

Corporate Parenting Panel AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday 3 April 2012

TIME: 6.00 pm

VENUE: Committee Room 6,
Harrow Civic Centre

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors:

Margaret Davine
Brian Gate

Christine Bednell (VC)
Janet Mote
Lynda Seymour

Reserve Members:

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

1. Chris Mote
2. John Nickolay
3. Husain Akhtar

Contact: Pauline Ferris, Democratic & Electoral Services Manager
Tel: 020 8424 1269 E-mail: pauline.ferris@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.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2012 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. ACCESS TO LEISURE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAVING LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (Pages 9 - 14)

Report of Corporate Director of Children's Services.

Councillor David Perry, Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services will be in attendance.

8. LIFESKILLS PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (Pages 15 - 24)

Report of Corporate Director of Children's Services.

9. INFORMATION REPORT - ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE (Pages 25 - 46)

Report of Corporate Director of Children's Services.

10. INFORMATION REPORT - CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 (Pages 47 - 50)

Joint report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services and the Corporate Director of Children's Services.

11. CORPORATE PARENT DISPLAY FOR COUNCILLORS

Verbal update to be provided at meeting.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

AGENDA - PART II

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES

10 JANUARY 2012

Chairman: * Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors: * Christine Bednell * Janet Mote
* Margaret Davine * John Nickolay (1)
* Brian Gate Lynda Seymour

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

54. Attendance by Reserve Members

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

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Lynda Seymour

Councillor John Nickolay

55. Declarations of Interest

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

56. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2011 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

57. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

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

RESOLVED ITEMS

58. INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance

Officers introduced a report which set out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP), plus performance position for key indicators relating to Children's Social Care.

The officer reported that there was no new information that had not been presented to the Panel previously, other than the further numbers of CLA with a Child Protection Plan.

During the discussion on this item, Members of the Panel raised a number of queries which were responded to by officers as follows:

- the reason for a decline in the number of Asian CLA was linked to a drop in the number of asylum seekers within the borough. This had a direct impact on these figures;
- information relating to CLA by gender was collected on a monthly basis. If there were any which were not known this was investigated and clarified before the next months figures were collected;
- there were a number of key priority indicators and targeted action plans to address practice and performance;
- in relation to CLA, the position placement strategy had improved significantly. However there was still evidence of instability particularly in relation to the number of planned moves within a year and the duration a child remained in a long term placement. Having analysed these issues, it was clear that they were related to the fact that most of CLA were teenagers who were the most challenging;
- there was more robust scrutiny and tracking of placement moves and review. In so far as it was possible, planned moves were always preferable to disruption moves. The Council always sought to minimise disruption placements;
- it was envisaged that the newly appointed Virtual Headteacher (VHT) would lead on and co-ordinate education for CLA. The VHT would be conducting research and presenting her findings on key areas and on what needed addressing. This would be presented to the Panel at a future meeting. An action plan would be then developed to deliver improvements;
- there was currently no appointed CLA doctor. Discussions with North West London Hospitals NHS Trust on this issue were currently ongoing and it was hoped that a positive outcome would be reached. It was envisaged that there would be a report for the Panel on this issue at a future meeting;

- the current national economic climate was a major factor in relation to the number of young people currently unemployed. It was possible that there could also be data reporting issues because of changes to local arrangements. This was an issue that would be investigated by officers and the VHT. Getting young people into employment was a key outcome;
- if a CLA had 3 or more moves in the yearly reporting period then this was recorded for the Key Performance Indicator. It was important to note that whilst some may have related to emergency moves, some were also related to planned moves for e.g. in a plan agreed before a court;
- each CLA was tracked individually. If a CLA had more than 3 moves in consecutive years, there were statutory requirements in relation to reviewing their situation. The Council were currently caring for a number of challenging young people and this was not a scenario that had been encountered;
- it was important for CLA to develop stability within themselves otherwise this could exacerbate any underlying issues. This is why the Council always aimed to avoid unplanned moves.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

59. Housing for Children Looked After who are Leaving Local Authority Care

The Panel received a report discussing issues relating to housing support for CLA who were leaving Local Authority care.

The Chairman announced that the Portfolio Holder for Housing had been invited to the meeting but had submitted his apologies as he had a prior commitment.

An officer reported that the Panel had previously requested this report. There were a large amount of teenagers who were categorised as Children Looked After (CLA). It was a known fact that CLA faced a number of social issue such as being overrepresented in prisons, persons who were homeless etc. Housing support was also an issue. It had been proved that this support was crucial for educational attainment, employment prospects etc.

The officer explained that resources were an issue. 22 allocated properties had been reserved for care leavers in 2011. However in 2012 it was expected that there would be 38 care leavers eligible for housing support.

Work had been conducted between departments within the Council to develop solutions to the issues. It was important to recognise however that there were a number of different categories of vulnerable people who were all bidding for the same housing needs.

During the discussion on this item, Members of the Panel raised a number of queries which were responded to by officers as follows:

- young people in housing were entitled to their own tenancy and this was not time limited. From experience there was not much mobility once young people had been granted a tenancy. This was usually due to the fact that they developed local connections, support and relationships;
- if a young person's circumstances changed and they were granted tenancy for a different accommodation, the accommodation they previously occupied would revert back for inclusion in a general housing pool;
- if there was no relevant social housing to offer young people they would stay in foster care or alternative provisions would be made;
- building further places to accommodate CLA and young people leaving care was difficult. The private sector could be utilised but this could involve a subsidy being paid to provide stability to those relevant young people;
- within the current arrangements, if extra places were provided for CLA and care leavers, this could impact on other categories of vulnerable people waiting for similar housing needs;
- the report detailed alternative housing options that could be considered in order to address the current position. This involved establishing partnerships with Registered Social Landlords to move into the privately rented sector. Views had been expressed that this could develop less secure tenancies and be more expensive. Protocols could be established to address these issues and uphold the Council's duty as Corporate Parents. One other option could also involve investigating the possibility of shared accommodation;
- some Registered Social Landlords already provided housing support to young people. If further RSLs were required this would probably involve a procurement exercise;
- semi-independent provisions in relation to housing support were fully utilised by the Council. These providers may wish to enter any future procurement exercise;
- the Council worked with Young People with an aim for them to achieve full independence. It was important to note that there were a number of bulge years for CLA which the Council were currently in the midst of. However the situation would improve. The Council had been successful in care planning and providing effective care for babies and young children;

- there were no current funding streams that the Council could utilise to assist young people in providing housing support. This was an issue that officers had investigated.

During the discussion on this item, Members of the Panel made a number of comments including the following:

- it was accepted that current housing stock was low. It was important to look at other options which would be long term in nature and sustainable;
- enquiries would be made to investigate whether a former mayoral charity fund could make some donations to assist in helping providing essential items to care leavers to assist alleviate with some of the pressures of setting up a home.

The Panel then analysed the proposed recommendations as part of the report to provide guidance on future subsequent Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decision making arrangements. The Panel agreed that the issues to be determined involved the Portfolio Holder for Housing. Some of these would therefore be highlighted to him.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the following issues be noted in consideration on future Cabinet or Portfolio Holder Decisions:

- the Panel's support of financial assistance being provided by the Council to enable care leavers to set up home;
- the Panel's support of the collective endeavours of Care Leavers and Housing Sub-Group of the CLA Life Chances Forum and task them with the responsibility for developing clear operational systems and processes for monitoring and reviewing how the housing needs and circumstances will be addressed by the Council;

(2) the following issues be highlighted to the Portfolio Holder for Housing:

- the Panel's support to increase the Locata Housing Scheme allocation for Care Leavers from 22 to 38 in 2012 and to review future demand on an annual basis in line with the regular corporate planning cycle;
- the Panel's support to explore opportunities in the privately rented sector in order to develop partnerships with Registered Social Landlords as a way of addressing current housing resource pressures for care leavers;
- The Panel's support to note the questionnaire feedback from care leavers regarding the suitability and provision of housing

provided under the Locata Housing Scheme in order to establish a minimum quality standards in the future.

60. Display for Councillors

The Panel received a report which set out proposals to set up a display publicising the work of Corporate Parenting and Beyond Limits (Harrow's Children in Care Council) at the Full Council meeting on 12 April 2012.

An officer explained that a similar event had taken place last year and it was intended that this took place on a yearly basis. The event provided an ideal opportunity for Members to meet with young people.

It was hoped that there would be strong support for the event and that Members of the Panel would assist in promoting the event and display amongst their fellow Members.

It was envisaged that the event would commence at approximately 6.15 pm. The event and display would be publicised and it was envisaged that there would be 7 young people in attendance between the age range of 14-20 years old.

The Chairman commented that this was an important event as every Member was a corporate parent and hoped that it would be well supported by Members.

RESOLVED: That the Panel request the Corporate Director of Children's Services to set up a display for Councillors, by members of Corporate Parenting and Beyond Limits, on 12 April 2012 prior to the Full Council meeting.

61. INFORMATION REPORT - Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2011/12

The Chairman introduced a report setting out the work programme for the Panel for the current municipal year. The Chairman reported the following:

- there would be a further report presented to the Panel on 3 April 2012 relating to cultural opportunities for Children Looked After. The Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture would also be invited to the meeting;
- the Virtual Headteacher (VHT) would be providing a report presenting her findings on key educational areas for CLA and on what needed addressing. This would be presented to the Panel at its meeting on 3rd April 2012;
- health issues relating to CLR and Care leavers would be an issue that would be presented to the Panel on 10 July 2012;

- it was also envisaged that a report would be presented at a future meeting on the outcomes from the recent consultation on the life skills programme.

The Chairman also commented that she would continue to work with Democratic Services and Children's Services in preparing the agendas for future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

62. Further Announcements

The Chairman announced that a report would be presented to Cabinet on 9 February 2012 relating to increasing the profile of the Panel. An officer explained that the Children's Services directorate had recently undergone a major redesign to launch a new operating model. As part of this consideration had been provided to strengthen the role of the Panel and demonstrating its impact.

It had therefore been proposed that there would be a revised officer group supporting the Panel. This would include the doctor assigned to look after CLA if, as discussed previously, there was agreement reached on this issue.

It had also been proposed that there would be greater emphasis on engagement in a more meaningful way with young people. This could potentially involve engaging with them in different environments, setting up more informal ways for them to speak to Members and playing a greater role in facilitating issues.

RESOLVED: That the items be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 7.26 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MITZI GREEN
Chairman

Officer Attendance:

Jon Dalton - Service Manager - Housing Needs

Catherine Halsall - Virtual Headteacher

Gail Hancock – Divisional Director Safeguarding and Family Support

Nick Crick – Service Manager Children in Need & Looked After Service

Andreas Kyriacou - Quality Assurance Manager, Vulnerable Children

Dipika Patel - Senior Professional Performance & Data, Childrens Social Care

Jackie Souter - Housing Provision Manager

Peter Tolley – Service Manager Placement Services

REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting: 3rd April 2012

Subject: Access to Leisure facilities for Children Looked After and young people who are Leaving Local Authority Care

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Catherine Doran
Corporate Director of Children's Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mitzi Green

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: Yes

Enclosures: Yes

1.0 Summary and Recommendations

- This report seeks to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel about how children looked after and young people leaving care will be supported to access leisure facilities in Harrow.
- Panel members are invited to consider recommendations contained in section 3.12 and give guidance on subsequent Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decision making arrangements.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Children looked after (CLA) and young people who are leaving care (care leavers) must be supported by Harrow Council, as Corporate Parents to support them to lead a healthy lifestyle and enable them to participate in local leisure activities

2.2 In order to support leisure activities and prioritise the needs of CLA and young people leaving care, direct communication and partnership network has been established with Community Services, leisure facilities. The Chair of the CLA Life Chances Forum (who is also an officer member of the Corporate Parenting Panel) has been able to develop a positive relationship to support the role of the Council as Corporate Parents. The intention will be to promote and support CLA and young people leaving care to participate and enjoy engagement with local leisure activities in Harrow.

2.3 The terms of reference for the CLA Life Chances Forum focus on improving the life chances and outcomes for CLA. The forum is to scrutinise current processes, maximise the benefit of local partnerships and address specific issues to improve access to leisure facilities and support healthy lifestyles for care leavers. An integral aspect of this work will be to ascertain the views, wishes and feelings of CLA and care leavers.

2.4 Representatives of the CLA Life Chances Forum and partnership with Leisure Services is:

- CLA Service Manager
- Children's Placement Service Manager
- Virtual Head Teacher
- Leaving Care Team Manager
- CLA Team Manager
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Team Manager
- CLA Nurse practitioner
- Children with Disabilities Team Service Manager
- Harrow Foster Carer's Association
- "Beyond Limits" Child in Care Council
- Independent Visitor Scheme co-ordinator
- Early Intervention Service Manager

3.0 Issues

3.1 Consultation with Children looked after and Care Leavers

Children Looked After and young people leaving care have expressed an

interest to their social workers to participate with local leisure activities in Harrow and be able to regularly exercise. However, cost and motivation has been a factor.

3.2 An event took place on 16th March, to promote the engagement with leisure activities and CLA with Harrow Leisure Centre and partner centres, this was promoted by the Olympic heavy weight boxer, Anthony Joshua. This event was supported by the portfolio holder for Children's Services, the Corporate Director of Children and Families and the Chief Executive of Harrow Council.

3.3 We would want to ensure that we meet our responsibilities in respect of legislation and Corporate Parents to promote and support the leisure activities and participation for CLA and young people leaving care.

3.3 Leisure facilities

Harrow Leisure centre is contracted to be managed by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), a private organisation managing the centre. The leisure centre is located close to Harrow Weald station and has easy access to Harrow surrounding areas. The leisure centre boasts a large gym and swimming pools, with various other facilities ranging from indoor badminton and football facilities and dance studios. This environment is ideal for CLA and care leavers to engage with gym activities, swimming and exercise classes.

3.4 The Bannister centre is also available for running clubs and athletic engagements for young people. Arrangements will be sought with other services operated by GLL, nationwide for CLA by Harrow Council to support participation and engagement.

3.5 CLA and young people placed outside the borough will be supported with engagement to local facilities, where partnership opportunities will be made with leisure services in their area.

3.6 In 2008, Harrow Council and Watford Football Club established a partnership to rebuild a local youth club and develop the Cedars Youth Club site. A new building is due to be opened this year, where there will be leisure and exercise facilities available to all CLA and young people leaving care, in addition to engaging young people with education.

3.7 Access and opportunity

As Corporate Parents, it is important that we enable our CLA and young people to use all services and facilities operated by the Council, to promote engagement, healthy living and aspirations. CLA and careleavers are the most disadvantaged group in our communities, so it is important that we demonstrate our responsibility as Corporate Parents and ensure our CLA and young people leaving care have the opportunity and access to services and facilities that would otherwise be too costly to participate with.

3.8 Life Skills Programme & Healthy living

To support all CLA being ready to live independently in their own tenancy once they turn 18 years old, a new Life Skills Programme has been developed

with teenage CLA, care leavers and a range of partners during 2011. The new Life Skills Programme, which is launched at the Corporate Parenting Panel today, provides an individual programme tailored to meet the unique needs and circumstances of all care leavers to equip them with the necessary skills, confidence and experience to live independently and enjoy healthy lifestyles and participating in leisure activities.

3.9 The Life Skills Programme will focus on the timely acquisition of appropriate life skills for all care leavers. This includes a readiness assessment for a broad range of issues, including appropriate practical skills for self care, food preparation and promote exercise, emotional resilience and well-being needs and support requirements for education, employment and training conditions that will support a successful transition to young adulthood, including managing and maintaining a tenancy. This will all be included in the programme activity.

3.10 Access to Leisure and healthy living

CLA and young people leaving care will be invited to join the Harrow Leisure centre, where they will have an initial membership for 3 months , to use swimming and gym facilities. Exercise classes are an additional cost and will be considered on an individual basis. The memberships will be reviewed and evaluated in 3 months time, considering the number of CLA and young people leaving care who join and take up regular leisure activities and healthy living.

3.11 CLA will be invited to join Cedars Youth Club, where they will also be able to utilise the leisure facilities and services. Watford Football Club have also shown an interest to further promote leisure facilities and education with CLA and young people leaving care, where the CLA Life Chances Forum will develop this partnership arrangement, working closely with Early Intervention Service.

3.12 Proposed Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to consider the following recommendations in order to address the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities for children looked after and care leavers as it relates to access to leisure facilities:

- a) To support all CLA and young people leaving care to have access to Council leisure facilities and be supported with community integration and healthy living lifestyles
- b) To provide a view about the financial assistance that should be provided by the Council to enable young people to access leisure facilities
- c) To develop and establish leisure partnership arrangements for all Harrow Council looked after children and young people leaving care placed outside of borough
- d) Recommend that a survey is undertaken to estimate how many young people will want to take up the opportunity to regularly attend the leisure centre
- e) To support the collective endeavours of the CLA Life Chances Forum and task them with the responsibility for developing clear operational

systems and processes for monitoring and reviewing how the access to leisure project and partnership with Community Services for CLA and young people leaving care will be addressed by the Council

3.20 Environmental Impact

There is no specific environmental impact from the issues outlined in this report.

3.21 Financial Implications

GLL have agreed that they will offer a 30% discount CLA and young people leaving care to use the leisure facilities.

The standard charges for an 11– 15 year old is £19.95 per month, for use of the gym (supervised) and swimming, with a £10 one off administration charge. For a young person 16 – 18 (and student) the cost is £30 per month plus a one off £20 administration charge.

With a 30% discount and no administration fees, the monthly costs would be:

- 11 – 15 year old would be £13.95
- 16 – 18 year old would be £21.00
- 18+ would £21.00

This represents £41.85 for 3 months and £167.40 per year for a CLA (under 16) and £63.30 for 3 months and £253.20 a year for a student/young person leaving care or those over 18.

Based on the current care population there are 65 young people 11 - 18 within the borough and 73 over 18. If all young people took up the opportunity it would cost a total of £7,341 for 3 months (£2,720 for all CLA and £4,621 for young people over 18). To ensure that memberships are being used an initial survey will be undertaken of young people intending to use the facilities plus a review to ensure regular useage. If all young people take up the offer the full annual cost would be an estimated £30k and would be funded from the existing CLA budgets.

3.22

Cedars Youth Centre and other Harrow Council initiatives are being developed to enable access to leisure facilities for children looked after and young people leaving care.

3.23 Risk Management Implications

All related risks are recorded in the Children's Services risk register. There is a significant reputational risk from a poor inspection of social care, where support to children looked after and young people leaving care are crucial to mitigate risks and demonstrate developing practice and procedure support to this cohort.

3.24 Equalities implications

CLA and care leavers are additionally vulnerable child in need. The 2009 statutory guidance "The Roles & Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services" highlights the need for Local Authorities to work corporately to improve the well-being of looked after children and young people leaving care, to make their needs a priority and seek the same outcomes that any reasonable caring parent would want for their own children. CLA consistently fare worse than their peers across a range of indicators including health, education, training, employment, homelessness and offending.

3.25 Corporate Priorities

CLA and care leavers are additionally vulnerable by virtue of the experiences that led them into Local Authority care and in respect of the poor outcomes that many CLA and care leavers experience when compared to their peers, The Council's corporate priorities include providing care and protection to those who are most in need and this includes CLA and care leavers.

4.0 Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21/3/12		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 15/3/12		

5.0 Performance Officer Clearance

Name: David Harrington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date: 19/3/12		

7.0 Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Nick Crick, CLA Service Manager, Children's Services

Tel: 0208 736 6976
nick.crick@harrow.gov.uk

REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting:	3 rd April 2012
Subject:	Lifeskills Programme for Children Looked After
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Catherine Doran Corporate Director of Children's Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mitzi Green
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	Yes

1.0 Summary and Recommendations

- This report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel to launch and implement the Harrow Lifeskills Programme for children looked after and their transition to adulthood and Leaving Care services
- Panel members are invited to consider recommendations contained in section 3.11 and give guidance on subsequent Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decision making arrangements.

2.0 Introduction

Children looked after (CLA) must be supported to a safe and smooth transition to Leaving Care services and young adulthood, with preparation for independent living and establishing lifeskills to maximise their life chances.

2.1 CLA will be 18 years old when they become a care leaver and are no longer in the care of the local authority. In accordance with duties outlined in the Leaving Care Act 2000, care leavers are entitled to receive local authority support as Care Leavers.

2.2 Preparation for adulthood must be started at the earliest opportunity and support young people to develop skills, independence and confidence for when they leave care and become young adults.

2.3 Harrow Lifeskills Programme was first considered in 2009, by Young people services. However, a working group was established in 2010 by the Service Manager for Children in Need and Looked after Children, under the framework of the CLA Life Chances Forum. Children looked after and young peoples views were sought as to how they could be supported and prepared for independence more effectively by Harrow Council in respect of their transition to young adulthood and leaving care services.

2.4 Where young people are provided with direct ongoing support, monitoring, evaluation and review the success of independent living is increased. The CLA Lifeskills Programme will establish a foundation of basic needs in lifeskills and is designed to engage young people to contribute and participate in learning and development, leading up to and post 18 years old This will enable an assessment and evaluation of need regarding the progress and completion of the CLA Lifeskills programme, the allocated social worker, foster carer, carers and key support services for young people. Recognition of achievements should also be captured and acknowledged through out the process.

2.5 The CLA Lifeskills Programme will help assess and recommend transition to independent living and nomination for Council tenancy accommodation under the Locata at 18 years old. The Leaving Care team will then continue to work with the young people establishing independent living support and ongoing monitoring.

2.6 The CLA Life Chances forum has an established Care Leavers and Housing sub group, which will closely monitor transition and demonstrating key living skills, as well as monitoring rent payments and managing tenancies. The group will scrutinise current processes, maximise the benefit of local partnerships and address specific issues to improve housing outcomes for care leavers. This support after 18, is critical where young people are in thier own tenancy, managing independence and being accountable.

2.7 A CLA Lifeskills Programme sub group has been established, the representatives of this group include the following;

- CLA Service Manager
- Placements Service Manager
- Leaving Care Team Manager
- Harrow Foster Carer's Association

- Housing Department
- “Beyond Limits” Children in Care Council
- Independent Visitor Scheme co-ordinator
- CLA Team Manager

3.0 Issues

CLA require individual support, training and leadership regarding their development and transition to young adulthood. Young people are best placed learning practical skills, researching and engaging with a person to develop new skills and manage responsibilities. Without such support, young people can fail to manage and retain tenancies, fail in transition and not have fundamental life skills to live independently. In 2010, a small number of young people were evicted from their tenancies, due to not being able to manage them and live independently. Issues regarding financial management, anti social behaviour were key, as well as personal skills and care being of serious concern.

3.1 In order to ensure that all care leavers are ready to live independently and manage a tenancy once they turn 18 years old, the CLA Life Skills Programme is required, in order to support CLA with preparation and development skills for independent living before and post 18. The Housing and Careleavers sub group will continue monitoring and support. In addition, promoting confidence and praise is critical for all CLA whereby we will introduce a recognition of achievement letter to recognise exceptional goals achieved and event with the young person.

3.2 Although care leavers are provided with advice and support regarding appropriate benefits and entitlements, benefits legislation is frequently changing and can be difficult system to navigate and so preparation is critical to prevent eviction and related emotional difficulties post 18, where further support will be co-ordinated engaging outreach services from Honey Pot Lane and key partner agencies; HOPE and Housing to support the management of independency and transition to young adulthood.

3.3 Participation with Children Looked After

In 2009, young people services began consultation and design a lifeskills programme with young people leaving care. Young peoples’ views were gathered and a unit based framework was sketched, but was completed. In 2010, the CLA Lifeskills programme sub group was established and gathered the information to begin preparing a lifeskills programme. A co-ordinator was identified and has since put together the lifeskills programme.

3.2 In 2011, the lifeskills programme co-ordinator established a draft programme and sought feedback from young people and partners colleagues, social workers, foster carers and managers. The draft programme was completed by 4 young people as a pilot. These 4 young people were identified by representatives of the CLA Lifeskills sub group, as being known to them, Their feedback was collated. Feedback was positive and led to the layout and design of the programme. Please see Appendix 1.

3.4 In November 2011, Beyond Limits were consulted upon in respect of the draft Lifeskills Programme and its implementation. Feedback was very

positive and support of the programme, young people were 'impressed with the folder', 'organised well', 'usefull', promoted discussion' and older young people 'would have loved to have it' when they were younger.

3.5 The Lifeskills programme will focus on the timely preparation of development of appropriate life skills for all CLA. This includes a readiness assessment for a broad range of issues, including appropriate practical skills, emotional resilience and well-being needs, support requirements and the type of education, employment and training conditions that will support a successful transition to young adulthood, including managing and maintaining a tenancy.

3.6 Consideration will be made in future to prepare an online version, so that young people have the option to have a physical hard copy programme and/or an electronic programme.

3.7 Implementing the Lifeskills Programme

The CLA Lifeskills Programme will be provided from April 2011, to every looked after children as they turn 14 years old. In addition, the programme will be provided for all looked after children who are already 14 to 18 years old.

3.8 Social workers, foster carers and key partner agencies will be offered training and guidance to prepare and complete the lifeskills programme with young people looked after. The key partners engaged with launching, preparing and completing the lifeskills programme will be:

- the allocated social worker
- foster care
- Independent visitor
- Honey Pot Lane staff

3.9 The CLA Life Chances Forum will monitor and review the implementation of the lifeskills programme and evaluate feedback from young people and professionals involved.

3.10 The recognition letter (appendix 2) will be used more frequently to recognise and praise the achievements by young people and acknowledge this accordingly, acting as Corporate Parents for the child/young person by sending a letter from the Divisional Director or Portfolio holder for Children's Services.

3.11 Proposed Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to consider the following recommendations in order to address the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities for children looked after and introducing the CLA Lifeskills Programme;

- a) To endorse the CLA Lifeskills Programme, for all CLA aged 14 – 18 years old
- b) To support the distribution of the Lifeskills Programme to all looked after young people aged 14 – 17 years old and all young people who turn 14 in future

- c) To support the collective endeavours of the CLA Life Chances Forum and task them with the responsibility for developing training, clear operational systems and processes for monitoring and reviewing how the lifeskills programme will be implemented by the Council
- d) To request the CLA Life Chances Forum to report back to the Corporate Parenting panel regarding progress and evaluation of the 1st year of the CLA Lifeskills Programme in April 2013
- e) To note the contribution and feed back of CLA and care leavers regarding the development of the lifeskills programme
- f) Endorse and support the letter of recognition for CLA and young people leaving care

3.20 Environmental Impact

There is no specific environmental impact from the issues outlined in this report.

3.21 Financial Implications

The Lifeskills Programme costs £22.32 for each actual programme and a one off administration fee of £610.00, which included the draft programmes. There are 88 CLA young people who are currently aged 14 – 17 years old.

In 2012, a further 8 young people will turn 14, in 2013, there will be 3 young people turning 14 and in 2014, there will be 5 young people turning 14. In total, for the next 3 years, the total cost for each person to have a programme will be £2,320.91 and £610 administration cost. This will be funded by the Care Matters grant.

3.23 Risk Management Implications

All related risks are recorded in the Children’s Services risk register. There is a significant reputational risk from a poor inspection of social care, in particular any serious or untoward significant incident concerning a care leaver. Preparations are in place to mitigate this risk.

3.24 Equalities implications

CLA and care leavers are additionally vulnerable child in need. The 2009 statutory guidance “The Roles & Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children’s Services and the Director of Children’s Services” highlights the need for Local Authorities to work corporately to improve the well-being of looked after children and young people leaving care, to make their needs a priority and seek the same outcomes that any reasonable caring parent would want for their own children. CLA consistently fare worse than their peers across a range of indicators including health, education, training, employment, homelessness and offending.

3.25 Corporate Priorities

CLA and care leavers are additionally vulnerable by virtue of the experiences that led them into Local Authority care and in respect of the poor outcomes that many CLA and care leavers experience when compared to their peers, The Council’s corporate priorities include providing care and protection to those who are most in need and this includes CLA and care leavers..

4.0 Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21/3/12		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 15/3/12		

5.0 Performance Officer Clearance

Name: David Harrington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date: 19/3/12		

6.0 Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Nick Crick, CLA Service Manager, Children's Services

Tel: 0208 736 6976

nick.crick@harrow.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Consultation and feedback with young people

The programme was piloted by 5 young people in the summer of 2011. Their comments and contributions have been fully incorporated and adopted within the final programme.

Beyond Limits were also consulted in December 2011, these are some of their comments:

CR questioned whether the adult comments box was necessary as he feels this may undermine the fact that this should be a reflection of the young person's view. He said young people looked after often feel that they are told what they feel is not correct or is wrong. When explained to CR that the aim of having the adult's box is to promote dialogue and discussion around how others see how a young person deals with situations and the impact of their behaviour on others, CR agreed that this is a good idea. Perhaps this needs to be made clearer!

CR suggested that the file be seen as a 'living document' so there should be places for a young person to put copies of their PEP plan for example. He suggested having specific spaces for these things. This is now adopted at the end of the folder.

CR said that at the age the young person will be filling in the life skills files, they will be having their progress in life skills development reviewed on a regular basis rather than once a year so CR suggested there should be sheets that can be used to record progress on a more regular basis (like a diary), which is also at the end of the folder.

TE did not feel that a 14 year old will like the cover but thought that the older young people may not mind it so much.

TE felt the content was quite good. He said that Unit -6 would be the most important and relevant to him at this point.

TE also said that it would be worth having this on line as some young people might misplace it or lose it while changing placement etc.

NB was quite impressed with the folder. She said that she has filled in bits and bobs of this kind with her social worker but felt that this was much clearer and organized well.

She also said that Unit 6 would be really useful for her and Unit 7 as she wants to join a gym and it would help her to have information on leisure activities.

On the whole she thought this was a good programme and she would have loved to have used it if she had had the opportunity couple of years back.

She also said that the young people should have an option of doing it on line.

Appendix 2

Recognition letter

To: Address

Date

Dear ?

Recognition:

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to congratulate you in respect of
(insert text regarding individual recognition)

Well done and I wish you well for the future,

Yours Sincerely,

Gail Hancock
Divisional Director - Targeted Services

Cc: Nick Crick Service Manager - Children Looked After
Cc: Team Manager - file copy

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date:	3 April 2012
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director of Children’s Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Mitzi Green
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	CLA & CPP Activity and Performance Report

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 Key Indicators for Children’s Social Care.

Section 2 – Report Issues

Key Points:

- Data is shown to end of January 2012.
- 6 adoptions and 4 SGOs granted in 2011/12 so far.

- Proportion of CLA aged 16-17 remains higher than in previous years.
- Number of CPP has decreased and is now lower than the number of CLA.
- Percentage of placements with in-house foster carers has increased.
- Additional indicators are included for looked after education and health.
- Key performance indicators with commentary for Q3 are included.

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

on behalf of the*
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 16 March 2012

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

April 2012

**Children Looked After
Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan
(Activity to end of January 2012)**

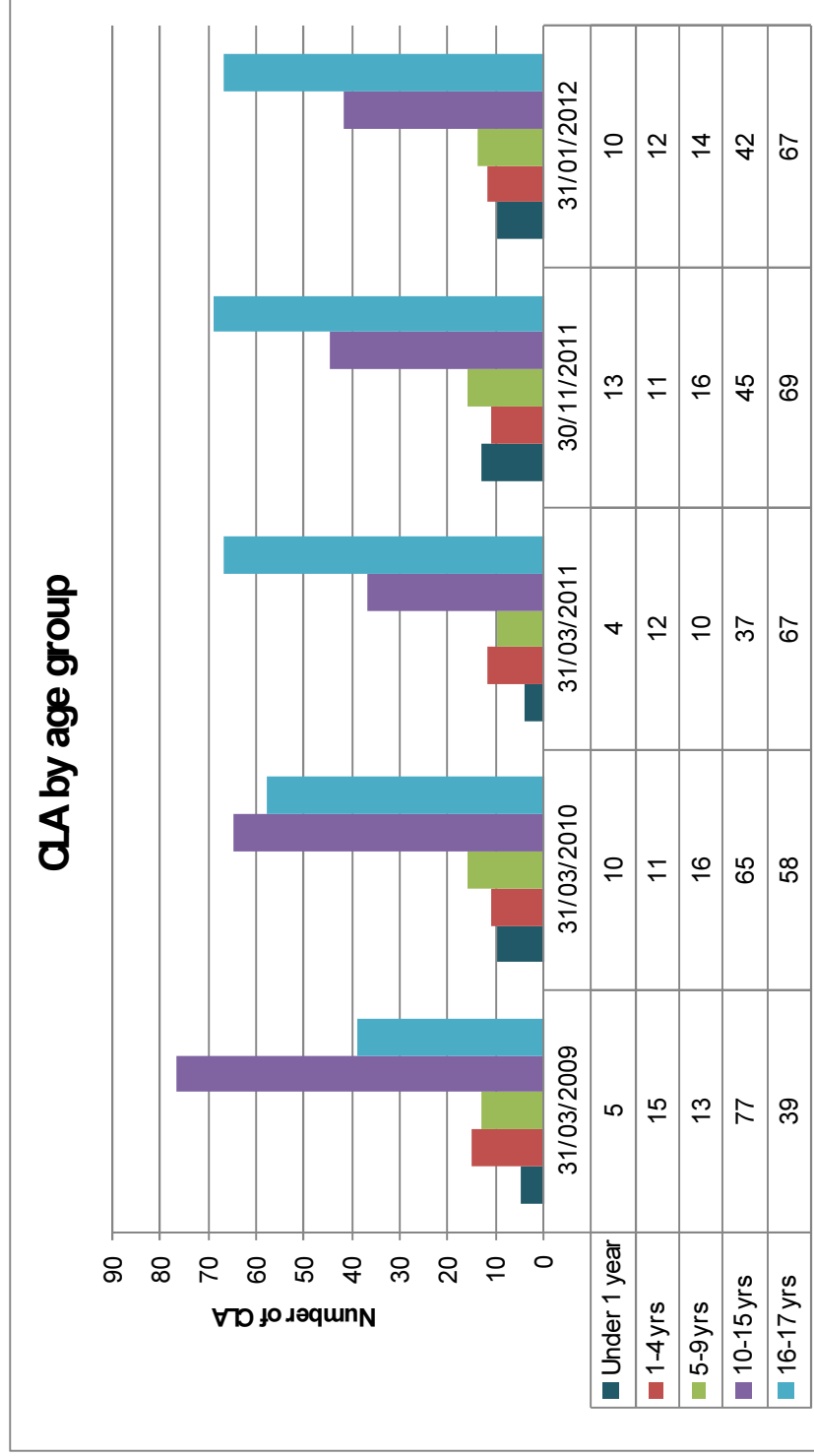
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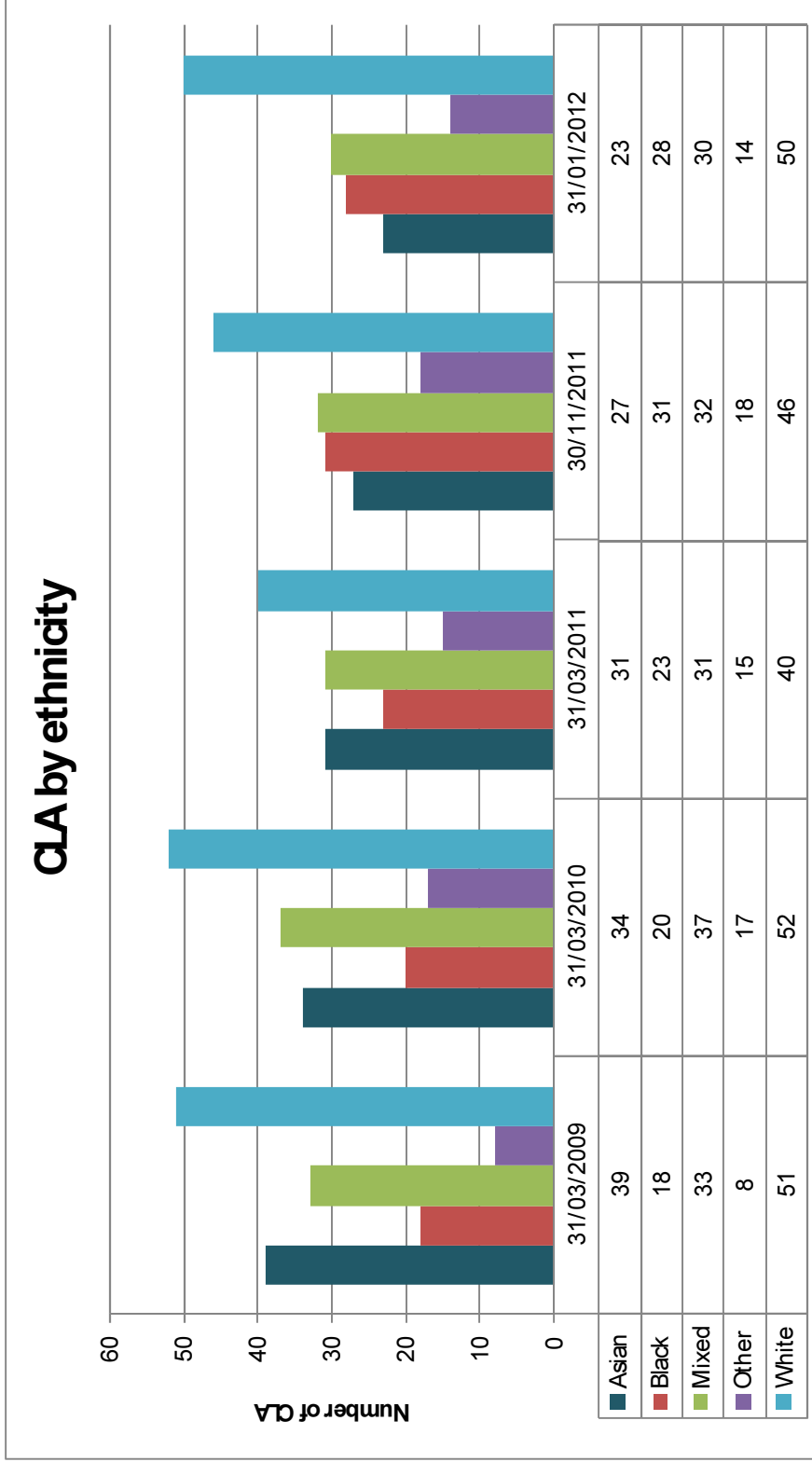
Part A: Children Looked After (CLA)

There were 145 CLA in Harrow on 31 January 2012.
 There were also an additional 4 children receiving respite care / short term breaks (these are not included in the numbers in this report).

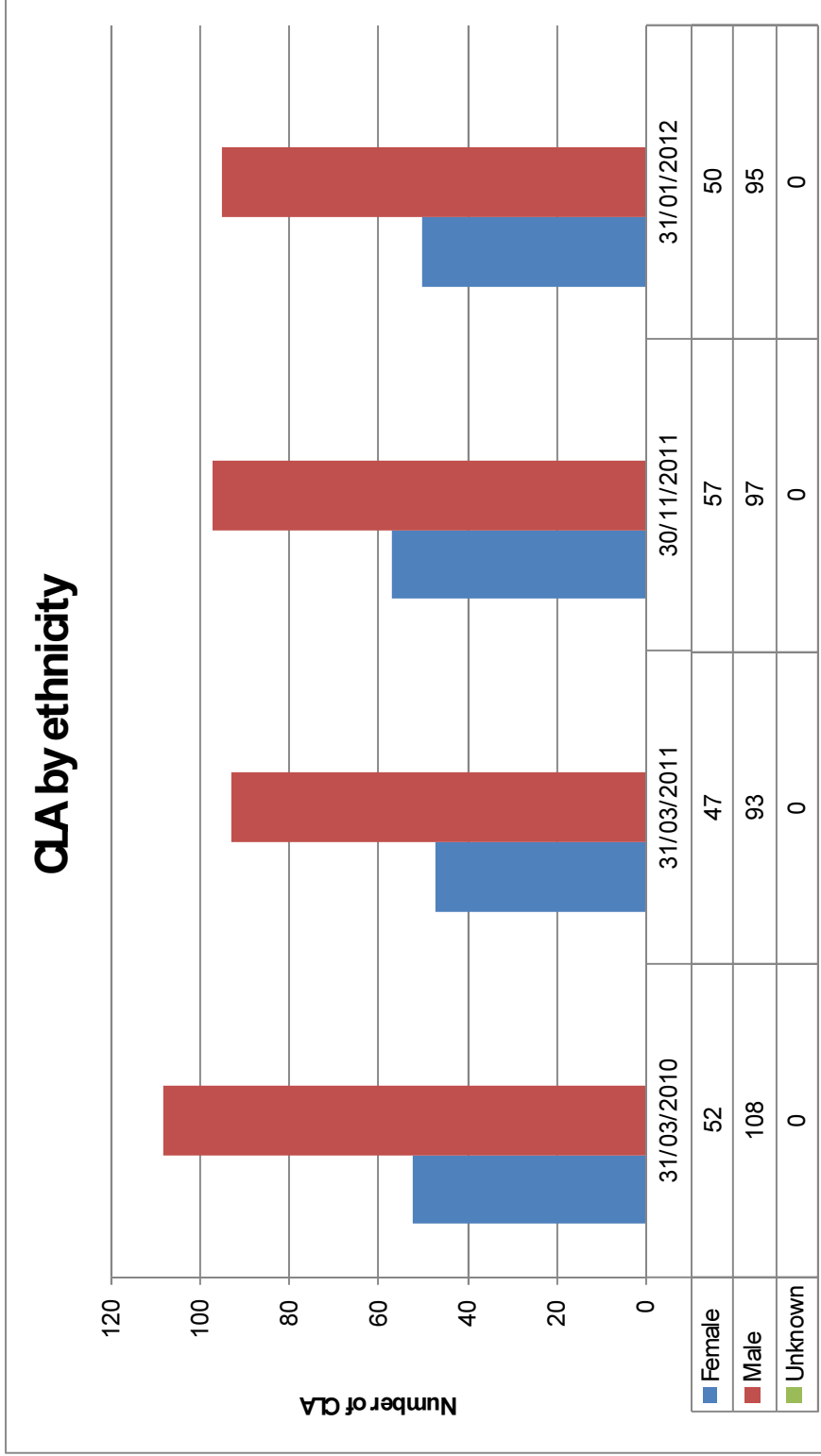
1) CLA by Age



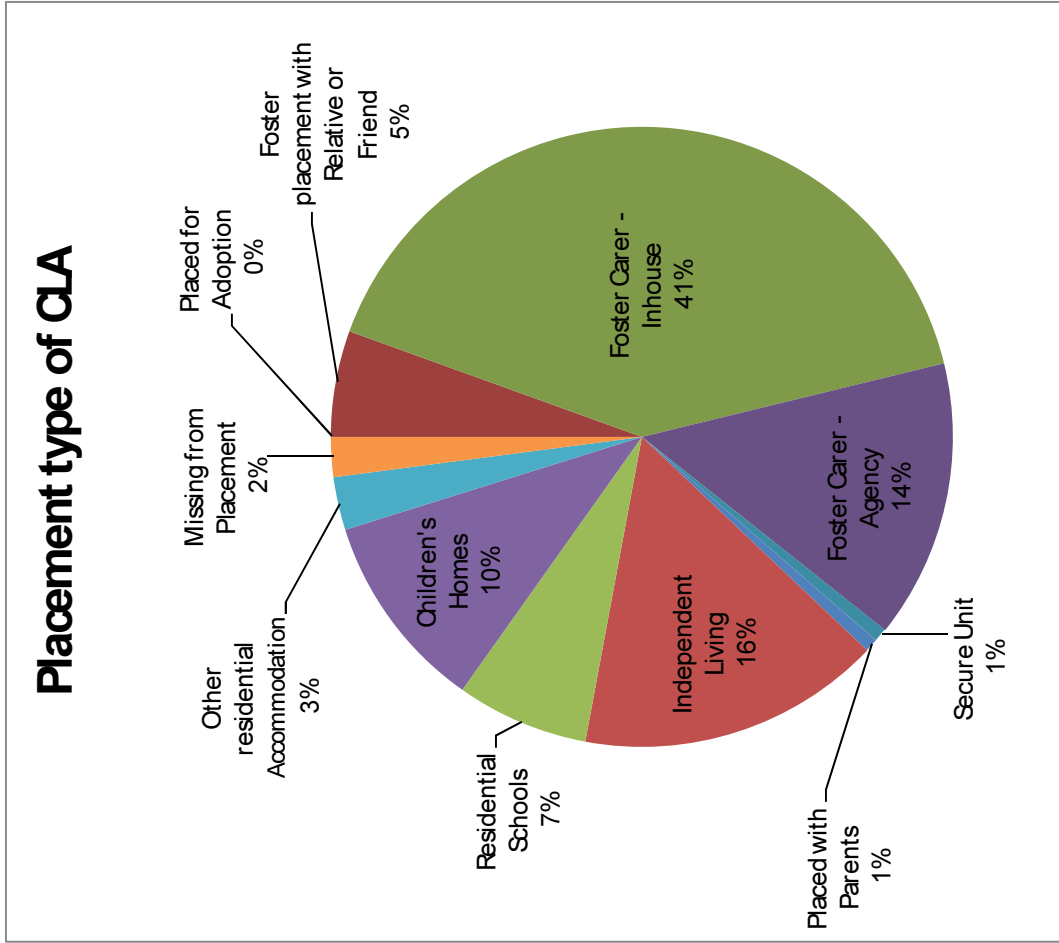
2) CLA by Ethnicity



3) CLA by Gender



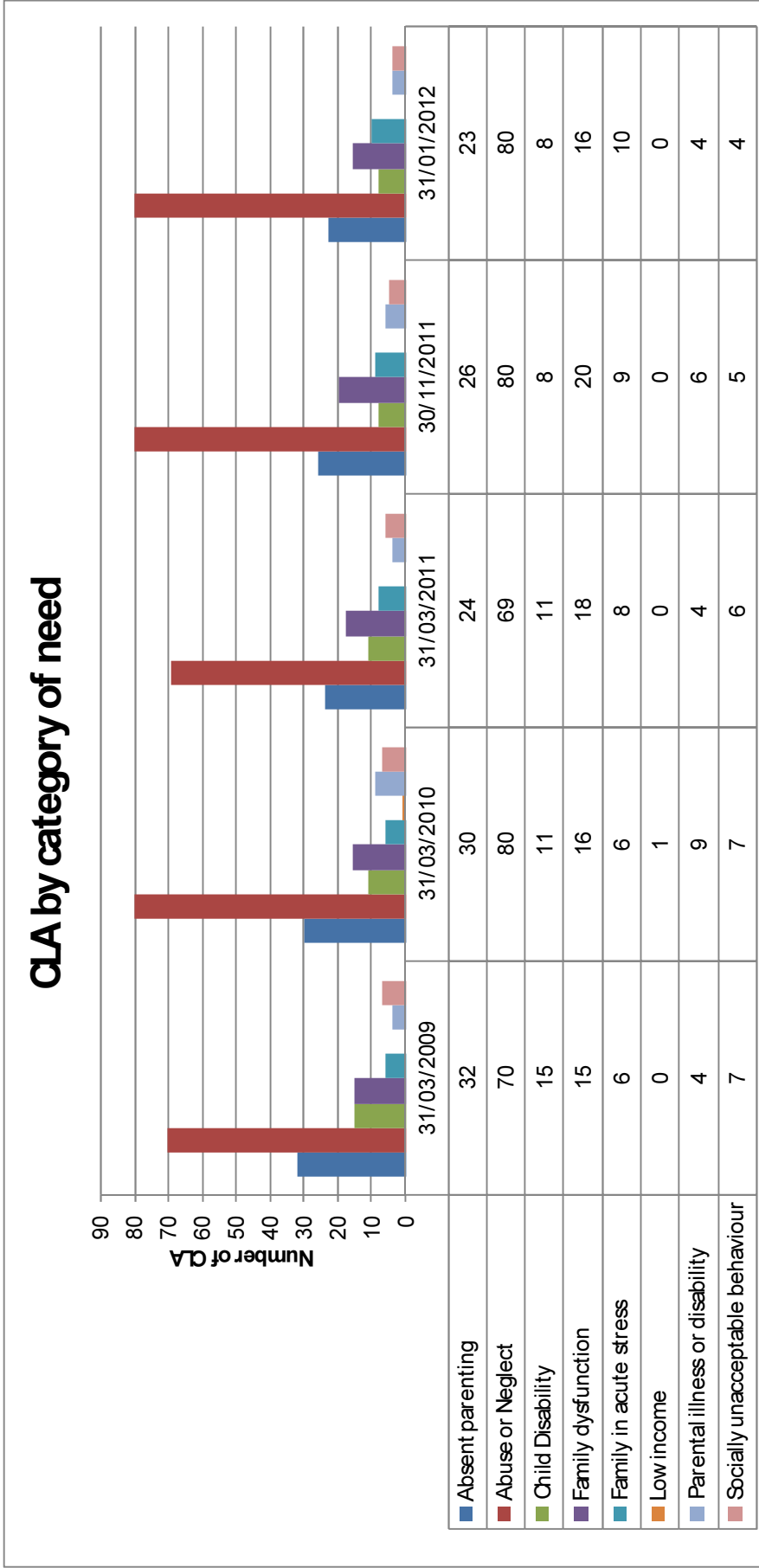
4) CLA by Placement Type



Placement Type	
Placed for Adoption	0
Foster placement with Relative or Friend	8
Foster Carer - Inhouse	59
Foster Carer - Agency	21
Secure Unit	1
Young Offenders Institution or Prison	0
Placed with Parents	1
Independent Living	23
Residential Schools	10
Children's Homes	15
Other residential Accommodation	4
Missing from Placement	3
Grand Total	145

5) CLA by Category of Need

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



6) CLA - educational attainment

(Children looked after for over a year at 31/03)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (prov)
Total children in KS2 cohort:	8	7	2	2	2
Attained at least Level 4 in Maths at end of KS2	25%	43%	50%	50%	50%
Attained at least Level 4 in English at end of KS2	50%	43%	50%	50%	0%
Attained at least Level 4 in both English and Maths	new	new	new	new	0%
Total young people in GCSE cohort:	13	9	14	17	19
GCSE: Attained at least 1 A* - G	46.2%	66.7%	57.1%	52.9%	47.4%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - G	43.2%	33.3%	57.1%	41.2%	31.6%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - C	5.4%	11.1%	14.3%	11.8%	5.3%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A* - C inc Eng. & Maths	new	new	7.1%	11.8%	5.3%

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7) CLA - education other data

(Children looked after for over a year at 31/03) (DfE matched data)	2009	2010
Total school age children in cohort:	63	65
SEN: % School Action / Action Plus	new	33.8%
SEN: % with statement	new	36.9%
Absence: % school sessions missed	5.6%	6.6%
Exclusions: % permanently excluded	new	tbc
Exclusions: % with at least one fixed term exclusion	11.1%	tbc

8) CLA - health data

(Children looked after for over a year at 31/03)	31 Mar 2011	31 Aug 2011	30 Nov 2011	31 Jan 2012
Health Checks of CLA	90%	79%	85%	86%
Dental Checks of CLA	92%	73%	73%	70%

(Children looked after for over a year at 31/03)	2009	2010	2011
Total children in cohort:	82	95	84
CLA with up-to-date dental checks	93%	98%	92%
CLA with up-to-date health assessments	94%	92%	90%
CLA with up-to-date immunisations	71%	79%	75%
CLA with a completed Carer Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	74%	55%	32%
Average SDQ score (<i>lower is better</i>)	14.3	14.3	15.1

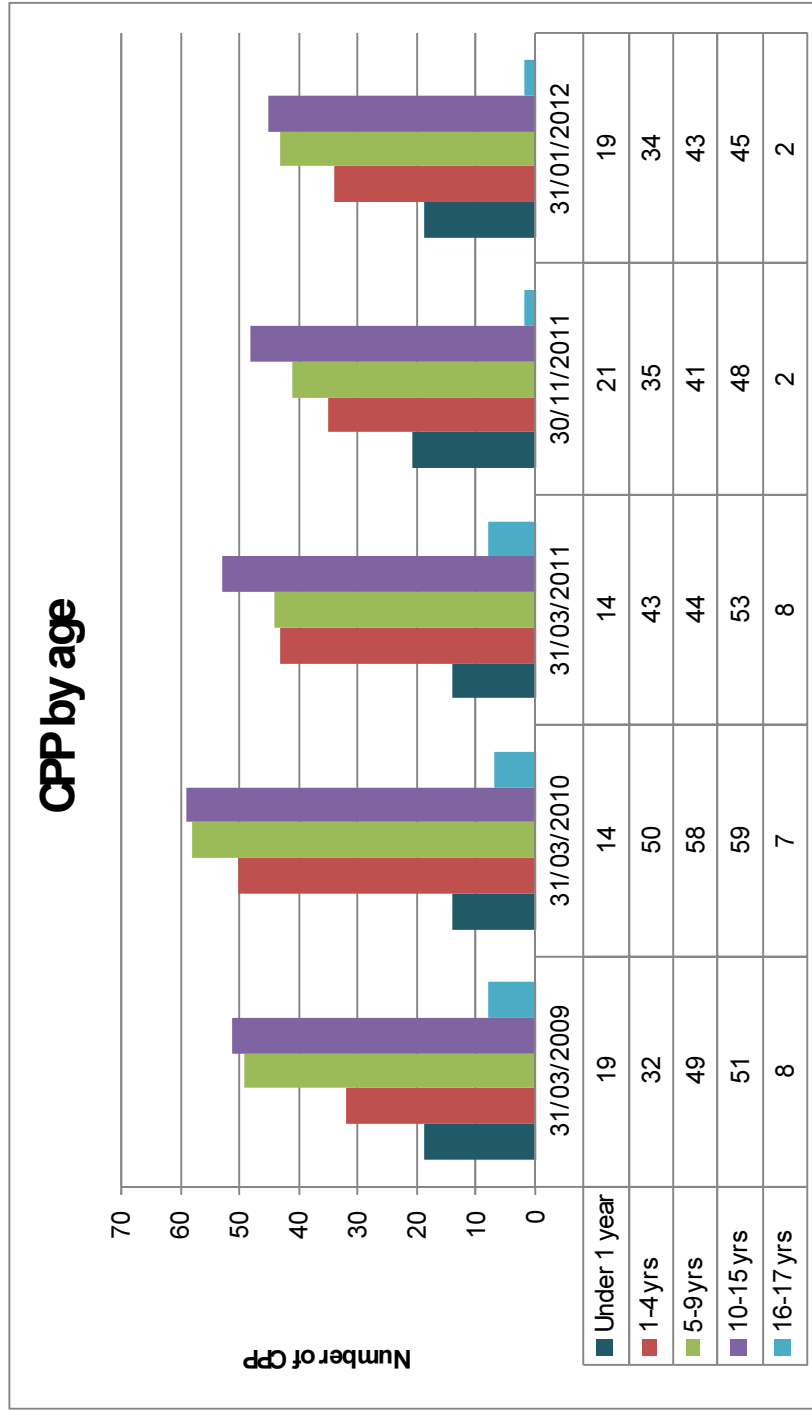
9) CLA - Other Data

	31 Aug 2010	30 Nov 2010	31 Jan 2011	31 Aug 2011	30 Nov 2011	31 Jan 2012
Number of children placed out of borough:	81	70	71	74	85	60
Of those, who are placed more than 20 miles:	31	32	33	31	30	
Social Work Allocation:	100%	100%	100%	99.7%	98.0%	98.6%
Adoptions & Special Guardianship Orders: (our target for adoptions is 14)	15 to date	16 to date	19 for 2010-11	5 to date	6 to date	10 to date

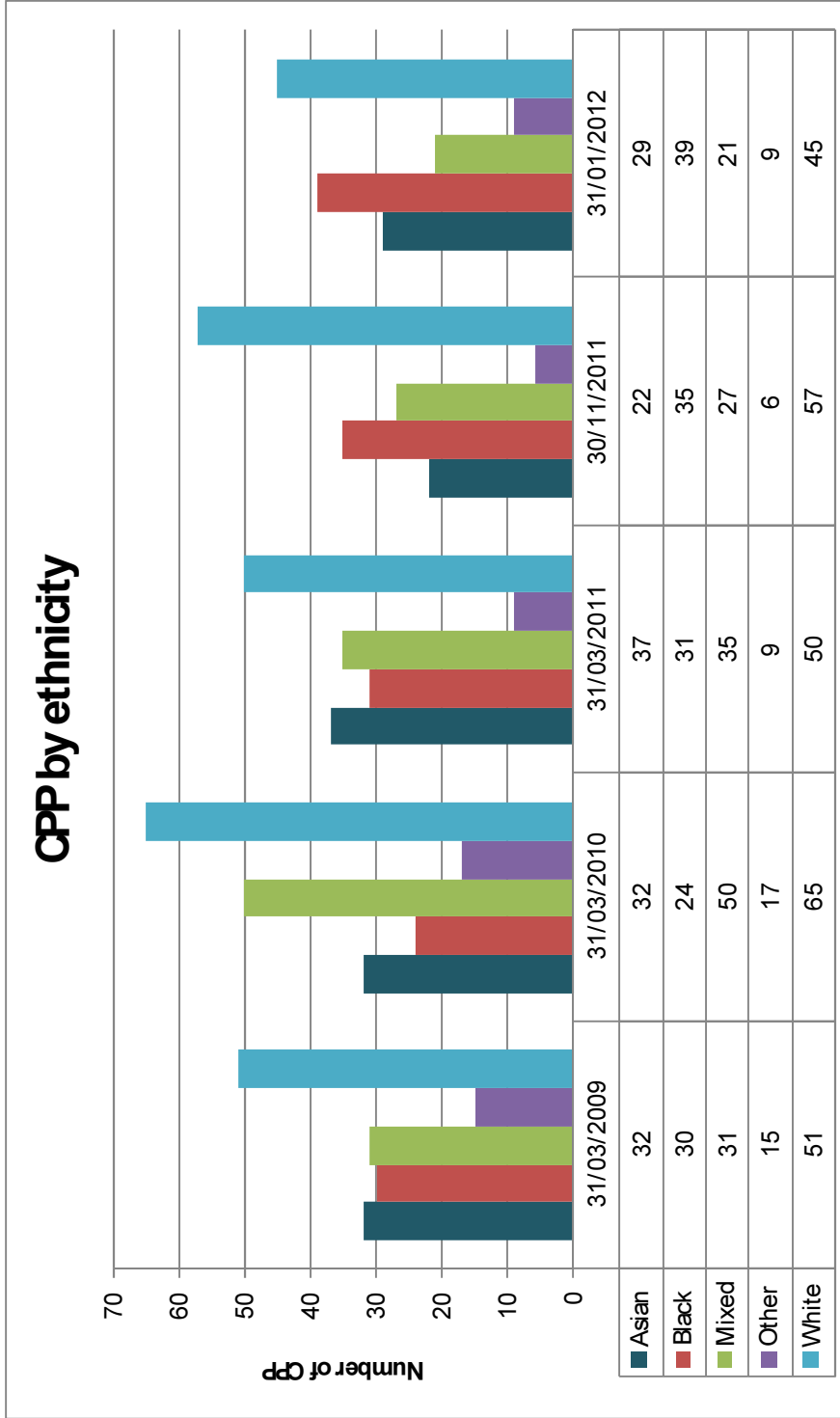
Part B: Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

There were 147 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Harrow on 31 January 2012.

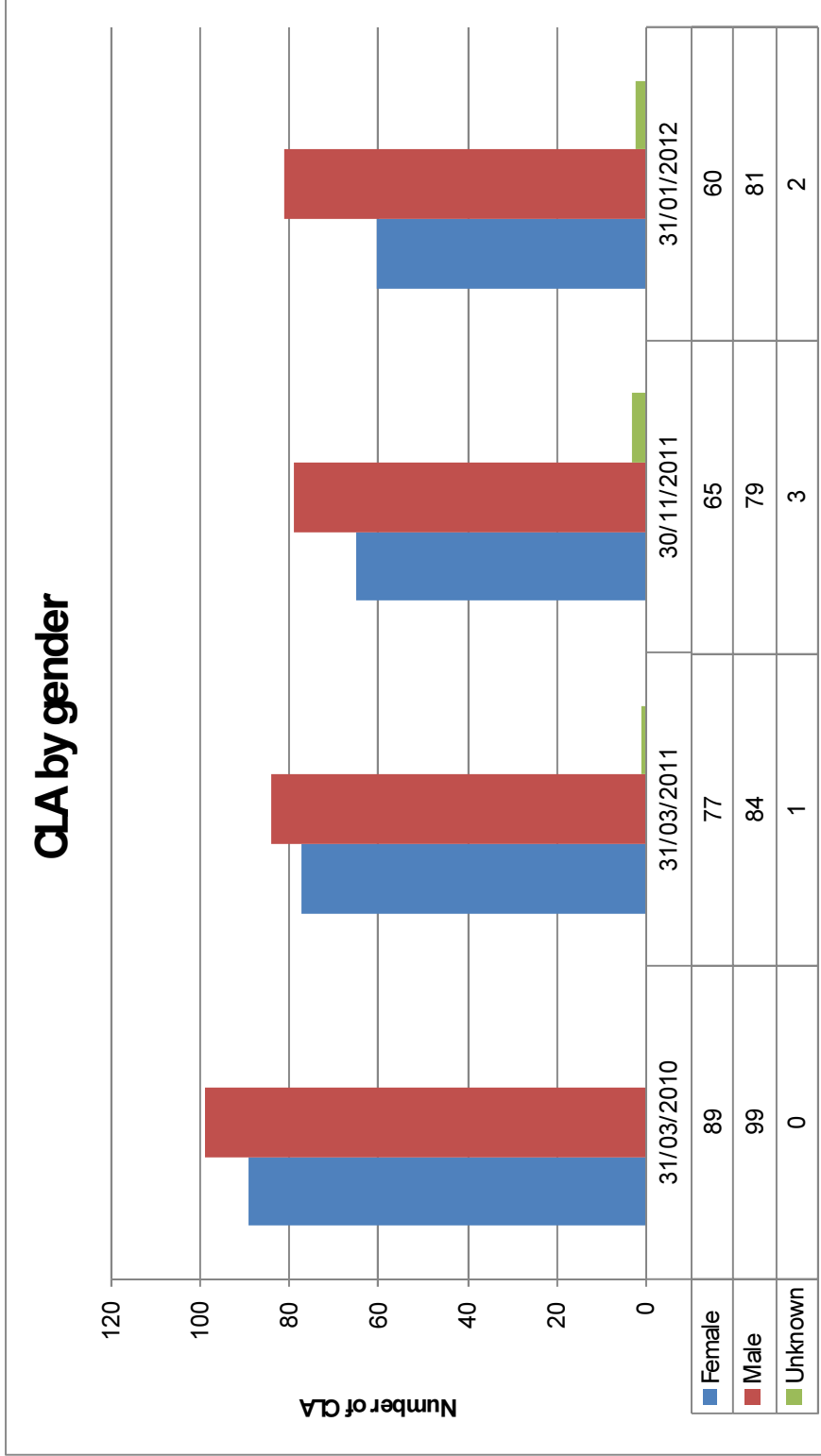
10) CPP by Age



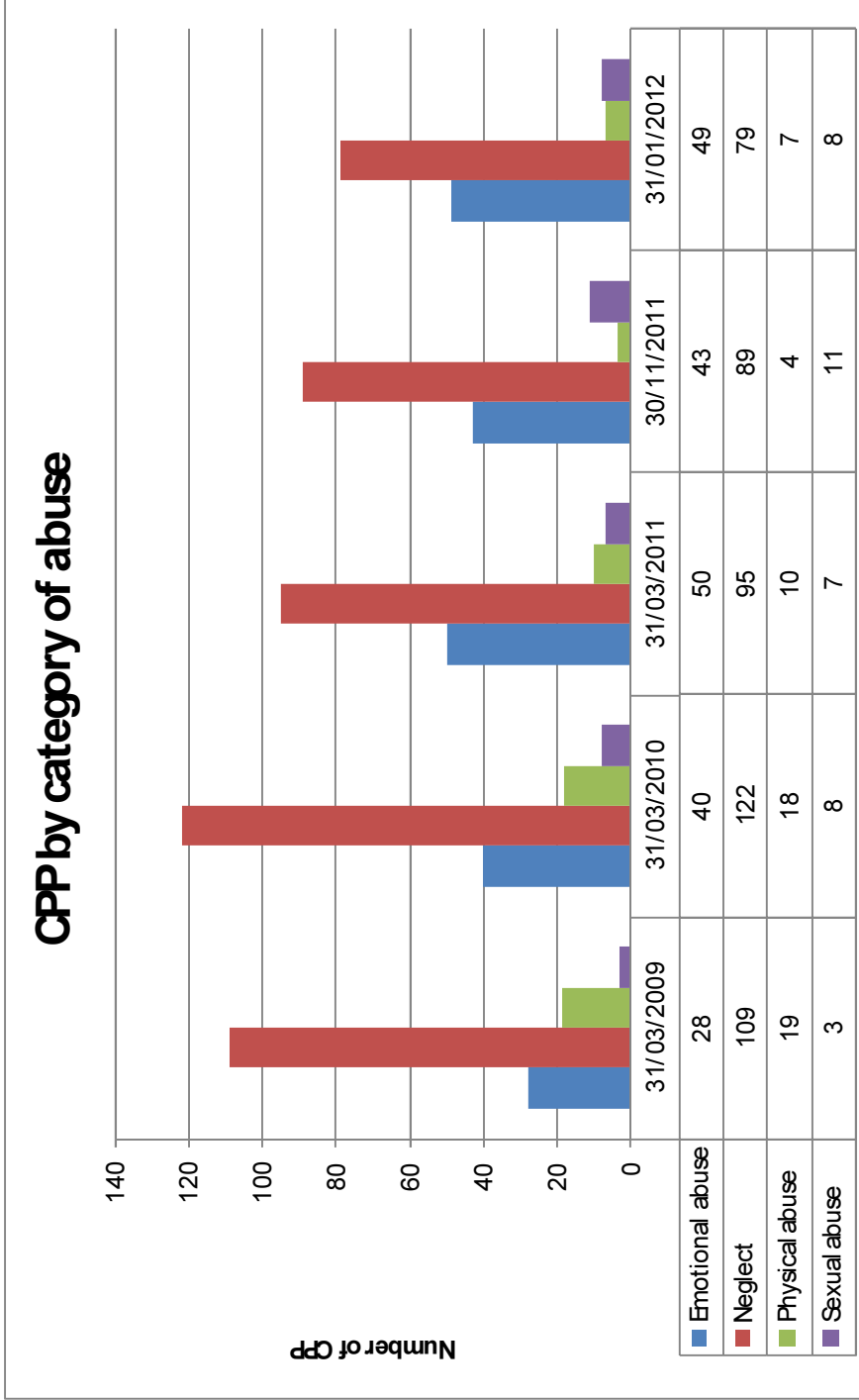
11) CPP by ethnicity



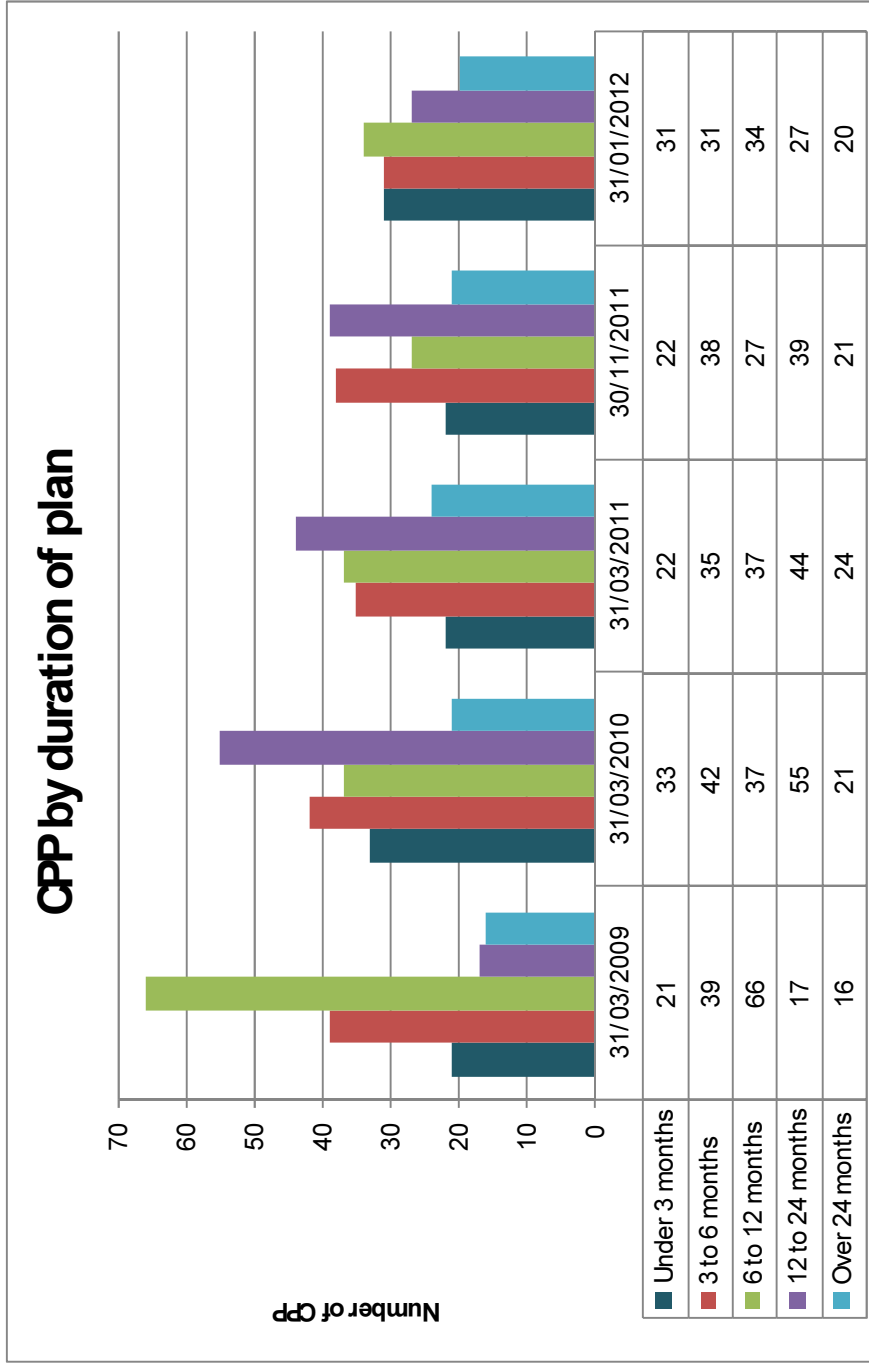
12) CPP by gender



13) CPP by Category of Abuse

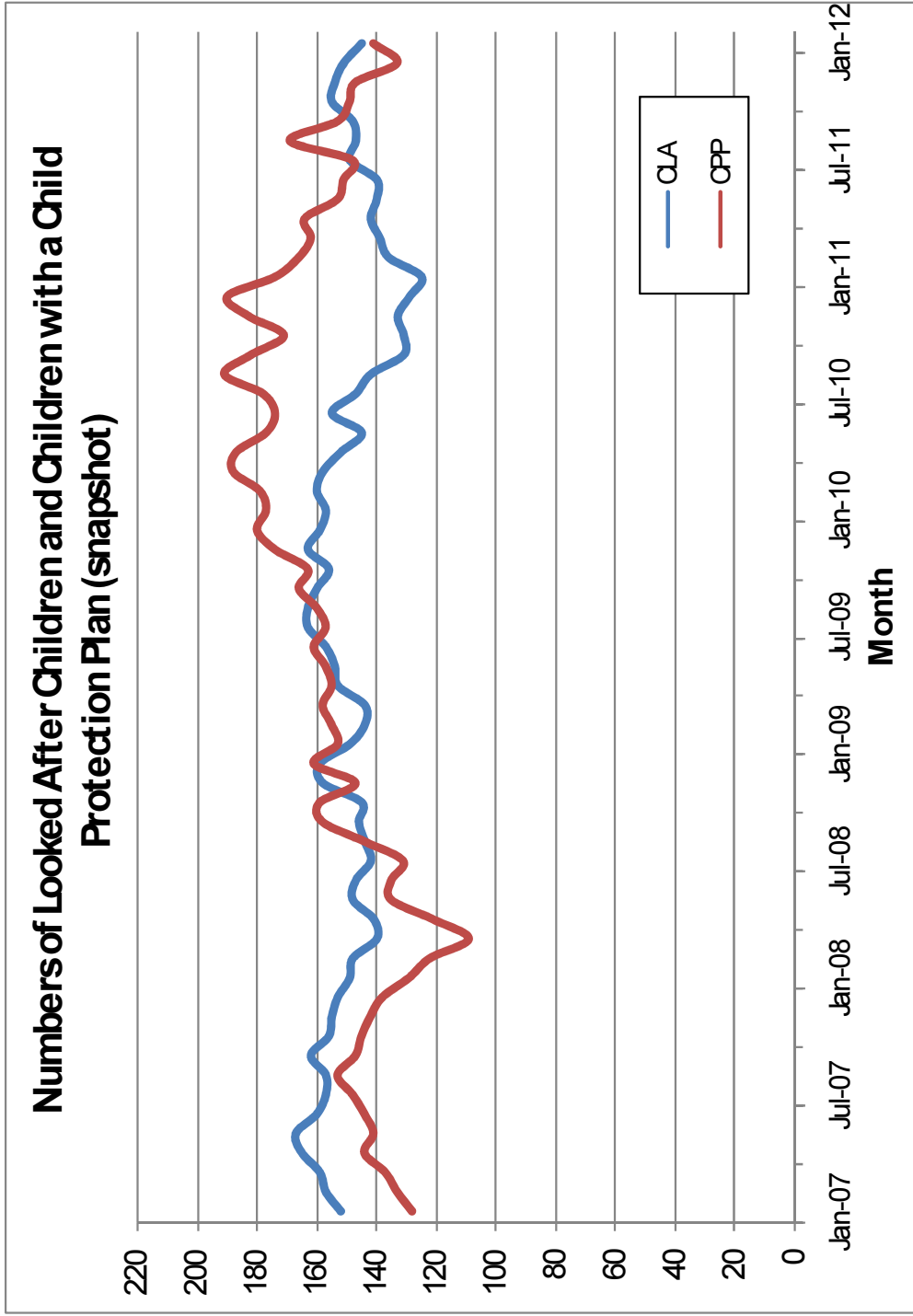


14) CPP by duration of plan



Part C: Additional Information

15) Numbers of CLA & CPP



16) Key Performance Indicators

For Q3 2011/12 (December)

Prev. NI Ref.	Indicator Description	Polarity	Harrow actual 2010/11	Harrow target 2011/12	Harrow actual Q1 2011/12	Harrow actual Q2 2011/12	Harrow actual Q3 2011/12	RAG Status Q3	Commentary Q3
	Numbers of children with Child Protection plans (CPP) for over 2 years	▼	New	22 (Q1) 20 (Q2) 18 (Q3) 16 (Q4) (prov)	28	20	20	HR	<p>Headline: Temporary Advanced Social Work Practitioner appointed to lead and co-ordinate targeted CP practice across the partnership</p> <p>Context: The target for this indicator is based on reducing numbers back in line with the national average over 2 years, recognising that time is needed to ensure that any decision on Child Protection (CP) status is taken in the best interest of the child/young person. It is likely that 2years+ CP plans for 5 children will be discontinued, however we have children who are likely to enter the cohort of children with plans 2yrs+. we may hit the target of 16 but there is a slight risk around 2 children whose plans may/may not be discontinued and not been counted in the forecast.</p> <p>Action: 1) Advanced Social Work Practitioner ensuring progress made before year end on all plans where possible. 2) Workshops for staff and partners on associated practice issues. 3) Ongoing monitoring and CP challenge panels.</p>
60	(PAF C64) Timing of Core Assessments (NI 60)	▲	80.50%	83%	92.11%	88.75%	85.84%	LG	
61	Stability of LAC adopted following an agency decision	▲	83.30%	80%	100%	100%	100%	HG	
62	(BV49) PAF A1 Stability of Placements of CLA	▼	15%	2.75% (Q1) 5.5% (Q2) 8.25% (Q3) 11% Annual	2.86%	10.81%	11.92%	HR	<p>Headline: Increase in Placement Instability.</p> <p>Context: 2010-11 short placement stability rose to a level above the national average. Initial review identified a variety of reasons for placement moves and further analysis is underway to understand why short term stability continues to deteriorate despite good workforce stability and continuation of the placement strategy. Children who go missing 24+ hours from a placement also counts towards placement instability. 18 out of 151 children have had 3+ moves, 13 are teenagers - 8 aged 16-17 and 5 aged 14-15. 3 children have not had 3 placements but have had missing periods from their placement impacting on this indicator.</p> <p>Action: Review of Teenage Placement Strategy, more robust scrutiny including quality assurance of placement moves, tracking all placement moves & review Individual Placement Support Plans.</p>
63	PAF D78 Long term stability of CLA (2.5 years) (NI 63)	▲	66.70%	68%	69.23%	65.00%	75%	HG	

64	(PAF C21) Duration on the Child Protection Register	↔	17.20%	12%	16.28%	20.69%	15.08%	HR	<p>Headline: Temporary Advanced Social Work Practitioner appointed to lead and co-ordinate targeted CP practice across the partnership</p> <p>Context: The target for this indicator is based on reducing numbers back in line with the national average over 2 years, recognising that time is needed to ensure that any decision on Child Protection (CP) status is taken in the best interest of the child/young person.</p> <p>Action: 1. Temporary Advanced Social Work Practitioner to address the duration of CP Plans and associated practice issues. 2. To establish on-going CP Challenge Panels.</p>
65	(PAF A3) Re-registrations on the CP Register	↔	8.80%	10%	0	10.26	14.29%	HR	<p>Headline: Interim Advanced Social Work Practitioner appointed to lead and co-ordinate targeted CP practice across the partnership</p> <p>Context: 14 out of 98 children have had previous child protection plans. Of these 6 children have required a plan within 2 yrs of the previous plan being discontinued. A sibling group of 5 children have had an impact on this indicator.</p> <p>Action: 1. Interim Advanced Social Work Practitioner is reviewing relevant CP Plans and working with SW teams on associated practice issues.</p>
66	(PAF C68) Timeliness of Reviews of Looked After Children	▲	96.80%	100%	100%	99%	100%	LG	
67	(BV 162 PAF C20) Reviews of Child Protection cases	▲	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	LG	
147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation (5037SC)	▲	91.70%	88%	100.00%	88.88%	47.60%	HR	<p>Headline: The team is in touch with most care leavers, offering support and advice.</p> <p>Context: This is a small cohort and small changes have a big impact on this indicator. Currently of the 17 identified as eligible for this indicator 8 are in suitable accommodation, 8 are not recorded.</p> <p>Action: . The team have moved to the Targeted Services Division in the new operating model and recording issues are being addressed by the service manager</p>
148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	▲	66.70%	75%	66.67%	33.33%	17.65%	HR	<p>Headline: The team is in touch with most care leavers, offering support and advice for them to access employment, education and training.</p> <p>Context: This is a small cohort and small changes have a big impact on this indicator. Currently of the 17 identified as eligible for this indicator 3 are in EET and 8 are not recorded. Care leavers are encouraged to take part in various projects such as The V Talent volunteering scheme and other work experience and other volunteering projects to improve their chances of employment</p> <p>Action: . The team have moved to the Targeted Services Division in the new operating model and recording issues are being addressed by the service manager</p>

	The Health of Children Looked After (PAF C19)	▲	90.60%	95%	84.71%	79.49%	80.52%	HR	<p>Headline: This indicator continues to be below target. Context: The Children Looked After (CLA) Nurse and the Performance Management Team have accounted for all the children who do not have health assessments and dental checks. They consist of Children Looked After who are missing from care or who refuse to participate. The CLA Nurse is considering different ways of engaging these young people. Of 77 CLA for 1 year, 58 have up to date health checks, 66 have up to date dental checks. Immunisation rate also now a focus for improvement from below average level. Action: Targeted work by CLA nurse with CLA and carers on dental, health checks and immunisations. Introduce regular reviews - quality and timeliness of health assessments, interim CLA Designated Doctor in place, negotiations continue with health for permanent solution. Separate reporting on 3 categories from Q4.</p>
	Initial assessments completed within 10 days	▲	85.50%	85%	90.91%	81.92%	79.30%	HR	<p>Headline: Performance on timeliness of initial assessments dropped further. Context: Staff turnover and one of the current managers moving to a new post in the new operating model has had an impact on this indicator. There is recognition of the need to minimise late initial assessments for the remainder of the year to have a chance of meeting target. Guidance / training / away days have been provided. Action: There is zero tolerance for late assessments, and two workers contracts have now been ended. New permanent manager also starting in January</p>
	% of children looked after in residential accommodation	▼	20.90%	20%	17.14%	21.62%	19.87%	LG	
	BV 163 PAF C23 Adoptions of Children Looked After	↔	22.60%	3.5% (Q1) 7% (Q2) 10.5% (Q3) 14% (Q4)	2.38%	6.38%	10.60%	LG	There had been 10 adoptions and special guardianships up to December 2011.
	% of children with a Child Protection Plans allocated to a qualified Social Worker	▲	99.40%	100%	100%	100%	99.25%	A	Teams were notified of cases not allocated and action has been taken
	% of Children Looked After allocated to a qualified Social Worker	▲	99%	100%	100%	97.30%	97.35%	A	Teams were notified of cases not allocated and action has been taken
	PAF C24 Children Looked After Absent from School		20.78%	0% (Q2) 4% (Q3) 8% (Q4) 12% (Q1) targets in line with academic yr	20.78%	0.00%	8.96%	HR	<p>Headline: This is no longer a national indicator but retained as a local measure Context: Unlike the DfE data, this indicator includes CLA who do not yet have a school place and this is a factor in the high absence rates recorded. Although statutory guidance and a local admissions policy is in place to afford priority places for CLA, there is evidence a gap can occur between allocation of a place in a secondary school and making it available for the young person to take up. Some CLA Designated Teachers have expressed concern about accepting UASC into school following previous experiences relating to age disputes. 6 out of 67 school age CLA have been absent from school for 25 days this academic year. Action: New Virtual Head Teacher in post from Dec 2011 and is focusing on improving attendance. New Operating model also has the virtual CLA team co located.</p>

	PAF C63 P participation of CLA in Reviews	▲	94.10%	95%	97.50%	92.59%	94.07%	A	Improved during Q3 - 111 of 118 CLA participated in their review year to date. Review team continues to focus on improving participation.
	Percentage of Children Looked After with permanent exclusions amongst school age Children Looked After, in quarter	▼	Not published	0%	0	0%	0%	HG	
	Percentage of CLA with fixed term exclusions amongst school age CLA, in quarter	▼	Not published	15% (Q1) 1% (Q2) 5% (Q3) 10% (Q4) targets in line with academic yr	6.49% (Summer term only against target of 5%)	4.91%	10.77%	HR	Headline: New indicator - All CLA in school - Fixed term exclusions are high. Context: This is a new local indicator, and there is no bench marking data. provisional targets have been set at quarterly intervals & relate to the academic year. In the first term 7 children received fixed term exclusions. 4 from Harrow Schools, 2 from Hillingdon & Herts and one from Harrow Tuition Service Action: VHT putting plans in place to work with schools regarding supporting CLA and preventing fixed term exclusions. Data collection with neighbours would be required to look at identifying a suitable benchmark.
	Percentage of sessions absent from school amongst school age CLA, in school year to date	▼	Not published	12% (YTD - prov)	14.47%	12.55%	17.1%	HR	Headline: New Local indicator Overall absence rate is considerably high. Context: This is a local indicator and data quality issues have been identified, this is due to changes in the cohort with placement moves sometimes resulting in a change of school as well, this is being addressed, there are 4 children whose data is missing & may be impacting on the performance. DfE measure those children who can be matched on the National Pupil database and so it is not possible to replicate their calculations, but for 2009/10 academic year our overall rate of absence rate was 6.6%, SN -6.3%, England average 5.7% Action: Data cleaning is required to provide accurate position. VHT and virtual school team are working on absence as above.
	Percentage of children with an initial CP conference within 15 working days of strategy discussion	▲	82.90%	90%	100%	97.65%	95.10%	HG	

RAG Status	
HR	Needs prompt attention
LR	Poor
A	Adequate
LG	Good
HG	Excellent

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date of Meeting: 3 April 2012

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT –
Corporate Parenting Panel Work
Programme 2011/12**

Responsible Officer: Hugh Peart, Director of Legal and
Governance Services, Catherine
Doran, Corporate Director of Children’s
Services

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting
Panel Work Programme 2011/12

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out the Work Programme for the Corporate Parenting Panel for the municipal year 2011/12.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

1. A Work Programme has been devised to provide all Members of the Panel the opportunity to contribute towards the report setting process and to provide an overview of the work conducted previously and future work to be undertaken.
2. The agreed Work Programme does not preclude any further items being presented to future meetings of the Panel if it is required.
3. The agreed Work Programme is contained in Appendix 1.

Section 3 – Further Information

4. All relevant information is included in the report.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

5. None associated with this specific report.

Section 5 – Equalities implications

6. The Work Programme does not have any equality implications.

Section 6 – Corporate Priorities

7. Adopting a Work Programme for the Corporate Parenting Panel will contribute towards the Council's corporate priority of supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 14 December 2011		

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Democratic Services Officer, 020 8416 8050

Background Papers: None

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2011/2012

DATE OF MEETING	Final reports to Democratic Services	Report title and purpose	Report Author
Tuesday 12 July 2011	Friday 24 June 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information Report - Activity and Performance 2) Information report - Leaving Care (about how we help the transition to independence and the management information we use to inform us about outcomes for CLA. To also include how we deal with the change of CLA status to supported lodgings and impact on young people) 3) Information Report - Asylum Seekers (The support we provide Asylum Seekers, particularly around education and better outcomes) 	<p>David Harrington</p> <p>Nick Crick/Philip Ishola/Peter Tolley</p> <p>Philip Ishola</p>
Monday 3 October 2011	Wednesday 21 September 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information Report- Activity and Performance. To include analysis of GSCE results. 2) Annual Report Fostering and Adoption. To include analysis of targets set and outcomes 3) Annual report on complaints and advocacy, children looked after. To include analysis of issues raised and areas of learning 4) Verbal feedback on Celebration of Children Looked After Achievements 	<p>David Harrington</p> <p>Peter Tolley</p> <p>Stuart Dalton</p> <p>Peter Tolley /Beyond Limits</p>

Tuesday 10 January 2012	Friday 9 December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information Report- Activity and Performance 2) Verbal Update - stall for Members - Full Council 3) Information Report - housing for young people leaving care 	David Harrington Andreas Peter Tolley
Tuesday 3 April 2012	Wednesday 21 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information Report- Activity and Performance 2) Information Report - IRO Report 3) Cultural Opportunities for Children Looked After. The Portfolio Holder for Community & Culture be invited to the meeting 4) Virtual Headteacher (VHT) would be providing a report presenting her findings on key educational areas for CLA and on what needed addressing 	David Harrington Andreas Nick Crick
Tuesday 10 July 2012	Wednesday 27 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) health issues relating to CLR and Care leavers 	
Future meeting to be confirmed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) outcomes from the recent consultation on the life skills programme 	