

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Monday, 4th April, 2016, 7.15 PM or on the rise of the informal meeting with Aspire - Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22 8LE**

**Members:** Councillors Patrick Berryman, Makbule Gunes, Bob Hare, Liz Morris, Anne Stennett, Ann Waters (Chair) and Elin Weston

Quorum: 2

### **1. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

### **3. 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 12 below.

### **4. 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' judgement of the public interest.

**5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 8)**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE**

Feedback from the earlier meeting with Aspire.

**7. MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 9 - 12)**

**8. PERFORMANCE (PAGES 13 - 18)**

**9. PAN-LONDON ADOPTION BID**

Verbal update

**10. UPDATE ON NRS CONTRACT**

Verbal Update.

**11. MISSING CHILDREN (PAGES 19 - 22)**

**12. CARE LEAVERS (PAGES 23 - 28)**

**13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS.**

As per Item 3.

**14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of 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.

**15. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

As per Item 3.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

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**MINUTES OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 5 JANUARY 2016**

Councillors Cllr Waters [Chair], Cllr Berryman, Cllr Stennett, Cllr Morris, Cllr Gunes, Cllr Weston & Cllr Hare

Apologies Margaret Gallagher, Lesley Kettles & Annie Walker

Also attending Jon Abbey (Interim Director of Children's Services), Neelam Bhardwaja (Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Social Care), Dominic Porter-Moore (Children in Care Service Manager), Fiona Smith (Virtual School Head), Philip Slawther (Clerk), Lyn Carrington (Nurse - Whittington Health NHS)

**CPAC337. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

None.

**CPAC338. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE**

NOTED: The actions listed in the notes of the meeting with Aspire.

The Director of Children's Services identified finding an additional resource to work with Anneke as a significant issue, given budgetary constraints. The Committee discussed that care leavers or graduate trainees could be possible solutions. The Committee also discussed whether someone from Children in Care could provide some leadership and vision to the group. The AD Safeguarding proposed outlining the role of Aspire clearly on the new leaflets being developed in order to clearly outline to prospective Aspire members what the organisation did and what its focus was.

**CPAC339. URGENT BUSINESS**

NONE

**CPAC340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NONE

**CPAC341. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 were AGREED.

In relation to the previous action around some disabled LAC travelling long distances to school, the Head of Integrated Service, Early Help and Prevention ADVISED that there was a small cohort of 22 LAC with a disability. Of the 22 individuals: 7 were in a residential special school which was more than 20 miles outside of Haringey; 15 were fostered outside of Haringey and attended a day special school that was located near to their foster placement; and of the remaining children there were 3 who travelled a significant distance to maintain their previous school placements.

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The Head of Integrated Service commented that over time the group which attended a residential special school would need to be looked at as this involved a cohort of young people who had complex care needs, potentially involving both the needs of the children and of their families. As a result, work was being undertaken to look at commissioning different services for them locally.

The Committee NOTED that a mystery shopper exercise had been undertaken in relation to NRS, involving a number of different scenarios and that the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The Children in Care Service Manager reported that on each occasion the shopper was met with interest, professional courtesy and that the person from NRS was able to talk in detail about the process.

The Children in Care Service Manager also advised that, in terms of the NRS contract, a working group been set up to look at three potential models for future delivery; including contract renewal, putting the contract out to tender or bringing the service back in-house. The Children in Care Service Manager REPORTED that one of the main issues with the current contract was that it was so vague that NRS recruited an overwhelmingly majority of foster carers for young children but failed to recruit enough placements for older children and teenagers. The Committee NOTED that the current contract was set up so that NRS were paid on a per assessment basis.

The Chair requested an update on the NRS contract be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Action: Dominic Porter-Moore**

The AD Safeguarding REPORTED that significant progress had been made in relation to Missing Children; a protocol on Missing Children had been signed with the LSCB and agreed with all partner agencies. In addition, the Head of Service for Safeguarding has instigated monthly meeting panels to look at Missing Children at those at risk, in an integrated multi-agency way.

The AD Safeguarding also REPORTED that the Pan-London Adoption bid was a work in progress. The bid had been initially allocated £100k for the design and scoping work and the Committee was informed that this work was ongoing. In addition, there were also a number of meetings taking place with prospective adopters, young people, and council leaders to scope their views on how the service should be designed. The AD Safeguarding agreed to circulate the regionalisation adoption vision for London document and agreed to keep the Committee updated of on the progress of the bid.

**Action: Neelam Bhardwaja**

**CPAC342. MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee NOTED the Corporate Parenting Agenda Plan 2015/16

**CPAC343. PERFORMANCE**

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RECEIVED the report on Performance for the Year to November 2015. Report included in the agenda pack (pages 15 to 21).

NOTED in response to discussion:

- An overall improving trajectory in relation to the majority of performance indicators.
- There were 434 Children in Care, which was 74 per 10,000 population including 38 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. Haringey's rate of LAC remained significantly above the London (52) and National average (60) although the gap had closed to the statistical neighbour rate of 69.
- A performance review system had been put in place by the Head of Service with team managers attending a weekly session to review plans and dates for their timely completion and update on the system as needed. As a result, performance on care plans, pathway plans and Personal Education Plans (PEPs) had improved. At the end of November, 84% of Looked After Children had an up to date Care Plan, a significant improvement from a low level of 49% at the end of May and only 6% away from the expected target.
- 62% of school aged children had completed an up to date Personal Education Plans at the end of November. This is a gradual improvement from the drop in performance in September (49% compared to a high of 71% in July), although it remains below the expected level. The Committee noted that this figure was 70% as of New Year's Eve.
- The Committee noted that after looking into the issue, holding e-PEP's was not practical due to the need to host them on an external system and the likely costs involved. The AD Safeguarding advised that part of the role of the PEP was to get all of the relevant people together in a room and create a two-way dialogue.
- In mid-December, 77% of Looked After Children aged 16-17 had up to date Pathway Plans. Performance in this area was at its highest and had increased significantly compared to the low level (20%) achieved in June. The Committee noted that this figure was 80% as of New Year's Eve.
- The Committee requested that examples of PEP, Care Plan & Pathway Plan were circulated to the Committee, in order to give them a better idea of what information was contained therein.

**Action: Dominic Porter-Moore/Fiona Smith**

- 83 Children or 19% were placed 20 miles or more from Haringey at the end of November 2015, slightly above than the 16% target but on an improving trajectory. Although higher than national levels this proportion was in line with the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).

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- The downward trajectory of the average amount of time taken for children being placed for adoption was noted (431 days – YTD October). The Committee noted significant improvement in performance for this indicator compared to last year. This figure was above national average but was in line with statistical neighbours. In response to a question, the Committee considered that performance on this indicator was lower in London than elsewhere due to delays in court processes. The national target for the child to be processed was 26 weeks and the London average was 34 weeks.
- At the end of November, 95% (408 out of 429) of Children in Care for over a month had an up to date health assessment, a sustained improvement and comparing favourably with the London average.
- 91% of LAC children had an up to date dental visit as at 31 March 2015 but, as at November 2015, 81% of the current LAC cohort had up to date dental checks. Performance had been on a downward trajectory since April 2015 but current performance was an improvement on the position at the end of July (72.5%).
- In the year to November 2015 there had been 15 adoptions and 12 special guardianship orders (SGO). This equated to permanency being secured for 20% of children that ceased to be looked after but was six fewer legal orders achieved compared with the same period last year and behind track to achieve our combined (adoption and SGO) target of 54 for 2015-16.
- 83.4% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period. Performance in this area had improved considerably in recent months (88.5% at the end of October 2015) but decreased by the end of November. Current performance remained below levels achieved in previous years. The Children in Care Service Manager agreed to find out why performance levels were lower than last year and report back to the Committee.

**Action: Dominic Porter Moore**

- The AD Safeguarding advised the Committee that Children in Care visits were statutory visit undertaken by the social worker to the child and that visits had to occur a minimum number of times of year, dependant on the particular circumstances of that child.
- In November, 15 children were recorded as either missing from care or away from their placement. Six children were missing at any point in the month and nine children were away without authorisation. A more systematic way to capture data on missing children and return to care interviews was being progressed. A Haringey Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Protocol had been completed by all agencies and will be the basis for dealing with children who run away or go missing in the area. The Director of Children's Services agreed to produce a report for the next meeting which outlined some of the key factors involved and the multiple risks behind missing children.

**Action: Jon Abbey**



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- The Committee noted that a key factor in relation to improving performance across the board was to recruit and retain a high level of permanent staff. The DCS advised that high performing Children's Services tended to have a high level of permanent staff. Feedback from officers was that children related better to the familiarity generated from having a consistency of social worker.

AGREED to note the report.

**CPAC344. PAN-LONDON ADOPTION BID**

NOTED the verbal update given earlier in the meetings by the AD Safeguarding on the Pan-London Adoption bid, as part of the previous minutes.

**CPAC345. DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY AND VISION**

RECEIVED a report updating the Committee on the Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy & Vision, from the Director of Children's Services. The report and accompanying draft Corporate Parenting Strategy & action plan was included in the agenda pack (pages 23 to 42).

NOTED that

- The report was brought to the Committee following discussion at a previous meeting around developing a strategy document that set out how the Council and its partner agencies would act as responsible parents for children and young people who were either in care or where leaving care but entitled to support.
- The document was very much an early draft and was brought to the committee for discussion and comments.
- One key aspect of the strategy was to articulate what the Council's ambition was in terms of corporate parenting and what also outcomes the Council wanted to achieve in relation children and young people who were looked after by the Local Authority. The earlier discussion with Aspire had emphasised that the Council needed to be able to give clear direction of what its service offer was as part of the process of redeveloping Aspire.
- The next steps involved developing a concrete pledge of what the young people could expect from the Council as corporate parents This was considered to be a two way process and Aspire were expected to contribute to, and hold the Committee to account based on what this service offer/pledge was.
- The Committee commented that the draft strategy was a very detailed comprehensive document and raised concerns that it might be difficult to keep the action plan up to date. Officers responded that the document was an

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initial draft and that there would be some scope for developing a more high level action plan based on a number of key areas, possibly to sit beside the comprehensive list. Cllr Berryman advised that having an explicit list of the different actions and outcomes was very useful in terms of understanding the remit of the Council's role as corporate parent as a whole.

- The Committee suggested that the action plan should reference what the targets or relevant regulations were for each of the provisions. The Committee also queried whether officer input and role should also be contained in the action plan. Officers acknowledged that many aspects of this would be covered in the responsibility and timescale sections of the action plan. The Chair advocated that wherever possible the document should remain children focused.
- The Committee considered who the target audience was for the strategy and also commented that the report seemed to have a number of pieces of jargon within it that might detract from its accessibility. The top of page 5 of the report was singled out as an example. The Director of Children's Services acknowledged that there would likely be different versions targeted to different audiences. The AD Safeguarding agreed and suggested that a young person's version of the strategy should be specifically developed.
- The Committee requested that some further thought be given to promulgating the role of Aspire in the report, and potentially listing examples of what had been achieved with Aspire.
- The Chair requested that information be brought back to the next Committee about the number of care leavers the Council was responsible for and what was done to support them. The Committee also requested that the report put this information in the context of what the Local Authority's responsibilities were in terms of providing support.

**Action: Dominic Porter-Moore/Emma Cummergen**

**CPAC348. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**CPAC348. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None.

**CPAC 349. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT EXEMPT BUSINESS**

None.

**CPAC350. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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- The Committee requested inviting a few social workers to a future meeting to discuss the different elements of Looked After Children and Care Leavers from their perspective. The DCS agreed that this could be arranged.

**Action: Jon Abbey**

Future meetings

NOTED the following dates:

4 April 2016

Meetings are scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

**Cllr Ann Waters**  
**Chair**

The meeting ended at 20:45 hours.

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## Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2015/16

Corporate Parenting meeting Date	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance</li> <li>2. CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions</li> <li>3. Ofsted update</li> <li>• Previous Minutes from 8/12 &amp; 16/03</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Information on locations of new foster carers.</li> <li>5. Update on no. of carers recruited through advertising banners</li> <li>6. Clarify funding for Aspire meetings.</li> </ol> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 19<sup>th</sup> June and due for publication on 26<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>	<p>Margaret Gallagher/Richard Hutton Cath Hogan</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p>
5 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Inc. Permanency Plans</li> <li>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</li> <li>3. Pan-London Adoption Bid</li> <li>4. Plan / Vision for Corporate Parenting</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Disabled LAC</li> </ol>	<p>Margaret Gallagher/Richard Hutton/Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p>

## Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2015/16

	<p>6. PEP Performance and update on Pathway Plans and Care Plans</p> <p>7. Findings from Task &amp; Finish Group on Missing Children</p> <p>8. Adoption Banners</p> <p>9. Unclaimed Pupil Premium Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous minutes from 6<sup>th</sup> July</li> </ul> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 18<sup>th</sup> September and due for publication on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.</b></p>	<p>Dominic Porter-Moore / Fiona Smith</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Leslie Kettles</p> <p>Fiona Smith</p>
5 Jan 2016	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</p> <p>3. Pan-London Adoption Bid</p> <p>4. Plan/Vision for Corporate Parenting</p> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <p>5. Inclusion of PEP reviews into performance figures.</p> <p>6. Pathway Plan Performance</p> <p>7. Mystery Shopping</p> <p>8. Update on NRS Contract</p> <p>9. Disabled LAC – Transportation issues</p>	<p>Annie Walker/Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Annie Walker/Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Vicki Monk-Meyer</p>

## Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2015/16

	<b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 17<sup>th</sup> December and due for publication on the 23rd December 2015</b>	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance</li> <li>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</li> <li>3. Pan-London Adoption Bid</li> <li>4. NRS Update</li> <li>5. Missing Children</li> <li>6. Care Leavers</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. CIC visit performance update</li> <li>8. Corporate Parent Action Plan update</li> <li>9. Inviting Social Workers to future meetings</li> </ol> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and due for publication on the 23rd March.</b></p>	<p>Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore. Jon Abbey</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore / Emma Cummergen</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore.</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p>

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Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 4 April 2016

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to February 2016

Report

Authorised by:  Jon Abbey, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Margaret Gallagher, Corporate Performance Manager  
[margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk) 020 8489 2971

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision: Non key

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides 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.
- 1.2. Sections 2 and 3 contain performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus.
- 1.3. Section 4 provides an overall assessment of performance in the service as relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authorities role as Corporate Parent.

## 2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. 414 children were in care on the last day of February 2016 or 70 per 10,000 population including 32 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a gradual decrease in the level of children in care in comparison to the position at the end of March 2015 - 37 fewer children. The reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children places us comfortably within the inter-quartile range of our statistical neighbours (431 children or a rate of 69 per 10,000 population) although the rate remains above the London (52) and national average (60) rates.
- 2.2. A performance review system put in place by the Head of Service for Children in Care in October 2015 has yielded some excellent performance improvements. The meetings with team managers are continuing and now focus on new challenges such as the recording of pathway plans and visits to

children in care. At the end of February 2016, 92% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**, a significant improvement from a low level of 49% at the end of May 2015 and now exceeding the 90% target.

- 2.3. 87% of school aged children had completed and **up to date Personal Education Plans (PEP)** at the end of February. This is a step change in performance and only 3% short of the expected target. The results from the weekly meeting review on 17 March showed that the 90% target had been achieved. Completion of PEPs will continue to be a priority.
- 2.4. At the end of February, 85% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area is at an all time high having increased significantly compared to the low level (20%) reported in June. There has been continuous focus to ensure completion of plans in a timely manner with compliance monitored through the weekly meetings. Although performance remains short of the 90% target, it is hoped that with further effort from the 16+ children in care team, the 90% target will be achieved soon. A fortnightly meeting with the young people in care team has been established to drive improvement in performance across all service areas.
- 2.5. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to February 2016, 8.5% of children had three or more placement moves, below the statistical neighbour average (13%). 77% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least two and a half years had been in the same placement for at least two years, slightly above our statistical neighbour average (70%).
- 2.6. 93% of LAC had an **up to date review** at the end of February above the 90% target.
- 2.7. 85% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period, February. Performance in this area has improved in recent months and is now just 5% below the 90% target.
- 2.8. At the end of February, 91% (362 out of 399) of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, a dip from the 97% achieved at the end of January but still above target. The dip in February performance was due to a backlog and a lack of resources as two nurses were off sick during February. Some of these children have now been seen. The service will do their utmost to bring levels back on track and it is expected that health assessments performance will better the 2014/15 outturn of 94%.
- 2.9. Quarter 3 data reveals that the **care proceedings** trend towards cases of shorter duration has been maintained with an average duration of 28 weeks and, a considerable achievement of 78% cases concluded in less than the 26 weeks statutory timescale, improved from 35% in Quarters 1 & 2.
- 2.10. The number of current care proceedings 25 cases (49 children) also maintains the trend of a significant reduction in the number of proceedings initiated since a peak of 56 cases in October 2014.

- 2.11. Cafcass data shows that the number of care proceedings application per 10,000 child population in Haringey has decreased from 22.6 ( in 2010 – 11) to 9.3 (in 2014 – 15) with a decrease in applications in each year.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. 85 children or 21% were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** at the end of February 2016, an additional 11 children since the position at end of January 2016. Performance is worse than the 16% target and the March 2015 end of year performance (18%) when 77 children were placed more than 20 miles from Haringey. Although higher than national levels this proportion is only slightly above the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).
- 3.2. A list and map of all children placed 20 miles or more at the end of February was sent to the service to review and to add the reasons why the child was placed outside Haringey. For those where we have recorded reasons, the majority are kinship placements, children with complex needs placed with specialist foster carers or long term settled placements. Interestingly 10 of our looked after children are currently placed with in house carers 20 miles or more from Haringey. Volumes of looked after children and those placed 20 miles or more are now incorporate in the monthly scorecard produced for CYPS Quality and Performance network for regular review.
- 3.3. In the year to February 2016 there have been 35 legal permanency orders, 19 **adoptions** and 16 **special guardianship orders (SGO)**. This equates to permanency being secured for 17% of children that ceased to be looked after but is 18 fewer legal orders achieved compared with the same period last year and behind track by 14 orders against our combined (adoption and SGO) target of 54 for 2015-16.
- 3.4. However with three known adoption orders in March, we will meet our end of year adoption target. 24 adoption orders are expected by the end of the financial year and 22 special guardianship orders putting us just 11 permanency orders, behind the levels achieved in 2014/15. The length of adoption proceedings has increased as a result of a higher number of leave to oppose decisions being made by the courts. The referrals for special guardianship assessments has been far less than in past years and less than expected.
- 3.5. In the year to February, **children waited an average of 483 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This is higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16) but remains an improvement on the 589 days in 2014/15. However the three children adopted in March were placed for adoption two years after they became looked after and are not included in the 483 days. As this measure only counts days for children adopted, when these days are added in it will increase the average days reported for our year end 2015/16 figure.
- 3.6. Work is being undertaken to improve permanency planning and to relaunch a more robust policy and set of procedures which will impact on planning.

Coram have undertaken an adoption process mapping exercise with the adoption and court team service from which recommendations for reducing delay in the system will be made and implemented. Haringey are part of a trial of the Coram permanence tracking tool that will further assist in reducing the number of days from LAC to being placed for adoption. In addition Haringey has taken the lead with First4Adoption in a recruitment of adopters for children with complex needs which will lead to a greater number of adopters for children who are more challenging to place and whose placements reflect the largest number of days.

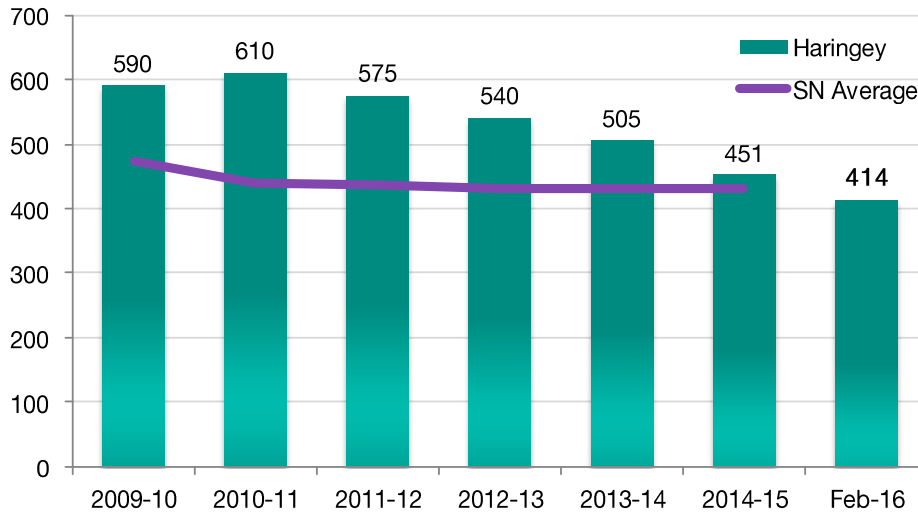
- 3.7. 91% of LAC children had an **up to date dental visit** as at 31 March 2015 but, as at February 2016, 81% of the current LAC cohort had up to date dental checks. Performance has been on an improving trajectory with 88% of children in care with up to date checks at the end of January but performance remains below the 90% target. Of the 71 children who did not have an up to date dental check, the majority (51%) were aged 16 and 17. Focused effort to ensure all children in care for over 12 months with an outstanding dental check is in place ahead of the CLA 903 government return due at the end of June.
- 3.8. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training** is below levels achieved last year. The performance team are working with the service to improve recording in preparation of the SSSDA903 return. However, the following has been actioned/achieved in order to strengthen performance:
- employment consultant and DWP work coach based within Young Adults Service
  - six-weekly NEET panel with partners to discuss as a network those hard to reach/engage
  - challenge in tracking some NEETs (i.e. Albanian cohort) and further work to be undertaken to identify ways of tracking and engaging these groups
  - 61 care leavers are in sustained university places
  - fortnightly tracking has now started to improve accuracy of data and timely updates.
- 3.9. Children missing numbers have been relatively stable in 2015/16 with a recent spike in January 2016. In February 13 children were recorded as either **missing from care at any point during the month**. 3 children were away from placement without authorisation and 15 children were recorded as **missing from home**, a reduction in the number reported missing from home compared to the end of January (31). A more systematic way to capture data on missing children in real time is being progressed with work underway to get the recording incorporated into workflow steps on the Mosaic social care system.
- 3.10. A Haringey Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Protocol has been completed by all agencies and is the basis for dealing with children who run away or go missing in the area. Work to capture outcomes from return to care interviews also needs to be expedited.

Overall Assessment of Performance

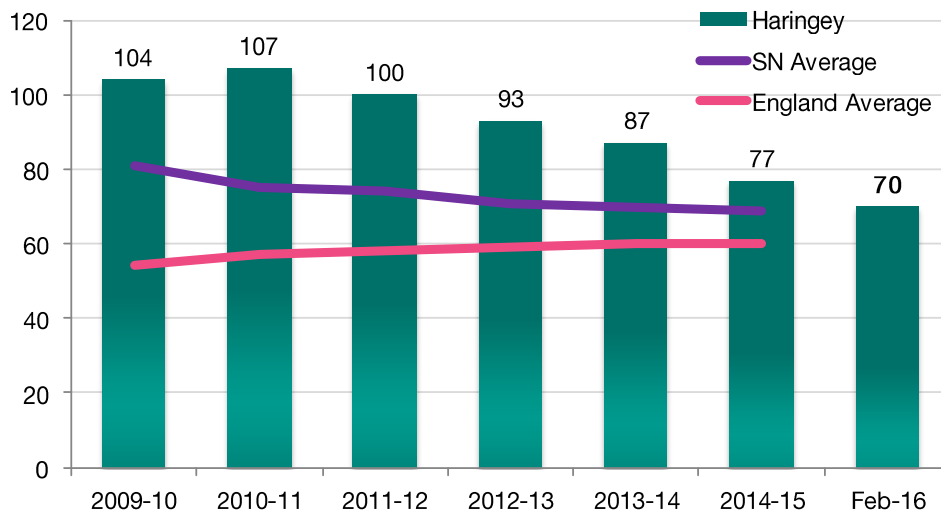
Looked After Children

4.1. There has been a 30% reduction in Haringey’s rate of looked after children since 2011 compared with a 10% reduction in London and a 3% increase nationally. The graphs below shows the five year trend to Feb 2016 in comparison with the number and rate of our statistical neighbours.

Number of Looked After Children



Children Looked After rate per 10,000



4.2. A new Sufficiency Development scorecard has been implemented to measure outcomes for looked after children in conjunction with agreed workstreams and objectives. This will include tracking foster placements by type, permanency, recruitment of carers, reviews, stability, placement unit costs and care leaver outcomes. The five workstreams that are part of the Sufficiency Development Plan are:

1. support for children on the edge of care
  2. cost effective brokerage of individual placements based on outcomes
  3. the right range of services commissioned to meet needs
  4. efficient, high quality social work practice and
  5. transitions and leaving care.
- 4.3. The scorecard will be prepared monthly and reported to the Sufficiency Development Board.

## **5. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 5.1. Priority 1: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.

Report for: Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee: 4 April 2016

Item number:

Title: Missing Children – Key Factors Involved. The Multiple Risks Associated with Children who are Missing



Report authorised by : Jon Abbey, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Annie Walker, 0208 489 1803,  
annie.walker@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: NA

Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision: Non Key

1. **Describe the issue under consideration**  
Missing Children – Key Factors Involved. The Multiple Risks Associated With Children Who Are Missing
2. **Background information**
  - 2.1 **Context**  
The exact number of children who are missing from home and care each year is unclear as the criteria for recording varies. However, it has been estimated that approximately 140,000 children and young people nationally under the age of 18 are missing from home or care each year.



## 2.2 In Haringey the numbers for the past three months were:

**Dec 2015**

Children missing from home	17
Children missing from placement	9
Children away from placement without authorisation	7

**Jan 2016**

Children missing from home	31
Children missing from placement	16
Children away from placement without authorisation	6

**Feb 2016**

Children missing from home	15
Children missing from placement	13
Children away from placement without authorisation	3.

2.3 **Missing from Home**

When children and young people are missing from home there is a briefing on their return carried out either by the police MISPA Team or the police officer who has recovered them. There is no clear data as to reasons why children and young people go missing, other than general headings such as they are unhappy at home, there have been interpersonal relationship difficulties with their carers or other family members, or they have been encouraged, or groomed to leave home by those who exploit vulnerable children. This may include radicalisation, or sexual exploitation, which is also linked to being trafficked to different areas for the purposes of prostitution and or drug dealing where the child is used to transport drugs across the UK. There are several established routes which traverse county boundaries, for example: London – Wrexham, Hull, Southampton, and Norwich. Integral to this is that they are also vulnerable to gang and criminal activity which is associated with a chaotic lifestyle which has implications for their sexual, physical and emotional health.

2.4 **Missing From Care**

The Report from The Joint Inquiry Into Children Who Go missing From Care (2012) was precipitated by the incidents of organised Child Sexual Exploitation which took place in various parts of the UK and highlighted the vulnerability of looked after children. The report indicated that the reasons for absconding from care often relates to: being unhappy; feeling that the placement was not meeting their needs; bullying in the placement; not feeling listened to; or they have been encouraged or groomed to leave the placement by those who exploit vulnerable children and young people. As with those young people missing from home (above) this may include radicalisation, child sexual exploitation for the purposes of prostitution and or drug dealing where the child is used to transport drugs across the UK.



## 2.5 Summary

In conclusion the risk factors for both groups are similar as they are often disaffected and therefore vulnerable to those who wish to exploit them.

## 2.6 Action taken to Identify and Reduce Risk

2.6.1 When children are missing from care there is an established protocol, which includes a referral to the Police MISPA Team, and a strategy meeting at which information is shared and action planned. There is a weekly tracking meeting of children who are, or have been missing from care, between the DCS and Lead Member. On their return to care, a de-briefing interview is undertaken by the police MISPA Team in order to ascertain the reason behind the missing episode. From a CYPS perspective a Return To Care Interview is undertaken by the Targeted Support Team. Performance has been poor in this area and a contract with an external provider has been negotiated.

### 2.6.2 Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE)

The MASE meeting convenes on a monthly basis and its key purpose is to produce and develop a detailed strategic overview of the CSE profile for the borough of Haringey. The CSE profile will enable the MASE meeting to coordinate tactical responses to direct diversionary and disruption measures in identified problem areas.

2.6.3 Professionals are expected to work collaboratively with all agencies to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are being or are at risk of being sexually exploited. Linked to this the multi-agency group will be pro-active in problem-solving in order to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who or who may be at risk from sexual exploitation. Partner agencies, such as the police, share intelligence and information relating to CSE activity to inform mapping, analysing the profile of CSE in the borough, generating intelligence for investigations and identifying any trends or problem locations to ensure they are dealt with. This is to provide a strategic overview of the CSE profile in Haringey in order to enable local diversionary measures to disrupt activity and prosecute where possible.

2.6.4 More recently the Missing Children and Child Exploitation Operational Panel has begun meeting every three weeks. This is a multi-agency forum which has the purpose of agreeing multi-agency safety plans for children who are missing/engaging in risk-taking behaviour which is escalating their vulnerability and risk from all forms of exploitation. The remit is as follows:

### Missing Children

- Identify and share details of children and young people who are missing / frequent MISPERs
- Identify potential risks and risk level, including those at risk of youth offending
- Prioritise intervention

- Agree agency or multi agency responses required to support an agreed safety plan based on level of risk identified by Panel.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

- Identify and share details of children and young people who are at risk of child sexual exploitation and are known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs
- Agree agency or multi agency responses where required.

### **Gang Affiliation**

- Identify and share details of children and young people who are at risk of gang affiliation and are known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs
- Agree agency or multi agency responses where required.

### **Radicalisation and Extremist Ideology**

- Identify and share details of children and young people who are considered at risk of Radicalisation and Extremist Ideology and are known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs
- Agree agency or multi agency responses where required.

### **Young People Approaching Adulthood**

- Identify missing / Frequent MISPERs approaching 18 years old who are considered to be at ongoing risk from exploitation / safeguarding issues as they enter adulthood. Concerns to be Passed to Adult Safeguarding Services.

The format and purpose of the meeting is to be re viewed every twelve weeks.

## **3. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

Priority 1 - Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.

**Report for:** Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee: 4 April 2016

**Item number:**

**Title:** Care leavers – what we do to support them

**Report authorised by :**  Jon Abbey, Director, CYPS

**Lead Officer:** Emma Cummergen, Deputy Head of Service, Young Adults

**Ward(s) affected:**

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non Key

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

Haringey Council has a duty to ensure that the children and young people in its care are successful in education and that they are supported to make progress and equipped with the life tools to make good choices to continue through education and into employment. We also have a duty to ensure care leavers are settled into suitable and sustainable accommodation, and have the life skills to manage independence into adulthood. This report updates Members on the work undertaken to carry out our duties.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

NA

**3. Recommendations**

Members to note this report.

**4. Reasons for decision**

To provide an to update Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee on the Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to care leavers.

**5. Alternative options considered**

No other options were considered as this report is for information purposes.

**6. Background information**

- 6.1 The Young Adults and 16+ Service are currently working with 446 care leavers 16-25 years old.

### **How we support young people to stay in education and training**

- 6.2 We aim to support young people to remain in their current education and college courses. Each young person in care has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that accompanies them during their journey through care. As an additional monitoring system there are plans to review the PEPs ongoing at the transition panel where a representative of the Virtual School is present and can provide additional advice and guidance to the current and future plans in place and ensure all efforts are being made to sustain current educational/training provision.
- 6.3 We expect that young people will have had careers guidance at school and completed PEPs outlining aspirations and education progress throughout their time in care. We want young people to know that we have high aspirations for their future.

### **University**

- 6.4 We continue to have marked success with higher than average numbers of care leavers attending university. This year 61 of our current care leavers are at university.
- 6.5 To support our care leavers we also introduced in 2011 a dedicated email address to keep in touch with our care leavers at university so that we can send them regular updates on funding opportunities and other important opportunities.
- 6.6 In 2015 in partnership with the Chartered Accountants for England and Wales we targeted our university students and provided them with a day focusing on them gaining quality advice, and information regarding accessing the workplace, career options and future career planning. We also offered each third year student a one to one appointment with Drive Forward to develop their CV and prepare them to access the job market. This offer was made in July last year and will be repeated this year.
- 6.7 Currently we are also promoting the work of the Who Cares Trust and the Propel website that identifies all the additional funding for care leavers at specific universities so those care leavers who are preparing to apply to university are well aware in the different funding opportunities available to them.
- 6.8 Raising the knowledge base of both social workers, foster carers and personal advisors is key in ensuring best decisions can be made and opportunities maximised. For care leavers aspiring to go to university we encourage peer support, and keep carers and looked after children aware of the various open days that universities offer specifically for care leavers.
- 6.9 Many of our care leavers enter university later, usually between the ages of 19 and 21, and some require the continuity of their foster placements to repeat

A-levels. Staying Put placements have been effective in ensuring those that require it can stay on at their foster placements until their exams are completed, or as bridging placements prior to embarking university.

- 6.10 We have also looked creatively at bespoke packages for some of our very bright but complex care leavers, In such circumstances we look at funding streams, opportunities and organisations such as the Care Leavers Foundation to access individual opportunities, SEN entitlements, and scholarships.

#### **Annual care leavers achievement event**

- 6.11 This is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care and leaving care. We now combine the event with highlighting career and training opportunities for the young people. This has proved to be a successful networking event for all, with a cross section of providers being represented, for example Princes Trust, Working Chance, Drive Forward, Grind Central, CHENEL, HALs and CSV.

#### **How we are working to reduce the Numbers of Not In Education (NEET) and Employment and support young people to engage in education and find employment.**

- 6.12 We recognise that young people who are about to leave care or have left care have many challenges to face including accessing housing, finances, family contact , education and the prospect of living independently for the first time. The role of the social worker (SW) and personal advisors (PA) is essential in providing support, advice and encouragement to keep the young people in mind and support them in their decision making. Young people need positive and supportive relationships which encourage aspirations, offer consistency and appropriate pathways. The challenges of limited employment opportunities and financial concerns directly impacts on some young people in maintaining a focus on education and employment.
- 6.13 As part of our strategic plan to reduce the numbers of NEET the service has developed a working protocol with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Drive Forward to ensure the welfare benefits process is simplified and care leavers supported more robustly into sustainable employment. Both seconded officers work on site alongside the social workers and personal advisors and can offer both drop in and appointment based advice to staff and young people . Having both drop- in and appointment-based opportunities has increased the chances to engage young people. The drop-in offer has supported SWs and PAs in engaging the more difficult to reach young people into opportunities available to them alongside receiving a service with regard to other matters in relation to their care plan. Having the same seconded staff ensures relationships and trust are developed more readily and care leavers can access the services when they are ready.
- 6.14 With regard to our current performance data which monitors care leavers at the 19<sup>th</sup> , 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in ETE, we are below target. However we believe there have been some accuracy issues on reporting of which we are now aware and working to resolve.

- 6.15 Reasons however for sustained NEETs are in relation to the number of care leavers who have no resource to public funds and our asylum seekers who are All Rights Exhausted. Their access to education in some circumstances is barred whilst they await deportation. Within this cohort we have a number of care leavers currently at HMP establishments on short custodial sentences, often with no opportunities for education for education, or training until their release. In addition some are young mothers who have recently given birth or have been involved in Child Protection Proceedings and are taking a break from ETE, and others have significant medical disorders which prevents them from accessing ETE currently.
- 6.16 Within this cohort however we also have those who are actively seeking work, unofficially working, and those with firm plans to re-engage in education or who are volunteering but as this is not formal ETE they would therefore still be considered at this stage as NEET.
- 6.17 As a service we have developed close working partnership with schools, colleges, and post 16 providers. Through developing our targeted actions to reduce NEET, the Young Adults Service (YAS) initiated a panel of 16+ providers and together we review on an individual basis with PA and SWs the young people they are most concerned about in terms of NEET or on the edge. We consider at the panel both mentoring, developing bespoke interventions including providers undertaking joint visits with allocated workers to engage care leavers in the community, and we have found through this process 16+ providers have become more attuned to the needs of our young people, and their programs revised to meet the needs more effectively. This has led to increased outcomes, with care leavers gaining the additional support they have required to have a successful and subsequently sustained engagement with the identified program or provider. Linking a care leaver to an apprenticeship program we have found does not lead to success. Enrolling them and supporting them to engage onto pre-apprenticeships or traineeships via joint working between providers and PAs does get results. It is time intensive, but now that providers are beginning to understand the needs of the young people they are more able to respond.
- 6.18 For the last two years we have also been running regular employability sessions for young people as part of plans to prepare care leavers for independent living. Each care leaver who attends leaves with completed CV, and we also try and tie the sessions to the days when we are aware of local careers fairs, therefore arranging to accompany the young people who wish to attend the fair to go along with their newly updated or devised CV. This increases motivation and encourages confidence and for many an immediate response and potential opportunity.
- 6.19 Drive Forward is our strongest partner and regularly provides our care leavers with bespoke opportunities to engage in 'getting ready for work' opportunities. We have found by arranging meetings at the YAS office and accompanying our young people to the opportunities on offer gives us the greatest results.
- 6.20 The E8ghteen project has now been running since 2011. The project currently supports care leavers aged 16-20 being mentored by coaches from the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. The project supports young people to remain



in education and also for those out of education to engage and achieve some success. It offers opportunities to engage some of our most hard to reach older children in care and care leavers in interesting, enriching and confidence building activities to engender their interest in further education and employment.

### **Housing Options – how we support care leavers to access housing**

- 6.21 Housing and accommodation is one aspect of the advice and support we offer. For those under the age of 18 the most likely type of accommodation they will be placed in will be with a foster carer and live as part of their family.
- 6.22 At 16, care leavers may also be living in semi-independent provision and will be building on their lifeskills so that they can move onto living independently by the age of 21.
- 6.23 From the age of 18 years old care leavers have a range of housing options they can consider as part of their independent living. Remaining with their foster carers under staying put arrangements, moving to semi –independent provision with key work support, moving to one of the transitional training houses managed by the YAS with volunteers on site or possibly to their permanent accommodation. Occasionally care leavers do enter the private sector but this is as a last resort and based on the care leaver being unwilling to return to Haringey to take up their permanent housing offer.
- 6.24 Housing currently offer YAS a housing quota of 60 one bed and 6 two bed quota (for care leavers who are parents). Each care leaver receives a setting up home establishment grant of £2000.
- 6.25 The decision to put young people forward for the quota for permanent housing is made by the Transitions Panel, which the Deputy Head of Service chairs. If agreed, the young person is then invited to attend a series of Tenancy and practical Workshops and verified by YAS and housing and then nominated for band A.
- 6.26 Currently we run four workshops per cohort. The workshops cover tenancy, budgeting (2 ½ day course), cooking on a budget, and employability workshop which includes the production of a CV. We have plans to develop a DIY workshop in partnership with housing this year.
- 6.27 The service continues to manage two transitional houses, developed in partnership with Homes for Haringey, CSV who provide the volunteer and YAS. We can offer three female and three male care leavers the opportunity to live semi independently for six months + who perhaps have never lived on their own before, prior to embarking on their permanent tenancies in the borough. The volunteer is on site to offer the young people both practical and emotional support and can continue to the care leaver when they move into their permanent accommodation.
- 6.28 We are in discussions currently about expanding these projects to include a number of studio accommodations and developing a hub and spoke model.

6.29 In acknowledgement that rent arrears are one of biggest challenges, we are developing links and partnership working with our Income recovery colleagues and developing closer working relationships with the housing officers so that we can review progress of each care leaver at regular points throughout their first 12 months of holding a tenancy.

**7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

Priority 1 - Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.

**8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance and Procurement**

There are no Finance and Procurment implications involved in this report.

**Legal**

There are no Legal implications involved in the report.

**Equality**

In accordance with the principles set out in the Children Act 1989, Haringey's services for Looked After Children are premised upon the belief that in most circumstances children and young people are best looked after within their own families.

However, there will always be some children and young people for whom being in the care of Haringey Council will be in their best interests. These children and young people deserve the highest quality services to ensure both that they are not disadvantaged from their peers, and also that any disadvantages which they may have suffered prior to coming into care are redressed. Haringey Council seeks to remove any and all barriers that may exist in order to enable care leavers to achieve their full potential.

**9. Use of Appendices**

None

**10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

NA