

Positive and improved Quality of Practice and Performance

- Indicators around **stability of placements** for Looked After Children remain positive and in line with our statistical neighbours. 9.6% of children had 3 or more placements and 75% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years have been in the same placement for 2 years or more.
- 6 children were **missing from care** in the month of July 2014, 2 children were **away from placement without authorisation**. Numbers missing from care are low.
- There have been 9 **adoptions** in the year to July 14 compared with 16 in the same period last year. There have been **4 Special Guardianship Orders** in the same period compared to 11 in the previous year. 16.5% of children who ceased to be looked after in the year so far have achieved a legal permanency arrangement (11.5% adopted) but numbers achieving permanency via these routes have more than halved this year.
- **Children waited an average of 530 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption** in the period April to July 2014. Performance compares favourably with statistical neighbours. Excluding the days that children were placed with foster carers who subsequently adopted the child, the average days reduces to 190.
- 94% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**.
- Focused work to address performance has resulted in an improvement of **children in care with up to date dental checks** from 65% in July to 82% in August.
- **Care leavers in suitable accommodation** is improving with between 70 & 80% of 19, 20 and 21 year olds in suitable accommodation, similar to last published figures for our statistical neighbours.
- The **Haringey Families First (HFF)** Programme - an initiative seeking to work with Haringey's most troubled families – has allocated a lead worker to 90% (765) of eligible families as at end June 2014, meeting target. Haringey achieved top quartile performance and consequently has met the thresholds set by Department of Communities and Local Government for phase one and will be starting phase two of the national programme in September 2014

Areas for focus and improvement

- There are 513 Looked After Children. This is a higher number than the level in similar boroughs although a reduction on this point last year. In order to scrutinise the quality of decision-making regarding Looked After Children a weekly Resource Panel meets, chaired by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Support. The increased rigour this weekly panel will afford will ensure decisions and resources are being taken appropriately.

In addition, work to ensure permanency discussions are made at an earlier stage, as appropriate, rather than longer-term fostering arrangements. Alongside this is an emphasis on offering help and support earlier to assist in the prevention of a long-term care offer.
- 18.8% of children are placed 20 miles or more from Haringey and our target is 16%. The Sufficiency Board is securing an increased supply of local, high quality, in-house foster carers which offer greater value for money.

- The target for visits to children in care should be 95% and in August 2014 91% of visits took place within the required timescale. This has been picked up with the responsible managers in the monthly performance call-over meeting chaired by the Director of Children's Services.
- Reviews of children in care stood at 90% in August 2014 (459 out of 510) – whilst an improvement against levels achieved last year, this is below the required level.
- 56% of school age children have completed **Personal Education Plans** at the beginning of September. This is a decline on the 66% achieved before the summer holidays. Focused work and tracking of PEPs completion by team and worker is in operation and PEP training for all relevant staff has been organised for 25th of September.
- Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training** declined significantly in 2013/14 and only around half of care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 are in education, employment or training. Focused work with team managers and Personal Advisors is happening to support those who are NEET to return to education or employment including supporting those with young children to find child care arrangements to enable them to attend education, training or employment opportunities.