

<b>Report for:</b>	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee <b>6<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Ofsted Action Plan: Update on progress</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Jon Abbey Interim Director, Children's Services</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Sam Philips Head of Projects and Executive Support</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 paper was requested following on from the report submitted to CPAC in December 2014 by way of update on progress relating to the Ofsted inspection. It is now recognised that all continued improvement work relating to Looked after Children is taken forward via the LAC Sufficiency Development Board.
- 1.2 In May 2014 Haringey Children's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board were made subject to an unannounced Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
- 1.3 The inspection concluded on 11 June 2014 and Haringey were judged to be a robust 'Requires Improvement' grade.
- 1.4 There were 17 direct recommendations within the report for Haringey Children's Services, all of which were accepted by the local authority and addressed through the development and implementation of the Haringey Getting to Good Action Plan.
- 1.5 The plan was submitted to Ofsted on 21 October 2014 and on 5 November 2014 the local authority were notified that Ofsted confirmed

that the plan 'satisfactorily reflects the recommendations and priorities of the inspection report'.

- 1.6 Recommendations have subsequently been incorporated into service delivery plans across the directorate to ensure that requirements are embedded within all service delivery and improvement activity.

**2. Ofsted Recommendations relating to Looked After Children**

<p><b>a. Ensure that sufficient in-house and local foster carers are recruited, so that more looked after children and young people can live nearer to their communities, if appropriate</b></p>	<p>We have increased the numbers of our in-house foster carers and reduced the number of IFA placements.</p>
<p><b>b. Ensure that all looked after young people have a pathway plan which is produced jointly with them, so that they know and understand their plan and recognise its relevance in supporting their progression into independence and adulthood</b></p>	<p>This is an area of challenge which has an action plan in place</p>
<p><b>c. Ensure that life story work is completed at the first opportunity, so that looked after children understand their life journey in the care system</b></p>	<p>This is an area of challenge which has an action plan in place</p>
<p><b>d. Ensure that risks posed to looked after children and young people are comprehensively assessed, documented and reviewed, taking into account the changing age and stage of their lives, and that managers and social workers consider the life histories of children and relevant research when making medium- and long-term plans for children.</b></p>	<p>Quality Assurance functions have been strengthened to support practice improvement in this area and others. There is further work to do.</p>
<p><b>e. Ensure that the role of the Independent Reviewing</b></p>	<p>The role of</p>

<p><b>Officer (IRO) is enhanced so that they properly challenge drift and delay in plans and escalate concerns about the quality of service provision, so that risks posed to specific groups of children and young people are known and understood and action is taken.</b></p>	<p>the IRO has been strengthened by introducing strengthened mechanisms and tools. The QA unit itself has been re-engineered to make it more robust.</p>
<p><b>f. Ensure that all looked after children and care leavers know and understand their rights and entitlements and know how to make a complaint, to ensure that their needs are fully understood and acted on</b></p>	<p>A guide book and a DVD has been produced with some of our LAC and this has been disseminated.</p>
<p><b>g. Ensure that care leavers are informed about their health histories and that they know and understand the arrangements to access their health records should they need to in later life.</b></p>	<p>A guide book and a DVD has been produced with some of our LAC and this has been disseminated.</p>

In addition, there has also been significant activity and improvement since the inspection across the whole journey of the child. In relation to Looked After Children this includes;

2.1

- The rate of Children in Care has safely reduced to be more in line with our statistical neighbours (in October 2014 this figure was 514 – in May 2015 the figure is 453).
- Performance has improved on the Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days. Performance in October was 54%; this month the performance has reached 94%. This

means that child protection concerns are addressed in a timely and effective way.

- Through the work of the sufficiency board a review of panels for our looked after children has been undertaken to ensure that decision making and outcomes are as robust and effective as possible.
- Mosaic has been successfully implemented – which means the case management system used by social care staff is updated and will yield a number of process benefits.
- There has been a consistent reduction in looked after children placed in IFA placements.
- Special Guardianship Orders have increased.
- The Quality Performance Network has been established. This brings together all senior managers in Children’s services to review and monitor service delivery in terms of both performance and quality.
- The evaluation programme has been fully implemented and the service has just completed the third evaluation cycle, with recommendations taken forward as part of our continuous improvement agenda.

2.2 It is anticipated that Haringey Children & Young Peoples Service could be inspected next in 2016; this is indicative and based upon the HMI’s three year regime.

2.3 Through the Quality Performance Network (and all CYPS improvement forums) the service maintains its ‘readiness for inspection’.