



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2011 at 18:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Reece, Reith (Chair), Solomon, Stennett and Watson

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 11 below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 14)

To consider the minutes of the Corporate Parenting meeting held on the 11 October 2011 and the Joint meeting between Corporate Parenting and The Children's Safeguarding policy and Practice Committee also held on the 11th October 2011.

5. MATTERS ARISING

6. PRESENTATION FROM BARNARDOS

The Committee will receive a presentation from Barnardo's about their work with the Council on Children's rights, Sexual exploitation and Miss U(missing from care missing from home).Gloria Stott , manager of the north London Sexual Exploitation and Missing Service , and Babette Bleach , who manages the London Children's Rights Services will provide this presentation.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PAGES 15 - 18)

To consider key performance data concerning looked after children as at the end of October 2011.

8. PERMANENCY STRATEGY

The Committee will consider the permanency strategy which addresses all aspects of permanency planning for children and young people. Priority is given to children remaining, wherever possible within their own birth families. Where this is not possible there are a range of options to consider, from legal permanence in the form of achieving adoption, special guardianship or residence orders to long term fostering with or without a care order. **To be tabled at the meeting.**

9. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICER MID YEAR REPORT (PAGES 19 - 24)

To consider the findings of a basic checklist audit into looked after children reviews undertaken by the Independent Review Officers.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 11 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1 & 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

11. REGULATION 33 VISITS (PAGES 25 - 30)

The Committee will receive details of Regulation 33 inspections made to Haringey's residential homes.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting: 31 January 2012

Next joint meeting with Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 05 March 2012 7.00pm, Council Chamber.

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**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2011**

Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Reece, Reith (Chair), Solomon and Watson

Apologies Councillor Stennett, Debbie Haith

Also Present: Marion Wheeler, Attracta Craig, Wendy Tomlinson, Chris Chalmers

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CPAC 116	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stennett and Debbie Haith.	
CPAC 117	URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business.	
CPAC 118	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest put forward.	
CPAC 119	MINUTES On page 2 of the minutes, the section which set out the discussion on the regular performance report, it was explained to the Committee that a new format for the Performance report would be trialled and its continuance would be subject to Member comments. In relation to CPAC106, and the final paragraph which advised that a low number of LAC had been involved in the recent riots across London, it was clarified that this was an insufficient number to be considered a phenomenon. Following the above clarifications the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	Clerk
CPAC 120	MATTERS ARISING As part of the matters arising report, there was enclosed a response to Members concerns about the process and quality assurance arrangements in place for selecting third sector organisations to provide	

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	<p>mentoring to care leavers. The Committee considered this information and there was a remark on the lack of information included on KIS, a sub group of CONEL. It was felt that officers should review the organisation's recent Ofsted report, and also check that the services provided by this group could cater for vulnerable groups of young people. Whilst there was an overview of the mentoring project and the organisations that would be involved in providing the mentoring services to care leavers, the Committee wanted to view background information on how the organisations were chosen. They wanted to understand the step by step process followed for checking and assessing organisations offering to deliver services to young care leavers. This was to enable a fuller understanding on why these organisations were deemed appropriate for delivering this mentoring service to young care leavers. The Head of Children in Care agreed that she would speak with the Head of the Youth services, who would have completed the quality checks on the organisations, and provide a fuller report back to the Committee at their next meeting in December.</p>	CC
<p>CPAC 121</p>	<p>OFSTED FOSTERING INSPECTION RESULTS</p> <p>It was previously envisaged that the Ofsted inspection of the Adoption service would accompany the Ofsted Fostering inspection report and allow the Committee to consider these two related subjects on the placement of Looked after Children together. However, Ofsted had exceeded their own deadlines in providing a report on the Adoption inspection. This was due to the unexpected illness of the Lead Inspector. The service had been promised a response to the inspection in a further 14 days time. Therefore, a report on the Ofsted inspection for Adoption would be ready for the next meeting of the Committee on the 13 December 2011.</p> <p>The Ofsted inspection of the Fostering service had been completed in August and the service had been deemed as 'satisfactory'. A team action plan accompanied the inspection report. It was stressed to the Committee that the action plan needed to be perceived as a 'team response' as the actions were not the sole responsibility of the Placement and Commissioning service. They relied upon a number of other stakeholder departments in the Children's and Families service to take forward the recommended areas for improvement arising from the inspection.</p> <p>The positive outcomes from the inspection were that children reported positive relationships with Haringey Foster carers. They felt their carers provided support: in their education, participation in leisure activities, and were able to advocate well for them. Children were well consulted about the service they received and benefited from a number of activities and groups set up by the Fostering service. The fostering panel and agency decision makers were found to make appropriate recommendations and decisions. Parents reported to inspectors that they valued the short breaks provided by the service.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Placements then drew the</p>	WT

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Committee's attention to the Ofsted requirements arising from the inspection and the actions to be undertaken by the service to address these. A context and some reasons behind the requirements were provided to Members to aid understanding of their significance and how close the service was to achieving them. They were as follows:

Requirement 1 - Unannounced inspection of foster homes - The Committee noted that the requirement to have an unannounced visit was separate to the statutory 6 weekly visits. The Committee noted that the statutory requirement to visit a child in their foster placement was every 6 weeks and this was continuing. However, there were some foster carers not visited in the 6 weekly timescales and some visits not as thoroughly undertaken as required. There was an improvement plan assigned to requirement 1 which included a review of carers not visited in the timescales and unannounced visits for carers who had not received this type of visit in the last 6 months. As part of this, requirement 2, which was not a specific Ofsted requirement, the service recognised that there was a need for supervising Social Workers to add more information about their 6 weekly visits to the foster homes. This meant adding more details about their observations, other than how the basic care requirements were being kept to.

Requirement 3 - The policy on accepted methods of restraint and discipline on children placed with foster carers. This policy would be updated and consulted upon with the North London Fostering Consortium before reissue in October. This was following feedback from carers about the policy not being clear enough on the restraining actions that they were allowed to take. A summary to the policy would be added making this more accessible to carers.

Requirement 4 – Risk assessments for children who are at risk of going missing are not in place – The inspectors had found strong evidence of practices for keeping children safe. However, what the service had not fully shown was the information they knew on how to locate a child/young person that went missing. Members enquired about why this required action had not been picked up by the service previously. In reply members noted that the work on risk assessment had been occurring but in an unstructured way and this would be rectified by the information being held in the appropriate sources.

Requirement 5 - Reports responding to allegations of abuse and neglect not fully concluded - Members were reassured that there were not any outstanding investigations into reports of neglect and abuse where the outcome was not known. The issue, at the time of the inspection, was the bringing up to date of a spread sheet with the outcomes to the allegations. At the time of the inspection this had not been fully completed due to staffing changes. This spreadsheet was now fully up to date and there was also a written procedure for investigating

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allegations with clear and manageable expectations about timescales. Members asked that the procedures for investigation also include time allocated for speaking with the child.

Requirement 7 – Fostering service recruits, assesses and supports a range of foster carers to meet the needs of children they provide for. The inspection noted that there were a large number of children in care from Haringey and not enough internal carers to meet placements need. This was continually recognised by the service. The Committee were due to receive feedback by the 20th October on the results of concerted publicity activities in July to recruit foster carers.

Requirement 8 – Careful selection of staff and fostering households and monitoring of such people. The inspectors found that one member of staff's HR file did not have a reference with a record of verbal verification attached. The Committee were informed that this was a minor anomaly and easily rectifiable as the reference was concerning the recruitment of the Head of Commissioning and Placements, a fairly recent appointment, where contact could still be made with the referee and evidence of this added to the file. Although it was a managerial task to ensure that references were checked and verbally verified, Members were assured that all other HR files of staff working in foster care and of foster carers had been checked by the Head of Commissioning and Placements. She felt confident to report that there was no missing information regarding their selection. Members were asked to note the changing priorities of the inspectors as in the previous two inspections there had not been any checks made on the verbal verification of references. This additional check was probably owing to the increased level of scrutiny which the Council now experienced in inspections. In relation to the second part of this requirement, monitoring of people in the fostering household helping to provide care, Social Workers were fully aware that they needed to get CRB checks on all new persons involved in the carers home. However the timely completion of the checks was also reliant upon external CRB timescales.

Requirement 9 - Ensure that there are clear and effective procedures for monitoring the activities of the service – This was in reference to systems for data collection. There have been meetings between the Fostering and Performance team on exploring ways to better collate information required by the annual fostering return data. An example of an issue experienced with data collection in the inspection was that the service were able to easily provide figures relating to children in Haringey foster care (this included children placed in the borough through external fostering agencies) but it was less easy to extrapolate the number of children in Haringey placed with council foster carers. This signified the need to make the office data systems more usable and work efficiently so that there was not undue officer time given to locating and extrapolating the required data when needed.

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	<p>Some disappointment was expressed at the overall assessment of the Fostering Service as 'satisfactory' when in a previous inspection, three years ago; the service had been assessed as 'good'. There was a feeling that, although the Ofsted scrutiny of the Council's Children's services had increased this should not mean that a satisfactory rating would be acceptable as a result. As a way forward the Chair asked the Head of Commissioning and Placements to compile an alternative action plan which would set out the actions aimed at getting the service to a 'good rating'. This could be completed in time for the January meeting of the Committee. To aid this work it was suggested that the Ofsted inspection results of fellow Consortium boroughs could be looked at. This was where they had received a judgement of 'good' as this could help with understanding the kind of actions being taken and if they could be workable here. It was agreed that these comparisons would be made. Members of the Committee were also asked to keep in mind that some of the boroughs in the consortium were not demographically similar to Haringey and would not have the similar issues to contend with. Also some of the consortium boroughs may not have listed outcomes arising from their fostering inspections.</p> <p>In relation to outcomes for children, understanding was sought on how these were recorded and if this information was easily accessible to all parts of the children service dealing with the child i.e. Children in Care and Commissioning and Placements. It was clarified that the Children in Care service along with the Commissioning and Placement service regularly monitored outcomes for children and also tried to quantify them. There was also a series of qualitative information which the service could easily call upon for checking the progress on outcomes for a child. This was through the daily logs of foster carers, summary reports from foster carers, statutory visits to the child, LAC reviews. When meeting with the children, as well as to check on their basic care, Social Workers asked about the activities they undertook, interests, hobbies and who they interacted with, which were all recorded. The Independent Review Officer was also required to meet with a LAC before a review meeting. Therefore Members were assured that there was a wealth of material to consider when ascertaining how good outcomes for the child were being worked to.</p>	<p>WT</p> <p>WT</p>
<p>CPAC 122</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p>	
<p>CPAC 123</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2011**

Councillors Rice, Reith, Solomon, Allison, Watson, Hare, Stewart, Amin, Brabazon, Corrick, Reece, Davies

Apologies Councillor Stennett, Debbie Haith

Also Present: Marion Wheeler, Sylvia Chew, Iain Low, Attract Craig, Wendy Tomlinson, Chris Chalmers,

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CSPAPC 7	APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR The Chair of Corporate Parenting Committee and Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee had previously discussed the chairing of these joint meetings and they had agreed that they would alternate this responsibility. Councillor Rice was appointed as Chair for the meeting.	
CSPAPC 8	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(IF ANY) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stennett and Debbie Haith, Head of Children and Families service.	
CSPAPC 9	URGENT BUSINESS No items of urgent business were considered.	
CSPAPC 10	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of Interest put forward.	
CSPAPC 11	DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS There were no deputations, questions or petitions put forward.	
CSPAPC 12	MINUTES The Committee considered the minutes from the previous joint meeting held on the 17 March 2011. A remark was made on the timeliness of the Joint Committee considering these minutes as it would be difficult to recall the issues discussed at the last meeting. A suggestion was made to have the minutes agreed with by the Corporate Parenting Committee	

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	<p>and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee at their next available meetings and not at the next joint meeting in March. The Committee agreed that this suggestion be taken forward.</p> <p>Clarification was sought on the number of children at the time of the meeting in March that were subject to child protection plans as there were two figures contained in the minutes. The Committee noted that it was likely to be 326 children but Committee members would receive an email update on this. The service have since advised that</p> <p><i>The 326 figure relates to the number of Children and Young people subject to Child Protection Plans across the Department; the figure of 253 is the number of children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans within the Safeguarding and Support Service. The data came from Ian Lowe's presentation about the work of the Safeguarding and Support.</i></p>	Clerk
CSPAPC 13	<p>THE MUNRO REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION: FINAL REPORT - A CHILD-CENTRED SYSTEM</p> <p>Committee members considered a summary of the Munro review into child protection along with the government's response to the review. The key components of the recommendations from Munro report were: developing social work capacity; ensuring children were communicated with, and that the child was at the centre of the organisations process. Overall, the government response was to agree with the recommendations of the review. However, the Independent Member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee, advised that the government had not set out how local authorities were able to change fully to the direction of preventative services at a time of reduced funding for Children's services. It was anticipated that local authorities would begin to review their models of social care following this report and it was suggested that the social work care model developed in Hackney would be worthwhile to look at. The Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee agreed to take this forward as an action.</p> <p>Clarification was sought in whether the Children's service had undertaken a systems analysis approach to the changes that would be required following the Munro report. The Committee were informed that separately to considering the Munro recommendations and impact on the service, there was an equal need to examine sufficiency to know the level of services that would need to be commissioned in order to meet the needs of children coming into the care of children's services. For example this would mean considering whether there were right levels of accommodation available for looked after children and care leavers, now and in the future. There would also to follow some joint strategic assessment work with the involvement of partners to look at</p>	Cllr Rice

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how services are provided. The Children's service would also be completing an exercise on care pathways to examine how the service identifies children coming into care.

The Committee were advised that to meet the requirements of the prevention agenda, would mean the service, along with partners, looking at incrementally compiling services around the support that would be needed to prevent a child coming into care. This support package would need to include voluntary sector and partner agencies with consideration given to how the services were provided in totality. The Committee noted that these were high level changes which required consideration of the strategic direction of the service, involved service redesign and considering how other children related services could be included in this support offer. This could only be led by the incoming Children's Services Director who would be in post on the 14 November. It was agreed that the Cllr Reith and Cllr Rice would speak with the new director about how the Munro recommendations would be taken forward with a more substantial report likely to be available for consideration by both Committees in May 2012. Members of the Committee learnt that in the meantime the Safeguarding Team were already working with the Early Intervention and Prevention service to look at how they can support the de-escalation of certain circumstances which lead to children coming into care. The Head of First Response explained that the service recognised it would be crucial to de-escalate these circumstances permanently and this was a key part of their work with the Early Intervention and Prevention service when considering the services for the families to access.

Cllr
Reith/
Cllr
Rice

In terms of the impact of the Munro recommendations on systems and processes followed, the service were already exploring the impact on IT systems.

A question was asked about the plans for developing social work practice. The Committee noted that there was already a multi agency team in First Response and this team would be expanded with staff from Police intelligence, Adult Safeguarding and Mental Health. This Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) would also have satellite links to services such as Probation and Adult services with a member of their team physically situated in the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) one day a week. This team would consider referrals to the Safeguarding Service and instantly share information they had on the family in turn assisting the information gathering stage of an assessment and expediting the decisions on how the referral should be progressed by the Children's service. In terms of social work development, there had in been a graduate trainee programme in place, which had been very good at recruiting trainee Social Workers. Past members of this scheme were now becoming team managers and senior practitioners. The key aim for the service was to continue to build the experience and expertise of Social Workers so that it was a workforce able to work and deal with

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	<p>complex cases .</p> <p>Members asked about help to families and early intervention services to reduce the number of children going into care . Officers explained that Munro saw early help to families as different to early intervention services .The new meaning for early intervention service encompassed all work outside statutory sector . With regard to work with families, Munro was interested in Social Workers engagement with families and their work with them . Munro also advocated learning from existing family intervention projects and having evidenced systems in place that will help families who need more than the support provided by universal services.</p> <p>Understanding was sought on the relationship between safeguarding social care and providers of care such as children's centres. It was felt that children between the ages of 0 to 5 had critical developmental milestones which needed to be supported especially if they were LAC or children in need and therefore should be focused on as a group . In response it was noted that this relationship between the Safeguarding Team and Early Years continued to improve each month. Social Workers who were responsible for children on child protection plans, under the age of 4, would ensure that they could access day care services.</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
<p>CSPAPC 14</p>	<p>CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE AND HOME</p> <p>The Committee considered a report about children that go missing from care and missing from home . The Committee gained further understanding about the statutory guidance followed by the council when children go missing and what the council's responsibilities are . This was a particular national area of concern especially when it was concerning vulnerable children and children under the age of 11. Haringey was part of 3 London boroughs awarded £300,000 of funding over the next 3 years through an externally funded joint project with Aviva (formerly Norwich union), the Railway Children international charity and Barnardos. This was an early intervention project, beginning in November, aimed at engaging with and supporting with children that were likely to go missing from home and reduce the level of harm that they could come to.</p> <p>Members of the Committee were provided with some local context about the children that are reported missing in Haringey. Usually the primary sources for reporting missing children to the service were the police. It was noted that children could be reported for a number of reasons i.e lateness in coming home from school, children going missing in the shopping centre, missing from home overnight or not coming back following attendance at evening events . All of these circumstances were recorded by the Children's service . The</p>	

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Safeguarding service had established a triage system involving a multi agency response to absences in their area of responsibility. This was set out in appendix 2 of the report and used to assess and measure the level of concern that should be given when they receive a report that a child has gone missing. Where there was the highest concern it often indicated that there is an improper activity involved which lead to a series of assessments and speedy responses.

Section 5.2 of the report detailed the number of children between April and mid September 2011 that had gone missing. It was noted that 51 children out of 630 LAC had gone missing from care or had a period of unauthorised absence. The Committee noted that of these 51 children there were two children still missing. Child A came from an extended Gypsy Roma family where other members of the family have previously gone missing and returned. At the current time Police were trying to locate this young person. The second young person went missing from care. He was an unaccompanied minor and UK boarder agencies had been notified as he has previously tried to leave the country. The Committee noted that when children go missing from a placement the service will try and ascertain whether there are any issues with the child placement.

Some Members expressed particular concern about LAC that are placed in residential homes as they seemed to be the highest number going missing. Officers explained that children that go missing from residential homes are older teenagers and there will a higher difficulty in dealing with these absences with different levels of engagement undertaken with the young people. The Committee noted that it was not always the case that placing older children in a residential homes was the last option but would largely be a placement of choice as the children may have previously been in unsuccessful foster care placement. Young people that went missing from residential homes may have previously also absconded when in a foster placement.

In terms of monitoring children that go missing from placements, the Deputy Director or Children and Families received weekly reports, and completed risk assessments. There was quite a tight process for recording absences which had been recently reviewed to ensure that all departments in the Children and Families service were fully aware of the details to record when a child/missing person goes missing.

It was noted that the Barnado's joint borough project on missing children would, as part of its remit, be awareness raising, with the selected children and young people, about the situations/ groups to avoid where they could be vulnerable and open to inducement into unsafe activities.

The Chair enquired about the work with Gypsy Roma families. The Committee noted that the council was working with the London Councils and Bulgarian government on tackling the trafficking of young people from this community into the borough. The Committee learnt that,

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	<p>through a previously funded project, the Safeguarding service had gained a wealth of experience and knowledge about the risks of vulnerable children being subject to sexual exploitation and could use this in their work with the community. The service were aware of the named addresses that the Gypsy Roma families moved to and from in London so that they were able to communicate with the boroughs that they moved to. There was also a Romanian and Bulgarian speaking staff member in the Children and Families team who was able to provide vital language support to Social Workers and police working with children in this community that were in the care of the service. This member of staff was also assisting the service to ensure children under the age of 4 in the Gypsy Roma community had access to GP services and were being seen by health workers if required.</p> <p>The statutory guidance applicable when children go missing from home was attached to the report and it was recommended that the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee could consider the statistic for children missing from home and the strategies in place to deal with these occurrences. There was also a scrutiny review on missing children and it would be worthwhile checking the areas that they were considering in case of cross over.</p>	MW
CSPAPC 15	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	
CSPAPC 16	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972(as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): parts 1&2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>	
CSPAPC 17	<p>REFERRALS AUDIT JULY 2011</p> <p>A programme of audits had been established by the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee in order to monitor practice and performance in Children's Social Care, and identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement. An audit of new referrals between July the 12th and 19th 2011 had been examined by the Independent Member with involvement from Cllr Amin. The findings had been considered by Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee at their meeting in September and were also shared with the Corporate Parenting Committee as part of this joint meeting.</p>	

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Comment was made on the following: the number of cases where statutory timescales were not being fully adhered to, whether there were fewer referrals to the service but higher numbers of children being taken into care and the length of time the cases were open for in comparison to other comparator boroughs. The Independent Member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee advised that at the time of writing the report the 2010/11 comparator data had not been published. Since this report comparator data for 2010/11 conveyed that Haringey were now more significantly in line with comparator boroughs in terms of number of children coming into care. In response to the query about the adherence to timescales i.e. for core and initial assessments, in this sample of cases, social workers were awaiting information from GP's or teachers in order to decide how to take the referral forward. Overall the timescales for dealing effectively with referrals was improving. In cases where there was a risk of significant harm to a child, these were prioritised. Due to the nature of some referrals there was a need to do preparatory work to understand how best to take the referral forward. This was further explained by the Head of First Response in the attached action plan arising from the audit.

A councillor attending Regulation 33 visits asked the Independent Member whether in her experience in working with the council she had seen missing information from files. The Independent Member confirmed that the paper work she had seen in files relating to this audit were up to date.

It was further confirmed that the follow up actions relating to the audit were attached to the report and the cases looked at in July would be further followed up in November to check their progression or outcomes.

The Committee thanked the Independent Member for the insight and knowledge gained from considering the real life and complex cases in the audit and understanding how Social Workers were dealing with them. Cllr Amin had assisted with this audit and was thanked for her input and advice. Councillor Amin advised the Committee that some of the social work practices she had seen, being applied to the referrals, were to a very high standard and the service should be commended for this.

Arising from the discussion of this paper Members asked various questions and learnt the following:

- That the number of children recently moving to the borough and the subject of a referral to the safeguarding service, would be recorded. Officers advised that there would be children and families from the borough put in out of borough placements and therefore this data may need further analysis to compile a narrative that could be used in future to make a case for the borough receiving additional resources.
- That there would be further training with staff that make referrals

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	to safeguarding working in schools and other partner agencies, to include appropriate information to aid the speedier processing and evaluation of the referral when received by the MASH. The referral format was also currently being worked on with tips and advice on how to compile a good referral this would consider and signed up to by LSCB(Local Safeguarding Children's Board) which included a wide membership of partner agencies.	
CSPAPC 18	NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT BUSINESS NONE	
CSPAPC 19	NEXT MEETING 05 MARCH 2012	

Cllr Reg Rice

Chair



Haringey Council

Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	Item Number:	
Title:	Core Performance Dataset		
Report Authorised by:	Debbie Haith		
Lead Officer:	Christine Jorge		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions: For information		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report contains a draft CPAC dataset for consideration. This contains a set of key indicators that will be reported to each meeting of CPAC – further, more detailed analysis or data queries will be considered and reported through separate exception reports to future meetings.

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Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee - Key Performance Information DRAFT scorecard for consideration







Organisational Effectiveness and Finance Information

Description	2010/ 2011	10-11 Nat	10-11 SN	August 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	2011/12 Year to date	2011/12		Comments
	Value	Avg	Avg	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	
1 Stability of the Children and Families Work Force % FTE posts requiring a SW qualification in C&F filled by Haringey employees – Annual reporting	77.0%	n/a	n/a	Annual Indicator				82.0%	-	
2 Cost of service per looked after child	£911	n/a	n/a	£852	£854		£854	£838		
3 Foster Carer Recruitment – number of new foster carer approvals in period	22	n/a	n/a	0	0	4	7	-	-	

Volume, Activity, Timeliness and Outcome Information

Description	2010/ 2011	10-11 Nat	10-11 SN	August 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	2011/12 Year to Date	2011/12		Comments
	Value	Avg	Avg	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	
4 Referrals to Children's Social Care in the period (rate per 10,000 population 0-17 in brackets)	2658 (541)	554.6	n/a	166	185	196	1344	n/a	n/a	
5 Re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral	18.5%	n/a	n/a	20.5%	17.3%	23.5%	18.2%	14%		The re-referral rate was unusually high in October and all cases are being audited by senior management and will be reported back through DMT with analysis of key factors.
6 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	77.5%	72%	77%	131.3%	97.3%	99.5%	98.4%	-	-	This is a proxy indicator which allows us to consider appropriate use of thresholds of referral and assessment.
7 Children subject to a child protection plan at	320			281	290	269	269	-	-	

	Description	2010/ 2011		10-11 Nat		10-11 SN		August 2011		Sept 2011		Oct 2011		2011/12 Year to Date		2011/12		Comments
		Value	Avg	Avg	Avg	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status				
	end of period (rate per 10,000 population 0-17 in brackets)	(65.2)	(38.3)	(61) London	(57.2)	(59)	(54.8)	(54.8)	(54.8)	(54.8)	(54.8)							
8	Children becoming subject to a CP plan in the period	334	n/a	n/a	14	29	11	152										
9	Children ceasing to be subject to a CP plan in the period	308	n/a	n/a	8	20	32	171										
10	% children becoming looked after in the last 12 months who were subject to a CP Plan prior to becoming looked after																	
11	Number of Children in care (including unaccompanied asylum seekers) at the end of the period – rate per 10,000 population 0-17 in brackets)	615 (125)	(59)	(80)	634 (129)	620 (126.2)	623 (126.9)	623 (126.9)	623 (126.9)	623 (126.9)	623 (126.9)							
12	Number of Children becoming looked after in the period	311	n/a	n/a	17	14	16	174										
13	Number of Children ceasing to be looked after in the period	304	n/a	n/a	12	21	11	153										
14	Care Proceedings initiated in the period	243	n/a	n/a	13	10	4	107										
15	Number of adoptions/special guardianship orders in the period (adoptions in brackets)	27 (16 Ado)	n/a	n/a	2	2	2 (2 Ado)	14 (7 Ado)										
16	Number of children in care who went missing/absconded in the period (quarterly)	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	50 Q2	-	84 in Q1&Q2										

	Description	2010/2011		10-11 Nat		10-11 SN		August 2011		Sept 2011		Oct 2011		2011/12 Year to Date		2011/12		Comments
		Value	Avg	Avg	Avg	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status			
17	Percentage of children placed in Haringey Provision	33.0%	n/a	n/a		35.6%	35.3%	34.5%	35.3%	38.0%								The year to date position is based on the 12 months to the end of October 2011. 40 children have had 3 or more placements between 1st April and 31st October 2011 (6.4%).
18	Stability of placements of looked after children: 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	15.3%	10.9% (09-10)	11.6% (09-10)		12.9%	13.2%	13.3%	13.3%	13%								
19	Stability of placements of looked after children: in care for 2.5+ years, in same placement for 2+ years	71.3%	68% (09-10)	69.8% (09-10)		70.6%	70.9%	72.2%	72.2%	72%								
20	Children in Care Visits - % of children in care who have had a visit within 6 weeks of the previous visit (3 months where agreed)	86.1%	n/a	n/a		89.8%	94.8%	95.8%	95.8%	95%								
21	Children in care cases which were reviewed within required timescales	86.8%	90.5% (09-10)	91% (09-10)		64.1%	59.4%	68.8%	68.8%	92.0%								Staff difficulties and vacancies within the IRO team have impacted on performance in this area in the year to date: however, all permanent vacancies have now been recruited and staff will be in post by the end of November. All new children coming into care will be allocated immediately, and reviews will take place within statutory timescales(data in the process of being verified).
22	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	62.5%	72.4% (09-10)	68% (09-10)		100%	100%	100%	71.4%	78%								In the year to date 5 out of 7 adoptions took place within 12 months of the decision being made. All relevant children are routinely referred to the Adoption Register and the North London Adoption Consortium. Adoption social workers regularly attend local and national adoption events with profiles of children. We have a number of children

Description	2010/2011		10-11 Nat		10-11 SN		August 2011		Sept 2011		Oct 2011		2011/12		Comments
	Value		Avg		Avg		Value		Value		Value		Target Status		
23	70%	n/a	n/a	67.5%	74%	75%	75%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	with complex backgrounds who we advertise in Be my Parent and Children who Wait. This also applies to the large sibling groups waiting for adoptive families. We have introduced a robust system for tracking family finding which includes timescaled family finding strategies. In addition to referrals to the Adoption Register, Contact is made with local authorities nationally and with voluntary adoption agencies.
24	72.9%	61%	63.4%	50%	85.7%	66.7%	67.9%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	Numbers for this indicator in month are small and should be interpreted with care. 28 young people have turned 19 so far in this financial year and 33 young people are due to turn 19 in the rest of the year. We have performed well against our comparators and the national average for all 19 year olds in education, training or employment.
25	91.5%	90%	92.1%	100%	100%	66.7%	92.9%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	



Haringey Council

**Independent Review Officer
Basic Checklist Audit
July – September 2011**

Method

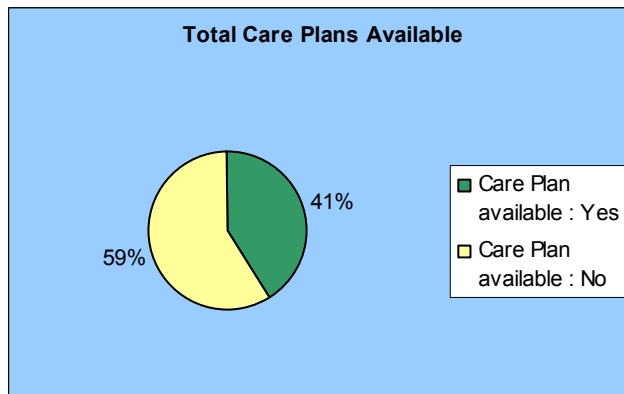
The Independent Review Officers (IROs) used a basic checklist to carry out a random sample analysis of Looked After Children Reviews. The audit was designed as a quick process that could provide some immediate data and create a benchmark for future audits. The information presented should not be taken as definitive, but rather as an indication of areas of concern. The audit was conducted over a three-month period, between July and September 2011 and included a100 of the reviews undertaken during that time. Where the audit questions relate to specific regulations or guidance, they have been referenced in the following report. The report presents general data gathered across the whole of Children and Families service, individual teams have been provided with the data to specific to them.

General Analysis

The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Associated Guidance (Including the IRO Handbook) state that:

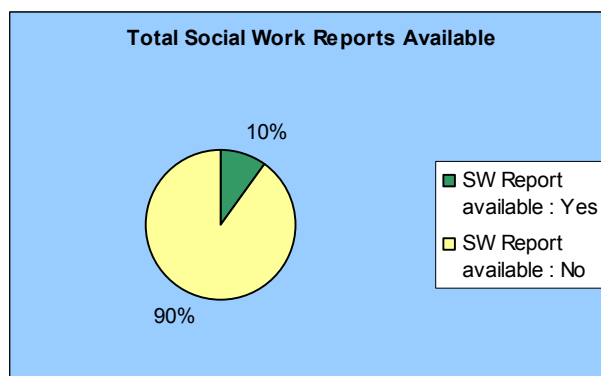
1. “A Care Plan must be prepared prior to a child’s first placement, or, if it is not practical to do so, within 10 working days of the child’s first placement.”

The audit showed that only 41% of all cases had a care plan available. The audit did not differentiate between first and subsequent reviews.



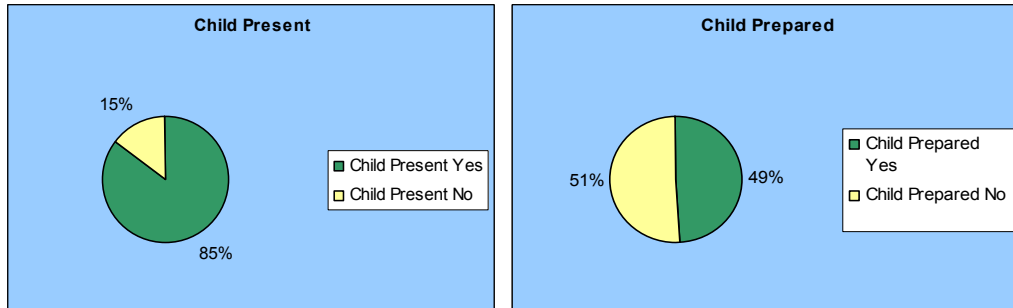
In some cases, the IRO used the Court Care Plan as a substitute for the LAC Care Plan. This will be investigated in the next audit to provide more in-depth analysis.

The audit also highlighted that in 90% of cases, there was no Social Work report available.



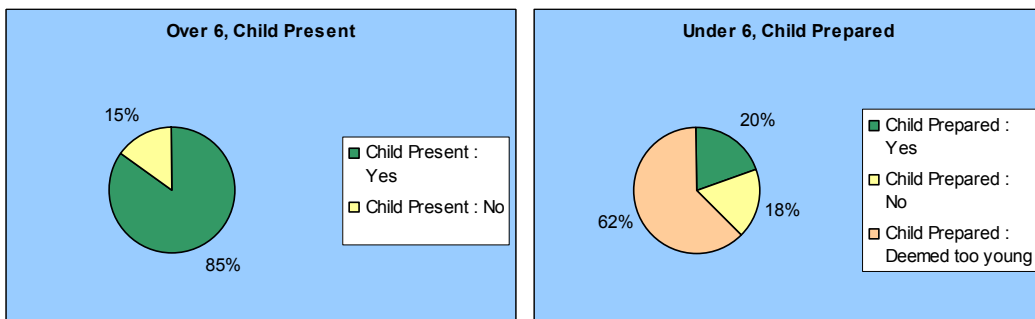
2. “The Local Authority should obtain and take account of the wishes and feelings of the child (subject to age and understanding) about the plan and the progress made since the last review.”

The IROs recorded that in 85% of cases, the child was present for the review and that in only 49% of cases, the Social Worker had prepared the child for the review.



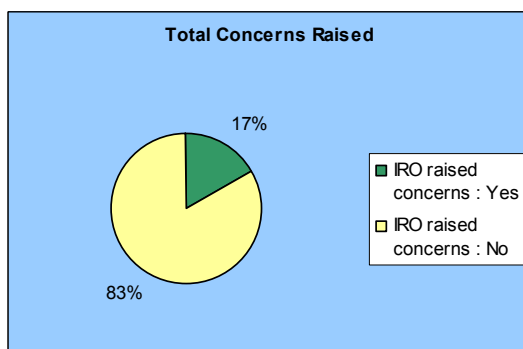
Although this data does not directly relate to the regulation, it is reasonable to assume that if the child was prepared and present for the review, then their wishes and feelings could be taken into account. However, their quality and degree of engagement in the process cannot be evidenced.

It is important to note that in many reviews, the child’s age and understanding was taken into consideration when preparing or requiring their presence for the review. For example, whilst only 3% of children under 6 years old were deemed to be too young to attend the review, 62% were deemed too young to be prepared in advance.

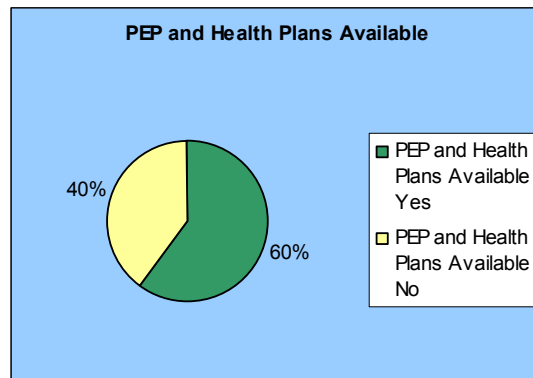


3. “As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to identify any areas of poor practice, including general concerns around service delivery (not just around individual children). The IRO should immediately alert senior managers.”

In 17% of cases, the IRO raised concerns. These included concerns related to Social Worker practice, decisions, delays in family-with permanency management funding issues and finding for children plans.

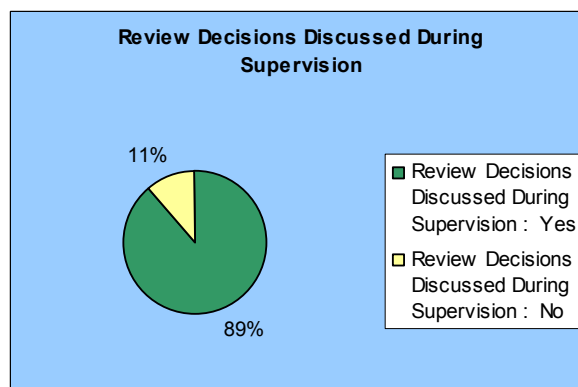


In 60% of cases, the child had a PEP and Health Plan available. In the next audit, the Health Plan and PEP will be looked at individually to provide clearer analysis.

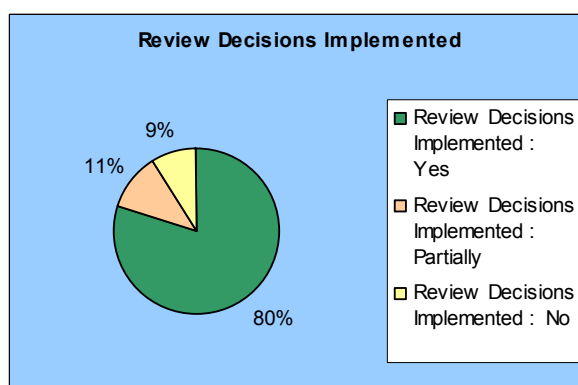


4. “Were decisions taken at the last review successfully implemented?”

In 89% of cases that were not an initial review, a discussion of previous decisions took place during the Social Worker’s supervision.



Following on from these supervision discussions, 80% of the decisions made at the review were implemented, 11% were partially implemented and 9% were not implemented.



Conclusion

The available data has shown us that there are some areas that we are currently performing very well at (children and young people present and prepared for reviews) and some areas that we need to work on to ensure that we are delivering the best service for our Looked After Children (children and young people with care plans, and the number of reviews where social work reports were available, the quality of case recording).

To address the areas of concern the following action is being taken:

1. The Report is being presented to the next LAC multi-agency meeting and it's findings will become part of the action plan.
2. The IRO service is meeting with services to discuss the findings and work with services to address the lack of care plans and social workers reports for reviews.
3. The Children in Care project working of on the forms and templates used by social workers is considering amalgamating the Court Care plan with Care Plan.
4. The IRO's are to be more rigorous in identifying and reporting upwards cases where there is no Care Plan available and social workers have not provided reports for the review. In future review decisions will be forwarded to the responsible Team Manager within in five days of the review, they will then endorse or challenge the decisions made prior to the minutes being circulated.
5. Re launch of VIEWPOINT. Viewpoint provides age specific on line questionnaires to consult children and young people on any topic, we are currently using it to ask young people about their care experience and aspirations. Viewpoints facilitates the participation in the reviewing process of children from four years old upwards and gives us access to information at an individual and group level, analysed by gender, ethnicity, age and placements.

Rachel Oakley – Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Practice Development
James Holland – Child Protection and Review Support Officer

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

Document is exempt

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