

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	14 June 2017
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director, People Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder, Children, Schools and Young People
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	CLA Performance Report

Section 1 –Summary and Recommendations

This is an information report which sets out activity for children looked after and care leavers at 31st March 2017 (where available) as well as provisional performance position at quarter four 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 Q4 and an update of activity for children looked after (CLA) at the end of March where available.

Key Points:

- Numbers of CLA have remained stable since last quarter but do represent a 3 year high of 211. The numbers of CLA 1yr+ have also seen an increase from last quarter. The overall rate of CLA per 10,000 children (Harrow rate - 37) remains below the national (60) and statistical neighbour (41) average.
- There are no significant changes to the profile of the CLA cohort. However comparator data published for 2015-16 shows
 - (1) Harrow to have a higher proportion of CLA aged 16+ and a lower proportion in aged 10 – 15. 44 children will be turning 18 this year and eligible for leaving care services.
 - (2) Harrow has a higher percentage of males in care.
 - (3) CLA by ethnicity compared with statistical neighbour average show a very different picture due to the make-up of Harrow's population. More than two thirds of Harrow's CLA population is from BME groups and in line with the local population breakdown though Mixed, Black British and Other Ethnic Backgrounds are overrepresented.
 - (4) Harrow has a lower proportion of CLA in foster placements and a higher proportion in placements in the community (independent and semi- independent placements)
 - (5) A higher proportion of care leavers were in suitable accommodation and in employment .education and training at 31/03/2016 compared to statistical neighbour averages.
 - (6) Harrow have had a similar proportion of CLA who had a missing episode in the year compared to previous year whilst statistical neighbours' and England trend is an increase from previous year
- In-house foster placements remain the most common placement type accounting for 46.9% of all placements; this is followed by semi-independent placements and foster care (agency) who account for 14.5% each.
- 68% of school age CLA had a completed PEP in the spring term at 31st

March compared to 70.6% in the previous summer term.

- 23.8% of school age CLA are classified as persistent absentees, a figure which has remained stable from the previous report
- The percentage of CLA ceasing due to adoption has decreased to 3.8%, whilst CLA ceasing due to SGO has increased to 15.6%.
- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased since last quarter to 77.3%. Currently 27.3 % of care leavers are not in employment education or training (17 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 risen above the annual 10% target and the statistical neighbour average (12%) to 13.3%. Placement moves are being closely monitored as there are 40 CLA with 2 moves which could potentially impact the indicator should another move occur.
- Long term stability of CLA placements remain under target with 57.1% 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date : 30/05/2017		

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

Background Papers: None

Contact:

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