

Committee(s)	Date:
Community and Children's Services Committee	08/06/2018
Subject: Case Study Appendix re Placement Stability - Q4	
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Unaccompanied Asylum - Seeking Child Case Study RJ

RJ – Age 16 - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child who arrived in the City of London in September 2015 aged 13 having travelled across Asia and Europe to UK.

RJ had been in placement in Harrow since March 2016. Placement had become fragile following incidents at school resulting in exclusion. Also, RJ spent a lot of time away from the placement in the evening and in addition, his poor hygiene was causing problems for the rest of the household.

- Goes missing from long term placement in Harrow on 03/08/17- full safeguarding processes implemented with police to locate whereabouts however not successful. On 12/9/17 contacts Social Worker. Decision made that he should not return to the previous placement.
- 12/09/17 Emergency placement identified in Bromley.
- 13/09/17 Placement breaks down as RJ runs away. Refusing to stay in placement. This was an emergency placement until a better matched placement could be found.
- On 13/09/17 Another Emergency placement identified- this time in Waltham Forest.
- 28/09/17 moves from Waltham Forest to new placement in Barking and Dagenham. This is a planned move.
- 27/12/17 placement breaks down following altercation with foster carer's son. Refuses to stay in placement.
- 27/12/17- moves to a new placement where he remains. Placement is more stable than previous placement and extra support is being provided with the aim of ensuring that it endures. There is current contingency plan to place in residential accommodation if this placement breaks down.

Challenges are associated with our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children as they often have needs that are not known or shared with Children's Social Care.

Because of the National Transfer System, they are frequently placed, in the first instance, in emergency placements whilst a better match can be identified- this automatically creates increase in number of placement moves.

City of London continue to try to keep young people in Foster Placements wherever possible. Exceptionally, in this case, consideration will be given to a residential move to best meet this young person's needs, if the current placement is not successful.

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