



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

MONDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2014 at 19.15 HRS or on the rise of the informal meeting with Aspire - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Berryman, Gunes, Hare, Morris, Stennett, Waters (Chair) and Weston

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 items 10 & 12 below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2013.

5. MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 5 - 6)

6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The report will provide an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. **Report to Follow**

7. YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN SEMI INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION AT 16-17 (PAGES 7 - 14)

This report provides information on the arrangements in place in Haringey to meet the housing needs of those young people living in semi-independent accommodation.

8. PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT EXPENDITURE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE (PAGES 15 - 20)

To provide the Committee with information about the use and decision making around the Looked After Children Pupil Premium.

9. FOSTERING UPDATE (PAGES 21 - 28)

This report will keep the Committee informed of progress and developments in the Fostering service area.

10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

As per item 2

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of any urgent items that 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. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT EXEMPT BUSINESS

As per item 2

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting 8th December 6.30pm.

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MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 31 JULY 2014

Councillors Gunes, Hare, Stennett, Waters (Chair) and Weston

Apologies Councillor Berryman and Morris

Also Present: Councillor

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CPAC1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY) Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Berryman, Councillor Morris, Lisa Redfern and Elaine Redding.	Clerk
CPAC2	URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business submitted.	
CPAC3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest put forward.	
CPAC4	ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE INFORMAL MEETING WITH ASPIRE CPAC agreed for the following requests from Aspire to be taken forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templates used by social workers to assess care, education, job, and training requirements to have a frontend focus on child's/young person in care's views, wishes and feelings. • A mechanism in the assorted Children's plans and templates for accountability. • Information on how PPG[Pupil Premium Grant]is spent on young people in care and if they are involved, with the school, in the decision making of how this money is spent on them. [Report to also come forward to Corporate Parenting Committee] • A less formal process for young people in care raising concerns with the council • More time to be able to move from accommodation and more information about Temporary Accommodation when in University Aspire would be working on draft Haringey Pledge and this would also come back to the next CPAC /Aspire joint meeting in September.	NB NB TH NB/LR DG
CPAC5	TERMS OF REFERENCE The terms of reference were noted with no recommended changes put forward to Cabinet.	Clerk
CPAC6	MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th March were agreed as an	

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	accurate record of the meeting.	Clerk
CPAC7	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>CPAC noted that young people in care can begin to bid for permanent accommodation from the age of 17 and a half. There were also tenancy workshops facilitated by the Young Adults Service to prepare young people leaving care to live independently, these are held on a quarterly basis. The Committee further noted the types of accommodation available to young people leaving care and the availability of a support worker.</p>	
CPAC8	<p>TRAINING ON CORPORATE PARENTING</p> <p>The Assistant Director for Children's Services provided Corporate Parenting Committee Members with: an overview of how the Children's Services worked; the vision for the service and the outcomes for families being worked to.</p> <p>The Committee further learned about: which wards had a higher ratio of children and young people living in them, where there were high levels of need, the statutory responsibilities of the service to children and young people, the management team details, the service areas covered by the Children's Service, and the councillor's role as a corporate parent. Some of the key objectives also outlined were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping children and young people in care Haringey by recruiting internal foster carers in the borough • Maintaining and exceeding the adoption timescales • Early help and prevention • Outstanding for all • Delivering the Haringey 54K Transformation programme <p>The presentation was noted by the Committee.</p>	
CPAC9	<p>UPDATE ON OFSTED INSPECTION</p> <p>The Committee considered an overview of the recent Ofsted inspection of the services for children in need of help, and protection, looked after children and care leavers and the review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. They noted the key findings of the inspection, the areas of strength, areas of challenge and the next steps for the service.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to consider the Ofsted improvement plan.</p>	LR
CPAC 10	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <p>The Committee considered an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children. This included</p> <p>In response to Member questions the following information was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people in care will be visited by Haringey 	

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social workers at their placement, whatever the distance. One of the reasons why a child/young person maybe be placed at a distance from the borough, could be due to living with a family member, in a kinship carer placement. The Children's Service will be striving to place children and young people in the borough and there are currently 20 new foster carer assessments being taken forward to meet this service objective.

- There were no children's residential homes managed by the council but there was one respite centre for disabled children which did receive Regulation 33 visits.
- There were 64 adoptions and special guardianship orders in the year exceeding the target by a third. There were also no breakdowns in the placements and this was attributed to officer's use of imaginative ways to find good quality placements. Officers were also maintaining their efforts and focus on keeping siblings together.
- The Committee noted that for the first 3 years of an adoption there will be a support package provided by the council and this would continue until the child reaches 18. Members further noted that if an adopted child has special needs then there is also access to financial support which can continue to above the age of 18.

CPAC further sought understanding about how foster care placements are chosen for children/young people in care and work on ensuring the stability of a placement. Noted that the Children's Service will try to achieve a placement where the needs of the child are best met and there is careful consideration given to the ethnicity of the child when making the placement. The fostering recruitment team will also focus on finding foster carers from all sections of the community. CPAC members asked for a fostering update - to cover progress with recruiting in borough placements, provide understanding to new members of the distances of foster carers outside Haringey to the borough, performance on ethnic matches and how foster carers from ethnic backgrounds are being recruited .

PM

Further information was provided about the ways that a child/ young person will come into the care of the council apart from a care order. Members noted that this could be due to the following conditions:

- Where a parent has independently given up parental responsibility for the child/young person. This could be, if the parent can no longer cope with the child/ young person and come into the care of the council or have an illness and do have family support to care for the child
- Young people in remand services
- Children that have come to the attention of the council from being on child protection plans
- Unaccompanied minors.

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	CPAC further noted that the service was working on improving the completion of initial child assessments within the 10 days. There was focus on getting the required strategy meetings organised within the ten days to meet this target.	
CPAC 11	NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS None	
CPAC 12	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC Not required	
CPAC 13	TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT EXEMPT ITEMS None	
CPAC 14	ANY OTHER BUSINESS In response to a Member question about the process followed by the council for informing all Members about the publication of Serious Case Reviews, the Chair advised that the council followed the guidelines established by the LSCB which gave precedence to the protection of the child, whose care was the subject of the review. The child's welfare was at the heart of actions going forward for the LSCB and this included protecting the child's identity and wellbeing by not informing the public and Council Members of a review until publication of the summary. At an earlier member training session about SCR's in the year, with the previous LSCB chair, had suggested providing simultaneous briefings to council Members on the day a SCR is published, as a way of keeping Members appropriately informed.	

Councillor Ann Waters

Chair

Corporate Parenting meeting Date	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
22 nd September 2014	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. Young people living in semi independent accommodation at 16-17 There are 55 (16-17) year olds not living with a family in separate accommodation. In December it was agreed that a report is compiled which is focused on this group of young people and sets out the council's support and how this compares to other local authorities, working with this similar cohort.</p> <p>3. - [Fostering update - to cover progress with recruiting in borough placements, provide understanding to new members of the distances of foster carers outside Haringey to the borough, performance on ethnic matches and how foster carers from ethnic backgrounds are being recruited .</p> <p>4. Pupil Premium Grant expenditure on Children and Young people in care – Meeting with Aspire at 6.30pm</p> <p>1.Haringey Pledge 2.CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions –</p> <p>3. Invite Denise Gandy to talk about timing of care leaver moves to accommodation and question about payments for temporary accommodation when care leaver is at University</p> <p>Draft Reports will be due with Lisa Redfern on 5th September and published on the 11th September</p>	<p>Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Chris Chalmers</p> <p>Lisa Redfern</p> <p>Paul McCarthy</p> <p>Tracy Hutching</p> <p>Aspire/Sandjea Green Chris Chalmers Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Ayshe Simsek</p>

Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2014/15

8th December 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance 2. CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions 3. Ofsted action plan update - tbc <p>Draft Reports will be due with Lisa Redfern on 21st November and due for publication on 27th November</p>	Margaret Gallagher Chris Chalmers Lisa Redfern
16th March 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance 2. CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions <p>Draft Reports will be due with Lisa Redfern on 2nd March and due for publication on 7th March</p>	Margaret Gallagher Chris Chalmers

Items to be added



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Report for:	Corporate Parent Advisory Committee	Item Number:	
	22 September 2014		

Title:	Semi-independent Accommodation Provision for Looked After Children
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Report Authorised by:	Lisa Redfern Director, Children's Services
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Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers Service Manager, Children in Care
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for information
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report provides information on the arrangements in place in Haringey to meet the housing needs of those young people living in semi-independent accommodation. There are 55 young people in care aged 16 and 17 who are living in separate accommodation (i.e. not in a family or residential setting). At the time of the recent accommodation review (March to June 2014) 37% of young people placed were female and 63% males. This report describes the use of this semi-independent accommodation and Haringey's support of young people in this cohort.
- 1.2 A cross-departmental strategy for young people leaving care was launched by the DfE in October 2013. This has been led by Edward Timpson, Children's Minister, who stipulates that local services to those in care and care leavers must build on best practice to ensure that care leavers receive high quality services which meet their needs and support them to make the transition into adulthood. Within this is a section on housing responsibilities for local authorities. There is an emphasis on the need for "staying put" arrangements and local authorities working with voluntary sector partners to develop positive youth accommodation options. In addition to this there is an onus on local authorities to provide cost effective and efficient homelessness prevention services, such as the avoidance of placing 16 and 17 year olds in bed and breakfast accommodation.



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2. Background

2.1 Looked After Young People aged 16/17 placed in semi-independent accommodation

Semi-independent accommodation is provided to young people aged 16 /17 and looked after by the Council when an assessment indicates that this is the best way of meeting their needs. The wishes and feelings of the young people are taken into account and central to the decision is a judgement about whether the young person will be able to cope and be safe with this level of support.

It should be noted that this provision for young people who are looked after is not regulated by Ofsted in the way that fostering and residential care is regulated. However there are national standards for semi-independent accommodation and Haringey makes every effort to ensure that young people are only placed in good quality accommodation that will meet their needs and which will enable them to participate in education / training and develop independent living skills.

All these young people have an allocated social worker who meets regularly with them. They have Looked After Child reviews chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer at least every six months to review their care plan. In addition, Children and Young People's Service Placement Officers make regular monitoring visits to all placements to ensure that quality standards are being met.

Semi-independent accommodation for this group includes a wide variety of provision, ranging from small units with staff present on the premises 24/7, to individual studio flats with outreach support being provided from a support worker.

2.2 Procurement of semi-independent placements for this cohort of young people

Haringey worked collaboratively with Barnet, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge in tendering for supply of this provision in 2010, as a result of which Framework Contracts were put in place with 39 independent providers. Unfortunately since that work was completed the partner boroughs have drifted away from the contract thereby reducing its effectiveness.

When a semi-independent placement is required for a young person, details are sent out by the CYPS Placements Team to all the approved framework providers. The responses from providers are assessed and Haringey then selects the provider that best meets the requirements of the specific placement against the following criteria:

- geographical location;
- compatibility of profile/skill of the proposed key worker with the young person's assessed needs;



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- overall suitability of the proposal for meeting the young person's needs; and
- weekly placement cost (value for money judgement).

Once satisfactory arrangements have been fully agreed, an individual placement agreement is completed with the provider for that placement. Final authorisation for the placement to proceed is then given by the appropriate senior manager.

2.3 Review of Semi independent accommodation

In the period March to June 2014 a comprehensive review of the quality of accommodation and support provided by 19 different providers was undertaken. At this time 32% of the provision was outside Haringey and 68% was within the borough. Most out-borough provision is within neighbouring authorities and, not infrequently, young people request to be placed outside the borough boundary for a variety of reasons.

With a focus on 16 and 17 year olds' accommodation, three flats/shared houses were selected from each provider for inspection. These also included some care leaver provision as the providers supply both cohorts. Findings regarding the physical quality of the accommodation were: 7 adequate, 10 of good quality, and 2 outstanding. Regarding support of young people by providers: 8 were deemed to be adequate, 10 of good quality, and one outstanding. None were considered to be inadequate in either support or physical standard.

2.4 Action Plan

As an outcome of this piece of work the following action plan was developed by the Placements and Commissioning Team to support the providers in improving the standard of their accommodation plus their support and service delivery to young people.

- ✚ Haringey's Children's Placement and Commissioning Team to develop an effective tool which should be ratified by Senior Management for Placement Officers/and Looked After Children Advisors to use when carrying out their monitoring duties/and responsibilities;
- ✚ Haringey to ensure that monitoring visits are undertaken four monthly due to this being an unregulated area, so as to ensure young people are being given a quality service, adequately safeguarded and appropriately supported by the semi-independent providers. This process must be embedded as this will demonstrate to our semi-independent providers that as the Local Authority we are taking our monitoring responsibilities seriously and to drive up standard of accommodation and support;
- ✚ Establish a regular Semi-Independent Providers' forum where the providers can talk about their services, identify gaps in service delivery, presentation of providers services, setting up good practices, raise concerns, share ideas, and seek resolutions and solutions to their concerns and issues;



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- ✚ Offer the Semi Independent Providers access to some Local Authority training such as safeguarding young people, young people involved in gangs, managing difficult and challenging behaviour and sexual exploitation;
- ✚ Principal Social Worker, Team Managers and Senior Practitioners possibly could be asked to deliver in-house training such as sexual exploitation, missing person's training via Semi-Independent Providers' forum;
- ✚ Social Workers, Placement Officers, and Independent Review Officers to ensure that the providers are given key documentation such as placement request forms, pathway plan, Personal Education Plans and Looked After Child Review minutes - ideally the placement request forms plus pathway plan at the commencement of the young person's placement;
- ✚ Social Workers and Placement Officers to ensure that placement planning meetings are convened within seven days of placing a young person, so that all parties - the young people, the Local Authority and the providers - are clear about their expectations and responsibilities; and
- ✚ Placement Officers must undertake regular monitoring visits.

Action plan for the providers from Haringey

- Safer recruitment must be evidenced in all of the providers' support staff files and the documents that must be seen are CRBs, proof of address, proof of identification, previous work references or personal references, application form, CV, and qualifications if applicant specifies that they have a qualification;
- Providers must ensure that they provide regular supervision to their support staff;
- Providers must ensure that they hold regular team meetings to ensure effective communication and sharing of information is taking place between themselves and their support staff;
- Providers to ensure that all of their support workers have undertaken the mandatory training that has been specified by Haringey and evidence these trainings on the staff's files;
- All providers must develop systems where they are able to obtain young people's views about the standard of accommodation and support that they receive;
- Providers need to invest in their staff's training needs especially staff who have had no previous experience of working with young people;
- Some providers must work towards bringing up their standards to ensure that they are able to provide both good and outstanding accommodation and support to young people;
- Providers must be able to show evidence that they have chased the local authority for missing documents such as placement service request forms, pathway/care plans, Personal Education Plans and Looked After Child Review minutes;
- Providers must set up systems whereby they are able to record external complaints and internal complaints which should include any disputes, conflicts, and disagreements. They must also evidence what actions have been taken and give an indication of the resolution if any;
- Providers must record all incidents and what actions have been taken;
- Providers must show evidence of missing person's procedure and that they are following their processes and procedures; and



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- Providers must report young people missing to the police and the Local Authority must be informed when a young person is deemed missing.

2.5 Transition planning for those currently in semi-independent accommodation

Semi-independent accommodation is used only for older Looked After Children and care leavers. It is not permanent and is used prior to transition at 18 and in the early stages of transition whilst young people await their permanent social housing.

Haringey utilises a range of options for those in care and care leavers at transition which is summarised below:

- We have an established agreement between Housing Services and Children's Services that a quota of social housing lets will be set aside each year for care leavers. The quota level is based on a projection of the number of young people who are due to leave care that year and a consideration of the range of needs. For the last two years the quota has been 60 one bedroom properties per year. Each quarter we provide a tenancy workshop for 15 young people aged 17 upwards and, upon completion of the workshop they are able to apply to start bidding for a tenancy. The workshop includes staff from the Young Adults Service (YAS), Housing Vulnerable Adults Team (VAT) and an Income Recovery Team worker to give practical advice on bidding, moving in to a tenancy and sustaining it. The quota system means that care leavers use of temporary accommodation is greatly reduced;
- Joint work is underway with Aspire and Housing Management Team to consider whether to add a small number of 2 bedroom properties into the quota to help meet the needs of care leavers who are parents. Aspire are assisting in terms of setting appropriate criteria for this offer as there will not be a sufficient number of flats for all young parents. The average time for our care leavers moving on to their permanent accommodation is within six months of their 18th birthday;
- We have a well-established supported living scheme, which provides shared housing for young women (at one address) and now we have just acquired newly refurbished accommodation for our parallel young men's project. These houses provide for young people who are due to leave care but are assessed as needing to develop some additional skills or experience before they are likely to be able to manage a tenancy. This project gives those who have medium level independence skills to live as part of a group of three young people with a volunteer lead tenant to offer them additional support. The outcome of staying in the halfway house is a young person's opportunity to move seamlessly onto their own permanent accommodation in around 6-10 months of moving in. This option is especially suitable for those young people who return to London after a period living away in foster care or residential care and benefit from support as they adjust to being back in London; and
- Since the introduction of the social housing quota, most care leavers move on to their settled accommodation within approximately six months of becoming 18 without the need for temporary accommodation. This however was not the case historically and so the Housing Service are currently reviewing all care leavers who



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are living in temporary accommodation with the aim of moving them on to one of three options:

- a) permanent social housing;
- b) private sector accommodation; or
- c) supported housing, if they have struggled in temporary accommodation and would benefit from a period of support.

2.6 Care leavers who are No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Those care leavers post-18 who are All Rights Exhausted cases are supported by the service with their Housing needs as well as with a subsistence allowance. They are not entitled to claim any benefits as they have no defined leave to remain in the UK. We will continue with our support until they are at least 21 when they will be referred to the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) or, if they are parents, to our NRPF team.

3. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

4. Comments of the Assistant Director Corporate Governance and legal implications

- 4.1** The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted about this report.
- 4.2** Under Section 22C of the Children Act 1989 (CA 1989), the local authority must make arrangement for a looked after child to live with parent, someone with parental responsibility, or a person in whose favour a residence order was made, unless such an arrangement would be inconsistent with the child's welfare. If so, the authority must place the child in the placement which is, in their opinion, the most appropriate placement available. Such a placement may be with a friend or relative who is a local authority foster parent, a different foster parent, a children's home, or any other placement, provided the arrangement comply with any relevant regulations. This may involve independent accommodation, semi-independent accommodation or a placement with a private provider. There is statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for young people who are looked after and care leavers. Local authorities are required to adhere to the requirements of the guidance unless there are exceptional reasons to depart from it. In exercising its corporate parenting and advisory role, the Committee should take into account the requirements of the guidance.
- 4.3** The statutory guidance "Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation" (April 2010) provides guidance on children's services' and housing services' initial responses to 16 and 17 year olds seeking help because of homelessness; the provision of suitable accommodation based on an assessment of needs and in accordance with the local

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authority duty to provide accommodation under Section 20 CA 1989; and joint working protocol between children's and housing services at strategic and operational level to prevent youth homelessness and ensure sufficient accommodation to meet the range of needs of homeless young people. The guidance provides that bed and breakfast accommodation is not suitable accommodation for young people.

4.4 For care leavers, the statutory guidance "Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care leavers" 2011 requires local authorities to commission a range of semi-independent and independent accommodation. Children's Services are required to work with housing strategy, housing options, housing related support functions and other partners to secure a range of suitable housing and support options for young people leaving care. The guidance provides that there should be joint protocols which should establish arrangements for:

- "A shared commitment from Children's Services and Housing Services to adopt a 'corporate parenting' approach for looked after children and care leavers making the transition to adulthood.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for supporting the transition from care, including the role of the PA (Personal Adviser).
- Access for care leavers to the full range of potentially suitable supported accommodation options in the area.
- Pathway planning systems that anticipate accommodation needs. They should engage each young person, their PA and housing services staff regarding suitable housing options and any additional support needed, so that the necessary arrangements are in place at the point where the young person is ready to move on from their care placement. Subsequent moves should also be carefully planned.
- Arrangements to offer care leavers in need of social housing reasonable preference on welfare grounds through local housing authority allocations schemes.
- Contingency planning arrangements for when placements are at risk or break down, led by PAs working with accommodation providers, housing options teams and other support services.
- Planned access to accommodation and support for care leavers who will need accommodation on release from custodial institutions.



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- Ensuring supported transitions to adult services where needed, such as adult social care, adult mental health services, substance misuse services and the Probation Service.”

4.5 The guidance advise that the range of semi-independent and independent accommodation options for care leaver may include “enabling young people to remain in the accommodation in which they lived whilst being looked after, e.g. by converting a foster placement to a post-18 arrangement or supported lodgings”; specialist accommodation and independent accommodation in the social or private rented sectors.

4.6 As to independent accommodation, the guidance advise that “children’s services and housing services should develop access routes for care leavers into both social and private rented accommodation, taking into account local housing market conditions, to maximise care leavers’ housing options. Local authorities should avoid blanket approaches of promoting or discouraging either tenure, instead ensuring that the advantages and drawbacks of each are discussed with each young person as they plan to move to independent living”.

4.7 For care leavers aged 18 and over who were formerly unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC’s) and have exhausted their rights of appeal and have no recourse to public funds, they are unlawfully in the country and by virtue of Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 are excluded from entitlement to leaving care support services. The local authority is only under a duty to provide subsistence and accommodation if it is necessary to prevent a breach of their human rights.

5. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

6. Head of Procurement Comments

7. Policy Implication

8. Use of Appendices

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



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Report for:	Corporate Parent Advisory Committee 22 September 2014	Item Number:	
Title:	Pupil Premium Plus Expenditure on Children and Young People in Care		
Report Authorised by:	Lisa Redfern Director, Children's Services		
Lead Officer:	Tracey Hutchings – Head of Virtual School		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Non Key Decision		

1. Pupil Premium Update and Summary Up-Date of Spend as of July 2014

- 1.1 Since the introduction of the Pupil Premium (PP) in 2011, extra funding has been given to schools in order to close the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils and assist with the pastoral needs of children with parents in the armed forces. The pupil premium for vulnerable pupils is linked to number of pupils entitled to free school meals.
- 1.2 Since 2011 the funding given to schools has increased per pupil; (2011/12 £423, 2012/13 £600, 2013/14 £900). Prior to 2014 children continuously in care from six months before 1st April were eligible for the Looked After Children Pupil Premium (LACPP). The money was allocated to schools as specific targeted funding to raise the attainment of the child/young person. Schools need to demonstrate how the LACPP has impacted on progress.

2. Changes from 1 April 2014

- 2.1 Children in care have previously attracted Pupil Premium funding at the same rate as children from low income families, but now they attract a higher rate of funding the Pupil Premium Plus¹ (PPP).

1

* There is now a separate allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care or who have left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) on or after 30 January 2005, providing they were recorded on the January School Census; and also for children who left care under a Residence Order (RO) on or after 14 October 1991.



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- 2.2. The Pupil Premium Plus will see funding to support children in care at school increase by £1,000 per pupil to make it £1900 per child from April 2014.
- 2.3 Children will now be eligible as soon as they enter care, rather than the previous six month criteria. The new guidance: *Pupil Premium 2014 to 2015: conditions of grant February 2014* requires the Virtual School to have control over the Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After Children. The guidance states that grant allocation for looked after children must be managed by the Virtual School Head and is to be used for the benefit of the child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- 2.3 In addition to information requested from the Virtual School, schools are held to account in regards to the use of the Pupil Premium Plus through:-
- performance tables;
 - the current Ofsted inspection framework;
 - online reports to parents; and
 - monitoring via the PEP stakeholders.

3. Actions by Haringey Virtual School to Support Implementation

- Work with finance colleagues to set up payment system; currently schools are allocated £600 each term per pupil;
- Production of leaflet: *Haringey Virtual School Guide: The Pupil Premium Plus (LACPPP) for Looked After Children April 2014* which explains the new guidance and describes the processes. This has been made available to Social Workers, Independent Reviewing Officers, Designated Teachers and Supervising Social Workers;
- Update of information on the PEP form B regarding allocation, impact and evaluation of the pupil premium. The money is allocated to schools, who during the PEP meeting, should consult the social worker, foster carer and young person in regards to spend with the focus on raising educational attainment; and
- Agreement with Haringey Head Teachers through the Network Learning Communities to consult them during the Autumn Term on the allocation of the PPP and how it is monitored and evaluated.

4. OfSTED Inspection May 2014

- 4.1 Ofsted reported on the effective use of Pupil Premium Plus and they identified elements of good practice including: analysing which pupils are underachieving and why; allocating funding to effective evidence based activities; use of achievement data to check the efficacy of interventions and techniques; and ensuring staff understand their role and are trained appropriately.



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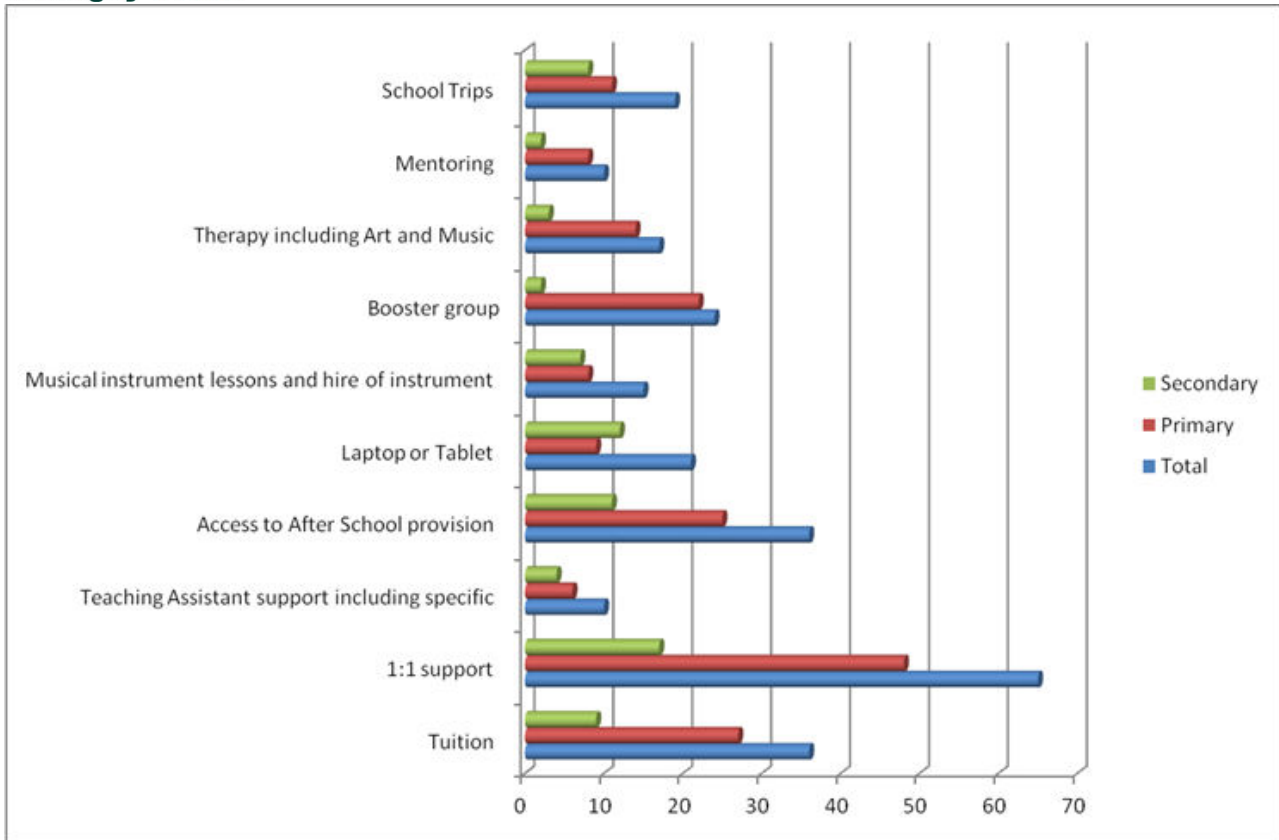
5. Current Spend by Schools of the LACPPP – Spring Term 2014

- 5.1 In the Summer Term 2014 the Virtual School amended the attainment data collection form (collected via the Virtual School website) to include feedback in regards to use of the pupil premium, requesting a breakdown of intervention, impact and outcome.
- 5.2 From the information received from schools for the Spring term the LACPPP has been used for the following interventions and activities.
- Tuition
 - Primary: Maths, English, Reading, Writing, Literacy, Phonics
 - Secondary: English, Maths, Literacy
 - 1:1 support
 - Primary - Maths, Phonics, Speech and Language, Pastoral, English, Reading Recovery and Handwriting
 - Secondary - Maths, English, Science and emotional and behavioural support
 - Teaching Assistant support including specific
 - Access to After School provision
 - Laptop or Tablet
 - Musical instrument lessons and hire of instrument
 - Booster group
 - Therapy including Art and Music
 - Mentoring
 - School Trips.

The graph below shows use of the pupil premium plus and the interventions and activities for Primary and Secondary aged pupils.



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5.3 Reporting from schools has shown that the intervention strategies employed using the PPP is diverse and use is being made of key research and specific research based intervention programmes and schemes. Much of the feedback states that 1:1 intervention has greatly helped to increase educational attainment. Some reports indicate that there has been a small measurable change in learning but the intervention has given pupils greater confidence, increased enjoyment of class work, enhanced participation and nurtured better social skills.

5.4 School activities and interventions also included:

Primary

- Social stories
- Emotional well-being (nurturing, monitoring, friendship clubs).
- Counselling
- Behaviour trips
- Social skills training
- Golf tuition to develop talents
- Horse riding for confidence building

Secondary:

- Progress Park (how to manage difficult situations)
- Behaviour support
- Life Skills training



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Learning to play a musical instrument and music therapy has included the recorder, key board, steel drums, piano, drumming, guitar and violin. Access to after school clubs continues to be important to consolidate learning and provide enrichment and support.

5.5 Case Studies

Year 2 pupil. Pupil was identified on his PEP to be in need of academic and emotional support. Interventions included daily supported reading (1:1), Friendship Club participation, nurturing monitoring, keyboard lessons and horse riding. The outcome: increase in educational achievement level to his 'full potential', and 'not so quiet in class and has grown in confidence'.

Year 6 pupil. Pupil received tuition in Maths and Literacy, was given a violin on which to practice and received lessons. He was also given 1:1 learning mentor support with a focus on issues of transition into Secondary school and included an accompanied pre-visit to the school. The outcome: '...enabled him to meet nationally expected attainment (levels)', 'continued to excel in violin. He performed solos at the end of term and gained a lot of affirmation.....' His transition to secondary is anticipated to be a smooth one.

Year 9 pupil (statemented). Pupil was identified to be in need of academic and emotional support in addition to support identified in his statement, the school employed a mentor to support a better understanding of a positive attitude to learning, undertake restorative justice work, supports friendship development skills and is available to him after school, lunch time and breaks. The mentor also assists with homework and course work. In addition, he was given an opportunity to undertake an Animal Husbandry Land Based course. The outcome: the strategies have resulted in better relationships with peers and staff and increased educational achievement levels.

Year 11 pupil. Pupil needed Literacy tuition to boost levels of attainment and was placed in a very small booster group with a learning mentor. Preparation for transition to college and extra help with making future plans resulted in 1:1 counselling sessions. Visits to a Royal Opera House production and the Purfleet Backstage Centre were also offered. The weekly catch up programme gave good opportunity for pupil to be on target for the GCSE exams. The outcome: counselling allowed pupil to prepare for college appropriately and effectively. The theatrical visits increased artistic creativity and skills and she gained a greater knowledge of lighting, sounds, costume production and model box making.

5.6 Key Documents:

- Ofsted report: *The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement*, February 2013
- *Pupil Premium 2014 to 2015 conditions of grant*



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- DfE: *Evaluation of Pupil Premium* July 2013
- Sutton Trust: *EEF teaching and learning toolkit* February 2014.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

7. Comments of the Assistant Director Corporate Governance and legal implications

7.1 The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted about this report.

7.2 The Pupil Premium Grant is a financial assistance or grant provided by the Secretary of State for disadvantaged pupils (including looked after children) for education or education related purposes and pursuant to its powers under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002. The conditions of the grant are set out the DFE Paper Pupil Premium 2014 to 2015: conditions of grant and referred to in the Report. Local authorities are required to “certify that they have passed on the correct amount of funding to schools or, where funding has been spent centrally, that it has been spent in line with the conditions of the grant”.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

9. Head of Procurement Comments

10. Policy Implication

11. Use of Appendices

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



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Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) on 22 nd September 2014	Item Number:	
Title:	Progress on the recruitment of new in house foster carers and actions being taken to address Ofsted's recommendations for improvement of the fostering service		
Report Authorised by:	Lisa Redfern, Director of Children's Services		
Lead Officer:	Paul McCarthy Interim Head of Service (Children Looked After Resources and Placements)		
Ward(s) affected:	All	Report Non Key Decisions:	To keep the committee informed of progress and developments in this service area.

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 As at 8th September 2014 Haringey had 505 looked after children and young people aged 0 – 17. Haringey is successful in being able to place most (80%) of our looked after children in foster families. The remaining 20% are accounted for by

- Children with special health and educational needs placed in specialist residential care homes (approximately 20),
- Children placed for adoption,
- Children placed in residential schools (usually children with complex and severe learning difficulties),
- Young people aged 16/17 placed in semi-independent accommodation, and
- A very small number placed back at home with parents.

1.2 Haringey has for many years been highly dependent on Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) in order to find suitable foster placements for looked after children and young people. The balance is gradually improving, however at the present time 51% of children who are in foster care are in placements with IFA foster carers. This compares with 60% of fostered children placed with IFA foster carers in September 2013. "Good" and "Outstanding" local authorities would typically have between 0% - 20% of their looked after children placed with IFA carers as they would have a better supply and choice of local in-house foster carers.



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1.3 The IFA foster carers we work with are all fully approved and trained foster carers, mostly living in Haringey or in one of the immediately adjacent boroughs. Care quality standard expectations are exactly the same as those required at an in-house foster carer. The unit cost of these placements is significantly higher than an in-house foster placement (median weekly cost approximately £700 per week as compared with a median cost of £480 per week for a foster placement with one of Haringey's own foster carers). In addition, it can be more difficult to establish a positive working relationship and sense of partnership with a foster carer who is approved by an IFA and this can affect our ability to secure the very best outcomes for the child.

1.4 During the year 2012/13 a major review was carried out of the fostering service and of our strategy for ensuring that Haringey has sufficient numbers and range of foster carers and other provision to meet the assessed needs of the borough's looked after children. This work was supported by our strategic partner iMPower and led to detailed proposals for reorganising the fostering service and the publication of our Looked After Children and Young People's Sufficiency Strategy (attached).

1.5 During the period 20 May 2014 – 11 June 2014 Ofsted carried out an in depth inspection of Haringey's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Ofsted's Report was published on 18 July 2014. Ofsted's graded judgement of Haringey's service to Children Looked After was "Requires Improvement", whilst noting many positive areas. The section of the report on the fostering service contained a number of criticisms and recommendations for improvement. The actions put in place to address these recommendations are summarised below in section 5.12.

1.6 This report is intended to provide CPAC with information about progress in the recruitment of new foster carers as well as information on progress in regard to Ofsted's recommendations for improving the fostering service.

2. Background information

2.1 As at 8th September 2014, Haringey's register of foster carers showed that Haringey has:

- 136 task centred fostering households (the purpose of task centred fostering is to provide a temporary placement to a child until the child can either return home to birth parents or wider family network or to a permanent placement which is usually adoption or special guardianship. The task centred carer is part of the professional network involved in the child's life and is expected to undertake task associated with the care plan for the child);
- 31 connected person foster carers (sometimes referred to as "kinship foster carers (connected persons fostering, or kinship care, is where children are fostered by a member of their wider family or friendship network. The connected persons foster carer is approved to foster specific children only and can be either short term or permanent).



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- 33 short break foster carers (specialist respite carers for disabled children); and
- 292 registered individual foster carers.

2.2 During the year 2013/14, there were 21 new task centred fostering households recruited and approved. During the same year 30 fostering households were deregistered for various reasons, mainly due to retirement or the circumstances of the carers having changed (for example in full time employment) meaning they were no longer available to take placements. This was an unusually high number of fostering de-registrations during 2013/14, representing a “tidying up” exercise and getting to grips with situations that had been over-looked for some time. The net result in 2013/14 was that the in house fostering service lost 3 fostering places.

2.3 To date, during 2014/15 there have been 2 fostering households deregistered and 5 new task centred foster carers have been approved. We anticipate that 5 – 10 task centred fostering households are likely to be deregistered in total during the current year.

2.4 Since April 2014 Haringey has been working in close partnership through a formal contract with a private company called Network Recruitment Solutions (NRS) which specialises in the recruitment and placing of agency social care staff, running contact centres for looked after children and also the recruitment and assessment of professional foster carers using self employed independent social workers to carry out the assessments and present these to the fostering panel. Haringey followed the Corporate Procurement Processes in appointing NRS for a limited period of time with a detailed contract and specific targets in regard to quality of service and quantity of new enquiries to be generated and new prospective foster carers to be presented to the Fostering Panel. NRS has worked successfully with four other London boroughs in the recruitment and assessment of foster carers. The major advantages of using NRS are,

- (a) Their experience in marketing and awareness raising in local communities;
- (b) Agility in providing a quick, friendly and professional response to all initial enquiries;
- (c) A supply of experienced self-employed social worker associates who can focus on the assessment, aiming to complete and present to panel within eight weeks; and
- (d) Experience in providing high quality “Skills to Foster Training”.

2.5 The Fostering Panel’s capacity has been increased to two panels per month from July 2014 – March 2015 to accommodate the increased flow of assessments to be considered. We aim for four NRS fostering assessments to be presented to each fostering panel. Our agreed stretch target is to approve 45 new task centred fostering households (not including kinship foster carers) during 2014/5, as compared with 21 new foster carers approved the previous year, giving us an additional fostering capacity of 60 fostering beds (less any that may be lost through foster carers resigning or being deregistered for other reasons).



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2.6 At this stage (beginning of month 6) the Haringey contract managers and NRS feel confident about achieving the target of 45 new fostering households to be approved in 2014/15. We would need to maintain this rate of growth for a further two years to reach the required position of no more than 20% of foster children and young people being placed with IFA carers. This is at the heart of the CYPS Sufficiency Plan for looked after children, ensuring a good supply of local foster carers from all sections of the community and allowing social workers a degree of choice when placing children to give the best possible chance of the children's needs being fully met.

2.7 Table 1: New foster carers currently in approval pipeline

Type of contact	April 2014 – August 2014
Initial enquiries	125
Initial telephone interviews conducted	37
Home visits conducted	30
Under Assessment	17
Approved	5
Completed Skills to Foster Training	24 people (16 foster Carer Households)

2.8 Table 2: Tabulated summary of criticisms and recommendations made by Ofsted and actions / progress that have been put in place.

1	The sufficiency and quality of the in-house fostering service provision are under - developed	<p>(a) Detailed sufficiency strategy and planning now in place.</p> <p>(b) Ambitious but realistic targets in place to grow the in-house foster carer pool by 45 new fostering households in 2014/15 and maintain this growth in 2015/17.</p> <p>(c) Restructure of fostering teams and externalisation of fostering recruitment and assessment has released a considerable amount of extra social work resource for the training and support of foster carers, with reduced caseloads.</p>
2	Foster carers are not adequately supported by their supervising social workers	<p>(a) A new "Fostering Pledge" has been agreed between the department and Haringey Foster Care Association. This contains a commitment to an enhanced level of visiting, availability and support to foster carers (Fostering Pledge is to be found in Appendix A)</p> <p>(b) fostering support groups are being reviewed and a wider range of groups will be provided in the future</p>



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		(c) A foster carer "satisfaction survey" is being designed and will be carried out by the end of the calendar year. This will assist in providing a benchmark of satisfaction. It will be repeated each year and will give an indication of whether support systems are improving steadily over time
3	Ensure that sufficient in-house and local foster carers are recruited, so that more looked after children and young people can live nearer to their communities, if appropriate	(a) our partner NRS has led on the marketing and promotion of fostering, concentrating on reaching families living in or very close to Haringey. A summary of marketing activities for the period April 2014 – November 2014 is provided in the following section.
4	Foster carers do not feel sufficiently engaged with the improvement process	(a) Monthly meetings are now taking place with the Committee of the Haringey Fostering Association. The Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director (Safeguarding) have recently attended these meetings and will attend every quarter. (b) A sufficiency development strategy board and work streams have been put in place. Foster carers are represented on all these groups. (c) A new termly newsletter is now being produced (first edition September 2014) as a means of keeping foster carers informed and feeling involved (d) A Haringey Fostering Conference is being planned for November 2014 at which we are aiming for a high proportion of foster carers to attend
5	Foster carers report receiving varying levels of support and supervision from their supervising social worker	(a) A Fostering Pledge has been agreed that sets new enhanced service standards and expectations. (b) fostering records are routinely audited by fostering managers to check for compliance with improved service standards (c) duty fostering officer service has been reviewed and improved
6	Some foster carers had not been allocated a supervising social worker to support them for long periods of time, or they had experienced a succession of agency social	(a) all foster carers now have an allocated supervising social worker (b) There has been significant progress in recruiting permanent staff to



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	workers who did not give them consistent advice	vacancies in the fostering service. The one remaining agency member of staff will leave at the end of September 2014 and will be replaced with a permanent member of staff. All managers are permanent employees, with the one exception of the Interim Head of Service who has been in post since May 2013 and whose contract ends in March 2015.
7	There are no systems in place in the local authority to celebrate the achievements of existing foster carers or recognise their contribution to services for looked after children	(a) A major Fostering Conference will take place annually, the first being in November 2014. A key aspect of this conference is to promote the engagement of foster carers and to make them feel valued and their achievements celebrated (b) it has been agreed that an end of year party / celebratory event will take place every December from this year. (c) consultation is taking place with children and young people about how best to nominate foster carers for special awards
8	Although a scheme for delegated responsibility for foster carers is in place so that they can make some decisions about the lives of the children who live with them, children, young people and foster carers seen by inspectors were not clear about the decisions that they could make	(a) Additional training is being arranged to help foster carers to understand the "delegated responsibility" scheme (b) this is now being addressed in initial "Skills to Foster" Training for all new foster carers (c) Foster carer support groups will be used to improve understanding (d) the new "Fostering Newsletter" will contain easy to understand guidance to the delegated responsibility scheme.

2.9 Outline of fostering marketing activity during period April – November 2014

- May – June 2014. Leaflets delivered by hand to every house in the borough
- Fostering pages on website redesigned and micro-site created
- Redirect put in place so that all initial fostering enquiries by email or phone go direct to NRS for instant response
- Increased range of fostering information sessions advertised at varying times in Tottenham, Wood Green and Hornsey
- Pop – Up posters designed and placed in all Haringey libraries and other public buildings along with information leaflets



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- Newspaper adverts in Enfield and Haringey Advertiser
- Large vinyl banners promoting fostering to be positioned on external railings /walls of Haringey schools (subject to permission of Heads, and on all Children's Centres
- Fostering leaflets to be sent out to all primary school parents through children's book bags (by end of September 2014)
- Fostering Newsletter (first edition September 2014) will ask existing foster carers to talk with family and friends who may be interested in fostering
- Presentations to local churches during Autumn 2014
- Discussions taking place with Tottenham Hotspur about possibility of an advert promoting fostering at home fixtures and in match programme.
- Further vinyl banners to be placed in prominent positions on Haringey parks and recreation grounds, subject to obtaining agreement of relevant department and Central Comms.
- Presentations being arranged to children's social workers to assist them in being more effective as champions for recruiting foster carers when they are in contact with IFA foster carers
- Chief Executive to be asked to promote fostering though weekly newsletter to all Council staff

3. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

4. Comments of the Assistant Director Corporate Governance and legal implications

The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted about this report. There are no legal implications arising from the report.

5. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

6. Head of Procurement Comments

7. Policy Implication

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix1: Fostering Pledge agreed between CYPS and Haringey Foster Carer Association.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



Haringey's Pledge to our foster carers

- We acknowledge the central importance of the child's relationship with their foster carer
- We will always work with the foster carer as a core member of the team around the child
- We will always provide foster carers with full information about children who are to be placed with them
- We will ensure that foster carers always receive relevant support services
- We will make sure foster carers are offered training and development opportunities in order to develop their knowledge and skills in meeting the needs of looked after children and young people
- We will strive to constantly improve the quality of the support we provide to foster carers and we will actively involve foster carers in the review and development of the service
- We will allocate a supervising social worker to every foster carer
- The supervising social worker will keep in close contact with the foster carer, visiting at least once every four weeks and with a telephone contact at least weekly
- We will provide an out of hours support and advice service to foster carers
- We will provide support groups for foster carers
- We will do all we can to enable foster carers to have an active and effective Foster Carer Association, able to represent foster carers and contribute to the development and improvement of the service to children
- Whenever foster carers are subject to allegations or complaints, we will always investigate with an open mind and showing care and respect for the foster carer. We will let the foster carer know the outcome of the investigation as soon as possible. We will make sure foster carers are provided with support during this process
- We greatly value the role played by "Family and Friends" foster carers and we will ensure that these carers receive high quality support and training in accordance with the Council's Family and Friends Policy.
- We recognise the impact of fostering on the birth children of foster carers and we will improve our support services to "children who foster"
- We will provide foster carers with clear guidance and support in regard to their delegated authority

Lisa Redfern
Director of Children's Services
July 2014