

Corporate Parenting Panel

AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday 17 March 2015

TIME: 7.30 pm

VENUE: Committee Room 5,
Harrow Civic Centre

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 3)

Chair: Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors:

Simon Brown
Margaret Davine
Kairul Kareema Marikar

Christine Bednell
Janet Mote (VC)

Reserve Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mrs Rekha Shah | 1. Lynda Seymour |
| 2. Ms Pamela Fitzpatrick | 2. Ameet Jogia |
| 3. Sasi Suresh | |
| 4. Jo Dooley | |

Contact: Maria Farrell, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1367 E-mail: maria.farrell@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 disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary 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 5 - 12)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS *

To receive any public questions received in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 50 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

Questions will be asked in the order notice of them was received and there be a time limit of 15 minutes.

[The deadline for receipt of public questions is 3.00 pm, Thursday 12 March 2015. Questions should be sent to publicquestions@harrow.gov.uk

No person may submit more than one question].

5. PETITIONS

To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 48 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

6. DEPUTATIONS

To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 49 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

7. **ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 13 - 32)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
8. **CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY** (Pages 33 - 62)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
9. **FEEDBACK ON CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT EVENT** (Pages 63 - 68)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
10. **BEYOND LIMITS GROUP** (Pages 69 - 74)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
11. **VIRTUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN** (Pages 75 - 96)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
12. **UPDATE FOR CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL REGARDING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER HEALTH SERVICE** (Pages 97 - 98)
Report of the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and Children Looked After.
13. **HOUSING FOR CARE LEAVERS** (Pages 99 - 102)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
14. **PERSISTENT SCHOOL ABSENCE FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER** (Pages 103 - 108)
Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families.
15. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.
16. **AGENDA TRACKER_** (Pages 109 - 110)

AGENDA - PART II - NIL

*** DATA PROTECTION ACT NOTICE**

The Council will audio record item 4 (Public Questions) and will place the audio recording on the Council's website, which will be accessible to all.

[**Note:** The questions and answers will not be reproduced in the minutes.]

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES

2 DECEMBER 2014

Chairman: * Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors: * Simon Brown * Janet Mote
* Margaret Davine * Lynda Seymour (1)
* Kairul Kareema Marikar

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

20. Attendance by Reserve Members

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

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Christine Bednell

Councillor Lynda Seymour

21. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

- Councillor Simon Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his daughter was now employed by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust;
- Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that her daughter was employed as a nurse at Northwick Park Hospital;
- Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she had been appointed as a school governor and was responsible for safeguarding Looked After Children.

22. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 1 October 2014 be taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of the Officers Present list to correctly reflect all Officers who were present.

23. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

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

RESOLVED ITEMS

24. Activity and Performance Report

An officer presented the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families, which contained the following:

- the number of Child Protection Plans and Repeat Child Protection Plans had risen, and this was in part due to sibling groups being put on repeat plans which increased numbers;
- cases in which Review Child Protection Conferences were being held late were being audited to determine the reasons for this;
- performance had been below expected levels for care leaver outcomes, and this remained a priority for improvement;
- long-term placement stability was below target, however some placement changes could take place for positive reasons, such as moving to a permanent placement, and this had been the case with some Looked After Children.

After taking questions from Members of the Forum, officers advised that:

- a repeat Child Protection Plan could indicate that the original intervention had not been effective, however, the purpose of a plan was to make the child safe and sometimes repeat plans were an appropriate measure;
- Children's Services would look at the statistics presented in the report, but were not solely driven by them, and any action taken was taken primarily in the best interests of the child;
- schools were the main source of referrals for children, which was why referrals decreased during the summer break and increased again in September;
- more younger children were being brought to the attention of Children's Services, which was positive as it allowed Children's Services to intervene early and safeguard the child at an earlier time in their life;

- Judges were more likely to look to extended family members to provide temporary or permanent care for children, as this was often considered more beneficial than a foster placement;
- there had been an increase in mother and baby foster placements;
- measures in place to improve outcomes for care leavers had been included in a report at the previous meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel, and senior managers had been discussing what apprenticeships Harrow Council could offer;
- there had been a problem with young people refusing health assessments, and some young people had refused multiple times;
- the sexual health nurse had a good relationship with a lot of young people.

A Member of the Panel commented that it would be beneficial to monitor how many young people were refusing health assessments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

25. Corporate Parenting Strategy

An Officer presented the strategy to Members of the Panel for their comments. Members commented that:

- under point 2 “Our Vision”, the third bullet point should be moved to the top of the list and emphasised with bold text;
- under point 4.1, paragraph 5 should read “Members’ induction is mandatory” and the sentence about corporate parenting being the responsibility of all Members should be emphasised;
- in paragraph 7.6, it should be added to the strategy that Housing Officers are invited to meetings of Corporate Parenting Panel;
- performance indicators should be attached to the strategy.

Officers agreed to draw up an action plan to accompany the strategy.

Members of the Panel stated that they would like the strategy to be presented at a meeting of Cabinet, with a view to presenting the strategy at a meeting of full Council in 2015.

RESOLVED: That amendments be made as per Members’ suggestions, and an action plan be drawn up to accompany the strategy to be presented at a future meeting of Cabinet.

26. Fostering Recruitment Report

An Officer presented a report about the recruitment of Foster Carers, which included the following:

- there is a national shortage of foster carers that also affects Harrow;
- about 10% of enquiries about foster caring went on to become foster carers, as such the strategy set out to debunk myths and dispel fears held by potential foster carers;
- retention was important, as well as initial recruitment;
- training and support was the most important thing for foster carers;
- the target for recruitment was a net gain of 13 foster carers per year.

After taking questions from Members of the Panel, an officer advised that:

- there were currently approximately 70 foster carers in Harrow, and they had different approval and matching criteria, however most would potentially be able to foster from a wide age range;
- in-house foster caring provided better value-for-money than independent foster care, and generally provided better outcomes for looked after children, especially in mother and baby placements;
- Harrow was part of the West London Alliance, which was beneficial as costs such as large training events and media campaigns could be shared with other boroughs;
- the length of time from making an initial enquiry to becoming a foster carer was around eight months, though this would differ from person to person;
- feedback from potential foster carers who did not complete the process was being analysed in a more systematic way, so that potential applicants could be better informed;
- potential foster carers could attend meetings with current foster carers, and overall recruitment had been successful as Harrow had some very skilled foster carers;
- an update on recruitment would be given at the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel in July.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

27. CLA Health Service Update

The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding presented a report, which included the following:

- the new Service Level Agreement had been well-developed;
- Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group had allowed a two-year contract to be drawn up, to allow the new provider more time to make necessary improvements and changes to the service;
- the transition would start on 30 January 2015 and the launch date would be 30 April 2015;
- data would be gathered in a better way, so progress could be reported at the request of the Panel;
- the quality of health assessments had been greatly improved, but non-attendance had impacted on timelines.

An Officer presented an update on School Nursing, which included the following:

- school nurses were procured through the West London Alliance;
- the School Nursing Workforce was currently about fifteen people;
- children under 5 were covered by Health Visitors, and 5 – 19 year olds were covered by school nurses;
- there were now 6 qualified school nurses on the workforce;
- there had been 8,000 children per school nurse, there were now 6,000;
- the intense and ongoing needs of some children and young people were being addressed by the school nurse as well as the Children Looked After Team;
- the service was informed by consultation, and mental health, obesity and dental care were focus points.

After taking questions and comments from Members of the Panel, the Designated Nurse advised that:

- the Health Visitor or School Nurse would usually be the lead health professional for the child, and the Children Looked After Nurse worked closely with them to provide support.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

28. Children Looked After Achievement Event

An Officer gave a verbal report about the Children Looked After achievement event. The verbal report included the following:

- the event would be held on 19 February 2015, and invitations would be distributed during the second week of December 2014;
- the formal event would include speeches from Councillors, live entertainment and awards, then the event would continue informally for those who wanted to stay;
- a working group made up of young people and social workers were arranging the event;
- there would be different categories of awards given to young people.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

29. Beyond Limits Event

An Officer presented a verbal report regarding the Beyond Limits Event. Seven young people had met with four Councillors to discuss what they wanted from the Councillors as Corporate Parents, which included the following:

- the distance between schools and the young people's placements was affecting their attendance, so they required extra support and funding so they could use the most efficient way of travelling;
- Corporate Parents needed to ensure that pocket money rates were consistent and that all Children Looked After were aware of them;
- computer or laptop access was vital to children and young people so that they could undertake their studies.

After taking questions and comments from Members of the Forum, an Officer commented that:

- the aim of the sessions was for the young people to feel comfortable talking to the Councillors, which was why the meetings were held in a familiar environment for the young people;
- some young people stay after homework club to socialise and play table tennis;
- regular engagement was important to instil trust and familiarity with Members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

30. Virtual School Report

The Virtual Headteacher presented the tabled report, which was the finalised version of the report included on the agenda. The report reflected the year 2013 – 14 and included the following:

- the Virtual School now included a 6th form;
- the school had been audited by Ofsted in order to highlight areas for improvement;
- the Virtual School staff had been working to minimise disruption to children, and there had been no permanent exclusions in the year 2013-14;
- children in Years 10 and 11 were being monitored very closely;
- school placement for Looked After Children took longer than was optimal;
- one to one tuition was very effective for Looked After Children, as they were likely to have longer periods of absence which led to gaps in their learning;
- £500 per term was being allocated, and some funds were being kept aside for the more vulnerable children in Years 10 and 11.

After taking questions and comments from Members of the Panel, the Virtual Headteacher advised that she would bring the plan to the next meeting, and advise on the number of children who had had managed moves.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

31. Any Other Urgent Business

Members discussed the date of the next meeting, and concluded that there was too long a gap between the meeting of 2 December 2014 and the next scheduled meeting, 21 April 2015. The Chair proposed the date of 17 March 2015, and Members and Officers agreed.

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel be held on 17 March 2015, pending agreement from the Nominated Member of the Opposition.

32. Agenda Tracker

RESOLVED: That the Agenda Tracker be updated in line with Members' comments.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.15 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MITZI GREEN
Chairman

Officers present:

Sue Dixon, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and Children Looked After

David Harrington, Head of Business Intelligence

Robert Maragh, Interim Commissioning Manager, Barnet/Harrow Public Health

Jane Munroe, Interim Headteacher, Virtual School;

Kamini Rambellas, Divisional Director of Targeted Services

Peter Tolley, Service Manager, Targeted Services

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date:	17 th March 2015
Subject:	Activity and Performance Report
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Children Looked After & Child Protection Plan Performance Report

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out activity for Children Looked After & Children with Child Protection Plans as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter 3 of 2014-15, national and comparator data published by DfE for year ending 2013-14 is included in this report.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Section 2 – Report Issues

See attachment which shows provisional performance position at end of Q3, plus an update of activity for Children Looked After and Children with Child Protection Plans.

Performance indicators for the first three quarters of 2014-15 show stability and improvement across many indicators, some areas continue to need attention.

Key Points:

- Continued improvement in timeliness of social care assessments, now close to 90% target.
- There were 208 Child Protection Plans at 31st Dec. 2014. Our rate of children with child protection plans is 37.5 per 10,000 child population. Though our rate increased in 2013-14, we remain below statistical neighbour averages as a similar rise was mirrored by our statistical neighbours. There has been a rise of 13.5% in the overall numbers of children starting a CPP in England in 2013-14.
- Timeliness of initial child protection conferences is also above target. The drop experienced in Q2 has been significantly improved upon with the overall performance now 6.3% above target, 182 of 211 conferences held took place within 15 working days.
- Continuing low rates of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) for more than 2 years, indicates timely progression and resolution
- Repeat child protection plans within 2 years of previous plan have increased compared to last year, this indicator was introduced in 2013 but there is no published data or local trend data to compare with. The previous indicator looked at all repeat CP plans irrespective of timescales; published comparator data for 2013-14 shows Harrow had 9.3% of repeat plans, while statistical neighbour average was 13.4% and England average was 15.8%.
- There have been no permanent exclusions of CLA from school, 7 CLA have had fixed term exclusions.
- Attendance is carefully monitored, 691 school days missed out of possible 6003 this academic year. DfE publish data on absence from school for those children looked after 1year+ only, For 2012-13 Harrow rate was 4.1%, statistical neighbour average was 4.15% and England average was 4.4%. (2013-14 data to be published in Q4).
- Education – Attainment data is provided annually and there are no further updates. CLA educational achievement is a focus of the Virtual

School and remains an area for improvement, Published data for CLA & CiN show Harrow as comparable at key stage 2 but not key stage 4.

- Long term placement stability for CLA is below target – steps continue to be taken to minimise placement changes. There is no change from previous quarter; the overall % has remained static. 9 of the 22 children looked after for 2.5 years have been in the same placement for 2 years. Not all moves should be viewed in a negative light as some children move to more permanent suitable placements. This is a small cohort and small changes can have a big impact. Action continues to be taken to improve both short and long term placement stability.
- CLA initial health assessments and reviews continue to be below target – New commissioning arrangements have been put in place to start in May/June 2015.
- Our rate of Children Looked After has increased this year - 33.4 per 10,000 child population at 31st December, Our rates have been historically lower (statistical neighbour average - 43.per 10,000)
- The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased, at end of Q3, 58 out of 79 in suitable accommodation with 11 not recorded. The number of care leavers not in education, employment or training has also increased, there were 20 care leavers in total who were NEET, and a further 18 not recorded. Performance remains under target. This indicator measure activity and accommodation around 4 months of their birthday only and not at any given date, any changes in employment or accommodation status at a later date does not count. Recording issues are being addressed, some young people refuse contact and some may be deported. Published data shows Harrow doing better than statistical neighbour and England averages.

Options considered

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

The Children's Services Risk Register has been updated to reflect the performance risks highlighted in this report.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

Corporate Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for families

The report focuses on the qualitative and quantitative measures of service delivery to vulnerable children, young people and families. These measures help to inform & improve service planning.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost Date: 06/03/2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Dipika Patel,
Partner- Business Intelligence Unit
020 8420 9258
dipika.patel@harrow.gov.uk

David Harrington
Head of Business Intelligence
0208 420 9248
David.harrington@harrow.gov.uk



Corporate Parenting Report

December 2014

**Children Looked After
Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan**

(Activity to end of Dec. 2014)

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Part A – Key Performance Indicators

Key Indicator Summary 2014/15 - Provisional Data

Appendix 1

Quarterly Performance for Children's Services Social Care
Performance rag rated against target

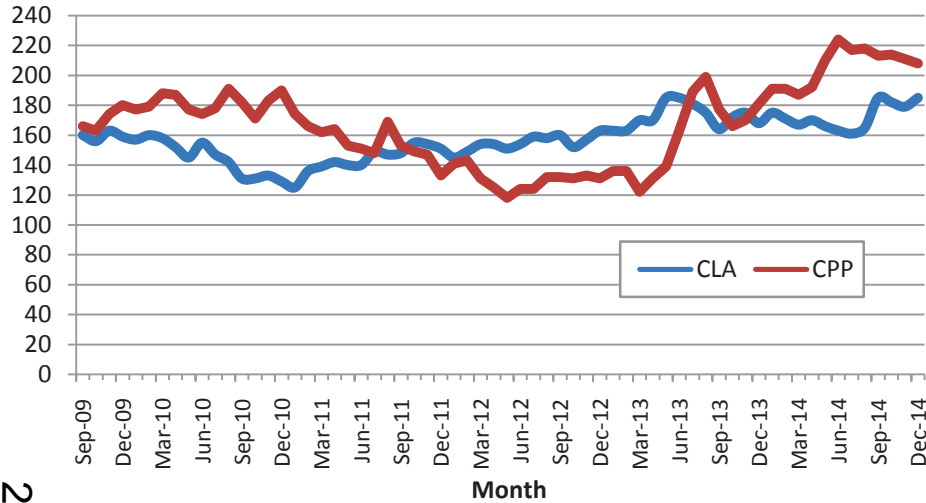
PI Ref	PI Description	England average 13/14	Statistical Neighbours Average 13/14	Harrow 11/12	Harrow 12/13	Harrow 13/14	Q1 14/15 YTD	Q2 14/15 YTD	Q3 14/15 YTD	Comments
1	% of referrals leading to the provision of a social care service (YTD)	85.9	96.2	78.5	91.8	96.3	85.90	89.00	88.5	
2	Rate of Assessments per 10,000 child population. Measured Quarterly.	Not published as LA's moved to single assessments at different points in the year				433.3	364.0	353.8	345.7	Rate: per 10,000 child population (Rate is grossed for Q1, Q2 & Q3 to give year end forecast, Q4 rate will be actual rate for the year)
3	Timeliness of Assessments (% complete in 45 working days) - YTD Target - 90%	82.2	81.8	New indicator from 2013 - 14		94.9	85.9	88.2	88.7	
4	Rate of S47 enquiries per 10,000 child population. Measured Quarterly.	124.1	123.1	54.4	83.3	113.8	120.4	104.3	96.6	Rate: per 10,000 child population (Rate is grossed for Q1, Q2 & Q3 to give year end forecast, Q4 rate will be actual rate for the year)
5	Children becoming the subject of a CPP (rate per 10,000 of the CYP population) Measured Quarterly..	Not published		25.7	26.3	44.0	53.6	56.3	39.0	Rate: per 10,000 child population (Rate is grossed for Q1, Q2 & Q3 to give year end forecast, Q4 rate will be actual rate for the year)
6	Rate of ICPCs per 10,000 of the CYP population. Measured Quarterly.	56.8	52.8	30.1	40.4	52.1	56.4	48.0	49.1	Rate: per 10,000 child population (Rate is grossed for Q1, Q2 & Q3 to give year end forecast, Q4 rate will be actual rate for the year)
7	% of children conferenced within 15 working days of strategy discussion (YTD) Target - 90%	69.3	72.2	85.5	79.2	71.5	86.4	83.5	86.3	
8	Rate of CPP per 10,000 population. (snaphot)	42.1	37.5	23.6	23.6	32.8	40.4	38.6	37.5	Snapshot rate per 10,000 child population (as at last day of the reporting period)
9	CPP for 2nd or subsequent time (within 2 yrs of last plan) (%)	Not published		6.4	8.3	3.0	9.6	8.5	10.9	

PI Ref	PI Description	England average 13/14	Statistical Neighbours Average 13/14	Harrow 11/12	Harrow 12/13	Harrow 13/14	Q1 14/15 YTD	Q2 14/15 YTD	Q3 14/15 YTD	Appendix 1
										Comments
10	% of children with CPP for 2 years or more (snapshot) Target - 6%	2.6	4.3	New indicator from 2013 - 14		1.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	
11	Ceased CPP that lasted 2 or more years (% YTD) Target - 7%	4.5	5.5	17.9	11.2	5.4	2.0	5.2	3.6	
12	Rate of CLA per 10,000 population. Measured Quarterly. (snapshot)	60	43	28.3	30.0	30.0	29.4	33.6	33.4	Snapshot rate per 10,000 child population (as at last day of the reporting period)
20	% of New CLA who were previously adopted, had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or residence order granted	Not published		New indicator from 2013 - 14		0.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	14	CLA placement stability: number of moves (% with 2+ moves) Target - 11%	11.0	12.6	17.0	15.5	10.0	1.8	4.8	8.6
15	CLA placement stability: length of placement (%) Target - 71%	67.0	64.0	71.4	52.8	45.0	43.5	40.0	40.0	
16	% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home (snapshot)	13.0	20.3	19.0	19.0	16.0	16.4	16.7	12.9	
17	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (combined for 19, 20 and 21 year olds)	77.8	79.7	77.3	80.0	95.4	23.8	68.3	73.4	
18	% of Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (combined for 19, 20 and 21 year olds)	38.0	32.0	36.0	33.0	29.0	14.3	21.7	25.3	

23	Educational attainment of school aged Children (CiN & CPP, CLA)	Harrow 2012-13	England average	SN Average	Harrow 2013-14
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) achieving at least level 4 at KS2 Maths (Source DfE)	48.8	58	63.3	57
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (Source DfE) new 2013	41.5	46	51.7	50
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Reading, writing and maths	34.1	46	52.3	47
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) who achieve 5+ A* -C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics. (Source DfE)	22.4	15.1	24.1	12.8
	Percentage of children looked After achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Maths (Source DfE)	67.0	61	75	100
	Percentage of children looked After achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	66.7%	49	58	0
	Percentage of children looked After achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Reading (Source DfE)	66.7%	68	67	100
	Percentage of children looked After achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Reading, writing and maths (Source DfE)	66.7%	48	58	0
	Percentage of children Looked After who achieve 5+ A* -C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics	8.3%	12	31.4	0
24	Attendance at school of school aged Children in Need (CIN & CPP, CLA) (2013-14)				
	Percentage of sessions missed. (CiN & CPP)	11.6	9.4	9.5	8.7
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees (CiN & CPP)	17.2	13.8	13.35	12.5
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees CPP -only	18.9	15.2	15.4	13.5
	Percentage of sessions missed. (CLA 1 year+)	7.8	4.7	4.9	due to be published in Q4
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees (CLA 1 year+)	supressed - low nos	6.1	7.3	
25	Exclusion from school of school-aged Children in Need (CIN & CPP) & CLA (2011-12)				
	Percentage of children permanently excluded. (CiN & CPP)	supressed - low nos	0.5	0.38	due to be published in Q4
	Percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion. (CiN & CPP)	6.2	7.8	6.98	
	Percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion. (CLA 1 year+)	supressed - low nos	11.36	13.16	

Part B –Numbers of CLA and CPP over time

Numbers of Looked After Children and Children with a Child Protection Plan (snapshot)

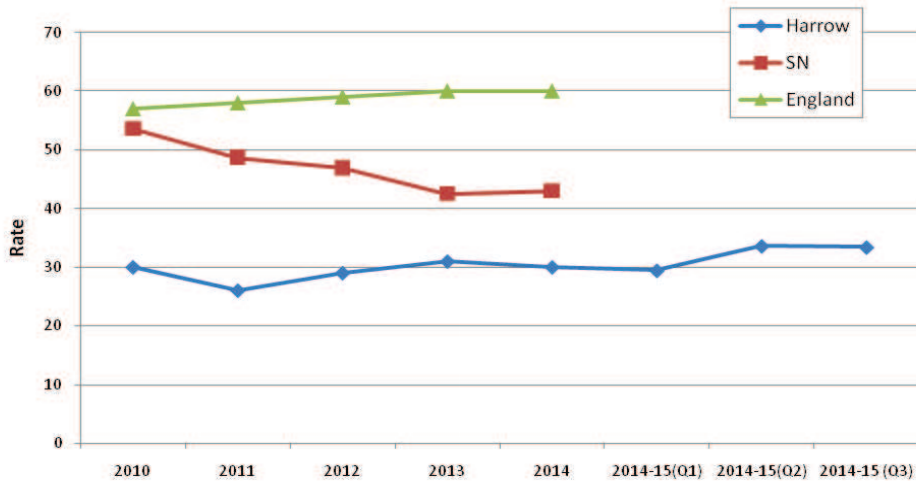


CPP numbers rose significantly in 2013-14. The rise corresponds with a lowering of thresholds. Our current rate of 37.5 per 10,000 brings Harrow more in line with statistical neighbours.

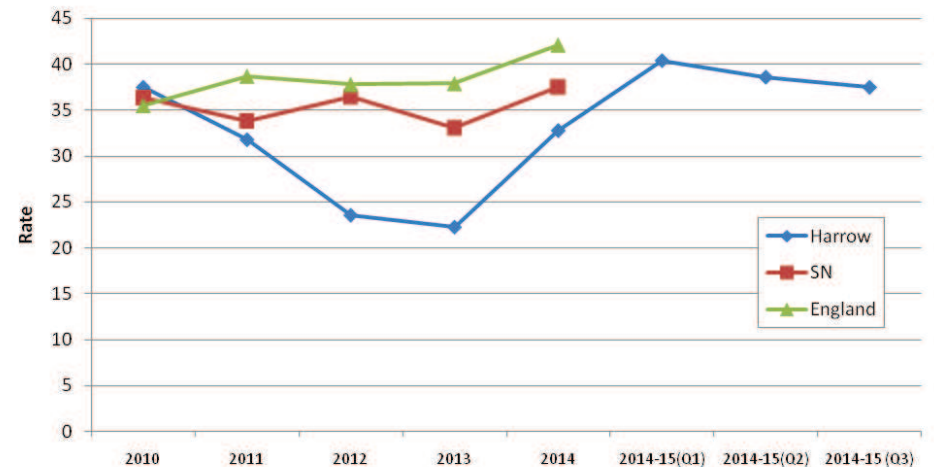
CLA numbers have risen during Q2 and Q3 and were 13% higher at the end of December compared to June. Harrow continues to have a significantly lower rate of CLA than comparators (almost 10 per 10,000 lower). Further analysis of the statistical neighbours group shows that Merton, Kingston, Redbridge and Sutton have similar rates. The average is pulled up by Brent, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Ealing which have high numbers of CLA (300+).

22

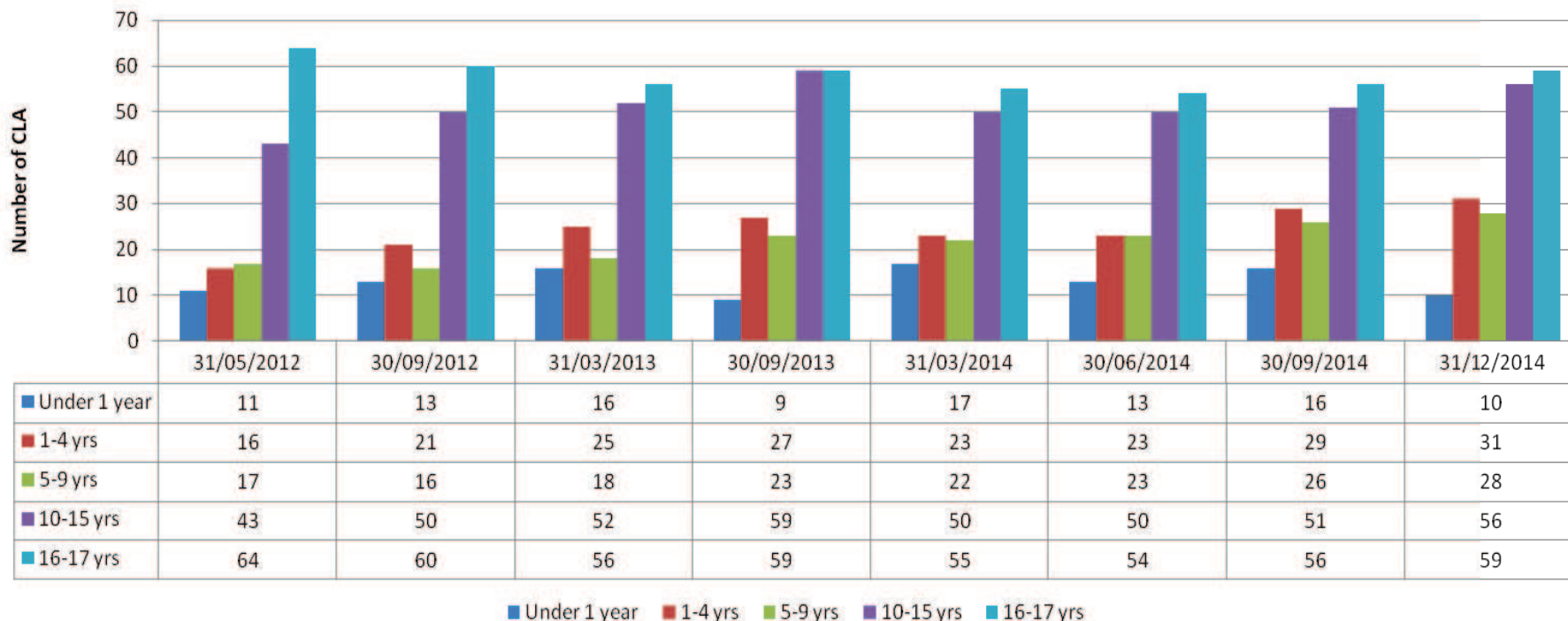
Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged under 18



Rate of CPP per 10,000 children aged under 18



CLA by Age Group

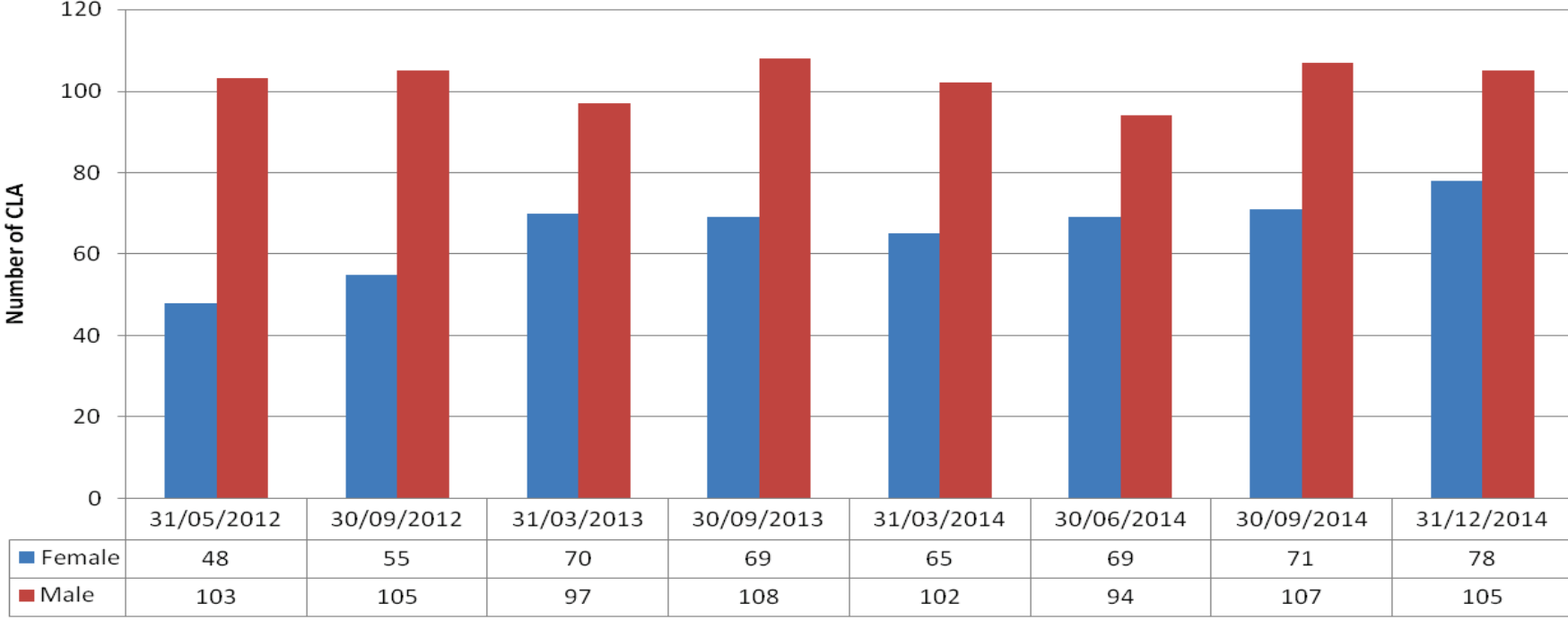


The number and proportion of CLA aged under 1 has fallen in the 3rd quarter this year and is now more in line with comparators, while the proportions aged 1 to 4 and 5 to 9 years has increased.

% age of CLA at 31/3/2014	Age at 31 March 2014 (years) (%)				
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 -17
England	5.6	16.6	20.2	36.5	21.0
London	4.7	12.1	15.9	37.2	30.1
Stat. neighbours avg.	4.5	12.8	15.5	35.8	31.4
Harrow	9.1	15.2	12.1	30.3	33.3
Harrow Q3 2014-15	5.4	16.8	15.2	30.4	32.1

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CLA by Gender

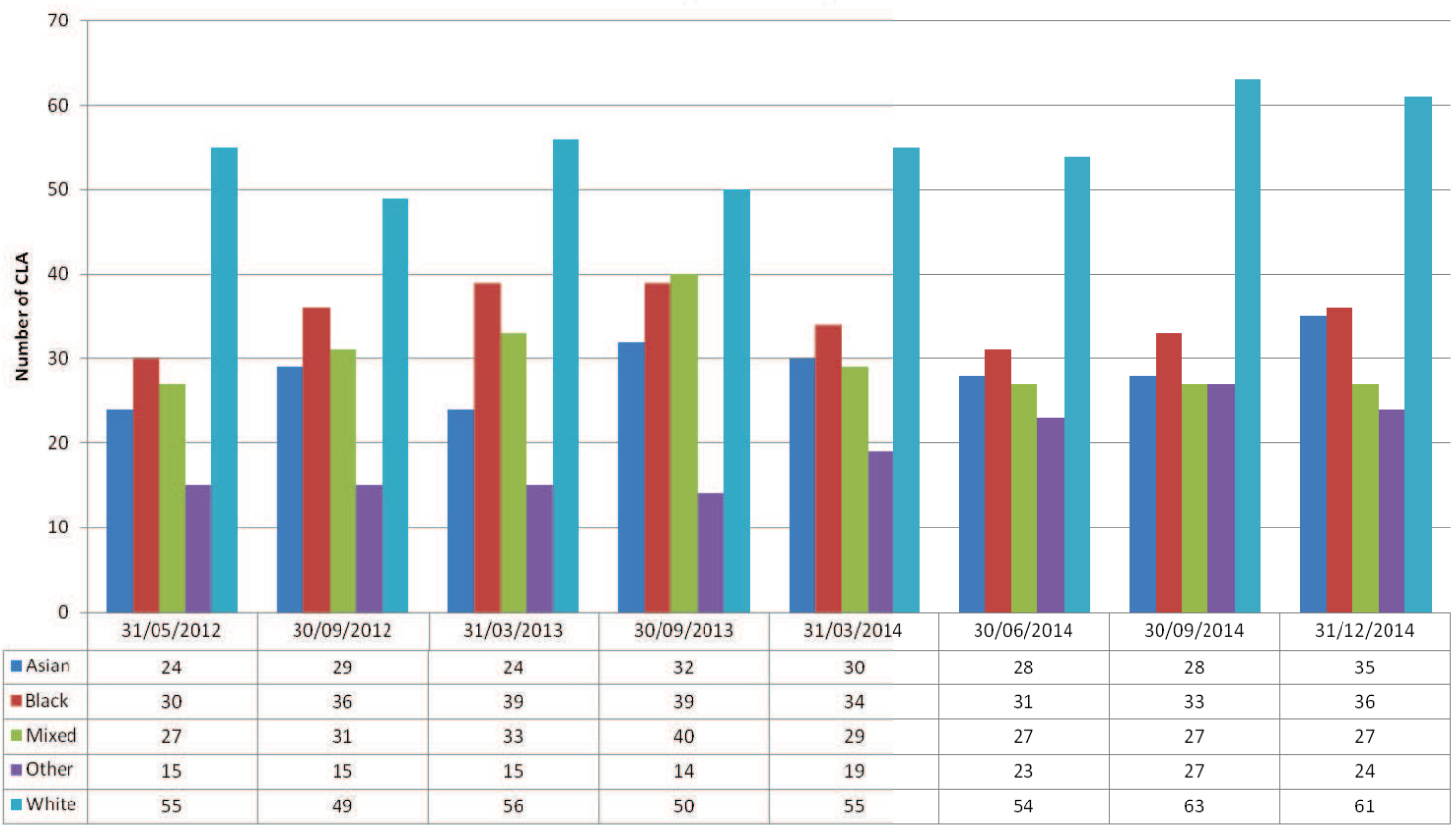


In line with comparators, London and England, Harrow historically has a higher proportion of males who are looked after, although this has dropped slightly since March 2014 and the number of females therefore has risen.

% gender of CLA 31/3/2014	Gender (%)	
	Male	Female
<i>England</i>	55.3	44.7
<i>London</i>	56.5	43.5
<i>Stat. neighbours avg.</i>	56.3	43.7
<i>Harrow</i>	60.6	39.4
Harrow Q3 2014-15	57.1	42.4

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CLA by Ethnicity



% of ethnicity of CLA at 31/3/2014	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Groups
England	77.6	8.9	3.7	6.7	3.1
London	41.4	16.7	8.3	27.7	5.8
Stat. neighbours avg.	44.7	16.8	13.3	19.8	4.7
Harrow	32.4	17.6	17.6	20.6	11.8
Harrow 2014-15 Q3	33.2	14.7	19.0	19.6	13.6

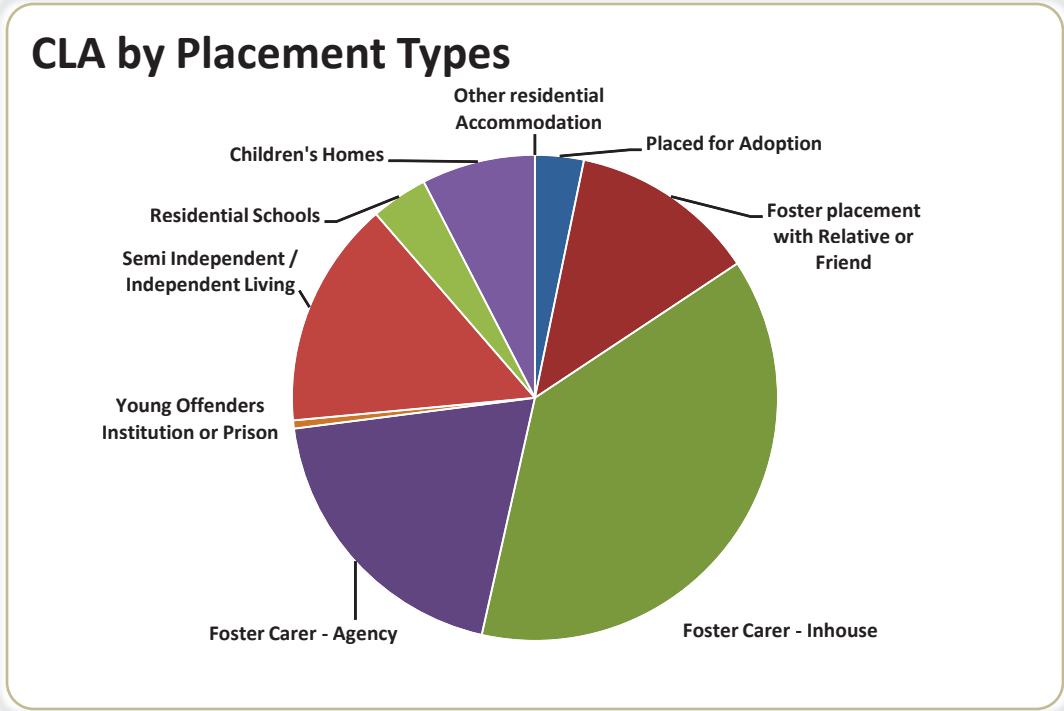
Appendix 1
 As would be expected of Harrow's diverse population, the representation of Black and Minority Ethnic groups is considerably higher than England and the statistical neighbour average.

Overall two thirds of Harrow's children looked after population are from BME groups

There have been some changes in the ethnic background of our CLA population since March 2014: the proportion in mixed groups has dropped relatively substantially, with smaller drops in the black population, while proportions in white, Asian and 'other' groups has increased.

Placement Type	Sep-14	Dec-14
Placed for Adoption	3	6
Foster placement with Relative or Friend	19	23
Foster Carer - Inhouse	61	70
Foster Carer - Agency	47	36
Secure Unit	0	0
Young Offenders Institution or Prison	0	1
Placed with Parents	1	0
Semi Independent / Independent Living	22	28
Residential Schools	8	7
Children's Homes	11	14
Other residential Accommodation	6	0
Grand Total	178	185

Harrow Placement Details at 31st Dec. 2014



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The types of placements our CLA are in in fairly stable with a slight increase in placements with family and friends and in independent living.

71% of Children looked after are in a foster placement; statistical neighbours and England averages are around 73 - 75%. Numbers of in-house placements have been increasing.

All placement moves are scrutinised at a panel for authorisation before they are implemented. Support packages have been developed to prevent placement breakdown .

C5 – CLA Health & Education Data

note that DfE indicators include only CLA who have been looked after for more than one year to measure outcomes, **Education data is updated annually** Appendix 1

CLA educational attainment trends

CLA Looked after for over a year as at 31/03/14	2011	2012	2013	2014 Provisional
Total Children in KS2 cohort	2	2	3	1
Attained at least Level 4 in Maths at end of KS2	50%	0%	67%	100%
Attained at least Level 4 in Reading at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	100%
Attained at least Level 4 in Writing at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	0%
Attained at least Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	0%
Total young people in GCSE cohort	19	13	12	9
GCSE: Attained at least 1 A*-G	47.4%	46.2%	33.3%	66.7%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-G	31.6%	23.1%	16.7%	33.3%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-C	5.30%	0	8.30%	0
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-C INC Eng and Maths	5.30%	0	8.30%	0

	Sep-14	Dec-14
Number of statutory school age CLA (snapshot)	82	87
% of school age CLA (all CLA) permanently excluded this year (Sept to date)	0	0
% of school age CLA (all CLA) fixed-term excluded this year (Sept to date)	0	8
% absence from school (all CLA - (number of sessions missed))	10.64	11.5
% of CLA (all CLA) classified as persistent absentees	10.22	19.5
% of CLA (all school age CLA) with up to date PEP	60.22	60.9

Detail for 2013-14 GCSEs:

	TOTAL IN COHORT	Sat GCSE Exams?	GCSE ONLY				GCSE&Equivalent	
			1 A*-G	5 A*-G	5* A-C	5* A-C inc Eng Math	5* A-C	5* A-C inc Eng Math
All CLA	25	15	13	7	1	0	1	0
%	-		52.0%	28.0%	4.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%
CLA (1 YR+)	9	6	6	3	0	0	0	0
%	-	66.7%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Health Data for CLA:

All children who have been looked after over a year are required to have annual health and dental checks but some refuse – so far in the past year, 82 out of 101 CLA have had dental checks while only 17% of new CLA have had a health check in the target timescales. Since the start of the new school year 7 school aged children have had at least 1 fixed term exclusion, while none have been permanently excluded.

17 CLA are classified as persistent absentees missing 15% or more of school days.

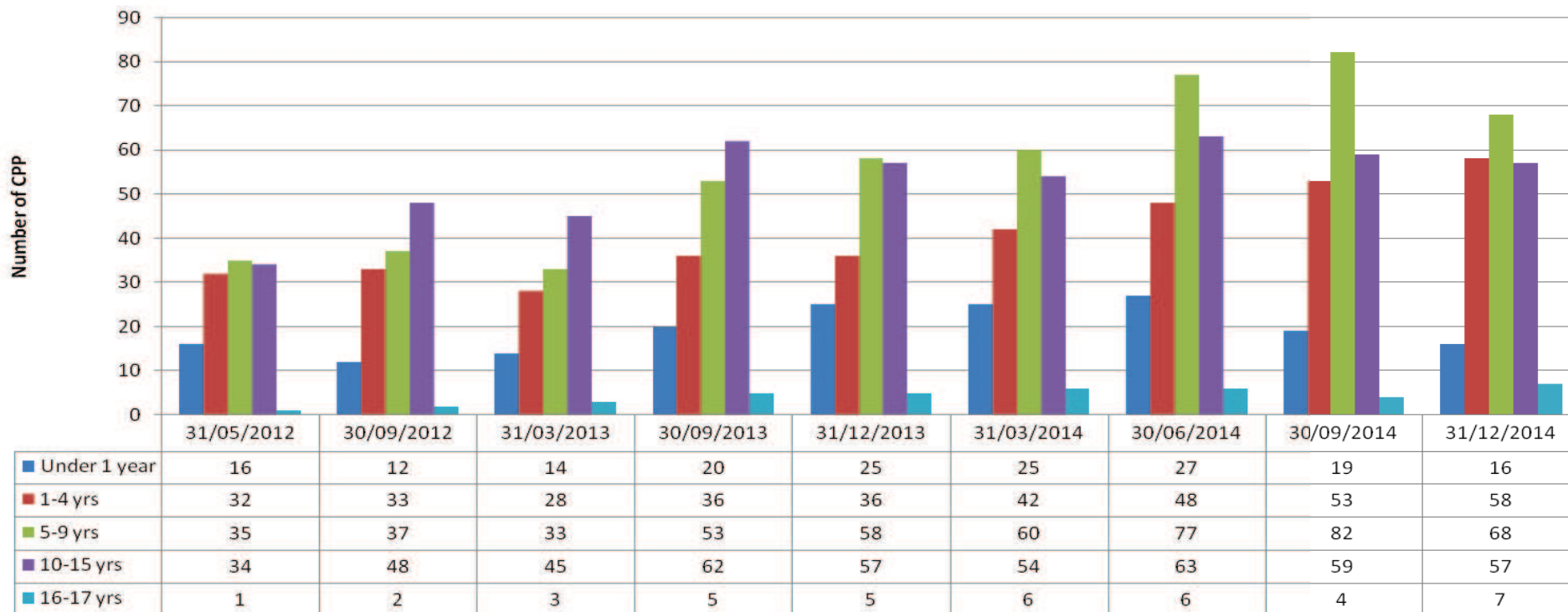
	Sep-14	Dec-14
% of new CLA where health assessment has been completed within 28 working days (month on month)	44.4	16.7
% of CLA with up to date Dental Checks (CLA 1 yr +)	74.2	81.2
% of CLA with up to date Health Checks (CLA 1 yr +)	91.4	89.1

Part D – D1: Children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) by age group

Children are made the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) when they are considered to be at risk of physical, sexual, emotional harm or neglect. Over the past three years, Harrow has seen a very large increase of in the number of children with a CPP, from 118 in May 2012 to 221 in June 2014 (an increase of 87%). However, over quarters two and three of this year, the number is decreasing slightly, to 206 at the end of December.

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CPP by Age Group

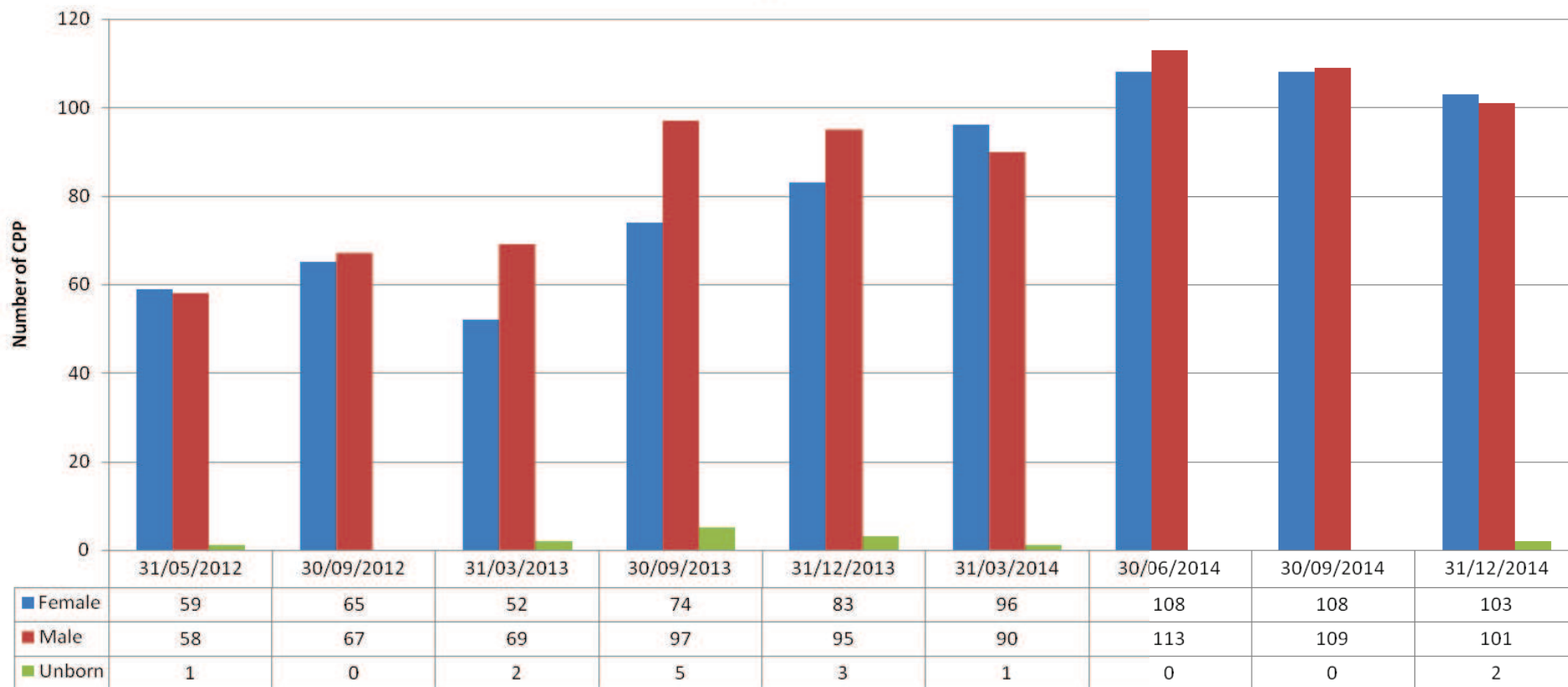


The proportions of children with a CPP aged 1-4 increased by nearly 4% towards the end of 2014, while those aged 5-9 decreased by nearly 5%.

Comparator info. for age group of children with CPPs at 31st March 2014 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Under 1	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 & over
England	10.8	29.2	29.7	25.3	2.8
London	10.8	26.8	29.6	28.1	3.0
Harrow	x	21.3	33.9	27.9	x
Harrow Dec 14	7.8	28.2	33.0	27.7	3.4

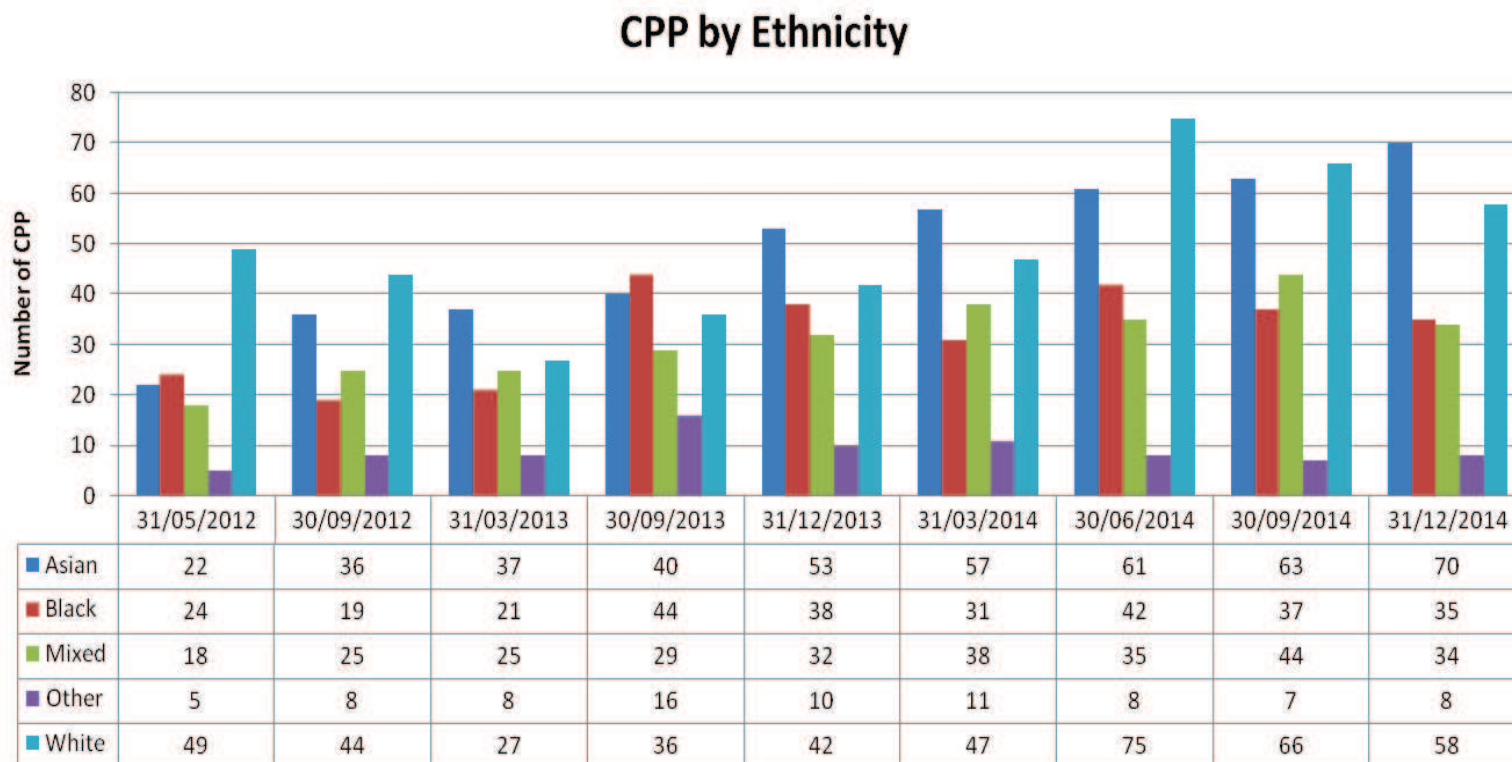
CPP by Gender



The proportions of males and females subject to a child protection plan has been balanced this year at around half and half, but there were significantly more males during 2013.

Comparator info. for gender of children with CPPs at 31st March 2014 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Male	Female	Unborn / unknown
England	50.4	47.3	2.3
London	49.6	48.6	1.9
Harrow	48.1	51.9	0.0
Harrow Dec 14	49.0	50.0	1.0



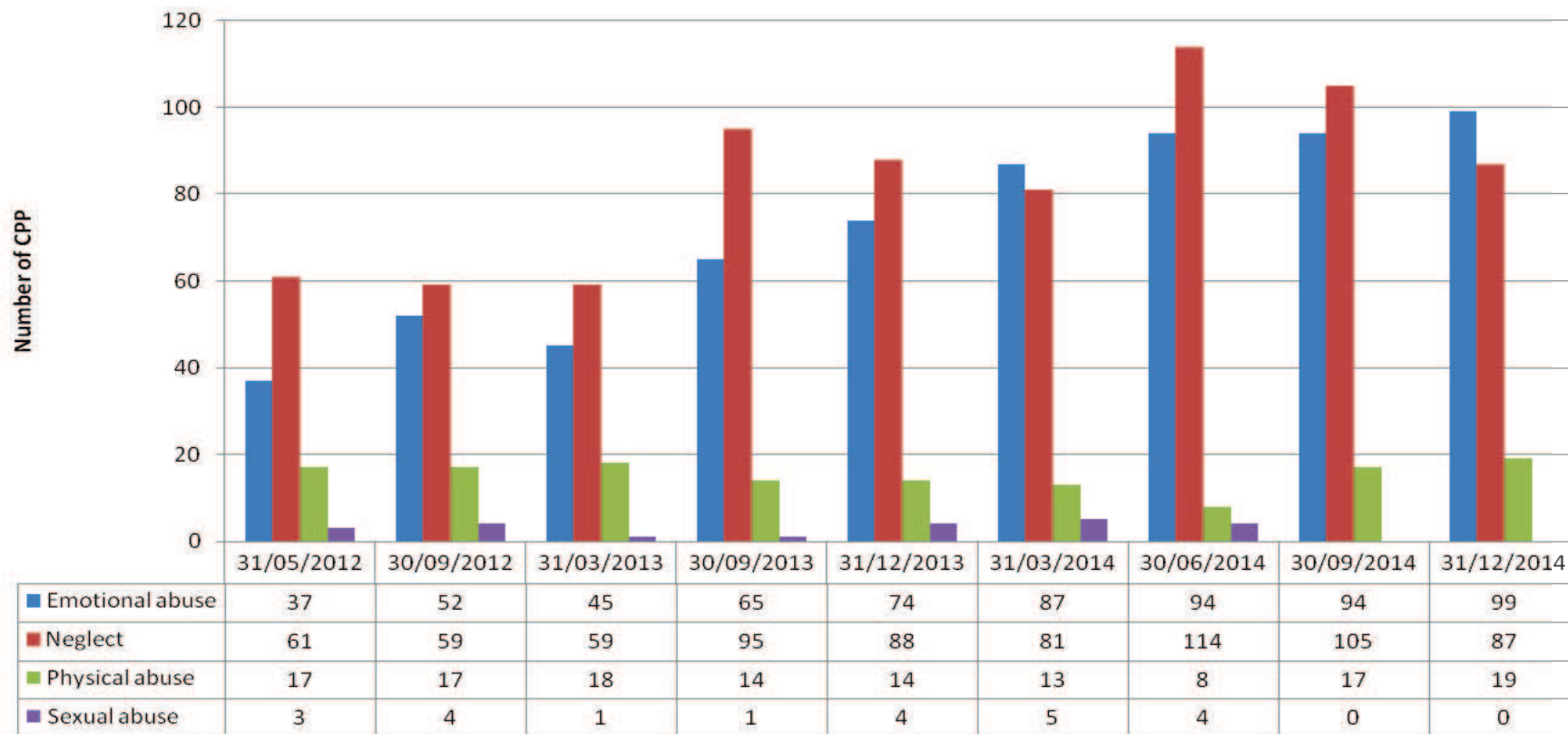
30

The proportion of BME groups is considerably higher than England and London averages but this is as expected due to Harrow's diverse population; almost three quarters of children requiring a child protection plan in Harrow are from BME groups. There have been significant decreases over the past two years in the proportion from white and black communities and increases in proportions from mixed and Asian communities.

Comparator info. for ethnicity of children with CPPs at 31st March 2014 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Groups	Refused or N/K
England	76.5	7.9	5.5	5.1	1.4	3.6
London	41.2	17.1	12.8	22.6	3.3	3.1
Harrow	26.8	19.7	30.6	15.8	x	x
Harrow Dec 14	28.2	16.5	34.0	17.0	3.9	0.5

CPP by Category of Abuse



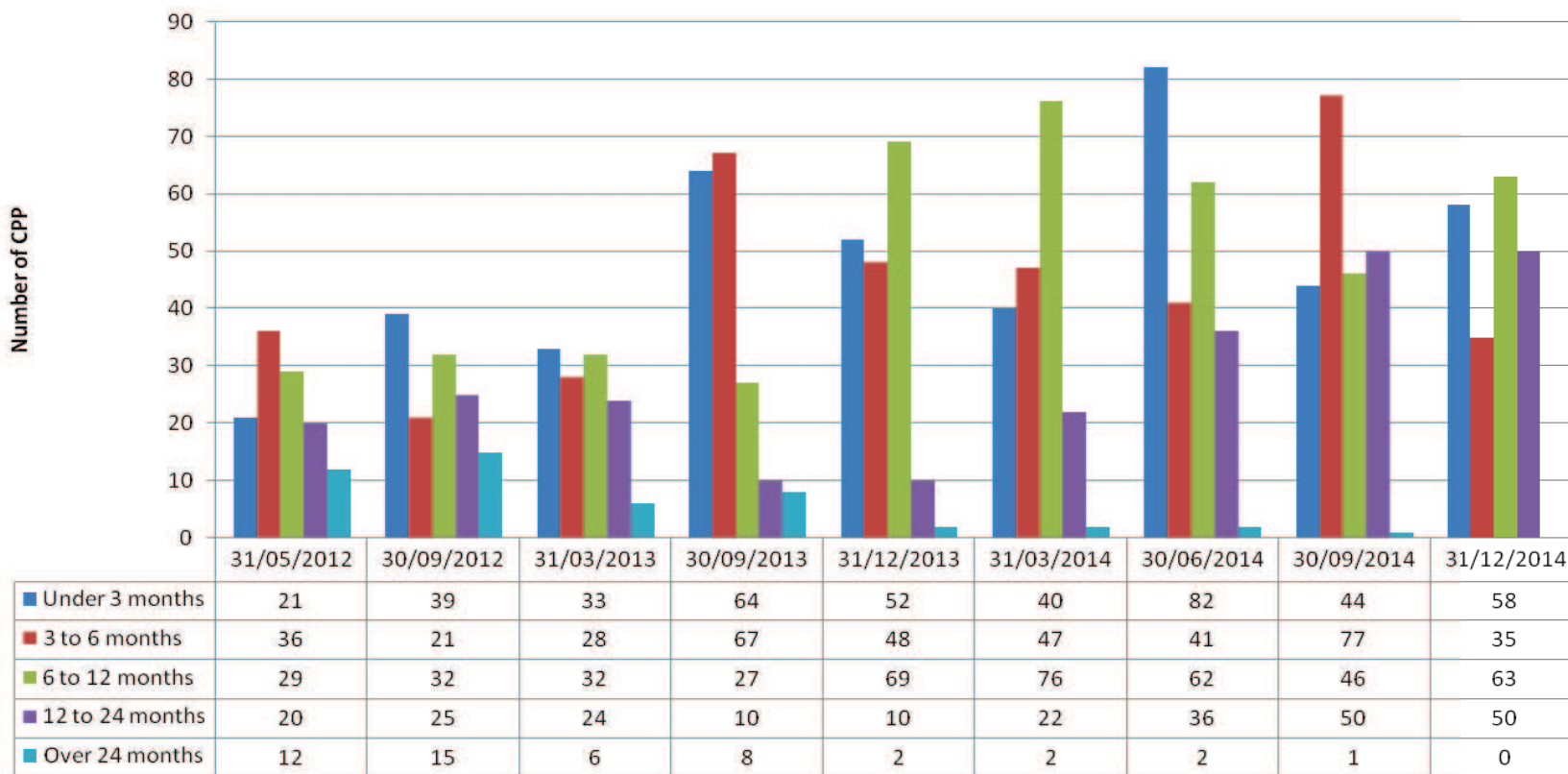
The proportion of children requiring a plan under the category of 'Neglect' has dropped since last year, while the proportion under the emotional abuse category has increased.

Comparator Info – CPP category at 31st March 2014

(%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Multiple
England	42.7	8.4	4.3	35.6	8.9
London	38.1	9.2	3.0	41.8	7.8
Harrow	48.6	7.4	x	44.0	x
Harrow Dec 14	40.5	8.8	0.0	48.3	2.4

CPP by Duration of Plan



Co-ordinated work has continued to progress and end plans in a timely manner, meaning that the numbers of plans lasting over 24 months have reduced gradually; at the end of December 2014 there were no children with a plan lasting 2 years or more.

Comparator Info – CPP duration at 31st March 2014 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Under 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	1 - 2 years	2 years and over
England	31.6	25.3	26.5	14	2.6
London	30.9	24.6	25.8	15.1	2.6
Harrow	25.1	25.7	38.8	x	x
Harrow Dec 14	28.2	17.0	30.6	24.3	0.0

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING
PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy Appendix 2 – Action Plan

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The attached report outlines a Corporate Parenting Strategy which will form the basis of the work of the panel and officers involved in Corporate Parenting group.

RECOMMENDATION: The Panel are requested to approve the strategy or make amendments as they see fit.

Section 2 – Report

See report attached

Financial Implications

This report is an information report and not requesting any funding

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place No

Equalities implications

Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the diversity in the CLA population and how these needs will be addressed

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost..... on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 4th March 2015.....

Name: Helen Ottino..... on behalf of the
Monitoring Officer

Date: 4th March 2015.....

Ward Councillors notified: NO

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley - Service Manager - Children's Placements and Children Looked After ext 6943

Kamini Rambellas, Divisional Director -Targeted Services

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Corporate Parenting Strategy November 2014 – August 2016

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- Foreword
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Our Vision
- 3. Achievements to date and examples of good practice
- 4. Corporate parenting:-
 - 4.1 Corporate Parenting Panel
 - 4.2 Key reference documents
 - 4.3 Management performance reports
- 5. What makes a difference
 - 5.1. Education
 - 5.2. Placements
 - 5.3. Interests and talents
 - 5.4. Health
 - 5.5. Jobs, apprenticeships and work experience
 - 5.6. Offending
 - 5.7. Celebration of achievements
- 6. Key priorities
 - 6.1 Education, attainment and school attendance; narrow the gap
 - 6.2 Participation of young people in decision making
 - 6.3 LAC will be happy and healthy, safe and protected from harm and sexual exploitation; physical, emotional and social health and well-being
 - 6.4 Safe and stable placements; placement quality, choice and stability
 - 6.5 Identity; valued and respected and individual needs understood and met
 - 6.6 Smooth move to adulthood and independence; focussed support to narrow the gap

- Appendix A** The corporate parenting pledge
- Appendix B** Legal duties and responsibilities
- Appendix C** Detailed health outcomes

Foreword

“Despite the considerable national focus on the needs of looked after children in recent years, there continues to be a significant gap between the outcomes for these children and young people and those of their peers.

There is more to being a good parent than keeping children safe – every child needs to feel that parents are “there” for them through thick and thin. Children in the care system are no different. For children in care, the people charged with this responsibility are elected members and the officers of the local authority.

This information session is aimed at assisting elected members in understanding their responsibilities, and the leadership and commitment that members can, and must provide. This session will assist you in being effective advocates for the children in our care, support effective practice, and improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children.”

All Party message from Councillors Green, Brown and Mote November 2014, inviting councillors to corporate parenting training

1. Introduction

Corporate parenting is the term used to describe the duties and responsibilities of a local authority in respect of the children looked after by the authority. Although the management of children’s social care services is the responsibility of the London Borough of Harrow, parental responsibility for looked after children is the responsibility of the whole council. In addition the local authority should enrol the support of its partner agencies in helping them to fulfil their obligations in respect of their corporate parenting responsibilities for the children looked after by the council.

In 1998 the secretary of state for health, Frank Dobson, wrote to all local authority councillors reminding them that they were ultimately responsible for the quality of care in their council for children looked after by them. Corporate parenting relates to all children looked after by the authority, wherever they are placed, including young people receiving after care services up to, in some circumstances, 25 years of age.

Corporate parenting is about offering at least the same standards of care as would a ‘reasonable parent’ in respect of the children looked after by the council. The outcomes for children who have been looked after can be poor with the reasons which brought them into care such as abuse, neglect, separation, loss and rejection significantly affecting their subsequent life experiences. As adults; they do less well educationally; they are over represented in the criminal justice system; have poorer health outcomes including an increased risk of suffering from mental health difficulties; have an increased likelihood of becoming homeless and experience economic and relationships difficulties in their own families.

It is important that being looked after responds effectively to this disadvantage.

The thrust of corporate parenting is about improving the life chances of children looked after – protecting their welfare, promoting their wellbeing, enhancing their lives and helping them reach their full potential. Everyone should have high aspirations for, and expectations of, children who are looked after

A key strand of corporate parenting is that it should be undertaken in consultation with children and young people who should have a say about how services for them are provided on both an individual and collective basis.

In addition to enrolling the support of all chief officers within the local authority and partner agencies such as police, probation, youth justice, connexions, health and schools, the local authority should harness the support and resources of local communities, sport and leisure facilities, business and faith groups.

2. Our Vision

As corporate parents we are committed to ensuring that every child looked after has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential and experience safe and positive parenting.

- **We want our children and young people to be happy and healthy, to be safe and protected from harm and sexual exploitation and be supported into adulthood.**
- We want our children to have everything that good parents want for their children.
- We want our looked after children and young people to work with us, along with their parents and carers, in shaping how we manage and organise the planning, resources and services that support and care for them.
- We want them to achieve their potential especially in education, to make the most of the opportunities offered and to participate in the decisions affecting their care and their lives.
- We want our looked after children to be in placements that are as close as possible to their homes where they feel safe, happy and taken care of.
- We want our looked after children and young people to be supported in maintaining their culture, ethnicity and religion and to be supported to maximise the opportunities available to them.
- We want young people leaving care to be prepared for independent living, and supported to participate fully as active citizens into adulthood.

3. Achievements to date and examples of good practice

- Looked after children are offered, as a priority, places in their preferred schools in the borough
- Annual achievement celebration for looked after children, organised by children and young people, beyond educational attainment
- Annual foster carer celebration and awards evening
- All children are given extra tuition according to their need
- The Staying Put scheme enables care leavers to remain with their foster carers after their 18th birthday
- Improved placement stability
- Care Leavers claim their entitlement Housing Benefit appropriately
- Refreshed Care Leavers Charter (Oct 2014)
- Full engagement with 2 year old, and 3 and 4 year old nursery offers
- Virtual School promotion of £1900 pupil premium funding use and monitoring for impact
- Following a recent review of council income collection strategy, Harrow's Vulnerability Policy identifies Young people leaving care and that young customers leaving care may be unable to manage their financial affairs without support and would be considered as vulnerable
- Savings policy - inconsistency of application across different placements corrected
- LINAB – Language is not a barrier Club for Care Leavers continued and weekend activities developed
- Two ex LAC/Leaving care involved as mentors with the Harrow Mentoring Project

- School Holiday Activities programmes LAC engagement: summer 2014 - 19 LAC young people involved; Spring half term 2014 – 10 LAC (12.5%); Easter 2014 – 15 LAC (16%)
- Takeover Day 2013 involved 4 looked after children

4. The Corporate Parenting Strategy

4.1 Corporate Parenting Panel

This strategy outlines our aspirations for looked after children and young people and sets out the actions we intend to take to achieve them.

Harrow Council is ambitious for looked after children and young people and as corporate parent for around 170¹ children, our priority is to secure the very best care and opportunities for them. To achieve this we will work in partnership with children, young people, their families and partner agencies to ensure that children and young people enjoy their childhood and succeed in adult life. This commitment includes those care leavers for whom we have responsibility to support their transition into adulthood. This means that “children in care should be cared about, not just cared for”.

The Corporate Parenting Panel², a Council Committee, made up from elected members, provides strategic leadership to ensure the council is delivering its corporate parenting duties. It has responsibility to advise officers about action to improve outcomes and life chances for all its Looked After Children and Care Leavers and comment on reviewing and developing policy in key areas such as the review process. Agendas, reports and minutes are published on the council website.

All councillors hold a responsibility as corporate parents. Members’ induction is mandatory with training offered or all councillors at least annually.

Responsibility for providing excellent corporate parenting must be shared across all services with clear accountability. The Director of Children and Families (DCS) and the Lead Member are pivotal in ensuring that all services support best outcomes for children in care.

A strategic multi-agency Corporate Parenting Officers Group has responsibility for supporting Panel members implementing this strategy and for developing an action plan that is clear and measures impact and outcomes.

Progress in meeting the priorities included in this strategy is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel, chaired by Councillor Mitzi Green and Simon Brown, Lead Member for Children and Families.

- 4.2** Key reference documents used to hold officers and providers to account for CLA life outcomes include:

Management Performance reports

Quarterly performance activity reports
Children & Families Complaints Annual Report 2013-14

Placement and planning – quality and timeliness:

Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service – for annual CPP approval
Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service – for annual CPP approval
Placement Sufficiency Strategy³ 2014-15

¹ Snapshot data: 31.10.14

² <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=788> Purpose, role & membership

³ See priority 6.4

Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report – due Dec 2014
Adoption and Fostering Panel Annual report 2013-14
Case Tracking Annual Report

Education, employment and training specific – attainment and achievement of potential:

Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2013-14 – due 02 Dec 2014
Virtual School Development Plan 2014-15 awaited – due Dec 2014
Not in employment, education or training [NEETs] Care Leavers - twice yearly reports – next due April 2015

Health including dental checks

Regular Provider reports

Participation

Children and young people's engagement and feedback – twice yearly reports

Crime: youth offending/re-offending

Housing and Childrens Services Protocol for homeless 16 to 17 year olds

4.3 Management performance information is required by the corporate parenting panel to enable robust scrutiny of performance, to inform priorities and determine what action needs to be taken.

To inform the work of the corporate parenting board and to enable it to set priorities performance management information is necessary. This information relates to the life chances of children looked after, supported by research and evidence as to where activity can be directed which makes a difference. This focuses on the areas where children looked after historically do not do well and which, if improved, make a difference as to how they will fare as adults. This includes:-

- Improving their educational achievement, school attendance and attainment,
- Getting a job and living in a good standard of accommodation on becoming a care leaver
- Promoting their health (both physical and emotional),
- Having stable placements
- Supporting offenders to reintegrate into work, education and establish positive relationships
- Mitigating the negative impact of young people who go missing
- Supporting care leavers who are parents to successfully care for their children

5. What makes a difference?

The following are a range of activities and areas which can act as protective factors and can militate against some of the disadvantage which may have been experienced by looked after children. They are also actions undertaken by a good parent to give their children a good start in life. Because of their experiences, some children may need extra support to take advantage of opportunities offered.

5.1 Education

Education is probably the single most influential factor in ensuring that children fare well and are successful as adults. Things which support educational achievement and attainment of looked after children are that they:-

- are offered, as priority, places in the schools that are best for them
- are not excluded from school

- are provided with extra help and tuition, particularly at test and examination times
- are encouraged and supported to go on to further and higher education
- are encouraged and supported to go on to further and higher education

5.2 Placements

Children do best in families, preferably their own but if they are unable to live with their own family then an alternative family is the best option and this may include living with someone within their own extended family, a foster family or under Residence, Special Guardianship or Adoption Orders. If children cannot live in a family setting good quality residential care can be a positive option.

There are a number of ways by which children's placements can be supported, for example by:-

- Harnessing the resources of the borough to advertise for foster and adoptive carers.
- Making available a range of resources to support the recruitment, training and approval of foster and adoptive carers
- Maximising the resources available to enhance children's lives
- Providing accommodation to enable children to return to live with their family or with foster or adoptive carers
- Providing finance, professional support and expertise to extend foster or adoptive carers' homes to enable brothers and sisters to live together or to increase the number of children which a carer can accommodate.

As well as improving children's life chances through stable family settings, such placements are economically advantageous to the council compared to the use of residential care.

5.3 Interests and talents

Having an interest or a talent is a very significant factor in improving children's life chances and hence when a child has an interest or a talent whatever this is it should be nurtured and developed improving self-esteem and achievement which often result in much better outcomes in adult life.

Supporting children's interests and talents can be achieved in the following ways, by:-

- Identifying a mentor within the council who can coach, encourage and develop these skills and talents
- Making available resources to purchase any special equipment, clothing or materials to enable the child to participate on an equal footing with other children

5.4 Health

Improving children's health and wellbeing is not just about medical, dental checks and eye tests – important though these are - it is about those caring for them being concerned and alert to children's wellbeing both physical and emotional and responding in a timely and appropriately manner.

5.5 Jobs, apprenticeships and work experience

The LBH and its partner agencies are major employers in the borough and in respect of looked after children they are the 'family businesses'.

As 'family businesses' the following opportunities could be made available to looked after young people in when they leave school:-

- Work experience opportunities particularly in preparation for higher or further education
- Priority access to apprenticeships within the council

- Priority access to employment with the LBH or its partner agencies
- Making available LBH employees to help prepare/equip young people for world of work, higher or further education

Employees could offer support and guidance to looked after young people and care leavers in respect of work experience, jobs, apprenticeships, further and higher education on both a professional and personal capacity, if appropriate.

5.6 Offending

Young people's lives can be blighted by offending behaviour. It affects their ability to obtain and keep jobs, maintain stable relationships and somewhere decent to live. Diverting young people from and reducing offending is critical to their life experiences as adults.

The Youth Offending Service has a key role in working with looked after children who are looked after.

5.7 Celebration of achievements

As well as focusing on activities to improve their life chances it is important to recognise and celebrate their achievements and successes of looked after children.

6. Key Priorities

6.1 Improve the education attainment and school attendance of looked after children; narrow the gap with other children

The role of Harrow Virtual School⁴ is to raise the attainment and outcomes of Harrow's Children Looked After⁵(CLA). The Virtual School do this by challenging and supporting the school's, as well as providing a support service to a number of stakeholders in order to ensure that all Harrow CLA's and Care Leavers receive a high standard of education and are involved in appropriate educational activities. The Virtual School focus their work on raising aspirations of the young people and relevant professionals so that they can reach their potential and move forward into further and higher education and gainful employment. In July 2014 there were 92 CLAs from Reception to Year 11 and 62 Post 16 Care Leavers (Years 12 and 13).

The Virtual Headteacher Annual Report informs the corporate parenting agenda regarding CLA educational attainment, school attendance, employment and training, to accelerate progress to Narrow the Gap.

Designated Teachers network

Training and support is provided through the linked teachers from schools in Harrow. This has recently been combined with the group run by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to enable more joinedup work.

Alternative education provision

Extract from VHT 2013-14 Annual Report, future development activities:

- PEPs and Pathway plans more outcome focused and specific:95% up to date
- Raise attainment outcomes – target for each CYP to match national standards
- Improve attendance % of all CLA and reduce exclusions

⁴ 2013-14 VHT Annual Report

⁵ When asked, Harrow children and young people wanted to be known as **Children Looked After**, ie recognising they are children first and looked after second. The national term used is Looked After Children.

- Increase liaison and support to reduce time students are not registered at school, especially where placed out of borough and attending
- Further raise awareness and understanding of all placement staff and allocated social workers regarding the significance of PEPS and Pathway plans
- Evaluate and report the impact of the Pupil Premium local mechanism introduced.

6.2 Improve the involvement and participation of young people in all services for looked after children and care leavers

Participation

Looked after children and young people will be treated with respect by all who are involved with them, and have access to a range of activities to facilitate their participation in service development.

Harrow's **Participation Strategy**⁶ sets out our vision for involving children and young people in influencing the services which we provide. Their views will be listened to and they will be involved in making decisions about their lives. They will be involved in the planning, provision and evaluation of the services they need. They will know how to get information and support as well as how to raise a concern.

The child's voice will be at the centre of all decision making and we will take time to talk to children on their own and can tell the child's journey.

Our aim is that participation is a routine element of practice for all practitioners and managers, putting the voice of the child at the heart of decision making. That there is a culture that changes things for children and young people, that we work together and we improve the quality of case work and managing risk to the child. We hold the child's perspective and we develop effective systems that keep children safe.

The Children in Care Council "Beyond Limits"⁷

The Beyond Limits group is for all children and young people who are looked after aged 11-25 years, separated into an older and younger group for age appropriate activities.

Meeting monthly, currently around a core group of 6-8 young people, the group aims to listen to the opinions of children and young people and to be the voice for all children looked after. It liaises with a range of professionals to resolve the difficulties young people may encounter. Face to face: The group meets with the Corporate Parenting Panel every 4 months, and also with the Director of Children & Families, and the Director of Targeted Services.

Child's Voice Monthly newsletter

A monthly newsletter has been developed to promote the child's voice, celebrate good practice and to encourage staff to listen to children and young people, taking action when appropriate. An editorial team, including children and young people, is being developed.

Pre LAC Review consultation

The Independent Reviewing Officer consults with children looked after two weeks prior to their statutory review. Young people are supported by their placements, carers, social worker, advocates or the Children's Participation Co-ordinator if required. Online and printed feedback sheets are provided, and work to refresh the content and improve response rates is in progress.

Celebration of achievement awards – annual event

⁶ Our Participation Strategy 2013-2015

⁷ Now includes previous separate Young Voices group

An annual event is held to celebrate the achievements and attainment of children and young people who are looked after. This event is organised in consultation with young people who co-host the event, and perform. Planning for 19.02.15 event is in progress.

Leaving Care Charter – refreshed Oct 2014

The Leaving Care Charter was reviewed and re-launched, following consultation with young people.

Leaving Care Forum

The Leaving Care Forum meets quarterly, as a well attended forum which offers young people the opportunity to have direct contact with senior managers. Further work is being undertaken to enable young people to lead and develop the forum for themselves.

The young people have been very engaged in these sessions and offer valuable feedback and input into service development e.g. refreshing the charter, developing 'what a good placement looks like' highlighting what's important to young people in placement matching and clarifying what support is required in order for us to ensure as many young care leavers as possible are able to go to the university of their choice.

Harrow Youth Parliament

Two Looked after children are representatives.

Takeover Day November

2013 Looked after children involved

Priority Actions for 2014-15

- **To strengthen the Children in Care Council 'Beyond Limits' through increases participation of children looked after and care leavers**
- **Ensure that the Corporate Parenting Panel receives regular feedback from children looked after and takes any necessary action arising from that feedback**
- **Expand participation engagement with CLA placed out of borough**
- **Increase response rates through refreshed feedback options for CLA reviews and CP Conferences**
- **Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services are used by children and young people to ensure their voices are heard**

6.3 Children looked after will be happy and healthy, safe and protected from harm and sexual exploitation: improve the physical, emotional and social health and wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers

Children Looked After are the responsibility of the local authority in the same way as we are responsible for our own children. We therefore require the same standard of health and wellbeing, but often these children enter the care system with worse levels of health due to poor parenting, chaotic lifestyles, poverty, neglect and abuse. Therefore it is our role, and the responsibility of the Provider of these services, to ensure health and wellbeing needs are addressed and outcomes improve to the same standard of peers in Harrow.

Specific outcomes we are aiming for all Children Looked After to Achieve:

- Reach their developmental milestones dependant
- Good physical health including attaining a healthy weight, taking regular exercise and eating a balanced and nutritious diet
- Improved levels of oral health and fewer dental cavities

- Immunised against preventable diseases
- A wider and more positive social and healthy lifestyle including strong self-esteem, positive image of self (including body image), free from bullying and free from violence and abuse
- Good mental, emotional and behavioural health and a strong sense of personal and emotional wellbeing.
- Educational attainment and attendance improved as a result of better health and wellbeing
- Less harmful use of substances including alcohol, drugs and tobacco
- Healthy and appropriate relationships and awareness of good sexual health
- Reduction in the number of CLA becoming teenage parents
- CLA placements are stable as a result of having health and wider needs met
- CLA know where to go for health and wellbeing support, and are able to self-manage their health needs when they leave care (including physical health, sexual health, mental, emotional and behavioural health, oral health, diet, exercise, substances, sun safety, parenting skills, medicines and minor ailments, accident prevention, etc).

Priority Actions for 2014-15:

- **Ensure providers deliver 100% health assessments on time**
- **Care leavers have health passports**
- **CLA wellbeing improves**

6.4 Safe and stable placements: provide a choice of good quality placements that provide security, stability, safety and high standards of care

As corporate parents it is imperative that we commission the right accommodation and supporting services available so that outcomes for each child and young person are the best possible. Harrow's Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2014-15 forms part of the commissioning strategy that we are in the process of developing for our Children Looked After.

In the plan we set out the supporting legislation, needs of children looked after, and the resources at our disposal, and set out resulting actions for changing the internal and external market of services that we rely on.

Based on feedback from children and young people in care, care leavers, and primary and secondary legislation, we have the following aims for our CLA services:

1. All children looked after are placed in appropriate placements with access to the support that they need, as identified in their care plan
2. Resources are available to respond to predicted demand for a range of needs and emergencies
3. Services are provided within the local authority area as far as possible or within the West London Alliance boundaries, except where this is not consistent with the welfare of a child, or is a specialist placement that it is not possible to commission locally
4. Children and Housing services have robust joint working protocols to meet the needs of those who are at risk of becoming looked after at the age of 16 and 17 as a result of homelessness
5. A sufficient range of accommodation and support packages are available to care leavers to facilitate their pathway plans and to ensure all transitions are undertaken in a planned and supportive manner. This includes a clear staying put policy to enable care leavers to remain with their foster carers up to the age of 25 if desired and appropriate
6. Services are of a high quality and deliver the specific outcomes identified in the care plans of looked after children
7. A range of placement choices are developed to meet the needs of the diverse Looked after children population in Harrow

8. Systems are in place to ensure careful matching of placements and to prevent disruption and to ensure placement stability

Placement stability is an incredibly important indicator of performance, as stability can be linked to permanence and better outcomes. Stability is therefore a good proxy-indicator for the outcomes we want to achieve.

Access to Resources Team

We have established an Access to Resources Team which commissions external placements and we aim to use only those providers who have an OFSTED judgement of good or outstanding. We are members of the West London Alliance project looking at shared commissioning of placements for children who are looked after. The Access to Resources Team has a responsibility to ensure careful matching of the placement to best meet the assessed needs of the child or young person. Strengths and difficulties questionnaires are completed and help identify where additional support may be required.

Fostering

We recognise that children do best in local placements where they can remain close to family, friends and their community, We have a robust targeted recruitment strategy to ensure we have a diverse range of foster carers to meet the needs of children looked after. Foster carers have access to a comprehensive training programme to ensure they have the skills to meet the needs of the young people they care for, and they are supported by the fostering social worker through robust supervision.

Children and young people receive information about their placement in advance and are listened to if they have concerns at any time.

Residential Care

Harrow has low use of residential care and only considers this after alternatives have been tried or assessed as unviable. We aim to use only those providers who have an OFSTED judgement of good or outstanding.

The decision for a child or young person's placement is based on their need, and tends to end with one of the following accommodation options and additional services for specific needs. Accommodation options include:

- Internal foster care
- External foster care
- Internal residential care
- External residential care
- Parent and child assessment
- Semi-independent and care leavers

Adoption

Harrow has invested in domestic adoption partnership with Coram, a voluntary adoption agency. Three members of Coram staff are co-located with Children and Families social workers. This has enabled early identification and planning for adoption cases. The partnership with Harrow was established in 2006, and since that time there have been no disruptions of a Harrow child's placement, demonstrating the quality of preparation and support to adopters. Under the Harrow partnership agreement Coram also provides advice and consultation on permanence planning to Harrow Children & Families Directorate for children entering care. Following recent legislative and grant changes options for future provision are currently under consideration.

Special Guardianship

We have increased the number of children and young people who are subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

Family Group Conferences

Harrow purchases a Family Group Conference service from two providers. This provides families with the opportunity to find a solution to the difficulties within their family, and where the child is unable to remain in the care of his parents.

Connected Persons placements

We have a dedicated team responsible for assessing and supporting connected persons.

Priority Actions for 2014-15:

- **Increase capacity and placement choice; increase numbers of in-house foster carers including specialist placements for the children with the most complex needs**
- **Further reduce the number of placement moves**
- **Reduce the length of time children wait for adoptive placement**

6.5 Identity: looked after children know who they are and why they are looked after; feel valued and respected by others and their individual needs arising from gender, race, culture, disability, sexuality and religion are understood and met

Priority Actions for 2014-15

- **Continue to recruit foster carers that reflect the diversity of the local community**
- **Ensure all young people permanently fostered and adopted have lifestory books and later life letters**
- **Young people develop a positive identity, emotional resilience and self esteem**
- **The work force reflects the diversity of the local community**

6.6 Smooth move to adulthood and independence: ensure looked after children and care leavers receive focused support at key transition points in their lives

The Leaving Care and Unaccompanied Asylum Children team are responsible for those young people leaving care. They have developed a range of opportunities with partner agencies to support young people as they make the transition to adulthood.

Catch 22 Programme

The Catch 22 Programme was introduced 2 years ago as a follow on from the Lifeskills Folder. The Catch 22 Folder was put together to give young people who are in or leaving care information and advice to help prepare them for adult life.

The experience of leaving care and starting life as an adult is different for everyone. It can be a time of joy, discovery, worry, excitement and many other emotions but one thing that applies to everyone is the fact that the more you know, the better prepared you are for whatever comes your way. The Catch 22 provides information around, health, EET, money management, accommodation, having you say, lifeskills and family relationships. Social Workers and carers work jointly with the young people to complete the folder which is introduced when the young people turn 18.

Lifeskills Workshop

The lifeskills workshop was introduced 6 years ago and has been running successfully with a group of 20 young people attending annually.

The lifeskills workshop brings together professionals from health looking at sexual health, drug and alcohol and mental health, housing and benefits and EET all providing information as well as young people undertaking practical skills such as cooking, budgeting, writing CV's and interview skills.

MyBank - Money works

MyBank is an independent training organisation focusing on money management. Mybank run a course for Harrow young people looked after. Twice a year the course runs over 2 days and the young people receive a Level 1 - Personal Money Management certificate. Money Works provides survival money management skills to young people in need.

Education, Employment and Training

The Leaving Care and Unaccompanied Asylum Children Team has a Careers Advisor based within the service. Their primary role is to work with those young people who are not in employment, education or training and to support other workers in engaging with this group of young people.

Not in Employment, Education or Training Panel [NEET]

The NEET Panel meets monthly and targets those young people not engaged in EET. It consists of a range of professionals from different disciplines to offer advice and guidance around engagement and access to a range of services. A robust action plan is then developed to actively engage with the young person.

Housing sub group

This has now run successfully for 12 months, to ensure maximum benefit for meeting quarterly, with representatives from Housing, LCT & UASC, Housing Benefit, Council Tax, and more recently Supporting People (Council Adults' Team). The housing department will continue to attend the Corporate Parenting Panel on a regular basis .

For 2014/15 nominations were agreed as 20 and 8 young people have been successfully allocated a flat with 12 remaining. This is the highest number we have had remaining in October to due high shortages in housing stock.

3 young people will be made a direct offer and 3 more are waiting to be out forward with the remaining still bidding. Housing has suggested that young people consider bidding cross borough, due to the current shortages in Harrow. 1 young person has recently accepted a new build property in Finsbury Park.

A meeting was held with Supporting People to look at alternative options for instance, adding YMCA nominations which LCT and UASC currently do not have. This is being discussed and we hope that we will be given some nominations in the short term. Another option which may have to be considered is young people being supported through the private sector and renting a shared property. Young people are reluctant to do this but with the current housing stock situation they may have no option. This is something that may have to be included in the next Charter Review next year.

All young people that have been put forward have successfully claimed housing benefit and there have been no issues to date. This can be seen as an important improvement towards independence.

Currently we have seven young people working with MST who are supporting the young people to manage their tenancies. MST are at full capacity and, along with the other boroughs they work with, we are exploring alternative options with Supporting People.

Housing Officers will attend the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure regular updates are provided to Councillors

Leaving Care Charter

The Leaving Care Charter was recently re-launched and outlines the local authorities commitment to Care leavers and specific areas of support, financial, practical and emotional.

PAFT (Parents as first Teachers) Programme

The Family Centre PAFT programme, designed to work with teenage parents, has developed a dedicated course for care leavers. The aims of the course are to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, improve parenting practice, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues and prevent child abuse and neglect and to increase children's school readiness and school success.

Clinic in a box

Working in partnership with the sexual health nurse we offer advice and information in respect of sexual health. There is a drop in service and she attends the lifeskills course annually.

Leaving Care Forum (see 6.2 earlier)

Staying Put policy

Lead worker NEET

Increased Leaving Care grant made by the council to support the transition

Priority Actions for 2014-15

- **To strengthen the Children in Care Council 'Beyond Limits' through increases participation of children looked after and care leavers**
- **Ensure that the Corporate Parenting Panel receives regular feedback from children looked after and takes any necessary action arising from that feedback**
- **Expand participation engagement with CLA placed out of borough**
- **Increase response rates through refreshed feedback options for CLA reviews and CP Conferences**
- **Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services are used by children and young people to ensure their voices are heard**

- **Ensure providers deliver 100% health assessments on time**
- **Care leavers have health passports**
- **CLA wellbeing improves**

- **Increase capacity and placement choice; increase numbers of in-house foster carers including specialist placements for the children with the most complex needs**
- **Further reduce the number of placement moves**
- **Reduce the length of time children wait for adoptive placement**
- **Continue to recruit foster carers that reflect the diversity of the local community**
- **Ensure all young people permanently fostered and adopted have lifestory books and later life letters**
- **Young people develop a positive identity, emotional resilience and self esteem**
- **The work force reflects the diversity of the local community**

- **Improve opportunities for care leavers to access education, employment or specially trained apprenticeships**

Appendix A: Corporate Parenting Pledge⁸ to Looked After Children

For a better future

Harrow Council provides care and support to those children and young people who, for whatever reason, cannot live with their birth family. For some this may be a short time and for others it may be longer. However long or whether you live with foster carers, residential care, adoptive parents or another member of your family we are committed to giving you the best start in life possible - helping you to be the best that you can be.

The Local Authority is your corporate parent - which simply means trying to do everything that a good parent does throughout your time in our care. Our commitment to you is made by the politicians, who represent the community in the running of the council, all directors and senior managers and our staff, who provide care and support for you.

Children and young people who are in our care or who have been in our care in the recent past have told us what kind of good care and support they need to be the best they can be. We have listened to this and the commitments we make in this children's pledge reflect this.

Our pledge

We pledge to work together to provide you the best possible care and support to help you be the best you can be in your life - now and in the future. To do this we will:

1. **Provide you with a safe home to live where you feel happy and taken care of.** This means that wherever possible you will have a choice about where you live and that you will not be moved from a settled home unless absolutely necessary, or if it is deemed to be in your best interests.
2. **Provide you with the support you need to do well in education.** This means that we will make sure you have the opportunity to go to a school where you can flourish, get the support outside of school to do well in exams and have access to college and university.
3. **Listen to you about things in your own life and about the care that you receive from us.** This means that we will always make sure that you are involved in decisions that are made about your own life and that we find ways to help you tell us your views if you find this difficult. We will also make sure that there are opportunities to tell us what you think about the care that you receive and that if you have a complaint you get the help to get heard.
4. **Be honest with you about things that have happened in your life and the decisions that are made about your care.** We know that at times it is difficult to understand what has happened to you and why certain decisions are made about your care. We can't promise that you will always agree with these decisions. But, we will always be honest with you about the reasons for these decisions and, where possible, what has happened in your life.
5. **Help you to develop good relationships with the people that you care for and the people in your life that are most important to you.** This means that, as far as possible, we will provide you with opportunities to see those people that are important to you in your life. We will help you to develop and maintain relationships and friendships with the people that provide care and support for you and other children and young people.
6. **Provide you with support and opportunities to enjoy your life and have interests and hobbies of your own.** This means that we will make sure you have information and access to opportunities and activities outside of education that you enjoy.
7. **Provide you with the support you need when you leave care to become independent and be the best you can be in adult life.** This means that we will make sure that you have choices about how and when you leave care and that we will make

⁸ http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200161/children_look_after/487/harrow_pledge/2

sure we support you to be prepared for independence and have the help you will need to make independence work when you leave care.

We make these pledges to you and will do our best to always fulfil each one. There are many teams involved in helping make these pledges happen - from Children's Services to Housing and Health. We will make sure that we work together to do this.

Harrow Council - Corporate Parenting Panel

The Harrow Pledge is endorsed by the Corporate Parenting panel on behalf of the Council.

All policy and procedures relating to children looked after are overseen by the Corporate Parenting panel.

Members and senior officers from the Council meet to discuss the performance, service delivery and aspirations for the Council in respect of Children Looked After and young people leaving care. Beyond Limits representatives also attend the Corporate Parenting panel.

This panel is lead by members to challenge, scrutinise and support the services for children looked after.

Appendix B: Legal duties and responsibilities

The Children Act 1989 sets out the local authority's legal duties and responsibilities which underpin service provision for looked after children, young people and care leavers. Although the term corporate parenting is not specifically mentioned in the Children Act 1989 it is a term that has been widely adopted and is included in the recent guidance associated with the Act.

Subsequent legislation, regulations and government advice has extended and strengthened the obligations of local authorities towards looked after children, including:-

- 1998 letter from the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson regarding councilors roles and responsibilities toward looked after children
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 - extended the types of service and upper age limit of young people the local authority are responsible for as a corporate parent
- Subsequent government guidance issued for councilors has reiterated the role that they should play in being an effective corporate parent for looked after children in their care. The "If this were my child" (DfES 2003) guidance posed the benchmark question to develop the necessary mind set for achieving high quality outcomes for looked after children. This established a clear expectation that once a child becomes looked after all councilors and officers of the council need to be concerned about them 'as if they were their own children'.
- Children Act 2004 - contains a statutory requirement for local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and emphasizes the role of collaborative service agreements to achieve the right type of service provision
- Children & Young People Act 2008 - reinforced the message that all councils, and particularly elected members, hold responsibility for ensuring good outcomes for looked after children
- April 2011, further statutory guidance was introduced to clarify the local authority's responsibilities for looked after children. The revised statutory guidance is presented as a suite of documents as follows;
 - Care Planning, Placement & Care reviews
 - Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers
 - Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Handbook
 - Sufficiency - securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children
 - Short Breaks
- November 2011 Family Justice Review Panel report taken forward in the Children and Families Bill: the commitment to a 26 week time limit when courts consider a child should be taken into care; virtual school head in every local authority
- July 2013 revised statutory guidance on adoption published
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children* April 2013
- From Sept 2013 all young people must remain in education or training until the end of the academic year they turn 17.
- From Summer 2015

Appendix C: Detailed Health outcomes

The CLA health outcomes service shall be available to:

- Children within the children in need and child protection system who are accommodated on section 20 of the Children Act 1989
- Children Looked After who are accommodated under section 31 (Care Orders) and 38 (Interim Care Orders) of the Children Act 1989
- Children looked after who are in pre-adoption placements and transition planning for those moving to post adoption placements
- Children looked after with special guardianship orders
- Children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking minors and are in the care of the Local Authority
- Children placed in short term care
- Young people up to 25 years who are within the leaving care team plus transition planning
- All carers and professionals who relate to the above and are involved in their care planning
- Statutory and voluntary agencies who are involved in care planning.

Service scope includes the following:

- Responsibility for health and wellbeing outcomes for CLA
- Monitoring of health and wellbeing outcomes for CLA and tracking of assessments
- Identified health lead professional for each child which may be the Health Visitor, Community Children's Nurse or school nurse
- Assessment of CLA health including all initial and review health assessments except where already a key health worker has built a relationship with the child / young person – this would be assessed on an individual basis
- Health care plans and health passports for care leavers
- Advisory and signposting of support for CLA and care leavers
- Participation in professional meetings and identification of suitable care placements, including through attending fostering panels and adoption panels
- Provision of reports to panels and court proceedings
- Training for Council, NHS, Schools, carers, parents and other partners in support of the Designated Professional
- Sharing information and support to Council, NHS, Schools, carers, parents and other partners as appropriate
- Co-ordination of Council, NHS, School, other partner and Community resources to improve CLA health and wellbeing outcomes
- Supporting CLA and carers to access non-medical specialised services when needed through referral and care pathway routes
- Support to CQC, Ofsted and other inspections as and when required.

The same monitoring, outcome and quality requirements will apply regardless of geographical location of CLA. Arrangements with other providers of assessments and support will be approved by the Commissioner and Designated Nurse.

The CLA health outcomes service may also be requested to support Children Looked After who are placed within Harrow by other authorities. In the event that the service Provider chooses to provide services for non-Harrow CLA it must recharge the originating CCG accordingly, record this activity separately and report to the Commissioner and Designated

Nurse. The recharge to the originating CCG will be completed by the Designated Nurse for CLA once the details have been shared by the CLA Service.

Both initial and review health assessments shall:

- Identify the health needs of the child
- Ensure the voice of the child is recorded and the assessment is co-produced
- Establish health history and identify gaps in routine child health surveillance
- Request the health information from local health providers and specialist services to ensure a full and accurate overview of the child health needs
- Identify family health history
- Promote optimal health and address areas of unmet health needs
- Formulate a strategy and action plan for meeting health needs
- Address the needs of the child in the placement so that the carer is empowered and feels confident to provide for the support and health care needs of their child, at the same time as feeling that their own needs are also being supported.

The following are actions, to be undertaken, as a result of each high quality health assessment:

- Clear identification of the level of unidentified health needs and how to address these
- Agreement with the child on how, where and when and by whom professional support shall be provided
- Agreement with the child on how, when and by whom their development shall be monitored
- Identify gaps in service provision and escalate to Senior Managers and the Designated Nurse and Commissioner
- Identify key health issues and how these shall be addressed
- Liaise with partner agencies including CAMHS, substance misuse services, sexual health agencies, leisure services, schools to ensure needs are addressed
- A health care plan for every child in care including details of how progress shall be monitored.

The Provider working closely with social care is responsible for following up health assessments and health care plans with the child, and shall maintain contact with the child throughout the year to offer support and refer to other services as appropriate. Tracking of the child shall be at a level equivalent to their needs and requirements.

Plans will be co-produced with children, their carers and where appropriate parents to ensure all stakeholders are contributing to the health and wellbeing outcomes of the child.

Health plans shall address all health and wellbeing outcomes and include, as a minimum:

- Reflect the voice of the child
- Clear identification of overall objectives
- Named professional responsible for actions
- Timescales for delivery
- Clarify monitoring arrangements

We will support the development of Health passports working closely with the Local authority, GP's and Young People. Health passports shall address all health and wellbeing outcomes and where possible include:

- NHS number
- Blood group
- Birth information
- Growth Statistics and Percentiles
- Hearing Function Information
- Medical history
- Family Health History

- Regular medication
- Contact details for GP, dentist, optician and other health professionals,
- Immunisation records
- Eye Test Results / Prescriptions
- Information promoting healthy and active lifestyles
- Organ donation register information if deemed appropriate

Resources to engage include, but are not limited to:

- Children Looked After
- Carers and parents
- Community resources
- Health Visiting
- School Nursing
- Public Health
- GPs
- CAMHS
- Harrow Children & Families
- Virtual Heads
- Independent Visitors
- Dentistry
- Child Development teams
- Community Children's Nursing teams
- Secondary care providers
- Specialist / tertiary services e.g., paediatric, stoma, craniofacial or chronic skin disease
- Schools (including team around the school)
- Children's Centres
- Dietetics
- Sexual Health Services including GUM
- Local services to where children and young people are placed
- Early Intervention Service
- COMPASS and Each
- Police services
- Harrow Youth Offending Team
- Harrow CCG
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Children with Disabilities Team

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Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Key Priorities	Action Plan	By Whom & Date
<p>To strengthen the Children in Care Council ‘Beyond Limits’ through increases participation of children looked after and care leavers</p>	<p>Implementation of the participation strategy</p> <p>Promote Beyond Limits at statutory child care reviews</p> <p>Promote the “work” Beyond limits undertakes with children looked after and young people</p> <p>Raise awareness of the changes which Beyond Limits has influenced/shaped</p> <p>Packs for young people when they become looked after including information about Beyond Limits</p>	<p>Participation officer</p>
<p>Ensure that the Corporate Parenting Panel receives regular feedback from children looked after and takes any necessary action arising from that feedback</p>	<p>Quarterly meetings between Beyond Limits group and Corporate Parenting Panel with follow up actions presented to the Panel</p> <p>What other opportunities do Councillors have to receive feedback from children looked after/</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting Panel</p> <p>Participation Officer</p>
<p>Expand participation engagement with CLA placed out of borough</p>	<p>Implementation of the participation strategy</p> <p>Participation Officer in contact with all young people placed out of borough</p>	<p>Participation Officer</p>
<p>Increase response rates through refreshed feedback options for CLA reviews and CP Conferences</p>	<p>Quarterly reports to SMT and Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>Service Manager Quality Assurance</p>

Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services are used by children and young people to ensure their voices are heard	<p>SW aware of advocacy and independent visitor services as part of their induction</p> <p>Monitoring of the use of the services</p> <p>Quarterly reports on referrals/take up of the service</p> <p>Evaluation of the services by young people</p> <p>Annual report to Corporate Parenting Panel</p>	
Ensure providers deliver 100% health assessments on time	<p>Weekly monitoring</p> <p>Young peoples evaluation of health assessments informs service delivery</p>	Designated nurse safeguarding children
Care leavers have health passports	<p>Monthly monitoring</p> <p>Young People consulted on the impact of health passports</p>	Designated nurse safeguarding children
CLA wellbeing improves		
Increase capacity and placement choice; increase numbers of in-house foster carers including specialist placements for the children with the most complex needs	<p>Implementation of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy</p> <p>Implementation of the action plan following the consultation at the care leavers forum about placements</p> <p>Feedback from young people at foster carers annual review</p>	<p>Service Manager Placements</p> <p>Service Managers Placements and Leaving Care</p> <p>Service Manager Placements</p>
Further reduce the number of	Provide additional support where difficulties are	Service Manager

Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Action Plan

placement moves	identified Analysis of the reasons for placement breakdown and identify strategies to support those placements at risk Foster carers support one another /buddy system	Placements
Reduce the length of time children wait for adoptive placement	Reports to the Care planning group Monitored through Permanency Planning Meetings	Team Manager Harrow/Coram partnership Case Manager
Continue to recruit foster carers that reflect the diversity of the local community	Implementation of the recruitment strategy	Fostering Team Manager
Ensure all young people permanently fostered and adopted have lifestory books and later life letters	Monitored through Care Planning Group	Team Manager Harrow/Coram partnership
Young people develop a positive identity, emotional resilience and self esteem	Use of SDQs Inhouse PlayTherapist Training for foster carers	CLA Nurse Team Managers IROS
The work force reflects the diversity of the local community	Implementation of recruitment and retention strategy	
Improve opportunities for care leavers to access education,	Role of the virtual school Ensure Pathway Plans address engagement with	HSIP Service Manager Leaving Care

Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Action Plan

employment or specially trained apprenticeships	education/training Effective delivery of services by CfBT	
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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING
PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015
Subject:	Feedback on Celebration of Achievement Event
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children & Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Report on Children Looked After Event

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report comprises feedback from the Children Looked After Celebration of Achievement Event held on 19 February 2015.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Section 2 – Report

See attached report.

Financial Implications

This report is an information report and not requesting any funding

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place No

Equalities implications

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 5 th March 2015.....		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Denise Ailara, Participation Officer

Peter Tolley, Service Manager – Children’s Placements and Children Looked After ext 6943

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CLA Awards Thursday 19th February 2015

The CLA awards event was held at the Harrow Arts Centre from 2:00pm to 6:00pm

All Children looked after in Harrow were invited to attend as well as carers, professionals and the Mayor of Harrow.

We had 75 Children and Young People attend the awards including leaving Care and Unaccompanied and Asylum seeker young people.

Many social workers and foster carers attended. The Mayor of Harrow was also in attendance alongside a number of Councillors and the Corporate Director of Children and Young Peoples Services.

The virtual head teacher and some teachers also attended

We had five of our looked after children take part in hosting and showcasing their talents including singing and playing the guitar

Awards were given out by social workers who nominated young people in the following categories

Academic Effort and Achievement

Music and Sports

Outstanding Achievement including Volunteering

University attendance and Graduation

Exceptional Effort

Pathway to Progression

Attitude and Behaviour

We also had a whacky booth and face painting for younger children.

We had a lunch buffet catered by Daisy in the Park

A compilation montage of the event and photo are to follow

Feedback forms will also be sent out for feedback and views on the event to aid in preparation for next year's celebrations

The initial feedback has been very positive that the young people enjoyed the event and appreciated the awards. There was a positive sense of achievement and partnership working

Feedback for future sessions were that more should be available for younger children as the event seemed more focused on teenagers. There were also suggestions that there should be more clarity regarding the category of awards and more information for what these were for.

There will be further discussions with the Beyond Limits group to plan future events

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**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING
PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015
Subject:	Beyond Limits Group
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children & Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Beyond Limits Group

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report comprises an outline of the work between Corporate Parenting Panel and the Beyond Limits Group.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Section 2 – Report

See attached report.

Financial Implications

This report is an information report

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place No

Equalities implications

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 3/3/2015.....		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley, Service Manager Children's Placements and Children Looked After ext 6943

Kamini Rambellas, Divisional Director Targeted Services

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Update of Actions

Elected local councillors and senior members of staff in children's services will be meeting with the Beyond Limits group four times a year to ensure that young people can influence decisions that are made.

At the last meeting on 27th November 2014 several issues were discussed. These have subsequently been reported in the **Particip8** (Beyond Limits newsletter)

Placements

Young people were concerned as to the distance between their placements and schools and the difficulties this caused in terms of long journey times and being late for school.

We have agreed to involve young people in the selection of their placements. They will be given detailed information regarding the placement options. If a planned placement young people will be able to visit prior to moving. We want to ensure that young people's wishes and feelings regarding placements are listened to and form part of the placement plan.

We want young people to be placed close to their schools but where that is not possible we would ensure additional funding to assist them with their journey.

Pocket Money

Young people expressed concern as to the perceived variables in pocket money for looked after children

A pocket money guide is being produced and will be circulated by the end of March.

The level of pocket money for each young person are discussed and agreed at the placement agreement meeting.

The current recommended weekly amounts are

£4 per week for children aged 0 to 11

£6 per week for young people aged 12 to 18

Money for clothing, toiletries and other essential items will also be provided and will be discussed at the Placement Agreement Meeting

For young children foster carers would buy these items. Teenagers may be given the additional money directly but this will depend on the assessment of the young person's capacity to use the funds appropriately

All looked after children in Harrow have £10 per week savings which will be given to them when they reach 18 or leave care.

Computers

All Looked after Children of school age should have access to a computer and the internet in their placement to assist with their school work. It is expected these will be in communal areas so they can be shared. They should also be able to access computers at school or the local library. Requests for individual laptops will only be considered for young people in year 9 and above. These requests will need to be supported by school or place of study.

Funding for this is available through the birthday and festival allowances given to foster carers and through the pupil premium managed through the Virtual school

This information has been sent to all looked after children through the recent participat8 newsletter.

Peter Tolley

Service Manager Looked After Children and Placements

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PAREI
PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	17 th March 2015
Subject:	Virtual School Improvement Plan
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Virtual School Improvement plan

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report outlines the priorities and targets for the Virtual School in 2014 – 15.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Panel note the report.

Section 2 – Report

See attached report which outlines the School Improvement plan

Financial Implications

This report is an information report and not requesting any funding

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place No

Equalities implications

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 4 th March 2015.....		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jane Munroe, Virtual Head Teacher, 020 8416 8852

Harrow Virtual School School Improvement Plan-Review Jan 2015 2014-15

Vision, Values and Principles

- Harrow Children and Families will assure provision for CLA which gives each child/young person a sense of security, safety, emotional attachment, continuity, commitment, identity and high achievement.
- Looked After Children's "Journey" from entering through to leaving care, will provide high quality learning and development experiences, which prepares them well for adult life.
- The quality of education or training is inspiring and challenging leading to the best possible outcomes for every child/young person.
- Leadership and governance arrangements will provide both support and challenge to all with responsibility for CLA so that nothing but the best possible outcome for each CLA child/ young person will be accepted.
- Pupil participation and engagement will underpin the creation and implementation of the overall strategy for CLA provision.
- The voice of every CLA is heard and given priority within the educational or EET settings and policy

Targets for 2014-2015

- Improvement in achievement rates towards goal of top quartile performance
- Reduction in absence rates to 5% or below
- 95% of PEPs and Pathway Plans completed in timescale
- Reduction in fixed term exclusion to less than 10% (CLA 1 year+)
- Effective partnerships between designated teachers, the virtual school and foster carers to ensure all involved in corporate parenting work maximise education achievement of CLA
- Ensure that no outstanding health issues impact on a child/young person's development and achievement
- NEET reduction-75% to be EET (16-18 year olds)

Priorities for 2014-15

- Raise the achievement of Children Looked After so that each child maximises their full potential.
- To improve the quality of practice through high quality PEPs and Pathway Plans effectively delivered and monitored
- CLA have improved outcomes through effective strategies and interventions which are established to improve the attendance, punctuality and participation of all CLA
- CLA pupils make good progress through supported, trained and developed Virtual School staff, designated teachers, social workers and foster carers
- CLA to have improved outcomes through effective and robust support systems for 'at risk' CLA/Care leavers
- CLA pupils make good progress through improved quality of provision

PRIORITY

I. Raise the achievement of Children Looked After and Care Leavers so that each child maximises their full potential.

Outcomes sought

- CLA achievement is at least in line with National Expectations in all phases
- CLA feel safe, secure and thrive at their homes, school/settings and wider communities
- CLA in their early years show development at expected levels
- Year 12 and 13 students gain the qualification and skills they need, and reach high levels of participation to be successful into employment or further education.
- CLA have a clear and meaningful transition plans integral within the PEPs
- Achievement and progress regularly tracked and analysed to inform planning
- Robust plans written for targeted intervention groups (Years 9 and 10 students) *****
- Effective monitoring of how enhanced pupil premium is spent to ensure impact on progress and attainment
- All CLA's who change placement, should attend 'Good or Outstanding' school (where possible)

Action to be taken

- At least one termly monitoring and challenge visit to in borough setting/schools (including special) on the achievement and well being of CLA to monitor and track student progress
- At least one annual monitoring and challenge visit to in out of borough setting/schools (including special) on the achievement and well-being of CLA to monitor and track student progress with termly phone calls
- VHT to collate and analyse data in liaison with the Assessment and Monitoring Team
- To ensure the education of CLA is given high priority in relevant key council strategies and plans.
- Termly pupil progress meetings to track and monitor progress to identify students at risk of low attainment
- Ensure timely and appropriate education provision/intervention is made to each CLA (including EHC plans if appropriate)
- Robust PEPs to support and challenge educational outcomes
- Virtual School to monitor use of Enhanced Pupil Premium and challenge if impact is not evident
- Establish joint planning with YOT (Youth Offending Team) to specifically plan for the education of CLA known to YOT
- Key worker to be allocated to Years 9 and 10 to improve engagement, progress and

By Whom	By When:	Lead:	QA By:
V.H.Ts	Dec 2014/ongoing	JM/TH	FA
VHT	Ongoing annually	JM/TH	FA
VHT/GA VHT/PT	Termly Termly	JM/TH JM/TH/PT	FA FA
Staff/GA	Termly	JM/TH	FA
Staff EPS/SENCO	Ongoing	JM/TH	?
AF JM	Ongoing Termly	JM/TH JM	FA ?
AGM/VHTs	Ongoing	AG	FA
AF	Ongoing	VHTs	FA

Appendix

<p>attainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with school to provide alternatives to exclusion or managed move for CLAs Each CLA to have an identified Health Care Professional to assess and meet their medical needs Admissions need to prioritise CLA pupils to ensure high quality placements Transitions to be planned for effectively 	<p>EPS</p> <p>CLA Nurse</p> <p>RP/JT Staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>?</p> <p>VHTs</p> <p>VHTs</p>	<p>FA</p> <p>FA</p> <p>FA</p> <p>FA</p>
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of significant improvements in achievement both in terms of Key Stage, Results and early learning goals Attainment is currently being tracked monitored and will be evaluated at the end of the Spring term Results at key stages are in the top quartile compared with statistical neighbours Reduction in fixed term exclusion to less than 10% (CLA 1 Year) = (17% at August 2014) EET figures in line with statistical neighbours 				
<p>Termly progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed in January 2015 				
<p>Next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least one annual monitoring and challenge visit to in out of borough setting/schools (including special) on the achievement and well-being of CLA to monitor and track student progress with termly phone calls Pupil progress meetings identify which schools have not been visited or provided data. VS staff to prioritise over next term To ensure the education of CLA is given high priority in relevant key council strategies and plans. Progress has been made to promote CLA in council strategy and plans. SIP shared at and approved at Council Level by FA. Pathway Plans and PEP QAs are shared with professionals. VHTs to take advice to further promote the profile of the VS within the council from FA. Ensure timely and appropriate education provision/intervention is made to each CLA (including EHC plans if appropriate) Positive and proactive communication between agencies through regular planning meetings with detailed Action Plans to ensure appropriate provision is made in a timely manner. Continued profile raising of the VS in Children and Families. Robust PEPs to support and challenge educational outcomes Electronic PEP trial successful in Autumn Term. Training for all professionals 25/26th Feb 2015. Launch in March 2015. Virtual School to monitor to monitor use of Enhanced Pupil Premium and challenge if impact is not evident VS to review impact for CLAs of the targeted interventions funded by EPP. To be monitored through PEPs and at end of Financial year Establish joint planning with YOT (Youth Offending Team) to specifically plan for the education of CLA known to YOT VS to liaise with YOT team to establish systems and protocols for sharing information and strategies for CLAYOT Key worker to be allocated to Years 9 and 10 to improve engagement, progress and attainment 				

Appendi

Until restructure of VS is facilitated there is no staffing capacity to support this action

- 8 *To work with school to provide alternatives to exclusion or managed move for CLAs
Progress has been made with individual cases-but this is ongoing. Plan to train schools on the impact of Attachment/Trauma*
- 9 *Each CLA to have an identified Health Care Professional to assess and meet their
medical needs*
- 10 *Work with multi agencies especially Sue Nixon to plan for the implementation of this action
Transitions to be planned for effectively
Need for information about CLA in EY settings in order to plan for effective transition into schools
Secondary transition to include proposed schools to be invited to the transition PEP
Post 16 Schools now identifying proposed transitions to FE. More work needed with receiving institution*

Appendi

PRIORITY

II. To improve the quality of practice through high quality PEPs and Pathway Plans effectively delivered and monitored

Appendix

<p>Outcomes sought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of PEPs and PPs are timely, completed and of high quality to directly impact on the positive progress of CLA and Care Leavers All PEPs and PPs are part of a rigorous monitoring and review cycle The PEPs and PPs link effectively with other information and plans for the young person including the statement of special educational needs/care plan where appropriate. To monitor the use of Enhance Pupil Premium through robust PEP procedure 								
<p>Action to be taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot the electronic PEP to improve management of the system. 100% of all PEPs and Pathways plans to include an action plan Targets on Action Plans to become SMARTER and have greater impact (academic and well-being) Further training provided for participants of the PEP/Pathway plans Use of Enhance Pupil Premium to be identified on PEP to ensure the objectives on the Action Plan are met Regular 'support' meetings with social workers to ensure that PEPs and Pathways plans are meeting the 95% completion target 								
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic PEP is successfully piloted and a decision made as to whether Harrow implements this system Electronic system is now in place and all PEPs to be done electronically from March 1st therefore becoming more efficient and improving outcomes All PEPs and Pathway Plans include an action plan In the last QA process all PEPs had an Action Plan. Pathway Plans have dates missing but both have improved Evidence shows that PEPs and PPs are effective in the planning of high quality provision and outcomes for CLA PEPs are demonstrating that closer monitoring is occurring and targeted interventions are in place to narrow the Gap between CLA and their peers PEP and Pathway Plans are completed and reviewed in a timely and efficient manner This will be improved as the Electronic PEP is implemented as a more robust system is in place to monitor the completion of PEPs. Plans are in place to use the same system for Electronic PEPs Enhanced Pupil Premium is claimed and used effectively to support and improve outcomes for CLAs 								

Appendix

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently schools claim £500 termly and this is monitored by the VHT. In future EPP will be allocated as a consequence of a robust PEP 80% of pupils report their voice is heard, evidenced and acted on throughout the process Currently this is not evidenced in PEPs and Pathway Plans. It is more like 50% 95% of all PEPs and Pathway Plans are completed within timescales <p>Currently we are operating at 70% completion but this will improve with the implementation of the Electronic PEP</p>	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Limited
<p>Termly progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed January 2015 				
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed January 2015 				

Appendix

PRIORITY

III. CLA have improved outcomes through effective strategies and interventions which are established to improve the attendance, punctuality and participation of all CLA

Appendix

Outcomes sought

- Increase average attendance levels for CLA are in line with the borough expectation of 95%
- Reduce incidence of persistent and long term absenteeism
- Following a change of placement, students should be placed in an educational provisional quickly as possible
- Reduce fixed term exclusions from 17% (2013 - 2014) to 10%
- NEET (Year 13) CLA figures are reduced to be at least in line with statistical neighbours

Action to be taken

- Welfare call to monitor absence and report to social worker within 24 hours
- Attendance and punctuality to be tracked at termly meetings and PEP meetings
- Visits to schools to ensure early intervention strategies are implemented when attendance or behaviour decline
- Implement support systems for 'at risk' students
- Work closely with admissions teams when CLA are between schools to ensure 'speedy' admissions to 'Good/Outstanding' provisions
- Liaise with CFBT to review, track and engage NEET to become EET and achieve sustainable pathways to economic independence

By whom

JT
Staff
Staff

VHTs
VHTs/RP

CC

By when:

Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing

Ongoing
Ongoing

Termly
Meeting/Ongoing

Lead:

JT
JT/VHT
VHTs

VHTs
VHTs

VHT

QA by:

VHT
FA/Gov.
Body

FA/Gov
Body

FA/Gov
Body

85

Success criteria

- Average attendance meets 95%
- Currently our average is 86.1% so this is an area that needs to be addressed
- Reduction in sessions missed to less than 10%
- Currently we are operating at 11.7%
- No more than 9% of CLA missing 25 or more days of school (compares with target of 12% for 2013-14 academic year, may be achieved)
- 14.73% missed 25 days or more
- Persistent absentee rate to be no more than 12% (17% at August 2014)
- All CLAs to be receiving an educational provision within 15 working days
- Protocols have been written with admissions team to improve timeliness of educational provisions
- EET figures improve to be in line with statistical neighbours

Termly progress

- To be reviewed by January 2015

Outstanding

Good

Satisfactory

Limited

<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>IV. CLA pupils make good progress through supported, trained and developed Virtual School staff, designated teachers, social workers and foster carers</p> <p>Outcomes sought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Virtual School staff should be confident and competent at working partnership with children, families and setting/school to promote the development and education of CLAs. All adults to take proactive responsibility and have high expectations for progress of CLA Social workers / foster carers to have greater understanding of age related expectations and how outstanding progress measured is in setting/school Foster carers are trained to support and overcome potential barriers to learning and underachievement Plan and offer an effective, appropriate training programme for all key professionals and carers in issues key to raising achievement and supporting transitions Health Care Professionals to be consulted on matters of physical, emotional and mental health as well as substance misuse if appropriate Virtual school staff to be available for coaching and advice if educational or emotional issues To empower foster carers to support learning more effectively 			
<p>Action to be taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual school staff to receive relevant training to promote good educational outcome for CLA Designated teachers termly meetings in conjunction with the LSCB on CPD online Regular engagement at social work meetings to support and update on educational reform, effective use of enhanced pupil premium and PEPs Annual Conference for all involved with CLA Foster carer training how to support learning, overcoming barriers to progress and closing the gap (including Reading Coaches Training and London wide training). 	<p>By whom</p> <p>All Staff</p> <p>VHTs</p> <p>VHTs</p> <p>VHTs</p> <p>VHT</p>	<p>By when:</p> <p>July 2015</p> <p>Termly</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2015</p> <p>Termly</p>	<p>Lead:</p> <p>JM/TH</p> <p>JM/TH</p> <p>JM/TH</p> <p>JM/TH</p> <p>JM/TH</p>
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated teachers challenging and championing improved outcomes for all CLA student Termly meeting take place for all professionals concerned with Safeguarding in Schools Improved communication between agencies with a more effective drive to outstanding progress All professionals to be confident and competent in planning for good progress and challenge each other to achieve this All professionals are currently wrestling with Assessment without levels but progress has been made with improved communication between SW and schools Improved attendance at social worker meetings, especially CIN and CWD teams The Virtual School now has a regular slot at the Induction training sessions We still need to form better links with CWD team Improved attendance at foster carer meetings 	<p>QA by:</p> <p>FA</p> <p>FA</p> <p>FA</p> <p>FA</p> <p>PT</p>		

Appendix

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Limited
<p>Termly progress judgement against success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed in January 2015 				
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed in January 2015 				

PRIORITY

V. CLA to have improved outcomes through effective and robust support systems for 'at risk' CLA/Care leavers

Outcomes sought

- Early identification and implementation of strategies for students who are at risk of underachieving
- Early identification of students and implementation of strategies with students who are at risk of exclusion
- Reduce fixed term exclusions
- Disengagement from education is prevented
- Reduce NEEETs
- Improve engagement with education for identified at risk students

Action to be taken

- 'RAG' (Red, Amber, Green) rating at pupil progress meetings identify CLAs at risk of underachieving
- Respond with solution focused interventions in a timely manner (e.g. Grasvener Project)
- Engage with schools so that they are proactive in communicating with the Virtual School before issues escalate to a Fixed Term Exclusion
- Use enhanced pupil premium to meet the needs of the identified 'at risk' students
- Pilot the online 'Mindful Online Counselling' to support the emotional behaviour and mental health needs of the 'at risk' students
- Identified staff member to target Year 9, 10 and 11 students who are considered to be 'at risk'
- A planned intervention strategy for PA (persistent absentees) to include transport to the educational setting
- To liaise with CFBT to reduce NEEETs
- Attendance at 'Risk and Vulnerability multi-agency Group' which implements strategies to prevent an escalation in offending

Success criteria

- All students identified as being at risk at pupil progress meetings through thorough analysis of data and multi-agency collaboration
- Termly pupil progress meeting identify pupils who are at risk of under achieving
- Reduction in fixed term exclusion through a greater engagement with schools and other educational providers and projects
- Fixed term exclusions are still an issue for CLA . Research is being done into a project which champions Attachment Friendly schools
- Educational attainment and outcomes are improved for all CLAs considered to be 'at risk' with proactive communication and interventions between

By whom	By when:	Lead:	QA by:
Staff	Termly	JHTs	FA
Staff	Ongoing	JHTs	FA
Staff	Ongoing	JHTs	FA
JM VHTs	Ongoing July 2015	JM VHTs	FA PG
AF	Ongoing	VHTs	FA
JT	Ongoing	VHTs	FA
TH	Termly	TH	FA
AF/JM	Every 3 Weeks	AG	AG

Appendix

<p>The Virtual and mainstream schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following • 'Mindful online counselling' evaluated and impact evidenced • PAs reduced • There have been no permanent exclusions since July 2013 • A greater educational engagement with Year 9, 10 and 11 students • <i>The strategies we are now putting in place with individuals will take time to improve outcomes</i> • Reduction of NEETs • A reduction in the number of CLAs involved in Youth Offending <p>Termly progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be reviewed in January 2015 	<p>Outstanding</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Limited</p>
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 				

PRIORITY

VI. CLA pupils make good progress through improved quality of provision

Outcomes sought

- A robust system for one to one tuition is implemented
- Attendance at Maths and English Homework Club increases
- Enrichment activities are well attended to increase aspirations and broaden experiences
- A Virtual School who are effective at attaining, conveying and responding to CLA views
- Engagement with Corporate Parent Panel to improve council response to CLA needs
- The implementation of a governing body for the Virtual School to oversee and evaluate the effectiveness of provision and outcomes for all CLAs

Action to be taken

- Liaison with Participation Officer to incorporate views expressed at Beyond Limits Meetings
- Links have been formed with Participation officer and plans are in place to have a specific feedback form
- Effective procedures for referral, monitoring and review of impact of one to one tuition provided by tutoring agencies (e.g. Regent College)
- Winchmore tuors and Regent College are both used for 1-1 and their impact is monitored
- Invitations to targeted students to homework club
- Targetted students have been invited but attendance remains low
- Invite secondary CLA students to university visits (Royal Vet College, Roehampton and St Mary's)
- Visits this academic year have attracted 10 CLA per trip
- Virtual School to support the planning of the annual celebration event in February 2015 to which all CLAs are invited
- Jo T (EWO in VS) was a valuable member of planning group and was responsible for awards
- Calendar of events to be advertised to CLA students to enrich and extend experiences (e.g. drumming workshop, writing workshop, theatre visits)
- Trips to drumming workshop/British Library have been well attended. Planned trip to Stamford Bridge in Easter to look at careers
- 'Beyond Limits' (Student Voice for CLAs) feedback is integrated within the virtual school and used to improve services, by relevant staff and governance bodies.

By whom	By when:	Lead:	QA by:
Staff	Ongoing	DA/VHTs	NG
TH	Ongoing	TH	PT
Staff Staff	Ongoing Half Terms	JM JM	CP TH
Staff	Feb 2015	VHTs	PT
Staff	Ongoing	JM	TH
DA	Monthly	JM	NG
JM	3 monthly	JM	Council Leader Council?
FA	December 2014	FA	

Appendix

<p>VHT to attend the planning group to guide and support corporate parents in the attainment and outcomes for CLAs</p> <p>Close liaison with Peter Tolley CLA service Manager but limited group meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appoint a governing body to support and provide accountability to the Virtual School The Virtual School is currently line managed by Harrow School Improvement Partnership which provides accountability. A SLT is to be re established once a permanent VHT has been appointed 			
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One to one tuition improves academic outcomes for CLAs Winchmore tutors and Regent College are providing targeted individuals to improve progress Attendance at homework club increases We still only have 3 regulars but these CLA are making progress A breath and variety of enrichment and out of school learning is offered and well attended University Trips, Drumming workshop and visit to British Library had 10 CLA CLA views are incorporated in all virtual school strategies We need to improve formally seeking and implementing views of CLA The virtual school has an effective governing body which holds the virtual school accountable Once permanent VHT has been appointed SLT will be established. Accountability is through HSIP Corporate parents are well informed about the education outcomes of CLAs and Care leavers 			
<p>Termly progress judgement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed in January 2015 	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed in January 2015 			Limited

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Update for Corporate Parenting Panel regarding Children Looked After (CLA) Health Service

As the Panel is aware the decision to transfer the CLA Service Provider to Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWLFT) was taken by Harrow CCG in agreement with the London Borough of Harrow in 2014. This paper has been produced to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel about the progress of this positive decision and to provide assurance regarding the transfer of the service and any identified risk to the CLA population in Harrow.

There has been considerable commitment by all partners involved with the new service model and it is expected that the service will be in place by the 1st June 2015. An agreed action plan for transferring the service has been developed by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) to transfer the service within the agreed timescales. A new Service Specification has been developed by Harrow CCG and the Local Authority that has been agreed by CNWL. The Service Specification very clearly defines the key performance indicators (KPI's) activity and pathway of care. The monitoring of performance and outcomes are clear and measurable and will be undertaken with regular reporting to the CCG and Local Authority. This will be presented at the Corporate Parenting Panel.

One of the biggest undertakings has been the recruitment of a new team. This has now been completed and the new CLA Health team, which will only cover Harrow, will be based in South Ruislip which will provide peer support with the Hillingdon CLA Team. The location is very close to Alexander Clinic in Harrow which will provide the clinical base for the CLA Team to carry out both Initial and Review Health Assessments. The team will also provide a weekly presence at the Civic Centre to support and integrate with Social Work Teams.

The team will consist of two senior Nurse Posts and a full time administrator. The Designated Doctor role will be supported by the current Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children in Harrow. A GP with a specialist interest (GPwSI) will be recruited to and be supervised by the Designated Doctor, as well as quality assuring the Initial Health Assessments. The Designated Nurse in Harrow will continue to work closely with and support the Health Team in addition to the quality assurance role relating to the Review Health Assessments.

Harrow CCG is very aware that the transition from one service to a new provider requires close monitoring and can be stressful for staff involved. As there are no permanent staff in post there are no TUPE transfer requirements. Monthly meetings are being held with the Designated Nurse, CCG representative, the Local Authority and CNWL to ensure a smooth and safe transfer and identification of problems and risks are managed proactively

The new provider has a well-established CLA Health team which has always worked closely with Hillingdon CCG and Hillingdon Local Authority, so the ethos of joint working to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in care is an embedded priority. Harrow CCG has a well-established Safeguarding Children Working Group which has representation from the Designated Professionals for Safeguarding Children, the Safeguarding Children Lead for the CCG, Commissioning Lead for the CCG and the Quality Group. These meetings are held every two weeks and the Designated CLA Professionals will be asked to attend these meetings to feedback directly to the CCG via the Quality, Safety and Clinical Risk committee.

Harrow CCG is also committed to working with the current provider of the service to ensure the service provision that is currently in place is of a high quality, and continues to regularly monitor current provision.

The Designated Nurses from both Harrow and Hillingdon are working together to define the CLA pathway and the paperwork that will be used. There will be as little change as possible whilst the service is embedded in Harrow and it is hoped that there will be learning best practice from both teams which will result in a holistic service being delivered to children and young people looked after by the London Borough of Harrow. Both commissioners and providers are committed to ensuring the delivery of a high quality service for this vulnerable group of children and young people.

Sue Dixon

Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children & CLA

Harrow CCG

March 2015

REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015
Subject:	Housing for Care Leavers
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children & Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	No

1.0 Summary and Recommendations

This report seeks to update the Corporate Parenting Panel of the housing assistance available for care leavers.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Panel note the report.

2.0 Introduction

Every year in March the planned distribution of permanent housing (i.e. quotas) for the following financial year is agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

2.1

These quotas are set following consideration of historic lettings data, future supply and demand data and assumptions. Care leavers are supported and prioritised under band B. for the leaving care quota. The number of care leavers anticipated to be ready for independent living, and therefore ready to leave care in the following financial year is also considered. The Allocations Scheme changed on 22nd October 2013 but Care Leavers continue to be able to access social housing through the quota.

2.2

In the year 2014/15 the quota has been set at 19. We are proposing maintaining this quota in 15-16, subject to Portfolio Holder for Housing's approval.

3.0 Issues

3.1

Both in 2012-13, and 2013-14 there were predictions that the number of care leavers would exceed the quota, but this did not happen. The quota in 14-15 of 19 has been fully filled.

3.2

There are now very serious pressures on social housing stock due to a significant rise in homelessness, pressure to downsize by tenants affected by welfare reform, and the need to move households temporarily to enable the estate regeneration programme to take place, that may ultimately increase supply. The huge increase in incentives for council tenants to buy their homes under the right to buy is also likely to affect supply.

3.3

We are able to maintain the quota as some new studio/1 bed Housing Association units will be available soon. Young People will need to accept Housing Association properties which have proved less popular in the past. Although the rents are higher, this is completely eligible for Housing Benefit for low income households. Because of the issues outlined above, it will not be possible to offer many council units to young people under this quota.

4. Proposed Recommendations

4.1

If the quota turns out to be insufficient we can bring forward our proposals to offer accommodation in shared housing. This would either be managed by the council or a Housing Association, leased from a private landlord. We have agreed with the Housing Benefit Service the rent levels that could be charged (and covered by HB). We could divert a Private Sector Leased

property to shared housing and manage it by our PSL team. Alternatively Genesis Housing are prepared to lease a property and manage it. We consider small shared housing units for 3 care leavers to be the most suitable option, but we can agree the exact configuration if shared housing is needed. We would also need to put in place a Service Level Agreement to deal with void periods, rent arrears and support for the residents. The Care Leaver and Housing Sub Group can finalise this. This option could be achieved within a few months of deciding it is needed, subject to agreement.

4.2

Housing Service and Children & Families Service will continue to work in partnership through this sub group and actively manage and respond to care leavers' housing needs.

5. Environmental Impact

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

6. Financial Implications

There is no financial implication as the quota is unchanged.

7. Risk Management Implications

There is no change from the report in October 2013.

(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.)

8. Equalities implications

There is no change from the report in October 2013

(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.)

9. 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: Jo Frost



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 5th March 2015

Contact:

Peter Tolley , Children & Families Service
Jon Dalton, Head of Housing Needs , CHW

Peter.Tolley@harrow.gov.uk

Jon.Dalton@harrow.gov.uk

Tel: 0208 416 8647

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PAREI
PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	17 March 2015
Subject:	Persistent school absence for Children Looked After
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children & Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Information report only
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Report on School absence

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report contains information regarding persistent absence of Children Looked After from school between August 2014 – January 2015, and actions taken by the Virtual School.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Section 2 – Report

See attached report.

Financial Implications

This report is an information report and not requesting any funding

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place No

Equalities implications

Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the diversity in the CLA population and how these needs will be addressed

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 5th March 2015.....		
Ward Councillors notified:	NO	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Jane Munroe, Virtual Head Teacher – jane.munroe@harrow.gov.uk

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Persistent Absence amongst CLA

% of CLA (all CLA) classified as persistent absentees – 10.3% (19 CLA are classified as persistent absentees missing 15% or more of school days 11 of these have been looked after 1 year plus)

Between August 2014 and January 2015 the persistent absence of CLA (Reception to Year 11) rose to 20.4% which we all realise is unacceptable. The Virtual School are rigorous in tracking attendance and have investigated the 19 pupils who are currently identified as being persistently absent. Welfare Call phones every school/provision twice a day and Joanne Tortipidis tracks attendance regularly.

Of the 19 CLA 8 moved schools and were without school places for more than 2 weeks (which accounts for 15% of the first term). They now all have school places and attendance in all but one case has improved

As a consequence of one of the cases, the Virtual School has worked with admissions and established protocols around CLA moving schools, especially out of borough. This is to rectify the length of time they can be out of education whilst admissions processes are being worked through. However the system may not allow this to be less than 2 weeks.

We have 5 school refusers and despite the Virtual School offering an extensive range of options from a variety of school places to Vocational Courses to home learning, they remain out of education. The Virtual School will continue to prioritise these CLA in order to engage them in education. One of these CLA is on remand and awaiting trial.

Of the remaining 6

Child A (Y11) refused to attend school for the whole of year 10 following a permanent exclusion and the death of her mother

At the time Regent College was employed and nursery work experience to try to get her back in to education. Since starting at an Ealing provision on the 2nd September she has been more engaged with her education. She does truant but attendance has improved greatly and continues to improve. She has the potential to achieve 5A*-C She is about to begin her third placement this year.

Virtual School action – To attend PEP's and visit school to discuss further strategies to improve attendance and plan for September.

Child B's (Y11) mother died at the beginning of the school year which has set him back emotionally and initially he would not attend school. He is in a 52 week a year out of Borough placement. His attendance has now improved and this half term has had 1 absence for illness.

Virtual School action – To support the re-instatement of a mentor that Child B has formed a close professional relationship with. To visit the school and attend reviews to support transition in to year 12.

Child C (Y11) is in an out of Borough PRU and has incurred a total of 15 days exclusions (which is unusual for a PRU) We have now arranged for this CLA to be off site for 4 days a week engaged in construction and mechanic courses. **Virtual School action – The virtual school has attended regular meetings at the school and placement. This is to continue and support to be followed up with application to college for September.**

Child D(Y10) is new to the country and was on role in a school in Brent but attended an alternative provision. The school recorded his attendance incorrectly so he was showing off role.

Virtual school actions – Attend next PEP, speak to social worker and liaise with Welfare Call over registration document. We also need to work with schools to monitor our pupils in alternative provisions more accurately.

Child E (R) has a life limiting illness and has been in hospital for extended periods.**Virtual School Actions To visit the Special School that he attends and discuss effective use of Enhanced Pupil Premium.**

Child F (Y9) has been having intermittent absences from school which are mainly authorised. This has been addressed with the supervising social worker who is working with the carer

Virtual School action – The PEP was attended by the Virtual School attendance was added to the action plan. This is to be reviewed before the Easter break.

The Virtual School will continue to track, monitor and challenge attendance issues, working with schools, foster carers and social workers to improve these figures.

Corporate Parenting Panel Forward Planner

Updated December 2014

Date	Agenda
17 March 2015	Update on Housing Corporate Parenting Strategy Feedback on Celebration of Achievement Event Evidence of actions taken following Beyond Limits feedback Update on Health Update on Virtual School
7 July 2015	Update on Health Report regarding opportunities for participation in cultural and sporting events available to young people and children looked after

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