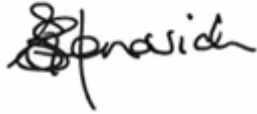


Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 23 April 2019

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to March 2019



Report

Authorised by: Interim Assistant Director, Bev Hendricks

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key

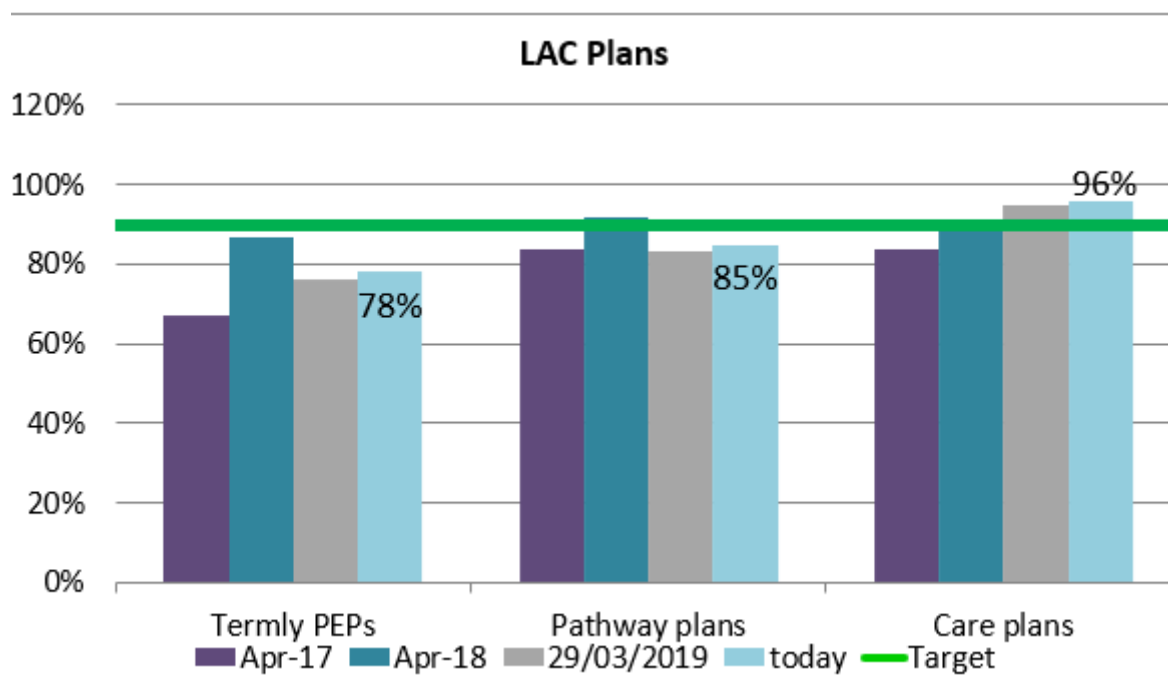
1. Introduction

- 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 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent.
- 1.3. To provide some additional detail on the demographics and the profile of children receiving social care services as well as the pertinent performance measures relating to Looked After children, an extract from February ChAT- Children's Analysis Tool has been included for the Committee's reference. (Appendix 1)
- 1.4. Section 3 contains an update on the latest edition of the DfE Adoption Score card published on 25th March 2019 (Appendix 2).

2. Overall Assessment of Performance

- 2.1. **427 children were in care** as at the 31st March 2019 or 70 per 10,000 population including 50 unaccompanied asylum seeker children or 12% of open children looked after cases, a reduction from the 13% at the end of 2017/18. The rate of looked after children in Haringey has remained relatively stable but was ranked 6th highest in London in 2017/18. Haringey's rate is slightly above that of our statistical neighbours (66 per 10,000 population) and the national average (64).

- 2.2. The rate of children becoming looked after (in the last 12 months) is showing a slight increase at 37 per 10,000 population compared to 33 at the end of March 2018 but is broadly in line with statistical neighbours rates and similar to the past two years.
- 2.3. In the first 12 months of 2018/19, 225 children have started to be looked after and 227 children have ceased to be looked after.
- 2.4. There were 30 **permanency orders** as at the end of March, 13 **adoptions** and 17 **special guardianship orders** (SGO) equating to 6% and 7.5% of those that ceased to be looked after in the period. This is comparatively poor compared to the national position (13% and 11%) but not different to the statistical neighbour position for adoptions (6% in 2017/18). However the proportion of children who achieved permanency through an SGOs at 7.5% remains lower than the average for our statistical neighbours (12% in 2017/18).
- 2.5. As at 5th April 2019, 96% of looked after children aged under 16 had an **up to date Care Plan** continuing the positive trend. The graph below illustrates the trend on this and other areas relating to looked after children overtime.



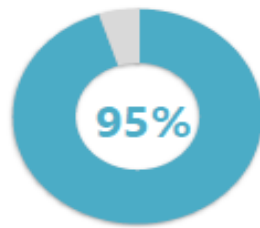
- 2.6. Regular weekly meetings to track activity and performance continue to be held with the Head of Service for Children in Care and team managers. The light blue bar (furthest right bar in each block) shows the position relating to the week ending 5th April 2019.
- 2.7. As shown above 85% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. This area remains a challenge and continues to be tracked and monitored with fortnightly performance meetings but is improving. The Young Adults service are focusing more on the quality of the pathway plans and although the 90% target has not been achieved the service are working more

collaboratively and innovatively using new techniques to engage the young people concerned.

- 2.8. Performance on **Personal Education Plans (PEPs)** stands at 78% for statutory school age children with an up to date PEP. The focus needs to be on drawing up plans for the 22% of children without an up to date PEP and for information to be gathered in a more timely fashion. Detailed weekly management information by team is available to show what needs to be done and by which party e.g. social work, school or virtual school. The start of each school term sees a fall in the percentage as the older PEPs become out of date, the percentage rises over the course of the term as more are completed. PEPs are only counted as in date if they are dated in the current or previous term.
- 2.9. Guidance and training on the process and use of the new e-form is being embedded to support further improvement in this area. Since the introduction of e.PEPs the virtual school has reported a positive impact and has seen real improvements in quality with a much larger proportion of PEPs now meeting the expected standard. There are still some anomalies in reporting completion and approval of e-PEPs including the update of the child's record on Mosaic social care system as e.PEPs are recorded on a separate Welfare Call system. A plan to closely track social worker updates on Mosaic and focus on those children who do not have a recorded e.PEP early in the new term is in place so should contribute to improved timely completion of PEPs as well as continued improvements in the overall quality of the PEPs impacting on the outcomes for the young people.
- 2.10. 85% of **visits to Children in Care** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in the week ending 29th March 2019. The court teams perform really well on visits but the young adults team and the young people in care teams performance bring the average down slightly. 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 continues to be actively monitored.
- 2.11. At the end of March 2019, 10% of the current looked after **children had three or more placement moves**, a slight increase on the 2017/18 figure of 9% but not out of line with the last published statistical neighbour average (11%). This equates to 43 children. Children **under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years**, has decreased slightly to 73% from 76% in 2017/18 but is in line with the national average and our statistical neighbours (68%). These two indicators should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey's children in care. The data confirms the Ofsted finding that the majority of children in care receive good care, support and placement choice in both the short and long term and experience placement stability.
- 2.12. At the end of March children who were looked after for at least 12 months with an **up to date health assessment was 98%**, an improvement on the 94% returned for 2017/18. This is above statistical neighbour performance 90%, national levels 88% and our achievement in both 2016/17 (93%) as well as 2017/18. Excellent performance has been sustained in this area this year.

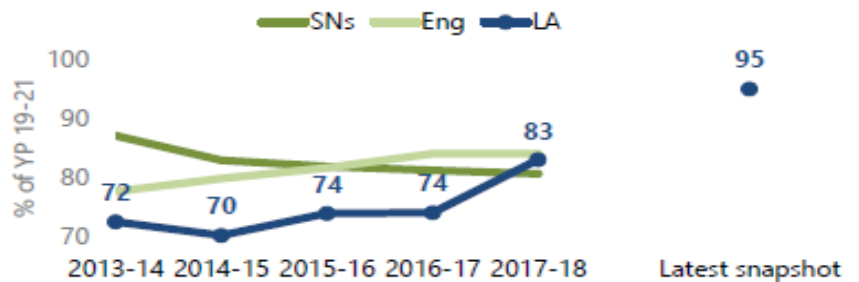
- 2.13. At the end of March 81% of eligible children had **up to date dental visits**. The Head of Service for Children in Care and placements is leading an action plan for young people needing dental checks with consideration being given to increase this by the use of incentives for older looked after children. Whilst this performance is lower than the 85% reported for 2017/18, a detailed trawl of the data for all children who have been looked after for at least 12 months will be done to see if they had a dental check in the last 12 months before the submission of the annual children looked after 903 return.
- 2.14. Of the 225 **care leavers aged 19-21** and 59 **17-18 year olds** in receipt of leaving care services, 96% and 97% were considered as in touch with the local authority at the end of March, a considerable improvement on the proportions previously reported. 56% of the 19-21 year olds and 76% of the 17-18 year olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)** better than statistical neighbour figures. Haringey has higher proportions of young people in Higher Education than our statistical neighbours and compares favourably with the national position- see graphs below detailing activity types for 19-21 year olds ChAT appendix for 17-18 year old breakdown.
- 2.15. 95% of 19-21 year olds were known to be in suitable accommodation at the end of March and 92% of 17-18 year olds. Again this area has shown significant improvement from the 83%(19-21 year olds) in suitable accommodation, returned for 2017/18 and compares favourably to the 17/18 statistical neighbour average of 81%.

Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds

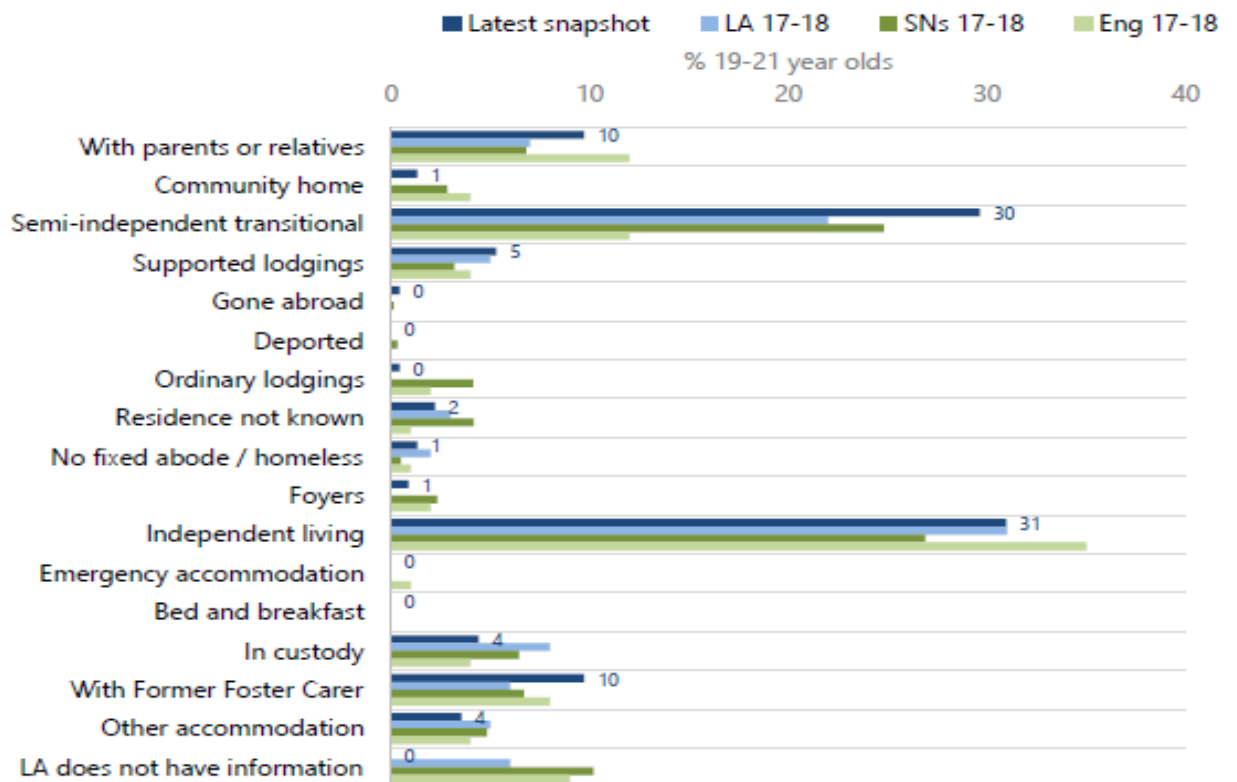


■ Suitable accom
■ Not suitable
□ No information

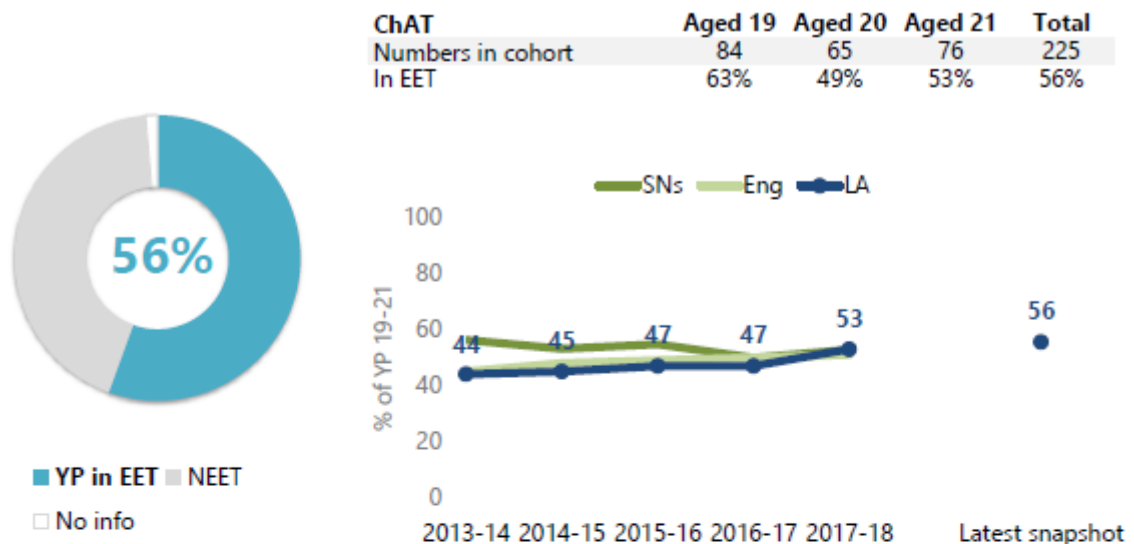
ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	81	69	70	220
In suitable accommodation	98%	93%	94%	95%



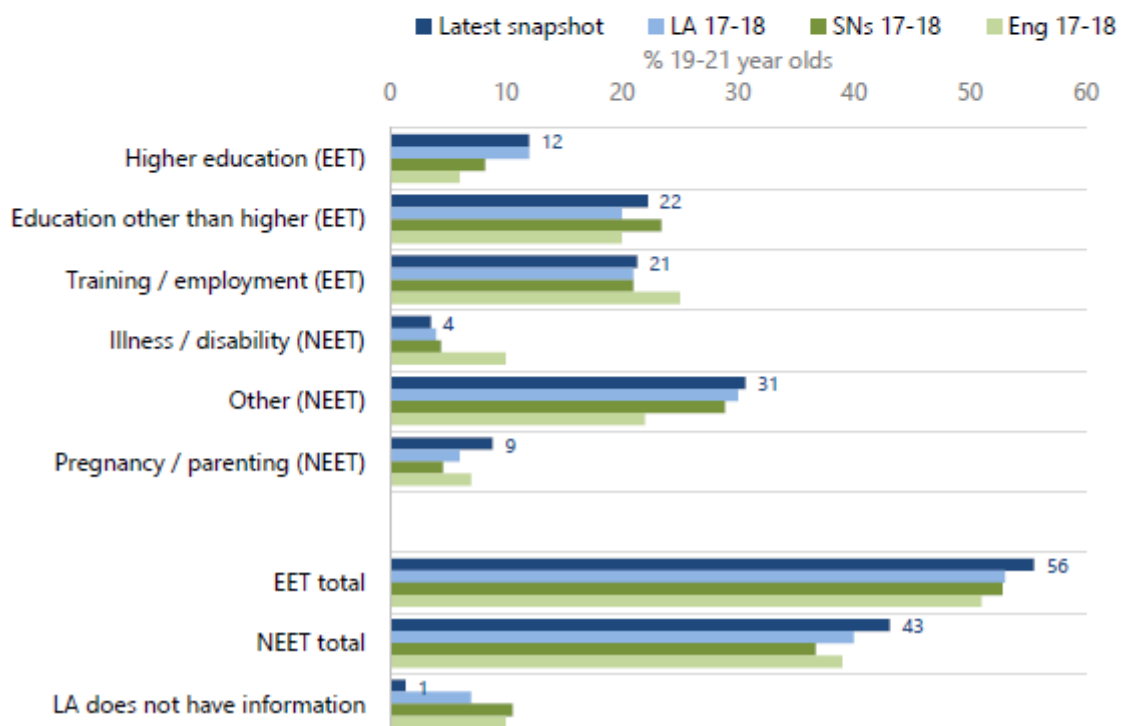
Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds



Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds



Activity types of 19-21 year olds



3. Haringey's 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:

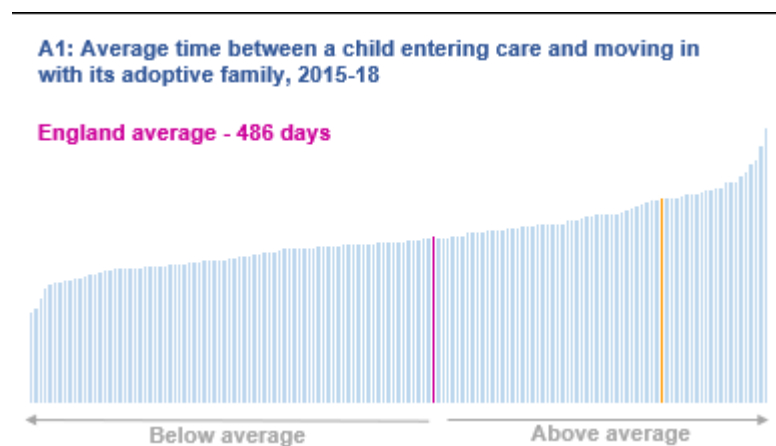
- A1: the average time it takes for a child who goes on to be adopted from entering care to moving in with his or her adoptive family;
- A2: The average time between local authorities obtaining a placement order for a child and matching that child with a prospective family
- A3: The percentage of children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

3.2. The latest DfE Adoption Scorecard for Haringey, published on 25th March 2019, provides an update on these key indicators and shows Haringey's comparative position on performance against national thresholds.

3.3. 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 during 2015-18 reduced to 600 days compared to a national average of 486 days but although haringey's performance is classed as higher than average it is closer to our statistical neighbour average of 571 days for the same 3 year period. There is a gap of 174 days between performance and the national threshold of 426 days. The average days in the year to March 2018 were shorter than in the year to March 2017 and the 3-year trend is also improving i.e. the average days in the period 2015-2018 are shorter than in the period 2014-2017.

3.4. When these figures are adjusted to take account of the days taken to move in with their adoptive family to allow for children adopted by existing foster carers(indicator A10 and proposed as the main indicator in the new Regional Adoption Agency scorecards) there is a similar gap between Haringey performance 506 days and England 412 days.

3.5. The graph below shows Haringey's comparative position on the 3 year rolling measure but only includes the 3 years up to 2017/18 so does not illustrate any recent improvement on timeliness of adoption. Current performance on the the A1 indicator- average days between a child entering care and moving in with it's adoptive family is 534 days for the period April 2018 to March 2019. Haringey's performance is shown by the orange line towards the right of the image with the pink line representing the national average and threshold.



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 3-year average is 297 days compared with a national position of 201 days. There is a 176-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 average time in 2015-18 was longer than in 2014-17 so the trend on this measure is going in the wrong direction.

3.7. On A3: In the rolling 3-year period 2015-2018, 43% of children waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive families in Haringey, compared with 56% in England and 48% amongst our statistical neighbours.

3.8. 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 2015-18. Haringey had 10 children or 9% in the 3-year period, in line with the national proportion of 11%.
- Adoptions of children from ethnic minority backgrounds during 2015-18. Haringey had 25 adoptions (6%) of BME children leaving care who were adopted, just lower than the national position of 7%
- Adoptions of children aged five or over during 2015-18. Haringey had 15 children (3%) aged 5 or over leaving care who were adopted in the period, close to the national position of 5%.

3.9. The DfE are introducing adoption scorecards for regional adoption agencies (RAA) from Spring 2020 when the 2016-19 scorecard will be published.

3.10. RAA Scorecards will give RAAs increased knowledge about their performance and enable them to identify where they can learn from other high performing RAAs. They will also enable the performance of both local authorities (LAs) and RAAs to be understood and assessed. They will include some proposed new indicators which will be used from the 2016 to 2019 adoption scorecard.

3.11. The new indicators will focus on:

- timeliness
- matching
- recruitment
- adoption support

3.12. Appendix 3 details the new indicators (for both local authority and RAA performance that will be included in the 2016-19 scorecard. These have an increased focus on recruitment, matching and adoption support.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

4.1. Borough Plan 2019-2022

People Priority: A Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential

Appendices

- Looked after children pages from February/March 2019 ChAT (Appendix 1)
- Haringey Adoption Scorecard (Appendix 2)
- New regional adoption agency scorecard indicators to be introduced from 2016-19b (Appendix 3)