



Report for:
ACTION/INFORMATION

Item Number:

9

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO (If yes state which paragraph of the Access to Information Rules, the exemption relates)
Title	Report on the Education of Looked After Children
Responsible Officer(s)	Judith Finlay, Director, Children and Families Services, Julie Lewis, Assistant Director, Schools Service, Marcella Phelan, Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships.
Author(s)	Bridie McDonagh, Ext 6648, Direct Line 0208 825 6648
Portfolio(s)	Cllr Binda Rai, Children and Young People
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Committee
Date to be Considered	Thursday, 4 th December 2014
Implementation Date if Not Called In	
Affected Wards	All Wards
Area Committees	
Keywords/Index	Post 16 Education Results, Confirmed Placements and University entrance routes 2013-2014 October Half Term Activities, Junior Council Update (verbal)

Purpose of Report:

- a) To inform members of the details for Post 16 Education results for the academic year 2013-2014 and to provide information on the current year 12 and year 13 year groups. To confirm University entrance routes and placements.
- b) To report on the October half-term education activities.
- c) To report on the activities of Junior Council (verbal).

1. Recommendations

Members are invited to note this report and identify any additional information they would like to receive.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

This report informs members of the final Post 16 results for the academic year September 2013-July 2014 and sets out the range of education courses being pursued by Ealing's Looked After Children Post 16.

In addition the report also provides an overview of the October 2013 half term activities and Junior Council activities (verbal).

3. Key Implications

3.1 University Trends 2013 to 2014

September's Report to Corporate Parent Committee set out the detail of the university entrants last academic year. They are updated and included in Appendix 1.

In summary, in regard to trends, overall student numbers at University have slightly decreased in the previous three years with a peak year in 09/10 of 44 students. In 2013/14 we had 35 students at university, compared to 36 the year previously. This is compared to 38 in 11/12, 40 students in 10/11, 44 in 09/10, 39 in 08/09, 38 in 07/08, 37 in 06/07, 32 in 05/06, 30 in 04/05 and 27 in 03/04.

However, student numbers studying at postgraduate level have climbed over time, with 1 student in 06/07, two in 07/08, three in 08/09, three in 09/10, three in 10/11, seven in 11/12, seven in 12/13 and six in 13/14.

As of September 2014, there has been a slight increase in the numbers studying at University and there are 37 students at University during the academic year 2014/15, which is 15% of the care leaver group (14% previous year).

In September 2015, we anticipate that 10 young people are on track to qualify, following a mix of BTEC and more traditional A level routes with an emphasis on young people taking BTEC and Access Courses.

3.2 Education Results, young people aged 16-18

Year 12

The numbers of students in education, training and employment in Year 12 in 2013/14 has decreased (73%) compared to the previous academic year (82%). The NEET percentage has increased 9% compared to the previous year. This reflects the complex year 11 cohort that took their GCSEs in summer 2013 where 11 students only attended mainstream schools and the cohort had special educational needs, mental health issues or complex social and emotional needs previously reported on. Students are being supported in alternative appropriate Post 16 Pathways and accreditation.

Of the young people that were studying, most chose to study at College. Eleven out of 33 or 33% of those studying chose to take practical courses such as BTECs, NVQs or City and Guild qualifications. The most popular were Performing Arts and Construction Courses. Young people are taking a wide range of practical subjects as well as a few A Levels (2 young people).

Of the 10 students in Year 12 that passed their BTECS etc, 7 of these are continuing with the same course and 2 of these students are following a three Year Level 3 BTEC Course (the equivalent of A Level). Another 3 students who passed their BTEC Course at the end of year 12 have gone on to start a new Course in Sep 2014. One has started A Levels, one has started an IT Apprenticeship and another a Business Administration training course.

The 2 students taking A Levels passed their first year but one of these students have chosen to improve their grades further in this academic year.

The 14 young people who are still deciding ways forward are all being supported by the LAC Education Team, the SOT Team and Connexions and it is expected that appropriate education, training or employment will be sourced for them in the coming months.

Year 13

In Year 13, the figure for students in education is up by 1% and the overall figure for students in education, training and employment has remained consistent with last year (79%). The NEET percentage has stayed the same as the previous year. Changing courses, being full time parents and illness have impacted on the figures.

Students studied a wide variety of courses. Once again the practical courses, such as BTECs, NVQs and City and Guilds qualifications were by far the most popular. Seven students studied A Levels, one more than last year (6 students).

Of the 14 students in Year 13 that passed their BTECS courses, 4 of these students are following a three Year BTEC Course. A further 8 students who passed their BTECs at the end of Year 13 are continuing with BTEC Level 2 Courses in September 2014.

Current situation Year 12 & 13

There are currently 50 (34 last year) young people in Year 12, i.e. who took GCSEs in the summer of 2014. Of these, 38 (76%, last year 85%) are in education, following a similar trend in that they are taking a wide range of practical subjects.

The majority of year 12 students are on Level 1, Level 2 courses and Level 3 Courses. Twelve (2 last year) students are taking Level 3 courses which include A Level and BTEC Courses. Eleven of these twelve students all achieved 5 A* to C GCSE grades including English and Maths in the 2014 summer examinations. Eight of the eleven students have continued with Level 3 Courses in same school they sat their GCSE examinations. Three students are NEET (6%, 12% last year) and 6 students are on training programmes/courses (12%), one is in employment (2%) information on the remaining two young people (4%) is currently unavailable. Of the 3 students that are currently NEET in year 12, one of these young people did not sit GCSEs in Summer 2014 and the two others achieved 1 A* to G grade in the Summer 2014 examinations.

There are currently 54 (61 last year) young people in year 13. Of these, 36 are in education (67%, 77% last year), 7 are in training (13%, 2% last year) and 10 (18%, 18% last year) are NEET and one (2%) is currently unavailable.

The situation across Years 12 and 13 remains similar to previous years in that the majority of looked after young people choose to study in FE colleges. The majority are in Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College where there is a full time mentor for Looked After Children and strong support for LAC especially around admissions. Richmond and Uxbridge College are also proving to be popular with our young people.

Overall in terms of the routes young people follow, most young people follow BTEC qualifications over three years demonstrating a strong commitment to education and a determination to succeed.

Appendix 1, gives a detailed breakdown of results for Post 16 education for the academic year 2013 – 2014.

4. October 2014 Half Term Activities (see attached Appendix 2 for full account)

The half term events took place over 5 days of the October 2014 half term week. The activities were of excellent quality; well attended by the young people and focused as usual, on raising attainment and aspirations through enrichment activities for Ealing's Looked After Children.

Monday 27th October
A day at Horizons.

KS2 children attended two music workshops in the morning. A drummer taught individual sessions throughout the morning and a voice/ singing coach worked with the group. This was funded through our recent cross borough initiative, the project "Connects" with Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow boroughs.
11 children attended the day and the ages ranged from 7 – 15 years.

Tuesday 28th October

A day trip to Cambridge University by coach.

This was part of the 'Realise' scheme, which is run and funded by Cambridge University to encourage care leavers to study there. The theme for the day was engineering and what it means to be an engineer. There was a workshop where groups made load bearing bridges out of paper and clips; a tour of the campus with two under graduates, to see the facilities on offer and to visit the accommodation; a lecture that demonstrated the vast range of uses of engineering. This was followed by an inspirational talk from a Harrow care leaver who was studying Law. Despite setbacks and many moves during the time he was fostered, he proved that it was possible to study, achieve and gain a place at Cambridge.

19 young people supported by two teachers, one lead mentor, one social worker and one foster carer attended this day.

Wednesday 28th October

The 'Big Day Out' in Stratford-Upon-Avon

A group travelled by coach to Stratford-Upon-Avon, to experience the world of William Shakespeare. The group attended workshops with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), visited Shakespeare's birth place and tomb, ate at a pizza restaurant and attending an evening performance at the RSC Theatre. They arrived back in Ealing at midnight having left at 8am that morning. This was a high quality experience in the theatre world as well as a day out with a large group, on a coach, making a good all round day out.

19 young people, aged from 12-17 years attended this day, supported by three foster carers, a social worker and two teachers from the LAC Education Team.

Thursday 30th October

Study support at Horizons

This was an opportunity for students to catch up on homework and studies.

6 students made use of this time and support available to do maths and catch up with their studies.

Friday 31st October.

Drumming, art, gardening and pumpkin pie

The morning continued the drumming workshops with individual students able to work with the guest musician. Others did an art workshop. At lunchtime the now regular "gardening ladies", Linda and Ella ran a workshop based on Halloween, a cookery session produced pumpkin soup and pumpkin pie for lunch. Then pumpkins were carved into faces and displayed around Horizons. In addition, bulbs were planted around Horizons to be ready for the spring!

7 children took part in the day, aged from 7-13 years.

5. Financial

Finance advises that any improvements would need to be contained within cash limited budgets.

6. Legal

The key legislation is S 52 Children Act 2004, which amends s22 of the Children act 1989 to include a particular duty to promote a looked after child's educational achievement amongst other duties to looked after children.

7. Value For Money

Financial aspects are monitored within existing budgets and existing value for money assessments and reviews.

7. Risk Management

None

8. Community Safety

Delivering better outcomes for Looked After Children

9. Links to Strategic Objectives

The work of the Looked After Children Education Team links to the Corporate Strategy. Targets to improve attainment are set within the wider objective of creating a great place for every child and young person to grow up.

10. Equalities and Community Cohesion

Equality Impact is consistently reviewed and evaluated in terms of service delivery. Each year the Looked After Children's Education team undertakes a detailed analysis of the educational performance of all Ealing's Looked After Children in terms of Ethnicity so that appropriate under achieving groups can be targeted. These groups are prioritised for the half term activities. This group is also encouraged to attend the Study Support after school on Wednesdays as well as ongoing monitoring of progress to improve academic achievement. All these activities are consistently monitored to ensure ongoing achievement of outcomes.

11. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

None

12. Property and Assets

None

13. Any other implications:

None

14. Consultation

As indicated further in report.

15. Timetable for Implementation

16. Appendices

17. Background Information

Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 amended the previous legislation at s22 of the Children Act 1989 to specifically include a duty of Local Authorities to promote the educational achievements of young people in care

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Internal				
Marcella Phelan				
Julian Bell				
Binda Rai				
Judith Finlay				
Julie Lewis				

Director	Executive Director
Lawyer	Director of Legal Services Jane Batalona
Finance Officer	Amar Barot
Councillor	Binda Rai
External	
A N Other	Voluntary organisation
Police etc	

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
EITHER: Key decision [state the date it was first entered into the Forward Plan OR Non-key decision OR For information (delete as applicable)	Yes/No (delete as applicable) [Yes if it is a general or special urgency key decision, which was not included in the Forward Plan with at least one months' notice] If yes, set out the reasons both why the item was not included and a decision cannot be deferred.

Authorised by Cabinet member:	Date report drafted:	Report deadline:	Date report sent:
XX.XX.13	XX.XX.13	XX.XX.13	XX.XX.13

Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:
	First and surname, job title

