

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

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

Section 1 – Summary

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

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Section 2 – Report Issues

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

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

Options considered

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

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

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

Corporate Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

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

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

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

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

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