

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 4 July 2016

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to May 2016



Report

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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 Authorities role as Corporate Parent.

2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. 431 **children were in care** on the last day of May 2016 or 73 per 10,000 population including 30 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a gradual increase in the level of children in care in comparison to the position at the end of March 2016 - 22 more children in care. However reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2015/16 places us within the inter-quartile range of our statistical neighbours (a rate of 69 per 10,000 population), although the current rate remains above the London (52) and national average (60) rates.
- 2.2. A performance review system put in place by the Children in Care Head of service in October 2015 has yielded some excellent performance improvements. Weekly meetings with team managers run by the Head of Service and facilitated by a representative from performance continue and are focusing on new improvement challenges.

- 2.3. At the end of May, 94% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**, a significant improvement from levels at the end of May 2015 (49%) and the highest recorded performance since August 2014 when we started actively tracking performance in this key area.
- 2.4. At the end of May, 79% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area has dipped slightly over the past 3 months but is still on an improving trend and the completion of pathway plans is much higher than that reported at the same period last year. There has been continuous focus to ensure completion of plans in a timely manner with compliance monitored through the weekly meetings. Although performance remains short of the 90% target, it is hoped that with further effort from the 16+ children in care team, the 90% target will be achieved. A fortnightly meeting with the young people in care team has been established to drive improvement in performance across all service areas.
- 2.5. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to May 2016, 8.8% of **children had three or more placement moves**, below the statistical neighbour average (10%). 77% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years had been in the same placement for at least 2 years, slightly above our statistical neighbour average (67%).
- 2.6. 94% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of May above the 90% target.
- 2.7. At the end of May, 96% (382 out of 402) of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, above target and continuing the positive trend. We are also now tracking 18 year olds leaving care that receive their health history and the position at the end of May was 78% for that indicator.
- 2.8. 17 (7%) of **looked after children (aged 10 and over) were convicted or subject to a final warning** during the year 2015/16, a reduction and improvement on our 2014/15 position of 8.4% and significant improvement on the 11% for 2013/14. This remains higher than the latest published England average rate of 5% but is in line with our statistical neighbour average of 6.9%.
- 2.9. Data for the period April 2015 to March 2016 reveals that the average duration of **care proceedings** for concluded cases was 34 weeks, the same duration as that recorded for 2014/15. 45% of cases were concluded in less than the 26 week statutory timescale, an improvement on the 34% achieved in 2014/15 with the shortest average case length of 29 weeks in quarter 4.
- 2.10. The outcomes in 54 % of care proceeding cases issued was for children to remain with or reunify with their parents compared to 37% of children in 2014/2015. In a further 21% of cases issued, children remained in their family of origin under SGOs and in 25% of cases children were placed on care orders compared to 42% of cases in 2014/2015.

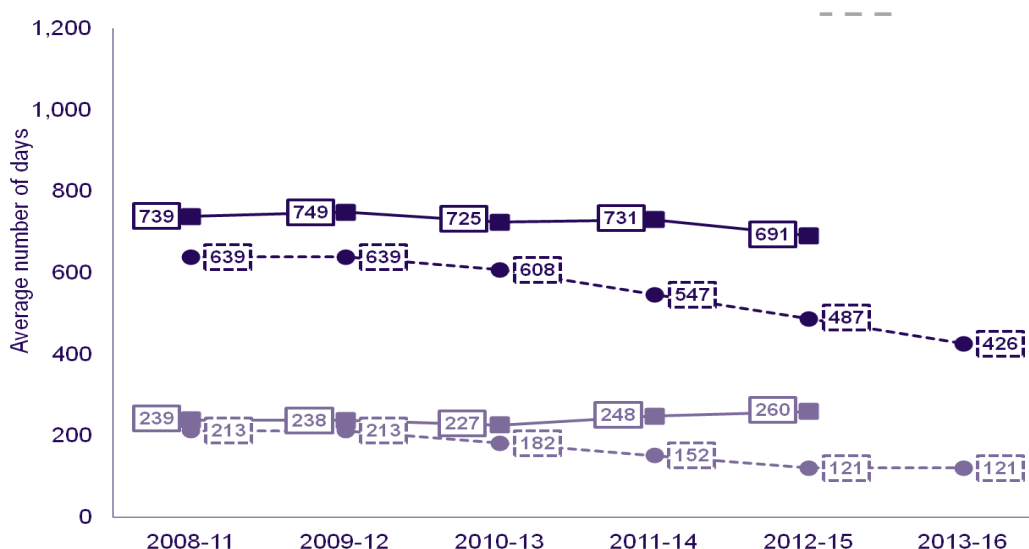
- 2.11. This reveals a significant shift towards children in respect of whom care proceedings are issued remaining with their family of origin and away from children being placed in alternative permanent options compared with 2014/2015.
- 2.12. The number of **current care proceedings** 28 cases (50 children) maintains the trend of a significant reduction in the number of proceedings initiated since a peak of 56 cases in October 2014.
- 2.13. Cafcass data shows that the number of **care proceedings application per 10,000 child population** in Haringey has decreased from 22.6 (in 2010/11) to 7.7 (in 2015/16) with a decrease in applications in each year.

3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. 78% of school aged children had completed and **up to date Personal Education Plans (PEP)** at the end of May 2016. This is a decline in performance from the end of April position which was just short of the target. The results from the weekly dashboard review on 22 June showed that the up to date PEPs position had improved slightly to 82%. Interrogation of the data reveals that there are a number of schools and colleges who are not co-operating and that this is impacting on the timely completion of PEPs. From September there will be a new requirement to monitor PEPs on a termly basis but this area has been a persistent challenge. Completion of PEPs will continue to be a priority and performance is being tracked through the weekly meetings.
- 3.2. 95 children or 24% were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** at the end of May 2016, an additional 19 children since the position at end of January 2016 although the number of looked after children has also increased over the same period. Performance is worse than the 16% target and provisional March 2016 end of year position (23%). Although higher than national levels this proportion is only slightly above the average for London and our Statistical Neighbours (18%).
- 3.3. Details of children placed 20 miles or more are provided to the service on a monthly basis for review. For those where we have recorded reasons, the majority are kinship placements, children with complex needs placed with specialist foster carers or long term settled placements.
- 3.4. 83% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in this period, May. Performance in this area has dipped slightly in May following improved performance in April (86%) although remains below the 90% target.
- 3.5. 80% of the current LAC cohort had an **up to date dental visit** as at May 2015. There were 73 children without a recorded up to date dental check, most of these (68%) relating to children aged 13+. 33 young people were aged 16 and 17 some of who refuse to attend regular dental check ups.

- 3.6. Provisional data for the end of year looked after children government return shows that 82% or 254 **children who were in care for over 12 months had their teeth checked by a dentist**. This is a decline on the reported level of 91.5% in 2014/15 but close to our statistical neighbour position of 85.4%. Focussed effort to ensure all children in care for over 12 months with an outstanding dental check is on-going to see if we can capture any additional children who have had their teeth checked maybe as part of their health assessment.
- 3.7. In April and May 2016 there has been 1 legal permanency order which was an **adoption**, 6 fewer compared to the same period last year. There has been a recent increase in referrals for special guardianship assessments although the volume at the end of the financial year was very low. 7 **special guardianship orders** (SGO) are in assessment involving a total of 10 children although it is likely that at least 4 of these assessments will not have a positive outcome. 4 adoption orders are expected in June/ July and a court date is awaited for a further 4.
- 3.8. In the year to May 2016, **children waited an average of 188 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This relates to just 1 adoption in that period and compares favourably with the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). The 2015/16 average position was 645 days but was skewed by 2 sibling children adopted in March placed for adoption two years after they became looked after. The higher number of days to place these children in March 2016 (1260 days) will feed into the Department for Education's Adoption scorecard published performance and will increase Haringey's 3 year rolling figure on the key timeliness indicator.
- 3.9. Haringey's latest 3 year rolling average position as published in our Adoption Scorecard in March 2016 was 691 days for the period 2012-15, higher than the national threshold and England position of 593 days but close to our statistical neighbour average of 696 days. Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data. The graph below shows Haringey's performance overtime on the 2 key indicators relating to timeliness of adoptions.
- 3.10. The solid lines show Haringey's performance overtime and the dotted lines are the national thresholds.

A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family
A2: Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family



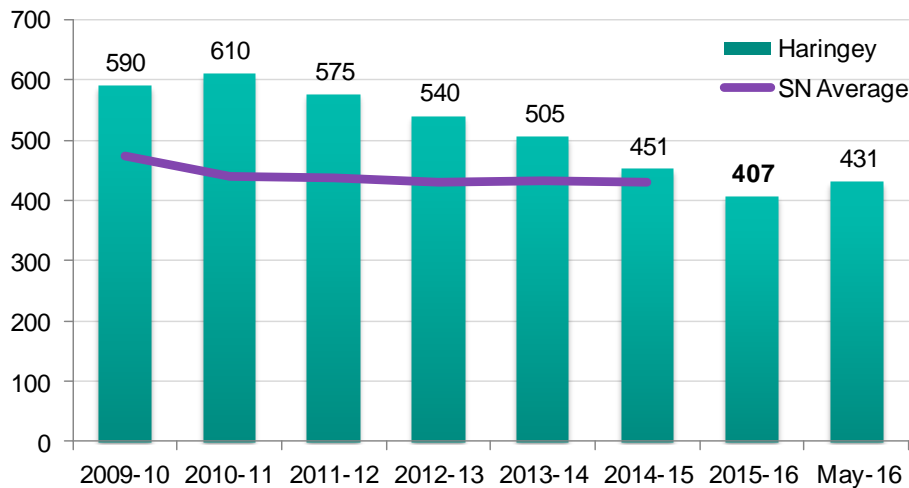
- 3.11. Haringey are part of a trial of the Coram permanence tracking tool that will further assist in reducing the number of days from LAC to being placed for Adoption. Haringey has taken the lead with First4Adoption in a recruitment of adopters for children with complex needs which will lead to a greater number of adopters for children who are more challenging to place and whose placements reflect the largest number of days.
- 3.12. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training** for 2015-16 is below levels achieved in 2014-15. However, like for like comparison cannot be made, as the SSSDA903 OC3 cohort previously included former relevant care leavers whose 19th, 20th or 21st birthday fell in the reporting year. Provisional data currently shows 39% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 were in EET (56% of those who were *in touch* with the local authority around their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday). 60% of all care leavers were in suitable accommodation or 87% of those who were *in touch*.
- 3.13. Children missing numbers have been relatively stable in 2015/16 but more recently the children missing from care numbers have been showing an increasing trend. In May, 22 children were recorded as **missing from care at any point during the month**. 20 children were away from placement without authorisation.
- 3.14. The SSSDA903 data for 2015-16 also shows an increase of children missing from care (72 children in comparison to 45 in 2014-15). There were 237 missing/away from placement episodes compared to 90 in 2014/15. This figure is closer to our 2014-15 statistical neighbour average of 252 missing/away episodes. Some of this increase may be attributable to improved systems for recording data on missing children and real time tracking of children who go missing using a register. Recent work to develop a matrix for vulnerable children continues and regular reporting to the LSCB and Lead Member is in place to safeguard children as well as correlation of different datasets to track children missing from home and education.

Overall Assessment of Performance

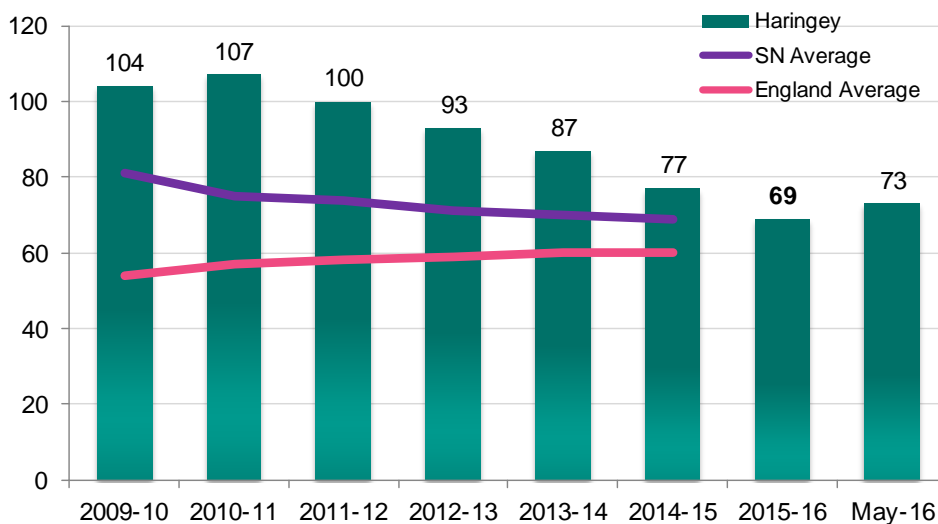
Looked After Children

4.1. There has been a 30% reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children since 2011 compared with a 10% reduction in London and a 3% increase nationally. The graphs below shows the 7 year trend to March 2016 in comparison with the number and rate of our statistical neighbours. Since the end of March there has been a net increase of 16 children coming into care (6%) but Haringey's rate of looked after children is not dissimilar to that of our statistical neighbours.

Number of Looked After Children

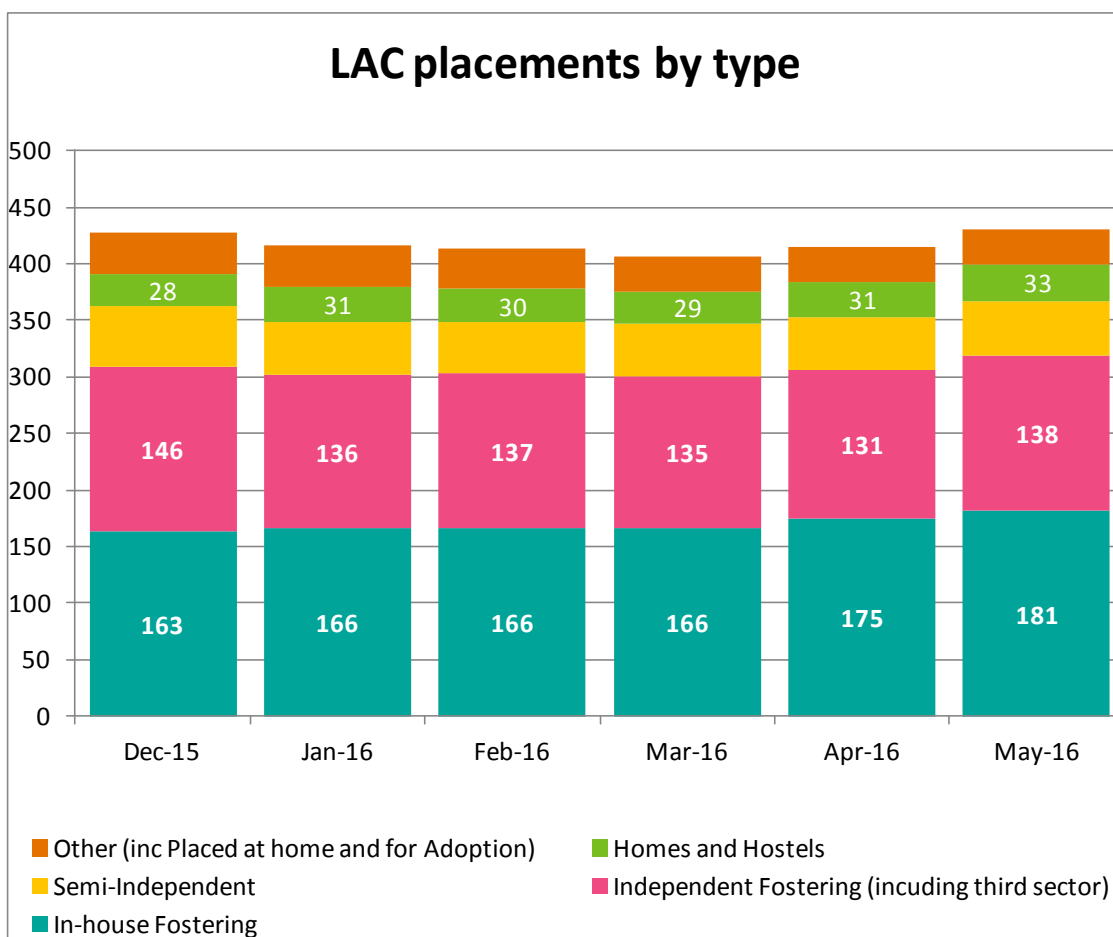


Children Looked After rate per 10,000



4.2. A new Sufficiency Development scorecard has been implemented to measure outcomes for looked after children in conjunction with agreed workstreams and objectives. This will include tracking foster placements by type, permanency, recruitment of carers, reviews, stability, placement unit costs and care leaver outcomes.

- 4.3. The graph below shows the breakdown of placements over the last 6 months. The majority of children in care are in foster placements. The proportion of children in 'in house' foster placements has increased to 42% and there has been a small reduction in children placed with independent fostering agencies from 34% to 32% over the last six months.
- 4.4. The number of children placed in residential settings has increased from 28 in December 2015 to 33 in May which accounts for 7.5% of placements but there has been a small reduction in young people placed in semi independent settings.



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.