

Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 7 July 2010

1.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Membership

Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills
Chris Sanford

Reserves

Councillor James Barber
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor Darren Merrill

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

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Contact

Paula Thornton on 020 7525 4395 or Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232 or email:
paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk or 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: 29 June 2010



Item No.

Title

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Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 7 July 2010

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.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
5.	MINUTES	1 - 3
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 25 March 2010.	
6.	CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PROVISIONAL END OF YEAR 2009/2010 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT	4 - 8
7.	ESTABLISHING A VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	9 - 11
8.	NEW GUIDANCE AROUND CARE PLANNING FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	12 - 17
9.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN 2010-11	18 - 21

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.

Date: 29 June 2010



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday 25 March 2010 at 1.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Eliza Mann

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Beatrice Cooper (designated doctor for children looked after), Dee Copeland (children's services), Paul McCarthy (adolescence and aftercare), Eleanor Parkin (children's services), Paula Thornton (constitutional officer) and Bola Roberts (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councilors Lewis Robinson, Barrie Hargrove, Althea Smith and Barbara Hills co-opted member.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

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.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 February 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING 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 future performance reports in the autumn to include details of children looked after (CLA) university placements.

7. HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN CARE

RESOLVED:

1. That the update report from the designated doctor for children in care be noted and accepted.
2. That a future committee meeting be allocated to address the whole theme of "Being Healthy" for looked after children. This would address all the strategies relating to the physical health of children in care namely, mental health substance use, teenage pregnancy, physical health and positive activities.
3. That the following points raised by the committee in response to the report and presentation by the designated doctor for children in care be addressed as set out:
 - The commissioning process should factor in the key requirement for the health care needs and plans for children (appropriate link with the Children's Trust) to be met.
 - The need for an identified nurse for children looked after (young persons) post 18.
 - A report to come back to the corporate parenting committee on the progress of these requests.

8. NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) STRATEGY - PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillor Rajan requested that the 'foot in the door' scheme which aims to generate part time work experience and promote part time work opportunities for young people be brought forward to be examined in the context of the not in education, employment or training (NEET) work and speakerbox to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the progress of the children looked after (CLA) services not in education, employment or training (NEET) strategy since presentation to corporate parenting committee in November 2009 be noted.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2010**RESOLVED:**

That the work plan for 2010 be noted and that officers check status on previous report requests to ensure that the next work plan includes any outstanding requests.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 July 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Children Looked After: Provisional End of year 2009/10 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.
- 3 This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
- 4 These figures reflect the provisional end of year position as at early May 2010. The statutory return for children looked after indicators (SSDA903) is due end of June 2010. Figures will be finalised when submitted to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). End of year results are expected to be published in September 2010 by the DCSF where an end of year benchmarking report will be made available.

Particular Success

- 5 Long term stability of placements for looked after children – provisional data shows the length of placement has slightly increased over the 12 months improving above end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages (NI 63).

Areas of Development

- 6 Provisional data shows care leavers in education, employment or training has slightly decreased over the 12 month period and is below end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages (NI 148).
- 7 Children looked after with 3 or more placements – provisional data shows the number of placements has remained in line with last year's performance but is below end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages (NI 62).

Summary as of March 2010 Indicator Set

- 8 Children looked after as at 31 March 2010

End of year 2009/10 shows a 5.6% increase in the number of children looked after over the last 12 months (565 compared to 535 children looked after).

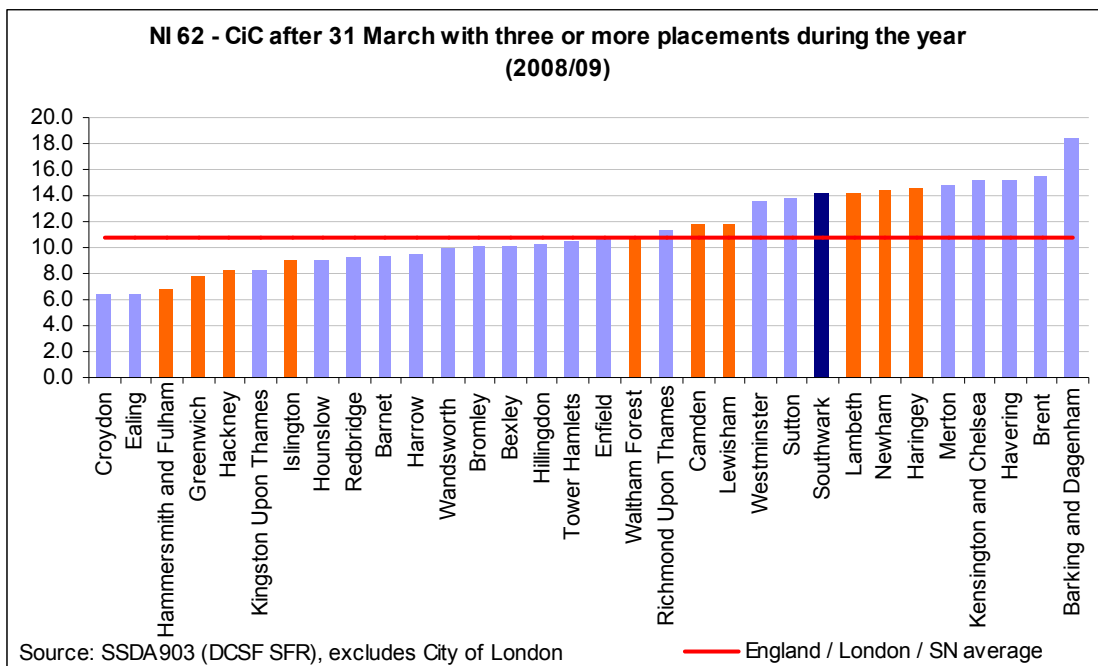
In 2008/09 Southwark had the 5th highest number of children looked after in London and was in the top quartile nationally for high numbers of children looked after.

- 9 NI 62 – Children looked after with 3 or more placements

Provisional end of year data shows that performance is in line with end of year 2008/09.

However, performance is lower than end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages. There is still some data cleansing to be completed before end of year return is made in June.

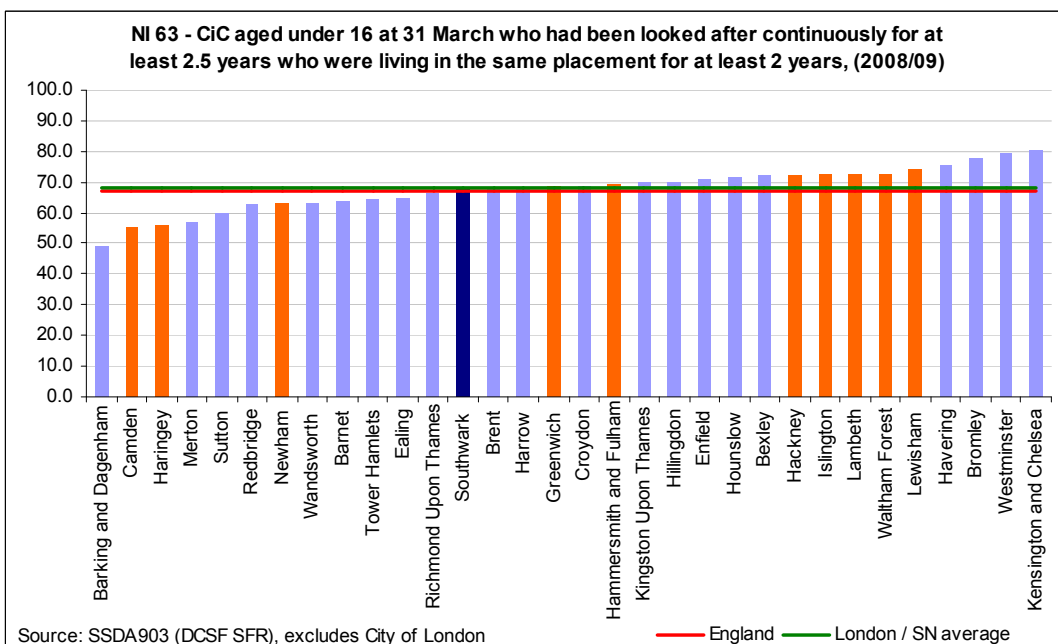
In 2008/09 Southwark was ranked 24th out of 32 London boroughs for performance and was in the bottom quartile nationally.



10 NI 63 – Long term stability of looked after children: length of placements

As a recommendation from JAR there was a significant amount of energy and work over the last 24 months put into improving this area and provisional end of year data shows the success Southwark have made with an increase in the long term stability of placements. This brings us above end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages.

In 2008/09 Southwark was ranked 20th out of 32 London boroughs and was in the 2nd quartile nationally for high performance.



11 NI 99 / 100 – Children in care reaching level 4 in English / maths at Key Stage 2

2009 results have shown an improvement in the proportion of children achieving the expected levels at Key Stage 2 (from 30.8 per cent to 40.0 per cent in English and 26.9 per cent to 45.0 per cent in maths).

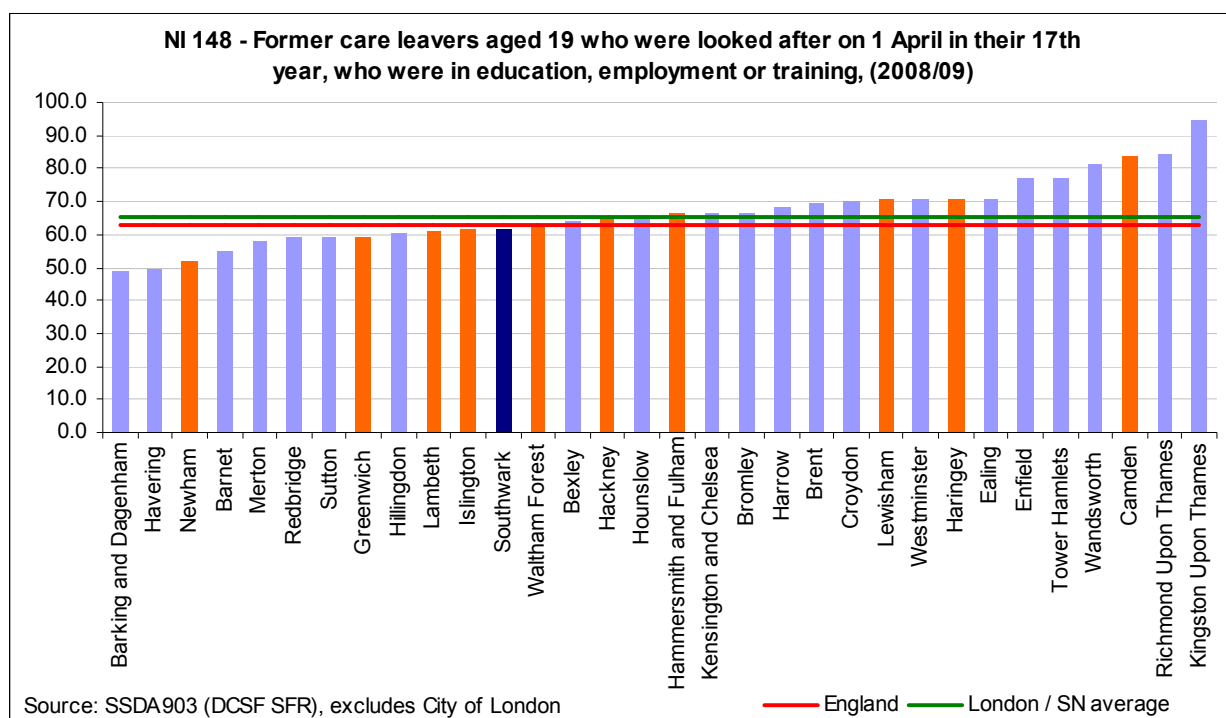
12 NI 101 – Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths)

Key Stage 4 results in 2009 exceeded the target with nearly one fifth (18.4 per cent, 6 out of 32 children) of children in care obtaining at least 5 A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE or equivalent.

13 NI 148 – % of care leavers in education, employment or training

Provisional data shows care leavers in education, employment or training has slightly decreased over the 12 month period and is below end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages. A good strategy is in place and is targeting support to those most vulnerable to not being in education, employment or training (NEET) so we are expecting future improvements.

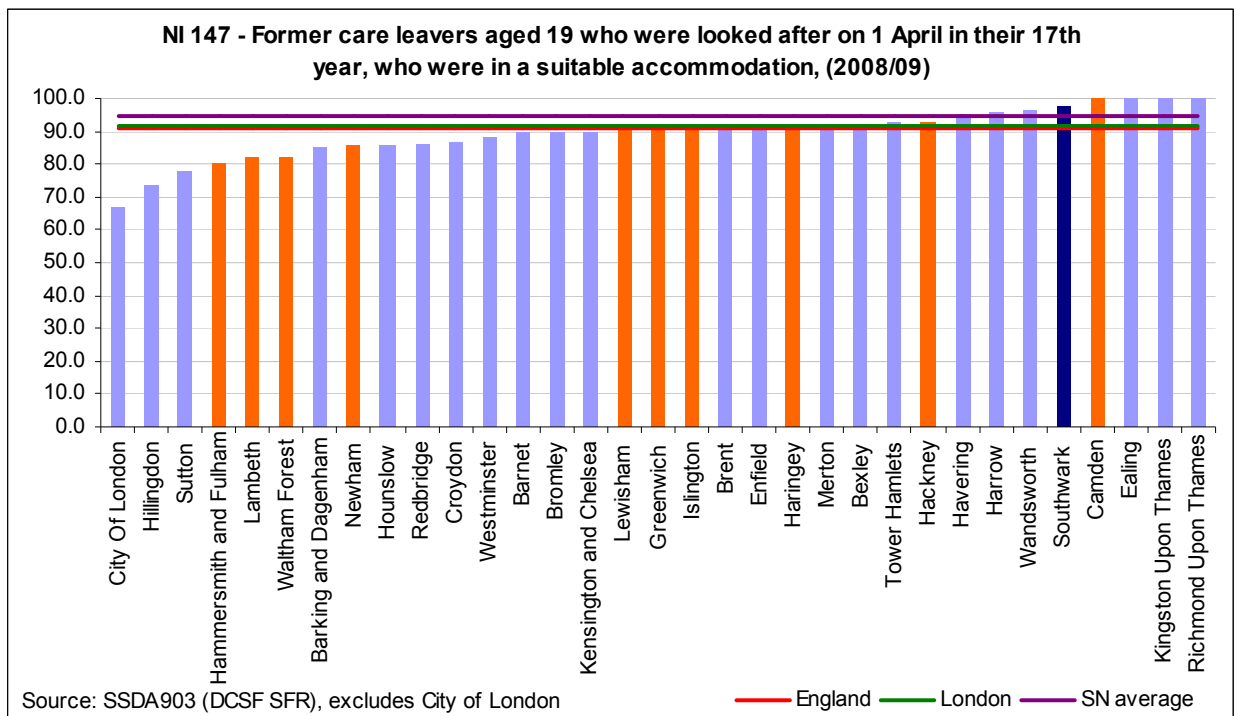
In 2008/09 Southwark had the 13th lowest proportion out of the 33 London boroughs and was in the 3rd quartile nationally.



14 NI 147 – % of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation

Provisional end of year data shows that performance is in line with end of year 2008/09 and remains above end of year 2008/09 national, London and statistical neighbour averages.

In 2008/09 Southwark had the 5th highest proportion out of the 32 London boroughs and was in the top quartile nationally for high performance.



Policy Implications

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

Community Impact Statement

16 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.

Resource Implications

17 This decision has no resource implications.

Consultation

18 The management teams of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

19 There are no specific implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
General guidance on performance indicators	Department for Education website	http://www.education.gov.uk/

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson	
Report Author	Monika Ciurej / Gwen Sinnott	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 June 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	28 June 2010	

Agenda Item 7

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 July 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Establishing a Virtual School for Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Alastair Wilson Interim Virtual School Headteacher	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the report for information.
2. To feedback any comments and recommendations to be incorporated in the Virtual Head Annual Report to be provided for a future Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The educational outcomes at a national level for Looked After Children (LAC) are still very low. Since April every local authority has had to have a Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked after children (LAC).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The core purpose of a VSH is to be relentless in driving up improvements in the educational progress and attainment of all LAC, including those that have been placed in schools in other local authorities. They also have an important role in working in partnership with VSHs in other local authorities to support the educational progress of children in their schools but looked after by other local authorities. Because LAC are being educated across a large number of schools, the VSH has a powerful role in tracking their progress as if they were in a single school.
5. An evaluation of the VHS pilot in 11 authorities concluded that: *“VSHs had successfully raised the priority of educating LAC. It is a valuable role and those from a strong educational background are best placed to undertake these responsibilities. VSHs operate at the heart of complex issues in inter professional working between education and social work. Virtual schools resembled ‘schools’ in some ways but not others.”*

The three key areas of responsibility of a VSH are:

- **To ensure that there is a system to track and monitor the attainment and progress of LAC to:**
 - rigorously track and monitor data on where LAC are at school and their progress, in a similar way to a head teacher of any school.
 - maintain an accurate record of the location and educational progress of LAC in their local authority, including those whom they look after but are placed in another local authority or a non-local authority school and those who are looked after by another local authority but educated in this one.
 - act where necessary and work towards improving overall attainment at the virtual school, by maximising achievement and progress of both individual and cohorts of LAC.
 - ensure that the headteacher and the designated teacher in each school know which of the children on their roll are in care, and what can be done to support them.

- **To ensure that all LAC have a robust and effective personal education plan (PEP) and access one-to-one support, including personal tuition where appropriate by:**
 - working with relevant professionals to ensure PEPs are of a high quality, subject to a rigorous monitoring and evaluation process
 - They should also ensure that LAC are able to access one-to-one tuition and Personal Education Allowances (PEAs) wherever appropriate.
 - **To champion the educational needs of LAC across the local authority and those placed out-of-local authority by:**
 - championing the needs of LAC across the local authority and spread effective practice, particularly in relation to improving behaviour and attendance, promoting stability of placement and school stability through admissions policies and use of school transport.
 - working with others in Local Authorities and schools to ensure that measures are taken across the local authority to promote positive behaviour, good attendance, and reduce exclusions, which should in turn lead to good progress and improved attainment.
 - ensuring social workers adequately consider the educational needs of LAC when a child/young person comes into care or when taking decisions about moving placements. Where moving placements is absolutely essential, wherever possible a new placement should be found which enables continuity of schooling but at KS4 ensures there is no change of educational placement. The VSH should take responsibility for making sure that admissions powers to admit LAC to the most appropriate school are used wherever necessary, and they should ensure that school transport is provided as required to help children stay in the same school.
6. The educational outcomes for Southwark LAC are broadly in line with the national cohort results but remain low. Moreover, the outcomes for Southwark LAC have not improved at the same rate as that of the universal Southwark school population.
 7. An Interim VSH for Southwark was appointed in April. His initial brief is to develop a proposal for the structure of the virtual school. There is also Looked After Children Education Services Team (LACES). The pilot concludes that there are advantages in integration and VSHs becoming overall head of the LACES teams, working mainly but not exclusively in a strategic manner. Those pilot authorities with VSHs were almost all moving in this direction. However *“none of the virtual schools structures and services were simply a continuation of what already existed but signified a step-change.”*
 8. Proposals on the structure and nature of the virtual school are currently being formulated and will be disseminated accordingly

Community Impact Statement

9. Proposals are intending to improve the educational outcome for looked after children.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance**

11. There are no specific implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
DCSF: Looked After and Learning – Evaluation of the Virtual School Head Pilot Research Information	Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF): http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u015448/index.shtml	Alistair Wilson Tel: 020 7525 5000

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jane Bailey	
Report Author	Alastair Wilson	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	28 June 2010	

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 July 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		New Guidance around Care Planning for Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the introduction of new guidance published in March 2010 to underpin the revised legislation for the care of children looked after by the Local Authority Implementation of the new guidance is April 2011.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In recent years following the high profile deaths of children resulting in a nationwide increase in Child Protection Plans and Children in Care, the Government of the day took steps to strengthen safeguarding and care planning for children and young people. This involved revision to legislation through the Every Child Matters Agenda and the regulations and guidance that supports it.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Appendix A sets out a copy of the new guidance "New Regulations and Guidance underpinning Care Planning for children looked after by Local Authorities."

Community Impact Statement

4. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.

Equalities Impact

5. Regulations are intending to improve the outcome for looked after children.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

6. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of New Regulations IRO Handbook 	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Roisin McManus (020 7525 3899)

LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	New Regulations and Guidance underpinning Care Planning for children looked after by Local Authorities

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson	
Report Author	Jackie Cook	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	28 June 2010	

Appendix A

New Regulations and Guidance underpinning Care Planning for children looked after by Local Authorities

In recent years, following the high profile deaths of children resulting in nationwide increase in Child Protection Plans and Children in Care, the Government of the day took steps to strengthen safeguarding and care planning for children and young people. This involved revision to legislation through the Every Child Matters Agenda and the regulations and guidance that supports it.

Key Themes of the Every Child Matters Agenda and The Children and Young Person Act 2008 are:

- Centrality of the Voice of the Child
- Uncompromisingly high ambitions for children in care
- Good parenting from everyone in the system – corporate parenting
- Stability in every aspect of the child’s experience
- Increase in the focus of transparency and quality of care planning

On 24 March 2010, following extensive consultation throughout the country with all representative groups and with all party support in parliament new Regulations and Guidance were agreed to underpin the above themes for care planning for children looked after by local authorities.

Aims of the New Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (“The Regulations”)

- to place the child at the centre of all the work
- Streamline the processes for looked after children in order to act as the ‘central spine’ for further revisions to Children Act guidance
- Increase the emphasis on effective care planning;
- Capture new duties set out in legislation;
- Improve the clarity, cohesion and internal consistency of the regulatory framework for looked after children

The Regulations will not be implemented until 1 April 2011 and it is still possible that they may not reflect the current government’s policy and some changes may be made. The Regulations are being accompanied by four sets of new statutory guidance:-

- ***Putting Care Into Practice: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities On Care Planning, Placement and Case Review For Looked After Children –***
This Guidance will become the revised Volume 2 of the Children Act 1989 guidance, replacing some existing Volumes and integrating guidance issued since 1991. It covers each of the elements of care planning required throughout the child’s journey in the care system. It specifies the requirements for care plans, including health and education plans, placement decisions and monitoring, and case reviews. They consolidate previous regulations and guidance, providing a central source of reference for local authorities work with children who are looked after.

- ***IRO Handbook: Statutory Guidance For Local Authorities and Independent Reviewing Officers on Reviewing Arrangements for Looked After Children –***
This replaces the 2004 Independent Reviewing Officers Guidance. It describes how IROs should discharge their distinct responsibilities to children looked after with regards to care planning and care review. It also provides guidance to local authorities on their strategic and managerial responsibilities in establishing an effective IRO Service.
- ***Statutory Guidance: Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children –***
This provides guidance for local authorities and their partners about the local authority's duty under section 22G of the 1989 Act to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for looked after children within the local authority area. It is designed to guide local authorities to
 - Modify their commissioning practices to ensure they have sufficient local provision to meet their need
 - To ensure they have a strategic plan around commissioning placements for their looked after children
- ***Short Breaks Statutory Guidance: How to Safeguard and promote the welfare of Disabled Children Using Short Breaks –***
This sets out how the legal requirements on short break services under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 apply for different settings and arrangements. In particular it clarifies when to provide accommodation under Section 17(6) or 20(4) for children accommodated in short breaks.

The IRO Handbook

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 created a new power for the Secretary of state to issue statutory guidance to Independent Reviewing Officers and their managers. The Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (England) Regulations [2010] which contain the new legislation underpinning the role and functions of the IRO.

Briefly the new IRO handbook specifies the following:

- a) Every Child Looked After should have a named allocated IRO within 5 days of being looked after to provide continuity in the oversight of the case and to enable the IRO to develop a consistent relationship with the child.
- b) The IRO has two clear functions now:
 - to chair the child's review
 - to monitor the child's case on an ongoing basis

In order to provide ongoing monitoring, the guidance recommends that IROs should have maximum caseloads of approximately 50-70 children.

- c) IROs must spend time with the child before each review, to prepare them for the meeting and to be satisfied that that the child has been properly consulted about any proposals for their future. IROs are expected to either have the skills or access to specialist input so that they can establish the views of children with communication difficulties or complex needs.
- d) There are additional requirements on when to hold reviews including when a young person moves from a stable placement or from a regulated (foster care or children's home) to unregulated (semi independence), or when a placement change may result in educational placement change.

- e) IROs will have the authority to adjourn meetings if they are not satisfied that the review has all the information necessary to make a rounded judgement about the viability of the child's Care Plan and whether any proposals are in the child's best interests. If the review is adjourned, it must be completed within 20 working days.

- f) The Local Authority must have in place a dispute resolution protocol and the IRO has a duty to record their interventions on the child's file. The IRO may bypass any stage of the dispute resolution protocol if they consider it necessary. The formal dispute resolution process should have timescales of no more than 20 days. It is the personal responsibility of the individual IRO to activate the dispute resolution process if their view is it is in best interests of the child. The guidance specifies that this should be done even when obstacles in the way of resolving the dispute may be outside or beyond the Local Authorities control, for example resources issue.
- g) Referral by an IRO of a case to CAFCASS (Children and Families Court Advisory Service) should no longer be seen as a last resort but can be considered at any time even if the dispute resolution process has not been concluded.
- h) The Local Authorities Care Plans including those presented to Court should be endorsed by the IRO. This requires much greater communication by social work teams with the IRO, keeping them up to date with significant events. Any disputes between IRO and teams must be highlighted to the Guardian and courts.
- i) Liaison between Guardians and IROs during Care Proceedings is more clearly detailed
- j) Competencies and qualifications for the IRO role - which is described as 'a specialist one which stands alone within the local authority' - are detailed.
- k) The strategic and management responsibilities of the Local Authority including the role and function of the Children's Director and IRO Manager are detailed. An Annual Report of the work of IROs will be presented to Corporate Parenting members.

Bearing in mind that it is still possible for changes to be made by the present government to this guidance, the Quality Assurance Unit will, with other services through the course of the year, interpret this new guidance into the Southwark context, updating existing policies and procedures and introducing new ones if necessary. Overall much of the new guidance is good practice which Southwark has been working towards, and achieving in many areas.

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 July 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2010 -2011	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the proposed work plan for 2010/11 and give consideration to holding themed meetings based on the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes as outlined under future agenda items below.
2. To raise at the meeting any other areas of special interest to be considered for inclusion in the committee work plan for 2010/11 and to note that additional reports can be requested throughout the year and linked with the Every Child Matters themed meetings as appropriate
3. To decide upon the allocation of business items for the next Corporate Parenting Committee meeting in September.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

1. The constitution for the municipal year 2010-2011 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 cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
10. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
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

2. The committee has previously received 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. Some of these reports could now be addressed and considered under their relevant theme.
3. Corporate parenting committee have also requested that the agendas of the committee (18 February 2010 meeting) move towards thematic meetings, with the specific request to mirror the themes to be considered by Young Southwark so that the views of members can be reported by the champion.

Policy Implications

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 sets out the allocation of items for future meetings. The committee will need to decide upon the timing and considering of these items.

22 September 2010

Be Healthy Theme

- Designated Doctor for Children Looked After – Annual report (for consideration by the new committee)
- Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- Substance Misuse Strategy
- Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) support for CLA – Carelink
- Update on final end of year 2009-2010 performance indicators and focus on key indicators for the Be Healthy theme e.g. health assessments, and the wider performance data.

9 November 2010

Enjoy and Achieve Theme

- KEY stage results and confirmed GCSE results
- Report from the Virtual Head Teacher (Celebration, Special needs, attendance, exclusion)

- Accessing Leisure, including Fusion Partnership
- Children in Care Placements Commissioning Strategy
- Children Looked After (CLA) performance indicators 2010-2011 Quarter 2, focusing on key indicators for the enjoy and Achieve theme and wider performance data.

16 February 2011

Stay Safe Theme

- Annual report on the adoption and fostering services
- Safeguarding children – trends and court actions (report from legal services and CLA 0-12 services)
- Stability and Permanency for Children in Care, including life story work
- Children in Care and Youth Offending (including data analysis and joint working).
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual report
- Children looked after (CLA) performance indicators 2010-11 Quarter 3, focusing on key indicators for the Stay Safe theme and wider performance data.

26 April 2011

Economic Wellbeing Theme

- Unaccompanied minors
- Adolescent and After Care Service
- NEET Strategy (Not in Education, Employment or Training) (including university support, apprenticeships, coaching, drop-in services, connexions, Southwark Works, training partnerships.
- Children Looked After (CLA) performance indicators for the Economic Wellbeing theme and wider performance data.

To be allocated:

- Speakerbox Action Plan
- Children in Care Annual Report
- Feedback from joint meetings between Speakerbox and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee

6. Meeting dates for 2010/11:

7 July 2010
 22 September 2010
 9 November 2010
 16 February 2011
 26 April 2011

Community Impact Statement

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

Resource implications

7. There are no specific implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street SE1 5LX	Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Bola Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Strategic Director of Children's Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	28 June 2010	

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**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST MUNICIPAL YEAR
2010-11**

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

To	Copies	To	Copies
Membership	1 each	Constitutional Officer to Bola Roberts, Tooley Street	10
Councillor Catherine McDonald		Total:	37
Councillor Lisa Rajan			
Councillor Eliza Mann			
Councillor Claire Hickson			
Councillor Patrick Diamond			
Councillor Catherine Bowman			
Councillor Althea Smith			
Reserves			
Councillor James Barber	1 each		
Councillor Helen Hayes			
Councillor Darren Merrill			
Co-opted members			
Barbara Hills	1 each		
Chris Sanford			
Libraries			
Albion	1 each		
Dulwich			
Newington			
Local Studies Library			
Children's Services			
Romi Bowen			
Rory Patterson			
Chris Saunders			
Adrian Ward			
Debbie Walsh			
Eleanor Parkin			
Legal		Dated: 29 June 2010	
Sarah Feasey			
Jill Easty			
Organisational Development			
John Howard			