

NOTICE OF MEETING

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 4th July, 2017, 7.15 pm - Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22 8LE

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

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&16 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 - 6)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18th of April 2017

6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE (PAGES 7 - 10)

Discussion on follow up actions following the earlier meeting with Aspire.

7. PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR TO MAY 2017 (PAGES 11 - 20)

8. DENTAL CHECK AUDIT BY CHILDREN IN CARE NURSE (PAGES 21 - 24)

9. HOUSING LEGISLATION AND WELFARE CHANGES THAT MAY AFFECT CARE LEAVERS (PAGES 25 - 26)

10. ADOPTION (PAGES 27 - 36)

11. SUPERVISION ORDERS (PAGES 37 - 40)

12. FOSTERING

Report to follow.

13. EXPLORING WHY HIGHER PROPORTION OF CARE LEAVER NO LONGER REQUIRE SERVICES

Report to follow

14. URGENT BUSINESS

As per item 3

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 16 as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1 & 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

16. EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting 19th October 2017 6.30pm

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

Tuesday, 27 June 2017

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 18TH APRIL, 2017, 19:15.

PRESENT:

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

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred those present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting and asked that those present reviewed and noted the information contained therein.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hare.

Apologies were also received from Annie Walker, Kim Holt & Emma Cummergen.

3. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE

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

The Committee noted with the thanks the work undertaken, and the progress made by the Director of Housing Demand around the Housing pledge.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 were AGREED.

The Committee requested a short update on the impact of the recent fostering campaign advertised on Sky and whether this had resulted in any potential foster parents coming forward. **(Action: Sarah Alexander).**

7. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee NOTED the Corporate Parenting Agenda Plan 2016/17

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED the report on Performance for the Year to the end of February 2017. Report included in the agenda pack (pages 13 to 20).

NOTED in response to discussion:

- An overall improving trajectory in relation to the majority of performance indicators.
- 437 children were in care on the last day of February 2016 or 72 per 10,000 population including 36 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 - 30 more children in care. Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2015/16 was within the inter-quartile range and close to the rate of its statistical neighbours (69 per 10,000 population), although the current rate remained above the London (51) and national average (60).
- At the end of February, 95% of looked after children had an up to date Care Plan.
- The latest published data shows Haringey's position as second in the country for achievement in both Maths and English A*-C at GCSE (45.2%) and top in Attainment 8. On the Progress 8 measure Haringey ranks 6th nationally but also had more Children looked After pupils (25) than any of the top 5 Local authorities.
- The Committee commended the excellent GCSE results and formally congratulated the work of all involved including the virtual school
- The average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases was 26 weeks during the period September to December 2016 which represented a further improvement from the 32.5 weeks in Q2 and 37 weeks in Q1. It was the first time the authority had achieved the target figure of a 26 week average case duration.
- Haringey's latest 3 year rolling average position for timeliness of children placed for adoption, published in the Adoption Scorecard in April 2017 was 683 days for the period 2013-16, against a target figure of 426. The Committee noted that whilst significantly above the government target, Haringey's performance was similar to the average of its statistical neighbours at 696 days.
- 83 or 22% of Looked After Children at the end of February were placed 20 miles or more from Haringey compared to a 16% target and 19% at the end of March 2016. However, there were good reasons for those placements outside the borough, with many linked to complex care requirements or long term foster

care arrangements. Although higher than national levels this proportion remained just slightly above the average for London.

- The Chair advised the Committee that performance related to care leavers notably around the number in suitable accommodation, those in education employment and training and the number in touch with the local authority; were being picked up through the care leaver group and that a full update on this work would be provided to the Committee at a future meeting, likely to be the autumn.
- 82% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in February. 76 children were recorded as having an overdue visit at the 28th February, most of these within the young people in care team. Performance in this area has remained below target since October 2014.
- The Chair commented that performance around children in care visits had continued to lag behind improvements in other areas and sought assurances around what was being done to improve performance. In response, officers advised that monthly performance panels were undertaken with representatives from the virtual school and the performance team to review individual cases where visits were late, and to hold team managers and individual social workers to account.
- The Committee requested that an adoption paper be brought to the next committee outlining the reasons behind the fall in adoptions and also setting out the local, regional and national picture. **(Action: Sarah Alexander)**.
- The Committee requested that the full adoption scorecard also be shared at a future performance update, once it was published. **(Action: Margaret Gallagher)**.
- In response to a query around the reasons behind worsening performance on the percentage of dental visits; the Committee was advised that in most cases where a 6 monthly visit was missed, the visit did occur but was perhaps a month or two late. This was particularly the case with older children. It was also noted that there was likely some issues with the inputting of data. The Committee requested further qualitative information was provided on the extent of dental health within the LAC, as appose to just the number that received a dental visit within 6 months for the October meeting. **(Action: Lynn Carrington)**.
- The Committee requested that a short report for noting be brought to the next committee which outlined some of the key issues and examined whether the performance measure used for dental visits was the most appropriate. **(Action: Margaret Gallagher)**.
- The Committee was advised that the some of the main reasons behind care leavers who were not in touch with the Council included asylum seekers who had gone underground and young people who were in the prison system, and probation services had failed to pass on their whereabouts. The Committee

requested a briefing outlining the reasons behind Haringey having a higher proportion where care leavers no longer required services (13% compared to 3% nationally). **(Action: Dominic Porter Moore & Margaret Gallagher).**

AGREED to note the report.

9. HOUSING OFFER TO LAC

The Committee noted the discussion on the Housing pledge discussed during the earlier meeting with Aspire.

The Committee were advised that elements of the Housing pledge would either be incorporated into a wider Aspire pledge, or that there would be an Aspire focused version of the Housing pledge.

The Chair reiterated that she would like to have a regular Aspire agenda item on future Full Council meetings and that the Aspire pledge would hopefully be ready for Annual Council on 22nd May. It was proposed that the Housing pledge could be then adopted at the following Full Council meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the Housing pledge to the Committee for final comments. **(Action: Clerk).**

10. HARINGEY PLEDGE

The Committee noted the discussion on the Aspire pledge discussed during the earlier meeting with Aspire.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the Aspire pledge to the Committee for final comments. **(Action: Clerk).**

The Committee agreed to inviting two members of the Aspire group to present the pledge to Full Council.

11. FOSTER CARE CONTRACT

NOTED the Commissioning of Foster Care Recruitment report introduced by the Head of Service, Children in Care and Placements, which was included in the agenda pack at pages 21-23. The Committee was advised that a review was undertaken in 2016 and it was agreed to put the contract out to tender. This was unsuccessful and no bids were received for the contract. Following the tender, a market testing exercise was undertaken by the Commissioning team which identified 4 external providers. A further tendering exercise was undertaken, which resulted in a solitary bid for the contract. The bid was assessed in March and it was concluded that the provider did not meet the requirements of the tender on cost grounds.

The Head of Service, Children in Care and Placements advised that an interim contract with the former contractor had been extended until the end of June 2017. The Committee noted that the contract was based on payment by results and that four new foster carers had been brought to Panel since January 2017. Given the poor market

response, it had been agreed to take forward an interim in-house model whilst other options were considered. The Committee were advised that the options were:

- A neighbouring local authority taking on the training and recruitment function.
- A partnership arrangement with a neighbouring council to take on all the activity for the fostering function recruitment training and approvals.
- The North London Fostering & Adoption Consortium providing either of the two options above as a collective.
- Implementing an in-house foster care service

It was anticipated that initial feedback on the viability of these options would be received in April. In order to ensure that the department fulfilled its statutory duty as a fostering agency, an interim recruitment team had been set up which would be working closely with the communications team.

The Committee expressed its ongoing concerns about the delays to the process and the failed attempts to go out to the market. The Chair acknowledged that nobody was happy with the current arrangements and reiterated that bringing the foster care recruitment service back in-house was one option that was being examined. Officers advised that the challenge facing the Council was ensuring that any future in-house service did not perform as poorly as it had done prior to 2014, when the decision was taken to go out to the private sector. It was suggested that strong active management of the service was key determinant in a successful service, particularly given the challenges faced in an increasingly difficult market.

The Committee sought assurances that the assessment of options and the ultimate outcome of the decision would be firmly based upon evidence. The Chair acknowledged these concerns but also cautioned that the Council needed to have appropriate foster care services in place, and that there was a balance between the need to develop a firm evidence base and the need to deliver at pace. Officers advised that the costings for the interim service were still being assessed by the Commissioning team.

12. VERBAL UPDATE ON PAN-LONDON ADOPTION BID

NOTED the verbal update given by the Director of Children's Services on the Pan-London Adoption bid. A handout was tabled which set out where the planning process had got to and what the next steps and timescales were. The Committee was advised that the majority of London local authorities had signed up in principle to the joint agreement with a hub & spoke model. There were five or six authorities exploring alternative options including an agreement with the Coram adoption agency. The Committee was advised that the proposed implementation phase was scheduled for November 2018 to July 2019.

The Chair advised the Committee that they should email any further questions to herself and the DCS.

13. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE LEVELS OF LAC

NOTED the report presented given by the Head of Virtual Schools which set out the educational performance of the LAC in relation to ethnic background, focusing in particular on black/African Caribbean children and young people in comparison with their peer group.

The Committee requested that an update on the information contained in the report be provided on an annual basis. The Committee also requested that information be provided about the gender breakdown in performance levels of the LAC. **(Action: Fiona Smith).**

14. SUPERVISION ORDERS

The Chair requested that the Supervision Order report be rolled over to the following meeting given that there would also be a broad paper around adoption. **(Action: Sarah Alexander).**

15. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a query from Cllr Morris, the Chair advised that she and Cllr Arthur were looking into the campaign put forward by the Children's Society around giving care leavers a Council Tax exemption. It was noted that exemptions had already been set for the next municipal year and that the proposal could have a significant cost implication.

Future meetings

NOTED the following provisional dates:

4th July 2017

19th October 2017

16th January 2018

20th March 2018

Meetings are scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 20:40 hours.

CHAIR: Councillor Elin Weston

Signed by Chair

Date

Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2017/18

Corporate Parenting meeting Date	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
4 th July 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance inc. evaluation of dental health indicator 2. CPAC and Aspire notes with update on actions 3. Pan-London Adoption Bid 4. Update on foster carer recruitment and future models of provision 5. Homelessness Reduction Bill <p><u>Reports for noting</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Reasons behind Haringey having a higher proportion of care leavers who no longer require services 7. Adoption Paper 8. Supervision Orders <p><u>Action Updates</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Fostering Advert on Sky <p>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 20th June and due for publication on 23rd June</p>	<p>Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore</p> <p>Denise Gandy</p> <p>Dominic Porter-Moore/ Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Sarah Alexander</p> <p>Sarah Alexander</p> <p>Sarah Alexander</p>
19 th October 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance 2. CPAC and Aspire notes 3. Evaluation of the extent of dental health within the LAC 	<p>Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Jon Abbey</p> <p>Lynn Carrington</p>

Corporate Parenting Agenda Planning 2017/18

	<p>4. IRO Annual Report</p> <p><u>Main Presentation item</u></p> <p><u>Action Updates</u></p> <p>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 5th October and due for publication on the 11th October.</p>	Sarah Alexander
16 Jan 2018	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</p> <p><u>Substantive discussion item</u></p> <p><u>Action Updates</u></p> <p>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on 24th December and due for publication on the 8th January 2017</p>	
20 March 2018	<p>1. Performance</p> <p>2. CPAC and Aspire notes</p> <p><u>Substantive discussion item</u></p> <p><u>Reports for noting</u></p> <p><u>Action Updates</u></p> <p>Draft Reports will be due with Jon Abbey on the 5th March and due for publication on the 12th March.</p>	

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Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 4 July 2017

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to May 2017



Report

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

Lead Officer: Margaret Gallagher, Corporate Performance Manager
margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

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

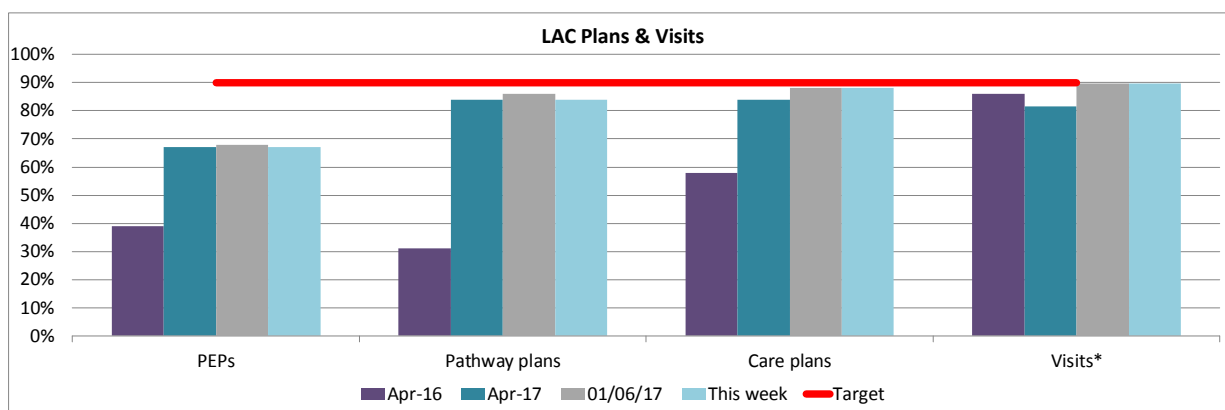
1. Introduction

- 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. 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 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. 434 **children were in care** at the end of the second week in June 2017 or 71 per 10,000 population including 38 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 but our rate has been fairly steady at around 70 in the last few months.
- 2.2. Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2016/17 has been returned in the CLA903 submission and after data cleansing it shows that at 31 March 2017 there were 440 children in Haringey's care. The summary data confirms our rate of children in care as 72 per 10,000 population and keeps us within the inter-quartile range and close to the last published rate of our statistical neighbours (69 per 10,000 population), although remaining higher than the 2015/16 London (51) and national average (60) rates.

- 2.3. At the end of May/first week of June, 88% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**. Performance in this area has consistently remained above target since February 2016 but has fallen recently in some teams. Whilst most teams have close to 90% and many achieving 100%, the overall rate is being impacted by case loads in some areas namely court team 1. Regular meetings to track activity continue to be held with the Head of Service for Children in Care.
- 2.4. At the end of May/ first week of June, 84% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area is fairly consistent with a slight improvement since the reported position in December 2016 (82%) and is closing the gap with the 90% target. There were only 6 pathway plans not up to date at the end of May and a further 8 with no plan recorded. Performance remains positive and is being maintained with a continuing improvement trend.
- 2.5. The graphs below show the improvement over time in performance across all these areas.



- 2.6. 92% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of May, exceeding the 90% target. Of the 140 children receiving reviews in the year to May, 11 were late but all have since been completed.
- 2.7. Provisional data for indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remains broadly in line with statistical neighbours and targets albeit showing a slightly increasing proportion with 3 or more placement moves. In the year to March 2017, 10% of **children had three or more placement moves**, just above the statistical neighbour average (7%) but in line with the latest published national position (10%). 77.5% 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, higher than the national average (68%) and indicating positive placement stability overall for Haringey's children in care.
- 2.8. At the end of May, data shows 94% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, close to the target and continuing the positive trend.
- 2.9. 90% of **visits to Children in Care** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in May, an improving position and more in line with expected

standards. Performance on visits to looked after children continues to be tracked at performance meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care and along with supervision meetings continue to be actively addressed .

- 2.10. Data for the 2016/17 financial year confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 32 weeks, an improvement on the 2015/16 average case duration of 34 weeks, maintaining the downward trend since the Family Justice Review in 2013.
- 2.11. The number of **care applications** increased by 20% in 2016/17 which reverses the downward trend maintained since 2010/2011. The rate of care proceedings per 10,000 children increased to 13.6 in 2016/17 from 7.7 in 2015/16. The expected impact of the improvements in the use of the PLO process and introduction of the Signs of Safety model ¹of social worker practice in January 2016 to maintain the decrease has not occurred. 36% of cases relating to 83 children were concluded under the 26 week statutory timescale.
- 2.12. The outcomes for 49% of **care proceeding cases** concluded in 2016/17 were care or placement orders. The data reveals a significant shift (97%) away from the 2015/16 outcomes where the majority of children who were the subject of proceedings returned to their parents or family of origin towards children being made subject to care and placement orders. The majority of care and placement orders were made in respect of parents with drug or alcohol problems.

3. Areas for Focus

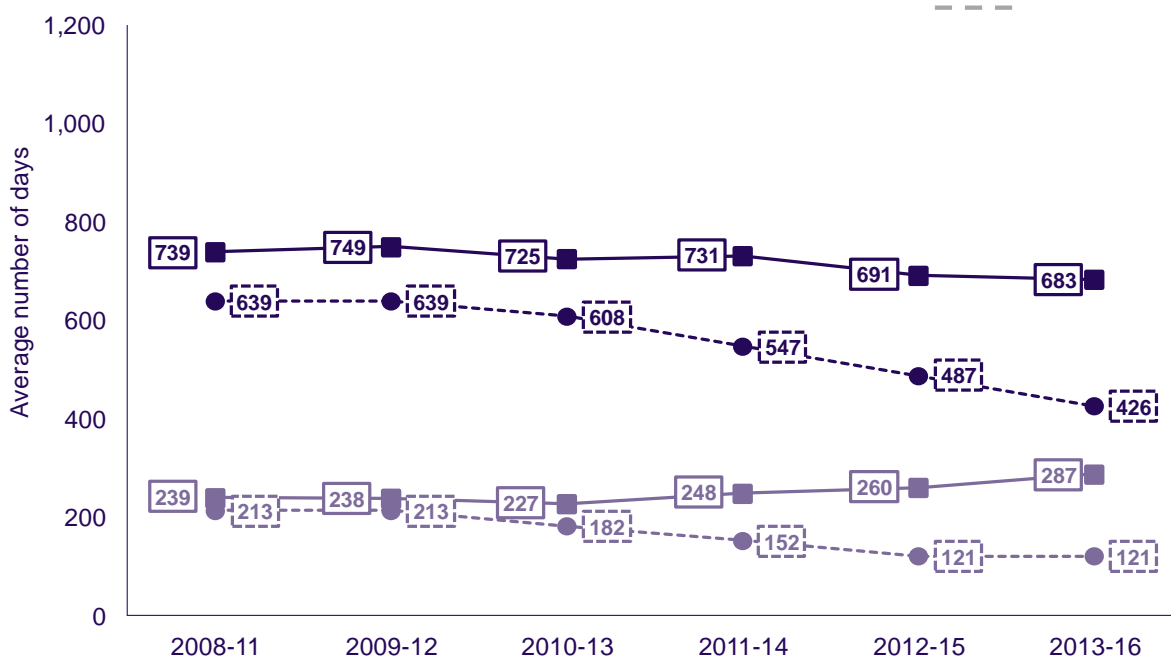
- 3.1. In the year to March 2017, only 11 **adoptions**, none since December in the 2016/17 financial year and 10 **special guardianship orders** (SGOs) have been achieved compared with 35 permanency orders in the same period last year (19 adoptions & 16 SGOs), the lowest recorded for many years.
- 3.2. In the **2017/18 financial year**, we have had 7 adoptions and 4 special guardianship orders. This is a big improvement compared with the same period in 2016 when there were just 4 adoptions and zero SGOs. A trend towards placement with families- kinship or connected persons as opposed to adoption or SGOs is evident.
- 3.3. **Of the children that ceased to be looked after in 2016/17** just 6% were **adopted** which compares with 2015/16 published data of 15% nationally and 8% in London. That being said national quarterly data suggest that this is a trend being observed elsewhere with reduction noted in new decisions, placement orders, adoptions and adopter registrations throughout 2016/17. Special guardianship referrals continue to be low. If SGOs are included, 12% of those who ceased to be looked after achieved legal permanency in 2017/18 year.
- 3.4. Timeliness of children placed for adoption in 2016/17 at an average 560 days remains higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). In the financial year to June 2017, **children waited an average of 402 days from**

¹Turnell, A and Edwards,S. (1999) Signs of Safety: A Solution Oriented Approach to Child Protection Casework

becoming looked after to being placed for adoption. This relates to the 7 adoptions this year so caution must be exercised when averaging on relatively small numbers. Adoptions after a long period in care even in complex cases for just 1 or 2 young people can skew the average on this national indicator of timeliness.

3.5. Haringey's latest **3 year rolling average position** as will be published imminently in the national government Adoption Scorecards was 683 days for the period **2013-16**, higher than the national threshold (distance of 257 days) and improving England position of 558 days (593 days for 2012-2015). We do not yet have access to the latest data for our statistical neighbours but for 2012-2015 Haringey's performance was similar to that of our neighbours average of 696 days. Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data.

A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family
A2: Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family



3.6. The solid lines show Haringey's performance overtime, the **dotted lines are the national thresholds**. Adoption scorecards are published with over one year lag and show figures over a three year rolling period. If we were to calculate our three year rolling average to include 2016/17 data, Haringey's performance would reduce to 603 days for the period 2014-2017 albeit still above the Government's national threshold.

3.7. **Adoption timeliness** is on an improving trajectory against a backdrop of a national fall in the numbers of adoptions (12% fewer between 2014/15 and 2015/16). This is as a result of a fall in the number of adoption placement orders being made. The trend is widely attributed to a reticence, amongst some social workers to progress adoptions following a 2013 ruling by Sir James Munby in the case Re B-S. The ruling stated that local authorities

must provide evidence that all alternatives to adoption had been considered before bringing a case to court.

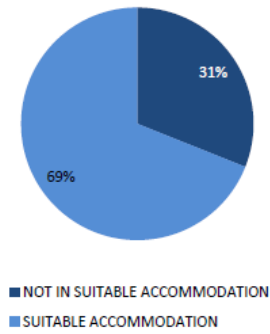
- 3.8. 86 or 22.5% of Looked After Children at the end of March 2017 were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** compared to a 16% target and 19% at the end of March 2016. However fewer children are being placed 20 miles+ and there are good reasons for these placements outside the borough many linked to complex care requirements or long term foster care arrangements. Although higher than national levels this proportion remains just slightly above the average for London.
- 3.9. 72% of the current LAC cohort (age 2 and over and in care for over one month) had an **up to date dental visit** as at May 2017. There were 118 children without a recorded up to date dental check, 70% of those with outstanding visits are between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. Detail of the children without a dental check and due a medical visit have been provided to target those with outstanding visits.
- 3.10. The service and performance team liaise with the designated nurse to ensure timely notification of all children who become looked after. Performance on the dental indicator fluctuates throughout the year and we know that social workers do not always record the date of the dental visit in the system which means our reports will not pick up all those with up to date dental checks. When case notes are interrogated and those without a date entered on the system are added in, performance increases to around 80% but this is reliant on the issue being highlighted and requires a purge on the data accuracy.
- 3.11. We, along with others, make a government return on these children and the proportion with an up to date dental check as at the end of March from which comparator data is derived.
- 3.12. Provisional data for the government return tracks all **children in care for over 12 months who have a dental check recorded** and is showing 85% of children in care at the end of March 2017 with a check. This is below levels achieved in 2014 /15 where we achieved 91.5% but in line with performance of our statistical neighbours.
- 3.13. Performance on **Personal Education Plans (PEPs)** has declined in recent months with current data showing that 72% of PEPs for statutory school age children have an up to date PEP within the last term. Previously data was reported on a six monthly basis so ensuring PEPs are reviewed on a termly basis has brought the performance levels down and we still have some way to reach the 90% target.
- 3.14. 241 out of the 359 (67%) of **PEPs were up to date within 6 months** at the end of May. This area continues to be a priority for performance tracking.
- 3.15. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training (EET)** for 2016-17 has improved following some intensive work with the service to update the system and get accurate details recorded for our cohort of care leavers. The position at 31 March 2016 is

reported in the government 903 data return, comparator data will be made available later in the year. Approximately 56% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 are recorded as in EET up from 47% of 19-21 year olds and 57% of 17-18 year olds in 2015/16. This compares favourably with the published comparator data for 2015/16 both *nationally* and compared against *London* (49% and 54% respectively).

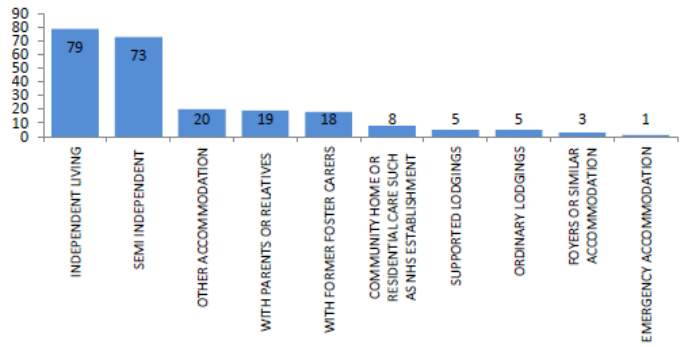
- 3.16. Haringey continues to perform better than England on the percentage of **former relevant young people who were in higher education**. Haringey's three year figure was 13% compared with 7% nationally and we rank 7th best in the country on this measure.
- 3.17. In 2015/16 Haringey also reported a higher proportion where **the local authority did not have information about the care leavers activity** (19% compared to 12% average for London and 11% nationally) in 2015/16. In preparation for this years return and as part of improvement work to evidence outcomes for our care leavers we have gone through the cases line by line and recorded the known activity or situation for each of the young people concerned. The latest analysis shows that we only had 31 care leavers with whom we were not in touch throughout the year, 27 care leavers refused contact and support and 16 returned home for a period more than 6 months.
- 3.18. There was also a question about the data in regard to why so many did not require services in 2015/16. Investigation shows that this was a data quality issue whereby the system had not been set up to capture care leavers who had returned home and as this was not an option, they were reported as not requiring services last year. This has now been rectified and we have clear categories by which we can report on the cohort and their status on a regular basis. There were 15 care leavers in 2016/17 where services were not required perhaps because they may have left the country. Details of the 15 have been provided to the service who can advise on the specific reasons for them not requiring services as at 31 March 2016.
- 3.19. In 2016/17, provisional data as at 31 March shows that 69% of **care leavers were in suitable accommodation** down from 74% (for 19-21 year olds) and 71% (of 17-18 year olds) in 2015/16. This performance is comparatively low as nationally 83% of care leavers aged 19-21 were in suitable accommodation and 88% of 17-18 year olds (2015/16).
- 3.20. The charts below show the suitable accommodation types and the numbers who were not regarded as in suitable accommodation. Note that 13 care leavers were in custody and this is not regarded as suitable accommodation.

SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION

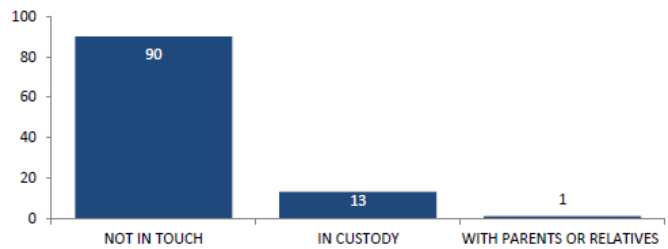
ACCOMMODATION SUITABILITY



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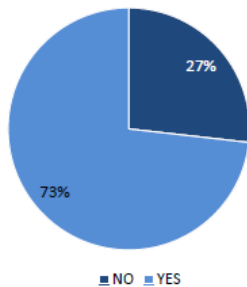


NOT IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION - ACCOMMODATION TYPE

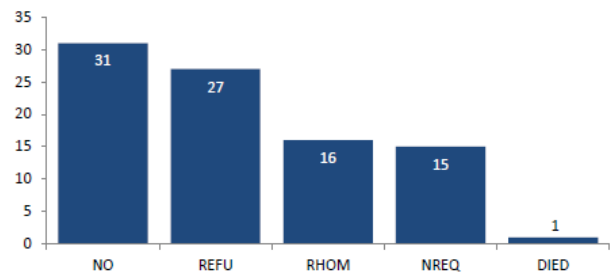


3.21. The 2015/16 published data shows Haringey has a lower proportion of **care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21** who were **in touch with the Local Authority** at 81% compared with 87% nationally and in London. The bar chart below illustrates Haringey’s position for 2016/17 and for which comparator data will be available later in the year. On the face of it the proportion with whom we are in touch with seems to have declined to 73% but we believe this is due to a fuller and more representative cohort submitted in this year’s return. The cohort of care leavers that we reported on this year was 336 and in 2015/16 it was 278.

IN TOUCH



NOT IN TOUCH - REASONS

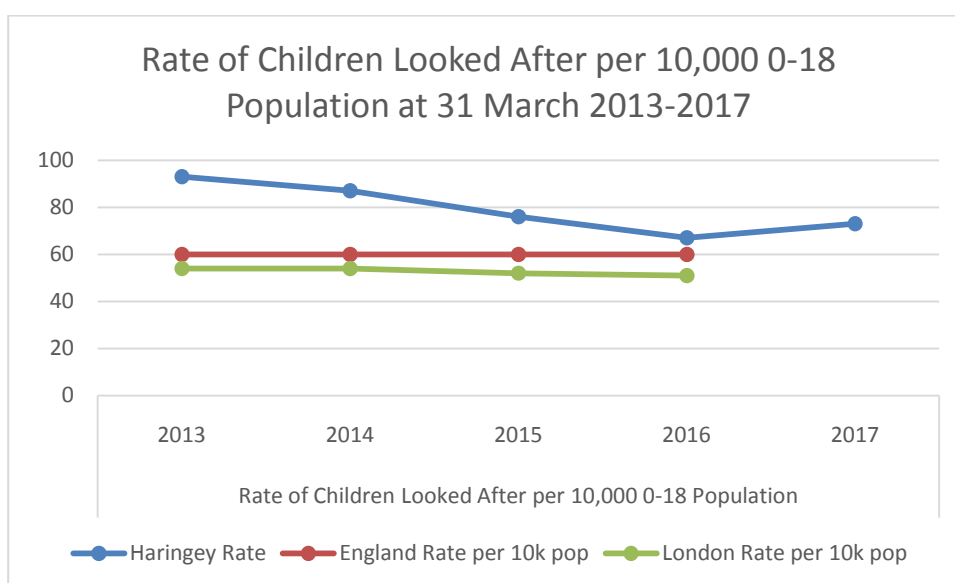


3.22. The service offer for care leavers has been reviewed and a dashboard is being developed to track performance on a number of key measures for these vulnerable young people.

Overall Assessment of Children in Care

Looked After Children

- 4.1. There has been a 27% reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children since 2012 when the rate of children in care was 100 per 10,000 children under 18 population. This compares with a 3.9% reduction in London and a 5% increase nationally over the same period. Over the last 6 months, the number of Looked After Children has remained fairly steady at around the rate of 72 per 10,000 population. Whilst this is slightly higher than the position at the end of March 2016 our current rate (mid June 2017) of 71 remains slightly above our statistical neighbour average rate of 67 and relative to deprivation levels. Haringey's rate at the 31 March 2017 remains significantly higher than the last published London rate (51) and national rate of 60 as at March 2016.



- 4.2. In April and May 2017, 37 children have become looked after and 36 have ceased to be looked after, a net change of just one child.
- 4.3. The 903 return shows 443 children looked after at the end of March 2017; 268 (61%) of whom were boys and 172 (39%) girls. The largest proportion (42%) were aged between 10 and 15 years old, mostly boys. 29% were aged between 16 and 17 and c15% were between under 1 year and 4 years old.
- 4.4. Abuse and neglect remains the biggest category of need for children looked after, in 2016/17 this accounted for 56% of children in care as at the 31st March. The next highest categories are absent parenting, family dysfunction and family in acute stress, closely followed by parental illness or disability with these 4 categories accounting for 35% of need for our looked after children.
- 4.5. The legal status of children coming into care is tracked and we report on this in the 903 return. 56% of children in care at 31st March 2017 were on full care orders with an additional 10% on interim care orders. We continue to see increasing proportions coming into care on voluntary agreements under section

20. One in four (24%) of children accommodated are under section 20 legal status.

- 4.6. The table below sets out the numbers of children placed in each accommodation type at 31st March 2017.

Placement	No. at 31/3/2017	% of total at 31/3/2017
Foster placement with relative or friend (inside Local authority)	15	3.4%
Foster placement with relative or friend (outside Local authority)	23	5.2%
Placement with other foster carer (inside Local authority)	48	11%
Placement with other foster carer (outside Local authority)	227	51.5%
Secure Unit	4	<1%
Homes and hostels	33	7.5%
Hostels and supportive residential placements	46	10.5%
Other residential settings	9	2%
Placed for adoption (incl. placed with former foster carer)	11	2.5%
Placed with own parents	24	5.5%

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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Whittington Health

Sample audit by CIC Nurses

The team asked the following questions to 27 Children and or carers that attended for Review health assessments over the last 10 weeks.

Ages of children seen

Age	2	3	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Number	2	1	1	2	2	2	5	4	1	3	4

Date of last dental check?

21 had dental checks within the last year. 6 forms did not have the date recorded, so it was unclear if the nurse just didn't record date as the child/carer couldn't remember the date, or the child didn't have the check-up. (Question needs to be more detailed on a subsequent audit).

What's important to ensure your teeth remain healthy?

Answers:

If you don't care for your teeth they will fall out.

9 said brushing them. 6 said brushing twice a day. 2 using mouthwash

1 using floss. No sweets. Not too much sweet stuff. Cut down on sugary things. Not too many sweets. Carer said getting her off sugar. No fizzy drinks. Eat properly. Use fluoride toothpaste. Not eating too much sugary food. Not eating too many sweets and chocolate. Healthy eating

What did the dentist say about your teeth?

Dentist had a quick look no concerns.

No problems

Good and strong had fissure sealant

They are good

They are good and healthy

To keep on brushing teeth

Good shape.

Good

Dentist said they are lovely

Floss often health teeth advised.

Brush bottom set better

1 child aged 10 year old with small filling, dentist said there was improvement but slight build-up of plaque.

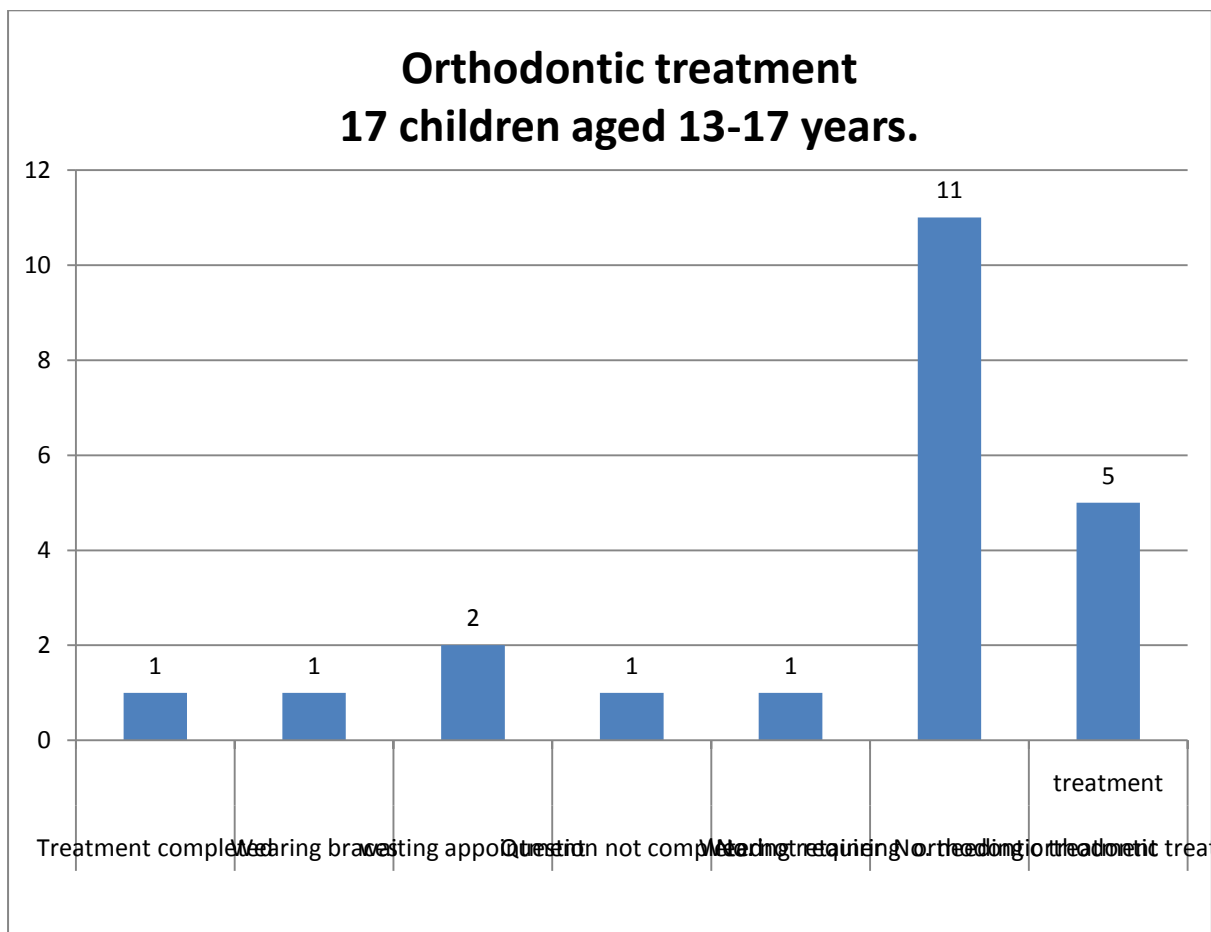
1 16 year old 1 filling and 2 extractions coated with, fissure sealant advice re dental hygiene.

I had teeth removed due to crowding last year.

1 17 year old has a filling.

Older young people

Have you got braces or orthodontics?



Why orthodontics is used ?

Why do so many children seem to be having treatment?

About one third of all children have a demonstrable need of orthodontic treatment and a further third are borderline cases (British orthodontic society)

The benefits of orthodontics can include:

- Correction of dental crowding and straightening of your teeth
- Correction of your bite so the front and back teeth meet evenly
- Reducing the chance of damage to prominent teeth
- Improving your appearance, including your smile

Many people have crowded or crooked teeth or their teeth don't meet correctly when they bite. These problems can mean the teeth are more likely to become damaged or put a strain on jaw muscles.

In some cases, abnormal development of the teeth and jaw can affect the shape of the face.

Orthodontics can also be used to treat other health problems, such as a cleft lip and palate or cases of mild sleep apnoea.

Who can have orthodontics ?

Orthodontic treatment is usually only started after most of a child's adult teeth have started to come through.

This is usually when they're about 12 years old, but depends on the number of adult teeth and the growth of their face and jaws.

Orthodontic treatment for adults can begin at any age, but the treatment options are more limited.

Treatment also won't begin unless you have a good standard of oral hygiene as orthodontic treatment can increase the risk of tooth decay.

Types of orthodontic treatment

Orthodontics mainly uses braces to correct the position of the teeth. Your exact treatment will depend on the problems with your teeth.

In some cases, you may have to wear headgear at night, or have small pins placed temporarily in the jaw as well as a brace. You may also need to have some teeth removed as part of your treatment.

The length of treatment will depend on how complicated the problem is, but it's usually between 18 and 24 months. (Source NHS choices)

Audit tool – Given to child/carer at health assessment

Today's date	Nurse
Date of last dental check?	
How are you looking after your teeth?	
What's important to ensure your teeth remain healthy?	
What did the dentist say about your teeth?	
<u>Older young people</u>	
Do you need to see the Orthodontist?	
Have you got braces or orthodontics?	
Have you had braces removed?	

Lynn Carrington

Designated Nurse Children in Care 20.6.2017



Report for:	Corporate Parent Advisory Committee (CPAC)
Title:	Housing legislation and welfare changes that may affect care leavers
Lead Officer:	Denise Gandy, Director of Housing Demand

1. Introduction

This briefing seeks to update CPAC Members on the housing legislation and welfare reform changes that may impact on the housing options available to care leavers.

2. Homelessness Reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act received Royal Assent in April and is likely to be implemented from 1 April 2018. The Act primarily amends current homelessness legislation and redefines the assistance and service that people will receive when they are facing homelessness.

In Haringey we try to avoid young people becoming homeless at the point when they leave care by setting aside a quota of social housing so that planned moves can be made. However, if a care leaver were to become homeless they would be advised and supported under the new approach which looks to provide alternative solutions to making a homeless application and a placement in temporary accommodation.

In addition, the Act has a specific section, clause 8, which describes the criteria for local connection for care leavers. The clause states that in addition to having a local connection with the authority whose care the young person is in, they can also claim a local connection with the area in which they have been placed provided that they have been:

'...resident in the district of a local housing authority for a continuous period of 2 years, some or all of which was before their 16th birthday'.

So young people who are placed in care arrangements outside Haringey who fulfil the criteria above will have the option of claiming local connection for assistance in the area in which they are placed. Likewise,

care leavers placed by other authorities here can claim a local connection for housing to Haringey.

3. Welfare Reform changes

3.1 Application of Local Housing Allowance Cap in social housing

Housing Benefit claimants living in the social rented sector have generally not faced restrictions on the level of rent that can be considered as eligible rent for Housing Benefit purposes. However, from April 2019 the level of Housing Benefit, or the housing element of Universal Credit, claimed by tenants in social housing (council and housing association stock) will be restricted to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate. In most cases in Haringey this does not present an issue as social housing rents are lower than LHA rates.

However, this change will have a particular impact on people aged under 35 whose Housing Benefit payment will be limited to the shared room rate (currently £90.64 in Haringey). Care leavers will be able to receive the one-bedroom rate until their 22nd birthday but after that will be restricted to a shared room rate until they are 35.

This change applies to anyone who signed up as a tenant from 1 April 2016 but the reduction in the Benefit paid is not made until April 2019.

3.2 Removal of help with housing costs for 18 to 21 year olds

From 1 April 2017, 18 to 21 year olds claiming Universal Credit will not be entitled to help with housing costs. Haringey does not go fully live for Universal Credit until July 2018 and so this change will not apply until then.

It is now clear that care leavers will be exempt from this change.

REPORT for: Corporate Advisory Parenting Committee: 4 July 2017
Item number:
Title: Adoption Report



Report Authorised by: Jon Abbey, Director of Children's Service

Lead Officer: Sarah Alexander, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Lead Practitioner

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non-Key

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to brief Committee Members on the business and service delivery activities within the council's Adoption Agency during 2016/17 period. The report provides performance data on the service, reports on the activity and functioning of panel, and details service developments that have occurred during the year and future plans proposed for 2017/18. In addition, this report incorporates information and data for Supervision Orders for the same period
- 1.2 The London Borough of Haringey Adoption Agency operates within the regulatory framework of the National Minimum Standards 2014; Adoption & Children Act 2002 and associated regulations, the Children Act 1989 & 2004. The Service also adheres to the Adoption Statutory Guidance and National Minimum Standards 2014 with scope to update Corporate Parenting Panel on progress/developments concerning the Adoption Agency.
- 1.3 Prior to September 2013, Adoption Agencies were inspected separately by Ofsted. However, since then adoption work is now incorporated into the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) which includes a graded judgement on adoption.
- 1.4 During the last inspection, held in 2011, the service received a satisfactory rating.
- 1.5 In May 2014 Ofsted undertook a further inspection of children's services under the Single Inspection Framework resulting in services being graded a Requires Improvement rating for all aspects of service delivery including adoption. Haringey are expecting an inspection notice in early 2018 as part of the new Ofsted inspection regime.

Recommendations

That Committee notes the content of the report.

2. National Agenda and Developments

- 2.1 During the last 12 months, the Government has continued to retain a focus on adoption following proposals for establishing new regional adoption agencies (RAAs) to improve life chances for children, improve adopter recruitment and adoption support, speed up matching and achieve cost efficiencies. In its policy paper, Adoption: A Vision for Change (March 2016), the DfE indicated that to ensure long term, sustainable success, the adoption system must operate at the right scale and to facilitate this it must ensure that all local authorities will become part of an RAA by 2020. Despite ministerial changes and changes in Government, the DfE has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring policy brings about greater integration, shared functions, efficiencies and sharing of best practice.
- 2.2 In response, the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) submitted a high level London proposition paper that was subsequently approved by DfE resulting in formal establishment of the London Regionalisation Steering Group (LRSG).. The group includes representatives from London boroughs and Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAAs) who have formally signed up to scope and develop a pan London offer providing new families and post permanency support for children who cannot be bought up by their biological parents.
- 2.3 A paper was submitted to Cabinet on 13th December 2016 setting out full details concerning plans and developments for the proposed London Regional Adoption Agency (LRAA). Committee approval was given for Haringey to continue working collaboratively with the LRSG with the intention of joining the new London Regional Adoption Agency when it becomes operational. However, with such a large-scale undertaking delays have resulted in an uncertain start date for the London RAA and no plans are currently in place for the transfer of staff and duties.
- 2.4 Following Cabinet's endorsement of plans for establishing the LRAA, management will continue to engage with unions and staff members via regular updates outlining future activities and work streams linked to the LRAA action plan.

3. Haringey Adoption Agency Performance - Adoption Scorecard

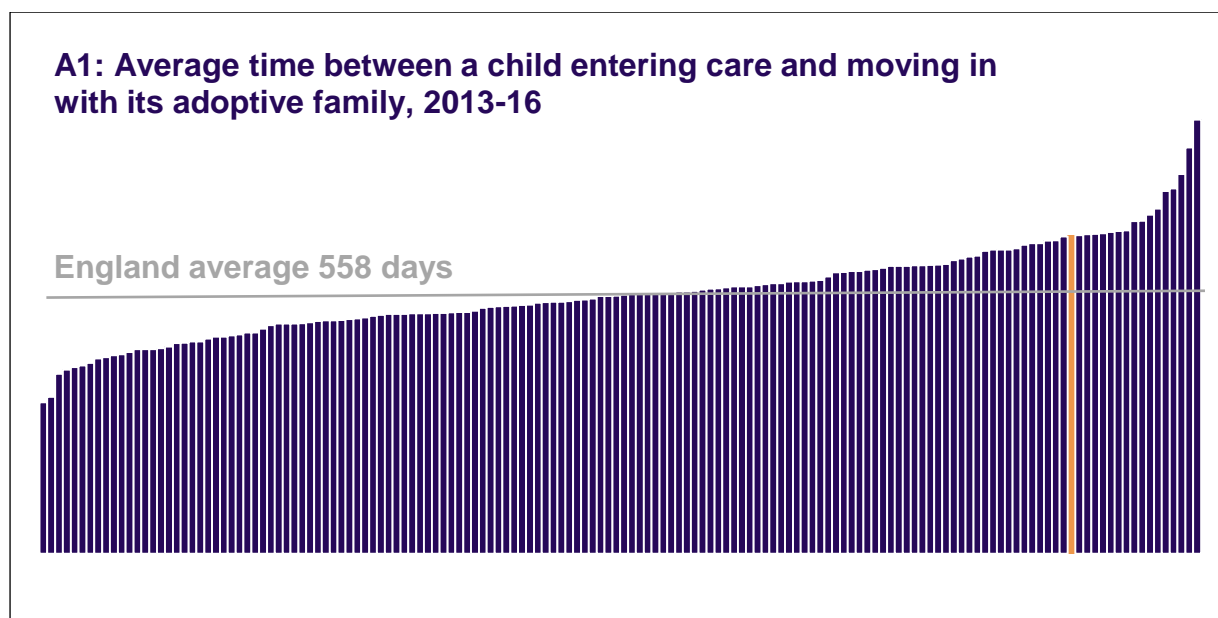
- 3.1 The Adoption scorecard was first published in November 2011 introducing a number of key indicators to measure local authority performance in relation to achieving permanence for looked after children; these are measured over a 3 year average. Key benchmark indicators include the following:
- A1: the average time it takes for a child who goes on to be adopted from entering care to moving in with his or her adoptive family;
 - A2: The average time between local authorities obtaining a placement order for a child and matching that child with a prospective parent;
 - The Adoption Scorecard for 15/16 was released by the DfE in June 2017; Haringey's performance is as follows:
- 3.2 The Adoption scorecard was first published in November 2011 introducing a number of key indicators to measure local authority performance in relation to

achieving permanence for looked after children; these are measured over a three year average. Key benchmark indicators include the following:

- A1: the average time it takes for a child who goes on to be adopted from entering care to moving in with his or her adoptive family;
- A2: The average time between local authorities obtaining a placement order for a child and matching that child with a prospective parent;
- A3: The percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.

3.3 The draft Adoption Scorecard for Haringey was released by the DfE in March 2017; Haringey’s performance is as follows:

- On A1: The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted in Haringey was 683 days compared to a national position of 558 days. This is a gap of 257 days between performance and the national threshold of 426 days.
- The table below shows the average days for Haringey and nationally over the last three years. The average days in the year to March 2016 making it longer than in the year to March 2015 but the three year trend is improving i.e. the average days in the period 2013-2016 are shorter than in the period 2012-2015. Haringey ranks 132nd in the country on this indicator.
- The graph below shows Haringey’s comparative position on the 3 year rolling measure but only includes up to 2015/16 so does not illustrate any recent improvement on timeliness of adoption.



3.4 The adoption scorecards were due to be published in April 2017 but were delayed owing to Purdah guidelines; we have not yet been advised of a new timeline for the publication. When the scorecards are published we will have access to latest statistical neighbour comparison. In the meantime, we can compare our

performance on this measure with the previous published figures for our statistical neighbours. Haringey's figure on indicator A1 for the period 2013-2015 was 691 days, this compares with an average of 696 days for our statistical neighbours so we are not out of line.

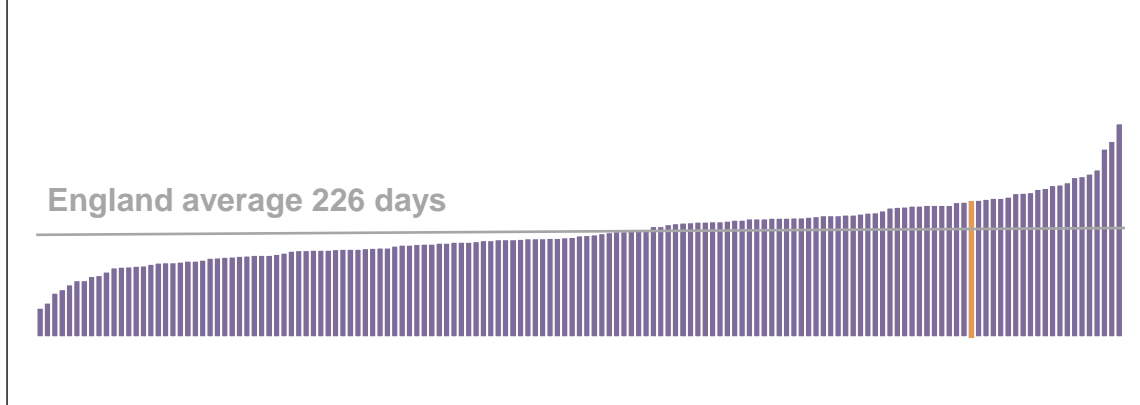
- 3.5 Our provisional 2016/17 figure of 560 days compares favourably with statistical neighbours and whilst we still have not achieved the government threshold, the data shows an improving trajectory. This will mean that when the next Adoption Scorecard covering the period 2014 to 2017 is published our estimated three year rolling average figure will reduce to 603 days and we'll be showing improvement on both the one year and three year trends.

LA Code	LA Name	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2013, 2014 and 2015 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (days)
970	ENGLAND	558	593	628	647
309	Haringey	683	691	731	725

- 3.6 On A2: The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family has been increasing and Haringey's three-year average is 287 days compared with a national position of 226 days. There is a 166-day gap between Haringey's performance and the national threshold of 121 days and this gap between our performance and the national threshold has been widening. The table below shows the figures over the last three years. The average time in 2013-16 was longer than in 2012-15 so the trend on this measure is going in the wrong direction. Nationally, Haringey ranks 127th on this indicator. Our comparative position can be seen on the graph below. Haringey is shown as the orange line.

LA Code	LA Name	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2013, 2014 and 2015 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (days)	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (days)
970	ENGLAND	226	223	216	210
309	Haringey	287	260	248	227

A2: Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, 2013-16



3.7 On A3: In the rolling 3-year period 2013-2016 37% of children waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive families in Haringey, compared with 47% in England. The latest data covering the first six months of 2016/17 shows that this position has worsened in Haringey (although based on only five adoptions) compared to the national trend which is showing improvement.

Adoption Scorecard: Latest quarterly data (April to September 2016)	
Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family in Q1 & Q2 2016-17 (number)	Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family in Q1 & Q2 2016-17 (%)
4930	59
5	25

3.8 The associated performance tables show the trend in adoptions over the past five years with comparison to the England position. Our rank nationally on this measure is 109th in the country.

LA Code	LA Name	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (%)	Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year					Number of looked after children adopted during the year				
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
970	ENGLAND	16	13	14	17	17	15	3,470	4,010	5,050	5,360	4690
309	Haringey	12	5	6	15	10	11	15	15	40	25	25

3.9 Special Guardianship Orders are also a form of permanency. Haringey has had more success with these legal orders and is in line with the national position over a three-year period despite the numbers declining in 2016. Our rank nationally on this measure is 77th.

LA Code	LA Name	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (%)	Percentage of looked after children who ceased to be looked after because of a special guardianship order during the year					Number of looked after children who ceased to be looked after because of a special guardianship order during the year				
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
970	ENGLAND	11	8	10	11	11	12	2,150	2,770	3,360	3,550	3,830
309	Haringey	11	4	13	10	14	8	15	30	25	35	20

3.10 Other data that is published on the adoption scorecard that may be of interest is:

- Children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption during 2013-16. Haringey had 20 children or 14% in the 3-year period, in line with the national proportion of 14%.
- Following the Prime Minister's announcement in November 2015 of plans to increase the number of children in fostering for adoption placements, a new indicator has been included in adoption scorecards; Number of children in a Fostering for Adoption / Concurrent Planning foster placement (as at 31 March 2016)- Haringey's number was so small it could not be published but compares with 320 in England.
- Adoptions of children from ethnic minority backgrounds during 2013-16. Haringey had 45 adoptions (10%) of BME children leaving care who were adopted, slightly higher than the national position of 9%.
- Adoptions of children aged five or over during 2013-16. Haringey had 20 children (4%) aged 5 or over leaving care who were adopted in the period, close to the national position of 5%.

3.11 A further update on the latest number of adoptions and special guardianship orders in 2017/18 has been included in the performance report which is also being presented to the meeting on 4 July 2017.

3.12 Numbers placed and numbers of those who are waiting

3.13 The number of children placed for adoption by Haringey, in 2016/17 was 11 - a decrease of thirteen from the 2015/16 figure of 24. The decline in the number of adoptions is also a trend featured within the North London Consortium boroughs with the exception of Hackney. The reason suggested is the national decline in the number of children available for adoption. This decline was evidenced in the March 2016 statistical release by the Department of Education. This was particularly the case in the 1 to 4-year-old age group, which covers 72% of all adopted children in 2016.

Borough	Barnet	Camden	Enfield	Haringey	Islington	Hackney	Total
Children Adopted	8 (12)	8 (7)	10 (15)	11 (24)	14 (8)	19 (16)	70 (82)

3.14 Number of children awaiting a match and what activity is being undertaken

Table 2 highlights the current number of children waiting to be matched in Haringey a total of 17 children with Placement Orders.

- 3.15 There is a similar number of approved adopters in 2016/17 at six, compared to 2015/16. This mismatch of a greater number of children with placement orders than adopters is because the children are older, from sibling groups, or have special needs, which do not match the identified needs of the approved adopters.

	Barnet	Camden	Enfield	Hackney	Haringey	Islington	Total
Children	5 (0)	0 (0)	4 (6)	5 (2)	17 (1)	8 (1)	39 (10)
Adopters	4 (11)	3 (4)	5 (3)	4 (3)	6 (6)	5 (3)	27 (30)

3.16 Numbers of adopters assessed and waiting for a placement

- The numbers of new approved adopters in Haringey has reduced from 11 to six in 2016/17 an explanation for this reduction is likely to be due to changes in the court judgements such a Re B and the success of placement initiatives.
- Re B.S and subsequent cases 2014/2015 (15 listed), contested hearings has had a huge impact on prospective adopters; rising fears of uncertainty which is evidenced in decreased number of expressions of interest.
- Adopters' limitation has been a focal point in respect of recruitment. This is to ensure that prospective adopters are fully informed of the complex needs of the children we have waiting and how these will be met in an adoptive placement.
- The reduction in children with a plan of adoption and the specialist nature of their needs such as complex attachment issues or long-term health needs has meant that recruitment has had to become much more selective to be able to match the needs of the children waiting. This has resulting in reduced numbers of adopters approved.
- Alongside this, there has been a significant drop in the number of enquires (39 compared to 52). Staff have risen to the challenge to recruit adopters from a smaller pool and for more complex children and increased the number of information sessions.

Borough	Barnet	Camden	Enfield	Haringey	Islington	Hackney	Total
Adoption Enquiries	87 (138)	141 (175)	65 (268)	39 (52)	199 (227)	81 (142)	612 (1,002)
Information Sessions	12 (5)	3 (4)	12 (4)	12 (5)	4 (4)	5 (4)	48 (26)
Adopters Approved	4 (9)	4 (2)	2 (8)	6 (11)	8 (3)	7 (8)	31 (41)

Table 3: NLAFC Adoption Recruitment 2016/2017 (2015/16 in brackets)

4. Service Structure and Service Delivery Arrangements

4.1 Team Structure & Remit

The Service has gone through some personnel changes in the last few months resulting in a new management arrangement and team members.

The establishment is as follows:

- one service manager shared with fostering
- one Team Manager
- six social workers.

4.2 The Service is responsible for operational practice/delivery in the following key areas:

- Recruitment, assessment and approval of applicants seeking to become approved adopters.
- Supporting adopters post approval in respect of matching.
- Family-finding leading to linking and matching of children with adoptive parents/families. Monthly consortium meetings to share profiles across the six authorities and fortnightly in-house tracking meetings.
- Supporting adopters, special guardians and their families to create placement stability and achieving good outcomes for children.
- The Adoption Panel, a regulatory requirement where Panel considers and makes recommendations around the suitability of prospective applicants and on the matching of children requiring adoption with approved adopters. The Panel is chaired by a skilled and experienced independent social care professional.
- Agency Decision Maker (ADM) – the Assistant Director for Social Care performs the role of ADM for the Adoption Service. The ADM considers and makes decisions on whether or not children should be placed for adoption. Also, following panel recommendation, the ADM has final approval on the suitability of any matches between a child and approved adopter(s).

- 4.3 Haringey is a member of the Adoption North London Consortium, a partnership of six local adoption agencies: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey and Islington. The Consortium offers joint working arrangements to carry out recruitment of adopters, information and preparation sessions and support groups for adopter.

5. Recruitment Activity Undertaken

- 5.1 The local authority carries out a number of different marketing strategies in order to identify prospective adopters and share the profiles of all children requiring adoption.

During the course of the year the Adoption team has undertaken the following activities:

- advertising on the North London Consortium website;
 - attending Consortium meetings where children profiles and prospective adopter's information are shared to spread the possibility of matching;
 - publishing children's profiles on secure and established adoption websites such as Link Maker and the National Adoption Register (Adoption Match);
 - attending National Consortium Exchange meetings;
 - for hard to place children using specific media such as education magazines, mail shots to all local authorities, Nursing Times, Voice newspaper and BME exchange events;
 - all children's profiles are supported with a professional DVD video and photographs.
- 5.2 In May 2017 Haringey hosted an all-day event inviting approved prospective adopters from within the consortium. This event was intended to raise awareness of the needs of children who are adopted and give prospective adopters information about the children requiring adoption in Haringey.
- 5.3 In May 2017, Haringey hosted a workshop for approved adopters who are currently waiting. The day was broken up into two parts. The morning looked at why adopters are waiting, explored their limitations and exercises for the adopters to think about the needs of children currently waiting. The afternoon was focused on all the profiles of children waiting. This event was extended to the North London consortium and also South London consortium and two adopters from Lambeth attended. Ten households attended and we have made two potential links. The aim is to deliver this workshop on a bi-monthly basis and continue to work alongside the North and South consortiums.
- 5.3 The publications of children's profiles on the Link Maker website has proved to be very successful as we have had a significantly higher response rate and anticipate further matches coming to fruition throughout the course of this year.

6. Complaints and requests for post adoption support by Adopters in 2016/17

- 6.1 There were four formal complaints by adopters in the year 2016/17 which were resolved.
- 6.2 In the same period there were 76 requests for adoption support from adopters and 42 of these requesters resulted in assessments. These requests impact on the team's capacity throughout the year by increasing case loads. Requests are generally for additional support for therapy, financial support when an adopter's circumstances or child's needs change.

7. Future Plans

- 7.1 Adoption continues to be a challenging area in both practice and development. The strategic push and scrutiny imposed by the government alongside the courts view that adoption should be the last resort for a child's permanency arrangement has resulted in fewer children available for adoption and a mismatch between the number of adopters and children. Those children who do have plans for adoption often have complex needs and behaviours making them less desirable to prospective adopters which causes a delay as seen by the reduction in the numbers of adoptions and the number of days it takes to achieve adoption placements. However, the team continue to work towards achieving permanent arrangements for children who are referred, at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2 Over the next six to twelve months the service will focus on the following actions to improve the service and its responsiveness:
- prepare for any upcoming Ofsted Inspection:
 - refresh and implement the adoption marketing & recruitment plan for 2017/18 in conjunction with North London Fostering & Adoption Consortia:
 - recruit new members of the Adoption panel and have a adoption and fostering combined panel:
 - continue ongoing learning & development work in embedding resilience model approach and signs of safety:
 - ensure practice surrounding permanency planning provides positive options for children with plans for adoption including foster to adopt: and
 - engage and contribute towards preparation and design work linked to London Regionalisation Project.

Report for: CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE :
4 July 2017

Title: Supervision Orders



Authorised by : Jon Abbey, Director – CYPS

Lead Officer: Sarah Alexander, Assistant Director, Social Care

Ward(s) affected: NA
Report for Key/
Non Key Decision: NON-KEY

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report considers the use of Supervision Orders in the court arena in preference to a Care Order and the impact on safeguarding a child in these circumstances.
- 1.2 It does not consider the making of Special Guardianship Orders at the end of care proceedings.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that CPAC members take note of the content of the report and request further reports as required.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 NA

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 NA

5. Background information

- 5.1 When a local authority makes an application for an order to safeguard the welfare of a child there are a number of different choices available the most common are care orders, supervision orders, emergency protection orders and secure accommodation orders.
- 5.2 A supervision order does not give the LA parental responsibility for a child but allows them to appoint a 'supervisor' who will 'advise, assist and befriend the supervised child' and take whatever steps are necessary to make the

supervision order work. Supervision orders are normally made for six months or 12 months at time. They are an alternative way of dealing with and monitoring concerns which are worrying but not considered by the court as so serious that a care order is required. It is a way of keeping an eye on how well things are going and taking quick action to return a matter to court if things go wrong or are not improving.

- 5.3 Courts will always consider whether an order is proportionate with the family's rights to private and family life (Article 8 ECHR). An order will not be considered proportionate if a lesser order will protect the child's welfare in the court's view. The greatest difference between a care and a supervision order is that a care order grants the local authority parental responsibility for the child, meaning that it can take decisions for the child and override the wishes of the parents.
- 5.4 Supervision orders are made on the same basis as care orders:
- The child concerned is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and that harm or likelihood of harm is as a result of the care given to the child if the order were not made in his favour, and/or the child being beyond parental control.
 - The courts cannot issue an order in respect of a child who has reached the age of 17, or 16 if the child is married.
 - An application for a care or supervision order may be made on its own or alongside any other family proceedings.
- 5.5 When there is a supervision order in force it is the duty of the supervisor to:
- 1) advise, assist and befriend the supervised child
 - 2) take steps that are reasonably necessary to give effect to the order and
 - 3) where the order is not wholly complied with or the supervisor considers that the order is no longer necessary, to consider whether to apply to the court to vary or discharge the order.
- 5.6 A supervision order may require the supervised child to comply with directions given by the supervisor to do things such as:
- 1) live at a place specified by the supervisor
 - 2) present themselves to specific people at specific places or times e.g. to meet with the social worker
 - 3) to participate in activities specified on certain days.
- 5.7 A supervision order can also require the child to submit to medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor. This requirement will only be included where the court has been satisfied on evidence as to its need.
- 5.8 A supervision order can only be in place for a maximum of three years.

- 5.9 The court can make a supervision order even if the local authority is asking for a care order, if the court thinks a supervision order is the best order to make for the child's welfare. Courts will listen to all the arguments and make its own decision based on the presentations and undertakings of the parties.
- 5.10 The court may feel the local authority plan is not made out with enough weight. Several recent court cases in which the court has decided that a child is best placed with parents have influenced . Examples of judgements in this area can be seen below.

B and G (Children) (No 3) [2015] EWFC 27

Case concerned 2 children. The LA sought for the children to be placed for adoption due to concerns of domestic violence by father, mother's mental health problems, neglect and a lack of engagement with professionals. Alternatively they sought for the children to be placed with their father under a supervision order. The Guardian recommended that the children be placed with their father under care orders.

Held

The President found that threshold had been established, albeit not by a very large margin. In light of the findings he concluded that the local authority's case that the children should be adopted could not be approved, as this plan would not be in their best interests and would be a wholly disproportionate response to the comparatively little that had been proved against either parent. He concluded that the children's best interests required that they be cared for by the father under a supervision order and section 8 order. The President considered that as the local authority was not proposing a care order in the alternative it would be a very strong thing to impose this upon them. He also considered that father was trustworthy and could be relied upon so Care orders were unnecessary

Y (Children) [2014] EWCA Civ 1553

A mother's second appeal against a care order, placing her two children in long-term foster care. This was the second set of care proceedings. In the previous proceedings the children were placed with their mother under a supervision order. It was then found that their violent father had returned to the family home despite the serious risk he posed. In light of this care proceedings recommenced and a care order was made. The judge did not view the children remaining in their mother's care as a realistic option, so did not consider it alongside the local authority's plan for the children to be placed in foster care.

Held

Appeal allowed. On the facts of this case, the option of the mother's care deserved comparison alongside the local authority's plan and a welfare evaluation was therefore necessary. In the absence of consideration of the mother's care, the proportionality evaluation conducted by the judge could not have continuing validity. It was not right to remove the children from the care of their mother on a "marginal risk analysis based on the credibility of the parties". Care by the mother is in the best interests of the children. This was a finely balanced case where the options were closely matched. The Court of Appeal replaced the care order with a child arrangements order and supervision order.

5.11 However there has been a small number of children who have been seriously harmed or killed by parent where a supervision order has been in place, the most recent of these being Ellie Butler.

6. Conclusion - Supervision Order and safeguarding children

6.1 The making of the order by a court indicates that the local authority will set out the way a child is cared for by the parent and in Haringey through a child in need plan.

6.2 Children on a Supervision order in Haringey will always have a named worker usually in the looked after child service. As a SO comes to an end an Early Help worker may take the place of a social worker as the supervisor.

6.3 Child in Need Plan- a child on a SO will have a detailed plan that ensure the parent knows what support to expect and when and all professional know what their role is to provide support. The plan will detail what behaviours will increase concerns and what may require further court action. Plans are reviewed and progress monitored at a meeting with the parent who agree to a child being visited and often speaking alone to a social worker.

6.4 In Haringey there are currently 13 Supervision Orders in place for children from 12 families which represents 3% of the total looked after figure. These children will be kept under close scrutiny by the Head of Service and Deputy Head of Service to ensure their well being.