

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 16th January 2020

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to November/December 2019

Report

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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.

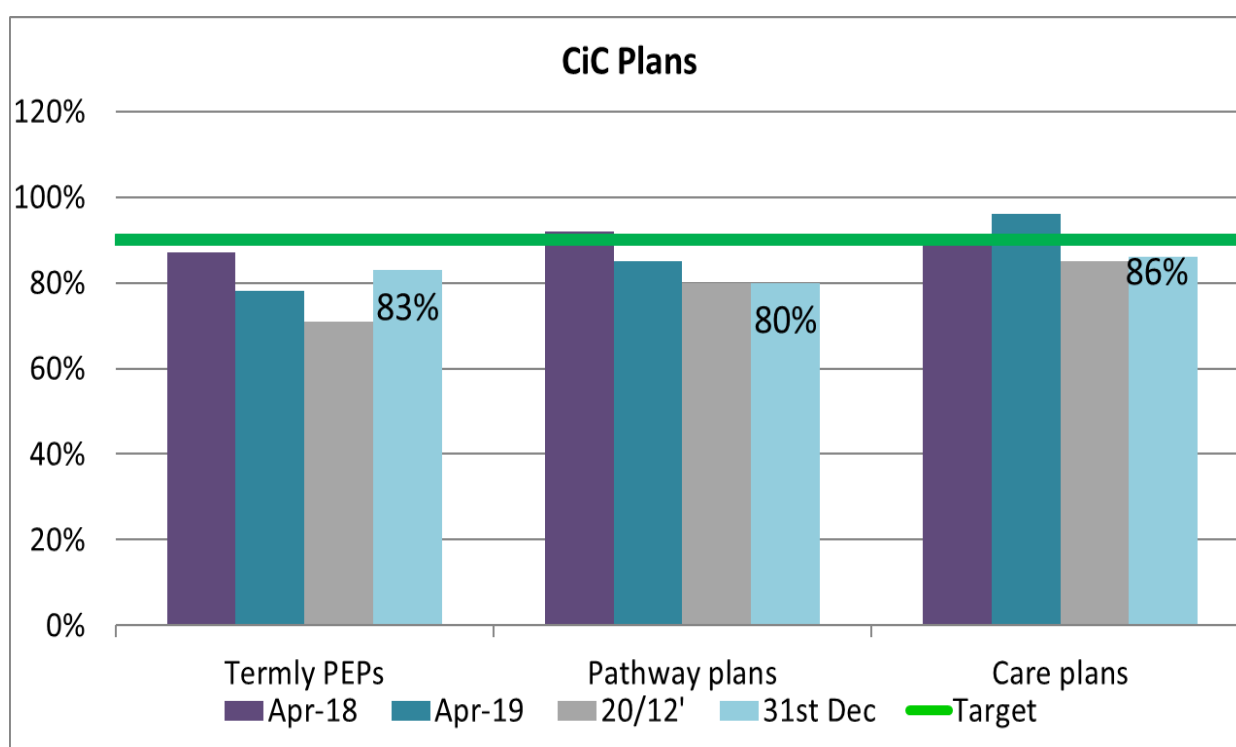
2. Overall Assessment of Performance

At the end of the third quarter of 2019-20 **389 children were in care** (rate of 64 per 10,000). This is 29 children lower than it was reported in the previous quarter. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker (UASC) children has also decreased significantly (from 58 to 43). In this period there were 41 children who ceased to be looked after and the ceased reason for more than a quarter of these (11 young people) was that an age assessment determined them over 18. At the end 18-19 13% of children in care open cases were UASC, at the end of second quarter it is 11%. Further to this Haringey's Pan London UASC threshold rate is 0.008% equating to 49 young people.

- 2.1. The rate of children becoming looked after (in the 6 months prior to November) is showing a further drop in the rate at 25 per 10,000 population compared to 37 at the end of March 2019. This is lowest rate for the last decade but we are

closer to the average of our Statistical Neighbours and to London, as they both stand at 27.

- 2.2. In the past 6 months to November 2019, 76 children have started to be looked after and 91 children have ceased to be looked after.
- 2.3. There were 14 **permanency orders** during the last 6 months, 9 **special guardianship orders (SGO)** and 5 **adoptions** equating to 5% of those that ceased to be looked after in the period who went on to be adopted. 10 children have been adopted in the last 12 months and 23 children are waiting to be adopted. 1 of the 72 children aged 5-plus (1.4%) who ceased to be looked after in the last six months was adopted although this is below the Statistical neighbour 3 year average of 5%. Of the current Children in Care population 22 are placed for adoption.
- 2.4. At the end of December 2019, 86% of looked after children aged under 16 had an **up to date Care Plan**. The graph below illustrates this and other areas relating to looked after children over time.

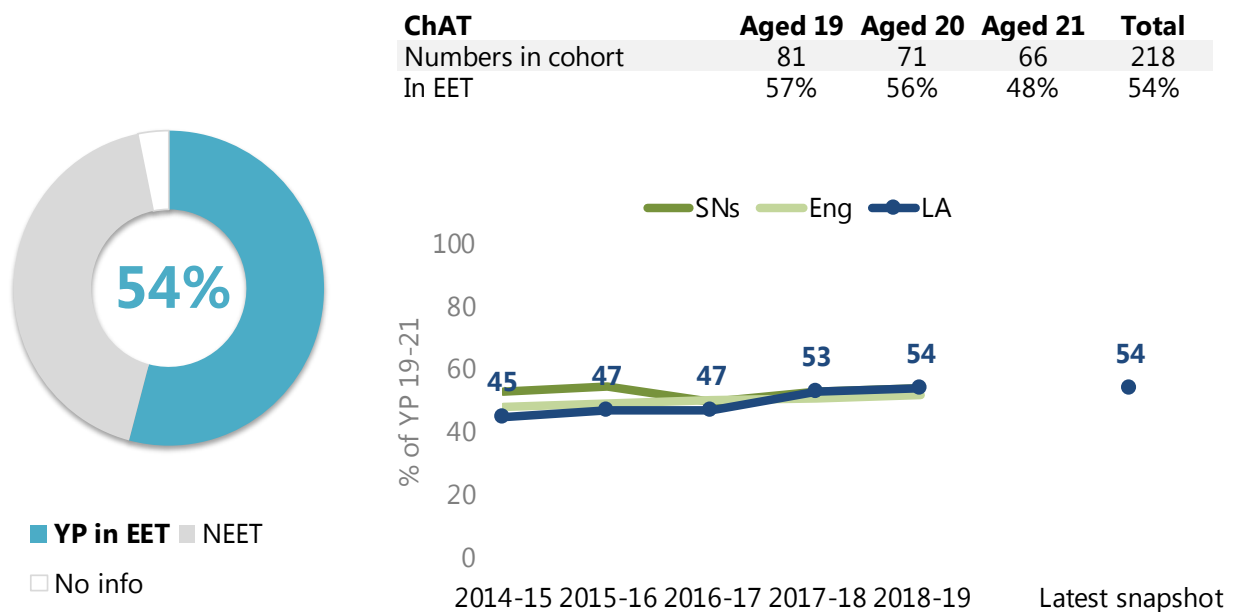


- 2.5. Regular weekly meetings to track activity and performance continue to be held with the Head of Service for Children in Care and team managers. The light blue bar (furthest right bar in each block) shows the position relating to the week ending 31st December 2019.
- 2.6. As shown above 80% of looked after children aged 16-17 had up to date Pathway Plans. This is a promising improvement on the results of the second quarter, but remains a challenging area. The quality of the pathway plans has improved, but the updating of plans needs to be more timely in order to reach the 90% target.

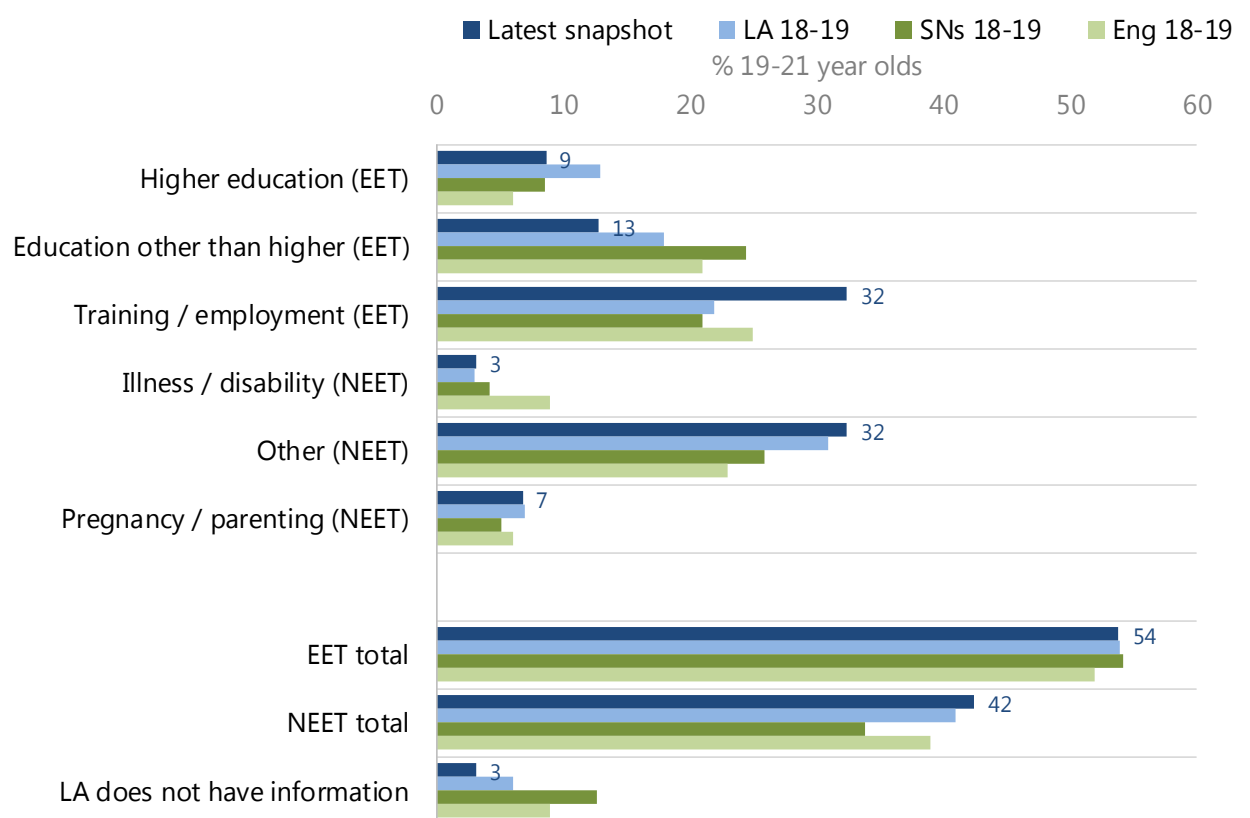
- 2.7. Children in care with a up to date **Personal Education Plans** (PEPs) stands at the end of the Autumn term 2019-20 at 83%, including 63% completed during that term. Detailed weekly management information by team is available to show what needs to be done and by which party e.g. social work, school or virtual school. The start of each school term always 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.
- 2.8. 81% of **visits to Children in Care** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales at the end of December. This remains below the 95% visit target. Teams are working very hard to adhere to this challenging target and 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.
- 2.9. At the end of November 2019, 9% of children with an open episode of care **had three or more placement moves in the last 12 months**, equating to 36 children. This is slightly better than the London average. Children **under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years**, has improved to 58%. 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.
- 2.10. At the end of December children who were looked after for at least 12 months with an **up to date health assessment** was 94%, maintaining excellent performance above statistical neighbours and national levels 88%.
- 2.11. At the end of September 74% of eligible children had **up to date dental visits**. This is a focal point of the two weekly Young Adults Service performance meeting. Unfortunately dental checks remain a stubborn and challenging area and have been difficult to shift performance on.
- 2.12. Of the 408 **care leavers** in receipt of leaving care services, 96% of both those **aged 19-21 and 17-18 year olds** were considered as **in touch with the local authority** at the end of November, a considerable improvement on the proportions previously reported. 54% of the 19-21 year olds and 71% of the 17-18 year olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)** better than the London average - 65%. 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.
- 2.13. 93% of **19-21 year old care leavers** were known to be **in suitable accommodation** at the end of November and 89% of 17-18 year olds. Again this area is showing a significant improvement from the 83%(19-21 year olds) in suitable accommodation, returned for 2018/19.

- 2.14. We are very proud of our robust care leavers reporting system, which we have introduced and use to continually track improvement. We now have a tool to monitor not just how our 17-21 year old care leavers live, but our older care leavers' too (more than 200 of them), we use the data to provide them with help strategically, where they really need it most.

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



Activity types of 19-21 year olds



3. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 3.1. Borough Plan 2019-2022
- 3.2. People Priority: A Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential