



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2009

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

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2009

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.

Enc. 3. **Minutes:** (Pages 1 - 6)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2008 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. **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).

5. **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).

6. **Deputations:**

To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

Enc. 7. **INFORMATION REPORT - Approval of a London Pledge for Children Looked After:** (Pages 7 - 14)

Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.

- Enc. 8. **INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance:** (Pages 15 - 32)
Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.
9. **Any Other Urgent Business:**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

AGENDA - PART II - Nil

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

6 OCTOBER 2008

Chairman: * Councillor Janet Mote

Councillors: * Husain Akhtar * Mitzi Green
* Miss Christine Bednell * Eric Silver
* Mrs Margaret Davine

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

53. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

54. **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.

55. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

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

56. **Minutes:**

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

57. **Matters Arising:**

Item 50: Development of a Special Interest Group with Young People

The Chairman reported that Adeline Abraham of the Young Voices' group for Children Looked After (CLA) was in the process of arranging the membership of the proposed Special Interest Group. Nominations for group members were currently taking place, although no timescale had been agreed.

The Chairman reminded Members that, due to the work the Corporate Parenting Panel would be undertaking with Looked After Children, it was important that all individuals were CRB checked. She reported that all Panel Members had now received a letter with information regarding the process and that they should contact Debbie Perrin, Shared Services Manager, who would coordinate all applications.

Item 51: Government White Paper "Care Matters – Time for Change"

The Chairman welcomed the Head Teacher of Shaftesbury High School, Mr Paul Williams, who had taken on the role of one of three 'Virtual Head Teachers'. The Virtual Head Teacher scheme was to be funded using the Care Matters grant and the Chairman invited Mr Williams to explain the new role in more detail.

Mr Williams explained that the scheme entailed a senior individual working for the local authority, tasked with raising, developing and maintaining the educational standards of children in care. Mr Williams reported that he had met with a number of officers, including the Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator and the Performance Manager for Children & Adults, and had identified and contacted the school with the highest number of Looked After Children. He explained that, by working with the school, they hoped to analyse the issues surrounding the educational achievements of Looked After Children and develop the Virtual Head Teacher scheme accordingly. During these early stages, Mr Williams stated that he or one of the other two Virtual Head Teachers would regularly provide feedback to the Corporate Parenting Panel so that they could oversee its development.

Following questions from Panel Members, Mr Williams explained that:

- the Virtual Head Teacher scheme would aim to address many issues that influenced a Looked After Child's educational development, including bullying. However, the scheme was designed to complement a school's existing

arrangements and issues such as bullying would still be dealt with using a school's internal procedures;

- the Virtual Head Teachers planned to consider both qualitative and quantitative data and would work with a range of agencies including community groups and the police;
- the Virtual Head Teacher scheme would build upon the existing Individual Learning Plans (ILP) of schools by providing additional support and guidance where necessary;
- the Virtual Head Teachers would remain anonymous to the children they were monitoring.

Item 52: Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice:

The Chairman recommended that, in order to raise awareness of the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities, a copy of the book entitled "Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice" be given to every Harrow Councillor. Following a discussion between Members and officers, it was decided that a letter would be sent with the book, explaining its purpose and requesting feedback.

A Panel Member suggested that the distribution of the book be arranged in conjunction with the proposed Corporate Parenting training that was to be organised by the Member Development team. The Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator stated that he had not yet been contacted by the Member Development team but that he would look into the matter.

A Panel Member stated that it had been agreed at a previous meeting that the Corporate Parenting Panel would have a display placed outside the Council Chamber at a future Council Meeting. She explained that the purpose of the proposed exhibit was to raise Councillors' awareness of Corporate Parenting. However, she stated that, following the meeting, no action had been taken. The Chairman informed the Panel that she would discuss the matter with the Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator to see whether such a display could be arranged.

58. **Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rules 19, 16 and 17 respectively.

59. **INFORMATION REPORT - 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 August 2008. The Performance Manager for Children & Adults tabled an additional document detailing CLA Key Stage results for the periods 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Performance Manager for Children & Adults informed the Panel that due to the relatively low number of CLA in Harrow's school system, the data regarding Key Stage results could be misleading as small fluctuations impacted significantly upon the final percentages. The officer reported that achievement in Key Stage 2 Science in 2008 was better than in 2007, although attainment of 5 GCSE grades had fallen. He added that such fluctuations were to be expected when dealing with small sample sizes and that statistics alone could not always provide a comprehensive overview of the situation.

The Performance Manager for Children & Adults commented that the purpose of Virtual Head Teachers and the Care Matters White Paper were to help combat the underlying and often complex factors that impacted upon the educational achievement of Looked After Children. It was hoped that these schemes would also help local authorities develop a better understanding of the challenges Looked After Children faced by moving away from purely quantitative analysis.

Following questions from Members of the Panel, the Performance Manager for Children & Adults stated that:

- information regarding Looked After Childrens' attainment of less standard qualifications such as diplomas was available and would be included in future data;

- the Fischer Family Trust was a project that aimed to provide analyses and data to help LEAs and schools make more effective use of pupil performance data. Using this information, the Council could set expectations and targets for Looked After Children. However, it was accepted that the educational prospects of Looked After Children were often influenced by a multitude of factors that were hard to predict;
- the Council tried to track Looked After Children once they reached the age of 18 in order to monitor their subsequent achievements in relation to both education and employment. This data was then compared against data from the general population to identify disparities;

The Performance Manager for Children & Adults provided the Panel with a summary of other key performance issues that had been identified:

- health and dental checks for Looked After Children had reached 96.4% which was higher than the national average;
- despite showing as red, adoptions were on track to reach the Council's 14% target;
- there had been 2 Looked After Children identified as having a conviction, final warning or reprimand. Whilst not ideal, the number was below the level expected;
- participation of CLA in reviews had increased to 99% for the first quarter. This was above the national average;
- there was some concern that the number of CLA was being miscalculated due to the way in which children attending residential schools were defined. The matter was being investigated to ensure that the information was as accurate as possible.

In response to a request from a Member for more detailed breakdown of the data contained within the report, the Performance Manager for Children & Adults stated that a more comprehensive data analysis could be provided, and that members could directly request any specific analysis they would like to see.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

60. **INFORMATION REPORT - Care Matters Update - Harrow's response to the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services to update it on Harrow's response to the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007. The Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator informed the Panel that the purpose of the Bill was to reform and strengthen the statutory framework around the care system. He explained that the Bill contained a range of initiatives and provisions designed to enable CLA to receive high quality care. The report considered how Harrow would have to alter its current practices to ensure that it was compliant with the Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent in 2008.

The Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator highlighted the key areas where the Council had or was due to invest money:

- an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) for CLA had been appointed;
- the Council was in the process of recruiting a Personal Education Plan (PEP) Coordinator;
- three Virtual Head Teachers had been appointed;
- additional tutoring for Looked After Children was being considered;
- the Achievement Payments scheme was to be broadened to include effort, attendance as well as achievement;
- as required by the Bill, the Council would pay a bursary of £2000 to Looked After Children leaving the care system and enrolling onto a Higher Education course.

The officer added that the Bill placed a new duty on Local Authorities to appoint an Independent Visitor for all Looked After Children but that this service was to be provided by the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS).

A Member stated that rewarding Looked After Children for both effort and achievement was important. She informed the Panel that the Council used to run a CLA Achievement Awards ceremony during which the Mayor would present individuals with certificates. She suggested that the scheme could be revived and funded using the Care Matters grant. Another Member agreed that the scheme would be beneficial but suggested that, with so many other proposals requiring a share of the grant, funding be sought from elsewhere. The Chairman broadly supported the idea and stated that it was important that schemes incorporated all Looked After Children, including those that did not do well educationally. The Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator informed the Panel that he was in the process of costing and would therefore look to see whether such a scheme was feasible. However, he noted that difficult decisions would have to be made and reminded the Panel that funding was limited.

A Member asked whether the venue for the proposed Homework Club for Looked After Children had been decided. The Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator reported that the Helix Centre had been chosen as the preferred location, although some details such as travel arrangements had yet to be finalised.

Summing up, the Senior Children Looked After Co-Ordinator reported that the Council was well placed to meet the requirements of the Children and Young Persons Bill 2007, although he reminded the Panel that the Council was still waiting for it to receive Royal Assent. In the meantime, he reported that the London-Wide Pledge for Looked After Children had been finalised and that it would act as a blueprint for the provision of efficient and effective care. The officer informed the Panel that he would provide an update at the next Corporate Parenting Panel meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

61. **Any Other Urgent Business:**

Adoption Inspection:

Peter Tolley, Service Manager for Family Placements, reported that Ofsted had recently finished their adoption inspection and that inspectors had spent 4 days speaking to Councillors, officers and checking the Council's paperwork. The findings had been generally positive and had praised the use of permanent staff and strong management. One area that had been identified as requiring additional work was the Council's post-adoption support facilities. The officer stated that the final grade had been "Satisfactory".

Despite disappointment that the Council had not achieved a grade of "Good", the Service Manager for Family Placements stated that the narrative of the report had been positive and that many other boroughs had fared similarly. In closing, he assured the Panel that the issues that had been raised were being addressed.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 7.24 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JANET MOTE
Chairman

Appendix 1

**Officers in
attendance:**

David Harrington
Andreas Kyriacou
Peter Tolley

Performance Manager for Children
& Adults
Senior Co-ordinator, Children
Looked After
Service Manager for Family
Placements

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Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	13 January 2009
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT - Approval of a London Pledge for Children Looked After
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director of Children's Services, Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary

FOR INFORMATION

- 1.1. Report on the London Pledge, which aims to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key services
- 1.2. Report on the cost implications if the Pledge is fully implemented and the ways by which this may be funded

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services have been asked to sign up to the London Pledge, which is a common set of core principles and promises to which each Council will add its own locally agreed pledges.

2.2 The London Pledge has been developed by way of a number of consultation events involving London Local Authorities, Members, Senior Officers and Young People

2.3 The London Pledge is set out under the headings of the five Every Child Matters outcomes, which children and young people said were important to them.

2.4 The London Pledge was signed off on behalf of the Local Authority at a London wide launch on 25th November 2008. Harrow Council will honour a number of **Principles** to our Children Looked After. It states that as Harrow Council:

- *We will only promise you things that we know we can do.*
- *We will care for you as an individual person with your own specific needs, which we will plan to meet.*
- *You will have the opportunity to talk to your social worker alone every time he/she visits you.*
- *We will always involve you in the decisions we take for you.*
- *We aim to be the best as parents and to make your experience of being looked after a positive one.*
- *We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.*
- *We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you.*
- *We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.*
- *We will take account of your particular needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality. We will take account of anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it.*
- *We will ensure that you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
- *We will also ensure that you receive your London Pledge entitlements, wherever you live. Any failure on the part of Councils and their partners to deliver this will be promptly resolved.*

2.5 There is a cost implication in relation to ensuring that children looked after receive information and that they are aware of their rights. We do have a system by which all new CLA receive an information pack at the same time as their Viewpoint session. The Participation Team collates the information. This is currently under review. There is an increasing cost in terms of printing and materials. Costs would also spiral if the information were to be provided in different languages. Costs of printing the materials are approximately **£2,000 for full year**. To provide in different languages would incur further costs.

2.6. In relation to **Health** Harrow Council will work to ensure that children looked after have access to a range of relevant health services, which promote and support their emotional, physical and mental health and support them to make healthy and positive choices with your lives. It states that as Harrow Council:

- *We will work to make sure that doctors, dentists and other health professionals are trained to understand your individual needs and listen to your problems so that they can give you the best possible support and treatment.*
- *We will work with others to ensure that you get better access to the information you need and the right support to help you with any health or emotional difficulties that you may have, especially if you live outside your home authority.*
- *We will ensure that we have good systems in place to share information across borough boundaries so that you do not miss out on medical appointments because you move areas.*
- *Parents or carers will have access to information, services and support that will help them to care for you and give them with the skills they need to ensure that you have the best chances in life and are healthy and safe.*
- *We will ensure that you receive your vaccinations, dental checks and other health checks at the right time and that you and your carers are given the relevant information to support you in accessing healthcare services*
- *When appropriate we will ensure that you have access to the relevant sexual health information and support to enable you to make positive choices about your future.*
- *We will make sure that you have opportunities to develop your personal and social skills to care for your health and well-being now and in the future.*

2.7. In relation to staying **Safe**, Harrow Council will work to keep children looked after safe from harm by individuals and their environment. Harrow Council will ensure that children looked after know how and where to access help if they feel threatened or are hurt in any way and will ensure that professionals and carers know how to support those children looked after who have been harmed or hurt. It states that as Harrow Council:

- *All agencies will work to prevent you suffering harm and to promote your welfare, provide you with the services you require to address your needs and to safeguard those of you who are being or who are likely to be harmed.*

- *We will have clear arrangements and protocols in place to safeguard you if you run away or go missing from care. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed.*
- *We will involve you in the selection of staff working with or for children and young people and the training of new social workers and foster carers.*
- *We will ensure that you get good information about your placement and a proper introduction to your carers (unless you have to move in an emergency). When you are moved to a new area you will receive information about the area and how to access services.*
- *We will ensure that you have access to youth support services and a Connexions adviser. If you need it additional guidance relating to your personal health and safety is available.*
- *If you get into trouble with the police and end up in custody we will make sure that the most suitable person comes along to support you.*
- *We will do our best to give you a choice in the selection of your own foster carer or placement.*
- *We will do our best to reduce the number of changes of social worker that you experience while you are in care*

2.8. In terms of **Enjoy and Achieve**, Harrow will work to ensure that children looked after have access to a broad range of positive activities and opportunities that provide them with places to go and things to do wherever they are. It states that as Harrow Council:

- *We will encourage and help you to access good quality affordable social, cultural and leisure activities, both in your community and across London.*
- *By 2011 we will provide you with a free leisure card to access facilities across London up to the age of 21. This will include free access to gyms and major cultural attractions.*
- *We will support you to purchase a bike and safety equipment and we will organise proficiency training if it is something that you would like and that your carers agree.*
- *We will work together across London to support you to achieve five A* to G at GCSE or equivalents. We will ensure that you have better access to personal computers and other materials that you may need for your education and that you are able to access the full range of educational opportunities open to your peers. We will pay particular attention to supporting you at key transition stages in your lives and ensure that you*

and your carers have access to high quality information, advice and guidance that supports you to make the right choices about your future.

- We will work with schools, colleges and universities to ensure that you are championed to succeed in your education. In school you will have the support of your designated teacher and a governor champion and you will have a high quality, clear and up to date Personal Education Plan that will meet your needs and push you to succeed.*
- If you are leaving care for university or vocational training we will ensure that your Pathway Plan is clear about the support you will receive, including our financial contribution to your studies.*
- We will make sure that you have access to a computer and materials needed for your education and training. We aim to provide you with a laptop or computer at Key Stage 3 and beyond and appropriate software, providing you remain in education and training.*
- Where appropriate we will support you to access vocational opportunities and/or apprenticeships that will enable you to achieve your full potential.*

2.9 We do have free gym and swimming passes for CLA in Harrow. We are not quite sure how we can provide free leisure cards for events across London unless they are a part of a chain. We need to consider how we can achieve this and how we can provide equitable resources to children looked after placed out of Harrow and London. Our current practice is to look at how we can provide 2 leisure activities for all children looked after.

2.10 The current cost for 17+ gym and swimming passes is £300 per annum. It is difficult at this stage to cost swimming lessons and the 2 leisure activities, as prices would vary depending on the activity. Costs (and facilities) may vary for CLA placed outside of Harrow.

Gym and Swimming passes for ages **10-16: 80 x £300 come to £32,000**

2.11 There will also be a cost implication if assistance towards the purchase of a bicycle is done independent of other occasions, such as Birthdays and festive events. However the wording does imply that the LA can contribute to the cost and on significant occasions The other factor is deciding at what age to buy! Younger CLA can normally expect to receive bikes for birthdays and the like, whilst 17+ can receive help with driving lessons

Costs: (working on basis that we would target ages 10-15)
80 x £100 = £8,000 08/09

2.12. It is not clear whether a governor champion is appropriate and/or practical. Further clarity is required as to the role and lines of communication as it does not appear to be a Care Matters or Children Bill initiative.

2.13. In terms of providing computers and laptops for CLA this is an area whereby we have had some success in the past and where we would want to build on. The good news is that we have recently been successful in bidding for IT monies from the Department of Children, Schools and Families, which will cover this cost

2.14. In terms of **Empowering to make a Positive Contribution**, Harrow will work to ensure that CLA voices are heard and that they are able to participate fully in decision making about their lives and the services that affect them. It states that as Harrow Council:

- We will consult you about all our services that affect you.
- We will make sure that you know your rights and what services you are entitled to by putting this down in writing for you. We will also agree with you what we expect from you and put it down in writing.
- We will organise meetings for children and young people who are looked after by a Council in London so that we can hear from you about how you think we can best plan to meet your needs as a group and you can tell us whether we are keeping our promises.
- We will celebrate and promote your achievements with you, as well as the contribution you make to the community. This will also include marking your birthday; your religious festivals and making sure you have a copy of your school photo and reports.
- In cooperation with your parents or carers we will ensure that you have a passport or know why you don't have one.
- Once you get to 16 years old we will ask you whether you want a mentor (e.g. 16+ worker) and arrange one for you if this will be helpful.
- We will also offer you the chance to set up and participate in a peer-mentoring programme for London. This will involve care leavers supporting young people still in care to grow and achieve.
- In addition to your social worker, carer, family member, independent reviewing officer and designated teacher, we will make sure that there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.
- We will also support you to contact your lead Member, Director of Children's Services and senior managers as necessary and you will be listened to by them.

- We will work with others to provide you with information about volunteering and access to opportunities to help others.

2.15. In terms of **Achieving Economic Wellbeing** Harrow will support CLA to achieve economic independence and well-being as they progress into adulthood, recognising that CLA need certain skills and support to live independently. Harrow will take the relevant steps to prepare CLA effectively for independence and the world of employment. It states that as Harrow Council :

- We will open a savings account for you if you have been in care for more than 12 months and will make agreed payments into your account for you¹. You will have a say about how your money is managed and you will be able to start taking money out once you reach the age of 18.
- We will support you to learn to drive where this will help you get into training and the right job.
- When the time comes for you to leave care we will listen to and act on your views about the services and support you need to help you become an independent adult (including accommodation, further/ higher education, training and employment).
- We will ensure that when you leave school you will receive an offer of education, employment or training. This will include access to a careers adviser and an information and guidance session.
- We will provide work experience opportunities and training or apprenticeships to help young people in and leaving care to develop their CV and find employment. This will include young people over the age of 18 and a range of different types of work experience and advice.

2.16. Officers will meet to plan how to implement the pledge, to ensure that there is an audit trail and that each CLA has their own individual Pledge which will be scrutinised through the Review process.

Section 3 – Further Information

3.1 This report is for Panel to consider and to provide direction

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Andreas Kyriacou, Senior Professional, Children Looked After, Practice, Review and Scrutiny

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andreas.kyriacou@harrow.gov.uk

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Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	13 January 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

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

Key issues:

- The total number of adoptions and special guardianships has risen to 6 and we are still predicting top banded performance on this indicator
- Core assessment performance has dropped – action is being taken in the Duty and Assessment and Children with Disabilities teams to address this. Managers are ensuring that quality checks remain in place.
- Participation of CLA in reviews is reporting low at the moment but will improve when records are brought fully up to date
- Long term stability of placements is now over 60% but remains a challenge given our policy of looking for adoption or special guardianships for all longer term CLA
- There are now 3 CLA in secure units – this accounts for most of the increase in out of borough placements

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

December 2008

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

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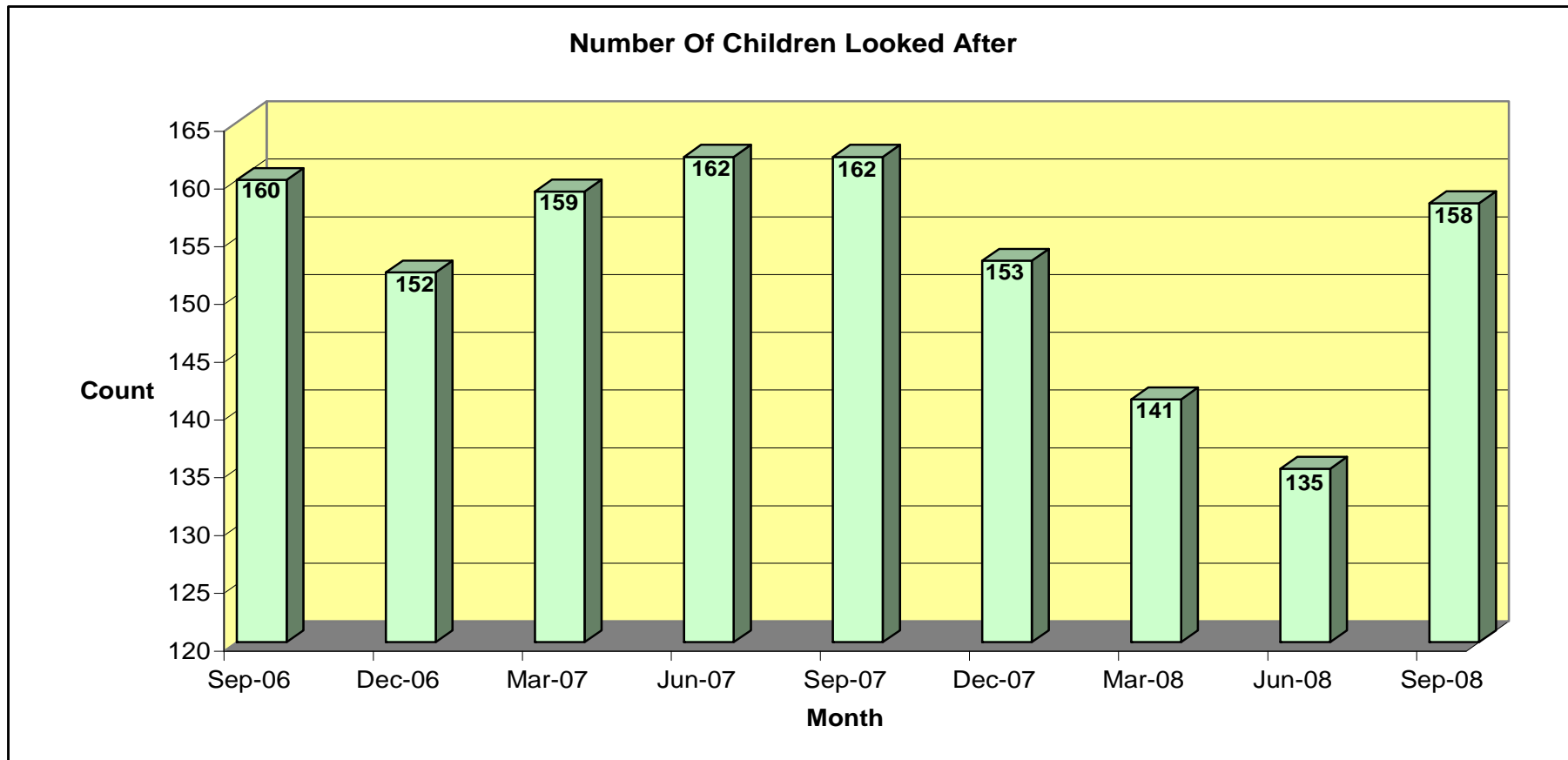
18

1) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Looked After)

There were **157** children looked after in Harrow on 30th November 2008.

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

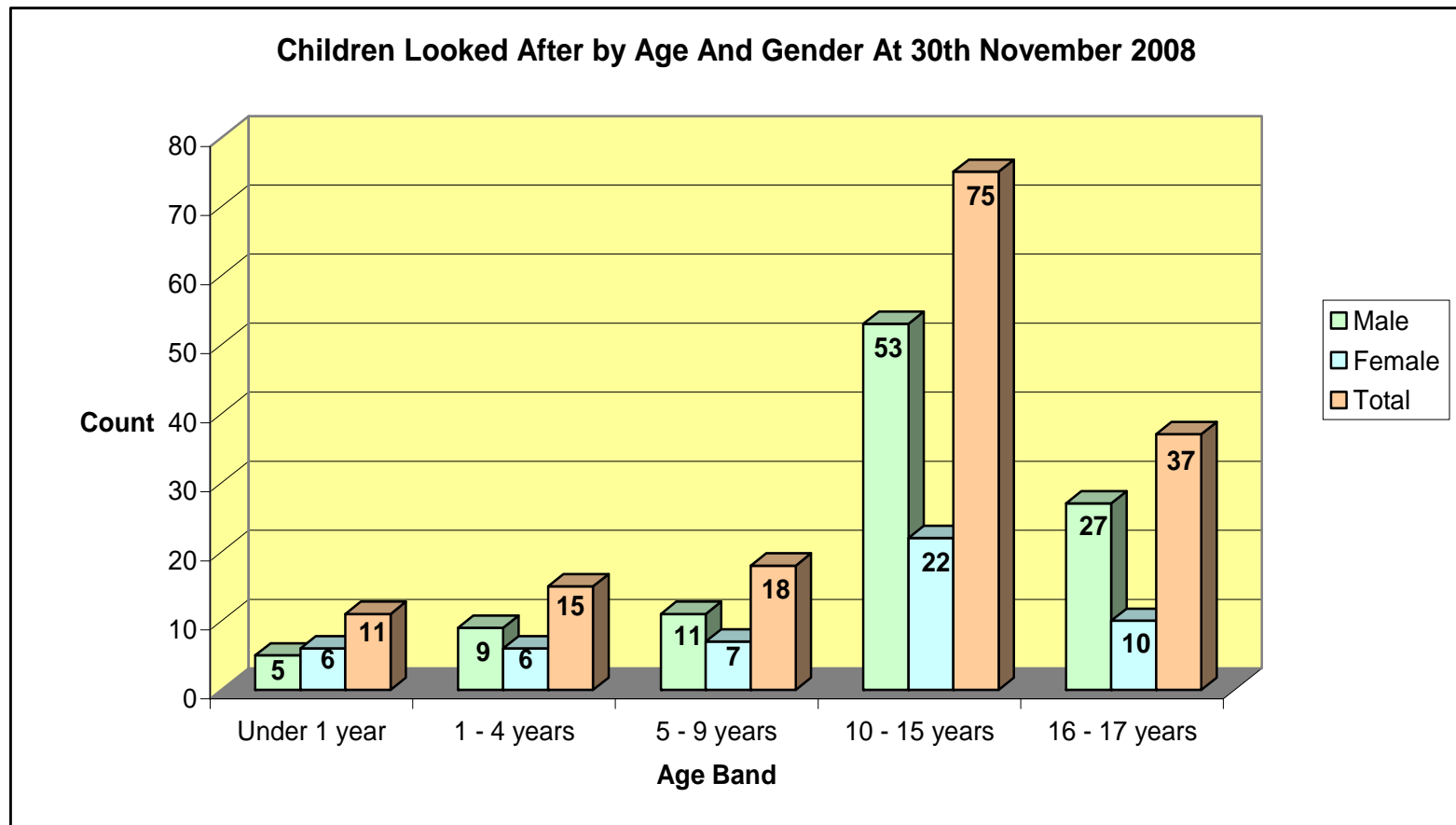
Month	No. Of CLA
Sep-06	160
Dec-06	152
Mar-07	159
Jun-07	162
Sep-07	162
Dec-07	153
Mar-08	141
Jun-08	135
Sep-08	158



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2) CLA Age and Gender Breakdown

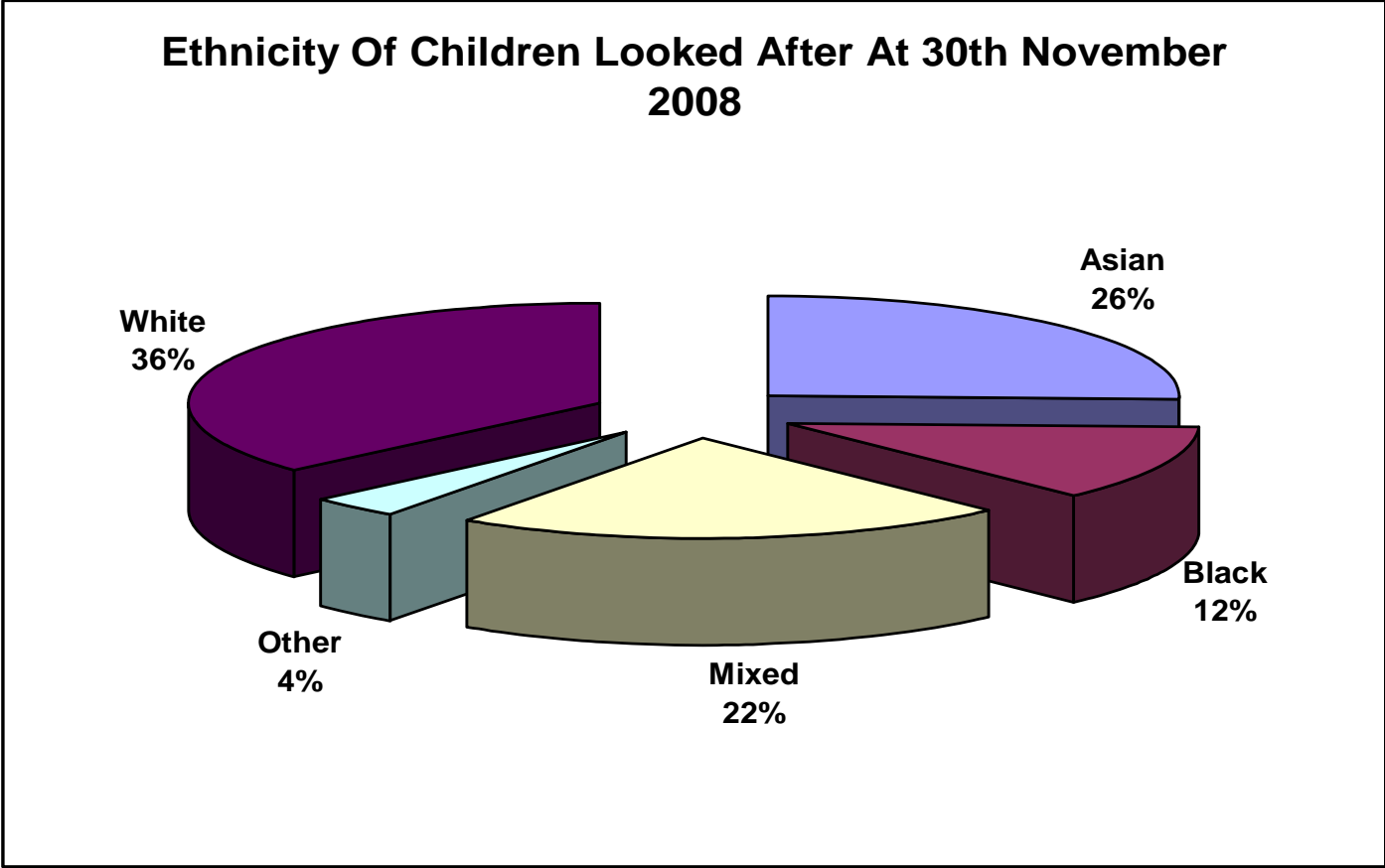
Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	6	11
1 - 4 years	9	6	15
5 - 9 years	11	7	18
10 - 15 years	53	22	75
16 - 17 years	27	10	37
Total	105	51	156



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3) CLA by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	No. Of CLA
Asian	40
Black	19
Mixed	34
Other	6
White	57
Total	156

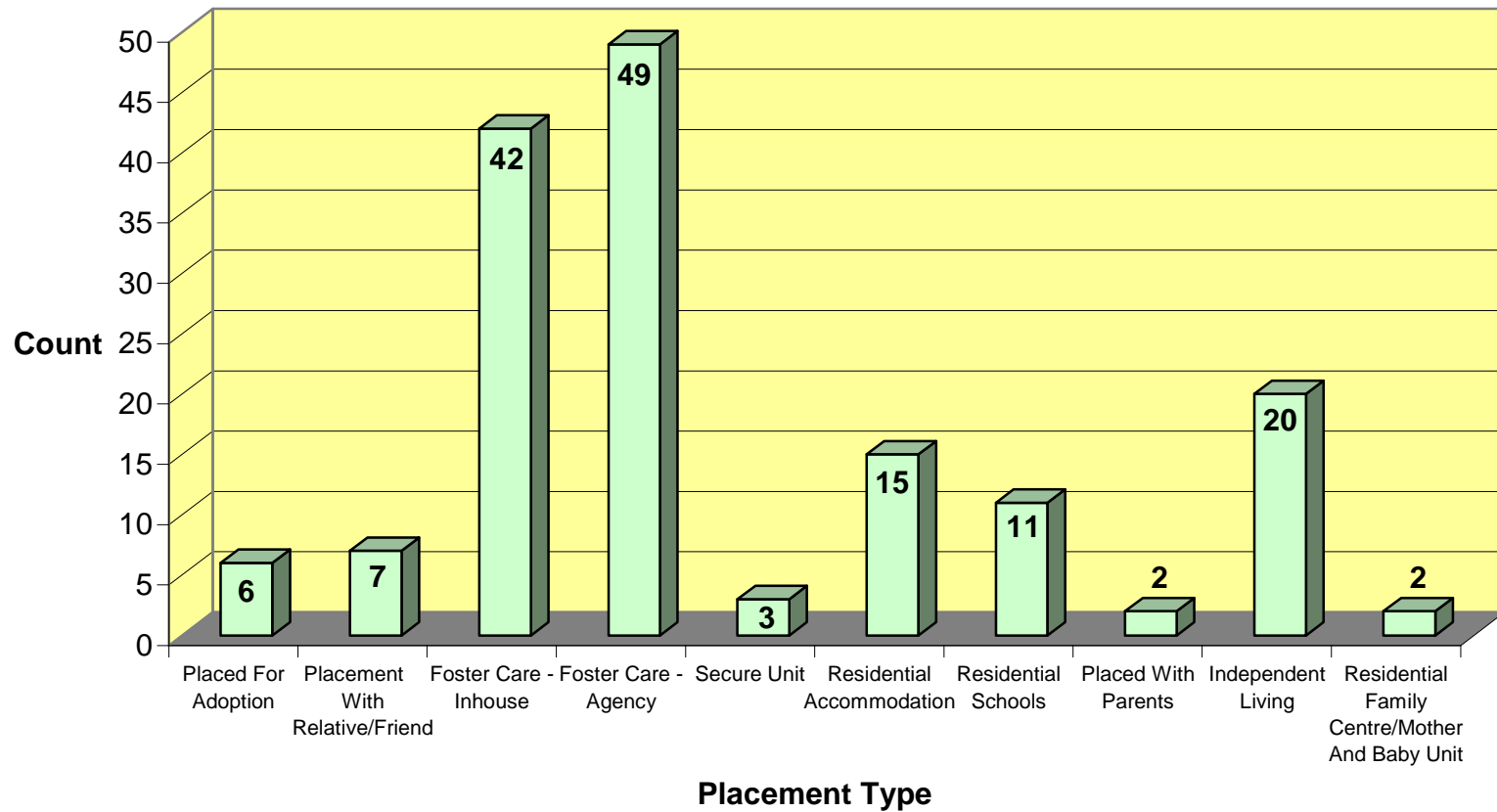


21

4) CLA by Placement Type

Placement Type	% Of CLA
Placed For Adoption	3.01
Placement With Relative/Friend	3.01
Foster Care - Inhouse	18.08
Foster Care - Agency	19.37
Secure Unit	0.43
Residential Accommodation	6.46
Residential Schools	5.16
Placed With Parents	0.86
Independent Living	6.46
Residential Family Centre/Mother And Baby Unit	0.86

Placement Type Of Looked After Children At 30th November 2008



22

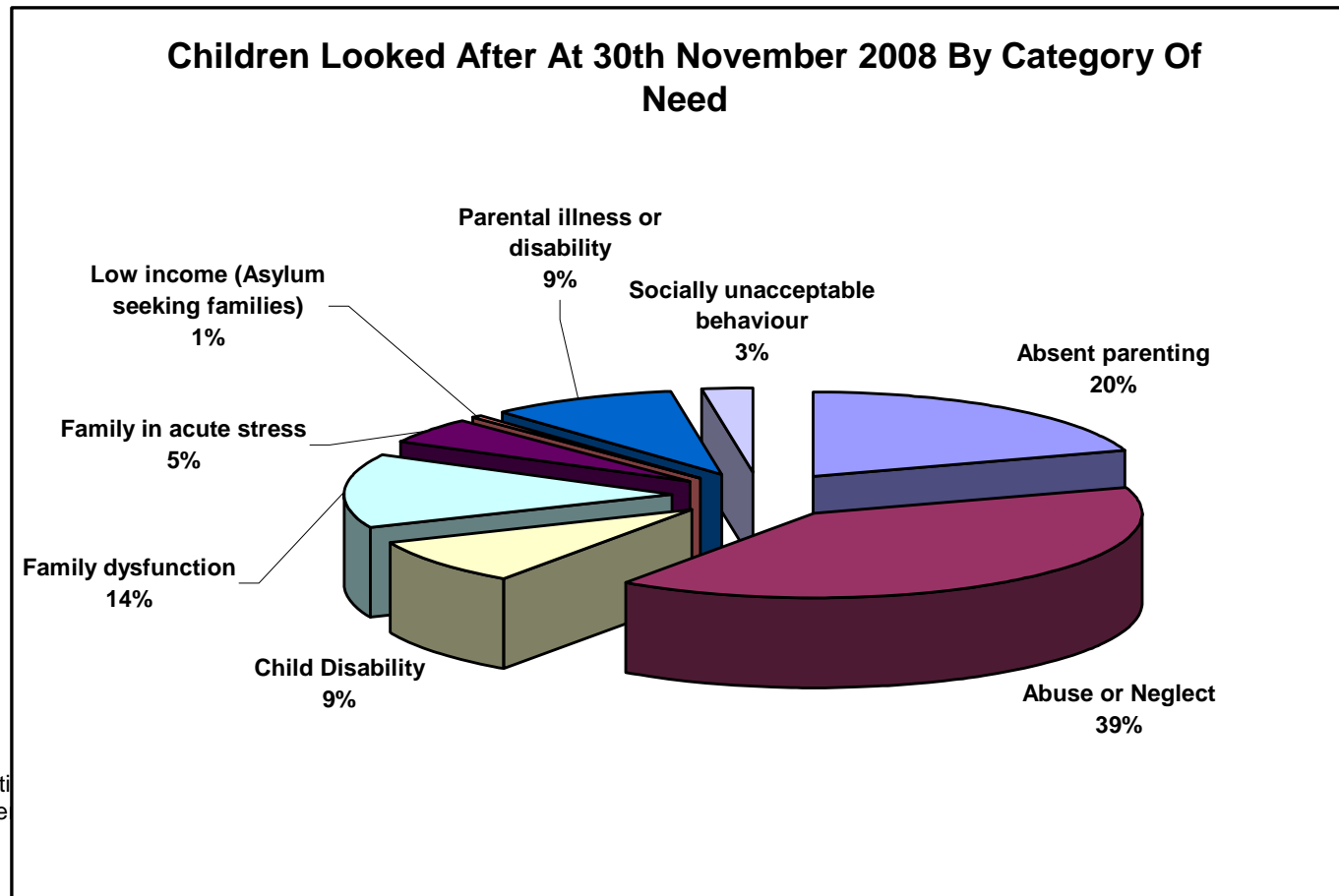
Children Looked After - Other Data as at 30th November 2008:

	31 st Aug. 2008	30 th Nov. 2008
Number of Children Placed Out of Borough:	55	59
<u>Breakdown Of types of Residential Placements:</u>		
304 Honeypot Lane:	6	6
Other Children's Homes:	9	6
Secure Unit:	0	3
Other supportive residential placements (pre - independence, mother & baby etc):	4	3
Residential Schools:	12	11
Social Work Allocation:	100%	98.72%
Prediction for Adoptions: We are predicting 14 adoptions during the year.	3 adopted	6 adopted
<u>CLA GCSE Results -</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Attained at least 1 A* - G:	46.15%	66.7%
Attained 5 or more A* - G:	43.15%	33.3%
Attained 5 or more A* - C:	5.38%	11.1%

5) Breakdown of Category of Need

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

Category Of Need	Count
Absent parenting	31
Abuse or Neglect	62
Child Disability	14
Family dysfunction	22
Family in acute stress	8
Low income (Asylum seeking families)	1
Parental illness or disability	14
Socially unacceptable behaviour	4
Grand Total	156

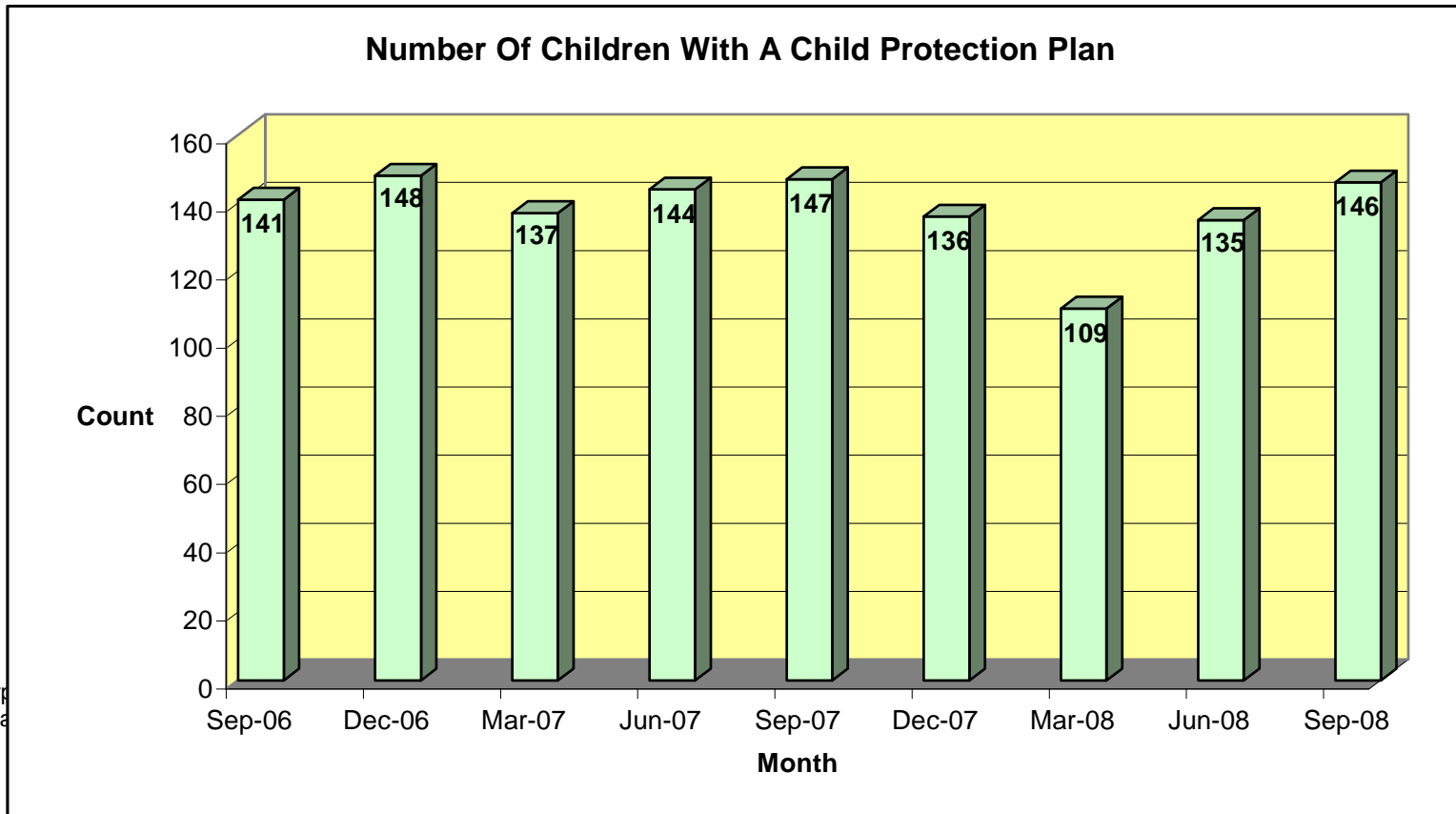


**6) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Protection Plans)
CPP by Quarters since April 2006**

There are **146** children who have a child protection plan in Harrow on 30th November 2008.

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

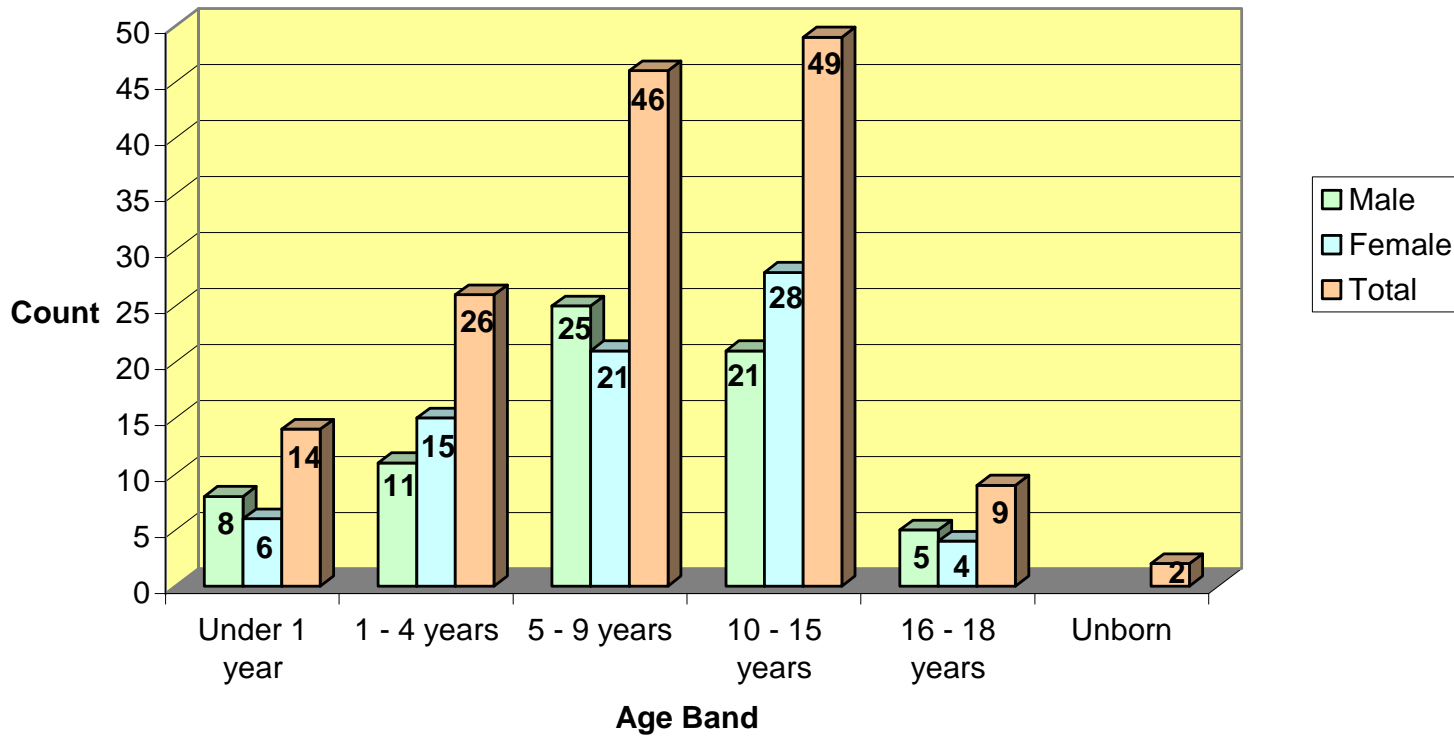
Month	No. Of CLA
Sep-06	141
Dec-06	148
Mar-07	137
Jun-07	144
Sep-07	147
Dec-07	136
Mar-08	109
Jun-08	135
Sep-08	146



7) CPP by Age and Gender

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	8	6	14
1 - 4 years	11	15	26
5 - 9 years	25	21	46
10 - 15 years	21	28	49
16 - 18 years	5	4	9
Unborn			2
Total	70	74	146

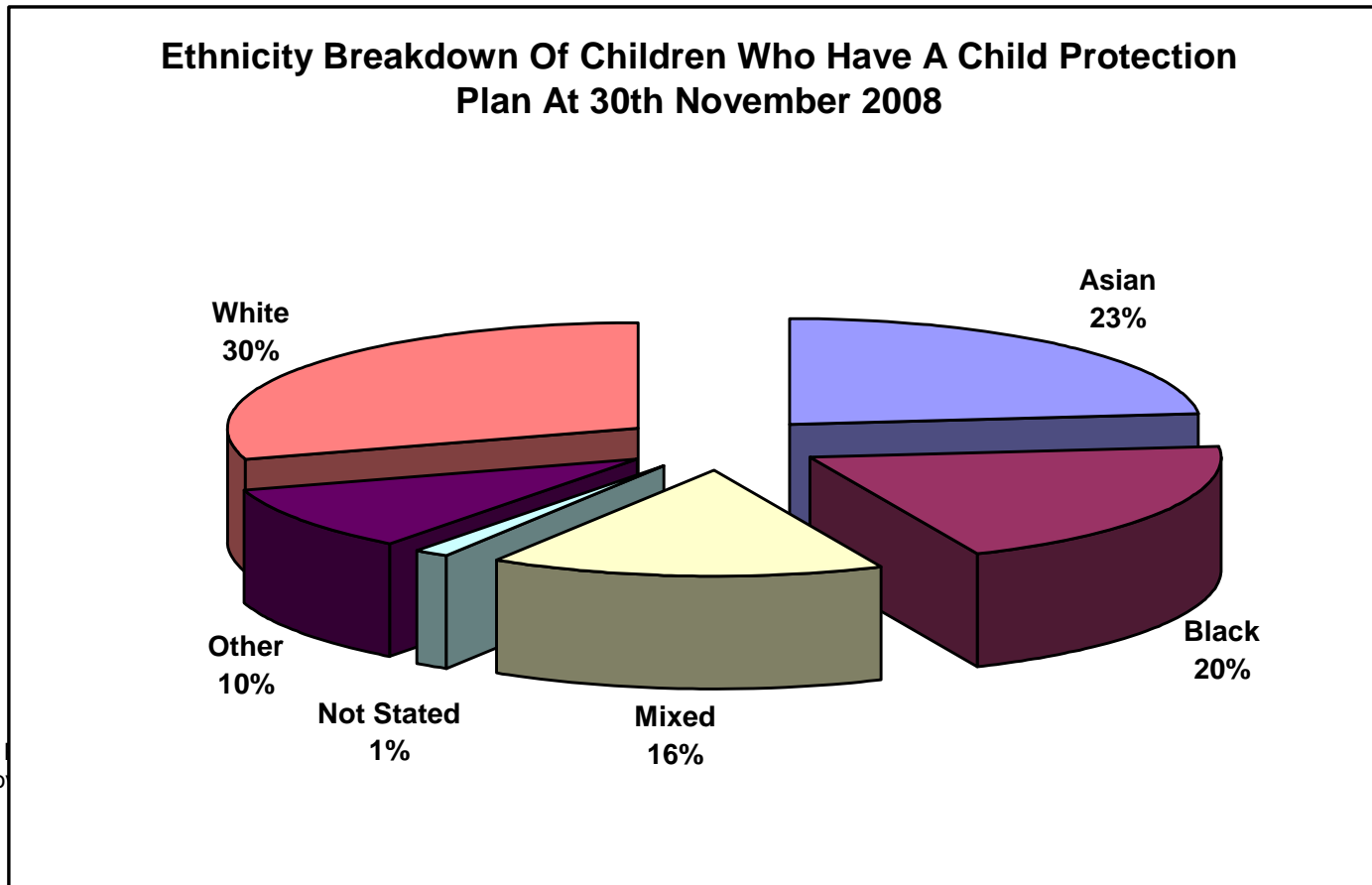
Children With Child Protection Plans By Age And Gender At 30th November 2008



7) CPP by Ethnicity

Breakdown of ethnicity of those children on the Child Protection Register as at 30th November 2008

Ethnicity	No. Of CLA
Asian	33
Black	28
Mixed	22
Not Stated	2
Other	14
White	42
Total	147

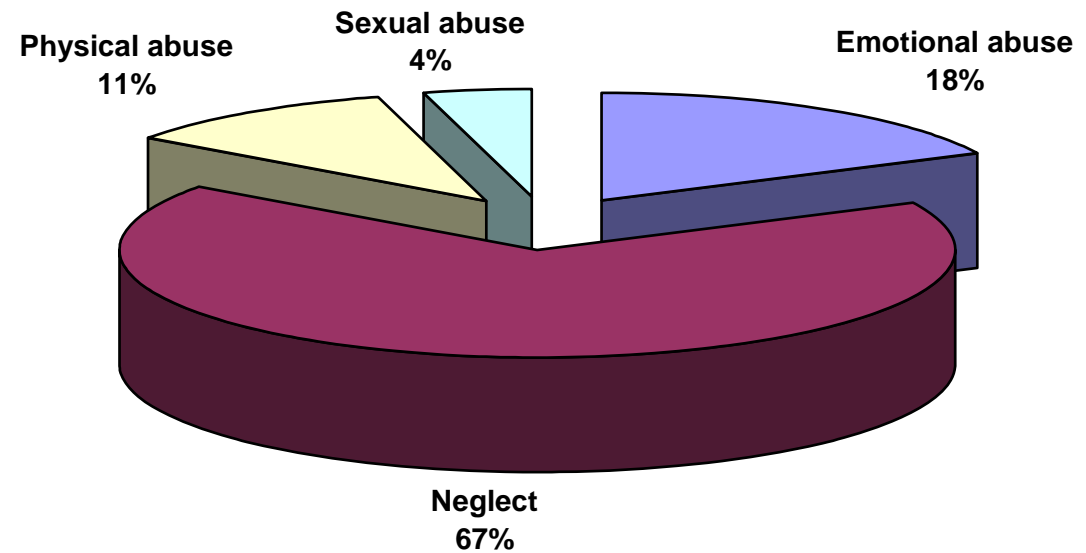


9) CPP by Category of Abuse

Breakdown of categories of abuse of children with a Child Protection plan as at 30th November 2008

Category Of Abuse	Count
Emotional abuse	26
Neglect	99
Physical abuse	16
Sexual abuse	6
Grand Total	147

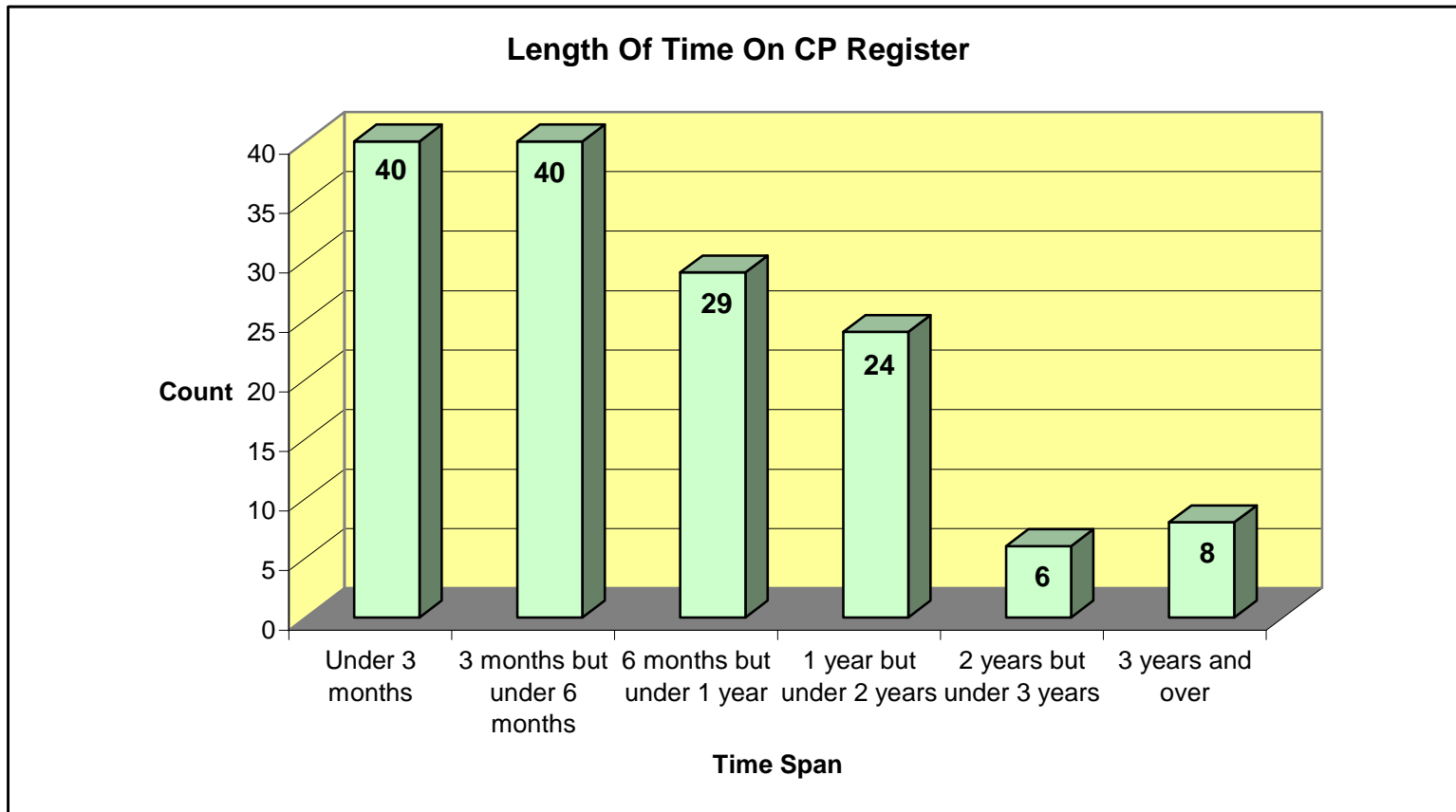
Children With A Child Protection Plan At 30th November 2008 By Category Of Abuse



10) Duration of Child Protection Plans

This graph shows the number of children with a child protection plan at 30th November 2008 and the length of time since plan was created.

Length Of Time On CP Register	Count
Under 3 months	40
3 months but under 6 months	40
6 months but under 1 year	29
1 year but under 2 years	24
2 years but under 3 years	6
3 years and over	8
Total	147



11) Key Performance Indicators for the end of November 2008

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of November 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%	95.2%
			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%	10.08%
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%	5.41%
			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%	99.06%
			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%	10.87%

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	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of November 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%	This indicator will start of in the lower band at the beginning of the year. We have a further 6 children in pre adoptive placements and adoption/sg hearings scheduled for early next year.	6%	14%	6%
	C64		Timing of core assessments - The percentage of Core Assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement.	60%	77%	Performance is being monitored and the drop in performance is being addressed.	72%	80%	73.51%
	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 – this is estimated, currently we are addressing issues of uncompleted work which may effect this indicator.	91%	92%	99.32%
	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%	3.8%
	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%	60%
	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%	70.59%

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Comments	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Target 2008/9	Performance at end of November 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%	Available Quarterly
	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%	The new system, View Point, and efforts of teams involved have greatly enhanced performance however, there are data quality issues which are being addressed. We are aware of only 2 children who have not participated in their reviews.	93%	95%	82.79%

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								