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| <b>Report for:<br/>INFORMATION</b> |
| <b>Item Number:</b><br><br>15      |

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| <b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>   | NO   |
| <b>Title</b>   | Management Information Summary – Children Looked After   |
| <b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>  | Marcella Phelan<br>Assistant Director Children and Families<br>020 8825 8848<br><a href="mailto:phelanm@ealing.gov.uk">phelanm@ealing.gov.uk</a>                       |
| <b>Author(s)</b>   | Mary Umrigar<br>Head of Performance and Projects Children's Services and Adults<br>0208 825 7445<br><a href="mailto:Umrigarm@ealing.gov.uk">Umrigarm@ealing.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Portfolio(s)</b>  | Children Services  |
| <b>For Consideration By</b>  | Corporate Parent Panel   |
| <b>Date to be considered</b>   | 8th December 2016  |
| <b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>  | Not Applicable   |
| <b>Affected Wards</b>  | All  |
| <b>Area Committees</b>   | All  |
| <b>Keywords/Index</b>  | Performance Assessment Framework, performance indicators.  |
| <b>Purpose of Report:</b><br>To provide a brief analysis on the April 2016 – September 2016 performance (2016/17 year) for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers. |  |

## **1 Review of Performance Indicators for Children's Services**

### **Children & Families Performance Assessment Framework 2016/17**

1.1 The use of Performance Indicators (PIs) in assessing performance enables the council to evaluate its current performance, monitor improvements and inform service development. Performance is reviewed monthly by operational service management and by the departmental senior management team.

1.2 The external inspection and assessment of services lead by Ofsted uses the indicators as part of the evidence to inform their assessments of the councils' performance. These indicators, however, must be considered as part of a broader set of performance evidence including inspection and review, regular liaison and monitoring of services and the commissioning and delivery of services with partners, particularly with the schools service and health.

1.3 The service has identified all key measures through developing the business planning processes, service and team plans and it is through monitoring these alongside the new indicator set that we will make ensure that we achieve what we have set out to do.

1.4 To set the performance data for CLA and leaving care in the context of the whole remit for safeguarding, the report contains information on assessment and child protection activity as follows:

#### **Performance April 2016 – September 2016**

##### **1.4.1 CLA and CP numbers**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 358 children and young people were looked after by Ealing, this has fallen by 12 since April 2016; however it is an increase of four children from the same time last year. In this year so far, 97 children and young people have become looked after and 111 have ceased to be looked after.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 320 children and young people were subject to a child protection plan, up from 300 in the previous year. In this year so far, 162 new plans have been put in place and 144 plans have ceased.

##### **1.4.2 Timing of Children and Family Assessments (CFAs) assessments**

Ealing Children Services have been making strong progress to ensure all Children and Family assessments (CFA) are completed on time.

Performance at the end of September 2016 shows 84% of assessments have been completed within timescales of 45 days, which is 5% points below the reported figure of 89% for last year. There are improvements to be made to achieve the year-end target of 91%.

**1.4.3 Re registrations of children & young people to child protection plans**  
Ealing's performance at end of September 2016 was reported at 14.8%, an improvement from 18.2% in April 2016 and 4% points lower than last year. Performance is below the national and statistical neighbours' average of 17.9% and 15.2% respectively.

A total of 162 CP registrations occurred between April 2016 and September 2016, 24 of those were re-registrations, an increase of 12 from June. It must be noted that some re-registrations are essential in order to keep the child safe and from harm.

1.5 There are several key measures for children looked after (CLA) and safeguarding and they are as follows:

### **Performance April 2016 – September 2016**

#### **1.5.1 Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption (NI 61)**

This measures the effectiveness of an important part of the adoption process and timescales. In particular, when placing children for adoption, the timeliness in which they are adopted will be affected by how easy or difficult it is to find an adoptive placement. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

In the period April to September 2016, three children have been adopted; of which one of the children (33%) adopted was within the 12 months of being placed for adoption. At the same time last year, three out of five children adopted (60%) were placed within 12 months of being placed for adoption.

#### **1.5.2 Stability of placements of children looked after (NI 62)**

This measure looks at the stability of care that a child has experienced. A stable and well supported placement will lead to better outcomes for the child. However, there are circumstances that will warrant multiple separate placements during the year if they and others are to be kept safe. A low percentage represents good performance.

Figures to end of September 2016 show 6.1% (4.8% Sept 15) of looked after children have had three or more placements during the year. This equates to 22 children out of the 358 total looked after children population. A lower percentage represents good performance.

#### **1.5.3 Child protection plans ceased lasting 2 years or more (NI 64)**

This measure tries to establish whether child protection (CP) plans are effective, working towards specified outcomes which should lead to the child being removed from the register within two years. Good performance is typified by a lower percentage.

At the end of September 2016, 6.9% of children de-registered have been on a CP plan lasting for over 2 years, an improvement from 7.3% reported in Sept 2015. The figure is currently higher than the average of our statistical neighbours (4.6%) and the national average of 3.8%.

#### **1.5.4 Timeliness of looked after children reviews (NI 66)**

Performance at end of September 2016 shows 98.85% (95.50% September 15) of children looked after for 28 days or more have had their reviews completed within timescales. This translates to only four reviews out of a possible 349 being out of time. Services are reviewing processes to ensure LAC reviews are being completed on time.

#### **1.5.5 Reviews of child protection cases (NI 67)**

Child Protection reviews are used to measure the effectiveness of the interventions provided to children who are made subject to a child protection plan. Good performance is represented by a high percentage.

Performance at the end of September 2016 shows 100% (unchanged from last year) of all children/young people receiving their reviews on time.

#### **1.5.6 Employment, education and training for care leavers**

Ealing have once again exceeded expectations and supported many of our care leavers into education, employment and training. In the 2015/16 financial year, Children Services have helped 63% 17-21 year old<sup>1</sup> care leavers to gain work and or supported them into full or part time training and education. Latest figures covering six months to end of September 2016 is 67.7%.

Many care leavers attend University and in the last academic year Ealing had 20% or 46 of its care leavers at these institutions; this is an increase of 5% from last year (2015) and it is significantly higher than the national average of 6%<sup>2</sup>.

The latest figures in September 2016 show Ealing have 18% or 46 of its care leavers at University.

Research shows that care leavers experience high levels of unemployment and are at risk of homelessness and social exclusion. The monitoring of whether care leavers are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is used to show the performance of local authorities in improving outcomes for young people leaving care, so that they are enabled to achieve, to make a positive contribution and to be offered the opportunity to secure their future economic well-being. A high score would represent good outcomes for young people.

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<sup>1</sup> From 2015/16, the DfE have expanded the age profile from 19-21 to include 17 and 18 year olds therefore performance cannot be compared with previous year's data.

<sup>2</sup> National average stated in Ealing's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2014-17

## 2. Other Implications

### 2.1 Risk Management

The service has in place a risk register linked to the current business plan and priorities. The register is reviewed regularly by the senior management team and where appropriate remedial and action in mitigation are considered and agreed.

### 2.2 Links to Strategic Objectives

The Children Service is key to delivering the strategic objectives of supporting young people to be safe, healthy and prosper. The vision will be achieved by working on shared priorities with key partners and stakeholders via the Children and Young People Board.

### 2.3 Equalities and Community Cohesion

An Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken for each area of development within the services

### 2.4 Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications: None.

### 2.5 Property and Assets None.

### 2.6 Any other implications: None.

### 2.7 Consultation Consultation arrangements across internal partners, external partner agencies and strategic partnerships will be to be determined and managed through the Children and Young Peoples Board.

**Background papers – none**

*Report end*

**Consultation**

| Name of consultee | Department   | Date sent to consultee | Date response received from consultee | Comments appear in report para: |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Internal          |              |                        |                                       |                                 |
| Director          | Director C&F | November 2016          | November 2016                         |                                 |
|                   |              |                        |                                       |                                 |

**Report History**

|   |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| <b>Decision type:</b><br>For information) | No   | <b>Urgency item?</b> |
| Authorised by member:                     | Cabinet member:  | Date report sent:    |
| Date drafted:                             | report deadline:   |                      |
| Report no.:                               | Report author and contact for queries:   |                      |
|   | Mary Umrigar, Business Manager Performance Children & Adults                         |                      |
|   | 0208 825 7445.<br><a href="mailto:umrigarm@ealing.gov.uk">umrigarm@ealing.gov.uk</a> |                      |