

REPORT FOR: CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date:	30 October 2017
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director, People Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Christine Robson
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - 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 30 September 2017 (where available) as well as provisional performance position at Quarter 2 of 2017-18. National and comparator data is also included where appropriate for context.

Section 2 – Report

See Appendix 1 attached which shows provisional outturn position at the end of Quarter 2 and an update of activity for Children Looked After (CLA) at the end of September where available.

Key Points:

- Numbers of CLA have decreased by 15% since the last report from 211 to 179 currently. Harrows overall rate of CLA per 10,000 children (36) remains below the 2017 comparator data for national (62) and statistical neighbour (39.2) averages, but there is a long term trend toward increased numbers of CLA.
- The majority of our children are in family based care, 56.9%. Of those in family based care, the large majority are in LA foster care 62.2%.
- A small minority 26 young people, 19%, are in semi-independent accommodation, but this number has risen over the last two years. This number was 13 in September 2015. This is likely to be the result of children moving from foster care into semi-independent provision rather than residential children's homes.
- A very large majority (81.7%) of school age CLA had a Personal Education Plan completed at the end of the 16-17 academic year, compared to 68.0% at the end of Spring term 16-17. This improvement has been achieved by the virtual school in collaboration with schools and social workers.
- 16.5% of school age CLA are classified as persistent absentees. Our overall absence rate remains high compared to statistical neighbours and the England average. During 2015-16, 5.30% of school sessions were missed by Harrow CLA 1 year + compared to 4% by statistical neighbours and England average.
- 40% of CLA 1 year + reached the expected standard in all three subjects – reading, writing and maths. One pupil (8%) achieved GCSE English and Mathematics at grades 9-4 plus 3 or more other grades A*-C. This is a new indicator and no comparator data is available.
- The number of CLA ceasing due to adoption has increased to 5 children, whilst CLA ceasing due to SGO has increased to 12 children.
- The average time (days) between a child entering care and moving in with the adoptive family decreased from 543 last quarter to 507 this quarter.
- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased since last quarter to 73.3%. Currently 23.3 % of care leavers

are not in employment education or training. All efforts are made to help young people gain skills and training through Xcite and similar projects.

- The method of presenting the 'children who go missing/absent' data has changed in this report to be in line with national indicators. Comparator data shows that Harrow's % of CLA who had a missing incident during 2016 (10%) was higher than England's average (9%), but below our statistical neighbours (12%). Overall numbers of CLA reported missing has decreased since April. Absent CLA has continued to fluctuate.
- The percentage of CLA looked after for 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 years has remained at 68.8% for the third month running keeping us in line with statistical neighbour and England averages.
- The proportion of CLA 2+ placement stands at 5.0% which is slightly high for this time of the year, all placement moves are monitored.
- The percentage of all new CLA placed more than 20 miles from home has varied throughout the year, currently at 5.9%.
- CLA offending has shown a drop this quarter; however the comparator data from 2016 shows Harrow figures as 15% greater than England's 5%, London's 6% and statistical neighbour's 7.3%. As our cohort is very small this tends to be reflected through a higher percentage.

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. There is no separate risk register in place.

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 : 19/10/2017	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
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Ward Councillors notified:	NO – affects all wards
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