
REPORT FOR: **Corporate Parenting
Panel**

Date of Meeting: 7th October 2020

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 - This is an Information report

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 2020-21. 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. Rate of CLA has been increasing since year on year since March 2018.
2. Review timeliness of CLA remains strong and ahead of our 95% target with 98.4% of CLA having been reviewed within timescales.
3. Placement indicators remain strong, coming in ahead of target and the statistical neighbour and England averages. 1% of CLA have had more than two placement moves in the year, 9 CLA have had 2 placements whereby another move would impact negatively on the indicator. The percentage of CLA looked after for 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 years has increased to 78.1%
4. Care leaver indicators around those in settled accommodation and those who are NEET, whilst showing improvement, are outside of our targets and comparator data. The restrictions of these indicators are that the care leavers status can only be taken in the period 3 months before and 1 month after their birthday in year. Removing these constraints and looking at snapshot data the in EET indicator shows considerable improvement.
5. Overall CLA numbers have continued to increase along with our CLA rate per 10,000. We are currently at 195 CLA compared to 163 from the same quarter in the previous year. Despite the increase in CLA we still remain below comparator data.
6. There are no significant shifts in the age composition of our CLA cohort. The proportion of CLA aged 16 and 17 remains high compared to statistical neighbour and England averages as was the case in the 2018/19 benchmarking figures.
7. Just under three quarters of our CLA come from BME ethnicity groups which is higher than the statistical neighbour and England averages.

Proportionally we have a much higher percentage of CLA which class themselves from 'Other Ethnic Groups'

8. Education – due to the pandemic and the closing of academic institutions, education monitoring will resume in line with the starting of the new academic year when new education data is released.
9. There were no new adoptions or SGO's in Q1 2020/21.
10. While the percentage of all CLA with an absent episode remains low and on target at 1.4% the percentage of CLA with a missing episode remains above the 3% target at 6.1%. 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. Extended Multiagency child exploitation panel arrangements are in place to review children at risk of criminal as well as sexual exploitation.

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="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 25/09/2020		
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date:		

* Delete the words "on behalf of the" if the report is cleared directly by the Chief Financial Officer / Monitoring Officer.

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 25/09/2020		

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:

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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-2018-to-2019>
- <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>