



Haringey Council

Report for:	Joint Meeting of Corporate Parenting and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 29 October 2012	Item Number:	
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Title:	Performance Assessment – Half Year Performance Monitoring for the year to September 2012
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Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler/ Eve Pelekanos
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: NA
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1. Introduction

This report sets out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to:

- Children and Families - Contacts, referrals and assessments and Child Protection *(these measures are reported to the Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee)*
- Children and Families – Children Looked After *(these measures are reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee)*

Appendix 1 provides further detail in the form of tables and graphs for each of the agreed measures, grouped by topic, showing monthly data, performance against target, long term trends and benchmarking where applicable. It also contains performance and service comments for each area to provide context.

2. Performance Highlights/ Key Messages

2.1. *Contacts, Referrals and Assessments and Child Protection*

- There has been a reduction in the **number of contacts** received in September (over 150 fewer contacts since July) and the lowest number this year bucking the increasing trend since April 2012. Referrals have also decreased in September and there remains a reducing trend in the number of referrals. Haringey's rate (per 10,000 population) of referrals is historically below that of statistical neighbours.
- There were 330 **children subject to a child protection plan** at September an increase of 14 since July. This is equivalent to a rate of 67 per 10,000 children living in the borough, significantly higher than our statistical neighbour average for 2010/11 of 43 and increasing (40 more children than this time last year).
- Indicators around **child protection plans lasting 2 years or more** and **children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** are on target and compare favourably to statistical neighbours.
- Haringey **re-referral levels** (within 12 months of previous referral) are similar to those of statistical neighbours. In September there were 21 re-referrals out of 133 cases, a rate of 16% which is on target. Haringey's levels of re-referrals are similar to those reported by our statistical neighbours but lower than those reported nationally.
- Performance on **initial assessments** carried out in 10 days improved to 63% in September, below our revised 80% target. In the year to September 70% of initial assessments were completed within 10 days of referral. **Core assessments** in 35 working days is also below the revised 85% target at 70% in the year to September.
- **Child Protection visits** completed to timescale in the month of September improved considerably and are just below target at 93% (302 out of 326 visits in time). **Children in Need visits** improved in August and September but remain below the 95% target at 87%.
- 100% of **child protection plans** were reviewed within timescales in the year to September.

2.2. *Children Looked After*

- The **number of children in care** continues to reduce, down to 542 in September from 574 at the end of March 2012. The 542 includes 29 unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
- The **Statistical First Release (SFR)** provides information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2012. The figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return collected from all local authorities. This shows an increase in children in care nationally of 2% compared to March 2011. In Haringey there was a reduction of 6%. Between March 2012 and September 2012 there has been a continued reduction of 5.6%.

- Of the children becoming looked after, a larger proportion than last year were **previously subject to a CP plan** (40% in the year to date compared to 23% last year).
- The percentage of up to date **children in care visits** continues to exceed the 95% target.
- Of the 542 children in care, 26% were **placed within Haringey**, 74% were **placed outside Haringey**. 13.3% of looked after children were placed more than 20 miles from home at 30 September (8 out of 60 children). This compares with 9.7% in 2011/12 and looks at children who became looked after in year and who were still looked after at the end of the year where their first placement was more than 20 miles from home.
- The proportion of **children placed in Haringey provision** has improved slightly in recent months and is at 34% for September, below the 38% target. Foster care (in house) placements including those placed for adoption are showing a reducing trend (from 202 in April to 186 in September).
- Indicators around **stability of placements** are in line with statistical neighbours.
- There have been 9 **adoptions** in the year to September, on track to meet target of 15. There have been 14 **special guardianship orders** (SGO). This compares with 6 adoptions and 7 SGOs at this time last year.
- The DFE have recently published an updated **adoption scorecard** for the period 2009 to 2012 **attached at appendix 2**. This shows that in Haringey the average days from a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family was 749 for the rolling 3 year period 2009 to 2012. This compares with a rolling 3 year average of 636 days for England. Our own quarterly monitoring shows that the 3 year average to September 2012 is 740 days, both of the Haringey figures are above the national threshold of 639 days. A new indicator has been introduced (A10) which measures the same as (A1) with the exception of time spent with foster carers who go on to adopt the child, prior to being placed for adoption excluded i.e. where children are adopted by their foster carer, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer. In Haringey the average days was 647 compared with 546 for England.
- The average days looked after to being adopted in the year to September 2012 is 722 days. This is just above the 2011/12 figure of 715 days but we have observed improvements in our permanency tracking processes and timeliness and systems have been put in place to monitor the timelines for children throughout all the stages of the adoption process.
- There are 61 children with an approved plan for adoption as at the end of September, 16 of these have been placed for adoption. The service have proposed a target of 184 days from expression of interest to decision on suitability to adopt and 118 (3 months) days from receipt of application to decision on suitability.

3. Appendices

- **Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking** for:
 - Contact, Referrals & Assessments and Child Protection
 - Children Looked After
- **Appendix 2: Haringey Adoption Scorecard 2009/2012**
- **Appendix 3: Statistical First Release summary providing information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2012 including National, London and Haringey data including data from our comparator authorities (where published).**