

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	12 th January 2016
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director People
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Simon Brown – Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
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 at 30th September 2015 as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter 2 of 2015-16. National and comparator data is also included for context.

Section 2 – Report Issues

See attachment which shows provisional performance position at end of Q2 and an update of activity for Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans at end of September 2015.

Key Points:

Activity data has been updated to quarter 2; performance data for quarter 2 was presented at the last panel and quarter 3 data is not yet available. Therefore some of the commentary below remains the same.

- Child Protection activity is increasing in 2015 and by end of September there was a 35% increase when compared to March 2015. (240 at end of September compared to 178 at end of March). Rate of children with plans has been lower than England, London and statistical neighbours, but rises this year suggest that we are now coming more into line with statistical neighbours.
- Timeliness of initial child protection conferences has also improved despite this increased pressure.
- Small rise in the rates of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) for more than 2 years (1.7% at the end of September, or 4 children out of 240); however, this low rate indicates continuing timely progression and resolution.
- Repeat child protection plans within 2 years of previous plan increased slightly at the end of June compared to last year, but decreased by the end of September: 7.5% at the end of March, 7.8% at the end of June and 4.4% at the end of September (the percentage at the end of September is the lowest level since May 2014). There is no published national comparative data for this indicator.

The previous indicator looked at all repeat child protection plans irrespective of timescales; published comparator data for 2014-15 shows Harrow had 12.3% of repeat plans, while statistical neighbour average was 15.6%, London average was 13.8% and England average was 16.6%. Harrow has been at this considerably lower rate compared to other authorities since 2013. At end of Q2 2015-16 the rate is 10%.

- Numbers of children looked after remain fairly stable with a high of 180 at the end of April 2015 compared to 167 at the end of September. Harrow has historically had a much lower rate of CLA than other comparable authorities and is the joint lowest with Redbridge among our statistical neighbours at the end of March 2015.

- One young person has had a permanent exclusion since the start of this academic year and 2 CLA have had fixed term exclusions; all 3 young people have been looked after 1 year+. 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 11.6% and England average was 9.8%. 2013-14 data has not been published.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and at end of the academic year 2014-15, 14.2% of school sessions were missed. 239.5 school days have been missed out of possible 1536 days so far this academic year, or 15.6%. This is a slight increase from the previous quarter and this indicator requires close monitoring. 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%.
- Provisional educational attainment data for CLA 1 year plus indicates 50% of children attained level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in both English and Maths. None attained 5 A*-C including English and Maths at Key Stage 4. CLA educational achievement is a focus of the Virtual School and remains an area for improvement. Published data for CLA & CiN (Children in Need) show Harrow as comparable at key stage 2 but not key stage 4.
- There has been significant improvement in long term placement stability; at the end of September, 64.3% children looked after for 2.5 years have been in the same placement for 2 years, compared to 34.5% at the end of March. Steps continue to be taken to minimise placement changes. 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.
- CLA initial health assessments have significantly improved so far this year. New commissioning arrangements started June 2015. Year-end figures for annual health and dental checks are 84.2% and 89.5% respectively; nationally published data for 2014-15 show that the proportion of CLA 1+ years with annual health checks is slightly lower than comparable authorities, while the proportion with dental checks is higher.
- 76% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation, 33.3% are NEET (not in education, employment or training). Out of 75 young people, 57 are in suitable accommodation and 25 are NEET. 15 care leavers do not have this data recorded and these are impacting on performance at these indicators. *Note: This indicator has been revised to include post-statutory school age looked after children - we are working with services to record this data and it will be available at Q3.*

- 6 adoptions and 9 SGOs were granted by the end of September, compared to 5 adoptions and 12 SGOs in 2014-15.

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 21/12/2015



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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