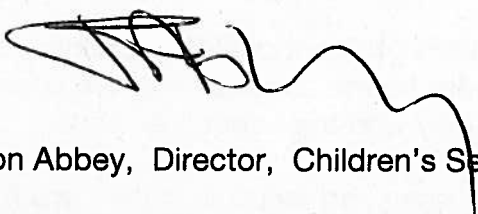


Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 5 October 2015

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to August 2015

Report authorised by :  Jon Abbey, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Margaret Gallagher, Corporate Performance Manager  
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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision: Non key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

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.

2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 446 children were in care on the last day of August 2015 or 76 per 10,000 population including 36 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The level of children in care is similar to the position at the end of March - five fewer children. Despite a reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children, the rate remains significantly above the London (54) and national average (60) although we have closed the gap with our statistical neighbour rate of 70.
- In the year to August 2015 there have been nine adoptions and seven special guardianship orders (SGO). This equates to permanency being secured for 18% of children that ceased to be looked after but is two fewer legal orders achieved compared with the same period last year.
- In the year to August, children waited an average of 438 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption. This is marginally higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16) but an improvement on the 589 days in 2014/15. Haringey's three year average (2012/15) of 690 days is better than our statistical neighbour position of 769 days, the England position of 628 days and an improvement on our 2011/15 average days of 731.

- Indicators around stability of placements for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to August 2015, 7% of children had three or more placement moves.
- 79 children or 18.3% were placed 20 miles or more from Haringey at the end of August 2015, slightly worse than the 16% target but on an improving trajectory. Although higher than national levels this proportion is in line with the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).
- At the end of August, 96% (408 out of 425) of children in care for over a month had an up to date health assessment, a sustained improvement and comparing favourably with the London average.
- 61% of looked after children had an up to date Care Plan at the end of August, improved from the position of 49% at the end of May but remaining below the expected level. Focused effort in this area including technical input and data cleansing has resulted in further improvement as at mid Sept with 74% of current care plans up to date.
- 86% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period, August. Performance in this area has improved considerably in recent months (77% at the end of April 2015) but remains below levels achieved in previous years.
- The average care proceedings duration in 2014/15 was 34 weeks (including cases commenced in 2013/14) with trends towards cases of longer duration than the 26 weeks statutory minimum. The Quarter 1 data reveals that the trend has reversed towards cases of shorter duration and this has been maintained with an average duration of 32.4 weeks in Q1. 66.6% of 18 cases were concluded in over 26 weeks.
- 2014 Attainment results of our looked after children at Key stage 2 and GCSE are mostly in the top quartile nationally. 2015 provisional data for children looked after for more than a year suggests that GCSE results have improved further and Key Stage 2 performance has been sustained.
- Attainment for other vulnerable groups e.g. Children with Special Educational Needs is also good but Children in Need attainment at Key Stage 2 is an area for focus.
- Haringey's performance for care leavers aged 19-21 in higher education (16%) compares very favourably with the national position of 6%.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- Performance on care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training is below levels achieved last year albeit that the variation between Haringey and national performance levels in these areas is not significant.

- 57% of school age children had completed and up to date Personal Education Plans (PEP) at the beginning of September. This is a decline on the high of 71% achieved by the end of July before the schools broke up. A separate report and update on performance and action to prioritise completion of PEPs is on the agenda for this meeting. Notwithstanding this seemingly low level of performance on PEPs, educational achievement of our looked after children remains in the top quartile nationally with high rankings and Haringey amongst the best performers in London.
- 27% of looked after children aged 16 plus (35 out of 128) had pathway plans less than 6 months old which although better than levels achieved earlier in the year, remains below the expected level. Focused attention has increased performance on pathway plans to 36% up to date by mid September but this remains below target. The new Head of Service is putting a performance review system in place with team managers attending a session to review all relevant care and pathway plans and dates for their timely completion and update on the system as needed.
- In August five children were recorded as missing from care in the month and 16 were away from their placement without authorisation. A task and finish group is working on bringing together multi-agency datasets on children missing from home, care and education for matching and learning so that analysis and activity can be reported to the LSCB. A Haringey Runaway & Missing from Home & Care Protocol is being completed by all agencies and will be the basis for dealing with children who run away or go missing in the area.
- 91% of LAC children had an up to date dental visit as at 31 March 2015 but, as at August 2015, 76% of the current LAC cohort have up to date dental checks. Performance has been on a downward trajectory since April 2015 but current performance is an improvement on the position at the end of July (72.5%).
- Latest published education attainment data shows that 30% of Children in Need achieved Reading, Writing and Maths at Level 4+ , a decline from 44.2% the previous year and significantly below average for London (52%) and nationally (46%).

#### 4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Priority 1: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.

#### 5. Use of Appendices

Scorecard.

Data presentation: Children with Disabilities

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