

# Corporate Parenting Panel Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting - Online

## Membership (Quorum 3)

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**Chair:** Councillor Angella Murphy-Strachan

**Labour Councillors:** Maxine Henson  
Kiran Ramchandani  
Christine Robson

**Conservative Councillors:** Janet Mote (VC)  
Lynda Seymour

**Non-Voting Advisory Member:** Valerie Griffin

## Reserve Members:

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**Labour Reserve Members:**

1. Sue Anderson
2. Simon Brown
3. Dean Gilligan
4. Rekha Shah

**Conservative Reserve Members:**

1. Dr Lesline Lewinson
2. Chetna Halai

## Officers:

**Contact:** Daksha Ghelani, Senior Democratic and Electoral Services Officer  
daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk

Scan this code for the electronic agenda:



# **Useful Information**

## **Meeting details**

This meeting is open to the press and public and can be viewed on [www.harrow.gov.uk/virtualmeeting](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/virtualmeeting)

## **Filming / recording of meetings**

Please note that proceedings at this meeting may be recorded or filmed. If you choose to attend, you will be deemed to have consented to being recorded and/or filmed.

The recording will be made available on the Council website following the meeting.

**Agenda publication date: Monday 24 January 2022**

# 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 5 October 2021 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

## 4. Public Questions \*

To receive any public questions received in accordance with paragraph 16 of the Executive Procedure Rules.

Questions will be asked in the order in which they were received. There will be a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

**[The deadline for receipt of public questions is 3.00 pm, 27 January 2022. Questions should be sent to [publicquestions@harrow.gov.uk](mailto: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. Update from Care Experienced Young People about their Experiences

## 8. Corporate Parenting Service Update and Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 to 2025 (Pages 13 - 38)

Report and Presentation - Corporate Director of People Services.

9. **Virtual School Performance Update** (Pages 39 - 54)  
Presentation - Corporate Director of People Services.
10. **Information Report – Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Report** (Pages 55 - 72)  
Report and Presentation - Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.
11. **Any Other Urgent Business**  
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

## **Agenda - Part II - Nil**

### **\* Data Protection Act Notice**

The Council will record the meeting and will place the recording on the Council's website.

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



# Corporate Parenting Panel

## Minutes

### 5 October 2021

**Present:**

**Chair:** Angella Murphy-Strachan

**Councillors:** Maxine Henson  
Janet Mote  
Kiran Ramchandani  
Christine Robson  
Lynda Seymour

**Non-voting  
Advisory  
Member:** Valerie Griffin  
Foster Carer

**Councillors (in  
attendance):** Councillor Dr Lesline  
Lewinson

**Officers (in  
attendance):** Paul Hewitt  
Jacinta Kane  
Peter Tolley  
Christine Nichols  
Alison Braithwaite  
Anupameya Jain  
Kat Robinson  
Dipika Patel  
Joy Bell  
Corporate Director People  
Head of Corporate Parenting  
Director Children Social  
Care  
Named Nurse in Harrow  
Central and North West  
London NHS Foundation  
Trust  
Assistant Head Teacher –  
Harrow Virtual School  
Assistant Head Teacher  
(Post 16) – Harrow Virtual  
School  
Business Intelligence  
Partner  
Social Worker

**117. Attendance by Reserve Members**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members at the meeting.

**118. Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED:** To note that the Declarations of Interests published in advance of the meeting on the Council's website were taken as read.

**119. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2021 be taken as a read and signed correct record.

**120. Public Questions**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were received.

**121. Petitions**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions were received.

**122. Deputations**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no deputations were received.

**Resolved Items**

**123. Update from Care Leavers about their Experiences**

Members received an update from two care experienced young people on their experiences over the past 18 months. They informed the Panel on how they had coped during the lockdown arising from restrictions due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. They shared their experiences of being supported by Harrow.

They were accompanied to the meeting by their Social Worker, Joy Bell.

Young person, "S", who was 18 years old, spoke about her experiences moving into privately rented accommodation with her older sister. She shared that funding arrangements were authorised swiftly, which reduced her anxieties about moving out of foster care. S acknowledged that the move was challenging and exacerbated by testing positive for Covid-19, just as she was moving. However, she noted that there was nothing that Harrow could have done more to support with her move. S also spoke about her university studies and her early experiences of this.

Members inquired how much support she had received from Children's Services during this time and if there were any gaps during this period.

S shared her experiences of being in care as a child and noted that the support of a Social Worker had become increasingly significant throughout adolescence and above 18 years old. S reflected that her previous Social

Worker was burdened by too many cases and was unable to respond to her in a timely fashion, leading to gaps in support. S shared that her current Social Worker (Joy Bell) made her feel like the only person on her case load and shared how important it was to her that her Social Worker responded quickly and had a good relationship with her.

S was praised by the Panel for her confidence and exceptional achievements.

Young person “A”, who was 15 years old and in care spoke about her experiences of learning online during the lockdown. She acknowledged that this had caused a significant dip in her motivation. She noted that her attainment dropped significantly during this period. She confirmed that she had requested Mathematics, English and Science tuition from Virtual School to supplement this.

It was further advised by the Assistant Headteacher of the Harrow Virtual School that a GCSE tutor for Mathematics had just been sourced earlier in the week. Moreover, two GCSE tutors for English and Science were in the process of being obtained to work with A.

A was asked by the panel about her experiences obtaining a laptop from the Council and confirmed that it had been a speedy process. A shared that it was difficult to adjust to Microsoft Teams and online learning platforms, but she now felt confident with this.

A also shared that she felt that it was important for Social Workers to be on an even level with their young people, being sociable outside of statutory settings and making time for them. A stated that her Social Worker, Joy Bell, supported her well and made time for her.

A was praised by the panel for her resilience during lockdown.

Members expressed their appreciation to the young people for sharing their experiences and wished them well in their future endeavours. They encouraged the young people to feedback their experiences, including the negative ones, so that it would lead to improvement.

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

#### **124. Update and Performance for Corporate Parenting Service**

Members received the Corporate Parenting Service Update.

They were informed that there was an overall improvement (of 11%) in the children classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET) performance in the first quarter. However, improving the numbers of care leavers in education, training and employment remained a priority for the Service.

Prospects were commissioned to support care leavers (16-19-year olds) back into education, employment and training (EET) and Xcite (for the over 18-year-olds). Additional support from Catch 22 “Future Pathways” to support

young people into training and employment up to age of 24, was being provided through partnerships with employers, such as Wagamamas.

The data on children placed over 20 miles from Harrow was examined and explained. There were 30 individual children placed over 20 miles from Harrow (at 30 June 2021). Most of these children were placed outside of Harrow due to care planning decisions, based on an assessment of their welfare and best interests.

Seven children were placed outside of Harrow due to child sexual exploitation (CSE) or child criminal exploitation; four children were placed with family, kinship carers or adopters, and 10 children had been matched long term with their foster carers and were in their permanent home. Eight children were placed in a specialist residential placement to meet their educational or disability needs, and one child had experienced a placement breakdown and was in a temporary placement.

Harrow Council was one of the first local authorities in England to sign the Charter for Parents in and leaving care. The Council was committed to supporting mothers and fathers who were in care, or in the process of leaving care.

The Fostering Service Annual Report highlights were shared with Panel Members.

There were key challenges in recruiting more foster carers during the past year, and the following were reasons:

- 1) during lockdown, the usual methods of recruitment marketing were put on hold. The Harrow People Magazine was not published and no face to face events or information evenings could be held;
- 2) to continue raising awareness of the need for new Foster Carers in Harrow during the pandemic, leaflets were distributed to households in the borough. A Virtual Information Session was held and fostering promoted via Harrow Website and Facebook Page; and
- 3) the Service would be resuming the usual methods of active recruitment now that the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted. The Service would go into the community, hold events and target communities to raise the profile of fostering, particularly in the Eastern European community.

In terms of Private Fostering, 10 new private fostering notifications were made to Harrow (April 2020 - March 2021). Following assessment, six of the notifications were assessed as not private fostering. Therefore, only four new private fostering arrangements started during the year. At the end of March 2021 there were six active private fostering arrangements.

Placement sufficiency was a key issue for Harrow and for councils across England. Work was continuing on the West London Fostering Project with Ealing, Brent and Harrow. This was to develop a shared offer to foster carers

and improvement in the recruitment, retention and support for Local Authority Foster Carers.

Furthermore, with the anticipated increase in unaccompanied minors (UASC) seeking asylum in the country, it was noted that Harrow Council would continue to do their part and accommodate UASCs.

Harrow had committed to receiving 0.08% of the child population. In real terms, this meant that Harrow was likely to accommodate a further 20 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the months ahead. Therefore, the numbers of CLA would likely increase.

There would be a need to recruit additional social workers to manage the increase in children becoming looked after. More carers in the borough, would be required to cope with increased demand in fostering. Harrow had partnered with neighbouring Ealing and Brent to keep Children Looked After (CLA) in North West London.

It was envisaged that one young asylum seeker would be invited to join the next meeting to share their experiences of being looked after by Harrow Council.

It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy was currently being updated for 2022-2025. This would be shared at the next Panel meeting.

An update about the National Care Review – Case for Change was also provided at the meeting, and the link shared for the paper: “*case-for-change.pdf*” (Independent-Review.UK)

Members thanked the Children Services Team for their work and noted the progress that had been made since the last meeting.

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

## **125. Virtual School Performance Update**

Members received an update on the performance of the Harrow Virtual School.

The Personal Education Plans (PEP) returns remained at 100%, with 111 pupils of Statutory School Age (SSA) on roll. This was a slight drop in cohort numbers by 3 students since last year: 70% of students had been in care for 1 year or longer; 50% were educated outside of Harrow; 95% attended schools which were Ofsted rated as ‘Good’ or better; and 23% had an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Regarding school attendance, 80% (84/105) of pupils had an ‘X’ mark (the mark given when children cannot attend school due to a Covid-19 related matter). The ‘X’ mark was an authorised absence. Furthermore, 78% attended school, 8% had had suspension. However, no child had been permanently excluded.

The following attainment results were noted: Reception - 60% (3/5) achieved 'good level of development' in Early Years' Assessments, with the England average being 48%; Key Stage 1 - 67% (2/3) achieved 'expected standards' in Writing, Reading and Maths. The England average: 52%-Reading, 49% Maths and 42% for Writing; Key Stage 2 - 67% (2/3) achieved 'greater depth' in Reading, with the England average being 12%, and 67% (2/3) had achieved 'expected standards' in Writing, with the England average being 50%; and 33% (1/3) of pupils achieved 'expected standards' in Maths, where the England average was 51%.

Three students had undertaken A levels courses (or equivalent). Two of them obtained 3 A level passes; and the other achieved a Level 3 BTEC. Their destinations were: student 1 - Criminology degree course at Greenwich University; student 2: Level 4 Art Course at West Herts College; and student 3 would be taking a gap year to work and get experience before heading to university next academic year to study paediatric nursing.

The following were highlighted as priorities for the coming year:

- 1) catch-up interventions to support children who had fallen behind with their learning;
- 2) increase the number of children with good school attendance from 90% to 95% or higher;
- 3) increase the Attainment 8 Score (18) to be in line with or above the England Average (21);
- 4) review education packages for 'hard to reach' Key Stage 3 and Key 4 students; and
- 5) Black and Asian boys had been identified as a vulnerable group, who represented 57% of the cohort with a suspension. Further interventions would be explored for all pupils at risk of receiving a suspension.

Members queried what interventions were in place to assist young students who were prone to get into challenges at school. Was there any unconscious bias in some of the decisions to suspend or exclude students from certain ethnic backgrounds?

It was advised that there was support from teachers and Social Workers to assist students to remain focused on their studies, and some were encouraged to seek "time out" from stressful situations. Furthermore, there had not been any reports of "unconscious bias" or racism being behind reasons to suspend or exclude students.

Members expressed their appreciation to the leadership of the Harrow Virtual School for their hard work over the years, and welcomed the improvements made.

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

## 126. Update and Performance on Health for Children Looked After

Members received the Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Report.

The report set out the delivery of health services to Harrow's Children Looked After (CLA) during April - June 2021 in line with the national guidance. The report reviewed the service and included clinical work undertaken during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Initial health assessments were being triaged in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Assessments were completed either face to face, virtually or by telephone, on a case by case basis. Review health assessment were offered face to face appointments. However, if declined they were completed either by telephone or virtually.

The CLA team also assisted the London Borough of Harrow to: record and report dates of dental checks following health assessment; update immunisation status of each CLA following health assessment where possible; GP registration; and record and report dates of optician checks.

New processes had been initiated with initial health assessments for infants under 1 month old being carried out virtually and would include data from other health record sources. A further face to face health review was to be offered at 3 months of age rather than at 6 months of age.

Members queried on what mental health services were available to CLA, and how accessible such services were.

It was advised that mental health services were available and could be accessed by CLA if needed.

Members expressed their appreciation to service providers for their work with the children and young people.

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

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 7.53 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Angella Murphy-Strachan  
Chair

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# Corporate Parenting Service Update

February 2022

*Jacinta Kane*  
*Head of Corporate Parenting*

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- Performance and Disproportionality Update
- Children in Care Council Consultation and Participation
- Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025

# Performance Scorecard

CLA 195; Care Leavers 189 (end of Q3)

Ref No	Indicator Description	Statistical Neighbour Average 2020/21	England average 2020/21	Harrow 2018-19	Harrow 2019-20	Harrow 2020-21	Harrow target 2021/22	Harrow actual Q1 2021-22	Harrow actual Q2 2021-22	Harrow actual Q3 2021-22
1	Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged under 18	38.6	67.0	29.0	31.7	30.0		29.0	29.7	32.5
2	Timeliness of Reviews of Looked After Children	Not Published	Not Published	100.0	98.9	97.1	95%	97.1	93.5	90.7
3	% of CLA with 3 or more placements	10.0	9.0	10.7	13.5	10.0	Q1 - 2.5% Q2 - 5% Q3 - 7.5% Q4 - 10%	1.7	4.5	6.2
4	% of CLA looked after for 2.5+ years and in the same placement for 2 years	69.5	70.0	53.8	69.7	81.0	70%	73.7	76.9	70.7
5	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (19 - 21 year olds)	86.4	88.0	94.6	92.9	82.1	85%	82.1	91.9	89.5
6	% of Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (19 - 21 year olds)	37.5	41.0	31.5	29.1	40.0	35%	38.5	37.1	32.4
7	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Dental Checks (rolling year)	41.7	40.0	89.9	94.0	73.0	90%	85.7	80.7	86.4
8	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Health Checks (rolling year)	91.8	91.0	96.2	94.0	99.0	95%	95.8	84.4	94.9
9	% of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted	5.5	10.0	5.3	3.1	4.3	Q1 - 2% Q2 - 4% Q3 - 6% Q4 - 8%	4.3	3.6	3.8
10	% Children who ceased to be looked due to a Special Guardianship Order	Not Published	12.3	6	13	19.1	13%	13.0	19.6	15.2
11	% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home (snapshot)	22.1	16.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20%	23.4	21.6	18.2
12	% of all CLA (current and ceased) with at least 1 missing episode in year	12.9	10.0	11.8	12.8	9.0	Q1 - 3% Q2 - 6% Q3 - 9% Q4 - 12%	3.6	8.2	8.6

- Improvement in young people accessing education, employment and training. For Q3, 32.4% care leavers were NEET

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- NEET Monthly Challenge Panel commenced in January 2022, this will focus on developing plans for young people to be supported into education, employment and training opportunities

# CLA demographics and disproportionality Q3 snapshot

Ethnicity									
	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
White	27	27	no dif 0%	25	27	lower -7%	75	74	higher 1%
Mixed	21	9	higher 133%	23	9	higher 156%	10	6	higher 59%
Asian	26	49	lower -47%	22	49	lower -55%	4	12	lower -67%
Black	15	10	higher 50%	15	10	higher 50%	7	6	higher 17%
Other	13	1	higher 1200%	15	1	higher 1400%	3	0	higher 300%
Age									
	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Under 1	6	6	lower -6%	4	6	lower -33%	5	5	lower -3%
1 to 4	10	24	lower -57%	15	24	lower -38%	14	22	lower -37%
5 to 9	12	29	lower -57%	13	29	lower -55%	19	29	lower -35%
10 to 15	36	31	higher 17%	43	31	higher 39%	39	33	higher 18%
16-plus	35	10	higher 252%	25	10	higher 149%	23	10	higher 129%
Gender									
	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Male	58	51	higher 14%	59	51	higher 15%	56	51	higher 9%
Female	42	49	lower -15%	41	49	lower -16%	44	49	lower -10%

- CIC Council Consultation event on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022
- Key messages from care experienced children and young people
- Next steps agreed for 2022
- 18 ● Working towards New Beginnings Self Assessment of CLA/UASC/LC Team
- Aspirations – Young People Led Inspection
- Pan London Children in Care Offer – working group underway

## Achievements to date and examples of good practice

- Care experienced young people are part of every interview panel to recruit social workers, after care personal advisors and managers in the Children Looked After, UASC, and Leaving Care team (introduced in 2020)
- Harrow was one of the first local authorities in England to sign-up to the *Parents In and Leaving Care Charter*,
- 19 ● The Harrow Local Offer to Care Leavers was refreshed following consultation with care experienced young people in 2021, Council tax exemptions for all Harrow Care Leavers until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday was introduced in April 2021.
- In 2021, we stayed in touch with 98% of care leavers aged 19-21, and 96% were in suitable accommodation
- 100% of eligible children have a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) in 2021
- No child looked after by Harrow had a permanent exclusion in 2020-2021
- All children are given extra tuition according to their need
- The Staying Put policy enables care leavers to remain with their foster carers after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Education, Training and Employment: We have high aspirations and want to close the attainment gap for children in care. We will increase the proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment.**

## **We will:**

- 20 ● Offer catch-up interventions to support children who have fallen behind with their learning.
- Work to increase the number of children with good school attendance from 90% to 95% or higher.
- Aim to increase the Attainment 8 Score (18) to be in line with or above the England Average (21).
- Review education packages for 'hard to reach' Key Stage 3 and Key 4 students.
- Address issues of disproportionality of education outcomes

**Improve the involvement and participation of young people in all services for children looked after and care leavers, with a focus on co-production, service design, delivery and evaluation.**

## **We will:**

- Co-facilitate a series of consultation events in 2022 to revitalise the Children in Care Council, seeking children and young peoples' views about what a council should look like, how it should be run, and how this will influence decisions and policies in Harrow Council
- Work with care experienced young people to undertake a Youth Led Inspection of Children's Services to develop more meaningful co-production and participation of services which meet the needs of children and young people.
- Ensure care experienced young people continue to be part of every interview panel in the CLA, UASC, and Leaving Care Team recruitment
- Continue to regularly seek the feedback of children looked after before CLA reviews and in plans and decisions made about their care and Pathway Planning.

**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**

## **We will:**

- Ensure children and young people have timely access to the right assessments (including Education Health and Care Plans where eligible), so their needs are understood and met.
- Ensure that young people know how to access their health information via the NHS app
- Commission services in partnership with children and young people to meet their needs, including emotional and mental health services (such as Heads Up)
- Advocate for children and care leavers to have priority access to health services
- Work with health partners to ensure the safe transition of young people to adult services
- Promote healthy relationships, sexual health and well-being, and support young people to access key agencies such as the Caryl Thomas Clinic, Brook, the Wish Centre, and Compass

**Safe and stable homes: we will provide a choice of good quality placements that provide security, stability, safety and high standards of care**

## **We will:**

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- Ensure that all children looked after are placed in appropriate homes with access to the support that they need, as identified in their care plan
  - Develop a wide range of resources to respond to the diverse needs of children looked after and care leavers, working closely with education, health and housing services.
  - Place children within Harrow as far as possible or within the North West London, except where this is not consistent with the child's welfare of a child
  - Maintain joint working arrangements between Children and Housing 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
  - Continue to develop a sufficient range of accommodation and support packages for 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
  - Maintain robust systems to ensure careful matching of placements and to prevent disruption and to ensure placement stability

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# Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 to 2025

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### Appendix

Progress against our 2017 priorities  
The Corporate Parenting Pledge

Terms:  
Children Looked After (CLA)  
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)  
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

**The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers: good**

*When children come into care, they receive a very good service. Staff at all levels work tirelessly to help children in care and care leavers to achieve in life and protect them from further harm. Children are matched carefully with carers who promote their needs and help them to achieve. Social workers and personal advisers (PAs) work steadfastly to advocate on behalf of care leavers to ensure that they receive the best support to move safely towards independence....Corporate leaders and elected members have tangible high aspirations, demonstrated by continuous financial support.*

## **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. Parental responsibility for looked after children is the responsibility of the whole council, not just children services. 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.

Corporate parenting relates to all children looked after by the authority, wherever they are placed, including young people receiving after care services up to 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 are less likely to achieve educationally; they are over represented in the criminal justice system; often 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.

The goal of corporate parenting is to improve 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 and care leavers.

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.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlined 7 Corporate Parenting principles

- a) To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- b) To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- c) To take into account the views wishes and feelings of those young people

- d) To help those children and young people gain access to , and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- e) To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- f) For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- g) To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and Independent living

## 2. Our Vision

As corporate parents we are committed to ensuring that every child looked after and care leaver has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential and experience safe and positive parenting. We will provide the same standard of care as any good parent; we have high aspirations for our children and will be strong advocates for them.

- 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 families 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, religion and identity 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.
- Wherever safe and possible, children and young people should live with their family. We will ensure that the children in our care are only those who need to be in care.

## 3. Summary of Achievements to date

- Care experienced young people are part of every interview panel to recruit social workers, after care personal advisors and managers in the Children Looked After, UASC, and Leaving Care team (introduced in 2020)
- Council tax exemptions for all Harrow Care Leavers until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday was introduced in April 2021.
- Harrow was one of the first local authorities in England to sign-up to the *Parents In and Leaving Care Charter*, focussing on support to care leavers who become parents
- The Harrow Local Offer to Care Leavers was refreshed following consultation with care experienced young people in 2021
- In 2021, we stayed in touch with 98% of care leavers aged 19-21, and 96% were in suitable accommodation
- 100% of eligible children have a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) in 2021
- No child looked after by Harrow had a permanent exclusion in 2020-2021
- All children are given extra tuition according to their need
- The Staying Put policy enables care leavers to remain with their foster carers after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

## 4. The Foundations of our Strategy

Harrow Council is ambitious for looked after children and young people and 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”.

This strategy outlines our aspirations for looked after children and young people and sets out the actions we intend to take to achieve them. This strategy is part of a broad range of activity that supports our shared aim to improve provision for children in care and care leavers including:

- Our co-produced Pledge to Children in Care and Care leavers and a local offer for care leavers
- The Corporate Parenting Panel which provides strategic leadership to ensure the council is delivering its corporate parenting duties, and includes participation from care experienced young people
- Harrow Children Looked After Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2019 – 2024 that sets out how we will deliver the range and number of high-quality placements needed by children in care and care leavers
- Quarterly performance monitoring and evaluation
- Harrow Safeguarding Partnership Plan
- The Harrow Virtual School working with schools, colleges, training providers, education settings and children’s social care to improve educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers
- Harrow Youth Justice Plan which is addressing issues of disproportionality in the Youth Justice System and this involves strong partnership with local community groups and statutory partners
- Harrow Borough Plan 2030
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report
- Children and Young People’s engagement and feedback annual reports

## 5. Key Priorities

In order to achieve our vision to be good corporate parents we commit to the following 4 priorities for 2022-2025.

### **5.1 Education, Training and Employment: We have high aspirations and want to close the attainment gap for children in care. We will increase the proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment.**

There are many different pathways for learning and we have high aspirations for our children and young people to achieve. We will work in partnership to provide a range of quality education and employment settings to help them develop confidence and skills for their future.

The role of Harrow Virtual School is to raise the attainment and outcomes of Harrow’s Children Looked After (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 Children Looked After 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. The Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report informs the corporate parenting agenda regarding children's educational attainment, school attendance, employment and training, to accelerate progress to Narrow the Gap.

**We will:**

- Implement catch-up interventions to support children who have fallen behind with their learning.
- Work to increase the number of children with good school attendance from 90% to 95% or higher.
- Aim to increase the Attainment 8 Score (18) to be in line with or above the England Average (21).
- Review education packages for 'hard to reach' Key Stage 3 and Key 4 students.
- Address issues of disproportionality of education outcomes: Black and Asian boys have been identified as a vulnerable group and represent 57% of the cohort with a suspension. Further interventions to be explored for all pupils at risk of receiving a suspension.
- Work with partners such as Prospects, Xcite and Catch 22 to support young people into training and employment, and promote apprenticeships for care leavers
- Hold a monthly NEET panel to develop targeted plans to support young people back into education, employment or training and to develop their aspirations

**5.2 Improve the involvement and participation of young people in all services for children looked after and care leavers, with a focus on co-production, service design, delivery and evaluation.**

We recognise that care experienced children and young people are experts by experience and we must learn from and listen to them. Since 2020, care experienced young people have been members of all interview panels for staff recruitment in the CLA, UASC and Leaving Care Team. Care experienced young people are invited and supported to attend every Corporate Parenting Panel to share their experiences with members and provide honest feedback about service delivery. Independent Reviewing Officers 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. However, we know we can and must do more to involve care experienced children and young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.

**We will:**

- Co-facilitate a series of consultation events in 2022 to revitalise the Children in Care Council, seeking children and young peoples' views about what a council should look like, how it should be run, and how this will influence decisions and policies in Harrow Council
- Work with care experienced young people to undertake a Youth Led Inspection of Children's Services to develop more meaningful co-production and participation of services which meet the needs of children and young people.
- Ensure care experienced young people continue to be part of every interview panel in the CLA, UASC, and Leaving Care Team recruitment
- Continue to regularly seek the feedback of children looked after before CLA reviews and in plans and decisions made about their care and Pathway Planning.

### **5.3 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. Adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) can impact significantly on the short- and long-term health and well-being of our children in care and care leavers. Care experienced children and young people need to be able to easily access the services available, as well as making use of specialist services where necessary.

We will:

- Ensure children and young people have timely access to the right assessments (including Education Health and Care Plans where eligible), so their needs are understood and met.
- Ensure that young people know how to access their health information via the NHS app
- Commission services in partnership with children and young people to meet their needs, including emotional and mental health services (such as Heads Up)
- Advocate for children and care leavers to have priority access to health services
- Work with health partners to ensure the safe transition of young people to adult services
- Promote healthy relationships, sexual health and well-being, and support young people to access key agencies such as the Caryl Thomas Clinic, Brook, the Wish Centre, and Compass

### **5.4 Safe and stable homes: we will 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 support services available so we can achieve the best outcomes for every child and young person. Harrow has a Placement Sufficiency Strategy which outlines the needs of children looked after and care leavers and how we ensure we commission and review a wide range of placement options to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers.

We will:

- Ensure that all children looked after are placed in appropriate homes with access to the support that they need, as identified in their care plan
- Develop a wide range of resources to respond to the diverse needs of children looked after and care leavers, working closely with education, health and housing services.
- Place children within Harrow as far as possible or within the North West London, except where this is not consistent with the child's welfare of a child
- Maintain joint working arrangements between Children and Housing 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
- Continue to develop a sufficient range of accommodation and support packages for 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
- Maintain robust systems to ensure careful matching of placements and to prevent disruption and to ensure placement stability

## Appendix A: Progress against the 7 Corporate Parenting Priorities we set out in 2017

Strategic Objective	What's been working well	The challenges that remain
<p><i>1. Improve the education attainment and school attendance of looked after children; narrow the gap with other children</i></p>	<p>In academic year 2020-2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEP returns remain at 100%.</li> <li>• 95% of students attend schools which are Ofsted rated as 'Good' or better.</li> <li>• 78% of eligible children attended school</li> <li>• 8% of students had a suspension</li> <li>• No child had a permanent exclusion</li> <li>• 23% of students have an EHCP.</li> <li>• English Proficiency Programmes, 1:1 tuition, EAL Summer Camp are in place to support our most vulnerable groups.</li> <li>• Reception: 60% of pupils achieved 'good level of development' in Early Years' Assessments. The England average 48%.</li> <li>• Key Stage 1: 67% of pupils achieved 'expected standards' in Writing, Reading and Maths. The England average: 52%-Reading, 49% Maths and 42% for Writing</li> <li>• Key Stage 2: 67% of pupils achieved 'greater depth' in Reading. The England average is 12%.</li> <li>• 67% of pupils achieved 'expected standards' in Writing. The England average is 50%. 33% of pupils achieved 'expected standards' in Maths. The England average is 51%.</li> <li>• Key Stage 3: 30% EHCP, 30% have English as an Additional Language (EAL) and 40% are known to the Youth Offending Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch-up interventions to support children who have fallen behind with their learning due to impact of Covid-19</li> <li>• To increase the number of children with good school attendance from 90% to 95% or higher.</li> <li>• To increase the Attainment 8 Score (18) to be in line with or above the England Average (21).</li> <li>• To review education packages for 'hard to reach' Key Stage 3 and Key 4 students.</li> <li>• Black and Asian boys have been identified as a vulnerable group and represent 57% of the cohort with a suspension. Further interventions to be explored for all pupils at risk of receiving a suspension.</li> <li>• Covid-19 has impacted particularly on NEET for care leavers, and a monthly problem solving panel for NEET young people will commence in 2022 to ensure young people are supported into education, employment and training opportunities</li> </ul>

	<p>(YOT). One student received 11 GCSEs grades 4-8; Four students achieved GCSE passes (1-8) in both English and Maths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Designated Teachers Network provides training and support is provided to teachers and DSLs in Harrow and to develop specialist knowledge in meeting the educational needs of children in care.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>2. Improve the involvement and participation of young people in all services for children looked after and care leavers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care experienced young people are part of every interview panel to recruit social workers, after care personal advisors and managers in the Children Looked After, UASC, and Leaving Care team (introduced in 2020)</li> <li>Care experienced young people were involved in the local offer refresh in 2021, and this introduced Council tax exemptions for all Harrow Care Leavers until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday from April 2021.</li> <li>Since 2020, Care experienced young people have joined the Corporate Parenting Panel to share their views and experiences of being looked-after by Harrow with elected members.</li> <li>In 2021, Harrow was one of the first local authorities in England to sign-up to the <i>Parents In and Leaving Care Charter</i>, focussing on support to care leavers who become parents</li> <li>The Independent Reviewing Officer consults with children looked after two weeks prior to their statutory review. Young people are supported by their</li> </ul>	<p>The prolonged impact of Covid-19 on social gatherings and group activities has impacted on the capacity to safely run groups and activities for children in care and care leavers.</p> <p>In 2022, care experienced young people will be consulted about their views and wishes for the Children in Care Council, Beyond Limits, and the Care Leavers Forum.</p> <p>Care experienced young people will be consulted and recruited to undertake a Youth Led Inspection of Children's Services to develop more meaningful co-production and participation of services which meet the needs of children and young people.</p>

	placements, carers, social worker, advocates or the Children's Participation Co-ordinator	
<p><i>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</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The % of children with up to date health checks and dental checks remains consistently better than our statistical neighbours and the England average</li> <li>• The percentage of CLA identified as having a substance misuse problem was 6.9% in 2020/21. This figure is similar to the previous reporting year and the London average.</li> <li>• The percentage of CLA whose immunisations were up to date was 82.2% in Harrow for the year 2020/2021, (80% in London)</li> <li>• There are well established processes and effective multiagency partnerships to identify and address exploitation and abuse of children.</li> <li>• Monthly meetings between social care, health and commissioners to review and meet the mental health needs of CLA and care leavers, and to ensure appropriate services are commissioned to meet the needs of children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing timely assessments for some children remains a challenge – and some assessments are needed to unlock support to young people and adolescents</li> <li>• Care experienced children and young people need priority access to services</li> <li>• Care leavers need more support to be confident in accessing their health history / health passport</li> </ul>
<p><i>4. Safe and stable placements: provide a choice of good quality placements that provide security, stability, safety and high standards of care</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrow's Placement Sufficiency Strategy and our involvement in the Commissioning Alliance framework ensure we have a range of placement options for children and care leavers.</li> <li>• The majority of children (78%) are placed within 20 miles of Harrow,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The numbers of children in care is growing nationally, and this is putting pressure on placement availability and planning</li> <li>• There is a national shortage of suitable placements to meet the needs of adolescents who have experienced abuse and exploitation</li> </ul>

	<p>unless there are clear safety, welfare and matching reasons for children to be placed out of area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Over 70% of children remain in their stable placement for over 2 years.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>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</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are supported with lifestory work to understand the reasons why they became looked after, and care plans and pathway plans are written in age appropriate language</li> <li>• Placement decisions are made on the needs of the child, including identity needs, and children are supported to pursue their interests and aspirations</li> <li>• We ensure the work force reflects the diversity of the local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to recruit social workers and foster carers that reflect the diversity of the local community</li> </ul>
<p><i>6. Smooth transition to adulthood and independence: ensure children looked after and care leavers receive focused support at key transition points in their lives</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, we stayed in touch with 98% of care leavers aged 19-21, and 96% were in suitable accommodation</li> <li>• The Staying Put policy enables care leavers to remain with their foster carers after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday</li> <li>• Following a service redesign completed in 2021, a single team is responsible for children looked after (including unaccompanied asylum seeking children "UASCs") and care leavers. This has enabled more consistent decision making,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>New Belongings Self Assessment</i> will be completed in 2022 to assess the service against 10 areas which reflect young people's pathways to adulthood (Stein, 2012) and what might be expected in a 'gold standard' service to care leavers</li> </ul>

	<p>pathway plans and the removal of a “cliff edge” at 18, as care leavers do not automatically move to a new worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are one of the first Local Authorities in England to sign the <b>Charter for Parents in and leaving care</b>. As corporate parents we are committed to supporting mothers and fathers who are in care, or in the process of leaving care</li></ul>	
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## Appendix B: Corporate Parenting Pledge<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/harrows-pledge-children-care>

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. Care experienced young people also attend the Corporate Parenting panel.

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

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# Corporate Parenting Panel February 2022



Mellina Williamson-Taylor  
Headteacher Harrow Virtual  
School

# Key Updates



- The Extended Role of the VHT
- Virtual School Structure
- End of Key Stage Exam Predictions
- School Overview
- Royal Springboard
- Every Child Can Achieve Programme for Students aged 14 Plus
- An Update on School Priorities

# Promoting The Education of Children with a Social Worker DfE June 2021

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- This non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education intends to support all local authorities as Virtual School Heads take a strategic leadership role in promoting the educational outcomes of the cohort of children with a social worker and those who have previously had a social worker who are aged from 0 up to 18.
- This guidance has been produced with input from the National Association of Virtual School Heads (NAVSH) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).
- The additional role of the Virtual School Head does not require the Virtual School Heads to provide direct intervention, help and support for individual children with a social worker or their families. This guidance does not change existing duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

[Promoting the education of children with a social worker](#)



# The Strategic Leadership of Virtual School Heads for Children with a Social Worker (CWSW)

## Virtual Schools will

- make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children.
- promote practice that supports children's engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm.
- level up children's outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. This will include helping to make sure that children with a social worker benefit from support to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

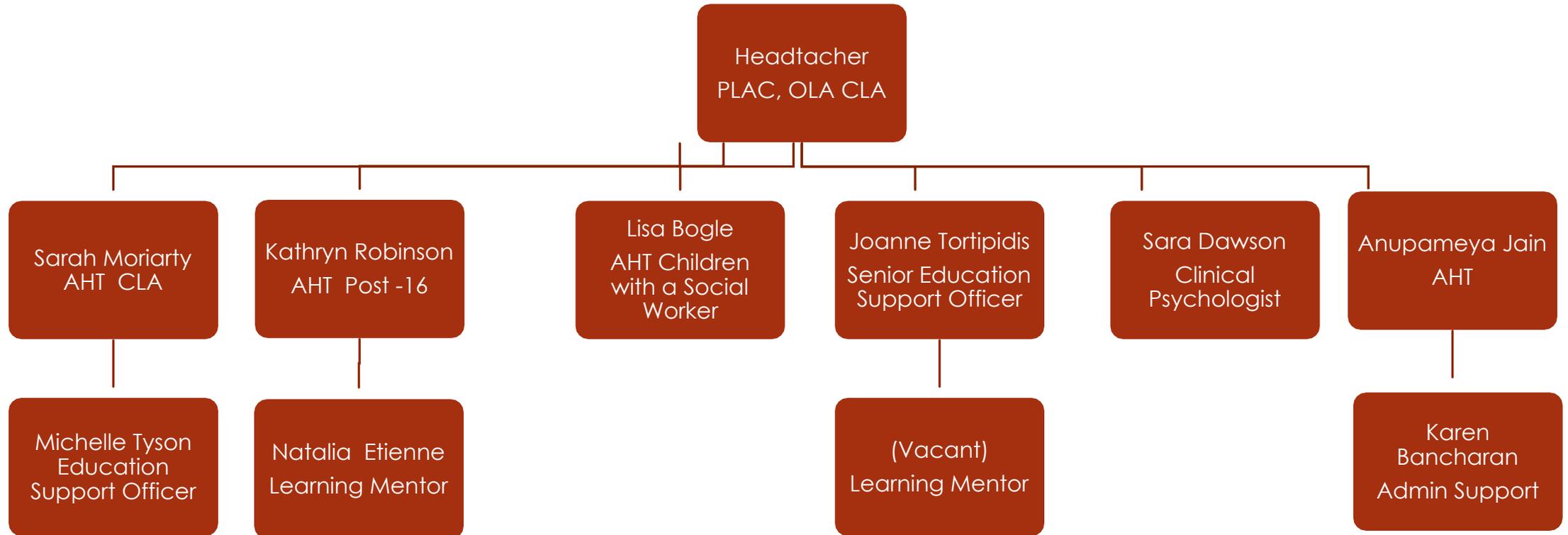


# Children with a Social Worker Numbers

Phase	Number
EYFS	380
Primary	431
Secondary	425
Key Stage 5	286
<b>Total</b>	<b>1522</b>



# Harrow Virtual School Structure



# End of Key Stage Exam Predictions



- Key Stage 1: 50% (2/4) are expected to achieve 'expected' in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- Key Stage 2: 42% (3/7) are expected to achieve 'expected' in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- Year 11: 42% (8/19) students in care 1 year plus are on track to achieve 8 or more GCSEs.

# School Overview

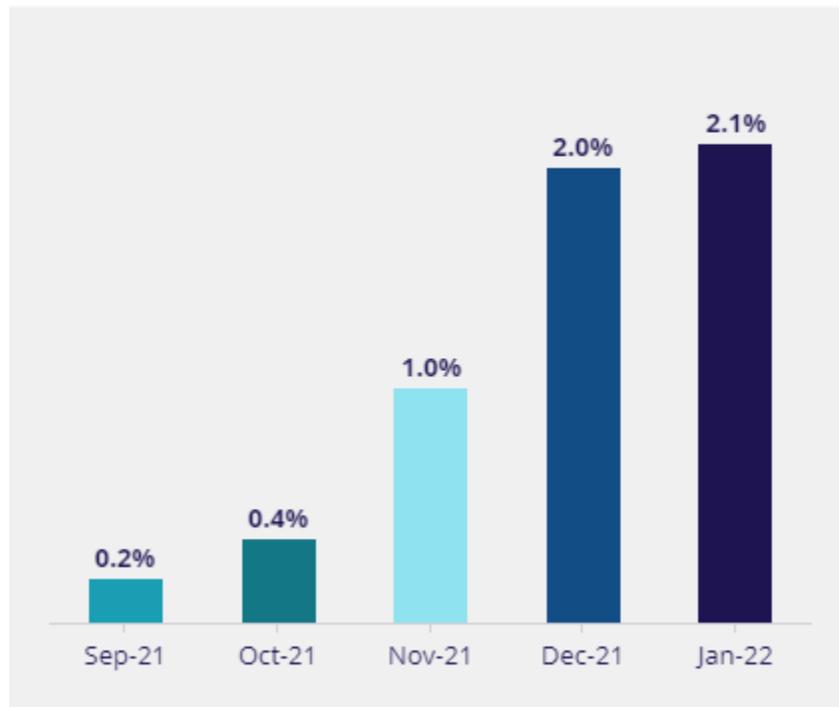


- Pupils have an average attendance of 90%.
- 100% PEP returns for the Autumn Term.
- 9% (10/109) of pupils have had a suspension (FTE) and 1 child has had a PEX .
- The attainment and progress of every child continues to be monitored rigorously.
- Interventions are in place to support children who are underperforming.

# Covid Related Absences



X Marks



- From September – January the overall absence due to Covid is 20% (22/109 children). 74.5 schools days have been lost.
- The graph shows the incremental rise of Covid related cases month-by-month.
- cases doubled from November to December last year, but the number of cases remain very low.
- Where possible children would engage in home learning.

# Royal SpringBoard Foundation

This is a two-year pilot programme joint-funded by the Independent Schools team and Children's Social Care team in the DfE. It is being implemented by Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation ("Royal SpringBoard") in partnership with Local Authorities and boarding and independent day schools.

## **The role of Royal SpringBoard is to:**

- broker partnerships with Local Authority Virtual Schools and then match placements of CLA and vulnerable pupils at boarding and independent schools
- quality assure the boarding or independent day schools to ensure CLA and vulnerable pupils will thrive in their settings
- monitor the progress of placed through the programme (including through the PEP process); and ensure additional support is put in place, where necessary, for placements to succeed.

# Every Child Can Achieve Programme Rationale

- Every year we identify students who we know are still on board, but have signs of beginning to either buckle under the pressure or who have circumstances in their lives out of school which are beginning to draw them away from their studies. In these circumstances, any opportunity to sit an exam is advantageous to the pupil, especially if they have a chance of passing.
- A child's personal circumstances can change very quickly and so it is better to enter students for qualifications early rather than run the risk of 'losing' them in Year 11.
- HVS is currently 3 points below the 'Attainment 8' England Average (21) and this programme has been designed to address this.

# What is a Functional Skills Qualification?

A Functional Skill Level 1 is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 3.

A Functional Skill Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE Grade 4

- Functional Skills are quicker to complete than a GCSE.
- They are accepted by employers and Further Education Colleges. Level 2 English and Maths qualifications are accepted by universities.
- Functional Skills qualifications are not easier than GCSEs but offer a different approach to learning that will boost your confidence.

## Every Child Can Achieve Tuition and Assessment

- Students will be supported via online 1:1 tuition for Functional Skills English, Maths and ICT. (Students can take any number or combinations of these )
- Tests are taken online at an approved test centre. (No paper exams, the test centres have computers set-up for the assessment)
- The student's Unique Learner Number (ULN) will be matched to their Personal Learning Record- which maintains a list of qualifications held by each student. It will feed into their Year 11 Attainment 8 and Progress 8 Scores.

# Every Child Can Achieve Programme Outcomes



A step-up on a ladder of future qualifications . Functional Skills Level 2 is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4 . (GCSE grade 4 or above are good passes)



A sense of achievement



Confidence booster for children who have missed school due to their personal circumstances.



Encourages disaffected students to 'buy-into' their education and go on to achieve good GCSE passes in Key Stage 4



The Functional Skills Qualification does not replace the GCSE assessments- students are actively encouraged to complete their GCSEs in Year 11 and aim for a higher grade in English, Maths and ICT.

# An Update on School Priorities



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To review the education support packages for 'hard to reach' Key Stage 3 and Key 4 students.

- ✓ The 'Every Child Can Achieve Programme' is in place.
- ✓ A learning mentor has been appointed.

To increase the number of CLA and Care Leavers in Employment, Education and Training to 75% or higher.

- ✓ 80% of students in Key Stage 5 are EET
- ✓ Students that are NEET are actively seeking employment or are receiving 1:1 tuition.
- ✓ Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 transitions remain strong.

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**REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel**

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**Date of Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

**Subject:** Information Report – Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Report

**Key Decision:** No

**Responsible Officer:** Claire Eves, Associate Director of Outer London Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools

**Exempt:** No

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

**Wards affected:** None - This is an Information report

**Enclosures:** None

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Corporate Parenting is requested to note the report

**Reason for Recommendation:** This report sets out the delivery of health services to Harrow's Children Looked After (CLA) during April - June 2021 in line with the national guidance. The report reviews the service and includes clinical work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Section 2 – Report

### Report for Corporate Parenting Panel – Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Service February 2022

#### Initial Health Assessment (IHA) and Review Health Assessment (RHA) Activity

Month	Target for IHA 100% CNWL*	Target for RHA 100% CNWL*	Number seen in timescales	
July	100%	100%	67% IHA	100%RHA
August	100%	100%	100 % IHA	100% RHA
September	100%	100%	89 % IHA	100 % RHA
October	100%	100%	82 % IHA	100 % RHA
November	100%	100%	91% IHA	93 % RHA
December	100%	100%	100 % IHA	100% RHA

\* excludes requests and consent not made available within 3 days for IHA’s and within 3 months for RHA’s, CLA who do not attend or refuse appointments given, CLA placed out of Harrow who depend upon another provider to offer an appointment.

#### Meetings

The Harrow CLA health team continue to attend MASE monthly.

The CLA specialist nurse attended the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

The CLA health team have attended strategy meetings and a discharge CPA meeting for complex and vulnerable young people.

The Named Nurse for CLA attended individual Child Protection Supervision.

The CLA health team have met regularly with Harrow business support to carry out monitoring meetings.

The CLA health team Quarterly meetings with Harrow CCG and Harrow Council continue.

The CLA specialist Nurse attended the CLA and UASC youth engagement meeting in September.

The Named Nurse / Specialist Nurse for CLA attended the Mental Health Needs of CLA meeting.

#### Team News

Harrow CLA team participated in an away day with the Hillingdon CLA team.

The Harrow specialist nurse attended the Football - CLA, Careleavers & YOT event in August.

The Harrow CLA Team are working towards ensuring all staff are fully compliant with Covid immunization requirements.

**Training:**

The Harrow CLA nursing team have received Emotional and Mental Health Training. The trainer will be providing clinical supervision for complex cases in Jan 2022.

The Named Nurse for Harrow CLA attended Affina Team Leader training.

The Harrow CLA nurses attended the Harrow Nursing Event December 2021.

The Specialist Nurse for CLA in Harrow attended the Drug Awareness Training In December 2021.

**New Processes**

The Harrow CLA service are currently working on new templates for review health assessments and health recommendations. We will be looking to pilot these templates in the near future.

The Harrow CLA service began receiving the minutes of the weekly meetings held to discuss missing YP. We began to update the safeguarding node on the YP’s electronic records. There were a few weeks around the Christmas period when we did not receive the minutes. The Harrow CLA team will look to resume this liaison with the VVE team moving forward.

In October 2021 a Peer Review of the Harrow CLA Service took place. The outcome of this was very positive.

The Harrow CLA service have developed a letter to support YP registering with Local Dentists to ensure they are prioritised.

**Dental Health**

Registering with a Local Dentist has become increasingly challenging during Covid.

The Harrow CLA team have developed a letter to facilitate YP registering with a local Dentist.

The Harrow CLA Service also promote the following link which enables YP and carers to locate local dentists who are accepting new registrations in their local areas. <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-Dentist>

Recently the Harrow CLA Service have referred 6 YP with complex dental needs to the Harrow Community Dental Services. These 6 YP were unable to register with their local Dentist but required early intervention. Some of whom were UASC’s.

The outcomes for these YP have been positive.

Christine Nichols, Named Nurse For Children Looked In Harrow. 11.01.22

**Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

**Not applicable – for information only**

Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: __/__/__		

Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date:		

\* Delete the words "on behalf of the" if the report is cleared directly by the Chief Financial Officer / Monitoring Officer.

Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Date:		

<b>MANDATORY</b>	
<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO, this is an information report only</b>
<b>EqIA carried out:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>EqIA cleared by:</b>	N/A information report only

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

### Contact:

<p>Christine Nichols Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow</p> <p>Mob : 07597007194 Email – <a href="mailto:Christine.nichols3@nhs.net">Christine.nichols3@nhs.net</a></p>
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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Christine Nichols, Named Nurse for CLA Harrow**  
01/02/22

# Harrow Children Looked After Health Service

## Corporate Parenting Panel 01.02.22

Christine Nichols – Named Nurse for Children Looked  
After Harrow

# Key Performance Indicators for Harrow CLA

- Harrow CCG and Harrow Council set the following KPIs

## Initial Health Assessments: –

- To complete 100% of CLA Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) within 20 operational days/ 28 calendar days.

## Review Health Assessments:-

- To complete 100% of CLA Review Health Assessments (RHAs) completed on time.

# Exception Reporting

- Young people who refuse
- DNAs or missing children
- Out of area
- Notifications from Harrow Council later than 3 months before the review date
- Late requests

These KPIs are taken from Statutory Guidance requirements.

# Other Service Specification Requirements

The CLA team also assist the London Borough of Harrow to:

- Record and report dates of dental checks following health assessment
- To update immunisation status of each CLA following health assessment where possible
- GP Registration
- Record and report dates of Optician Checks

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# KPI's for Harrow CLA July – December 2021

Month	Target for IHA 100% CNWL *	Target for RHA 100% CNWL *	Number seen in timescales
July	100%	100%	67 % IHA    100 % RHA
August	100%	100%	100 % IHA    100% RHA
September	100%	100%	89 % IHA    100 % RHA
October	100%	100%	82 % IHA    100 % RHA
November	100%	100%	91% IHA    93 % RHA
December	100%	100%	100 % IHA    100% RHA

\* excludes requests and consent not made available within 3 days for IHA's and within 3 months for RHA's, CLA who do not attend or refuse appointments given, CLA placed out of Harrow who depend upon another provider to offer an appointment.

# Covid Immunisations

- The Harrow CLA service are working towards ensuring compliance with Covid Immunisation requirements.

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## Training Attended by CLA Team

- The Harrow CLA nursing team have received Emotional and Mental Health Training. The trainer will be providing clinical supervision for complex cases in Jan 2022.
- The Named Nurse for Harrow CLA attended Affina Team Leader training.
- The Harrow CLA nurses attended the Harrow Nursing Event December 2021.
- The Specialist Nurse for CLA in Harrow attended the Drug Awareness Training In December 2021.

# Meetings Attended

- **Monthly MASE meetings.**
- **Strategy Meetings.**
- **Child Protection Supervision.**
- **Monitoring Meetings.**
- **Team Meetings.**
- **Quarterly meetings with mental health services.**

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# New Processes

- The Harrow CLA service are currently working on new templates for review health assessments and health recommendations. We will be looking to pilot these templates in the near future.
- The Harrow CLA service began receiving the minutes of the weekly meetings held to discuss missing YP. We began to update the safeguarding node on the YP's electronic records. There were a few weeks around the Christmas period when we did not receive the minutes. The Harrow CLA team will look to resume this liaison with the VVE team moving forward.
- In October 2021 A Peer Review of the Harrow CLA Service took place. The outcome of this was very positive.
- The Harrow CLA service have developed a letter to support YP registering with Local Dentists to ensure they are prioritised.

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# Dental Health

- Registering with a Local Dentist has become increasingly challenging during Covid.
- The Harrow CLA team have developed a letter to facilitate YP registering with a local Dentist.
- The Harrow CLA Service also promote the following link which enables YP and carers to locate local dentists who are accepting new registrations in their local areas. <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-Dentist>
- Recently the Harrow CLA Service have referred 6 YP with complex dental needs to the Harrow Community Dental Services. These 6 YP were unable to register with their local Dentist but required early intervention. Some of whom were UASC's.
- The outcomes for these YP have been positive.

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# Questions

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