

<b>Item No.</b> 10	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> June 18 2008	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Health of Looked after Children, Substance Use and Teenage Pregnancy	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note strategies to address specific health needs of looked after children.
2. To note Southwark's progress in developing targeted services for looked after children.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Department of Health guidance "promoting the health of looked after children" was issued November 2002 following the Children's Act (Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2002).
4. The aim was to improve the health of children and young people in public care by improving collaboration between health and social care in assessing and ensuring health needs were addressed in a more integrated way between health and social care services.
5. Numerous studies have demonstrated that Looked after children are disadvantaged in practically every aspect of life compared with the general population. In the White Paper "Care Matters – Time to Deliver for Children in Care", there are requirements to also address specific health needs through partnerships with lead health professionals.
6. It is recognised that Southwark has significant challenges with regards to teenage pregnancy and substance misuse by young people which are subject to corporate and Young Southwark strategies to promote education, early intervention and targeted services.
7. The Memorandum of Understanding Between DfES & National Treatment Agency (2007-2011) sets out the commitment of these bodies to work together in securing substantial improvements in young people's substance misuse treatment systems across England, ensuring that specialist services are commissioned and delivered within a children's services framework.
8. Looked after children are recognised as being particularly vulnerable to substance misuse and teenage pregnancy as there are clear links between stable family life, resilience and aspiration and vulnerability to teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. During 2007/08, the Children Looked after business unit has developed specific practice initiatives with health and substance misuse agencies to deliver bespoke programmes for Looked after children.
10. Each programme benefits from a partnership funded post to lead on delivering staff training, improved preventative services and targeted interventions for the most vulnerable Looked after children.
11. The integrated service to promote the health needs of Looked after children was recognised by the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspectors as an example of a high quality service developed jointly between the PCT and specialist services.

### **Teenage Pregnancy**

12. Appendix 1 outlines the range of services and interventions being delivered for Looked after children in care to promote positive decision-making and avoid teenage pregnancy.
13. Screening for teenage pregnancy for looked after children only commenced in December 2007. Data collection for CLA is not currently a government reporting requirement. There is therefore no comparative data relating to CLA across London or England. This may well become a reporting requirement for all local authorities as part of the Care Matters framework.

### **Substance Misuse**

14. Appendix 2 outlines the strategy being delivered in the CLA service to promote awareness and early recognition for young people in care who may be vulnerable to substance misuse and to deliver bespoke interventions.
15. In Southwark, 4.9% of LAC for at least 12 months were identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year. This is an increase on last year's percentage of 4.5%; however, Southwark is still below the Inner London average of 7% and national average of 5.4%. 85.7% of those identified, received an intervention for their substance misuse problem, a slight reduction on last year (90.5%). Southwark is still significantly above the Inner London and national average of 61% and 61.7% respectively.

**Table 10a: Substance misuse of children looked after continuously for at least twelve months, year ending 30 September  
Year: 2007**

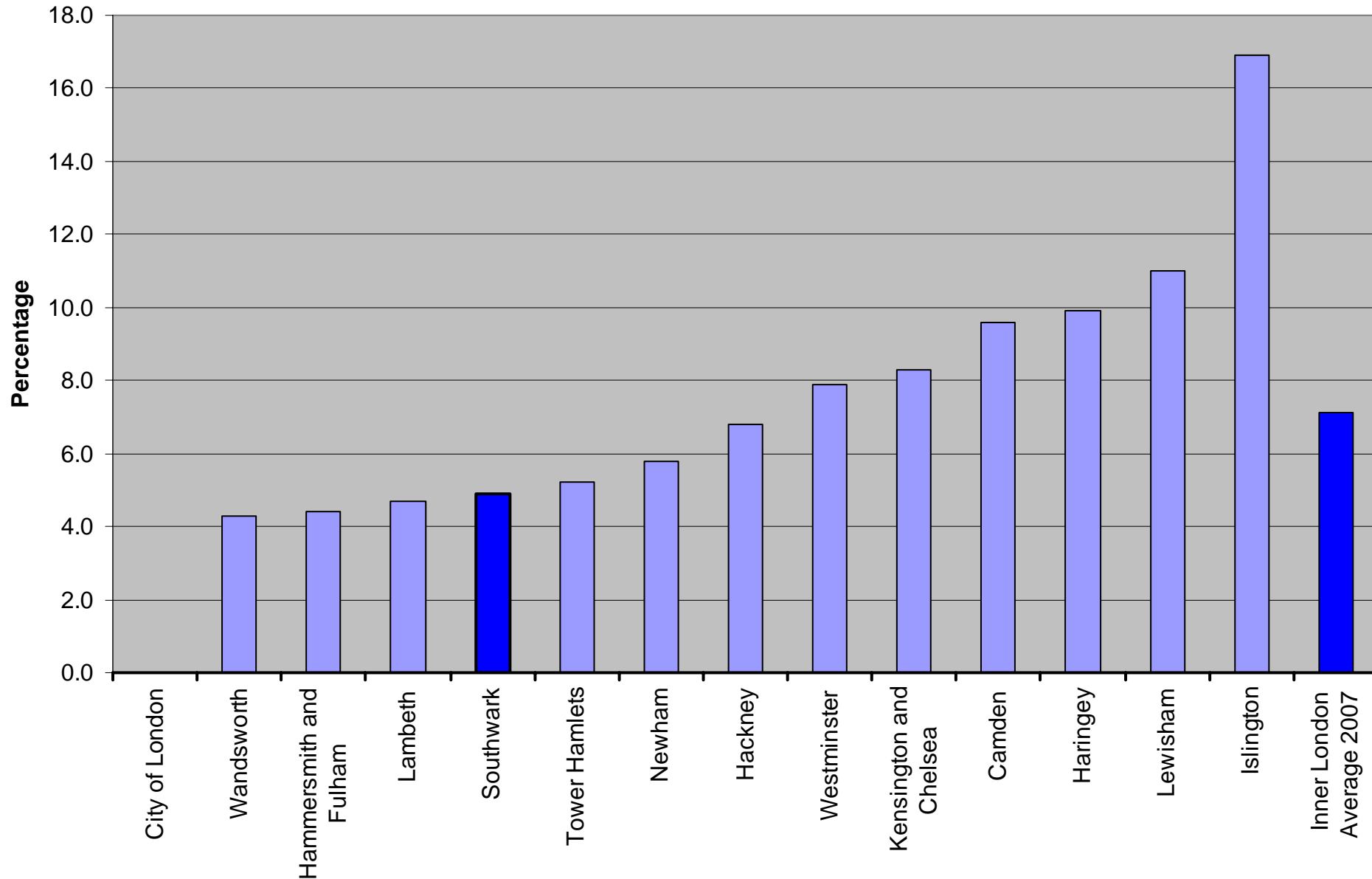
Local Authority	number looked after for at least twelve months	numbers and percentages					
		of these:		and of these:			
		number identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year <sup>1</sup>		number who received an intervention for their substance misuse problem during the year <sup>2</sup>		number who were offered an intervention but who refused it during the year <sup>2</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>44,200</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>33.4</b>
<b>LONDON</b>	<b>8,070</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>INNER LONDON</b>							
City of London	15	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wandsworth	185	10	4.3	-	-	0	0.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	250	10	4.4	10	90.9	-	-
Lambeth	445	20	4.7	-	-	15	76.2
<b>Southwark</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Tower Hamlets	250	15	5.2	5	53.8	5	46.2
Newham	500	30	5.8	10	34.5	10	34.5
Hackney	365	25	6.8	20	84.0	-	-
Westminster	200	15	7.9	10	75.0	-	-
Kensington and Chelsea	130	10	8.3	-	-	-	-
Camden	230	20	9.6	20	81.8	-	-
Haringey	325	30	9.9	20	62.5	10	34.4
Lewisham	335	35	11.0	15	35.1	-	-
Islington	265	45	16.9	30	71.1	15	28.9
<b>Inner London Average 2007</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>
Southwark 2006	460	20	4.5	20	90.5	-	-
Inner London Average 2006	305	22	7	14	62	13	42

1. Expressed as a percentage of the number of children looked after at 30 September who had been looked after for at least twelve months.

2. Expressed as a percentage of the number of children identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year.

.. Not available

**Percentage of Looked After Children for at least 12 Months identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year 2007**



## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Teenage Pregnancy

16. The London Borough of Southwark's Teenage Pregnancy Board have approved funding of the CLA Specialist Nurse for teenage pregnancy for a further three years from April 2008.
17. The priorities and workplan for the specialist nurse are agreed by the joint CLA Health Steering Group and the Teenage Pregnancy Board. There are quarterly performance monitoring reports provided for the board in keeping with funding requirements.

### Substance Misuse

18. The specialist CLA substance misuse worker was funded for two years until March 2008. The Drug Action Team (DAAT) is reviewing their project funding arrangements/commitments following a significant reduction in the total available budget. Financial and performance monitoring reports are regularly submitted to the corporate Drug Action Steering Group where the impact of this post has been monitored.
19. It is anticipated that a decision concerning future funding will be made by July 2008.

## CONSULTATION

20. The role of the designated nurse has been subject to specific discussions with Speakerbox. These have included the most appropriate way to engage young people and to provide meaningful advice and consultation. Young people have also been involved in designing the leaflets/flyers which advocate the service.
21. The specialist substance misuse advisor undertakes routine feedback activity with each young person who has received an intervention. These are collated and fed back to the DAAT Steering Group as part of the quarterly reporting processes. This has enabled the service to identify which services are most appreciated by young people in care and are the most accessible/user friendly.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

### Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services

22. There are no legal implications contained within this report.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Promoting the health of Looked after children (Department of Health)	Mabel Goldwyn House 49 Grange Walk	Rory Patterson 020 7525 3846
"Care Matters – Time to Deliver for Children in Care" (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Mabel Goldwyn House 49 Grange Walk	Rory Patterson 020 7525 3846
Memorandum of Understanding	Mabel Goldwyn House	Rory Patterson

between DFES and National Treatment Agency (2007-11)	49 Grange Walk	020 7525 3846
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## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Report for Teenage Pregnancy
Appendix 2	Report for Substance Misuse

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson Assistant Director: Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Saunders Head of Children Looked after Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	June 9 2008	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
<b>Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services</b>	No	No
<b>Director of Finance</b>	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	June 10 2008	