

Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday September 24 2009

1.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UB

Membership

Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Veronica Ward (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Olajumoke Oyewunmi
Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Althea Smith

Reserves

Councillor James Barber
Councillor John Friary
Councillor Michelle Holford
Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Ian Wingfield

Non Voting Co-opted Members: Barbara Hills (South Primary Care Trust),
Natalia Sali (Young Southwark Children's Trust)

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Bola Roberts on 020 7525 7232 or email: bola.roberts@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Annie Shepperd

Chief Executive

Date: September 15 2009



Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday September 24 2009
1.00 pm
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UB

Order of Business

| Item No. | Title | Page No. |
|----------|---|----------|
| | MOBILE PHONES | |
| | Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting. | |
| | PART A - OPEN BUSINESS | |
| 1. | APOLOGIES | |
| | To receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 2. | CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS | |
| | A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee. | |
| 3. | NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT | |
| | In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting. | |
| 4. | DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS | |
| | Members to declare any personal interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting. | |
| 5. | MINUTES | 1 - 3 |
| | To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on June 25 2009. | |
| 6. | CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT | 4 - 18 |

| Item No. | Title | Page No. |
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| | To note the report, and endorse the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability. | |
| 7. | SPEAKERBOX UPDATE | 19 - 26 |
| | To note the work undertaken by Speakerbox to date, and comment on current progress. | |
| 8. | ANNUAL REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICERS (IRO) SERVICE | 27 - 44 |
| | To note the progress of the independent reviewing officer service and comment on the sufficiency of progress on the action plan | |
| 9. | UPDATE ON GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS | 45 - 46 |
| | To note the measures undertaken by the Children Looked After Service to gather the Exam and Key stage 1 (KS1) and Key stage (KS2) results for Southwark children in care, and give consideration to how this process might be improved. | |
| 10. | WORK PLAN | 47 - 49 |
| | To consider reviewing the work plan for 2009 -10. | |

ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY OTHER CLOSED BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday June 25 2009 at 1.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki
Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Althea Smith

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Rory Patterson, Sarah Feasey, Everton Roberts, Bola Roberts,
Eleanor Parkin

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as being present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensations.

5. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the open minutes of the meeting held on Thursday April 2 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. LONG TERM STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS**RESOLVED:**

That the latest analysis of children and young people who have breached the indicator and the overall improvement in the stability of placements in Southwark be noted.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF LAMING'S REPORT AND THE NEW CAA INSPECTION FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**RESOLVED:**

That the strategic implications for the Corporate Parenting Committee and in particularly those relating to the Information Sharing System (ICS) and the new Looked After Children (LAC) inspection regime be noted.

8. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES**RESOLVED:**

1. That the new Youth Offending Service protocol issued in November 2008 be noted.
2. That the steps taken to improve preventative and support strategies for children involved in offending behaviour be noted.

9. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE REPORT**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted and the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability be endorsed.
2. That an analysis be carried out and report be brought back to the next meeting on children looked after key stage 2 results (paragraph 4.5.1 of the report) and wider achievement. Report to also include information on the links between children looked after, educational attainment/training and employment and the special educational needs of young people in care.
3. That the corporate parenting committee welcomes the opportunity that Southwark council taking responsibility for the Learning and Skills Councils may bring, to

strengthen links with training providers in order to improve performance in the number of care leavers in education, employment or training.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Agenda Item 6

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Children Looked After: Performance Monitoring Report | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Children's Services | |

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1 That the committee note this report, and endorse the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 Services for Children Looked After (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators. Southwark's latest performance against these indicators, together with other relevant activity data, can be seen in the CLA Business Unit Report (appendix 1).
- 3 This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
- 4 Data in appendix 1 shows the comparative position of Southwark's Statistical Neighbours (SN) which under the new system are; Hackney, Lambeth, Haringey, Islington, Lewisham, Hammersmith and Fulham, Greenwich, Waltham Forest, Camden, Newham

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5 Overall the performance for adoption for Southwark as at the end of June 09 is strong and improving.

PARTICULAR SUCCESS

- 6 As at end of 2008/09 quarter 4. of the 86 Care Leavers, 82 of them are in suitable accommodation a 95% rate; exceeding 2008/09 Target, 2007/08 performance and 2007/08 SN of 93%, 91.6% and 91.1% respectively. We have currently exceeded this performance having all 22 Care Leavers (aged 19) in suitable accommodation; again exceeding our 2009/10 Target of 93%.
- 7 We currently have a total of 10 adoptions (including 2 SGOs); a 3.2% rate; inline with our excellent performance of last year's Q1 of 3.4% and exceeding the quarterly average target of 2.4% (an annual Target of 9.5%)

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

- 8 Slight improvement from last years performance of 62.9% Care Leavers in EET to 63.6% ending 2009/10 Q1, but well below our 2009/10 Target of 71%

ONES TO WATCH

- 9 There was a 27.4% increase in the number of moves from last year's Q1 of 9.3% CLA in 3+ placements to 11.9% ending June 2009, however a drop from 2008/09 FINAL outturn of 14.1%
- 10 The number of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 has shown great improvement over the years, however increasing back up to 101.8 per 10,000 (555 CLA) from last year's outturn of 97.8 per 10,000 population aged under 18 (533 CLA)
- 11 Of the 209 of CLA aged 10 to 15, Southwark had 176 in foster placements or placed for adoption an 84.2% rate; below the target of 87% and worse in performance than 2008/09 outturn of 86.0% (185 of 215) and 2007/08 SN performance of 83%.
- 12 There has been a reducing trend in the number of CLA living with relatives/friends from 7.3% in 2007/08 to 6.1% in 2008/09 (6.3% in 2008/09 Q1) and is currently 5.9%. However, this is balanced by the good rate of adoption and Special Guardianship Orders.

SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 2009 INDICATOR SET

Accommodation of Children Looked After

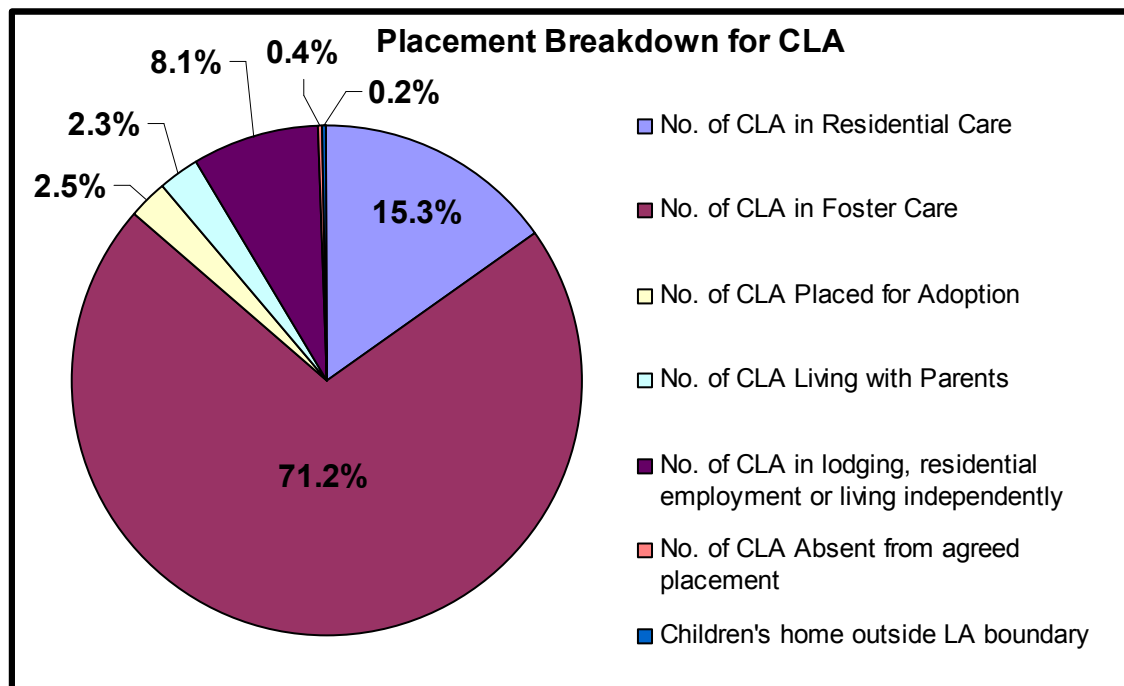


Fig 1: Accommodation Breakdown of CLA in Southwark

- 13 With the reduction in the number of CLA, the % of CLA in Residential Care (*APA 2052SC, Indicator 1*) increased from 2007/08 outturn of 14.8% (85 of 574 CLA) to 15.8% (84 of 533 CLA) end March 2009, and is currently 15.3% (85 of 555) ending 2009/10 Q1. 2007/08. SN average was 15%.
- 14 Whereas there was a slight drop in the % of CLA in Foster Care (*Indicator 2*) from 2007/08 outturn of 75.1% (431 of 574 CLA) to 70.7% (377 of 533 CLA) end March 2009, but increased slightly to 71.2% (395 of 555) ending 2009/10 Q1. SN average was 73%
- 15 There are currently 45 CLA in lodging, residential employment or living independently (*Indicator 5*) an increase from 07/08 outturn of 32 CLA and a slight drop from 08/09 outturn of 47 CLA.
- 16 There are 13 CLA Living with Parents (*Indicator 4*) ending June 09; slightly higher than last year's outturn of 10.

Legal Status of Children Looked After

- 17 There has been an increase in the number of Interim Care Orders, from 67 in 07/08 to 75 ending Mar 09 and is currently 86 ending 09/10 Q1; and may be a reflection of the events in Haringey last year. Indicator 14
- 18 There has been a drop in the number of Section 20 Agreements from 232 in 05/06 to 188 in 07/08 and 173 ending Mar 09; however it has currently increased to 187 ending 09/10 Q1. Indicator 12
- 19 The number of children with Full Care Orders has dropped from 317 in 05/06 to 304 07/08 and 246 ending Mar 09; a further drop to 239 ending June 2009. Indicator 13

Placement Choice

No. of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Indicator 46) – 2042SC:

20 This Indicator has shown great improvement from a 105 rate (574 CLA) ending 2007/08 to 97.8 (533 Children Looked After) ending 2008/09; exceeding our 2008/09 Target of 101. However, ending June 2009 (09/10 Q1), there has been a 4.1% increase in the number of CLA to 555 (101.8 per 10,000); comparing 1.8% above our 2009/10 Target.

21 Although this PI has shown great improvement from previous years down from 660 (120 rate) in 2003/04 outturn, however the rate still stands higher than as compared with it's 07/08 SN of 87.

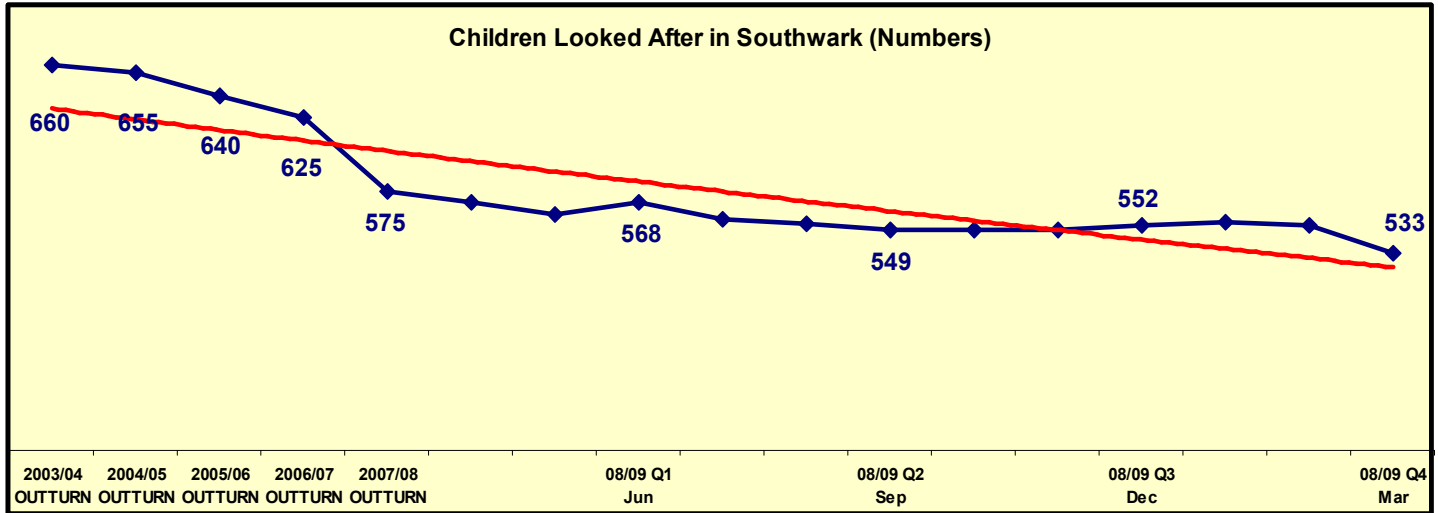


Fig 3: Southwark Performance over the years

% of CLA fostered by Relative or Friend (Indicator 48) – 2054SC:

22 There has been a steady drop in the proportion of CLA living with a relative or friend (excluding living with parents) from 04/05 outturn of 8.6% (55 of 646) to 07/08 outturn at 7.3% (41 of 565) to 6.1% (32 of 522) ending 2008/09 and is currently 5.9% (32 of 542) ending 09/10 Q1.

23 However, this is balanced by the good rate of adoption and Special Guardianship Orders.

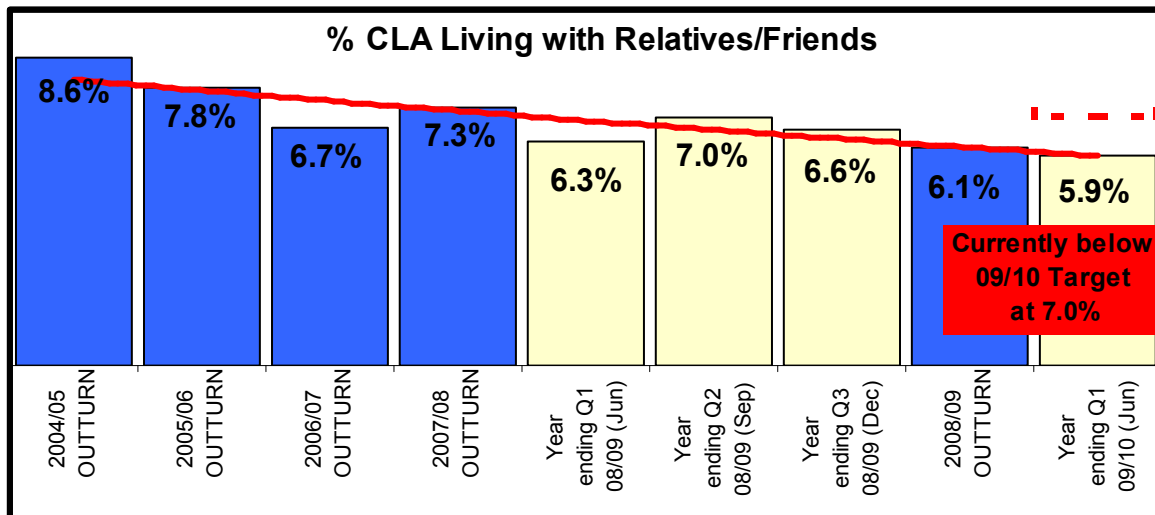


Fig 4: % CLA being fostered by a Relative or a Friend

24 Our performance is currently poorer than our 2009/10 Target and 2007/08 SN Averages of 7.0% and 9.8% by -15.7% and -34.4% respectively.

% CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement (Indicator 54) – 2068SC

25 There has, however, been an increase in the proportion of CLA (aged 10 – 15) in Foster Placement (or Placed for adoption) from 06/07 outturn at 79.8% (194 of 243) to 07/08 outturn at 85.7% (192 of 224) to 86.0% (185 of 215) ending 2008/09 but recently dropped to 84.2% (176 of 209) ending 09/10 Q1; -3.2% below our 2009/10 Target of 87%

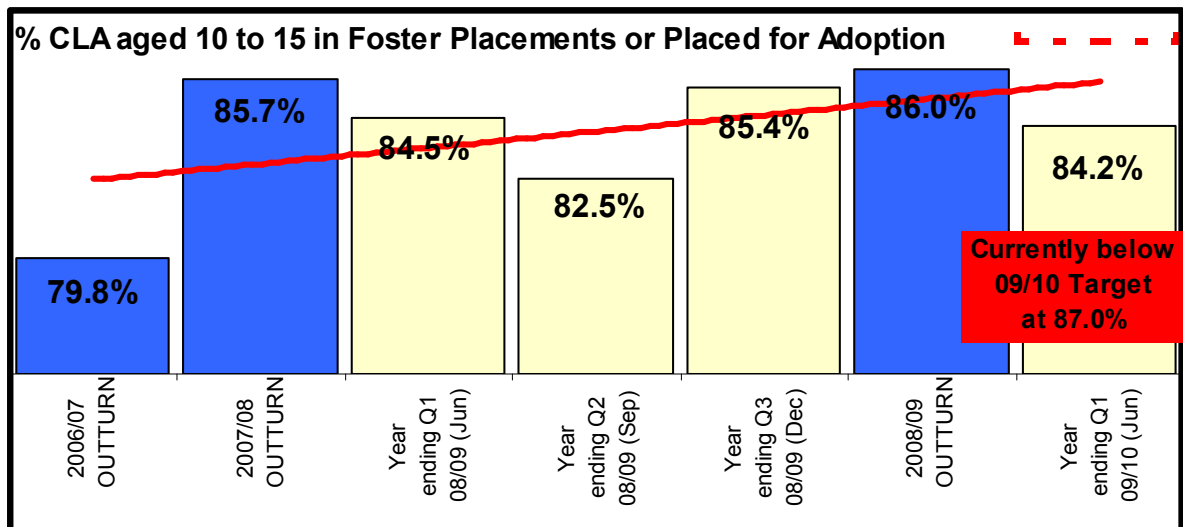


Fig 5: CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement/placed for adoption

Adoption**NI 62: Number of Moves(3+ Placements) Indicator 39:**

26 At 11.9% rate, we are worse than last year's Q1 by 27.4% but just slightly worse than our 2009/10 target by 3.4% at 11.5%

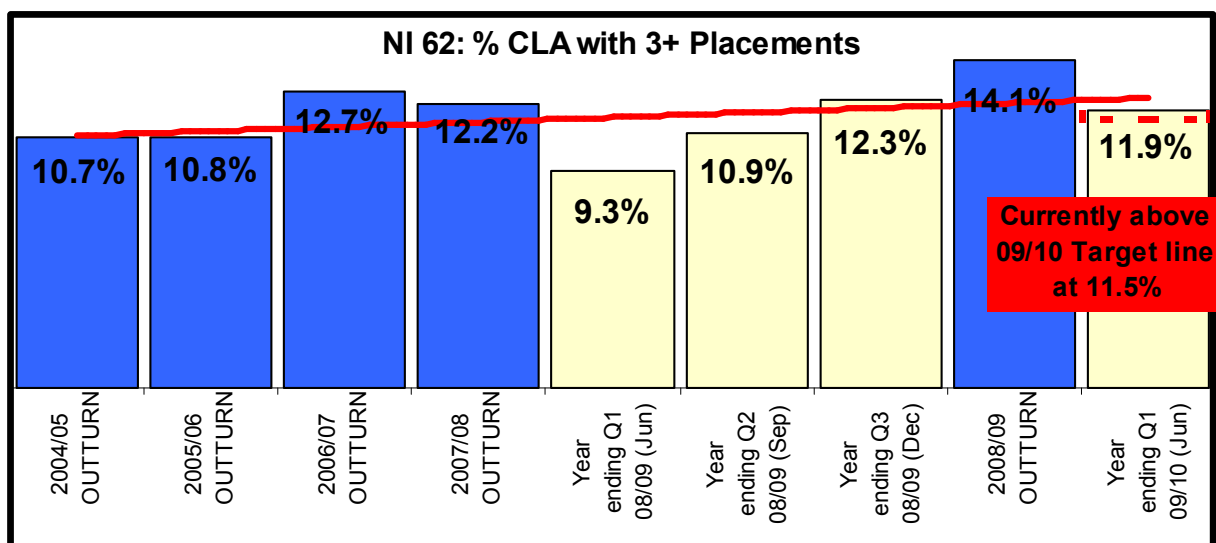


Fig 6: Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (No. of moves)

27 We are also worse in performance than our 2007/08 statistical neighbours, London and England averages (of 10.2%, 11.2% and 11.4%) by 16.7%, 6.3% and 4.4% respectively.

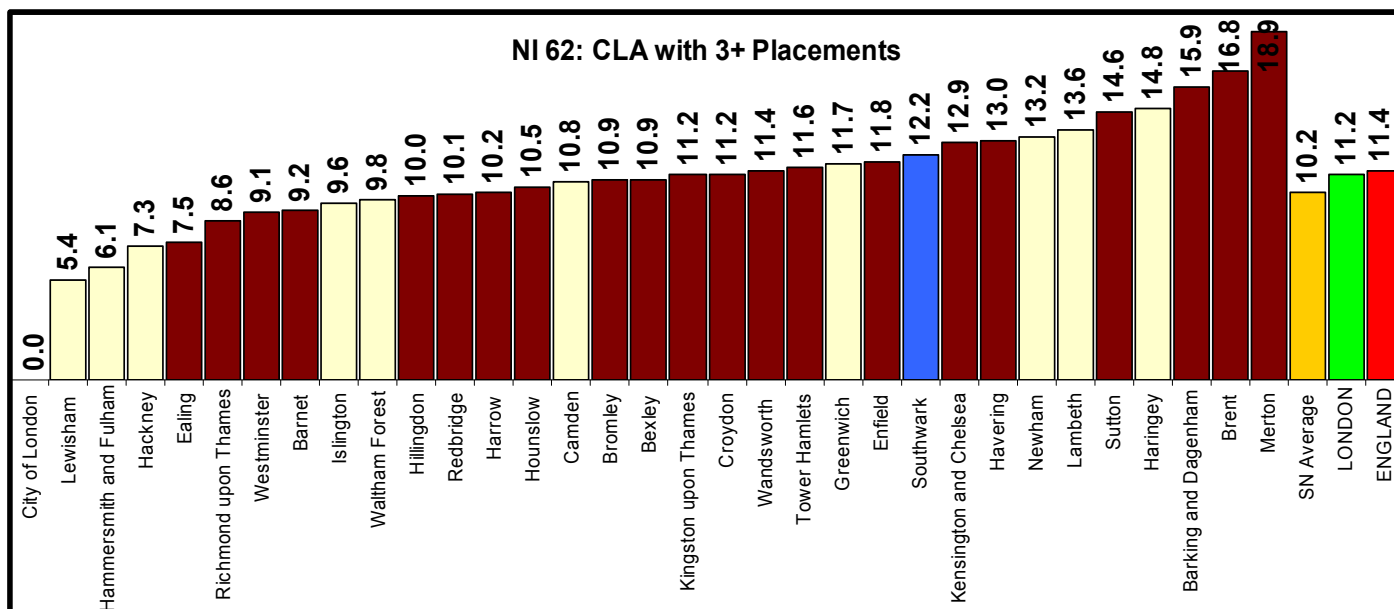


Fig 7: No. of moves (Comparing with SN, London & England)

APA 2059SC (CYPP 27): % of CLA adopted from Looked After Care (Indicator 58)

28 At 3.2% adoption rate, we are just below last years Q1 (at 3.4%) by 5.9% and are meeting our quarterly average Target at 2.4% (Annual Target is 9.5%).

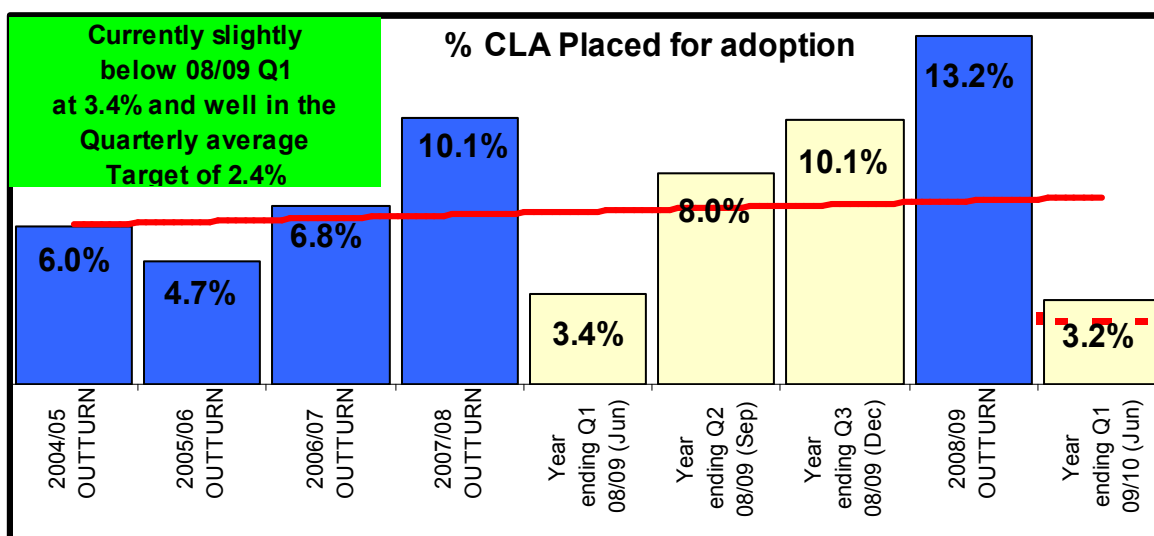


Fig 8: CLA Adopted from Looked After Care

Care Leavers

NI 148: Care Leavers in EET (Indicator 66)

29 Of the 22 Care Leavers (aged 19), we currently have 14 in Education, Employment or Training; a good improvement from last year's outturn of 61.9% to 63.6% ending June 2009.

30 We are below the 09/10 Target, 2007/08 SN, London and England Averages at 71%, 68.0%, 68.3% and 64.9% respectively.

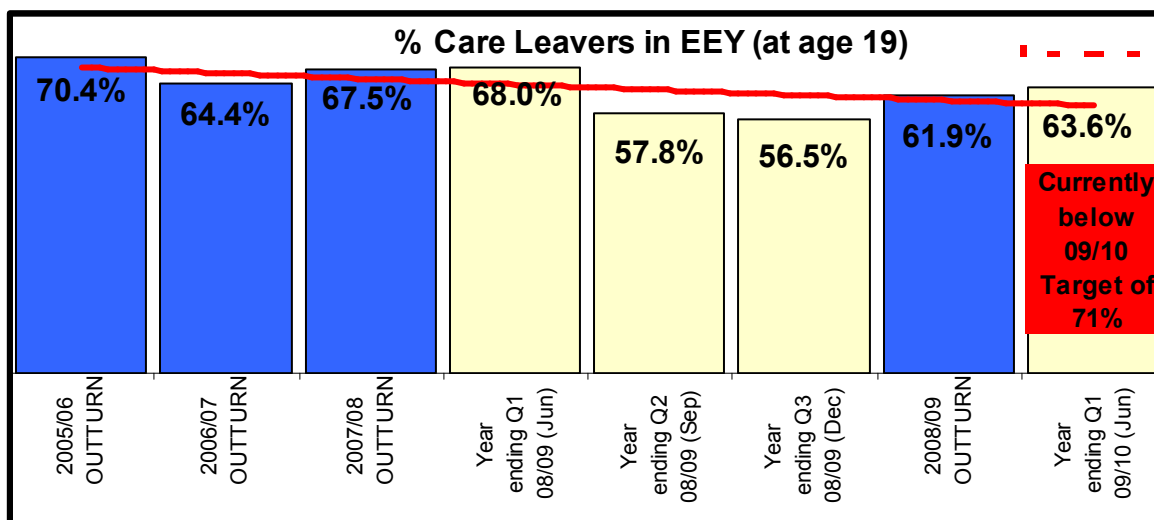


Fig 11: Care Leavers in EET

NI 147: Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (Indicator 67)

31 We currently have all 22 Care Leavers (aged 19) living in Suitable Accommodation, ending 09/10 Q1, exceeding our 09/10 Target at 93%.

32

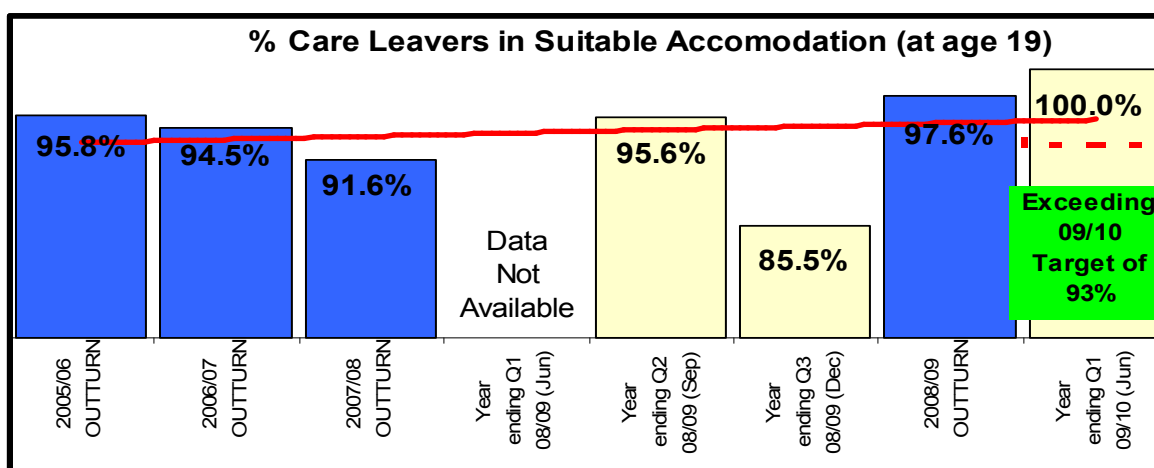


Fig 12: Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Policy Implications

33 This decision has been judged to have no policy implications.

Community Impact Statement

34 The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a big impact on children looked after from all communities. The ethnicity breakdown of the children looked after population is shown in appendix 1.

Resource Implications

35 This decision has no resource implications.

Consultation

36 The management teams of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in appendix 1.

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

37 There are no specific implications

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Every Child Matters Performance Reports | Performance Team | 'Eko Gilbert 0207 525 5243 |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Children Looked After Business Unit Performance Report 2009/10 Quarter 1 (June 2009) |

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson | |
| Report Author | 'Eko Gilbert / Gwen Sinnott | |
| Version | Draft | |
| Dated | 24 th September 2009 | |
| Key Decision? | Yes/No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance | No | Yes/No |
| Finance Director | No | Yes/No |
| List other officers here | No | |
| Executive Member | Yes | No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | 14 th September 2009 | |

Children Looked After Business Unit Report

Quarterly Report
(June 2009)

Southwark
Primary Care Trust



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| 3 | Key Messages from The Assistant Director's Office |
| 4 | Children Looked After - numbers |
| 6 | Children Looked After - Indicators |
| 8 | Glossary |

Key Messages

Statistical Year Ending - (09/10) June 2009

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| General | <p>Overall the performance for adoption for Southwark as at the end of June 09 is strong and improving</p> |
| Particular Successful | <p>Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation: As at end of 2008/09 quarter 4, of the 86 Care Leavers, 82 of them are in suitable accommodation a 95% rate, exceeding 2008/09 Target, 2007/08 performance and 2007/08 SN of 93%, 91.6% and 91.1% respectively. We have currently exceeded this performance having all 22 Care Leavers (aged 19) in suitable accommodation; again exceeding our 2009/10 Target of 93%.</p> |
| Particular Concern | <p>Number of CLA Adoptions & SGOs: As of June 2009, we currently have a total of 10 adoptions (including 2 SGOs); a 3.2% rate; inline with our excellent performance of last year's Q1 of 3.4% and exceeding the quarterly average target of 2.4% (an annual Target of 9.5%)</p> |
| Areas of Concern | <p>% CLA adopted from Looked After Care: has shown improvement over the year and with a current figure of 7.2% end 08/09 Quarter 3; expected to therefore exceed it's target of 7.5% at year end.</p> |
| Ones to Watch | <p>Care Leavers in EET: Slight improvement from last years performance of 62.9% Care Leavers in EET to 63.6% ending 2009/10 Q1, but well below our 2009/10 Target of 71%</p> |
| | <p>NI 62 (3+ Placement): There was a 27.4% increase in the number of moves from last year's Q1 of 9.3% CLA in 3+ placements to 11.9% ending June 2009, however a drop from 2008/09 FINAL outturn of 14.1%</p> <p>The number of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 has shown great improvement over the years, however increasing back up to 101.8 per 10,000 (555 CLA) from last year's outturn of 97.8 per 10,000 population aged under 18 (533 CLA)</p> <p>Of the 209 of CLA aged 10 to 15, Southwark had 176 in foster placements or placed for adoption an 84.2% rate; below the target of 87% and worse in performance than 2008/09 outturn of 86.0% (185 of 215) and 2007/08 SN performance of 83%.</p> <p>There has been a reducing trend in the number of CLA living with relatives/friends from 7.3% in 2007/08 to 6.1% in 2008/09 (6.3% in 2008/09 Q1) and is currently 5.9%. However, this is balanced by the good rate of adoption and Special Guardianship Orders</p> |
| | <p>ONS mid year population estimates for 2007 have been published, which show a 212 increase in the 0-17 Southwark population to 54,522. 2007/08 end of year outturns have been revised to reflect the new population data. 2008/09 figures also use the 2007 pop</p> <p>2007-08 Statistical Neighbour (SN) averages and England averages have been published and are now reflected in this scorecard</p> <p>NFER statistical neighbours (SN) for Southwark [Note that the NFER's Children's Services statistical neighbours benchmarking groups were published in Feb 2007 and are designed to be used across all children's services data] Hackney, Lambeth, Haringey, Islington, Lewisham, Hammersmith and Fulham, Greenwich, Waltham Forest, Camden and Newham</p> <p>YOT families - Youth Offending data Lambeth, Hackney, Islington, Lewisham, Haringey, Tower Hamlets & City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Camden</p> <p>This report shows monthly trends and Southwark's progress towards 2006/07 targets set as part of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA), Joint Area Review (JAR) and Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). It is an aid to monitor performance through out</p> <p>Data in this report is from the latest available Children's Management Information bulletin produced by Liza Bahula.</p> <p>Rory Patterson ▶▶▶ Asst. Dir of Specialist Services & Safeguarding Chris Saunders ▶▶▶ Head of Children Looked After Business Unit Gwen Sinnott ▶▶▶ Head of Performance and Evaluation</p> <p>Produced by Performance & Evaluation Team Contact e-mail Address Eko.Gilbert@Southwark.gov.uk Telephone 0207 525 5243 (Internal - 55243)</p> |

| REPORT | Description | 2003/04 OUTTURN | 2004/05 OUTTURN | 2005/06 OUTTURN | 2006/07 OUTTURN | 2007/08 OUTTURN | Year ending Q1 08/09 (Jun) | Year ending Q2 08/09 (Sep) | Year ending Q3 08/09 (Dec) | Year ending Q4 08/09 (Mar) | Year ending Q1 09/10 (Jun) |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Placement Breakdown | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | No. of CLA in Residential Care | 81 | 81 | 94 | 90 | 85 | 88 | 90 | 85 | 84 | 85 |
| 2 | No. of CLA in Foster Care | 468 | 481 | 463 | 419 | 431 | 422 | 384 | 388 | 377 | 395 |
| 3 | No. of CLA Placed for Adoption | 28 | 30 | 31 | 24 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 17 | 14 | 14 |
| 4 | No. of CLA Living with Parents | 21 | 24 | 15 | 27 | 9 | 11 | 19 | 9 | 10 | 13 |
| 5 | No. of CLA in lodging, residential employment or living independently | 71 | 43 | 37 | 62 | 32 | 34 | 37 | 47 | 47 | 45 |
| 6 | No. of CLA Absent from agreed placement | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | Children's home outside LA boundary | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 8 | Total CLA | 669 | 661 | 641 | 623 | 574 | 568 | 549 | 552 | 533 | 555 |
| 9 | No. of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children | 86 | 72 | 71 | 86 | 59 | 55 | 50 | 43 | 40 | not available |
| 10 | No. of CLA Adoptions (YTD) | | | | | | | | 23 | 31 | 8 |
| 11 | No. of SGOs (YTD) | | | | | | | | 17 | 23 | 2 |
| 12 | No. Adoptions within Timescale | | | | | | | | 21 | 31 | 6 |
| 13 | No. of CLA Adoptions including SGOs (YTD) | 28 | 30 | 23 | 32 | 44 | 14 | 33 | 40 | 54 | 10 |
| 14 | (No. of CLA Fostered by a Relative or Friend) | | 55 | 49 | 40 | 41 | 35 | 37 | 36 | 32 | 32 |
| Legal Status of Children Looked After | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | No. of CLA on Section 20 agreements | N/a | 241 | 232 | 227 | 188 | 190 | 175 | 174 | 173 | 187 |
| 16 | No. of CLA on Full Care Order | N/a | 323 | 317 | 308 | 304 | 285 | 267 | 255 | 246 | 239 |
| 17 | No. of CLA in Interim Care Order | 93 | 92 | 82 | 80 | 67 | 74 | 77 | 79 | 75 | 86 |
| 18 | No. of CLA - Other legal status | N/a | 5 | 10 | 18 | 15 | 19 | 30 | 44 | 39 | 40 |
| 19 | Under Police Protection in LA Accommodation | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

| REPORT | Children Looked After Business Unit Report | | | | | | (Numbers) | | | | | June 2009 | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| | Description | 2003/04 OUTURN | 2004/05 OUTURN | 2005/06 OUTURN | 2006/07 OUTURN | 2007/08 OUTURN | Year ending Q1 08/09 (Jun) | Year ending Q2 08/09 (Sep) | Year ending Q3 08/09 (Dec) | Year ending Q4 08/09 (Mar) | Year ending Q1 09/10 (Jun) | | |
| Ethnicity Breakdown | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | White British | 205 | | | | | 156 | 160 | 161 | 151 | 156 | | |
| 21 | White Irish | 24 | 230 | 243 | 230 | 201 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 13 | | |
| 22 | White - Other | 35 | | | | | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 16 | | |
| 23 | White & Black Caribbean | 72 | | | | | 52 | 45 | 43 | 43 | 43 | | |
| 24 | White & Black African | 5 | 124 | 103 | 94 | 85 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 11 | | |
| 25 | White & Asian | 3 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 26 | Other Mixed | 25 | | | | | 26 | 21 | 30 | 32 | 33 | | |
| 27 | Asian - Indian | 0 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 28 | Asian - Pakistani | 1 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | | |
| 29 | Asian - Bangladeshi | 2 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 35 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | |
| 30 | Asian - Other | 7 | | | | | 29 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 33 | | |
| 31 | Black Caribbean | 44 | | | | | 58 | 61 | 63 | 56 | 66 | | |
| 32 | Black African | 116 | 251 | 244 | 244 | 229 | 113 | 106 | 103 | 103 | 98 | | |
| 33 | Black Other | 91 | | | | | 60 | 56 | 57 | 53 | 59 | | |
| 34 | Chinese | 2 | 32 | 27 | 33 | 24 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | |
| 35 | Other | 37 | | | | | 15 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 13 | | |
| 36 | Un-obtainable | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| | Total CLA | 669 | 661 | 641 | 623 | 574 | 568 | 549 | 552 | 533 | 555 | | |
| Care Leavers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation | | | | | | | 43 | 59 | 82 | 22 | | |
| 38 | Care Leavers in EET | | | | | | 17 | 26 | 39 | 52 | 14 | | |
| 39 | Care Leavers in Cohort (at age 19) | | | | | | 25 | 45 | 69 | 84 | 22 | | |
| Stability | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Looked after for at least 6 months | | 503 | 492 | 473 | 434 | 409 | 410 | 398 | 409 | 311 | | |
| 41 | no CLA 3+ placement | | 71 | 69 | 79 | 70 | 53 | 60 | 68 | 75 | 66 | | |
| 42 | of those living in same placement for 2yrs + | | | | | 139 | 121 | 129 | 123 | 116 | 107 | | |
| 43 | Under 16 looked after for 2-1/2yrs | | | | | 198 | 190 | 188 | 180 | 172 | 169 | | |

| REPORT | NI Ref | CYPP Ref | APA Ref | Description | Baseline | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 Q1 | 2008/09 Target | 2009/10 Target | Direction of Travel | On Target? (Yes/No) | Outturn Vs Target | Quartile Grading (2007/08) | Quartile Grading (2008/09) | Comments | London (08/09) | England (08/09) | |
|--------|--------------|----------|------------|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 44 | | CYPP 11 | APA 1037SC | PAF C19: Health of children looked after | | 85.8% | 89.1% | 91.3% | Annual | 88.0% | 90.0% | ↔ | Yes | E | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | LON= 91% SN = 91% | | 87.0% | |
| 45 | NI 58 | | | Emotional and behavioural health of children in care DCSF DSO | | NEW | NEW | NEW | Annual | NEW | TBA | | | | Not Available | Not Available | Mean value of the child level SDQ scores for each child or young person aged 4 to 16 who has been looked after for a year. Data collection starts from 1st April 08, and reported through SSSA 903 return from March 09. CLA Health Steering group are looking at how the Health Assessment, Mental Health Screening, Teenage Pregnancy Screening and Substance use Screening tools can be used to identify the indicator | | | |
| 46 | | CYPP 24 | APA 2042SC | CH39: Children looked after 31 March per 10,000 pop aged under 18 | Targ set 0607 decrease from 0506 of 117 | 114.7 | 105.3 | 97.8 | 101.8 | 101.0 | 100.0 | ↔ | Yes | E | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | 66 (LON) 87 (SN) (2007/08) | 54 (2007/08) | | |
| 47 | | | | % CLA in Foster Placement | | 67.3% | 75.1% | 70.7% | 71.2% | 73.0% | 73.0% | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | | | APA 2054SC | % CLA in Fostered by Relatives or Friends | | 6.7% | 7.3% | 6.1% | 5.9% | 8.0% | 7.0% | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | NI 66 | | APA 2064SC | PAF C68: The percentage of children looked after at 31st March all of whose reviews during the year were completed on time. | (2006/07) 94.3% | 94.3% | 95.5% | 94.1% | Annual | 96.0% | 95.0% | ↘ | No | C | LOWER MIDDLE | Not Available | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | 91% (LON) 89.8% (SN) (2006/07) | 85.3% (2006/07) | |
| 50 | NI 62 | CYPP 25 | APA 2043SC | PAF A1: Percentage of children looked after with 3 or more placements during the year | Targ set 0607 at 9% Reviewed (CYPP) 12% | 12.7% | 12.2% | 14.1% | 11.9% | 12.0% | 11.5% | ↘ | No | B | LOWER MIDDLE | Not Available | The 903 appears to be looking at those who came in, went out and then came back into care as well as those we normally monitor whose period of care is continuous Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | LON = 11.2% SN = 10.2% Swk 24th Pos (LON) Swk 9th Pos (SN) City 1st (LON) @ 0% Lewisham 1st (SN) @ 5.4% (2007/08) | 11.4% Swk 94th Pos (ENG) City 1st (ENG) @ 0% (2007/08) | |
| 51 | NI 63 | | | Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement. % of LAC 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 | | *67.7% | 70.2% | 67.4% | 63.3% | 69.0% | 69.0% | ↘ | No | C | UPPER MIDDLE | Not Available | *Similar to old PAF D79 but NI 63 is tougher due to the numerator taking into account the total time spent in the previous placement and placement for adoption Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | LON = 66.8% SN = 66.2% Swk 15th Pos (LON) Swk 8th Pos (SN) Waltham Forest 1st (LON & SN) @ 79.3% (2007/08) | ENG = 65.7% Swk 45th Pos (ENG) Buckinghamshire 1st (ENG) @ 81.8% (2007/08) | |
| 52 | | | | C69: % of CLA who started to be looked after in the year who are placed outside 20 miles of their home address | | 5.2% (6/115) | 4.8% (6/124) | 7.3% (9/123) | | 5.0% | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | | | | % of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address | | 67.0% (6/115) | 69.0% (6/124) | 64.0% | | 65.0% | | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | | CYPP 26 | APA 2068SC | PAF B79: % of CLA aged 10 to 15 in foster placements or placed for adoption | Targ set 0607 increase 0.5% yearly | 79.8% (194/243) | 85.7% (192/224) | 86.0% (185/215) | 84.2% (176/209) | 86.0% (184/213) | 87.0% | ↔ | Yes | M | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | | | |
| 55 | NI 71 | | | Children who have run away from home/care overnight | | NEW | NEW | NEW | not available | NEW | NEW | | | | Not Applicable | Not Available | For introduction in 2009/10. Currently no robust data collection. | | | |
| 56 | NI 61 | | | % of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption | | 50.0% | 81.8% | 87.1% | Annual | 85.0% | 87.0% | ↔ | Yes | E | UPPER MIDDLE | Not Available | Having excluded figures of those whose placements were broken down before being adopted, has shown great improvement in performance of Southwark from 50% from 06/07 outturn to 07/08 outturn of 81.8%, staying in first place. | LON = 71.1% SN = 65% (2007/08) | ENG = 76.3% (2007/08) | |
| 57 | | | | % CLA Placed for Adoption | | 3.9% | 2.8% | 2.6% | 2.5% | TBA | TBA | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 | | CYPP 27 | APA 2059SC | PAF C23: Percentage of children looked after adopted from LA care | | 6.8% | 10.1% | 13.2% | 3.2% | 7.5% | 9.5% | ↔ | Yes | E | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | | | |
| 59 | | CYPP 46 | APA 3072SC | PAF A2: % young people leaving care at 16+ 1 GCSE grade A*-G or GNVQ | 44.3% (2005/06) | 47.3% | 57.1% (52/91) (06/07AcY) | 49.4% (39/79) (07/08AcY) | Annual | 65.0% | 67.5% | ↘ | No | B | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | | | |
| 60 | | | | % young people leaving care at 16+ with 5+ GCSE grade A*-G | | 6.6% | 12.1% | 15.2% | Annual | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 61 | NI 101 (LAA) | | | Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths) PSA 11 LAA | | NEW | NEW | not available | Annual | 10.5% (6 of 57) | 17.1% | | | | Not Available | Not Available | Not available until end Q1 09/10 | | | |
| 62 | | CYPP 47 | | Children Looked after with a Personal Education Plan | 89.4% (2005/06) | 100.0% | 88.4% | 91.1% | Annual | 95.0% | 96.0% | ↔ | No | I | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | | | | |

| REPORT | NI Ref | CYPP Ref | APA Ref | Description | Baseline | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 Q1 | 2008/09 Target | 2009/10 Target | Direction of Travel | On Target? (Yes/No) | Outturn Vs Target | Quartile Grading (2007/08) | Quartile Grading (2008/09) | Comments | London (08/09) | England (08/09) |
|--------|--------------|----------|------------|--|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 63 | NI 99 (LAA) | | | Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 PSA 11 LAA | 31% 8 of 26 (07/08AcYr) | NEW | 60% (9 of 15) (06/07AcYr) | 31% 8 of 26 (07/08AcYr) | Annual | 50% (17 out of 34) | 56.0% | ↘ | No | B | Not Available | LOWER | Based on OC2 Return | LON = 49% SN = 52.4% Swk 17th Pos (LON) (07/08AcYr) | ENG = 46% (07/08AcYr) |
| 64 | NI 100 (LAA) | | | Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 PSA 11 LAA | 27% 7 of 26 (07/08AcYr) | NEW | 40% (6 of 15) (06/07AcYr) | 27% 7 of 26 (07/08AcYr) | Annual | 50% (17 out of 34) | 56.0% | ↘ | No | B | Not Available | LOWER | Based on OC2 Return | LON = 44% SN = 52% Swk worst in London (07/08AcYr) | ENG = 44% Swk worst in England (07/08AcYr) |
| 65 | | CYPP 60 | APA 5022SC | PAF A4: Care leavers in employment, education or training at age 19 (ratio) | | 0.85 | 0.87 | 0.80 | 0.82 | 1.0 | 1.0 | ↘ | No | B | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Shows that there are fewer Care Leavers in EET, compared with local Southwark population of the same age | | |
| 66 | NI 148 (LAA) | | | % of Care leavers in employment, education or training at age 19 LAA | 64.4% (2006/07) | 64.4% | 67.5% | 61.9% | 63.6% | 68.0% | 71.0% | ↘ | No | B | UPPER MIDDLE | Not Available | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | LON = 66.3% SN = 66.0% Swk 13th Pos (LON) Swk 4th Pos (SN) Croydonist (LON)@94% Camdenist (SN)@84% (2007/08) | ENG = 64.9% Swk 100th Pos (ENG) Derby 1st (LON) @ 96% (2007/08) |
| 67 | NI 147 | | APA 5037SC | Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation (as judged by the council) | | 94.5% | 91.6% | 97.6% | 100.0% | 93.0% | 93.0% | ↗ | Yes | E | UPPER MIDDLE | Not Available | Data as of 903 Returns (provisional) and is subject to approval | LON = 89.7% SN = 91.2% Swk 17th Pos (LON) Swk 7th Pos (SN) Lewisham 1st (SN) @ 100% (2007/08) | ENG = 88.4% Swk 64th Pos (ENG) (2007/08) |

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| N/A | Not applicable |
| TBA | To Be Advised |
| A | Annual |
| CPP | Children with a Child Protection Plan |

Note: These are internal judgements on progress, not official CSC/Ofsted bandings.

| Current Performance against SN Comparator | On Track? | Progress | Trend from last period | 54,522 |
|---|---|----------|------------------------|--------|
| RED | Current performance is worse than 06-07 SN performance | ↑ | Increase | 54,310 |
| AMBER | Current performance is in line with 06-07 SN performance | → | Same | 54,580 |
| GREEN | Current performance is better than 06-07 SN performance | ↓ | Decrease | 55,079 |

Southwark 0-17 population (mid 2007 Population estimates) used for 2007/08 (also used for 08/09 until mid-2008 pop published)

mid 2006 Population estimates used for 2006/07

mid 2005 Population estimates used for 2005/06

mid 2004 Population estimates used for 2004/05

| | |
|------|--|
| ↓ | Latest available data has dropped from previous performance |
| ↑ | Latest available data has improved from previous performance |
| → | Latest available data has remained constant |
| ! | Data quality warning: is being investigated for completeness/ accuracy |
| ? | Data warning: is being investigated |
| A | Annual |
| CPP | Children with a Child Protection Plan |
| EET | In Education, Employment or Training |
| N/A | Not available |
| NA | Not applicable |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training |
| P | Provisional data |
| SN | Statistical Neighbour |
| TBA | To be Advised |
| TBE | To be Established |
| YOT | Youth Offending Team |
| YTD | Year To Date |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 24 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Speakerbox Update | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Children's Services | |

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Corporate Parenting Committee notes the work undertaken by Speakerbox to date, and comments on current progress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report outlines the work undertaken by Speakerbox, and progress in implementing the workplan to date.
3. Speakerbox was established by young people to enable them to give a voice to all children in care, and those who have left care. The group has a workplan, and meets regularly to progress the plan, and identify new areas of work. They are supported by a Children's Rights and Participation Officer, and two additional apprentices are being recruited to help support the development of Children in Care Council. Particular achievements include: securing leisure cards for looked after children; participating in the recruitment of staff; mentoring social work students; producing a Speakerbox magazine; and holding officers to account, and helping to improve services for children in care.
4. All local authorities are required to put in place a Children in Care Council which will enable regular, good quality dialogue and involvement in planning and delivering services. It must also ensure that the Children in Care Council has direct links to the Director of Children's Services and elected Members.
5. The local authority should also have a pledge to children in care which should be developed as a key communication tool in partnership with children and young people. Young people should also have the opportunity to be involved in staff recruitment.
6. Local authorities must also ensure that children are involved in planning for their lives and in developing services. The effectiveness of these arrangements will be monitored by Ofsted through the new inspection regime. While Speakerbox fulfils many of the requirements of a Children in Care Council, it has working on building wider engagement of children by establishing two Children in Care Councils. One will be for children aged 8-16, and the second is for young people aged 16 and over.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

8. Not applicable

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| - | - | - |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|-----|-------|
| - | - |

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson | |
| Report Author | Rory Patterson | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 14.9.2009 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance | No | Yes/No |
| Finance Director | No | Yes/No |
| List other officers here | No | |
| Executive Member | Yes | No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | 14 September 2009 | |

Speakerbox, is a group of looked after young people who care about the rights and welfare of young people in care. We do what we can to make sure that young peoples views are taken into account.

| <u>What we are doing</u> | <u>The progress</u> |
|--|--|
| <p data-bbox="363 533 676 562"><u>The Speakerbox Magazine</u></p> <p data-bbox="244 595 794 658">This is a rolling task as, as soon as an issue comes out, we are preparing for the next one.</p> | <p data-bbox="826 533 1203 562">An issue is just about to go out.</p> |
| <p data-bbox="424 795 616 824"><u>Link- Up Project</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 857 802 981">We are mentoring social work students who study at Southbank and are on placement in Southwark. We are all required to hand in a piece of work for this.</p> | <p data-bbox="826 795 1385 949">We have completed all of the mentoring sessions, now we are just producing evidence for our units so that we can get our award. We will be able to attend the university ceremony to get our qualification.</p> |
| <p data-bbox="403 1086 636 1115"><u>Speakerbox Council</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 1149 802 1525">We are setting up two Children in Care councils – one will be for 8 – 12 years olds and one for 13 and over. The council members of the 13 + group will coach the chair of the 8-12 group. There will be one monthly meeting per group. The younger group have requested 2 weekly meetings (this is to be piloted) We will need young people to take up the positions of: Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, PR, Advisers. All Southwark looked after children will have the chance to vote for who they prefer.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1563 802 1749">So far, we have had three recruitment/consultation meetings, which have been well attended. We are now putting our plans and ideas on paper. We will be holding another event to try to get more young people involved.</p> | <p data-bbox="826 1086 1385 1272">We are arranging one more recruitment session in a new venue to try to get more young people involved. We intend to write a report everything and will be organising a follow up session in the next couple weeks.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Tell it how it was</u></p> <p>We have completed some pilot interviews with some care leavers to find out what their care was like.</p> | <p>We have been asking young people questions about the care we received.</p> |
|--|---|

SPEAKERBOX

The voice for children looked after and care leavers.

AGUIDE TO WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE WE



Speakerbox



Speakerbox, is a group of looked after young people who care about the rights and welfare of young people in care. We do what we can to make sure that young looked after

peoples views are taken into account.

We are quite well known in the Council and have been asked to do a number of high profile things.

We are always on the lookout for other young people to get involved so look at the back page for more info on how to join , if you're interested. We would love to have you join!

Our Aims...

Speaker Box aims to help make life better for children looked after and care leavers.

These are our aims:

- ◆ Inform young people of their rights
- ◆ Encourage them to ask informed questions
- ◆ Encourage managers to take into account young peoples views and opinions
- ◆ Making sure manager and workers do what they are supposed to do.
- ◆ Support them to develop and express their views, values and feelings
- ◆ Enable them to make more informed decisions about their care and treatment
- ◆ Support them to develop meaningful and trusting friendships

Thanks for reading this.....

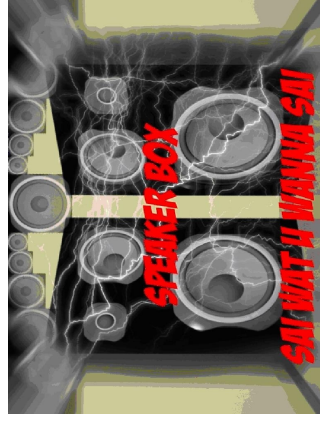
Cut and return the bottom part to us .

Name:

Age:

Address:

Tel No.



IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED...

If you would like to get involved, just txt us on 079 587 909 51 and we'll call you back!

Or, you can fill in the form below and send it to :

Southwark Council

Speakerbox
QAU
PO BOX 64529 London
SE1 5LX

It's that easy. You don't have to get involved in everything we do, just what you are interested in, and you can get some great experiences!

Our top reasons for getting involved:

1. Meet new people
2. Get rewards like vouchers for the work you do
3. Possible get certificates and sometimes even qualifications
4. We eat out—a lot!
5. Increase your knowledge on certain things which can help you in your own circumstances
6. Get some great experiences and references for when you are looking for a job.
7. Change you life in care
8. Change other's life in care

Some of our accomplishments so far...

Speakerbox have done many things, from creating a quarterly magazine to sitting on interview panels for new staff members.

These are some of our accomplishments so far:

- ◆ We have sat on an interview panel for the appointment of the new Assistant Director for Children's Services.
- ◆ We have taken part in a number of conferences including the conference which takes place every year for staff that work in child protection to help them understand what its like from a young persons point of view.
- ◆ We write a magazine for times a year, which goes out to over 600 young people.
- ◆ We have given talks and performed role plays at a number of events, most recently the 'Young London Matters, London Pledge' conference
- ◆ We have created a membership card which is given to all members of Speakerbox, it has all the golden rules on it.
- ◆ We have been a part of training for new social workers, foster carers and also social work students at Southbank University (and we are getting a qualification out of this)
- ◆ We have created the 'ten golden rules' and consequences for Social Workers if they are broken. The ten golden rules are basic rules that we feel social workers should be doing anyway.
- ◆ We have created a young peoples cook book which have great recipes under categories like 'meals to impress your man/lady'!

What we do on a regular basis...

- ◆ We create a quarterly magazine that goes out to approx 500 young people who are either in care or a care leaver. The magazine includes real life stories and problems, and information about their rights. Recently we have added a Manage Ur Manager page, which basically gets answers by managers to some questions that young people may have and also, gives the chance to big up the managers who they feel are doing a good job!
- ◆ We meet with the corporate parenting committee (a bunch of politician who run Southwark), to air our view, chat about the way things are done and changes we would like and just let them know what is going on and what we feel could and should be improved.
- ◆ We meet with the Head of Services, Chris Saunders, to discuss what is important to young people and to discuss any issues that you send through to Speakerbox.
- ◆ We guide young people through the complaints procedure and offer advice to them.
- ◆ We do presentations, inductions and host conferences — anything really!

What we are working on at the moment...

- ◆ We were successful in requesting for 13+ to have a free leisure pass which was agreed by the corporate parenting committee. Caroline and Keisha are now working setting up a gym day, where young people can go to the gym as a group to try to encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ This year, we are planning to set up a rights surgery to inform young people of their rights.
- ◆ We have just been successful in applying for a grant to buy a software package which will able us to design and print the magazine off entirely by ourselves. We have also bought a laptop so that young people can work on the magazine flexibly and will be offering valuable software training.
- ◆ We are starting on the 'Tell it How it was' project, which is basically, us interviewing care leavers to find out what they thought of the service then feeding this back to the managers
- ◆ We are working on improving the magazine, by adding a page dedicated to the Head of Service for him to inform us about any new changes and to answer our questions.
- ◆ We are working on trying to increase care leaver grants which are currently £800 + another £500 at manager discretion.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 24 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Annual Review of Independent Review Officers Service | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Children's Services | |

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the progress of the independent reviewing officer service and comments on the sufficiency of progress on the action plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The appointment of an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The Government issued the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004 along with statutory guidance in September 2004.
3. The regulations require all Local Authorities to appoint an IRO to participate in the statutory meetings to review the care plan of each looked-after child. The IRO takes on the role of chairing the meeting. The IRO is also responsible for monitoring the performance of the Local Authorities' functions in respect of each review. If appropriate, IROs can refer a child's case to a Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) officer. IROs are ideally placed to assess the quality and effectiveness of Local Authority planning and support for children.
4. The 2004 regulations impose a duty on the IRO to ensure that:
 - children's views are understood and taken into account
 - persons responsible for implementing review recommendations are identified
 - any failure to review cases in accordance with the regulations or to make arrangements to implement any aspect of the care plan is brought to the attention of the accountable service managers.
5. The report summarises the performance of the service and progress made in the period 2008/09. Members should note that the service remains well staffed, and has been able to provide a consistent reviewing officer for children in care. The IROs have ensured that children and young people have participated in their reviews, and that plans are progressed within the required timescales.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

8. Not applicable

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| - | - | - |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|-----|-------|
| - | - |

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson | |
| Report Author | Roisin McManus | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 14.9.2009 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Director of Legal and Democratic Service | No | Yes/No |
| Finance Director | No | Yes/No |
| List other officers here | No | |
| Executive Member | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | September 14 2009 | |

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

IRO Annual Report Sept 2009

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Introduction

1.1 The Southwark IRO Service is responsible for discharging the Council's Statutory responsibility to provide independent monitoring of its performance in relation to the Looked After Child's Review, now extended by Legislation to the whole case. For Legislative background details please see Appendix A.

1.2 This report summarises the performance of the IRO service and progress made for the period 2008-2009. It also discusses the concept of the independence of the IRO Service, an issue that arose during a proposed redeployment of staff from the Looked After Children's Service and one which recent Legislation makes provision to address in future if required through Clause 11 & 12 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

2 Southwark Context

2.1 The IRO Service forms part of the Quality Assurance Business Unit, the Manager of which reports directly to the Assistant Director for Children's Services (AD) making IROs independent of children's cases operational management structure where allocation of resources rests. Responsibility for both Operational and Quality Assurance services come together with the AD. In May the Service moved to Tooley Street Offices.

2.2 At present in Southwark the Service consists of Service Manager QAU for LAC, 3.8 permanent IROs and the equivalent of 4.2 IROs made up by using freelance IROs (10 persons with variable caseloads from 5-60) on a sessional basis. The structure and Management of the IRO Service is currently the subject of an internal review and a document on options will be circulated for consultation to all relevant parties including Looked After Children's group, Speakerbox, in due course.

2.3 The issue of the independence of the service and whether it can challenge operational services has contributed to Clauses 11 & 12 in the Children's and Young Persons Act 2008. Clause 11/12 provides for central Government to strip Local Authorities of the IRO function if they cannot demonstrate effective independence. Various representations including those from the London wide IRO Managers group have been made to Government to address the need to ring fence the IRO service against staff being internally transferred without being subject to a rigorous recruitment process which would secure the independence and maintain service standards.

2.4 Legislation makes clear IROs discharge an individual and not a corporate or collective responsibility. Even though they may be Local Authority employees, or as is the case with sessionals, local authority contractors, the IROs do not represent the local authority or its interests. Their sole focus is on the interests of the Looked After Child. While decisions are made by the Local Authority, the views and recommendations of IROs are their own, and cannot be amended, or countermanded by a more senior officer or an elected officer. It is therefore important to ensure their appointments are as a result of transparent and rigorous processes.

2.5 IROs can raise concerns they may have re care planning at any level of seniority within the Local Authority they feel appropriate. They also have in statute a direct line of reporting to lead elected councillor for LAC. And with the new legislation, they can refer directly to CAF/CASS in parallel to seeking internal resolution of an issue re a child's human rights.

2.6 The Local Authority has a duty to ensure IROs have sufficient objectivity and separation from care planning and resource management. IROs must be confident in their own judgement and ability to challenge operational services avoiding 'too cosy' a relationship which might compromise objectivity and resolve. It is equally important that they are not 'loose canons' with unfair or unrealistic expectations of the local authority. The relationship is frequently described as that of a 'critical friend'. Any model of IRO service must therefore be subject to rigorous and transparent recruitment and appointment procedures within the local authority to ensure fair and appropriate appointments for both LAC and The Local Authority.

2.7 In future, all appointments to the IRO service must be approved by the Assistant Director Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding, to ensure that the highest standards are maintained.

3 Composition of the IRO service as at Sept 2009 is

| | | IRO's | full time equivalent |
|------------|---------------|-------|----------------------|
| 3.1 Gender | Female | 12 | 6.8 |
| | Male | 2 | 1.1 |
| Ethnicity | White British | 12 | 7 |
| | Caribbean | 2 | 1 |

3.2 The gender and ethnicity imbalance in the IRO service continues to be of concern as the service does not reflect the ethnicity of the care population. A recruitment campaign on the open market in Oct 2008 was not successful in redressing this imbalance. Recruitment of sessionals added a further black Afro Caribbean IRO part time candidate. The general shortage of social work staff is a national problem exacerbated by recent media coverage.

3.3. The team has been a relatively stable team with 7 IROs in post for 3-7 years .There have been 4 new to post in the last 18months (equivalent to 2 full time posts) .Thus retention of IROs has been good and most importantly LAC have had a continuity of IRO, often being the only worker that has remained with the child through changes of teams and social workers, carrying valuable information and history for the child and care planning. The new Legislation states a Looked After Child must have an named IRO thus careful consideration must be given to any major changes to the IRO structure or membership to ensure consistency.

3.5 The awaited statutory guidance will recommend average caseloads for IRO's. The expanded role of the IRO to now include review of the Local Authorities performance in case planning and not just a Review has increased the IROs workload and consequently caseloads will have to reduce. IROs in Southwark are now working with an average of 60 cases. Although the LAC population has decreased over the last 4 years the number of Reviews has not reflected this decrease. Contributing to this is the number of children looked after for a short period , less than a year , often requiring 2-3 reviews but as they have not remained in care for a 1 year period may not show in end of year LAC figures. Already this year (April 2009 – 7 September 2009) there have been 120 initial reviews for newly looked after children , a significant increase on previous years and likely to be attributable to reaction to Baby P and other recent serious cases in the media. For both these reasons it is

therefore unlikely that the IRO staffing requirements will be able to decrease in the near future even if overall numbers of LAC continue to decrease. However these fluctuating changes require a flexible IRO service which must be given weight in any review of IRO service structure.

| | Number of reviews per year | Numbers of Lac at end of year | Number of Initials |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2005/2006 | 1588 | 647 | |
| 2006/2007 | 1735 | 633 | |
| 2007/2008 | 1738 | 576 | 164 |
| 2008/2009 | 1719 | 533 | 185 |
| 2009/ | | 574 at aug | 120 to sept 7th |

Progress for Period 2008-2009

5 Performance Indicators

5.1 Performance Indicators (PI's) which are directly under the responsibility of the IRO service are those for Participation of children and young people in their reviews and the timeliness of reviews.

5.2 Participation at reviews is measured through data codes, a PN7 code being defined as 'LAC does not attend review nor are their views conveyed to reviews'. The Performance Indicator is based on number of LAC who have not had even one PN7 code during the year. So although a young person may attend 2 out of 3 reviews in a year this will not fulfil the criteria for Participation. The Participation PI was 94% for the period 2008-2009 although there were only 28 PN7's out of 1718 reviews. This PI is an increase from 76% in 2003-2004 when first recorded and similar to the previous year. 20 of these LAC were aged 13+ with 13 of them choosing not to attend or give their views regardless of efforts made. See Appendix for summary of audit of PN7 codes.

5.3 Participation and consultation with parents and families is now being recorded and monitored though figures as yet are not available. These are anticipated to be available for next year following data input to the ICS system this year. A draft Protocol for Participation of Parents at Reviews is being circulated and updated draft consultation forms for parents are also in circulation awaiting feedback.

5.4 Timeliness of reviews as per statutory requirements has improved significantly from 88% in 2005-2006 when first recorded to 94% for 2008-2009. Again this Performance Indicator records numbers of Looked After children who have had all their reviews within timescale so although last year total number of reviews undertaken was 1718 only 30 were over timescales and most of these by a few days only. The awaited statutory guidance will

introduce more flexible arrangements for scheduling reviews enabling IROs to postpone the timing for reviews as per each case's need rather than adhering to such strict timescales.

5.5 There is not a Performance Indicator for distribution of reviews. However statutory guidance states good practice is to get review decisions out to children and others within 14 days after review. IROs targets in Southwark are to complete their reports and recommendations within 7 days to send to Team Managers to ratify decisions and distribute by the 14 day limit. IROs have improved their performance with this 7 day target to almost 70% of reviews now being completed in this timescale and a further 20% within 20 days. Last years concern re the distribution of signed off reviews by Team Managers has also been addressed by the LAC service and QAU in the last 6 months with Team Managers prioritising signing off any backdated reviews and a new ICS programme written to produce monthly figures for distribution .This ICS programme will also be able to show where delay may be occurring – with IRO, Team Manager or mail out. Data from this will be available for next years report.

5.6 Administrative support for invitations to child care reviews and distribution of review reports is placed within the operational services and not with the QAU service as happens for child protection conferences. A review of all admin support services in Children's Services is being undertaken and it is unlikely that responsibility for these functions will change.

6 IT & Integrated Children's System ICS

6.1 The ICS Review reports have been updated to enable IROs to 'pull through' information from the Care Assess social work reports, health assessments and Personal Education Plans into the final Review Report .From the final Review report a more child friendly version without the pages of data etc can be printed for distribution . Implementation of this new Care Assess review report system has just begun and monitoring and feedback on its success will take place over the next 6 months.

6.2 IROs including all sessionals have now been provided with the technology (signify key fobs) and training to access the Southwark Records System including ICS from home. This will assist permanent workers with time management through home working arrangements and sessionals will be able to read files from home. Also all IRO reports will be on the ICS system feeding in to the ICS data collection programmes and thus avoiding the previous manual collation of information due to sessionals lack of access to ICS .

6.3 While the ICS system offers these advantages, it has not been without great consternation for most IROs as it has been for other social work staff . The amount of computer time recording and data inputting for social work staff has been a prominent concern nationally raised in recent social work enquiries. This concern is just as applicable in Southwark even though our system may be considered more advanced than many Local Authorities and Southwark LAC service does have an excellent IT officer. However there are many problems with SERCO and their delivery of an efficient IT system which Corporate Parenting Committee will be aware of.

7 IRO Interventions

7.1 IROs have the responsibility through current Regulations to bring to the attention of persons at an appropriate level of seniority within the responsible authority any failure to review the case or to take proper steps to implement review decisions.

7.2 To date IROs have been carrying this responsibility out via emails and direct discussions with operational services which were not in the main recorded on ICS, the child's file. Despite having an escalation form for this purpose this appeared to be the preferred method of resolution for operational services. This has made it difficult to measure and quality assure this IRO function as only the more serious concerns would be brought to the attention of the IRO Manager. A new ICS recording format with criteria for use has now been added to enable a more transparent recording system. A summary of IROs interventions will therefore be available for next years report. In addition to this a review of the escalation policy will be undertaken.

7.3 Examples of IROs of issues IROs have made interventions on include the following

- A semi independent unit had poor standards of care and was subsequently not used by Southwark
- Lack of follow up on Review Decisions due to staff changes where there was concern of high risk of pregnancy for a vulnerable young girl
- A young person discharged home without sufficient support plan
- Drift in initiating legal planning and undertaking necessary assessments for young child
- Delay in making satisfactory post 18 arrangements for a yp with learning difficulties
- Delay in discharging a Care Order on a 16 year old yp living with parent for over a year
- Delay in completing later life letters for young children being adopted

7.5 Ensuring review decisions are implemented through monitoring in Supervision was raised in last years report and this remains an issue. However recent audits of supervision records has started to address this. Also the new ICS Review format requires the social work report to complete updates to all previous review decisions.

Summary

8.1 The IRO Service has continued to maintain an efficient service contributing to good performance in Southwark against key performance indicators in the New National Indicator Set: C63 & NI66 for participation at Reviews by LAC and timeliness of Reviews. It also contributes to many other indicators through quality assuring and collection of data or raising issues on cases at appropriate levels to minimise poor outcomes e.g drift in care planning, placement stability etc

8.2 The national context has produced many creative approaches to the employment of IROs, in an attempt to maximise their independence, and has announced it will consider

other options for the management and governance of the service if independence cannot be demonstrated within Local authorities under Clause 11/12 of the CYP Act 2008. Clause 11/12 gives the Secretary of State the power to establish a separate body to carry out the functions of the IRO and charge the Local Authority. A Review of the structure of the IRO service within Southwark is being undertaken to ensure the Service is flexible in meeting fluctuating need in the future and be demonstrably independent and effective. This will include identifying a rigorous and transparent recruitment and appointment process.

Appendices

A Legislative Background

A.1 **The Adoption and Children Act 2002 Section 118** amended Section 26 of The Children Act 1989 by introducing a new statutory role of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) with the responsibility of reviewing Children in Care (referred to as Looked after Children – LAC – in Southwark) cases. The **Regulations and Guidance (Independent Reviewing Officers Guidance : Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) Regulations 2004)** came into effect on September 1st 2004 issued under **Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970**.

A.2 Prior to this it was acceptable for social work Team Managers to chair LAC reviews though many Local Authorities (including Southwark) had started to move to independent chairing, as had happened much earlier with independent chairing of child protection conferences .

A.3 The responsibilities of the IRO are as set out in the Guidance

- To participate in the review of children's cases and chair any meetings that are part of a Review
- Monitor the Local Authorities functions in respect of reviews
- Refer a case to CAF/CASS (The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, an independent non departmental body reporting to the Secretary of State for Children , Schools and Families with the role of safeguarding and promoting best interests of children in family court proceedings) where a child's rights have been breached due to actions or inactions of the Local Authority
- Ensure the children's views are given appropriate weight in decision making
- Ensure persons responsible for implementing any decisions of a review are identified and the timescale within which a decision should be completed
- Bring to the attention of persons at an appropriate level of Seniority within the authority any failure to review within timescales or make arrangements for implementation of decisions
- Ensure the child has an appropriate adult to provide assistance to bring proceedings on their behalf on their own account under the Act or assist in obtaining legal advice for this.

A.4 As a minimum the IRO will

- Be independent of line management of a case and the decision making process for allocation of financial resources
- Have sufficient relevant experience to undertake the functions defined.

A.5 The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 came into force in November 2008. However the statutory guidance which will detail how this act is to be implemented is expected only at the turn of the year. The Draft Guidance is attached to this Report.

The key themes of this legislation for LAC are

- High ambitions
- Good parenting from everyone in the system
- Stability in every aspect of the children's experience
- Centrality of the voice of the child

A.6 The Legislation aims to achieve this by strengthening the care planning duties of local authorities through

- Introducing one set of regulations and guidance for all requirements for care planning
- New arrangements for scheduling reviews
- Completing the full implementation of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) in every local authority.

A.7 As part of this it requires Local Authorities to appoint a named IRO for each child enhancing personal accountability and individual responsibilities of each IRO. Named IROs have been allocated to all LAC cases in Southwark since 2004.

The Act reinforces the role of the IRO by:

- New Regulations which prescribe the manner in which the IRO functions are to be performed
- A new power for DCSF to issue statutory guidance to IROs and their Managers
- A new duty on the local authority to cooperate with the IRO even if not a Local Authority employee and take all reasonable steps to enable the IRO to perform his/her functions
- Requiring the IRO to ensure the local authority give due consideration to any views expressed by the child
- Requiring the IRO to monitor the local authority performance of functions in relation to the child's case not just in respect of the review
- New Powers to the Secretary of State to make provision for IRO services to be delivered by an independent national body if thought necessary (Clause 12) ; and

- Enabling the IRO to go to CAFCASS at any stage in parallel to escalating an area of concern within the Local Authority

A.8 The reinforcement of the IRO role has arisen out of widespread concern that the IRO role is not as effective as had been hoped for when originally introduced. IROs were thought not to be challenging enough or able to challenge the local authority decision makers sufficiently robustly to make a difference to LAC lives and care planning when appropriate. This is as a result of not one case being escalated to CAFCASS. Nationally IROs have consulted with CAFCASS but have not escalated a case to them, needing to exhaust the internal escalation process before this could happen. The hoped for healthy scrutiny of the local authorities care planning and corporate parenting for LAC had become more of a 'rubber stamping' exercise in many Local Authorities.

A.9 The Guidance states the '*manager for the IRO service should provide an annual report to the Lead Member with executive responsibility for Children's Services and for Corporate Parenting. This report must identify good practice but also highlight issues for further development, including those where urgent action is needed. It will be important for the Local authority to make effective use of reports from its IRO service so that it can be satisfied that its services can achieve optimum outcomes for the children concerned.*' There has been no consensus on what the detailed content of the Annual Report should be and it is anticipated that the awaited statutory guidance will provide a framework for future reports .

B Summary of Review Process

B.1 A review is held at one month (28 days) after a child or young person has become looked after, then 3 months and every 6 months minimum thereafter. Children and young people, their parents and their carers along with social workers are invited to reviews. Venues are usually their placement if appropriate. Information from other involved agencies is obtained via additional meetings or reports e.g. a LAC will have an annual health assessment and six monthly Personal Education Planning meetings and the reports are available for review; other agencies such as Children's and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) , Youth Offending Team (YOT) may be involved, feeding their views in through reports, discussions with IROs or sometimes attending. The number of adults at meeting with the LAC is kept to a minimum to enable a more child friendly and less intimidating environment. Reviews are normally one meeting but can take the form of a series of meetings if this is required.

B.2 The agenda for a review covers Permanency Planning, placement issues, health, emotional and behavioural issues, education, leisure, contact, identity, independent living preparation and legal issues. A summary of discussion is written up afterwards with a Decision Sheet detailing actions /tasks necessary to fulfil the Care Plan. This is signed off by the Team Manager following any negotiations with the IRO if differences of opinion exist. The final report is then distributed to the LAC, parents, carers and any others identified. This process should take 14 days post review date.

Update of 2008 Recommendations/ IRO Service Business Plan

Service Management

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <p>1 Prepare an Annual Report for the Lead Corporate Parenting Member and Committee annually</p> <p>2 Agree the content of future Annual Reports</p> | <p>QAU Service Manager in collaboration with IROs</p> <p>Lead Member/ IRO Service Manager/ as defined in CYP Bill</p> | <p>April annually</p> <p>Jan 2009</p> | <p>Completed Sept</p> <p>Guidance awaited from DCSF on this . Last years report format to be used until then</p> |
| 3 Consideration is given to IRO service meeting with Corporate Parenting Lead Member/Committee/AD on a formal basis regularly | Lead Member / Rory Patterson /QAU | Annually /bi annual meetings | Agreed IRO Manager and 2 IROs to attend CPC when IRO report presented |
| 4 Review of location of the IRO service , both physically and managerially within Southwark and the renaming of LAC Co-ordinators to IROS | Corporate Parenting Committee / Rory Patterson /QAU | Jan 2009 | IRO Team including Children's Rights has moved to Tooley St |
| 5 Undertake audits and quality assuring of IRO Service (including feedback from sws , foster carers , other professionals as well as LAC and parents) . | QAU/ Independent source | Annually/on going | Participation audit completed . A team day addressed report styles and content. IRO manager observes reviews and reads reports. To date insufficient feedback forms have been returned and this needs reviewing. |
| 6 Consider undertaking minimum 2 case reviews annually for LAC cases with poor outcomes/ drift in planning/breaches in child's rights to 'learn lessons'. Agree process for this. | LAC Standards/QAU | Jan 09 | Initial discussions with LAC Services and Carelink have taken place to agree process for this . |
| 7 Devise recruitment strategy which allows for maximum opportunity to employ IROs reflective of diverse needs of LAC population | HR /QAU | 2008 recruitment | This continues to be a challenge for the service and social work staff in general. |

Be Healthy

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 8 Monitor and promote health needs of LAC through reviews , referring to health initiatives& services as necessary and upwardly reporting where concerns exist and auditing outcomes | IROS | As required | ongoing |
| 9 Participating in Health audits and Health planning groups | IROs IRO Manager | 2x annually 3x annually | Completed |

Stay Safe

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 10 Transfer the responsibility for independent reviewing of Children with disabilities receiving respite care from the CWD Team to the IRO service | IRO Manager/ CWD Manager | Complete transfer by Sept 08 | Partially completed . New Statutory Guidance awaited later this year |
| 11 Collate & Analyse data for repeated Care episodes for children and families , ensuring rehabilitation plans are safe and adequately supported , devising practice guidance for rehabilitation | LAC Standards Group | By Jan 09 | Discussions took place with LAC & ASAF Service. Further work required with ICS system to collate data . Individual case rehabilitation plans are monitored via reviews . |
| 12 Consider reintroduction of 'disruption meetings' to minimise placement breakdowns and provide data for future planning and devise protocol if agreed | LAC Standards | Jan 09 | A Stability Planning group meets to monitor stability of placements. Disruption meetings will be considered within this forum |
| 13 Permanence Planning definitions and Care Plan format to be agreed. System to monitor compliance with completion and distribution of Care Plans agreed | LAC Standards/QA U/LAC Management | Sept 08 | completed |
| 14 Independent legal advice resource identified for IROS | QAU | Sept 08 | Discussion with Lambeth re Interborough sharing of Legal Services and identification of Legal firms used by other Boroughs has taken place. CAFCASS have provided advice on occasions. |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|---|
| 15 Complete strategic Review of safeguarding of LAC remanded into Southwark care or custody or LAC involved with serious crime and ensuring care planning for their return to the community is jointly undertaken. | QAU/YOT/LAC Service | March 09 | IROs will chair pre release meetings for all LAC regardless of previous legal status ie S20's as well as S31's. |
| 16 Consideration given to transferring the responsibility for Reviewing foster carers from the Adoption & Foster Care Service to the QA Service with the necessary budgetary adjustments | AD/LAC & QAU Management | Decision by Oct 08, transfer by Jan 09 if agreed | Outstanding |

Enjoy and Achieve

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 17 Monitor and promote leisure activities in reviews | IROs | Ongoing | IROs via ICS collate data on leisure activities for all LAC |
| 18 Promote the identity of LAC through monitoring of life story work , contact , diversity needs | IROS | Ongoing | Continues |
| 19 Monitor and promote the educational needs of LAC through reviews , referring to services as required and escalating areas of concern & audit outcomes | IROs | Ongoing | Continues |
| 20 Participating in Education Audits and Education Planning Groups | IROs IRO Manager | 2x annually 3x annually | Completed |

Make a Positive Contribution

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|--|--------------------------------|---------|---|
| 21 Review of admin support structure for distribution of LAC Review reports | CLA /QAU Business Managers | Jan 09 | A service wide review of admin support is taking place and will address IRO admin support as well |
| 22 Review need for 'best interests' advocacy for CWD/ special needs LAC , improve participation of CWD and | QAU Manager /Children's Rights | Sept 08 | Not completed |

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|---|
| commission resource provision | worker / CWD Team /Commissio ning | | |
| 23 Monitor distribution of Review reports , improving rate to 75% distributed within 20 days , 50% within 14 days | QAU/LAC service | By March 09 | IRO completion of reports has improved to 70% in timescales; distribution has been addressed with LAC service, is improving and new ICS programme in place to monitor timescales |
| 24 Promote the use of Review Decision Sheets by Practice Managers in supervision of social workers and . Completed Decision sheets to be signed off by Practice Managers and distributed with social work review reports . This process to be owned and enforced by Senior Management. | Senior Managemen t | Ongoing | Audit of Supervision Records is monitoring this to improve compliance. |
| 25 Collation and feedback of data on this to teams to take place | IROs | Quarterly | New ICS review format includes previous review decision sheet format , data will be more easily collated and presented |
| 26 Explore different ways of engaging 'hard to reach 'LAC. 27 LAC did not contribute to a review in 2007- 2008.Undertake themed audit of LAC who do not participate at all in reviews. New consultation forms for 16+ to be devised with Speakerbox | IROs/ Speakerbox | Dec 08 | Audit Completed. There is limited success evidenced from research for alternative methods of consultation eg software; face to face talking with trusted adult remains the most favoured and productive method for obtaining child's views. Emphasis is on planning who and when this will take place. Speakerbox and IROs presently updating consultation forms |
| 27 Monitor participation of parents in Reviews , complete a Participation at Reviews Protocol | IROs | Ongoing Dec 08 | Draft Parents Participation Protocol &Draft consultation forms completed for circulation |
| 28 Devise strategy for obtaining feedback | IROs/ | March 09 | Feedback forms tried but not |

| | | | |
|---|------------------|--------|---|
| from reviews from LAC , parents , carers and social workers and implement | Speakerbox | | successful; further research required |
| 29 Further explore introducing LAC friendly report formats and language | IROs /Speakerbox | Nov 08 | ICS report format has a more child friendly print version for reading . |

Achieve economic well being

| Action/Task | By Whom | By When | Update |
|--|---|---------|---|
| 30 Review the allowances for UAM | Corporate Parenting Committee/ LAC Management | Nov 08 | UAM now have same allowances as all LAC .A Review of Services for UAM has been completed and new protocol in place. This requires monitoring to ensure it is fully implemented. |
| 31 Monitor the preparation for independent living and transition arrangements for Care Leavers through Pathway Planning and in line with new Transition Protocol, referring to services as necessary and escalating concerns. New Pathway Plans/Care Plans to be adopted when introduced and training provided | IROS / LAC Service | Ongoing | New ICS Pathway Plan formats in place For complex and more vulnerable cases IROs will continue to offer chairing of Pathway Plans post 18 . |

Equalities & Diversity

| Action/Task | By whom | By When | Update |
|---|---------------|------------------|--|
| See no's 10,22,&30 above | | | |
| 32 Devise recruitment strategy which allows for maximum opportunity to employ IRO's reflective of diverse needs of LAC population | HR /QAU | 2008 recruitment | Limited success. National and local difficulties with recruitment of social work staff following recent media representation of the Service contributes to this. |
| 33 Consideration given to more strategic research & Planning for the following | LAC standards | Jan 09 | |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|--|
| <p>groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Referrals from Black African communities • LAC from mixed heritage backgrounds • LAC with special needs on the autistic spectrum • LAC who are parents | Group | | <p>ICS systems continue to be updated to assist in collating information to assist with this. More work would be useful but prioritisation of work with staff shortages is necessary</p> <p>Completed. LAC Health group contributed to Southwarks Policy ongoing</p> <p>Audit of prebirth monitoring taking place; advocacy available to all LAC mothers; planning ongoing</p> |
| 34 Review the Equalities Impact Assessment for the IRO service | QAU Manager with Team | Dec 08 | Outstanding |

D References

Legislation & Guidance

Children & Young Persons Act 2008

Independent Reviewing Officers Guidance, Adoption & Children's Act 2002

Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004

Children (Short term Placements) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 1995

Draft Guidance for the Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Southwark Policies and Procedures

Southwark Handbook

LAC Business Unit Reports & Plans

Escalation Policy and Format

Southwark Management Information & PAF & Statistics report 2008/2009

Roisin MC Manus

Service Manager QAU LAC May 2009

QAU Sept 2009

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 24 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Update on GCSE Examination Results | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Children's Services | |

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee notes the measures undertaken by the Children Looked After Service to gather the Exam and Key stage 1 (KS1) and Key stage (KS2) results for Southwark children in care, and gives consideration to how this process might be improved.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Each year the Children Looked After Service contacts all schools, both in and out of the borough, attended by children in care. This is so that we can collect data on the individual performance of each child. Most of this data is needed for statutory returns, and is included in the OC2 which is returned to the DCSF. The information below sets out the current process for gathering information on educational attainment from schools.
3. On Friday 10th July a mail-out was sent to all schools with children in care of statutory school age to identify: absence from school; SEN status; and Exclusions. On Friday 28th August 220 out of 330 possible returns from schools were received and recorded in CareFirst, the social care database.
4. On Friday 4th September a second letter went out to the schools who had not responded. On Monday 7th September a letter was sent to all designated teachers (in/out of borough) requesting KS1 and 2 results for Southwark CLA. The deadline for this return was 21/09/09. This was followed up on Wednesday 9th September with an e-mail to all designated teachers/examination officers (in/out of borough) for GCSE results for year 11 cohort. Once again the deadline for return was 21/09/09. On Monday 21st September we will identify those schools who have not responded and agree follow-up actions to obtain the missing data.
5. Information is recorded as it is received back from schools, directly into CareFirst, so we will be able to generate our OC2 return for the DCSF. This allows the DCSF to monitor our performance, and benchmark us against other similar authorities.
6. In addition all social workers in the Adolescent and Aftercare service were sent reminders to contact those who sat GCSEs this year to congratulate or console the young people, depending on the outcome. While we are able to collect invalidated data this way, we have to exercise caution in publishing the information as it may often be incorrect.
7. Although at the time of writing this report we did not have the validated results, it is anticipated that we will be able to give a verbal update when the Committee meets on 24th September.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

8. Not applicable

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| - | - | - |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|-----|-------|
| - | - |

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson | |
| Report Author | Rory Patterson | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 14.9.2009 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comment Sought | Comments included |
| Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance | No | Yes/No |
| Finance Director | No | Yes/No |
| List other officers here | No | |
| Executive Member | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | September 14 2009 | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 24 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2009 -10 | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Childrens Services | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee consider reviewing the work plan for 2009 -10.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2009 -10 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions are as follows:
 1. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 2. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan
 3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of looked after children are maximised in terms of health educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.
 4. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
 5. To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all council departments, schools and the voluntary sector to lead towards better outcomes for looked after children.
 6. To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable looked after children and young people to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
 7. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
 8. To receive an annual report on the adoption and fostering services to monitor their effectiveness in providing safe and secure care for looked after children.
 9. To report to the council's executive on a twice yearly basis.
 10. To make recommendations to the relevant executive decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the executive.
 11. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
 12. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The committee receives an annual report on adoption and fostering services and independent review officers service, quarterly reports on performance indicators for children looked after, regular reports from the speakerbox service for children looked after and ad hoc statistical analyses and the outcome of statutory service inspections.

Policy

4. The policy agenda has been measured against the government's five "Every Child Matters" outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Well-Being. The committee's programme of work has been developed to meet these outcomes.

Future agenda items

5. The following workplan listing agenda items for this municipal year have been drafted. The committee is asked to consider other future items.

September 24 2009

- Children looked after (CiC) performance Monitoring Report
- Speakerbox Update
- Annual review of Independent review officers service
- GCSE examination results

October 26 2009

- Speakerbox service updates

November 26 2009

- Annual report on the adoption and fostering services
- Children looked after (CiC) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 2
- Coaching Scheme for care leavers
- Employment Education and Training for care Leavers
- Key Stage 2 results and wider achievement of Children Looked After

February 11 2010

- Children looked after (CiC) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 3

April date to be confirmed due to pre-election period

- Children looked after (CiC) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 4

To be allocated:

- Commissioning strategy
- Evaluation of initiatives
- 16 plus personal allowances and access to Banking

- Coaching Scheme for care leavers
- Employment Education and Training for care leavers
- Annual reports – ref apprenticeships, fusion, university
- Annual Report – Health of CiC
- Aftercare Service for Care Leavers
- Unaccompanied minors – Annual report
- Guidance on Missing Children

Community Impact Statement Resource Implications

6. The work of the corporate parenting committee contributes to community cohesion and stability.

Resource Implications

7. There are no extra resource needs foreseen at this stage.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee | Constitutional Team Tooley Street | Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232 |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson, Assistant Director: Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding | |
| Report Author | Bola Roberts, Constitutional Officer | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | August 18 2009 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance | No | No |
| Finance Director | No | No |
| Executive Member | Yes | Yes |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | | September 14 2009 |

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**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST MUNICIPAL YEAR
2009-10**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232

| To | Copies | To | Copies |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Membership | 1 each | Constitutional Officer | 10 |
| Councillor Lisa Rajan | | Total: | 37 |
| Councillor Ade Lasaki | | | |
| Councillor Eliza Mann | | | |
| Councillor Lewis Robinson | 1 each | | |
| Councillor A Mohamed | | | |
| Councillor Olajumoke Oyewunmi | | | |
| Councillor Barrie Hargrove | | | |
| Councillor Veronica Ward | | | |
| Councillor Althea Smith | 1 each | | |
| Reserves | | | |
| Councillor Jame Barber | 1 each | | |
| Councillor John Friary | | | |
| Councillor Ian Wingfield | | | |
| Councillor Sandra Rhule | | | |
| Councillor Michelle Holford | 1 each | | |
| Co-opted members | | | |
| Barbara Hills | | | |
| Natalia Salli | | | |
| Libraries | 1 each | | |
| Albion | | | |
| Dulwich | | | |
| Newington | | | |
| Local Studies Library | 1 | | |
| Children's Services | | Dated: September 15 2009 | |
| Romi Bowen | | | |
| Rory Patterson | | | |
| Chris Saunders | | | |
| Adrian Ward | | | |
| David Hook | | | |
| Eleanor Parkin | | | |
| Legal | | | |
| Sarah Feasey | | | |
| Jill Easty | | | |
| Organisational Development | | | |
| John Howard | | | |