



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee 19 February 2013</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Performance Assessment- Performance for the year to December 2012</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Marion Wheeler/ Eve Pelekanos</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Margaret Gallagher</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>  All	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decision:</b>  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

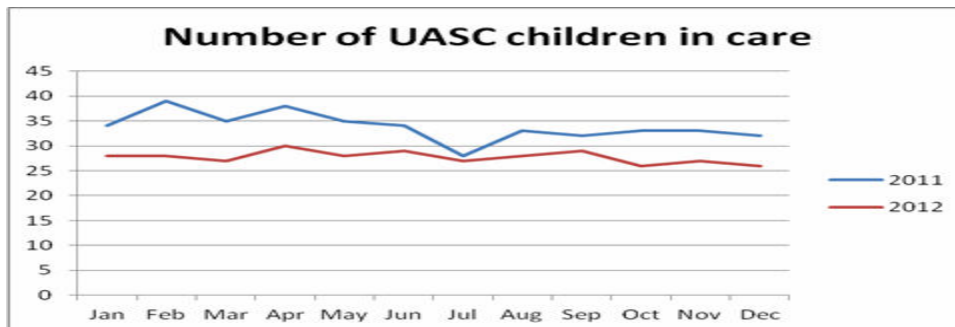
- The **number of children in care** is reducing steadily, down to 529 in December from 574 at the end of March 2012. The 529 includes 26 unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The trend in London suggests falling numbers but data published by the DfE recently shows an increase nationally of 2% compared to 2011. In Haringey comparing end of March 2012 with 2011, there has been a 6.1% reduction. Between March 2012 and December 2012 there has been a further reduction of 7.8%. 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.
- The target for the end of March 2013 is 524 but as a consequence of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offender Act, the number of 17 year olds is likely to increase. A piece of work was undertaken by the Youth Offending Service which identified the increase of looked after children due to being subject to youth detention



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accommodation is likely to be about 39 per year based on previous year's figures – there are generally 5/6 at any one time. These are short episodes but have the potential to skew the looked after children numbers but these children are not subject to long term care planning.

- The graph below shows the number and trend of children in care who are unaccompanied asylum seekers over the last 2 years.



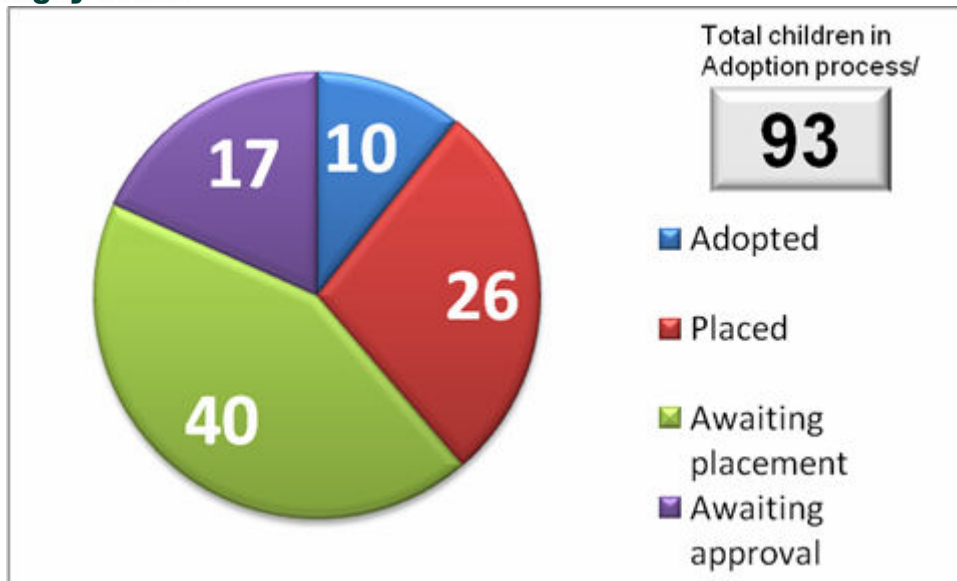
- Of the **children becoming looked after** in December 75% were **previously subject to a child protection plan** (6 out of 8). A larger proportion than last year were previously subject to a CP plan (44% (51 out of 115) in the year to date compared to 23% (59 out of 257) in 2011/12.
- The proportion of **children placed in Haringey** is 27% and 73% are **placed outside Haringey** as at December 2012. 401 (81%) are placed within 20 miles of Haringey and 97 outside of 20 miles. 53 of the 97 children are placed with agency carers. A map of where all our children are placed is attached at Appendix 3.
- 29.5% of looked after children are in LBH in-house foster carers. Foster care (in house) placements including those placed for adoption are showing a reducing trend (from 202 in April to 182 in December). An external reviewing Haringey Fostering Services is being commissioned to help us understand the trend and take appropriate action.
- As at December 2013 of all the looked after children excluding unaccompanied minors, 81.9% were in foster care, 16.1% were in residential care and 2% were either placed at home or missing from care.
- The percentage of up to date **children in care visits** continues to exceed the 95% target.
- 16 children were **missing from care** during the month of December, 5 remained missing at the end of the month including 4 whereabouts known. The 16 includes 5 who were missing for less than 24 hours. The next stage is bringing together feedback from interviews to inform practice with those young people who go missing.
- At the end of November 87% of children in care **cases** were **reviewed within required timescales**. The on-going issue with the FWi report has been resolved, the



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provider have given us an updated version which has been put on the live system, tested and is now deemed fit for purpose. The target for children in care reviews is 92% for 2012/13.

- Indicators around **stability of placements** are in line with statistical neighbours. The proportion with 3 or more placements is down to 7% but the number of children with 2 placements appears to be increasing (96 as at December or 18.1%). 69% of **children under 16 who have been in care for 2.5 years have been in the same placement for at least 2 years** similar to statistical neighbour average and close to the 72% target.
- Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation** is below the target of 95% but monthly numbers are small and should be interpreted with care. 81% of the cohort in the year so far were in suitable accommodation but all young people in December's cohort were in suitable accommodation. 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 latest statistical neighbour average of 61% (2011/12). 64% of Haringey care leavers were in ETE in 2011/12 and 68% (28 out of 41) were in ETE this year. In December one young person who was in care with the Children with Disabilities team was not transferred to the Young Adults Service, he receives support from the learning disabilities team but has not made the transition to the young adult's team.
- There have been 10 **adoptions** in the year to December but only one in the last 4 months; the end of year target is 15 and we are on track to achieve this. There have been 24 **special guardianship orders (SGO)** against a target of 25 by end of year. The service estimates that we will achieve at least 40 SGO or adoption orders by the end of the financial year. This compares with 11 adoptions and 9 SGOs at this time last year, 14 adoptions and 13 SGOs in 2011/12. 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%. Of the 180 children that have ceased to be looked after this year 34 (19%) have moved on to a legally permanent placement of which 5.5% have been adopted.



- There are 66 children with an **approved plan for adoption** as at the end of December, **26 of these have been placed for adoption**, 23 since April 2012. A further 17 children have unapproved plans which is indicative of the level of referrals ready for action. The children placed for adoption compares with 22 children placed in 2010/11 and 16 placed in 2011/12. Adoption placements have been identified for a further 12 children, 10 of whom are planned to be placed for adoption by the end of the financial year. Families are being explored for a further 9 children and all efforts are being made to achieve matches before the end of the financial year.
- Analysis based on the latest permanency tracking sheet illustrates that some improvements in terms of timeliness are in the pipeline especially for those placed more recently since the linking meetings have been introduced. The **average days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption** is currently 711 days. The table below illustrates that for all children placed the days from taken into care to placed for adoption have reduced by over 100 days from 799 to 692<sup>1</sup> since the introduction of the linking meetings in August 2012. The table also shows that our decision making has been faster with a reduction in the days from a child becoming looked after to the ADM decision down from 464 to 303 for those children placed since August 2012. The table below illustrates progress since the introduction of the linking meetings:

<sup>1</sup> Please note these findings are based on children placed and therefore relatively small numbers (26 children of which 19 were placed after July 2012)



CHILDREN CURRENTLY PLACED	Days from taken into care to date placed	Less than 21 months LAC to PfA	Days (LAC start to ADM decision)	Less than 12 months (BI to PfA)
Children placed before July 2012 (Pre Linking meetings)	799	60%	464	60%
Children placed after July 2012	692	47%	303	79%

- For those awaiting adoption and not placed there were 12 children with over 1,000 days and 6 **children that were placed at over 1000 days**. The reasons in connection with each child and any delays are available and detailed separately.
- In addition to the **10 adoption orders granted** to date, a further 7 applications have been submitted to the court and a further 7 sets of adopters are ready to submit applications once the 10 week period has elapsed. There are particular reasons for delay in applying for orders in 3 cases.
- Increasingly children are being referred for family finding at a much earlier stage, from a couple of months old, which gives us a head start on family finding. There is evidence of a much greater use of parallel planning.
- We now have a pool of approved adopters and a steady flow of families in assessment which will lead to speedier placements. **16 prospective adopters have been approved** to date and a further 7 are expected to be approved by the end of the financial year. This compares with 9 for 2011/12 and 5 for 2010/11 although is short of our target of 30.
- There are **18 children on referral for family finding** where there is no placement order as yet. Most of these children have only recently entered care proceedings, so this is to be expected. **15 children have matches identified** or recommended at panel recently. There are 10 children who are very likely to have their plans rescinded during January 2013.
- In addition work is being undertaken to restructure the adoption service and assign new roles and functions to staff dividing the teams into family finding social workers and assessment (of prospective adopters) social workers. It is planned to have one of the workers exclusively focusing on dealing with the front end processes e.g. dealing with all prospective adopter's enquiries, initial visits, information meetings and preparation groups, in conjunction with the North London Consortium. This work is designed to speed up processes, ensure greater efficiency and assist in achieving maximum applicant processing and meeting timescales.



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### **3. Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking
- Appendix 2: Quarter 3 Adoption Scorecard
- Appendix 3: Map of where our looked after children are placed