

**Report for:** Joint Meeting of The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Children’s and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel Meeting – 7 April 2025

**Item number:** 5

**Title:** Performance for Quarter 3 2024/25 with updates to including February where available

**Report**

**Authorised by:** Ann Graham, Director Children’s Services

**Lead Officer:** Richard Hutton, Performance and Business Intelligence  
[richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:richard.hutton@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 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 4 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment relating to Children Looked After (CLA) so that Members can assess progress in key areas, within the context of the Local Authority’s role as Corporate Parent.
- 1.3. The report covers the first three quarters of the year 2024/25 and most of quarter 4.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. For members to note.

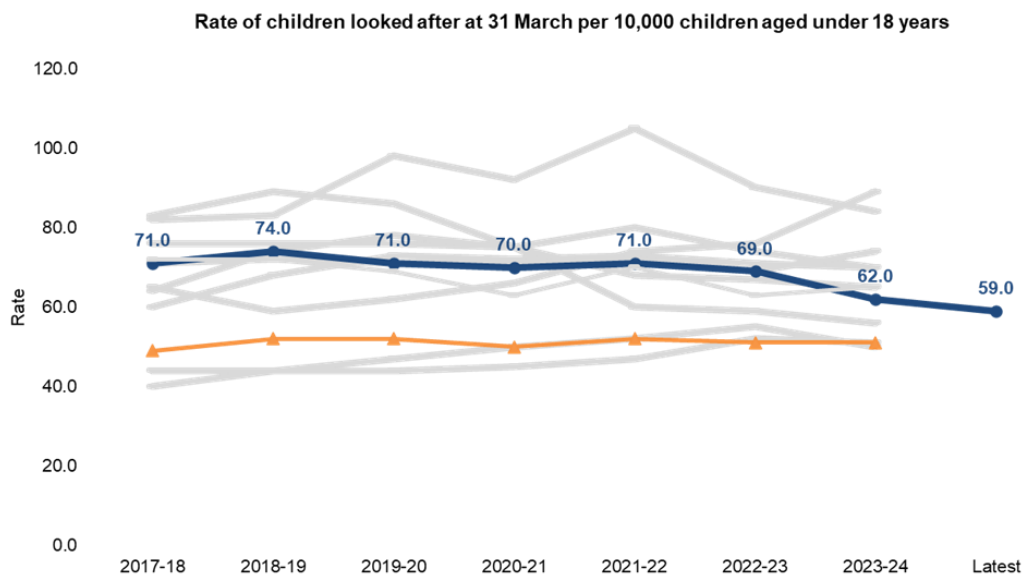
**3. Reasons for decision**

N/A

**4. Background information**

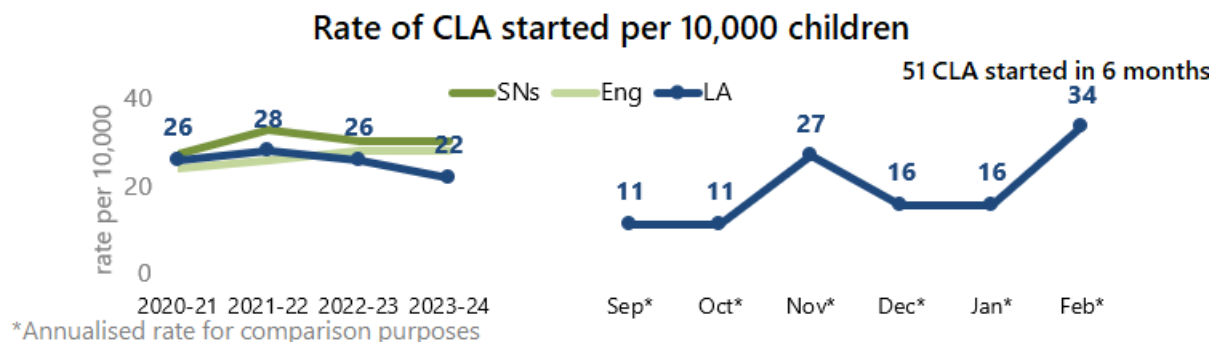
- 4.1. At the end of February 2025, there were 316 **children in care** (rate of 58 per 10,000). This is 18 fewer children than in September but remains within the interquartile range of our statistical neighbours latest published rates. This decline in numbers is a result of a combination of intentional work to the support

for children and their families and outside factors such as regional trends. The rate is still higher than the London rate of 51 per 10,000.



4.2. The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (**UASC**) has decreased from 26 in the autumn to 22. This is now some 32 children below the national transfer scheme threshold.

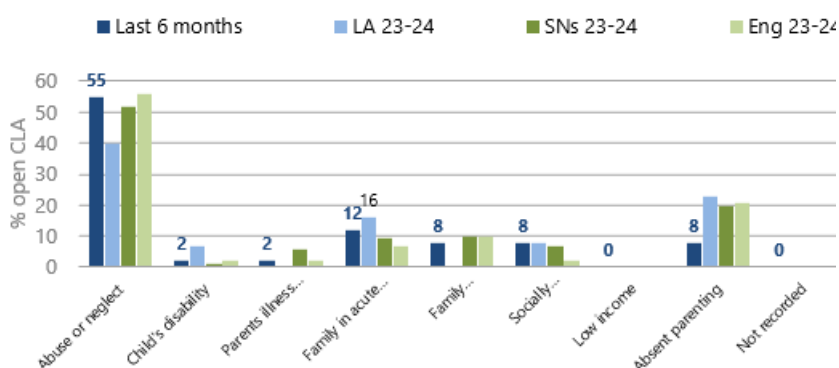
4.3. The rate of children **becoming looked after** over the past 6 months (19 per 10,000) equates to 51 children. This is below the rate for the 12 months of 2023/24 and has contributed to the overall fall in CLA numbers.



4.4. “Family in acute stress” has fallen as a reason **for starting to be looked after** from an unusually high percentage last year. Over the past 6 months only 12% of newly Children Looked After fell into this category down from 16% in 2023/24, this is nearer our statistical neighbours and national rates.

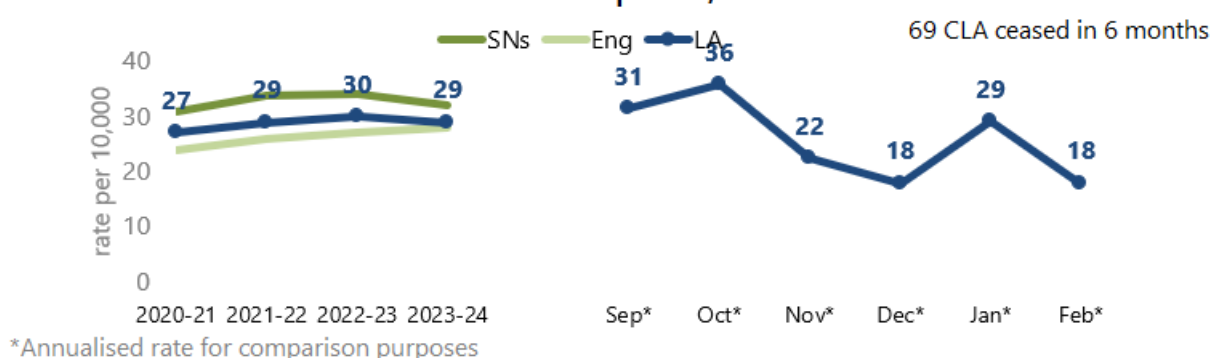
“Abuse & Neglect” remains the most common factor in line with our comparators. Absent Parenting (including UASC) and children with disabilities are comparatively underrepresented, the low numbers mean these can change rapidly.

### Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



- 4.5. 69 children (rate of 25) **ceased to be looked after** over the 6 months to February this compares to 50 in the six months to September

### Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



- 4.6. Of the 316 children looked after as at the end of February, 40 are **aged 3 or under** (2 more than in November). Seven of these are placed with parents or family & friends and six with planned adoptive parents (4 older children are also with prospective adoptive parents).

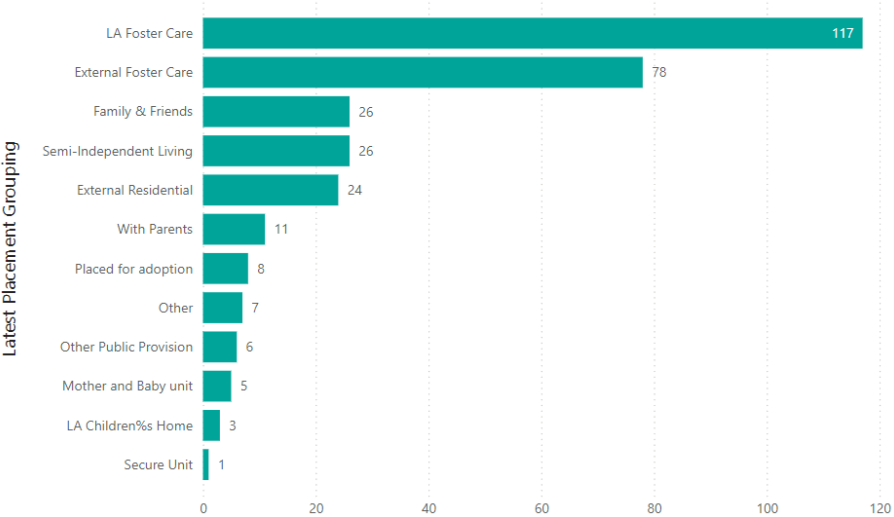
#### CLA aged 3 or under

March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	Sept 2024	Nov 2024	Feb 2025
49	67	60	54	40	42	38	40

- 4.7. As of February 2025, 88% of 217 looked after children aged under 16 had an **up-to-date Care Plan up from 77% in September and 84% in November.**
- 4.8. Of the 102 children in care aged 16 & 17 who require a **pathway plan**, 86% had up to date plans (up from 79% in November).

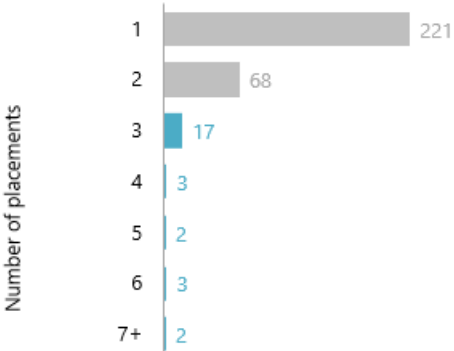
**Personal Education Plans (PEPs)** have performed well this year, with 241 up to date reviewed PEPs 92% so far for the spring term.

4.9. Most of our **children are placed with** foster carers either managed in house or by an independent (External) fostering agency, the breakdown of placement types is set out below.



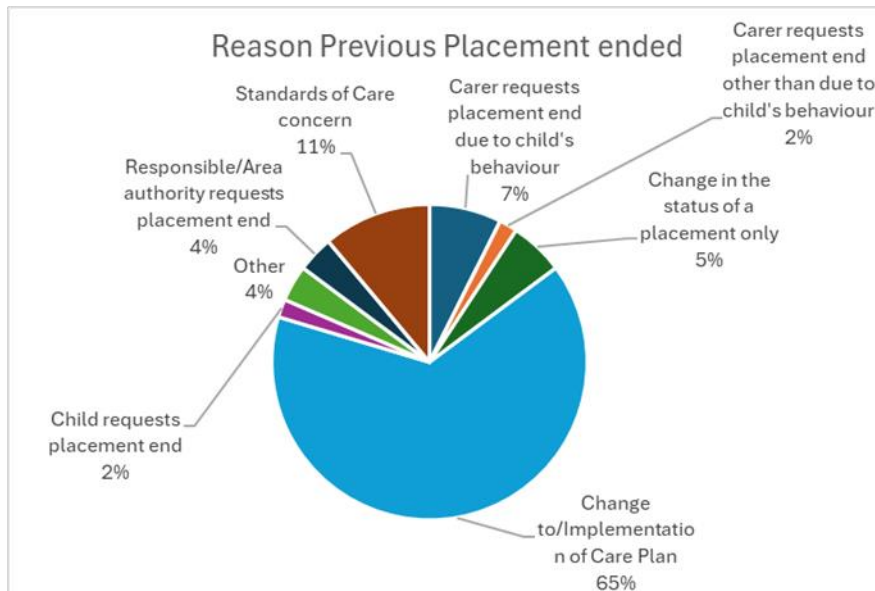
4.10. At the end of February, 9% (28) of children with an open episode of care had **three or more placements** in the last 12 months. This is down (better) than the previously reported figure (10% in November) and close to National and statistical neighbour averages.

**Number of placements in the last 12 months.**



Moves in placements are usually as part of the child's care plan, and these can be a positive benefit. For example, a baby may move from foster care to a mother and baby assessment unit, and then on to being placed in a permanent arrangement.

4.11. The reasons for changes of placement over the past 12 months are set out below. The data shows 65% are due to a planned change as part of the care plan for the child. This rises to 70% when change of placement status only is included, such as when a fostering placement status changes to placed for adoption, or long term fostering.



4.12. Children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the **same placement for at least 2 years**, is now 57%.

#### Length of time in current placement



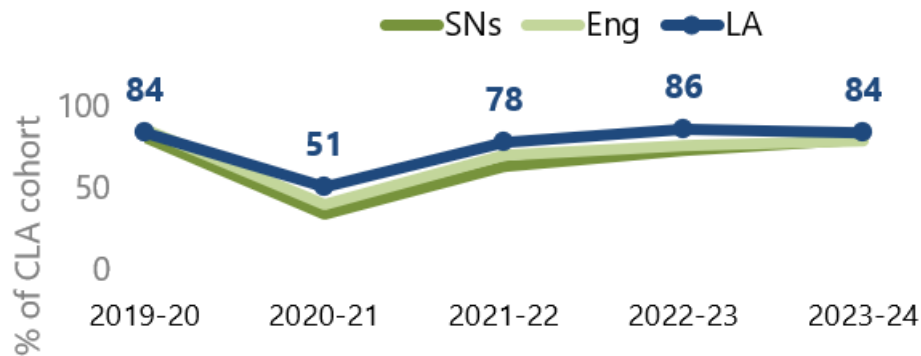
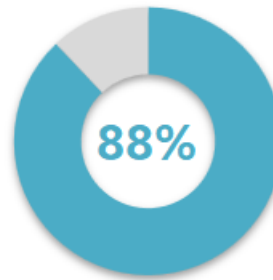
This indicator and the three or more placements indicator, above, should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey's children in care.

4.13. At the end of February, 90% of children who were looked after for at least 12 months had an up-to-date **health assessment**, close to with the levels of our statistical neighbours (92%).

4.14. **Dental visits** are at 88%. Up 8% points. Unfortunately, dental checks especially for older children has always been a challenging area but this is our highest monthly percentage for some years.

## Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



- 4.15. There are now 724 **care leavers** in receipt of, or eligible for leaving care services, in line with the definitions used by Ofsted, the figure includes young people who are:

<b>Eligible</b>	Age 16 or 17 Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) Currently looked after
<b>Relevant</b>	Age 16 or 17 Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) Looked after on or after their 16th birthday. Are no longer looked after
<b>Former Relevant</b>	Aged between 18 and 25 Previously an eligible or relevant child
<b>Qualifying</b>	Aged between 16 and 21 (or 25 if in education) Looked after on or after their 16th birthday. Not looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14, or privately fostered after the age of 16 but before the age of 18, or were looked after prior to becoming subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

### Our cohort consists of:

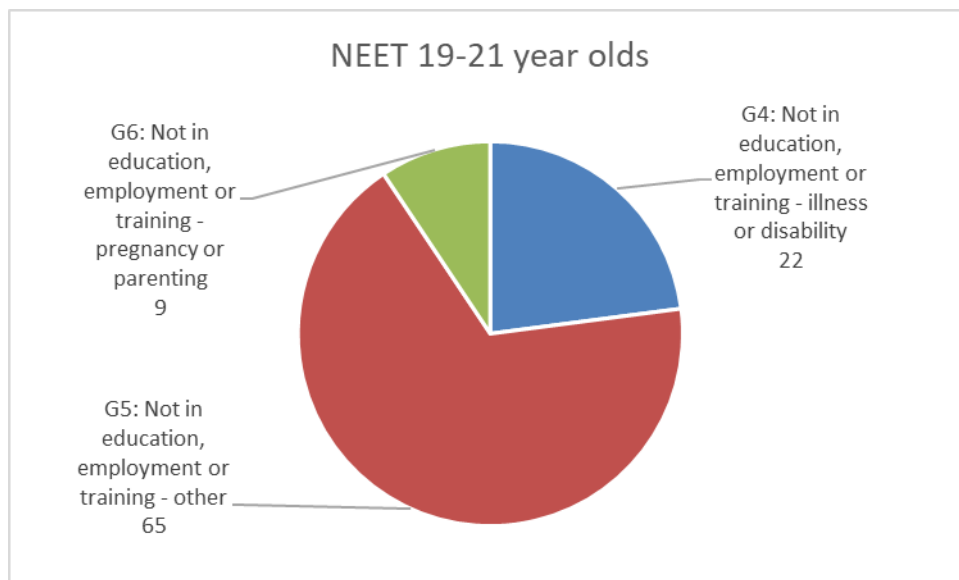
- 98 young people under the age of 18 who will be eligible when they leave care,
- 7 Relevant

- 553 Former Relevant
- 34 who are classed as qualifying under 18
- 32 who are classed as qualifying over 18

4.16. All the care leavers aged 21 or under currently have an **allocated Personal Advisor**.

4.17. 96 % of those aged 19–21 year olds were considered as “**in touch with the local authority**” up from 92% in April. For 17-18 year olds it is 99%.

4.18. 51% (of the 248) 19–21 year olds and 66% (of the 73) 17 & 18 year olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)**. Both figures improved since September. The recorded reasons for NEET 19 -21 year old are set out in the chart below:



4.19. 92% of 19-21 year old care leavers were known to be **in suitable accommodation** (up from 88%) and 96% of the 17–18-year-olds.

4.20. **Education Health Care Plans (EHCP)**

Both the overall number of children with an EHCP and the percentage of CLA with a plan has increased steadily over time.

During 2024 we received a total of 590 requests for EHCPs, and issued 369, with 84% within 20 weeks excluding cases with exceptions.

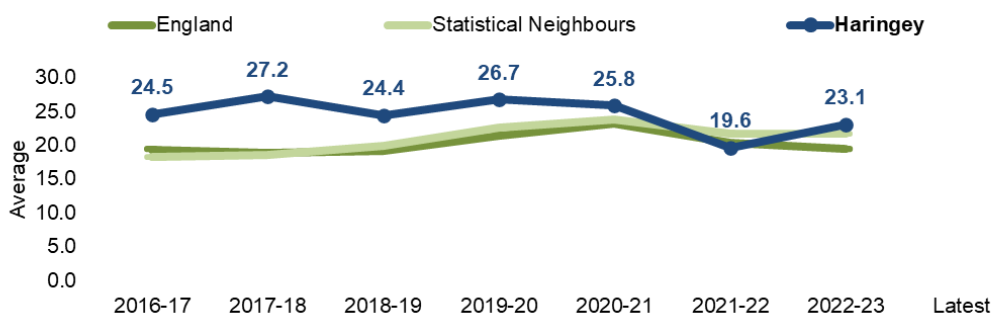
68 of the 316 current CLA have **active EHCP plans**.

4.21. **Virtual school**

The data for CLA attainment is updated annually with outturns for 2024 expected to be published in late spring 2025.

**Attainment 8 score for CLA at key stage 4**

Average Attainment 8 score per pupil at Key Stage 4



4.22. **Youth Justice Service**

As of the end of February 2025 there were 68 active young people on the Youth Justice Service caseload.

- 22% of the current cohort are also Children in Care
- 6% are currently Children in Need and
- 3% have an active Child Protection Plan
- 73% have up to date Asset +

5. **Alternative options considered**

6. **Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes’?**

N/A

7. **Carbon and Climate Change**

N/A

8. **Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance**

N/A

**Procurement**

N/A

**Head of Legal & Governance [Name and title of Officer completing these comments]**

N/A

9. **Use of Appendices**

None

**10. Background papers**

None