
**REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting
Panel**

Date of Meeting: 2 October 2019

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of People

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No

Wards affected: None

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 as well as provisional performance position at Q1 2019-20. National and comparator data is also included where appropriate for context.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted

Reason for Recommendation: To keep the Panel informed of performance in their role as Corporate Parents.

Section 2 – Report

See the attachment which shows provisional key performance indicators position and an update of activity for children looked after (CLA) at the end of June where available.

Key Points:

1. Key performance indicators:
 - i) a number if these are showing red which is not unusual at Q1, indicators no's 5 – 8 are due to a time lag in receiving data, Harrow 2018-19 data shows us above or in line with statistical neighbours and England averages.
 - ii) Indicator 4 remains below target but progress has been made compared to 2018-19, our Q1 performance is just below statistical neighbours.
 - iii) The change in indicator 10 is mainly due to the drop in numbers of children looked after causing the shift in the percentage rather than more children being placed over 20 miles from home.
 - iv) For indicators 11 and 12, performance is high at Q1 as currently we have a cohort with challenging behaviour, our work around adolescent safeguarding ensures all children who have missing instances are monitored closely. Further commentary in bullet point 9 below.
 - v) Confirmed results for key stage 2 & 4 are not available, absence and fixed term in-year monitoring is a local measure and covered in the report separately. KPI's are measured annually against DfE published data for absence and exclusions, which will be lower as it only includes children looked after at 31st March whose data has been matched with the National Pupil Database. Our in year monitoring includes all children so numbers will be higher. See bullet point 4
2. Overall CLA numbers remain low with our rate of CLA per 10,000 staying below statistical neighbour and England averages.
3. No significant changes in the characteristics of our CLA cohort, slight increase in males and drop in female CLA & mixed ethnicity has dropped by 9.

4. Overall CLA session absence and persistent absence remain high and above comparator data, published data shows a reduction in missed school sessions. However Harrow remains higher than SN and England average. Our persistent absence rate is also higher than SN and England rate. Note DfE published data for absence and exclusions will be lower (as above).
5. Provisional data for CLA looked after over a year shows annual dental checks & health assessments are below comparator data. Our finalised 2018-19 figures were above SN and England averages. There is a time lag in receiving data which impacts on the figures.
6. Of the cohort of CLA at 30th June, 51% had become looked after due to an initial need category of abuse or neglect, followed by absent parenting at 22% - this is mainly unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
7. Of those that ceased to be looked after, 25% returned home, 20% moved to independent living and 33% ceased for other reasons.
8. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation & in education, employment and training has dropped from the previous quarter. Recording issues are being followed up, our year end performance remains above the statistical neighbour average.
9. Children looked after who had a missing or absent instance is high. Additional training for managers has improved the accuracy of recording of missing episodes on Mosaic. We have a small but significant cohort of young people who have complex issues and have come into care. Missing children are a priority for Harrow and we have robust safeguards and scrutiny in place for all missing children, including: Weekly review of missing children at Missing Children Panel, including police & senior managers. Extended Multiagency child exploitation panel arrangements are in place to review children at risk of criminal as well as sexual exploitation. There is a focus on developing relationships with missing children via the independent return home interviews, sharing intelligence and peer mapping to better understand and address risk. CAWNs (child abduction warning notices) are used to disrupt adults seeking to exploit missing children. We also have strong engagement with community partners and agencies to address missing children – including pan-London Rescue and Response County Lines project; Ignite; St Giles; WISH centre; Caryl Thomas Clinic, CAMHS and police.
10. The placement stability of our CLA with respect to number of placements is good with only 1% having had 3 or more placements. The percentage of CLA looked after for 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 years has increased to 62 and similar to our statistical neighbour average

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.

Council Priorities

Supporting Those Most in Need

- Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

[Note: If the report is for information only, it is the author's responsibility to decide whether legal and/or financial clearances are necessary. If not, the report can be submitted without these consents.]

Name: Jo Frost

on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 23/09/2019

MANDATORY	
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:

Dipika Patel, Partner- Business Intelligence Unit 020 8420 9258 dipika.patel@harrow.gov.uk	David Harrington Head of Business Intelligence 0208 420 9248 David.harrington@harrow.gov.uk
---	--

Background Papers:

- Source: Local data taken from Mosaic System
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2017-to-2018>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2016-to-2017>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2015-to-2016>