

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>21 November 2016</p>	
<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</p>	
<p>Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Information</p> <p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides a brief overview of recent developments of relevance to the Children's Services department for members of the Policy and Accountability Committee to consider.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to review and comment upon the contents of this report.

3. EDUCATION

School building developments

- 3.1. Holy Cross/ Bilingual Programme- This programme supports the place planning requirements of the School Organisation Plan by creating 2 forms of entry of Bilingual provision at Clancarty Road (the former Peterborough Schools site) in partnership with the Ecole Marie d'Orliac and by expanding the intake of Holy Cross Primary School from 1 to 2 forms of entry. The third and final phase of building works at the Clancarty Road is planned to be completed in the summer of 2017 and the major remodelling works at Holy Cross, which began in May of this year and

include new classrooms and a new hall and dining facility, are also on programme for a summer 2017 completion.

- 3.2. Tri-Borough Alternative Provision (TBAP) After the successful relocation of Action on Disability to refurbished premises at Normand Croft School in the summer of this year the planned 16-19 Academic Free School operated by TBAP opened on time with 18 students in its temporary home at the also refurbished Greswell Centre. Designs for the permanent building and for the remodelling of the current Bridge 11-16 buildings proceed, with a further community consultation planned for December and opening of the two facilities anticipated in the summer of 2016. Some decanting during the works will be required, and this is currently being negotiated.
- 3.3. The ARK Swift site redevelopment is an exciting project involving the creation of what is described as an “Education Hub” on the current site in Australia Road. The current Academy, Harmony Nursery and Adult Learning facilities are planned to be reprovided alongside new Youth provision, key worker housing and office facilities for private and voluntary sector associations.

GCSE Results

- 3.4. The Department for Education published preliminary Local Authority and school level GCSE results last month. Please find below the summary data that has been published for Hammersmith and Fulham schools. Hammersmith and Fulham are well above national averages for all measures. In terms of ranking against other Local Authorities in Inner London the Ebacc score for our schools is top and the attainment 8 score places us third overall. These results will be subject to change when the final Performance Tables are published in January 2017. The preliminary indications at this stage are that key indicators will probably be one or two percentage points higher, but we are still validating data files with schools for Profiles and for local analysis. A full report on school performance both primary and secondary with validated school level data will be presented to CEPAC at the meeting on 27th February.

GCSE 2016 Provisional data ¹						
(DfE 1st release)						
Provisional GCSE 2016 results						
School	Cohort	Progress 8	Attainment 8	C+ in Eng & Maths	EBACC	5+ A*-C incl Eng & Maths
Fulham Cross Girls' School	4124	0.71	56.7	75%	46%	69%

¹ Attainment across 8 subjects: is a measure of the average grade of all students' best 8 qualifications (with English and mathematics scores double weighted). A 10.0-80.0 point scale is used in 2016 in line with the GCSE grades. On this scale: 10.0 is an average bottom Grade G, 50.0 an average grade C, 60.0 an average grade B and 80.0 an average top Grade A*.

Progress across 8 subjects: measured as a score against what was expected attainment of the students compared with their prior attainment at primary. For example -0.5 is a score where the school's students on average are half a grade worse per subject than similar students. +1.0 would be where performance is one grade better than similar students nationally.

Ebacc: % achieving the English Baccalaureate (A*-C in English, mathematics, science, a language and history or geography)

London Oratory School	4182	0.47	64.9	88%	69%	87%
Sacred Heart High School	4164	0.41	64.7	87%	71%	85%
Burlington Danes Academy	4171	0.17	52.0	61%	29%	47%
Lady Margaret School	4119	0.17	61.3	87%	61%	82%
The Hurlingham Academy	479	0.16	49.4	71%	14%	63%
West London Free School Secondary	4120	0.13	58.0	75%	46%	68%
Hammersmith Academy	4111	-0.04	52.7	67%	34%	60%
Fulham College Boys' School	470	-0.19	44.1	46%	10%	44%
Phoenix High School	4161	-0.39	43.6	50%	8%	41%
Hammersmith & Fulham	1352	0.12	53.9	69%	40%	64%
England - all schools	n/a	0.00	48.2	59%	23%	53%
Inner London	n/a	0.17	51.0	65%	30%	58%

Preparation for the inspection of services for children and young people with SEN and Disabilities

- 3.5. In April 2016 Ofsted and The Care Quality Commission started a five year programme to jointly inspect education, health and social care services for children and young people with a special education need and/or a disability, in all local authority areas. The inspection (which will last for one week) will not make a formal grading of individual schools, agencies or services, but will rather make a judgement on how well they are working together to identify and respond effectively to children's additional needs.

Inspection will be at one week's notice and work is underway with parents and carers, head teachers, service managers and commissioners in Clinical Commissioning Groups to produce a self-evaluation of local strengths and areas for improvements, with regard to:

- education, employment and independent living outcomes for children and young people, and performance against statutory targets
- the view of parents, carers & young people on their experience of local services: what works and what could be improved

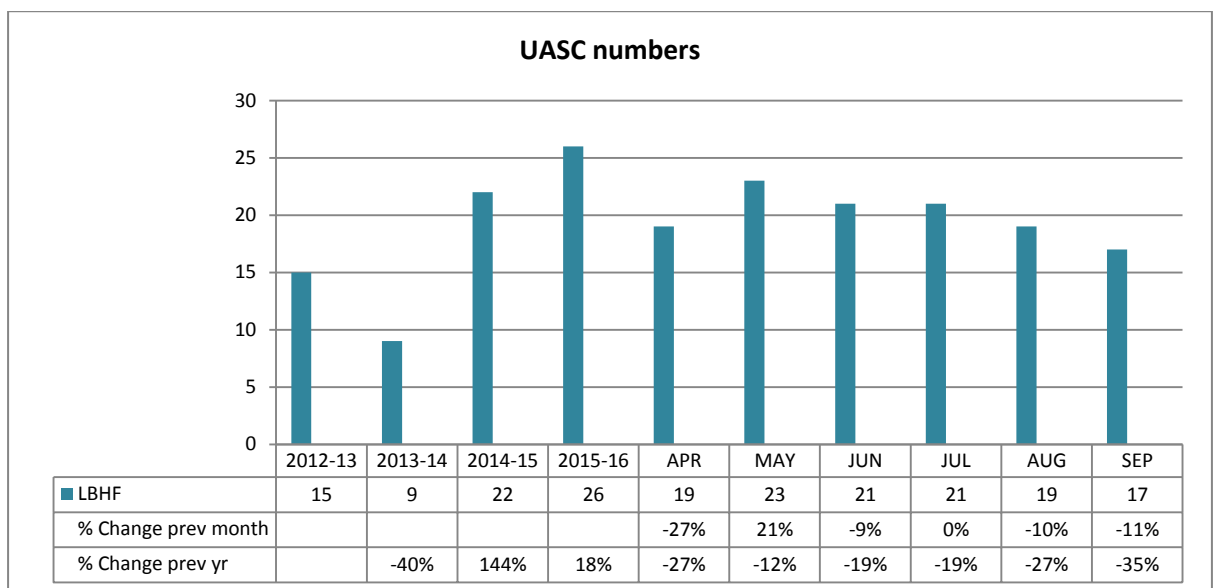
An action plan to address agreed priorities is in place with oversight by the multi-agency Children and Family Act Executive Board.

The nominated officer for the inspection is Mandy Lawson (Assistant Direct for Children with SEN and Disabilities).

4. FAMILY SERVICES

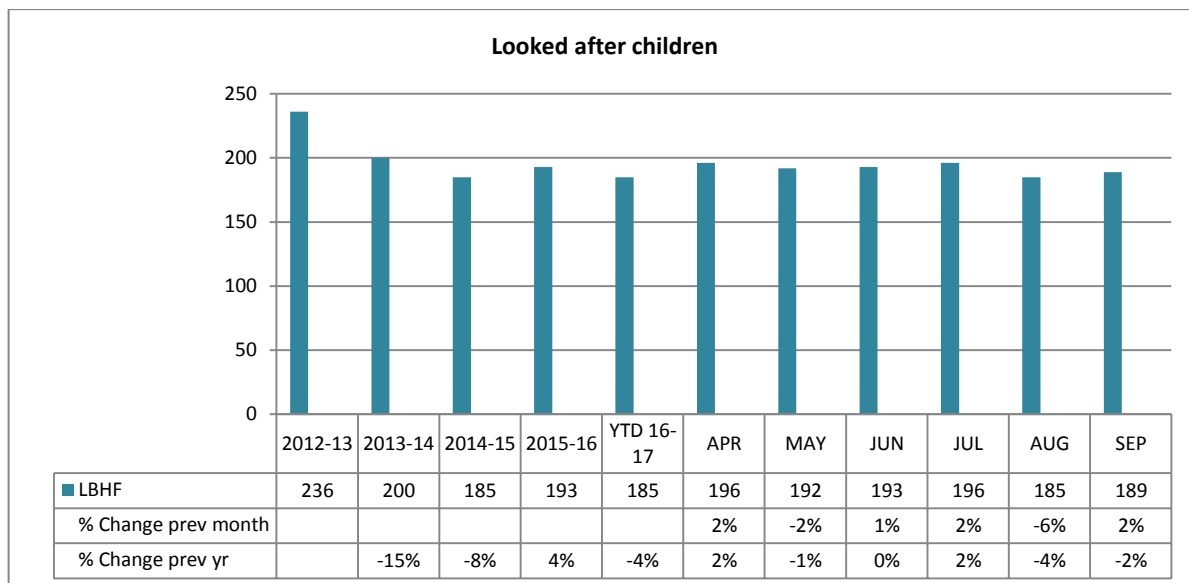
Unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees

- 4.1. Since July 2016 an interim 'National Transfer Protocol' commenced to enable the safe transfer of unaccompanied children from one UK local authority to another UK local authority. The interim transfer protocol forms the basis of a voluntary agreement made between local authorities to ensure a fairer distribution of unaccompanied children across all local authorities and all regions across the UK. It is intended to ensure that any local authority does not face an unmanageable responsibility in accommodating and looking after unaccompanied children. Each local authority has had a 'cap' set on the number of Looked After Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) that they would look after. The figure is based on their child population numbers. The 'cap' number for Hammersmith and Fulham is 24. Hammersmith and Fulham's looked after children and care leavers service are currently working with 29 UASC who are Looked after. Three of these are long term missing, and are thus not considered as part of our 'cap' number. The number of UASC that are looked after is very fluid. On average one 'ages out' each month as they reach 18 years old. Trends to date are detailed in the graph overleaf.
- 4.2. In October whilst taking 'public service leave' 12 social workers from LBHF spent time in Calais undertaking 'best interest' assessment. These assessments were used to form part of a legal challenge which was being made by a charity against the home office in relation to enabling children to make an asylum claim in the UK under the Dubs amendment.
- 4.3. On 27th and 28th October the Local Authority accommodated 5 children who arrived in the UK under the Dubs amendment. These children were transported from Calais by the Home Office, where they were collected by social workers and placed with foster carers. These 5 children are part of an offer that the LBHF made to the Home Office to look after 15 children who were granted entry to the UK under the Dubs amendment.

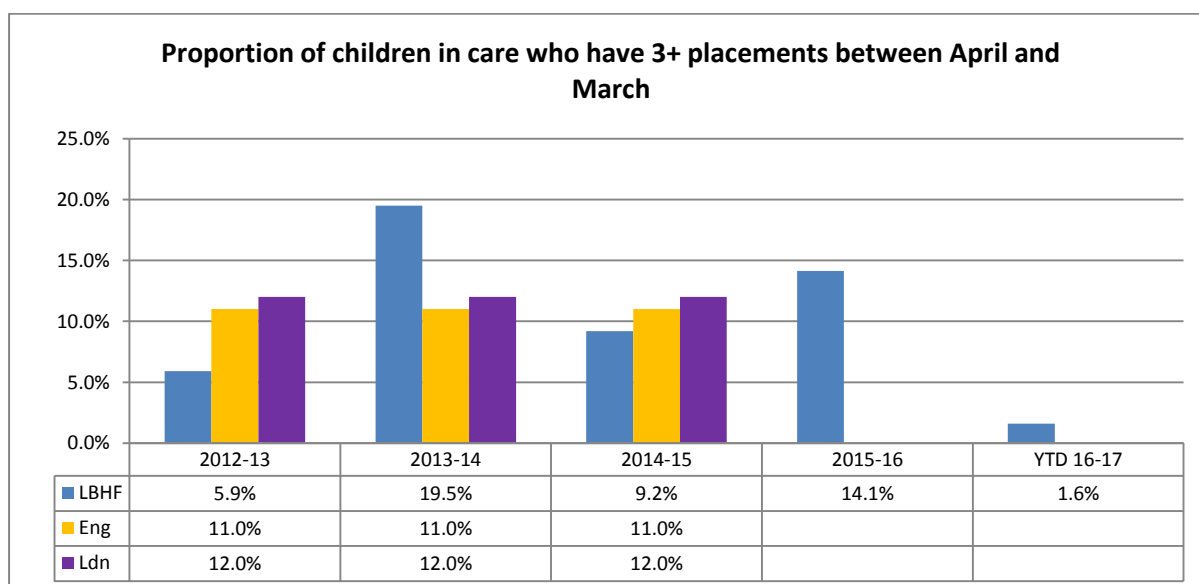


Children in Care

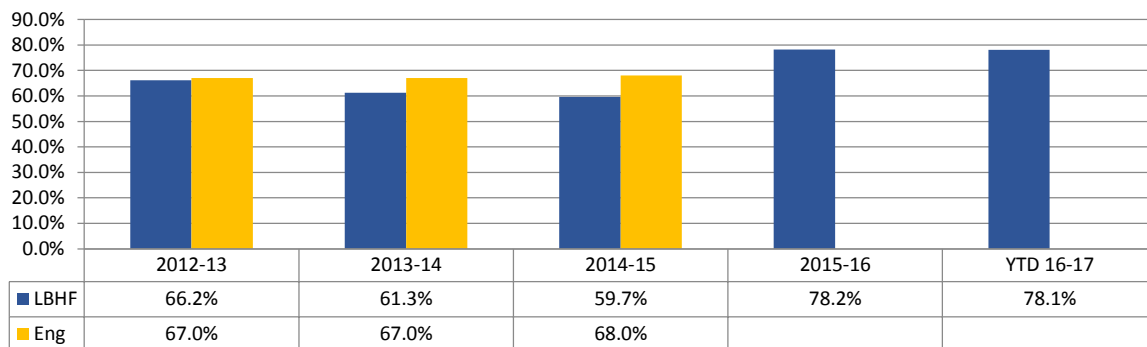
4.4 The population of looked after children has remained relatively stable over the year with a 2% reduction from this time last year.



4.5 Placement stability is also stable compared to last year with a marginal decrease. So far this financial year performance in relations to looked after children who have had 3 or more placements year to date is looking better than in previous years. The current figure being 1.6% compared to a figure of 14.1% for the year 2015-2016 which was higher than the England rate of 10%. If this reduction is sustained, we are likely to be at a lower figure than the year 2012-2013 where our figure was 5.9%.

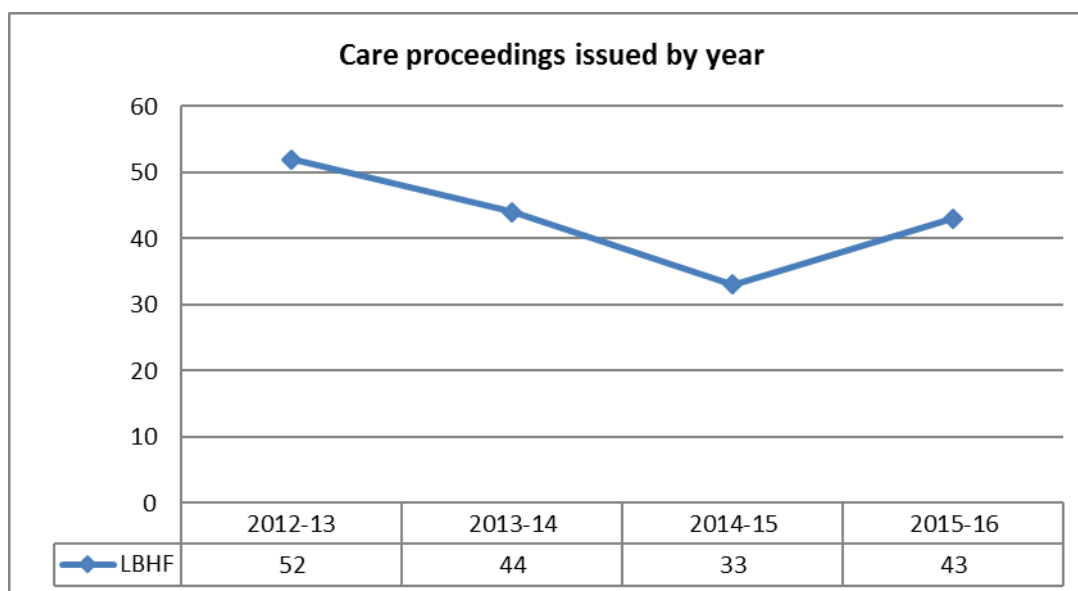


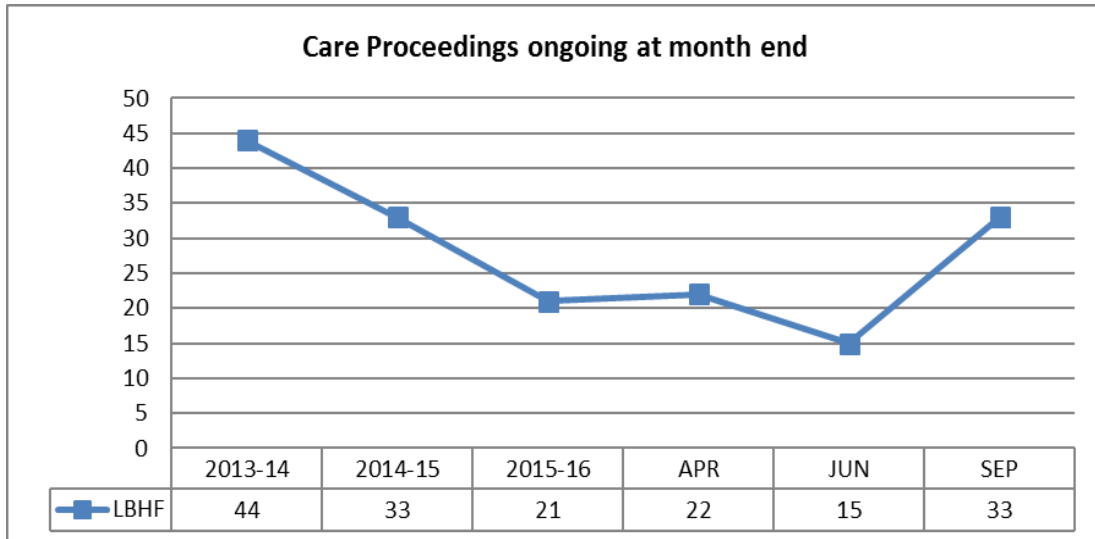
Proportion of children in care aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement t



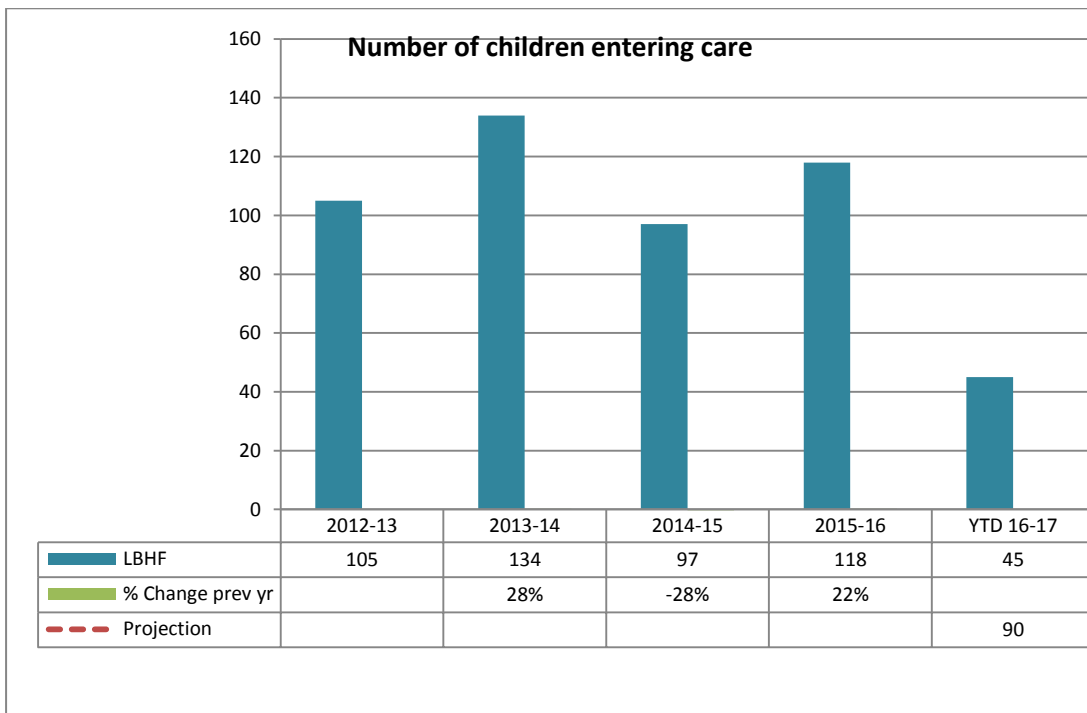
Care Proceedings

4.6 The Children and Families Act 2014 requires compliance with the 26 weeks timescale for all court proceedings. We remain fully compliant with LBHF cases being completed within on average 22 weeks. There has been a slight increase in care proceedings issued since April. Of the 33 new court applications, the most prominent reason for issuing proceedings relate to chronic neglect and domestic violence, and substance misuse.





4.7 In relation to entrants to care, there is a slight decrease from the previous year. The work of the Edge of Care panel to scrutinises all new entry to care requests and to develop a robust family support plan using The Clinical Therapy team, Multi-Systemic Therapy, and Family Assist, has led to maintaining more children, who are at risk of care within their family.



Administrative support to social workers

- 4.8 In November Cabinet will be receiving a report on a significant change programme under the Councils Smarter Budgeting initiative. Called 'Maximising Children's Social Care Effectiveness' the work brings together a series of efficiency projects and invest to save proposals
- 4.9 One of the projects will be piloting the use of practice support assistant to help increase the net time Social Workers spend in direct contact with families. The programme will also pilot models to improve communication and relationships with former and potential users of the service, bringing flexibility to the traditional open or closed case work model of providing a service.
- 4.10 The demand management element of the programme will build upon the successful 'Family Assist' system of intensive interventions, which has already demonstrated its effectiveness, diverting a number of children from care and reducing budget pressures.

Family assist developments

- 4.11 Family Assist was launched in August 2014 as part of the strategic priority to reduce the number of children and young people entering care. The team sits in the Early Help Service and was set up in response to the best practice identified by the Ofsted thematic report 'Edging away from care'. The Family Assist team have been effective in controlling the number of adolescents becoming looked after, offering a purposeful and substantial alternative to care. In 2015/16, 17 of the 63 cases where Family Assist intervened were prevented or diverted from entering care or the youth justice system. In addition, 3 young people, who were already in care, were supported to successfully return home to their families.
- 4.12 In 2016 the Family Assist team was successful with an investment model for increasing the volume of 'Family Assist' edge of care support. The team is currently in the process of recruiting an additional Practice Manager; five specialist practitioners alongside a Systemic Family Therapist.
- 4.13 Based on the Family Assist model, a new team called LAC ASSIST will be based in the Looked After Children & Leaving Care team. The new LAC ASSIST team will work directly and intensively with young people and their families using the Family Assist models of intervention. This team will work with young people to improve behaviours to maintain placements or tenancies and support young people back home from care.

Benefits include:

- Provide better outcomes for Families: More young people and families receive effective support through intensive interventions:
- Thereby reducing the number of young people entering care.
- Strengthen practice by embedding Systemic approach and strength based interventions.

- Children and families are supported in developing resilience and strategies to work through underlying/presenting issues
- Contribute to financial savings: Reduction in LAC population and associated placement costs.

5. SAFEGUARDING

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

- 5.1. Ofsted, HMI Inspectorate of Probation, HMI Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Care Quality Commission are currently engaged in a programme of inspections as part of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection framework (JTAI).
- 5.2. A number of JTAs have taken place in 2016 focusing on arrangements to safeguard children at risk of child sexual exploitation. From September 2016 to March 2017 the inspections will focus on the theme of Domestic Abuse. The intention of the inspectorates is to carry out 10 such inspections each year.
- 5.3. All JTAs include an evaluation of the role of multi-agency ‘front doors’ for child protection, when children at risk of harm first become known to local services. There is also a ‘deep dive’ element looking at cases which reflect the current theme of the inspections.
- 5.4. Such inspections are expected to be of lower intensity than the four week inspections but will involve a significant amount of coordination including preparation of documents, provision of data, multi-agency evaluation of cases and the organisation of meetings and fieldwork for 11 inspectors over a period of three weeks.
- 5.5. A JTAI will inspect partnership work in an “area” so if LBHF is selected for such an inspection then it could focus on the three local authorities covered by the shared Local Safeguarding Children Board. A report is published at the end of JTAs including narrative findings, what the local partnership and agencies are doing well, and what improvements are required.
- 5.6. Partner agencies have been briefed about the potential for a JTAI to take place locally and work is also taking place to carry out a multi-agency audit of relevant cases.

National Audit Office Report on Child Protection

- 5.7. The National Audit Office (NAO) published its report “Children in need of help or protection” on 12 October 2016. The report reviews data provided by the Department for Education (DfE), which highlights the following across children’s services:
 - In 2014-15, local authorities reported spending £1.8 billion on children’s social work, 11% more in real terms than in 2012-13
 - In 2014-15, 62,200 children became the subject of a child protection plan

- Over the past 10 years, the rate of children under 18 starting on plans has risen by 94%
 - 16% of children’s social worker posts are covered by agency staff, while 17% of posts are unfilled.
- 5.8. The NAO is critical of the lack of data available on outcomes for children in need, and highlights the DfE’s inability to provide improvement support for local authorities outside of the formal intervention process, leading to interventions not being risk based or early enough. However, the report does note the DfE’s work on the Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice as two initiatives which the Royal Borough has been playing an active role in, that will enhance the sharing of good practice and developing new models of social work.
- 5.9. The report notes that “poor progress” has been made in improving services since it commissioned Professor Eileen Munro to review child protection in 2010. The data included in the report suggests that this is partially due to local councils trying but struggling to generate the capacity to deal with the considerable expansion in child protection activity.
- 5.10. The Department of Education has committed to transforming the quality of the child protection system by 2020. As at 20 September 2016, there were 26 out of 152 local authorities in which the DfE is intervening because Ofsted has judged services Inadequate. The DfE is instigating reform with a focus on People and Leadership, Practice and Systems and Governance and Accountability.

6. COMMISSIONING

Integrated Family Support Service

- 6.1. The Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) Programme has received Cabinet approval to complete further work on redesigning provision across universal to targeted (tiers 1, 2, 3) services as part of a whole system service strategy with specialist services, including Children’s Social Care.
- 6.2. The IFSS represents an integration of practice and workforces across of a range of family and health services and budgets across the 0-18 age range (24 if the young person has a learning difficulty or disability) and across the different thresholds of support.
- 6.3. The IFSS will deliver improved outcomes through the provision of high quality effective whole family early intervention, delivered in the community, and which will drive through significant delivery efficiencies.
- 6.4. Work is underway to develop a full business case and commissioning strategy that will set out in detail the proposed delivery model and its viability. These will be presented to Cabinet early next year. Engagement and co-design work is underway to inform the content of these documents and to ensure that the future IFSS model

delivers improved outcomes for children, young people, and families in the Borough.

Children centre and youth provision

- 6.5. Children centre and youth service provision will continue to be delivered by the incumbent providers until the launch of the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS). The IFSS will see the full integration of children centre and youth provision as part of the broader integrated service.
- 6.6. As per the extension clause in the existing children centre contracts these will be extended by 6 months from 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017, with a further option to extend by up to an additional 6 months if required.
- 6.7. Youth providers will be awarded a 6 month contract to deliver provision from 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017, with the option to extend by up to an additional 6 months if required.
- 6.8. This extension and award will ensure continuity of service provision to children, young people, and families accessing these services during the design and development stage of the IFSS.

CentrePoint – semi-independent accommodation for care leavers

- 6.9. On 19th September a report was presented to CEPAC providing an update on our CentrePoint contract for the provision of semi-independent accommodation for care leavers which began in May 2015. The report outlined the approach which had been taken to mobilising the contract outlining some of the challenges in the first year of operation and setting out a performance improvement action plan for the next year. The action plan focused specifically on repairs and maintenance which was an area highlighted by young people and opportunities to strengthen young people's involvement and access to support services.
- 6.10. Our contracts team have been working closely with CentrePoint on the delivery of the performance improvement action plan. Some of the key developments since the last CEPAC meeting have been:

Repairs

- A schedule of joint inspections of property conditions and repairs has been put in place for the next year
- We are developing leaflets for young people explaining how to report a repair, timescales for completion and escalation processes

Young people's involvement and access to support

- A local participation plan setting out how young people will be involved in decision making has been developed and monthly satisfaction surveys are now in place and results included in our quarterly contract monitoring.

- CentrePoint are making connections with the Masbro Centre to increase access to training opportunities and CentrePoint are now part of the EET panel.

6.11. The contracts team will be attending Corporate Parenting Board in December to provide further updates on our progress and seek young people's feedback.

Translation and interpreting service

6.12. Children's Services are leading the procurement of the council's corporate translation and interpreting service. A strategy to guide this procurement has been developed which sets up a specific framework to enable local SMEs to become part of the framework. The main local provider was Community Interpreting Translation and Access Services (CITAS). However, on 8th September 2016 CITAS notified the council that they would cease trading on 30th September 2016. In order to respond to the reduced capacity through local providers, a new commissioning strategy is being developed which will enable call off from the Crown Commercial Service Framework. This is due to be presented to Cabinet on 5th December 2016.

School Meals Contract Mobilisation and monitoring

6.13. Having established the Framework Agreement, the Council held a mini-competition (as provided for in that agreement), inviting all appointed providers for each lot to submit their specific bids to provide the services to the specific boroughs within Shared Services. For LBHF this included 35 nurseries, primary and special schools. The existing provider Eden in LBHF was successful to provide the service in the new contract for Lot 1 and Caterlink to provide services for Lot 2. Both providers in the new contract work to the Food For Life standards (FFL).

6.14. Following the commencement of the contract on 6th June 2016 both providers have now completed two half terms of delivery and throughout this period has been contract managed by the School Meals Contract Team (SMCT). All sites were visited during the initial period of the new contract from June to the end of term. Additionally, the SMCT has had recent communication with the Head teacher's and other key stakeholders to obtain feedback on the contract mobilisation and the performance of the new providers. All concerns have been followed up with the provider and communicated to the Head Teacher and School Business Manager.

6.15. The contract monitoring mechanisms of the school meals service are completed by the SMCT using a new audit tool which reports the achievements of the provider through reporting of the key performance indicators. The package has been in operation since September and has been used for the audits completed so far throughout the contract with a pass mark of 95%. Any non-compliant units are required a revisit within 10 working days to re monitor to ensure all areas of concern have been rectified and the unit is fully compliant and meeting all contract and specification requirements.

6.16. Overall the Schools are happy with the service provided and the added value events offered by Eden, these include the 100th Anniversary buffet at Miles

Coverdale, the Victorian themed day event held at Thomas Academy. The Head Teacher was impressed with all the hard work which had been put into the menu and the management of the event by Eden which enabled the event to be a success. The School Business Manager at St Johns XX111 expressed her and the schools appreciation for all the hard from Eden's team in setting up the new production site at the beginning of term in September and the effort of the unit team in ensuring the pupils were served a hot nutritious meal in the first few days of term whilst the new kitchen and equipment was being commissioned. Some schools however have raised concerns around quality of the meal offer which has been recorded and followed up with the provider and the SMCT. Quantity and portion sizes have also been identified as a potential issue with several schools stating that portion sizes should be tailored depending on different age ranges. These concerns have been raised with the provider and are being monitored through contract management visits and contract operational and menu meetings. Finally, three schools raised concerns about staffing and training which has also been passed onto the provider for resolution. Staffing and training is reviewed as part of the contract monitoring undertaken by the School Meals Team. The providers are required to present at the school contracts board termly meetings evidence of staff training and development among over relevant performance data.

6.17. The majority of schools reported that they were happy with the service provided (including the meal offer – quality and quantity) and the robust contract monitoring undertaken by the team. Any concerns raised by schools are being followed up with immediate site visits undertaken by the school meals advisors responsible for the sites and follow up visits and meetings with the head teachers and discussion with contractors will be made following the initial audit visits.

6.18. The Head teacher at Avonmore Primary School was contacted following concerns raised at the last CEPAC meeting. She reported minor concerns about portion sizes, quality of the salad offers and sufficient plates and cutlery. Officers conducted an audit of the school site and are working with the provider to address these issues.

6.19. The School Meals Contract Monitoring Team's schedule of site visits is outlined below:

Nursery, primary and special schools in school meals contract	Date of site visit	Date of Planned Contract Monitoring visits	Dates of monitoring revisits (where required)
Randolph Beresford		18/11/2016	
Vanessa		21/11/2016	
James Lee	27/09/2016	28/11/2016	
Bayonne		03/11/2016	14/11/2016
All Saints		05/10/2016	
Brackenbury	26/09/2016	20/09/2016	24/11/2016
Flora Gardens		01/11/2016	
Langford		15/09/2016	

Melcombe		11/10/2016	
Miles Coverdale		14/11/2016	02/12/2016
Queens Manor		17/10/2016	
Sir John Lillie	30/09/2016	03/10/2016	
St Augustines (H&F)		12/10/2016	
St John XXIII	13/06/2016	01/12/2016	
St Johns		07/11/2016	
St Pauls		26/09/2016	
St Thomas (H&F)		10/11/2016	
Sullivan		20/10/2016	
Wendell Park		11/11/2016	
Wormholt Park	13/09/2016	30/11/2016	
Lena Gardens		23/11/2016	
Thomas Academy		19/10/2016	
Jack Tizard		17/11/2016	
Cambridge		22/11/2016	
Bridge Academy AP	20/09/2016	09/11/2016	
The Courtyard AP		25/11/2016	
Kenmont		21/11/2016	
Old Oak		28/11/2016	
Addison		05/12/2016	
St Marys (H&F)		30/11/2016	
Avonmore		03/11/2016	17/11/2016
Larmenier & SH		19/12/2016	
Normand Croft		07/11/2016	18/11/2016
Fulham		19/09/2016	
Woodlane		12/12/2016	
Secondary settings in contract			
Fulham College Boys	19/09/2016	02/11/2016	18/11/2016
Fulham Cross		06/10/2016	
William Morris 6th Form	13/09/2016	16/11/2016	
Lady Margaret	16/09/2016	04/10/2016	
Sacred Heart		14/11/2016	

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate equality implications. However, any equality issues will be highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate legal implications. However, any legal issues will be highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate financial and resource implications. However, any financial and resource issues will be highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None.