



Report for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee 04 December 2012	Item Number:	
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Title:	Corporate Parenting Performance Assessment- Performance for the year to October 2012
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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 looked after children. Section 2 provides an overall assessment of performance in the service and performance highlights. Appendix 1 provides a series of tables and graphs for each of these 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

- The **number of children in care** is reducing steadily, down to 536 in October from 574 at the end of March 2012. The 536 includes 26 unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The trend in London suggests falling numbers but data published by the DfE recently shows an increase nationally of 2% compared to 2011 and 13% compared to March 2008. In Haringey comparing end of March 2012 with 2011, there has been a 6.1% reduction and an increase of 35.3% since 2008. Between March 2012 and October 2012 there has been a reduction of 6.6%. The numbers and rate of children in care continue to be monitored to ensure that numbers are reduced appropriately and children remain safeguarded at home. There are a significant number of children in final stages of proceedings currently who are expected to return home and it is expected that the numbers should continue to steadily decrease.



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- The percentage of up to date **children in care visits** continues to exceed the 95% target.
- 15 children were **missing from care** during the month of October. In most cases we have contact with the young person. An exercise was undertaken to look at all the children/young people who have gone missing/absconded over the last 12 months (November 2011 – October 2012) with the number of times they went missing/absconded over the year. Overall we are left with about 6 persistent absconders under the age of 16; this exercise has been helpful in identifying which young people need particular input/support. The improved process for reporting to senior managers is helping to make the monitoring more effective. It is also encouraging to note how many of those who have had very unsettled periods in care have now moved into new placements where they are making improved progress. A few of the young people have returned home with some measure of success.
- At the end of September 93% of children in care **cases were reviewed within required timescales**. The service have created a localised report which provides the data and use this as a means of monitoring reviews carried out in timescale. This work is done a month in arrears.
- The proportion of **children placed in Haringey provision** has improved slightly in recent months and is at 34.5% for October, below the 38% target. Foster care (in house) placements including those placed for adoption are showing a reducing trend (from 202 in April to 185 in October).
- Of the 536 children in care 25% were **placed within Haringey**, and 75% were placed outside Haringey. Of the newly looked after children in the month who remained looked after at the end of the month none of the 12 children were placed 20 miles+ from home.
- Indicators around **stability of placements** are in line with statistical neighbours. The Commissioning and Placements team are undertaking an exercise to look at the proportion of children that have moved onto permanency this year. In addition work is being undertaken to ensure that the monitoring of providers is more systematic and proactive with the aim of minimising placement breakdown at the earliest stage.
- Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation** is below the target of 95% but monthly numbers are small and should be interpreted with care. One of the young people was managed by the Learning Disability Team and they did not notify YAS when they ceased working with her. We are developing a stronger working partnership with this service to avoid such situations arising in the future. In the 903 return (Children Looked After) 2011/12 92% of Haringey's care leavers were in suitable accommodation, higher than the England figure of 88% (2011/12).
- **Care leavers in education, training and employment (ETE)** is below target. The target set is very challenging especially when one considers the England average of 58% (2011/12). 64% of Haringey care leavers were in ETE in 2011/12. In Haringey high numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeker care leaver's present further



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challenges in this area as many have no recourse to public funds and some have issues with immigration status which prevents them from studying or getting a job.

- There have been 9 **adoptions** in the year to October, on track to meet target of 15. There have been 17 **special guardianship orders** (SGO) compared with 7 at this time last year. The 903 comparative data for 2011/12 showed that of the children who ceased to be looked after in the year 5% were adopted, this compares to 8% in London and 9% in our comparator authorities, the highest being Hackney at 17%.
- There are 66 children whose **plan for adoption** has been **approved** as at the end of October, 18 of these have been placed for adoption. If the 18 who have been placed for adoption are all adopted this year, the average days will fall to 720. Of the 66 children 24 have had the decision that they should be placed, made this year and the average days looked after for these children as at the 1st October is 444 days (this figure will continue to accumulate until all these children are placed). For the 24 children (who are not yet placed) where a decision was made this year, the average days for that adoption making (ADM) decision to be made is 345.
- The **average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption** was 722 for the period April- October 2012. This is above the 639 day national threshold (rolling 3 years for 2010/2013). This is also 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. The service has set targets for new children coming into the system. Targets of 184 days from expression of interest to decision on suitability to adopt and 118 days (3 months) from receipt of application to decision on suitability have been proposed to outstrip the 639 threshold.
- Improved monitoring systems and additional resources are speeding up family work. The average time taken from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption will begin to reduce as the number of children who have already waited a long time are placed. However, it may take some time for this to happen. Children are being matched to families during the assessment process so that they can be placed as soon as possible after the placement order.

3. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking