

**Report for:** Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 18 April 2017

Item number: 7

**Title:** Performance for the year to February 2017

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 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. 437 children were in care on the last day of February 2016 or 72 per 10,000 population including 36 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 - 30 more children in care. Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2015/16 keeps us within the inter-quartile range and close to the rate of our statistical neighbours (69 per 10,000 population), although the current rate remains above the London (51) and national average (60) rates.
- 2.2. At the end of February, 95% 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 February, 84% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans**. Performance in this area is fairly consistent with a slight improvement since the reported position in December 2016 (82%) and is closing the gap with the 90% target. The longer term trend is a positive one and we have seen a step change in performance. This can be illustrated by a comparison of pathway plans as at April 2015 when only 22% of plans were up to date, this increased to 58% by October 2015 and by April 2016 we had achieved 77%. The improvement trend has continued this year.
- 2.4. A similar improvement trend on **Personal Education Plans** can be observed and current performance is at an all time high this year and just 1% short of the target. 89% of school age looked after children have an up to date PEP as at the end of February. There is a current requirement to ensure PEPs are reviewed and updated termly as opposed to every six months. This area continues to be a priority for performance tracking.
- 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. Data on the 5 GCSE measure is no longer published.
- 2.6. Latest published data shows Haringey's position as second in the country for achievement in both **Maths and English A\*-C at GCSE (45.2%)** and top in **Attainment 8**. On the **Progress 8** measure Haringey ranks 6<sup>th</sup> nationally but it should be noted that we had more Children Looked After pupils (25) than any of the the top 5 Local authorities. The table below shows the Attainment 8 scores and the national ranking of the top 5 Local authorities. Hounslow and Haringey are the local authorities that are ranked in top 5 for both Attainment 8 and Progress 8.

Local authority	Number of CLA pupils	Average Att8 score	National rank
Newcastle upon Tyne	45	30.9	5
Camden	15	32.3	4
Haringey	30	34.2	1
Hounslow	30	32.4	3
Slough	10	30.9	5
Bath and North East Somerset	15	32.9	2

- 2.7. 90% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of February, achieving the 90% target. Of the 69 children receiving reviews in February, 7 were late.
- 2.8. Indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remain in line with statistical neighbours and targets. In the year to February 2017, 9% of **children had three or more placement moves**, just above the statistical neighbour average (7%) but slightly below the latest national position (10%). 74% 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 the national average (68%).

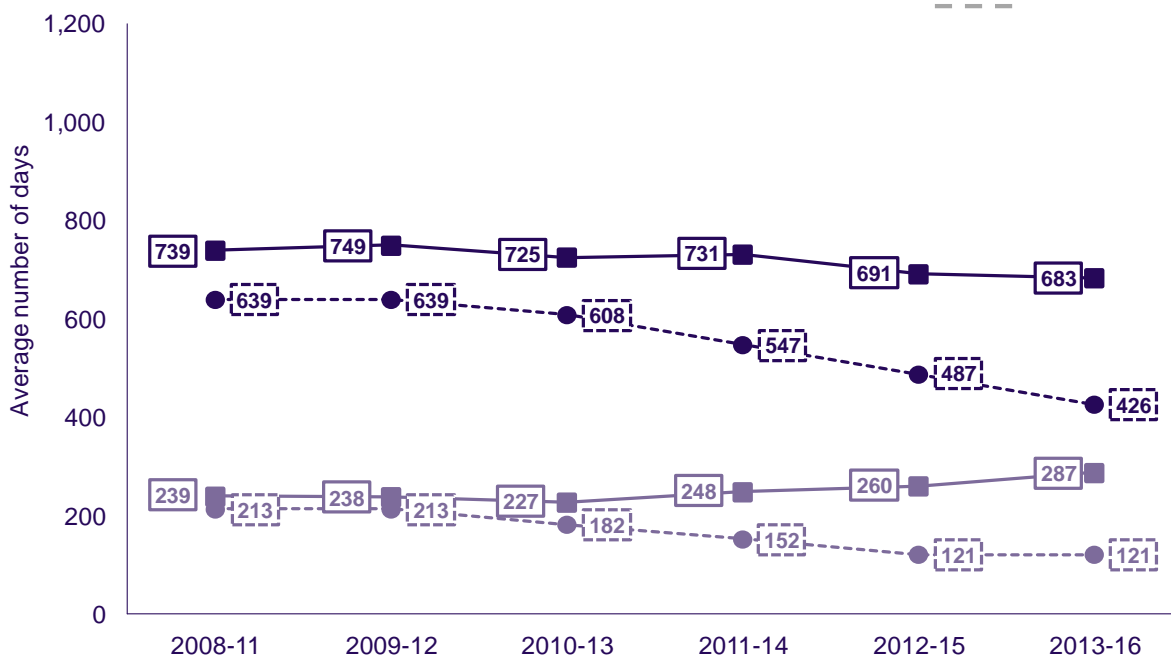
- 2.9. At the end of February, 95% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, above target and continuing the positive trend.
- 2.10. Data for the period September to December 2016 confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 26 weeks, a further improvement from the 32.5 weeks in Q2, 37 weeks in Q1 and the first time we have achieved a 26 week average case duration. Q3 data for 2016-17 shows 53% (10 cases) were concluded under the 26 week statutory timescale.
- 2.11. The outcomes for 49% of **care proceeding cases** issued between September and December 2016 was for children to remain with or reunify with their parents compared to 54% of children in 2015/16. In a further 3% of cases issued, children remained in their family of origin under SGOs and in 48.5% of cases children were placed on care/placement orders, an increasing trend compared to 2015/16.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. In the year to February 2017, only 11 **adoptions**, none in the last 2 months and 10 **special guardianship orders (SGOs)** have been achieved compared with 35 permanency orders in the same period last year (19 adoptions & 16 SGOs), the lowest recorded for many years. A trend towards placement with families-kinship or connected persons as opposed to adoption or SGOs is evident. National quarterly data suggest that this is a trend being observed elsewhere with reduction noted in new decisions, placement orders, adoptions and adoptor registrations.
- 3.2. **Of the children that have ceased to be looked after** this year 8.2% have **been adopted** which compares with 15% nationally and 8% in London but this is lower than the 11% achieved in 2015/16. Special guardianship referrals continue to be low and it is likely that no more than 12 will be achieved by the end of the financial year. If SGOs are included, almost 16% of those who ceased to be looked after achieved legal permanency this year.
- 3.3. Timeliness of children placed for adoption this year is higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). In the year to February 2017, **children waited an average of 513 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This relates to adoptions only and relatively small numbers each year where adoptions after a long period in care even for just 1 or 2 young people can skew the average on this key indicator of timeliness.
- 3.4. Haringey's latest **3 year rolling average position** as will be published in our Adoption Scorecard in April 2017 was 683 days for the period **2013-16**, higher than the national threshold (distance of 257 days) and improving England position of 558 days (593 days for 2012-2015). We do not yet have access to the latest data for our statistical neighbours but for 2012-2015 Haringey's performance was similar to that of our neighbours average of 696 days.

Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data.

**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**



3.5. The solid lines show Haringey’s performance overtime and the dotted lines are the national thresholds.

3.6. **Adoption timeliness** is on an improving trajectory against a backdrop of a national fall in the numbers of adoptions (12% fewer between 2014/15 & 2015/16). This is as a result of a fall in the number of adoption placement orders being made. The trend is widely attributed to a reticence, amongst some social workers to progress adoptions following a 2013 ruling by Sir James Munby in the case Re B-S. The ruling stated that local authorities must provide evidence that all alternatives to adoption had been considered before bringing a case to court.

3.7. The 2015/16 trend towards the reduction in the number of **care proceeding applications** continues to show an increasing trend overtime. This trend has continued in 2016/17 but nationally February 2017 CAF/CASS care applications received represent an 8% decrease compared with those received in February 2016. Haringey’s data in respect of care applications and the number of subjects on care applications is also showing an increasing trend with demand in the first 3 quarters of 2016/17 already exceeding levels for the whole of 2015/16.

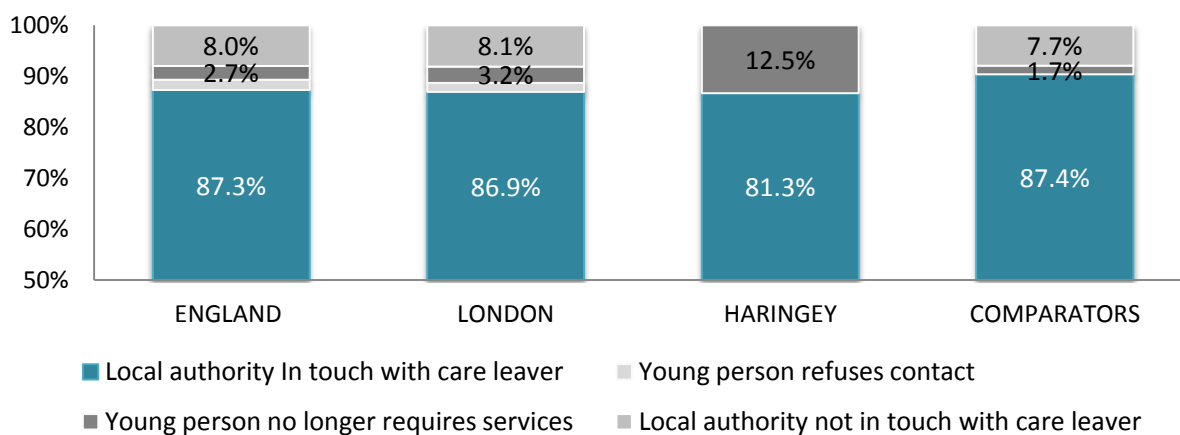
3.8. 82% of **Children in Care visits** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in February. 76 children were recorded as having an overdue visit at the 28<sup>th</sup> February, most of these within the young people in care team. Performance in this area has remained below target since October 2014.

Performance on visits continues to be tracked at performance meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care and along with supervision meetings are been actively adressed.

- 3.9. 83 or 22% of Looked After Children at the end of February were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** compared to a 16% target and 19% at the end of March 2016. However fewer children are being placed 20 miles+ and there are good reasons for these placements outside the borough many linked to complex care requirements or long term foster care arrangements. Although higher than national levels this proportion remains just slightly above the average for London.
- 3.10. Although in line with levels achieved by our statistical neighbours, Haringey's performance on **dental visits** has been declining overtime. Of the current LAC cohort who should have a dental check 84% were up to date as at February 2017, meaning there were 61 children without an up to date dental check. The service has been provided with details of these children so we can target those with outstanding visits, also the service is liaising with the designated nurse to continue to ensure timely notification of all children who become looked after.
- 3.11. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training (EET)** for 2016-17 remains comparatively low and below average levels reported for England and London. Approximately 44% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 19-21 are recorded as in EET down from 47% of 19-21 year olds and 57% of 17-18 year olds in 2015/16. This is lower than the *national* and *London* average comparator data (49% & 54% for 19-21 yr olds and 61% and 62% for 17-18 year olds). Haringey also reported a higher proportion where **the local authority did not have information about the care leavers activity** (19% compared to 12% average for London and 11% nationally) in 2015/16.
- 3.12. In 2016/17 around 66% of **care leavers are in suitable accommodation** down from 74% (for 19-21 year olds) and 71% (of 17-18 year olds) last year. Again this performance is comparatively low as nationally 83% of care leavers aged 19-21 are in suitable accommodation and 88% of 17-18 year olds.
- 3.13. The 2015/16 published data shows Haringey has a lower proportion of **care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 who were *in touch* with the Local Authority** at 81% compared with 87% nationally and in London. The data also reveals that we have a higher proportion (13%) where the young person no longer requires services compared to 3% nationally and in London. It is a similar picture for the 17 & 18 year olds although this data is experimental. The bar chart below illustrates Haringey's position in relation to others with regard to being in touch

with care leavers.

## IN TOUCH 2015/16

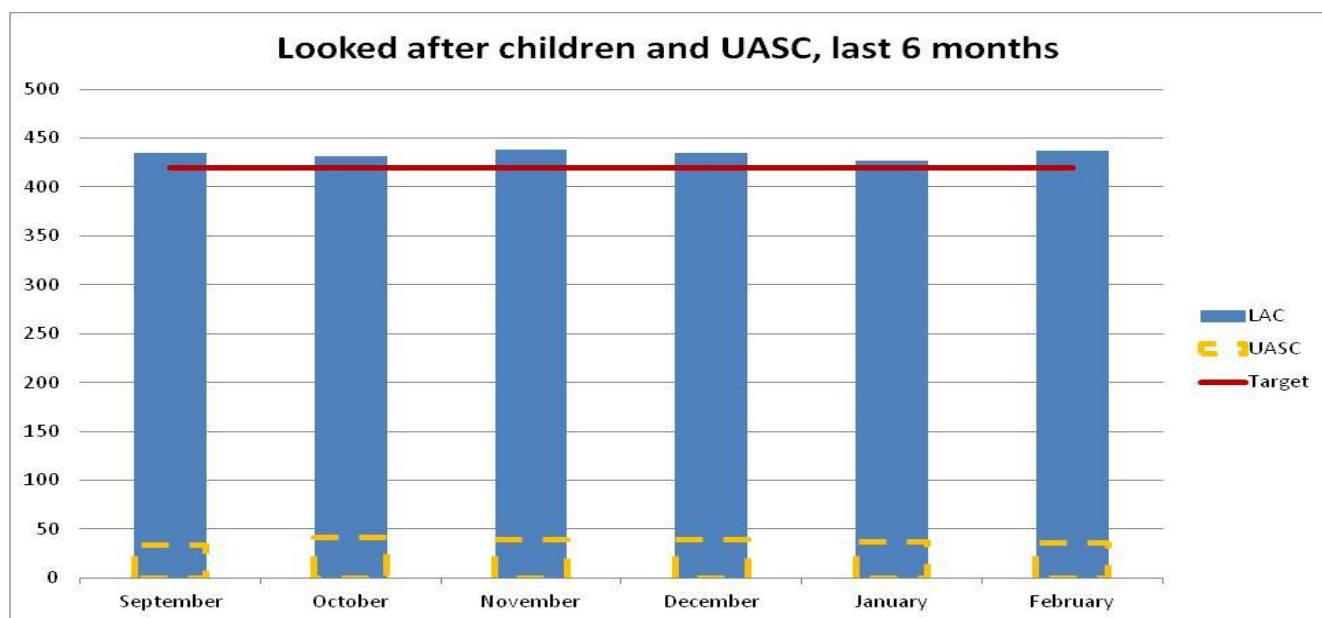


- 3.14. The service offer for care leavers is being reviewed and a dashboard being developed to track performance on a number of key measures for these vulnerable young people.

## Overall Assessment of Children in Care

### Looked After Children

3.15. There has been a 30% reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children since 2012 compared with a 3.9% reduction in London and a 5% increase nationally. Over the last 6 months, the number of Looked After Children has increased slightly however our current rate of 72 per 10,000 population although higher than the national (60) and London average rate (51) is in line with the average rate for our statistical neighbours and relative to deprivation.



4.1. In the year to February 191 children have become looked after and 134 have ceased to be looked after, a net change of 57 children or 7% increase. Abuse and neglect remains the biggest category of need for children starting to be looked after, in 2015/16 this accounted for 51% of children coming into care in Haringey although the proportion has come down to just over 40% when looking at children coming into care in the last 6 months. We are seeing more children coming into care recently as a result of parents illness or disability, family in acute stress and absent parenting- these are the primary needs recorded against children becoming looked after in the last 6 months.

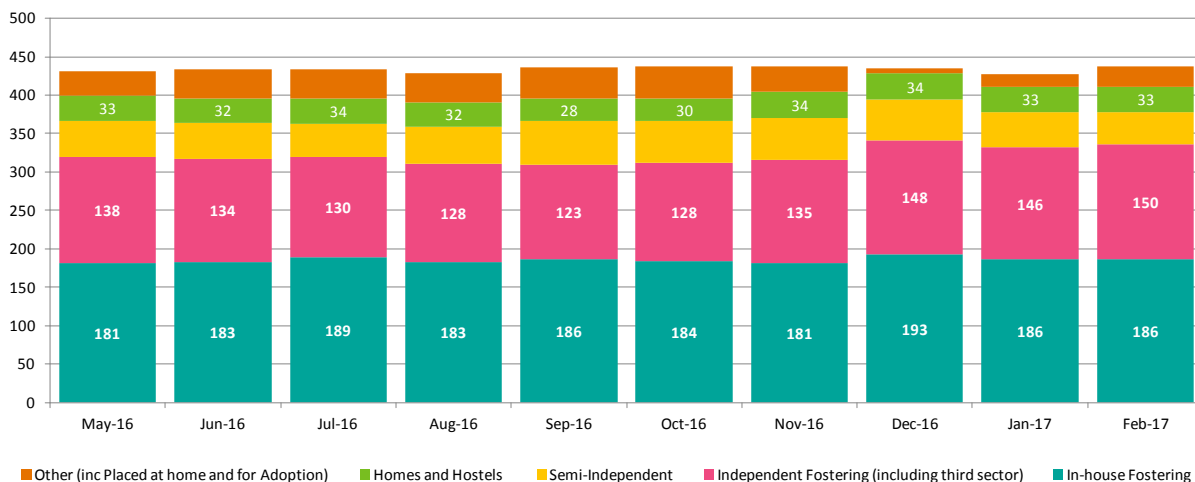
4.2. The legal status of children coming into care is tracked. We are seeing increasing proportions coming into care and accommodated as unaccompanied asylum seeking children and under section 20 but the majority of our placements are on the basis of a full care or interim care order. The graph below shows the looked after children placements by type. The majority of children in care are in foster placements – 42.5% were placed with in house carers whilst 34% were placed with independent fostering agencies (IFA), a slightly increasing proportion in recent months.

4.3. Progress on Sufficiency and recruitment for in house foster carers has been slow and the recent mock inspection found too many looked after children were placed out of borough impacting on timely write up of social work visits.



Haringey recognises, however, that there is a huge challenge to recruit to foster parents, with multiple issues such as economic downturn, competition from other LA's and the IFA market, aswell as a reduced Local Government grant settlement.

**LAC placements by type**



## 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.