

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	12 April 2016
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of Children’s Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown Portfolio Holder Children and Families
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	CLA & CPP Performance Report

Section 1 –Summary and Recommendations

This is an information report which sets out activity for Children Looked After & Children with Child Protection Plans at 29th February 2016 as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter three of 2015-16. National and comparator data is also included for context.

Section 2 – Report

See attachment which shows provisional performance position at end of Q3 and an update of activity for Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans at end of February 2016.

Key Points:

- There was a spike in the number of children subject to a child protection plan during mid-2015: at the end of April 2015, there were 184 such children and this rose to 240 at the end of September (an increase of just over 30%); however, by the end of February 2016 this number had fallen back to 205. The rate of children with plans has been lower than England, London and statistical neighbours, but the number at the end of February this year suggests that we are now coming more into line with statistical neighbours.
- Due to the increased pressure over the year, the timeliness of initial child protection conferences has fallen, from 84.6% conferenced with 15 working days of the strategy discussion during 2014-15 to 79.1% at the end of December 2015. However, this latter rate is still indicative that we perform better than England as a whole, and are in line with our statistical neighbours.
- 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 but none at the end of December; however, there were two such children at the end of February 2016 (this indicator is a snapshot). This low rate indicates continuing timely progression and resolution.
- Repeat child protection plans within 2 years of the previous plan increased slightly at the end of June 2016 compared to last year, but decreased by the end of December: 7.5% at the end of March, 7.8% at the end of June and 5.1% at the end of December. 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 Q3 2015-16 the rate is 10.3%.

- Numbers of children looked after remain fairly stable with a high of 184 at the end of February 2016 and a low of 164 at the end of August 2015. (This pattern is similar to the previous year which saw a high of 186 and a low of 161.) 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.

- No young people looked after have had a permanent exclusion since the start of this academic year (this was reported as one young person to the last CP Panel, but has subsequently been corrected by the Virtual Schools Team); seven CLA have had fixed term exclusions, six of whom have been looked after 1 year+. DfE publish data on exclusions from school for those children looked after 1year+ only and data for 2013-14 has just been released: there were no such children in Harrow permanently excluded during that year, compared to an England average of 0.13% and a London average of 0.27%. For fixed-term exclusions, Harrow had a low number suppressed for confidentiality, while for England the proportion was 10.25% and for London was 11.23%.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and so far this academic year 15.1% of school sessions were missed, compared to 14.2% last year. This is a slight increase and this indicator requires close monitoring. DfE publish data on absence from school for those children looked after 1year+ only; for 2014-15, Harrow's rate was 5.6%, statistical neighbour average was 4.2% and England average was 4.0%. Harrow's rate is therefore higher than average and has also increased since last year when it was 4.3%
- There has been significant improvement in long term placement stability: at the end of March 2015, 34.5% of children looked after for 2.5 years had been in the same placement for 2 years, compared to 63.3% at the end of February 2016. 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 disproportionate impact.
- Year-end figures 2014-15 for annual health and dental checks are 84.2% and 89.5% respectively; nationally published data for that year 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. So far this year, 86.8% of required health checks have been completed and 76.9% of dental checks.
- At the end of February 2016, 90.3% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation and 31.0% are NEET (not in education, employment or training); out of 113 young people, 102 are in suitable accommodation and 35 are NEET.
- 10 adoptions and 20 SGOs were granted by the end of February 2016, compared to 5 adoptions and 12 SGOs in 2014-15, both therefore showing significant improvements.

Options considered

Not applicable as this is an information 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

Legal Implications

Not applicable as this is an information report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable as this is an information report.

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
31 March 2016



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Ward Councillors notified:

**NO, this is an information
report only**

EqIA carried out:

NO

EqIA cleared by:

N/A information report only

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers:

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