

# Corporate Parenting Panel AGENDA

**DATE:** Tuesday 12 July 2011

**TIME:** 6.00 pm

**VENUE:** Committee Room 6,  
Harrow Civic Centre

## **MEMBERSHIP** (Quorum 3)

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**Chairman:** Councillor Mitzi Green

### **Councillors:**

Margaret Davine  
Brian Gate

Christine Bednell  
Janet Mote  
Lynda Seymour

### **Reserve Members:**

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1. William Stoodley
2. Raj Ray
3. Varsha Parmar

1. –
2. John Nickolay
3. Husain Akhtar

**Contact:** Mark Doherty, Acting Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 020 8416 8050 E-mail: mark.doherty@harrow.gov.uk

# **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 Panel;
- (b) all other Members present in any part of the room.

## **3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2011 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 Executive Procedure Rule 51 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

## **5. PETITIONS**

To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 49 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

## **6. DEPUTATIONS**

To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 51 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

## **7. INFORMATION REPORT - ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE (Pages 7 - 24)**

Report of the Corporate Director, Children's Services.

## **8. INFORMATION REPORT - SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND TRANSITION TO LEAVING CARE (Pages 25 - 32)**

Report of the Corporate Director, Children Services.

**9. INFORMATION REPORT - SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN HARROW (Pages 33 - 42)**

Report of the Corporate Director, Children Services.

**10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

**AGENDA - PART II - NIL**

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# CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

## MINUTES

### 28 MARCH 2011

- Chairman:** \* Councillor Mitzi Green
- Councillors:** \* Husain Akhtar \* Brian Gate  
\* Christine Bednell \* Janet Mote  
\* Margaret Davine

\* Denotes Member present

**25. Attendance by Reserve Members**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance.

**26. Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made.

**27. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2011, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**28. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting.

## RESOLVED ITEMS

### 29. INFORMATION REPORT - Activity & Performance

An officer introduced a report which set out information relating to Children Looked After and Children with Child Protection Plans. It also provided information on the outcomes for 16 and 19 year old looked after children.

In response to questions, officers advised that:

- in addition to raw statistics, officers would endeavour to compile a report from anecdotal cases to capture data relating to employment, education and training;
- the possibility of extending the scale of data beyond the past year would be looked into;
- a breakdown of the cohort that belonged to each demographic would be provided to a future meeting of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### 30. INFORMATION REPORT - Virtual Head Teacher's Report 2009/10

The Virtual Head Teacher (VHT), appointed by the Authority to promote the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the Council, introduced a report which set out the plans for 2011.

He advised that:

- the progress of young people was being monitored, with the emphasis being on the quality of work rather than quantity;
- schools in the borough had received good Ofsted reports and the standard of information being provided was of a very high standard;
- it was intended for meetings with Social Care professionals and Teachers to be more frequent and for them to become more heavily involved in supporting Children Looked After (CLA);
- the most challenging aspect for VHT's was establishing how best to support and interact with CLA being schooled outside of the borough.

In response to questions, the VHT advised that:

- schools were aware of the need to maximise support for CLA during school hours;
- more work would be done to ensure that CLA were informed of who the members of staff they could approach for extra support within their particular school;

- moving children during the latter part of their schooling was avoided to make that period as least disruptive as possible.

Members of the Panel thanked the VHTs for all their hard work, adding that their progress was encouraging.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **31. INFORMATION REPORT - Annual Independent Reviewing Officers' Report 2010**

An officer introduced a report which updated the Panel on the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO).

The officer advised that:

- IROs were not part of operational processes. Data was gained through team meetings, informal discussions and surgeries that took place in Pinner Road;
- the role of IRO's was to ensure good practice. This was carried out through the inspection files, and by conducting formal audits. Monthly management meetings also provided the opportunity to discuss any problematic themes resulting from audits;
- no matter had ever been elevated to the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS).

In response to a query, the officer advised that the questions within the questionnaire would be looked at, to ascertain whether they adequately targeted the information officers were attempting to gauge.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **32. Verbal Update on the Arrangements for the Presentation Stand on 14 April 2011**

An officer provided a verbal update on the arrangements for the presentation stand on 14 April 2011. He advised that:

- the stall was intended to be set up by 6.30 pm in the lobby area outside the Council Chamber, prior to the Council meeting on 14 April 2011;
- an email would be sent to all Members of Council informing them of the stall;
- the stall would exhibit the latest information of the work carried out by Children's Services. It would also include pictures and flyers of recent events.

In response to questions, the officer advised:

- it was hoped that young people belonging to Young Voices would be attending the presentation, in addition to Members of Beyond Limits.

A Member of Beyond Limits updated the Panel on attending the launch of the Fostering Charter on 18 March at the County Hall, London. He advised that the event was a positive experience, and that he was appreciative of the opportunity to be able to feed into the discussions on the Fostering Charter.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update be noted.

### **33. INFORMATION REPORT - Safeguarding Leaders Meeting**

The Chair advised that a Safeguarding Leaders Meeting had been established to keep the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive aware of any potential issues surrounding Safeguarding. The informal group was set up to strengthen accountability. The Chair would feedback progress to Members of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **34. Items for a Future Meeting of the Panel**

**RESOLVED:** That the following issues be presented to a future meeting of the Panel:

- Activity & Performance;
- Leaving Care;
- Children in Need;
- Asylum Seeking Team.

A further update on the proposed new operating model for Children's Services, which was due to go out for consultation in March 2011, would also be provided at a future meeting of the Panel.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.02 pm, closed at 7.13 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MITZI GREEN  
Chairman



**Officer Attendance:**

- Adeline Abraham - Youth Participation Officer
- Andreas Kyriacou - Senior Professional, Safeguarding and Review, Children Looked After
- Alison Murphy - Interim Director of Commissioning, Quality Assurance and Capital
- Dipika Patel - Senior Professional Performance & Data, Children's Social Care
- Paul Williams - Virtual Head Teacher

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE  
PARENTING PANEL**

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<b>Date:</b>	12 July 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director of Children’s Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	1. CLA & CPP Activity and Performance Report  2. Trend Date Outcomes for 16-19 CLA

**Section 1 – Summary**

This report is for information and sets out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP), plus performance position for National Indicators for Children’s Social Care.

There is an attachment which provides information requested by panel members at the last meeting:

Trend data for outcomes of looked after children aged 16 and 19

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Section 2 – Report Issues**

Key Points:

- Data is shown to end of May 2011.
- Performance data for 2010/11 is being finalised. There are no significant changes in activity data to report at the beginning of new financial year.

- 19 adoptions/SGOs granted in 2010/11 which is very strong performance.
- Timeliness of Initial Assessments and Core Assessments have started well this year.
- Trend data for outcomes of looked after children aged 16 and 19

### **Options considered**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

The risk relating to workload and staffing for child protection is already included in the corporate risk register.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

### **Corporate Priorities**

- Improve support for vulnerable people

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 23 June 2011		

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

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 Report**

**July 2011**

**Children Looked After (CLA)  
Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)  
(activity to end of May 2011)**

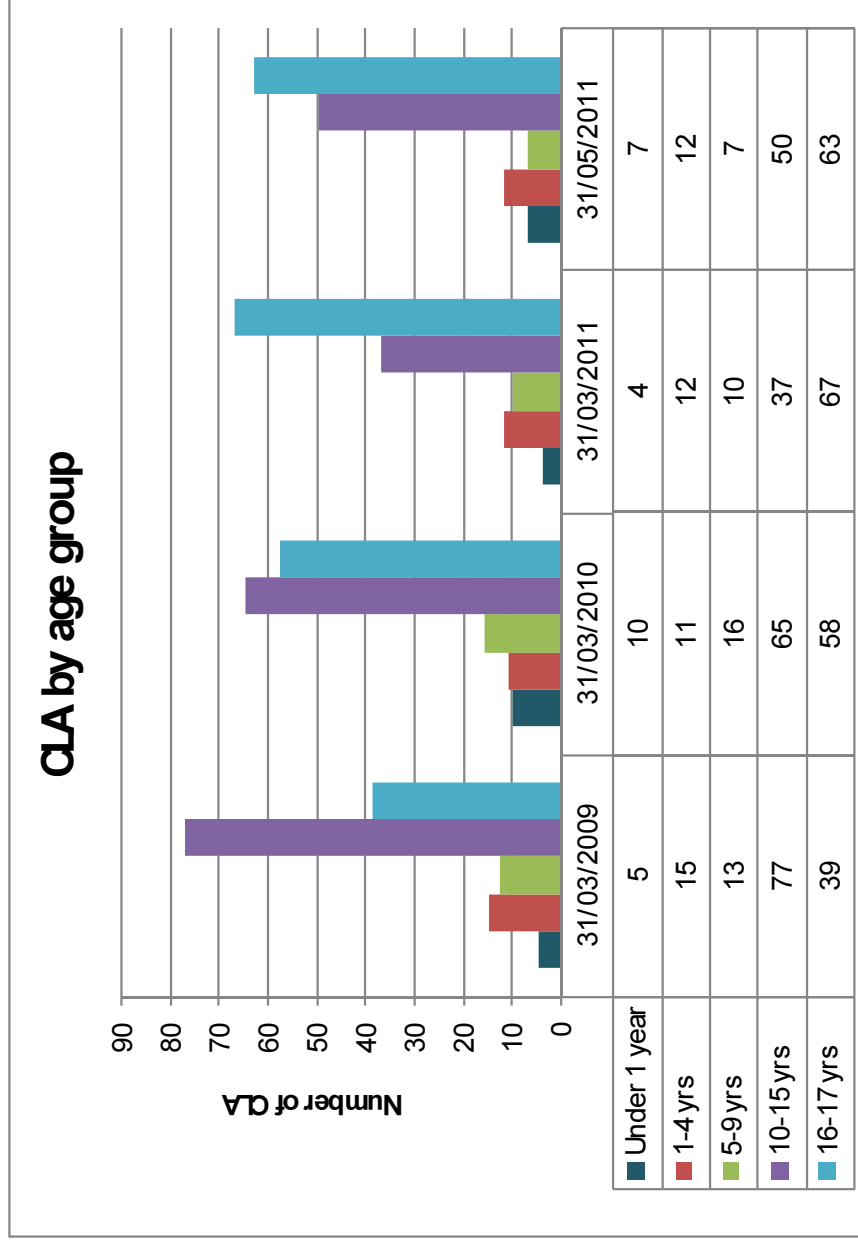
## CONTENTS

<b>PART A: CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1) <b>CLA BY AGE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2) <b>CLA BY ETHNICITY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3) <b>CLA BY PLACEMENT TYPE</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4) <b>CLA BY CATEGORY OF NEED</b> .....	<b>6</b>
5) <b>CLA - OTHER DATA:</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>PART B: CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)</b> .....	<b>8</b>
6) <b>CPP BY AGE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
7) <b>CPP BY ETHNICITY</b> .....	<b>9</b>
8) <b>CPP BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
9) <b>CPP BY DURATION OF PLAN</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>PART C: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
10) <b>NUMBERS OF CLA &amp; CPP</b> .....	<b>12</b>
11) <b>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE END OF MAY 2011</b> .....	<b>13</b>

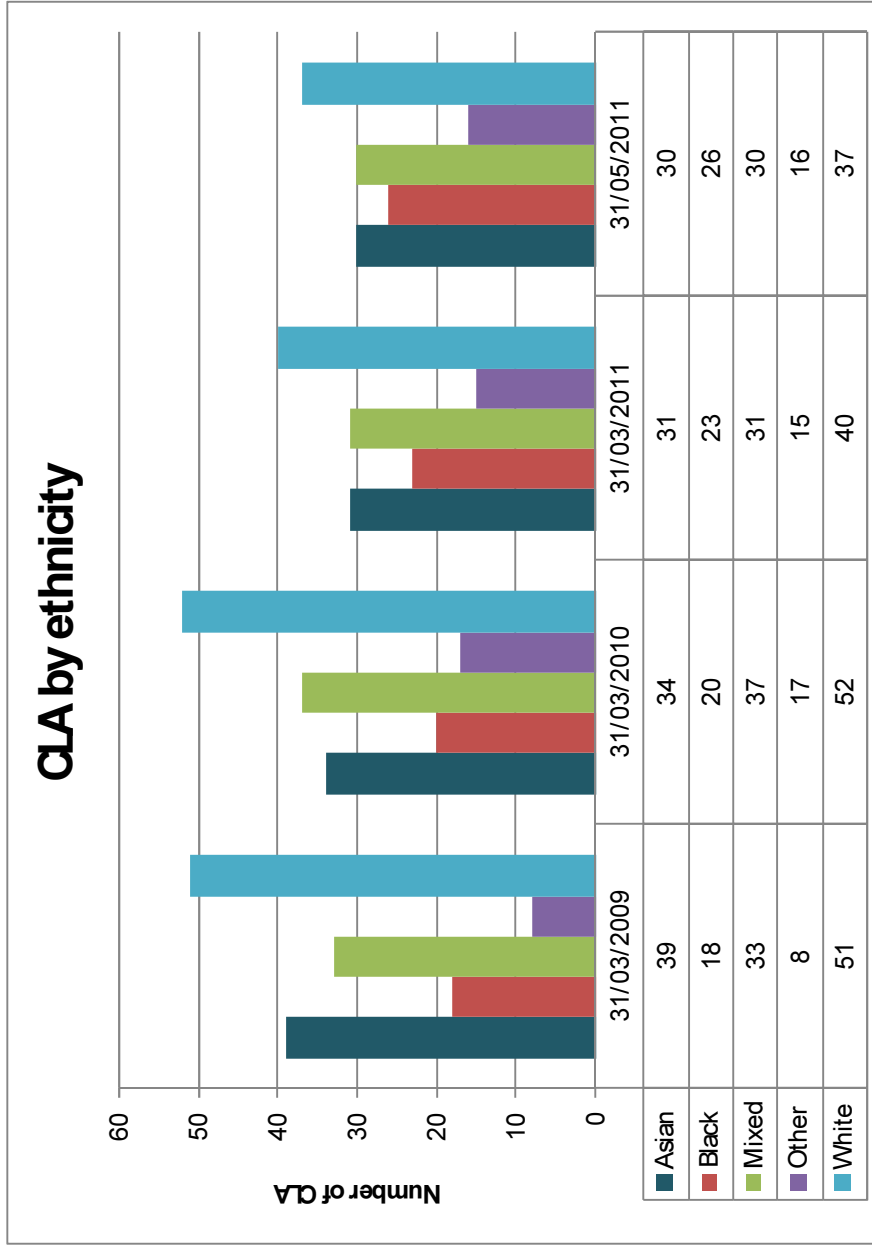
## Part A: Children Looked After (CLA)

There were 139 CLA in Harrow on 31 May 2011.  
 There were also an additional 5 children receiving respite care / short term breaks (these are not included in the numbers in this report).

### 1) CLA by Age

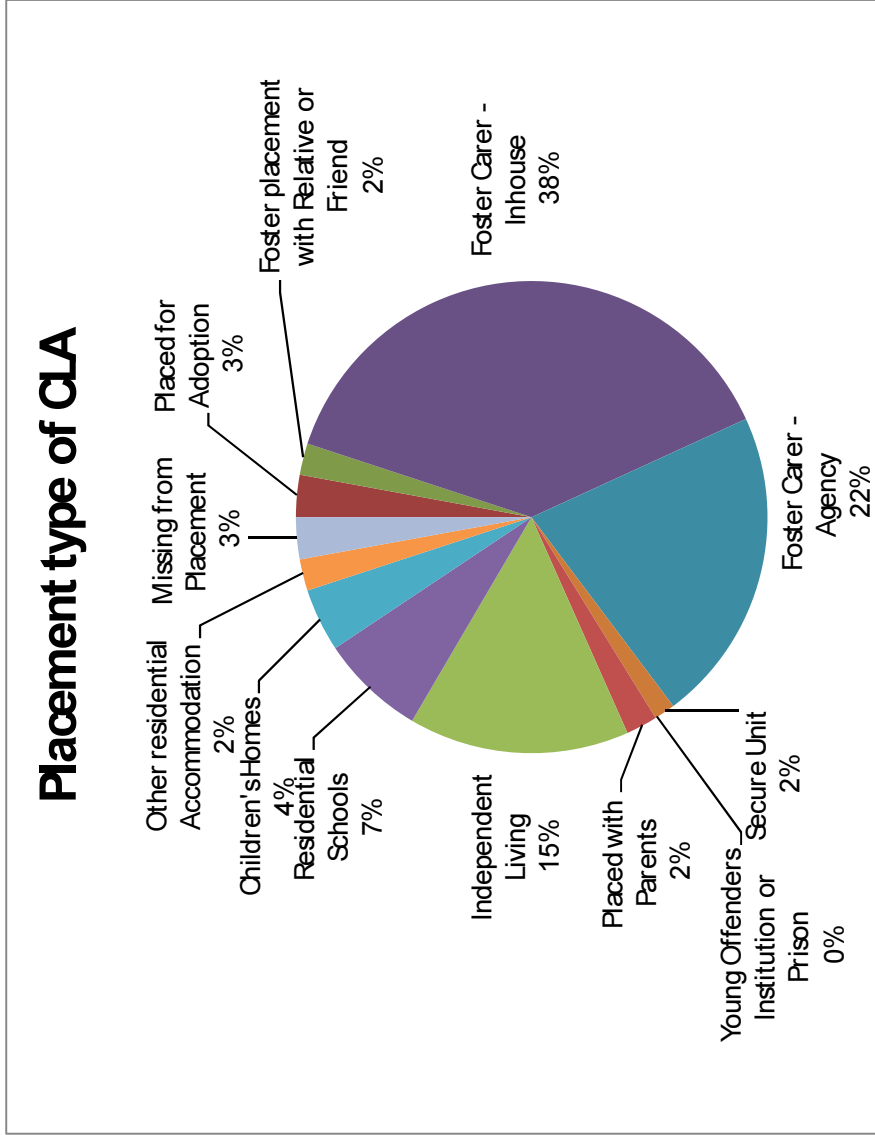


2) CLA by Ethnicity





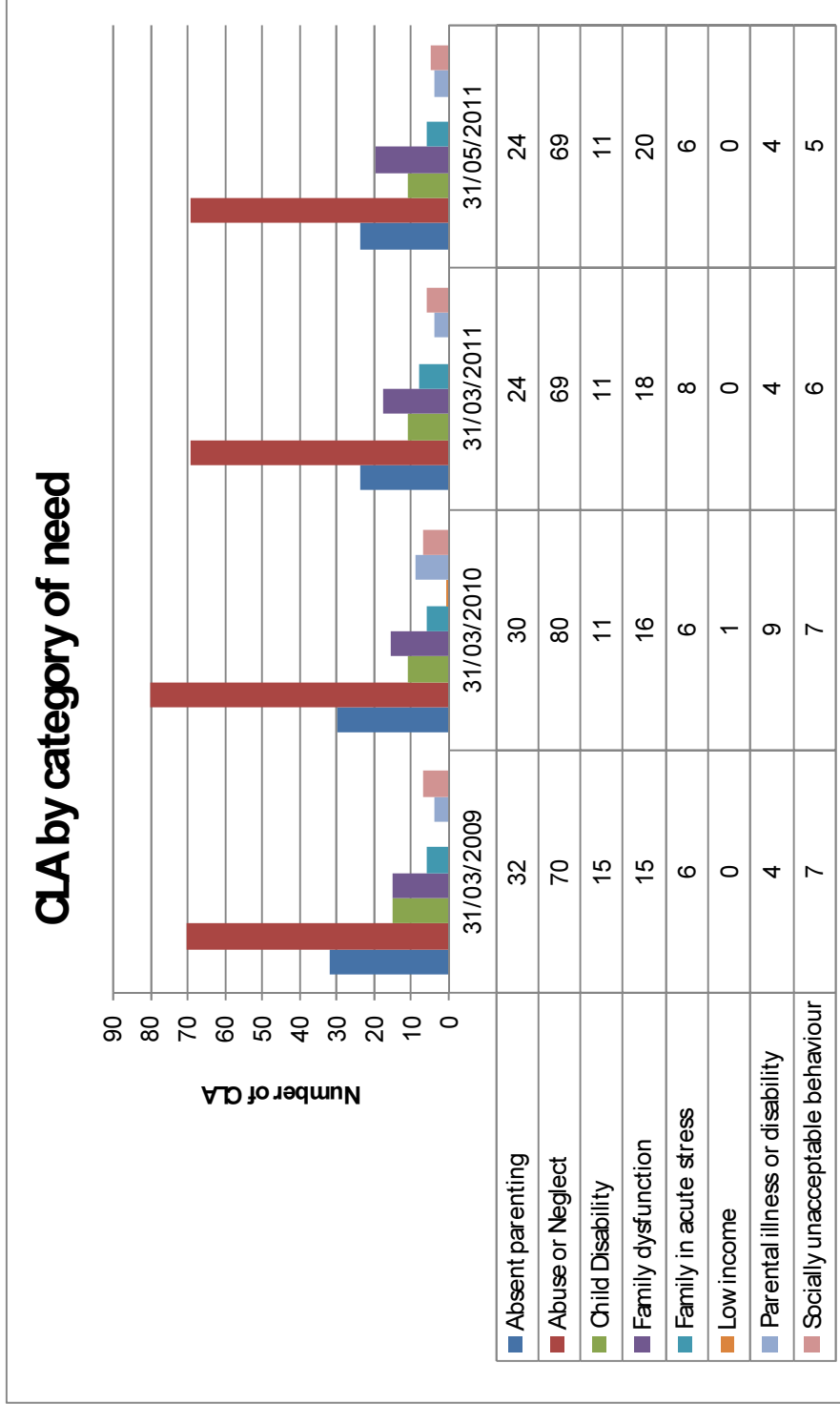
### 3) CLA by Placement Type



Placement Type	Count
Placed for Adoption	4
Foster placement with Relative or Friend	3
Foster Carer - Inhouse	53
Foster Carer - Agency	30
Secure Unit	2
Young Offenders Institution or Prison	0
Placed with Parents	3
Independent Living	21
Residential Schools	10
Children's Homes	6
Other residential Accommodation	3
Missing from Placement	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	

#### 4) CLA by Category of Need

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



**5) CLA - Other Data:**

	30 Nov 2009	28 Feb 2010	31 May 2010	31 Aug 2010	30 Nov 2010	31 Jan 2011
Number of children placed out of borough:	68	66	68	81	70	71
Of those, who are placed more than 20 miles:	28	25	28	31	32	33
Social Work Allocation:	97.6%	99.4%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Adoptions & Special Guardianship Orders: (our target for adoptions is 14)	6 to date	11 to date	13 for 2009-10	15 to date	16 to date	19 for 2010-11

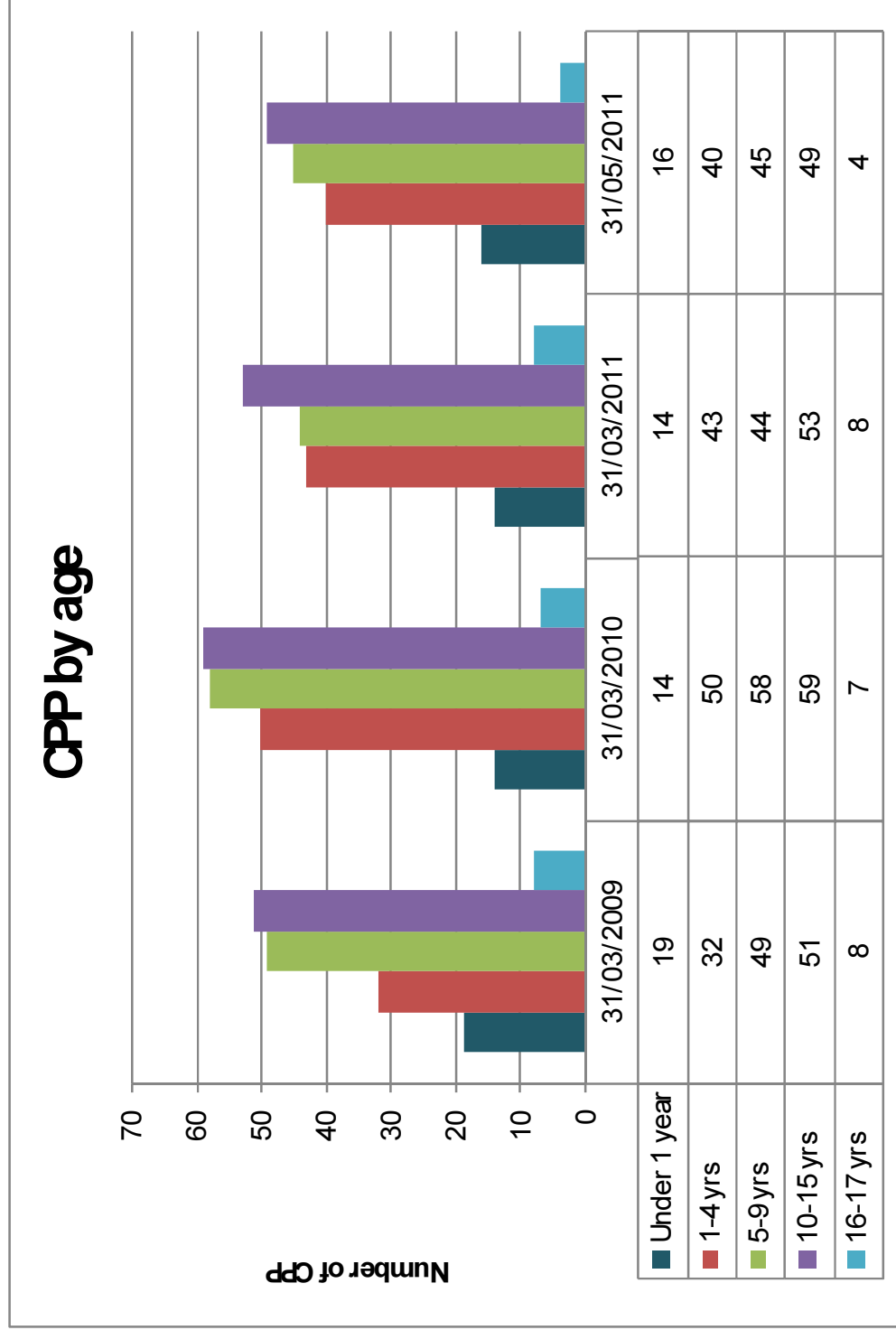
**6) CLA educational attainment:**

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Attained at least Level 4 in Maths at end of KS2	25%	43%	50%	50%
Attained at least Level 4 in English at end of KS2	50%	43%	50%	50%
GCSE: Attained at least 1 A* - G	46.2%	66.7%	57.1%	52.9%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - G	43.2%	33.3%	57.1%	41.2%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - C	5.4%	11.1%	14.3%	11.8%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - C inc Eng. & Maths		new	7.1%	11.8%

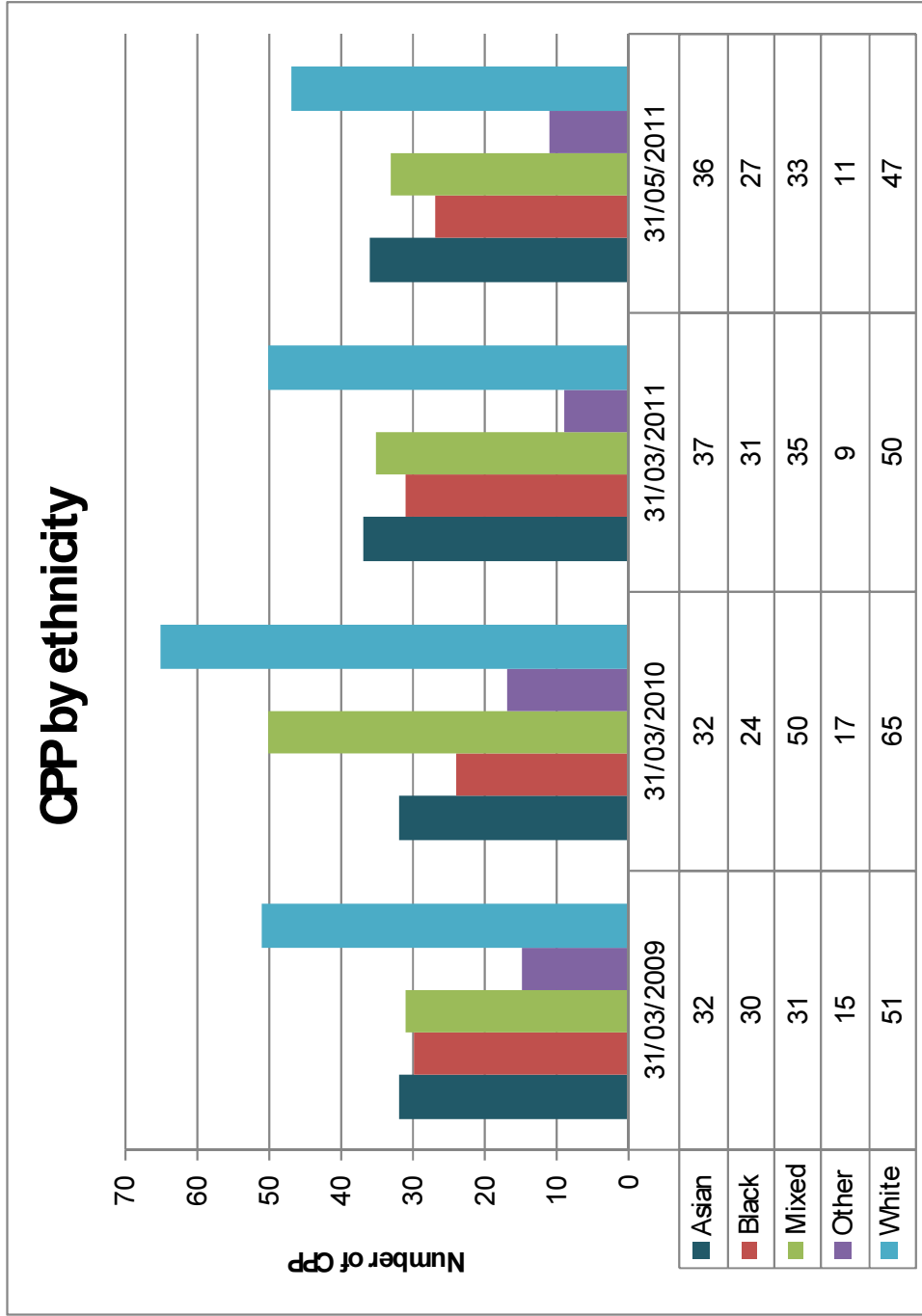
## Part B: Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

There were 154 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Harrow on 31 May 2011.

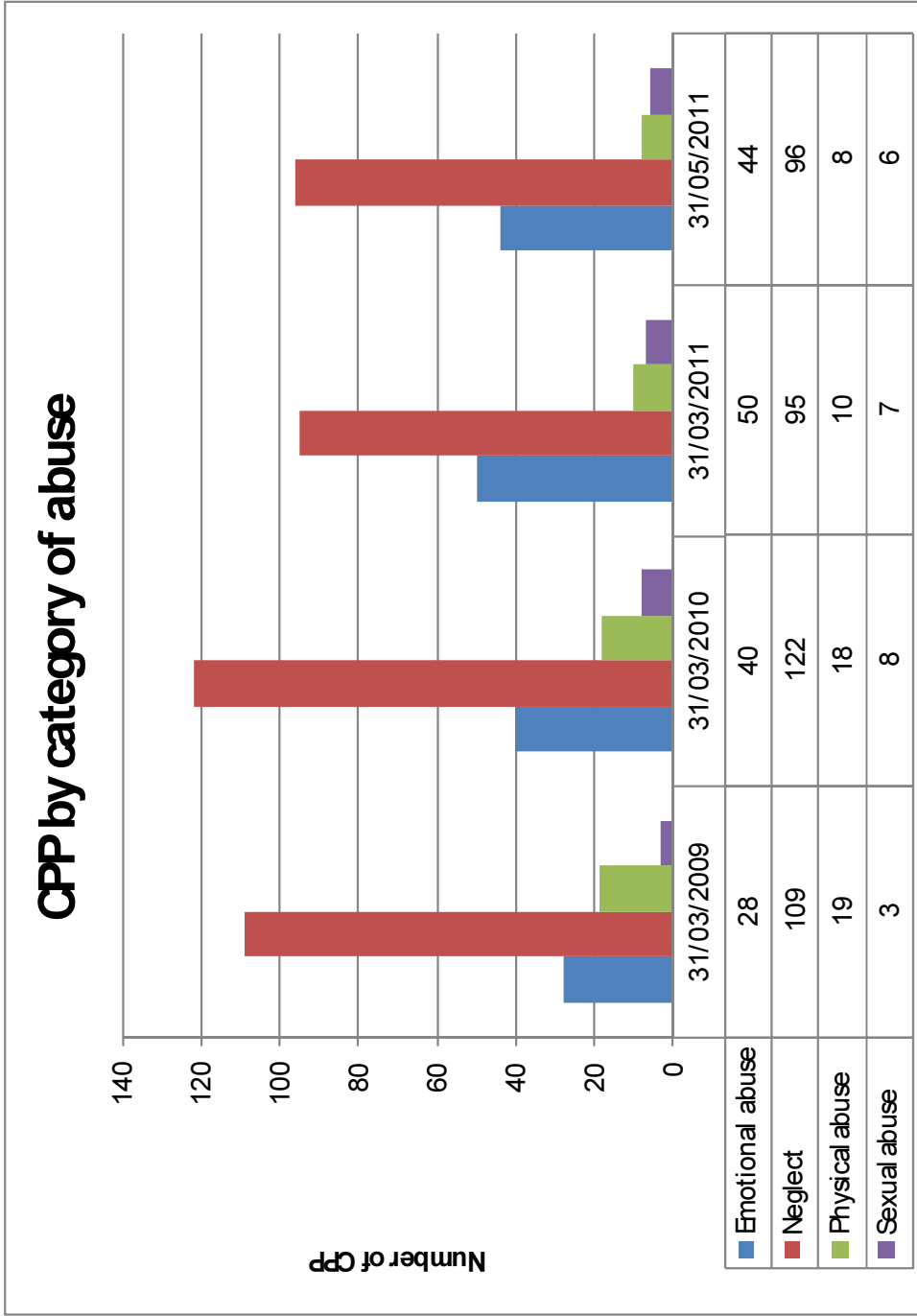
### 7) CPP by Age



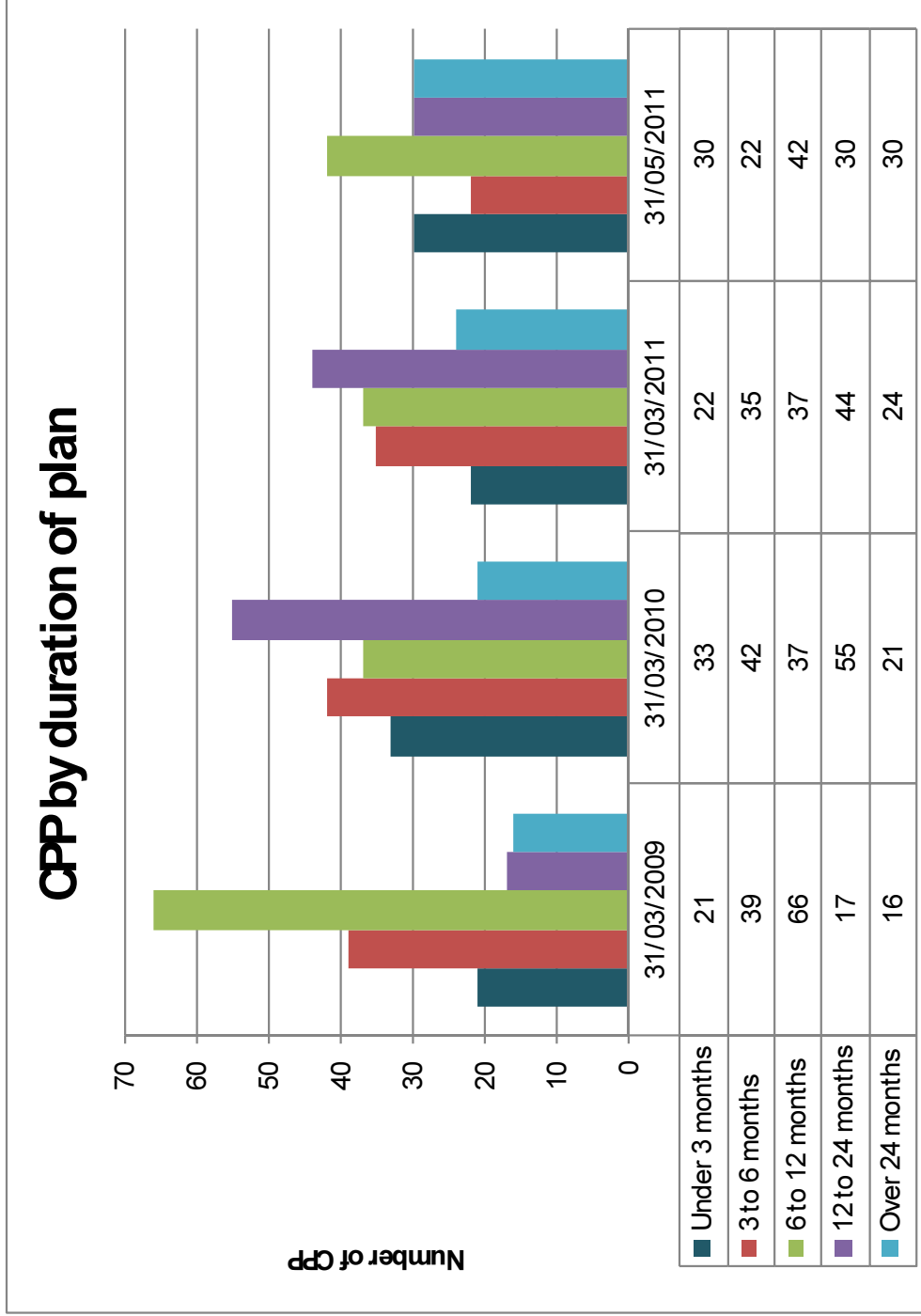
8) CPP by ethnicity



**9) CPP by Category of Abuse**

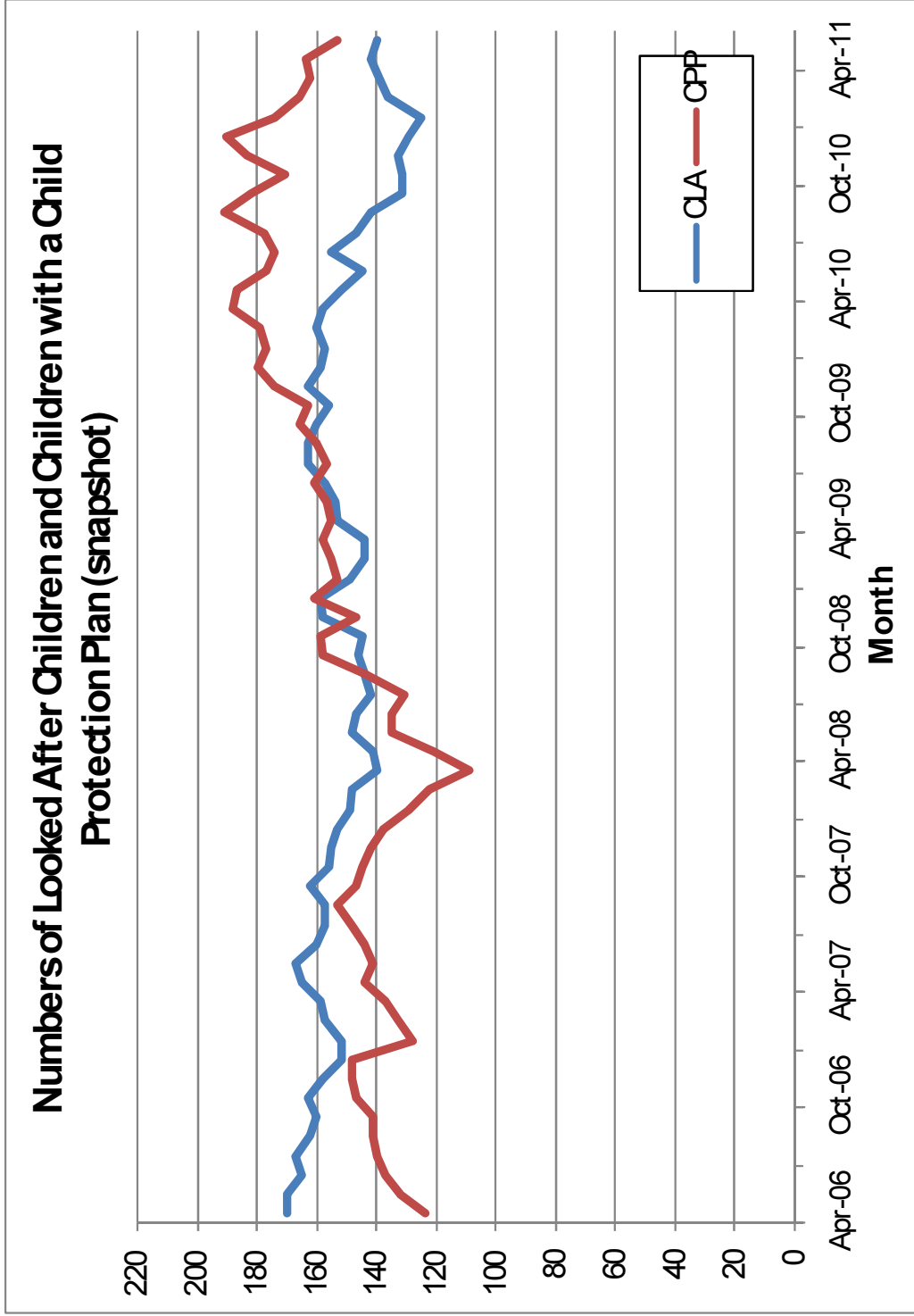


**10) CPP by duration of plan**



**Part C: Additional Information**

**11) Numbers of CLA & CPP**





## 12) Key Performance Indicators for the end of May 2011

(prov.)

PI Ref	PI Description	Polarity	Harrow 08/09	Harrow 09/10	Harrow 10/11	SN 09/10	England 09/10	Target 10/11	Target 11/12	Apr 11	May 11
NI 59	Timeliness of Initial Assessments (10 working days)	High	-	85.5	82.6	74.0	75.5	100.0	85.0	89.83	92.98
NI 60	Timeliness of Core Assessments	High	76.4	84.1	80.4	73.8	78.1	83.0	83.0	92.73	91.67
NI 61	Timeliness of CLA adoptions following agency decision	High	78.6	80.0	83.3	59.7	72.4	100.0	80.0	-	-
NI 62	CLA placement stability: number of moves	Middle	9.5	11.9	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.0	11.0	-	-
NI 63	CLA placement stability: length of placement	High	68.3	68.6	74.1	67.6	68.0	68.0	68.0	70.37	66.67
NI 64	Ceased CPP that lasted 2 or more years	Middle	7.9	3.6	16.7	7.2	5.9	10.0	10.0	0.00	17.24
NI 65	CPP for 2nd or subsequent time	Middle	12.2	8.3	8.0	12.1	13.4	10.0	10.0	0.00	0.00
NI 66	Timeliness of CLA reviews	High	98.6	97.9	97.7	90.9	90.5	100.0	100.0	-	100.00
NI 67	Timeliness of CPP reviews	High	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.5	96.8	100.0	100.0	-	-
NI 68	Referrals going on to Initial Assessment	Middle	71.6	62.8	52.4	67.3	65.5	75.0	75.0	55.14	53.22
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	95.5	92.0	91.7	88.7	90.3	88.0	88.0	-	-
NI 148	Care leavers in education, employment or training	High	68.2	72.0	66.7	64.6	62.1	75.0	75.0	-	-

Harrow's Statistical Neighbours (SN): Barnet, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Redbridge, Slough

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## 2. Trend Date Outcomes for 16-19 CLA

Source: SSDA903 return for 2009/10, 2008/09, 2007/08

### 1

#### Activity of looked after children aged 16 (after GCSEs)

<b>Harrow</b>		<b>London</b>		<b>England</b>	
In EET	93		86		84
Not in EET	7		14		16
In EET	91		87		86
Not in EET	9		13		14
In EET	78		85		84
Not in EET	22		15		15

### 2

#### Activity of former children looked after on their 19th birthday

#### Education, employment, training (EET) on 19th birthday

<b>Harrow</b>		<b>London</b>		<b>England</b>	
In EET	81		69		66
Not in EET	19		24		29
Unknown	0		7		6
In EET	68		65		63
Not in EET	27		27		31
Unknown	5		8		6
In EET	72		62		61
Not in EET	20		29		33
Unknown	8		9		6

### 3

#### Suitable Accommodation (SA) on 19th birthday

<b>Harrow</b>		<b>London</b>		<b>England</b>	
In SA	100		84		84
Not in SA	0		7		11
Unknown	0		7		6
In SA	95		80		83
Not in SA	0		11		10
Unknown	5		8		6
In SA	92		83		85
Not in SA	0		8		10
Unknown	8		9		6

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE  
PARENTING PANEL**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 July 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	INFORMATION REPORT - Supporting Young People and Transition to Leaving Care
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director, Children Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

## **Section 1 – Summary**

This report sets out to inform and update Panel of the work being undertaken to support Looked After Children and their transitions to Leaving Care services. Specific attention to management information used to inform outcomes.

To note the progress made under the Teenage Placement Strategy.

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

The Teenage Placement Strategy (TPS) which was considered by Cabinet in July and September 2010, and has a number of work streams that are inter-related and being developed simultaneously. The Children's Services new operating model proposes a single Children Looked After Service which will deliver a seamless service for children in the care of Harrow Council. The development of the TPS represents important preparatory work that will co-ordinate services for children looked after and care leavers, embed best practice standards and position the Council to realise the benefits associated with the implementation of Children's Services new operating model.

The Service Manager - Children in Need and Looked After Services, has chaired a number of operational work streams to support the development and implementation of the Teenage Placement Strategy. The Service Manager - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and Leaving Care Team (LCT) has overseen the development of the Leaving Care Team

LEAN Review to transform services for care leavers aged 18+ years. The Placements Service Manager oversaw the recent change of use of Honey Pot Lane Semi Independent Unit & Outreach Service. These 3 Service Managers meet regularly as part of the Service Managers Performance Group to review practice, performance, policy and procedures.

Since the care and support of young people is a corporate responsibility and requires multi-disciplinary and multi-agency work there is a large group of internal and external partners who play a key role in supporting the implementation. These are listed below;

- Safeguarding, Family Placement and Support Service Division – representation from all teams
- Young Peoples Services Division – representation from Leaving Care Team & Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children’s Team, Youth Offending Team, Youth Services and Connexions
- Special Needs Services Division - Children with Disabilities
- Early Years & Extended Community Services Division – representation from Children’s Centre
- Harrow Foster Carers Association
- Adult Care Services
- Housing Services
- Primary Care Trust – Children Looked After Specialist Nurse Practitioner
- Voluntary Sector – HAVS Independent Visitor Partnership
- Child in Care Council “Beyond Limits”

### **Current position**

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. The activity and progress for each work stream within the TPS is outlined below;

#### **16+ Action Plan**

Relevant Service Managers have met on a regular basis to review the Action Plan to implement the TPS and undertake the groundwork to develop a single Children Looked After Service for 0-25 year old children and young people that are, or have been, looked after by Harrow Council.

All 16-18 year old young people are now being managed within the Children in Need and Looked After Children Service. No young people will transfer to the Leaving Care Team until they are 18 years old. This is a change to the previous practice when young people transferred to the Leaving Care Team at 16 years old.

Contributions from the Youth and Connexions Services and Beyond Limits has supported this strategic development by providing learning and support to Social Workers in Children in Need & Looked After Service.

#### **18+ LEAN Review Action Plan**

In the Children’s Service new operating model the Leaving Care Team will also be part of the Children Looked After Service.

The Leaving Care Team undertook a LEAN review in 2010 achieving the elimination of non-value adding activities and replacing with sustainable value adding activities. The key improvements are as follows:

- \* **Satisfying young people at the first point of contact** by providing direct numbers for access to social workers and a duty system via a free phone number.
- \* **Measuring the cost of service transaction as part of the management and improvement process** by ensuring there are clear objectives to achieve effective management of access to the service, equality of opportunity, service delivery, service monitoring and development
- \* **Promoting corporate responsibility and understanding** of what it actually costs to deliver a service to young care leavers by increasing awareness of the complexity of the relevant issues and the context within which work with Care Leavers takes place, contributing to debates and informing policy decision making.
- \* **Understanding the dynamics of service demand** and how it can be managed more efficiently including a re-design of the Pathway Plan (introducing a more succinct plan with less duplication and more engagement from young people) enabling workers to start to address young peoples needs immediately.
- \* **Reviewing quality of life indicators** and identify gaps in service as part of a continuous process.
- \* **Recognising the obstacles that hamper change**, for example the burden of being too process driven and failing to keep the desired outcomes in focus, the impact of staff shortages and the restrictions of budget control measures. Staff made changes to ensure that the focus of their work is on the professional social work practice and direct work with young people.
- \* **Reviewing business processes** to shape these in accordance with young peoples needs and ensure that there is an opportunity for consultation to identify issues and concerns that may arise during the process.
- \* **Mapping the electronic casework system** for the new service.
- \* **Managing the transitional arrangements** to deliver the new service.

### **Preparing for transition**

Work has been undertaken to support children looked after and care leavers to make preparation for leaving care, to acquire necessary life skills and make the transition to adulthood and ultimately to full independence.

The objectives for this work are as follows:-

- \* To deliver improved outcomes for young people in transition to independence
- \* To employ an empathic and considered response to emotional barriers faced by young people in transition to independence.
- \* To consider how we can best meet the needs of young people in transition to independence in a climate of financial constraints.
- \* Overall objective- to build on the strengths of the team to ensure best practice and service delivery to young people in transition to independence.

The next steps for this work are as follows:

- Review the social work establishment within the Children in Need & Looked After Service to accommodate the increase in 16 – 18 year olds being supported with transition
- Implement the 18+ transfer protocol with the Leaving Care Team
- Review and implement the Leaving Care Charter and Harrow Pledge
- Review placements for all of 16+ Placements

The existing Children with Disabilities and Adult Services Transition Protocol has been reviewed and an amended draft is being finalised for wider consultation.

One of the key considerations in the revised draft has been concerned with how children with additional needs, other than physical, learning or sensory disabilities, need to be supported better. This includes those looked after young people with mental health needs and needs associated with substance misuse, for example.

The Divisional Director – Special Needs Services will to review and circulate the revised protocol for consultation in June 2011

### **Life skills Programme & Independent Living skills**

Good progress has been made to produce a comprehensive model of approach to deliver a life skills programme and independent living skills training and support with young people. The Independent Visiting Co-ordinator has been commissioned to co-ordinate the research to date and present the draft life skills programme for final consultation in July 2011. The life skills programme is designed to inform and support direct work with looked after young people from the age of 14 years right through until they leave care.

The 18+ Independence review will identify any additional needs and support that may be required. An independent living plan has been designed to assist the young person to become fully competent in all the core independent living and will be supported by the Leaving Care Team.

A gap analysis has been introduced to identify any significant skills gaps that a young person looked after may have prior to leaving care or living independently. This is to ensure that all young people looked after are assessed in accordance with identified life skills in order to make a judgement about whether they are prepared to live independently. Any gaps that are identified will be addressed in a variety of ways to ensure that young people are equipped to make a safe transition to young adulthood and full independence in a timely and considered way.

Regular support, guidance and advice is provided to young people looked after meetings are carried out

Key next steps:

- Review feedback from the life skills programme consultation in July 2011
- Start to implement a pilot to test the programme in August 2011 – October 2011
- Refine programme and launch programme for all young people in November 2011



The overall aim is to build on young people's practical skills, addressing any gaps and assessing overall competence and confidence on an on-going basis. By ensuring that the programme is an on-going consideration, is consistent and co-ordinated and starts before or at 14 years of age looked after young people will be better prepared. The delivery of the programme will be achieved through a multi-agency approach, mobilising relevant multi-disciplinary input from professionals working together as a team around the young person.

### **Employment, Education & Training**

A draft Education, Employment and Training Protocol is being prepared for consultation. This will focus on the education, employment and training standards and commitments that Harrow has for looked after young people and care leavers and will include a scorecard to manage and monitor performance. The draft Protocol is due to be circulated for consultation in June 2011.

### **Children Looked After Supervised Contact**

Arrangements for supervised contact for looked after children have changed. Since 1 April 2011, supervised contact has taken place in a number of Children's Centres. And this has been made possible following close collaboration between managers and practitioners. Silverdale is no longer in use as a venue for contact. A first review of these arrangements is scheduled for July 2011

### **Housing**

Links with Housing have been established for some time and these are being revisited, to strengthen the partnership working in line with the above developments and the plans for a single Children Looked After Service. A partnership and review meeting was held in May 2011 to look at ways of strengthening current working practices and processes and this is work that will be on-going.

For those 18+ young people Leaving Care, Independent living is central to the strategy to delivery the best outcome for care leavers. The LOCATA housing option is utilised and support provided to young people in the application and bidding process. For those young people with additional complex needs a more extended support plan to achieve independence is employed along with Adult service direct support where appropriate, as identified with Transition Protocol.

### **Honey Pot Lane Semi Independent and Outreach Service**

The new operating model for Honey Pot Lane has been launched and the unit is now a semi-independent unit for 16 to 18 year olds with 24-hour support. There is a focus on preparing young people to leave care with appropriate independence skills training.

Ofsted undertook an unannounced inspection visit on 22 June 2011 and awarded a "Good" judgment. This is the first Ofsted inspection since the change of use arrangement came into force so this is an important outcome.

There are currently five young people in residence, all whom have a tailored independent life skills training programme in place. The staff team are also providing outreach support to a number of young people and families where preventative intervention is helping to avoid a reception into care.

The Teenage Placement Coordinator at Honey Pot Lane has been involved in the life skills training developmental work and maintains strong links the multi agency partnership. As the centre develops the intention is to provide a base for a range of targeted and complimentary young people's services.

### **User Feedback**

User feedback is a key tool in reviewing and developing service delivery. All young people are consulted prior to their reviews and the Young People's Consultation Officer passes that information to the relevant Independent Reviewing Officer and Team Manager. So far the feedback from young people placed at Honey Pot Lane has been very positive and their individual care and pathway plans are being reviewed regularly.

Young People receiving a service from the Leaving Care Team were also consulted about the Leaving Care Team LEAN Reviews. Feedback from young people helped to identify and prioritise life skills and practices that they felt were essential and beneficial. The Lean Review consultation also included consideration of the 'voice of the child' and sought care leaver views on what they consider to be their priority needs and how the service can be configured to provide a more effective and joined up service.

### **Future Work**

The priority actions for 2011-2012 are as follows:-

- Consulting, piloting and launching the agreed life skills programme by November 2011
- Developing a single protocol for education attainment and achievement recognition to be launched in September 2011
- Reviewing the existing Leaving Care Charter and re-launching this in September 2011
- Reaching full capacity at Honey Pot Lane Semi Independent Unit, embedding the Outreach Service and starting to deliver a range of additional complimentary services on site by January 2012
- Review all 16+ placements via another Placement Challenge Panel scheduled for 28 July 2011
- Ensure all TPS work streams are monitored and reviewed via the Children Looked After Life Chances Forum from July 2011.

### **Financial Implications**

The CLA and Leaving Care placements budget are demand driven and therefore highly volatile. Although still in its infancy the TPS is already demonstrating a positive impact on the placements budgets, including :

- Honey Pot Lane is forecast to operate within budget for 2011/12 compared to an overspend of £268k in 2010/11 and £342k in 2009/10.
- The Teenage Placement Strategy has enabled more robust monitoring of Placements for 16 to 18 year olds with a number of young people moving on from residential and fostering placements to Supported Lodgings and semi independent placements which are more suited to their needs and offer more value for money. Currently the average cost of a semi independent placement is £464pw compared to £2,886 pw for a residential placement. This has led to a considerable reduction in the placement costs of the 16 to 18 cohort and based on the current

cohort of CLA the service is forecast to operate within budget for 2011/12.

The service aims to maintain this achievement as placements are to be again reviewed at 16 plus Challenge Panels which have been set up to ensure they continue to meet the young peoples needs and provide value for money. There are two Challenge Panels scheduled for July 2011.

## **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risk management implications, this is an information report only.

## **Equalities Implications**

The Honeypot Lane Change of Use Cabinet report in September 2010 contained an equalities impact assessment.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This work supports the Council's corporate priority to support and protect people who are most in need. Young people who are looked after and care leavers are additionally vulnerable by virtue of their care status.

## **Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
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Date: 24 June 2011

## **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contacts:**

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**Background Papers:** None

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE  
PARENTING PANEL**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 July 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	INFORMATION REPORT - Supporting Unaccompanied Children and young people Seeking Asylum in Harrow
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director, Children Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1: Partners involved in the Service Managers Performance Group

**Section 1 – Summary**

This report sets out to inform and update Panel of the work being undertaken to support, in Harrow unaccompanied (separated) children seeking asylum in the UK and their transition to Leaving Care services.

To note the strategic and operational priorities recommended for consideration for Corporate Parenting

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

Harrow Council UASC service has a wealth of home grown expertise in the field of asylum seeker care and support. For 9 years, the UASC team has been at the cutting edge in developing the care provision arrangements for UASC in Harrow. The UASC service has enhanced the LAC service provision providing that additional specialist care and support required for children fleeing persecution, torture or death.

As well as providing direct support and accommodation to those entitled to a 16+ service under the Children Act 1989 and (Leaving Care) Act 2000 when they first arrive. It also provides direct services to children aged 0 to 16 and plays a considerable role in advising Harrow Schools, Housing, child and adult mental health services and Adult services (this list is not exhaustive) in all areas of asylum support, entitlement to services and the specific health needs of children separated from their family fleeing their country of origin; most of whom are or were deemed to be LAC in accordance with the directives associated with the Hillingdon Judgment and the DH Local Authority Circular 13 post 2003 (Appendix: 6a).

The Service Manager UASC and Leaving Care Team oversaw the development of Integration and safe returns strategy, dual pathway planning for young people returning home, holistic age assessment of children designed to ensure the appropriate and safe provision of services for children, the Integrated, multi-agency child trafficking (child protection) assessment and care arrangements for victims.

And Harrow's participation in the UNICEF 2010 review of statutory support for children seeking asylum in the UK

The Children Service, Service Managers meet regularly as part of the Service Managers Performance Group to review Practice Policy and Procedures.

Partners involved at Appendix 1.

### **Current Situation**

This report covers period from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

### **Child Centred and Outcome Delivery Model**

The overarching objectives for looked after separated children and young people leaving care in Harrow is structured to ensure their safety and security, education attainment, independent living skills, transition to independent living, integration in to the Harrow community and preparations for safe returns to a country of origin.

This approach is framed by the 5 key outcomes for children and young people which is at the core of the provision of services to these children in Harrow.

The internal child outcome review process for looked after children and young people leaving care, information management systems and internal service monitoring of attainment, through supervision, is used to measure the child and young adults attainment in all areas against the 5 key outcomes.

In order to meet the needs of the service users the service runs (R), (by social workers and key workers) or commissions (C) a range of services including;

Life Skills courses (R) & (C) and integrated into the life skills programme to be circulated for consultation in July 2011, to include age relevant pilot review in August 2011.

Sexual Health courses (C)

Independent Living Skills (R) & (C)

Bereavement course (C)

Counselling (C)

Living in a new land (R) & (C)

Cultural diversity (R)

Immigration support (R) & (C)

Group Meetings with the UKBA Local Immigration Team LIT's *the (LIT's are the UKBA teams that assess applications for asylum in the UK in this regards case owners for Harrow separated children and young people leaving care).*

Returning Home (R) & (C)

Living Independently (R)

Entering the Work Of Employment (R) & (C)

## **Education**

Education outcomes for separated children in Harrow were highlighted as exemplary by UNICEF in their Level Playing Field report 2010 as was the fact that Harrow had inbuilt to all service provision the principle of 'Child First' framed by the Children Act 1989 / 2004, Human Rights Act, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child and the various statutory guidance

Education attainment is one key elements of the provision. Harrow separated children perform well above the UK national average and the analysis of Harrows UASC service this area showed in 2009/10.

### **In EET and NEET Statistics for 2010/11**

78 % of clients in full time Collage

7 %of clients in University

10 %of client in employment and transitioning to full independent living

5 %of clients not in education employment or training due to their Immigration status (Although are in involved in Peer support and other related activates)

It is expected that all students progress academically each year their education plans and pathway plans are central to this outcome.

### **Key Improvements to the process are**

Continue to work with Schools and collages to maintain attendance and provide additional support for those children whose first language is not English

Highlight expectations and support to achieve education outcomes within the Leaving Care Charter and London Pledge

Ongoing Placement and Finance review of 16+ Placements.

Develop an enhanced Foster carer-training model to meet the needs of separated children

Extend the community based working model in order to provide a speeder response to service users needs and provide needs enabling more contact between services users and key workers.

Build on the existing good practice of partner agency support in the community for service users.

### **Transition to Independence**

Life skills & Independent Living skills;

Work has been undertaken to enhance the Life skills programme which has been updated based on feedback from young people and analysis outcome targets achieved.

The 18+ Independence review, carried out as part of the pathway plan review process, is designed to identify any additional needs and support.. The Independent living plan is designed to assist the young person to become fully competent in all the skills to enable a transition to independent living or return to their country of origin and is reviewed as part of this process. The enhancements to the review process were based on the "Core Skills" section of the Skills for Independent Living document owned by the Leaving Care Team.

### **Objectives:**

To deliver improved outcomes for young people in transition to independence.

To employ an empathic and considered response to emotional barriers faced by young people in transition to independence.

To consider how we can best meet the needs of young people in transition to independence in a climate of financial constraints.

Overall objective, to build on the strengths of the team to ensure best practice and service delivery to young people.



**Key next steps:**

Review and implement Leaving Care Charter and London Pledge

Ongoing Placement and Finance review of 16+ Placements

**Life skills Programme & Independent Living skills**

The UASC Service to continue to provide the enhanced separated children (person from abroad) life skills and independent living modules

**Undertake gap analysis**

The Young Person is assessed against all the skills critical to being able to live independently (in the event that the person is fully ready against the skill set, the gaps in skills are then addressed with the young person through a range of engagement strategies

The UASC service will review and enhance delivery of the training and holistic support approach to attain independent living. The UASC service will do this in partnership with young people and partner agencies.

**Key next steps:**

The draft Life Skills Programme to be circulated for consultation in July 2011, to include age relevant pilot review in August 2011.

Implementation of Life skills Programme in November 2011. The overall aim is to build on young people's practical skills; to monitor and record the progress of each looked after young person. This is to be achieved with a multi-agency approach and contribution to the implementation of a Life Skills Programme.

**Employment, Education & Training**

Draft Protocol is being prepared for consultation, to focus on expectations and objectives of education for LAC, to include scorecard to manage and monitor performance for LAC.

Draft Protocol due by June 2011 for consultation

**Key next steps:**

Draft Protocol to be circulated for consultation with all Services, agencies and partners in June 2011

**Housing & Care Leavers**

The UASC Service links with Harrow Housing and their partner housing associations have been well established for 10 years. As part of the wider Children service initiative to promote more effective partnership working with Housing and enhance the outcomes specifically associated with the accommodation needs of Young People Leaving Care. The Harrow UASC service forms part of the Children Service placement strategy working group, steering group and Children Looked After Life Chances Forum. All of which will merge with the Looked After

Life Chances Forum, as from July 2011. This will be monitored by and contribute to the Corporate Parenting Board

A partnership and review meeting is being held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011, to consider current process, partnerships and look to improve outcomes regarding views and wishes of young people, agencies regarding accommodation expectation and standards..

The multi agency Children Looked After Life Chances forum meets every two months and will be keeping an overview of this strategy and plan.

### **Feedback from children [The Voice Of The Child]**

The UASC will continue to hold quarterly consultation meetings with service users designed to identify any gaps in provision and ensure the service provided meets the highest quality within current budget constraints. The UASC Service will produce reports and recommendations for the directorate and the Corporate Parenting Group and draft feedback reports for service users.

The UASC service will continue to facilitate regular meetings between young children seeking asylum and the UKBA local immigration teams meetings in order to ensure the voice of the child (outside of the asylum application process) is heard and to improve practice within all agencies working with children.

Young People receiving a service from the UASC Service were consulted on the creation of the LEAN service model. The Leaving Care Team Model included key outcome focused delivery models with a core transition to independent living model. The Young Person Lean consultation also included the 'voice of the child' component seeking their views on what they saw as priority needs for them and how the service could be configured to provide that need more effectively joint service /young person approach. The outcomes are measured against the outcome attainment analysis and risk model developed as part of the Service Function LEAN model element 2.

Young people are to be involved in the Pilot of a draft Life skills program in August 2011.

### **Future Work**

#### **Going forward and the challenges for 2011-2012**

Developing Life skills programme, which will be piloted by young people in August 2011

Developing a single protocol for education attainment and achievement recognition to be launched in September 2011.

Working with the Local Harrow Safeguarding Children Board, Coordinate the Implementation of the London Safeguarding Children Board Child Trafficking guidance, toolkit and recommendations within the Monitoring Report

#### **Strategic and operational priorities recommended for consideration by Corporate Parenting**

Consultation with Young People on the 'community working approach to service delivery for young people' to; build better community links and peer group support as unaccompanied or separated migrant children may lack the necessary social skills and education to access the services they need.

Develop a more strategic and coordinated response for the identification of health needs and once the need has been identified the provision of services to provide support locally.

Continue to contribute to the development of the Safe houses and safe foster care placements for trafficked children taking into account the views of victims (what they believe will make them feel safe) and in partnership with the DfE, the London Safeguarding Children Board and NGO'S such as ECPAT UK..

Work with Local schools and colleges (Academies) and further education colleges to develop courses that combine the learning of English with subject based courses so that unaccompanied or separated migrant children

Continue to provide training for adults who are responsible for providing services to unaccompanied or separated migrant children in order to strengthen the acceptance that such children are entitled to the same level of support and funding as children who are permanently resident here.

Corporate parenting to agree to participate in that training

Establish up to date Leaving Care Charter to be launched in September 2011

### **Section 3 – Further Information**

All relevant information is contained within the report

### **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

There are no new financial implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

This work supports the Council's Corporate Priority to support and protect people who are most in need in regard to separated children the UASC service ensures compliance with the;

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

London Procedure for Safeguarding Trafficked and Exploited Children 2011

Working Together to Safeguard Children Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked 2009

-Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010

Human Rights Act 1998

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

## Corporate Priorities

This work supports the Council's Corporate Priority to support and protect people who are most in need.

Name: Robert Stuckey



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 24 June 2011

## Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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**Background Papers:** None

## **Appendix 1: Partners involved in the Service Managers Performance Group**

### **Partners involved included:**

Safeguarding, Family Placement and Support Service

Leaving Care Team

Children with Disabilities

Harrow Foster Carers

Adults Services

Harrow Schools

Harrow Collages

Harrow Council Housing

Harrow Children's Centres

Independent Visitor Officers

Harrow Youth Parliament

Young Care Lavers National Fostering Network

Young Persons Refugee Network

Youth Services & Connexions

Youth Offending Service

Harrow Association of Voluntary Service

UK Border Agency Local Immigration Teams

Police (Serious Crime Directorate 9) (Serious Crime Directorate 5 Operation PALADIN)

Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)

Home Office Vulnerable Persons Unit

Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Northwick Park Hospital Holistic Health Assessment unit for separated children

The Medical Foundation (formally the medical foundation for victims of torture)

Helen Bamber Foundation

Victoria Climbié Foundation

ECPAT UK

Africans Unite Against Child Abuse

Red Cross

International Organisation for Migration