

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

**Members:** Councillors Elin Weston (Chair), Patrick Berryman, Bob Hare, Jennifer Mann, Liz Morris, Felicia Opoku and Anne Stennett

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 14 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 - 10)**  
To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 11 - 12)**
- 7. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE**
- 8. TERMS OF REFERENCE (PAGES 13 - 14)**  
To note the Corporate Parenting Committee Terms of Reference for the 2016/17 municipal year and plans for future CPAC meeting set up.
- 9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (PAGES 15 - 22)**  
To consider a performance report on measures relating to Looked After Children including highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and focus.
- 10. PAN-LONDON ADOPTION BID (VERBAL UPDATE)**
- 11. UPDATE ON FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND FUTURE MODELS OF PROVISION (PAGES 23 - 26)**  
To receive an update on progress recruiting a provider to undertake training and recruitment of in-house foster carers
- 12. IMMIGRATION ISSUES FOR LAC (PAGES 27 - 36)**  
To consider a report on the Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to the immigration status of Looked after Children.
- 13. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (PAGES 37 - 40)**  
To consider a summary report on the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children and Young People for 2014-15.
- 14. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**  
To consider any items admitted at item 2 above.
- 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  
Date of next meeting: 3 October

Philip Slawther, Principal Committee Co-ordinator  
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Bernie Ryan  
Assistant Director – Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer  
River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8HQ

Monday, 27 June 2016

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**MINUTES OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
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Councillors Cllr Waters [Chair], Cllr Gunes, Cllr Weston & Cllr Stennett.

Apologies Margaret Gallagher & Dominic Porter-Moore.

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Berryman, Cllr Morris & Cllr Hare.

Cllr Stennett gave apologies for lateness.

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

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

**CPAC339. URGENT BUSINESS**

NONE

**CPAC340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NONE

**CPAC341. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2016 were AGREED.

In relation to the previous action around circulating examples of PEP's, Care Plans & Pathway Plans, the Committee commented that they had not received the example plans to date. The Chair requested that this action be rolled forward.

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

**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 the end of February. Report included in the agenda pack (pages 13 to 28).

NOTED in response to discussion:

- An overall improving trajectory in relation to the majority of performance indicators.
- There were 414 Children in Care at the end of February, which was 70 per 10,000 population including 32 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The reduction in Haringey's LAC put the authority within the inter-quartile range of statistical neighbours (431 children or a rate of 69 per 10,000 population). Haringey's rate of LAC remained significantly above the London (52) and National average (60).
- A performance review system put in place by the Head of Service for Children in Care in October 2015 yielded some excellent performance improvements. The meetings with team managers were continuing and would 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.
- 87% of school aged children had completed and up to date Personal Education Plans (PEP) at the end of February. This was 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 would continue to be a priority.
- 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.
- 93% of LAC had an up to date review at the end of February above the 90% target.
- 85% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in the period. Performance in this area had improved in recent months and was now just 5% below the 90% target.
- 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 expected to bring levels back on track and health assessments performance should better the 2014/15 outturn of 94%.

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- 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. AD Safeguarding identified that far more work was being done pre-proceedings in order to improve performance in this area.
- 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 was worse than the 16% target and the March 2015 end of year performance figure (18%) when 77 children were placed more than 20 miles from Haringey. Although higher than national levels this proportion was only slightly above the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).
- In the year to February 2016 there were 35 legal permanency orders, 19 adoptions and 16 special guardianship orders (SGO). This equated to permanency being secured for 17% of children that ceased to be looked after but was 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. However with three known adoption orders in March, the service would meet the end of year adoption target. 24 adoption orders are expected by the end of the financial year and 22 special guardianship orders putting the service 11 permanency orders, behind the levels achieved in 2014/15. The length of adoption proceedings had increased as a result of a higher number of leave to oppose decisions being made by the courts. The referrals for special guardianship assessments were far less than in past years and less than expected.
- In the year to February, children waited an average of 483 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption. This was higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16) but remained 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 were not included in the 483 days, when these days are added in it will increase the average days reported for our year end 2015/16 figure.
- The Committee noted that the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson MP, had written a letter to all local authorities who had an average performance figure above a certain level in relation to the average number days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption. Haringey's performance for the rolling average for 2012-15 was 691 which was 204 days over the target figure. The Committee noted that a plan was being developed which would be communicated back to the Minister.
- The plan involved undertaking work to improve permanency planning and to relaunch a more robust policy and set of procedures which would impact on planning. Coram had undertaken an adoption process mapping exercise with

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the adoption and court team service from which recommendations for reducing delay in the system would be made and implemented. Haringey were also 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 had taken the lead with First4Adoption in a recruitment of adopters for children with complex needs which would lead to a greater number of adopters for children who are more challenging to place and whose placements reflected the largest number of days.

- 91% of LAC children had an up to date dental visit as at 31 March 2015, performance for this measure was on an upward trajectory.
- Children missing numbers were 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 was being progressed with work underway to get the recording incorporated into workflow steps on the Mosaic social care system. In addition, 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 needed to be expedited.

AGREED to note the report.

**CPAC344. PAN-LONDON ADOPTION BID**

NOTED the verbal update given by the AD Safeguarding on the Pan-London Adoption bid. The latest update on the Pan-London Adoption bid was circulated to the Board earlier that day. The Committee noted that the bid had been narrowed down from five or six options to two. The next step was to undertake detailed investigations on the two options to assess their relative viability. The two options were noted as a local authority trading company delivery model with a strategic VAA partnership operating in a hub and spoke or a local authority/voluntary adoption agency joint venture operating in a hub and spoke.

*\*Clerks note – Cllr Stennett arrived at the meeting at this point\**

In response to a question, the AD Safeguarding advised that the likely implementation date was 2018.

**CPAC345. UPDATE ON NRS CONTRACT**



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NOTED the verbal update given by the AD Safeguarding on the NRS Contract. AD Safeguarding advised that the contract with NRS finished some time ago but that NRS were still recruiting foster carers for the Council. NRS were currently being paid an agreed fee for each completed assessment that went through to the panel. The Committee noted that there was a programme of work being undertaken through surveys and also through Commissioning to look at the different models and costings to see whether the Council should go out to the market again or potentially bring the recruitment back in house. In response to a question on the likely timescales, the Service Manager for Adoption and Fostering advised that there was a meeting with NRS on 19<sup>th</sup> April. However, the service had to continue using NRS in the interim in order to ensure that there was capacity to undertake assessments which would continue for at least six months.

The Head of Service, Children in Care and Placements to bring a report to the next CPAC meeting to update the committee on foster carer recruitment and future models of provision.

**Action: Dominic Porter-Moore**

**CPAC 348. MISSING CHILDREN**

RECEIVED a report updating the Committee on the key factors involved and the multiple risks associated with, Children Who Are Missing. The report was included in the agenda pack (pages 19 to 23).

NOTED that

- The reasons that children go missing from home and missing from care were largely the same and the reasons for absconding from care often related to: Being unhappy; feeling that the placement was not meeting their needs; bullying in the placement; not feeling listened to; or they had been encouraged or groomed to leave the placement by those who exploit vulnerable children and young people. Similarly, the reasons children go missing from home included there being interpersonal relationship difficulties with their carers or other family members.
- Often cases needed to be seen in the broader context of recurrent instances of going missing and some of the more frequent cases often involved; CSE, gang affiliation and cannabis use.
- One of the key risks identified was the increasing use of missing children to transport drugs along a several established routes for example: London – Wrexham, Hull, Southampton, and Norwich. Integral to this is that they were also vulnerable to gang and criminal activity which was associated with a chaotic lifestyle and had implications for their sexual, physical and emotional health.

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- In terms of actions taken to identify and reduce risk, there was an established protocol when children go missing from care; which included a referral to the Police MISPA Team, and a strategy meeting at which information was shared and action planned. There was also 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 was undertaken by the police MISPA Team in order to ascertain the reason behind the missing episode. A Return to Care Interview was undertaken by the CYPS Targeted Support Team. Performance had been poor in this area and a contract with an external provider had been negotiated.
- The Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation meeting (MASE) convened on a monthly basis and its key purpose was to produce and develop a detailed strategic overview of the CSE profile for the borough of Haringey. The CSE profile would enable the MASE meeting to coordinate tactical responses to direct diversionary and disruption measures in identified problem areas. 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 were dealt with. The Service Manager Children in Care clarified that the MASE included all the relevant partner agencies including the schools.
- More recently the Missing Children and Child Exploitation Operational Panel had begun meeting every three weeks. This is a multi-agency forum which had the purpose of agreeing multi-agency safety plans for children who were missing/ engaging in risk-taking behaviour which was escalating their vulnerability and risk from all forms of exploitation. Their remit included:
  - Identify and share details of children and young people who were missing/frequent Missing Persons (MISPERs).
  - Identify potential risks and risk level, including those at risk of youth offending
  - Prioritise intervention
  - Agree agency or multi agency response required to support an agreed safety plan based on levels of risk identified by panel.
  - Identify and share details of children and young people who were at risk of child sexual exploitation/gang affiliation/ radicalisation and extremist ideology and were known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs
  - Agree agency or multi agency responses where required.
  - Identify missing / Frequent MISPERs approaching 18 years old who were 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 was to be reviewed every 12 weeks.

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- In response to a question from the Chair, the Service Manager Children in Care clarified that foster carers still had a responsibility to report missing Children i.e. those over the age of 18, but that the level of involvement from different agencies was much less and the missing from care protocol would not be applicable, for instance. The Council still had a responsibility for children missing from care until they were 24.

**CPAC 348. CARE LEAVERS**

RECEIVED a report updating the Committee on what the Council does to support care leavers. The report was included in the agenda pack (pages 23 to 28).

NOTED that

- The Council aims to support young people to remain in their current education and college courses. Each young person in care had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that accompanied them during their journey through care. As an additional monitoring system there were plans to review the PEPs ongoing at the transition panel where a representative of the Virtual School was present and could provide additional advice and guidance to the current and future plans in place and ensure that all efforts were being made to sustain current educational/training provision.
- The Council continued to have marked success with higher than average numbers of care leavers attending university, with 61 current care leavers at university. To support care leavers the Council introduced a dedicated email address to keep in touch with its care leavers at university so that it could send them regular updates on funding opportunities and other important opportunities.
- In 2015 in partnership with the Chartered Accountants for England and Wales, the Council targeted its care leavers who were 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. The Council 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 would be repeated this year.
- The Council was working to reduce the Numbers of Not In Education (NEET) and Employment and support young people to engage in education and find employment. As part of the strategic plan to reduce the numbers of NEET the service had developed a working protocol with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Drive Forward to ensure the welfare benefits process was simplified and care leavers supported more robustly into sustainable employment. Current performance data which monitored care leavers at the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in ETE, was below target. The Committee noted

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that there had been some accuracy issues on reporting, which the service was now aware of and were working to resolve.

- The E8ghteen project had been running since 2011. The project currently supported care leavers aged 16-20 being mentored by coaches from the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. The project supported young people to remain in education and also for those out of education to engage and achieve some success. It offered opportunities to engage some the most hard to reach older children in care and care leavers to engender their interest in further education and employment.
- Housing and accommodation was another aspect of the advice and support offered. For those under the age of 18 the most likely type of accommodation they would be placed in would be with a foster carer and live as part of their family. From the age of 18 years old care leavers had a range of housing options they could consider as part of independent living.
- The options were; 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 entered the private sector but this was as a last resort and based on the care leaver being unwilling to return to Haringey to take up their permanent housing offer. Housing currently offered YAS a housing quota of 60 one bed and 6 two bed quota (for care leavers who were parents). Each care leaver received a setting up home establishment grant of £2000.

Cllr Weston commented that the offer to each third year student of a one-to-one appointment with Drive Forward to develop their CV should be offered at an earlier stage in their university placement. AD Safeguarding agreed to review this arrangement and look into getting that support in place sooner, either at the end of first or second year.

**Action: Neelam Bhardwaja**

Cllr Gunes raised concerns that the Committee had not been able to scrutinise information in relation to unaccompanied minors seeking asylum and requested a report be produced outlining key information such as numbers, length of time in care and what the Council's responsibilities to those children were. Cllr Gunes also requested clarification on the legal status of child's immigration status and whether this was included into the care plan. AD Safeguarding advised that the child's status once they entered the LAC would be the same as any other child but that their immigration status would be set by the Home Office. The Head of Service, Children in Care and Placements to produce a report on immigration status and LAC/care leavers and the council's role around unaccompanied minors seeking asylum for the next meeting.

**Action: Dominic Porter Moore/Neelam Bhardwaja**

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Cllr Weston requested that the above report include reference to whether there was a policy position on whether the Council would support a challenge to an immigration status determination and on what grounds, for example if the care leaver was attending university.

**Action: Dominic Porter Moore/Neelam Bhardwaja**

Clerk to speak with Stephen from Legal to get their input on the immigration paper for the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**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**

Executive summary of the Virtual Schools annual report to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Fiona Smith/Clerk

Future meetings

NOTED the following dates:

4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

Meetings are scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

**Cllr Ann Waters  
Chair**

The meeting ended at 20:30 hours.

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## Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2016/17

Corporate Parenting meeting Date	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance</li> <li>2. CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions</li> <li>3. Pan-London Adoption Bid</li> <li>4. Update on foster carer recruitment and future models of provision</li> <li>5. Immigration issues for LAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b><u>Verbal Updates</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Plans for future CPAC meeting set up</li> <li>7. Virtual Schools Executive Summary</li> <li>8. Update on Drive Forward and potential for providing support at earlier stage in care leavers' university placement.</li> </ol> <p>*Training requirements</p> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 20th June and due for publication on 24th June</b></p>	<p>Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore / Neelam Bhardwaja</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Fiona Smith</p> <p>Neelam Bhardwaja</p>
3rd October 2016	<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. CPAC – Discussion around Future meeting set up</li> </ol>	

## Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2016/17

	<p><b><u>Main Presentation item</u></b></p> <p>5. Demand levels and pressures on back-end of the system</p> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 16th September and due for publication on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.</b></p>	
12 Jan 2017	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</p> <p><b><u>Action Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and due for publication on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017</b></p>	
3rd April 2017	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</p> <p>3.</p> <p><b>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on the 17<sup>th</sup> March and due for publication on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.</b></p>	



## Appendix A

**Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee****Terms of Reference**

1. To be responsible for the Council's role as Corporate parent for those children and young people who are in care;
2. To ensure the views of children in care are heard;
3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of children in care are maximized in terms of health, educational attainment and access to training and employment to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood;
4. To ensure that the voice and needs of disabled children are identified and provided for;
5. To monitor the quality of care provided by the Council to Children in Care;
6. To ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future wellbeing; and
7. To make recommendations on these matters to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Children and Director of Children and Young People's Service.

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**Report for:** Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 4 July 2016

**Item number:**

**Title:** Performance for the year to May 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)

**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. Section 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. 431 **children were in care** on the last day of May 2016 or 73 per 10,000 population including 30 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a gradual increase in the level of children in care in comparison to the position at the end of March 2016 - 22 more children in care. However reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2015/16 places us within the inter-quartile range of our statistical neighbours (a rate of 69 per 10,000 population), although the current rate remains above the London (52) and national average (60) rates.
- 2.2. A performance review system put in place by the Children in Care Head of service in October 2015 has yielded some excellent performance improvements. Weekly meetings with team managers run by the Head of Service and facilitated by a representative from performance continue and are focusing on new improvement challenges.

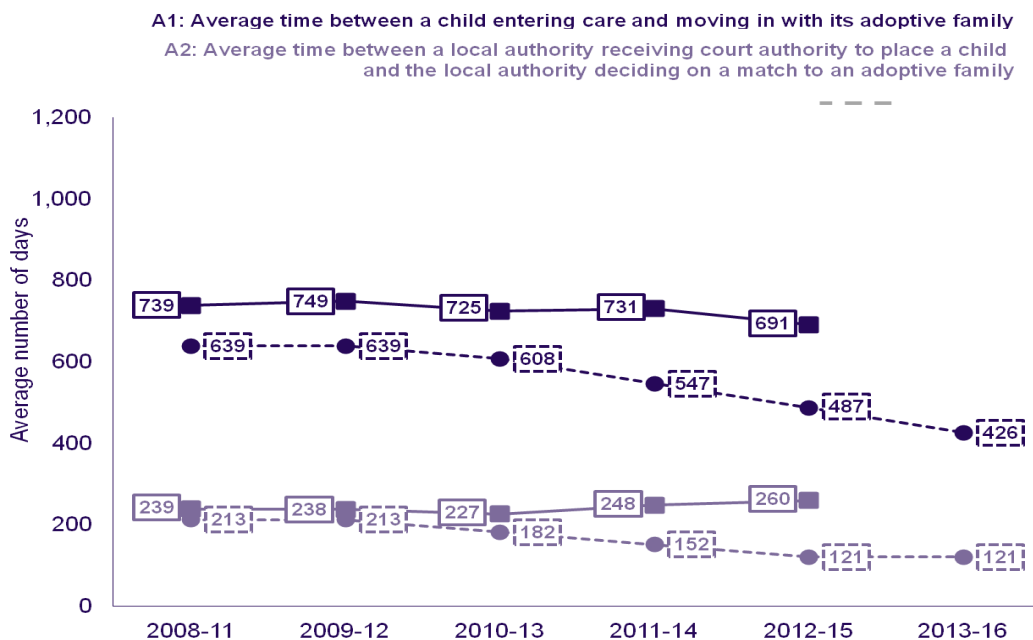
- 2.3. At the end of May, 94% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**, a significant improvement from levels at the end of May 2015 (49%) and the highest recorded performance since August 2014 when we started actively tracking performance in this key area.
- 2.4. At the end of May, 79% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area has dipped slightly over the past 3 months but is still on an improving trend and the completion of pathway plans is much higher than that reported at the same period last year. 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. 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 May 2016, 8.8% of **children had three or more placement moves**, below the statistical neighbour average (10%). 77% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years had been in the same placement for at least 2 years, slightly above our statistical neighbour average (67%).
- 2.6. 94% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of May above the 90% target.
- 2.7. At the end of May, 96% (382 out of 402) of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, above target and continuing the positive trend. We are also now tracking 18 year olds leaving care that receive their health history and the position at the end of May was 78% for that indicator.
- 2.8. 17 (7%) of **looked after children (aged 10 and over) were convicted or subject to a final warning** during the year 2015/16, a reduction and improvement on our 2014/15 position of 8.4% and significant improvement on the 11% for 2013/14. This remains higher than the latest published England average rate of 5% but is in line with our statistical neighbour average of 6.9%.
- 2.9. Data for the period April 2015 to March 2016 reveals that the average duration of **care proceedings** for concluded cases was 34 weeks, the same duration as that recorded for 2014/15. 45% of cases were concluded in less than the 26 week statutory timescale, an improvement on the 34% achieved in 2014/15 with the shortest average case length of 29 weeks in quarter 4.
- 2.10. The outcomes in 54 % of care proceeding cases issued was for children to remain with or reunify with their parents compared to 37% of children in 2014/2015. In a further 21% of cases issued, children remained in their family of origin under SGOs and in 25% of cases children were placed on care orders compared to 42% of cases in 2014/2015.

- 2.11. This reveals a significant shift towards children in respect of whom care proceedings are issued remaining with their family of origin and away from children being placed in alternative permanent options compared with 2014/2015.
- 2.12. The number of **current care proceedings** 28 cases (50 children) maintains the trend of a significant reduction in the number of proceedings initiated since a peak of 56 cases in October 2014.
- 2.13. 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 7.7 (in 2015/16) with a decrease in applications in each year.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. 78% of school aged children had completed and **up to date Personal Education Plans (PEP)** at the end of May 2016. This is a decline in performance from the end of April position which was just short of the target. The results from the weekly dashboard review on 22 June showed that the up to date PEPs position had improved slightly to 82%. Interrogation of the data reveals that there are a number of schools and colleges who are not co-operating and that this is impacting on the timely completion of PEPs. From September there will be a new requirement to monitor PEPs on a termly basis but this area has been a persistent challenge. Completion of PEPs will continue to be a priority and performance is being tracked through the weekly meetings.
- 3.2. 95 children or 24% were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** at the end of May 2016, an additional 19 children since the position at end of January 2016 although the number of looked after children has also increased over the same period. Performance is worse than the 16% target and provisional March 2016 end of year position (23%). Although higher than national levels this proportion is only slightly above the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).
- 3.3. Details of children placed 20 miles or more are provided to the service on a monthly basis for review. 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.
- 3.4. 83% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period, May. Performance in this area has dipped slightly in May following improved performance in April (86%) although remains below the 90% target.
- 3.5. 80% of the current LAC cohort had an **up to date dental visit** as at May 2015. There were 73 children without a recorded up to date dental check, most of these (68%) relating to children aged 13+. 33 young people were aged 16 and 17 some of who refuse to attend regular dental check ups.

- 3.6. Provisional data for the end of year looked after children government return shows that 82% or 254 **children who were in care for over 12 months had their teeth checked by a dentist**. This is a decline on the reported level of 91.5% in 2014/15 but close to our statistical neighbour position of 85.4%. Focussed effort to ensure all children in care for over 12 months with an outstanding dental check is on-going to see if we can capture any additional children who have had their teeth checked maybe as part of their health assessment.
- 3.7. In April and May 2016 there has been 1 legal permanency order which was an **adoption**, 6 fewer compared to the same period last year. There has been a recent increase in referrals for special guardianship assessments although the volume at the end of the financial year was very low. 7 **special guardianship orders** (SGO) are in assessment involving a total of 10 children although it is likely that at least 4 of these assessments will not have a positive outcome. 4 adoption orders are expected in June/ July and a court date is awaited for a further 4.
- 3.8. In the year to May 2016, **children waited an average of 188 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This relates to just 1 adoption in that period and compares favourably with the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). The 2015/16 average position was 645 days but was skewed by 2 sibling children adopted in March placed for adoption two years after they became looked after. The higher number of days to place these children in March 2016 (1260 days) will feed into the Department for Education's Adoption scorecard published performance and will increase Haringey's 3 year rolling figure on the key timeliness indicator.
- 3.9. Haringey's latest 3 year rolling average position as published in our Adoption Scorecard in March 2016 was 691 days for the period 2012-15, higher than the national threshold and England position of 593 days but close to our statistical neighbour average of 696 days. Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data. The graph below shows Haringey's performance overtime on the 2 key indicators relating to timeliness of adoptions.
- 3.10. The solid lines show Haringey's performance overtime and the dotted lines are the national thresholds.



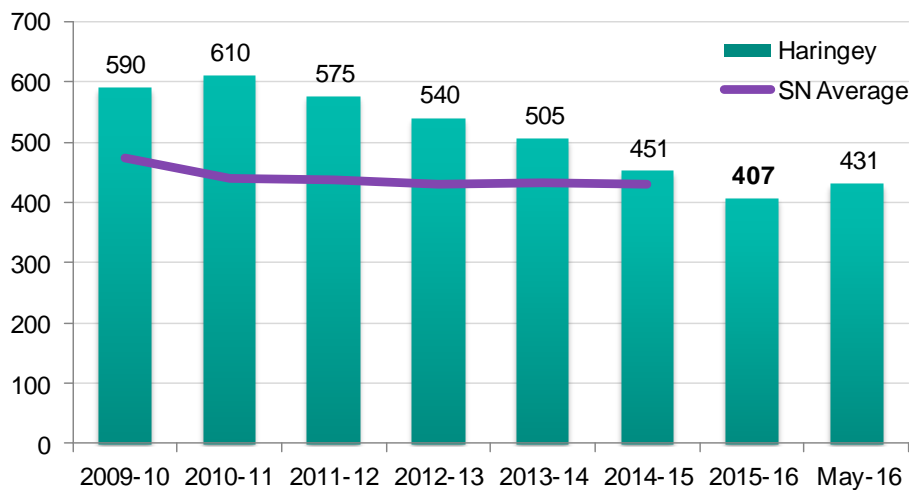
- 3.11. Haringey are part of a trial of the Coram permanence tracking tool that will further assist in reducing the number of days from LAC to being placed for Adoption. Haringey has taken the lead with First4Adoption in a recruitment of adopters for children with complex needs which will lead to a greater number of adopters for children who are more challenging to place and whose placements reflect the largest number of days.
- 3.12. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training** for 2015-16 is below levels achieved in 2014-15. However, like for like comparison cannot be made, as the SSSA903 OC3 cohort previously included former relevant care leavers whose 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday fell in the reporting year. Provisional data currently shows 39% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 were in EET (56% of those who were *in touch* with the local authority around their 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday). 60% of all care leavers were in suitable accommodation or 87% of those who were *in touch*.
- 3.13. Children missing numbers have been relatively stable in 2015/16 but more recently the children missing from care numbers have been showing an increasing trend. In May, 22 children were recorded as **missing from care at any point during the month**. 20 children were away from placement without authorisation.
- 3.14. The SSSA903 data for 2015-16 also shows an increase of children missing from care (72 children in comparison to 45 in 2014-15). There were 237 missing/away from placement episodes compared to 90 in 2014/15. This figure is closer to our 2014-15 statistical neighbour average of 252 missing/away episodes. Some of this increase may be attributable to improved systems for recording data on missing children and real time tracking of children who go missing using a register. Recent work to develop a matrix for vulnerable children continues and regular reporting to the LSCB and Lead Member is in place to safeguard children as well as correlation of different datasets to track children missing from home and education.

**Overall Assessment of Performance**

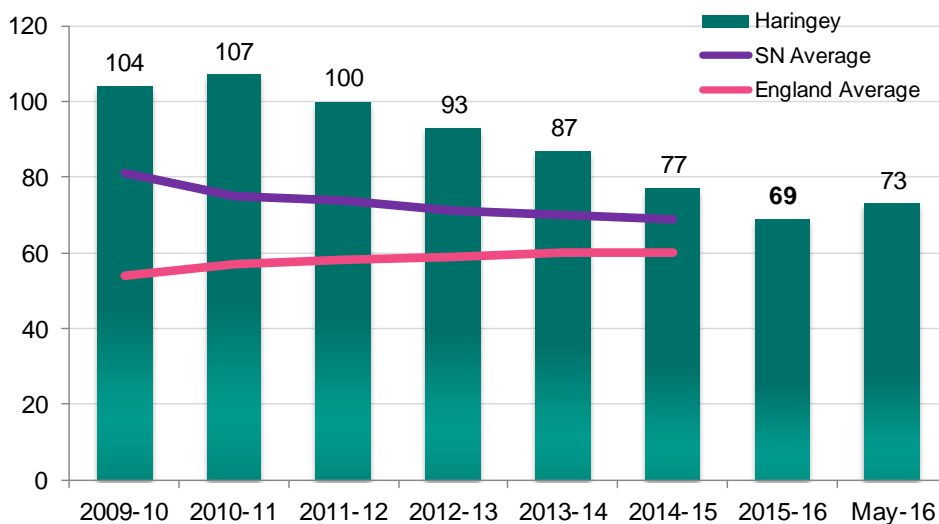
**Looked After Children**

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 7 year trend to March 2016 in comparison with the number and rate of our statistical neighbours. Since the end of March there has been a net increase of 16 children coming into care (6%) but Haringey’s rate of looked after children is not dissimilar to that of our statistical neighbours.

**Number of Looked After Children**



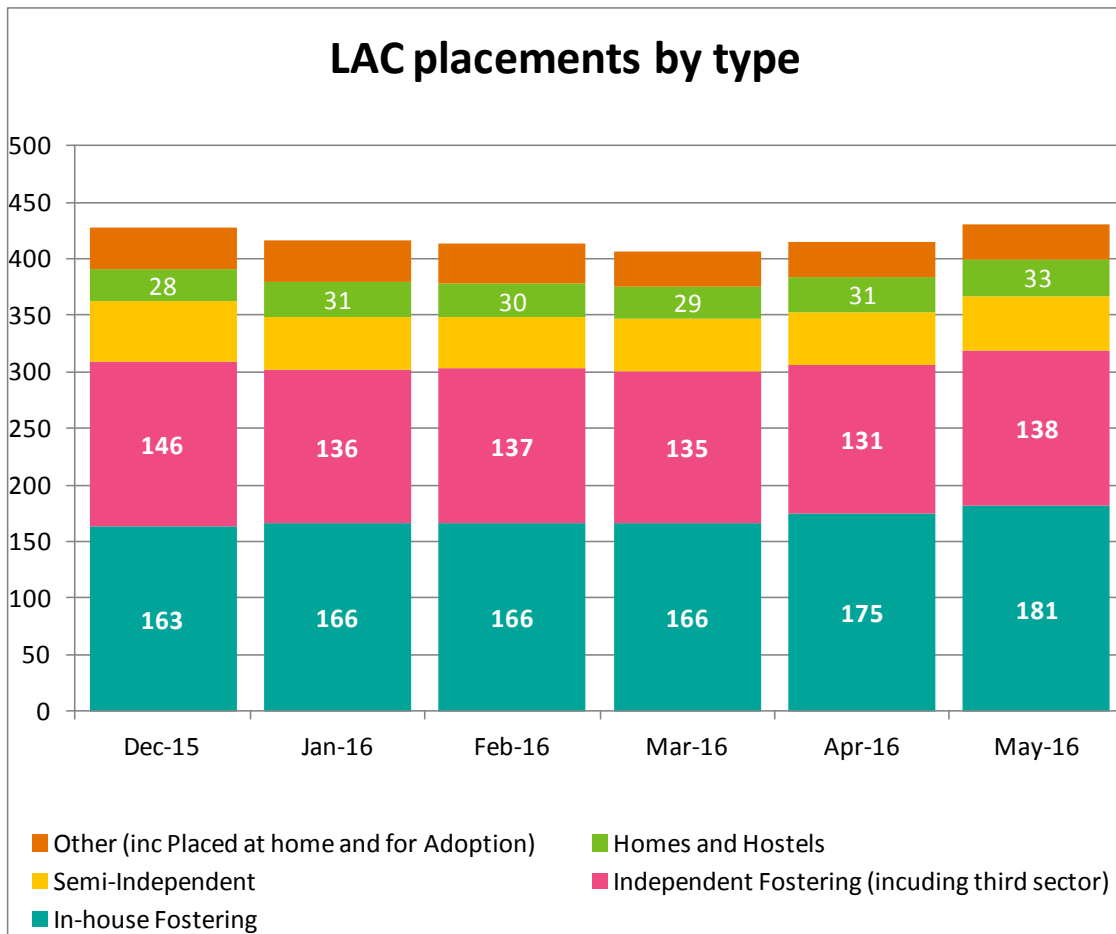
**Children Looked After rate per 10,000**



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.



- 4.3. The graph below shows the breakdown of placements over the last 6 months. The majority of children in care are in foster placements. The proportion of children in 'in house' foster placements has increased to 42% and there has been a small reduction in children placed with independent fostering agencies from 34% to 32% over the last six months.
- 4.4. The number of children placed in residential settings has increased from 28 in December 2015 to 33 in May which accounts for 7.5% of placements but there has been a small reduction in young people placed in semi independent settings.



## 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.

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**Report for:** Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Item number:**

**Title:** Updating report on Haringey Recruitment of In house foster carers



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

**Lead Officer:** Dominic Porter-Moore,  
Head of Service for Children in Care and Placements  
020 8489 1011 [Dominic.porter-moore@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Dominic.porter-moore@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

To update Members on progress to recruit a provider to undertake training and recruitment of in-house foster carers

**2. Introduction**

The recruitment and assessment function for in-house foster care has been commissioned through a contract with an external provider, NRS, for the last two years. Prior to the expiry of the contract, an options appraisal was undertaken to consider the preferred delivery model for in-house foster care recruitment and assessment. This proposed that the service continue to be commissioned externally and a procurement exercise was undertaken to seek a provider to deliver this contract over the next period.

No provider came forward to bid for this work.

Given the critical nature of foster care, this briefing note sets out the options currently being pursued to ensure in-house foster carers continue to be recruited for Haringey.

**3. Recommendations  
Proposed approach**

The proposed approach is as follows:

- 3.1 Ascertain in detail from the potential bidders approached why they did not bid and what would need to change for them to put in a bid were we to decide to go back to the market for this service. This work will be completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> June when we will take a decision as to whether returning to the market is likely to generate interest and with what changes to the model, specification or pricing.
- 3.2 If there is little interest from the market we will agree on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to restart negotiations with the previous provider – NRS – about them continuing to deliver the service. As we have been to market without a bid, this course would now be open to us. It is worth noting that there have, however, been a number of performance issues with the current contract which would need to be resolved before agreeing to set in place a new contract with this provider. These negotiations will be led by Commissioning.
- 3.3. Alongside the above, we will actively seek to build collaborative relationships with neighbouring boroughs to develop a shared service model across borough boundaries for the provision of foster care. There has been little interest to date in this proposal, given the pressures all authorities are facing in this field, but equally different approaches do need to be pursued to respond to the severe shortage of people willing and able to come forward as foster carers. This will not deliver a pipeline of potential foster carers in the short to medium term.
- 3.4 We have been sketching out proposals to use a micro-enterprise model to support people to become foster carers. We know that recruitment through word of mouth and from within communities is most likely to result in potential foster carers being identified. This approach would work at a community level to raise awareness of fostering, to promote its benefits for foster carers, to support people to set up as foster carers and to build a pipeline for the future. We would accelerate this work and move to commission an external provider to deliver this model. If successful, however, it would not deliver a pipeline of potential foster carers in the short term.
- 3.5 Return to proposals to develop an in-house service. This was not the preferred option when the appraisal was carried out earlier this year, given capacity issues within the service and the fact that there are significant fixed costs in establishing a new team with no guarantee of foster care recruitment.
- 3.6 Work is already in progress to revisit and improve the model of supervision support provided to foster carers by the in-house team. This is critical to ensuring that foster carers are attracted to work for Haringey and feel a valued part of the network of provision for Looked After Children in the borough. This includes work to:
- revise the Foster Care Partnership Agreement
  - review allowances and payments to foster carers
  - systematise the arrangements for matching foster carers to children and young people
  - refresh the supervision and support offer.
  - develop a marketing and recruitment strategy in partnership with a provider that is driven by the Council rather than the provider.

#### **4. Reasons for the recommendations**

- 4.1 Having a cohort of in-house foster carers is a cost effective way of meeting the Sufficiency Duty as set out in 2010 statutory guidance for securing sufficient local accommodation for looked after children.
- 4.2 The proposed approach set out here is aimed at addressing both the immediate issue of getting in place a service to deliver a stream of approved Haringey foster carers and the long term aim of building a more sustainable model of recruitment, training and assessment.

#### **5. Background information**

- 5.1 In-house foster carers are a critical element of our provision for looked after children. alongside Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) which largely provide more specialist foster care to children with more complex needs, In-house foster care enables children and young people to be accommodated in family settings, often locally, and to develop significant relationships with their foster carer whether their period in care is over a short or long period.
- 5.2 There is a significant cost differential between in-house and externally recruited foster carers although there are a number of built-in costs to in-house foster care as the supervision and support is provided by social workers from the Council.
- 5.3 There is a regional and national shortage of foster carers and the difficulty in recruiting suitable potential foster carers faced by NRS in delivering the previous contract is shared by many other local authorities, particularly in dense urban areas. Whilst the pipeline for foster carers being recruited has been slow, we have still performed above the average amongst our statistical neighbours.

#### **6. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes**

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

#### **7. Statutory Officer Comments**

Procurement have been involved in this issue.

It is important to secure good quality foster placements, preferably locally, to enhance the life chances of children in care.

#### **8. Use of Appendices**

NA

#### **9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children: Statutory Guidance 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/securing-sufficient-accommodation-for-looked-after-children>

Ref. ref: DCSF-00186-2010

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**Report for:** Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Item number:**

**Title:** Implications for Looked after Children without a settled immigration status



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

**Lead Officer:** Dominic Porter-Moore, Head of Service, Children in Care and Placements, Tel 020 8489 1011

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

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

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

At the meeting of CPAC on 5 April 2016, Members requested information on the areas outlined below:

- What are the Council's Roles and Responsibilities in relation to the immigration status of Looked after Children?
- Is there a policy position on whether the Council would support a challenge to an immigration status determination and, if so, on what grounds e.g. if the care leaver was attending university?

Members also requested some background data regarding numbers of looked after children and care leavers affected and their length on time in care.

## 2. Background information

2.1 This is a complex area of case law and statute and it is important to set out the legal duties and obligations placed upon Haringey Council and to consider the impact of the Immigration Act 2016.

### 2.2 The Council's roles and responsibilities

There is currently no specific statutory duty on the local authority to ensure young people access immigration advice. These considerations are usually highlighted in a child's looked after review and are specific to the needs of the individual child. The support identified can include signposting to appropriate

specialist legal advice as well as providing the necessary support and information to the Home Office if requested.

- 2.3 There are three main categories of looked after children and young people and care leavers who may be subject to immigration control.
- i) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)
  - ii) Children and young people brought into the UK from outside the EU as visitors and who remain in the UK after their period of leave expires and have become looked after children. This does not include children who have been privately fostered and are known to Children's Services as they are not looked after children. Children from families without recourse to public funds (NRFP) are also not looked after and do not fall into the purview of this paper.
  - iii) Children from within the European Union. European Economic Area (EEA) nationals can access public funds but may be prevented from claiming public funds if they do not satisfy the eligibility criteria attached to a specific welfare benefit or council housing allocation. Eligibility relates to the basis on which the EEA national is living in the UK. EEA nationals have a right to reside in the UK as long as they are exercising Treaty Rights in the UK; this means working (including being a job seeker), studying, being self-sufficient or otherwise being incapacitated and therefore unable to work. A former looked after child, in education and being supported by the local authority, may not be able to access income support or social housing.
- 2.4 Following the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act in 2012, legal aid funding to assist in applications for non-asylum immigration cases has been withdrawn. The Act was predicated on the basis that such matters were straightforward and did not require the assistance of a legal representative.
- 2.5 Asylum applications continue to be supported by legal aid.
- 2.6 The Council has general duties towards looked after children which are set out in section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and these apply irrespective of the child's immigration status. The general duties are:
- a) to safeguard and promote a child's welfare; and
  - b) to make such use of services available for children cared for by their own parents as appears to the authority reasonable in this case.
- 2.7 In considering a child's welfare the authority should also try to ascertain their wishes and feelings having regard to their age and understanding.
- 2.8 In the event that the child's immigration status is not resolved before the age of 16, this should be considered as part of the planning for the child's transition to



the leaving care service.

- 2.9 In order to qualify for leaving care services a child must have been looked after for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 and for some time after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 2.10 The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 sets out duties regarding care leavers who are relevant or former relevant children. These regulations were amended in 2014 by the Care of Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children statutory guidance. This guidance requires that these duties are fulfilled with particular regard to the child's circumstances and needs as unaccompanied or trafficked children. The Children Act 1989 requires that local authorities perform their duties under these regulations for all children, regardless of their immigration status, nationality or documentation.
- 2.11 The guidance and regulations S.23(A) and the Care Leavers Regulations 2010 and 2014 referred to above means that before a looked after child reaches their majority their immigration status should be part of the discussion in the care planning and statutory reviews including whether the Local authority should fund the legal and application costs to enable a child to:
- i) obtain appropriate legal advice; and
  - ii) make an application to regularise their status in the UK.
- 2.12 This is considered to be an element of the child's welfare. Whilst there is no specific provision in the Children Act 1989 or in Leaving Care legislation legal advice is that this is covered within the general provisions of S.23 (3) Children Act 1989 (referred to above).
- 2.13 There are significant consequences for care leavers whose immigration status remains unresolved in the UK at the age of 18. They are unable to access state support with housing, education and benefits. An application to the Visa and Immigration Service (VIS) in the Home Office for a right to remain is also treated less favourably once they reach 18.
- 2.14 If an application to VIS is made before age 18 one of the criteria is to have lived continuously in the UK for at least seven years (discounting any period of imprisonment) and it would not be reasonable to expect the applicant to leave the UK.
- 2.15 If the application to remain takes place when the care leaver is aged between 18 years and 25, the bar is raised considerably as the criteria means they have to have spent at least half their life in the UK (discounting any period of imprisonment) or at least 20 years resident in the UK.

### **3. Policy and Procedure**

- 3.1 Currently Haringey does not have a specific policy which addresses the issue of the Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to the immigration status of looked after children and care leavers, and cases have been dealt with on a case by case basis. A policy writer has been commissioned recently to update Haringey's policy and procedures guidance (TriX) and this is one area the writer

has been asked to address. The draft policy will be subject to senior officer review and legal advice.

3.2 Please see example below of a recently reported case to the LGO.

In a recent case, the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) found against the Royal Borough of Greenwich regarding the immigration status of a former looked after child.

In January 2016 the LGO upheld a complaint by a former care leaver who had complained that her council had failed to act appropriately and in a timely manner to help her regularise her immigration status after she became a looked after child in 2010.

She had been brought to the UK aged 10 in 2006 by her mother. In 2010 the mother returned to their home country leaving her behind in the UK. She was accommodated later that year by the Royal Borough of Greenwich until she became 18 in 2013. The Council had refused to fund her legal fees.

The LGO found fault causing injustice and recommended that the Royal Borough of Greenwich:

- apologise to the care leaver for the identified failings;
- pay her £5,000 to acknowledge the distress caused by the failure to provide consistent support and advice to her as a 'looked after child', and by the uncertainty caused that, if it were not for those faults, her application to the Home Office for leave to remain in the UK would have been as a child, which may have given her a greater chance of success.

To improve its practice in future the Council were advised that within three months of the date of the Ombudsman's report they should:

- provide specialist advice and guidance to its social work staff on the different requirements of the immigration rules, as they apply to children seeking asylum and those seeking leave to remain, and on the Council's duties in this area.
- 
- To devise an action plan to ensure it gives full and proper consideration to its duties to all its 'looked after children' who may be in need of legal advice, to meet its obligations as their corporate parent to safeguard and promote their welfare. In particular to those 'looked after children' with complex immigration problems who may need suitable and timely legal advice regarding their immigration status. It should clearly record the reasons if it has refused to arrange legal advice in such cases.

3.3 Currently we are scoping out how many Haringey looked after children who may have an unknown immigration status. Haringey Children and Young Peoples Services are reviewing its policy and guidance in this area to ensure we are compliant with statutory guidance and best practice.

4. **Background data regarding numbers of looked after children and care leavers affected and their length of time in care**

**Care Leavers**

**Unaccompanied Minors**

4.1 There are several ways unaccompanied minors come to the attention of Haringey Children's Services. One is if vulnerable children are found in Haringey. The other route is through a system known as the "Croydon Rota" when unaccompanied minors are dispersed across London Boroughs. This ensures the fair distribution of this vulnerable cohort across all London councils.

4.2 The Care of Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children Statutory Guidance 2014 makes clear that a local authority has a duty to protect and support this cohort of vulnerable children. The guidance sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children and advises that social workers and personal advisors should work with care leavers' legal representatives and Home Office decision-makers to ensure that the young person understands the process and possible outcomes. and provide them with the support they need in this process.

- If support with immigration or asylum processes is required, the person providing this advice should be a registered Solicitor or registered with The Office of the Immigration Services Commission.
- A child's needs related to being an unaccompanied minor must be considered in the assessment of needs undertaken as part of the pathway planning process and this may include issues in relation to immigration. This should also address funding arrangements for education and training and how a young person's immigration status may limit education, training and employment opportunities.
- Planning cannot pre-empt the outcome of any immigration decision and may be based on:
  - a transitional plan during the period of uncertainty when the care leaver is in the UK without permanent immigration status;
  - a longer-term perspective plan should the care leaver be granted long-term permission to stay in the UK (for example through the grant of Refugee Status); and

- a return to their country of origin at any appropriate point or at the end of the immigration consideration process, should that be necessary because the care leaver decides to leave the UK or is required to do so.
- UASC who acquire Refugee Status or, Humanitarian Protection, are usually granted leave to remain for five years. Although it is not guaranteed that further leave to remain will be granted at the end of the five year period, care and pathway planning should primarily focus on longer term residence in the United Kingdom, in the same way as for any other British care leaver. Young people who are granted Discretionary Leave have the opportunity to apply for an extension to this Leave after three years or on reaching 17.5
- Pathway plans should always consider the implications for the young people if their application to extend their leave to remain is refused, or their appeal against refusal of that application is dismissed. In such circumstances the person may become ineligible for further support and assistance because of the effect of Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

### **Care leavers without leave to remain in the UK**

- 4.3 Care leavers in this position should have had their immigration status considered as part of their statutory reviews. If it was not and they transition to leaving care services, then the assessment of need at the point of transfer, which informs the Pathway Plan, should consider this issue and the steps which would be taken ( including support from the local authority) to regularise this.
- 4.4 Legal Aid is not available to the young person and the question of funding falls to the local authority. There is no specific legislation which requires a local authority to pay for or regularise a child's immigration status pre or post 18 but it should be considered as part of the overall welfare consideration for a young person in light of its impact upon their lives.
- 4.5 The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review; and, Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers provides that care leavers should be given the same level of care and support that their peers would expect from a reasonable parent and that they are provided with the opportunities and chances needed to help them move successfully into adulthood.
- 4.6 The Guidance states that local authorities should have financial policies which include 'costs associated with obtaining important documents associated with identity (passports, birth certificates and driving licences') but falls short of specifically requiring local authorities to fund immigration advice and applications.

### **Impact of the Immigration Act 2016**

- 4.7 This Act came into effect in May 2016. One of the drivers behind this Act was that the current Government does not consider that the Children Act 1989 is the appropriate mechanism for providing support to adult care leavers when the courts have determined that the care leaver has no lawful basis to remain in the UK and can return to their country of origin.
- 4.8 The Immigration Act amends Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 so that former looked after children, who have no immigration permission to remain in the UK when they turn 18, will be excluded from receiving all forms of care leaving support under S.23C, and S.24A & B of the Children Act 1989.
- 4.9 The local authority will therefore generally no longer have a duty as a corporate parent to safeguard the welfare of former looked after children who are visa overstayers, have never regularised their status, or are 'appeal rights exhausted' following an unsuccessful asylum claim when they were 18 or older. Instead, accommodation and financial support will be available to such destitute care leavers from either the Home Office or local authority when very specific circumstances apply.
- 4.10 The following care leavers will continue to be able to receive accommodation and financial support under the leaving care provisions of the Children Act 1989 when they turn 18 and until they are 21 or 25 (if pursuing a course of education or training):
- a young person who has indefinite leave to remain or limited leave to remain (including refugee status and humanitarian protection).
  - a young person who is receiving support and assistance under the care leaving provisions of the Children Act 1989 before the new scheme is implemented.
  - a young person who is still pursuing their first asylum application after they have turned 18.
  - a young person with refugee status granted by another EEA state, subject to a human rights assessment.
  - EEA nationals, subject to a human rights assessment (unless a British Citizen).

**Data**

- 4.11 In 2015 the Department for Education figures showed there were 2630 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in England. In Haringey we have 26 UASC over the age of 15 ( four are 15 yrs old, seven are 16 years old and 15 are 17 years old) and 29 former UASC.

	2014	2015	2016 to 16.6.16	Total
UASC	7	13	6	26
Former 18+UASC care				29

leavers				
Total				55

- 4.11 The 16+ and Young Adults Service are providing support for seven European Union nationals aged 16-18 and eight European nationals aged 18 and over.

## 5. Summary

- 5.1 The Council is in the process of drafting a new policy and procedure in the light of recent legislative changes taking into account legal advice and the recommendations made in the Greenwich case by the Local Government Ombudsman.
- 5.2 On the specific question of whether the Council would support a challenge to an immigration status, determination would be on the basis of legal advice and the individual merits of the case.

## 6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Priority 1 - Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education. Undertaking the tasks outlined in the summary will prevent future legal and financial challenges and, where appropriate, provide more settled outcomes for looked after children without immigration status.

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

### Legal

The Children Act 1989 and associated legislation provide a general framework in relation to ensuring that local authorities provides for a child's welfare. It does not provide additional specific duties in relation to children whose immigration status has not been settled. Any policy in this area must ensure that it provides for the authority to take into account all relevant factors and to enable it to exercise its decision making in a reasonable, transparent and balanced way.

It is an area which, if left unaddressed, can lead to legal challenges against the local authority by way of Judicial Review.

## 8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background documents:

- Children Act 1989: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>
- Immigration Act 2016: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/contents/enacted>

- Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/41/contents>
- Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/10/contents>
- Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2571/contents/made>
- Care Planning and Care Leavers (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1917/contents/made>
- Care of Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children 2014:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

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Report for: Corporate Parenting Committee 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Item number:

Title: Haringey Virtual School Annual Report – Executive Summary

Report

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

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

The report summarise the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children and Young People for 2014-15. It highlights the key achievements and areas for focus in 2016.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

The Cabinet Member welcomes this report and is pleased to note the continuing success of Haringey's looked after children in respect of educational performance.

3. Recommendations  
N/A

4. Reasons for decision  
N/A

5. Alternative options considered  
N/A

6. Background information

- 6.1. Overall, the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children (LAC) is above that nationally and within the top quartile for London. The gap between pupils looked after by Haringey and their peers who are not looked after is closing and this is testament to the hard work of the young people, their carers, schools and social workers.

- 6.2 For the third year running, the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children at the end of Key Stage 4 is within the top 10% of the country [Source: the Department for Education Statistics for Looked After Children, March 2016]. In Haringey, 28% of the cohort who were eligible for GCSEs attained at least 5 A\*-Cs, including English and maths, and 50% of the group made the expected three levels progress in the core subjects. This compares with 55% of non-looked-after young people in Haringey. Half of the ten pupils who attained 5 A\*-Cs had been looked after for over five years, 30% had been looked after for between two and five years and 20% for less than two years.
- 6.3. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 50% of the group achieved both the 'Expected' and 'Good' level of development across the 17 measures. They are measured across 17 Early Learning Goals, and need to achieve 'Expected' in at least the first 12 areas to be considered to be making a 'good level of development', ie average progress. This compares with 65% of Haringey's non-looked children.
- 6.4 At Key Stage 1, where a quarter of the group had a statement of Special Educational Need, 55% reached at least level 2 in reading, writing and maths. This compares with 87% of non looked after children in Haringey, 20% of the whole group attained a level 3 in reading. .
- 6.5 At Key Stage 2, 65% of pupils attained level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths, with 26% attaining a level 5 in reading.
- 6.6. There are currently 286 school aged Children and Young People looked after by Haringey, 78 (27%) attend schools in Haringey and 208 (73%) attend schools out of the authority. In line with the Council's commitment to Corporate Priority One to ensure all Haringey's children have a good start in life, with access to high quality education, 90% of Looked After Children attend a school rated as good or outstanding an improvement of nine percentage points from 81% in 2014. This compares with 93% of Haringey's non-looked after pupils.
- 6.7. There are 56 looked after pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which is 19.5% of the total cohort. Most of this cohort – 44 (78%) children and young people are placed outside the authority, and whilst the majority of primary age pupils with SEN are placed in mainstream settings, more than half of the secondary age population attend specialist provision. Within the cohort of 12 young people in Haringey, the presenting need is split fairly evenly between Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) – 30%, Social, Emotional and Behavioural Disorders (SEBD) – 25%, Speech and Language Communication Disorders (SLCD) - 20% and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) – 20%. For pupils placed out of Borough the picture is less clear and there is work to be done to gather this detailed information.
- 6.8. The percentage of children attending school for over 95% of the time was 65%, the same as the previous year and increasing this figure will be an area of focus in 2015-16. The number with attendance of less than 85%, and classed as Persistent Absentees, fell from 17% in the previous year to 8.5% and measures to further reduce this percentage will continue. The number of pupils

who received a fixed term exclusion reduced by one from the previous year, to 32, however there was an increase in the number who had a fixed term exclusion from a school in Haringey and this will be an area of focus for 2015-16. There was one permanent exclusion during the year, from an Out of Borough school.

- 6.9. Increasing the completion rate of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) remains a key priority for social care and the Virtual School, and although there has been a steady increase in the figure from the start of the academic year from 51% to 70%, this is significantly below the target of 95%. Measures to address this have included a weekly multi-agency meeting chaired by the Head of Service for Children in Care with team managers, performance team and Virtual School; and monthly PEP audits co-ordinated by the Virtual School.
- 6.10. During the year, Haringey Virtual School has run an extensive programme of activities for children and young people looked after, together with partners including Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and Highgate Independent School. These have included a weekly study club, a cooking club, a football course, winter party, half term and school holiday activities; a week of events aimed at pupils in years 11 and 12 focusing on options for post 16, and featuring a financial workshop, careers fair and visit to the Bank of England, University Summer School and the Chrysalis Accelerator Programme, raising aspirations for Children in Care. The Virtual School has also held its Annual Educational Achievement Awards for secondary aged pupils, an educational activity day, and cinema and theatre trips.
- 6.11. The Virtual School continues to deliver its innovative central training programme to designated teachers (DTs), school governors, social workers, IROs, foster carers and newly-qualified teachers (NQTs). Three conferences were delivered this year including: Fostering Achievement Conference for Foster Carers, in partnership with The Fostering Network, on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2015, which attracted around sixty delegates and a multi-agency audience; DT for LAC Conference Part I on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, with Marie Delaney as the Key Speaker attracting well in excess of fifty delegates; Part II of the Conference took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> when Marie Delaney returned by popular demand, again attracting a multi-agency audience in excess of 50 delegates.
- 6.12 Key Priorities for development and focus in 2015-16 include:
- Circulating educational attainment data to social workers each term to strengthen the target-setting in the PEP meetings
  - Increasing the number of children with over 95% attendance
  - Reducing fixed term exclusions by at least 10% (three pupils)
  - Increasing the focus on raising attainment in Key Stage 4 –closer scrutiny of attainment and progress, and ensuring targets set are achievable and pupils are well supported to attain them
  - Build on foundations of year 11 week and increase number of participants
  - Reviewing the way Pupil Premium Plus is distributed and increase the scrutiny to ensure clear link between PEP targets, spend and impact
  - Reviewing and strengthening the PEP Quality Assurance procedures

- Providing updates to social workers regarding the National changes in assessment tools used by schools and working towards the development of one standardised tool for schools to convert their own data onto so that there is a consistent measure.

6.13. The attainment figures used in the report are for school aged children and young people looked after for one year continuously from 1.04.14-31.03.15. All other data relates to a 'snapshot' of children and young people looked after on 31.10.15

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The educational performance of looked after children links to Corporate Priority One.

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

Finance and Procurement  
NA

Legal  
NA

Equality

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. This report updates Members on the work undertaken during the past year by the Virtual School

9. Use of Appendices  
N/A

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Department for Education Statistics for Looked After Children, March 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-as-at-31-march-2016>

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