

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 3 October 2016

Item number: 7

Title: Performance for the year to August 2016

Report

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non key

1. Introduction

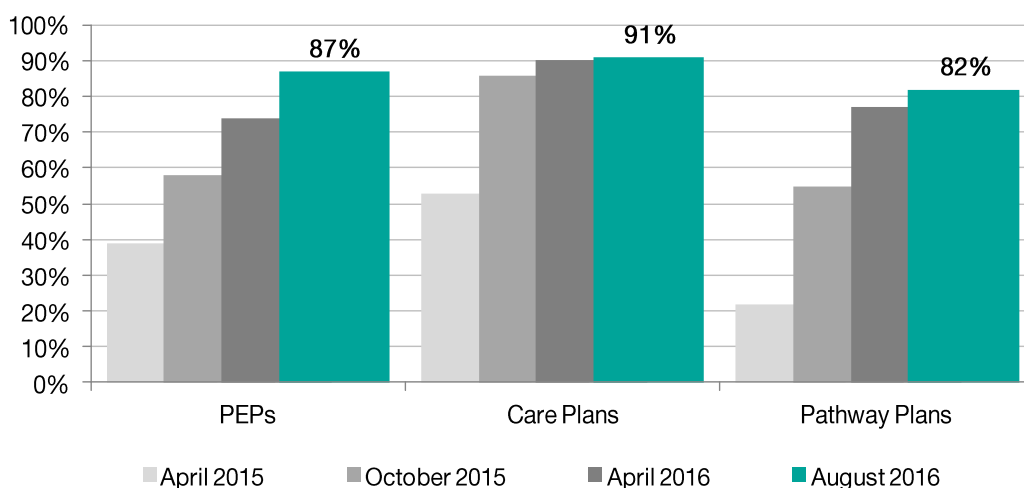
- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 and 3 contain performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and 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. 430 children were in care on the last day of August 2016 or 72 per 10,000 population including 32 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 - 23 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. At the end of August, 91% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**. Performance in this area has consistently remained above target since February 2016 as a result of activity tracking in weekly meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care.

- 2.3. At the end of August, 82% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area dipped slightly since June 2016 where 96% of pathway plans were up to date however completion of pathway plans is much higher than that reported at the same period last year. 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.
- 2.4. Performance of PEPs was slightly short of the target (87% up to date at the end of August). This area continues to be a priority of performance tracking.

**Performance of PEPs, Care Plans and Pathway Plans
(April 2015 to August 2016)**



- 2.5. At the end of March 2016, there were 35 pupils in Year 11 who were looked after continuously for 12 months or more. Of these, 13 (37%) attained 5 GCSEs A*-C incl. English & Maths – a significant increase compared to 28% in 2015.
- 2.6. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to August 2016, 9% of **children had three or more placement moves**, below the statistical neighbour average (10%). 76% 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%).
- 2.7. 91% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of August, above the 90% target.
- 2.8. At the end of August, 94% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, above target and continuing the positive trend.
- 2.9. Timeliness of children placed for adoption continues to be positive. In the year to August 2016, **children waited an average of 298 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This compares favourably with the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16).

- 2.10. 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. Current data for Haringey shows we are averaging well below the threshold so far for 2016-17 albeit that this only relates to a relatively small number of adoptions (5).

3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. The 2015/16 trend towards the reduction in the number of **care proceeding applications** has shifted towards an increasing trend in Q1 2016/17. It is unclear what has led to this increase, however it reflects the national trend. There has also been a significant increase in applications regarding children under 1, from 35% in 2015/16 to 44% in Q1 2016/17.
- 3.2. Data for the period April to June 2016 confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 37 weeks, slightly higher than that recorded for 2015/16 (34 weeks). Q1 data for 2016-17 shows 10% were concluded under the 26 week statutory timescale.
- 3.3. The outcomes for 40% of care proceeding cases issued between April and June 2016 was for children to remain with or reunify with their parents compared to 54% of children in 2015/16. In a further 13% of cases issued, children remained in their family of origin under SGOs and in 43% of cases children were placed on care orders.
- 3.4. The data shows a decrease in the number of children who remained with their parents and in the number of children who remained in their family of origin under SGO; and an increase in the number of children made subject to care orders compared to 2015/2016.
- 3.5. 84% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in August. Performance in this area has remained below target since October 2014 mainly due to recording issues. This is now being tracked at performance meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care.
- 3.6. 20% of Looked After Children at 31st August were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey**. Performance is worse than the 16% target however slightly improved since 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%).
- 3.7. 83% of the current LAC cohort had an **up to date dental visit** as at August 2016. There were 78 children without a recorded up to date dental check. Of these, 56% were aged between 15 and 17 years old many of whom refuse dental checks.

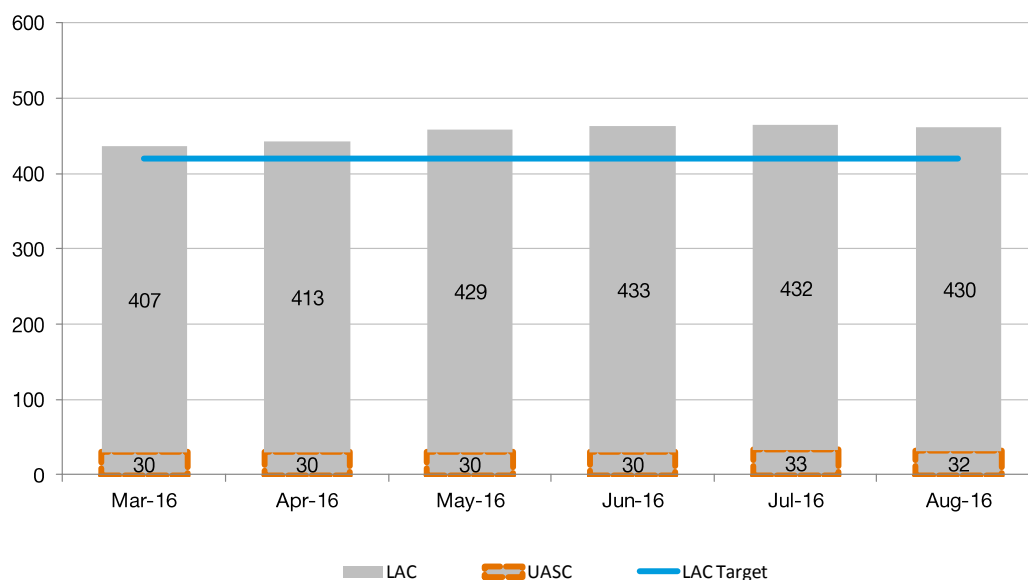
- 3.8. End of year data for the looked after children government return showed that 81% or 246 children who were in care for over 12 months had their teeth checked by a dentist. This is a decline on the reported level of 91.5% in 2014/15 but close to our statistical neighbour position of 85.4%.
- 3.9. In the year to August 2016, only 7 permanency orders have been achieved (5 adoptions and 2 special guardianship orders (SGOs) – 10 fewer than the same period last year and the lowest recorded for many years. There are a further 10 adoption orders in the pipeline, bar unforeseen circumstances. 5 babies are to be placed for adoption in the next 2 months and it is expected that the adoptions will proceed relatively smoothly. Special guardianship referrals continue to be low and it is likely that no more than 15 will be achieved by the end of the financial year.
- 3.10. Performance on care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training for 2015-16 data shows 45% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 were in EET (57% of those who were *in touch* with the local authority around their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday). 69% of *all* care leavers were in suitable accommodation or 87% of those who were *in touch*.
- 3.11. Fortnightly meetings are currently held between the performance team and Young Adult Service to address the low position of care leavers in EET and suitable accommodation in the year to date 2016-17.

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. Over the last 6 months, the number of Looked After Children has increased slightly however continues to remain in line with Haringey's target.

Looked After Children and UASC, last 6 months



- 4.2. A new Sufficiency Development scorecard has been implemented to measure outcomes for looked after children in conjunction with agreed objectives. The scorecard includes the tracking of reducing LAC admissions/increasing the number returning home or leaving care, reducing costs per LAC placement and increasing the number/speed of LAC achieving permanency.
- 4.3. The majority (72%) of children in care are in foster placements – 42% were placed with in house carers whilst 30% were placed with independent fostering agencies. Overall, the number of in-house placements is on an upward trend whilst the number of IFA placements is gradually reducing.

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.