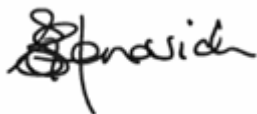


**Report for:** Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

**Title:** **Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021**



**Report authorised by :** Beverley Hendricks, Interim Assistant Director

**Lead Officer:** Colette Elliott-Cooper, Head of Service Children in Care  
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**Ward(s) affected:** NA

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1. Our Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy describes how we will deliver good, effective corporate parenting for children and young people in our care and care leavers. It provides a clear commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of this vulnerable group.

1.2. The strategy focuses on the following priorities:

- Improving the outcomes for children in care through high quality social work practice
- Improving outcomes for our care leavers through high quality social work practice
- Improving outcomes for children in care and care leavers through health and education
- Increasing placement choice, stability and support
- Children receive the right services and only remain in care for as long as they need to
- Being in care is an enriching experience as possible for children and that we equip them for a successful and fulfilling futures
- Increasing children and young people's impact on service design and delivery
- Ensuring children in care and care leavers are safeguarded
- Support children to live safely with their families and reduce the need to be cared for by intervening early.

## **2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to ratify our Strategy 2018- 2021 for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

## **3. Reasons for decision**

We strongly believe this Strategy will further develop and influence the work we do. By working together, we are confident we can deliver this Strategy and give children and young people who are looked after and our care leavers the opportunity to thrive in their families, their school, and their communities.

#### **4. Background information**

- 4.1 Most children and young people in Haringey live with their families; however, for some this is not possible. Coming into care is usually a difficult experience for children and young people. Many children who become looked-after do so because of family difficulties, neglect or abuse. According to data from Haringey's Children in Need (CIN) census, domestic abuse was the most prevalent factor identified. This indicates a large proportion of looked-after children are likely to have been Children in Need at one stage in their lives. In Haringey we currently have 425 children in care and 503 care leavers.
- 4.2 Research and inspection reports show that the quality of support care leavers receive is patchy and that their journey through the first decade of adult life is often disrupted, unstable and troubled. They often struggle to cope, and this can lead to social exclusion, long term unemployment or involvement in crime. For example, - National research shows approximately 34% of all care leavers were not in education, employment or training (NEET) at age 19 in 2013 compared to 15.5% of 18-year olds in the general population. In Haringey 52% of the 19-21 year olds and 77% of the 17-18-year olds were known to be in EET. This is in line with statistical neighbour figures.
- 4.3 Haringey has 60 young people at University, we continue to have higher proportions of young people in higher education than our statistical neighbours and compares favourably with the national position. This improving result was also recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection where inspectors found that Haringey's care leavers are supported to enter Education, Employment of Training opportunities.

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

This strategy is shaped by the Borough Plan, to fulfil the Council's responsibilities as Corporate Parent, we will ensure children in care have every opportunity to thrive, feel safe and secure and have a pathway for future success. This strategy in the main is supported by our Sufficiency Strategy and our Borough plan

#### **6. Use of Appendices**

- **Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021**

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

Children Act 1989

Care Leavers Act 2000

Every Child Matters - Children Act 2004