



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2008

6.00 PM

PANEL AGENDA (ADVISORY)

**COMMITTEE ROOM 6,
HARROW CIVIC CENTRE**

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Janet Mote

Councillors:

**Husain Akhtar
Miss Christine Bednell
Eric Silver**

**Mrs Margaret Davine
Mitzi Green**

Reserve Members:

1. Mrs Myra Michael
2. Mrs Vina Mithani
3. Julia Merison
4. Mark Versallion

1. B E Gate
2. Raj Ray

**Issued by the Democratic Services Section,
Legal and Governance Services Department**

**Contact: Damian Markland, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1785 E-mail: damian.markland@harrow.gov.uk**

***NOTE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING:
IF YOU WISH TO DISPOSE OF THIS AGENDA, PLEASE LEAVE IT BEHIND AFTER THE MEETING.
IT WILL BE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING.***

HARROW COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2008

AGENDA - PART I

1. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

To note the attendance at this meeting of any duly appointed Reserve Members.

Reserve Members may attend meetings:-

- (i) to take the place of an ordinary Member for whom they are a reserve;
- (ii) where the ordinary Member will be absent for the whole of the meeting; and
- (iii) the meeting notes at the start of the meeting at the item 'Reserves' that the Reserve Member is or will be attending as a reserve;
- (iv) if a Reserve Member whose intention to attend has been noted arrives after the commencement of the meeting, then that Reserve Member can only act as a Member from the start of the next item of business on the agenda after his/her arrival.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from:

- (a) all Members of the Committee, Sub Committee, Panel or Forum;
- (b) all other Members present in any part of the room or chamber.

3. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

To consider whether any of the items listed on the agenda should be considered with the press and public excluded on the grounds that it is thought likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of confidential information in breach of an obligation of confidence or of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Enc. 4. **Minutes:** (Pages 1 - 6)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2008 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

5. **Public Questions:**

To receive questions (if any) from local residents or organisations under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

6. **Petitions:**
To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).
7. **Deputations:**
To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).
- Enc. 8. **INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance:** (Pages 7 - 24)
Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.
- Enc. 9. **INFORMATION REPORT - Care Matters Update - Harrow's response to the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007:** (Pages 25 - 32)
Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.
10. **Any Other Urgent Business:**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

AGENDA - PART II - Nil

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

31 JULY 2008

Chairman: * Councillor Janet Mote

Councillors: * Husain Akhtar * B E Gate (1)
* Miss Christine Bednell * Eric Silver
* Mrs Margaret Davine

* Denotes Member present
(1) Denotes category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

40. **Appointment of Chairman:**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Janet Mote be appointed Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

41. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Mitzi Green	Councillor Brian Gate

42. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

43. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present.

44. **Appointment of Vice Chairman:**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Eric Silver be appointed Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

45. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign them when they were printed in the Bound Minute Volume, subject to the following alteration:

- That the third sentence of minute item 39(ii) be changed to read: "The Chairman invited Members to a meeting organised by the Children's Participation Team on 31 July 2008 to discuss the involvement of CLA in the work of the Panel."

46. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

47. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

48. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

49. **Activity and Performance:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services, setting out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children on the Child Protection Register (CPR), including key performance indicators up to the end of May 2008. An officer reported that the figures were encouraging and commented that no indicators were red and four had improved by at least one performance band. He informed the Panel that the improvement in performance had been achieved through careful management and increased team stability. The Chairman stated that significant progress had been made, and requested that it be noted that the Panel were thankful of the contributions made by the relevant social workers and support staff.

A Member commented that he was pleased to see a decline in the number of children being placed with private and voluntary carers outside of Harrow. He stated that it was important that local children be kept in the local area. An officer explained that the movement of Looked After Children (LAC) out of Harrow had previously been a problem but that, through careful analysis, the Council had identified why individuals were leaving and had instigated a targeted recruitment strategy to ensure that Harrow was equipped to deal with a wide range of needs. This, the officer reported, had reduced the number of LAC living outside of a 20 mile radius, from 28% in the previous year to 4.2%. The officer also informed the Panel that the department had been successful in retaining experienced carers by increasing allowances.

A Member asked the officers in attendance how Foster Carers were helped to meet and raise standards of care in the borough. An officer explained that all Foster Carers in Harrow were trained in line with Government standards, had access to telephone support and worked under the guidance of a Supervising Foster Carer. The officer informed the Panel that Foster Carers were also catered for by other groups, including 'Children Looked After Mental Health Service' (CLAMHS) which helped ensure that LAC had access to mental health services. She also explained that Harrow Council and Harrow Primary Care Trust jointly funded the post of a CLA Nurse to focus on improving the health of children and young people who were looked after. In addition to healthcare, the officer informed the Panel that, with financial support from the Schools Forum, a Homework club had been set up to help LAC raise their educational prospects. The level of support available to Foster Carers was consistent across the borough.

Summing up the report, an officer explained that the department had rated itself 3 out of 4 in the Council's annual self-assessment. The officer stated that the department was aiming to achieve the highest rating next year. Following a brief discussion, all Members of the Panel unanimously agreed that great progress had been made and that the benefits that had been achieved were clearly evident.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

50. **Development of a Special Interest Group with Young People:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services detailing proposals to develop a Special Interest Group with Young People to support the Corporate Parenting Panel in their work. An officer explained that the Special Interest Group would be comprised of young individuals who reflected the social and cultural makeup of LAC in Harrow. It was intended that the Special Interest Group would consider the concerns facing LAC and subsequently meet with the Corporate Parenting Panel to discuss the issues.

Following questions from Members, the officer clarified that:

- There were plans to run two different Groups in order to cater for varying ages, though no final decision had been made as to how this would be implemented.
- It would take time to get the group fully operational and it was therefore not possible to set a date for the first meeting.
- The Corporate Parenting Panel could engage with the Special Interest Group through both formal and informal meetings, depending on the subject matter.

- All Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be CRB checked.
- All Members who wished to join the Corporate Parenting Panel would also be CRB checked.

A number of Members voiced their support for the project and commented that it was an excellent way in which to get young people involved in the democratic process. It was noted that, in addition to helping the Council improve services for LAC, such groups had the potential to make young people feel valued.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

51. **Government White Paper “Care Matters - Time for Change”:**

An officer reported that £127,000 would be made available to Harrow by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the implementation of the “Care Matters – Time for Change” White Paper. The Members were informed that a meeting had been scheduled for key officers in positions related to LAC to decide how the money should be utilised. A shortlist of initiatives had been drawn up and the Panel was invited to provide feedback. The initiatives were as follows:

1. Introduction of a CLA Personal Education Plan (PEP) Coordinator.
2. Development a PEP user leaflet to ensure that Foster Carers understood and made use of the service.
3. Introduction of a CLA Allowance scheme.
4. Make available a higher education bursary of £2000 to assist LAC that wish to undertake a university course.
5. Introduction of ‘Achievement Payments’ for LAC based upon effort as well as educational achievement.
6. Introduction of an after school homework club at the cost of £10,000 per year.
7. Introduction of a Virtual Head Teacher scheme. The scheme would entail a senior individual working for the local authority, tasked with raising educational standards of children in care. An officer commented that 3 teachers had put themselves forward for the project and, as such, £10,000 had already been offered in support of the project. The same amount of funding had also been provided by the Schools Forum.
8. Utilise the services of ‘Welfare Call’, an organisation that contacts schools to check that LAC are attending.
9. Employment of a dedicated Tutor to support LAC that cannot access school or educational resources.
10. Offer an Independent Visitor Scheme for LAC. The Independent Visitor Scheme would contribute to the welfare of LAC by promoting their individual needs, supporting their care plan and helping them to develop a lasting relationship.

Following questions from the Panel, an officer clarified that:

- The schemes were predominantly concerned with raising the educational prospects of looked after children. Health related schemes had not been put forward as it was felt Harrow was already doing well in this regard. In particular, the officer reported that the grant received from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) had been increased to £460,000 and this was already having major benefits on health across the borough.
- The Independent Visitors Scheme would encourage LAC to exercise their right to participate in decisions taken about them.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

52. **Any Other Urgent Business:**Children and Young Persons Bill

The Chairman requested that the officers in attendance provide the Panel with an update on the Children and Young Persons Bill, part of the 'Care Matters' reform package, at the next scheduled meeting.

Corporate Parenting Training

A Member suggested that all Councillors should receive training regarding their responsibilities as corporate parents and that that he would discuss the matter with the Member Development Panel. The Panel agreed that this was a good idea.

Adoption Inspection

An officer informed the Panel that Harrow Council was to be inspected by the regulating body 'Commission for Social Care Inspection' (CSCI). She reported that the inspection was due to take place in the week beginning 8 September 2008 and that inspectors would want to interview the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The officer informed the Panel that Harrow was expecting a positive adoption inspection and that she would be offering advice and assistance to Members to ensure that they were prepared for the interviews.

Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice

A book entitled "Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice" was given out to Members, with copies also being sent to absent and reserve Members to read over the summer period.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 8.05 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JANET MOTE
Chairman

Appendix 1

Officers in
attendance:

Gail Hancock

Head of Service – Safeguarding,
Family Placement & Support
Service Manager – Performance
Management

David Harrington

Senior Co-ordinator, Children
Looked After

Andreas Kyriacou

Therese Mcalorum

Childrens Participation Co-
ordinator

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Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	6 October 2008
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT: Activity and Performance
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director of Children's Services, Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	CLA & CPP Activity and Performance Report

1. Summary

FOR INFORMATION

This report sets out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP), plus key performance indicators for Q1 of 2008 -09.

2. Financial Implications

No significant financial implications.

3. Performance Issues

This report provides latest performance on statutory indicators for children's social care. The Panel may wish to provide direction following an analysis of current performance.

4. Contacts

David Harrington, Service Manager, Performance

020 8424 9248

david.harrington@harrow.gov.uk

Dipika Patel, Senior Performance Officer, Children's Social Care

020 8424 9258

dipika.patel@harrow.gov.uk



Corporate Parenting

October 2008

**CLA & CPP Activity
To end of August 2008**

CONTENTS

1) Safety of Vulnerable Children (CLA).....	3
2) CLA Age and Gender Breakdown	4
3) CLA by Ethnicity.....	5
4) CLA BY Placement Type.....	6
5) CLA other Data.....	7
6) Breakdown of Category of Need	8
7) Safety of vulnerable children (CPP).....	9
8) CPP by Age and Gender	10
9) CPP by Ethnicity.....	11
10) CPP Nature of Abuse	12
11) Duration of Child Protection Plans	13
12) Key Performance Indicators at Q1 for 2008	14

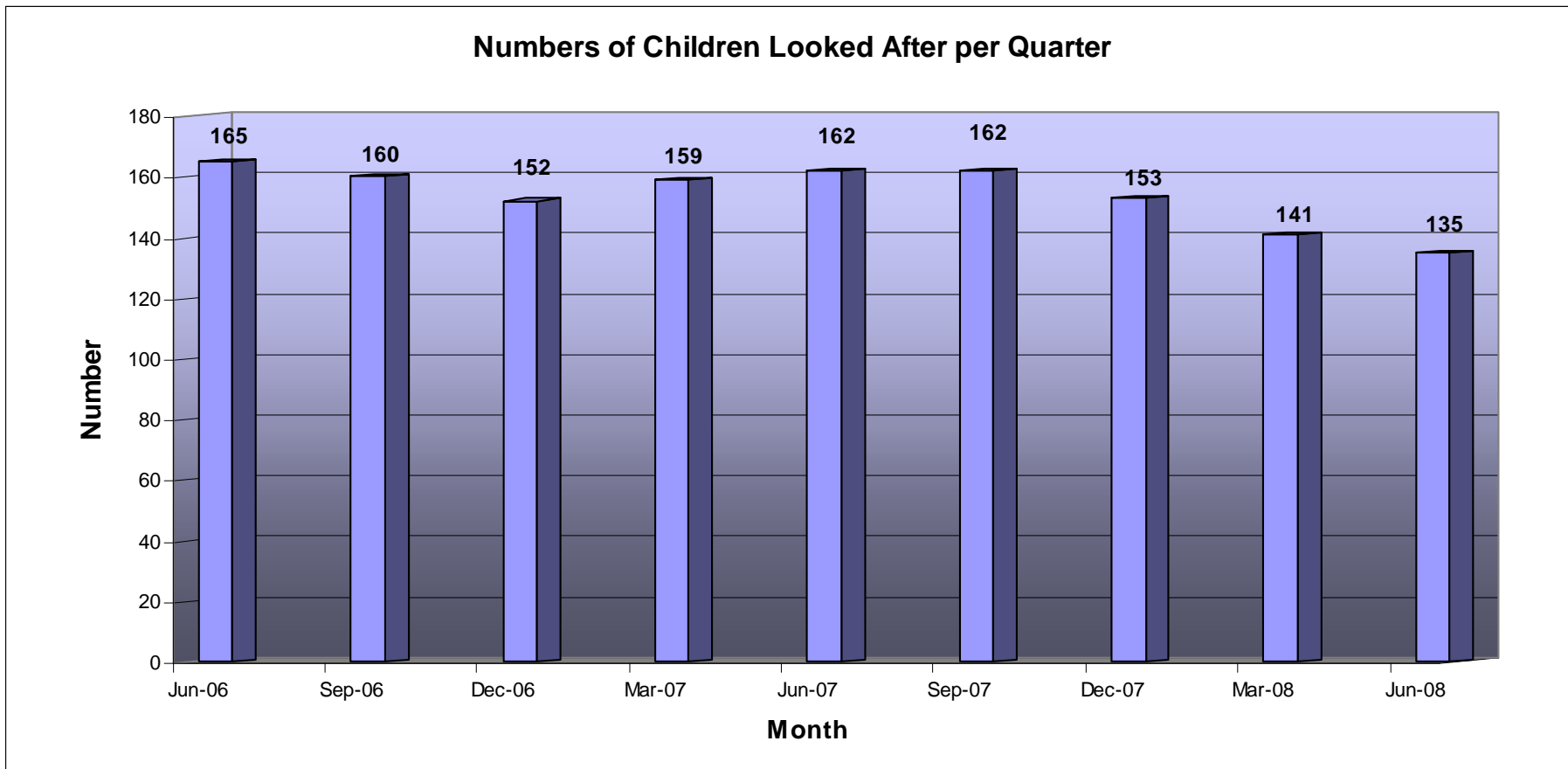
10

1) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Looked After)

There were **144** children looked after in Harrow on 31st August 2008.

The bar chart below shows the number of children looked after by quarters from 2006

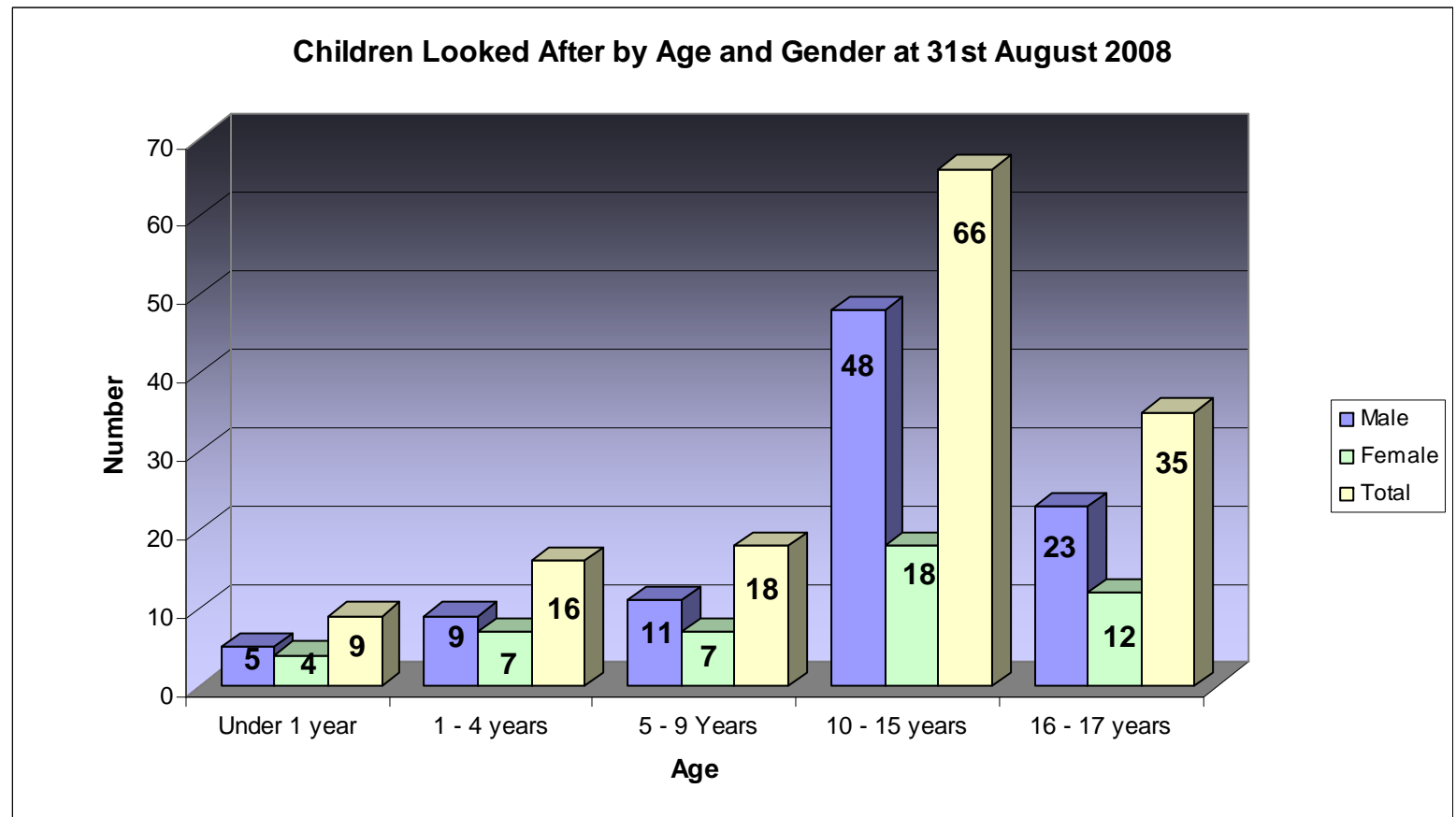
Month	No. of CLA
Jun-06	165
Sep-06	160
Dec-06	152
Mar-07	159
Jun-07	162
Sep-07	162
Dec-07	153
Mar-08	141
Jun-08	135



11

2) CLA Age and Gender Breakdown

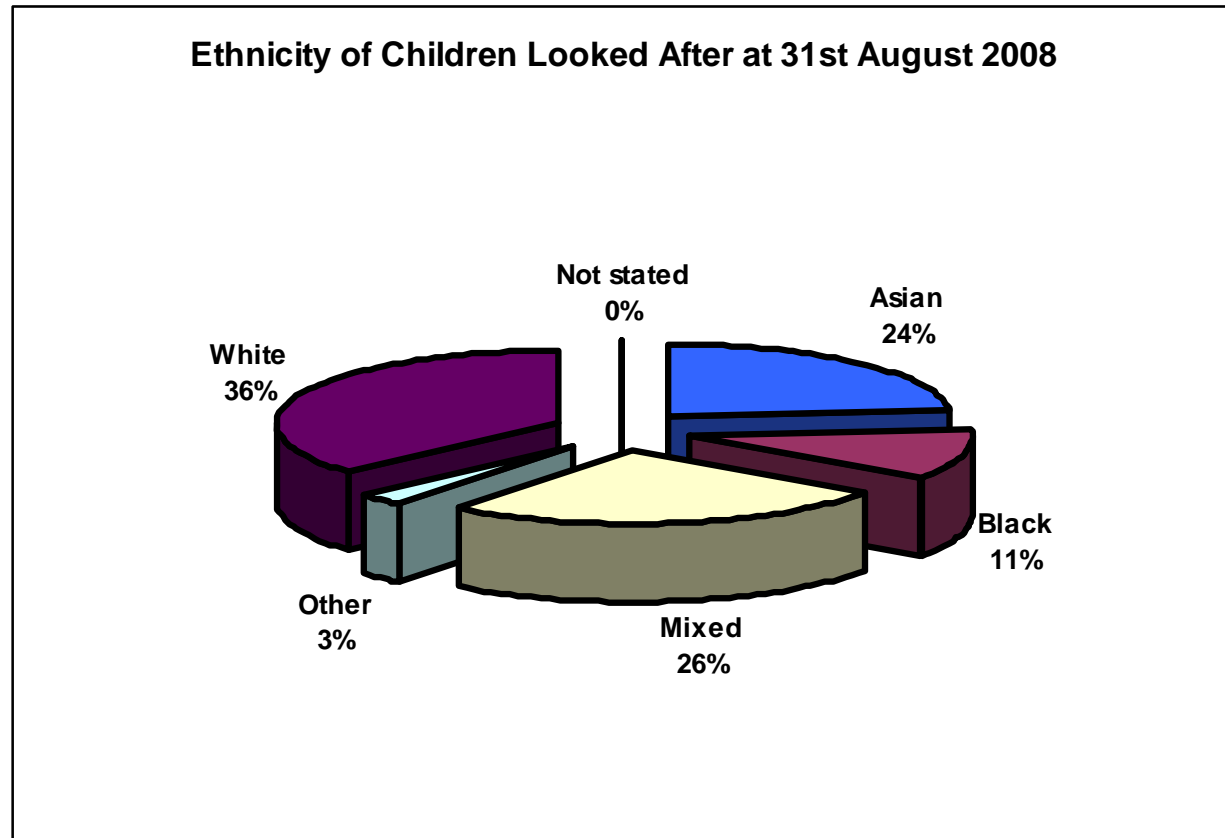
Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1 - 4 years	9	7	16
5 - 9 Years	11	7	18
10 - 15 years	48	18	66
16 - 17 years	23	12	35
Total	96	48	144



12

3) CLA by Ethnicity

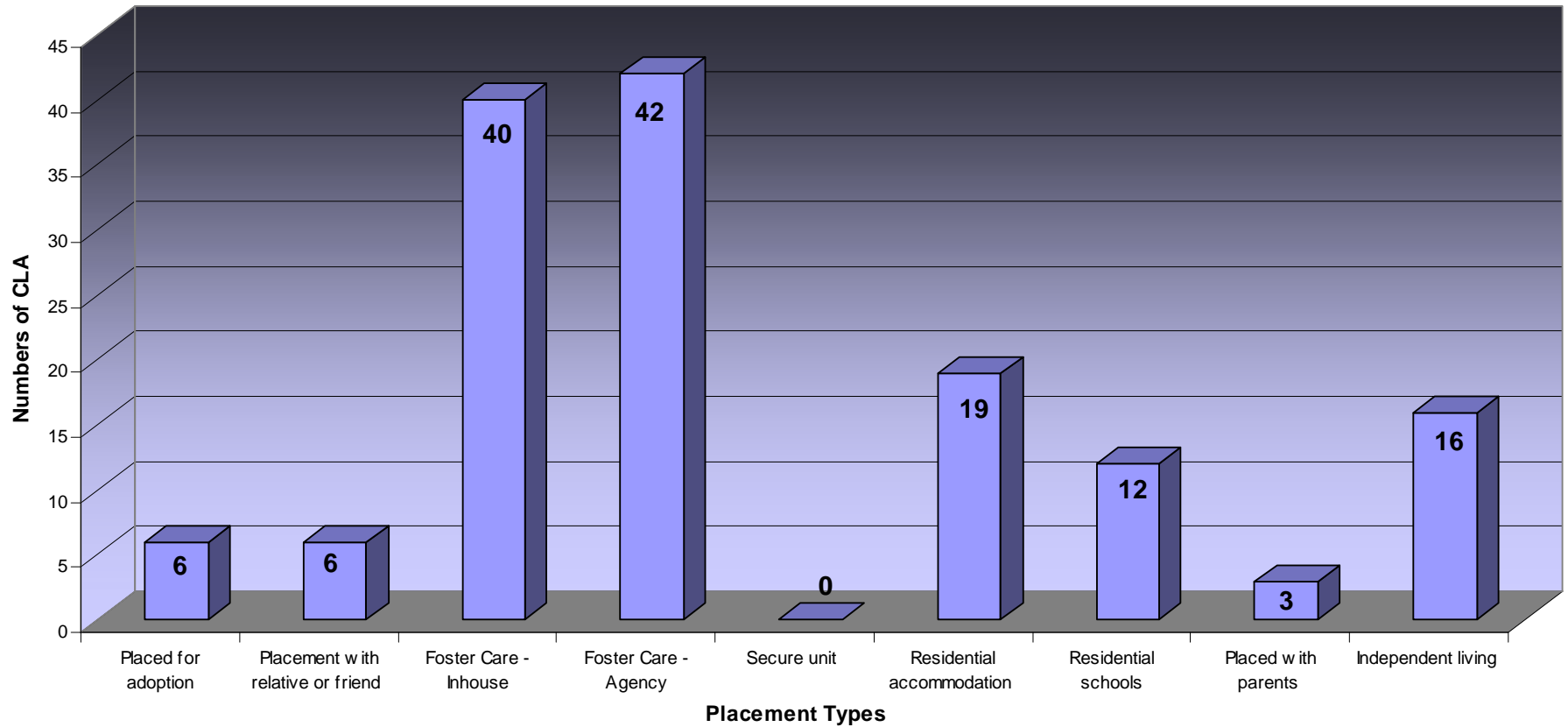
Ethnicity	No. of CLA
Asian	34
Black	16
Mixed	37
Other	4
White	53
Not stated	0
Total	144



4) CLA by Placement Type

Placement Type	% OF CLA
Placed for adoption	4.2
Placement with relative or friend	4.2
Foster Care - Inhouse	27.8
Foster Care - Agency	29.2
Secure unit	0.0
Residential accommodation	13.2
Residential schools	8.3
Placed with parents	2.1
Independent living	11.1

**Placement Types for Children Looked After
at 31st August 2008**



14

5) Children Looked After - Other Data as at 31st August 2008:

Number of Children Placed Out of Borough **55**

Breakdown Of types of Residential Placements:

304 Honeypot Lane: **6**

Other Childrens Homes: **9**

Other supportive residential placements (pre - independence, mother & baby etc) - **4**

Residential Schools: **12**

Social Work Allocation: **100%**

Prediction for Adoptions: At present 6 children are in preadoptive placements.

CLA GCSE Results - 2007:

Attained at least 1 A* - G: **46.15%**

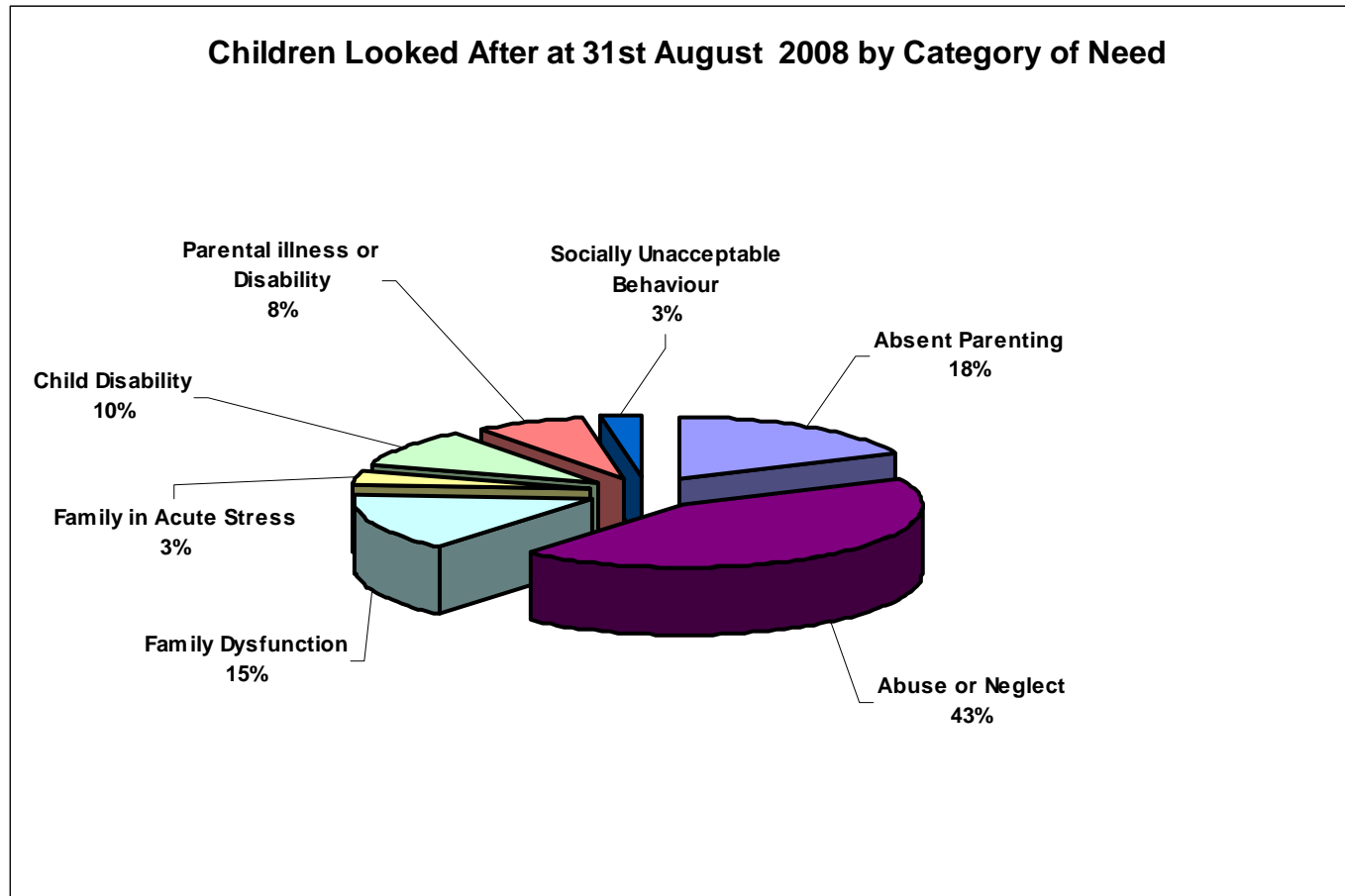
Attained 5 or more A* - G **43.15%**

Attained 5 or more A* -C **5.38%**

6) Breakdown of Category of Need

The breakdown of category of need as recorded when a child becomes looked after.

Category of Need	Number
Absent Parenting	26
Abuse or Neglect	62
Family Dysfunction	22
Family in Acute Stress	5
Child Disability	14
Parental illness or Disability	11
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	4
Unknown	0

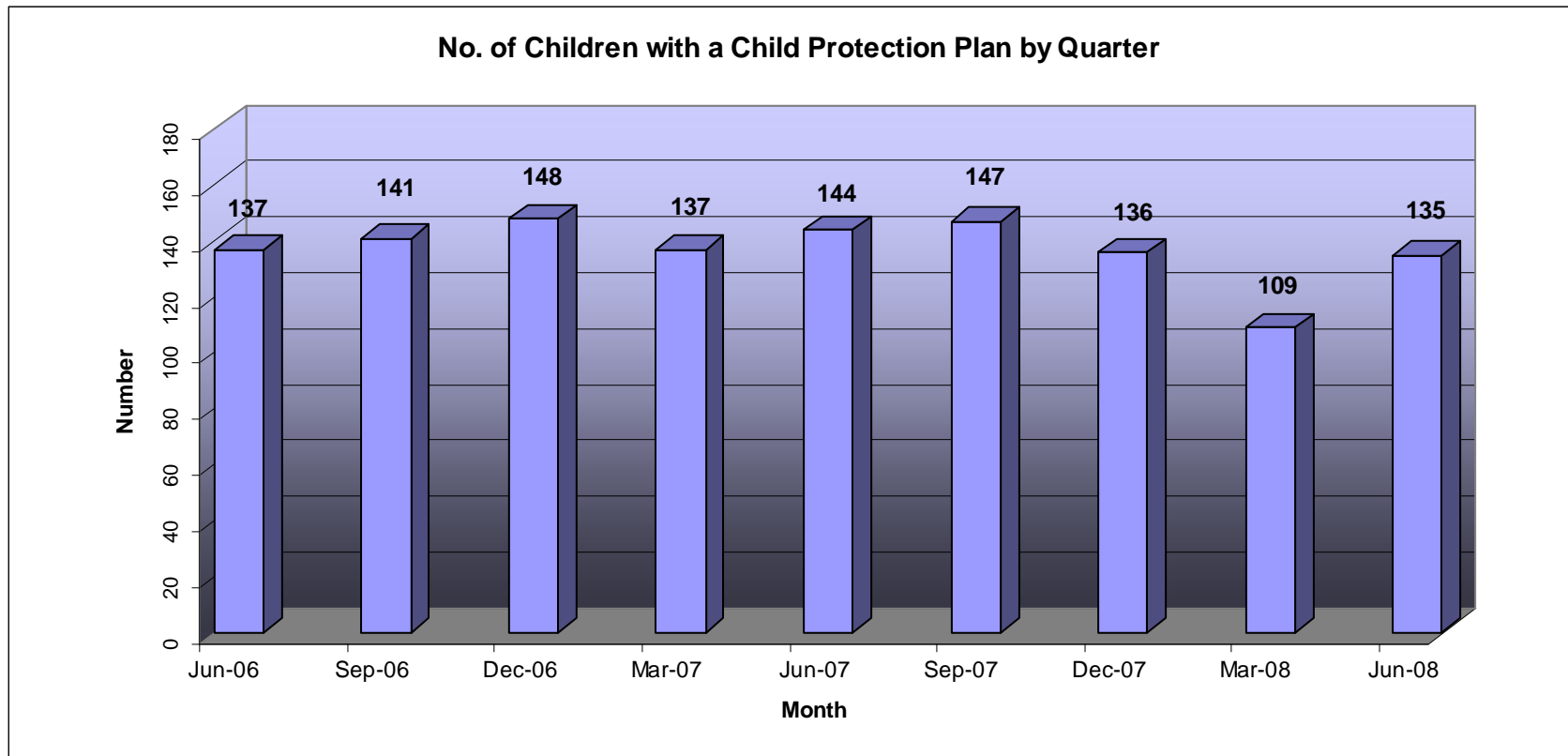


**7) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Protection Plans)
CPP by Quarters since April 2006**

There are **144** children who have a child protection plan in Harrow on 31st August 2008.

The bar chart below shows the number of children with Child Protection Plans by quarters since 2006

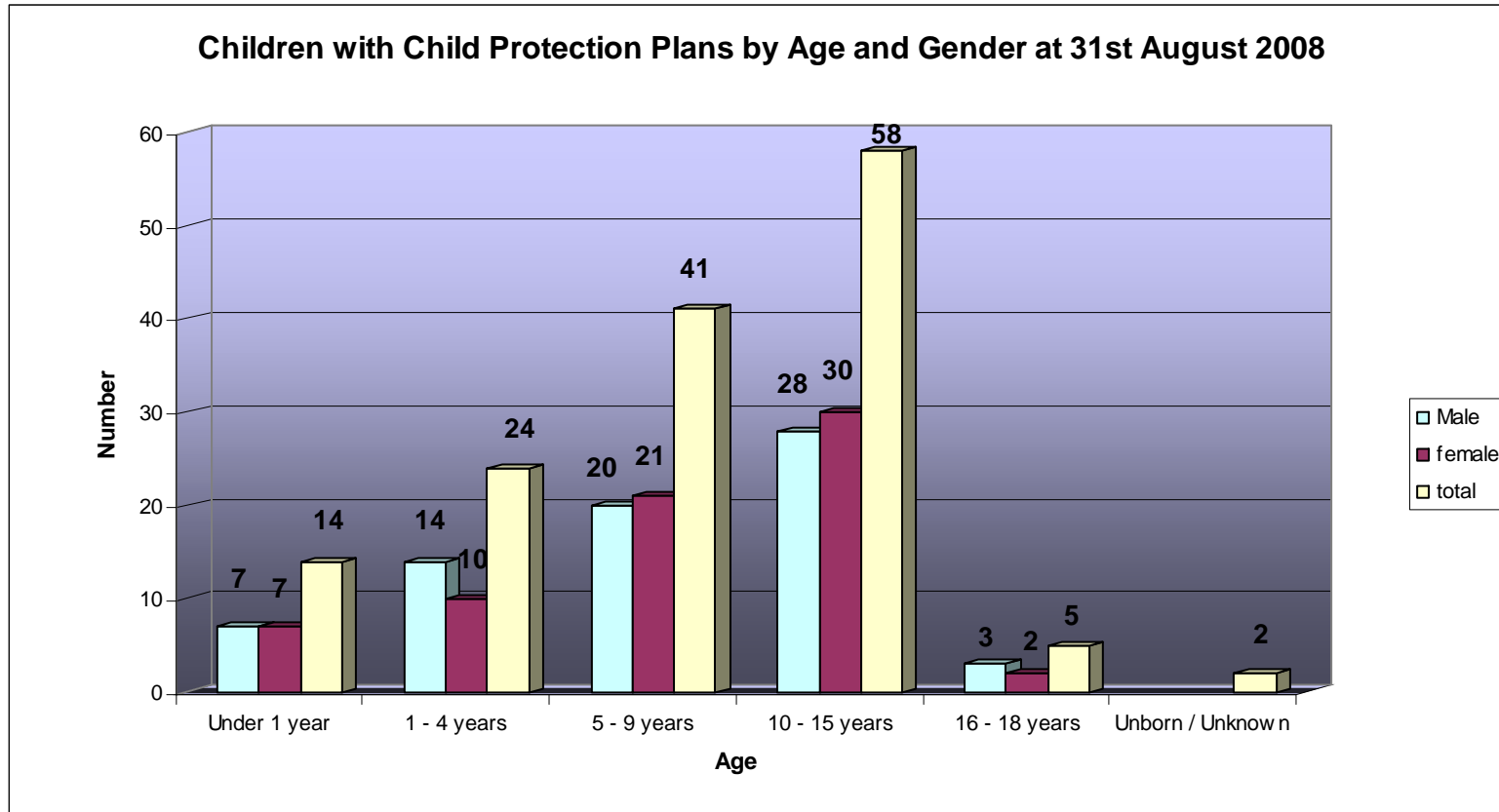
Month	CPP
Jun-06	137
Sep-06	141
Dec-06	148
Mar-07	137
Jun-07	144
Sep-07	147
Dec-07	136
Mar-08	109
Jun-08	135



17

8) CPP by Age and Gender

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	7	7	14
1 - 4 years	14	10	24
5 - 9 years	20	21	41
10 - 15 years	28	30	58
16 - 18 years	3	2	5
Unborn / Unknown			2
Total	72	70	144

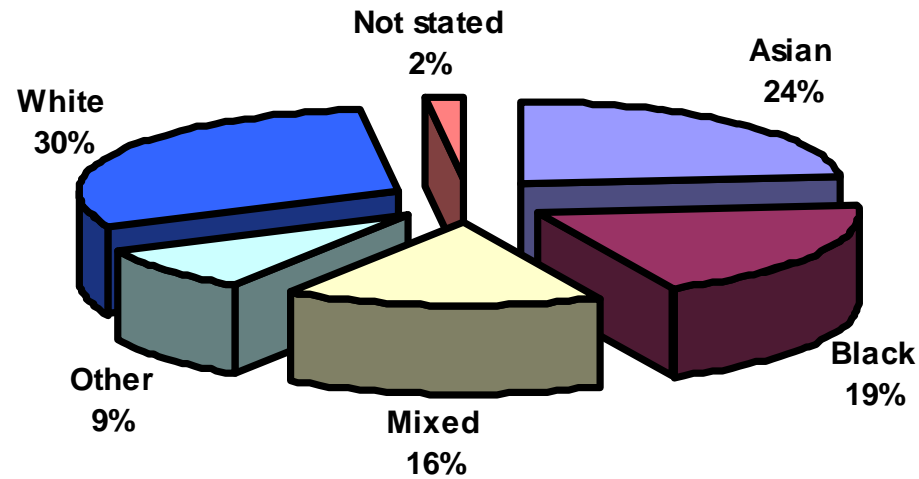


9) CPP by Ethnicity

Breakdown of ethnicity of those children on the Child Protection Register as at 31st August 2008

Ethnicity	Count
Asian	34
Black	28
Mixed	23
Other	13
White	43
Not stated	3

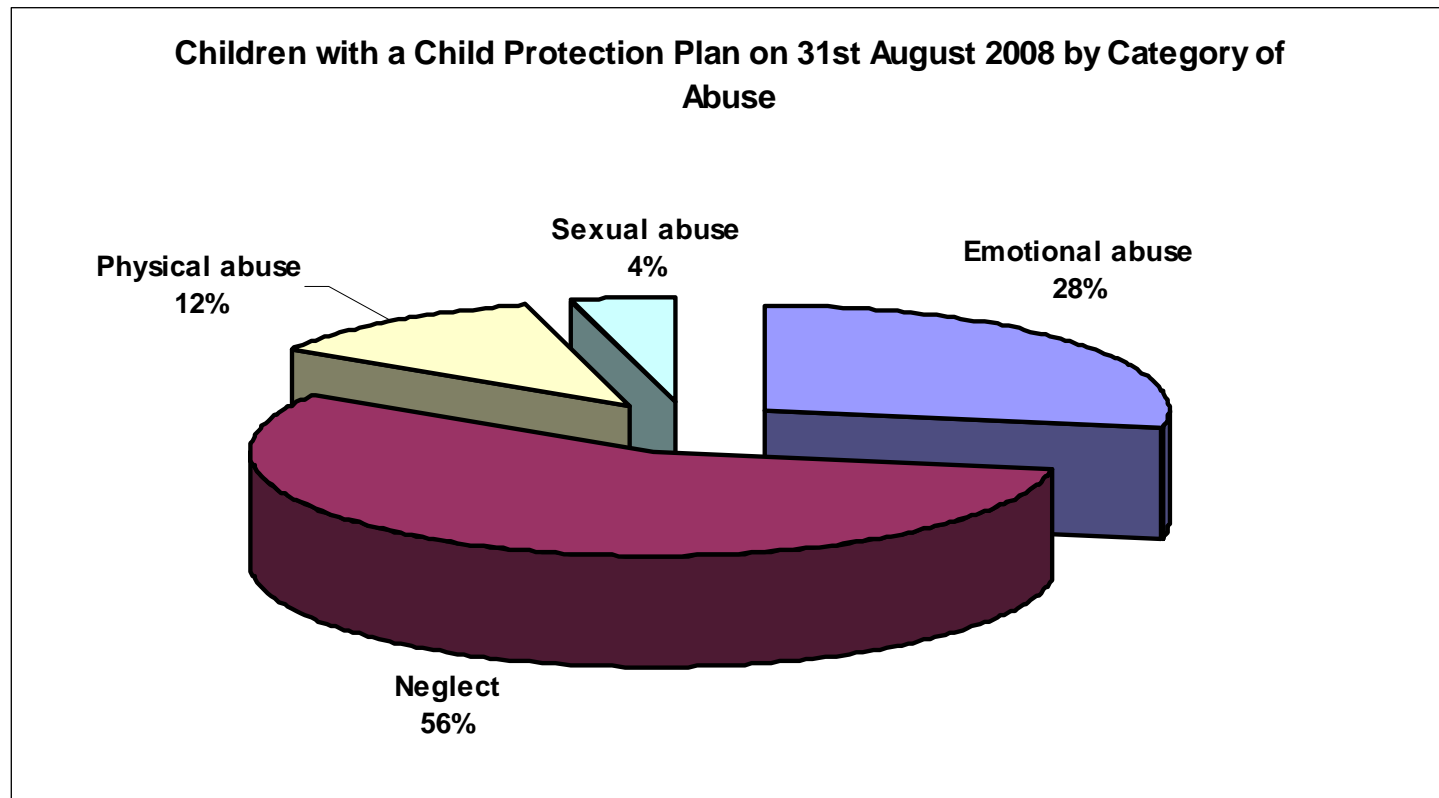
Ethnicity breakdown of Children who have a Child Protection Plan at 31/08/2008



10) CPP by Category of Abuse

Breakdown of categories of abuse of children with a Child Protection plan as at 31st August 2008

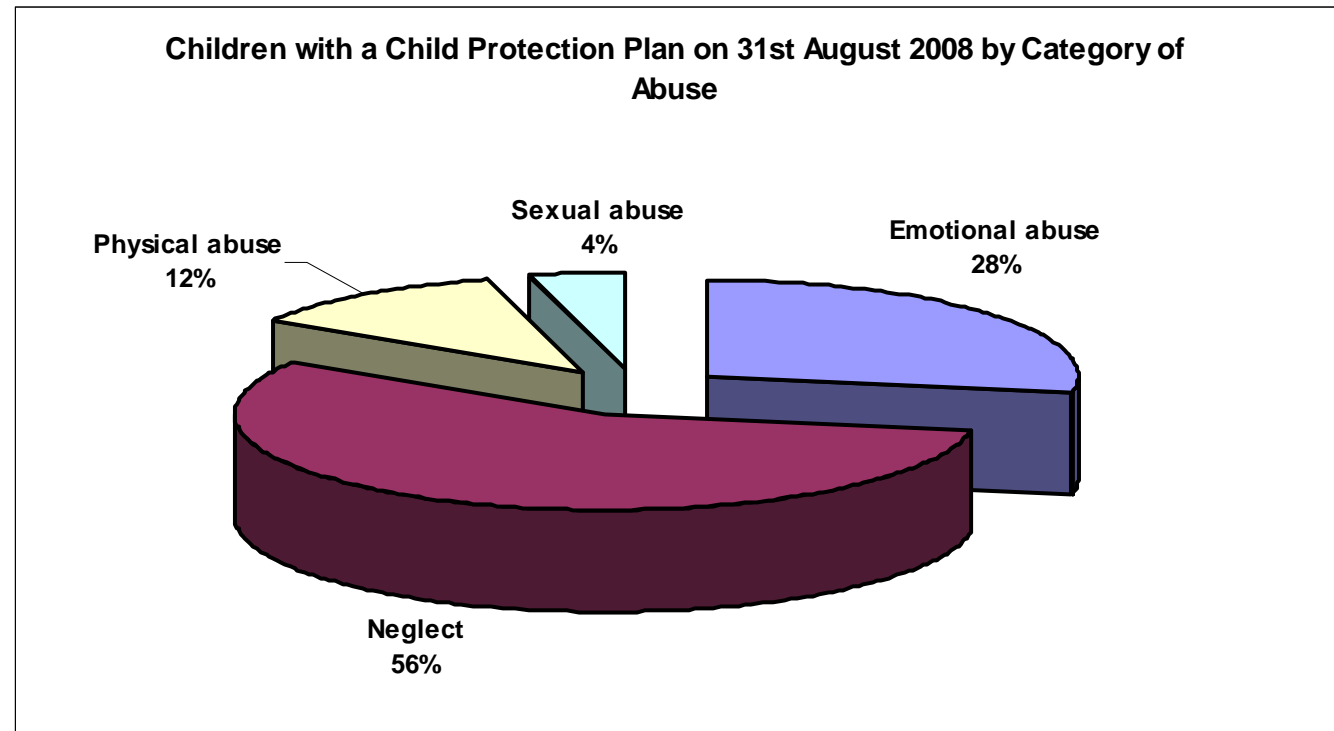
Category of Abuse	Count
Emotional abuse	40
Neglect	81
Physical abuse	17
Sexual abuse	6



11) Duration of Child Protection Plans

This table shows the number of children with a child protection plan at 31st August 2008 and the length of time since plan was created.

Category of Abuse	Count
Emotional abuse	40
Neglect	81
Physical abuse	17
Sexual abuse	6



12) Key Performance Indicators at Q1 for 2008

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of Q1 (June 2008)
A. Being Healthy	C19		Health of children looked after - The average of the percentages of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months, and who had a dental check and a medical assessment during the previous 12 months.	88%	95%	Ongoing close work with CLA Nurse & SW teams to meet target.	84%	95%	82%
			Re-registrations on the Child Protection Register - The percentage of children registered during the year on the Child Protection Register who had been previously registered.	11%	14%	Measures are in place to ensure that children have adequate monitoring and support in place following de-registration.	12%	13%	13%
B. Staying safe	A3		Children looked after absent from school - The percentage of children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months and were of school age, who missed a total of at least 25 days of schooling for any reason during the previous school year.	14%	14%	Remained in the middle band for 2007-8. Education welfare team is being strengthened with CLA specialist which should help address issue of out of borough children.	10%	10%	13%
			Reviews of child protection cases (KT) - The percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed.	96%	98%	Good performance.	99%	100%	100%
			Duration on the Child Protection Register - The percentage of children deregistered from the Child Protection Register during the year who had been on the Register continuously for two years or more.	22%	13%	Measures are now in place to ensure that a minimum of children are registered for more than 2 years such as monthly meetings of Team Managers with CP Co-ordinators to ensure CP plans are progressed without delay.	6%	10%	18%
	C20	162							
	C24								

	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of Q1 (June 2008)
B. Staying safe	C23	163	Adoptions of children looked after (KT) - The number of looked after children adopted during the year as a percentage of the number of children looked after (excluding unaccompanied asylum seekers) who had been looked after for 6 months or more.	3%	14%	The newly established partnership with Coram and the work of Permanency Tracking Panel are yielding very good results. This indicator will start of in the lower band at the beginning of the year	6%	14%	2%
	C64		Timing of core assessments - The percentage of Core Assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement.	60%	77%	Performance has improved significantly due to reconfiguration of team and improved monitoring.	72%	80%	82%
	C68		Timeliness of reviews of Children looked after - The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed during the year.	93%	90%	Good performance.	91%	92%	99%
	A1	49	Stability of placements of children looked after (KT) - The percentage of children looked after with three or more placement moves in the year.	14%	10%	Very good performance	13%	10%	0%
	D78		Long term stability of CLA (2.5 years) - The percentage of children aged under 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption.	59%	58%	This indicator is currently unbanded. Long term stability is an LAA target and we have agreed a target of 62% with central government.	67%	62%	57%
	B79		Children aged 10-15 in foster placements or placed for adoption - Of children aged at least 10 and under 16 looked after (excluding those placed with parents) the percentage who were in foster placements or placed for adoption.	64%	70%	This indicator is currently unbanded. Action is being taken to maximise stable placements which should take us steadily towards the statistical neighbour average.	82%	75%	70%

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of Q1 (June 2008)
D. Make a Positive Contribution	C18		Final warnings/reprimands and convictions of CLA - The percentage of children aged 10 or over who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, who were given a final warning/reprimand or convicted during the year for an offence committed whilst they were looked after, expressed as a ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10 or over given a final warning/reprimand or convicted for an offence in the police force area.	3%	tbc	Convictions and final warnings for CLA remain low.	1%	1%	0.71
	C63		Participation of looked after children in reviews - The number of children and young people who communicated their views for each of their statutory reviews in the year as a percentage of the number of children and young people who were looked after during the year for more than four weeks.	90%	97%	Very good performance - The new system, View Point, and efforts of teams involved have greatly enhanced performance.	93%	95%	99%

Guide to Key Performance Indicator bandings

Very Good
Good
Acceptable
Ask Questions
Investigate Urgently

CF/A1	Stability of placements of CLA	.	.	.	.	0<16.01	.	.	16.01<20	20<=100
CF/A3	Re-registrations on the CPR	0<3	3<6	6<8	8<10	10<15	15<17.21	17.21<20	20<24	24<=100
CF/B79	CLA - foster/placed for adoption NEW	unbanded for 2005-06								
CF/C18	Final warnings/reprimands and convictions of CLA	.	0<1	1<3	.	.	.	.	3+	.
CF/C19	Health of children looked after	0<50	50<60	60<70	70<80	80<=100	.	.	.	.
CF/C20	Reviews of child protection cases	0<92.5	92.5<95	95<97.5	97.5<100	100	.	.	.	.
CF/C21	Duration on the CPR	.	.	.	.	.	0<10	10<15	15<20	20<=100
CF/C23	Adoptions of children looked after	0<3	3<6	6<7	7<8	8<25	.	.	25<=100	.
CF/C24	Children looked after absent from school	.	.	.	.	0<5	5<10	10<15	15<20	20+
CF/C64	Timing of core assessments	0<60	60<70	70<75	75<80	80<=100	.	.	.	.
CF/C68	Timeliness of reviews for LAC	0<80	80<85	85<90	90<95	95<=100	.	.	.	.
CF/D78	Long term stability of CLA NEW	unbanded for 2005-06								



Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	6 October 2008
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT: Care Matters Update – Harrow’s response to the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director of Children’s Services, Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, Councillor Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Care Matters Update

Section 1 – Summary

FOR INFORMATION

- 1.1. Report to update Corporate Parenting Panel on Harrow’s response to the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007 which will significantly progress the Care Matters agenda

Section 2 – Report

2.1 The Children and Young Persons Bill is designed to reform and strengthen the statutory framework around the care system.

2.2 The Bill contains a range of initiatives and provisions that aim to enable children and young people in the care system to receive high quality care

2.3 The provisional timetable is that the Bill receives Royal Assent in 2008

2.4 The Life Chances Forum has endorsed the suggested areas that will benefit from the Care Matters grant. Officers are in the process of finalising the projected costs

Section 3 – Further Information

3.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to consider the contents of the attached update on Harrow's response to Care Matters and to provide direction.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Gail Hancock, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Family Support
0208 728 8868
gail.hancock@harrow.gov.uk

Andreas Kyriacou, Senior Coordinator, Children Looked After
0208 424 7642
andreas.kyriacou@harrow.gov.uk

Care Matters Update. Corporate Parenting. 6.10.08

	Children Bill Change	Harrow Current Practice	Areas for Improvement Cost/timescale	Comments/options/risks
1	More young people should stay looked after until they are 18 if they so wish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No young person is de-accommodated in Harrow unless it is safe to do so; there is an effective alternative and there is agreement with the young person ▪ We have a proactive advocacy service in Harrow in the event of any disputes around the care plan ▪ Plans by the Local Authority (LA) are monitored by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The challenge for Harrow, in line with other LAs, is securing high quality placements in the local area ▪ We regularly review need with what is available in terms of fostering and residential provision so that we can place young people quickly ▪ Harrow is also part of the “Pan London Consortium” of LAs who share information about available and high quality placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If more young people remain looked after, and want to, say, be in a foster placement this may have an impact on foster placements for “new” children looked after. ▪ This may then have a financial impact – more in house placements, more independent placements, including residential
2	The Bill re-affirms the pivotal role of the Council’s Lead Member for Children in championing the Council’s role as “corporate parents” and the needs of Children Looked After (CLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have an active Corporate Parenting Panel which receives regular management information reports; benchmark with the work of other LAs; meet with young people; and who request updates on service developments ▪ We have an officer led multi agency Life Chances Forum that consider areas for improvement and development which reports directly to the Corporate Parenting Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Corporate Parenting Panel continues to involve the wider Council by convening special interest events and meetings with young people ▪ We are in the process of considering how best to use the monies from Cares Matters to target specific areas for improvement ▪ An update will be provided to Corporate Parenting Panel on 6.10.08 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government funding is limited and any initiatives will require consideration as to how they can be maintained over a longer period

27

Care Matters Update. Corporate Parenting. 6.10.08

<p>3</p>	<p>The Bill places a responsibility on the role of the designated teacher (who has an overall responsibility for the well being of CLA in the school) on a statutory footing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have effective working relations with schools in Harrow. Attendance and results for CLA are good ▪ We are reviewing the impact of PEPs (Personal Education Plans) to consider how we can improve our performance in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance and results for CLA who are placed out of the LA are not as good ▪ We are in the process of considering how best to use the monies from Cares Matters to improve in this area. ▪ An EWO (Education Welfare Officer) for CLA has been appointed. ▪ We are in the process of recruiting to a PEP Coordinator. ▪ 3 Virtual Heads have been appointed ▪ These posts would have a key role in championing the education needs of CLA placed in and outside the LA ▪ We are costing the best way to provide additional tutoring for CLA ▪ We will broaden the Achievement Payments to include effort, attendance as well as achievement. ▪ We are budgeting for the continuing use of Welfare Call, who provide daily information about which CLA are not attending their respective education provision ▪ We are reinstating the “Chance to Shine” Homework Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government funding is limited and any initiatives will require consideration as to how they can be maintained over a longer period ▪ Government guidance is required as to how the role of the designated teacher can be made more effective – for example, in challenging a school’s policy and practice – particularly for CLA who are not the responsibility of that LA
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Care Matters Update. Corporate Parenting. 6.10.08

29

4	<p>The Bill seeks to ensure that CLA do not move schools, for example during SATs and especially GCSE years except in “exceptional circumstances”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We monitor placement moves on a monthly basis by way of the Service Managers Performance Management Meetings within Children Services. Placement moves have to be agreed by a Senior Manager ▪ The IROs monitor moves and will take up the matter with the LA if such moves are not done in “exceptional circumstances” ▪ It is now understood as a “custom and practice” that CLA are not moved during these periods unless in “exceptional circumstances” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The largest proportion of when children become looked after is the 10-15 years of age range – at the time when this requirement kicks in. ▪ The challenge for councils and schools is how best to ensure placement stability as well as offering the best possible education for this cohort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government guidance is required as to the definition of what constitutes “exceptional circumstances”
5	<p>The Bill places a new duty on local authorities to appoint an Independent Visitor for all looked after children, and extends the duty to other groups of children who were looked after but have ceased to be so, such as young people in custody</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We provide access to independent visitors but within the present Government definition, that is for children who do not have relatives who visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are in the process of considering how best to use the monies from Cares Matters to improve in this area. ▪ We are in the process of expanding the provision of the Independent Visiting service in line with the Children Bill ▪ Gail Hancock has met with Julia Smith, Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, who are interested in coordinating this provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government funding is limited and any initiatives will require consideration as to how they can be maintained over a longer period

Care Matters Update. Corporate Parenting. 6.10.08

30

6	<p>The Bill will restrict the placement of CLA out of the locality and, in particular, if by doing so will require a change of school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have restructured the payments to our existing carers and undertaken the successful recruitment of in house carers ▪ Care planning is closely monitored through the review process, the Child Care panel and the Permanency Panel (for children in proceedings) ▪ We now have more children with in house carers than either with independent carers or in residential ▪ Our proportion of CLA with relatives is also increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is an area which requires regular monitoring, in terms of the need, care planning, choice of placements, and the level of support available to ensure that the right placements are available to begin with and that there is the support to decrease the potential for further placement moves ▪ We are improving in terms of the number of CLA who are in placements within a 20mile radius of Harrow – 19 out of 22 since April 1st 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Again this is an area that requires close monitoring as placements out of the authority are generally more expensive
7	<p>The Bill will require LAs to pay a bursary to a former relevant child (i.e. a care leaver) who goes on to Higher Education. The amount talked about is £2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We currently assist care leavers who go on to Higher Education by providing the means to hold on to their accommodation/placements. ▪ We also have an agreement whereby we can defer when they can be nominated for their own accommodation, if not already in one, to, in this instance, when they complete their course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are in the process of considering how best to use the monies from Cares Matters to improve in this area. ▪ We are in the process of budgeting for this (welcomed) contingency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government funding is limited and any initiatives will require consideration as to how they can be maintained over a longer period
8	<p>The Bill requires LAs to respond positively to the views of young people in relation to whether and when they should be moved to more independent accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is now “custom and practice” that 16 and 17 year old are not automatically moved to more independent accommodation. It is done by need and in consultation ▪ We currently have the scope to allow young people turning 18 to remain with their carers under supported lodgings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is area which requires regular monitoring, in terms of need, life skills development, choice of placements, and the level of support required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is an area that requires close monitoring to ensure that the right placements are available for new children looked after

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9	The Bill seeks to improve support for family and friend carers, to include the provision of longer term payments by the LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We are developing more consistent packages of support for family and friends by ensuring that appropriate assessments are done in a timely fashion.▪ We have established a pathway by which we can assess family and friends for a Special Guardianship Order, together with their financial requirements, so that they can be presented to the Adoption and permanency Panel for approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We are not always able to access family support easily. For example, some parents that we work with will not, for one reason or another, provide us with that information▪ We are reinstating the Family Group Conferences facility to convene/coordinate family based solutions for care/contact	Government guidance will be useful in relation to how we can more easily gain details of other family members so that that contingency plans can be made “in the event of” rather than waiting for say a Court to make such a direction
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