
REPORT FOR:	Corporate Parenting Panel
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Date of Meeting:	14 th January 2020
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Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Activity and Performance
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Key Decision:	No
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Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of People
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Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
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Exempt:	No
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Decision subject to Call-in:	No
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Wards affected:	None - This is an Information report
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Enclosures:	CLA Performance Report
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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 Q2 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 about activity & performance for looked after children 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. Performance indicators:
 - i) *Long Term Placement Stability (Indicator 4)* remains below target but progress has been made compared to 2018-19, our Q2 performance is just below statistical neighbours.
 - ii) *Health & Dental checks (Indicators 7 – 8)* are red & amber possibly due to a time lag in receiving data, year end comparator data shows us above or in line with statistical neighbours and England averages.
 - iii) *The increase in CLA placed 20+ miles (Indicator 10)* is mainly due to the increase in numbers of children looked after as well as having a cohort of young people with challenging behaviour requiring placements outside Harrow that is causing the shift.
 - iv) *Missing & Absent instances (Indicators 11 and 12)*, we current 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.
2. Overall CLA numbers remain low compared to SN and England averages. The numbers of CLA have increased this quarter though. The rate of CLA per 10,000 has increased in line with the cohort but we continue to remain below statistical neighbour and England averages.
3. No significant changes in the characteristics of our CLA cohort except for an increase in males. CLA & white ethnicity.
4. The proportion of UASC has increased being 23% of CLA and 34% of Care Leavers. Harrow is working with other local authorities in London, through the London Councils, to identify a London wide strategy and approach to ensure consistency and fairness for this vulnerable cohort of young people.
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. The integrated CLA

Health Team has supported improved initial and review health assessments, dental checks, and alignment with SDQ analysis. This improved focus has facilitated a smoother pathway to setting up appropriate physical and emotional health provision for all our CLA, including those in out of borough placements

6. Of the cohort of CLA at 30th September , 50% had become looked after due to an initial need category of abuse or neglect, followed by absent parenting at 24% - this is mainly unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
7. Of those that ceased to be looked after, 32% returned home, 17% moved to independent living, 17% ceased for other reasons and 15% had SGO's granted.
8. Improvement in proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation & in education, employment and training from the previous quarter. Our year end performance remains above the statistical neighbour average. Snapshot data suggests 70% are in education, employment and training. The current and future accommodation needs of care leavers are regularly reviewed via the placement sufficiency strategy. Semi-independent placements are also regularly reviewed and commissioned in line with West London Alliance arrangements. The LCT works closely with the Access to Resources team and the Housing Department to ensure there is a wide range of placement and accommodation options for care leavers.
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..
10. The placement stability of our CLA is good with only 4.4% 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 64% and similar to our statistical neighbour average. There is a requirement for a detailed profile of a child's strengths and needs before any placement is sourced. This is shared with foster carers prior to children being placed in their care. Any plans for children to return home or a change of placement will need Head of Service agreement and to be ratified at a Looked After Review. Harrow has a strong performance with regards to placement stability which evidences the

good practice and strong systems in this area. If children have to move in an emergency they are discussed at the next Access to Resources panel where effective challenge and support is given and additional resources agreed if appropriate.

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: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 30/12/19	

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
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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>