



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee <b>31 July 2014</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Performance for the year to May 2014 including summary of 2013/14 End of Year Performance</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<i>LISA REDFERN</i> <b>Lisa Redfern Director, Children's Services</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Margaret Gallagher Senior Performance Lead</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b> All	<b>Report for Non Key Decision:</b>
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus.
- 1.3. Section 3 provides an overall assessment of performance in the service.
- 1.4. The monthly service scorecard had been provided at the previous Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) so that Members understood how our performance information was collected and analysed in the context of CPAC.
- 1.5. The recent Ofsted inspection has recognised many of the areas of strength and some areas for development which will be addressed via the development and implementation of our Ofsted Improvement Plan.

## Performance Highlights/ Key Messages

### 1.6. Positive or Improving Performance

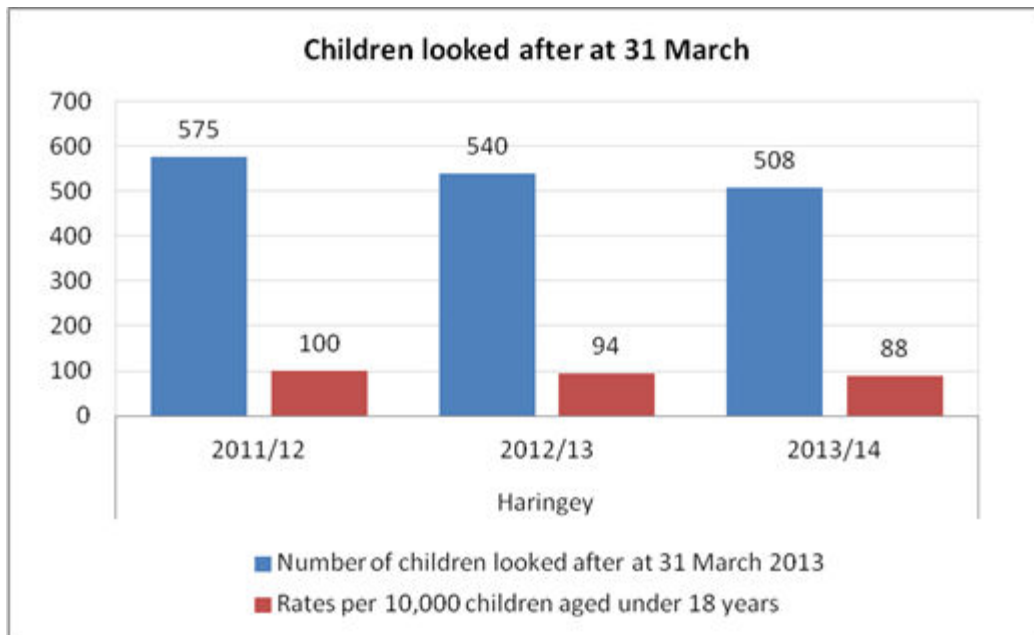
- 506 **children were in care** on the last day of May 2014 or 88 per 10,000 population. This remains higher than the level in similar boroughs of 72 per 10,000 and in England 60 per 10,000 although a significant reduction on this point last year (rate 93).
- There have been 64 **adoptions** and **special guardianship orders** in the year exceeding the 2013/14 target by over a third. As a proportion of children who ceased to be looked after in the year (267) 14% have been adopted compared to 6% in 2012/13 closing the gap with the England position of 14%. There have been a further five adoptions in the year to May 2014.
- In 2013/14, **children waited an average of 778 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This is higher than the national threshold but Haringey's three year average (2010/13) of 725 days is better than our statistical neighbour position of 810 days. The average days in the year to May 2014 is currently 617 days.
- Average **care proceedings duration** is reducing and increasingly more cases are being concluded in 26 weeks.
- 10 fewer looked after children (aged 10 and over) were **convicted or subject to a final warning** during the year. In 2012/13 there were 30 children with convictions (11.1%) but this reduced to 20 children (8%) in 2013/14 bringing our rate closer to the England average of 6.2%.
- 94.7% of **Children in Care cases were reviewed** in timescale at the end of May above the 92% target.
- One child was **missing from care** during the month of May and one child was away from placement without authorisation. Numbers of missing from care cases remain low.
- Indicators around **stability of placements for looked after children** remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets.

### 1.7. Areas for Focus

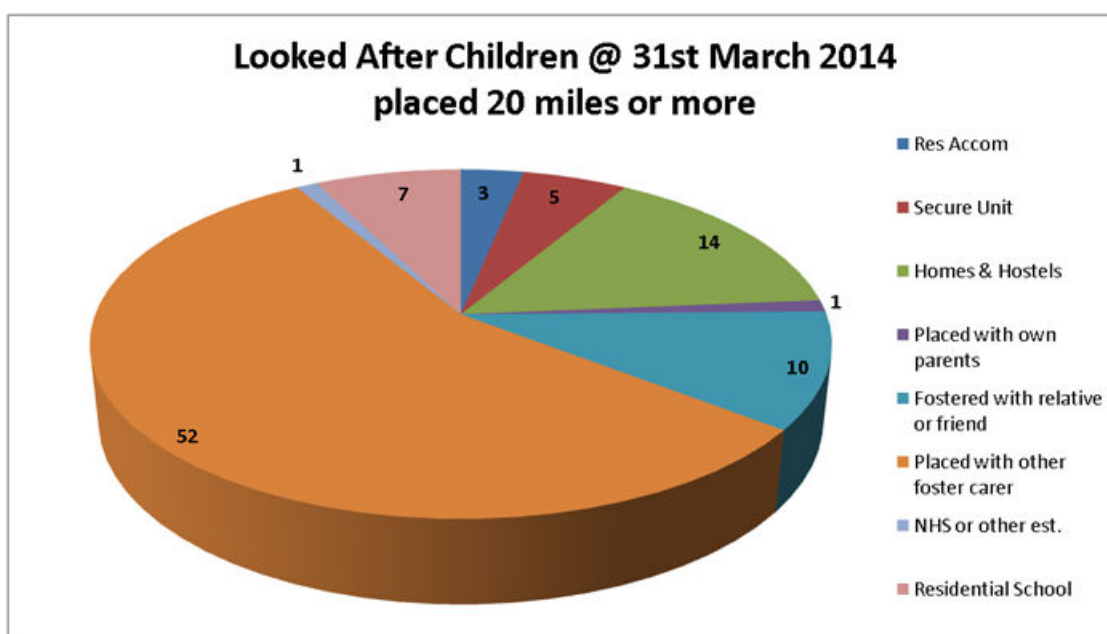
- Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training** is below target.
- 93 children or 18% were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** at the end of March 2014 and we are now close to achieving the 16% target. 359 children or 74% live outside the local authority area. At the end of May there were 88 out of 488 (18%) children placed 20 miles or more.
- 87% of **Children in Care visits** were completed on time in this period.
- In 2013/14, 87.7% of LAC children had an **up to date health assessment**.
- 71.5% had an **up to date dental visit**.
- The above areas for focus will all be incorporated within activities defined within the Ofsted Improvement plan currently being developed.

## 2. Children Looked After

- 2.1. There has been a 6% reduction in the number of **children in care** since the end of March 2013. This progress and steady downward trajectory over the last three years means we are moving towards alignment with the level in similar boroughs. Haringey's movement of children coming into care is now in line with statistical neighbours and based on a straight line trajectory we should be in line with our statistical neighbours' rate by 2016.
- 2.2. As at the end of May 2014, 506 **children were in care** including 36 asylum seekers. In the year to May, 36 children have **become looked after** and 38 have **ceased to be looked after** a decrease in the cohort of two children. In 2013/14 Haringey had 233 children who started to be looked after, a 16.3% increase on the 2012/13 position (38 more children) compared with the previous year. Based on numbers becoming looked after and ceasing to be looked after in the year to May 2014, the projection for 2014/15 is currently a rate of 86 per 10,000 population.
- 2.3. Efforts to ensure that edge of care services are utilised efficiently are taking effect in terms of reducing the numbers of Looked After Children (LAC). The rise in unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) is also being analysed to consider further actions to identify those in real need as opposed to young people who might not meet criteria for accommodation. Section 20 cases are regularly reviewed in terms of identifying changes in circumstances which could lead to a managed return home. This has resulted in several young people leaving care in recent months and transferring to CIN plans.
- 2.4. There has been a slight increase in the number **of young people becoming looked after on remand**. There were 29 in 2013/14 compared with 19 in 2012/13. All remand placements are monitored carefully and reviewed at Resources Panel regularly. There have been two children becoming looked after on remand in the year to May 2014.
- 2.5. Based on data at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, Haringey had the fourth highest number of children looked after amongst our 10 comparator authorities but the second highest rate per 10,000 population (only Southwark's rate at 95 was higher). Haringey's current **rate of looked after children per 10,000** population at the end of May is showing a further reduction at 88. The graph below illustrates the rate per 10,000 children looked after and trend over the last three years. Comparator data for 2013/14 will be available later in the year.



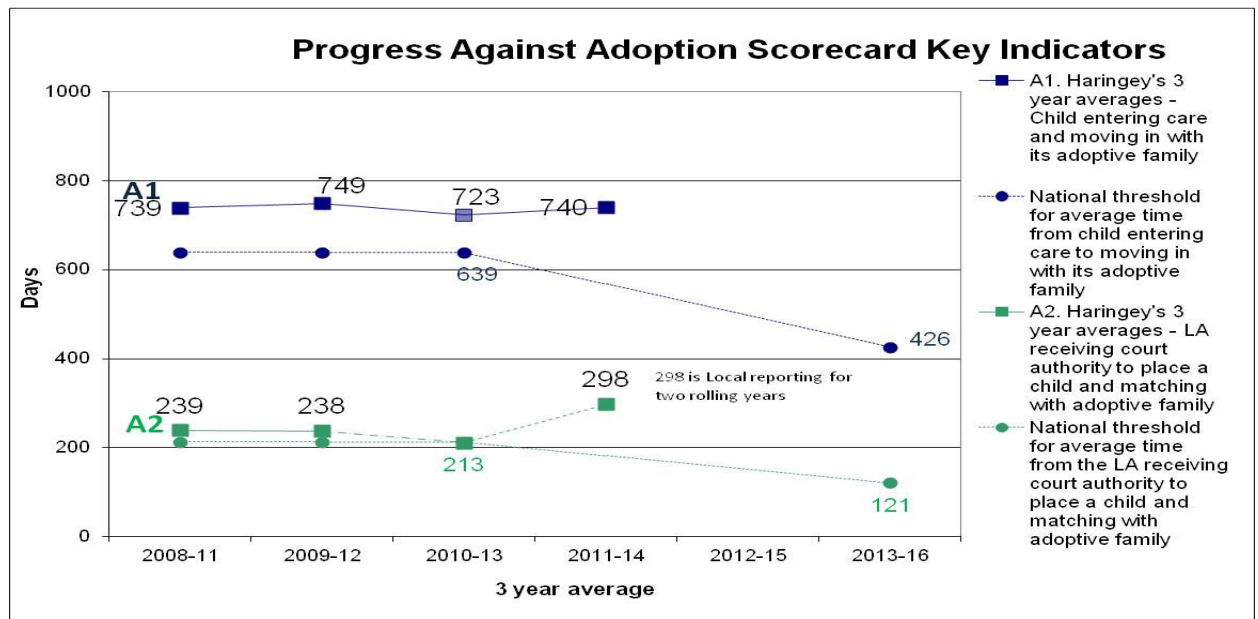
2.6. The proportion of **looked after children placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** reduced in 2013/14 to 18% (93 children), slightly above the target of 16%. Keeping children within the borough and close to their environment ensures close monitoring and family links which is appropriate. A few niche placements require out of borough placement e.g. specialist disability or children remanded in young people's detention centres. A Sufficiency Strategy 2013 to 2016, approved by Members, shows the council's commitment to supporting families effectively and ensuring that the necessary quantity and range of placement provision is available to meet the needs of our looked after children and young people. The pie chart below shows the breakdown of placements 20 miles plus at 31 March 2014.



- 2.7. As at the end of May 2014 18% (88 out of 488) of looked after children were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey**. Regular reviews of placements at Resources Panel, careful monitoring of young people's needs at LAC reviews and searches to source appropriate residential accommodation and foster placements closer to home are all contributing to reducing this percentage.
- 2.8. The service has made a commitment to only placing children in outstanding or good placements and is working to acquire a higher proportion of placements in borough from independent providers, both for foster care and residential placements. The development of a commissioning function within Children's Services should assist and reduce the need to place outside the borough.
- 2.9. The Council has embarked upon a major expansion of its in house fostering provision and a more dynamic and ambitious approach has been put in place to recruit new foster carers. From April 2014, all recruitment and assessment of new foster carers is commissioned from specialist independent organisations. This has released social work capacity to improve the quality of the supervision and support provided to approved foster carers, thus improving retention.
- 2.10. One child was **missing from care** during the month of May and 1 child was away from their placement without authorisation. The Lead Member and DCS are briefed on all cases of missing LAC at a weekly meeting, which includes the review of the return to home interviews.
- 2.11. The North London Tri-Borough Care Proceedings Project (NL CPP) which commenced in June 2013 was set up to reduce avoidable delay and to improve decision making for children subject to care proceedings. The work of this pilot should ensure that proceedings are only issued in circumstances where the child is likely to need a permanence plan and that pre proceedings work to engage parents is done beforehand. Performance suggests an overall trend of reduced case duration and on-going improvement on a quarterly basis. Of the completed cases in the year to the end of March, 13 out of the 21 completed care proceedings cases (62%) were completed within 26 weeks.
- 2.12. At the end of May 95% (469 out of 495) of **children in care cases** were **reviewed within required timescales**, exceeding the 92% target and a significant improvement on levels achieved in recent years.
- 2.13. **Visits to looked after children** continue to be made within the set monthly timescale although recorded visits are below target at the end of May, 87% of children have an up to date visit. Managers have gone through the list of missed visits to ensure that these did take place and the recording issue will be addressed thoroughly before the next monthly data run.
- 2.14. In 2013/14 71% 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. Figures remain positive and include a number of moves being made for transfer into permanent placements. At the end of May 2014 the length of placement indicator increased to 75% in the same placement for at least two years. This is indicative of the attention being paid to young people's

individual placement needs and affords enhanced opportunities to succeed in education that this continuity in placement can provide. Our indicators around stability of placements continue to be in line with statistical neighbours and targets. The proportion with **three or more placements** at the end of May is at 9% (45 out of 506 children) and better than our 10% target.

- 2.15. 2013/14 performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation** was below the target of 90%. 74% (43 out of 58) of the 19 year old cohort in 2013/14 were in suitable accommodation. 72% of the 20 year old cohort and 78% of 21 year old cohort were in suitable accommodation.
- 2.16. However the service are working closely with Housing colleagues to ensure that our care leavers move faster to their tenancy. The tenancy workshops are taking place quarterly and the attendance and participation is very good. Personal Advisors and the Placement Officer at Young Adults Service (YAS) are tracking the care leaver bidding process and young people are being encouraged to bid regularly and be successful with accessing their permanent housing within six months of their 18th birthday.
- 2.17. **Care leavers in Education, Training and Employment (ETE)** was also below target and below levels achieved in 2012/13 (63%). 47% (27 out of 58) were in ETE in 2013/14, 52% of the 20 year old cohort and 41% of the 21 year old cohort. In the year to May 36% (4 out of 11) of the 19 year old cohort were in ETE, 25% of the 20 year old cohort (2 out of 8) and 50% (3 out of 6) of the 21 year old cohort were in ETE.
- 2.18. As at the end of May 2014 there are 50 care leavers who are working and 20 care leavers who are in apprenticeships and training programmes. There are 63 care leavers who are at university and 104 care leavers attending college courses. The Willkommen apprenticeship programme with the Marriot Hotel Group (February 2014 – March 2014) was very successful. Six young people attended the apprenticeship for two weeks in London and three of them were chosen to go for an additional two week apprenticeship programme with the Marriot Hotel in Germany. One of the three young people was offered permanent employment with the Marriot Hotel in London and the other two are shortlisted as back up staff during events when additional staff are required. The young people who attended the programme benefited from it and are now confidently seeking employment in the hospitality field with the support of their Personal Advisors.
- 2.19. In 2013/14 there were 38 **adoptions** and 26 **Special Guardianship Orders** exceeding our combined target by over a third. As a proportion of children who ceased to be looked after in year (267) this is 24% with a legal permanency arrangement of which 14% have been adopted. This performance is much improved from the 5% adopted in 2011/12 and 6% in 2012/13 and has closed the gap with the London position of 9% and the England position of 14% adopted (2012/13 comparative data). In April and May 2014 there have been five adoptions and two special guardianship orders, the same level at this point in 2013/14, so we are on track to achieve similar levels of permanency this year.



2.20. It is evident that Haringey's average days from becoming looked after to being placed with their adoptive family increased in 2013/14 with an average 778 days up from 661 days in 2012/13 and bringing our three year average for 2011 to 2014 to 740 days. The 778 days includes 10 children adopted in year who were placed significantly outside the threshold including several children who were challenging to place as a result of complex needs and background factors. The reasons for the increase in timescale can be explained by the following factors:

- a significant increase in the number of adoptions in 2013/14 up from 14 in 2012/13 to 38 in 2013/14;
- a number of children subject to protracted care proceedings; and
- a number of children who were challenging to place including two children for whom adoption was a really positive outcome but who had been in the care system for some time.