

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

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**Date:** 7 July 2015

**Subject:** Activity and Performance Report

**Key Decision:** No

**Responsible Officer:** Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of Children's Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Simon Brown

**Wards affected:** All

**Exempt:** No

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

**Enclosures:** CLA & CPP 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 4 of 2014-15. National and comparator data published by DfE for year ending 2013-14 is included in this report.

## **Section 2 – Report Issues**

See attachment which shows provisional performance position at end of Q4 and an update of activity for Children Looked After and Children with Child Protection Plans.

Performance indicators for 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, end of year performance shows 88% completed on time and close to 90% target which is a big improvement from 2013-14. DfE have changed their methodology of calculating this indicator and this figure will be finalised at end of July. Internal monitoring for 2013-14 showed 78% completed within timescales.
- There were 178 Child Protection Plans at end of March compared to 208 at end of Q3. Our rate of children with child protection plans is 31.9 per 10,000 child population. Though our rate has increased, 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. 2014-15 has seen a drop in CPP activity for Harrow? Why?
- Timeliness of initial child protection conferences has improved significantly by 13 percentage points and is above target.
- Continuing low rates of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) for more than 2 years indicates timely progression and resolution though there is an increase in children with a plan over 12 months. This continues to be monitored and reviewed.
- Repeat child protection plans within 2 years of previous plan have increased compared to last year. This indicator was introduced in 2013 so there is not yet 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%.
- At end of March 2015, 168 children were looked after and 178 children had a child protection plan

- There have been no permanent exclusions of CLA from school. 11 CLA have had fixed term exclusions. DfE publish data on exclusions from school for those children looked after 1year+ only, for 2012-13, the Harrow rate was low and suppressed as it would have been possible to identify individuals. Statistical neighbour average was 11.57% and England average was 9.78%.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and at end of March 11% of school sessions were missed. DfE publish data on absence from school for those children looked after 1year+ only, for 2013-14, Harrow's rate was 4.3 %, statistical neighbour average was 4.28% and England average was 3.9%.
- Educational 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 remains below target – steps continue to be taken to minimise placement changes. There is a change from previous quarter due to a foster carer moving address, DfE count carers moving house to a different authority as a placement move. This is being changed from 2015. 9 of the 29 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. Moves of some sibling groups impacted on this indicator. Improvement is expected on this indicator in 2015-16 as a number of children have been in stable placements that are coming up to 2 years. Action continues to be taken to improve both short and long term placement stability.
- CLA initial health assessments continue to be below target. New commissioning arrangements have been put in place to start in May/June 2015. Year-end provisional figures for annual health and dental checks are 82.5% and 88.7% respectively
- Provisional year-end figures indicate that the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation dropped to 85%. This is because 2 care leavers are in prison (which is classified by DfE as unsuitable accommodation) and we are also not in touch with some care leavers as they refuse to engage with us – again this leads to a classification of 'unsuitable'. The number of care leavers not in education, employment or training is similar to last year at 29%. This indicator measures 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 do not count for the indicator. 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

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

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

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

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo frost  
Date 01/07/2015



on behalf of the\*  
Chief Financial Officer

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

### Contact:

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