



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Joint meeting of Corporate Parenting and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>YOUTH, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE OFFER TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF CARE /AT RISK</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Jan Doust/Marion Wheeler</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Belinda J Evans</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected: All</b>	<b>Report for Non Key Decisions:</b>
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## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1 Since September 2011, a pilot project has been underway which refers young people aged 13 – 19 who have come to the attention of the First Response Service to the Youth, Community and Participation Service. These are young people about whom a professional (or a parent/carer) has enough concerns to contact First Response but who do not meet the criteria to receive a service from First Response.

1.2 Over the same period the Youth, Community and Participation Service has re-prioritised the provision, targeting the majority of resources towards young people with greater needs. The service is working predominately with individual young people to identify actions that will lead to their engagement in positive activities, reduce risky behaviour and improve relationships with their families.

1.3 There is evidence that the work has been effective. In the period September 2011 – July 2012:

- 165 young people have been referred and 128 young people have engaged voluntarily (78%). There have been 1,437 significant interventions with these young



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people (excluding interventions with other professionals and engagement in positive activities).

- 56 young people were deemed to be at risk of being **taken into care**. Of these 53 young people did not enter the care system (95%). 3 young people did get taken into care – 1 being placed with a family member under Section 20 and 1 returning home within a 3 month period.
- 80 young people were deemed to be at **risk of offending**. Of these 78 young people did not enter the youth justice system (98%).
- 46 young people had a **history of offending**. To date, 37 young people have not re-offended (80%).
- 20 young people aged 16- 19 were **not in education, employment or training**. In the course of their engagement, 9 young people have entered education, employment or training (45%).

1.4 The following factors have been identified as helping to keep children and young people out of care:

- reaching them as early as possible when problems arise. For example, the young people are contacted within a week of the referral being accepted by the Service
- putting the young person in charge of their own action planning, but following this with regular monitoring,
- developing a relationship between the young person and a member of staff who will support them, advocate on their behalf and provide a range of coping strategies,
- working with Family Support Workers to provide support for parents where the relationship is a primary issue for the young person,
- signposting to a range of quality positive activities to engage young people. These include: physical activities (swimming, boxing, badminton, football, Zumba), youth clubs, performing arts, residential experiences.

1.5 Additional funding has been identified from savings made available following the closure of the Children's Homes to invest into this model of practice which aims to provide an early intervention for young people who are at high risk of going into care. As part of this remit, the service will also lead on providing interviews with young people who have run away from care so we can better identify support packages for this vulnerable target group.

1.6 We are putting a structure in place to enhance the existing model. The staffing team will comprise 3 Young People's Practitioners (managed through the Youth, Community and Participation Service), 1 Family Support Worker (managed through the Integrated Working and Family Support Service), and a 0.5 fte Community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Nurse (managed through a contract with CAHMS). It is envisaged that staff will be in place from 1 December 2012 and fully operational from 1 January 2013.



The successful outcomes for this approach are:

- contribute to a reduction in the numbers of children entering and remaining in care in Haringey,
- build on the pilot by expanding the service to include younger children,
- explore possibilities for strengthening families parenting skills by formalising links between family support services and the Youth, Community and Participation Service so that children, young people and families are presented with complimentary preventative and early intervention services,
- identify pathways that could take children, young people and their families towards preventative and rehabilitation services and away from care or child protection, when it is safe to do so
- develop further relationships with schools by encouraging them to make direct referrals.

## **2. Cabinet Member introduction**

## **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That Members note the development of the Edge of Care initiative

## **4. Other options considered**

4.1 No other options were considered as the work is based on the positive outcomes of the pilot work delivered by the Youth, Community and Participation Service.

## **5. Background information**

5.1 Over the last 5 years the rate of children coming into care in Haringey has increased significantly. At 31 March 2007, Haringey had a rate of 89 children per 10,000 population of under 18's in our care (420 children). This had increased to a rate of 125 children per 10,000 population at 31 March 2011 (618 children). In 2010/2011 the statistical neighbour rate for children looked after was 80 children per 10,000 of the population and in England average was 59 per 10,000

5.2 2008/09 saw a change in how we compared to statistical neighbours, prior to that our rate of children in care was always lower than that of our statistical neighbours; in 2008/09 the trend reversed and the gap has continued to widen



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with our rate nearly 20 children per 10,000 population higher than the average of our comparators.

5.3 An analysis of children coming into care and leaving care during this time for the period 2011/2012 shows that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of this cohort are in care for 3 months or less with the 10 – 17+ group being over represented (60 young people out of a cohort size of 99).

5.4 High numbers of relatively short stays in care prompt the hypothesis that the problems and issues that have arisen for these young people and their families may either be of a short term nature or are comparatively easily resolvable. From this hypothesis a project has been developed aimed at providing early support and interventions to prevent an escalation of issues leading to young people being taken into care.

## **6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications**

## **7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications**

## **8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

## **9. Head of Procurement Comments**

## **10. Policy Implication**

## **11. Use of Appendices**

## **12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**