

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	28 March 2017
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Children Looked After: Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of Children’s Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	Children Looked After Performance Report

Section 1 –Summary and Recommendations

This is an information report which sets out activity for children looked after and care leavers at 28 February 2017 (where available) as well as provisional performance position at quarter three of 2016-17. National and comparator data is also included where appropriate for context.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

The appendix shows provisional outturn position at end of Q3 and an update of activity for children looked after (CLA) at the end of February where available.

Key Points:

- Numbers of CLA have increased to a 3 year high of 211 however the numbers of CLA 1yr+ remain stable. While numbers and rates have increased across the years the overall rate of CLA per 10,000 children (Harrow rate - 35) remains below the national (60) and statistical neighbour (41) average.
- There are no significant changes to the profile of the CLA cohort.
- In-house foster placements remain the most common placement type accounting for 47.9% of all placements, this is followed by semi-independent placements accounting for 15.6%.
- 70.6% of school age CLA had a completed PEP in the autumn term at 31st December compared to 83% in the previous summer term.
- 24% of school age CLA are classified as persistent absentees, an increase of just over 6% from the previous report
- The percentage of CLA ceasing due to adoption or SGO have decreased from the previous quarter to 5.2% and 10.3% respectively.
- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains low, Q3 - 73%, Feb 2017 - 75.8% (16 are considered to be living in unsuitable accommodation e.g. prison, living with family or friends deemed to be unsuitable). Currently 29 % of care leavers are not in employment education or training (18 are not recorded). Work will be done at year end to ensure accurate recording of data ahead of returns. All efforts are made to help young people gain skills and training through Xcite and similar projects.
- The proportion of CLA 2+ placement moves has moved 2% above the annual 10% target but is in line with the statistical neighbour average (12%). Placement moves are being closely monitored as there are 38 CLA with 2 moves which could potentially impact the indicator should another move occur.
- Long term stability of CLA placements remain under target with 54.3% of CLA looked after for 2.5 years being in the same placement for 2 years. There hasn't been any movement in this indicator since January.

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 : 21/03/2017



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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