

Corporate Parenting Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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KRATOS
the future is in our hands

the children in care council

ENFIELD
Council 

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What is a Corporate Parent

Local Authorities must provide the care, support and security that young people need if they cannot stay at home safely and becomes the young people's 'corporate parent'.

Being a corporate parent is not just the responsibility of the Corporate Parenting Board, everyone has a responsibility to look out for our children and young people, and every councillor and council employee has a role to play as the eyes and ears of the community.

Being a corporate parent means doing whatever we can to support young people in our care and our care leavers, to help them to achieve their full potential and to have the best possible outcomes.

Why are children in care?

Young people are looked after for a variety of reasons including neglect and abuse. They could also be in care if their parents are unable to look after them because of their own complex health needs or behaviours. Some young people have no parents to care for them, or they could be unaccompanied asylum seekers.



Message from the Chair

Welcome to our Corporate Parenting Annual Report, which details the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and our services to looked after children and care leavers. The voice of the child is at the very heart of what we do.

The role of 'Corporate Parent' is a collective responsibility of the Council, therefore all councillors have a basic level of responsibility for children in care and care leavers with a clear focus for all of us being more parent and less corporate with a view of "would this be good enough for my child". I would like to thank everyone for their commitment, hard work and dedication during the pandemic who worked tirelessly on supporting our young people and carers in unprecedented circumstances.

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

The role of the Corporate Parenting Board

The Corporate Parenting Board has delegated authority on behalf of the full Council to act in the best interest of:

- Children who are looked after by the local authority pursuant to **section 22 (Children Act 1989 (CA 1989))**
- Relevant children (**section 23A, CA 1989**)
- Young people under the age of 25 who are relevant children (**section 23C(1), CA 1989**)

The Corporate Parenting Board meets at least four times a year and is supported by Officers from Local Authority and wider partnership as required (see appendix terms of reference). The Head of Service for Looked After Children and Care Leavers or designated deputy is required to attend the board every quarter. The Corporate Parenting Board is responsible for ensuring that the Council fulfils its role as corporate parent to the above and that Members, partner agencies, officers, and the Children in Care Council work together to provide, review and improve the effectiveness of services to looked after children. It is the board's responsibility to hold officers to account for the outcomes of looked after children and care leavers with the views and voice of the child the very heart.

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and deputised by one of the other Councillors on the Board. It comprises of:

- Cabinet Member Majority Group
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Majority Opposition Group
- One additional Elected Member – Majority Group
- One additional Elected Member – Majority Opposition Group
- KRATOS (Children in Care Council)
- Chief Executive
- Executive Director: People
- Director of Children and Family Services
- Director of Education
- Head of Corporate Parenting
- Head of Service for Children and Young People Commissioning for CCG NCL
- Designated Looked After Children Doctor
- Designated Looked After Children Nurse
- Foster Carer





Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cabinet Member for
Children’s Services –
Labour



Cllr Andrew Thorp
Conservative



Cllr Christine James
Labour



Cllr Chris Joannides
Conservative



Ian Davis
Chief Executive



Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director:
People



Anne Stoker
Director of Children and
Family Services



Peter Nathan
Director of Education



Mary Murrill
Designated Looked
After Children Nurse



Suzanne Rowson
Head of Corporate
Parenting and Head
Teacher of the Virtual
School, HEART Child and
Adolescent Mental Health
Manager, Children in Need
Strategic Educational Lead



Nazmin Mansuria
Head of Children and
Young People Strategic
Commissioning
North Central London
Integrated Care Board



Rashmi Patel
Head of Looked After
Children and Leaving
Care



Member from KRATOS

Corporate Parenting Board Responsibilities

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places a legal duty on all Local Authorities to have regard to a set of seven corporate parenting principles when exercising their functions. These principles are underpinned by the core value of 'is this good enough for my child'

- To act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health, and wellbeing of children and young people
- To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take account of the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people
- To help children and young people to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- To promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people
- For children and young people to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education, or work
- To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

If this were my child would it be good enough?

How could I make a difference as a corporate parent?

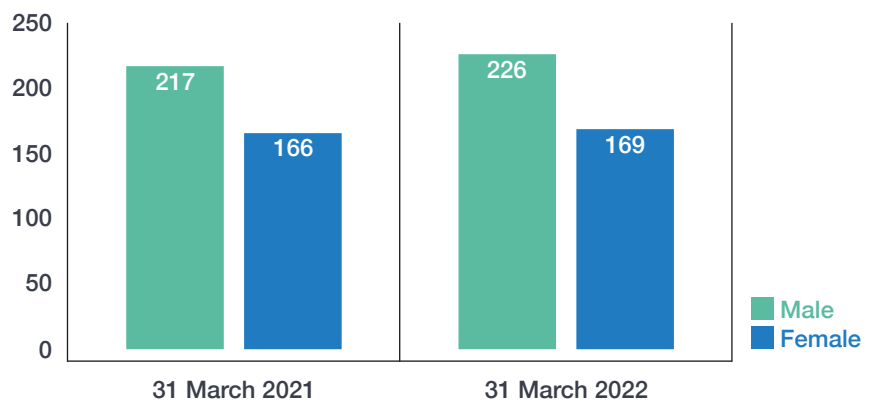
If I were that child, would it be good enough for me?



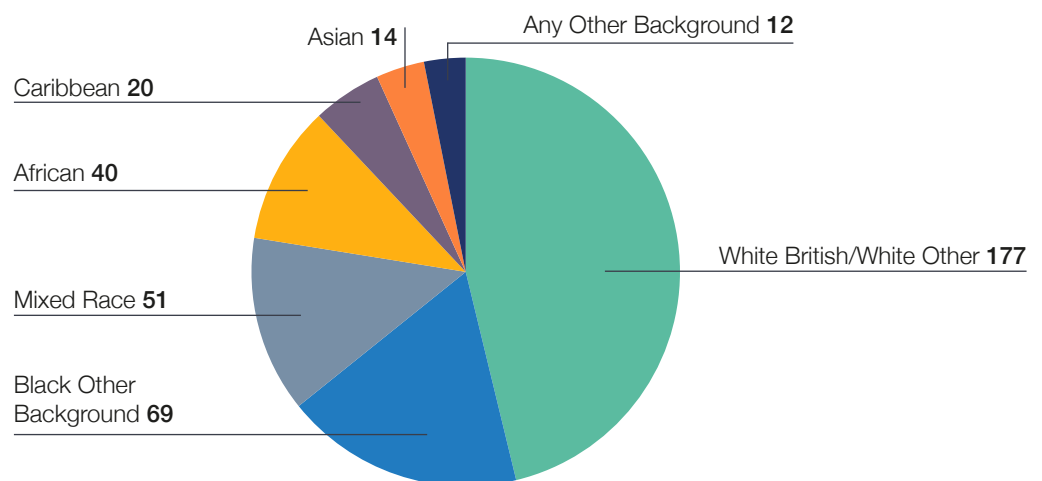
Overview of Enfield Looked After Children and Leaving Care Statistics

Enfield is the 5th largest borough in London. The latest available statistics recorded in 2020 showed Enfield having a high proportion of children under 15 years of age living in the borough. There are currently 383 looked after children aged 0-18 years. Below is a breakdown by gender, ethnicity, and placement type.

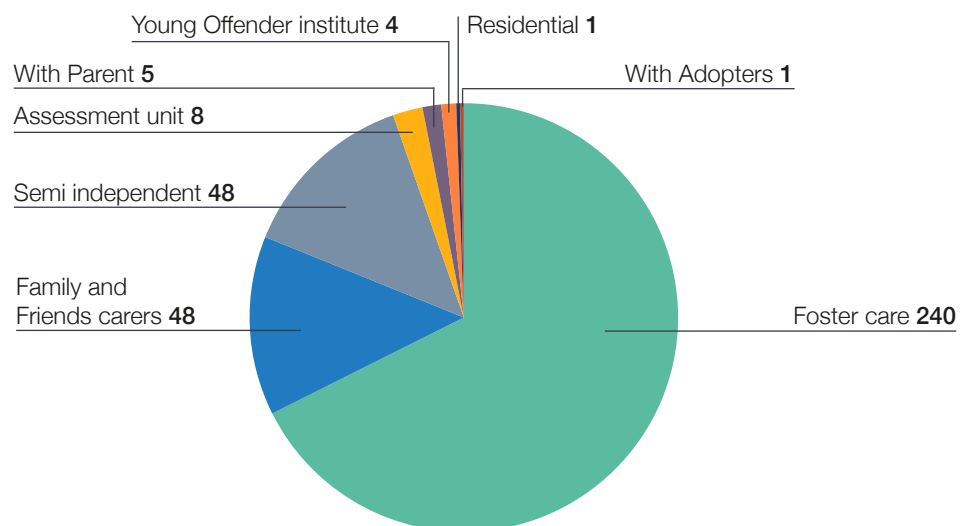
Gender of Looked After Children



Ethnicity of Looked After Children (31 March 2021)



Placement Types (31 March 2021)



KRATOS the Children in Care Council

KRATOS is Enfield's Children in Care Council where young people in care come together to feedback to the Participation and Consultation Officer (managed by the Head of Corporate Parenting) to shape their services as looked after children and care leavers to Enfield.

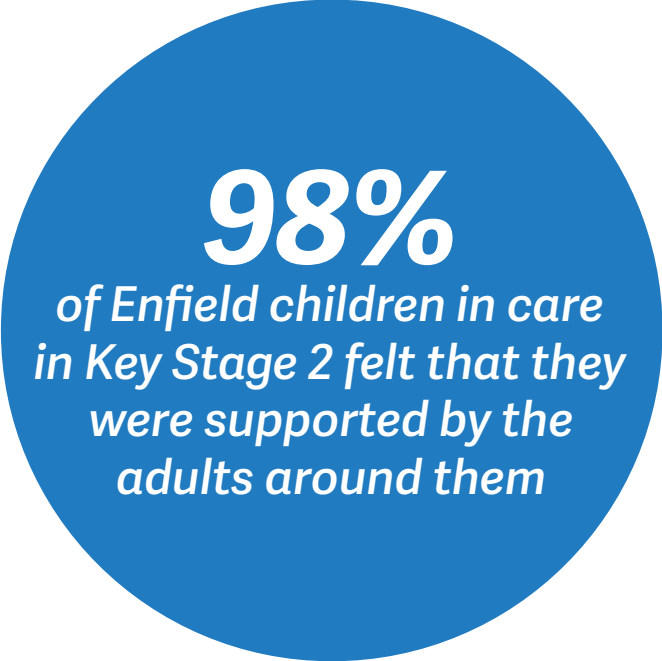
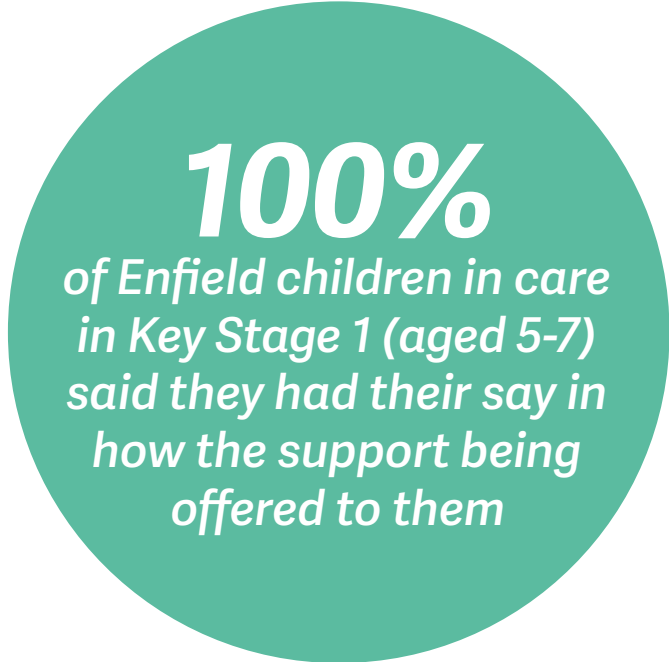
The name KRATOS was chosen by them, and means 'Power, Strength.' They are part of the Corporate Parenting Board. KRATOS takes part in activities, trips and educational opportunities. They take part in consultations to ensure that we are informed of their views, which shapes service delivery. KRATOS is separated into two groups; under 16s and over 16's and takes place every other week. We now hope that this will take place at the new Youth Centre. Both groups meet to share ideas, attend focused workshops e.g., money management, and discuss future projects, which is facilitated by the Consultation and Participation Officer.

Between 2018-2021 looked after children and care leavers were consulted, and through co-production shaped services by being involved with 15 plans, strategies and projects such as the Special Educational Needs Strategy, Looked After Children & Leaving Care Strategy, Vulnerable Persons Strategy, Homeless & Housing Strategy, Health Passports, Independent Reviewing Officer Strategic Priorities, Children & Young Peoples family plans, Poverty and Inequality Commission, Leaving Care Local Offer, Youth Empowerment Strategy, the design of the Enfield Care Leavers Hub, part of the process of appointing the new Consultation and Participation Officer, the Care Leavers Pledge (see below) which was co-produced, appointing the Director of Children's Services and design of the Children's portal.

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the children in care council



Enfield's Pledge to Care Leavers

Enfield's original Pledge to Care Leavers has been updated following consultation with 73 Enfield Care Leavers during the Care Leavers Celebration.

We welcome the clear statement from the Care Leavers who attended the event on the things which are most important to improve the experience of children in care and care experience to people.

Specifically, we pledge, in our written policies, procedures and practices, to take clear steps to ensure that all the services we deliver will demonstrably:

1 Promote more love in the care system including displays of positive physical affections;

2 Ensure care experienced people are regarded and treated as individuals worthy of respect, and to promote that respect whenever we can regardless of any discriminatory factor i.e. disability;

3 Ensure that relationships are seen as central to all our policies and procedures to support children in care and care experienced people;

4 Take clear steps to improve stability and continuity in the lived experiences of people in care;

5 Emphasise the importance of working with our partners and young people to raise awareness of need and improve support for the mental health and well-being of children in care and care experienced people in our local area;

6 Recognise in our daily work that the impact of care experience does not end at 18 or 21 or even 25. We will engage with you, seek your views and review our practice to remove age restrictions on support wherever we can;

7 Protect, promote and where necessary rebuild family and community connections and help those young people for whom we are responsible, to understand their personal history;

8 Make sure that young people in our care are routinely engaged, consulted and have a real say in their own lives prior to decisions being made (whenever possible) and provide them with opportunities for growth i.e. sporting activities, careers support;

9 Ensure that young people in our care are properly and fully informed of their rights and responsibilities and offer advocacy to ensure they receive them; and

10 Listen to the voice of children in care and care experienced people of all ages and always consult them about changes to services and support.

Examples of looked after children & leaving care consultation and participation in 2021 includes:

- During mental Health Week 2021, KRATOS took part in a film “How are you?” which focused on how the pandemic affected young people’s mental health.

- One care leaver has been accepted on the Home Office Board for Borders, Immigration and Citizenship. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to shape service delivery on a national and international level.

- One care leaver is now part of the Peer Power scheme (which is a paid role), where they share their experiences of being in care and being in a secure setting in relation to mental health.

- KRATOS were involved in the co-production of the children’s contextual safeguarding film for Enfield children.

- KRATOS are part of Enfield’s Youth Parliament and part of the film produced during Mental Health Awareness week to tackle stigma in relation to mental health.

- Two care leavers have achieved a level two Youth Worker qualification.

- One care leaver is now trained as a Young Inspector and completed a mock inspection of another Local Authority.

- Care leavers have taken part in the consultation process for the Enfield Children and Young Peoples Plan - Empowering Young Enfield and the youth participation guidance across all services for children in Enfield.

- Consultation on the independent living workshop training for care leavers, before being presented to Housing Panel.

- KRATOS were interviewed by the Learning and Work Institute and shared their thoughts and experiences of the Welfare system.

- Care leavers and looked after children continue to be the part of the pan London Children in Care Council, ensuring Enfield is represented and part of the different focus groups which shape the national picture for looked after children and care leavers.

- Care leavers part in National Care Leaver week.

- Care leavers contributed to scrutiny when the Empowering Young Enfield Children’s Plan was presented.

- Care Leavers took part of the mock in house inspection of the Care Leaving Service.

- Looked after children & care leavers took part in the independent review of Social Care.

- Care leavers and looked after children attended the annual Social Care Conference.

Local Offer to care leavers

The care leaver Hub

18+ CAMHS Service

Special Educational Needs visit by the Department for Education said looked after children with an EHCP received outstanding support during Covid

Achievement day

Achievement day is an annual fun day held to celebrate the successes and achievements of Looked After Children both in and out of borough. Young people are nominated for awards by professionals and receive a certificate and voucher. The day includes a range of activities such as a bouncy castle, face painting, a mad scientist, a craft stall, football and a book stall where all the young people can choose a free book.



Face painting



Craft stall



Presentation of certificates

A large proportion of our care leavers are attending university

No Enfield looked after child has been permanently excluded from school in 5 years

Enfield Local Offer for Care Leavers

We have an outstanding offer for our care leavers which our care leavers have shaped and developed.

You said

We want to help design the Care Leavers Hub

We did

We had a working party on this, and care leavers were part of the launch.

You said

As care leavers we want support with mental health, welfare and financial entitlement, sexual health service and access to employment

We did

These sessions are part of the care leavers Hub with a weekly timetable of sharing sessions taking place. We now have an 18+ CAMHs therapist who spends every Thursday in the Hub for drop-in sessions.

You said

We want swimming lessons

We did

Enfield Swimming Club deliver weekly swimming lessons every Friday for looked after children aged 7-9.

You said

KRATOS should have a takeover session at Corporate Parenting including a workshop on apprenticeships and how they could be introduced for Enfield care leavers

We did

We now have four leaving care apprenticeships.

Next Steps

The report demonstrates the variety of ways in which we position the voice of the child centrally to the service which we provide in Social Care as corporate parents. However, we believe in Enfield that we can further enhance this service by sharing the good practise of Looked After Children, Leaving Care, Cheviots and other services in Education and Social Care. In light of this the Head of Corporate Parenting is the nominated lead for the Council's guidance on youth participation. The purpose of the guidance is to support the inclusion of children and young people in consistent and meaningful consultation, engagement, and co-production. This relates to the work of the council in the development of strategy, policy, campaigns, in service design and delivery with evaluation. The guidance will set out different approaches to youth participation, guiding principles, and practical considerations to support council officers to develop and deliver meaningful and effective youth participation activities. Youth participation will further support the work across all of Children and Family Services. It is also intended for this guidance to widen their input across the whole organisation and enhance the councils work for children and young people up to the age of 19, and 25 for care leavers with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further guidance is also due to be developed in 2022, to enhance the inclusion of our families in consultation, engagement and co-production. The youth participation strategy is due in summer 2022.

As corporate parents we have also reviewed the Corporate Parenting Board. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report summaries the reports shared at Corporate Parenting, which KRATOS will use to hold us to account and evaluate whether the improvement priorities set out in each officer's report has been achieved. This will take place during the takeover of the Corporate Parenting Board. In addition to the questionnaires we conduct, the following surveys will be given out to our young people at achievement day and care leavers conference and via the Personal Education Plan, so that we can annually benchmark ourselves (similarly to the survey commissioned by Bright Spots).



A multi disciplinary team supports all looked after children and care leavers

Positive feedback from Foster Carers

Trauma Informed Practice

Key Achievements in 2021

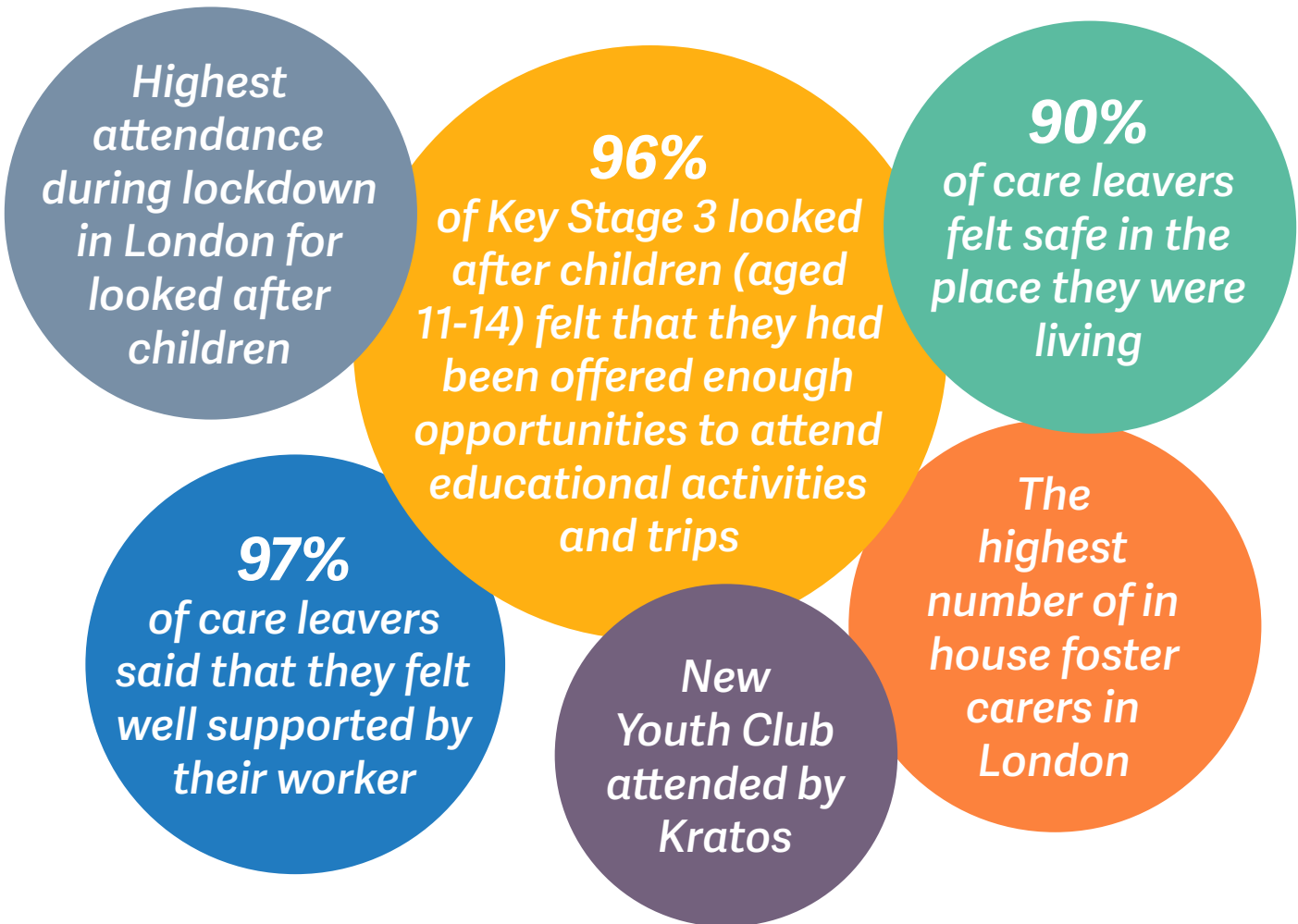
There are several outstanding key achievements which need to be celebrated, that have ensured looked after children and care leavers receive an outstanding service. All services despite the challenges of Covid adapted to deliver the very best for our young people, with the key focus of “would this be good enough for my child”.

Key achievements

- Above national average engagement in Education Employment and Training (EET) (74% in Enfield compared to 70% Nationally)
- The Striving To Achieve and Aim Higher panel (STAAH), which works to ensure engagement in Education Employment and Training, has key partner agencies such as CATCH 22, careers advice, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs) which has resulted in above national average engagement of with Education Employment and Training.
- A dedicated missing person coordinator is in place. As a result, 6% of looked after children and care leavers go missing from placement, compared to 10% Nationally, 11.7% in London and 11.7% for our statistical neighbours;
- The impact of Health Education Access to Resources Team (HEART) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is demonstrated by Enfield looked after children’s average Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score of 10.8 in Enfield compared to 14.2 nationally.
- Enfield is one of the few London boroughs to have an 18+ Child and Adolescent Mental Health worker. Fifty-seven young people are seen in a year in addition to sixty-seven consultations to social workers.
- We have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) completion rate 96%.



- Looked after children's school attendance is 95% in line with the national average.
- The percentage of looked after children achieving 4+ in maths and English is above the national average.
- No Enfield looked after child has been permanently excluded from school in the last 5 years.
- Working protocols between the Youth Justice Service and social workers in resettlement planning has improved.
- The care leavers hub, a one stop for mental health support, support for sexual health and careers advice has been launched.
- Family group conferences have successfully reduced young people coming into care.
- 9% of Enfield's looked after children have had 3 or more placements compared to 9.7% for our statistical neighbours and 11% nationally.
- Enfield have 17 newly approved foster carers in 2022 which is the highest across the consortium boroughs.
- Trauma informed practice supervision is in place for all social workers.
- Enquiries to Adopt North London have increased.
- Family finding team have allocated £860k of spending on therapeutic support from Adopt North London.
- 60% of all Enfield's foster placements are in house above which is above our statistical neighbours.
- Placement stability is increasing.
- The Summer English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) school was well attended.
- A 24-hour 7-day-a-week helpline launched by Enfield Access to Resources and Integrated Service (ARIS) team during Covid to support independent provisions.
- Positive feedback on contextual safeguarding to semi-independent.



Updates against priorities

What we said we would focus on	Where we are now
Develop the Reflective Fostering Study in collaboration with the Anna Freud Centre and Hertfordshire University. This is a 10-week programme which aims to help promote placement stability by helping the carer to keep the child in mind.	This is now in place.
To develop the Loft Conversion/Additional Bedroom Grant Project as part of an 'invest to save' initiative.	Policy is now in place. Six have been identified and are in the process of loft conversion.
Reduce the number of specialist Independent Fostering Agency placements.	Ongoing with in-house marketing strategy.
Commission a wider range of semi-independent provisions to make sure Enfield's Care Leavers receive effective support and live in a stable accommodation which meets their needs and helps prepare them for independence.	Yes. The London Accommodation Pathfinder for young people is used as an alternative to secure. New semi-independent tender in place. All semi-independent placements will be regulated by Ofsted by 2024.
Complete a cost/benefit analysis to consider the viability of setting up a Council run children's residential home.	Completed. Progressing to procurement stage.
To try to ensure that the council continues to engage with semi-independent providers in provider forums and deliver training to staff working in semi-independent provisions. Some of the training due to be delivered for this year is through a joint session with the police on youth violence and Prevent training.	Training being delivered to semi-independent provisions. Regular bitesize training.
To work with our Housing partners in the private sector, Housing Gateway Ltd (HGL) to provide some properties for our 18+ care leavers who are ready to make the step up to independent living with no or little support.	First property set up going through planning.
To work with the North Central London (NCL) to develop a London Accommodation Pathfinders (LAP) project to develop an alternative to custody provision in Barnet, with a psychologically and trauma informed approach to a young person's development to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for children, aged 16-17, who would otherwise be in custody.	Property identified in Barnet. Property is going through refurbishment. London Accommodation Pathway to go live in December 2022.

What we said we would focus on	Where we are now
<p>At a national level, there have been calls for Councils to consider regulating semi-independent provision to ensure that there is consistently high-quality provision across the system. However, there are concerns that this could reduce choice and capacity or increase costs. Enfield are contributing, where required, to any research around this.</p>	<p>National guidance from Ofsted. Awaiting final framework with Ofsted.</p>
<p>To increase the number of eligible care leavers claiming the correct housing benefit/housing element. To ensure care leavers are accessing all of their entitlements including housing benefit to help them prepare for independence.</p>	<p>Completed. Most eligible care leavers are claiming income generation of approximately £600k. 65 are of care leavers accessing their entitlements.</p>
<p>Continue to build up a professional network of partner agencies (i.e. Kick Start, Drive Forward) to support our young people into education, employment or training via pre employability programmes, and traineeships.</p> <p>This includes making connections with the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) and sharing best practice nationally and strategies with other Local Authorities.</p> <p>We have also established links with the Care Leavers Covenant, which supports care leavers in many ways.</p>	<p>We now have key partners on the Striving To Achieve and Aim Higher panel (STAAH) and our education, employment and training figures have improved.</p>
<p>The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Psychological Therapist has agreed to support young people who are 18+ as well as professionals to facilitate education, employment and training interventions. This is quite relevant due to the number of Care leavers who are NEET because of anxiety and/or other emotional/mental health related issues.</p>	<p>In the year since the appointment, 56 young people were seen and 67 consultations given to social workers.</p>
<p>Developing ways to best support young people at the HUB.</p>	<p>We are currently working towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating and developing an online presence and use of the Hub to facilitate the access of Care Leavers to its services/information available. This will be part of the current 'Youth Enfield' website. • Maximising the support available (in person/online) by Partner Agencies to Young People in Care and Care Leavers through the Hub. • Exploring the online development of additional service user feedback mechanisms.

What we said we would focus on	Where we are now
Setting up targeted workshops alongside the Virtual School for young people on education, employment and training options, progression routes and making the most of work experience placements.	Virtual on-line training was delivered in the summer term.
Continue to embed and implement the actions agreed within the improvement plan created in response to the internal inspection that the Service underwent in May/June 2021.	Positive outcome from recent focused visit on care leavers in July 2022.
Engage and liaise with Adult Services and Enfield Housing to improve pathways for our Care Leavers.	This is ongoing however in the last year 63 young people have been nominated and moved into council tenancies.
Continue to develop the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Service and deliver awareness raising sessions, through training, within the statutory and voluntary sector.	This is now in place.
Undertake audits, within the safeguarding and quality service to assess the effectiveness of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service which was outstanding from the previous year due to other service priorities, and later the outbreak of Covid-19.	This is in place.
Improve the protocol for social workers to attend all relevant Initial Allegations against Staff and Volunteer (ASV) meetings.	This is in place.
Support implementation of Local Authority Designated Officer referrals via the Children's Portal.	This is in place.
Improved information sharing and joined care planning in relation to remands in Local Authority care between Social Care and YOS.	A joint protocol policy is now in place. Joint supervision and both attend placement panel.
Additional 0.5 Missing Persons Coordinator to be recruited to the service to support with return home interviews especially for young people who go missing multiple times.	This is now in process.
Continue to develop the Readiness to Practice programme for all newly qualified social workers on the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme. Increasing from 2 weeks to 3 weeks.	This is now in place.
Ensuring that social work training integrates the Post Qualified Standards and aligns to the Professional Capabilities Framework.	This is now in place.

What we said we would focus on	Where we are now
We will continue to provide opportunities for staff to become Practice Educators, by offering places each year. This allows Enfield to take students from universities and shows our commitment to being a learning environment. By taking on final year students, we aim to recruit and retain as many of our students as possible.	This is now in place.
Enfield are part of the north London Step Up programme which is a 14-month work-based programme leading to a postgraduate diploma in social work. This year we increased our intake offer from 4 to 8 places.	This is now in place.
Continued focus on identifying permanence for children with a social worker to support children to have stable long-term placements able to meet their needs.	This is now in place.
Increased feedback from young people. This is an area which is regularly discussed in quarterly meetings between Barnardo's and the Local Authority.	This is now in place.
Plans are in place to resume the arrangements for the Lead Advocate to have a presence at Charles Babbage House.	Barnardo's attends Charles Babbage House every two weeks.
Arrangements for advocates to attend child protection conferences in person (as per arrangements before the pandemic).	This is now in place.
To continue to promote the service via publicity material and for advocates to attend team meetings.	This is now in place.
<p>Increase the awareness of the Independent Visitor scheme across the service.</p> <p>Ensure that there is literature available to explain to foster carers and children about the scheme to promote the service and encourage referrals.</p>	19 looked after children were matched with an independent visitor. Social workers and independent reviewing officers continue to suggest to children in their reviews and visits how an independent visitor can support them and hear their voice.
Adapt a hybrid model of working.	This has been successfully achieved and other Local Authorities have requested that Enfield share their good practice.
To review family group conferences which are now held in-house.	Families are taking a more active role in developing safety plans which prevents children coming into care, along with the introduction of the Enfield conversation.
To continue to improve placement stability.	There has been a steady improvement in the last three years, increasing from 67% to 72.7%.

What we said we would focus on	Where we are now
Improve further recruitment of black or dual ethnicity parents.	A long-term project is in place with an external consultant to better understand the data. This is a long-term commitment.
To continue to adapt to hybrid model of working.	Ongoing.
Build on Adopt London North's reputation on social media.	This is an ongoing development.
Drop in sessions for social work teams who are completing life story work	This is in place, ongoing.
Improve attendance.	Enfield looked after children had the highest attendance during lockdown (75%).
Reduce exclusions.	Exclusions have been reduced.
KS4 attainment to be in line with the national average.	KS4 average attainment is now above the national average.
80% of Personal Education Plans (PEP) quality to be considered 'good' or 'better'.	95% of Personal Education Plans are completed each term, with 95% considered 'good' or 'better'.
Continue effective mental health support through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).	Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores are 11.4 or below the national average which demonstrates that support is effective.

Annual Report on the Fostering Service

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Group on the work of Enfield's Fostering Service.

Executive Summary

Enfield Council's foster carers provide stability, care and family support to children and young people who are not able to live with their birth family. This is often a temporary arrangement whilst work is done to return the children to their families but can also be a long-term arrangement by order of the court or as approved by the agency decision maker. Our pool of foster carers will be the looked after child's alternative family for as long as that care is needed. With the help and support of their family and friends in their support network, they can make a positive difference to the children in their care and prepare them for the future.

Fostering is one of the most heavily regulated services within social care and the independent fostering panel continues to play an important role in monitoring compliance with all statutory requirements and in providing an additional layer of Quality Assurance. The Chair of the Enfield fostering panel has an extensive social work background and is very experienced in the field. Panel members consider the suitability of applicants wishing to foster. Enfield's Agency Decision Maker, the Director of Children's Services, makes the final decision on approvals based on the information and recommendations provided by the panel. Joint panel training between panel members and fostering team members is held twice a year to ensure knowledge on legislation and practice issues are shared.

The service also has responsibility for private fostering work. Private fostering is when a child aged under 16 years old (or 18 years old if they have a disability) is looked after full time for more than 28 days. Private fostering is arranged and agreed by the child's parents and the family who will be caring for the child. The law requires that parents must inform the Local Authority at least six weeks before the arrangement begins that they intend for somebody else to privately foster their child. Enfield social care has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their borough and to ensure those in private fostering arrangements are safe and secure.

Annual Report on the Commissioning Framework

Purpose of Report

This report provides the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of semi-independent provisions commissioned by the council to accommodate looked after children (LAC) aged 16-18 and care leavers. It provides information on the quality assurance of commissioned services and includes findings from a recent internal audit.

The report also details how the Council has supported local semi-independent providers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Executive Summary

The Council commissions a range of semi-independent placements to meet the different needs of the leaving care cohort. The placements that the Council commissions within the new tender are:

- 24-hour staffed provisions
- Complex/high needs
- 18-hour staffed units
- Night staff only units
- Therapeutic mental health
- Female only
- Out of borough
- Parent and Child
- Stand alone flats
- Unstaffed shared units for 18+ care leavers

Within the tender, there are some objectives which providers are expected to achieve. These are:

- Increasing placement stability
- Increasing the skills of the young people for them to successfully transition into independent living and eventually to their own Council tenancy
- Reducing young people who are not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)
- Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of care leavers.

Annual Report on those 16-25 who are in Education Employment (EET) and Training and those not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)

Purpose of Report

To give the statistical information of EET and NEET and the actions and strategies to improve those who are EET.

Executive Summary

Access to Education, Training and/or Employment remains one of the six main goals set up in both the Leaving Care Local Offer and the Service's Strategy as key for our care leavers to maximise their chances to build a successful future.

The National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers' First Year Report (Department for Education, Dec 2018) highlights that only 52% of care leavers are in some form of Education, Employment or Training. It encourages Local Authorities to be more ambitious and set local targets around 70%-80%. Enfield remains on target with 74.1% of young people open to our Service engaged in some form of Education, Training and/or Employment (August 2021). This represents a major improvement from 2020 figures. Enfield Leaving Care Team remains ambitious and will continue to work creatively alongside young people and partner agencies to increase this number.

A robust action plan is in place to improve Education Employment and Training outcomes.

Annual Report to Corporate Parenting on Leaving Care performance and action plan

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this briefing is to provide members of the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on the work of the Leaving Care Service through 2021 and the progress of the young people we work with.

Executive Summary

2020 was inevitably impacted by the breakout of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the main focus was ensuring that alternative plans were in place to continue to deliver a service of high standard for our young people. 2021 has given us the opportunity to adapt and embed new ways of working as well as further developing the Service to promote and improve the opportunities on offer for our care leavers to live safe lives, achieve their aspirations and secure the very best possible outcomes for their future. The following was put in place:

- An internal audit exercise conducted on the service in May this year was robust and extremely comprehensive. While a small number of improvements were recommended, the overall findings were that the Service was likely to be judged as 'GOOD' in any external inspection. Staff reported being extremely satisfied with the management and supervision they received and appreciated all the extra support they had received to help them through the pandemic. The inspection was a good opportunity to showcase the joint work and partnership in place with other relevant teams including Cheviots and Youth Offending.
- An action plan was developed following the audit, responding to the recommendations made. All the recommended actions have been completed.
- The Service supported the implementation of a recovery plan in line with the Government's decision to ease lock down restrictions, setting out expectations of resuming in stages face to face visits with young people. Staff are very happy to be seeing their young people face to face.
- The Service updated and published the Local Offer for Care Leavers for 2021.

- Four more care leavers were supported to access apprenticeship opportunities within the Council. One of the apprenticeships is being completed under the Leaving Care Service.
- Two new specialist posts were created within the Leaving Care and the HEART Teams to facilitate young people's access:
 - to Education, Training and Employment opportunities and
 - to therapeutic (trauma informed) support. This is aimed at care leavers over the age of 18 who do not meet the criteria for Adult Services but would benefit from this intervention.
- The Care Leavers Hub was re-launched in July 2021 to promote participation, as well as to provide care leavers with the opportunity to access and engage with different services face to face. A representative from partner organisations has a weekly presence at the Hub to support young people in different areas for instance benefits, substance misuse, sexual health, Education, Training and Employment and advocacy.
- The Asylum and Immigration Leads Working Group (AIL) has been operational since March 2021 with the purpose of promoting professional development in this highly technical area. This group is supporting best practice and is allowing the Leaving Care Team to better understand and address the specific needs that young people who are seeking asylum, have otherwise insecure immigration status, or are recognised as refugees. Amongst other achievements, through the Asylum and Immigration Leads Group (AIL), we have supported our European Union looked after children to access settled status as well as to apply for their United Kingdom Citizenship.
- In October 2021, to mark this year's Care Leavers Week, Enfield took part in a joint celebratory event alongside other Greater London Authorities. The theme was "Just a Care Leaver: Your Past does not define your Future".

Annual Report on looked after children who went missing

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report was to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with a report on looked after children who went missing in the year 2020/21.

Executive Summary

There were 225 children / young people reported missing from home or care in the 12-month period covering 2020/21. Less children (19%) went missing from home or care (three times or more) in 2020/21 compared to 23% in 2019/20.

There were 50 children / young people (22%) who went missing from care in 2020/21. There has been a reduction in the proportion of looked after children who have gone missing year on year for the last 3 years (25% in 2019/20 and 30% in 2018/19).

There were less 13-14-year olds reported missing (12%) in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 where there were 18% of 13 and 14-year-old young people missing from care.

20% of young people who went missing had previous and current concerns raised in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which is 2% less than the previous year. Of the 20% (10) young people known to be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, only 4 remained as at risk by the end of March 2021. Of the 10 young people identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation over the year, 7 were female while 3 were male. In 2019/20, one male was identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation which is an indication that assessments are identifying males as being at risk of child sexual exploitation as well.

Annual Report to Corporate Parenting on the Local Authority's Designated Officer

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the management of allegations against professionals and volunteers and the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the London Borough of Enfield, for the period of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has the responsibility to manage and have an oversight of allegations against people who work with children.

The role of the LADO is set out in the Government's 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) and is governed by the Authorities' duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and London Child Safeguarding Procedures, Chapter 7: Allegations against staff or volunteers who work with children.

Executive Summary

In 2020/2021 67 consultations were recorded which did not meet the threshold of harm for an 'Allegations against Staff and Volunteers' (ASV) Local Authority Designated Officer meeting. Allegations against Staff and Volunteers meetings are required when there is a view that a child may have or may be hurt, to consider whether there should be a police investigation, a child protection investigation and/or for the employer to investigate using their own internal procedures. The number that met the criteria was 40. The previous five years had seen a rise in both consultations and Allegations against Staff and Volunteers meetings. The decrease for 20/21 is thought to be due to the Covid effect and specifically the partial closures to schools and early years providers. It is envisaged that the figures will rise again now Covid restrictions have eased.

Most allegations which progressed to formal Local Authority Designated Officer involvement were from education settings(13), children's homes (12), and foster care (6).

Eleven of the 40 allegations which led to an Allegations against Staff and Volunteers meeting were substantiated (the allegations were found to be evidenced and the children in the care of these professionals may have suffered harm).

Report to Corporate Parenting on Supporting and Reducing the criminalisation of Looked after Children

Purpose of Report

To evaluate whether Enfield Youth Justice Services' current practice effectively supports looked after children within the youth justice system in response to the recently published 'Protocol for London - Reducing criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers' and in the context of Enfield joined up working protocol between social care and the Youth Justice Service.

Executive Summary

The 12-month period from November 2020 to October 2021 was used to analyse the profile of children in care in youth justice and the quality of care provided to young people. Care leavers were also considered if they were sentenced during this period and had met the legal definition of a care leaver.

172 young people were subject to Youth Justice Service interventions within the stated 12-month period, 22 young people within the cohort had an active period in Local Authority care, and there was one care leaver sentenced during this period. Most young people were aged 16 and 17 years old at the start of their intervention(s). There were 21 males and 1 female. A Youth Justice Service report in 19/20 stated that there were 12 looked after children working with the Youth Justice Service, however this did not include those young people who became looked after due to being Remanded into Local Authority Care (RILA) or looked after children remanded into Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA). Comparatively this number is 11 in the 20/21 period.

Looked after children working with Enfield Youth Justice Service represent:

- 12% of the overall youth offending cohort for this period; and
- 3.7% of the overall local children looked after population within this period

Young black men continue to be over-represented within youth justice system and this includes children in care.

The introduction of a joint working protocol between the Youth Justice Service and Social Care in January 2021, has resulted in the implementation of a range of practice measures to improve information sharing, joined up working and coordination of care and support to reduce- re-offending and prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care in line with London protocol. Moving forward the focus will be on continuing to embed the best working practices between Social Care and the Youth Justice Service.

Report to Corporate Parenting on Permanency Guidance

Purpose of Report

To share the Permanence guidance with members of the Corporate Parenting Board

Executive Summary

The permanence guidance outlines the process which Social Workers follow to ensure that formal processes are in place to try and secure long term placements for looked after children.

It is evident that children in matched long-term placements have better outcomes, as they have a sense of belonging and stability which supports them to achieve their full potential.

Annual Report to Corporate Parenting on the Advocacy Services for looked after children

Purpose of Report

The report is to provide an update on the activity of Barnardo's Children Rights Advocacy Service.

Executive Summary

Barnardo's London Children's Rights Service (BLCRS) has been commissioned to provide independent advocacy for looked after children, care leavers, and children subject to child protection plans.

The contract is to deliver advocacy service to 40 children over the age of five years subject to child protection concerns and 20 children/young people who are either looked after children or are open to the Leaving Care Services. However, there is flexibility depending on the demands for the service.

Referrals can be made from any source with the consent of the child/young person, via a dedicated freephone, a helpline number and via email. The majority of the referrals are from Children and Families Services. A small number of referrals are from organisations such as the Islington Law Centre, placements and a few self-referrals.

The majority of the young people receiving advocacy support live in Enfield; however, a number of young people, placed out of the borough and London have also benefitted from this service.

Breakdown of referrals for the year

- There were 86 referrals in total
- 23 referrals were for looked after children
- 18 referrals were for care leavers
- 40 referrals were for children subject to Child Protection plans
- 4 referrals for children subject to Child In Need plans
- 1 referral from the Joint Service for Disabled children

The main advocacy issues have been:

- Child protection
- Care Planning
- Pathway planning
- Housing
- Retrospective care leaver

Report to Corporate Parenting on the Independent Visitors scheme

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the Independent Visitors scheme to Corporate Parenting.

Executive Summary

An independent visitor is a trained volunteer who does not work for Social Care Services and provides children and young people in care with friendship and support. Independent visitors need to be consistent and reliable in order that children can build a trusting, positive relationship with them over time. Action for Children (formerly National Children's Home) is a national children's charity created to help vulnerable children & young people and their families in the United Kingdom.

Over the year, Action for Children supported 19 Enfield matches, three of which funded by Action for Children. One match has ended, making the current total of 18 matches. Two young people were referred this quarter bringing the total number of unmatched young people to six.

Report to Corporate Parenting on the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report

Purpose of Report

The report provides a summary of the activity within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service as required by statutory guidance. It is the role of the independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to chair Child Protection conferences and looked after children's reviews (LAC).

Executive Summary

The service consists of 8 independent Reviewing Officers. The number of children subject to a child protection plan was 296, which is an increase due to sibling groups. 50% of child protection plans were due to neglect, 29.7% due to emotional abuse, and 9.7% due to physical abuse. There has been an increase in physical abuse compared to a decrease for those on child protection plans. 74% of looked after children reviews were recorded as being within timescales. Participation in looked after children reviews remains good displaying that the views of the child are heard. The continued effectiveness of partnership working (especially with the police) is demonstrated by the Police now being available to attend meetings at short notice.

Report to Corporate Parenting Annual Report on Adopt London North

Purpose of Report

To report on the outcomes of the adoption led services of Adopt London North, who's role it is on behalf of six London boroughs to recruit and assess adoptive parents, family finding for children in need or adoptive parents, and providing support to adoptive families.

Executive Summary

The adoption panel is now centrally positioned and considers all adopter approvals, however the Adopt London North Head of Service is the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) for appraisals and the Local Authority Agency Decision Maker approves matches from their own borough. Having a single brand identity and one entry point has been transformational. The website receives on average 3,600 visitors. Enquiry levels from 2018/2019 highlight that 42% Adopt London North prospective adopters are from black and dual ethnicity families which is in line with the proportion of children taken to Adopt London North who had a placement order or were matched (40-45%). As of march 2021 2021 there were eight children in Enfield waiting for placement order to be made. £860,000 of specialist therapeutic support was provided by Adopt London North.

- 2 children were placed with adoptive families and where adoption orders were granted
- 2 children were placed with adoption orders to be granted
- 1 child is being placed with an adoptive family in America
- 2 Special Guardianship Orders to family members
- 1 child plan is being changed to long-term fostering.

Annual Education and HEART report for Corporate Parenting

Purpose of Report

A summary of the educational outcomes of looked after children and role of the Virtual School in putting in interventions to support the academic outcomes, excellent attendance and a focus on reducing exclusions. A summary of the role and outcomes of the Health Education and Access to Resources Team(HEART) and its multi-disciplinary staff of specialist health staff Virtual School staff, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and Speech And Language Therapy annual reports and actions plans, in addition to a summary of participation and consultation of KRATOS, the Children in Care Council.

Executive Summary

The Key Stage 2 attainment of looked after children was below the national looked after children level and Key Stage 4 attainment was above. All pupils made progress from their starting point. Looked after children's attendance was in line with national figure of 95%. Exclusions have reduced from previous years. Personal Education Plan completion rate is 96% with 88% graded as 'good or better'. 85% of looked after children attend 'good' or 'outstanding schools. 92% of Year 11 looked after children have a confirmed destination for Year 12. Not in Education, Employment or Training for year 12 in Enfield 10% compared to 27% nationally. The care leaver conference was attended by 73 care leavers and KRATOS has consulted on 10 policies and strategies. KATOS members have also trained to be youth inspectors. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire scores for Enfield are 10.8 compared to a national figure of 14.2 which demonstrates the effectiveness of the Health Education Access to Resources Team Child Adolescent Mental Health Service team.

Corporate Parenting Board

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