

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date: 25 October 2016

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance

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

Wards affected: All

Exempt: No

Enclosures: CLA Performance Report

Section 1 –Summary

This is an information report which sets out activity for children looked after and care leavers at 30th September 2016 (where available) as well as provisional performance position at the end of quarter two of 2016-17. National and comparator data is also included where appropriate for context.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

See the attachment which shows provisional outturn position at end of Q2 and an update of activity for children looked after (CLA) at the end of September where available, and the end of March where not.

Key Points:

- Numbers of children looked after have continued to increase with 201 CLA at the end of September giving a rate of 35 per 10,000 children.. While numbers and rates are increasing the overall rate of CLA per 10,000 remains below the national (60) and statistical neighbour (41) average.
- In-house foster placements has shown the biggest growth, it now accounts for over 50% of all placements compared to just over 40% in April's figures.
- The proportion of CLA placement moves is high for end of Q2, a set of a large sibling group and children with complex behaviours have led to placement moves and also impacted on those placed more than 20 miles. Placement moves are being closely monitored as there are 27 CLA with 2 moves which could potentially impact the indicator should another move occur.
- Long term stability of CLA placements remains under target with 54.5% of CLA looked after for 2.5 years being in the same placement for 2 years. Due to the small cohort involved in this indicator, changes with a single placement move can have a big impact on the percentage. As the indicator only looks at CLA up to the age of 16 there are a few children who will turn 16 in year and will drop out of the indicator potentially improving it as long as other children remain in stable placements.
- 19.9% of CLA are placed more than 20 miles from home, down from 24.1% in Q1. (This indicator excludes UASC, CLA placed with parents & CLA in adoptive placements),
- Adoption rates for those ceasing to be looked after have improved with 9.4% of CLA becoming adopted. This is an increase from the 2015/16 and Q1 score of 8.3%.
- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains low at 69.4%. Work is being done to improve the recording of information on FWi to capture whether we are still in touch with those that have left care. New worker has just started in the post, a fuller picture will be available for Q3. All efforts are made to help young people gain skills and training through Xcite and similar projects.
- Of all CLA, 93.6% have had all their reviews on time, this is down 2% from Q1 but a similar level to the final 2015/16 outturn

- No young people looked after have had a permanent exclusion since in the last academic year; 14 CLA have had at least one fixed-term exclusion, 7 of whom have been looked after 1 year or more.
- Attendance is carefully monitored for all CLA and for the last academic year 11% of school sessions were missed, a decrease compared to 14.2% for 2015 and more in line with 2014. Our absence rate our absence rate for CLA looked after 1 year+ has been higher than SN and England averages last year, this drop should bring us in line with SN averages
- 83% of school age CLA had an up to date PEP in the summer term, an increase from 57.4% at the end of spring term
- Profile changes of CLA cohort:
 - (1) An increase in girls becoming looked after.
 - (2) An increase in CLA from mixed and white ethnic backgrounds
 - (3) An increase in school age LAC

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 14/10/2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
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Ward Councillors notified:	NO
EqIA carried out:	NO
EqIA cleared by:	N/A information report only

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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