



Corporate Parenting Panel Agenda

Date: Tuesday 17 October 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: The Auditorium - Harrow Council Hub, Kenmore Avenue, Harrow, HA3 8LU

Membership (Quorum 3)

Chair: Councillor Hitesh Karia

Conservative Councillors: Matthew Goodwin-Freeman
Chetna Halai

Labour Councillors: Simon Brown (VC)
Aneka Shah-Levy

Non-Voting Advisory Member: Valerie Griffin

Reserve Members:

Conservative Reserve Members:

1. Vipin Mithani
2. Govind Bharadia
3. Zak Wagman

Labour Reserve Members:

1. Sasi Suresh
2. Krishna Suresh

Officers:

Contact: Sonia Karimzada
E-mail: sonia.karimzada@harrow.gov.uk

Scan this code for the electronic agenda:



Useful Information

Joining the Meeting virtually

The meeting is open to the public and can be viewed online at [London Borough of Harrow webcasts](#)

Attending the Meeting in person

Directions by car:

Go along Kenmore Avenue and head towards the Kenton Recreation Ground. When approaching the end of the Kenmore Avenue turn right before reaching the Kadwa Patidar Centre.

You will be admitted on a first-come-first basis and directed to seats.

Please:

- (1) Stay seated.
- (2) Access the meeting agenda online at [Browse meetings - Corporate Parenting Panel](#)
- (3) Put mobile devices on silent.
- (4) Follow instructions of the Security Officers.
- (5) Advise Security on your arrival if you are a registered speaker.

Filming / recording

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Agenda publication date: Monday 9 October 2023

Agenda - Part I

1. **Attendance by Reserve Members**
To note the attendance at this meeting of any duly appointed Reserve Members.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members present.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.
4. **Public Questions**
To receive any public questions received.

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, 12th October 2023. 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.
6. **Deputations**
To receive deputations (if any).
7. **Update from Participation Service and update from care experienced young people about their experiences** (Pages 11 - 22)
Verbal update and presentation from the Participation Officer.
8. **Update and Performance for Corporate Parenting Service** (Pages 23 - 34)
Presentation from the Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting.
9. **Virtual School Performance Update** (Pages 35 - 44)
10. **Update and Performance on Health for Children Looked After** (Pages 45 - 60)
Presentation from the Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow.
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

7 June 2023

Present:

Chair: Councillor Hitesh Karia

Councillors: Govind Bharadia
Simon Brown
Chetna Halai
Aneka Levy-Shah

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

**Officers (in
attendance):** Joy Bell Participation Officer
Jacinta Kane Assistant Director –
Corporate Parenting
Kate Head Designated doctor for
Children looked after
Maria Luscombe Head of Harrow Children’s
Services, CNWL
Sarah Moriarty Assistant Headteacher,
Harrow Virtual School
Dionne Thomas Assistant Director of
Children Services
Peter Tolley Director of Children Services
Mellina Williamson-Taylor Head Teacher, Virtual
School

**Apologies
received:** Councillor Matthew
Goodwin-Freeman

47. Attendance by Reserve Members

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

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Matthew Goodwin-Freeman

Councillor Govind Bharadia

48. Appointment of Vice-Chair

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Simon Brown as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

49. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

- Councillor Simon Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his daughter had started working for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CNWL). He remained in the meeting while the items were being discussed.

50. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2023 be taken as a read and signed correct record.

51. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received.

52. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received.

53. Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that deputations were received.

54. Update from Participation Service and care experienced young people about their experiences

The Panel heard a presentation from the Participation Officer who confirmed that children aged 4-17 had the opportunity to provide independent yearly feedback. The responses included many positive responses regarding the social workers. Majority of the feedback was positive and young people were satisfied with their placement and arrangements. However, it was noted that social workers were lacking returning calls [WHAT???] when young people would request telephone call backs. Some young people also felt that their

social worker should regularly check in on them. The presentation also highlighted a number of service developments since January 2023:

- Two young people requested a change of social worker, which was actioned within three months
- It was confirmed that 18 young people have taken up the free gym membership offer.
- The team begun hosting Children in Care Council meetings.
- 33 young people attended planned activities to Thorpe Park, Flip Out, Wembley Stadium and Wicked.
- The Team hosted a Care Experienced Art Exhibition showcasing 12 young artists.

The Participation Officer thanked the Chair for attending the Arts exhibition and confirmed that they are hoping for this to be a yearly event.

With reference to the concerns expressed from the young people feedback regarding social workers not returning calls, it was suggested that every phone call be acknowledged, and a realistic timeframe of call back be given. In response, the officer explained that this issue was not negligence, but it was due to workload and assured the Panel that the feedback would be passed on to the social workers.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

55. Update and performance for Corporate Parenting Service

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting which covered a number of areas such as performance scorecard, Children Looked After (CLA) Demographics, Policy and Practice updates and Commissioning updates.

It was highlighted that:

- Drop in performance related to an independent review officer (IRO) on long term leave and delayed in appointing an interim IRO. Reviews were covered and completed in no longer than 2 weeks to ensure that children were being reviewed and that there was no drift in the review of care planning.
- Majority of children who had been in a placement for 2.5 years were now in matched, long-term placements, with family members, or in specialist residential homes which were meeting their needs. A small number of children had complex needs which are being met in children's home provisions, however, they are expected to move into foster homes before their 18th birthdays.

- Children of Asian ethnicity were significantly underrepresented in Harrow CLA population. All other ethnic groups were over-represented particularly children of mixed ethnicity, followed by black, other and white ethnicities. Majority of children in Harrow's care were 10 years+ and boys were overrepresented in Harrow, these were similar to the statistical neighbours.
- The Ofsted Annual Engagement meeting was held on 9th May 2023, where it was confirmed that the department for Education is providing additional funding to the Local Authorities to support with the costs associated with implementing reforms to supported accommodation for 16&17 year olds.
- Advocacy and Independent Visitor tendering process went live and the moderation panel was expected to commence 2nd week in June 2023.
- Ofsted began registering providers from 28 April 2023, and these registrations are mandatory from 28 October 2023 where it is illegal for providers to carry on supported accommodation that is not registered with Ofsted, and local authorities will be prohibited from placing children with providers that are not registered. There were costs involved, which will need to be discussed and assessed.
- Worked alongside organisational development team and identified 5 apprenticeship places across the council for care leavers, this was also a recommendation from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (May 2022). This placement included apprenticeship and work experience and would involve discussion with the young people to match jobs with personal preference. Councillor Levy-Shah offered a possible opportunity in the hospitality industry.

The Panel welcomed the updates and discussed that there should be clarity around the duties of the social workers, and that the feedback should be taken from the young person to improve the transparency of the service. The call backs should be acknowledged and actioned by the social workers.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted, subject to the Panel comments above.

56. Virtual School Performance Update

The Panel received a presentation from the Virtual School Head Teacher, which focused on Statistical First Release: Attendance, Attainment and Progress (2021-2022) and Broadening Educational Pathways-The Royal Springboard Programme.

The Panel heard that:

- The statistical release provided a range of outcome measures at national and local authority level for children looked after (CLA) by local authorities in England. The outcome measures covered a range of areas including; special educational needs, educational attainment

(Key Stage 1,2 and 4) and progress (Key Stage 2 and 4) as well as destinations, absence, suspensions and permanent exclusions from school.

- Harrow Virtual School had an attainment 8 score of 25.8 for secondary school, key stage 4. This was above the England score (20.3) and Statistical neighbours' (SN) averages (20).
- Harrow's Progress 8 score had improved over time and had performed better than the England's average and the statistical neighbours' (SN) averages.
- Harrow had a higher proportion of CLA with at least one suspension when compared to the England's average and SN. Suspension numbers had reduced by approximately 5%, however, it was slightly above the national average.
- In 2021-22 Harrow (20.3) had fewer missed sessions than statistical neighbours' averages (22.4) but higher than England's averages (19.1).

The Virtual School Head Teacher also informed the Panel that a Broadening Education Pathways (BEP) programme had been introduced. The programme was a part of a 2-year pilot which was joint-funded by the Independent Schools Team and Children's Social Care Team. It was based on the model developed by Royal Springboard on their successful placement of over 300 vulnerable children in 100 boarding schools.

The timeline would be 12-15 months undertaken in Year 7, 9 or 12. It was stated that a visit from the social worker and foster parents would be required to assess suitability and a discussion of the pupil's history as well as undertaking a risk assessment. The Chair was pleased to hear that 2 CLA were already enrolled into this programme with full bursary with no cost to the local authority. One pupil attended in year 7 and had given positive feedback and the second pupil would join the sixth form in September 2023.

Members thanked the Virtual School Headteacher for the detailed report and noted the positive outcomes.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

57. Update and Performance on Health for Children Looked After

The Panel received a presentation from the Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow, which outlined the key performance indicators for Harrow CLA Initial Health Assessments (IHA) and improvement plans.

It was highlighted that:

- 11 IHA's were received for March and April 2023. Of that 7 were late requests and only 1 had not been completed within timescales.
- The main factor contributing to completing Review Health Assessments (RHA) outside of timescale were Out of Borough LAC teams experiencing capacity issues.
- 31% of requests for RHA were received outside timescales, however only 2 requests were completed outside of timescales.
- Improvements had been made to avoid late IHAs and RHAs requests, which included regular meetings with managers and colleagues as well as reminder telephone calls to carers/young people regarding appointment times.

The Panel heard a positive case study where a Young Person who had experienced trauma and abuse received a major improvement following an officer review. The CLA nurse had liaised with the young person's GP which helped to continue to correctly support the young person. This resulted in the Young Person receiving the correct help and guidance to rehabilitation and treatment.

The Panel thanked the Named Nurse for their comprehensive presentation.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.10 pm, closed at 7.35 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Hitesh Karia
Chair

Update from the Participation Service

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Joy Bell – Participation Officer

October 2023



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Agenda Item 7
Pages 11 to 22

Children (aged 4-17) have the opportunity to provide feedback at least once-yearly:

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My Social Worker is always around.

I would like to spend more time with my brothers.

I am still in touch with my previous foster carers; they care about me.

My Personal Advisor feels like family.

I would like to attend many more CLA Events.

My relationship with my Social Worker has improved.

I really miss my cats; I would like to see them during Family Time.

Key themes:

- all young people could identify a safe, trusted adult with whom they could discuss their worries
- 13
- many young people expressed difficulties around timely communication with their Social Worker
- most young people felt uncertainty around the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer
- all but one young people were satisfied with their placement – the dissatisfied young person was moved to alternative accommodation within two weeks

To date, we have:

- connected 50 young people with free gym memberships, including those out of borough
- ¹integrated training from care-experienced young adults into the Social Work Academy – delivering sessions for international Social Workers and Newly Qualified Social Workers
- hosted events and activities for children looked after – with 34 young people attending at least one outing
- briefed the Lead Member on the case for making care experience a protected characteristic

In September 2023, two care-experienced young adults generously delivered training to the Social Work Academy:

- “...it’s completely changed my thinking”
- “you reminded me to treat children as children, and not as checklists”
- “your stories touched me – you’ve opened my eyes”
- “thank you for reminding me of why I made the decision to come into this career”



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International Social Workers attending training from experts by experience

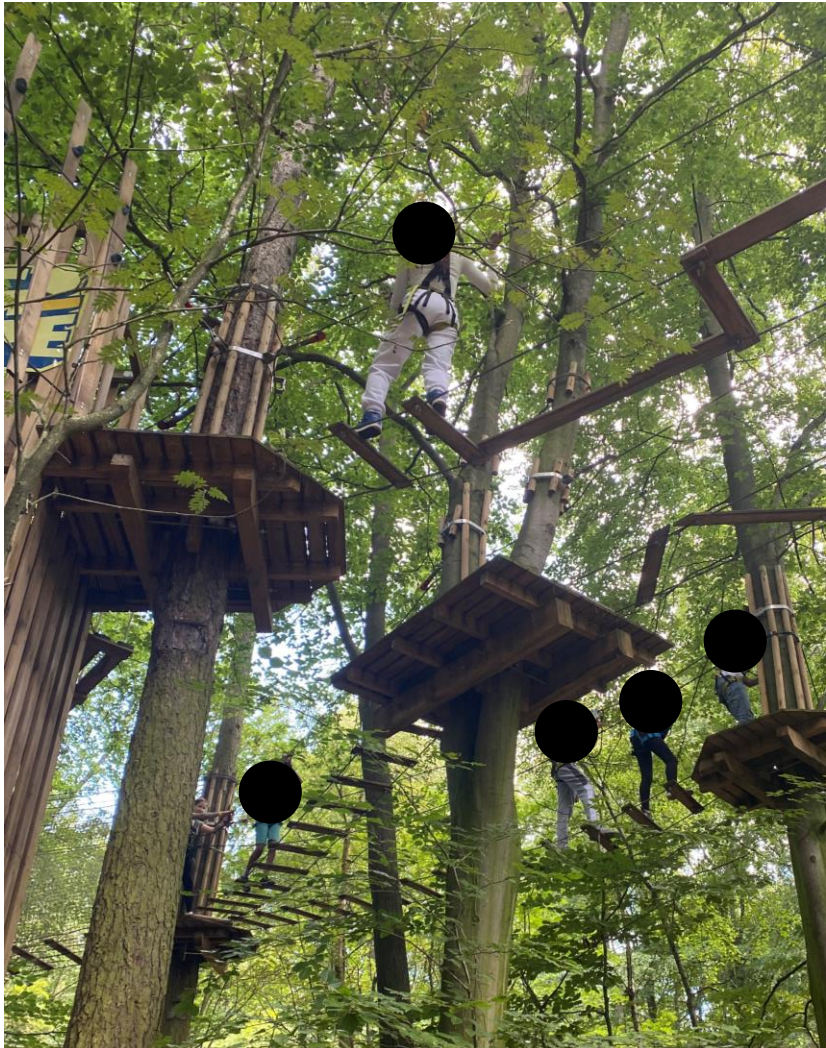
Newly-Qualified Social Workers attending training from experts by experience





Go Ape

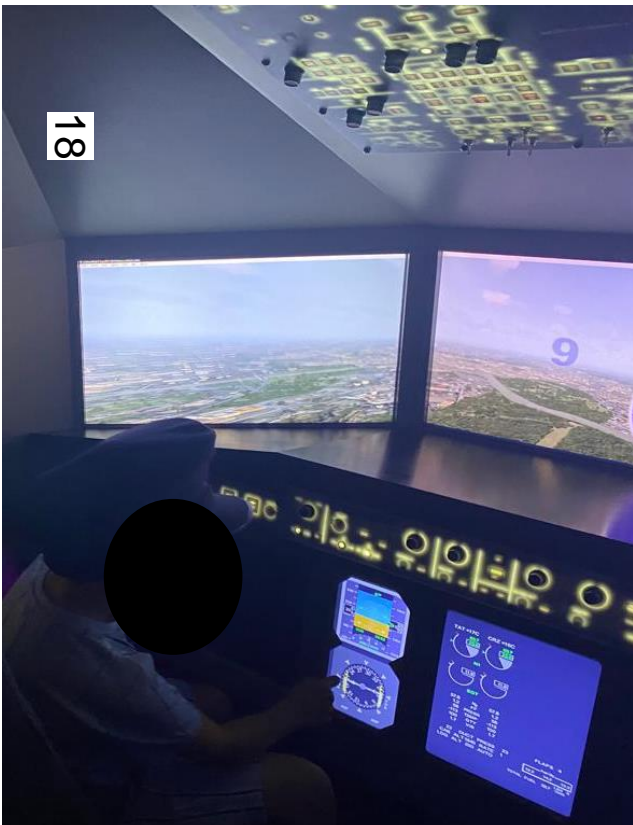
“I was so much braver than I thought I would be!”





Kidzania

"I had so much fun, I hope we get to do lots more events like this."





Thorpe Park, Laser Tag and Frozen

“It was so exciting to come to a theatre for the first time!”

“I Come From”, written by an adopted Harrow child

I came from a broken family

But not broken like you think

I came from a family that was selfish and cruel

I came from a messed up family

People that always had one foot out the door

People that tried but not hard enough

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I came from cycles in the park

Jam and toast every morning before school

I came from the good times I had

But I still came from horror stories

That when you tell them they don't sound so bad

But if you were standing there

Breathing the same air I was

Feeling the same way I felt

You would understand

Now I come from a family

that has hope for me and everyone else too

Now I come from a family that care for me

And love me

Who I can trust

I come from my narrowboat, my house, my friends and my family

I come from AFC Wimbledon and Sunday roasts

I come from playing my guitar

I come from all my good friends

The ones I can trust and the ones I've left behind

I come from a family that loves me more now

And that's all that matters

Thank you to the mother and father that brought me into this world

But that's all I need from you

Cause now I come from a loving family

That has hope for me

And everyone else too

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Corporate Parenting Service

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Jacinta Kane – Assistant Director Corporate Parenting
Children’s Services October 2023



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Agenda Item 8
Pages 23 to 34

- Performance Scorecard
- Policy and Practice Updates
- Pilots and Innovation
- 24 • Commissioning Updates

Ref No	Indicator Description	Statistical Neighbour Average 2021/22	England average 2021/22	Harrow 2020-21	Harrow 2021-22	Harrow 2022-23	Harrow target 2022/23	Harrow Q1 2023-24
1	Number of current CLA at end of quarter	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	182	188	179	N/A	192
2	Number of current Care Leavers at end of quarter	Not Published	Not Published	183	189	186	N/A	185
3	Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged under 18	42.7	70.0	30.0	31.5	29.8		32.0
4	Timeliness of Reviews of Looked After Children	Not Published	Not Published	97.1	89.8	68.8	95%	94.6 (174/184)
5	% of CLA with 3 or more placements	10.0	9.0	10.0	13.8	9.5	Q1 - 2.5% Q2 - 5% Q3 - 7.5% Q4 - 10%	1 (2/192)
6	% of CLA looked after for 2.5+ years and in the same placement for 2 years	69.5	70.0	81.0	68.4	66.7	70%	69.2 (27/39)
25 7	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (19 - 21 year olds)	86.4	88.0	82.1	89.9	90.1	90%	96.6 (28/29)
8	% of Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (19 - 21 year olds)	35.0	38.0	40.0	27.6	28.2	35%	34.5 (10/29)
9	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Dental Checks (rolling year)	75.0	70.0	73.0	91.5	91.1	90%	82.1 (92/112)
10	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Health Checks (rolling year)	93.0	89.0	99.0	99.1	91.1	95%	91.1 (102/112)
11	% of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted	9.0	10.0	4.3	3.8	3.5	N/A	4.8 (1/21)
12	% Children who ceased to be looked due to a Special Guardianship Order	10.0	13.0	19.1	14.3	8.8	N/A	9.5 (2/21)
13	% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home (snapshot)	21.0	16.0	20.0	16.0	16.2	20%	20.5 (31/151)
14	% of all CLA (current and ceased) with at least 1 missing episode in year	13.0	11.0	9.0	8.8	8.2	Q1 - 2.5% Q2 - 5% Q3 - 7.5% Q4 - 10%	7.5 (16/213)

- Q1 Performance: 82% of all CLA have up to date dental checks (92/112 children)
- This is better than the statistical neighbour average of 75% and England average of 70%
- However, our target is for at least 90% of all CLA to have an up to date dental check
- This is reviewed monthly as part of our performance framework, and plans are in place to support need-to-reach adolescents to access dental checks, including increased focus on this area in CLA reviews

Placed 20+ miles away

- Q1 performance: 20.5% of children placed 20+ miles from their home address (31/151 children)
- This is comparable to statistical neighbour average (21%)
- As noted in previous meetings, the majority of the children placed 20+ miles from their home address are in long-term, matched placements, including 10 children with in-house foster carers, 4 children with independent foster carers (IFAs), CYADS specialist placements (9) and 4 children in residential children's homes.
- Joint work is underway in the CYADS service and commissioning to improve placement sufficiency for children with disabilities requiring residential care so that children can be placed closer to or within Harrow.

- Q1 performance: 7.5% of CLA have had a missing episode (16/213 children)
 - Statistical neighbour average is 13% of CLA have had a missing episode over the course of a year
 - This is a cumulative indicator, and some CLA have repeat episodes of going missing from care
 - Return Home Interviews are offered to all children who are missing from care, to explore push/pull factors, map peers and locations and to help assess risk.
- ∞ All missing children are reviewed on a weekly basis at the strategic missing meeting with police on a Monday morning at 9.30am
- All missing children have multiagency strategy meetings to locate children and return them safely, risk assessments and medium and high risk children (where exploitation is an identified risk) are reviewed at the monthly multiagency MACE panel with police, health, education, social care, youth justice service and community safety.
 - National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals are made where children are identified as at risk of child trafficking and exploitation, and an independent child trafficking guardian (ICTG) allocated.

Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic has been introduced by 55 Councils to date, this will be brought to Cabinet for December 2023.

Ofsted have announced they will be conducting thematic inspections of regional adoption agencies (RAAs) this year to understand how key areas of adoption practice contribute to good outcomes for children and others affected by adoption.

The thematic inspection will take place between October and December 2023 and will consider:

- the effectiveness of the RAA's recruitment, assessment, family finding and matching practice in providing safe, child focused and timely adoptive placements for children
- the effectiveness of adoption support for adoptive families, birth families and adopted adults
- the extent to which the RAA leader understands the service's strengths and areas for development and their ability to take decisive and effective action for improvement
- the extent to which the views of those with a lived experience of adoption inform service delivery and improvement
- the extent to which the RAA governance arrangements enable the RAA to deliver effective services and provide the necessary assurance to member local authorities and other RAA partners.
- **Harrow and Coram Ambitious for Adoption have been awarded the Early Permanence Quality Mark, which is awarded to adoption agencies that demonstrate the quality of their service, and their commitment to delivering early permanence for children where adoption is in their best interest.**

Housing First

Partnered with Centrepoin and Housing to provide intensive, relationship-based support for 5 Harrow care leavers with complex needs and high risk of homelessness. To commence in December 2023. Projected to result in c.£156-£208k savings per year

Key's:

- Housing and tenancy sustainment – maintaining tenancies, no rent arrears or antisocial behaviour
- Reduction in offending
- Health and wellbeing, improved mental health, and reduction in alcohol and substance use
- Improved engagement in Employment, Education and Training
- Family reconnection and improved relations

Fostering Recruitment and Retention Hub (DfE Funded)

Partnership with WLA boroughs to improve recruitment and retention on “in-house” foster carers and to compete effectively with IFAs. We are 1 of 10 clusters running this programme across the country.

Will include piloting a “Mockingbird” model of supporting foster carers. The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) is an alternative way of providing foster care. It involves foster carers being part of a group with other foster carers who are described as satellite foster homes. They are supported by a central 'hub' home, which provides resources and support to the satellite homes.

KPIs

- Response to enquirers on the day of contact or the first working days (100% target)
- Improve numbers and timeliness of fostering approvals, more specialist carers
- Approved foster carers represent the diverse communities of West London
- Foster carers report high levels of satisfaction with the recruitment process and carer retention is improved
- Improved placement stability and outcomes for children in care

- Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services contract has been awarded to **Coram Voice** following a competitive tendering process, and including a care experienced young person on the moderation panel
- Coram Voice are a sector leader for Advocacy and Independent Visiting (IV) services and are also commissioned by the DfE to deliver the National Advocacy Advice Line and Safety Net service
- The advocacy service is for all children and young people including children at risk of homelessness, in care - including children living away from home, separated minors, care leavers, disabled children receiving short breaks and all children and young people accessing children's social care service between the ages of 4-25 years.
- The Independent Visitor service is for looked after children and care leavers. Coram Voice IVs are an adult role model who build a stable friendship with the child they are matched with. All IVs join Coram with the expectation that they will remain matched with their child for at least two years, and many existing IVs are matched for much longer. Coram IVs visit the child monthly, listening, talking and having fun together sharing their interests and hobbies. Coram tailor every match closely to the needs and wishes of the child, which helps to promote a long lasting friendship.

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Corporate Parenting Panel

Virtual School Update 17th October 2023



This report gives an overview of the strategies undertaken by the Virtual School to reduce Persistent Absence.

Mellina Williamson-Taylor
Headteacher Harrow Virtual School

Overview



- Harrow Virtual School tracks and monitors the attendance of CLA on a daily basis. We partner with an organisation who contacts schools every day to confirm that the child has arrived at school.
- The Virtual School (VS) attendance officer receives and responds to this information and any anomalies in attendance, is communicated to social workers, carers and other key professionals in good time.
- Pupils who are emotionally-based school avoiders are also supported by professionals in the Virtual School to include learning mentors, educational and clinical psychologists. Key assessments are conducted in a timely manner so a planned programme of support can be put in place early.

Attendance Data (2022- 2023)



- Overall attendance has increased slightly from 80% -82%.This is improving. Our target is 90% or better.
- 52% (23/44) of pupils with attendance below 90% has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are in receipt of SEN support.
- 60% (14/23) of pupils with an EHCP or are in receipt of SEN support attend schools outside of Harrow.
- 57% (25/44) of pupils with attendance below 90% are on roll in schools outside of Harrow.
- The ratio of boys to girls with PA is approximately 1:1
- The number of pupils with at least 1 suspension has reduced from 11% (2021-2022) to 8% (2022-2023). Harrow's figures are below the England average which is 10%.

Attendance (2022- 2023) Contd.



- The national average for Persistent Absence (PA) is 19.1% for children in care for 1 year plus.
- PA for Harrow's children in care for a year plus is provisionally at 20% (20/100). This is close to national average.
- PA for all Harrow's children in care is 45%; children in care 1 year plus have better outcomes in terms of their education outcomes and attendance.
- Harrow figures over the past 3 years have decreased from 25.3 % (2020-2021) to 20.3% (2021-2022) and 20% (2022-2023).
- Although PA for the national average has doubled over the past 3 years, Harrow's figures have reduced.
- Our ambition is to reduce PA to 10% or less.

Cross- Service Action Plan

Group	Challenges	Actions	Timescales
Children in Key Stage 4	<p>Disengagement often occurs at the end of Year 9 and spills into Key Stage 4.</p> <p>Undiagnosed SEN becomes more apparent as the child enters KS4 and finds the curriculum more challenging.</p>	<p>VS transition lead to support KS3-4 transitions.</p> <p>Timely SEN assessments</p>	October 2023
<p>Children Living Over 3 Miles form School</p> <p>Children with SEND living outside of Harrow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public transport to school can be difficult to navigate, children are often tired at the end of the school day and journey times are often long. •A reliance on the placement to take the children to and from school is not always feasible for the long term. •Children cannot attend after-activities nor tuition. •Interaction with their peers, outside of school is limited. This may also have an impact on their SEMH. •There is often a delay in organising transport and school days are missed. 	<p>Transport to and from school should be in place as soon as possible.</p> <p>Where possible, a school move should be considered.</p>	September 2023

Cross- Service Action Plan Continued

Group	Challenges	Actions	Timescales
Children Placed In Semi-Independent Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This affects SSA children who are in Year 11 and have reached their 16th birthday. •In a number of cases, staff at the placement are not able to put strategies in place to support school attendance 	<p>VS and Social Care to provide more support for these provisions e.g. a education lead to be put in place.</p> <p>New legislation is in place where semi-independent provisions must be registered by 28th October 2023. This will strengthen the support our children will receive in terms of their education.</p> <p>Key workers or their representative to be present at the PEP meeting</p>	November 2023
Children on a Section 20	<p>Parents still have parental responsibility for their child and can make decisions regarding their child’s education.</p> <p>The challenges are where parents are not in agreement with care plan. This may lead to children not attending school.</p>	<p>Social care to look at the S.20 agreement to see if there is any scope to include information on the local authority’s statutory responsibility to monitor children looked after.</p> <p>The Virtual School headteacher to create an education statement for S.20 agreements.</p>	September 2023

Cross- Service Action Plan Continued

Group	Challenges	Actions	Timescales
Children with several missing episodes	<p>A child missing from placement usually results in poor school attendance. This group contributes significantly to our PA figures. Children not attending school are may also be disengaged with areas of their lives</p>	<p>VS to continue to support Strat meetings. An education plan is in place for when the child returns home.</p> <p>VS to recruit an enrichment officer to support engagement with school and other activities</p>	September 2023
Children with long –term illnesses or frequent absences for medical reasons	<p>Children often require medical intervention which takes place during the school day.</p>	<p>CLA Health Team/ VS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Where possible the CLA Health Team/ VS Staff encourage carers to request/book medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. If this is not possible (as we are aware that some services are unable to offer this) we encourage carers to support children to attend school for, at least, part of that day. •The CLA Health Team to endeavour to offer health appointments at times/places that support children to remain in school, but this is not always possible, especially for an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) where it may be more suitable to attend a clinic. 	September 2023

Cross- Service Action Plan Continued

Group	Challenges	Actions	Timescales
Children with undiagnosed and diagnosed SEN and/or SEMH	<p>This a barrier to learning and often leads to poor school attendance.</p> <p>Children with Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) need timely interventions.</p>	<p>Bespoke support via the VS Clinical Psychologist, EP and learning mentors.</p> <p>Anna Freud Centre to run a pilot programme for children with EBSA. VHT to make contact.</p>	November 2023
Children who enter the care system late	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Affects pupils entering the care system age 14 plus. DfE data has shown a correlation between the age a child enters the care system and educational outcomes. i.e. the longer a child is in care-educational outcomes are improved. •Undiagnosed SEN or SEMH •Gaps in their education due to poor school attendance prior to becoming CLA •Pupils may not be able to access mainstream learning •Challenges in finding suitable alternative learning provisions 	<p>Mitigating barriers to learning e.g. EP assessments are often required imminently.</p> <p>Increased education monitoring.</p> <p>Interventions are in place to support learning e.g. 1:1 tuition is put in place to support with missed learning.</p> <p>Enrichment activities are used as a vehicle for re-engagement with their education.</p>	September 2023

Progress to date



- The Section 20 education document has been drafted. It is currently awaiting approval.
- Transport issues for children with SEN and or living over 3 miles from their school continues to be addressed. Social care have interim transport arrangements in place support good school attendance.
- CLA Health Team has clear actions to support the Virtual School, schools and carers with CLA medical appointments; where possible these will take place outside of the school day.
- The Virtual School continues to attend Strategy Meetings for children with missing episodes.

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Harrow Children Looked After Health Service Corporate Parenting Panel October 2023

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Christine Nichols – Named Nurse for Children Looked After Harrow

Agenda Item 10
Pages 45 to 60

KPI's for Harrow CLA May – August 2023

Month	Target for IHA 100% CNWL within 20 days of child becoming CLA	Target for RHA 100% CNWL within 6/12 months
May	100%	100%
June	100%	100%
46 July	100%	100%
August	100%	100%

Exception reporting 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 or are missing
- CLA placed out of Harrow who depend upon another provider to offer an appointment.

Other Service Specification Requirements

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

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- 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

Initial Health Assessments Completed

Month	Total Due	IHA completed within 20 days (percentage / number)	IHA completed outside of timescale (percentage / number)	IHA not yet completed (percentage / number)
2023				
May	10	60% (6)	40% (4)	0% (0)
June	12	50% (6)	40% (5)	10% (1)*
July	12	58.3% (7)	41.7% (5)	0% (0)
August	6	83.3% (5)	16.7% (1)	0% (0)

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Time scales from CYP identified as CLA to completion of IHA

Total Number of CYP = 40

- within 20 days - 24
- between day 21- 30 - 9
- between day 31- 40 - 3
- day 41+ (includes not yet seen) - 3
- * Young person in YOI, social services to obtain CHAT

Reasons for Late Completion of IHAs

49	Summary of reasons for late IHA's								
	No of requests received	Late requests for IHA to CLA team	Carer Declined / Cancelled Appointment	DNA / WNB	Referral / Consent issues	Refusal by Young person	OoB placement	Placement move	Young Person in Hospital / Missing / YOI / Tagged
	10	6	1	1	2		2	1	1
May	12	10		2			2	2	2
June	12	2	6	5					1
July	6	1	1					1	
August									

Themes for Completion of IHAs

- **Contributing challenges for completion are late requests* , DNA's and carers declining appointments.**

19/40 (47.5%) of requests for IHA were received outside timescales. 7 of the 19 late requests were seen in timescales.

No of requests received within

Day 4-5 – 5

Day 6-10 - 6

Day 11-20 - 2

Day 21-40 - 6

- **Other reasons can be unpredictable eg placement moves, placed of of borough etc**
- *** (late referrals and late consents)**

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Review Health Assessments Completed

Month	Total Due	RHA completed within timescale (percentage / number)	RHA completed outside of timescale (percentage / number)	RHA not yet completed (percentage / number)
2023				
May	11	72.7% (8)	27.3% (3)	0% (0)
June	9	44.4% (4)	44.4% (4)	11.2% (1)*
July	15	86.7% (13)	13.3% (2)	0% (0)
August	11	90.9% (10)	0% (0)	9.1% (1)*

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Time scales from CYP identified as CLA to completion of RHA

Total Number of CYP = 46

Number seen:

within statutory timescales – 35

late - between day 1-10 – 3

late - between day 11-20 – 0

late – between day 21-30 – 4

late – 31+ days plus (includes not yet seen) - 2

*Two Young people refused health assessments.

Reasons for completing RHA late

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Summary of reasons for late RHA's	No of requests received	Late requests for RHA	Carer Declined / Cancelled Appointment	DNA / WNB	Referral / Consent issues	Refusal by Young person	OoB placement	Placement move	Young Person in Hospital
May	11	1	2	2			2		
June	9	4	4	5	1	1	1		
July	15	8	1	1			1		
August	11	4	1	1		1			

Themes for Late Completion of RHAs

- The main factor contributing to completing RHA's outside of timescale are carers declining appointments and young people DNA'ing.
- 17/46 (??%) requests for RHA were received outside timescales. 12 out of the 17 late requests were completed in timescales.

Late requests received within:

Weeks 12-10 - 9

Weeks 6-9 – 5

Weeks 8-2 - 2

1 Week or less – 1

- Other reasons are unpredictable eg sickness etc

Work Undertaken to Improve Late IHAs/RHAs

- **Fortnightly meetings with LA colleagues to improve late requests.**
- **Liaison with Senior Managers / Team Managers.**
- **Offer of additional flexible appointments eg Saturday clinics.**
- **Reminder telephone calls to carers / young people regarding appointment times.**

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Partnership Working

- Responded to request around review Referral Forms.

Case Study

- **BACKGROUND**
- CLA Nurse has been involved with young person for 3 years now.
- History of poor engagement with services.
- Young person has history of childhood trauma and ASD.
- Young person is now 17 and has trauma from the adverse childhood experiences.
- In care for several years and has had several placement moves to date.
- Young person has chosen to not have contact with family.
- Previously inpatient in a mental health hospital.
- Did not find the experience of being in hospital therapeutic.
- History of threatening to harm staff.
- Not in education.
- Previously under CAMHS but was discharged due to poor engagement.
- Young person is distrusting of professionals.
- Following recent contact with CLA Health service, young person shared violent ideations where he has a list of people he wants to harm due to unresolved feelings.

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Case Study Cont'd

- **Intervention**
- **CLA Nurse contacted social worker and his Manager to share concerns around violent ideations.**
- **CLA Nurse contacted Named Safeguarding Nurse to escalate and share concerns.**
- **CLA Nurse liaised with professionals and arranged for the young person to be re-referred to PREVENT and CAMHS for support with violent ideations.**
- **CLA Nurse also encouraged young person to attend Opticians and he now has his glasses.**
- **CLA nurse also encouraged young person to attend other medical appointments.**

Case Study Cont'd

- **Outcome:**
- **The young person was re-referred to relevant services for support as a matter of urgency.**
- **CLA Nurse continued following up outstanding appointments and encouraged young person to engage with services.**
- **CLA Nurse is also in communicated with Children Services to determine whether young person could continue to be offered support including activities that are positive in order to distract him from negative thoughts/violent ideations.**

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Voice of the Child

- **Carer** - . *Thorough health assessment with lots of detail. Great listening to carers views and concerns. Friendly, professional staff with excellent communication skills.*
- **Young Person** – *It was nice to get things of my chest. Consider it therapy.*
- **Young Person** – *Happy because I was sitting next to mum. It's easy to attend.*
- **Young Person** – *The lady was very nice and a good listener, I don't think anything could have been done differently. .*
- **Carer** – *It was good. I felt comfortable and felt my young person was made to feel comfortable to express himself. The assessment was in a relaxed quiet space and not oppressive at all. It did not go on for to long.*
- **Young Person** – *It was great. I liked this conversation because I felt like everything was appropriate to talk about.*

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