Appendix I - Children Looked after performance for quarter 3 2025-26 with updates for January 2026 where available

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This report provides an overview of performance for Children Looked After (CLA) Services for quarter 3 2025/26 and includes updates for January 2026 where available. The report provides comparative data by benchmarking with our statistical neighbours and looks at how our performance has grown and developed, where this is appropriate. Haringey's statistical neighbours are a group of local authorities judged by the DfE to have the most similar demographic profile and have been revised this year to account for latest comparable demographic data.
these are:

- Barnet
- Brent
- Ealing
- Enfield
- Hounslow
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Redbridge
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest

1.2 Children's Social Care provides services and support for children and young people who are:

- children in our care who are looked after
- care experienced young adults
- Adopted children in the period

2. National Context - National Statistical Reporting

2.1 All local authorities report to the Department of Education to inform the Child in Need Annual Census and the 903 Children in Care Return. The results of which are published every October on the DfE website. The CIN census covers early intervention, contacts and referrals to social care and the reasons, Child and Family assessments and identified factors, the nature and volume of child protection activity, the numbers of children subject to child protection conferences. The 903 return covers children entering care and the reasons, the types of placements used, the legal status of children, how many children have left care and for what reasons (including adoption) and details about care leavers and their accommodation, employment and training

outcomes and how the local authority is keeping in touch with them. The 903 now also include details of allocated social worker and stability.
The 903 used as a basis for publishing the educational outcome for Children looked after which is published each spring

2.2 In addition, more detailed returns are submitted to the North Central London Regional Adoption board on children with an adoption plan, the timeliness of matching and placing with an adopter and the recruitment of adopters.

3. Local Background and Context

3.1 The department continues to support high levels of need and complexity in families for the following reasons:

- In 2023, 17.3% of children in Haringey lived in relative poverty, close to the London average but lower than similar areas and the national rates (19.8%)
- Haringey has the highest alcohol sales per adult in London, with a significantly higher rate of alcohol related hospital admissions.
- 2% of Haringey's working age population claim Employment Support Allowance for mental health and behavioural disorders, the fifth highest in London
- The borough has the eighth highest rate of domestic abuse with injury in London
- Haringey ranks 8th in London for households in temporary accommodation, an improvement from 5th in the previous year

3.2 Alongside these challenges, Haringey as a local area continues to be a strong and thriving place for children growing up in the area. It is a place that has a rich history, strong and vibrant communities, great transport links and excellent facilities with a range of cultural events. Key strengths include:

- Diverse communities where more than 180 languages are spoken.
- Over a quarter of the borough is green space – with 25 Green Flag Parks and 120 venues where cultural activities take place.

4. Our children and young people population

4.1 In Haringey, there are 53,550 children aged 0-17 years, representing 21% of the overall population (MYE 2023), largely in line with statistical neighbours and London where 21% and 22% of people are aged 0-17 respectively. Notably, the ward with the highest proportion of 0-17-year-olds is South Tottenham (29%), while the ward with the lowest is Stroud Green (15.4%). The number of under 18s is not expected to change significantly in future years and will remain most concentrated in the east of the borough.

4.2 Almost half of the pupils in Haringey schools do not have English as a first language (47.4%). After English, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, and Somalian are the most commonly spoken languages (May 2022 Census).

4.3 One of the most significant challenges is inequality in outcomes. Poverty is a crucial determinant of poor outcomes. Childhood deprivation is unequally distributed across the borough and children in the east of the borough are substantially more likely to be affected by income deprivation. In 2023, 10,863 children in Haringey were living in relative poverty and this equates to 17.3% of all 0-16 year olds. This is the 11th highest of all London boroughs.

5. Outcomes for children and young people

5.1 **Haringey's Children in Care have above average educational outcomes** with our KS4 Average Attainment 8 Score for 2024 of 20.6% against an England average of 18.3. Progress 8 also scored in the second top quartile.

5.2 **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have higher educational outcomes**, 22 of 27 measures featuring in the top quartile in England.

In 2024 for pupils with SEN Support for the following measures Haringey ranked in the top15 Local Authorities:

- Attainment 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4
- Progress 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4
- Progress 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with EHC Plan
- English Baccalaureate - Average Point Score
- %19 year olds qualified to Level 2 and level 3

5.3 **Haringey has fewer secondary pupils being permanently excluded** and is better than the national average (0.01%) and its percentage of NEET children, those (Not in Education Employment or Training) improved (1.7%) from 1.9% in the previous year.

6. SEND Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

6.1 There were 363 plans issued throughout 2025, when the exceptional cases are excluded 84% were within 20 weeks. This compares with 46.4% for England and 70% for our statistical neighbours.

7. Children Looked After

7.1 A child who has been in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a Child Looked After (CLA) also often referred to as children in care.

Children in care in general are either living with extended family members, foster carers, in a residential children's home or living in residential settings like schools or secure units. Children come into care for a variety of reasons, including because they are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with no responsible adult to care for them or children's services may have intervened because it was believed that the child was at risk of significant harm. A child stops being looked after when they are adopted, are made the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, return home unless there is a Care Order in place, or turn 18. However local authorities are required to provide information, advice and or support to most children who leave care at 18, until they are 25 years old.

7.2 At the end of January 2026, there were 299 children in our care. This has fallen from 325 at the end of March 2025. This is one of the lowest ever rates in Haringey. The rate is shown in the chart below to best compare to other local authorities.

7.3 The proportion of our CLA in different placement types is shown below

7.4 The table below shows the children in care in foster placements. Foster placements continue to be the largest proportion of placement types with the proportion slightly higher than that of all England. Of those children 43.0% are long term matched with their foster carers, this is in the DfE's expected range but reported to be well above the national average and is up by almost 2% since last quarter.

	Haringey Jan-26 No.	Haringey 2024-25 No.	Haringey 2024-25 %	Haringey 2023-24 %	SN 2023-24 %	Eng 2023-24 %
Foster placements	**220**	**234**	72%	70%	68%	67%

7.5 Whilst only 65 of our CLA are placed within the borough at the end of March 2025, 17% of children were in placements more than 20 miles from home. This matches the previous year, and the last known data for statistical neighbours (17%).

Local provision continues to be a challenge, and we continue to use our own residential provision, Haselmere Children's Home, to mitigate national and local

challenges. We also continue to build relationships with local providers and work with our regional and sub-regional partners to address sufficiency issues.

7.6 Placement stability is a key factor in children's wellbeing. This gives young people the chance to settle into a foster or residential placement over a period, supporting our children in developing a feeling of belonging, helping them feel secure in themselves. Stability will be achieved only by making sure that the child is in the right placement for them. There are two types of placement stability that we measure – short term stability which looks at the number of placements for children in the last 12 months, and long-term stability which considers those children who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for more than the past 2 years. It is a combination of these indicators that gives us confidence that our children in care are in a stable environment.

7.7 Our short-term stability performance shows that only 7% of children in our care had three or more placements in the past 12 months. This is lower than recent years, statistical neighbour data (10%) and the national average.

In the 12 months to January 2025, 263 of our children had only one or no placement moves.

7.8 Our performance in relation to long term placement stability is improved from a strong 71% to 74% at the end of January 2026. Of the children who have been looked after for over 2½ years, 62 have been in the same placement for the past 2 years.

7.9 Permanence planning is continually being monitored and strengthened, and we ensure that Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) have sufficient information to enable expedient and timely permanence planning. Our trackers are helping us monitor children who have not been matched with a new permanent family arrangement, and we constantly check and review children's permanency plans through to permanence.

7.10 The data for children who go missing from care shows us that 13% of children were reported missing in the period 2024-2025. This remains below our SN rate of 15%. This fell to 10% (35 children) in the rolling year to January 2026.

When children do go missing from placement there is a robust and effective response from children's social care and the Police. The missing co-ordinator tracks, and risk assesses children who go missing to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent repeat occurrences and return home interviews are routinely conducted by specialist workers. 83% of were offered a return home interview, with the other cases deemed inappropriate to offer at the time. The take up rate was 48%.

8. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

8.1 There are two means by which UASC come to Haringey. Firstly, as spontaneous arrivals, most frequently arriving at local police stations. The second is through the National Transfer Scheme, which aims to equitably re-distribute UASC across the country, especially those from Kent and Croydon, in recent years although there has been a sharp decrease in over numbers the second of these two routes has become the most prevalent.

8.2 At the end of March 2020 there were 48 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in care, this fell to 19 by March 2025 and is 14 at the end of January 2026.

9. Adoption

9.1 There were 7 adoptions during 2024/25 which is in line with our statistical neighbours but was beneath the national average. There has been an increase with 12 adoptions in the 12 months to January 2026.

9.2 Haringey and the ALN (Adopt London North) have strengthened practitioner knowledge around early permanence as a placement option for children, with ALN running a number of in person and virtual training sessions for practitioners across the directorate.

9.3 A key priority continues to be the reduction of disparity in adoption for children of global majority heritage and improve the adoption system so that more adopters of Black heritage become applicants and choose to adopt through Adopt London.

10. Heath and dental

10.1 95% of the 204 CLA who have in care for over 12 months have an up to date health assessment recorded.

10.2 88% of the current CLA have up to date dental checks, the highest since the pandemic.

11. Leaving care

11.1 For young people qualifying for service as Care Leavers also known as Care Experienced Young Adults, there is a requirement for Haringey to stay in touch with the young person, keep their Pathway Plans under review, continue the appointment of a Personal Adviser and provide financial assistance where the young person is employed or seeking employment to enable the young person to pursue education or training. These duties continue until the former relevant child reaches 21 or, where the child's pathway plan sets out a programme of education or training which extends beyond their 21st birthday, they continue for so long as the child pursues that programme.

11.2 The service has been continuing to work with the duty on local authorities to support all care leavers up to age 25 who can return to the local authority at any point after the age of 21 and request support.

11.3 At the end of March 2025 there were 662 care experienced young adults who were qualified for care lever services this has fallen slightly to 646 by the end of January 2026.

Eligible	~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~Currently looked after Age 16 or 17
Relevant	~ 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 ~ No longer looked after
Former Relevant	~ Aged between 18 and 25 ~ Previously an eligible or relevant child
Qualifying	~ 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 SGO"

Cohort of Care Leavers and eligibility for services

Age	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	**Total**
16	28	2	0	1	31
17	51	6	1	2	60
18	0	0	76	1	77
19	0	0	82	0	82
20	0	0	76	0	76
21	0	0	81	0	81
22	0	0	89	1	90
23	0	0	76	1	77
24	0	0	72	0	72
Total	**79**	**8**	**553**	**6**	**646**

11.4 Looking at care leavers in suitable accommodation and those in employment, education or training Haringey has a higher percentage than both our statistical neighbours and the England rate.

11.5 Accommodation types. For care leavers aged 19-21 Independent living has seen an increase since the turn of the year.

Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	80	76	81	237
In suitable accommodation	94%	88%	94%	92%
In suit accomm (In touch only)	94%	88%	96%	93%