

## Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

### Work Plan 2017-18

**1. Scrutiny review projects;** These will be dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings that will be arranged as and when required and other activities, such as visits. It is very unlikely that there will be enough time to undertake more than two of these so a decision will need to be made on which of these to prioritise. Those areas not prioritised could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel if need be. These issues will be subject to further development and scoping.

Project	Comments	Priority
<p><b>Refugee children</b></p>	<p>As part of the work planning process for 2016/17, it was proposed that the Panel undertake a short review on Haringey’s response to the new role of local authorities in supporting refugee and asylum seeker children and, in particular, the new regionalised structure for this. This refers to the setting up of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), which was launched on 1 July 2016. This is a new voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities for the care of unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) who arrive in the UK. The aim of the scheme is to encourage all local authorities to volunteer to support UASC in order to ensure that there is a more equitable distribution of them across the UK. In particular, London boroughs had previously been making a very large contribution to looking after UASC, looking after 45% on 31 March 2015. Each region is now expected to take 0.07% of its general child population.</p> <p>Haringey is part of the London region. If a child presents in a Council area with low numbers of UASC within it (i.e. beneath 0.07% of its general child population), the expectation is that they will stay within that area. If the area already has high numbers, then the child is transferred within the region unless the region already has high numbers, when the expectation is that he/she will be transferred to a region with lower numbers. Haringey was already part of a well-established rota to manage the</p>	

	<p>support and resettlement of UASC with the Association of London Directors and the London Asylum Seekers Consortium. The majority of London boroughs are part of this coordinated approach to supporting UASC as they arrive in the UK.</p> <p>Haringey has committed to meet the 0.07% threshold that has been set by the NTS. The figure is monitored closely with regular updates given to the Council’s Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. Figures for the end of May showed that there were 38 UASC, which equates to 0.06% in terms of the quota. 0.07% and the maximum under the quota system would equate to 42 UASC.</p>	
<p><b>Care Leavers</b></p>	<p>Local authorities have a duty to ensure that the children and young people in their care are successful in education and equipped with the necessary tools to make good choices regarding their future aspirations. There is also a duty to ensure care leavers settle into suitable and sustainable accommodation and have the life skills that are necessary to manage independence.</p> <p>Support is provided for young people to remain in education and college courses. Each young person in care has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that accompanies them through care. There is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of children in care and leaving care, which is combined with highlighting career and training opportunities. There are close working partnerships with schools, colleges, and post 16 providers. Regular reviews are undertaken by Personal Advisers and Social Workers of young people who may be at risk of becoming a “NEET” (not in education, employment or training) and a range of support can be offered. Regular employability sessions are provided as part of plans to prepare care leavers for independent living. A comparatively high percentage of Haringey care leavers go onto university and specific guidance and information is also provided for them on accessing the workplace, career options and career planning.</p> <p>Care leavers can have many challenges including accessing housing, finances, family contact, education and the prospect of living independently. Support advice and encouragement are provided by social workers and personal advisors. Specific assistance is provided on housing and accommodation. For those under the age of 18, the most likely type of accommodation they will be placed in will be with a</p>	

	<p>foster carer and as part of their family. At 16, care leavers may also be living in semi-independent provision and will be developing their life skills so that they can move onto living independently from 21. From 18, care leavers have a range of housing options they can consider as part of their independent living. They can;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain with their foster carers under staying put arrangements;</li> <li>• Move to semi-independent provision; or</li> <li>• Move to their permanent accommodation.</li> </ul> <p>Tenancy and practical workshops are provided for care leavers who are entering permanent accommodation to prepare them for this. In addition, there are also two transitional houses.</p> <p>The new Children and Social Work Act of 2017, which became law in April, has introduced two new duties for local authorities in respect of care leavers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every Local Authority is required to publish their local offer for care leavers and ensure that this provision is regularly reviewed in consultation with them;</li> <li>• Personal advisers now need to be provided for all care leavers up to the age of 25. The current requirement is up to the age of 21, except for those young people who are still being assisted by the local authority in training or university education, where the age limit is 25.</li> </ul> <p>A Haringey pledge for children and young people in care is in the process of being finalised. This is an agreement by the Council, as corporate parent, to provide a range of support to promote the health, well-being and aspirations of children and young people in care. It is being drawn up in consultation with Aspire, the borough's children in care Council and will complement the London wide pledge. A number of the provisions within the pledge will be particularly relevant to care leavers, such as those in respect of education, training and effective preparation for independent living.</p>	
<p><b>Restorative Justice</b></p>	<p>Restorative justice brings together those harmed by a crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm, enabling all of those affected to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a way forward. This can either be done directly, through face-to-face meetings, or indirectly by messages or letters being passed between the victim and offender via a facilitator. It requires the active consent and</p>	

	<p>engagement of both the offender and the victim. Restorative justice can be used to divert children before they enter the youth justice system and can also be used as part of a formal youth justice disposal.</p> <p>It is part of the wider field of restorative practice, which can be used anywhere to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling people to communicate effectively and positively. Restorative practice is increasingly being used in schools and children’s services and can involve both a proactive approach to preventing harm and conflict and activities that repair harm where conflicts have already arisen. Family therapy and family group conferences are examples of the use of restorative practice in children’s social care.</p> <p>There are a number of areas which have been suggested as areas that could be covered by a review on this issue including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current use of restorative justice and how it could be extended;</li> <li>• Best practice examples elsewhere; and</li> <li>• Increasing take up and exposure amongst black and minority ethnic communities and especially young black men.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals are currently in the process of being developed by both the Youth Justice Board and the Early Help Partnership to extend the use of restorative justice and these are likely to be ready for discussion in December/January. It is therefore suggested that, if prioritised, work on this issue be scheduled for later in the year.</p>	
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<p>2. <b>“One-off” Items; These</b> will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.</p>	

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Potential Items</b>
<b>29 June 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions; Cllr Weston (Children and Families) and Cllr Ayisi (Communities)</li> <li>• Work Planning. To agree the work plan for the Panel for this year.</li> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• CAMHS provision for BAME young people and, in particular, those who come into contact with the youth justice system</li> </ul>
<b>5 October 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Monitoring; To receive an update on the financial performance relating to Corporate Plan Priority 1.</li> <li>• Budget savings - Progress in delivering the savings and their impact upon service delivery.</li> <li>• Update on implementation of the recommendations of the Panel's review on Disproportionality within the Youth Justice System</li> </ul>
<b>6 November 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions</li> <li>• Chair of LSCB &amp; Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b>18 December 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget scrutiny</li> </ul>
<b>8 March 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Attainment Performance; To report on educational attainment and performance for different groups,</li> </ul>

	<p>including children with SENDs. Data on performance broken down into different groups, including children with SENDs, as well as ethnicity, age, household income etc. To include reference to any under achieving groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethnic minority education attainment</li></ul>
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TBA:

- Private fostering;
- Adoption and Special Guardianship Payments - Impact of the implementation of the refreshment of the payment policy;
- New Models of Care - Progress with the development of new models;
- Schools and Learning - Progress with the implementation of the budget proposals;
- Action to address the recent increase in emotional and behavioural issues reported amongst children in primary schools, as referred to in the Panel's review on disproportionality within the youth justice system.