
REPORT FOR: **Corporate Parenting
Panel**

Date of Meeting:	7 th October 2020
Subject:	Harrow Children Looked After Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2024
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:	1. Harrow Children Looked After Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2024

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Summary

The 2019-2024 Sufficiency Strategy outlines our plan to meet the future needs of children on the edge of care, children who are looked after and young people who have recently left care. For children looked after, the sufficiency strategy covers internal services such as foster care, and external services such as residential placements, independent fostering placements, adoption and other support services.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted

Reason for Recommendation: To keep the Panel updated on the sufficiency of placements for children looked after and care leavers.

Section 2 – Report

Key Points

Harrow is committed to commissioning the right accommodation and support services to ensure the best possible outcomes for every child and young person. Our sufficiency strategy is based on the foundation of three core principles:

1. Children first
2. Keeping families together wherever possible
3. Early permanence and placement stability

Harrow has safely maintained a low rate of children who are looked after, and this is underpinned by a strong focus on delivering effective Early Support Services to children and their families. Where children are not able to safely live with their parents, other family members and friends are explored as Special Guardianship carers, and achieving early permanence and placement stability is a priority across Children's services.

Strong commissioning arrangements, utilising West London boroughs' combined purchasing power to deliver financial efficiencies and a diverse and quality assured market, with clear pricing frameworks and specifications is a cornerstone of Harrow's approach to ensuring placements are value for money.

Whilst there has been much progress in developing our range of internal and external services to ensure sufficiency of accommodation, we face the dual challenge of additional demand for services and increasing pressure on Council budgets.

Tight scrutiny of placements is maintained via a weekly "Access to Resources panel," monthly placement "Challenge panel", to review sufficiency, value for money and outcomes of placements and other care packages.

Options considered

Not applicable as this is an information report.

Risk Management Implications

The Children's Services Risk Register includes corporate parenting responsibilities.

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

Not applicable – for information only

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: <u>24/09/2020/</u>		
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

Corporate Director

Date: 18.09.2020

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:

Jacinta Kane
Head of Service
Corporate Parenting

Tel - 020 8736 6617

Email - Jacinta.Kane@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

1. Attached paper: Harrow Children Looked After Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2024