

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 5 January 2016

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to November 2015

Report

Authorised by:



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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key

## 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 and 3 contain performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus.
- 1.3. Section 4 provides an overall assessment of performance in the service as relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent.

## 2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. **434 children were in care** on the last day of November 2015 or 74 per 10,000 population including 38 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a gradual decrease in the level of children in care in comparison to the position at the end of March 2015 - 17 fewer children. Despite a reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children, the rate remains significantly above the London (52) and national average (60) although we have narrowed the gap (difference of 5) with our statistical neighbour rate of 69.
- 2.2. A performance review system has been put in place by the head of service with team managers attending a weekly session to review plans and dates for their timely completion and update on the system as needed. As a result,

performance on care plans, pathway plans and Personal Education Plans (PEPs) has improved. At the end of November, 84% of Looked After children had an **up to date Care Plan**, a significant improvement from a low level of 49% at the end of May and only 6% away from the expected target.

- 2.3. 62% of school aged children had completed and **up to date Personal Education Plans** at the end of November. This is a gradual improvement from the drop in performance in September (49% compared to a high of 71% in July), although it remains below the expected level. Completion of PEPs will continue to be prioritised. Compliance and effective working relationships between children's allocated workers and schools will assure sustained timely completion of plans.
- 2.4. At the end of November, 73% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area is at its highest and has increased significantly compared to the low level (20%) achieved in June. There has been continuous focus to ensure completion of plans in a timely manner which has subsequently improved performance further, positioning achievement at 77% in mid-December.
- 2.5. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to November 2015, 8% of children had three or more placement moves, below the statistical neighbour average (13%). 75% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least two and a half years had been in the same placement for at least two years, slightly above our statistical neighbour average (70%).
- 2.6. 83 children or 19% were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** at the end of November 2015, slightly above 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%).
- 2.7. In the year to October, **children waited an average of 431 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 2011/14 average days of 731.
- 2.8. At the end of November, 95% (408 out of 429) 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.
- 2.9. 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 & 2 data for 2015/16 reveal that the average case duration at 40 weeks was impacted by the conclusion of 12 long running cases (86 – 51 weeks) during Q2. Excluding these cases case duration was 31 weeks and continues the downward trend since the consortium began.

- 2.10. 35% of 46 cases were concluded in less than 26 weeks with the remaining 65% concluded in over 26 weeks in the first half of 2015/16. The reduction in the number of care proceedings and placement order applications and increase in number of reunification and SGOs has been maintained.
- 2.11. **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 with 28% achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C including English and mathematics, a 6 ppts improvement on the 2014 results.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. In the year to November 2015 there have been 15 adoptions and 12 special guardianship orders (SGO). This equates to permanency being secured for 20% of children that ceased to be looked after but is six fewer legal orders achieved compared with the same period last year and behind track to achieve our combined (adoption and SGO) target of 54 for 2015-16.
- 3.2. 91% of LAC children had an up to date dental visit as at 31 March 2015 but, as at November 2015, 81% of the current LAC cohort had 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%).
- 3.3. 83.4% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period, November. Performance in this area had improved considerably in recent months (88.5% at the end of October 2015) but decreased by the end of November. Current performance remains below levels achieved in previous years.
- 3.4. Performance on care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training is below levels achieved last year. However, the following has been actioned/achieved in order to strengthen performance:
- Employment consultant and DWP work coach based within Young Adults Service
  - Six-weekly NEET panel (Not in Education, Employment or Training) with partners to discuss as a network those hard to reach/engage
  - Challenge in tracking some NEETs (i.e. Albanian cohort) and further work to be undertaken to identify ways of tracking and engaging these groups
  - 16 care leavers starting university in the new academic year.
- 3.5. In November, 15 children were recorded as either missing from care or away from their placement. Six children were missing at any point in the month and nine children were away without authorisation. A more systematic way to capture data on missing children and return to care interviews is being progressed. A Haringey Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Protocol

has been completed by all agencies and will be the basis for dealing with children who run away or go missing in the area.

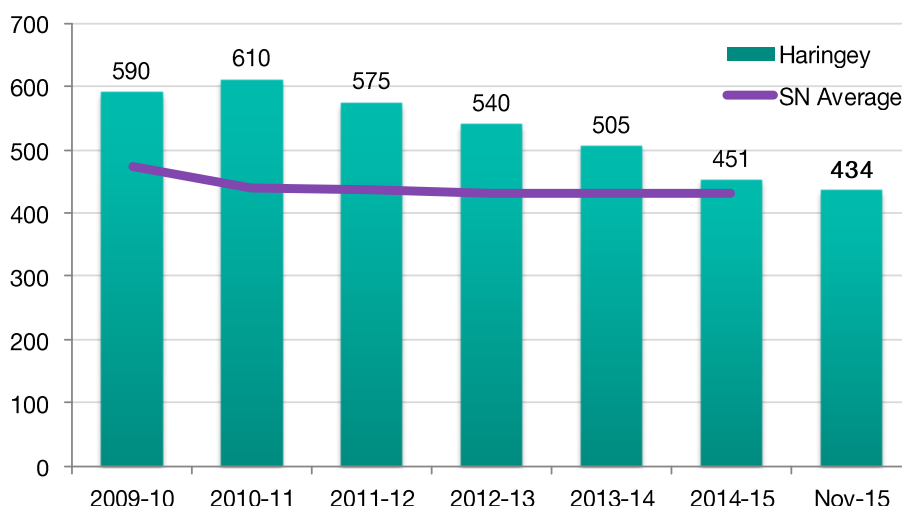
- 3.6. 92% of LAC had an **up to date review** at the end of November. There is currently a delay in recording reviews on the system which is impacting performance – the accurate position should be higher.

## Overall Assessment of Performance

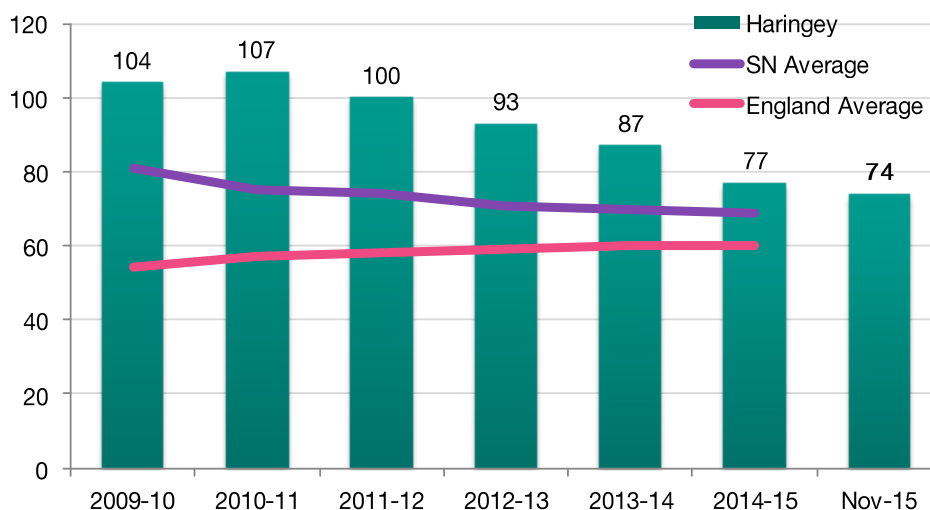
### Looked After Children

- 4.1. There has been a 10.6% reduction in the number of looked after children as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 compared to March 2014 (13% reduction at the end of November).

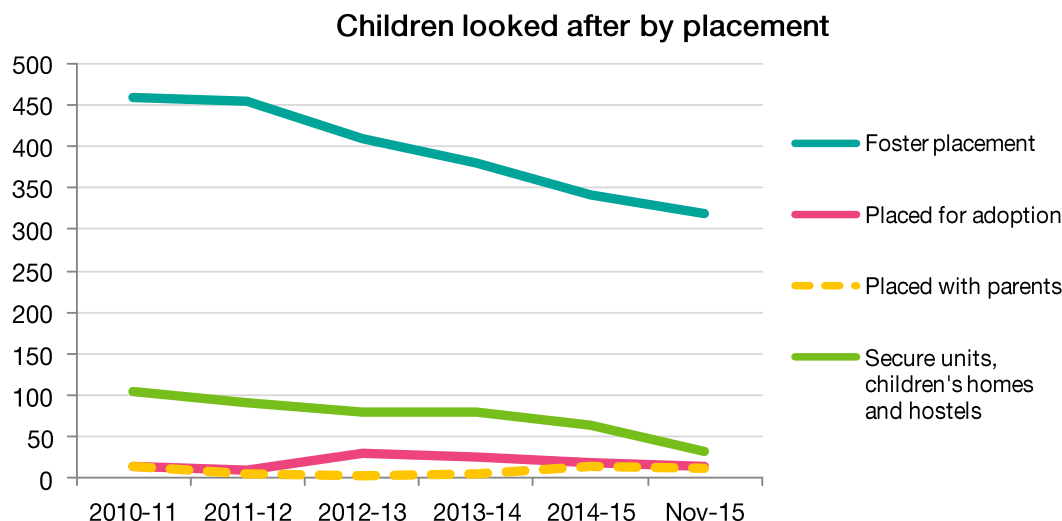
Number of Looked After Children



Children Looked After rate per 10,000



- 4.2. Over the last six years, Haringey have safely managed down the proportion of Looked after Children. Although we remain above the national (60) and London average (52), the gap between Haringey's LAC rate per 10,000 and SN average has narrowed to a difference of five at the end of November.
- 4.3. The number of children in secure units, children's homes and hostels reduced from 105 at 31/03/2011 to 64 at 31/03/2015. This has reduced further with 31 children placed in secure units, homes and hostels at the end of November 2015. Of the 31 children, 28 were placed in residential placements; an increase on the position at the start of the financial year.

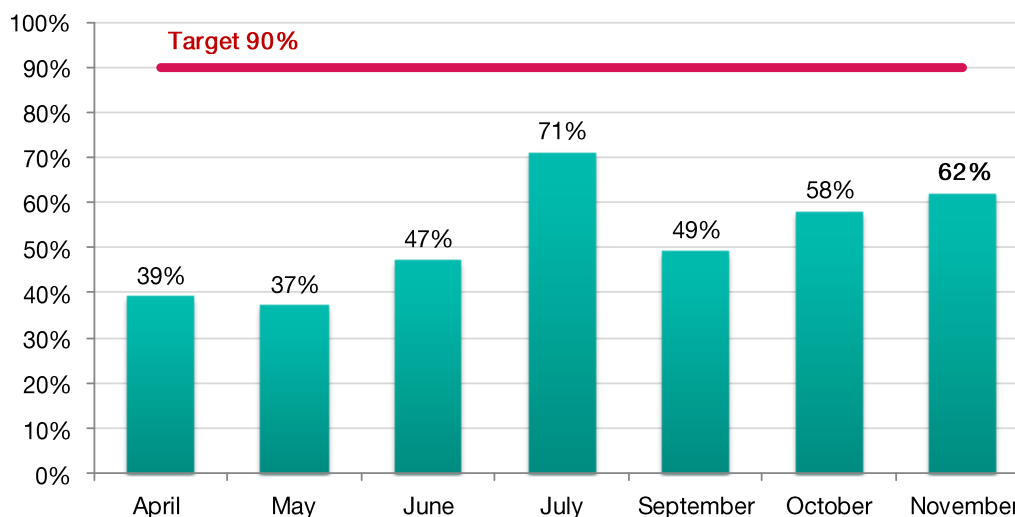


- 4.4. In 2013-14, Haringey had the highest number of secure unit, children's home and hostel placements in London, above the SN average of 37 in 2013-14. As part of a sufficiency improvement plan, recruitment of foster carers has been prioritised to reduce reliance on costly residential placements. 22 foster carers were recruited in 2013-14, 21 in 2014-15 and 15 in the year to November.

### Personal Education Plans

- 4.5. As at the end of May 2015, 37% of school aged children had completed and up to date personal education plans (PEPs). Through a data cleansing exercise and focused review of incomplete and out of date plans, performance increased to a high of 71% at the end of July. Performance had however declined to 49% by the end of September following the school holidays.

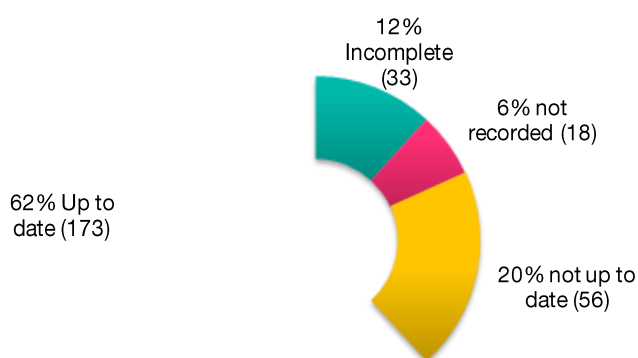
### Percentage of school aged children with up to date PEPs



Note: Performance for August not included as schools were closed for summer holidays

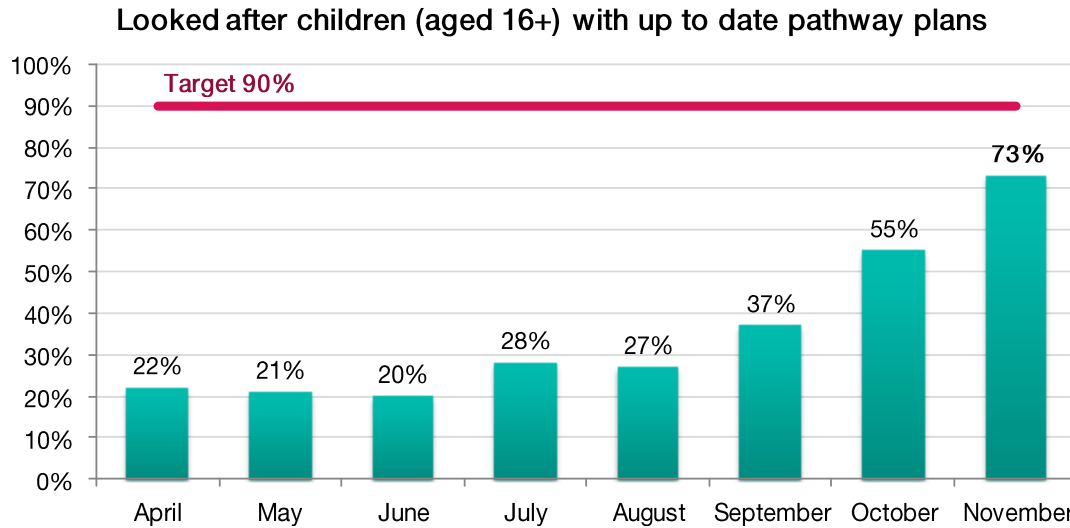
- 4.6. Since the end of September, completion of up to date PEPs has yielded improved results but still remains below target. At the end of November 62% of children had up to date PEPs; 12% were incomplete, 20% were older than six months (ie required updating) and 6% did not have a plan recorded.

### Breakdown of PEPs Performance (Nov 2015)



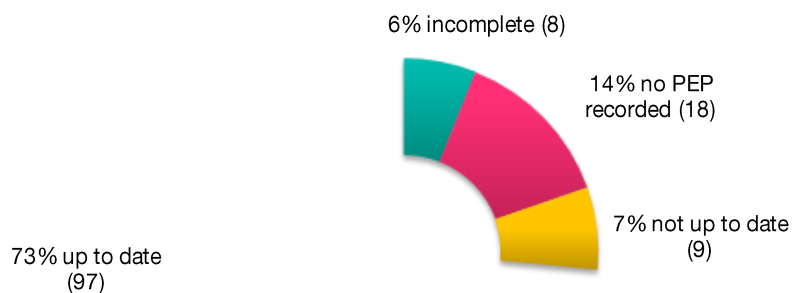
- 4.7. Approximately 29% of PEPs not up to date were just over six months old. In order to sustain the reduction of out of date PEPs, the performance team currently provides team managers weekly updates of plans expiring within two weeks. This enables workers to forward plan and ensure plans are updated where required.
- 4.8. Previous analysis showed Year 10 and Year 11 pupils had the largest proportion of out of date PEPs. At the end of November pupils in year 11 had the largest proportion of PEPs not up to date (21%). 51% of LAC pupils in Years 10 and 11 had up to date PEPs at the end of the period. Focused attention is required in this area to promote their education achievement and enhance continuity and self-esteem as they reach the end of their statutory school years.

## Pathway Plans



- 4.9. Performance on pathway plans recorded was poor in the first five months of the financial year. Since the end of August focused attention has gradually increased performance to 73% by the end of November and has continued to improve with 76% of pathway plans up to date as at mid-December.
- 4.10. The number of 16+ LAC with no pathway plan has reduced by 42% from the position as at June 2015. At the end of November, 12 of the 18 children with no pathway plan recorded had an up to date care plan form completed on the system. As care plans are not applicable to 16 and 17 year olds, this highlighted an issue whereby relevant pathway plan forms were not being completed in error. This is to be addressed with the service to yield further improvement.

### Breakdown of Pathway Plans Performance (Nov 2015)



## 5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

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