

Appendix I

Children Looked after performance for quarters 1 & 2 2026-27 with outcomes for 2025/26 and updates for August 2026 where available

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This report provides an overview of performance for Children Looked After (CLA) Services for 2026/27.

1.2 The report looks at how our performance has grown and developed and provides comparative data by benchmarking where appropriate with our statistical neighbours. Haringey's statistical neighbours are a group of local authorities judged by the DfE to have the most similar demographic profile, these are:

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

1.3 The report includes oversight of Children's Social Care services and support provided for children and young people who are:

- 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 for Education to inform the Child in Need Annual Census and the Children in Care Return (CLA 903). 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, and 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 CLA 903 also includes details of allocated social worker and stability.

The CLA 903 is 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 2024/25, 8,009 children in Haringey were living in relative poverty before housing costs. This is below the SN average (9,907), but in line with the London average (7,985).
- After housing costs this number rises to 18,111
- In Haringey this equates to 16.9% of all 0 - 16-year-olds in the borough and is the 11th highest rate of all London boroughs.
- 26% of Haringey pupils are eligible for and claiming free school meals. This is above the England average (24.6%), but below the London average (26.6%)
- Neighbourhoods in the east of the borough rank much more highly on the index of income deprivation affecting children, compared to neighbourhoods in the west.

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).

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 2025 at 24.2, up from 20.6, against an England average of 17.3. This represents top quartile performance.

5.2 **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have higher educational outcomes**, in 2025 16 of 18 attainment measures are in the top quartile in England.

5.3 Two measures **ranked 3rd of all LAs nationally**:

- Foundation Stage - % Good level of Development SEN with Statement/EHCP and
- "Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths, Expected Standard - Pupils with Statements of SEN/EHC Plan"

5.4 **Haringey has fewer secondary pupils permanently excluded (0.01%)** and is better than the national average (0.25%) 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

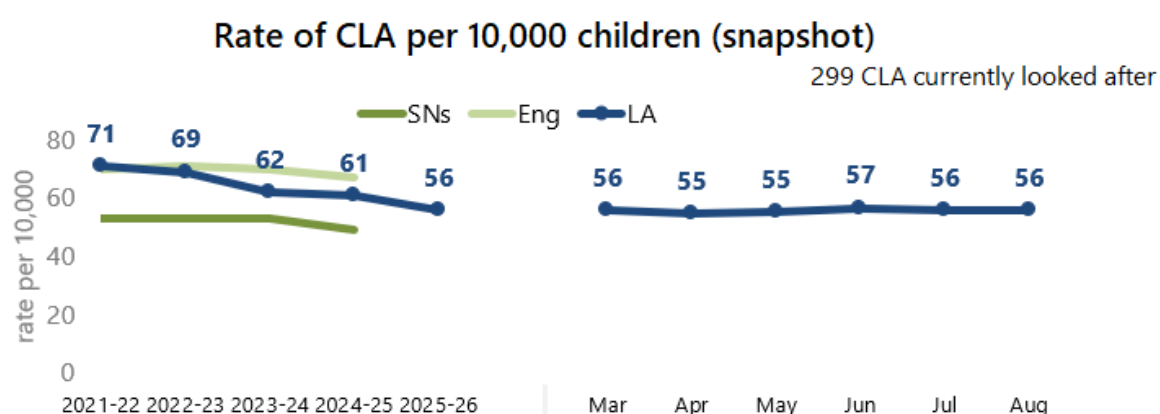
6.1 There were 363 EHCP plans issued throughout 2025, when the exceptional cases are excluded 89.6% up from 84% were issued within 20 weeks. This compares with 46.1% for England and 70% for our statistical neighbours.

7. Children Looked After

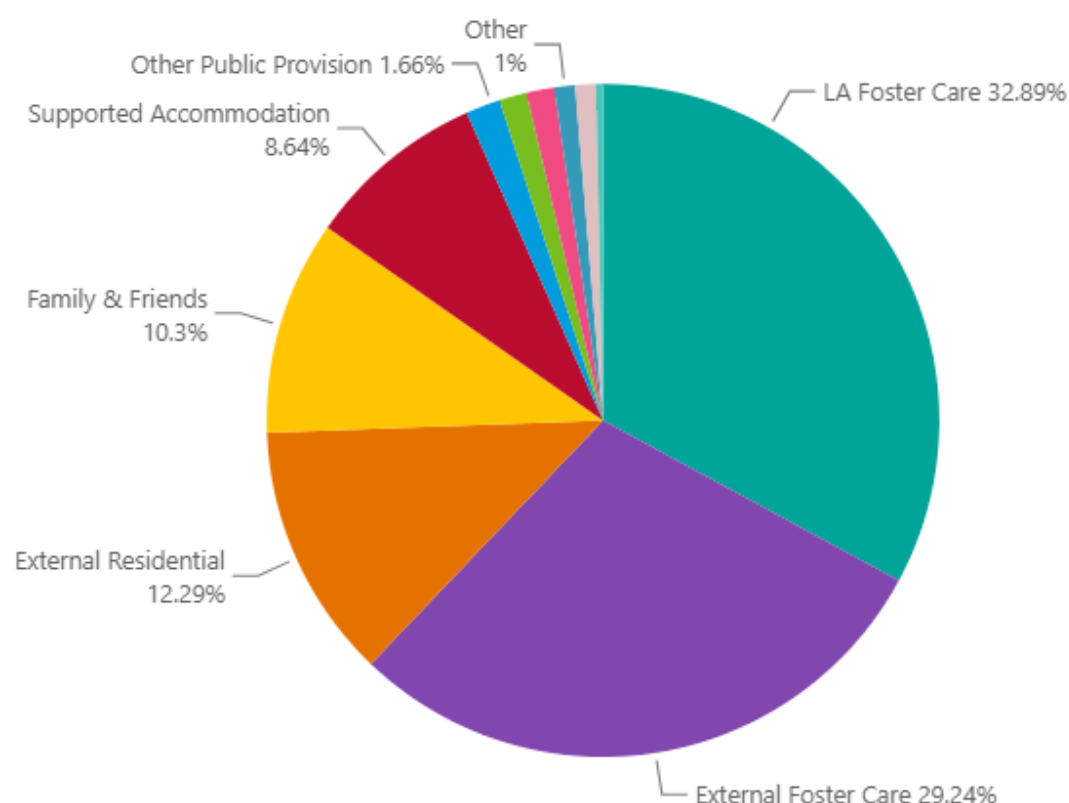
7.1 A child who has been in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a Child Looked After (CLA) also often referred to as children in care.

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 August 2026, the number of children looked after was the same as in March, 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 are the most used of all placement types with the proportion slightly higher than that of all England.

	Haringey Aug-26	Haringey 2025-26	SN 2024- 25 %	Eng 2024- 25 %
Foster placements	(217) 73%	(219) 74%	67%	67%

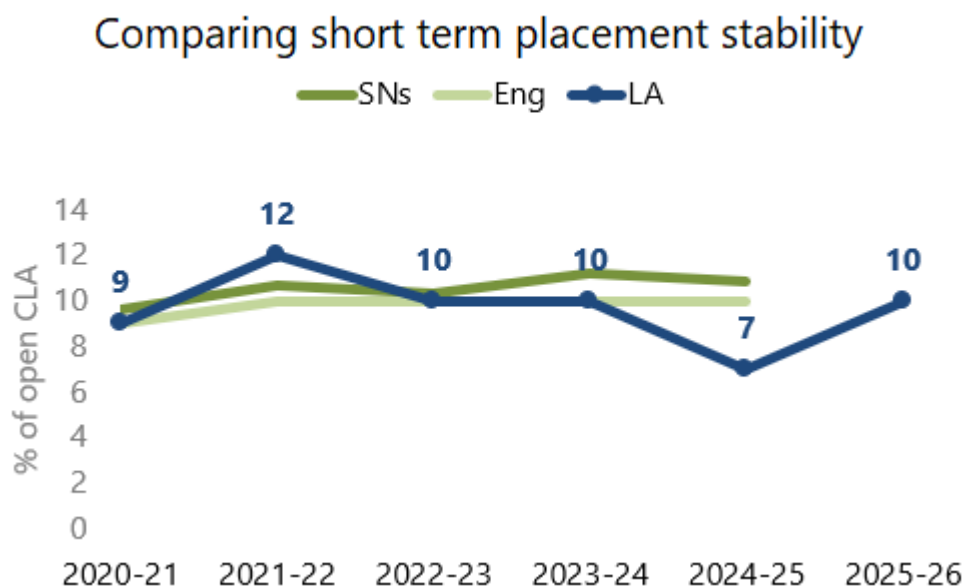
7.5 Of those children in foster placements 40% are long term matched with their foster carers, this falls within the DfE's expected range but reported to be well above the national average. This is down 1 percentage point since the last report.

7.6 224 (75%) of our CLA are placed outside of the borough at the end of August. Only 15% of children live 20+ miles away from home, improving 2024/25 (17%) and better than both SNs and England.

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.

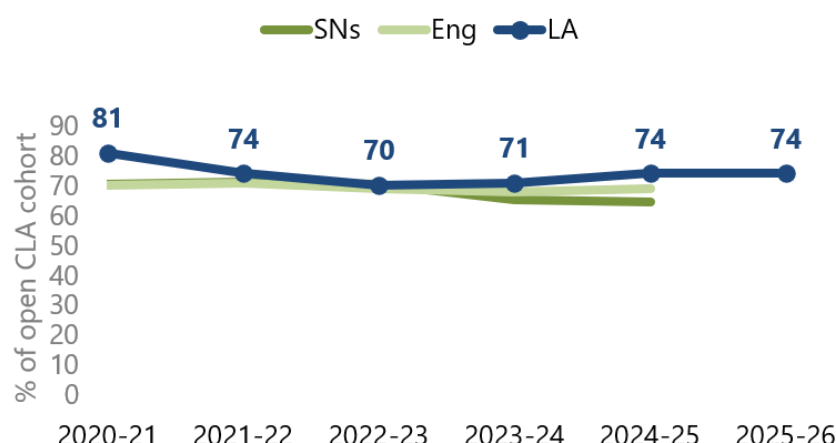
7.7 Placement stability is a key factor in children's wellbeing. This gives young people the chance to settle into a foster or residential placement over a period, Stability can be achieved only by making sure that the child is in the right placement for them. There are two types of placement stability 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 2½ 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 indeed in a stable environment.

7.8 Our short-term stability performance shows that 10% of children in our care had three or more placements in the past 12 months. This is a positive increase on 2024/25 but in line with recent years, statistical neighbours and the national average.



In the 12 months to August 2026, 265 of our 299 children had only one or no placement moves.

7.9 Long term placement stability is sustained at 74% from March to August 2026. Of the children who have been looked after for over 2½ years, 57 have been in the same placement for the past 2 years.



Comparing long term placement stability

7.10 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 throughout the time in care.

7.11 The data for children who go missing from care shows us that 14% or 53 of 367 CLA were reported missing over the period last 12 months. This remains below our SN rate of 17%.

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 and a specialist meets weekly to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent repeat occurrences. Return home interviews are routinely conducted by specialist workers. At each child's latest missing incident 75% were offered a return home interview, with the other cases deemed inappropriate to offer at the time. The take up rate was 68% up from 48% in January.

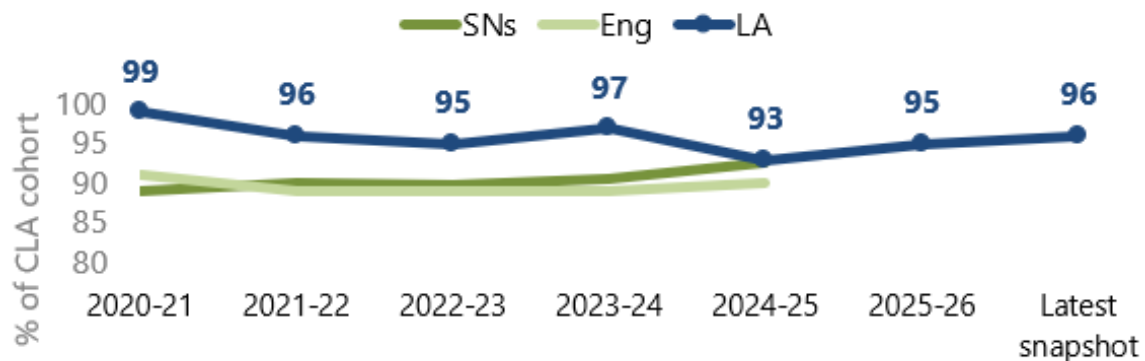
8. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

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 there has been a sharp decrease in overall numbers, and the second of these two routes has become the most prevalent.

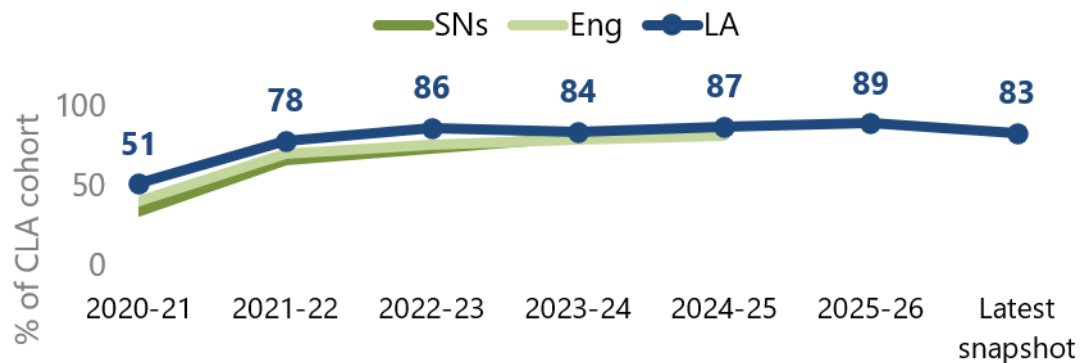
8.2 At the end of March 2020 there were 48 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in care, this fell steadily to 14 by January 2026 and is now 17.

9. Health and Dental

9.1 An impressive 96% of the 205 CLA who have been in care for over 12 months have an up-to-date health assessment recorded.



9.2 83% of the current CLA have up to date dental checks, this is a slight decrease on what was the highest rate since the pandemic.



10. Adoption

10.1 There were 11 adoptions during 2025/26, four more than the previous year, which is in line with our statistical neighbours. There have been 4 adoptions in the current year and 5 special guardianships. In total making up 13% of those leaving care.

10.2 Haringey and the ALN (Adopt London North) are continuing to strengthen 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.

10.3 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.

11. Leaving care

11.1 For 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 to provide a Personal Adviser and in some cases provide financial assistance. 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 as long as young person pursues that programme.

11.2 The service also works within 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 2026 there were 662 care experienced young adults who were qualified for care leaver services. This has fallen slightly to 623 by the end of August.

11.4 Care leavers have different levels of support available depending on their eligibility criteria:

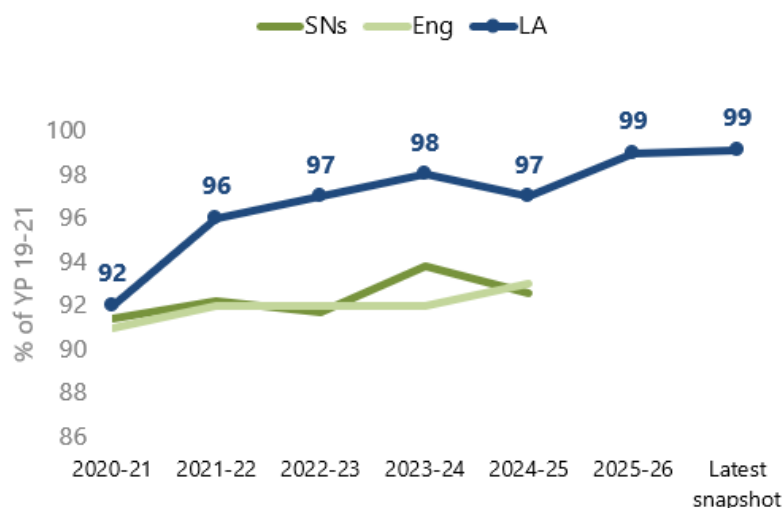
Eligible	~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~Currently looked after Age 16 or 17
Relevant	~ Age 16 or 17 ~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ No longer looked 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"
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Cohort of Care Leavers and eligibility for services

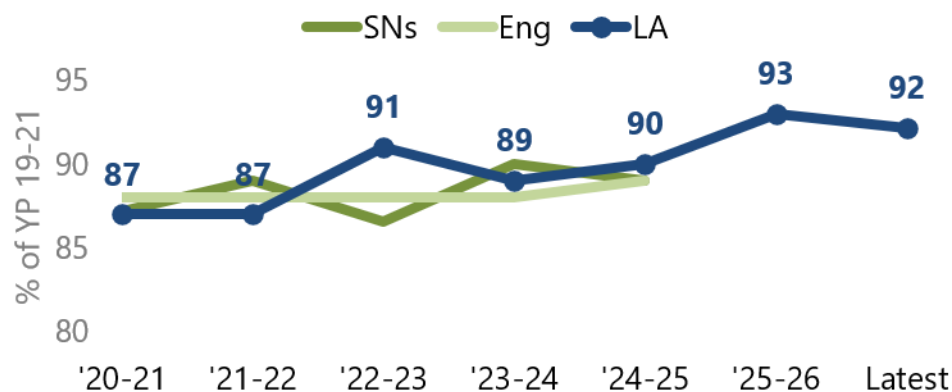
Age	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	Total
16	28	3	0	1	32
17	42	2	0	0	44
18	0	0	69	1	70
19	0	0	82	0	82
20	0	0	77	0	77
21	0	0	71	0	71
22	0	0	88	1	89
23	0	0	77	2	79
24	0	0	79	0	79
Total	70	5	543	5	623

11.5 100% of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Care leavers (UAS), including former UAS, are in touch with the Young adults service and 96% of the reaming cohort, meaning an impressive 99% of the 19-21 year olds are in touch.



11.6 Both care leavers in suitable accommodation and those in employment, education or training Haringey have a higher percentage than both our statistical neighbours and the England rate.

Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds



11.7 Accommodation types: For care leavers aged 19-21 Independent living is now the most common accommodation type over taking transitional semi-independent.

