



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
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Portfolio(s)	Cllr Jasbir Anand, Children and Young People.
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Committee
Date to be Considered	March 20th 2014
Implementation Date if Not Called In	
Affected Wards	All Wards
Area Committees	
Keywords/Index	Tracking Year 11 Looked After Children, Updates Key Stage 1 & 2, Post 16. Other updates, John Lyon's projects overview.

Purpose of Report:

- a) To inform Members of the overall education programme for Looked After Children in Year 11 to ensure improved outcomes.
- b) To update members on the general position at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 and Post 16.
- c) To outline to members progress on the John Lyon's Charity funded activities and other events planned.

1. Recommendations

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

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

2.1. Achieving the best possible results at the end of Year 11 is a key element in achieving young people's future goals and aspirations. The LAC Education Team prioritise this work at this time to ensure Looked After young people take appropriate public exams. Looked After Children's targets include 5 good GCSEs at grades A* - C including English and Maths.

2.2 Further, this report updates members on education programmes covering school holiday periods and activities undertaken by the Looked After Children Education Team funded through the John Lyon's Charity.

3. Key Implications

It is a large Year 11 cohort this year. There are currently 43 young people in Year 11. Last year there were 27 young people in Year 11 and in 2011 there were 38 young people in Year 11, in 2010 there were 36.

Four young people have come in to care in Year 11 since December 2013.

Nineteen young people are being educated in borough (12 last year). Sixteen are in mainstream schools, none in special and 2 in alternative provision. Alternative provision is provided as part of the EOTAS service (Education Other Than At School). The EOTAS service specifically commissions programmes tailored to meet the needs of the young person such as virtual learning, vocational learning and group provision at the Study Centre, Group Site in West Ealing as well as more individually tailored sessions for individual, paired or small groups at Ealing Tuition Service in Southall. Similar provision exists in other boroughs that young people are able to access as appropriate.

There are 24 young people being educated out of borough. Thirteen are in mainstream schools, 9 in special schools, and 2 are in alternative provision. Out of this group, two students are living near enough to be able to access on-site Horizons support.

However, the young people living at some distance receive a range of support. This is closely monitored by the education team to ensure that the tuition and programme is appropriate and that the young person is making progress within the subject and/or course they are taking. Seven of the 13 young people attending a mainstream school out borough are on track to achieve 5 good GCSEs including English and Maths and all are supported via the PEP (Personal Education Plan). Text, phone calls and email are still important tools used for weekly contact with young people, school and with the carer to ensure that appropriate steps are being taken to support the young person.

There are 6 young people where attendance is poor at their educational provision. These young people have significant and complex long-term needs. They are being supported intensively individually in a range of ways through the content and delivery of programmes that have vocational,

academic and therapeutic aspects. They are designed to motivate the young person to access provision that is relevant to their current needs. These 6 young people will be carefully monitored and supported through to relevant post 16 educational provisions with a view to longer-term success in educational attainment and achievement.

Specific targeted work is being undertaken with students who are borderline either within C/D ranges or in terms of achieving 5 A*-G passes. English and Maths intervention is a priority for specific targeted interventions.

Interventions include: 1 teaching in schools, focused study support sessions for those students with C/D borderline grades at Horizons, whole team supported Academic Evenings at Horizons.

Currently, target grades are as follows:

It is expected that 37/43, 86% will achieve 1 A*-G grades.

It is expected that 28/43, 65% will achieve 5 A*-G grades.

It is expected that 16/43, 37% will achieve 5 A*-C grades.

It is expected that 15/43, 35% will achieve 5 A*-C including English and Maths.

Three young people with SEN in special schools / Alternative Provision will be entered for accreditation in basic skills programmes and entry level courses and are making progress.

Regarding trends, the predictions at this stage indicate a significant increase over the actual results in summer 2013 which were our lowest to date. A key factor in this increase is that a larger number of Year 11 students this year are in mainstream schools and have been in long-term, stable care placements. In addition it has been possible to build relationships that have supported good independent learning styles and study skills for a core of the cohort who have been supported over a longer period through the enrichment and study support additional activities.

However, it is important to bear in mind that any additions to the cohort are likely to bring the figure down, due to the longer impact of home life and upheaval of coming in to care at such a late stage.

The LAC Education Team regularly tracks the academic progress of Looked After Children to demonstrate positive educational outcomes from the care experience for Ealing's young people.

2013 – Results

5 + GCSEs at grades A* to C inc. English and Maths= 3% (1/32)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C % = 3% (1/32)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to G% = 8% (9/32)

1+ GCSEs at grades A* to G % = 53% (17/32)

2012 – Results

5 + GCSEs at grades A* to C inc. English and Maths=18% (7/38)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C % = 24% (9/38)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to G% = 39% (15/38)

1+ GCSEs at grades A* to G % = 55% (21/38)

Other qualifications: 11

No qualifications: *6

**In 2012 (as previously reported, November 2012) the 6 who did not achieve qualifications were in young offenders units, refused to attend provision, moved placement mid-year, and disengaged prior to exams with YOS involvement.*

2011 –Results

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths = 13% (4/31)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C %= 19% (6/31)

5+ GCSEs at grades A* to G% = 45% (14/31)

1+ GCSEs at grades A* to G % = 72% (18/31)

Other Qualifications: 5

No qualifications: 3

Please Note

- These results refer to young people in care at the end of Year 11 irrespective of the length of time in care.
- Numbers per year group are statistically small; therefore each young person's individual performance has a bigger impact on the results than would be the case in a mainstream school, for example.

Key Stages 1 and 2

There are currently 20 children in Year 6, the same number as last year. Year 6 is the year group at the end of key stage 2 and the end of Primary school education. Fourteen children (70%) attend Ealing schools, compared to only 54% last year. Six children (7 last year) have statements of special educational needs and 3 children (5 last year) are in specialist educational provisions.

In Year 2, the end of key stage 1, there are 13 children (17 last year), 8 (10 last year) of whom attend Ealing schools. Three children (1 last year) have a statement of special educational needs and all 3 are educated in special schools. The LAC Education Team have been working in a variety of ways to support these children, sometimes directly and at other times through training of foster carers or liaising with schools and other provisions.

The year 6 group are currently attaining at good/average compared to previous years. English is a strength in the cohort and the KS2 teacher is expecting attainment of 60% level 4 or above in English with Maths at 50%.

The aspirational target is 70% (English) and 60% (Maths) but experience indicates that this can be influenced by factors of stability and personal circumstances can fluctuate and impact on actual attainment.

The current year 2 cohort is struggling much more to attain in line with national expectations. The 3 children in special schools are working well below expected levels. Of the other ten, 6 are on track to get level 2. The other 4 have had a difficult start in life:

- 1 child is new into care but is now making progress.
- 1 child had no early education at home and wasn't then in care, so catching up.
- 1 child is with the CWD team and has additional needs.
- 1 has behavioural needs, reflected in a one day exclusion. Statutory assessment process has been initiated to ensure additional needs are assessed and adequate provision made. This is an out of borough child.

Therefore, target levels for level 2s are lower at 46%.

Post 16

At the start of year we had 39 students at University. There are currently 36 (36 also last year) young people at university, 15% and to date all are studying successfully. The three students not able to continue with their degrees in this academic year were: one young woman who has had a baby and is intending to return in Sep 2014; another young person who changed his mind about his choice of University and is deciding on his future options and another student's with complex immigration status who has decided to reapply at another time.

Eight young people (10 last year) are expected to graduate this summer and 3 of these students are expected to graduate in their Masters. The number of graduates is fewer than in previous years as we had only 6 first year students start undergraduate degrees for 2011/2012. Two of these 6 students are currently repeating their second year and another 2 students started their foundation year in 2011/2012 and will be graduating in 2015 instead of 2014. So far 2 young people have indicated that they are planning to do a Master's degree starting September 2014. A further 12 young people are expected to start university in autumn 2014. Two of the 12 young people who qualify to go to University in September 2014 have immigration status issues.

There are currently 45 young people in year 12. There were 34 young people in Year 12, i.e. who took GCSEs in the summer of 2013. Of these 45 young people 37(82%) are in education, a decrease of 3% since the last report in November. The majority of year 12 students are on Level 1 and Level 2 courses and two students are taking A Level Courses. There are currently six students (13%) that are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). We are waiting for confirmation for two other students (5%). Of the six students that are NEET, two came in to care in Year 12 and are in process of applying for educational places.

Of the other 4 young people who are NEET:

One young person was stabbed in January 2014 and moved out of London for his own safety.

One young person is at Feltham YOI.

One young person has not engaged or turned up to interviews set up for him regarding tests for courses/Apprenticeships.

One young person is supported by the Youth Justice Service and due to complete community service.

Two are applying for educational places (as above).

3.1 The John Lyon's Charity Projects – Update.

As previously reported, Ealing's Looked After Children have benefited from support from the John Lyon's Charity to deliver a cross borough programme '*Unlocking the Future for Looked After Children*' with 3 other boroughs – Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, and Brent. Harrow has recently joined the partnership to make a 4th partner borough. There are 3 themes to this programme: Literacy; Promoting self –reliance and confidence through group work, expeditions and residential and Access to sport, recreation and drama. In addition, John Lyon's Charity fund some Ealing borough only activities, such as theatre trips and other activities run at school holiday times.

The John Lyon's Projects and Half Term Activities.

During the February half term, groups of Ealing's Looked After Children have taken part in activities, themed around the famous children's writer, Roald Dahl. The activities have been: reading workshops in the Hanwell library, chocolate making activities, which have linked into the themed work, particularly with '*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*' and a visit to the Roald Dahl museum in Buckinghamshire.

The reading workshops and first chocolate session were specifically for the younger KS2 children. 12 took part and were aged from 9 – 12 years. A later session was held, at Horizons for the older children in KS3/4. The chocolate making was a great success and children also made the packaging to take their products home. This was all funded by the John Lyon's Charity. Learning outcomes include literacy improvement, introduction to books of Roald Dahl, speaking and listening skills. There was also lots of fun to be had, also an important factor in learning!

The Roald Dahl museum trip involved the group taking a coach from Horizons out to Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire. 10 children participated, accompanied by one foster carer, the LAC Education Team Lead Mentor and two teachers. Arriving in the village of Great Missenden, we were able to spot some of the features included in our reading of the previous day. For

example, the red petrol pumps and the post office were eagerly spotted. The museum is an excellent resource. There was story telling activities on offer as well as art workshops and interactive games throughout the museum. At the end of the day all children were given a pack of resources and a book. It was a great day out and remarkably, the rain held off! Again all costs were covered by the John Lyon's Charity.

Follow up activities from this half term are trips to see two plays, based on the work of Roald Dahl – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on March 29th and Matilda, on 9th April. Tickets will be offered firstly to children who took part in the workshops. Both plays are very popular West End musicals and we expect tickets to be in great demand! Further theatre trips are planned for May and the summer. Again thanks goes to John Lyon's Charity for funding these enrichment activities for Ealing's Looked After Children.

Study support at Horizons was also on offer as usual during the half term as was individual tuition targeted to needs. We were pleased to welcome three new recruits, children who accessed Horizons during the half term and one student has started to attend the Wednesday evening study support sessions.

Other Reports

None

4. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. 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.

6. Value For Money

The cost and effectiveness of these arrangements are monitored and reviewed regularly.

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 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.

1. 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

One included

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
Patricia Walker
Judith Finlay
Julie Lewis
Bridie McDonagh

Director	Executive Director
Lawyer	Director of Legal Services Jane Batalona/Diana Hamilton
Finance Officer	Finance Officer Amar Barot
Councillor	Jasbir Anand
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.06	XX.XX.06	XX.XX.06	XX.XX.06

Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:
	First and surname, job title
	Bridie McDonagh, Virtual Head Teacher, Ealing Looked After Children