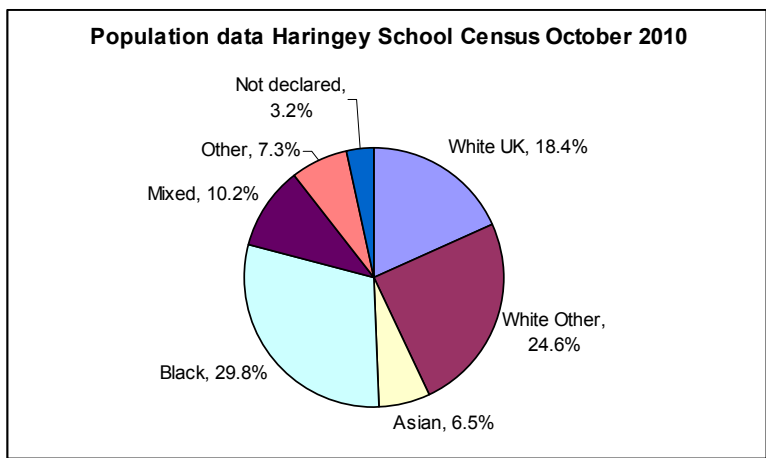
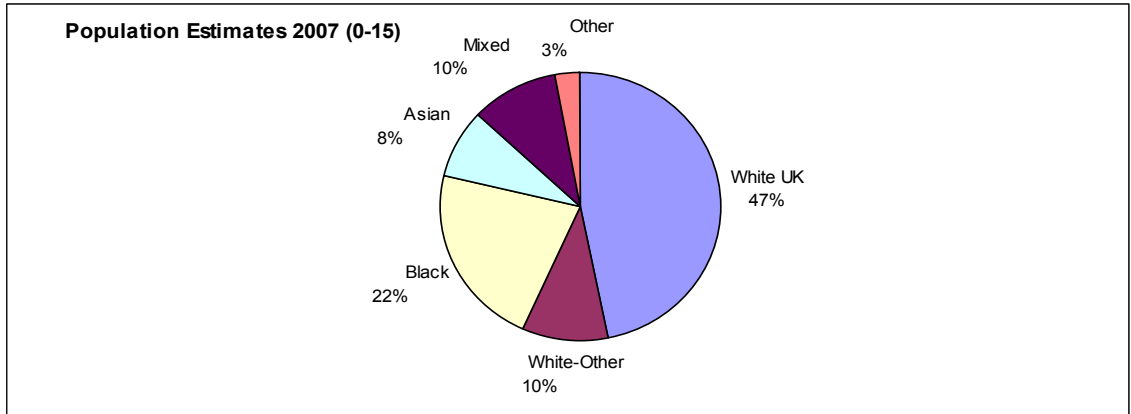
2.5 The ethnic breakdown of children in care at the end of February is detailed in the charts below, this also shows a breakdown of 2001 census data on ethnicity of children aged 0-17 in the borough and the 2007 population estimates for children aged 0-15 in the borough (estimates are not available for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



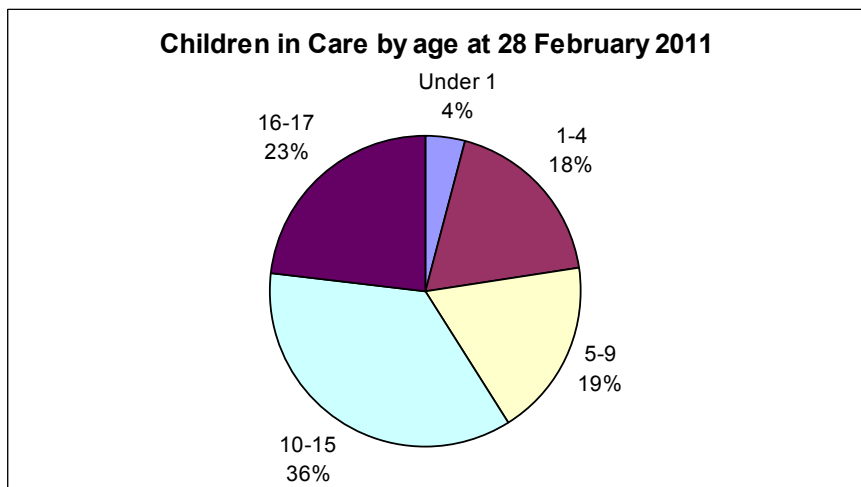
This chart shows that the largest proportion of children in care are black (40%), an over representation when compared with a school population of around 30% of under 18's or 22% of 0-15 (ONS population statistics).



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2.6 The age breakdown of children in care at the end of February is as detailed below, the largest proportion of children we currently work with are between 10 and 15 year olds (36%) and the smallest proportion is those under 1 (4%).



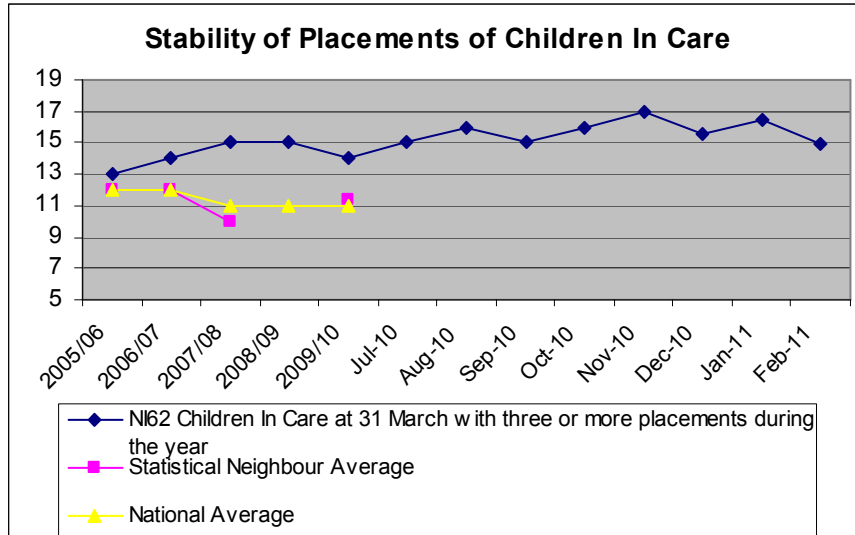
2.7 NI66 – Children in care must have their circumstances and care plan independently reviewed every 6 months. 89% of children in care cases which should have been reviewed during the year to date (Apr–Feb), were reviewed in timescale, this is 62 children who were not reviewed in



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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.

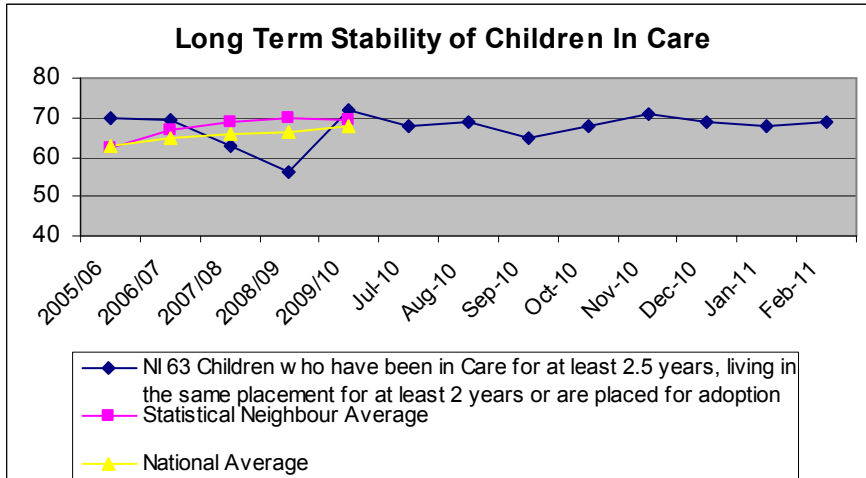
- 2.8 NI 62 – 81 children in care at 28 February 2011 have had 3 or more placements in the year to date (Apr–Feb = 13.3%). Good performance in this area is indicated as achieving less than 16% of children in care moving 3 or more times in the whole year. In the previous 12 months 14.9% of children have had 3 or more placements. A review of all children with 2 or more placements in 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. 69.7% of children in care for 2.5 years or more had been in their placement for at least 2 years at 28 February 2011. This is 99 out of 142 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.



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**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 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 forrest	6	1.0%


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Brent	5	0.8%
<b>Hackney</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
Surrey	5	0.8%

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<b>Total placed out borough</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>70%</b>
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<b>Total CiC @ 31 Dec 2010</b>	<b>600</b>
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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, 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:

<b>Borough placing child in Haringey</b>	<b>Number of children</b>
* Other	64
<b>Islington</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Enfield</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Barnet</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Camden</b>	<b>27</b>
City of Westminster	11
Brent	10
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>10</b>
Essex	8
Hammersmith & Fulham	8
Tower Hamlets	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>

\* 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,

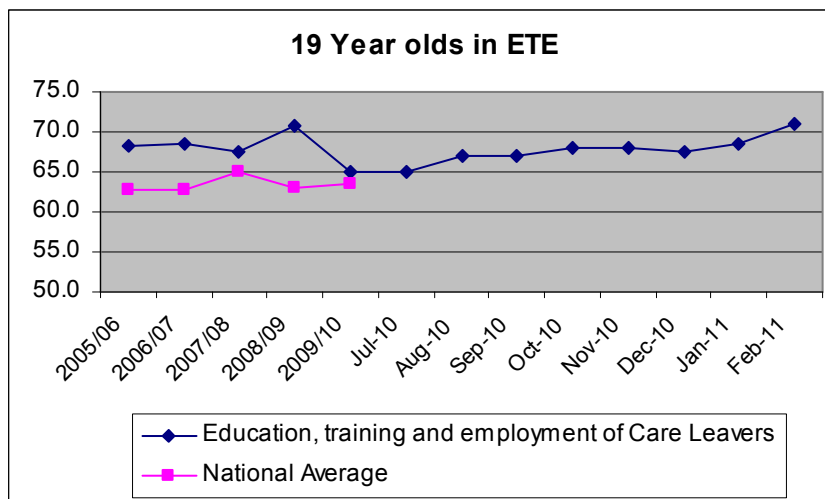




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Peterborough, Redbridge, Rotherham, Kensington and Chelsea, Sheffield, Surrey, West Sussex, Westminster

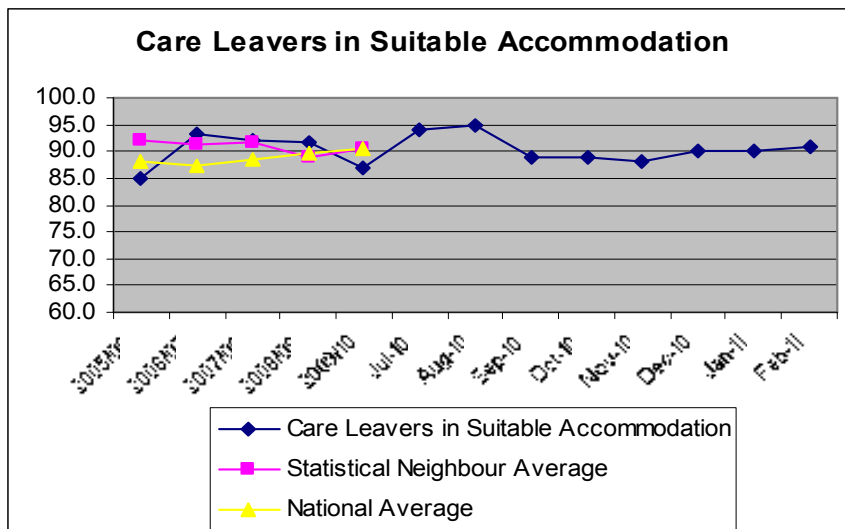
- 2.11 Visits to Children in Care. 88% (533 out of 592) of children in care at the end of February (excluding those who came into care in the last week of the month) had a visit completed in timescale (6 weekly or 3 monthly where agreed by a manager).
- 2.12 16 children have been adopted and 11 granted 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, 11 out of the 16 children adopted were placed within 12 months (69%).
- 2.13 75% of children in care were placed in foster placements or placed for adoption at 28 February 2011 and 21% were placed in residential 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 – 71% of care leavers who turned 19 in the year to date were in education training or employment on or around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is 39 out of 55 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 – 91% of care leavers turning 19 in the year to date were living in suitable accommodation on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is 50 out of 55 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.



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- Children missing from Care - February 2011. 16 children were reported as missing/absconding from care on a total of 43 occasions in February. Of these, 13 children went missing for over 24 hours on a total of 21 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	1
13-15	7
16-17	5

#### 4. Foster Carer Recruitment

75% 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 February:

- We have had 30 enquiries



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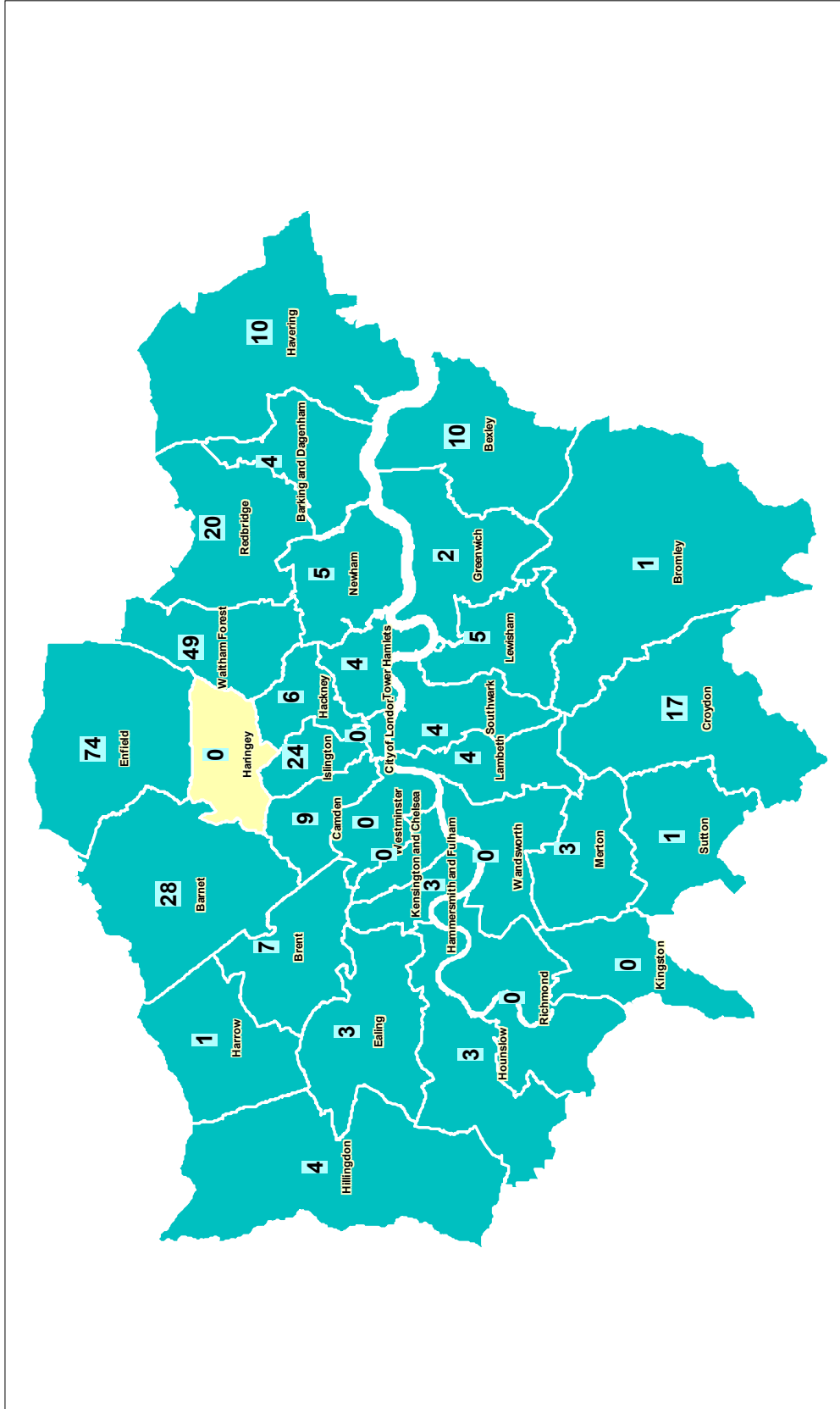
- 14 people attended information sessions
- 5 prospective carers attended initial visits. From this visit and assuming they are still interested and we believe they are potential carers, they will attend a 2 week training/preparation course and be taken through a lengthy and detailed assessment which 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





**Haringey** Council

<b>Briefing for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Isolation Report
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Chris Chalmers
<b>Date:</b>	19 April 2011

## 1. Introduction

Leaving care can be a very difficult period for young people, particularly when they do not have established support networks in place. The kinds of issues that can impact on the isolation experienced by young people are extensive. Poor family relationships, limited friendship networks are two of the primary factors which can leave people feeling alone and isolated.

There is clear evidence of the importance for young people having experienced positive attachments with care givers, at some stage prior to their becoming an adult.

Those who are at greater advantage in terms of leaving care will be young people who have experienced long term stability in their last placements. Research tells us that these are more likely to be fostering or kinship placements.

Ongoing access to education and training is of crucial importance. There is clear evidence that a significant number of young people who do not achieve well in their GCSE's are unlikely to be in education or employment by the age of 18. Those who fare better, are again the young people who have benefited from having consistency in their care. This is even more so when the young

person is able to obtain some degree of ongoing support from that care giver. For example, being able to visit for Sunday dinner, affording an opportunity to update people who care on what's been happening in their life can be a simple but significantly beneficial experience. By its very nature, involvement in further education or training, not only supports aspirations, increases feelings of self worth but it also gives access to potential friendships, all of which mitigate against a sense of isolation.

We have seen a number of examples of young people within the care system forming healthy positive relationships with their peers and their shared understanding of the experience of being in care, can be of benefit. However, these relationships can also have the potential for being problematic depending on whether these influences are less than healthy as a consequence of the experience of each friend. Substances and alcohol are frequently used by young people as a means of escapism from their emotional disharmony. Both can have depressant qualities and are likely to increase people's feelings of insecurity and isolation.

Whilst the above is not an exhaustive list of the factors that can contribute to a young person experiencing feelings of isolation, which leave them struggling with independent living, it does not have to be all doom and gloom. Early identification of any of these issues and providing appropriate responses/service provision can make a significant difference.

All our arrangements need to take account of the likely ambivalence of young people and their wish to try to survive on their own and their unwillingness at times to accept that they might need support. We have found that where young people resist support initially, they usually return at a later stage and arrangements are in place for young people to receive support and assistance. The opportunities detailed below are open to all our young people bearing in mind all can be affected by issues of isolation and emotional need.

## **2. Background statistics**

16-18 year olds in semi-independent provision -65

22 are placed in borough; many who are not placed in Haringey are still local to the borough.

All these young people receive some level of key work support, as detailed in the section below.

18+ young people who we support total 337

45 continue to receive additional formal key work support

Snap shot at the 19<sup>th</sup> birthday indicates 68.6% (year-to-date) are in ETE

## **3. Support to care leavers**

In general our care leavers receive direct support from their social workers, personal advisors and key workers (attached to their housing provision), in addition to the usual multi-agency provision. (eg GP, college, Youth Offending Service). The pathway plan is the main document used to capture a holistic

picture of young people's needs and support as they become young adults. Isolation and support needs will be addressed within this context. New care planning regulations, which have just come into force this month, require the pathway plan to be reviewed after each time a young person moves.

#### **4. Accommodation providers and choice**

We have 6 contracted semi independent providers who we use on a regular basis for young people aged 16-18. Our contract includes comprehensive requirements in terms of the standards required for our young people including the quality of accommodation and level of support required for young people in the preparation for independence. As young people journey through the system to 18+ the same providers are used where at all possible to ensure continued standards of care and support are in place. Additionally young people, where formalised support cannot continue, can be referred to voluntary key work support agencies depending on need and their co-operation.

Out of hours provision is mainly provided via these accommodations, and each young person receives a package of care that is tailored to their needs. There are three levels of support a young person can receive, these hours of support are tailored around the young person's routine and needs and therefore key work sessions may take place in evenings. It is also known for the service where there are particular concerns about a young person to put in place support over the weekends and specifically out of hours whether that be a telephone call or actual visit. All young people have emergency out of hours contact details for the LA and provider with whom they are attached.

Careful consideration is given to every young person being placed and where and which provider can best meet their needs. In terms of unaccompanied minors there has been a concerted effort to place new arrivals with young people from similar culture and background and where at all possible same language. This has greatly enhanced these young people's ability to settle and adjust to life in the UK and begin to manage their feelings of loss, trauma and isolation. With regard to mainstream children who are LAC possible placements with older siblings are considered and matching takes place to place less chaotic young people together.

Some of our providers provide life skills workshops and certificates to young people to promote their life skills. This has been useful in empowering and giving confidence to such young people. This also increases opportunities for young people to mix and build relationships.

As part of the upcoming accommodation tender Haringey is working in partnership with five other local authorities (Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest). This collaboration is intended to ensure a higher quality of care for our young people, to increase choice, but also help to further address issues of isolation particularly in relation to out of hours support.

It is important to note that particularly vulnerable and higher risk young people are placed in 24 hour care so that their needs can be continuously monitored and issues of risk addressed, this however becomes more difficult to address as they become older and supported accommodation options decrease. It is therefore important to keep this in mind with more creative options.

## **5. Opportunities to Make Connections:**

### **5.1 Participation**

The work to bring young people in care together begins via the Haringey virtual school. The work started here links with the work in participation.

Participation projects in the service provide a shared experience and develop peer support. Relationships are sometimes created which are maintained outside of the meetings. This opportunity for young people to meet in these circumstances can be very positive to those who feel isolated but would not necessarily disclose this to us.

Some of the projects we currently have within the service include. Total Respect Training, the semi-independent supported housing tender group, Reg.33 children's homes Inspection, meetings with the Director of CYPS and involvement with the Children in Care Council.

Many of the planning workshops for the projects highlighted above take place out of hours with staff and young people working together.

Further work planned includes developing a peer mentoring scheme for care leavers to mentor children and younger people in care. In line with this we are currently researching the idea of a similar project called the Housing Buddies scheme. Young people who have moved on and successfully sustained a tenancy will be asked if they would like training on how to support another young person just moving into their own permanent accommodation and this support can be provided out of hours. Action for Children have shown interest in assisting us to train the young people and we have already commenced discussions with the colleagues in housing services.

### **5.2 Young Parents**

The service focuses on services for young mothers to reduce their sense of isolation as research confirms these young women are at higher risk of feeling socially and emotionally isolated.

Young parents meet as a group at Triangle Children's Centre. This is a great opportunity for them to get together and is an excellent community resource. Young parents have the opportunity to meet other young people in similar situations as themselves and have then gone on to establish informal peer support groups of their own. This means that they have some much valued support from each other during evenings and weekends when a lot of young



parents leaving care can feel isolated. Some of these young people are also keen to become peer mentors as mentioned above.

Connexions have a monthly event for young parents living in the borough which is an opportunity to address issues of education, training and employment in addition to develop friendships.

### **5.3 University Students**

The service has a dedicated worker for young people at university. This has assisted in ensuring the service has knowledge of various universities' support networks such as student unions and counselling services, financial support i.e. hardship funds.

Our students are encouraged to participate in student forums and other activities that are available at their university. Part-time work also provides opportunities to develop contacts and possible friendships. A number of our young people at university return to live with their foster carers during the holiday periods which assists them in maintaining positive family links. Some of those at university do not wish for us to make direct contact with their universities due to possible stigma, this can sometimes make ensuring adequate support is in place more difficult. Where there is communication around their wellbeing and care, young people are able to make good use of continued multi-agency professional support.

### **5.4 Internal Events and work with External agencies**

The service holds a number of events annually including an end of season party (Christmas event), Educational and Achievement Celebration day and EID party.

These events are important at bringing our young people together and giving them opportunities to attend other events external to the service together. We have also encouraged young people to get involved in planning these events, designing invitations and posters, and providing a service at the event such as face painting or DJ.

We have also undertaken targeted events specific to address acknowledged needs such as the 4YP sexual health group event that worked with some of our Afghan young men, providing an opportunity for young men who speak the same language to meet new people from their country. Similar workshops are planned for later this year, including targeting young people who need to develop skills in holding their own tenancy and budgeting.

We work closely with external projects that encourage young people to meet up with other young people from different boroughs and might not necessarily be in care. Some of these projects include:

'Who Cares Trust'

One of the Projects with the 'Who Cares Trust' gave our young people the opportunity to get involved in a photograph exhibition. This was an exhibition of photographs taken by a number of Haringey's care leavers about their experiences of life in LA care. Whilst developing new skills our young people also made friends with other young people from all around London.

The project E18HTEEN will specifically bring care leavers together to support their engagement in sports, education and employment.

Aim Higher events at university, where young visitors take part in a range of activities, have a tour of the university and meet students who are currently doing degrees.

The Service also attends various external events and opportunities for young people, for example voluntary organisations have arranged theatre events for young people in care. These events have been well attended by young people, accompanied out of hours by staff, which has also resulted in opportunities for young people to connect.

## **6. Additional Considerations:**

### **6.1 Therapeutic intervention including work with substance misuse**

Young people are also referred to health and voluntary services for therapeutic support to help them with their emotional well being and to help them gain insight into the reasons for their isolation and help build confidence and self esteem. Once they are helped with building self esteem and confidence they are also helped with their depression and gain social skills which help them in their engagement socially, become more active, outgoing and with increased energy are able to engage with activities. Through this young people are able to build on skills, improve relationships, gain social skills, become more active and thus enjoy healthier relationship/friendships.

The fragile mental health of many of our young people presents ongoing concerns. For those under 18 and living reasonably locally there is access to the Tavistock Haringey Service. For those who are 18+ there are real challenges in accessing appropriate support through adult mental health provision. There have already been discussions with Adults, Culture and Community Services Services and there will be further discussions with providers in the health service. The ultimate aim is to make progress with far more immediate support for vulnerable young people in urgent need of specific mental health services.

### **6.2 Family relationships and networks of support**

At the point of leaving care a need to renew or repair relationships with family members, including extended family remains at the forefront of young people's minds. This is often observed at the point of transition to the 18+ service and again at the current exit period (age 21) for the service. The service recognises that even if relationships with parents have irretrievably broken down, other members of a young person's extended family may be able to offer some support.

This is an extremely challenging aspect of the work as it is also known that professional support from the multi-agency and substitute carers tends to decline once the young person has ceased to be looked after. This increases the risk of heightened issues of isolation at this time of transition and therefore the service is looking at ways to strengthen this area of work, via supervision, care planning, pathway plans and raise awareness with the appropriate professionals. All social workers and personal advisors are beginning to work more effectively with family members, paying particular attention to this aspect in the pathway plan and looking for ways to support appropriate contact and include relatives, where possible, in care planning.

### **6.3 Promotion of Leisure Interests**

The service encourages young people to participate in leisure activities and hobbies. Such interests are highlighted and recorded in young people's pathway plans and ways to address need recorded. This is an additional opportunity to address isolation and encourage and promote opportunities to make friendships and develop interest and self esteem.

## **7. Conclusions**

The leaving care planning process is the arena in which arrangements for continuing support, contact and prevention of isolation can best be met and continued to be developed. Positive planning, involving all of the potential supports that are available to young people, formal and informal, identifies the areas in which young people are most likely to need support and make clear arrangements as to who will meet those needs. Continuing links are likely to be enhanced where account is taken of young people's own perceptions of need and where they have choice about who they will receive support from.

A key objective for this financial year is to ensure all our young people have access to a series of life skill workshops (led by CiC staff members) and planning for these has now commenced. Sessions will include, for example, budgeting, housing issues, cooking and health in relation to being an independent young adult. Reviewing of independence skills will be far more robust with greater focus on these in reviews and planning. The overall aim is to achieve an individually responsive service which will strengthen the service provision and ultimately give all young people a far stronger foundation for starting out in adult life as care leavers.

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# **Haringey Council**

## **Corporate Parenting Strategy**

*Lead Directorate: Children and Young People's Services*

**Directorate****Document control**

Version 0.1	Status <i>Draft 3 - 28 February 2011</i>	<b>Author</b> <i>Patricia Walker, Principal Policy Officer, Corporate Policy and Performance, Chief Executive's Service</i>
<b>Document Objectives:</b>		
<b>Intended Recipients:</b> Any staff working with children in care		
<b>Monitoring Arrangements:</b> The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee will monitor the strategy and action plan.		
<b>Training/Resource Implications:</b>		
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<b>Date of Issue</b>		<i>Month 20XX</i>
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## Version History

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<b>V0.2</b>	<b><i>Final draft</i></b>	
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## Approval history

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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 will be accompanied by an action plan to guide implementation, 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 were 600 children and young people in care at the end of 2010. This strategy 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](#).

We recognise that many agencies in the borough have a role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and therefore contribute to the well being of children in care or young people who have been in care.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 strategy 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 across the council 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 themselves<sup>2</sup> 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 evaluation<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> [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 aged 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 <sup>1</sup> [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 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

#### 5.4 Key outcomes for all children and young people in Haringey

In February 2011 partners in the Children's Trust agreed the following three key outcomes for Haringey's Children and Young People's Plan in 2011/12:

- ensuring children are safeguarded
- reducing inequalities among children and young people in Haringey
- maximising life opportunities for children and young people.

Priorities in the Corporate Parenting Strategy are derived from these overall outcomes that we aspire to for all children and young in Haringey.

## 6. Principles

All partners in Haringey's Children's Trust have 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**

Under the 2004 Children Act and accompanying statutory guidance<sup>4</sup> the Cabinet Member for Children's Services has the lead political role in ensuring that children looked after by the local authority have:

- their interests protected,
- their opportunities maximised,
- their educational achievement enhanced,
- their voices heard, and
- care services shaped to meet their needs.

However the guidance also states that all members of the local authority have a shared responsibility for corporate parenting.. Councillors do not have to be social care experts to help children who are in care or looked after. 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. The role of the Corporate Parent is to ensure for children in public care the outcomes that every good parent would want for their own children. Councillors have a right and a duty to question practice. Councillors who do not have a direct role with children can still exercise this responsibility and promote the interests of

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<sup>4</sup> [The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services](#)

children in care through their involvement with other council services, their ward work or external roles such as being a school governor.

In 2003 the DfES (DCSF as was) published [\*'If this were my child: A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent'\*](#). This guide emphasised the role of councillors as:

**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.

Haringey has a Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC), which brings together members from across the political spectrum to focus on the corporate parenting role. It is supported by officers from the Housing Service, Health service and Children and Young People Service. The CPAC is responsible for the Council's corporate parenting role and for those children and young people who are in care. It will oversee the implementation of this strategy and the action plan. Further information on the CPAC is given in the section on implementation and governance arrangements below.

### **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)**

- Under the Children Act 2004 the Director of Children's Services also has a statutory role.
- 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 and 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 Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services](#)**. DCSF 2009 (statutory guidance issued under sections 18[7] and 19[2] of Children Act 2004)



## **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 Haringey's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee which was established in April 2009. The Committee reports to the Cabinet and full Council. It 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

Twice a year the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meets with the Children in Care Council to ensure members are aware of the views of young people on the progress of corporate parenting in Haringey.

### **10.2 Officer arrangements**

There is an interagency officer corporate steering group which is responsible for the development of services to secure the best outcomes for children and young people looked after. This group will take forward the corporate

parenting strategy and action plan and can be commissioned to undertake particular pieces of work.

### 10.3 Monitor

The [Children and Young People's Plan](#) and [Safeguarding and Children Looked After Children 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.

#### **We will monitor that all looked after children 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

#### **We will monitor that all children leaving care 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

#### **We will consider:**

- the looked after children service plan
- the annual reviews of the statement of purpose and overview report of Haringey children's homes, the fostering service and the adoption service
- the annual report of the looked after children review service
- the overview of complaints relating to looked after children and young people and care leavers

### 10.4 Training

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

**10.5 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.

[Having Corporate Parents](#): A report of children's views by the Children's Rights Director for England. Ofsted 2011

[If This Were My Child](#): a Councillor's Guide to Being a Good Corporate Parent DCSF 2003 (this has been archived by DfE but is still available for reference use)

[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 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.

#### **[Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning transition to adulthood for care leavers - including guidance on the Care Leavers \(England\) Regulations 2010](#)**

These regulations and guidance are intended to ensure that care leavers are given the same level of care and support their peers would expect from a reasonable parent and that they are provided with the opportunities and chances needed to help them move successfully to adulthood. Research and practice show that those leaving care supported according to the following principles have the best chance of successful transition to adulthood quality, giving second chances where needed, tailored to individuals needs. The guidance seeks to place these principles at the centre of decision making for care leavers.

#### **[Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering services \(HTML format\)](#)** published by Department for Education 11 March 2011

The guidance sets out the functions and responsibilities of local authorities and their partner agencies in relation to fostering services under Parts 3, 7 and 8 of the Children Act 1989. It also covers responsibilities arising from the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 in relation to fostering services.

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



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