

Corporate Parenting Panel

AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday 12 April 2016

TIME: 7.30 pm

VENUE: Committee Room 5,
Harrow Civic Centre

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 3)

Chair: Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors:

Simon Brown
Jo Dooley
Kairul Kareema Marikar

Christine Bednell (VC)
Janet Mote

Reserve Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mrs Rekha Shah | 1. Lynda Seymour |
| 2. Ms Pamela Fitzpatrick | 2. Ameet Jogia |
| 3. Mrs Christine Robson | |
| 4. Margaret Davine | |

Contact: Janette Treciokas, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1263 E-mail: janette.treciokas@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 12 January 2016 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 49 (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 7 April 2016. 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 47 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

6. DEPUTATIONS

To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 48 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

- 7. CORPORATE PARENT STRATEGY UPDATE** (Pages 13 - 46)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 8. FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA) ACHIEVEMENT EVENT**
(Pages 47 - 52)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 9. INFORMATION REPORT - ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE** (Pages 53 - 74)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 10. HOUSING FOR CARE LEAVERS - UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 75 - 78)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 11. HIGH COSTS PLACEMENTS MONITORING** (Pages 79 - 82)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 12. HARROW VIRTUAL SCHOOL - HEAD TEACHER MID-YEAR REPORT** (Pages 83 - 90)
Report of the Corporate Director, People
- 13. UPDATE FROM HEALTH** (Pages 91 - 98)
Report of the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- 14. VERBAL REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON THEIR VISIT TO GAYTON ROAD**
To receive a verbal report from councillors.
- 15. AGENDA TRACKER_** (Pages 99 - 100)
- 16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

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

12 JANUARY 2016

Chair: † Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors: * Christine Bednell (Vice-Chair in the Chair) * Kairul Kareema Marikar
* Simon Brown * Janet Mote
* Jo Dooley * Mrs Christine Robson (3)

Non-Voting Member: * Valerie Griffin

* Denotes Member present
(3) Denote category of Reserve Members
† Denotes apologies received

71. Welcome to Non-Voting Member

The Chair welcomed Valerie Griffin to her first meeting of the Panel.

72. Attendance by Reserve Members

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

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillor Christine Robson

73. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interest was declared:

Agenda Item 13 – Health Update on Looked After Children

Councillor Simon Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his daughter was employed by the CNWL. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

74. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2015, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

75. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

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

RESOLVED ITEMS

76. INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance

The Panel received a report which set out activity for Children Looked After and Children with Child Protection Plans as at 30 September 2015 as well as the provisional performance position at the end of quarter 2 of 2015-16.

Members were informed that, as quarter 3 data was not yet available, the quarter 2 information presented at the last meeting had been updated. The evidence suggested that the increase in numbers would continue, impacted by incoming population and welfare reforms.

Attention was drawn to the following:

- the indicator for Care Leavers and EET required the recording of status at the time of the young person's birthday rather than the latest position. The indicator would therefore differ from the Leaving Care Team's report on status at December;
- CNWL was meeting 100% against the service specification for CLA health checks. However, the indicator values for initial health checks and reviews, whilst improved, were not 100% because not all cases were presented to the Trust within timescale;
- Harrow monitors and reports data for all CLA whereas the DfE requirement was for the publication of data for those looked after for more than one year, which would tend to be better.

In response to questions:

- the officer undertook to ascertain how referral to CAMHS or mental health for NEETS identified as having mental health difficulties was recorded. It was noted that CAMHS was being reorganised;

- a child reaching the age of 18 who was already part of CAMHS should experience a smooth transfer to adult mental health. For those without experience of CAMHS, the transition should be addressed through a link to the plan;
- research had shown that the achievement of 5 A-C grades at GCSE sometimes took place post 16 years. Systems were set up to track the educational arrangements for post 16s and their potential achievements. All four children who sat GCSEs the previous year had achieved at least 5 GCSEs A-G grades;
- the new Virtual Head teacher was working with partners to reduce absence for CLA;
- the data for the suitability of accommodation was measured around the young person's birthday and could therefore differ from the current state.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted,

77. Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)

An officer presented a report which informed the Panel of the NEET (not in employment, education or training) and EET (in employment, education or training) figures for care leavers between the ages of 16-21. It was reported that 77.8% were in employment, education or training. The Panel was advised that the report did not have legal clearance but as it was an information report and no decision was required, discussion could continue without the clearance.

The officers outlined the support available through the Care Leavers and UASC section, Social Workers, Social Care Assistants, and Career Advisor. Examples of case studies and data giving reasons for NEET for each age range were presented.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- for one child listed as 16 years old, the Home Office had disputed the age claim. It was noted that should the child institute a legal challenge it could take some time to resolve. If a child was a lot older than they claimed it could result in a safeguarding risk for other children in foster placement, schools etc;
- with the aim of providing support from people from the same ethnic background as the child there was a mentoring team and a group of independent visitors. On occasion the young person has not wanted to engage in this initiative;
- the assessment was holistic and based on individual needs. Young people who had been at Gayton for some time offered support to new children;

- a good response had been received for referrals for a complete mental health assessment to CAMHS, assisted by the Designated Nurse;
- care leavers who pursued education were supported until 24 or 25 years of age. A young person in prison who was released before 21 years of age and was in full time education could be supported until 24 or 25 years of age.

The Panel considered that there was encouraging evidence of joined up working and mechanisms and strands to use imaginative techniques such as board games.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and a future report be submitted in six months.

78. Adoption Statement of Purpose and Fostering Statement of Purpose

The Panel received a report containing the Adoption Statement of Purpose and Fostering Statement of Purpose. The Panel was advised that, in the absence of legal clearance, the statements could not be recommended for approval as requested in the report. The report was therefore submitted for information with the Panel's comments being noted and the Statements of Purpose would be the subject of an officer report to the appropriate decision-maker.

An officer outlined the aims and objectives of the Statements of Purpose and the key responsibilities of each division. Particular attention was drawn to it being the 10th year of the partnership with Coram, for which a celebratory event was planned to commemorate the innovation.

In response to a question from a Member, the officer outlined the procedure for fostering of a baby. It was noted that a Special Guardianship Order ensured that the birth parents did not lose permanency.

Members drew attention to the work of the Fostering and Adoption Panel and the aim to have a responsive, flexible and effective post-permanency support offer to families. Members expressed appreciation of the flowcharts and staffing charts which they found useful.

The Panel expressed the view that submission of the Statements of Purpose to Cabinet gave more weight to the initiatives.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

79. School Attendance for Looked After Children

A report summarising the Autumn 2015 attendance figures for Children Looked After and an analysis of DfE National Data over the previous three years was discussed by the Panel. At the last meeting the Panel had requested a more in depth report on what was being done to increase attendance.

It was reported that Welfare Call contacted schools on a daily basis to check attendance. Internal monitoring of attendance took place from the point of entry into care whereas the DfE indicator monitored children on a school roll who had been in care for a year or longer. Harrow's attendance had improved during the last three years but was still slightly higher than its statistical neighbours and nationally. Harrow Admissions Team had been helpful.

The Panel considered the information presented on education synopsis and virtual school intervention to be helpful. It was noted that a number of absences were due to waiting for procedures such as getting a school place. For those being educated outside Harrow, attendance at schools closer to Harrow would be beneficial.

In response to a question, it was noted that appropriate absence during festival periods would be classified as authorised absence. The figures were expected to improve as the year progressed provided the child attended the school.

The Panel supported the presentation of rewards for improved attendance. It was suggested that the awards be for exemplary attendance and not a percentage so as not to preclude those for whom a small increase in attendance would be a significant step. The arrangement of an awards day was considered to be a motivator to encourage increased attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

80. Independent Reviewing Officers Report

The Panel received a report which detailed information about the children looked after activity in Harrow during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and was an evaluation of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers.

An officer introduced the report and it was noted that the children were allocated to one of four Independent Reviewing Officers, all of whom had a wealth of social worker experience and were often the consistent person for the child during their time as a looked after child. A number of different ways of quality monitoring were used such as dispute resolution protocol. The next report submitted to the Panel would have a complete year of data.

In response to questions, it was noted that there had not been a significant change in the number of children looked after. A Member drew attention to the fact that the number of children adopted was low (4%) compared to the national average (17%) and statistical neighbours (9.9%). The officer stated that this had been a temporary deviation from the norm and that for 2015/16 the number was expected to double.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

81. Placement Sufficiency Strategy

A report was received on the Placement Sufficiency Strategy which focused on plans to meet the placement needs of children who were in care, young

people who had recently left the care of the local authority and those who might be in care in the future.

The Panel was pleased to note that the percentage of in-house foster carers had increased and that Harrow had particularly reliable emergency foster carers. An officer stated that Harrow promoted the ethos that foster carers were professional partners and their skills were recognised and valued. The Advisory Member expressed agreement with this, saying that she felt valued.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

82. Health Update on Looked After Children

The Panel received a report which detailed the health services provided to Children Looked After. It was noted that the targets for the previous three months had been exceeded, and had subsequently been increased.

Particular attention was drawn to:

- a £500 grant had been secured for tuberculosis work including screening for all UAS and anyone at risk. There would be an initial health assessment and then referral to TB nurses with records of all children screened and those who required treatment;
- 20 health assessments had been undertaken for UASC;
- monthly reports were submitted to the LA and CCG with three monthly reports to the Panel;
- monitoring meetings with the CCG continued and the CLA service had been removed from the Harrow CCG risk register.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- a catch up immunisation service was provided in conjunction with Hillingdon LAC service at Eastcote clinic. The 38% of LAC children up to date with immunisations in October 2015 could have been the result of a large sibling group who had not been immunised. The record for December 2015 had been 100%;
- interpreters were used to enable the communication of health concerns. A crib sheet was made available to translators on topics to be discussed. One of key translating requirements was for puberty books in another language.

The Panel discussed the difficulty being experienced in recruitment to the Designated Doctor post following the retirement of the previous post holder. It was a consultant post and there was a lack of people to work one day a week who had the skills required. It was reported that the LA and CCG were aware that this could result in a breach of targets and a written mitigation report of risk had been produced. It was noted that an advertisement for a locum was

being advertised that day on NHS jobs. Initiatives being undertaken to ease the situation were noted.

The Panel noted the appreciative comments from UASC, Care Leavers and Carers.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

83. Any Other Urgent Business

The Panel considered the Agenda Tracker under Any Other Business in order to confirm the reports that the Panel wished to have submitted. The calendar of meetings for the 2016/17 would be approved by Cabinet at its meeting

RESOLVED: That the agenda tracker be updated in line with Members' suggestions to include:

	Agenda
12 April 2016	
First meeting 2016/17	Update/progress on Leisure and Cultural Activities for Looked After Children
6 monthly reports in approximately July 2016	Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET) School Attendance for Looked After Children
To be allocated	Annual Report on the Virtual School Annual report on Housing for LAC

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.44 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE BEDNELL
Vice-Chair in the Chair

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**REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting
Panel**

Date of Meeting:	12 April 2016
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director People Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder Children and Families
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy Update Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014-2016

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the progress made on the Corporate Parenting Strategy presented to Council and Cabinet in 2015.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to: To note the strategy update and progress made.

Reason: All councillors are Corporate Parents and need to be aware of how these responsibilities are being carried out

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Looked After Children and Care Leavers are a vulnerable group. The Council has a responsibility to ensure those who have had a poor start to their lives and become Looked After are given high quality levels of care and support to ensure they are prepared for adulthood; and that good outcomes are achieved in their lives

The Strategy is attached at Appendix 2 and sets out the key priorities and specific actions which have previously been agreed at Cabinet. . Appendix 1 sets out progress on these actions. Members are invited to consider these appendices and ask questions to assure themselves that satisfactory progress is being made to meet the priorities set out in the Strategy.

The strategy outlines how Children Looked After In Harrow are provided with stable and secure placements and given support to ensure they are healthy and receive good quality education

Options considered

None, this is an update report on an agreed strategy.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

If Harrow does not fulfil its corporate parenting functions it would fail to meet the requirements of increased inspection and regulatory framework for delivering safe and secure services across our partnerships. There is also financial risk to the MTFS savings if placement sufficiency is not achieved as this could result in an increase in high cost placements.

Legal Implications

Once a child becomes looked after, the local authority has a number of duties towards him or her under the Children Act 1989 and associated legislation.

These include:

- (a) to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, including providing advice, assistance and befriending;
- (b) to provide services for the child in addition to accommodation;
- (c) to ascertain and give consideration to the wishes and feelings of the child and family members;
- (d) to provide a complaints procedure;
- (e) to keep a child's care plan under review.

The local authority also has duties to former looked after children.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Children Looked After in Harrow come from diverse backgrounds and have a range of needs which reflects that of the wider community. The Corporate Parenting strategy outlines how foster carers and placements are recruited to ensure these needs are met and how a range of services are available to meet their diverse needs. It also notes that the staff involved in working with Children Looked After reflect the local community

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

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

This update supports Harrow's Ambition plan and priority to protect the most vulnerable and support families; as well as being more business-like in commissioning and procurement to ensure best value in Children's placements

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 15 th March 2016 .		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 17 th March 2016.		
EqIA carried out:	Not applicable	
EqIA cleared by:	Update report	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley,
Head of Service - Corporate Parenting, Children and Young People
Service Division, People Services Directorate
Email : Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk
Tel : 0208 736 6943

Background Papers:

- Corporate Parenting Panel 17.03.15
- Cabinet Meeting 21.04.15 minutes
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62362/Printed%20minutes%20Thursday%2023-Apr-2015%2018.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>
- Full Council Meeting 24.09.15
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62629/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>
Minutes
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62629/Public%20minutes%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

[Note: Cabinet Decision of 23 April 2015 re: *Background Papers*: 'That the reference be received and officers be reminded that all Part I background papers be listed on reports presented to Cabinet and that they be published in line with the requirements set out in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012'.

Background Papers are documents used to prepare the report and defined as those which:

- relate to the subject matter of the decision, or part of the decision;*
- disclose relevant facts or matters on which the decision or an important part of the decision is based; and*
- were relied on to a material extent in making the decision.]*

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

Corporate Parenting Strategy Update Appendix 1

Introduction

The Corporate Parenting Strategy Nov 2014 – Aug 2016 (attached as appendix) was recommended from Corporate Parenting Panel 17th March 2015 to Cabinet for 21st April 2015 and agreed at Full Council on 24th September 2015. This report is an update on the progress made highlighting the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities and the outcomes for Harrow's Children Looked After. Though terms are defined within the report a glossary of acronyms is included for reference at the end of the report

Priority Actions ¹ for 2014-16	Progress
<p>4.1 All councillors hold a responsibility as corporate parents. Members' induction is mandatory with training offered or all councillors at least annually.</p>	<p>Paul Hewitt, Divisional Director Children and Young People Service and Peter Tolley, Head of Service Corporate Parenting gave a presentation to Labour Group on 9th September 2015 and to the Conservative Group on 16th November 2015. Both meetings were well attended and the presentations were well received. Councillors asked many questions and noted their Corporate Parenting responsibilities and the legal and statutory requirements. Further refresher sessions will be offered to all councillors during the coming year</p>
<p>6.1 Improve the education attainment and school attendance of looked after children; narrow the gap with other children Extract from VHT 2013-14 Annual Report, future development activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and Pathway plans more outcome focused and specific: 95% up to date • Raise attainment outcomes – target for each child or young person to match national standards • Improve attendance % of all CLA and reduce exclusions • Increase liaison and support to reduce time students are not registered at school, especially where placed out of borough and 	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School: An experienced Virtual Head Teacher was appointed in July 2015. • The Virtual School is focusing on attainment and attendance and offering support to all Children Looked After through the Personal Education Plans (PEPs). These are termly meetings held with schools, social workers, foster carers and young people to ensure robust education plans are in place to improve outcomes. The Schools also have the use of Pupil Premium £ 500 per term to offer additional support to each Looked After young person. • A Virtual School Improvement Board with an Independent Chair has been set up to quality assure the performance of the Virtual School and to offer additional support and advice. Terms of reference have been completed and an action plan developed. • The Virtual school is reporting that performance in completed PEPS has improved to 74% and is rising each term. • DfE publish data on absence from school for those children looked after 1 year+ only, , Harrow's rate was 4.3 %, statistical neighbour average was 4.28% and England average was 3.9%. • There have been no permanent exclusions since the start of the academic year and the indicator is now High Green (Qtr 3 – TS18). • Since the start of the academic year, 6 CLA have had at least 1 fixed term exclusion, 5

¹ NOTE: Extracted from the Strategy. Duplicate actions not repeated.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 for CLA. 	<p>of those CLA have been looked after for over a year. The overall percentage has increased to 10.3% but remains on target at High Green. (Qtr 3 - TS19).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Virtual Head teacher continues to work with partners to reduce absence for CLA. Provisional educational attainment data for CLA 1 year plus indicates 50% of children attained level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in both English and Maths. None attained 5 A*-C including English and Maths at Key Stage 4. CLA educational achievement is a focus of the Virtual School and remains an area for improvement. [Qtr 3 reporting TS 24 & TS25] Research has shown that the achievement of 5 A-C grades at GCSE sometimes took place post 16 years. Systems were set up to track the educational arrangements for post 16s and their potential achievements. All four children who sat GCSEs the previous year had achieved at least 5 GCSEs A-G grades (CPP 12.01.16). As well as end of Key Stage performance, the Virtual School gathers data on the performance of CLA in each year group. There is considerable variation in numbers across year groups and this affects the validity of the percentage analysis for some year groups. A report tracking of 86 pupils at the end of Spring 2015 term was reported to CPP in October 2016. Training continues to be provided promoting understanding and awareness of placement staff, social workers and schools. included: 171 social workers; 56 foster carers (Harrow VHT 2014-15 Report to CPP 20.10.15). A briefing and training session with Leaving Care and Looked After social workers was delivered in October 2015 and has resulted in improvements in the completion and quality of pathway plans
<p>6.2 Improve the involvement and participation of young people in all services for children looked after and care leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen the Children in Care Council 'Beyond Limits' through increased 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Beyond Limits group for Children Looked After meets with Councillors from the Corporate Parenting Panel on a quarterly basis. This has provided them the opportunity to feedback their experiences and discuss their wishes and aspirations. Issues discussed include access to computers and IT, how placements and foster carers are selected, ensuring good communication between foster carers and schools. Since Nov 2014 an increased number of young people are engaged with Beyond Limits. More recently a programme of local trips has been initiated by the Participation Officer to explore a range of different activities, to encourage confidence and engagement, while receiving hearing their views on services. A successful Celebration Event for Children Looked After and Care leavers was held on 17th February 2016 at The Hive. Over 100 young people between ages of 0 and 25 attended with their foster carers and staff members. Several councillors also attended. There were Arts and Crafts and face painting activities, together with a range of entertainment including a couple of care leavers highlighting their musical talents.

<p>arising from that feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Harrow Councillor Krishnan Suresh and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families Councillor Simon Brown presented awards for School attendance, attitude and behaviour, volunteering, academic effort and achievement, music, sport and Independence skills. Awards were also given to 12 Care Leavers for their achievements in higher education and University. The event was well received with considerable positive feedback from young people. A review of feedback options for CLA reviews and CP Conferences is in progress. Independent Visitor service – Following a tendering process a new provider SOVA was commissioned from 1st November 2015. The Children Act (1989) places a duty on the local authority to appoint an Independent Visitor for any looked after child. They are there to 'assist, befriend and advise' and ensure wherever possible that the young person's views are heard and taken into account. Independent Visitors are unpaid volunteers from the local community and generally engage young people for a few hours at a time. All volunteers must complete the accredited SOVA Independent Visitors training course and have references and a DBS check. Currently 31 Children Looked After in Harrow are receiving an Independent Visitors service. The Participation Officer is visiting all children placed out of borough to ensure their views and wishes and feelings are captured. Many children placed out of borough attended the CLA event in February. The CLA event was specifically held in half term as the out of borough young people identified this as a time they were able to attend.
<p>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 children looked after and care leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure providers deliver 100% health assessments on time Care leavers have health passports CLA wellbeing improves 	<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Looked After and young people are safeguarded through professional staff trained in the multi-agency London Child Protection procedures and the local Safeguarding Board. Children Looked After are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and risk. Harrow has employed a specialist worker for young people who go missing so all efforts are made to ensure they are safeguarded and protected from exploitation as a result of being missing. This is a high profile area and weekly meetings are held with Heads of Service to identify any young person who is currently missing and to ensure there are robust plans in place. Four young people became Looked After following concerns regarding Child Sexual Exploitation. Following risk assessments, they have been placed in safe residential placements outside of London for their own protection. They are being supported and cared for by skilled and experienced staff. <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1st June 2015, a new health provider CNWL has been in place which has led to improved performance improvements in Health Assessments with Review Health Assessments being at 100%. Additional funding has been provided to ensure adequate business support of these arrangements Agreement has been made with the health providers regarding a streamlined consent form and work is being undertaken to develop health passports to all care leavers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a protocol in place regarding referrals to CAMHs so referrals can be made directly rather than going through GPs. Referrals will be supported by evidence gather in SDQs (Strength and Difficulty questionnaires) 																																																																																				
<p>6.4 Safe and stable placements: provide a choice of good quality placements that provide security, stability, safety and high standards of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Placement Sufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fostering Team have been successful in recruiting local foster carers and carers from all the communities in Harrow. This has seen a considerable decrease in the use of foster carers from Independent Fostering Agencies as noted in the following chart: which outlines the different placement types of our Looked After Children <table border="1" data-bbox="371 192 815 1435"> <thead> <tr> <th>Placement Type</th> <th>Dec-14</th> <th>Mar-15</th> <th>Jun-15</th> <th>Sep-15</th> <th>Dec-15</th> <th>Feb-16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Placed for Adoption</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster placement with Relative or Friend</td> <td>23</td> <td>17</td> <td>28</td> <td>24</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster Carer - Inhouse</td> <td>70</td> <td>55</td> <td>56</td> <td>53</td> <td>67</td> <td>71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster Carer - Agency</td> <td>36</td> <td>43</td> <td>29</td> <td>27</td> <td>23</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secure Unit</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young Offenders Institution or Prison</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Placed with Parents</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi Independent / Independent Living</td> <td>28</td> <td>26</td> <td>31</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residential Schools</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children's Homes</td> <td>14</td> <td>10</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>17</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>185</td> <td>165</td> <td>172</td> <td>161</td> <td>173</td> <td>175</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not only assisted children to be placed locally but has also delivered considerable value for money, and allowed the Fostering Team to contribute to the MTFs savings plan. As we have increased the choice and range of placement sufficiency for Children Looked After we have seen an improvement in placement stability. Only 6.5% of CLA have had 2 moves or more in 2015/16 compared to 9.5% in 2014/15. In terms of long term placement stability 61.3% of CLA who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years have been in the same placement for 2 years or more. This compared to 37% in 2014/15. Value for Money Placements are reviewed and monitored regularly through Access to Resources Team and with Finance and Procurement colleagues. A challenge panel was held on 26th February to look at the 20 most expensive placements. A detailed action plan has been developed for each of these 20 placements and with robust monitoring and review costs will be reduced whilst maintaining quality and positive outcomes. 	Placement Type	Dec-14	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Feb-16	Placed for Adoption	6	7	7	8	10	9	Foster placement with Relative or Friend	23	17	28	24	13	13	Foster Carer - Inhouse	70	55	56	53	67	71	Foster Carer - Agency	36	43	29	27	23	20	Secure Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	Young Offenders Institution or Prison	1	2	1	1	3	3	Placed with Parents	0	0	2	3	4	4	Semi Independent / Independent Living	28	26	31	28	32	33	Residential Schools	7	5	5	5	4	6	Children's Homes	14	10	13	12	17	16	Grand Total	185	165	172	161	173	175
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	<p>Adoption scorecards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adoption Scorecard 1 – The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (for children who have been adopted) – the shorter the better Harrow: 339 days as the last 3 years' average (still better than the national average of 593) ○ Adoption Scorecard 2 – The average time between placement order and match – the shorter the better – this is the measure most relevant to the adoption service. Harrow is quicker than the national average with 104 days – this has gone up from previous years and is partly due to dealing with children who moved to live with family members abroad. The national average is 223 days. ○ Adoption Scorecard 3 – The percentage of children who wait less than 16 months between entering care and placement – the higher the better. Harrow: 77% of children are placed within 16 months from entering care (three year average from 2012-2015) National average: 47% ○ Percentage of looked after children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted – The more adoptions the better. There were lower numbers in 2014-2015 but this increased again to 10% in 2015/16.
<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<p>see 6.4 above</p> <p>Permanency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harrow entered a partnership arrangement with Coram, a voluntary adoption agency in 2006. We will be celebrating the tenth year in September 2016 and will be arranging an event in recognition. ● The Harrow/Coram Adoption partnership was the first of its kind and has been seen as an example of good practice. It has paved the way for the current national discussions on the regionalisation of adoption. Staff from Harrow and Coram gave a presentation to the Adoption Leadership Board on 14th March 2016 as an example of good practice. ● In 2015/16 Harrow has doubled its number of adoption orders and scores as second best in the country in terms of timeliness of moving children onto adoptive placements. ● Coram has 3 members of staff collocated within Harrow Children's Services and the partnership has ensured that the local authority is supported by their skills and expertise and has access to their approved adopters, specialist concurrent planning project and post adoption support. The range of approved adopters have allowed children to be placed quickly and with good quality and well matched placements. ● The Concurrent Planning Project has allowed young babies to be placed in their permanent placements and avoid moves and instability. The post adoption support has ensured that all those affected by adoption have a range of support services, therapeutic and practical. ● All young people who are permanently fostered or adopted have an allocated family finder and social worker who ensure they are thoroughly prepared and that life story work and later life letters

	<p>are undertaken. This is also tracked through six weekly permanency planning meetings.</p> <p>Workforce: Children's Services workforce is monitored through the Council's Equalities reporting. A significant investment in 'growing our own' is in place both through active engagement in STEP UP & Frontline national social work training routes and in provision of other student placements.</p>
<p>6.6 Smooth transition to adulthood and independence: ensure children looked after and care leavers receive focused support at key transition points in their lives</p> <p><i>NOTE: Duplicate actions NOT repeated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve opportunities for care leavers to access education, employment or specially trained apprenticeships 	<p>see sections above</p> <p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average Harrow receives three new arrivals a month. The Harrow Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Team is responsible for supporting UASC who are referred from the Home Office or who arrive independently into Harrow. Once a young person is referred they are accommodated under section 20 of Children Act 1989 until the age of 18 and will then be supported under the Leaving Care legislation 2000. • Harrow currently has 95 UASC; 33 under 18 years old; 62 over 18. • Harrow also has a dedicated UASC Residential Unit which offers specialist accommodation and support to 30 UASC. This was visited by Councillors on 3rd March 2016 where they were shown the accommodation and support provided, including the services provided by LINAB (Language is not a Barrier). <p>Care Leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leaving Care Team has ensured that they continue to provide a range of opportunities to support young people make the transition to adulthood. • The careers advisor based in the team has targeted specific care leavers who were not in Education, Employment and Training and has supported them to identify and engage in appropriate work or education. This has seen a significant improvement in performance in this area. • A detailed snapshot analysis of Care Leavers NEET data was reported to Corporate Parenting Panel 12.01.16. Of the 157 aged 16 – 21 years of age: 122 (77.8%) were in education, employment or training; 35 (22.2%) were Not in education, employment or training [NEET]. • Two In-house Projects are available to support young people into EET (Referrals are made by social workers and careers advisor): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ X16 employment and job readiness programme targeted at our most vulnerable 16 – 24 year olds who are NEET, with a strong focus on young people we have a corporate parent responsibility for. The programme helps young people build resilience, knowledge, skills and gain confidence to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for jobs, attend interview and begin work, or • Apply for further training and begin further or continued education, or • Apply for apprenticeships, attend interviews and begin apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LINAB (see above) • The % of Care Leavers aged 19-21 who are NEET dropped from Q2 to 37.3% with 28 out of 75 care leavers being not in education, employment or training. (Qtr 3 Impr Brd TS11) • A one stop shop for young people 'Harrow Youth Stop' free careers service for 16-21yrs (up to 25 years if with special needs) with a variety of clinics being offered by training providers, health clinic and legal advice offered from this Centre. Referrals are made direct. • Pathway plans and reviews are now being chaired by the Team Manager or Deputy Managers, to ensure there is effective management input and oversight; to ensure the plans are multi-agency and of a high quality. • Several Care Leavers have become actively involved in youth mentoring. • There has also been considerable improvement in Care Leavers in suitable accommodation with over 90%. • There is a regular joint meeting with colleagues in housing to ensure plans are in place for care leavers moving onto independent housing.
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Glossary of Terms

CLA	Children Looked After
LAC	Looked After Children
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
LINAB	Language IS Not a Barrier
NEET	Not in Education, Employment and Training
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
SDQ	Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire

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Corporate Parenting Strategy Appendix 2 November 2014 – August 2016

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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.

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 to 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
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:

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

Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2013-14
Virtual School Development Plan 2014-15
Not in employment, education or training [NEETs] Care Leavers - twice yearly reports

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 which can act as protective factors and can help 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
- not excluded from school
- provided with extra help and tuition, particularly at test and examination times
- 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 offend.

5.7 Celebration of achievements

As well as focusing on activities to improve their life chances it is important to recognise and celebrate the 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 schools, as well as providing a support service to a number of stakeholders in order to ensure that all Harrow CLA and Care Leavers receive a high standard of education and are involved in appropriate educational activities. The Virtual School focus their work on raising the aspirations of 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 joined up work.

Alternative education provision

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

- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and Pathway plans more outcome focused and specific: 95% up to date
- Raise attainment outcomes – target for each child or young person to match national standards
- Improve attendance % of all CLA and reduce exclusions
- 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 for CLA.

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.

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

Participation

Children and young people looked after 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, keeping the voice of the child at the heart of decision making :That there is a culture that changes things for children and young people and 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 using the ideas they offer us.

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 and 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

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. The last event was held in February 2015.

Leaving Care Charter – refreshed Oct 2014

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

⁶ Our Participation Strategy 2013-2015

⁷ Now includes previous separate Young Voices group

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 2014-16

- **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 children looked after 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 the 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 as peers in Harrow.

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

- Reach their developmental milestones at appropriate age
- 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 well-being
- 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 2014-16:

- **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 looked after, 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 children looked after
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 positive 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 a 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 and 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 their parents.

Connected Persons placements

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

Priority Actions for 2014-16:

- **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 2014-16

- **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 transition to adulthood and independence: ensure children looked after 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. 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 eight 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.

Three young people will be made a direct offer and three 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. One 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 Authority's 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 2014-16

- **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 workforce 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_looked_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.

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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REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting:	12 April 2016
Subject:	Feedback on CLA Achievement Event
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – CLA Celebration Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Panel regarding the CLA Achievement Event held on 17th February 2016.

Section 2 – Report

See attached report – Appendix 1

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Legal Implications

This report is for information only.

Financial Implications

Details of the cost of the event is included in the report. Cost of this event was funded within existing budgets

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Children Looked After come from diverse backgrounds and have a range of needs. These were addressed and met at this event with a range of activities, food and entertainment. Awards were also given to Looked After Children for a range of achievements.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The celebration of achievement for children in care contributes to the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- 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: 30 March 2016		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 30 March 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	NO

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley,
Head of Service - Corporate Parenting
Tel: 0208 736 6943
Email : Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

NONE

CLA CELEBRATION REPORT

On 17.2.16, the CLA Celebration took place at The Hive. The aim of the event was for the CLA young people and care leavers to be rewarded for all their achievements over the past year, to be motivated and encouraged and for them to have fun.

The event began at 3pm. There was a minibus provided from Harrow Civic Centre to the venue and at least 33 young people took advantage of this opportunity.

Everyone was encouraged to sign in on arrival and the signing in sheets confirmed that at least 82 adults, 33 care leavers and 42 young people attended. There were 8 young people who attended from the leadership team and they supported the staff with the activities.

There were 18 tables for seating and 13 stands around the edge of the room. The stands catered for various activities such as face painting, Henna, arts & crafts and glitter tattoos. There were also stands for various treats such as a candy floss machine, popcorn maker, slush machine and chocolate fountain.

During the event there was also a DJ, a magician, a photo booth and a photographer. There were some councillors and the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrow in attendance. The young people and care leavers received certificates that had motivational messages printed on them, handed to them by the Mayor. The entertainment was provided by a motivational speaker and a well-known rapper. Everyone who attended received a flashing wristband. One young person sang and played the guitar.

The feedback from the team was:-

- Venue was good/excellent;
- Timing of the event was good;
- Treats for YP went down well;
- Entertainment was good;
- Good choice of food;

- Length of time allocated to give out certificates was perfect
- The event had a good balance of activities both on the main stage and on side table and mini-stalls;
- The design of the certificates was an improvement on last year;
- The importance of brevity from 'adult speakers' was well observed;
- The MC was effective and focused in ensuring that each segment took place in a timely way;
- The idea of have an illusionist performing close up 'table magician' and moving randomly through the audience went well;
- The food selection appeared to work very well;
- The venue having a large centre strip walk-way was very good for allowing the motivational speak to move along at audience level while presenting, and this was most effective;
- the most arresting view was seeing all the audience, the children and adults (including foster carers, social workers, other professionals and senior social care managers) wearing their sound activated 'beat bands,' which pulsated in their hundreds, with 'pale blue lights' response to the DJ playing records;
- The goody bags were popular;
- Carers said they were proud to see the children getting their certificates.

Costs

The total cost of the event was £8,036.07 **(a reduction on the previous year)** Furthermore donations of £1,290 were received from local businesses to contribute towards the funding of the event.

Evaluation

Views have been gained from children and young people, carers and staff to inform future events. The recommendations include changes to the running order, preparing the comperes more thoroughly and involving social workers in giving out certificates to young people they work with to make the award more personal.

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date:	12 April 2016
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of Children’s Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown Portfolio Holder Children and Families
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	CLA & CPP Performance Report

Section 1 –Summary and Recommendations

This is an information report which sets out activity for Children Looked After & Children with Child Protection Plans at 29th February 2016 as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter three of 2015-16. National and comparator data is also included for context.

Section 2 – Report

See attachment which shows provisional performance position at end of Q3 and an update of activity for Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans at end of February 2016.

Key Points:

- There was a spike in the number of children subject to a child protection plan during mid-2015: at the end of April 2015, there were 184 such children and this rose to 240 at the end of September (an increase of just over 30%); however, by the end of February 2016 this number had fallen back to 205. The rate of children with plans has been lower than England, London and statistical neighbours, but the number at the end of February this year suggests that we are now coming more into line with statistical neighbours.
- Due to the increased pressure over the year, the timeliness of initial child protection conferences has fallen, from 84.6% conferenced with 15 working days of the strategy discussion during 2014-15 to 79.1% at the end of December 2015. However, this latter rate is still indicative that we perform better than England as a whole, and are in line with our statistical neighbours.
- Small rise in the rates of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) for more than 2 years: 1.7% at the end of September but none at the end of December; however, there were two such children at the end of February 2016 (this indicator is a snapshot). This low rate indicates continuing timely progression and resolution.
- Repeat child protection plans within 2 years of the previous plan increased slightly at the end of June 2016 compared to last year, but decreased by the end of December: 7.5% at the end of March, 7.8% at the end of June and 5.1% at the end of December. There is no published national comparative data for this indicator.

The previous indicator looked at all repeat child protection plans irrespective of timescales; published comparator data for 2014-15 shows Harrow had 12.3% of repeat plans, while statistical neighbour average was 15.6%, London average was 13.8% and England average was 16.6%. Harrow has been at this considerably lower rate compared to other authorities since 2013. At end of Q3 2015-16 the rate is 10.3%.

- Numbers of children looked after remain fairly stable with a high of 184 at the end of February 2016 and a low of 164 at the end of August 2015. (This pattern is similar to the previous year which saw a high of 186 and a low of 161.) Harrow has historically had a much lower rate of CLA than other comparable authorities and is the joint lowest with Redbridge among our statistical neighbours at the end of March 2015.

- No young people looked after have had a permanent exclusion since the start of this academic year (this was reported as one young person to the last CP Panel, but has subsequently been corrected by the Virtual Schools Team); seven CLA have had fixed term exclusions, six of whom have been looked after 1 year+. DfE publish data on exclusions from school for those children looked after 1year+ only and data for 2013-14 has just been released: there were no such children in Harrow permanently excluded during that year, compared to an England average of 0.13% and a London average of 0.27%. For fixed-term exclusions, Harrow had a low number suppressed for confidentiality, while for England the proportion was 10.25% and for London was 11.23%.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and so far this academic year 15.1% of school sessions were missed, compared to 14.2% last year. This is a slight increase and this indicator requires close monitoring. DfE publish data on absence from school for those children looked after 1year+ only; for 2014-15, Harrow's rate was 5.6%, statistical neighbour average was 4.2% and England average was 4.0%. Harrow's rate is therefore higher than average and has also increased since last year when it was 4.3%
- There has been significant improvement in long term placement stability: at the end of March 2015, 34.5% of children looked after for 2.5 years had been in the same placement for 2 years, compared to 63.3% at the end of February 2016. Steps continue to be taken to minimise placement changes. 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 disproportionate impact.
- Year-end figures 2014-15 for annual health and dental checks are 84.2% and 89.5% respectively; nationally published data for that year show that the proportion of CLA 1+ years with annual health checks is slightly lower than comparable authorities, while the proportion with dental checks is higher. So far this year, 86.8% of required health checks have been completed and 76.9% of dental checks.
- At the end of February 2016, 90.3% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation and 31.0% are NEET (not in education, employment or training); out of 113 young people, 102 are in suitable accommodation and 35 are NEET.
- 10 adoptions and 20 SGOs were granted by the end of February 2016, compared to 5 adoptions and 12 SGOs in 2014-15, both therefore showing significant improvements.

Options considered

Not applicable as this is an information 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

Legal Implications

Not applicable as this is an information report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable as this is an information report.

Corporate Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- 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
31 March 2016



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Ward Councillors notified:

**NO, this is an information
report only**

EqIA carried out:

NO

EqIA cleared by:

N/A information report only

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers:

NONE

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Corporate Parenting Report

April 2016

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

**Activity to end of February 2016
Key Indicators to end of December 2015**

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Part A – Key Performance Indicators

PI Ref	PI Description	England average 14/15	Statistical Neighbours Average 14/15	Harrow 12/13	Harrow 13/14	Harrow 14/15	Harrow Q1 15/16	Harrow Q2 15/16	Harrow Q3 15/16	Direction of travel of performance indicators compared to outturn for 2014-15
1	% of referrals to social care service resulting in no further action (YTD)	13.8	5.5	8.2	3.9	4.4	15.4	11.2	10.0	
2	% of Re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	24.0	18.4	14.2	11.7	12.2	13.0	12.5	12.3	
3	Timeliness of Assessments (% complete in 45 working days) - YTD Target - 90%	81.9	84.2	continuous assessments started in 2014	94.9	88.1	93.5	87.0	84.9	↓
5	Rate of S47 enquiries per 10,000 child population. Measured Quarterly.	138.2	142.8	91.2	113.8	89.9	110.4	112.5	112.0	
6	Rate of ICPCs per 10,000 of the CYP population. Measured Quarterly.	61.6	59.2	40.4	52.1	45.7	70.7	66.4	59.5	
7	% of children conferenced within 15 working days of strategy discussion (YTD) Target - 90%	74.5	79.6	77.5	71.5	84.6	76.2	74.7	76.4	↓
8	Rate of CPP per 10,000 population. (snapshot)	42.9	38.0	22.0	32.8	30.4	38.2	43.4	37.3	
9	% of Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more Target - 6%	2.3	2.4	4.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	↔
10	CPP for 2nd or subsequent time (%) (YTD) Target 12%	16.6	15.6	11.7	9.3	12.3	13.3	10.1	10.3	↑

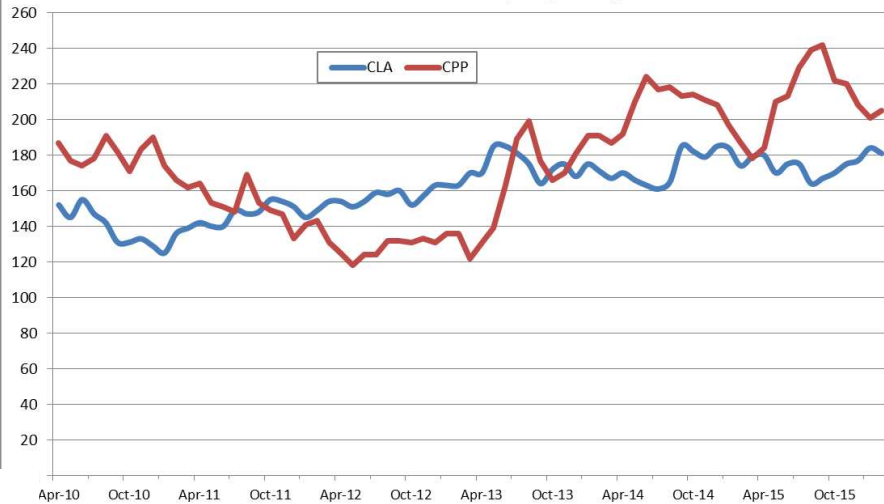
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PI Ref	PI Description	England average 14/15	Statistical Neighbours Average 14/15	Harrow 12/13	Harrow 13/14	Harrow 14/15	Harrow Q1 15/16	Harrow Q2 15/16	Harrow Q3 15/16	Direction of travel of performance indicators compared to outturn for 2014-15
11	CPP for 2nd or subsequent time (within 2 yrs of last plan) (%)	Not published		8.3	3.3	7.5	7.8	4.4	5.1	↑
12	Rate of children who ceased to be subject of a child protection plan per 10,000 children	52.1	41.5	27.5	33.1	43.3	New indicator, to be calculated from next year			
13	Ceased CPP that lasted 2 or more years (% YTD) Target - 7%	3.7	4.5	11.2	5.4	2.9	9.8	4.5	4.5	↓
14	Rate of CLA per 10,000 population. Measured Quarterly. (snapshot)	60	41.2	31.0	30.0	29.0	31.4	29.9	31.7	
16	CLA placement stability: number of moves (% with 2+ moves) Target - 11%	10.0	12.1	16.0	10.0	8.0	1.1	4.2	6.2	↑
17	CLA placement stability: length of placement (%) Target - 71%	68.0	64.7	53.0	45.0	39.0	53.3	64.3	63.3	↑
18	% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home (snapshot)	14.0	19.8	18.0	16.0	16.0	13.7	18.6	19.8	↓
19	% of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted	17.0	10.2	5.0	7.0	4.6	13.8	9.1	8.6	↑
20	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (combined for 19, 20 and 21 year olds)	81.0	81.7	80.0	95.4	88.0	75.0	76.0	92.0	↑
21	% of Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (combined for 19, 20 and 21 year olds)	39.0	32.8	33.0	29.0	30.0	32.7	33.3	37.3	↓

		Harrow 2013-14	England average	SN Average	Harrow 2014-15
23	Educational attainment of school aged Children (CiN & CPP, CLA)				
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Reading, writing and maths	47.0	49	53	59
	Percentage of children in Need (CiN + CPP) who achieve 5+ A* -C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics. (Source DfE)	12.8	14.9	21.3	19.2
	Percentage of children looked After achieving at least level 4 at KS2 in Reading, writing and maths (Source DfE)	0.0	52	supressed - low nos	50.0
	Percentage of children Looked After who achieve 5+ A* -C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics.	0.0	13.8	supressed - low nos	0.0
24	Attendance at school of school aged Children in Need (CIN & CPP, CLA)				
	Percentage of sessions missed. (CiN & CPP)	8.7	9.6	9.3	9.8
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees (CiN & CPP)	12.5	15.7	15.8	15.5
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees CPP -only	13.5	15.4	15.5	11.1
	Percentage of sessions missed. (CLA 1 year+)	supressed - low nos	4.8	4.2	5.6
	Percentage classed as persistent absentees (CLA 1 year+)		4.9	supressed - low nos	supressed - low nos
25	Exclusion from school of school-aged Children in Need (CIN & CPP) & CLA				
	Percentage of children permanently excluded. (CiN & CPP)	supressed - low nos	Not yet published	Not yet published	Not yet published
	Percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion. (CiN & CPP)	6.2	Not yet published	Not yet published	Not yet published
	Percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion. (CLA 1 year+)	supressed - low nos	Not yet published	Not yet published	Not yet published

Part B –Numbers of CLA and CPP over time

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

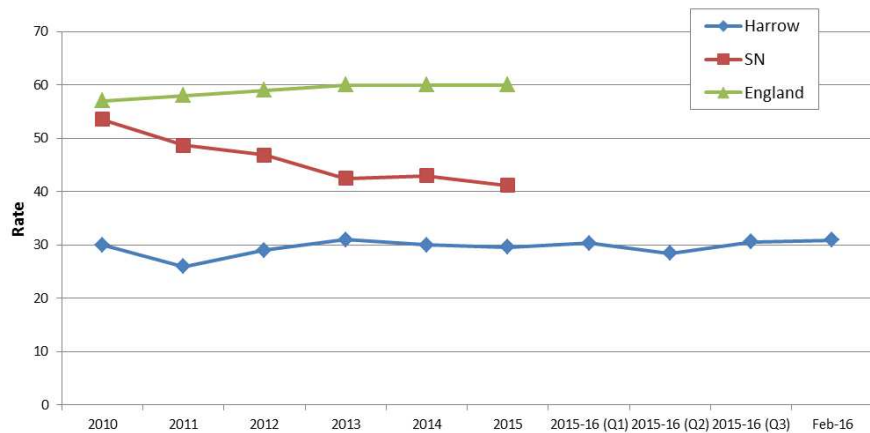


CPP numbers rose significantly in 2013-14 - the rise corresponds with a lowering of thresholds. The numbers dropped during 2014-15 but have started to rise again during 2015-16. At 30th September 2015 the rate per 10,000 children was the highest for 5 years. The numbers have subsequently fallen and at the end of February 2016 were 205.

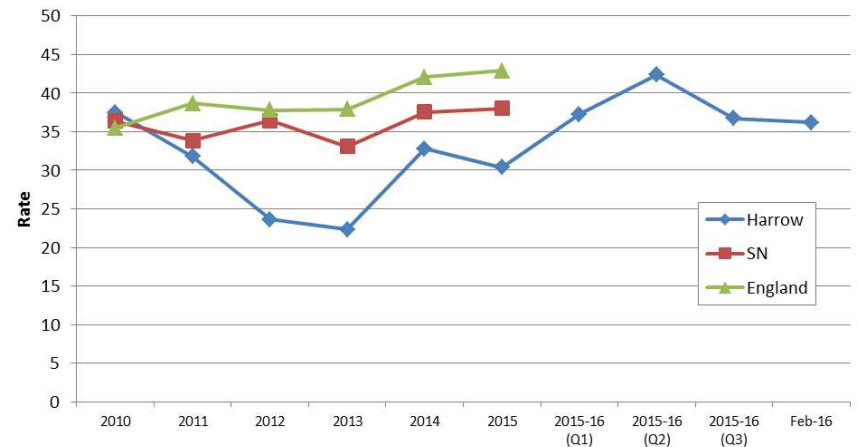
CLA numbers have remained relatively stable since 2010 and at 29th February the rate per 10,000 children was 30.9 compared to 30.4 at the end of Q1 15-16. Harrow continues to have a significantly lower rate of CLA than comparators (over 10 per 10,000 lower).

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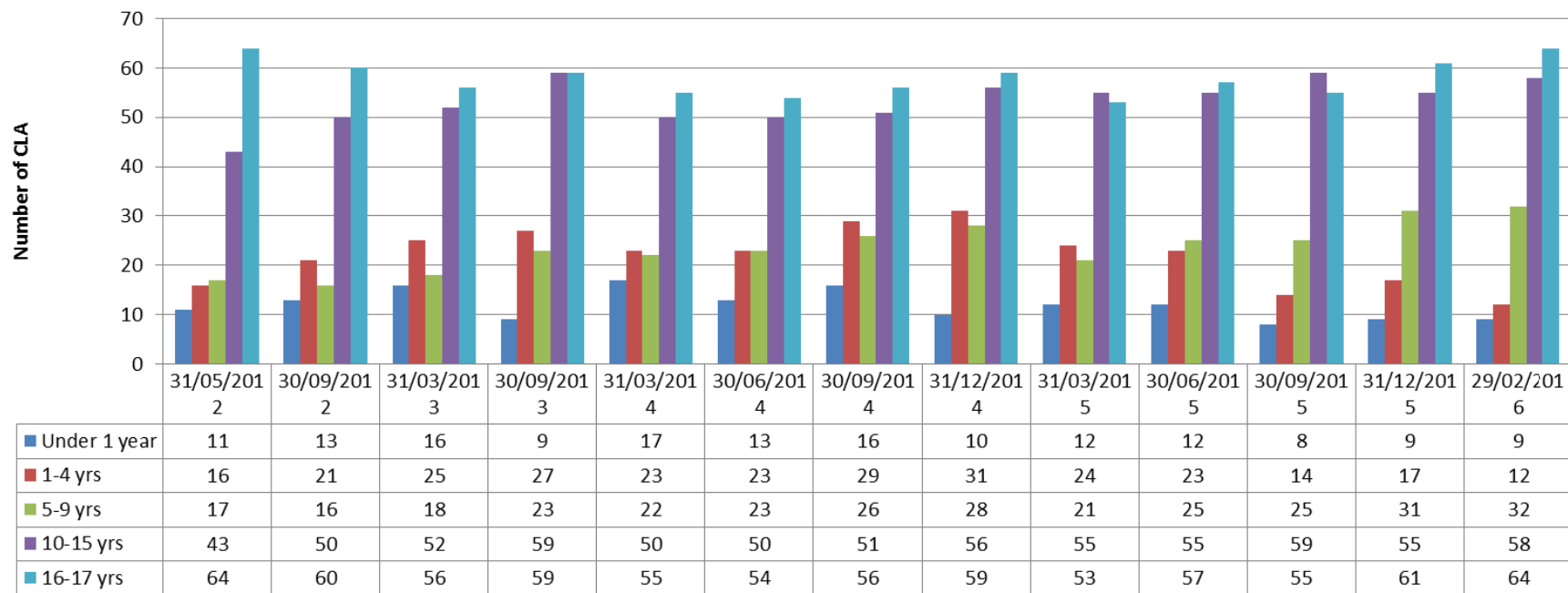
Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged under 18



Rate of CPP per 10,000 children aged under 18



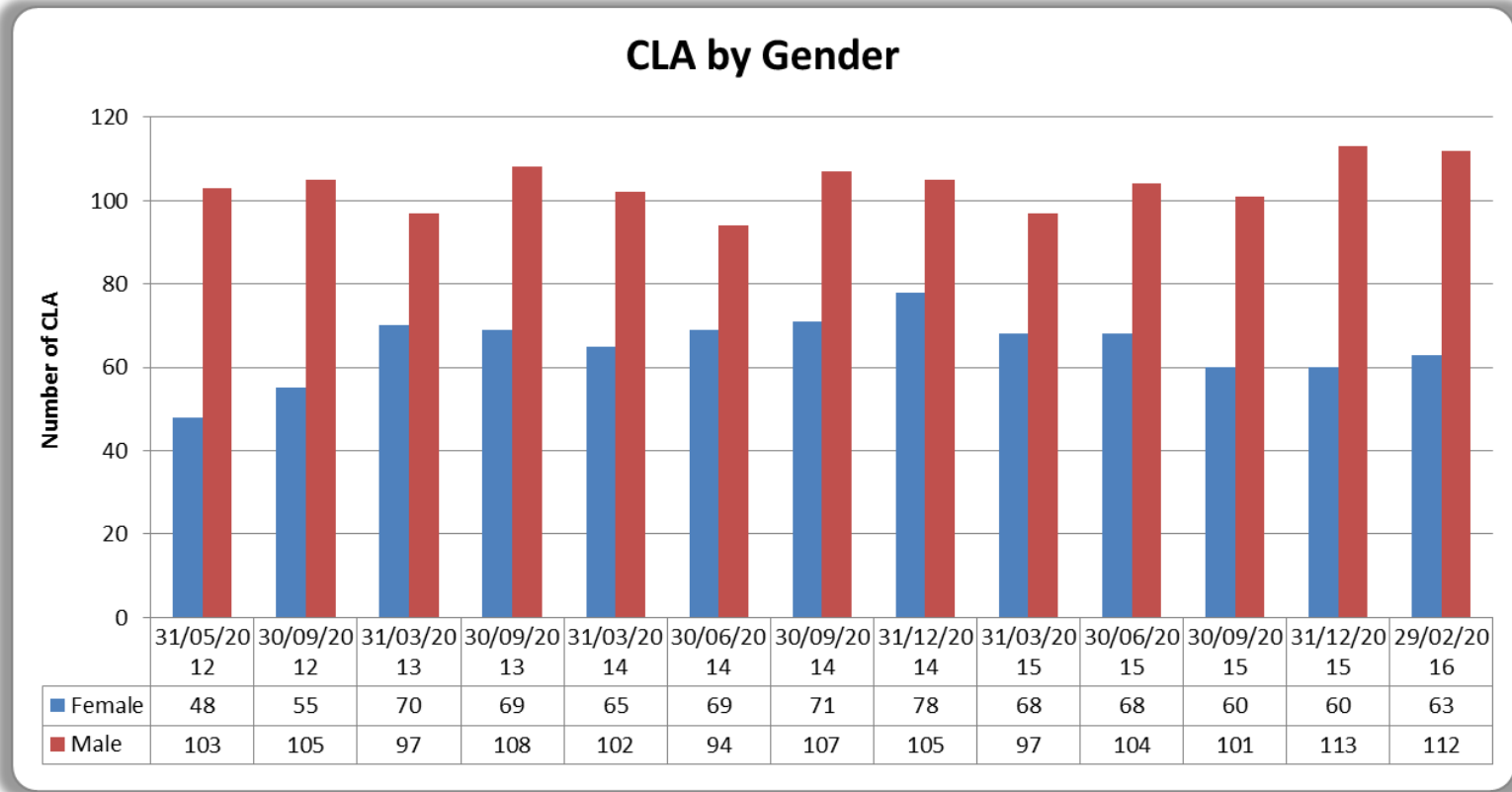
CLA by Age Group



The proportion of CLA aged up to 4 is slightly lower than other authorities' averages and similar for age groups between 10 and 17. Compared to 2013-14 data there are small but not significant changes in different age groups. The proportion aged 5 to 9 is slightly higher than London and statistical neighbours.

Comparator Info. for % of age of CLA at 31/3/2015 (Source: SSSA903)	Age at 31 March 2015 (years) (%)				
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 -17
England	5.0	15.0	21.0	38.0	22.0
London	4.0	10.0	16.0	38.0	33.0
Stat. neighbours avg.	4.1	9.9	16.0	37.1	32.9
Harrow	7.0	15.0	13.0	33.0	32.0
Harrow Feb-16	5.1	6.9	18.3	33.1	36.6

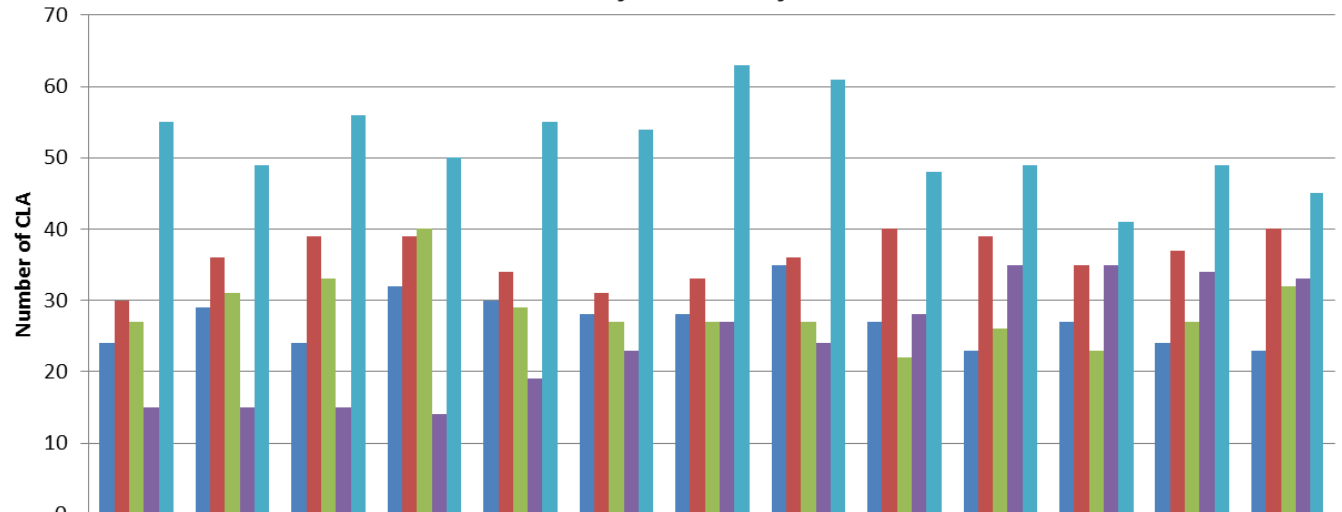
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In line with comparators, London and England, Harrow historically has a higher proportion of males who are looked after and this is particularly marked over the last three quarters.

Comparator Info. for % of gender of CLA at 31/3/2015 (Source: SSDA903)	Gender (%)	
	Male	Female
England	55.0	45.0
London	58.0	42.0
Stat. neighbours avg.	57.8	42.2
Harrow	59.0	41.0
Harrow Feb-16	64.0	36.0

CLA by Ethnicity



	31/05/2012	30/09/2012	31/03/2013	30/09/2013	31/03/2014	30/06/2014	30/09/2014	31/12/2014	31/03/2015	30/06/2015	30/09/2015	31/12/2015	29/02/2016
Asian	24	29	24	32	30	28	28	35	27	23	27	24	23
Black	30	36	39	39	34	31	33	36	40	39	35	37	40
Mixed	27	31	33	40	29	27	27	27	22	26	23	27	32
Other	15	15	15	14	19	23	27	24	28	35	35	34	33
White	55	49	56	50	55	54	63	61	48	49	41	49	45

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 just under three quarters of Harrow's children looked after population are from BME groups.

There have been some changes in the ethnic background of our CLA population over the longer term - the proportion of CLA in White groups has dropped, while the proportion in 'other' groups has increased. The numbers have fluctuated for Black, Asian and mixed ethnic groups.

Comparator Info. for % of ethnicity of CLA at 31/3/2015 (Source: SSSA903)	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Groups/Other
England	77.0	9.0	4.0	7.0	3.0
London	42.0	16.0	8.0	28.0	6.0
Stat. neighbours avg.	47.6	15.7	12.8	19.5	6.1
Harrow	29.0	13.0	16.0	24.0	17.0
Harrow Feb-16	25.7	18.3	13.1	22.9	18.9

C4 – Children looked after placement type

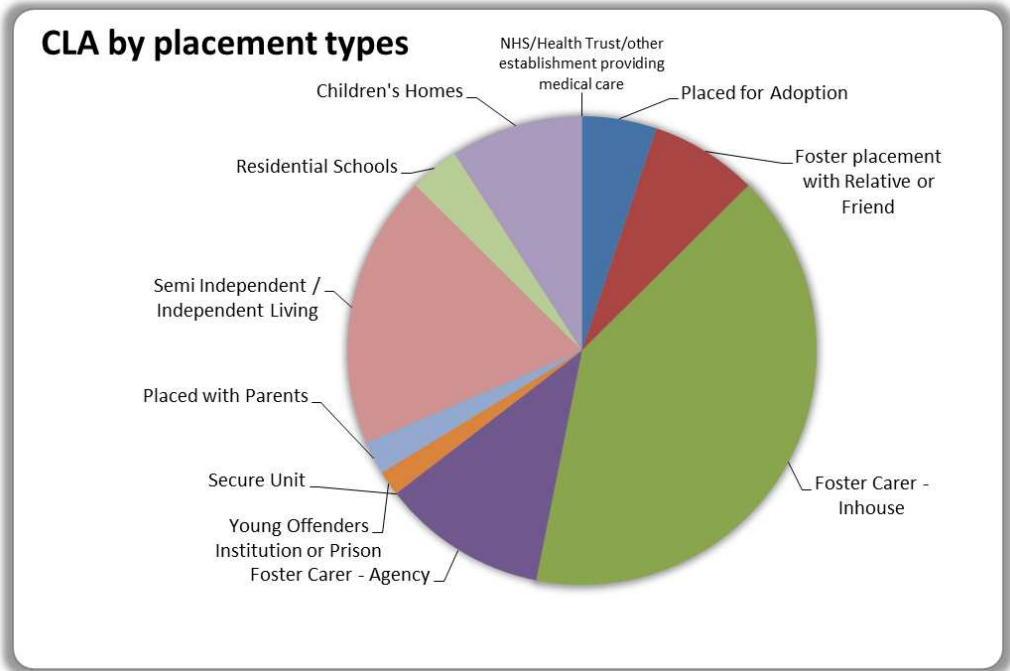
Placement Type	Dec-14	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Feb-16
Placed for Adoption	6	7	7	8	10	9
Foster placement with Relative or Friend	23	17	28	24	13	13
Foster Carer - Inhouse	70	55	56	53	67	71
Foster Carer - Agency	36	43	29	27	23	20
Secure Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Offenders Institution or Prison	1	2	1	1	3	3
Placed with Parents	0	0	2	3	4	4
Semi Independent / Independent Living	28	26	31	28	32	33
Residential Schools	7	5	5	5	4	6
Children's Homes	14	10	13	12	17	16
Grand Total	185	165	172	161	173	175

Harrow Placement Details at 29th February 2016



The number of CLA remains fairly stable over the long term, although the number dropped slightly during September, but has begun to rise again since December. The number of CLA with agency foster carers or in a foster placement with a relative or friend has dropped. In house placements can fluctuate as most of the emergency and short-term placements are made with in-house carers.

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**

CLA educational attainment trends

CLA Looked after for over a year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Children in KS2 cohort	2	2	3	1	
Attained at least Level 4 in Maths at end of KS2	50%	0%	67%	100%	83%
Attained at least Level 4 in Reading at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	100%	83%
Attained at least Level 4 in Writing at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	0%	50%
Attained at least Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths at end of KS2	0%	0%	67%	0%	50%
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%	36.4%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-G	31.6%	23.1%	16.7%	33.3%	36.4%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-C	5.30%	0%	8.30%	0%	0%
GCSE: Attained 5 or more A*-C INC Eng and Maths	5.30%	0%	8.30%	0%	0%

	Dec 14	Mar 15	Jun 15	Sep 15	Dec 15	Jan 16
Number of statutory school age CLA (snapshot)	87	85	98	87	87	94
% of school age CLA (all CLA) permanently excluded this year (Sept to date)	0	0	1	1.1	0	0
% of school age CLA (all CLA) fixed-term excluded this year (Sept to date)	8	12.9	14.3	2.3	10.3	7.4
% absence from school (all CLA - (number of sessions missed))	11.5	11	13.4	15.6	13.4	15.1
% of CLA (all CLA) classified as persistent absentees	19.5	22.4	23.5	23	31	30
% of CLA (all school age CLA) with up to date PEP	60.9	68.2	59.2	39.1	49.4	54.3

Detail for 2014-15 GCSEs

	TOTAL IN COHORT	Sat GCSE Exams?	Number GCSEs Achieved	GCSE ONLY				GCSE & Equiv.	
				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	20	5	-	5	4	0	0	0	0
%	-			25.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CLA (1 YR+)	11	4	-	4	4	0	0	0	0
%	-	36.4%	-	36.4%	36.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

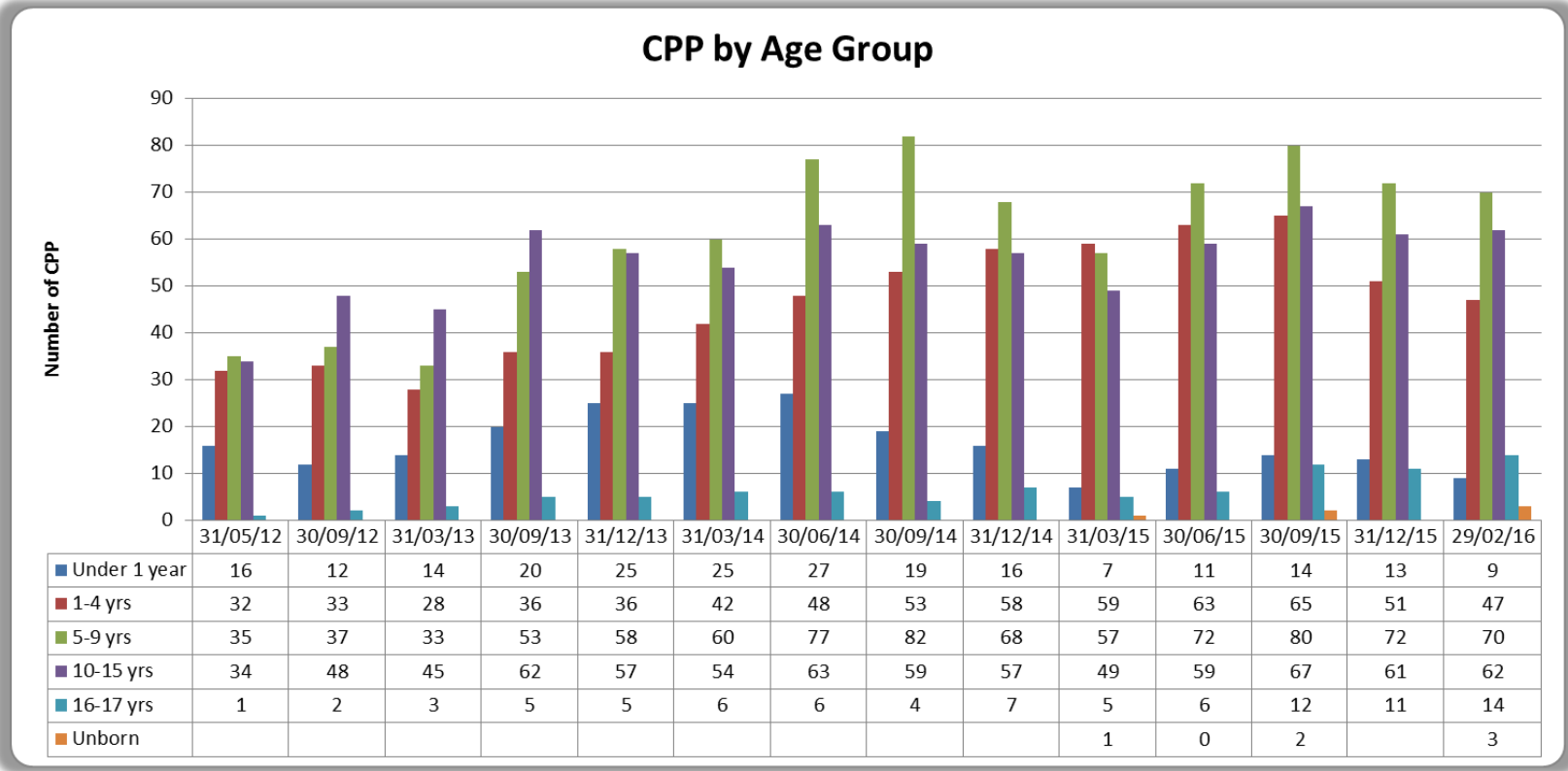
	Dec-14	Mar 15	Jun 15	Sep 15	Dec 15	Feb 16
% of new CLA where health assessment has been completed within 28 working days (month on month)	16.7	67.7	87.5	60.0	31.3	33.3
% of CLA with up to date Dental Checks (CLA 1 yr +)	81.2	89.7	81.5	67.7	82.8	76.9
% of CLA with up to date Health Checks (CLA 1 yr +)	89.1	88.7	95.8	99	86.0	86.8

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; 33% of new CLA in February 2016 have had a health check in the target timescale of 28 days. This academic year 7.4% school aged CLA have had at least 1 fixed term exclusion, while none have been permanently excluded. 30% of all CLA are classified as persistent absentees missing 15.1% or more of school sessions. Please note DfE measures children who have been looked after 1 year plus **and** are on roll only, published figures denote small numbers and data is suppressed.

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 four years, Harrow has seen a very large increase of in the number of children with a CPP, from 118 in May 2012 to 240 in September 2015 (an increase of 103%). However, since September, the number has been gradually decreasing.

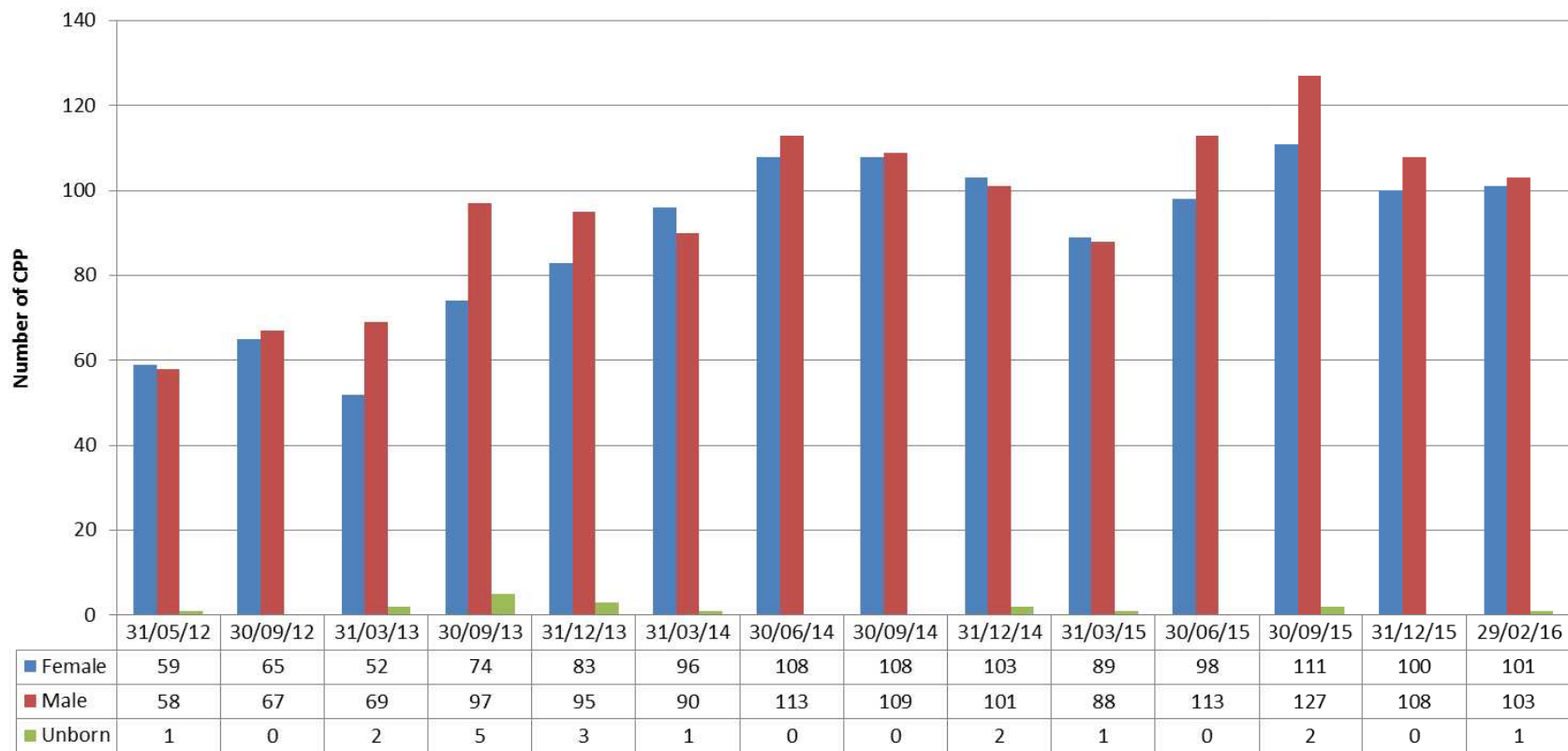


The proportion of children with a CPP aged 1-4 increased at the start of 2014-15 and reached a peak of 65 in September 2015, but has fallen to 47 at the end of February 2016. The proportion aged 5-15 also increased over 2013-14, then decreased slightly but is now high again. The proportion aged 16-17 is more double the proportion at the end of June.

Comparator info. for age group of children with CPPs at 31st March 2015 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Unborn	Under 1	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 & over
England	2.1	10.5	28.5	29.7	26.1	3.1
London	1.6	9.1	27.4	30.2	28.3	3.3
Harrow	0.6	3.5	32.6	32.6	27.9	2.9
Harrow Feb-16	1.5	4.4	22.9	34.1	30.2	6.8

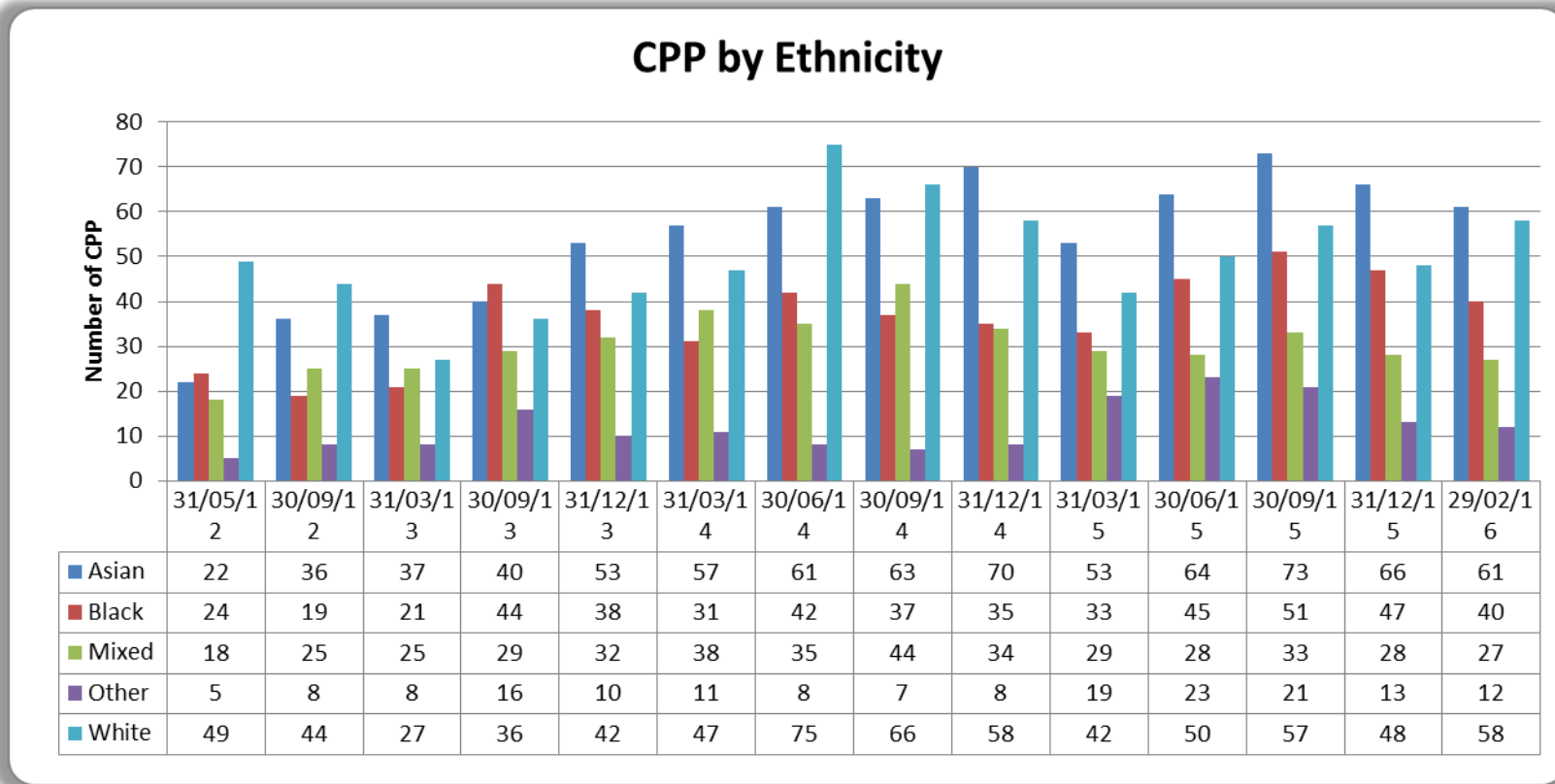
CPP by Gender



The proportions of males and females subject to a child protection plan balanced during 2014-15 at around half and half, but there were significantly more males during 2013 and mid-2015; the numbers now are again more balanced..

Comparator info. for gender of children with CPPs at 31st March 2015 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Male	Female	Unborn / unknown
England	49.9	47.8	2.3
London	50.0	48.3	1.7
Harrow	48.3	51.2	0.6
Harrow Feb-16	50.2	49.3	0.5

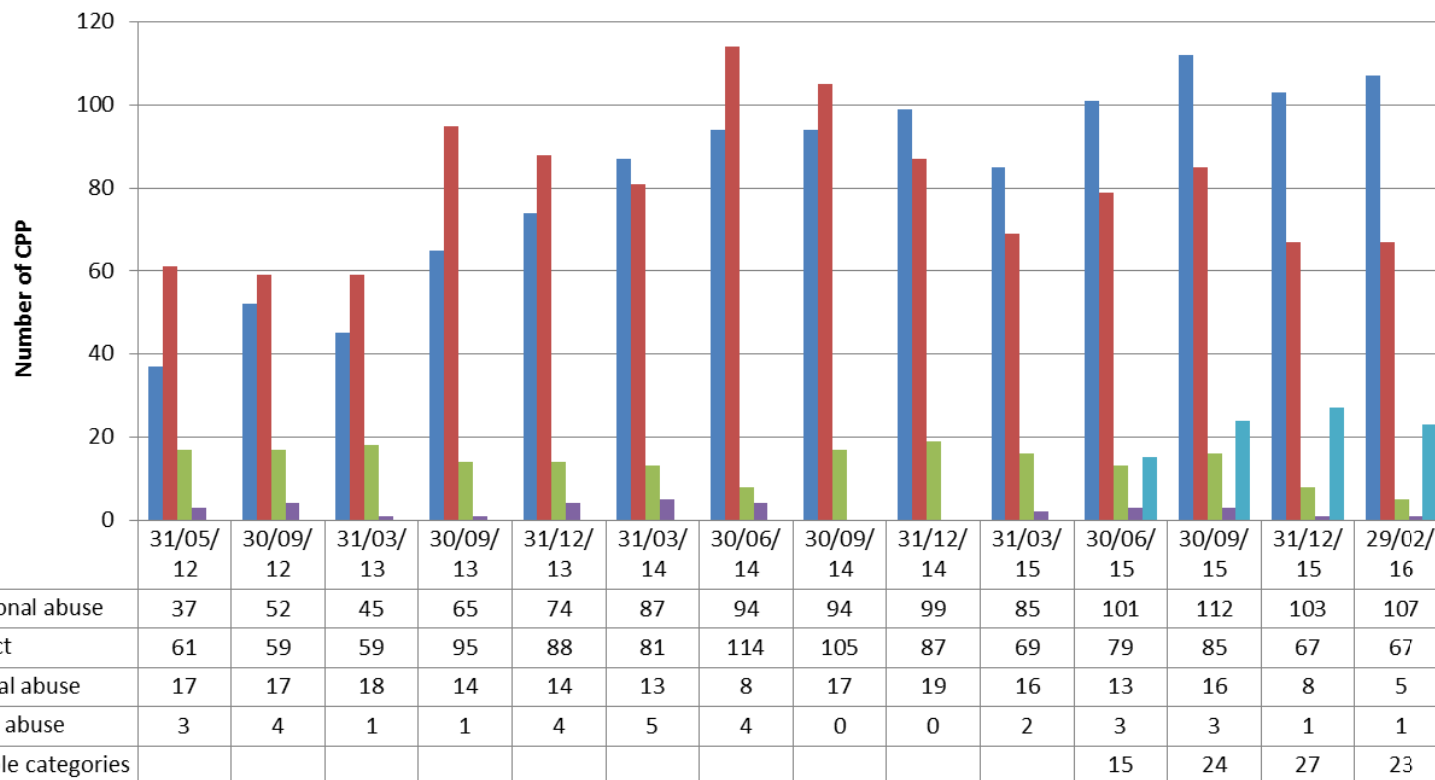


The proportion of BME groups is considerably higher than England and London averages but this is as expected due to Harrow's diverse population; just under three quarters of children requiring a child protection plan in Harrow are from BME groups.

Comparator info. for ethnicity of children with CPPs at 31st March 2015 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Groups	Refused / Unknown
London	41.5	16.7	14.2	22.1	3.0	2.6
England	75.3	8.4	6.0	5.4	1.5	3.4
Harrow	22.7	16.3	31.4	18.6	9.9	1.2
Harrow Feb-16	28.3	13.2	29.8	19.5	5.9	3.4

CPP by Category of Abuse



The proportion of children requiring a plan under the category of 'neglect' dropped during 2014-15, rose in mid-2015 but has fallen during the last two quarters; the proportion under the emotional abuse category has increased substantially since 2012. The issue of children with multiple categories recorded (23 at 29th February 2016) is being addressed.

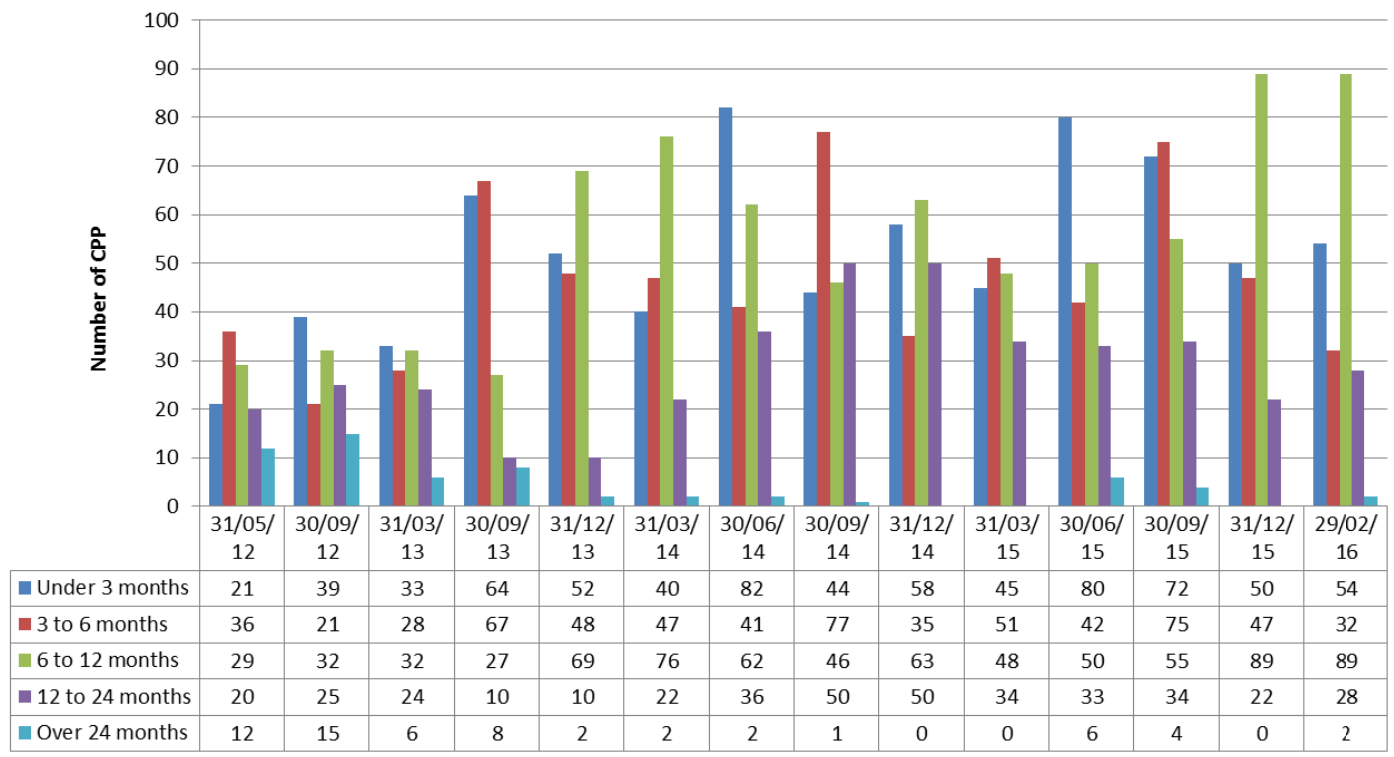
Comparator Info – CPP category at 31st March 2015

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

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Multiple
England	43.2	10.0	4.6	33.7	8.4
London	41.1	9.8	3.3	40.4	5.4
Harrow	39.5	7.0	1.2	47.1	5.2
Harrow Feb-16	33.0	2.5	0.5	52.7	11.3

74

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 and March 2015 there were no children with a plan lasting 2 years or more. However, there has been a small number of such children since June 2015.

Comparator Info – CPP duration at 31st March 2015 (%) Source: CiN Census (numbers under 5 suppressed)

	Under 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	1 - 2 years	2 years and over
England	30	25	27	15	2
London	29	25	27	16	3
Harrow	26	29	26	19	0
Harrow Feb-16	26.3	15.6	43.4	13.7	1.0

REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting:	12 April 2016
Subject:	Housing for Care Leavers - Update Report
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer Corporate Director People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown Portfolio Holder Children and Families
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	Not applicable
Enclosures:	No

1.0 Summary and Recommendations

- This report seeks to update the Corporate Parenting Panel of the challenges and housing assistance available for care leavers. Housing will continue to offer a quota of 19 to Young People Leaving Care; this will mainly be studio flats.
- This quota has to be reviewed annually
- The panel notes the updated review

Section 2.0

Introduction

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

Options Considered

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 A. 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.

2.2

The Allocations Scheme was reviewed and amended from 1st December 2015 but Care Leavers continue to be able to access social housing through the quota.

2.3

In the year 2015/16 the quota has been set at 19. We have been able to maintain this quota at 19 in 16-17, in spite of considerable housing pressures.

2.4

In previous years there were predictions that the number of care leavers would exceed the quota, but this did not happen. The quota in 15-16 of 19 has been fully filled, but not exceeded.

2.5

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. The huge increase in incentives for council tenants to buy their homes under the right to buy is also affecting supply.

2.6

There are further changes to Housing Benefit regulations this year that may affect Young People being assisted. For tenancies that commence after April 2016, in 2 years' time tenants in social housing will be capped at the same rent level as they would receive in the private rented sector. So for single people, rents would be capped at the shared room rate which is about £4 per week below a typical studio flat rent, and about £20 per week below a 1 bed flat rent. It is likely exemptions will be in place for Young People Leaving Care, but usually only up to age 21. So to avoid Young People running into rent arrears, generally only studio flats will be offered to single applicants under this quota.

2.7 Options to reduce the quota were considered, but not taken forward. Options to increase the quota were reviewed, but there are other competing demands and insufficient properties likely to be available for allocation in 16-17, so this was not possible.

Implications

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, for example, divert a Private Sector Leased property to shared housing and manage it by our PSL team. Alternatively Genesis Housing is 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.

Performance Issues

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.

Environmental Impact

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

Risk Management Implications

There is no change from the report in 2015.

(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.)

Financial Implications

There is no financial implication as the quota is unchanged.

Legal Implications

The power to offer a quota to Care Leavers is included in the Council's Housing Allocations Policy October 2013. Amended December 2015.

Equalities implications

There is no change from the report in 2015.

(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.)

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:

- Making a difference for the vulnerable

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dave Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 29 th March 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqlA carried out:	NO
EqlA cleared by:	There is none from the last report in 2015

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Papers – NONE

Contact:

Peter Tolley, Children & Families Service Tel: 0208 736 6943 Email : Peter.Tolley@harrow.gov.uk	Jon Dalton, Head of Housing Needs, Community Tel: 0208 416 8647 Email: Jon.Dalton@harrow.gov.uk
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Call-In Waived by the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NOT APPLICABLE
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REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting:	12 April 2016
Subject:	High Costs Placements Monitoring
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - High Cost Placements report to Corporate Parenting Panel

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel of progress made in monitoring high cost placements.

Recommendations:

Corporate Parenting Panel is requested to note the report and support officers recommendations to coordinate another review of high costs placements in September 2016.

Reason:

The Corporate Parenting Strategy includes the priority to deliver safe and stable placements, provide a choice of good quality placements that provide security, stability, safety and high standards of care. The review of high cost placements ensures costs of care are kept to a minimum and the services provided are meeting the desired outcomes for the children in their care.

Section 2 – Report

See attached report – Appendix 1
High Cost Placements report to Corporate Parenting Panel

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Legal Implications

This report is for information only.

Financial Implications

If all of the panel's recommendations are able to be realised there are potentially £500k savings to be made as a result of reviewing these placements. Progress will be monitored at the next panel in September 2016.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Looked After Children come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide range of needs. We need a range of placements to ensure these needs are met. The discussions regarding value for money ensure that each individual young person's placement has clearly defined objectives and desired outcomes which reflect their needs.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The review of placements for children in care contribute to the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- 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: 30 March 2016		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 30 March 2016		
Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards	
EqIA carried out:	NO	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley,
Head of Service - Corporate Parenting
Tel : 02087366943 Email : Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

NONE

Appendix 1

High Cost Placements report to Corporate Parenting Panel

The Councils saving plans for 2016/17 include £500k to be saved through children's placements and £200k to be saved through Leaving Care placements.

On 26th February a challenge panel undertook a review of the 20 most expensive placements. The panel was chaired by Paul Hewitt Divisional Director of Children and Young People and had representatives from children's social care, finance, procurement, commissioning and health commissioning.

These 20 placements account for an annual spend of over 2 million pounds. The panel looked at these cases in detail and highlighted a number of ways to make potential savings.

- 1) Improved commissioning with robust attention to the breakdown of costs and linking costs more clearly to outcomes
- 2) Having clear timeframes for moving children to lower cost placements such as Fostering or Semi Independent placements
- 3) Ensuring there is clear identification of therapeutic costs which can be met by health and developing clearer pathways to the Tripartite Panel and Health funding
- 4) Ensuring there is clearer identification of Education costs which can be met through Government grant funding
- 5) Ensuring that children move back home at the earliest possibility and that appropriate support is available to ensure children remain with their birth families where at all possible.

Individual actions plans were identified for each of these young people and these will be reviewed and monitored robustly. If all of the panel's recommendations are able to be realised there are potentially £500k savings to be made as a result of reviewing these placements. Another panel is scheduled for September to review progress and consider new high cost placements made. It was noted that whilst we need to ensure there is value for money the children in these placements have complex needs and present very challenging behaviour. In undertaking this exercise we will not compromise the safety or wellbeing of children.

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date of Meeting: 12 April 2016

Subject: Harrow Virtual School Headteacher
Mid-Year Report

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Chris Spencer
Corporate Director Children and Families

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Simon Brown
Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and
Young People

Exempt: NO

**Decision subject to
Call-in:** No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: None



Section 1– Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out:

- a) Our early predictions in terms of the performance and standards of Children Looked After (CLA) by the end of each Key Stage
- b) A summary of the key areas monitored by the Virtual School

Recommendations:

Corporate Parenting Panel members are requested to note the:

- increasing numbers on Virtual School roll, particularly at Key Stage 5
- proposal for strengthening the structure of the Harrow Virtual School

Section 2 – Report

2. Introduction

This report is a summary of the key areas monitored by Harrow Virtual School (HVS) and supplements the Annual Virtual Head Teacher’s (VHT) Report which was shared in the Autumn Term.

2.1 Numbers on Roll

There are currently ninety-nine pupils of statutory school age (SSA) on our school roll with a split of 41%: 58% girls and boys respectively. 53% of our students are educated outside of Harrow and are spread across 25 local authorities. Harrow educates 45 looked after children from other authorities for whom we have a duty of care.

The school has a combined total of 180 students across all phases. Our numbers have risen since the start of the school year, more notably with the Post-16 cohort.

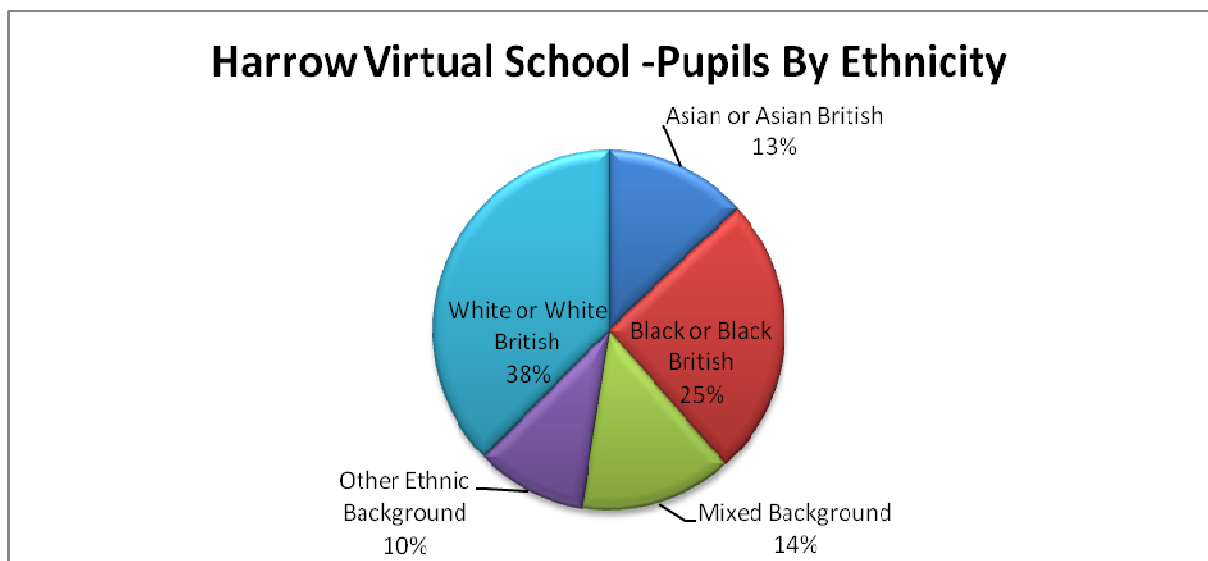
2.2 The table below shows a breakdown of school numbers by year group and phase.

Year Group	Number	Phase	Autumn Term Totals	Spring Term Totals
13	40	Key Stage 5 (Post -16)	53	72
12	32			
11	22	Key Stage 4	32	34
10	12			
9	10	Key Stage 3	24	25
8	6			
7	9			
6	1	Key Stage 2	32	26
5	13			
4	4			
3	8			
2	5	Key Stage 1	7	9
1	4			
Reception	5	EYFS	3	14
Nursery -1	3			
Nursery -2	6			
Total	180		151	180

2.3 Post -18

There are currently 60 students aged between 18 and 23. One student is at university. The national average for care leavers attending university is 6%. Harrow has an average of 1.6% which is below the national benchmark.

3. Ethnicity



The above table shows a breakdown by ethnicity for our SSA pupils. Our largest groups are from White and Black backgrounds. Work is currently being undertaken to look at performance across all groups.

4. Attainment

Outlined below is a recent analysis of school performance pertaining to end of key stage expectations, based on pupil attainment and progress.

4.1 EYFS

Our current Reception cohort have been in care for less than a year hence data will not be published nationally for this group. This concerns three pupils and only one child is making good progress and is on track to meet end of year objectives.

4.2 Key Stage 1

There are currently 5 pupils in Year 2. Three pupils have been in care for a year or longer. Two of the three pupils (66%) are on track for a level 2b in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Key Stage.

4.3 Key Stage 2

There is only one pupil in Year 6. The pupil currently has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and is not on track to achieve a level 4b at the end of Key Stage 2. The child's head teacher has consulted with the Head of the Virtual School and the child's social worker regarding an exemption from the SATs. A request has been submitted to the exam board.

4.4 Key Stage 4

There are 22 pupils in Year 11. Fourteen pupils have been looked after for a year or longer. One student is on track for 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. Seven students are on track for 5 GCSE's A*-G. Four students are on track for 1 GCSE A*- C. Two students are currently working below GCSE level.

5. Personal Education Plans and Pathway Plans

PEPs are held termly at the pupil's school. The Designated Teacher (DT) for CLA usually leads this meeting, with the pupil, carer and social worker present. The Virtual School attends PEPs for new CLA or where there pressing educational concerns. The PEP addresses the following:

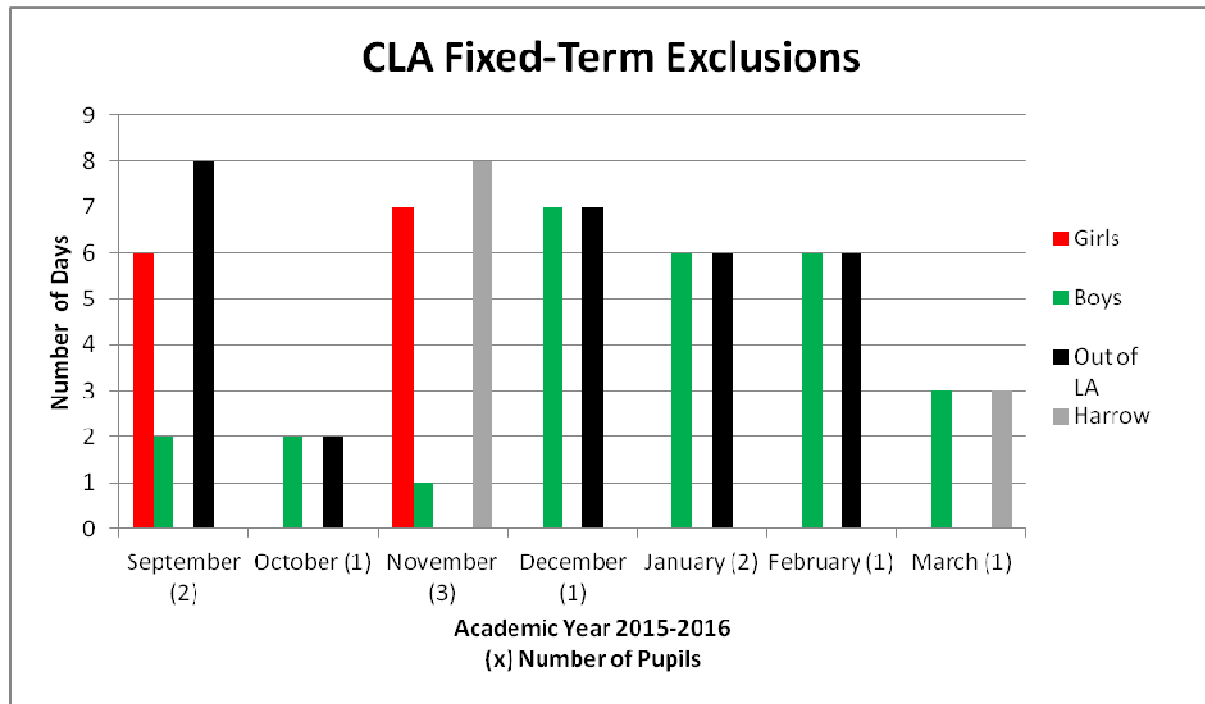
- Current Care Plan
- Attainment
- Education Progress
- Attendance
- Pupil Premium Spend
- Education History

5.1 At the end of last Autumn 73% of PEPs were in place SSA pupils. This has increased from 61% at the end of the Summer Term. However this was still below our school target of 80%. 85% of Pathways Plans are in place for CLA in Years 12 and 13. This is an increase from 77% at the end of last term.

6. Fixed-Term Exclusions (FTE)

There are 40 days FTE between September and March this academic year. When compared to the same period last year (September 2014- March 2015) there were 91 FTE, our figures have almost halved.

6.1 The graph below shows a breakdown of pupils by gender, number of FTE and where they are educated.



7. Education Health and Care Plans

In HVS there are 19 pupils with Statements or EHC plans. This represents 19% of the cohort. Nationally, only 2.8% of Statutory Aged Pupils have a Statement or an EHC plan.

There are, however a number of students in HVS with identified learning difficulties who will not meet the criteria for an EHCP.

8. Attendance

Attendance will be reported on separately when further national data is available.

9. Development Priorities

To:

- Reduce the number of fixed-term exclusions particularly for pupils that are educated outside of Harrow LA, by :
 - Closer monitoring of behaviours
 - Developing individual behaviour plans which are integral to the PEP
- Raise the overall performance of CLA, particularly at Key Stage 4 by closer tracking, monitoring and early intervention
- Review the Virtual School staffing structure to maximise impact on improving outcomes for CLA
- Explore additional funding opportunities to employ qualified teachers leading on specialised areas

Legal Implications

The Virtual School Headteacher has a statutory responsibility to the LA Authority and the DfE for monitoring all the education of CLA and Care Leavers regardless of where they are placed. Schools leading on their education may be scrutinised, challenged and supported to improve outcomes, including attendance for this vulnerable group.

Financial Implications

The budget for the Virtual School in 2015-16 is £196k. In addition the Virtual School Headteacher is accountable for the spend of the Pupil Premium Grant and has a statutory responsibility to ensure that it is used to improve educational outcomes for CLA. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The weak performance of particular underachieving groups is a concern and the Local Authority through the Harrow School Improvement Partnership has established a 'Closing the Gap' strategy to ensure that all groups achieve in line with the high standards of achievement in Harrow. The strategy is focussed on supporting and challenging individual schools to improve the quality of their provision, so that all groups achieve well against their peers.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This report provides information on the performance of underachieving groups, and as such is focused on making a difference for the vulnerable. Educational performance and standards are critical in making a difference to the life chances and aspirations of families and communities. A well educated and skilled workforce secured through quality educational provision in Harrow, contributes significantly to local businesses and industry, within and beyond Harrow.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name : Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 31 March 2016		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 31 March 2016		

Ward Councillors notified: NO,
The information contained in this report affect all Wards

EqIA carried out: NO

This report is for information only. There is no decision to be made which would have an impact on the Council's Equality, Policies and Procedures.

There are however, equality implications in respect of raising achievement of some ethnic minority groups, for children with SEND and those on free school meals.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Nasim Butt,
Head of Service, School Improvement
Tel: 0208 416 8835
Email : Nasim.Butt@harrow.gov.uk

Mellina Williamson-Taylor,
Head teacher, Virtual School
Tel: 0208 416 8852
Email : mellina.williamson-taylor@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

NONE

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

Children Looked After Team

Westmead Clinic

Westmead

Ruislip

Middlesex

HA4 0TN

Tel: 01895 488860

Fax: 01895 488866

Email: cnw-tr.harrowcla@nhs.net

24.03.16

Summary

The team continues to review existing processes to ensure that they are as streamlined as possible. The team continues to work in close partnership with both the Local Authority and the CCG. Continual involvement of children and young people in obtaining their views about their health assessments. (See Appendix 1)

Targets

The team are meeting targets set within the agreed service specification during set up of the service. The targets for initial health assessments (IHA's) and review health assessments (RHA's) have increased to 98% from January 2016. Additional support from the Specialist Nurse for CLA to the GP with special interest (GPwSI) to run joint Doctor/Nurse clinics resulted in all targets for health being met for both initial and review health assessments.

Month	Target For IHA's 98%	Target for RHA's 98%
January	100%	100%
February	100%	100%

Local Authority

The team continues to spend 1 day per week in the Local Authority based within social care. Weekly meetings are held with team managers to monitor health assessments. The specialist nurse for CLA is available for social workers who want to discuss individual cases. A monthly breach report is sent to the Head of service Corporate Parenting and as of March will also be sent to the Head of service Quality Assurance and Service Improvements.

Staffing

Our administrator started in February and our GPwSI started in March. The Designated Doctor and Medical Advisor for Hillingdon is currently covering this role for Harrow whilst we implement training for our new GPwSI.

CCG

Monitoring meetings continue with the CCG and monthly reports are sent and our working relationship is a positive one.

Work Undertaken

Designated Nurse and Specialist Nurse for CLA attended Harrow LSCB annual conference.

'Handy Hints' leaflet for CLA and UASC developed and currently being trialled.

Development of interpreters crib sheet so that the interpreter will understand what areas of health will be discussed with the young person during the health assessment.

The TB leaflets and posters have been agreed with UASC, the UASC team, TB Specialist Nurses, TB service at Northwick Park Hospital and our team. They are currently in the process of being printed.

Meeting arranged with 'Beyond Limits' in April to discuss health passports and to gain our young people's feedback.

Meeting with the local authority, commissioner and independent reviewing officer to discuss consent, SDQ and health passports. Agreed new consent form, parent information sheet, SDQ process development and capturing of information on framework to support the development of health passports.

Specialist Nurse for CLA attended drop in clinic at 'Gayton' with sexual health nurse during their evening session. Arrangements made for our team to attend 'Gayton' once a month with the sexual health nurse for a health drop in clinic.

Designated Nurse attended fostering panel and was thanked for her contribution from the vice chair.

Liaison with Youth Offending Team (YOT). We now have a system in place to support our CLA who are known to the YOT. This includes joint working for health assessments and sharing of health information.

Joint monthly meetings with our team, YOT and sexual health now started.

Designated Nurse and Specialist Nurse for CLA attended CLA celebration and provided a health stall. It was well attended and lots of information was given.

Designated Nurse and Specialist Nurse for CLA attended the foster carer's award ceremony. This was a lovely celebration.

Specialist Nurse for CLA attended TB training.

Specialist Nurse for CLA and Designated Nurse attended corporate parenting management meetings. Corporate parenting strategy and action plan discussed and updated.

Designated Nurse was asked to teach about children looked after at Oxford Brooke's University to School Nurses and Health Visitors in training. The training was really well evaluated.

Designated Nurse and Medical Advisor for Hillingdon met with adoption manager and head of service to agree process for requesting medical advice. Process agreed and currently being circulated for comment. New process due to be implemented on 29.03.16.

Designated Nurse met with CoramBAAF.

Joint meeting with our team, local authority, and CAMHS.

Specialist Nurse for CLA attended strategy meetings.

Specialist Nurse for CLA continues to attend MASE meetings.

Health Promotion

During every health assessment with children and young people health promotion is discussed. This includes physical health, emotional well-being, diet, exercise, safety, immunisations, dental care, sexual health, hygiene etc.

A copy of the health recommendations from the health assessment are sent to the young person, carer/ key worker, GP, school nurse, health visitor and social worker.

Immunisation status for our CLA is requested from GP's both in and out of the borough of Harrow.

For young people who DNA and refuse telephone health assessments we send them health information with our team details of how to contact us and a 'handy hints' leaflet that includes health promotion information regarding diet, exercise, dental hygiene, immunisations, and emotional well-being. We also include local service information regarding sexual health, youth stop, as well as national websites/ telephone numbers.

Follow up visits by Specialist CLA Nurse for sexual health, weight, diet, exercise, self-harm and FGM. In addition home visit arranged with interpreter and social worker for UASC regarding sexual health.

Liaison with GP to follow up child's immunisations and medical conditions.

Telephone follow up to carers/key workers.

Liaison with virtual head teacher regarding recent initial health assessment of a CLA with possible learning difficulties.

Innovative Practice

During the CLA Celebration event we targeted 3 young people who had previously refused to engage with their health assessments. They had refused both face to face and telephone health assessments. We met with them and asked them if they would complete a written booklet about their health with the help of their carer/key worker/social worker, and we also asked for their comments whilst we trial the booklet for our young people who refuse to have a health assessment. They all agreed to complete the booklet.

Future Plans

We are working with the Local Authority to create a time line for health passports for care leavers.

Date arranged for April to meet the children's participation officer and Beyond Limits.

We are due to start our client satisfaction audit in March.

Meeting to be arranged with our team, CAMHS, Morning Lane and the Local Authority.

We are currently gathering health information about our Harrow CLA population.
(See appendix 2 and 3)

Report by Emma Hedley – Designated Nurse For Children Looked After Harrow, CNWL.
23rd March 2016

Appendix 1

Comments from UASC, CLA, Care Leavers, Birth Parents, Carers and Interpreters.

It is good for me because I talk about myself and family it is very good for me thank you. (UASC 15)

They were kind and helpful. It was good. (UASC 16)

I think it was helping. (UASC 16 female)

This health assessment was very helpful, helped me understand what problems I've got and how to tackle them. (17 male)

I'm happy that it was at school and don't mind the session. (14 female)

Very thorough – children both enjoyed the experience – dad found both professionals highly approachable and friendly (Birth Father – Joint Dr/Nurse Clinic)

I thought it was very well for me and I learnt a lot from this assessment. My nurse was also very nice and helpful. (UASC 16)

Today has been ok. It would be ok to come again. (7 male)

Very patient and made it fun (carer)

Thorough assessment done children's views were sought and they were listened to. Follow up actions were agreed. (Carer)

It was good when they asked me how did you feel when you went into auntie xxx's house and the other questions. (8 male)

It was fine a bit scary, I felt a bit worried in case they were going to do the injection. (9 male)

Welcoming, comfortable to speak with nurse and doctor. All areas covered. (16 female – Joint Dr/Nurse Clinic)

Ok, good doing, interesting information. (13 female)

In my opinion I think that this assessment has been really interesting and very beneficial. I have enjoyed it and am looking forward to the next one. (13 male)

I think the assessment was informative and a good opportunity for XX to discuss or raise any concerns that he may have. The length of the assessment was appropriate and it is nice to have the assessment undertaken at home. (Carer)

The clinic is in a good quiet location and good for parking. However I feel the questions were repetitive from the previous check-up. (Carer)

I think the review went well and was pleased it could be done in our home. (Carer)

The young person was able to answer all his questions without hesitation. He seemed comfortable and at ease during the questioning. (Interpreter)

Email received from foster carer

'Dear Emma thank you for coming to carry out the recent assessment. XX is only 4 and therefore unable to articulate his views fully. Although I think it's fair to say that he made it absolutely clear to us that he did not wish to be weighed (smile). I found the assessment to be an extremely useful tool in ensuring XX's health and development is what is expected for his age and circumstances. It was helpful to discuss concerns/observations and to obtain suggestions about how to tackle these. I found this meeting in addition to meetings we have with our health visitor to provide invaluable expertise and general support. It is also very helpful that the meeting was conducted at home as this is beneficial for XX as he finds strange surroundings a bit overwhelming currently.'

Appendix 2

Where it is written 'out of' this is because some children are too young to register with a dentist/optician.

Up to date immunisations – consider unaccompanied asylum seeking children, out of borough children, parental refusal, and incomplete records.

Consider sibling groups.

All children referred to GP to complete outstanding immunisations.

Liaison with GP's for all children with incomplete immunisation history.

All children in process of booking dental and optician checks.

January 2016	IHA (6)		RHA (5)	
Registered with a GP	6 out of 6	100%	5 out of 5	100%
Registered with a dentist	5 out of 5	100%	5 out of 5	100%
Up to date dental check	3 out of 5	60%	4 out of 4	100%
Registered with optician	5 out of 5	100%	4 out of 4	100%
Up to date eye test	4 out of 5	80%	4 out of 4	100%
Up to date immunisations	4 out of 6	66.6%	4 out of 5	80%

1 child registered with the dentist but too young for a dental check.

1 child not fully immunised due to underlying medical condition.

1 IHA's completed out of borough. (Still awaiting paperwork)

February 2016	IHA (11)		RHA (10)	
Registered with a GP	11 out of 11	100%	10 out of 10	100%
Registered with a dentist	10 out of 11	91%	8 out of 9	88.9%
Up to date dental check	9 out of 11	82%	8 out of 9	88.9%
Registered with optician	9 out of 11	82%	10 out of 10	100%
Up to date eye test	7 out of 11	64%	8 out of 10	80%
Up to date immunisations	6 out of 11	55%	6 out of 10	60%

13 IHA's completed still awaiting 2 from out of borough hence the total is 11.

5 children not fully immunised due to newly arriving in the country (UASC)

3 IHA's completed out of borough. (Still awaiting paperwork for 2)

Appendix 3

Health Needs - January

Stomach pain, hygiene, glasses, learning assessment, obesity, underweight, anger, being bullied, experienced death of sibling, dry skin/eczema, asthma, periods, tiredness, hair loss, self-harm, sleep, auditory hallucinations, ADHD, complex needs, heart condition, smoking, eyes, braces, joint pain.

CLA receiving support from CAMHS (2), SALT (2), Paediatrician (2), Cardiologist (1)

February

Immunisations, glasses (6), stigmatism, dental, eye conditions, cough, worries regarding immigration status, development, speech, body stiffness (tone), neonatal drug withdrawal, overweight (3), orthodontist (braces), autism, learning difficulties, anxieties, self-harm, fillings (3), increase tooth brushing (4), dental decay, crown, dental extraction, broken teeth, healthy eating (10), reducing sugary and fizzy drinks(4), sickle cell carrier, speech, acne, headaches, sweaty palms and feet, sdq, dry skin, attachment, bedwetting, monitoring emotional well-being, heart condition, anaemia, substance use (2), increase exercise (5), sleep, acne (2), hygiene,

CLA receiving support from CAMHS (1), Moorfields Eye Hospital (1)

1 child discharged from neonatologist and physiotherapist.

1 child offered counselling but refused. Liaison with social worker to discuss further.

1 young person stopped smoking.

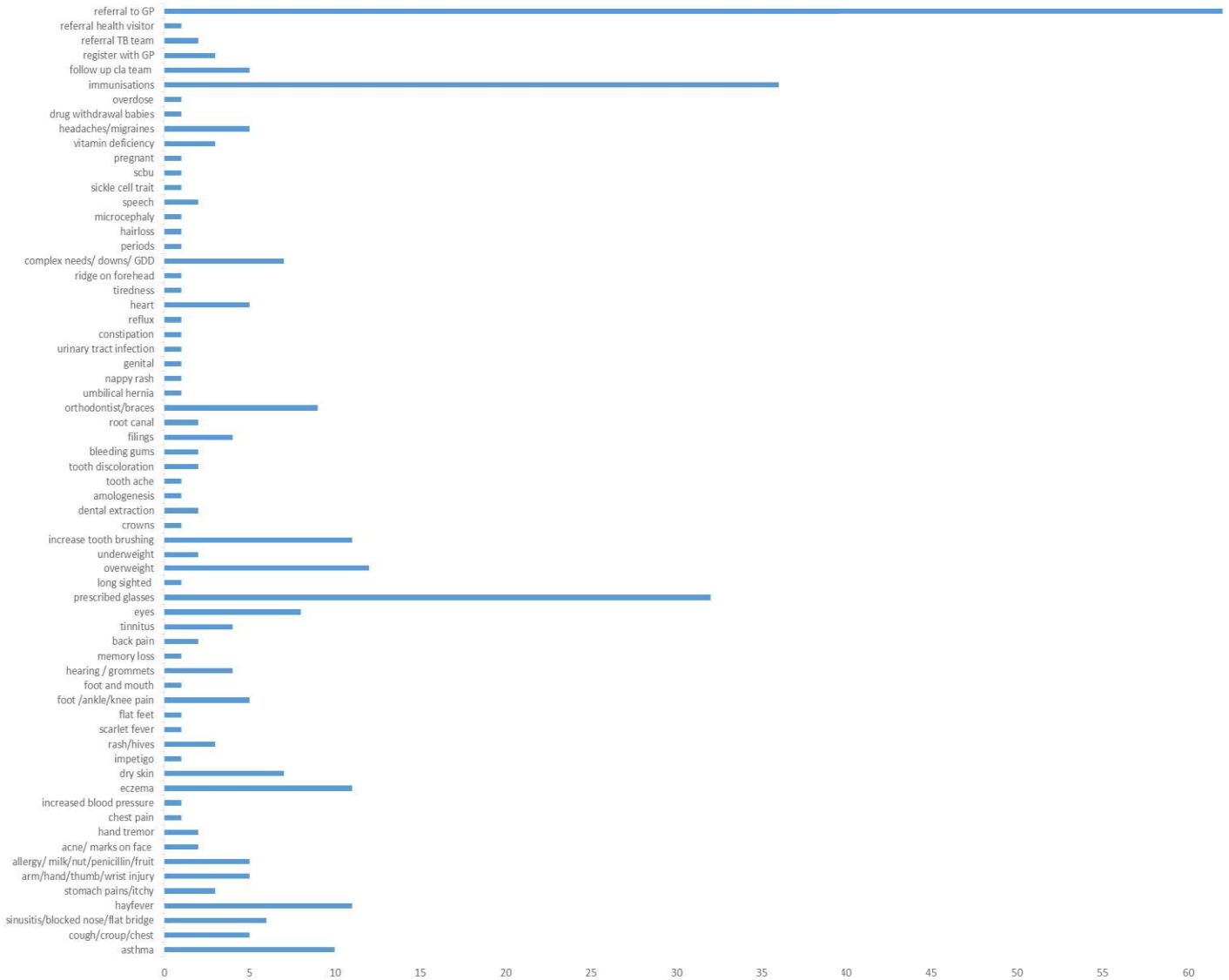
1 nurse prescribed cream for dry skin for baby to avoid visit to GP.

Referrals

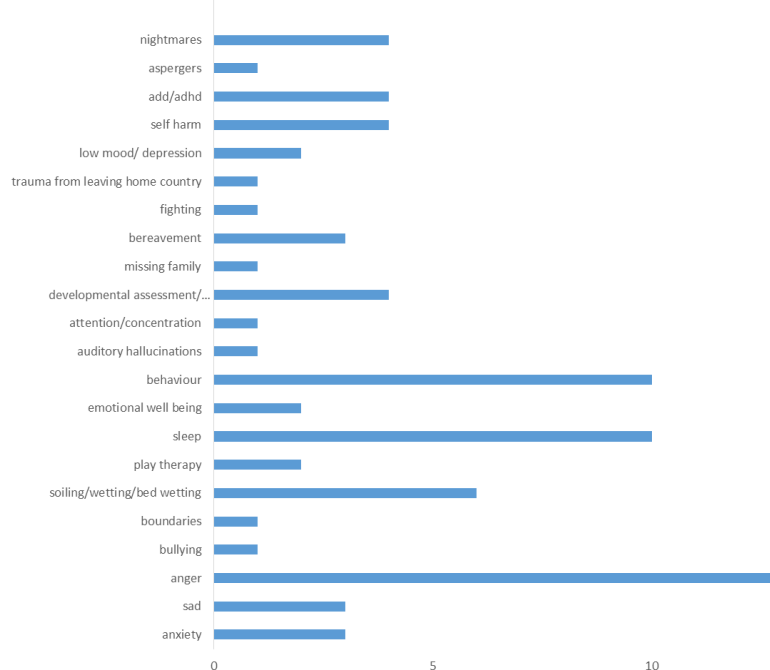
Referrals have been made to the GP to follow up health issues identified during health assessments; this has included heart murmurs, high blood pressure, immunisations, asthma, eczema, injuries from travelling to the UK, memory loss, foot pain, hand tremor, finger/hand/thumb pain/injury, back pain, enuresis, rash, hair loss, acne, stomach pains, hay fever, sinusitis, flat feet, developmental assessment, migraine, headaches, tiredness, periods, dry skin, eczema, joint pain, tinnitus (ringing in the ears)Referrals have been made to the practice nurse, morning lane, camhs, youth stop, wish, TB nurses, sexual health, dentist, optician, audiology, school nurse, health visitor, African women's clinic, social worker to refer for an educational psychologist assessment and the virtual school.

Six Months Data

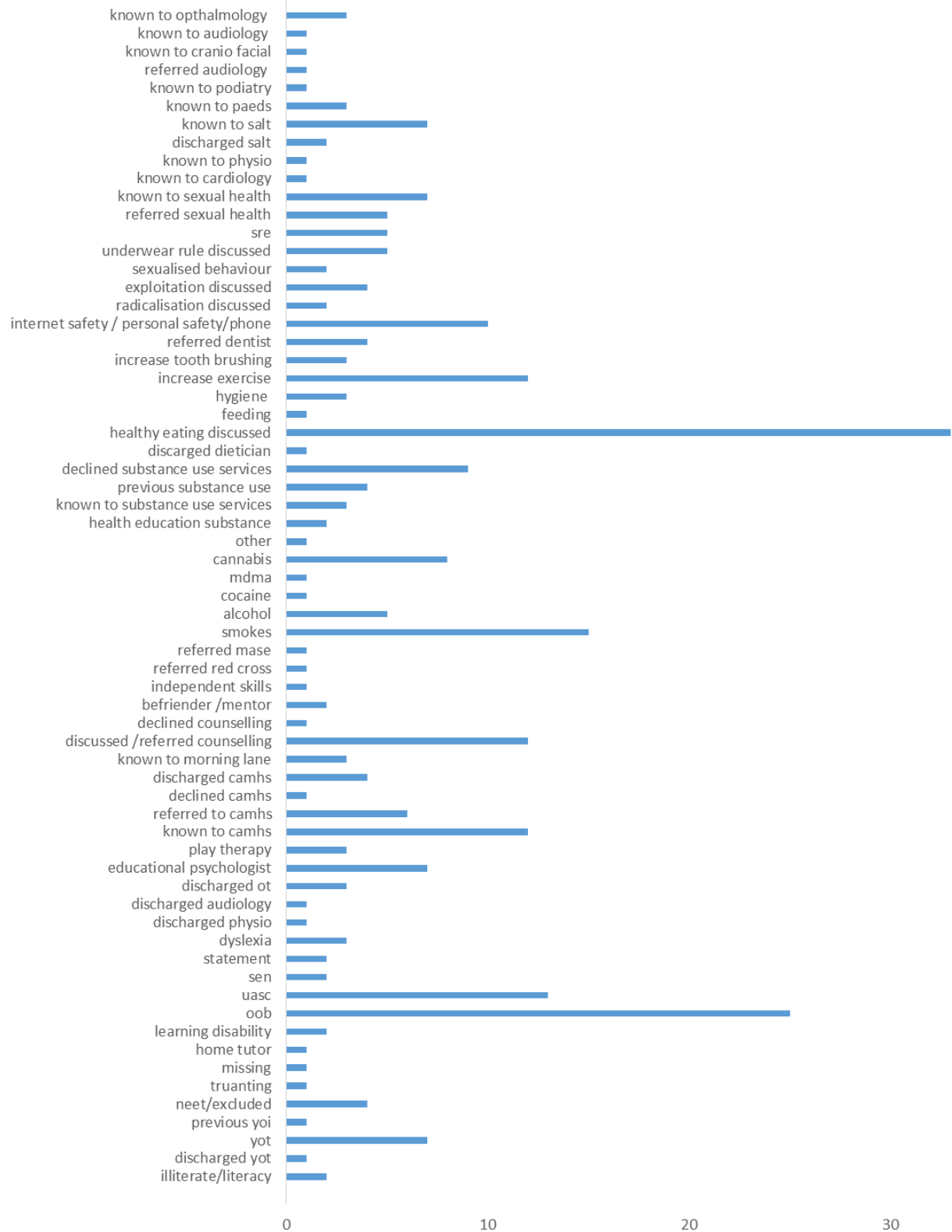
PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS



EMOTIONAL HEALTH NEEDS



HEALTH PROMOTION/OTHER HEALTH NEEDS



Corporate Parenting Panel Forward Planner

12 APRIL 2016

	Agenda
12 April 2016	<p>Feedback from CLA Achievement Event</p> <p>Performance Information</p> <p>Housing report</p> <p>High Cost Placements Monitoring</p> <p>Update from Virtual School</p> <p>Update from Health</p> <p>Update from Corporate Parenting Strategy 15 June 2016</p>
15 June 2016	<p>Update/progress on Leisure and Cultural activities for Looked After Children</p> <p>Six monthly report on Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)</p> <p>Six monthly report on School Attendance for Looked After Children</p>
25 October 2016	
10 January 2016	
28 March 2016	
To be allocated	<p>Annual report on the Virtual School</p> <p>Annual report on Housing for LAC (report to 12 April meeting?)</p>

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