

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 4 July 2017

Item number:

Title: Performance for the year to May 2017



Report

Authorised by: Jon Abbey, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Margaret Gallagher, Corporate Performance Manager
margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

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

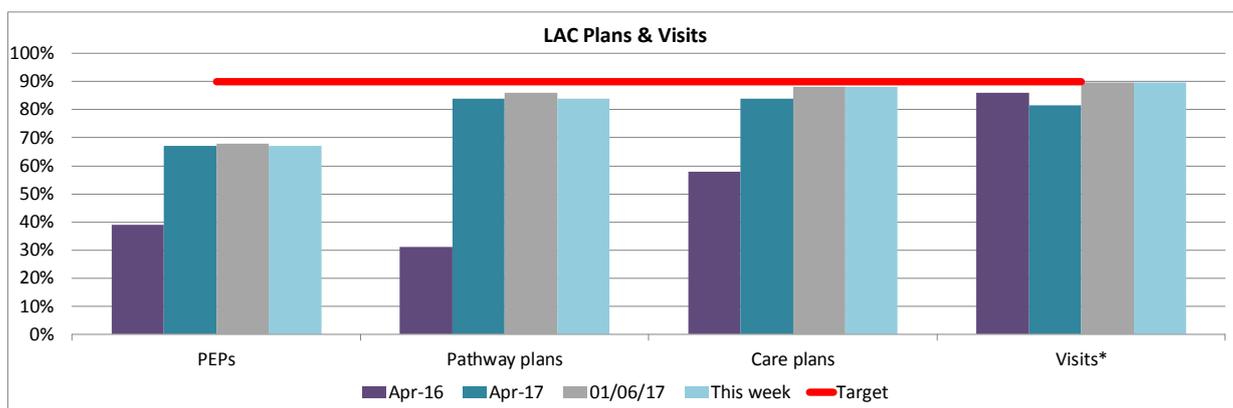
1. Introduction

- 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. Sections 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 Authorities' role as Corporate Parent.

2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. 434 **children were in care** at the end of the second week in June 2017 or 71 per 10,000 population including 38 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 but our rate has been fairly steady at around 70 in the last few months.
- 2.2. Haringey's rate of looked after children in 2016/17 has been returned in the CLA903 submission and after data cleansing it shows that at 31 March 2017 there were 440 children in Haringey's care. The summary data confirms our rate of children in care as 72 per 10,000 population and keeps us within the inter-quartile range and close to the last published rate of our statistical neighbours (69 per 10,000 population), although remaining higher than the 2015/16 London (51) and national average (60) rates.

- 2.3. At the end of May/first week of June, 88% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan**. Performance in this area has consistently remained above target since February 2016 but has fallen recently in some teams. Whilst most teams have close to 90% and many achieving 100%, the overall rate is being impacted by case loads in some areas namely court team 1. Regular meetings to track activity continue to be held with the Head of Service for Children in Care.
- 2.4. At the end of May/ first week of June, 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. There were only 6 pathway plans not up to date at the end of May and a further 8 with no plan recorded. Performance remains positive and is being maintained with a continuing improvement trend.
- 2.5. The graphs below show the improvement over time in performance across all these areas.



- 2.6. 92% of Children in Care had an **up to date review** at the end of May, exceeding the 90% target. Of the 140 children receiving reviews in the year to May, 11 were late but all have since been completed.
- 2.7. Provisional data for indicators around **stability of placements** for looked after children remains broadly in line with statistical neighbours and targets albeit showing a slightly increasing proportion with 3 or more placement moves. In the year to March 2017, 10% of **children had three or more placement moves**, just above the statistical neighbour average (7%) but in line with the latest published national position (10%). 77.5% 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, higher than the national average (68%) and indicating positive placement stability overall for Haringey's children in care.
- 2.8. At the end of May, data shows 94% of children in care for over a month had an **up to date health assessment**, close to the target and continuing the positive trend.
- 2.9. 90% of **visits to Children in Care** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in May, an improving position and more in line with expected

standards. Performance on visits to looked after children continues to be tracked at performance meetings held by the Head of Service for Children in Care and along with supervision meetings continue to be actively addressed .

- 2.10. Data for the 2016/17 financial year confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 32 weeks, an improvement on the 2015/16 average case duration of 34 weeks, maintaining the downward trend since the Family Justice Review in 2013.
- 2.11. The number of **care applications** increased by 20% in 2016/17 which reverses the downward trend maintained since 2010/2011. The rate of care proceedings per 10,000 children increased to 13.6 in 2016/17 from 7.7 in 2015/16. The expected impact of the improvements in the use of the PLO process and introduction of the Signs of Safety model ¹of social worker practice in January 2016 to maintain the decrease has not occurred. 36% of cases relating to 83 children were concluded under the 26 week statutory timescale.
- 2.12. The outcomes for 49% of **care proceeding cases** concluded in 2016/17 were care or placement orders. The data reveals a significant shift (97%) away from the 2015/16 outcomes where the majority of children who were the subject of proceedings returned to their parents or family of origin towards children being made subject to care and placement orders. The majority of care and placement orders were made in respect of parents with drug or alcohol problems.

3. Areas for Focus

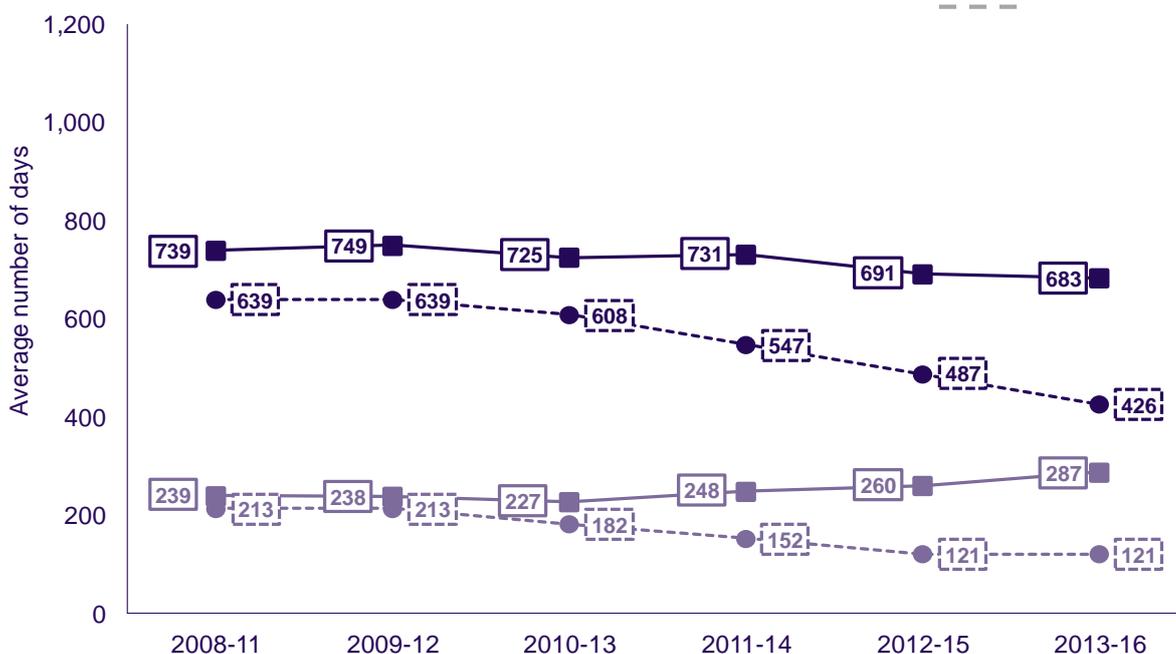
- 3.1. In the year to March 2017, only 11 **adoptions**, none since December in the 2016/17 financial year and 10 **special guardianship orders** (SGOs) have been achieved compared with 35 permanency orders in the same period last year (19 adoptions & 16 SGOs), the lowest recorded for many years.
- 3.2. In the **2017/18 financial year**, we have had 7 adoptions and 4 special guardianship orders. This is a big improvement compared with the same period in 2016 when there were just 4 adoptions and zero SGOs. A trend towards placement with families- kinship or connected persons as opposed to adoption or SGOs is evident.
- 3.3. **Of the children that ceased to be looked after in 2016/17** just 6% were **adopted** which compares with 2015/16 published data of 15% nationally and 8% in London. That being said national quarterly data suggest that this is a trend being observed elsewhere with reduction noted in new decisions, placement orders, adoptions and adopter registrations throughout 2016/17. Special guardianship referrals continue to be low. If SGOs are included, 12% of those who ceased to be looked after achieved legal permanency in 2017/18 year.
- 3.4. Timeliness of children placed for adoption in 2016/17 at an average 560 days remains higher than the national threshold (426 day average for 2013-16). In the financial year to June 2017, **children waited an average of 402 days from**

¹Turnell, A and Edwards,S. (1999) Signs of Safety: A Solution Oriented Approach to Child Protection Casework

becoming looked after to being placed for adoption. This relates to the 7 adoptions this year so caution must be exercised when averaging on relatively small numbers. Adoptions after a long period in care even in complex cases for just 1 or 2 young people can skew the average on this national indicator of timeliness.

- 3.5. Haringey's latest **3 year rolling average position** as will be published imminently in the national government Adoption Scorecards 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



- 3.6. The solid lines show Haringey's performance overtime, the **dotted lines are the national thresholds**. Adoption scorecards are published with over one year lag and show figures over a three year rolling period. If we were to calculate our three year rolling average to include 2016/17 data, Haringey's performance would reduce to 603 days for the period 2014-2017 albeit still above the Government's national threshold.

- 3.7. **Adoption timeliness** is on an improving trajectory against a backdrop of a national fall in the numbers of adoptions (12% fewer between 2014/15 and 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.

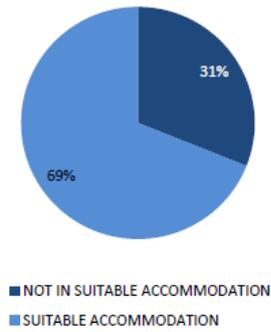
- 3.8. 86 or 22.5% of Looked After Children at the end of March 2017 were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** compared to a 16% target and 19% at the end of March 2016. However fewer children are being placed 20 miles+ and there are good reasons for these placements outside the borough many linked 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.
- 3.9. 72% of the current LAC cohort (age 2 and over and in care for over one month) had an **up to date dental visit** as at May 2017. There were 118 children without a recorded up to date dental check, 70% of those with outstanding visits are between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. Detail of the children without a dental check and due a medical visit have been provided to target those with outstanding visits.
- 3.10. The service and performance team liaise with the designated nurse to ensure timely notification of all children who become looked after. Performance on the dental indicator fluctuates throughout the year and we know that social workers do not always record the date of the dental visit in the system which means our reports will not pick up all those with up to date dental checks. When case notes are interrogated and those without a date entered on the system are added in, performance increases to around 80% but this is reliant on the issue being highlighted and requires a purge on the data accuracy.
- 3.11. We, along with others, make a government return on these children and the proportion with an up to date dental check as at the end of March from which comparator data is derived.
- 3.12. Provisional data for the government return tracks all **children in care for over 12 months who have a dental check recorded** and is showing 85% of children in care at the end of March 2017 with a check. This is below levels achieved in 2014 /15 where we achieved 91.5% but in line with performance of our statistical neighbours.
- 3.13. Performance on **Personal Education Plans (PEPs)** has declined in recent months with current data showing that 72% of PEPs for statutory school age children have an up to date PEP within the last term. Previously data was reported on a six monthly basis so ensuring PEPs are reviewed on a termly basis has brought the performance levels down and we still have some way to reach the 90% target.
- 3.14. 241 out of the 359 (67%) of **PEPs were up to date within 6 months** at the end of May. This area continues to be a priority for performance tracking.
- 3.15. Performance on **care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education, employment and training (EET)** for 2016-17 has improved following some intensive work with the service to update the system and get accurate details recorded for our cohort of care leavers. The position at 31 March 2016 is

reported in the government 903 data return, comparator data will be made available later in the year. Approximately 56% of *all* former relevant care leavers aged 17-21 are recorded as in EET up from 47% of 19-21 year olds and 57% of 17-18 year olds in 2015/16. This compares favourably with the published comparator data for 2015/16 both *nationally* and compared against *London* (49% and 54% respectively).

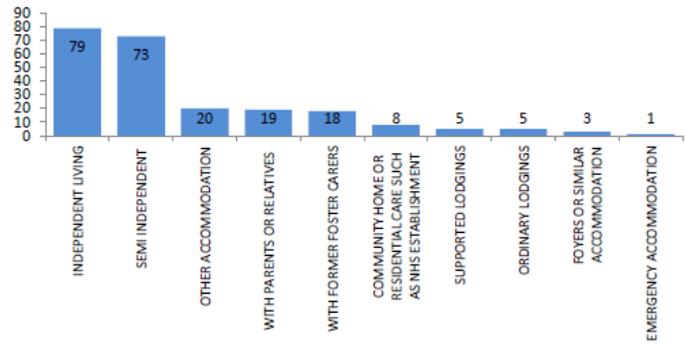
- 3.16. Haringey continues to perform better than England on the percentage of **former relevant young people who were in higher education**. Haringey's three year figure was 13% compared with 7% nationally and we rank 7th best in the country on this measure.
- 3.17. In 2015/16 Haringey also reported 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. In preparation for this years return and as part of improvement work to evidence outcomes for our care leavers we have gone through the cases line by line and recorded the known activity or situation for each of the young people concerned. The latest analysis shows that we only had 31 care leavers with whom we were not in touch throughout the year, 27 care leavers refused contact and support and 16 returned home for a period more than 6 months.
- 3.18. There was also a question about the data in regard to why so many did not require services in 2015/16. Investigation shows that this was a data quality issue whereby the system had not been set up to capture care leavers who had returned home and as this was not an option, they were reported as not requiring services last year. This has now been rectified and we have clear categories by which we can report on the cohort and their status on a regular basis. There were 15 care leavers in 2016/17 where services were not required perhaps because they may have left the country. Details of the 15 have been provided to the service who can advise on the specific reasons for them not requiring services as at 31 March 2016.
- 3.19. In 2016/17, provisional data as at 31 March shows that 69% of **care leavers were in suitable accommodation** down from 74% (for 19-21 year olds) and 71% (of 17-18 year olds) in 2015/16. This performance is comparatively low as nationally 83% of care leavers aged 19-21 were in suitable accommodation and 88% of 17-18 year olds (2015/16).
- 3.20. The charts below show the suitable accommodation types and the numbers who were not regarded as in suitable accommodation. Note that 13 care leavers were in custody and this is not regarded as suitable accommodation.

SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION

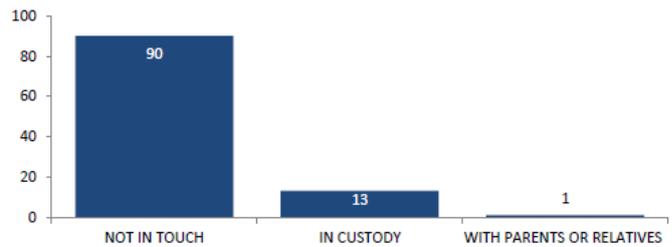
ACCOMMODATION SUITABILITY



SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION - ACCOMMODATION TYPE

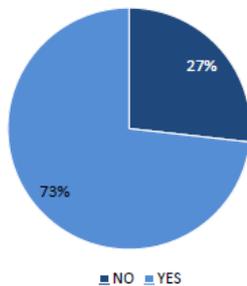


NOT IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION - ACCOMMODATION TYPE

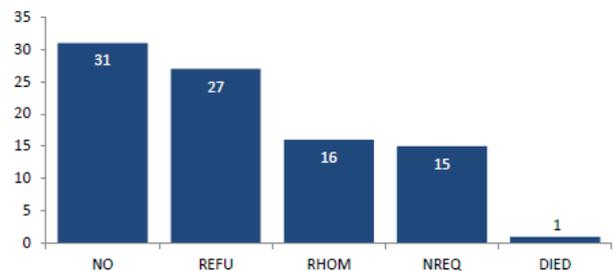


3.21. The 2015/16 published data shows Haringey has a lower proportion of **care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21** who were **in touch with the Local Authority** at 81% compared with 87% nationally and in London. The bar chart below illustrates Haringey's position for 2016/17 and for which comparator data will be available later in the year. On the face of it the proportion with whom we are in touch with seems to have declined to 73% but we believe this is due to a fuller and more representative cohort submitted in this year's return. The cohort of care leavers that we reported on this year was 336 and in 2015/16 it was 278.

IN TOUCH



NOT IN TOUCH - REASONS

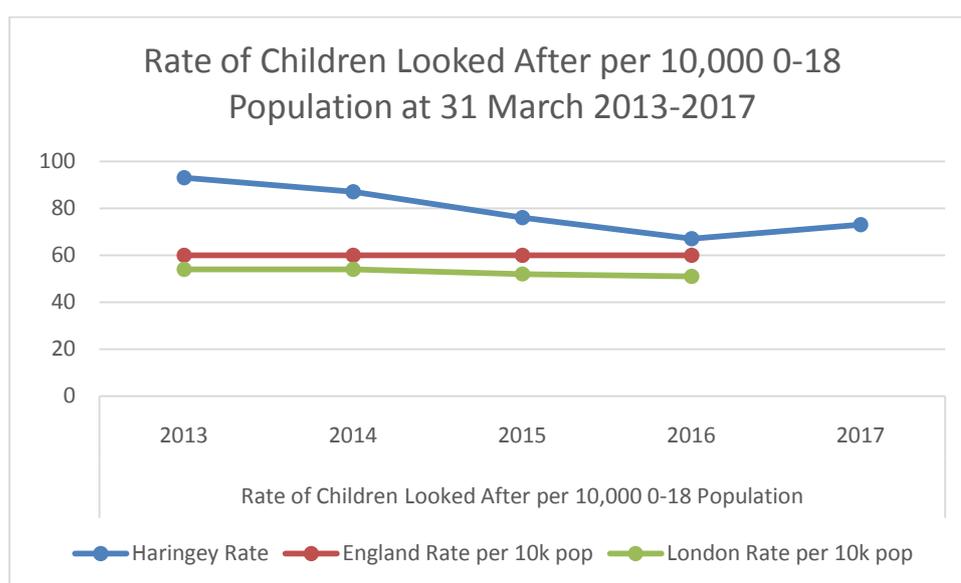


3.22. The service offer for care leavers has been reviewed and a dashboard is being developed to track performance on a number of key measures for these vulnerable young people.

Overall Assessment of Children in Care

Looked After Children

- 4.1. There has been a 27% reduction in Haringey's rate of looked after children since 2012 when the rate of children in care was 100 per 10,000 children under 18 population. This compares with a 3.9% reduction in London and a 5% increase nationally over the same period. Over the last 6 months, the number of Looked After Children has remained fairly steady at around the rate of 72 per 10,000 population. Whilst this is slightly higher than the position at the end of March 2016 our current rate (mid June 2017) of 71 remains slightly above our statistical neighbour average rate of 67 and relative to deprivation levels. Haringey's rate at the 31 March 2017 remains significantly higher than the last published London rate (51) and national rate of 60 as at March 2016.



- 4.2. In April and May 2017, 37 children have become looked after and 36 have ceased to be looked after, a net change of just one child.
- 4.3. The 903 return shows 443 children looked after at the end of March 2017; 268 (61%) of whom were boys and 172 (39%) girls. The largest proportion (42%) were aged between 10 and 15 years old, mostly boys. 29% were aged between 16 and 17 and c15% were between under 1 year and 4 years old.
- 4.4. Abuse and neglect remains the biggest category of need for children looked after, in 2016/17 this accounted for 56% of children in care as at the 31st March. The next highest categories are absent parenting, family dysfunction and family in acute stress, closely followed by parental illness or disability with these 4 categories accounting for 35% of need for our looked after children.
- 4.5. The legal status of children coming into care is tracked and we report on this in the 903 return. 56% of children in care at 31st March 2017 were on full care orders with an additional 10% on interim care orders. We continue to see increasing proportions coming into care on voluntary agreements under section

20. One in four (24%) of children accommodated are under section 20 legal status.

- 4.6. The table below sets out the numbers of children placed in each accommodation type at 31st March 2017.

Placement	No. at 31/3/2017	% of total at 31/3/2017
Foster placement with relative or friend (inside Local authority)	15	3.4%
Foster placement with relative or friend (outside Local authority)	23	5.2%
Placement with other foster carer (inside Local authority)	48	11%
Placement with other foster carer (outside Local authority)	227	51.5%
Secure Unit	4	<1%
Homes and hostels	33	7.5%
Hostels and supportive residential placements	46	10.5%
Other residential settings	9	2%
Placed for adoption (incl. placed with former foster carer)	11	2.5%
Placed with own parents	24	5.5%

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.