



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

TUESDAY 14 JULY 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
Mrs Myra Michael**

**Mrs Margaret Davine
Mitzi Green**

Reserve Members:

1. Mrs Vina Mithani
2. Julia Merison
3. John Nickolay
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 14 JULY 2009

AGENDA - PART I

1. **Appointment of Chairman:**

To note the appointment at the meeting of Cabinet on 14 May 2009 of Councillor Janet Mote as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **Appointment of Vice Chairman:**

To appoint a Vice Chairman for the Corporate Parenting Panel for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

Enc. 5. **Minutes:** (Pages 1 - 6)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. **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).

7. **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).

8. **Deputations:**

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

Enc. 9. **INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance:** (Pages 7 - 32)
Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.

Enc. 10. **INFORMATION REPORT - Participation in the Pledge and the role of the Children in Care Council:** (Pages 33 - 40)
Information Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services.

11. **Any Other Urgent Business:**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

AGENDA - PART II - NIL

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

7 APRIL 2009

- Chairman: * Councillor Janet Mote
- Councillors: * Husain Akhtar * Mitzi Green
* Miss Christine Bednell * Mrs Myra Michael (1)
* Mrs Margaret Davine

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

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

70. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Eric Silver	Councillor Myra Michael

71. **Declarations of Interest:**

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

72. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

73. **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 Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum procedure rules 16, 14 and 15 respectively.

74. **INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services, which set 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 February 2009. An officer outlined the following key points and issues:

- the Council's target for Adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders had been exceeded;
- core assessment performance had fallen and it was unlikely that the Council would meet its target for the year. However, action was being taken to address the issue and officers were confident that the 3 year Local Area Agreement (LAA) target would still be met. It was felt that a number of factors had resulted in less assessments being processed, the two most significant being an increased number of referrals and the tightening of regulations in relation to the way in which assessments were conducted;
- there were some concerns surrounding the number of Looked After Children missing 25 or more days of school, with the Council's threshold of 10% having already been exceeded. One of the main contributing factors had been the difficulty in finding school places for new unaccompanied asylum seeking children. An action plan had since been drawn up to tackle the problem.

In response to questions from Panel Members, officers clarified that:

- in regards to the reduction in core assessment performance, changes in legislation had resulted in an increased number of referrals which in turn had created additional work for officers. Fortunately, staffing within Childrens Services had remained relatively stable, with a core group of permanent and experienced staff ensuring continuity within the department;

- the services of Welfare Call were currently employed to monitor unauthorised absence from school and an internal Welfare Officer had recently been assigned to oversee, monitor and increase the attendance levels of all Looked After Children. At the request of Members, it was agreed that a breakdown of the current attendance statistics would be provided.

A Member of the Panel stated that whilst the use of a Welfare Officer was a positive step towards tackling absenteeism, a single officer monitoring all Looked After Children within the borough was unlikely to be able to intervene until the problem had reached an advanced stage. An officer explained that the Welfare Officer was not expected to operate in isolation and that much of the responsibility still rested with individual teachers, Virtual Headteachers and Welfare Call. However, the Welfare Officer would be able to monitor the situation as a whole, identify areas of concern and take action when necessary.

In relation to core assessment performance, a Member requested that the Panel be provided with an update outlining how the core assessment process had changed. An officer stated that he would aim to provide a written report at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Chairman congratulated Children's Services on achieving its Adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders target. She stated that the success clearly demonstrated that Harrow's joint partnership with Coram, which had initially been considered highly unconventional, had in fact worked, with other Councils now looking to follow Harrow's example.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

75. **INFORMATION REPORT - Update on the development of the "Children in Care Council" in line with the London Pledge:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services which outlined the progress made towards developing a 'Children in Care Council', which would support the Corporate Parenting Panel in their deliberations, in line with the London Pledge.

An officer informed the Panel that the Young Voices group had been re-launched in November 2008 and its members were hoping to develop it into a Children in Care Council. The officer explained that this group currently comprised of a diverse group of young people and its purpose was to give individuals within the care system both a voice and valuable life skills.

In order to ensure the proposed Children in Care Council would function efficiently, members of the Young Voices group had recently undertaken training to improve their ability to hold meetings, communicate clearly and make decisions. Further training was due to be organised with the assistance of A National Voice. In addition, the Panel were informed that Wandsworth Council currently operated a Children in Care Council and that the Young Voices group intended to meet with its members to share ideas and good practice.

Following questions from Panel Members, the officer clarified that:

- following further training, it was intended that members of the Young Voices group would have the opportunity to sit on fostering interview panels;
- there was no limit to the number of young people that could join the group. It was felt that attracting new members would have a positive impact on the work of the group by promoting diversity and encouraging new ideas;
- the group would decide whether they wished to promote a formal hierarchical structure or continue with the current arrangement in which all group members were equal;
- the work of the Young Voices group and the proposed Children in Care Council would link closely with issues addressed in the London Pledge. Whilst there were currently no formal links to individual schools, it was hoped that the knowledge and experience members would gain could be transferred into other areas such as school councils.

The Chairman stated that she wished to encourage the Young Voices group to maintain formal communications with the Corporate Parenting Panel. The officer stated that this would be beneficial to both parties, but that the meetings and discussions would need to be managed carefully to ensure they did not simply become

a formality or routine. An officer added that the terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel might need to be reviewed to ensure that the links between it and the Young Voices group / Children in Care Council were firmly established.

A number of Members requested that they be reissued with a copy of the London Pledge. In response, an officer undertook to provide this document.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

76. **INFORMATION REPORT - Progress on the implementation of the London Pledge for Children Looked After:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the London Pledge, an initiative that aimed to ensure children and young people in care across London had equal to the same range of key services.

An officer outlined the following key points:

- the London Pledge had been signed off on behalf of Harrow Council at a London wide launch on 25 November 2008;
- the Life Chances Forum would be ensuring that the London Pledge was successfully implemented at a local level;
- individual children would receive tailored pledges to ensure they received the items or services that best suited their needs. Individual Looked After Children would not be entitled to everything that was available under the pledge and officers stressed that provision was based on need;
- the way in which the London Pledge would be financed had been considered by the Life Chances Forum. However, though the Care Matters grant was expected to cover much of the cost, due to the flexibility of the pledge and the use of individual pledges for different children, it was not possible to calculate with absolute certainty the cost of full implementation;
- the cost of information technology equipment for Looked After Children would be met by a grant from the Department of Children, Schools and Families. An officer had been appointed to oversee the process.

The officer stated that, over the following two months, Social Workers in Harrow would begin to introduce the London Pledge to both carers and Looked After Children. The Council would monitor the process and provide the Corporate Parenting Panel with frequent updates.

The Chairman stated that whilst the concept of the London Pledge seemed promising, financing it could be problematic. A Member of the Panel stated that the issues in relation to financing were foreseen, but that it was felt the Council had a duty to proceed with its implementation. Another Member stated that, provided individual pledges were sensible, financing the scheme should not be too problematic. An officer added that the implementation of the London Pledge would be carefully monitored to ensure that it was operating as expected.

An officer stated that it was important that Looked After Children placed into care outside of the borough had access to the same information and resources as those based in Harrow. The officer indicated that the use of a blog was being considered in order to centralise information and allow individual children to share their experiences of the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

77. **INFORMATION REPORT - Adoption Services provided by Harrow Council Children's Services:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services which outlined the Adoption Services provided by Harrow Council. An officer highlighted the key points detailed in the report and invited questions from the Panel.

A Member requested that the Panel be provided with a copy of the booklet that was given to individuals that had adopted a child. The officer stated that the training and support material was provided by Corum, but that he would ensure that Panel Members were provided with the documents.

The Chairman stated that she was pleased to see that the use of Life Story Books had become commonplace. She and other Panel Members stated that the books greatly assisted those that had entered the care system at a young age, allowing them to both understand their past and develop an identity for the future.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

78. **Any Other Urgent Business:**

Submission of agenda items

The Chairman requested that any Member that wished to have an item placed on the agenda at a future meeting contact her in order to make the necessary arrangements.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 7.20 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JANET MOTE
Chairman

Appendix 1

Officers in attendance:

Andreas Kyriacou

Senior Co-ordinator, Children Looked After

Peter Tolley

Family Placement Service Manager

Adeline Abraham

Youth Participation Officer

Appendix 2

Councillors backbenching:

Councillor Paul Osborn

This page is intentionally left blank



Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 July 2009
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 the end of May 2009.

Key Points:

- Core assessment performance has improved to above target (see full details from Terry McCarthy below).
- Initial assessment performance has dropped and robust management action is being taken to improve the situation.
- CLA missing 25+ days of school - Target of 10% already exceeded. Separate report provided from Education Welfare Service.
- The number of children placed out of borough has increased significantly. This is being investigated and is partly due to data cleansing at the year end (improved identification of placement address).

2. Additional Information on Core Assessments

The panel requested additional information on core assessments because the 2008/09 target was not reached.

Under the Government publication *Assessment of Children in Need and their Families*, Core Assessments are “detailed” assessments which address the;

- child’s developmental needs;
- parenting being offered;
- wider family and environment factors.

These assessments should be completed within 35 working days and must be completed whenever a child:

- is subject to a child protection (section 47) assessment;
- is being looked after or this is under consideration;
- is an unaccompanied asylum applicant;
- appears to have other very complex needs.

The LAA target for 2009/10 requires 81% of Core Assessments to be completed within 35 working days. This target was being met up to May 2009 however it is expected to drop below the target in the June 2009 performance figures. The reason for this has been unexpected staff absences due to illness and special leave.

On 29th May all social workers were instructed that all Core Assessments must be completed within 35 days. Practitioners and managers have accepted this as an important measure in meeting the needs of the children and maintaining public confidence in the service.

It is therefore anticipated that the short-term drop in performance expected in June will recover over the next three months.

Weekly performance monitoring information is being used to ensure that no Core Assessment goes beyond its 25th day without a manager reassuring themselves that the assessment is nearing completion.

The team has also implemented a Quality Audit Form which addresses the quality of Core Assessments against eleven key criteria. All assessments must be audited as meeting at least 80 marks (out of 100) before the assessment can be signed off by the manager. Completing the assessment within 35 working days is an important aspect of this quality audit.

The staff development programme currently being implemented in Duty and Assessment includes mentoring and training to support practitioners in meeting the requirements of the quality audit.

Terry McCarthy
Service Manager – Referral and Assessment

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. 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.

5. 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

This page is intentionally left blank



Corporate Parenting

June 2009

**CLA & CPP Activity
To end of May 2009**

CONTENTS

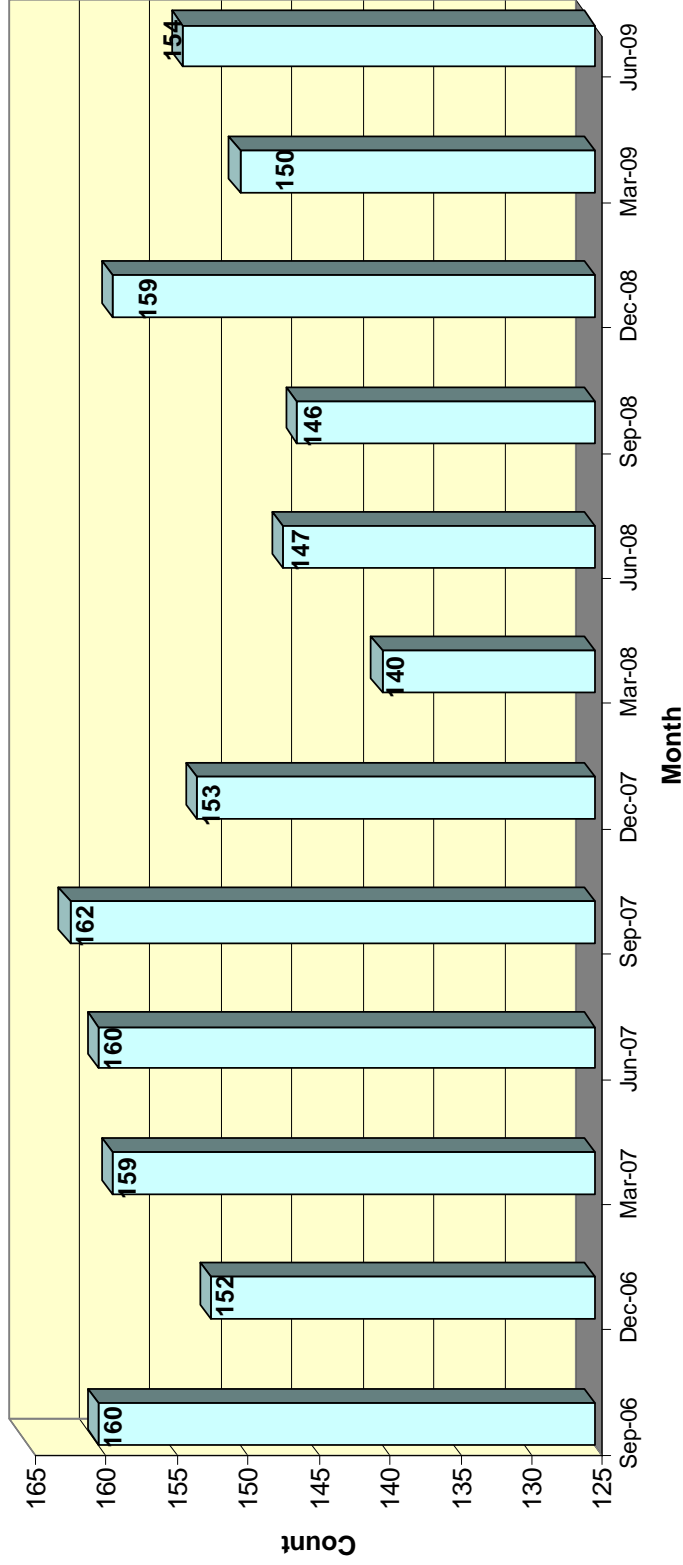
- 1) SAFETY OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN (CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER) 3
- 2) CLA AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN..... 4
- 3) CLA AGE AND ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN 5
- 4) CLA BY ETHNICITY 6
- 5) CLA BY ETHNICITY & GENDER 7
- 6) CLA BY PLACEMENT TYPE 8
- 7) CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER - OTHER DATA AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2009: 9
- 8) BREAKDOWN OF CATEGORY OF NEED OF CLA..... 10
- 9) SAFETY OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN (CHILDREN PROTECTION PLANS)..... 11
- 10) CHILDREN WHO HAVE A CPP BY AGE AND GENDER 12
- 11) ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN WITH A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN 13
- 12) ETHNICITY & GENDER BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN WITH A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN 14
- 13) CPP BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE 15
- 14) CPP CATEGORY OF ABUSE BY ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN 16
- 15) DURATION OF CHILD PROTECTION PLANS..... 17
- 16) NUMBERS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER & CHILDREN WITH CHILD PROTECTION PLAN .. 18
- 17) KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE END OF FEBRUARY 2009..... 19

1) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Looked After)

There were 156 children looked after in Harrow on 31st May 2009.

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

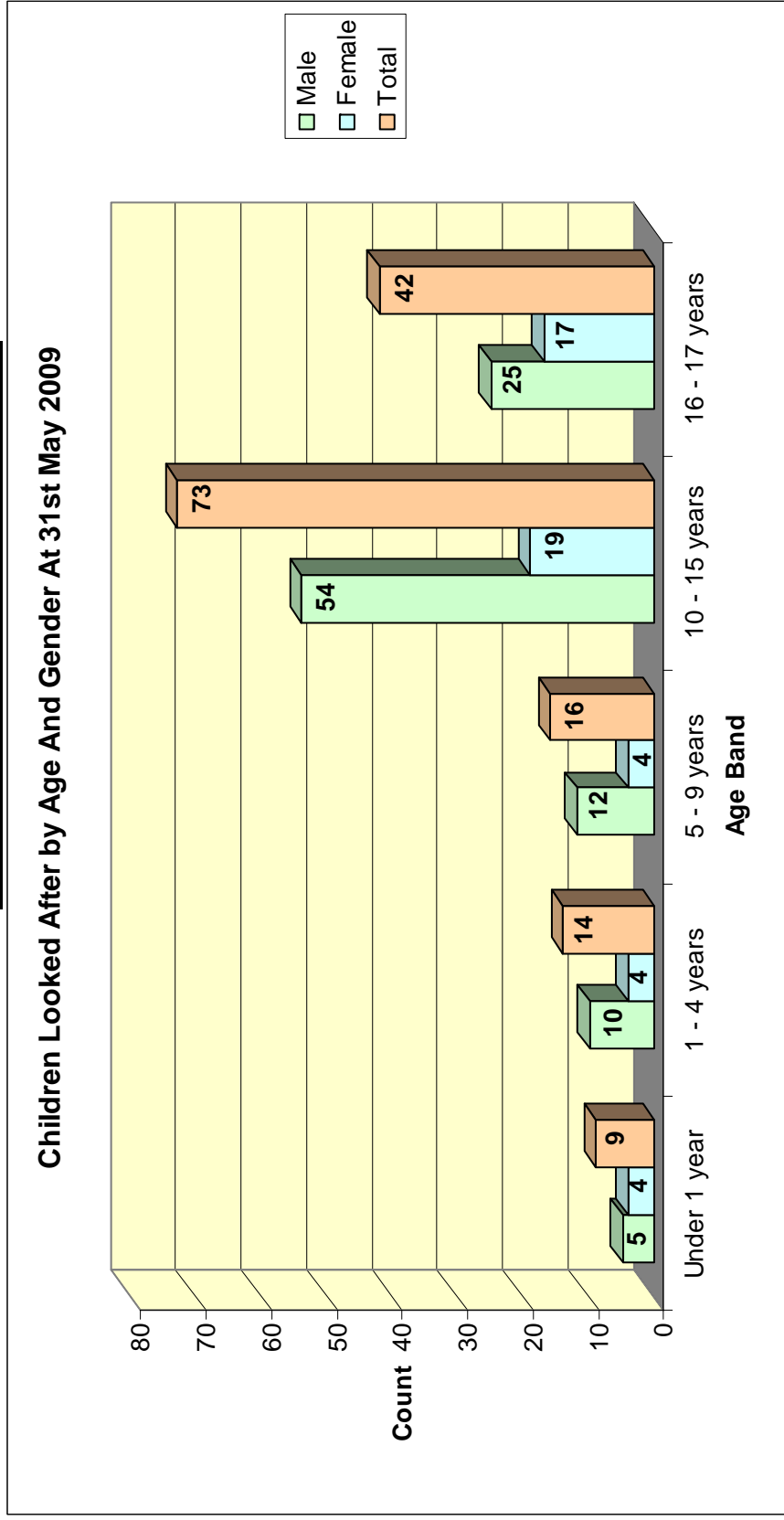
Number Of Children Looked After at Quarterly Intervals



Month	No. Of CLA
Sep-06	160
Dec-06	152
Mar-07	159
Jun-07	160
Sep-07	162
Dec-07	153
Mar-08	140
Jun-08	147
Sep-08	146
Dec-08	159
Mar-09	150
Jun-09	154

2) CLA Age and Gender Breakdown

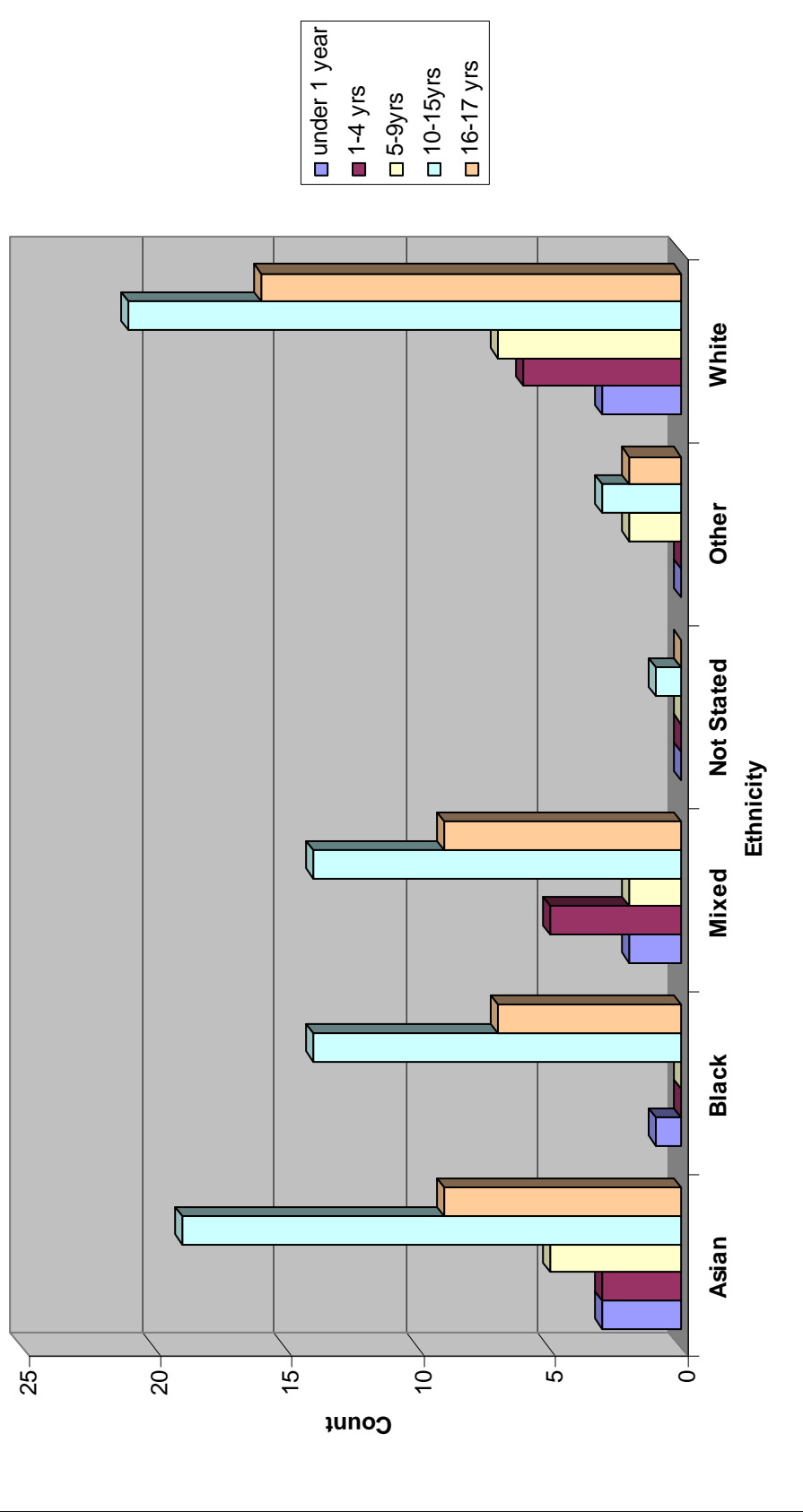
Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1 - 4 years	10	4	14
5 - 9 years	12	4	16
10 - 15 years	54	19	73
16 - 17 years	25	17	42
Total	106	48	154



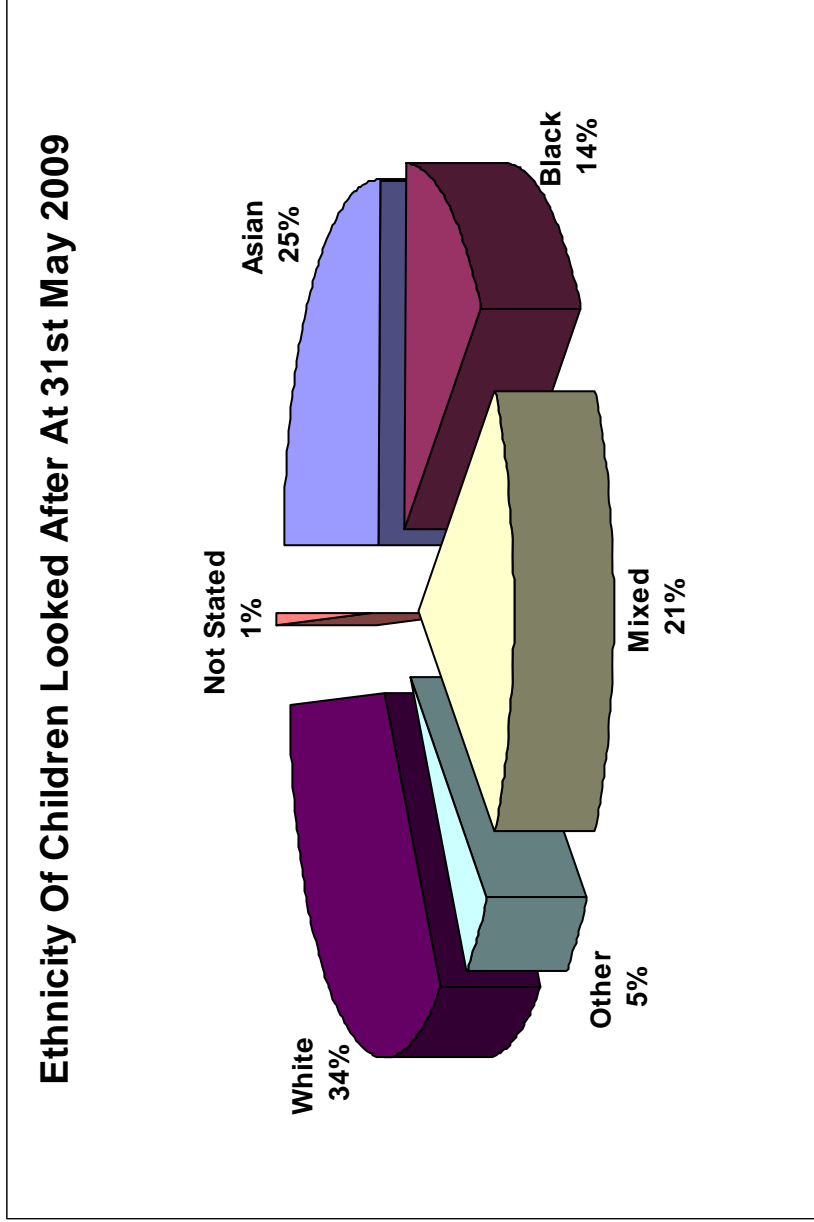
3) CLA Age and Ethnicity Breakdown

Ethnicity	under 1 year	1-4 yrs	5-9yrs	10-15yrs	16-17 yrs	Total
Asian	3	3	3	5	19	39
Black	1	0	0	0	14	22
Mixed	2	5	2	14	9	32
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	2	3	7
White	3	6	6	7	21	53
Total	9	14	16	72	43	154

Age Groups of CLA by Ethnicity at 31st May 2009



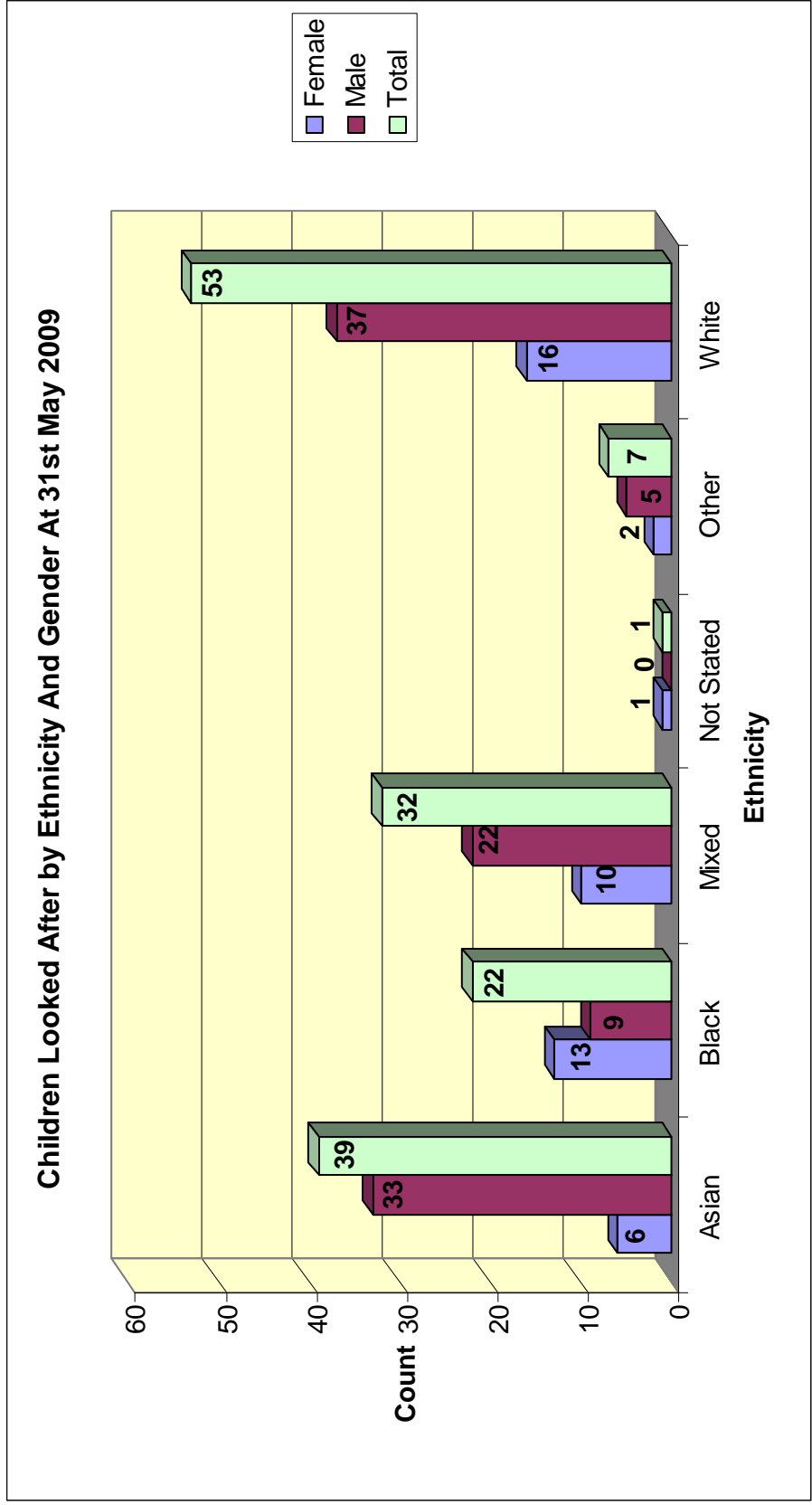
4) CLA by Ethnicity



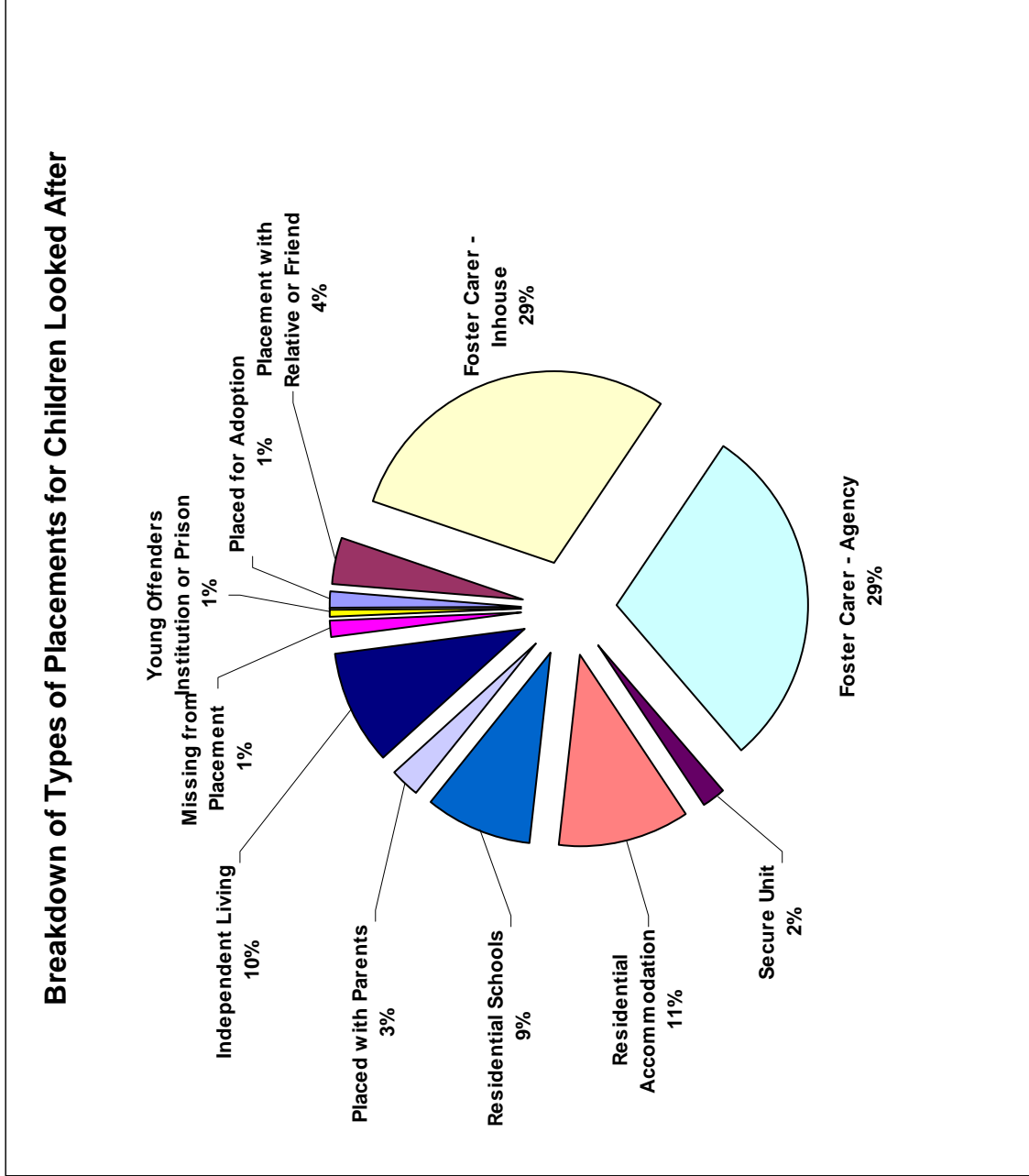
Ethnicity	No. Of CLA
Asian	39
Black	22
Mixed	32
Other	7
White	53
Not Stated	1
Total	154

5) CLA by Ethnicity & Gender

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total
Asian	6	33	39
Black	13	9	22
Mixed	10	22	32
Not Stated	1	0	1
Other	2	5	7
White	16	37	53
Total	48	106	154



6) CLA by Placement Type

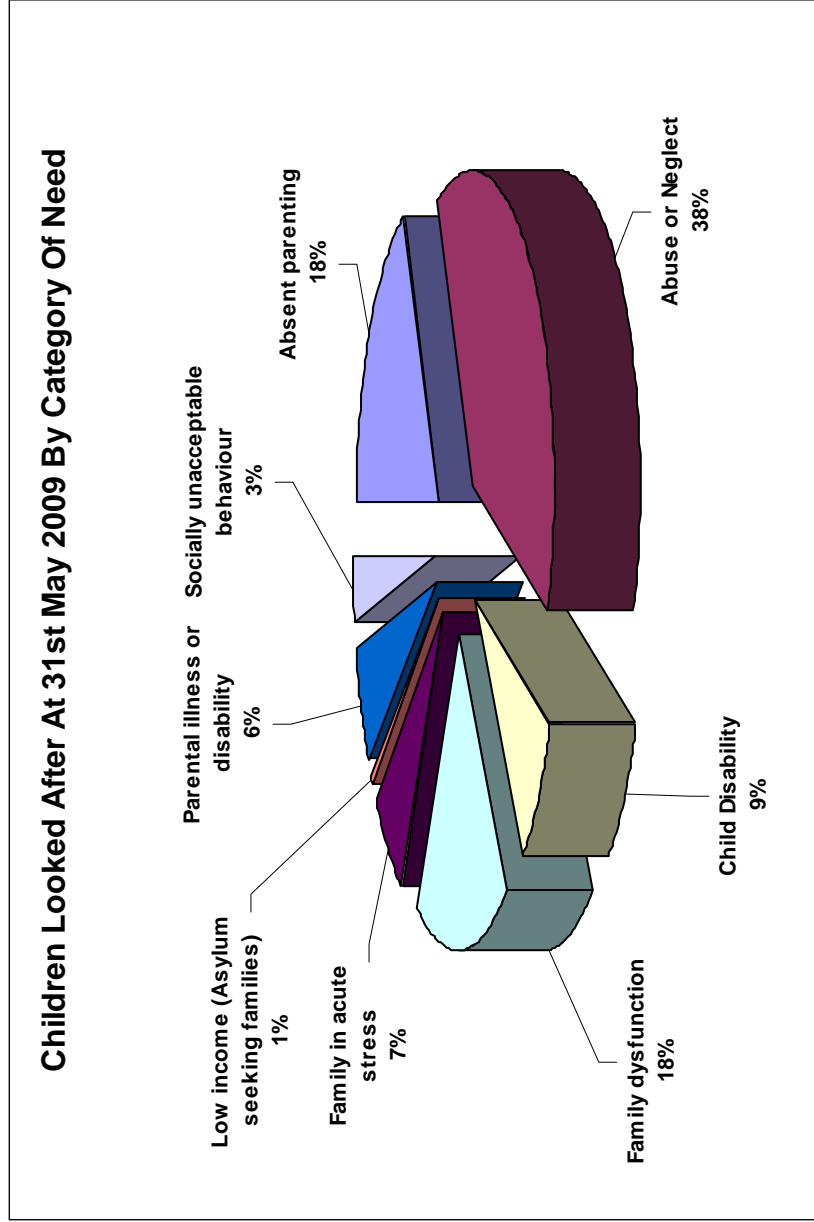


7) Children Looked After - Other Data as at 31 May 2009:

	31 st Aug. 2008	30 th Nov. 2008	28th Feb 2009	June 2009
Number of Children Placed Out of Borough: Of those, who are placed more than 20 miles	55	59	64	83 41
<u>Breakdown Of types of Residential Placements:</u>				
304 Honeypot Lane:	6	6	5	5
External Children's Homes:	9	6	9	9
Secure Unit:	0	3	1	3
Other supportive residential placements (pre - independence, mother & baby etc):	4	3	1	1
Residential Schools:	12	11	12	14
Social Work Allocation:	100%	98.72%	100%	100%
Adoptions & Special Guardianship Orders (our target for adoptions is 14)	3 adopted	6 adopted	20 for 2008-09	2 to date
<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%		

8) Breakdown of Category of Need of CLA

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



Category Of Need	Count
Absent parenting	28
Abuse or Neglect	59
Child Disability	14
Family dysfunction	24
Family in acute stress	10
Low income (Asylum seeking families)	1
Parental illness or disability	11
Socially unacceptable behaviour	7
Grand Total	154

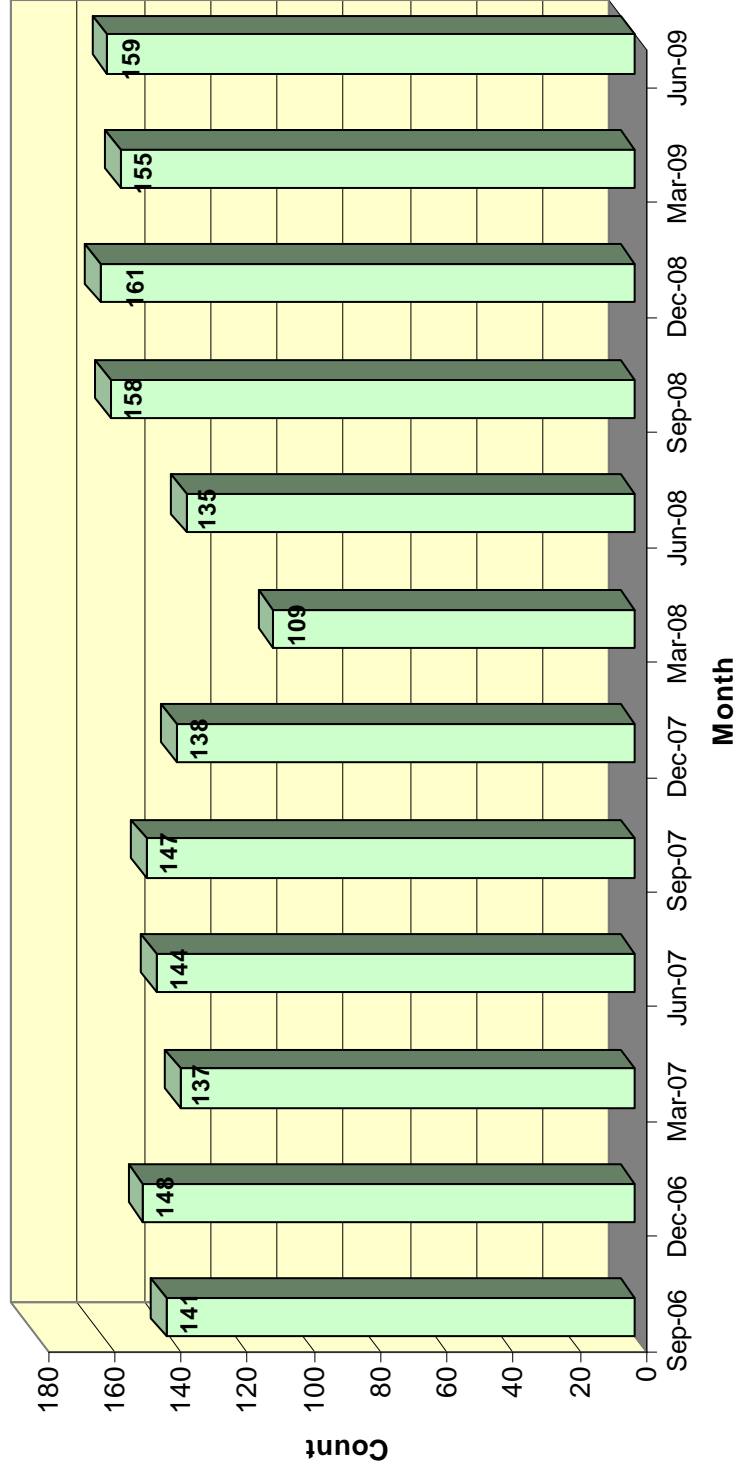
**9) Safety of Vulnerable Children (Children Protection Plans)
 CPP by Quarters since April 2006**

There are 159 children who have a child protection plan in Harrow on 31st May 2009.

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

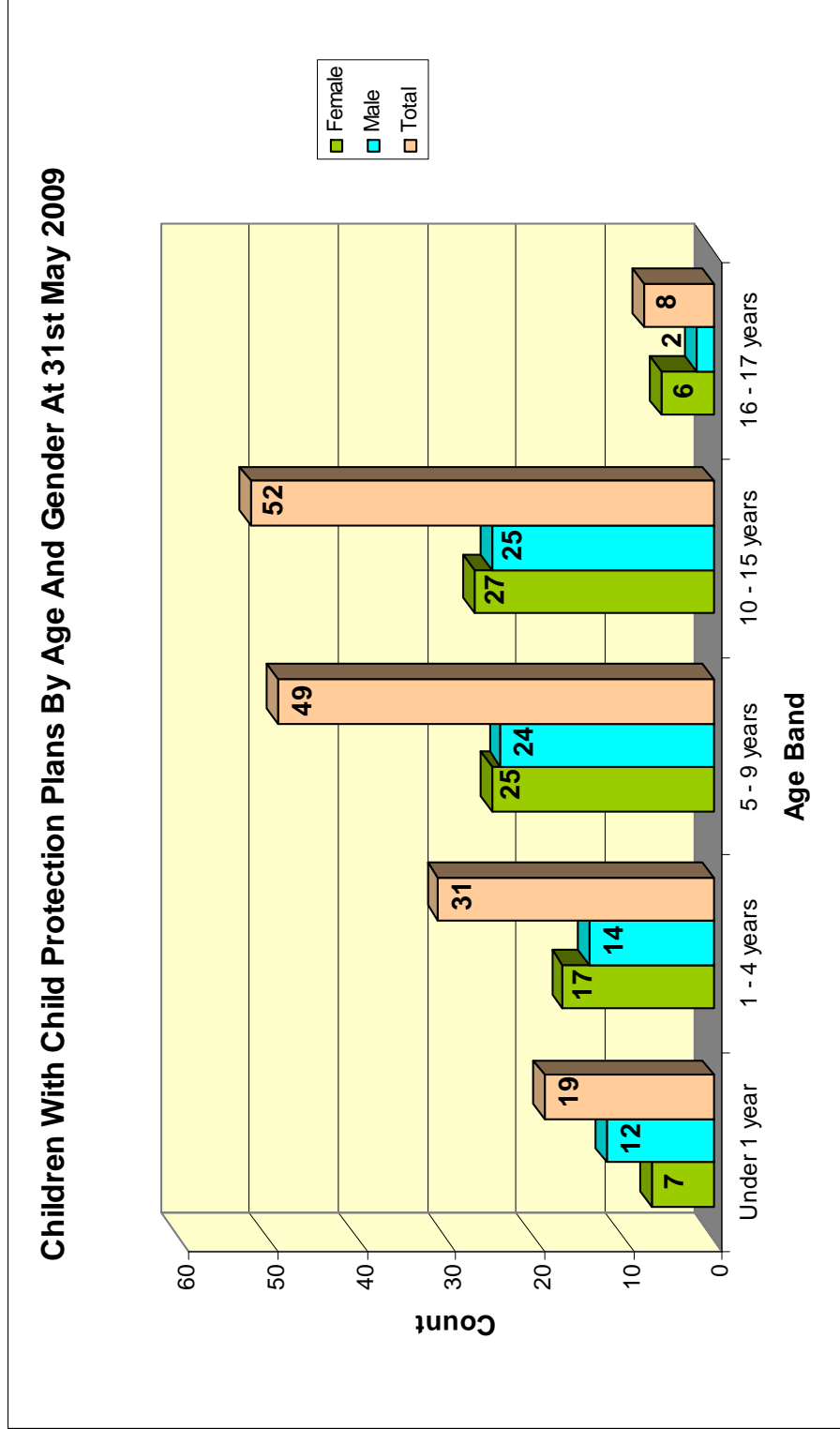
Month	No. Of CPP
Sep-06	141
Dec-06	148
Mar-07	137
Jun-07	144
Sep-07	147
Dec-07	138
Mar-08	109
Jun-08	135
Sep-08	158
Dec-08	161
Mar-09	155
Jun-09	159

Number Of Children With A Child Protection Plan

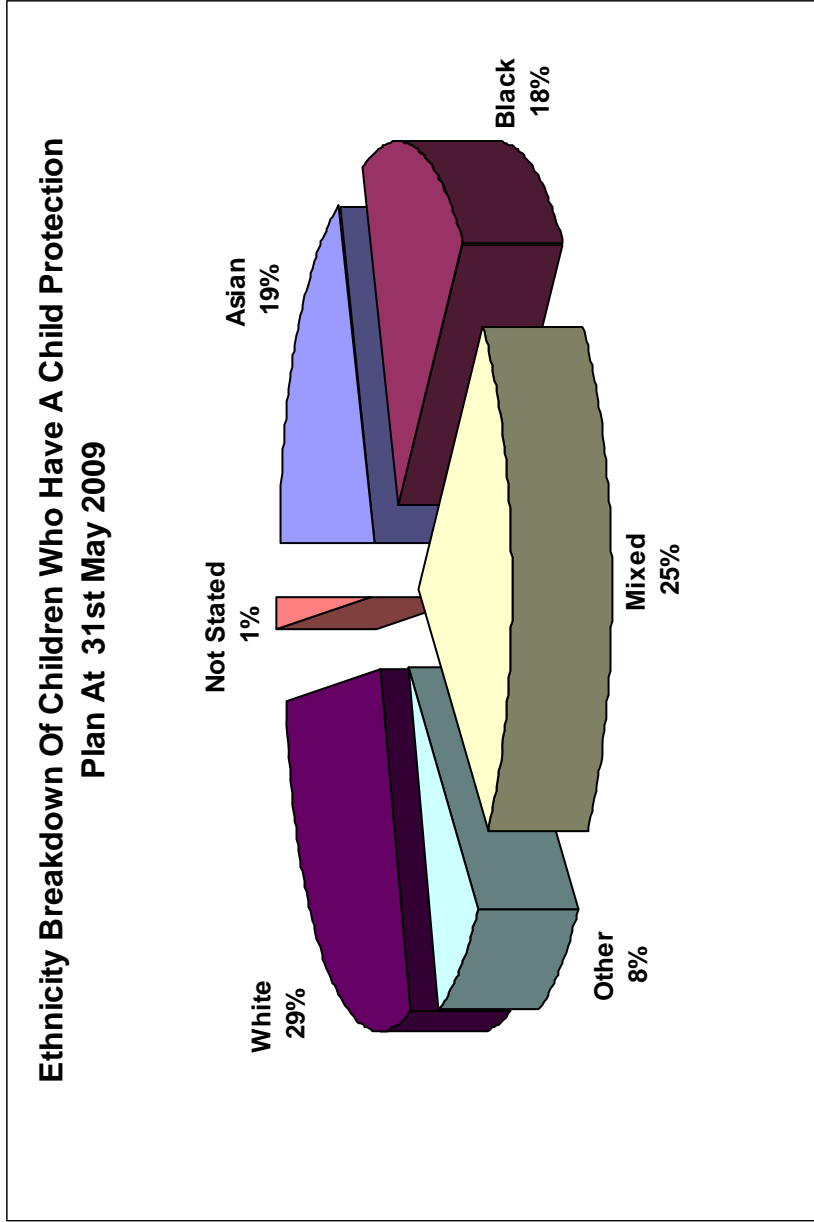


10) Children who have a CPP by Age and Gender

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year	7	12	19
1 - 4 years	17	14	31
5 - 9 years	25	24	49
10 - 15 years	27	25	52
16 - 17 years	6	2	8
Total	82	77	159



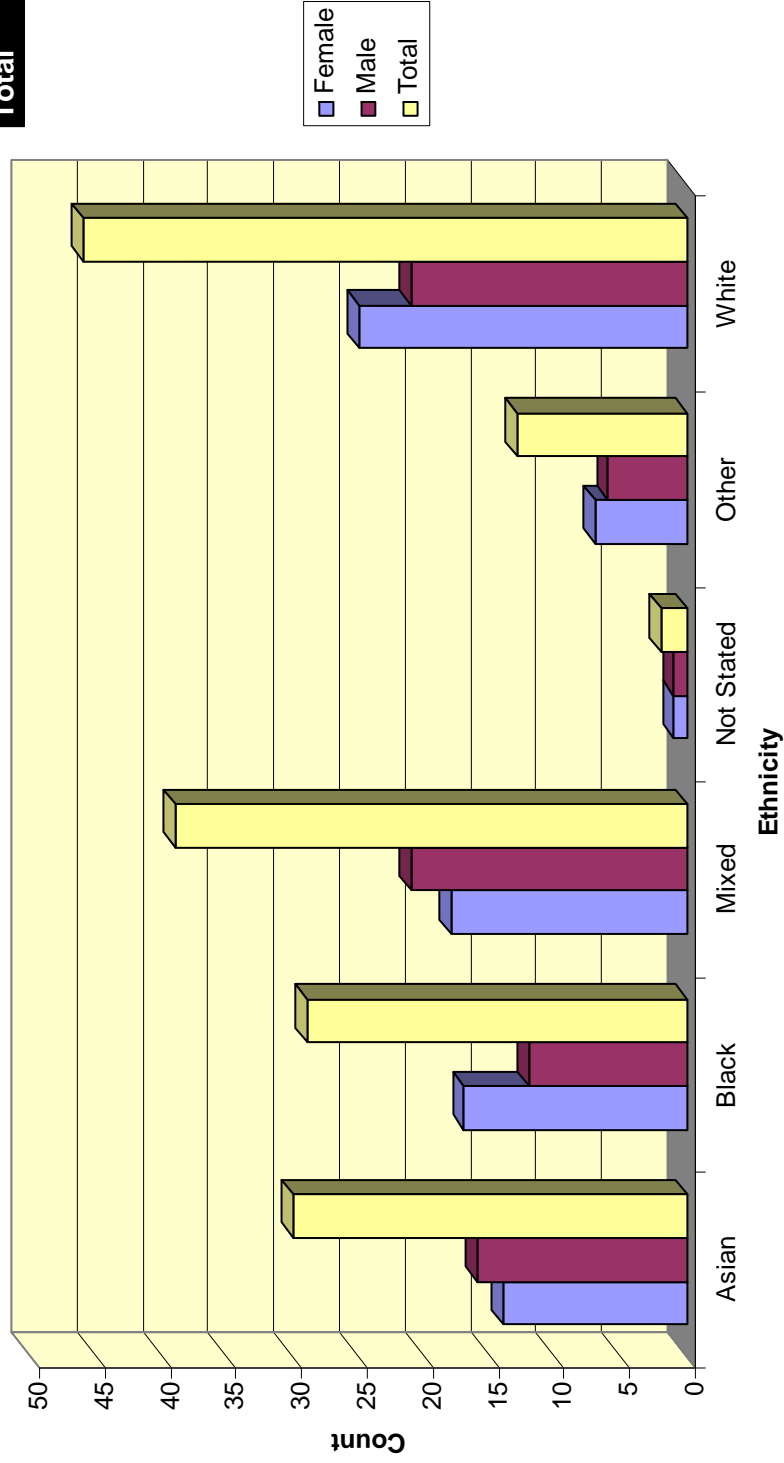
11) Ethnicity of Children with a Child Protection Plan



Ethnicity	No. Of CPP
Asian	30
Black	29
Mixed	39
Other	13
White	46
Not Stated	2
Total	159

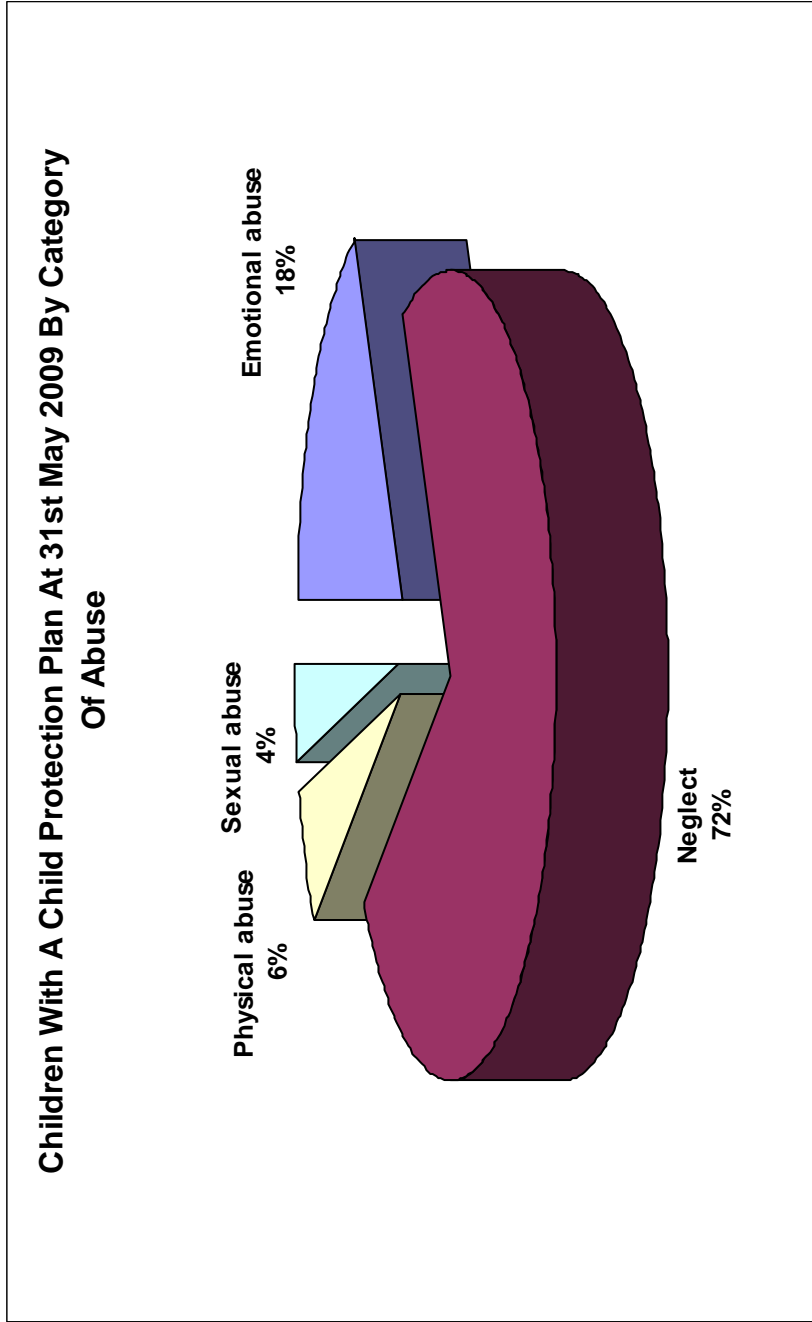
12) Ethnicity & Gender Breakdown of Children with a Child Protection Plan

Ethnicity & Gender Breakdown of Children who have a Child Protection Plan
at 31st May 2009



Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total
Asian	14	16	30
Black	17	12	29
Mixed	18	21	39
Not Stated	1	1	2
Other	7	6	13
White	25	21	46
Total	82	77	159

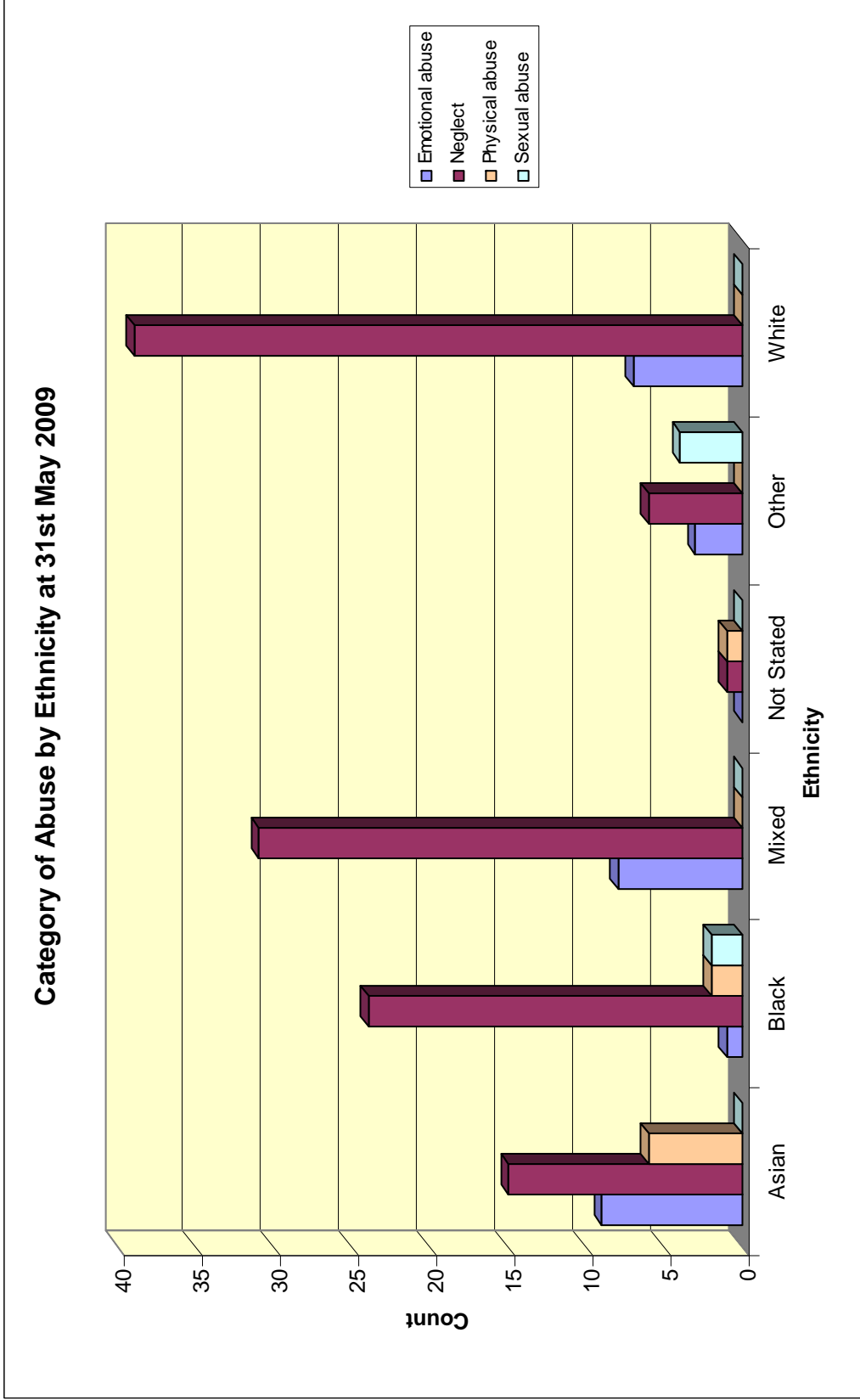
13) CPP by Category of Abuse



Category of Abuse	Count
Emotional abuse	28
Neglect	116
Physical abuse	9
Sexual abuse	6
Grand Total	159

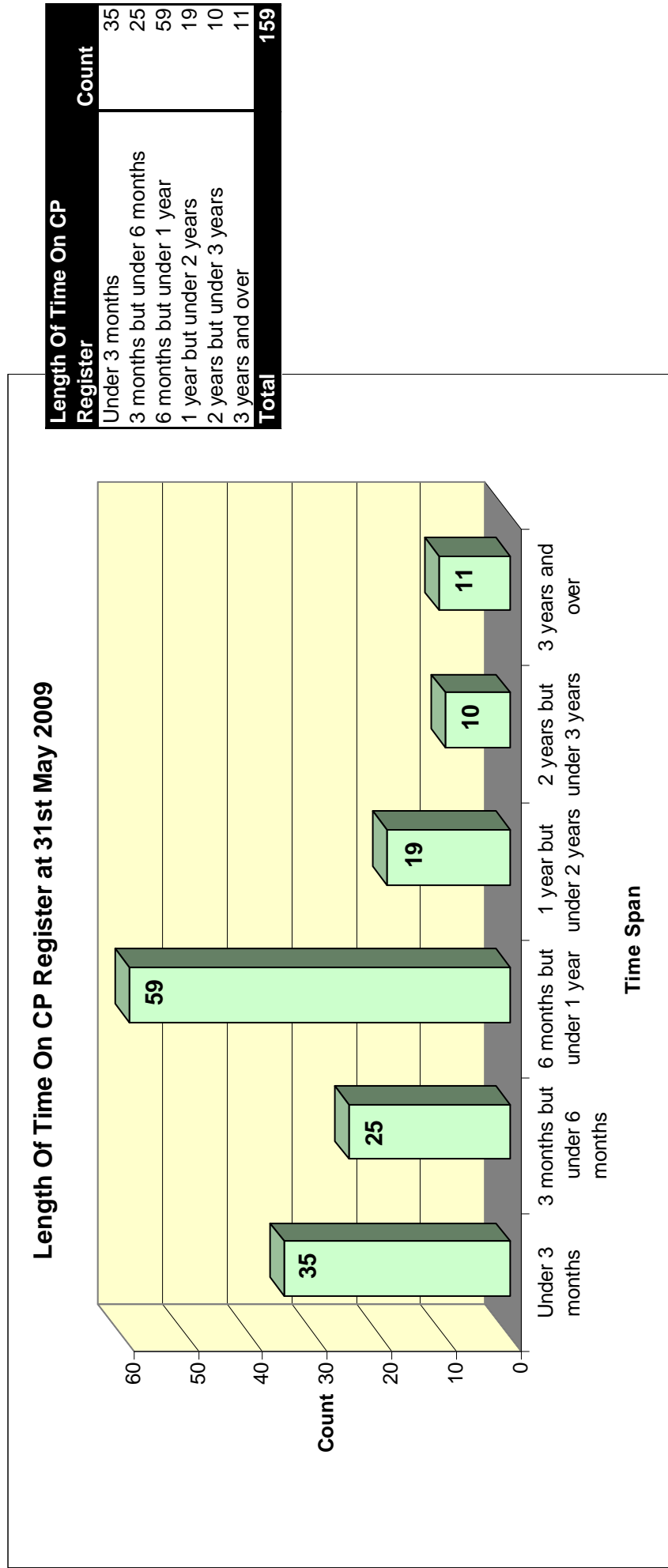
14) CPP Category of Abuse by Ethnicity Breakdown

Category of Abuse	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not Stated	Other	White
Emotional abuse	9	1	8	0	3	7
Neglect	15	24	31	1	6	39
Physical abuse	6	2	0	1	0	0
Sexual abuse	0	2	0	0	4	0
Total	30	29	39	2	13	46

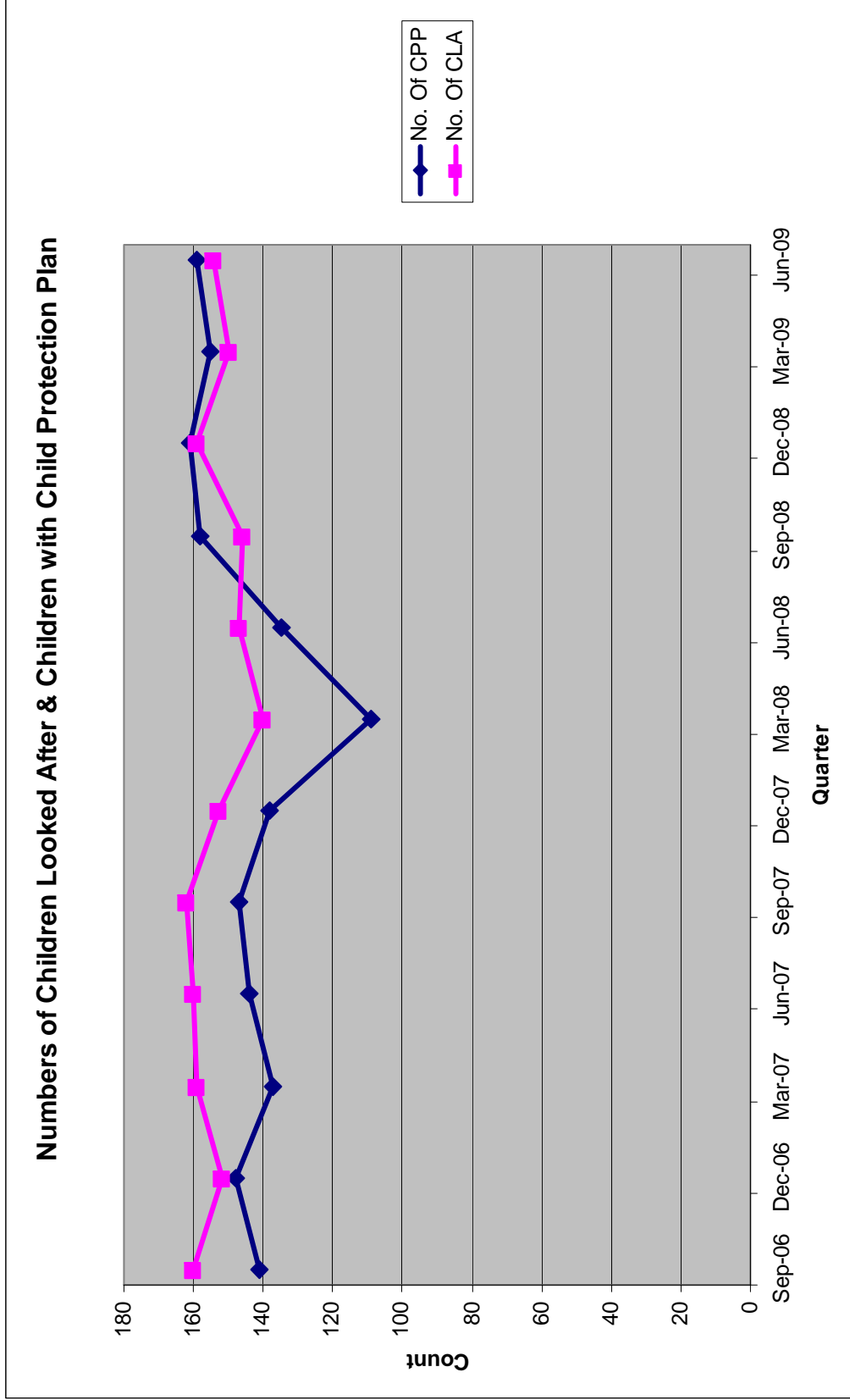


15) Duration of Child Protection Plans

This graph shows the number of children with a child protection plan at 31st May 2009 and the length of time since plan was created.



16) Numbers of Children Looked After & Children with Child Protection Plan By Quarters since Sept. 2006



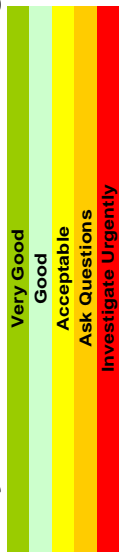
17) Key Performance Indicators for the end of May 2009

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Estimated 2009 performance	Target 2009/10	Year end performance	Performance at end of May 2009
A. Being Healthy	PAF 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%	84%	96%	95%	93% snapshot	85.9% snapshot
B. Staying safe	NI 65 / PAF A3		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%	12%	12.28%	12.5%	12.28% YTD final	14.29% YTD
	PAF C24		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%	10%	13.33%	12%	12.04% YTD	16.86% YTD
	NI 67 / PAF C20	162	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%	99%	100%	100%	100% final	Available from Q1
	NI 64 / PAF C21		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%	6%	7.9%	10%	7.9% YTD final	0% YTD

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Stat neighbour comparator, 2006/7 (latest available)	Estimated 2009 performance	Target 2009/10	Year end performance	Performance at end of May 2009
B. Staying safe	PAF 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%	6%	20.4%	14%	20.8% YTD final	1% YTD
	NI 59		Timeliness of initial assessments – The percentage of initial assessments carries out within 7 working days of referral	53%	87%	70%	80%	80%	80.8%	64.66% snapshot
	NI 60 / PAF C64		Timing of core assessments - The percentage of Core Assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement.	60%	77%	72%	76.41%	81%	76.41% YTD final	81.57% Snapshot
	NI 68		Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	71.2%	96.3%	52.3%	71.6%	55%	71.6%	89.92% YTD
	NI 66 / PAF 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%	91%	98.6%	95%	98.6% final	Available from Q1
	NI 62 / PAF 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%	13%	8.8%	11%	9.5% YTD final	1.3% YTD

Domain	PAF	BVPI	Indicator	2007	2008	Stat neighbour comparator 2006/7 (latest available)	Estimated 2009 performance	Target 2009/10	Year end performance	Performance at end of May 2009
	NI 63 / PAF 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%	67%	65.9%	64%	65.9% final	74.36% snapshot
	PAF 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%	82%	66%	75%	62.2% final	62% Snapshot
D. Make a Positive Contribution	PAF 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	1	tbc	tbc	Annual	Annual
	PAF 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%	93%	91.3%	95%	91.4% final	Available from Q1

Guide to Key Performance Indicator bandings



Indicator	0-3	3<6	6<8	8<10	10<15	15<17.21	17.21<20	20<24	24<=100
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:	14 July 2009
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Participation in the Pledge and the role of the Children in Care Council
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director for Children’s Services, Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Government Framework

Section 1 – Summary

FOR INFORMATION

- 1.1. This report sets out the proposed involvement of Children and Young people Looked After in prioritising the key components for Harrow, contained in the wider 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. Reports on the cost implications of consultation and how direct feedback from young people could be used to inform the Councils personal preference for individual pledges.
- 1.3. This report is for Committee to note and comment on.

- 1.4. The London Pledge was signed off on behalf of the Local Authority at a London wide launch on 25th November 2008.
- 1.5. This proposal aims to hear direct from young people what the issues are for them locally as children and young people Looked After by Harrow Council.
- 1.6. Purpose:
 - to enable resources to be targeted more effectively;
 - for information to be shared, and for;
 - awareness to be raised of the Pledge, what it means for young people and professionals and how priorities identified could be used to support the development of individual pledges.
- 1.7. This report proposes the development of a Children In Care Council, made up of children and Young people Looked After, who will work with the Corporate Parenting Members to monitor and support the development and progress of Harrow's Pledge

Section 2 – Report

2.1 The London Pledge addresses a number of principles as well as the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes.

In June 2007, the white paper “Care Matters: Time for Change” was published. The Pledge appears as part of a raft of measures to improve and strengthen local authorities’ role as corporate parents. The white paper is very clear that young people’s involvement in developing their Pledge – giving them the chance to shape and influence the parenting they receive – is essential to its success. As part of this process, the white paper proposes that each local authority should have a “**Children in Care Council**” that is instrumental in the process of feeding in young people’s views on the content of the Pledge and the ongoing monitoring and review mechanisms put in place to measure its success and maintain its currency. It also emphasizes the whole local authority’s responsibility across all departments for its children in care. The White Paper gives overall lead responsibility for the participation of young people in care to the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member. It is their responsibility to oversee the development of structures to enable young people’s participation and also to secure the co-operation of colleagues across departments and within the rest of the Children’s Trust as a corporate parent. The white paper also expects that:

“... pledges to be developed locally through the Children’s Trust arrangements and may include a regional dimension. They should ensure that:

- *Children in Care are aware of basic statutory requirements with which local authorities should already be complying*

- *Children are aware of the key opportunities and benefits offered to them locally*
- *Children in Care are supported to engage with positive activities as much as possible*
- *Children in Care have been consulted and involved in developing the Pledge, including those with special needs and disabled children; and*
- *The Pledge is regularly reviewed and reflected in the local Children and Young People's Plan or equivalent."*

The Government will monitor local authorities' arrangements and structures that support young people's input into service planning, including the Pledge, and will want to see evidence of "meaningful" involvement in decision-making relating to their care.

The purpose of this framework is to help local authorities create a structure for young people

In line with White Paper recommendations, the following process is proposed:

- To have "Have Your Say " days for 3 different age groups (5yrs- 10yrs, 11yrs-18yrs, 18yrs+) of Looked after Children across the Borough and Children placed outside borough.
- The attraction for these events will be that it will have fun activities attached to them. These events will be planned and led along with the young people of the "Young Voices Group".
- During these events "The London pledge" will be explained to the Children and Young people.
- A range of consultative tools will be used to gain the opinions of the Children and Young people. They will be asked to mark the top 5 priorities that they think that are relevant to Harrow's CLA population. The data from these events will be collated and feedback to the Director of Children's Services, Senior Managers and Corporate Parenting members with the view to establishing a Steering Group to take the Pledge forward
- The Consultation events could also be a platform to access more children and Young People who are interested in becoming the core members of the Children in Care council. These candidates can then further be trained in matters relating to the pledge along with the representatives of the "Young Voices group".
- Representatives of the Children in Care Council will then sit with steering members of the corporate panel and finalize the contents of the pledge that is specific to Harrow.
- These priorities can then be implemented along with the individual pledge for every Child Looked After in Harrow.
- The cost of the consultation events will be approximately £2000, (include hire of venue and facilitation.)
- We can also link up with A National Voice/ Who Cares Trust to gain professional training for the Young people and Corporate Parents.

Section 3 – Further Information

The development of a Children in Care Council will support transparency of provision and establish a tool for monitoring the development of the pledge locally and its impact on the young people for whom Harrow has a direct responsibility.

It places Harrow inline with other local authorities nationally and creates a platform for young people in Harrow to share good practice and initiatives nationally and internationally

Section 4 – Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Name: Barbara Worrall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 3 July 2009		

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Therese McAlorum, Childrens Participation Team
Manager (5244)

Background Papers: Appendix to London Pledge

What Makes The Difference? TOOLS and RESOURCES

Name of tool/resource:

GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PLEDGE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE - FROM CARE MATTERS - TIME FOR CHANGE 2007.

Name and region of agency/organisation that developed this tool/resource:

Department for Education and Skills. National.

Purpose and brief description of tool/resource:

To set out the requirements for local authorities to develop a pledge to children and young people in care, outlining a basic framework for the development of a pledge.

Publication Date: June 2007

Contact details for further information about this tool/resource

Department for Children, Schools and Families
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0870 000 2288
Textphone/Minicom: 01928 794274
Fax: 01928 794248
E: mail: info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource

Positive impact of this tool/resource:

1. Unknown. Not yet implemented.
- 2.
- 3.

Extract from Care Matters – Time for Change 2007 The Pledge

1.25 We expect **every local area to develop a pledge** for the children in their care.

The pledges should be developed locally through the children's trust arrangements and may include a regional dimension. They should ensure that:

- Children in care are aware of the basic statutory requirements with which local authorities should already be complying;
- Children are aware of the key opportunities and benefits offered to them locally;
- Children in care are supported to engage with positive activities as much as possible, for example, the cadets, scouts or guides and local sports clubs, including support for their own hobbies and interests;
- Children in care have been consulted and involved in developing the pledge, including those with special needs and disabled children; and
- The pledge is regularly reviewed and reflected in the local Children and Young People's Plan or equivalent.

Basic elements of the care pledge:

- A commitment to involve children in decisions which affect them and to take account of their wishes and expressed feelings about the services they receive.
- Qualified social workers for every child in care with clear arrangements in place for the child in care to contact his/her social worker as necessary
- Effective assessment of individual needs and an up to date care plan based on those needs
- A placement with carers who can meet needs
- Contact with siblings and birth parents in line with their care plan
- Regular reviews in which children will be enabled to participate meaningfully (particularly for disabled children with communication difficulties)
- Services which recognise the diverse ethnic and cultural needs of the children
- Access to advocacy services if children have a complaint
- An Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure children's rights are upheld
- Access to high quality free early years provision at age 3 and 4
- A place at a good school
- A designated teacher in school to ensure high quality support in school
- Details of support available to participate in positive leisure time activities

- Support to reduce absence from school
- Help to catch up with school work if they fall behind
- Regular assessments of their health (physical and emotional)
- Details of support available when they move on from care
- The support young people can expect when entering further and higher education
- How the local authority will support young people seeking employment, including employment with training.