

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date: 22 April 2013

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Catherine Doran, Corporate Director of Children and Families

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mitzi Green
Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Exempt: No

Enclosures: CLA & CPP Activity and Performance Report

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out latest performance position and key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP)

Section 2 – Report Issues

See attachment which shows performance and activity to end December 2013.

Key Points:

- Monthly performance on initial assessments has improved significantly since December. However the poor performance from September to December relating to staffing issues, as previously reported to the Panel – means that Q3 performance is very low and the target will not be met at the year end. Similarly, performance on core assessments has improved but the target will not be met. The Divisional Director and Service Manager are continuing with efforts to recruit permanently but there is still a reliance on agency staff at the front door. Harrow has adopted a single assessment in line with Working Together guidance but will continue to monitor timescales and a major improvement is required.
- Long term stability of placements, which measures the % of CLA who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for the last 2 years, has dropped to 55%. This indicator involves small numbers and at the end of Q3, 11 of 20 relevant CLA had long term placement stability. The main reason for the drop was that some children in stable placements have turned 16 and left the cohort and 6 children including a sibling group had become looked after for more than 2.5 years, of which none have yet been stable for 2 years.
- The indicator of ceased child protection plans that had lasted for more than 2 years is also red as in bottom quartile of comparator group. This indicator continues to be affected by the positive action to reduce the number of long term plans. Harrow has now significantly reduced the number of plans which have been in place for over 2 years (accommodating where necessary) to a level which is better than average. Social care teams are also now carefully managing plans so that they are completed within a reasonable time. From next year we should see a related improvement in performance for the indicator of ceased plans.
- Improving the numbers of care leavers in suitable accommodation and in education training and employment remains a priority. At end of Q3, 12 out of 19 former care leavers were known to be in suitable accommodation. 5 were not in contact with the service and one was in custody. 9 of 19 were in education, employment or training.
- There have been 2 additional fixed term exclusions since the last report. One was for a young person who became looked after in December 2012 and is with the PRU. The other is a young person who is at a local high school, who had already had a fixed term exclusion and was excluded for a further 2 days during February. The virtual school team is working with the school in each case.

- 2 more CLA have gone over the 25 day absence threshold since the last report. 10.3% at this stage of the academic year is a significant improvement on 2011-12 (was 19% at Feb 2012). Overall % of sessions missed remains well within target and is also significantly better than this time last year (16% Feb 2012).
- The numbers of looked after children placed in foster homes has increased further and the total is now 72% and in line with the national average of 70%. Number of CLA placed for adoption is currently 5 – no target is set for this. Numbers tend to be small and will vary significantly when the snapshot of placements is taken. Targets are in place for timeliness of adoptions (100%) and for % of relevant CLA adopted or who are subject to special guardianship (14%).

Options considered

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

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

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

Corporate Priorities

§ Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Patricia Harvey



on behalf of the*
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 11 April 2013

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

David Harrington, Service Manager, Performance

020 8424 9248

david.harrington@harrow.gov.uk

Dipika Patel, Senior Performance Officer, Children's Social Care

020 8424 9258

dipika.patel@harrow.gov.uk