



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
	<b>19 December 2013</b>		

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Review of progress to date April – October 2013</b>
---------------	--------------------------------------------------------

<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Marion Wheeler Assistant Director CYPS</b>
----------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

<b>Lead Officer:</b>	
----------------------	--

<b>Ward(s) affected: ALL</b>	<b>Report for Non Key Decisions:</b>
------------------------------	--------------------------------------

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

Report to Members to update them on the key areas of progress and achievement for Children and Young People's Service, Safeguarding and Social Care at the mid-year point.

A review of progress in year to date and a summary of the continuing challenges

**2. Recommendations**

That Members note and give consideration to the contents of the report.

**3. Other options considered**

Not applicable.

**4. Background information**

**At the end of March 2013 the overall performance position of the services was as set out below in respect of the Corporate priority Key performance Indicators**

- 4.1 There had been a 5.5% reduction in the number of children in care since the end of March 2012. 541 children were in care on the last day of March 2013 ( 94 per 10,000 population), which remained higher than the level in similar boroughs although a significant reduction on this point in 2012 (rate 100 per 10,000).



## **Haringey Council**

- 4.2 There was a recent downward trend in number of children subject to a child protection plan which had decreased by 44 between February and March 2013. At the end of March 2013 there were 275 children subject to a plan, a rate of 47.8 per 10,000 population, still higher than the England average and that of our statistical neighbours (40).
- 4.3 Performance on initial and core assessments completed in timescale was below target, there was improvement on 2011/2012 levels for core assessments but proportions completed in 21 days+ for initials and 61 days+ for cores remain high and comparatively poor. Performance for both areas was below levels achieved by our statistical neighbours and across England.
- 4.4 7% of child protection plans had a duration of two years or more, above the England position of 5.6% and lower than our statistical neighbours and London
- 4.5 4.8% of children had become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time lower than the 12.7% reported by our statistical neighbours in 2011/12.
- 4.6 93.8% of child protection visits completed to timescale as at the end of March, below target. 85% of children in need visits were completed in timescale, below target.

## **5. Balancing the budget**

- 5.1. During the year CYPS staff have continued with the commitment to the repayment of the growth money put into the budget for children's care placements and continued the work to deliver the overall balancing of the Children and Families budget for the last two years.
- 5.2 This has included both keeping the service on track to deliver a balanced budget at year end for 2013/14 and taking out the savings reductions agreed in year and pre-agreed savings totalling some £3.5m, plus a continuation of the work to transfer resources away from high cost, late stage intervention work and invest in early help resources. As part of this work Heads of Service have also worked effectively with colleagues in the Council's HR Team to ensure the development of a workforce strategy to improve the ratio of permanently employed staff and reduce reliance upon temporary staff and reduce the pressure on staffing budgets Children and Families workforce use of agency staff has been steadily falling and at the end of period 8 it was at 14.9% of the total, a reduction on the performance of the previous quarter which was recorded at 17.4% of the ( social work) workforce.



**6. Reducing the need for Children to become or remain Looked After**

- 6.1 More children are being effectively supported at home with a well maintained and steady downwards trend for the numbers of children being looked after. The safe and steady reduction of children in care numbers lessens the pressure on commissioning budgets and staff workloads and facilitates an improved multi-agency dialogue about supporting children and families effectively. The period 8 Performance report to this Committee evidences the continued successful downward trend in both numbers entering care – a 30% reduction in numbers when measured against the previous year and a reduction in the numbers looked after overall which now places Haringey back in the mid range of its statistical neighbours and lower than some of our comparator boroughs.
- 6.2 More children are being safely supported at home through more confident and better supervised frontline staff with the beginnings of a cohesive ‘Early Help’ offer in place. This work will continue to be driven through the Haringey 54000 Programme.
- 6.3 Through the work of the Haselmere Unit Improvement Board we have delivered improvements at Haselmere short breaks unit which has now reached an ‘adequate’ OfSTED rating after the difficulties experienced in maintaining a consistent quality of service last year. Haselmere provides an essential service for children with complex disabilities and their parents and carers, often providing the crucial part of a support plan which prevents families from breaking down under pressure and needing expensive out borough residential provision. This enables children to be supported at home, remain in their schools, maintaining essential links with their communities.
- 6.4 We have continued to deliver improved management of child protection planning, resulting in fewer children remaining on plans for more than two years and increased the effectiveness of those plans.

**7. Children in our care continue to do well and have good outcomes.**

- 7.1 The numbers in settled placements have held steady, whilst the number of children experiencing multiple moves has continued to decline. Children’s educational outcomes continue to improve with increased attainment in key stage 2 and at the end of key stage 4. We now have 64 young people in care who are studying at University or at a Higher Education Institute, five of whom are attending a Russell Group University.
- 7.2 We are proud that Aspire, our children in care council, are now effectively ‘at the table’ of decision-making on a regular basis. They are participating in the procurement of the Fostering Recruitment contract, participating in the training of foster carers, participating in the recruitment of new social work staff and their induction programmes and rightly putting the challenge back to senior managers and members about the quality of the services we provide.



- 7.3 We ran the seventh successful Annual Children in Care Achievement Awards event at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club in October to acknowledge and celebrate the educational achievements and successes of Haringey's Children in Care aged 11-16.
- 7.4 The Fostering Service Review was successfully commissioned and the recommendations from the iMPower team agreed by elected Members. The implementation of the plan to deliver 50 new Haringey foster carers in the first 12 months is well underway.
- 7.5 Our performance on Adoption and Special Guardianships has now exceeded our target for the year, the work to develop the 'gateway' to adoption through the North London Consortium is well developed and Haringey are in a good position to drive the full range of targets which allows early decision making and placement for children in need of legally secured permanency outside of their birth family.
- 7.6 The North London Care Proceedings project is successfully underway with confident leadership for Haringey's part of the programme in place, alongside Enfield and Barnet.
- 7.7 Members will already have seen the excellent early results as we steadily reduce the number of weeks that children wait whilst the Family Proceedings court makes the important decisions about their future. By quarter 2 of the project we have seen the average duration of care proceedings reduce from 71 to 51 weeks with a quarter 2 median figure of 32 weeks from issue to completion. Members will receive the detailed analysis of progress later in the Spring 2014.
- 8. Three major pieces of new policy** for Children's Services in partnership with elected Members are now in place and providing the framework for driving improved outcomes:
- **Permanency Policy** – agreed by Members in Committee and then at Cabinet in summer 2013;
  - **Staying Put Policy** – agreed by Members autumn 2013; and
  - **Family and Friends Kinship Carers policy** agreed late autumn 2013.
- 9.1 During the year staff have worked to achieve improved openness and transparency with parents following the post AB& CD Judgment activity and importantly bring our partner agencies who are engaged in safeguarding work along with us through the further development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub work.
- 9.2 Haringey Families First, our Haringey version of the Troubled Families Programme is in a position to claim 'good results' money through the Payment



## **Haringey Council**

By Results element of the contract in the second quarter and will be in a position to claim further PBR funding by the end of quarter 3.

- 9.3 Our Principal Social Worker post is now established and beginning to have impact through leading on the professional development and accountability, quality of practice and quality of the council support to employed social workforce.
- 9.4 We have been successful in being chosen by Frontline <sup>1</sup>to be an early adopter council of the new national graduate social work training programme. Along with a handful of pioneer authorities we will have the first 8 graduate social workers placed with us in our Safeguarding and Support teams in 2015.

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

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this Report. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Frontline is a new approach to transforming the life chances of vulnerable children by recruiting and training outstanding graduates to be children's social workers and leaders in society.