

Report for: Corporate Parenting Committee 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Item number:

Title: Haringey Virtual School Annual Report – Executive Summary



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

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

The report summarise the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children and Young People for 2014-15. It highlights the key achievements and areas for focus in 2016.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

The Cabinet Member welcomes this report and is pleased to note the continuing success of Haringey's looked after children in respect of educational performance.

3. Recommendations

N/A

4. Reasons for decision

N/A

5. Alternative options considered

N/A

6. Background information

- 6.1. Overall, the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children (LAC) is above that nationally and within the top quartile for London. The gap between pupils looked after by Haringey and their peers who are not looked after is closing and this is testament to the hard work of the young people, their carers, schools and social workers.

- 6.2 For the third year running, the educational performance of Haringey's Looked After Children at the end of Key Stage 4 is within the top 10% of the country [Source: the Department for Education Statistics for Looked After Children, March 2016]. In Haringey, 28% of the cohort who were eligible for GCSEs attained at least 5 A\*-Cs, including English and maths, and 50% of the group made the expected three levels progress in the core subjects. This compares with 55% of non-looked-after young people in Haringey. Half of the ten pupils who attained 5 A\*-Cs had been looked after for over five years, 30% had been looked after for between two and five years and 20% for less than two years.
- 6.3. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 50% of the group achieved both the 'Expected' and 'Good' level of development across the 17 measures. They are measured across 17 Early Learning Goals, and need to achieve 'Expected' in at least the first 12 areas to be considered to be making a 'good level of development', ie average progress. This compares with 65% of Haringey's non-looked children.
- 6.4 At Key Stage 1, where a quarter of the group had a statement of Special Educational Need, 55% reached at least level 2 in reading, writing and maths. This compares with 87% of non looked after children in Haringey, 20% of the whole group attained a level 3 in reading. .
- 6.5 At Key Stage 2, 65% of pupils attained level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths, with 26% attaining a level 5 in reading.
- 6.6. There are currently 286 school aged Children and Young People looked after by Haringey, 78 (27%) attend schools in Haringey and 208 (73%) attend schools out of the authority. In line with the Council's commitment to Corporate Priority One to ensure all Haringey's children have a good start in life, with access to high quality education, 90% of Looked After Children attend a school rated as good or outstanding an improvement of nine percentage points from 81% in 2014. This compares with 93% of Haringey's non-looked after pupils.
- 6.7. There are 56 looked after pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which is 19.5% of the total cohort. Most of this cohort – 44 (78%) children and young people are placed outside the authority, and whilst the majority of primary age pupils with SEN are placed in mainstream settings, more than half of the secondary age population attend specialist provision. Within the cohort of 12 young people in Haringey, the presenting need is split fairly evenly between Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) – 30%, Social, Emotional and Behavioural Disorders (SEBD) – 25%, Speech and Language Communication Disorders (SLCD) - 20% and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) – 20%. For pupils placed out of Borough the picture is less clear and there is work to be done to gather this detailed information.
- 6.8. The percentage of children attending school for over 95% of the time was 65%, the same as the previous year and increasing this figure will be an area of focus in 2015-16. The number with attendance of less than 85%, and classed as Persistent Absentees, fell from 17% in the previous year to 8.5% and measures to further reduce this percentage will continue. The number of pupils

who received a fixed term exclusion reduced by one from the previous year, to 32, however there was an increase in the number who had a fixed term exclusion from a school in Haringey and this will be an area of focus for 2015-16. There was one permanent exclusion during the year, from an Out of Borough school.

- 6.9. Increasing the completion rate of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) remains a key priority for social care and the Virtual School, and although there has been a steady increase in the figure from the start of the academic year from 51% to 70%, this is significantly below the target of 95%. Measures to address this have included a weekly multi-agency meeting chaired by the Head of Service for Children in Care with team managers, performance team and Virtual School; and monthly PEP audits co-ordinated by the Virtual School.
- 6.10. During the year, Haringey Virtual School has run an extensive programme of activities for children and young people looked after, together with partners including Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and Highgate Independent School. These have included a weekly study club, a cooking club, a football course, winter party, half term and school holiday activities; a week of events aimed at pupils in years 11 and 12 focusing on options for post 16, and featuring a financial workshop, careers fair and visit to the Bank of England, University Summer School and the Chrysalis Accelerator Programme, raising aspirations for Children in Care. The Virtual School has also held its Annual Educational Achievement Awards for secondary aged pupils, an educational activity day, and cinema and theatre trips.
- 6.11. The Virtual School continues to deliver its innovative central training programme to designated teachers (DTs), school governors, social workers, IROs, foster carers and newly-qualified teachers (NQTs). Three conferences were delivered this year including: Fostering Achievement Conference for Foster Carers, in partnership with The Fostering Network, on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2015, which attracted around sixty delegates and a multi-agency audience; DT for LAC Conference Part I on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, with Marie Delaney as the Key Speaker attracting well in excess of fifty delegates; Part II of the Conference took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> when Marie Delaney returned by popular demand, again attracting a multi-agency audience in excess of 50 delegates.
- 6.12 Key Priorities for development and focus in 2015-16 include:
- Circulating educational attainment data to social workers each term to strengthen the target-setting in the PEP meetings
  - Increasing the number of children with over 95% attendance
  - Reducing fixed term exclusions by at least 10% (three pupils)
  - Increasing the focus on raising attainment in Key Stage 4 –closer scrutiny of attainment and progress, and ensuring targets set are achievable and pupils are well supported to attain them
  - Build on foundations of year 11 week and increase number of participants
  - Reviewing the way Pupil Premium Plus is distributed and increase the scrutiny to ensure clear link between PEP targets, spend and impact
  - Reviewing and strengthening the PEP Quality Assurance procedures

- Providing updates to social workers regarding the National changes in assessment tools used by schools and working towards the development of one standardised tool for schools to convert their own data onto so that there is a consistent measure.

6.13. The attainment figures used in the report are for school aged children and young people looked after for one year continuously from 1.04.14-31.03.15. All other data relates to a 'snapshot' of children and young people looked after on 31.10.15

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The educational performance of looked after children links to Corporate Priority One.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement  
NA

Legal  
NA

Equality

Haringey Council has a duty to ensure that the children and young people in its care are successful in education and that they are supported to make progress and equipped with the life tools to make good choices to continue through education and into employment. This report updates Members on the work undertaken during the past year by the Virtual School

9. Use of Appendices  
N/A

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Department for Education Statistics for Looked After Children, March 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-as-at-31-march-2016>

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