

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	15 June 2016
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	CLA Performance Report – June 2016

Section 1 –Summary

This is an information report which sets out activity for children looked after and care leavers at 30th April 2016 (where available) as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter four of 2015-16. National and comparator data is also included where appropriate for context.

Section 2 – Report

See the attachment which shows provisional outturn position at end of Q4 and an update of activity for children looked after (CLA) at the end of April where available, and the end of March where not.

Key Points:

- 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.) The number at the end of April remains high at 183. 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, and both authorities are the joint fourth lowest in England at that date.
- Twelve children looked after at the end of April were also subject to a CPP. The average last year was nine children, and the year before that was 17 children. However, of the 184 CLA at 30th April, 69 (38%) had been subject to a CPP at some point in the last five years.
- The significant improvement in long-term placement stability identified in the last report has been maintained: 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 62.1% at the end of March 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.
- The proportion of CLA with 3+ placement moves during the year is about the same as last year: 8.5% compared to 8% in 2014-15. Harrow was the best-performing authority at this indicator among statistical neighbours last year (the SN average was 12.1%), and current performance suggests that this strong position has been maintained.
- Of the appropriate LAC at the end of March (i.e. not UASC, placed with parents or adoptive placements), 18.5% were placed more than 20 miles from home, compared to 16% last year.

- Provisional year-end figures for 2015-16 for annual health and dental checks for CLA 1+ years are 94.7% and 86.2% respectively (currently being finalised for the 903 return), compared to 84.2% and 89.5% the previous year; health checks are therefore showing marked improvements while dental checks are declining. Nationally comparative data from last year suggests that this year's figures mean Harrow's performance is about as good as other comparable authorities for dental checks, and better for health checks.
- Sixty-six per cent of CLA for at least one year had all their age-appropriate immunisations up to date, compared to 69% the previous year, therefore showing a small decline. Compared to national figures for last year, this indicates significantly poorer performance than other authorities – SN average was 84%, London was 85% and England was 88%.
- Of all LAC, 92.8% were reviewed within timescales against a target of 95%. The proportion last year was 93%. Work is being done to ensure all reviews are reflected correctly on FWi. Ninety-five per cent of LAC communicated their views at all of their looked after reviews during the year.
- No young people looked after have had a permanent exclusion since the start of this academic year; 10 CLA have had at least one fixed-term exclusion, nine of whom have been looked after 1 year or more.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and so far this academic year 14.6% of school sessions were missed, a small rise compared to 14.2% last year.
- Provisional figures show that, of the 74 CLA aged 10 years or over looked after for at least a year, 11 (15%) were convicted of an offence or subject to a youth caution. This is a small decline in performance compared to 13.2% the previous year.
- At the end of March 2016, provisionally 90.3% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation and 31.0% were NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- There were 10 adoptions and 21 SGOs granted by the end of March 2016, compared to 5 adoptions and 12 SGOs in 2014-15, both therefore showing significant improvements.
- Of the 144 children newly looked after in the year, one had previously been adopted and another had previously been subject to an SGO.

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
Date 1 June 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

NONE