



# **Bromley Corporate Parenting Annual Report**

**2012 – 2013**

**May 2013**

## Introduction

'Corporate parenting' is the term used to describe the local authority's duties and responsibilities to children and young people aged 0 – 21 years, (or up to 24 if the young person is in full time education) who are, or have been, in public care. A child is 'looked after' if they have a care order or are being cared for under a voluntary agreement, subject to the Children Act 1989. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of looked after children and young people is a duty of the local authority under the Act.

The central principle of corporate parenting is that the local authority should parent the children and young people in their care in the same way as they would parent their own children or children in their family.

### The purpose of the Annual Corporate Parenting Report

To inform members of the Council's performance and outcomes for children in care.

To inform members of service developments and improvements for children in care.

## Elected Members

Elected Member's "special responsibility" for looked after children and young people was introduced in 1988 by the then Secretary of State in a personal letter to all Councillors. Following this, the document 'Think Child' (1999) guided Members through the Quality Protects Programme and their responsibilities within that promote the welfare of the most vulnerable children and young people in their local authority. In 2003, the Government reiterated this responsibility in the documents *If this were my child* which states that:

***"When you became a Councillor, you also became responsible for ensuring that the Council acts as the 'Corporate Parent' for all the children in its care. The role of the Corporate parent is to seek for the children in public care the outcome that every good parent would want for their children"***

Corporate parenting within Bromley is overseen by the Lead Member for Children's Services. This is a statutory post which is currently held by the Leader of the Council. The Lead Member is supported by the work of the Portfolio Holders for Care Services and Education Services and by the Executive Working Party for Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting whose

Chairman is the Portfolio Holder for Care Services. This forum meets on a quarterly basis and is made up of Councillors, Officers and representatives from the Looked After Children Council called the Living in Care Council (LinCC).

The Leader and Lead Member for children's services also chairs the Children's Board that meets approximately every six weeks to consider children's safeguarding issues including looked after children. In addition the Leader has appointed a Children's Champion with a broad remit to promote all children, including looked after children and young people across the Borough.

### **Bromley Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2012 – 2013**

Service improvement and development has continued to be driven by a clear set of priorities encapsulated in the children's safeguarding and social care improvement plan divided into five themes: -

- Strategic vision and leadership
- Building a quality service
- Assuring quality
- Listening to children, young people and their families
- Improving outcomes for children in care

In July 2012 Bromley Children's Social Care was subject to an inspection of its safeguarding services within the context of Ofsted's new inspection framework for the arrangements for the protection of children. The new framework takes account of the Munroe review and a significant number of cases were examined in depth following the journey of the child. Bromley was deemed to provide an adequate service with inspectors commenting that we met requirements and have compliance in all areas of child protection practice.

The useful feedback from the inspectors helped shape the improvement plan together with other priorities for looked after children.

An ambitious programme to recruit more foster carers and review support to carers to provide more in house foster placements was commenced. The number of in house foster carers was increased by 10 units during 2012/13 which allowed for more children to be placed with in house carers and reduced the reliance on IFA placements. A new Foster Carers Allowance scheme was implemented in September 2012 designed to encourage Bromley foster carers to meet our need for more families willing to care for teenagers, sibling groups, and disabled children.

A scoping exercise has been undertaken to identify the types of support foster carers will need to enable them to care for increasingly complex and challenging children locally and to reduce foster placement breakdowns..

In addition, significant work was undertaken to improve adoption performance both in terms of the number of children adopted and to improve the timeliness of adoptions.

A Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2013 – 2015 is in development and has been shared with partner agencies. The strategy sets out the council's vision for its looked after children and will include a delivery plan with measurable targets to be developed by the corporate parenting strategy group.

### **Performance Monitoring and Outcomes for Children in Care (CIC)**

The quality of service and outcomes for children in care is measured in a number of ways:-

- External Inspections – OFSTED unannounced inspection of safeguarding and Children in Care services including regulatory inspections of fostering and adoption services
- Management information including National Performance Indicators
- Internal quality assurance audits of case files and social work practice
- Consultation and feedback from children and young people in care and other key partners

### **Analysis of Performance Data 2012 - 2013**

#### **Looked After children and young people in Bromley**

Detailed comparator information, which compares Bromley's performance against our statistical neighbours, London and the England averages in contained in appendix 1

The London Borough of Bromley has approximately 68,100 children and young people under the age of 19 years. This is 23% of the total population.

In March 2013 there were approximately 286 looked after children and young people; an increase from 275 in 2011/12. The number of children in care in Bromley represents 41.9 per 10,000 of the under 18 population. Although in Bromley we have seen a rise in the number of looked after children in 2012/13 we still remain lower than the average of our comparator London boroughs and the England average.

During 2012/13 we had 141 new children and young people that became looked after and 134 who ceased to be looked after.

Of our children in care 71.3% are placed with foster carers, an increase from 2011/12 where 64.2% were placed in foster care. This is higher than the national average, Of these 71% are placed with Bromley in-house foster carers - an increase from 67.8% in 2011/12, 15.2% are placed with IFA carers, a reduction from 18.4% in 2011/12 and 14.7% are fostered by a

relative or friend, an increase from 10.3% in 2011/12. The number of children being placed with in- house foster carers has risen in the final half of 2012/13 with the majority of children in IFA placements having been there for a year or more.

The number of children placed in residential accommodation reduced from 18.7% in 2011/12 to 16.8% in 2012/13 which is an improvement. In response work is taking place to develop more support for foster carers caring for challenging young people to further reduce the number of placements being made in the future.

The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children has risen from 5 in April 2012 to 12 in March 2013. This is in line with other London boroughs.

44% of our looked after children (excluding those placed for adoption) are placed in accommodation that is outside of the borough boundaries, an increase of 2% from 2011/12 and 10.75% are placed more than 20 miles from their home address, a decrease from 17% in 2011/12. Whilst the majority of children who are placed outside of the borough boundary are in accommodation in our immediate neighbouring boroughs, the significance of lack of access to Bromley services including schools, GP's and Child and Adolescent Services (CAMHs) can be problematic.

Placement stability is a key indicator in assessing whether we have identified the right match and placement for children. Our performance is 2012/13 for children and young people who experience 3 or more placement moves was 13.64%. This compares to 15.60% in 2011/12 .

The long term stability indicator; the percentage of children under the age of 16 who have been looked after for two and a half years and have remained in the same placement for 2 years or have been placed in an adoptive placement is 64%. Although one would expect to see a higher performance as good this can also be misleading, as a high percentage can also indicate drift in care. Although there is no evidence of drift for children under 10 years, there is limited information on older children. Further work will be undertaken to look at this area of performance in more detail.

## Care Leavers

The local authority also supports 163 care leavers over the age of 18 up to 25 years. The range of duties in the provision of a leaving care service is set out in statutory guidance and regulations, but in short, we have a responsibility to advise, assist, befriend and support, including financial support, to all former relevant young adults up to the age of 21 in all circumstances and extended to the age of 25 for those young adults in further or higher education. Recent changes to legislation states that any former relevant young adult may approach the local authority after the age of 21 and up to 25 years should they require support (including financial support) in accessing education.

In 2003 the High Court ruled that unaccompanied asylum seeking children were entitled to the same status as all other young people in relation to leaving care services as long as they met the basic criteria as eligible and/or relevant young people (known as the Hillingdon Judgement). The council currently supports 15 young adults over the age of 18 with outstanding asylum claims and meet the UKBA grant funding criteria.

In addition, we also support approximately 10 further young adults who do not meet the UKBA grant criteria. These young people include those over the age of 21 who are not in education or training (and therefore would not be included in the general leaving care provision which ceases at 21 for young adults not in education or training) but do not have an immigration decision, have been given short term, but limited, Leave to Remain (where they cannot access benefits) or have submitted a fresh appeal against a previous negative decision.

There is also a small, but growing, cohort of young people who are 'appeal rights exhausted' where grant funding, even if the young adult was previously included as meeting the grant criteria, ceases three months after the immigration decision is made. This is a new condition that has been applied to the grant formula in 2012/13. Technically, local authorities are entitled to withdraw funding from the group following the completion of a Human Rights Assessment. However, withdrawal of financial support has not been applied to this group by any London authority as the view is that this would be open to legal challenge at significant cost to defend. The London Leaving Care Network is currently working with the UKBA to explore more efficient removal processes which is felt would address this issue.

The number of young people who were looked after at the age of 16 who were engaged in education, training or employment at the 31 March 2013 was 48.15%. This is a reduction from 51% in 2011/12. Although the cohort is relatively small (27 young adults), we have seen a reduction in performance for EET over the past three years. A small working group has been set up under the leadership of Paul King – Head of Targeted Youth Support, to explore the reasons behind this performance and to bring about improvement.

The number of young people who were looked after at year 11 and were engaged in education, training or employment in the September following their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday was 76.9% in September 2012. This figure is the same as September 2011.

At the end of March 15 care leavers were at university.

Finally, in relation to care leavers, the percentage of young people in appropriate accommodation at the age of 19 was 89%.

## **Looked after children and young people education**

In Bromley we continue to promote educational attainment for our looked after children and young people through close collaboration and cooperation with schools and colleges. The specialist education advisor and her team support individual children and young people through a range of interventions designed specifically to enable them to achieve the best that they can.

All looked after children and young people have a personal education plan (PEP) which is reviewed on a six monthly basis.

School attendance is closely monitored and action taken to address individual issues. The number of children who have missed 25 days or more currently stands at 7.69%. This compares to 13.9% in 2011/12.

The number of looked after children and young people who have a statement of educational needs is 37.14%.

The percentage of children reaching level 4 in English at key stage 2 was 28% in September 2012 and level 4 in maths at key stage 2 was also 28%. Both of these figures represent a decrease in performance from September 2011. However, work was undertaken to analyse these figures. The cohort is relatively small but has an over representation of children who have a SEN statement.

The percentage of looked after young people who achieved 5 A\* to C GCSE's at key stage 4 including English and maths was 11%. This is an increase from September 2011 where the figure was 9%

## **Looked after children and young people health**

The physical and emotional health and wellbeing of looked after children and young people forms an integral part of the care plan. Ensuring that our children have access to and attend medical, dental and optical assessments can, at times be challenging, particularly for older young people and in particular in relation to dental appointments.

All looked after children and young people have a medical assessment when they first come into care which is repeated either on a six monthly or annual basis dependent upon their age. Follow up health assessments can be undertaken either by the child's GP or, as often is the case, for older young people by the looked after children nurse.

The percentage of children and young people who have an up to date medical, dental and optical (if appropriate) assessment is 87.7%. This is a slight reduction from 2011/12 where the performance was 88.9%.

We continue to explore ways to encourage young people to attend medical and dental appointments.

## **Foster carers**

The recruitment of more in house foster carers remains a priority for children's social care. Wherever possible, we aim to place children and young people in family settings as research indicates that these types of placements tend to offer better outcomes.

Securing foster carers who are able to offer placements to older, complex or challenging children continues to be problematic and our experience in Bromley mirrors the experience of many local authorities.

We have undertaken work to identify with foster carers what an 'enhanced fostering package' would look like and how we can further support carers in meeting challenging or complex behaviour. We are currently reviewing foster carer training and plan to include training linked to the enhanced fostering package.

In 2012/13 we successfully recruited 22 new fostering units. This was offset by the deregistration on 12 fostering units but still meant that our pool of in house foster carers increased by 10 from 2011/12. This is the largest number of carers recruited in the past four years.

## **Permanency**

Securing permanency for looked after children and young people remains key to ensuring positive outcomes. Members will also be aware that adoption is high on the Governments agenda and that they expect to see the number of children successfully placed in adoptive homes increase.

At the end of December 2012 we had 30 children who has a plan for adoption. Of these 9 were matched and placed with adoptive families, 13 were matched to adopters and were waiting for Court authority to place and we were actively seeking matches for the remaining 9 children.

The number of children made subject to an adoption Order in 2012/13 was 17 compared to 10 in 2011/12. This year on year improvement is encouraging.

Of the 17 children adopted 10 (58.8%) were placed within 12 months of the decision that they should be adopted (best interest decision). This is a reduction from 2011/12 but must be viewed in the context of extreme difficulty in identifying suitable adopters due to their complex needs.

In addition, 8 children were made subject of special guardianship orders.



## Living in Care Council (LinCC)

The living in care council (LinCC) have been involved in a number of local projects during the year as well as contributing to national initiatives.

Of particular note is;

- The design of a DVD to be used in the training of foster carers
- Involvement in the making of a foster carer recruitment DVD
- The creation of looked after children and young people 'welcome packs'
- Input into the celebration of achievement awards
- Presentations to the children's social care induction programme
- Assisting interview panels in the recruitment of social workers

LinCC have also attended the Executive working party for safeguarding and corporate parenting where they have given verbal presentations of the work they have been doing and they meet with the Director for Health, Education and Care Services and the Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding and Social Care on a quarterly basis,.

The membership of LinCC has remained fairly static over the past year and work to encourage new members will be a priority for the group during 2012/13.

In addition, we are in the process of developing a web site for looked after children and young people which we hope will aid communication.

## Appendix 1

### Performance Comparator Information

#### 1.0 General LAC demographics

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 there were 286 LAC. This figure has reduced slightly from a peak of 306 in August 2013. The trend in Bromley over the last 6 years has meant that the levels of LAC have fluctuated between 250-286.

Table 1 LAC numbers trend 2008-2013

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
260	250	285	265	275	286

A recent publication by London Councils\* suggests that the overall numbers of LAC in Outer London authorities are decreasing. This is not a pattern showing in Bromley. In order to compare LAC numbers in a meaningful way they are often reported as a rate per 10,000<sup>1</sup> population. Using this comparator the table below shows the rate over the last 5 years and compares the rate to our statistical neighbours, London and the England averages.

Table 2. LAC rate per 10,000 population

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bromley	38	37	42	38	40
Statistical Neighbours	41	43	46	46	47
All London	66	65	66	61	56
Inner London	83	80	81	75	69
Outer London	56	56	57	54	49
England	54	55	59	59	59

The rate over all has been falling across London both inner and outer since 2010. The Bromley rate however has fluctuated. The 2013 rate is 41. It does remain lower however than the London and National averages.

#### 1.1 LAC age and gender breakdown

In terms of the age breakdown for LAC Bromley has a high proportion of older children than younger. However this is a similar trend across the statistical neighbours, London and England as Table 2 illustrates.

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<sup>1</sup>\*"Looked After Children in London – an analysis of changes in the numbers of LAC in London" Clare Chamberlain and David Ward. London Councils February 2013

Table 3. LAC age breakdown- Percentage of LAC in each age group

	<b>Under 1</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>16+</b>
Bromley 2012	8%	13%	19%	33%	27%
Bromley 2013	5%	14%	20%	31%	29%
Statistical Neighbours	5%	17%	17%	36%	24%
London	6%	14%	16%	37%	27%
England	6%	19%	19%	36%	20%

(2012 DFE 903 data unless otherwise stated)

Bromley has slightly more boys (56%) than girls (44%) who are looked after. This proportion is the same for our statistical neighbours, London and England.

We have begun to analyse the duration of the period of care in relation to the age of the young person in order to identify whether our older LAC have been with us for a length of time. The following table shows the number of currently Looked After Children and shows that 34.7% of them have been looked after for over three years. It also shows that 45 out of the 84 young people who are 16 and over have been LAC for 3+ years which is 54% of all 16+ LAC. There isn't a pattern as such when looking at the older age groups, in that there isn't a steady progression over the length of time looked after. The second main time period for being LAC is the 3-9 month period at 22.7%

Table 4. Number of current LAC (age group) by the duration that they have been LAC

<b>Age</b>	<b>&lt; 1 month</b>	<b>1-3 months</b>	<b>3-9 months</b>	<b>9-12 months</b>	<b>1-2 yrs</b>	<b>2- 3 yrs</b>	<b>3 yrs +</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
under 1	1	2	10	0	0	0	0	13
1-4	0	1	14	2	22	2		41
5-9 yrs	3		11	5	10	11	18	58
10-12 yrs		1	2	4	3	4	15	29
13-15 yrs	4	5	11	2	5	5	29	61
16+		2	17	4	11	5	45	84
Grand Total	8	11	65	17	51	27	107	286
Grand Total %	2.8%	3.8%	22.7%	5.9%	17.8%	9.4%	37.4%	100.0

## 1.2 Ethnicity of LAC

The number of LAC from BME groups has fluctuated between 25-28% over the last 4 years. In March 2013 81 (23.8%) of young people were from BME groups. This compares to 70 (25.4%) in 2012, 27% in 2011 and 28% in 2010. When compared against the 2012 DFE analysis of Looked After Children we are higher than the 19% statistical neighbour average. (only two statistical neighbours; Solihull and Bedford have a higher BME figure). Despite having a higher number of BME than our statistical neighbours, we are still lower than the outer London average of 51% and the inner London average of 68%. Whilst the Bromley LAC BME average is higher than the 18% resident population BME figure, it does reflect the BME population

demographic for the areas where they are coming from within the borough. For a full analysis of ethnicity over time please refer to Table 3 in Appendix 1.

### 1.3 Special Educational Need (SEN)

Using the national indicator definition of the number of school age children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in 2012, 77.7% of Bromley LAC have some element of SEN. 38% have statements. The overall levels of SEN are higher than statistical neighbours (73.3%) and the London and England averages of 73% and 71.5% respectively. The high number of statemented young people has quite an impact on educational outcomes as we will see in a later section of this report.

Table 5. SEN – The percentage of SEN and Statements over time

	2012		2011		2010	
	% All SEN	% with Statements	% All SEN	% with Statements	% All SEN	% with Statements
Bromley*	77.7% (95)	38.0% (45)	89.4% (120)	43.9% (60)	83.9% (95)	46.4% (50)
Statistical Neighbours	73.3%	32.3%	72.8%	31.2%	73.1%	31.6%
London	73.0%	30.7%	73.0%	30.7%	73.0%	30.7%
England	71.5%	29.4%	71.5%	29.4%	71.5%	29.4%

\*Numbers of young people in brackets

### 1.4 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC)

The recent report by London Councils found that there are declining numbers of UASC particularly in outer London boroughs. This is in part due to a legislation change in 2007 whereby a number of UASCs are diverted to a 50-60 LAs throughout England to ease the pressure on London authorities. The figures have decreased in Bromley since 2008 (although there has been a slight increase in 2013) the numbers are very small compared to authorities such as Croydon.

Table 6. Numbers of UASC

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bromley	15	10	15	5	5	12

As the number of UASC is low it does not have any significant bearing on the number of new LAC entering care.

### 1.5 New Looked After Children

In 2013 141 children entered care (29 of these had been LAC previously) this is compared to 130 new LAC in 2012. The numbers of new LAC had been decreasing since 2010 when it peaked at 155, until this year. Table 7 shows the percentage of new LAC each year over the last 4 years. We can see that whilst there are generally higher percentages of those aged 10 and over, there isn't a consistent increase or decrease of any age group over the period. The figures are also broadly in line with comparator groups.

Table 7. The percentage of new LAC by age group

	<b>Under 1</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>Number of new LAC</b>
Bromley 2013	14%	14%	16%	28%	27%	141
Bromley 2012	24%	19%	14%	26%	18%	130
Bromley 2011	23%	9%	16%	31%	21%	120
Bromley 2010	15%	13%	20%	35%	17%	155
<b>Statistical Neighbours (2012)</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>15%</b>	-
<b>London (2012)</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>19%</b>	-
<b>England (2012)</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>12%</b>	-

The percentage of new children who started to be looked after who were then taken into care has increased year on year since 2008. In 2008 16% of all new LAC were taken into care rising to 20% in 2009, 24% in 2010 levelling at 24% in 2011 and increasing again in 2012 to 30%. This increase is in line with the statistical neighbours, London and national picture. For further information please refer to Table 9 in Appendix 1.

#### 1.6 Care Leavers

In 2013 134 young people ceased to be looked after. This compares to 115 in 2012. Year on year higher numbers enter care than leave. We can see that the highest number leaving care are the 16+ age group which is to be expected. There is also a high number of 1-4 year olds leaving care; a significant number of this age group leave care due to adoption.

Table 8. The percentage of care leavers by age group

	<b>Under 1</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>LAC Leaving Care</b>
Bromley 2013	7%	22%	12%	24%	36%	134
Bromley 2012	8%	21%	7%	21%	43%	115
Bromley 2011	6%	20%	11%	16%	46%	140
Bromley 2010	6%	22%	6%	23%	40%	120
<b>Statistical Neighbours (2012)</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>42%</b>	-
<b>London (2012)</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>43%</b>	-
<b>England (2012)</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>37%</b>	-

Of those leaving care the following table provides a breakdown of the age when left care and the duration of their care period.

Table 9. The number of care leavers (age group) by the duration of care period

Age	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1-2 yrs	2- 3 yrs	3-4 yrs	5+ yrs	Grand Total
under 1	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	9
1-4	2	0	2	0	16	7	2	0	29
5-9 yrs	2	3	3	1	4	1	1	1	16
10-12 yrs	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	8
13-15 yrs	10	3	3	2	2	1	0	3	24
16+	4	6	7	1	3	10	3	14	48
Grand Total	22	14	21	4	27	21	6	19	134
Grand Total %	16.4%	10.4%	15.7%	2.9%	20.1%	15.7%	4.5%	14.1%	100.0

The does not appear to be a pattern in the length of care in those that have left care in 2013. The majority of the 14.1% that were in care for more than 5 years are over 16.

## 2.0 Placements, Provision and Stability

Of our children in care 71.3% are placed with foster carers, an increase from 2011/12 where 65.4% were placed in foster care. Whilst an improvement on last year's figure it is still lower than the 74% national average and the London and statistical neighbours.

Table 10. The percentage of LAC who are in foster placements or have been placed for adoption

	All LAC (Numbers)	Foster Placements (%)	Placed for Adoption (%)
Bromley (2013)	286	71%	3%
Bromley (2012)	275	65%	5%
Statistical Neighbours	<b>4,900</b>	73%	4%
London	<b>10,250</b>	74%	3%
England	<b>67,050</b>	75%	4%

Comparative Data as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Of those in foster placements, 71% are placed with Bromley in-house foster carers - an increase from 67.8% in 2011/12, 15.2% are placed with IFA carers, a reduction from 18.4% in 2011/12 and 14.7% are fostered by a relative or friend, an increase from 10.3% in 2011/12. The number of children being placed with in- house foster carers has risen in the final half of 2012/13 with the majority of children in IFA placements having been there for a year or more.

Placement stability is a key indicator in assessing whether we have identified the right match and placement for children. Our performance is 2012/13 for children and young people who experience 3 or more placement moves was 13.6%. This compares to 15.6% in 2011/12. Bromley data is slightly higher than our comparator groups but has reduced on last year. In terms of the length of placement we have been consistently higher than our comparator groups for the percentage of under 16's in a placement for longer than 2 years however the figure for 2013 has dipped to now be in line with our comparator groups.

Table 11. A summary of placement stability

	<b>% of Children Looked After at 31 March with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March</b>	<b>% of Looked After Children 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 &amp; their adoption &amp; their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years</b>
Bromley	14%	69%
Bromley (2012)	16%	72%
Statistical Neighbours	12%	70%
London	12%	69%
England	11%	68%

Comparative Data as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

### 3.0 Adoption

The DFE publication “Action plan for adoption - Tackling Delay” was launched in Spring 2012. This has increased the national profile on a range of performance indicators aimed at speeding up the adoption process. The two key indicators for which challenging targets have been set nationally are:

**Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)**

**Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)**

Thresholds have been set by the DFE so that by 2016 LAs are expected to take no longer than 426 days from a child entering care and moving in with it's adoptive family. The threshold for the average number of days from the LA receiving the court

order to place and the match date has been set at 121 days. There is a suggested threshold for 2013 to assess whether LA's are on track to meet the 2016 thresholds. An adoption scorecard is published annually together with a ranking of how local authorities compare with each other. The scorecard covers a three year period to account for small numbers. Bromley's performance in these two key indicators is showing a marked improvement from the first set of data published. We have reduced the average time taken from a child entering care to moving in with its adoptive family from 804 days to 683 days this is only a few days away from the national threshold. Performance has also improved in the average time taken between the court order to place being granted and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, from 208 days to 178 days. This is significantly below the national threshold and highlights a pro-active approach by the service to commence matching at the earliest opportunity.

Table 12. A summary of the key adoption scorecard indicators

	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)
LA 3 year average (2008-11)	804	208
LA 3 year average (2009-12)	689	165
LA 3 year average (2010-13)	683	178
<b>National 2013 Threshold</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>National 2016 Threshold</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>121</b>

Table 29 in Appendix 1 presents the full adoption scorecard information. Table 17 also in Appendix 1 presents a range of adoption and placement indicators that show where Bromley ranks nationally.

In 2013 there were 17 young people adopted, 10 of these (60%) were within 12 months of the best interest decision. This compares to 10 adoptions in 2011/12 7 of which were in 12 months of best interest. Over the last 5 years 62 children and young people have been adopted. 41 of these (66%) were 1-4 years old, 19 (31%) were 5-9 years old and 2 (3%)

In 2013 Bromley recruited 16 new adopters, this compares to 20 who were recruited in 2011/12.



## 4.0 LAC Outcomes

### 4.1 Health of Looked After Children

Bromley is successful in making sure that immunisations and health assessments are up to date. We perform better than our comparator groups in this area. The weak area is ensuring that dental checks are carried out each year. This is especially difficult with high numbers of 10-15 year olds and over 16's.

Table 13. Health checks completed on time

	Number of children looked after for at least 12 months	Number of children whose immunisations were up to date		Number of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist		Number of children who had their annual health assessment	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Bromley 2013	187	176	94%	145	76%	165	88%
Bromley 2012	185	165	89%	145	78%	165	89%
Statistical Neighbours	3,225	2,620	81%	2,720	84%	2,740	85%
London	6,980	5,830	84%	5,880	84%	6,420	92%
England	46,590	38,720	83%	38,370	82%	40,200	86%

In terms of emotional health, strength and difficulties questionnaires (SDQs) are required for those children aged 4 to 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months. It is a questionnaire completed by the carer. A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional difficulties. A score of 0-13 is considered normal, a score of 14-16 is considered borderline cause for concern and a score of 17 and over is a cause for concern. Bromley has consistently averaged a score of 13 over the last 4 years. This is a lower (and therefore better) figure than our statistical neighbours which in 2012 was 14.5. Bromley has a larger proportion of normal scores than its statistical neighbours and a lower proportion of scores causing concern.

Table 14. Emotional health SDQ analysis 2012

	Percentage of eligible children with an SDQ score considered:		
	Normal	Borderline	Concern
Bromley	53%	11%	36%
Statistical Neighbours	47%	14%	40%
London	53%	13%	35%

England	51%	13%	36%
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## 4.2 Attainment

When looking at attainment of Looked After Children the key factor worth noting are the very small numbers in each cohort and the corresponding effect that this has when looking at percentages achieving the required levels.

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

Table 15. Percentage of children achieving level 4+ at Key Stage 2

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
NI 99: Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 in English at KS2	28% (2 of 7 pupils)	50% (5 of 10 pupils)	100% (5 of 5 pupils)	40% (4 of 10 pupils)	40%
NI 100: Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 in maths at KS2	28%	40%	80%	20%	20%
England - Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 in English at KS2	60%	54%	50%	48%	50%
England - Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 in maths at KS2	56%	52%	49%	48%	47%

Comparator groups have not been included here as there is a lot of suppressed data for statistical neighbours (again due to small reporting cohorts). The national average for LAC achieving level4+ in English and maths is included as a guide but not for a fair comparison.

An additional factor is SEN. In the 2012 assessments the small cohort of 7 pupils 6 of the 7 had some form of SEN and 5 out of the 7 (71%) had a full statement. In 2011 there were 10 in the reporting cohort and 6 (60%) of these had a full statement.

However, in terms of progress 5 out of the 7 2012 LAC cohort successfully made 2 or more levels of progress in English in 2012 and 4 out of the 7 (57%) made 2 or more levels of progress in maths. In 2011 6 pupils out of 10 (60%) made 2 or more levels of progress in English and maths and in 2010 100% of children in care made 2 or more levels of progress in English and 80% of children in care made 2 or more levels of progress in Maths.

GCSE

The issues faced at KS2 are also factors for GCSE, small cohort numbers and high levels of SEN. Whilst performance in the national indicator of 5+A\*-C including

English and maths does fluctuate, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of LAC gaining 1 A\*-G.

Table 16. A summary of GCSE performance over the last five years

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
5 A* - C including English and Maths	11 % (2 pupils)	8.6% (3 pupils)	25% (4 pupils)	10% (2 pupils)	3% (not reported)
5 A* - C	22.2%	25.7%	43%	29%	9.4% (3 pupils)
5 A*-G	55%	48.6%	63%	47.6%	31.25%
1 A*-G	88%	74.3%	75%	71.4%	56.2%
England average 5A*-C including English and maths	14.6%	13.6%	12.4%	10.9%	10.2%

As with KS2 comparator groups have not been included here as there is a lot of suppressed data for statistical neighbours (again due to small reporting cohorts). The national average for LAC achieving 5+A\*-C including English and maths is included as a guide but not for a fair comparison.

### 4.3 Exclusions from school

Bromley LAC has had no permanent exclusions from school in the last 5 years. The table below looks at local data for fixed term exclusions and looks at all LAC not just those used in the government reporting cohort.

Table 17. Bromley LAC fixed term exclusion trend 2009-2013

	Total Number of days	Number of pupils with a fixed term exclusion	Number of Bromley schools	Schools out of Borough	Total schools
2009/10	232	33	9	21	29
2010/11	134	24	9	13	22
2011/12	126	23	11	12	23
2012/13	91	13	5	6	11

Source: Virtual School Specialist Advisor data.

The data shows a steady year on year decrease in fixed term exclusions both in the number of days and the number of pupils.

If we look at comparative data using the DFE exclusions data which only measures young people who have been LAC for at least 12 months, we can see that Bromley's

fixed term exclusion data is much better than statistical neighbours, and quite often London and national data.

Table 18. Percentage of children with at least one fixed term exclusion

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bromley	12.0%	16.7%	13.1%	10.5%
Statistical Neighbours	16.6%	18.1%	15.0%	13.4%
London	13.2%	13.4%	14.0%	13.4%
England	14.2%	13.8%	13.1%	12.4%

#### 4.4 Post 16 Destinations

Looking at the number of 19 year olds who were looked after at the age of 16 in 2012 there were 35 young people in this cohort, 20 (51%) were in some form of education, employment or training (EET). This compares to 15 (46%) who were not. (3% have been excluded through illness/disability) In 2013 the EET figure has fallen to 43%. This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 57%, a London average of 59% and an England average of 58%.

Work is being undertaken with the Virtual school team, leaving care team and the Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) to look at the cohort of LAC young people in the year 12, 13 and 14 age group to make sure that we have data recorded for each young person and that work is undertaken with them to increase their chances of going into education employment or training.

#### 4.4 Post 16 Accommodation

	All children now (2012) aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2009 when aged 16 years	Number in suitable accommodation	Percentage in suitable accommodation
Bromley	35	30	91%
Statistical Neighbours	555	460	83%
London	1,430	1,290	91%
England	6,610	5,840	88%

Bromley has always had a high percentage of young people in suitable accommodation. The figure is higher than statistical neighbours and national comparators and in line with the London average.

#### **4.5 Youth Offending and Substance Misuse**

In 2012 6.9% of 10-17 year old LAC young people in Bromley were convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year. This is exactly the same percentage as statistical neighbours, London and England.

In 2012 of the 185 young people who had been LAC for longer than 12 months 20 were identified as having a substance misuse problem. All of these young people were offered an intervention but refused during the year. Table 40 in Appendix 1 offers a full breakdown by comparator groups.