


**Report for:** Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 25 January 2018

**Item number:**

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

**Report**

**Authorised by:**   
Interim Director, Children's Services Margaret Dennison

**Lead Officer:** Margaret Gallagher, Corporate Performance Manager  
[margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.gallagher@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** Non key

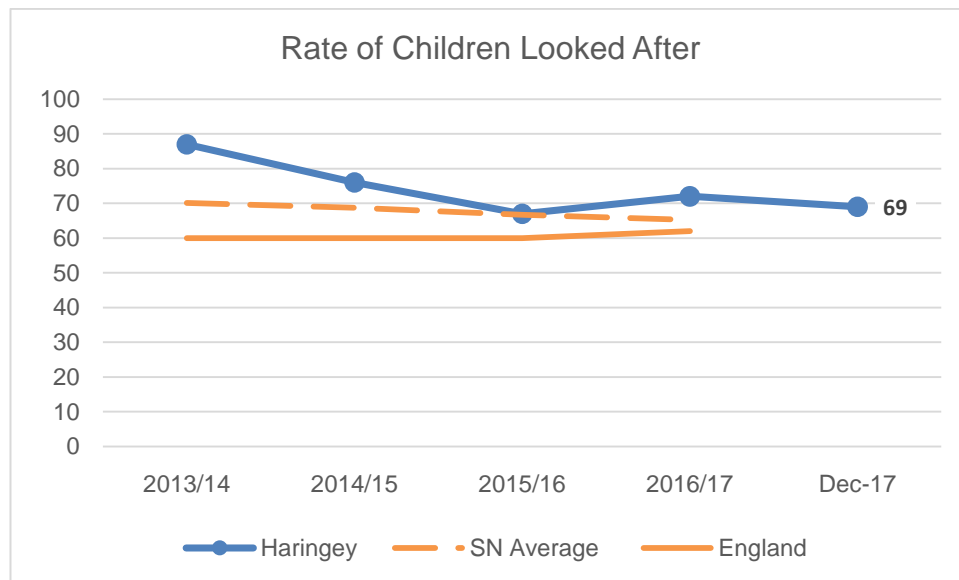
## 1. Introduction

- 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. 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 Authorities' role as Corporate Parent.
- 1.4. Section 5 provides an update on the latest published Adoption Scorecard and Haringey's performance against key indicators and Government thresholds, as requested by the Committee.

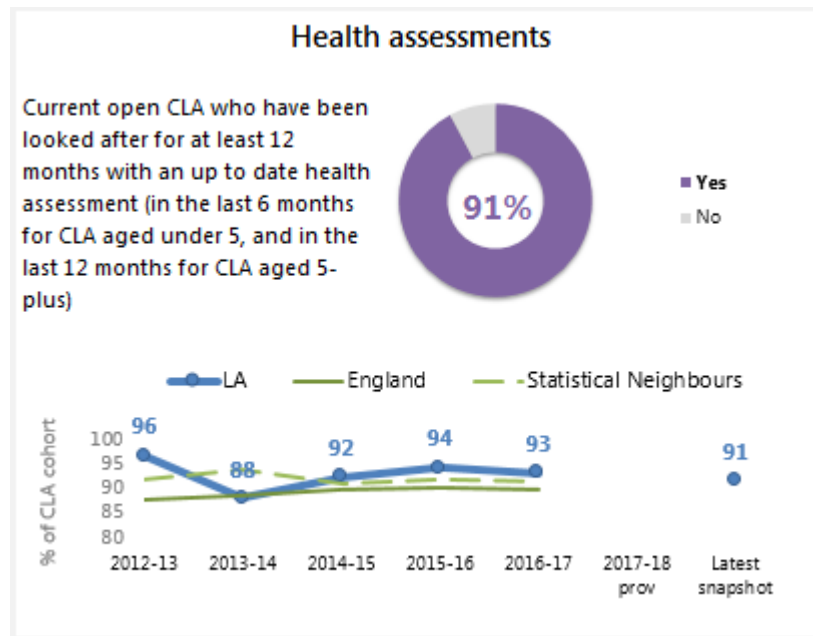
## 2. Positive or Improving Performance

- 2.1. 427 **children were in care** at the end of December 2017 or 69 per 10,000 population including 53 unaccompanied asylum seeker children. There has been a decrease in the number of children in care compared to the position at the end of March 2017.
- 2.2. At 31 March 2017 there were 440 children in Haringey's care, 72 per 10,000 population. Published 2016/17 CLA903 summary data confirms whilst there was an increase in our LAC rate there had been a decrease in that of our statistical neighbours (65 per 10,000 population), forming a gap in the rate

which was in line in 2015/16. Our 2016/17 position remained higher than the London (50) and national average (62) rates.



- 2.3. At the end of December 2017, 86% of looked after children had an **up to date Care Plan** and this increased to 90% for the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018 achieving the target. Good performance has been maintained in this area having improved from 84% as at April 2017. Regular weekly meetings to track activity and performance continue to be held with the Head of Service for Children in Care and team managers.
- 2.4. At the end of December 2017, 10% of **children had three or more placement moves**, just above the statistical neighbour average (7%) but in line with the last published national position (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, higher than the national average (68%) and indicating positive placement stability overall for Haringey's children in care.
- 2.5. At the end of December, 296 children were looked after for at least 12 months of which 91% had an **up to date health assessment**, close to the target and continuing on a positive trend. This is a slight dip on November's performance of 94% but remains in line with statistical neighbour performance.

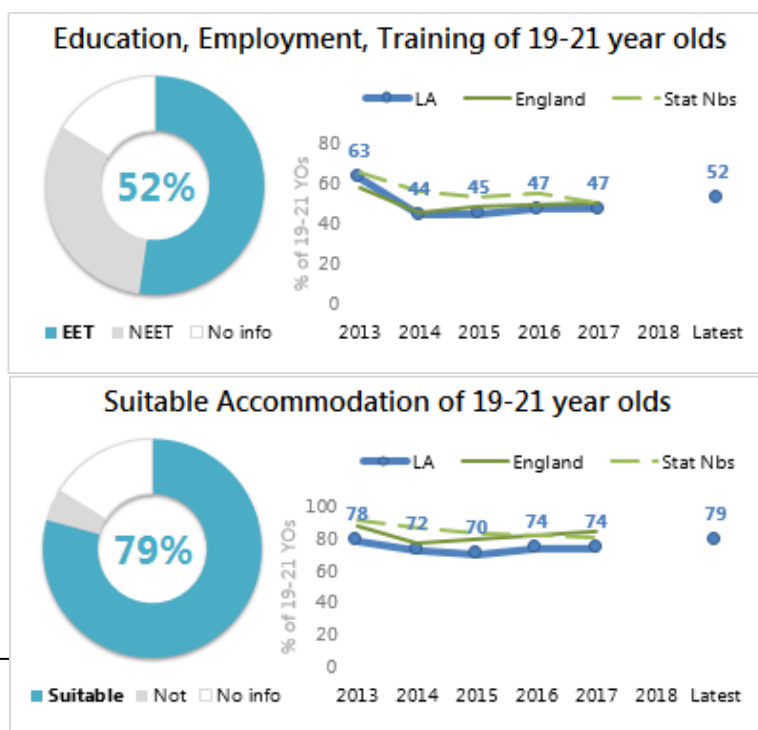


- 2.6. 64 or 17% of Looked After Children at the end of December 2017 were **placed 20 miles or more from Haringey** compared to a 16% target and 19% amongst our statistical neighbours. Fewer children are being placed 20 miles+ and there are good reasons for these placements outside the borough; many linked to complex care requirements or long term foster care arrangements. Although higher than national levels this proportion remains just slightly above the London average.
- 2.7. Data for the first 2 quarters of 2017/18 financial year confirms that the **average duration of care proceedings for concluded cases** was 28 weeks, an improvement on the 2016/17 average case duration of 32 weeks, maintaining the downward trend since the Family Justice Review in 2013. 53% of the 31 cases were concluded in less than the statutory 26 week timescale, again an improvement on the 2016/17 position of 36%. There were just 3 concluded cases of long running duration (over 40 weeks) in the first half of 2017/18.
- 2.8. It is also worthy of note that the number of **care applications** increased by 77% since 2015/16 in Haringey 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. This means that Haringey courts are processing higher than average volumes of care proceedings compared to the national position of 12.5 per 100,000 population. The expected impact of the improvements in the use of the PLO process and introduction of the Signs of Safety model <sup>1</sup> of social worker practice in January 2016 to maintain the decrease has not occurred.
- 2.9. The outcomes for 42% (25 children) of **care proceeding cases** concluded in the first half of 2017/18 were care or placement orders meaning that the children become looked after. This is slightly down on the proportion in 2016/17 (49%) which resulted in the children becoming looked after. 9 children or 15% resulted in the children being placed with family on a special guardianship order

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

and the remaining 25 children (42%) were reunified with their parents, a similar proportion to that in 2016/17.

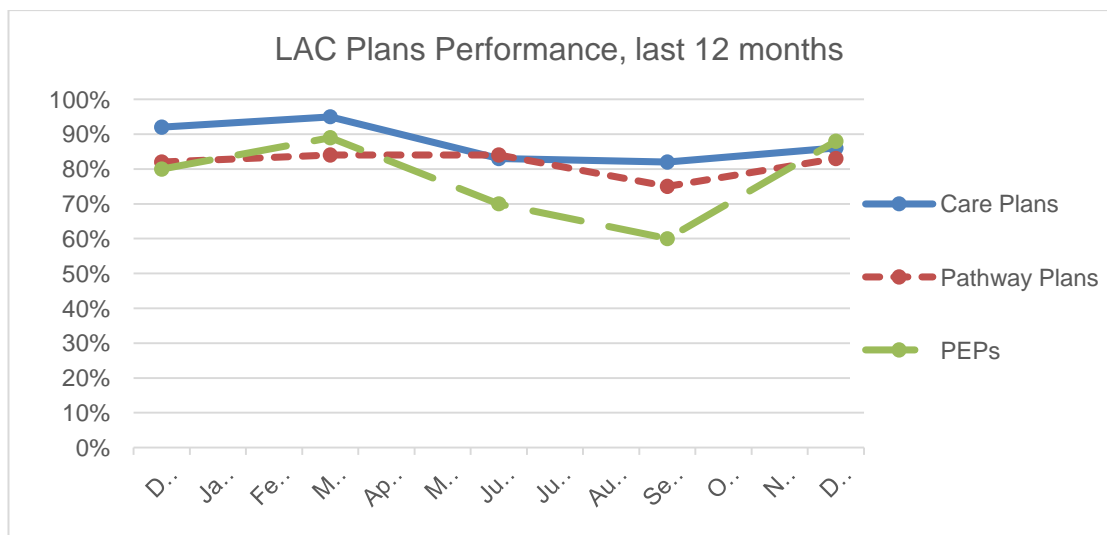
- 2.10. In 2016/17 we saw the lowest percentage of permanency being achieved for looked after children, 6% of children who ceased to be looked after compared to 14% nationally but just below our statistical neighbour position of 7%. Although the number of adoptions and SGOs granted in the year to date remains low, performance at the end of December was higher than the same period last year.
- 2.11. To date, 15 **special guardianship orders** (SGOs) have been achieved and 11 **adoptions** secured. There are an additional 5 children who have been placed for adoption so it is likely that court proceedings permitting, we will achieve at least 15 adoptions in 2017/18 compared to just 11 in 2016/17. With SGOs included, this equates to 26 permanency orders achieved – 6 more compared to December 2016. We have around 33 children waiting to be adopted and a number of SGOs in the pipeline so there is potential to convert some of these into agreed permanency orders before the financial year end.
- 2.12. In the financial year to December 2017, **children waited an average of 417 days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption**. This relates to the 11 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. See separate update in section 5 on the Haringey's published Adoption Scorecard and comparator data. The scorecard covers a rolling 3 year period up to and including 2016/17 but progress in 2017/18 is not factored into the published scorecard results.
- 2.13. Of the 216 **care leavers** aged 19-21 in receipt of leaving care services, 84% were in touch with the local authority at the end of December 2017. Of these, 52% were in **Education Employment or Training** (EET) and 79% were in **suitable accommodation**.



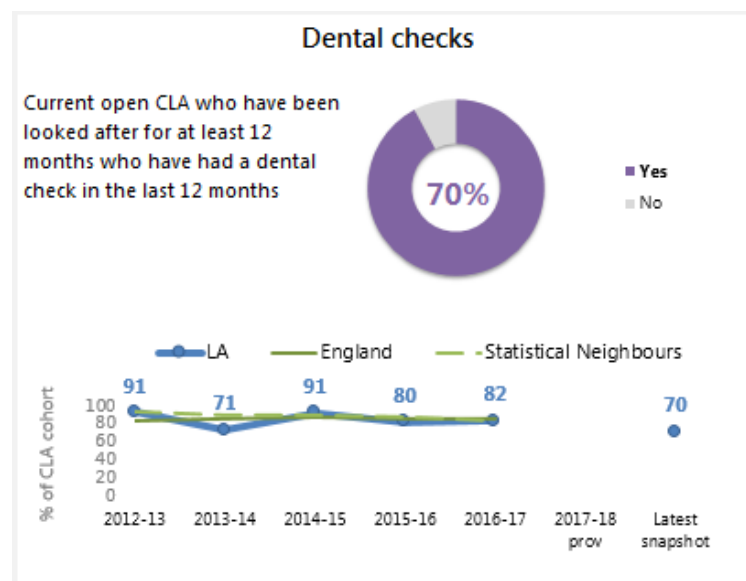
- 2.14. Latest performance figures show we have a higher proportion of care leavers in EET in comparison to our statistical neighbours and national average. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation is slightly below the statistical neighbour (81%) and national average (84%) but is on an improving trend.

### 3. Areas for Focus

- 3.1. 83% of looked after children aged 16-17 had **up to date Pathway Plans** at the end of December 2017. In the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January this performance has dipped to 77%. Performance in this area is fairly consistent however the gap with the 90% target continues. There were 9 pathway plans not up to date at the beginning of January and a further 10 with no plan recorded. Performance has been on a downward trend since April so some additional focus is needed in this area.
- 3.2. Performance on **Personal Education Plans** has improved in recent months with current data showing that 76% of PEPs for statutory school age children having 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 impacted with peaks and troughs in the figures as the school terms come to an end and the PEPs needing to be brought up to date. However although performance dipped to 60% at the start of the new term in January 2018, it has quickly been rectified with performance back up to 76% in 1 week giving us confidence that the 90% target is achievable.
- 3.3. The graph below shows the performance across all these areas over the last 12 months up to December 2017.



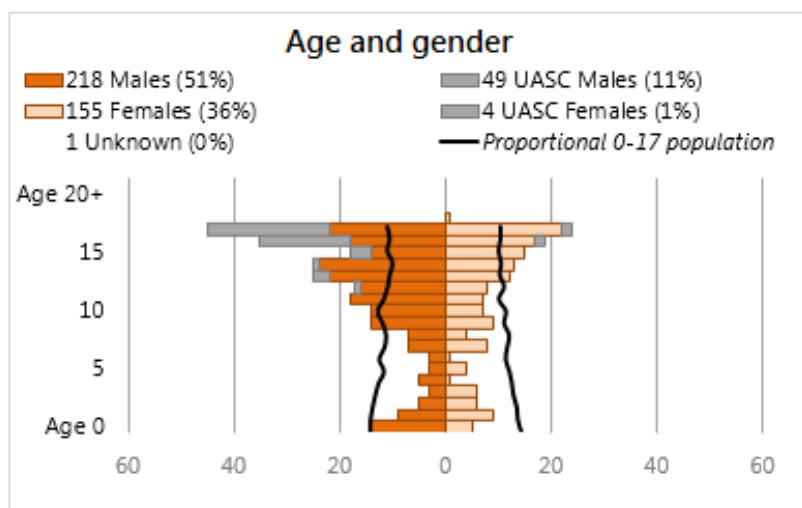
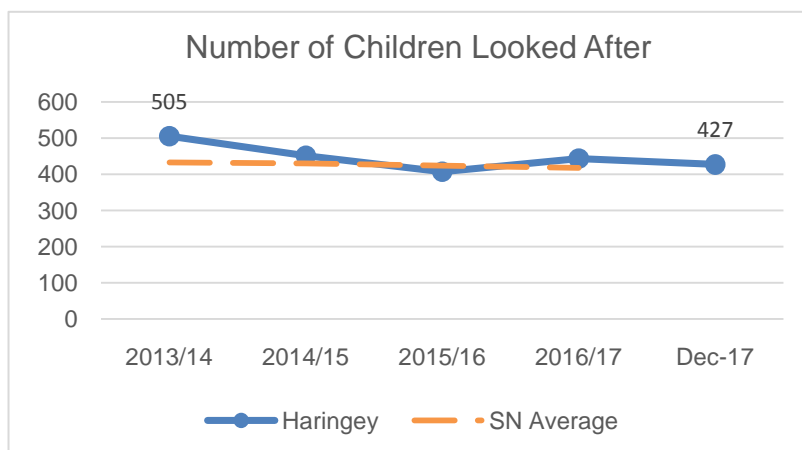
- 3.4. 76% of **visits to Children in Care** were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in December, positioning performance below expected standards although data for the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January shows improvement to 85% of looked after children visited within timescale. Performance 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.
- 3.5. A new visit step on Mosaic to more accurately capture timely visits according to statutory requirements is due to be implemented in January 2018, it is hoped that this will provide a truer reflection of when children are seen as current recording of visits in different statutory timescales is captured in case notes and not in a way that is easy to accurately or efficiently report on.
- 3.6. 70% of the current LAC cohort (age 2 and over and in care for at least 12 months) had an **up to date dental visit** as at December 2017. 128 children are showing as due a dental visit and 65 of these have not had a dental check since coming into care. We know that the large majority are older children between the ages of 13 and 17 and the majority are in either in- house or fostering placements.
- 3.7. It might be that more can be done to ensure the foster carers adhere to their responsibilities or that dental checks could be part of the requirement for the child placement within a month of them being in care. Details of the children without a dental check and those due a medical visit have been provided to target those with outstanding visits/assessments. A small incentive payment being offered to foster carers to ensure children regularly have their teeth checked is also being considered and addressing the recording of visits on the system could also improve the reported figures as some social workers do not record the dental checks in the correct place so not all visits are captured in the reports.



## Overall Assessment of Children in Care

### Looked After Children

- 4.1. There has been a 15% reduction in number of children looked after in Haringey since March 2014. Whilst we saw a reduction in the number of LAC, our statistical neighbours' position remained fairly stable over the years. The gap between our LAC number and that of our comparative boroughs continued to narrow until 2015/16 where Haringey's position became in line with comparators. Haringey's LAC number and rate has since remained fairly stable.



- 4.2. In the year to December 2017, 154 children became looked after and 154 ceased to be looked after. Majority of these (53%) came into care under Section 20 (V2) whilst 22% were subject to a Police Protection Order (L1). The primary reason for children coming into care is around abuse and neglect with this accounting for nearly 50% of the cohort starting to be looked after in the last 9 months. The next most common category of need is absent parenting (c22%) or family dysfunction (c12% of LAC starters) with just under 10% of the cohort becoming looked after because of parental illness or disability.
- 4.3. 30 or 19% of all children who became looked after in the last 9 months were unaccompanied asylum seeking children and 20 or 13% of children who started to be in care in 2017/18 have previously been looked after.



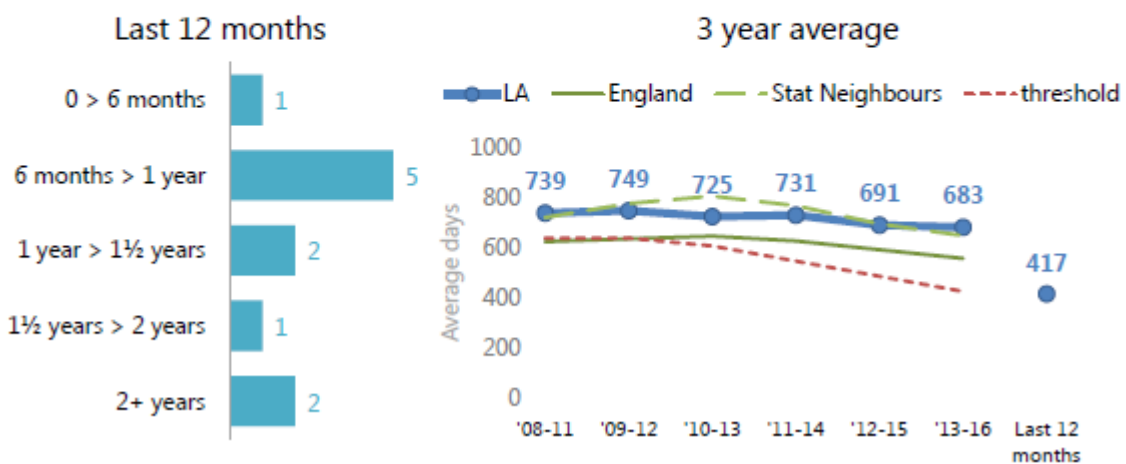
- 4.4. 166 episodes of care have ceased in the year to date. The highest proportion (48%) left care due to any other reason (note a large number of these left care as they turned 18). 30% returned home to their parents/guardians.

## 5. Adoption Scorecard

- 5.1. Haringey's **3 year rolling average position** against this indicator was published in the national government Adoption Scorecard in August 2017 covering the period **2013-16**. The average days between a Haringey child entering care and moving in with it's adoptive family was 683 days in that period, higher than the national threshold (distance of 257 days) and above England's improving position of 558 days (593 days for 2012-2015).
- 5.2. There is a long term improvement trend between 2012-2015 and 2013-2016 although Haringey's average days in 2016 were longer than in 2015 and Haringey like many other authorities has not yet managed to achieve the national threshold. However no new national thresholds have been set beyond 2016 and more recent data in 2017 shows that timeliness has improved with a current average days of 417 better than the national threshold. The graphs below shows Haringeys progress over time on the key adoption indicators.

### (A1) Time between entering care and placed with family for adopted children

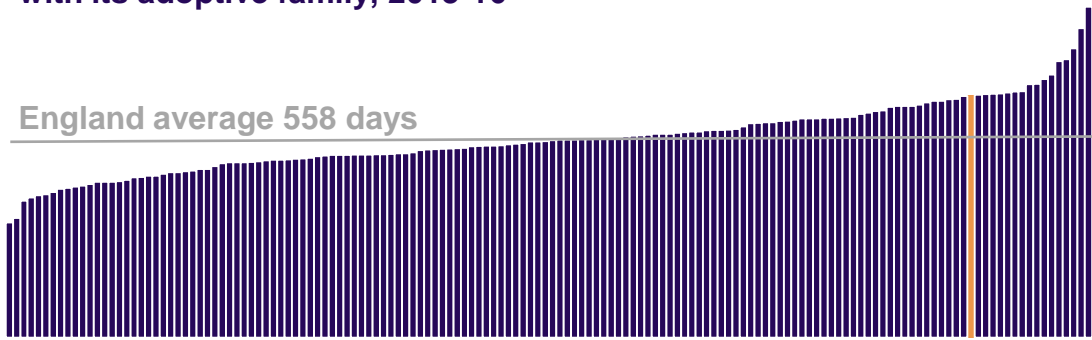
**417 days** The average number of days from the date the child entered care to the date the child moved in with their adoptive family for adopted children  
**11 children**





### A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, 2013-16

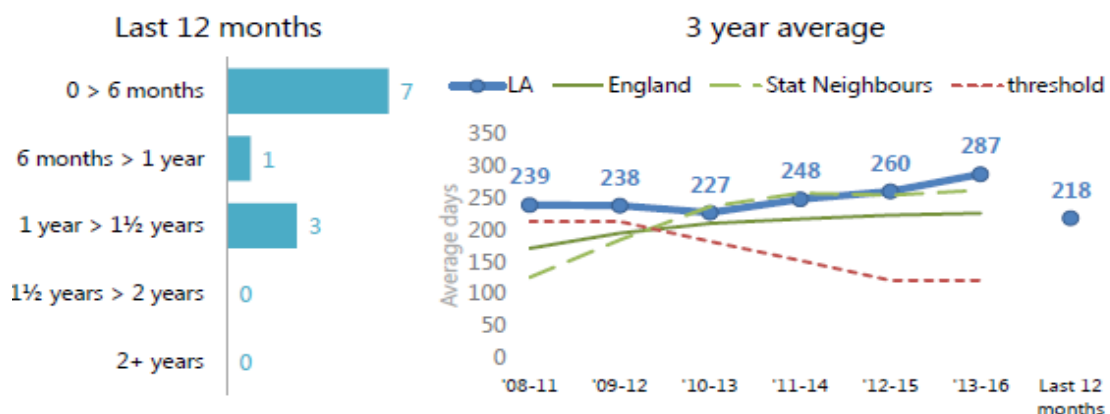
England average 558 days



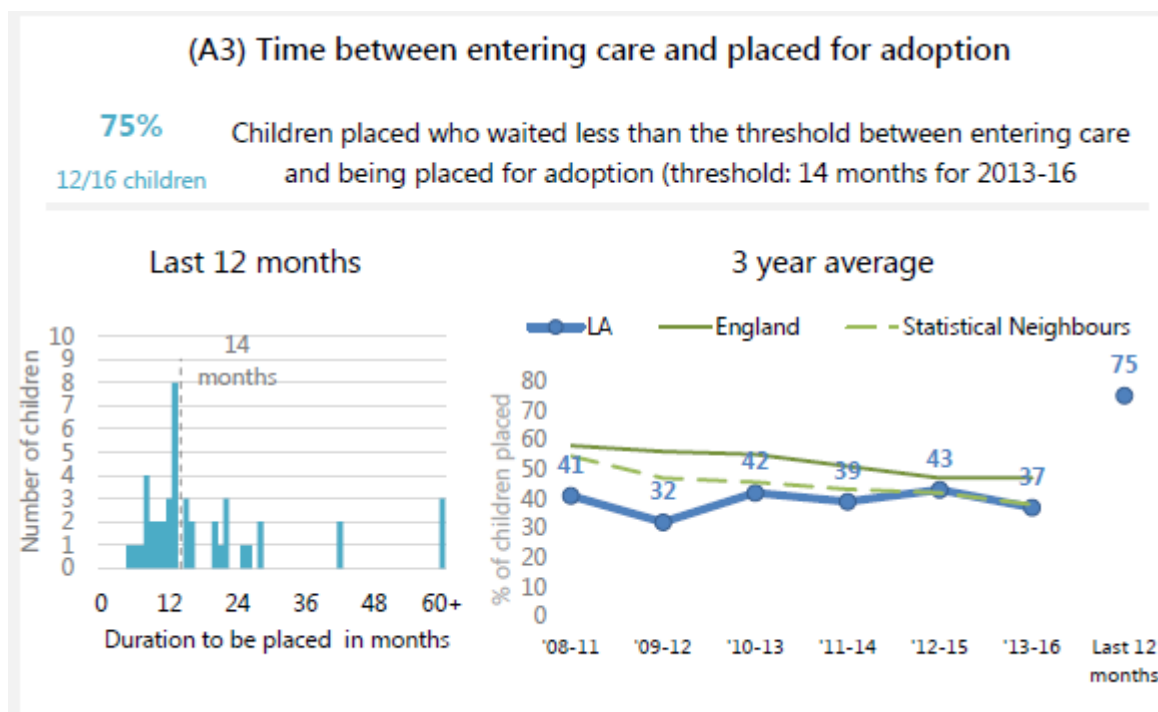
- 5.3. As can be seen from the graph above Haringey are amongst the bottom quartile nationally in terms of timeliness for placing children for adoption. However this is not out of line with our statistical neighbours who over the same period achieved an average of 649 days on this key indicator with some neighbouring authorities taking over 800 days on average to place children for adoption. Adoption scorecards are used to track national progress on adoptions and adopter related data.
- 5.4. The time between placement order and deciding on a match is also tracked and overtime shows that the average days between the date of the placement order to the date the child is matched with it's prospective adopter have been increasing. This is also true for the national picture as well as amongst our statistical neighbours and is largely influenced by decisions of the court. The graph below shows the trend over time on this adoption scorecard indicator against national thresholds and the time between placement order and match for the 11 children placed for adoption in 2017/18. As with indicator A1, the 2017/18 data shows improvement but is only based on 1 year's data. For most children placed this year, the majority (7) were matched within 6 months of the placement order.

### (A2) Time between placement order and deciding on a match

**218 days** The average number of days from the date of the placement order to the date the child was matched to prospective adopters  
11 children



- 5.5. Finally on indicator A3 where the overall time between the child entering care and being placed for adoption is assessed against a 14 month threshold, Haringey's performance in 2017/18 is showing significant improvement with 75% (12 out of 16 children) waiting less than 14 months to be placed for adoption. This compares with 37% in Haringey over the 3 year period 2013-16, 38% amongst our statistical neighbours and 47% of children placed within 14 months nationally. The graph below shows progress over time in this area and the spread of durations for the children placed in the last 12 months.



- 5.6. In March 2016, Adoption: A Vision for Change set out the Government's strategy for adoption. In order to build on the progress already made, they are keen to make better use of data to drive high performance across the system. They are currently assessing how they can develop the present Adoption Scorecards to ensure they provide meaningful data on performance in a regionalised system in conjunction with the RAA leaders group and other sector bodies.
- 5.7. In the meantime, they will continue to publish scorecards in their current form with the indicators and thresholds remaining the same. Previously, thresholds have been raised incrementally over a four-year period until they reflected levels set out in statutory guidance. As we have reached that level, the thresholds will remain the same. This means for 2014-17 the thresholds will continue to be set at 426 days (14 months) for the A1 indicator and 121 days (4 months) for the A2 indicator.

## 6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1. Priority 1: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.