

Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday 21 April 2011

5.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Membership

Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
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

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Or email: bola.roberts@southwark.gov.uk; paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Annie Shepperd

Chief Executive

Date: 12 April 2011



Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday 21 April 2011
5.00 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 - 4
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 16 February 2011.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
TIMINGS FOR AGENDA ITEMS		
Approximate timings have been set out for the consideration of items on this agenda.		
6.	ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	5 - 14
	5.05pm – 5.25pm	
7.	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN LEAVING CARE	15 - 21
	5.25pm – 5.45pm	
8.	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	22 - 26
	5.45pm – 5.55pm	
9.	ECONOMIC WELL BEING - UNACCOMPANIED MINORS	27 - 35
	5.55pm – 6.05pm	
10.	PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT AND PROPOSED REPORTING FORMAT	36 - 39
	6.05pm – 6.10pm	
11.	ANNUAL ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES REPORT	40 - 50
	6.10pm – 6.15pm	
12.	ADOLESCENT AND AFTER CARE SERVICES	51 - 58
	6.15pm – 6.20pm	
13.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2010-11	59 - 61
	6.20pm – 6.25pm	

Item No.

Title

Page No.

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

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

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.”

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

Date: 12 April 2011



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
 Councillor Lisa Rajan
 Councillor Patrick Diamond
 Councillor Claire Hickson
 Councillor Althea Smith
 Barbara Hills

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Alasdair Smith, Jenny Brennan, Roisin McManus Jackie Cook (children services), Sarah Feasey (legal), Bola Roberts (constitutional officer) and Everton Roberts (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eliza Mann.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as 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 interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual report be noted and approved for submission to the Department for Education (DfE).
2. That an action plan be developed from the report by the head of the quality assurance unit and is integrated into the children's specialist services business/service planning process for 2011/12.

7. CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUTH OFFENDING**RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised procedure and guidance of the youth offending protocol implemented in 2010 be noted.
2. That a letter be sent to the lead officer and chair of the Safer Southwark Partnership to request a briefing on the key issues affecting children on the cusp of care and how the role of the Section 20 resource panel could be promoted.
3. That the low rates of criminal activity concerning Southwark's children in care compared with both London Authorities and England be noted.
4. That the strategic director of children's services be recommended to ensure that the children in care drop-in service is included as part of the review of youth services to ensure continued support for looked after young people is provided in future.

8. PLACEMENT STABILITY**RESOLVED:**

1. That the significant progress made since the JAR (Joint Area Review) inspection in April 2008 to deliver improved permanent outcomes for looked after children be recognised.
2. That the proposed reconfiguration of the fostering service to deliver increased numbers of new carer approvals whilst retaining the capacity of the service to continue providing high levels of carer support and stability be supported.

3. That the proposed management integration of the adoption and permanence service into the 0-12 service be supported.
4. That the Virtual Head provide an appraisal concerning the possible impact the reconfiguration of the children looked after education team might have upon placement support and stability.
5. That the lead commissioner of CAMHS (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) review and report on the impact of any proposed service reductions upon Carelink and its capability to deliver targeted interventions for children in care and foster carer support. The review to include impact on young people in gangs or at risk of gang activity.

9. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND INTERIM CARE ORDERS

RESOLVED:

That Appendix 1 of the report on looked after children with interim care orders be noted.

10. CARE PROCEEDINGS ACTIVITY - LEGAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That the report and its findings submitted in response to the committee's request raised on 10 November 2010 for a report of families that are subject to multiple care proceedings and outlining preventive and supportive measures in place be noted.

11. STAY SAFE PERFORMANCE UPDATE - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the good work on apprenticeship and support of young children in job attainment be noted.
3. That a further report on the new proposed government scheme to replace education maintenance allowance (EMA) and its' impact on the needs of looked after children be received.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2010/2011

RESOLVED:

1. That the corporate parenting committee work plan for 2010/11 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be noted.

2. That a report on the new proposed scheme to replace education maintenance grant (EMA) be included for consideration at the next meeting themed economic wellbeing.

OTHER ISSUES

1. Virtual Head report to be allocated at next meeting. Appraisal concerning the possible impact the reconfiguration of the children looked after education team might have upon placement support and stability.
2. The Chair to write to head of economic development, inviting her to corporate parenting committee for an update of her work and finding out how Southwark young people will benefit from work opportunities around the Shard.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

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 category 1 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

The following is a summary of the decisions taken in the closed section of the meeting.

13. CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUTH OFFENDING

The members noted the evaluation on adolescence and aftercare duty service of Southwark social services contained in the closed document. See item 7 for decision.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Economic Wellbeing of Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the number and variety of interventions available to support looked after children and care leavers to achieve economic well being. These interventions include:
 - The council's apprenticeship scheme
 - Support from a dedicated Connexions and Southwark Works officers
 - Coaching scheme
 - Drop in service for looked after children.
2. To note that there are strong partnerships in place, with a soon to be refreshed multiagency Looked After Children (Not in Education, Employment or Training) NEET Strategy Group that is exploring ways of providing joined up provision to this cohort of young people.
3. To note that there is a comprehensive (Not in Education, Employment or Training) NEET strategy in place which is overseen by the multiagency group referred to above.
4. To note that the Council's apprenticeship scheme is successful with looked after children well represented and supported to access this programme.

KEY POINTS

5. The following notes the key points from this report:
 - Between 2009 and 2010 the number of care leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET) has more than halved from 13 to 6
 - Over the past three years 13 Looked After Children (LAC) have successfully applied for the council's apprenticeship scheme
 - The Adolescent and Aftercare (A&AC) Service has a comprehensive policy for care leavers in higher education. This policy guarantees a range of support and financial assistance to Southwark care leavers attending university
 - Connexions and Southwark Works staff are embedded in the LAC team and provide additional support for young people.
 - There have been significant changes at Southwark College and there now is a new senior management team in place. The college is keen to work in partnership and has developed new bespoke Education Other than at School (EOTAS) provision.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. Leaving care legislation places a duty upon local authorities to support and promote care leavers in education, employment and training. This is achieved through the allocation of a personal adviser, advice and practical support that can be provided until the age of 21 or 24 if in a continuing course of study.
7. The Southwark 2016 plan identifies reducing the proportion of 16 – 19 year olds not in education, employment or training as a priority. LAC and care leavers have been identified by Southwark Council as a particularly vulnerable groups requiring specific targeted activity within overall council strategies.
8. Responsibility for coordinating the provision of support to care leavers aged 16-19 rests with the A&AC Service. Established in 2007 this service provides the care planning function for looked after children aged 13-18 years and aftercare support until the young person reaches the age of 21 (24 of attending university/ higher education).
9. The A&AC service offers support across a range of partners and services including named nurses, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Connexions, Employment Advisers, Substance Misuse Specialists, housing and police. There are dedicated teams for unaccompanied minors and education support.
10. The 14-19 and Organisational Development teams support the work of the A&AC service. The 14-19 team is responsible for overseeing the Connexions service and raising the standards of achievement for all 14-19 year olds in the context of the borough's Children and Young People's plan. The Organisational Development Team manages the council's Apprenticeship scheme and is in the process of drafting a new Apprenticeships Strategy.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. The following sets out the data, strategies and range of interventions that are available to ensure that LAC and care leavers achieve economic well being.

Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

12. Table 1 below shows the EET and NEET figures for 16-18 Southwark resident care leavers. The data indicates that between 2009 and 2010 the number of NEET care leavers more than halved from 13 to 6.

Table 1: Resident 16-18 year old care leavers December 2010 (2009 in brackets)

Grand Total	42 (43)
EET	32 (27)
EET %	76.1% (62.8%)
NEET	6 (13)
NEET %	14.2% (30.2%)
Other	1 (2)
Other %	2.38% (4.7%)
Not Known	3 (1)
Not Known %	7.1% (2.3%)

Source: Central London Connexions data December 2010

13. This reduction was likely to have been in part as a result the NEET strategy that was developed in 2010. The strategy has five objectives:
 - a. Raising Achievement – promoting and accessing a diverse range of services
 - b. Preventative Action
 - c. Targeted intervention
 - d. Sustainability
 - e. Effective Information, Advice and Guidance
14. The strategy is delivered in partnership with Council teams and external partners, including the 14-19 team, Southwark Works, Southwark College and Jobcentre Plus. The NEET strategy delivery plan 2010 - 2012 that provides a breakdown of key activity and is also used as a mechanism for monitoring progress. See Appendix 1.
15. The NEET strategy includes a range of interventions. Three that are noteworthy are the coaching scheme, the drop in service and support for care leavers in higher education.

Coaching Scheme

16. Introduced in 2010 the coaching scheme was set up to provide young people leaving care at post-18 with an understanding of the world of work linked to their future career aspirations. Senior managers across the council were approached by Organisational Development and asked if they would act as a coach. Training and support was provided for the coaches. Around 22 young people who were leaving care were matched with relevant senior managers. The coaching lasted for a period of 6 months – 1 year.
17. An evaluation of the programme found that whilst coaches rated the quality of the training highly and felt that the matching had been completed well there had been mixed success with securing the commitment of young people. As a result of their chaotic lives a significant number of coachees had failed to keep in touch with and meet regularly with their coaches. Although in cases where the coach and coachee had managed to maintain contact the sessions had proved invaluable.

Drop in Service

18. The drop in service was established to tackle social isolation amongst care leavers, assist in reducing the number of critical incidents in the A&AC service reception and provide young people with access to information on careers and education options. Staffed by volunteers, A&AC staff and ex-care leavers the service has been used by approximately 103 individuals. Of this group 50% are repeat users – attending three or more sessions since the service began. Interestingly Black females are the largest user group closely followed by Black males. This doesn't reflect the NEET population and the A&AC team is considering why the service isn't appealing to White service users.
19. The service has had a considerable impact. There has been a:
 - Reduction in the number of critical incidents at reception. There is now a more welcoming atmosphere in this area that both staff and young people have commented on

- Provision of a safe space where young people are able to network, socialise, play games, eat lunch and develop friendships which has helped to alleviate care leavers' isolation.

The service has also enabled regular access to education and careers advisers for those who are NEET as a result staff were able to motivate 10 NEET young people to join the Apprenticeship programme.

Care leavers in higher education

20. The A&AC Service has put in place a policy for care leavers in higher education. This policy guarantees the following support and financial assistance to Southwark care leavers attending university:

- Annual transport/ bike grant of £300
- Provision of a laptop package at the beginning of the course of up to £450
- Annual book and equipment allowance of £100 paid at the beginning of each academic year
- Information leaflet for care leavers outlining support services available
- Allocation of personal adviser throughout the course
- Full funding of required field trips
- Access to Southwark's coaching scheme for care leavers
- Support in applying for grants and loans
- Annual grant of £1,750 towards costs of accommodation
- Annual higher education bursary totaling £2,000 over three years.

21. The bursary and other financial support provided are not linked to attendance at the higher education institution, however unpaid payments may be withheld if it is found that the young person is not pursuing higher education in accordance with the pathway plan.

Partnerships

22. To supplement interventions outlined above there is additional support for looked after children and care leavers provided by two advisers from the Connexions service and Southwark Works.

Connexions

23. There is a partnership agreement between Connexions (Prospects) and the A&AC service to have a Connexions worker based within the service three days per week. The aim is to increase the proportion of care leavers known to the Connexions service who are in employment, education and training.

24. A Connexions worker has been with service for the last four years. He reports to the Team Manager for the A&AC service and is responsible for supporting young people in the transition from school by helping with application forms for employment and training, highlighting local opportunities and working to motivate looked after young people to achieve.

Southwark Works

25. A Southwark Works Employment Adviser joined the A&AC team in 2004. The adviser provides support for young people leaving care aged 18-21 into work, education or training. This includes the full range of services - from job searching, CV writing, interview practice etc through to training, support for basic skills and access to apprenticeships or work experience.

26. The Southwark Works adviser was part of the team that won the 'Co-operative

Council' Star award which recognised the cross-Council working with the Organisational Development Team in supporting looked after young people secure Council apprenticeships, gain skills and progress on up the career ladder.

Southwark College

27. There are a number of changes taking place at Southwark College that will increase the level of support available for LAC. The college has restructured its senior management team and is now seeking to reshape its curriculum to better meet the needs of Southwark young people. As part of this reshaping there is from March 2011 a new bespoke EOTAS course in place and new bespoke provision for the Pupil Referral Unit is currently being planned. The college is aware that the Looked After Children team is seeking to develop bespoke provision and it is intended that there will be closer collaborative working.

Apprenticeships

28. The Council's Apprenticeship Programme is in its sixth year and calls upon all Council Departments and partners to provide apprenticeship places. Since 2007 there have been 98 participants in the Council's scheme including 20 looked after children (20.5%) who were made an offer of an apprenticeship.
29. There is an agreed recruitment and selection process, which seeks to match applicants with appropriate apprenticeships to ensure success on behalf of the participant and also the relevant department's ongoing commitment.
30. In partnership with the Organisational Development Team, the Looked After Children Services are keen to ensure that LAC are regarded as good potential applicants for the scheme and that they perform on a similar level when compared to other applicants. To this end the LAC services manage an Employability Programme; designed to develop the skills of LAC in completing job applications, undertaking interviews and improving their numeracy and literacy. This programme runs for six weeks each year in the run up to the Apprenticeship recruitment phase. Young people from the Adolescent and Aftercare Services were identified who would best be able to use the programme. Without the intense preparation programme, this would not be possible to recruit as many looked after children to the council's apprenticeship scheme.
31. In 2008/09 15 LAC applied to the Apprenticeship programme, 6 (40%) successfully obtained placements.
32. In 2009/10 18 LAC applied to the Apprenticeship programme, 3 (17%) successfully obtained placements.
33. In 2010/11 13 LAC applied to the Apprenticeship programme, 4 (31%) successfully obtained placements.
34. A more summary of the outcomes of LAC who applied for an apprenticeship place in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 is detailed in the table below.

Year	LAC Apprenticeship Applicants	LAC Passed Assessment and interview	LAC Apprentices	Notes
2008/09	15	6	6	
2009/10	18	3	3	
2010/11	13	8	4	3 LAC were offered an apprenticeship place but chose not to take up the offer.

35. The apprenticeship scheme runs for 12 months and the apprentice receives a wage on the basis of an unqualified new starter of NVQ Level 2 paid at Hay 2 and NVQ Level 3 paid at Hay 3. This equates to £15,306pa to £16,503pa for a 36 hour working week.
36. Towards the end of their programme, during the last 2/3 months, all apprentices receive Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG) to assist them with career/study option decisions.

Policy implications

37. There are no new policy implications relating to this report.

Community impact statement

38. The Looked After Children Service recognises that adolescent aftercare may be a concern for the community. The Looked After Children Service has a range of specialist services and staff who provide targeted support.

Resource implications

39. Pressures on council budgets across departments and the private sector are likely to impact on the availability of apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers accessing employment.
40. The recent announcement of increases to higher education fees will act as a potential deterrent for many young people leaving care who may then become NEET on their 19th birthday.
41. Wherever possible, the Children Leaving Care service will utilise partnerships across the council and access grants to support care leavers achieve employment, education and training.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Central London Connexions Impact Report Quarter 3	Central London Connexion 3 rd Floor 125 Freston Road London W10 6TH	Angela Rweyemamu 020 7525 3283

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	LAC NEET Action Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Angela Rweyemamu, 14-19 Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
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
Looked After Children's Team	Yes	Yes
Organisational Development Team	Yes	Yes
Southwark Works	Yes	Yes
Connexions (Prospects)	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer		7 April 2011

Appendix 1: Children Looked After, Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) Strategy 2010/12 Delivery Plan

Objective				
1) Raising Achievement – promoting and accessing a diverse range of services				
Task	Success Criteria	Service “in place” or timescale	Lead	RAG
Dedicated, co-located education advisor for years 12 & 13 (part time post – part of CLA education team)	In Post Attends tracking group	In Place	CS	
Access to a matched coach (18+ optional) Delivery of phase two coaching scheme	Coaching scheme in place Phase 2 delivered	April 2010 in place 2010	LH/RL LH/RL	
Co-located employment advisor to support education, employment and training advice – Job Centre Plus Partnership	Joint funded post in place Supported by Cohort tracking group	April 2010	LH/JC	
Accessing 6 th form and college placements. Tracked by 16+ CLA education advisor	Tracking Group Data	Sept 2010	LB/ML	
Access to co-located connexions advisor	Funded worker in place NEET PI's	April 2010	BP/ML	
2a) Preventative Action				
Group work programme delivered by Adolescent & Aftercare Service	Group work programme delivered	April 2010	LH	
Cohort tracking group able to identify those most at risk and needing additional support	Meet monthly PI's Partners ensure relevant staff attend	April 2010	CS	
Delivery of finance management courses for 17 year olds as part of independent skills training, 18+ induction & group work programme, incorporating and partnership with Southwark's bankers (Nat West)	Integrated into 18+ Life Skills Programme	March 2011	LH	
Delivery of 18+ induction and Life skills programme for care leavers (which include support systems available to access the world of work and further education).	Three times per annum	May 2010	LH/DCo	
2a) Preventative Action (cont)				
Develop active links and protocols with regeneration services re: access to apprenticeships and work experience placements	Protocol developed Targets met for CLA work experience	September 2010	CS/ Quasima	

Task	Success Criteria	Service "in place" or timescale	Lead	RAG
Systematic support and tracking provided for all CLA aged 16 -18 year old by Connexions Service	Co located Connexions worker – protocol in place for targeted work Member of cohort tracking group	April 2010	BP	
Matching with coach from Southwark's care leaver scheme	Numbers on scheme. PI's		RL/LH	
2 b) Targeted Intervention				
Role of co-located employment advisor to develop tailored employment	NEET PI's	April 2010	LH/JL	
Deliver apprenticeship prep course through protocol with OD apprenticeship scheme	Courses delivered	April 2010	LH/AC	
Partnership with Job Centre plus – flexible new deal	Access courses for care leavers NEET PI's	Cohort tracking group from April 2010	LH/ED	
Accessing services available through Southwark's Youth Offending Service to support young people being discharged from Youth Offending Institutions	Cohort tracking group overseeing post discharge plans	Sept 2010	CS/CD	
Delivery of Drop In Service Appendix 4 refers	NEET attending Access to support	April 2010	CS/LH/DCo/JR	
Targeted Interventions overseen by cohort tracking group to ensure delivery and service cohesion for those <u>not</u> in EET	Core PI's Bi monthly meetings supported by key agencies	April 2010	CS	
Partnership with early years services to deliver support and advice concerning day care for young NEET care leavers	Young mothers accessing day care to support return to work	Protocol with early years and child care support scheme Sept 2010	CS/RR	
Southwark College – targeted 19 year old project	Cohort tracking key PI's	April 2010 Termly intake	DC/LH	
2 b) Targeted Intervention (cont)				
Seek specific partnership grants to purchase core entry/level one courses in Literacy/Numeracy	NEET have access to entry level/entry level 1 literacy or numeracy courses	May 2010	PB	
2c) Sustainability				
Targeted programmes provided through partnership with Southwark College	Cohort tracking NEET's engaged PI's	April 2010	DC/LH	

Task	Success Criteria	Service "in place" or timescale	Lead	RAG
Tracking afforded through co-located connexions staff, employment advisor and 16+ education worker	Sustained improvement in performance NEET PI's	March 2011 and 2012	CS/DC/BP	
3) Effective Information and Advice and Guidance				
Provision of accurate and up to date information on opportunities, progression routes, choices and where to find help and how to access it	Provided by co located staff and drop in service	Aug 2010	ED/BP/ML	
Training and comprehensive service guide available for social workers and personal advisors in the adolescent and aftercare service	Guide available for staff Appendix 2 refers	Sept 2010	LH/ Steering group	
Information guide available to Southwark Foster Carers concerning choices for young people in years 12 & 13 and beyond.	Guide available Posted to all carers	Sept 2010	SS/BP	
Delivery of Inspiration Event to include information to young people and their carers	Event delivered by partnership	July 2010	Steering Group	

Glossary:

CS: Chris Saunders
LH: Lynn Heath
RL: Robert Lang
AC: Ann Cochrane
ML: Moira Leydon
Q Quamina
BP: Beverly Parchment
JR: John Robinson
CD: Chris Domeney
DCo: Dee Copeland
PB Phillipa Beagley
SS: Susan Sinclair
ED: Edward Dean
LB: Lorraine Boley
DC: Darren Coghlan
RR: Roberto Reid

Chris Saunders
Head of Service for children in care
March 2010

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Financial Management Support for children leaving care	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Corporate Parenting Committee note (Southwark bankers) to provide bank accounts for Looked After Children and support for children leaving care.
2. Corporate Parenting Committee request an update report as to implementation and review of proposed revisions to the savings scheme (under 16's).
3. Corporate Parenting Committee note decisions made with Speakerbox Council relating to implementation of leaving care grant arrangements.

KEY POINTS

4. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service provides a range of interventions and training inputs to build the relevant knowledge, skills and resilience of care leavers to effectively manage their finances and recognise the risks of doorstep lending and other high (legalised) percentage loan arrangements.
5. The service will be developing a purchasing arrangement with a single provider for care leavers to equip their new homes which ensures best value whilst providing free delivery and cooker installation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. Responsibilities for providing services for Southwark's care leavers rests with the Children Looked After Adolescent and Aftercare Service.
7. The Aftercare Service is subject to external scrutiny through key performance indicators relating to care leavers. These relate to the percentage of care leavers on their 19th birthday who are:
 - a) still in contact with their personal advisor
 - b) living in suitable accommodation
 - c) in employment, education and training

These performance indicators provide a helpful benchmark as to the effectiveness and impact of the Aftercare Service. These key performance indicators are subject to comparison with Southwark's statistical neighbours.

8. The Service has 5 teams which provide the full range of services for looked after

children and care leavers (13-21). These being: -

- Two teams for children in care (13-18)
 - Two Aftercare Teams for care leavers (18-21, 24 if in university or higher education)
 - A Team for Unaccompanied Minors and Unaccompanied Minor Care leavers.
9. Leaving care legislation requires that children in care should have a pathway plan in place at 16 years of age which lays out their future pathways to employment, education and training and preparations for independent living.
 10. Pathways plans should articulate the young person's needs assessment at 16 and what skills they would need to acquire over the following twenty four months to live independently from the age of 18. These skills would include how to budget and manage their income/expenditure and their own bank account.
 11. From the age of 18 care leavers have an allocated personal advisor who will monitor the implementation of their pathway plan to ensure the young person is able to fulfill their aspirations with regards to employment, education and training whilst maintaining their accommodation and financial stability.
 12. Young people growing up in their birth families have the security of falling back upon their parents or extended family for ongoing support and where appropriate can remain at home well beyond their 18th birthday. Looked after children are additionally vulnerable because they do not usually have an effective extended family network and have often experienced a chaotic lifestyle where self confidence and conflict resolution have not been developed. Many young people entering the care system over the last five years have unresolved immigration status. These young people are not unaccompanied minors but have arrived in the UK in families who have no status or who are claiming asylum. Some children coming into care have been privately fostered or trafficked which means there is nobody able to exercise parental responsibility.
 13. Looked after children entering the care system this way will have no immigration status when they reach the age of 18 which results in the benefit systems (DWP) deeming them as having "no recourse to public funds" until their status is resolved. This may take a considerable time, and require continued financial support from young people who cannot work or get other access to public funds.
 14. Whilst the Adolescent and Aftercare Service will support and facilitate the young person in care appointing a solicitor and obtaining legal aid, applications for resolution of status are not routinely commenced until the young person reaches the age of 18. Young people in this situation are additionally vulnerable with regards to financial problems as they are not eligible for full employment opportunities or universal benefits.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

15. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service have a number of initiatives in place to support young people reaching the age of 18 with the best possible opportunities to build a home and have financial management skills.

- **Partnership with Southwark Banks (RBS)**

16. The CLA Service has conducted a pilot in 2009/10 to support young people being able to open bank accounts even when they have limited documentation. It is proposed that this protocol will be extended during 2011/12 to include unaccompanied minors who routinely find it extremely difficult (if not impossible) to open bank accounts.
17. The RBS partnership manager has agreed to pilot the opening of 20 bank accounts for unaccompanied minors aged 17 using an agreed set of identification documents.
18. In addition the RBS protocol for 2011/12 will deliver two financial awareness training sessions delivered through the Adolescent and Aftercare group work programme. The protocol has also requested that RBS fund the children looked after GCSE celebration ceremony in October 2011.

- **Bank accounts for looked after children**

19. From March 2011 a new scheme has been introduced following consultation with Speakerbox and Southwark Foster Carers Association whereby all 16 and 17 year olds in care should have their own bank account (unless legal status precludes this).
20. From March 2011 all personal allowances which were routinely paid to the 17 year old by their foster carer or placement, will now be paid directly into their bank account. This will now afford all 17 year olds the opportunity to practice using a bank account for a minimum of twelve months before reaching the age of 18. This will require young people to become familiar with a regular income each week, how to read bank statements on line, and how to anticipate expenditure and income variations. The scheme will be reviewed in March 2012 with a potential to consider the scheme being expanded to 16 year olds.

- **Savings in preparation for leaving care**

21. Currently there is an ad hoc system where foster carers in Southwark are required to set aside £10 per week for older children in care. This has not been consistently applied across all placements types and has led to a great deal of confusion on the part of young people and carers. From March 2011 a uniform savings scheme has been introduced following consultation with staff, independent reviewing officers, Speakerbox and Southwark Foster Carers Association.
22. From March 2011 all young people in care aged 16 and 17 will now receive a weekly personal allowance of £45 (previously £55 - £58). This reduction in allowance will be compensated through the additional payment of £1,000 at 18 years in lieu of looked after children who have been in care since the age of 16. This will compliment the current leaving care grant of £1,300.
23. Southwark Foster Carers Association and other staff have suggested that this savings scheme could be expanded for all looked after children from the moment they come into care.

- **Savings Proposal**

24. It has been suggested that a consultation exercise is held with key partners including

looked after children themselves as to whether there should be a uniform savings scheme for all looked after children from the point they come into care.

25. The principle would be that a fixed amount would be set aside each week for the looked after person from the moment they enter into the care system. This would equate to £5.00 per week for all primary aged children and £10 per week for all secondary school aged children. This amount would be deducted from the allowances paid to the foster carers or placement providers. Potentially this could lead to significant amounts being available to support a young person leaving care. It is proposed that this exercise will take place over the coming six to nine months for implementation from April 2012.

- **Leaving Care Grant and Home Goods Package**

26. Southwark recently set the leaving care grant at £1,300 which was subject to further discussion at the recent meeting between the Southwark Corporate Parenting Committee and Speakerbox.
27. During earlier conversations about the leaving care grant and savings, young people had observed that negotiating the best prices for furniture and white goods was problematic as well as hidden costs such as deliveries and installation of cookers etc.
28. It has therefore been proposed that children's services should negotiate an agreed package for every care leaver with a single provider. This arrangement would ensure value for money, free delivery and maximise the purchasing power of the leaving care grant. This proposal has been well received but further consultations are required to identify the most appropriate provider (IKEA and Argos being suggested). Once this has been concluded the CLA Service will negotiate with the preferred provider to establish a core service and develop appropriate publicity.

- **Pathway Plans (developing skills)**

29. All pathway plans require placements and carers from the age of 16 to provide advice and guidance on budgeting, cooking and paying bills. Nearly 50% of all care leavers move to a semi independent placement at some point during their 17th year which enables them to live semi independently for between six and nine months with a named key worker with expertise in this area.
30. The pathway plan is reviewed every six months by the independent reviewing officer who is able to check progress against agreed milestones and where appropriate challenge the placement or foster carers as to progress being made.
31. If a young person is not able to develop sufficient skills to live independently (despite the support of a semi independent placement to assist preparation) then a referral can be made to the "supporting people" programme delivered through Southwark's joint protocol with housing. The supporting people programme provide supported accommodation for care leavers for a period of up to 2 years where the young person has a protected living environment and a weekly access to a support person. This enables the young adult to have a longer period of time to develop the necessary skills to live independently. During this period the care leaver will have access to a personal advisor and their pathway plan reviewed every six months. This will enable further input concerning the young person's financial and independent living skills.

- **Emergency Payment and Debt Management**

32. If a young person falls into arrears with utilities, council tax or rent there is a special programme available through the housing department where the care leaver will receive additional support. This scheme was initiated to work alongside the care leaver to reduce their arrears and avoid the situation deteriorating further. Allocated personal advisors are required to be well informed about the benefits system and how to access loans and grants where appropriate.
33. Care leavers are aware that if they are experiencing real difficulty with their finances they can be issued with an emergency payment by the CLA Service to provide temporary support while negotiations are held with benefits agencies, utilities or landlords.
34. The CLA Service has a petty cash system which is used for this purpose. It is envisaged that the new arrangements for paying young people directly through their bank accounts will improve this situation as young people will be required to begin more informed budgeting activities from a younger age. It is also intended that all emergency payments sought would require a joint evaluation of the care leaver's bank account to track how it was being used.
35. The development of the drop in service was also introduced as a measure to support young people who may be in financial difficulty. It provides a facility three days each week for the most vulnerable children and care leavers to visit the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for informal support. Whilst accessing input from a range of professionals from employment, education, health and substance misuse agencies, young people can also cook a meal and receive help with laundry and day to day living problems. The drop in is therefore able to fulfill an early intervention service for care leavers where the personal advisor is concerned that the young person may be isolated, vulnerable and unable to manage their money. Care leavers in such circumstances are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and having a constructive place to go each week to access support, advice and encouragement can be crucial.
36. In exceptional circumstances a personal advisor may make an application to the children in care placements panel chaired by the Head of Service for a one off Section 24 discretionary payment. There are occasions where care leavers may get into debt because of unforeseen circumstances or genuine confusion with housing benefit schemes or trying to negotiate the maze of regulations when attempting to work part time (impact on benefits, housing benefit etc). Exceptional one off payments are then used to enable creditors (usually landlords or utilities) to defer implementing legal proceedings against the care leaver. The children looked after placements panel is the main forum used by the Aftercare Service to avoid looked after children being evicted as a result of arrears. This is only used as a last resort as the personal advisor would usually intervene to ensure that all payments (plus small payments to cover arrears) are made directly to the landlord or utility provider.
37. The main reason why a care leaver might be evicted from their accommodation would be as a result of unacceptable behavior (involving neighbours) or significant damage being caused to the property, often caused by visitors invited in by the young person.

Policy implications

38. The Government recently issued updated Children Act Guidance Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers. These regulations and guidance are intended to ensure that care leavers are given the same level of care and support their peers would expect from a reasonable parent and that they are provided with the opportunities and chances needed to help them move successfully to adulthood. The arrangements set out in this report contribute to Southwark's approach to supporting care leavers move to independence.

Resource implications

39. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service delivers statutory provision for looked after children which is delivered within current resources allocated to the children's looked after service.

Consultation

40. As part of the overall looked after service, the Adolescent and Aftercare Service has a key role in delivering direct involvement of young people in their individual service plan and in evaluating and shaping service delivery.

Community impact statement

41. It is recognised that care leavers engaged in further education are more likely to be able to access the world of work and contribute to the local community. It is also clear that young people who have had the opportunity to open a bank account and understand how simple income and expenditure processes are managed will be more able to manage in the adult world.

42. Many of Southwark's looked after children do not begin to settle and make sense of their lives until they have left care. It is therefore crucial that the Adolescent and Aftercare Service maintain effective contact with care leavers up to the age of 21 to provide all the necessary support and encouragement. Over 95% of Southwark's care leavers at the age of 19 are still in touch with their personal advisor and living in suitable accommodation.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Head of Service will provide a number of sample leaflets available to care leavers relating to leaving care grants and Aftercare services.	Bradenham Close, Boyson Road, SE17 2QB	Chris Saunders 020 7525 1039

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Head of Services for Children in Care	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
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	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer		7 April 2011

Agenda Item 8

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Establishment of the Virtual School For Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Children Looked After	
From:		Deputy Director, Specialist Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Corporate Parenting Committee comments on the Virtual School proposals and the outcome of the staff consultation process.
2. That Southwark continues to endorse the proposal to explore opportunities for formal joint working with Looked After Children (LAC) teams in neighbouring boroughs, including Lambeth and Lewisham, and develops stronger partnerships with local authorities that are further afield such as Kent, given that a significant proportion of Southwark LAC are in schools in other local authorities.
3. That the Virtual School Head commissions much of the school's work from staff with specific expertise in other services including Special Educational Needs (SEN), Early years, School Improvement, Admissions, 14-19 and Connexions to help formalise their responsibility as corporate parents. It may also be appropriate to commission work from external organisations.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Why replace the current LACES Team with a Virtual School?

4. This report sets out the key elements of the proposals for a change to the service, and the feedback from staff consultation.
5. The core purpose of a Virtual School Head (VSH) is in driving improvements in the educational attainment and progress of all LAC, including those that have been educated in schools in other LAs. They work in partnership with Virtual School Heads in other LAs to support the educational progress of children in their schools but looked after by other LAs. The Ofsted lead for Safeguarding and CLA Inspections reports that the cumulative evidence from inspections of authorities is that virtual headteachers and virtual schools can make a difference. They can play an important role in coordinating and monitoring provision for schools. Attainment appears to be rising at a faster rate in authorities where there is a Virtual School Head.
6. The Virtual School Head is also expected to strengthen the dialogue with headteachers to ensure that LAC receive the best possible provision; and schools understand and are compliant with the statutory guidance. This engagement will take on greater importance as funding is likely to move from authorities to schools and will include the payment of a LAC pupil premium. The Virtual School Head pilot concluded that those with experience of education at a senior level are best placed to oversee these responsibilities.
7. Southwark is untypical in that all of the LACES team are qualified teachers. However, they do not always engage in activities generally associated with teaching. Recent experience of working with the LACES team has amplified the fact that the dividing line between their remit and other professionals is blurred. Much of the work of the LAC team

could undoubtedly be undertaken by staff from backgrounds other than teaching from within Children's Services or external agencies.

8. There are also several aspects of their work that could be more efficiently undertaken by a project/data officer which is a very common element in virtual schools.
9. There is an expectation that the Virtual School Head also has a strong role at post 16, building relationships with post 16 institutions and care leaving services. Except for the recent work around NEET, the involvement of the LACES team with 16-19 LAC has not formally been part of their remit. This work needs to be developed to ensure continuity for young people who are leaving care.
10. The current LACES team does not use standard practices for tracking adopted children in schools and by school improvement teams and therefore does not meet the needs of a virtual school, despite some recent improvements.
11. The Southwark Personal Education Plan (PEP) format is generally well constructed but the quality assurance process needs strengthening. A strategy for the training of Designated Teachers and other groups needs to be developed whereby training is offered to larger groups such as school clusters or commissioned from an external provider or schools.

Proposed Structure of the Virtual School

- 12 The current structure of the LACES Team is set out below. There are currently 5.34 FTE permanent staff costing approximately 289K in this financial year. There is also a 0.5 agency worker funded from short term funding streams.
 - CLA Education Team Manager (1.0 FTE)
 - Senior advisory teacher: (1.0 FTE)
 - Teachers (1.84 FTE) supporting CLA 3-12
 - Teacher (1.0 FTE) supporting CLA 13-16
 - Teachers (0.5 FTE) supporting CLA post 16-19 NEET
 - Agency Teacher (0.5) supporting CLA 13-16
- 13 The proposed staffing structure for the Virtual School is set out below. It is proposed that there will be a 2.6 FTE permanent staff, and this will deliver significant savings at a time when overall funding to Councils is being reduced.
- 14 Given that several elements of the job description for the position of LAC Education Officer are similar to that of the position of Education Adviser it is likely that this will not represent a change of grade. The position of Virtual School Headteacher and Project Officer are new posts.
 - Virtual School Head Teacher (0.6 FTE) – Advocate for LAC with key stakeholders, strategy and policy development, interface with other LAs, quality assurance
 - LAC Project Officer: Commissioning administration/tracking of progress and attendance, tuition, PEP arrangements, celebration event– (0.6FTE)
 - LAC Education Officers (1.2 FTE) to work closely with educational settings to raise the attainment of targeted children.
- 15 The proposed structure greatly simplifies the leadership and management arrangements. It is envisaged that the Virtual School Head would work mainly but not exclusively in a strategic manner and as such it is felt that it could be successfully undertaken on a part time basis. This is consistent with several of the Virtual Headteacher posts in other London Boroughs.
- 16 In terms of line management it is proposed that the Virtual School is placed within School Improvement.

- 17 The LAC Project Officer is seen as a crucial position. They would have responsibility for ensuring the data for tracking and progress is systematically collected and robust. This is vital when planning appropriate interventions and support. It is also envisaged they would be involved in the administration of commissioning, the organisation of PEP meetings, producing timely reports, home tuition arrangements, celebration event and general administration.
- 18 The role of the LAC Education Officer would be to work closely with educational settings in relation to help in raising the attainment for targeted LAC. They would be expected to liaise with the respective care teams, attend PEP and follow meetings in the educational setting.
- 19 It is proposed that much of the work of the virtual school will be commissioned from other teams, for example,
- Early years: Helping to identify appropriate educational provision
 - SEN: Provide guidance and support to LAC with SEN needs, liaison with SEN Departments in other LAs
 - ICSS (Educational Psychologist support): Assessments for LAC as required
 - Admissions: Supporting the process of admissions to schools both within Southwark and in other LA
 - 14-19 Team to provide support to NEET and those in Post 16 Education
 - Teaching and Learning Consultants: Attendance at PEP meetings for targeted students, training of Designated Teachers, advice to teachers in schools
- 20 Further work will need to be undertaken to determine possible costs arising out of commissioning work from these teams. In particular given the fact that over a third of LAC have a statement of SEN, this could represent a significant workload for the SEN team. Notwithstanding this issue, the commissioning approach would seem to be a much more efficient and effective use of resources.

Response to the consultation on the proposal to establish a virtual school for children looked after

- 21 A number of teams and individuals responded to the consultation including the LACES team, social workers, Carelink, independent reviewing officers, SEN, admissions and the designated doctor for children looked after. These have been most valuable in helping determine the final team structure. Below is a summary of the issues raised and how it is planned that each is addressed in the revised structure/decision paper.
22. The proposed **co-location** of the team with achievement staff has raised considerable concern. It has therefore been decided that the virtual school team will continue to be based alongside social care colleagues with the expectation that this will be kept under review. This will enable the team to pick up on issues quickly and work more closely with allocated social workers to improve educational attainment.
23. The post of **Virtual School Head** is to remain as described in the original proposal, together with the job description that went out for consultation. Responses indicate that this post is not contentious and there is some acknowledgement of the benefits that the post would bring to the team. The Virtual School Head will lead a team that has a clear focus on raising attainment, working with schools and other local authorities on tracking performance, planning interventions and ensuring that PEPs drive performance. A key part of their role will be to broker a shared responsibility for CLA with other authorities and support joint working in order to provide an effective and efficient service that is value for money.
24. Areas of particular concern that were highlighted in several responses included **support for social care staff** on educational issues, **support for foster carers** and ability to intervene in **crisis situations**. In addition the Head of SEN and Inclusion presented a powerful argument around the need for dedicated support for CLA with a statement of special educational need. On reflection it is clear that there is a need for this support to

continue but in order to be more effective and work within a more clearly defined system it has been decided that the post of designated teacher be retained and moved to work within the SEN team. This would ensure a clear link to SEN for the Carelink multi-agency team as well as social care staff. The role of the designated teacher will be relocated under SEN with a change of emphasis in the job.

25. Some concern was expressed at the proposed **reduction in the number of education workers** and it is accepted that the proposed 1.2 members of staff would not have enough capacity to undertake the work. It has been decided that this will be increased to 1.5 staff members; with the aim of having one staff member (part-time) focussing on primary statutory school age children and one staff member (full time) focussing on the secondary phase
26. The **Education worker's job description** has been re-evaluated and it has been decided not to ring-fence these posts for teachers only. As stated in the JD, any applicant needs to have knowledge of the education system but these are Hay grade posts and not on teachers' pay and conditions due to the fact that staff are not required to teach as part of their JD.
27. The **project officer** post is to remain. It is considered that this post is vital to the successful refocus of the team's work as effective tracking and data collection is crucial to demonstrate impact. In addition it is expected that the PEP process should be slicker and more effective if it comes under the direct management of one staff member.
28. Although it is recognised that having a qualified **educational psychologist** in the team has been useful this is an area that can be provided by the Integrated Child Support Service (ICSS) where necessary. The recently published SEN and Disability Green Paper is leading to a national debate on how Educational Psychology (EP) services will be provided in future and it is possible that it will lead to a model where all EP services are externally procured.
29. A key area of concern expressed in several responses is **support for transition** and the original paper flags up work that could be transferred to the admissions team. This area will be the overall responsibility of the Virtual School Head who will coordinate all involved in the process and design a system to ensure that support in the future is as robust as it is at present.
30. **NEET** support for CLA young people will be provided by the reconfigured Connexions team that is to be reorganised over the coming year to reflect the change in national policy. The LA is to continue to have responsibility in terms of support to this group of young people and it is our intention to have a dedicated NEET task force whose role will be to provide direct support for our most vulnerable groups, including CLA.

Policy implications

31. The recommendations are in line with the statutory guidance and support the priority and actions outlined in the Southwark Children and Young People's Plan to help LAC achieve.
32. In terms of governance of the Virtual School it is not thought necessary at this stage to establish a management committee. The Virtual School Head will be expected to report on the work of the Virtual School to the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Community impact statement

- 33 It is envisaged that there will be a positive impact on the community

Resource implications

34. The relocation of the team to education could impact on accommodation.

35. Relevant budgets currently held by the Social Care Team will need to be reallocated to the Virtual school

Legal implications

36. The recommendations are in line with the statutory guidance.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Corporate Parenting Committee Agenda papers 7 July and 10 November 2010	160 Tooley Street and available on the website at http://moderngov.southwarbsites.com/ieListMeetings.aspx?XXR=0&Year=2010&CId=129&	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7232

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jane Bailey, Assistant Director 11-19 and Youth	
Report Author	Alastair Wilson Interim Virtual School Headteacher	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
Key Decision	Yes	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer		7 April 2011

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Economic Well Being – Unaccompanied Minors Service	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children’s Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee approves continued provision of a specialist unaccompanied minors service despite the significant reduction in numbers of unaccompanied minors over the last seven years.
2. Corporate Parenting Committee support the considerable expertise of the Unaccompanied Minors Team being utilised by other parts of children’s services responsible for supporting families with no recourse to public funds or where children have been subject to trafficking.

KEY POINTS

3. In 2009 a positive decision was taken that all Unaccompanied Minors in Southwark would be treated in exactly the same way as all Southwark’s Looked After children concerning placements, care support and full access post 18 services.
4. Unaccompanied minors are all viewed as being in care to the London Borough of Southwark and have been identified as particularly vulnerable because they have no adult in the UK who is able or willing to accept responsibility for them. It is therefore crucial that children’s services are able to provide effective care planning, alongside further education, health and accommodation support (all be it for a brief period) to maximize their potential. Our primary aim is to enable them to make a positive contribution as adults residing in Southwark and achieve economic well being.
5. The UM team is highly experienced and valued by social care teams and key agency partners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. Children and young people entering the United Kingdom without an appropriate adult identified to provide day to day care are deemed to be “unaccompanied minors” and eligible to seek asylum.
7. “Unaccompanied minors” (UM) are considered to be extremely vulnerable and local authorities are required to assess their needs. As a result, most enter care under section 20 (accommodated) of the 1989 Children Act. The ethnicity and country of origin for UM will vary in response to international events, conflict or political upheaval.
8. Through relevant Home Office departments, the government provides a grant

- to local authorities to fund the accommodation and relevant support services for unaccompanied minors based upon their age and the total number being accommodated.
9. The grant does not fund unaccompanied minors once they become 18. The Department for Education provides a basic grant for unaccompanied minor care leavers.
 10. The unaccompanied minors social work team and two other posts (finance, and brokerage) are funded by the grant.
 11. In July 2009, the current unaccompanied minors team was significantly reduced in size to reflect the drop in numbers. Also in July 2009 Southwark agreed that all of its unaccompanied minors would be treated in exactly the same way as all looked after children with regards to provision of placements, personal allowances and additional support when preparing for independent living. This resulted in all unaccompanied minors being assessed from the outset from their specific needs and being offered a placement best suited for them.
 12. The legal framework for unaccompanied minors, which includes asylum claims, over stayers, indefinite leave to remain, deportation processes, benefits and government grant present complex additions to routine care planning and service management. This requires highly specialized knowledge which underpins the core function of the UM team namely to provide appropriate advice and guidance concerning status issues and produce detailed information to support Southwark's capacity to maximize the grant process.
 13. Since 2008 the Home Office introduced a more streamlined procedure in dealing with new asylum claims. Central offices were developed in North and South London (Hillingdon and Croydon) where all claims were managed to produce greater consistency. Whilst this resulted in Hillingdon and Croydon having significant increases in the numbers of unaccompanied minors they have to manage, it has produced a steady downturn in the total number of new claims for unaccompanied minors being received in Southwark. (Appendix 1).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

14. It is proposed to retain a specialist UM team who will continue to provide dedicated support for this group of looked after children. This team will also continue to provide support for unaccompanied minor care leavers until they reach the age of 21 or 24 if attending University.
15. There are currently 126 UM care leavers receiving support from the three personal advisors located in the UM team. It is expected that this number will drop further to between 100 and 105 by April 2012.
16. The team has further reduced in its social work and management capacity from April 2011 to reflect current numbers (see Appendix 2 for current structure). From April 2011 the unaccompanied minors team has been reduced by one personal advisor to reflect the expected drop in unaccompanied minor care leavers over the coming twenty four months. However due to the increasing complexities of some of the Adult unaccompanied Minor care leavers (having children subject to safeguarding plans, adult mental health/trauma and disabilities) a new post of Senior

Personal Advisor has been introduced (as an alternative to a current established post) who will be able to develop specialist links with adult and safeguarding services.

17. The team will continue to be fully funded through Home Office and DFE grants.
18. The grant paid for unaccompanied minors is payable on a weekly basis using two core age bands per child a) under 16 and b) 16-18 year olds. Whilst the weekly allowance for children rises each year in line with inflation, this has not kept pace with the real costs of fostering, residential, semi independent and independent living placement costs etc. Any shortfall of funding between the grant received and assessed need of unaccompanied minors is managed within the CLA Services allocated budgets. No UM child in Southwark is adversely affected due to grant limitations.
19. Currently the UM team are supporting 28 care leavers attending university.
20. The current total of unaccompanied minors (21 as at 1/3/11) is a very small cohort to reach any firm conclusions with regards to ethnicity or country of origin. Appendix 3 provides a series of charts which provide a breakdown of the current unaccompanied minors under a number of headings.
 - Ethnicity and country of origin
 - Placement
 - Under 16 and 16-18
 - Percentage in employment, education and training
21. The unaccompanied minors team continues to develop close links with the NASS office in Croydon for managing new claims.
22. The unaccompanied minors team continue to provide detailed tracking for all unaccompanied minors to ensure they have access to expert legal advice to progress their claim for asylum. Under Leaving Care Legislation, the unaccompanied minors team will continue to provide an aftercare service until the young person obtains the age of 21 (or 24 if young person attending university). It should be noted however that unaccompanied minors care leavers cannot access council accommodation or university support until they have obtained indefinite leave to remain.
23. It should be noted that if the Home Office refuse the care leaver's asylum claim and all subsequent appeals are exhausted then they will be subject to the Home Office deportation processes. Deportation procedures are complex and there has been a great deal of recent media focus upon this area which is fraught with legal challenge. Whilst awaiting deportation unaccompanied minors care leavers have no access to public funds but court rulings have concluded that they would still be eligible for leaving care support under leaving care legislation. Whilst this does not extend to a council tenancy or university support, Southwark is still obliged to provide weekly benefits and rented accommodation. The Unaccompanied Minors Team has developed a close working relationship with Southwark's border and immigration team to support the management of care leavers who have exhausted all their claim options.

24. During the last two years there has been an increasing trend of “adult” asylum seekers claiming they are young people (under 18). This has caused some care management issues especially when the applicant is considerably older. Foster carers and placement providers (and schools) have expressed concern as to the legitimacy of the applicant and whether it is appropriate to treat the person as a child when they are in placements (or school) with other children. Recent court rulings have determined that age assessments undertaken by NASS or local authorities need to be undertaken with a high degree of expertise and professional knowledge and ultimately can only be determined by the courts (where there is any dispute). Southwark’s unaccompanied minors team have therefore had to develop this expertise and introduce systems as to how to appropriately manage legal challenges. This expertise is becoming increasingly valued by specialist services and the safeguarding and assessment teams when considering families who do have access to public funds or when children have been subject to trafficking.
25. Unaccompanied minor care leavers are all allocated a personal advisor and receive the full range of support with regards to ensuring they are living in appropriate accommodation and are able to access employment, education and training opportunities within the current legal framework.
26. Unaccompanied minor care leavers are subject to the same performance indicators as all Southwark care leavers.
27. Appendix 4 provides a breakdown of unaccompanied minors care leavers under the following headings:-
- Age
 - Ethnicity
 - Those in suitable accommodation aged 19
 - Status
28. Appendix 4 also provides details as to the numbers of care leavers who are currently being supported through university and their employment status.
29. It should be noted that when there were over 100 unaccompanied minors in Southwark’s care, their education and academic achievements at GCSE’s were having a significant impact upon Southwark’s CLA GCSE performance. It should now be noted that with such a small cohort (and many of those claiming asylum and coming into the care system beyond statutory school age) Southwark’s current GCSE performance is now only minimally influenced by unaccompanied minor attainment levels.

Policy implications

30. There are no specific issues relating to new policy outlined in this document.

Resource implications

31. The year on year failure of the Home Office grant to maintain pace with inflation has produced significant spending pressures over the last few years and it is increasingly difficult for services to be delivered within grant expectations.

Community impact statement

32. Unaccompanied minors are all viewed as being in care to the London Borough of Southwark and have been identified as particularly vulnerable because they have no adult in the UK who is able or willing to accept responsibility for them. It is therefore crucial that children's services are able to provide effective care planning, alongside further education, health and accommodation support (all be it for a brief period) to maximize their potential. Our primary aim is to enable them to make a positive contribution as adults residing in Southwark and achieve economic well being.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Children Leaving care act 20 (accommodated) of the 1989 Children Act	Department of Education	www.Dfe.gov.uk

APPENDICES

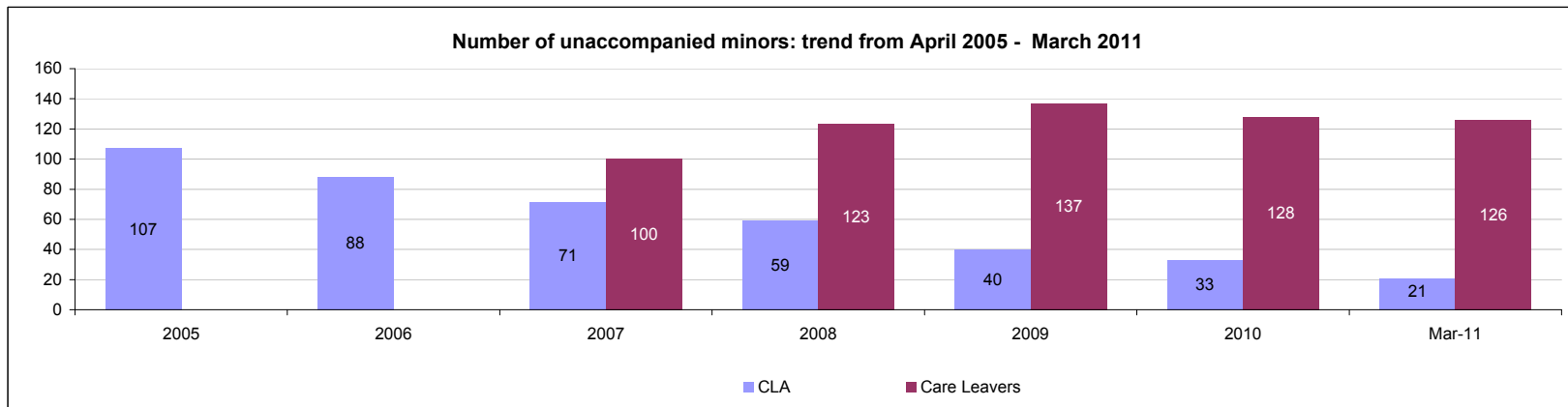
No.	Title
Appendix 1	Trends of total UM's since April 2005
Appendix 2	Revised Unaccompanied Minors Team Structure
Appendix 3	Information/Trends for Current UM's
Appendix 4	Information/Trends for UM Care Leavers

AUDIT TRAIL

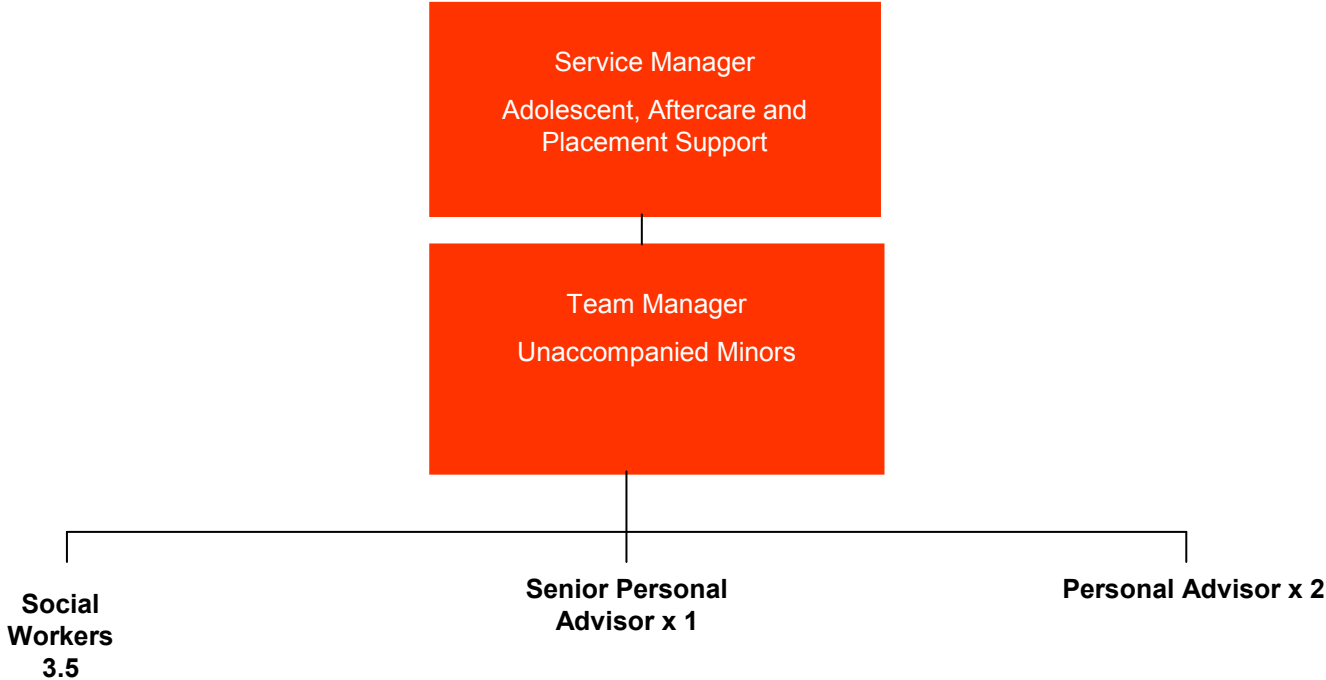
Lead Officer	Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Chris Saunders, Head of Services for Children in Care	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 April 2011

**Appendix One
UM Totals since April 2005**

UM Total:	CLA	Care Leavers
April 2005	107	
2006	88	
2007	71	100
2008	59	123
2009	40	137
2010	33	128
Mar-11	21	126



Appendix 2 CLA Service Unaccompanied Minors Team



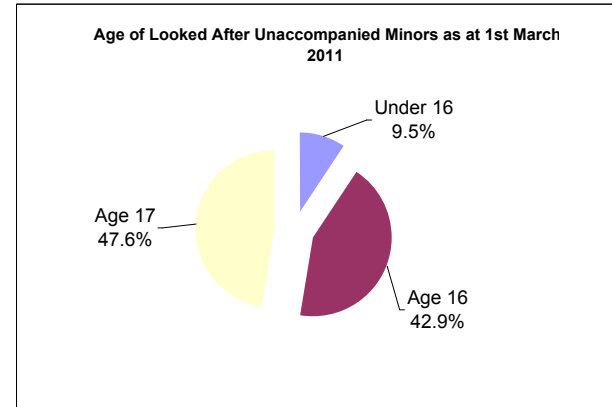
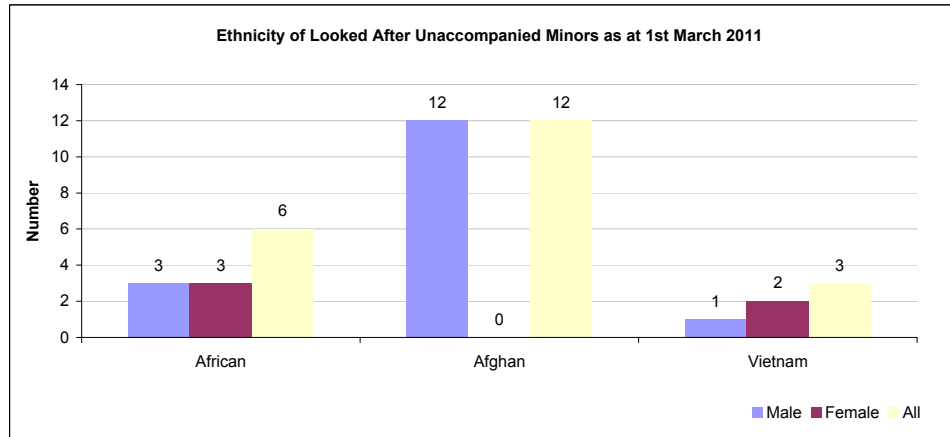
**Appendix 3
Information/Trends for Current UM's**

Ethnicity by gender

	Male	Female	All
African	3	3	6
Afghan	12	0	12
Vietnam	1	2	3
Total	16	5	21

CLA Ages

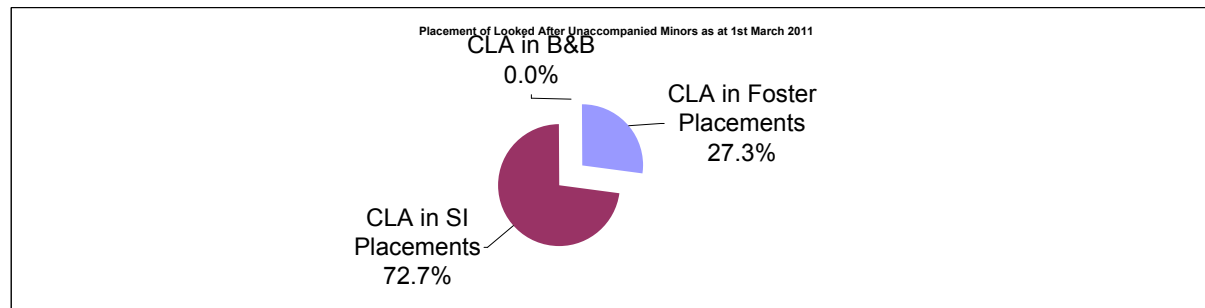
Under 16	2
Age 16	9
Age 17	10
Total	21



Looked After Unaccompanied Minors

CLA - UM (21)

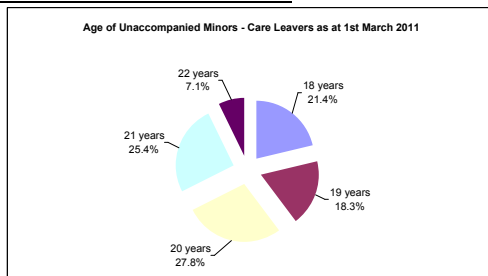
CLA in Foster Placements	6
CLA in SI Placements	16
CLA in B&B	0
Total	22



**Appendix 4
Information-Trends for Care Leaver UM's**

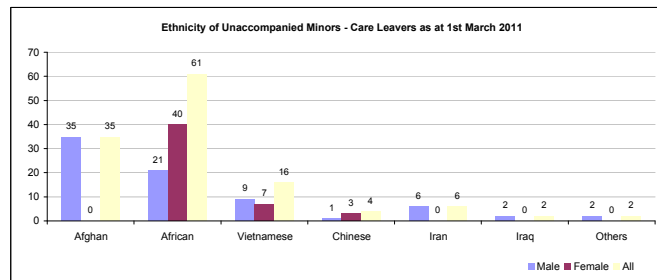
Unaccompanied Minors - Care Leavers

Ages	
18 years	27
19 years	23
20 years	35
21 years	32
22 years	9
Total	126



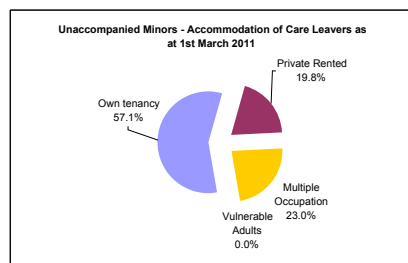
Ethnicity by gender

	Male	Female	All	Young Mothers
Afghan	35	0	35	0
African	21	40	61	9
Vietnamese	9	7	16	5
Chinese	1	3	4	3
Iran	6	0	6	0
Iraq	2	0	2	0
Others	2	0	2	0
Total	76	50	126	17



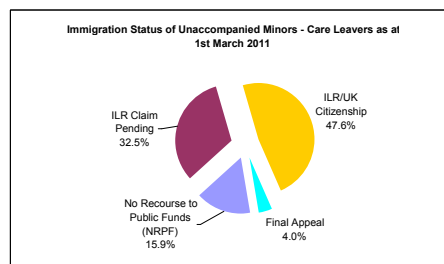
Care Leavers Accommodation

Own tenancy	72
Private Rented	25
Multiple Occupation	29
Vulnerable Adults	0
Total	126



Immigration Status as at 01/03/2011

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)	20	(All Rights of Appeal Exhausted)	No deportation Order issued.
ILR Claim Pending	41		
ILR/UK Citizenship	60		
Final Appeal	5		
Total	126		



Other Information

NRPF	20
UM in University	28
UM in College	78
UM with Local Council Tenancies	72

Occupation as at 01/03/2011

NEET	13
ESOL Entry Level	14
Working	16
Apprentice	0
Prison	1
'A' Levels	0
Not in touch	4
Total	48

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Performance Monitoring Report and proposed reporting format	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Corporate Parenting Committee agree to the proposed annual schedule for reporting performance outcomes for children in care and care leavers.
2. The Corporate Parenting Committee note interim end of year performance outcomes pending full report under schedule agreed for recommendation 1.
3. Corporate Parenting Committee to agree that the Enjoy and Achieve committee meeting (including annual report from Virtual Head Teacher) will coincide with mid year performance review (November).

KEY POINTS

4. Proposal to have two full performance reports to Corporate Parenting Committee per annum (November and June)
5. Corporate Parenting Committee meetings in November and June allocate time for review and analysis

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. Services and outcomes for children looked after (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators.
7. The Head of Service for children in care is required to undertake an annual review of service provision and develop targeted service activities and partnerships to improve outcomes for looked after children.
8. One of the key objectives of the Corporate Parenting Committee is to ensure key council and inter agency partnerships are developed to improve performance and outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.
9. The Corporate Parenting Committee's annual work schedule (delivered under Every Child Matters service areas) requires the CLA service and identified service partners to deliver reports and interventions outlining how improved outcomes will be delivered.
10. Key data for performance indicators are drawn from a range of service databases. The primary database used is Carefirst which is the system inputted

by social workers recording their day to day activities for children and families.

11. Government reporting schedules vary with regards to data required (academic year or financial year) or by methodology i.e. ratios, annual or trends. This makes monthly reporting processes extremely difficult as each key performance indicator (KPI) will have its own cycle and may require slightly delayed reporting if time is to be given to allow social workers to input data and data cleansing activities to be completed.
12. Key data from Carefirst relating to outcomes for children in care and care leavers is automatically extracted from routine write-ups by social workers of key activities. This avoids social workers having to avoid double entry of writing up their records and separately inputting on a database (Munroe report and Social Work Taskforce). Whilst this is an advantage in terms of social work time it does build in a slight time scale delay factor for reporting purposes.
13. The government reporting process for each financial year (or academic year) is then subject to comparison at England, London and statistical neighbour levels. This enables each local authority to benchmark their own performance against local authorities with similar demographic profiles.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

14. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Committee adopt an agreed methodology for receiving performance information.
15. These proposals are as follows:
 - Whole service performance reports will be scheduled on a bi-annual basis. The end of year performance will be a major report to the Corporate Parenting Committee for the June/July meeting. This will provide cleansed and accurate data reporting on all key performance indicators indicating trends when compared with previous service performance over the proceeding five year period. Reports will provide appropriate commentary as currently presented identifying the degree of variation and overall trend.
 - A further report will be provided after the mid year points to identify in-year progress against all indicators, especially highlighting those which were of any concern. The mid year report will be presented late Autumn (November) which will enable information to be provided through the government in comparison with England, London and statistical neighbours from the previous financial year. The mid-year report will also be an opportunity for the Virtual Head Teacher to present end of year attainment data for key stages and GCSE's.
 - By having two major performance reporting events, the Corporate Parenting Committee will be able to allocate a significant proportion of the meeting to the process and enable the children's services performance teams the opportunity to present comprehensive reports for the committee.
 - It should also be noted that throughout the year the Corporate Parenting Committee will receive reports relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. These reports will provide detailed performance updates relevant to the Every Child Matter outcome areas and specific case examples where appropriate.

16. Appendix 1 provides an interim report (non cleansed data) of some of the key CLA performance indicators for the 2010/11 financial year. These are for information purposes for the April Corporate Parenting Committee pending the agreement of the reporting schedule outlined above. Should the schedule proposal be agreed then a comprehensive end of year (and data cleansed) report will be available for the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting in June/July.
17. It is therefore recommended that the Enjoy and Achieve Corporate Parenting Committee be scheduled for November each academic year.

Community impact statement

18. Whilst this represents a performance report and is judged to have no or very small impact on local people and communities clearly the quality of the service has a significant impact on children looked after and care leavers from all communities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Munro Review	Department for Education (DfE) website http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/	Chris Saunders

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	End of Year Performance Report (unverified)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Chris Saunders Head of Services for Children in Care and Monika Ciurej, Performance Management Team	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
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	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	7 April 2011	

APPENDIX 1

Stay safe performance update: Looked after children

NI 62 – Looked after children with 3 or more placements

Current performance shows 9.3% of looked after children had 3 or more placements. This is an improvement on last year's performance (14.9%) and in line with national (10.9%) end of year 2009/10.

NI 63 – Length of placement for looked after children

As at 20th March 2011 68.8% of looked after children 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 were placed for adoption. Southwark's performance is now below last year's performance (72.8%) but remains slightly above national (68%) end of year 2009/10 performance.

NI 66 – CLA cases reviewed within timescales

A high proportion of reviews have been completed on time as at 20th March 2011 but tracking reports are overestimating the proportion of CLA cases that are reviewed within timescales. Current performance shows 98.9%.

Other performance indicators

NI 147 – Care leavers in suitable accommodation

Performance is currently at 91.5%, which is below last year results (97.5%) but in line with national (90.3%) end of year 2009/10. 4 people who have turned 19 since last month have not yet had their suitability of accommodation recorded.

3 children did not have suitable accommodation but they were all in custody on their nineteenth Birthday.

NI 148 – Care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

Due to the economic climate we were expecting performance for care leavers in employment, education or training to drop by end March 2011 compared to end March 2010 (60.5%). With the improvement in recording on the system, our performance is currently at 58.5%, which is slightly below the national end of year figure for 2009/10 (62.1%). The outcomes of 4 children are yet to be recorded. Seven children were not in any education, employment or training due to disability.

NI 58 – Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children

The mean Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score as at 20th March 2011 was 13.9, which is in line with end of year 2009/10 national figures (14.2).

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Annual Adoption & Fostering Service Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the annual report provided for Corporate Parenting Committee on the Adoption & Fostering Service for the period 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010.
2. To note that the Statements of Purpose in regard to the Adoption and Fostering Services are at the present time being fundamentally revised to reflect changes in the regulations, best practice developments and also the restructure of the services that is being put in place on 1 April 2011. It is anticipated that the revised Statements of Purpose will be presented to the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

KEY MESSAGES

3. The Council has a sound and strong performing Adoption and Fostering Service and this has been confirmed by Ofsted inspections of the services
4. The Fostering Service has a large pool of 205 fostering households as at 31st March 2010 (compared with 208 on 31st March 2009). This is an ethnically diverse group of foster carers, reflecting the ethnicity of the Council's looked after children. Consequently it is generally possible to place children with a foster family that is well matched in cultural and ethnic background. This is an important aspect of meeting children's needs and in achieving placement stability.
5. The Adoption service continues to make good progress in placing children for adoption, where the courts have decided this is in the best interests of the child, and in placing children without undue delay in families that are able to meet the child's needs including identity needs.
6. At the end of the year 2009/10, the service is anticipating the introduction by the government of new "sufficiency" regulations that will place additional requirements upon all local authorities in planning strategically with partners in order to maintain a sufficient range and quantity of placement opportunities for looked after children. The committee will receive a report in the coming months giving further information on these regulations and measures to be put in place to ensure compliance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Southwark's Adoption and Fostering Service is part of the Children looked After (CLA) Business Unit in the Children's Specialist Services Division. The service has a key role to play in meeting the department's strategic aims in relation to:
 - Providing permanency and placement stability for looked after children;
 - Reducing the number of children looked after by adopting children from care;
 - Reducing placements costs by providing an ample supply of foster carers and prospective adopters so that the department is less dependent on higher cost independent fostering agencies and residential care.
 - Providing a high quality placements service which will contribute to improving outcomes for children looked after

4. Southwark is an approved adoption agency under the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005

5. The adoption team undertakes the following key functions:

Supporting two independent agency adoption panels who make recommendations with regard to:

 - the suitability of adoption as a permanency plan for specific children
 - whether a proposed adopter is a suitable person to adopt a child and whether the child should be placed for adoption with a particular approved adopter or adoptive couple (this is known as the "matching process")
 - recruit and assess appropriate potential adopters for recommendation as adopters by Southwark's adoption panels
 - deliver post adoption support to adopted children and their new families
 - manage post adoption contact between adopted children and their birth families as directed by the courts
 - provide specialist advice and support to looked after children social work teams who are considering adoption as a permanent outcome for identified children
 - deliver overseas adoption advice, assessment and support service

6. A service manager provides management direction and oversight for the Fostering and Adoption service. The adoption team is staffed by a team manager, 2 practice managers, senior practitioner (post adoption support) and team of social workers. The Service Manager and the Adoption Team Manager retired in 2010, and the service is now being reorganised, to meet both the requirements of the new care planning guidance, and to respond to the need to reduce costs.

7. Adoption is one of the most highly regulated and high profile areas of childcare practice. An adoption order irrevocably transfers full parental responsibility (PR) for a child to a new parent or parents including changing of the child's name. The making of a final Adoption Order by the Courts removes parental responsibility from the birth parent. However, in some circumstances there can be post adoption contact between birth parents and the child. This can be directed by the court through the making of a contact order or it may be a voluntary arrangement subject to the agreement and discretion of the adoptive parents. In all cases the primary concern is the best interests of the child.

8. The 2002 Adoption Act, which came into effect in 2005, introduced a new order known as Special Guardianship. Special Guardianship was created, following a lengthy period of consultation, to provide the Courts with an alternative permanency outcome for a group of children for whom adoption was either not achievable or desirable. It was thought that Special Guardianship would be particularly applicable to older children and in situations where it proposed that a child should be looked after permanently by a member of the child's extended family, such as a grandparent or aunt. A Special Guardianship Order confers parental responsibility to the permanent carer but does not go as far as adoption with regards to removing PR from the birth parent(s) and changing the child's name. Carers who are granted Special Guardianship may also be eligible for ongoing financial and social work support from the local authority and other agencies where appropriate.
9. Adoption performance (adoption and SCO orders granted) is reported to the Department for Education (DfE) on an annual basis as part of the set of performance indicators relating to children in public care. Southwark's adoption performance is then benchmarked against other similar local authorities.
10. Ofsted also undertakes regular independent inspections of Adoption services.
11. Southwark Council is a "fostering service provider" under The Fostering Services Regulations 2002. These regulations (and the accompanying National Minimum Standards 2002) require the local authority to compile a written statement of purpose setting out the aims and objectives of the fostering service and also a statement as to the services and facilities to be provided by the fostering service. The relevant National Minimum Standards specify that the elected members should "formally approve the statement of purpose of the fostering service and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary at least annually".
12. Southwark's fostering service covers an inner city area containing a wide range of racial and cultural diversity. It provides fostering placements for children and young people aged from 0 – 18 who are looked after by the council either on a voluntary basis or as a result of a court order. The service also provides respite or short term breaks for children with disabilities who live with their families (family link scheme).

The service manager with overall responsibility for the fostering service also oversees the adoption service. The fostering team is staffed by a team manager, three practice managers (one of whom manages the family link service) and a team of social workers.

13. The fostering service has a number of key responsibilities, these being:
 - The recruitment, training and approval of foster carers.
 - Publicising and advertising the fostering service so as to maintain a constant supply of people interested in being assessed as foster carers
 - The delivery of a planned short term break scheme for children with profound disabilities who usually live with their families.
 - Delivery of ongoing support to foster carers including specialist advice (drugs, teenage pregnancy, education, health) and direct support concerning challenging behaviour (care link).
 - Delivering foster care allowances (payments)
 - Maintaining appropriate safeguarding and reviewing systems for all

- approved carers
 - Provision of a 24 hour support, advice and back up system for Southwark carers to improve placement stability and resilience.
 - Deliver comprehensive post approval training for Southwark foster carers.
 - Deliver additional supports to enhance foster carer provision of leisure, recreation, access to libraries and on line learning materials to support education.
14. The Adoption and Fostering service also has responsibility for delivering independent fostering and adoption panels who are legally required to approve and review foster placements and approve and match adoptive placements.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption & Permanence Service

Adoption Panels

15. During the year 2009/2010 Southwark has had two Adoption panels operating, each chaired by an independent chair. The panels recommend children for whom adoption is in the child's best interests, recommends prospective adopters for approval as adopters and recommends matches for approved adopters with children. The final decision, based on the panel's recommendations is made by the Agency Decision Maker (Business Unit manager for the CLA Service).

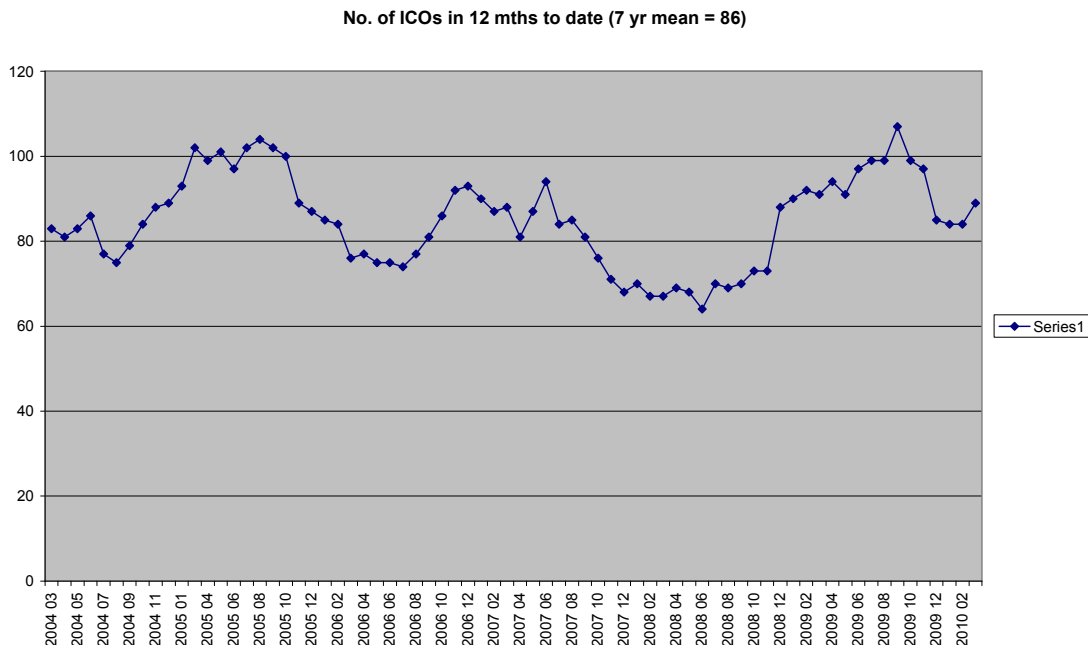
Adoption Panel Activity 2003/04 – 2009/10

	2009-10	2008-9	2007-8	2006-7	2005-6	2004-5	2003-4
Children:							
Decision for Adoption	28	23	34	29	31	31	25
Applicants:							
Domestic Adoption	16	17	16	11	14	15	11
Inter Country Adoption	3	03	02	02	03	04	01
Matches:	12	27	31	14	28	29	17

Comments on Adoption Panel activity and outcomes

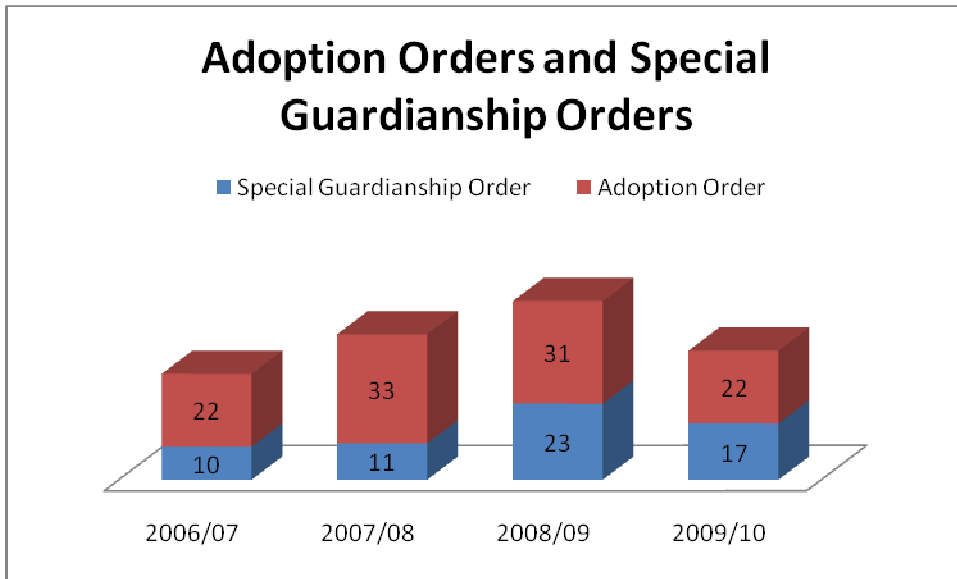
- During the year 2009/2010 the two adoption panels have seen an increase in the number of children being considered for an adoption decision (28 as compared with 23 in the previous year).
- The year 2009/10 saw a sharp drop in the number of children who were matched to adopters following a recommendation by panel (12 as compared with 27 the previous year). The main reason appears to have been the lower number of

decisions for adoption made in the preceding year – this was the lowest number in the previous 5 years. Lower numbers of decisions in one year will result in lower numbers of matches the following year. The lower number of decisions to adopt is directly related to the lower number of court proceedings with proposed care plans for adoption during the year 2008/9. The graph below illustrates this showing the period of 2008/9 having perhaps the lowest number of court proceedings for at least 5 years. Trends in adoption performance are most significantly influenced by levels of care proceedings. Notwithstanding this the number of matches is probably lower than expected and this is most probably further explained by the delays experienced in court proceedings experienced from Autumn 2009, following the publicity around the death of baby Peter, all through 2010. It is estimated that the well publicised reduced capacity of the courts and CAFCASS to deal with cases in a timely way lengthened the time it took for final orders (Placement Orders) to enable children to be adopted. This is supported by the bar chart below showing that SGOs as well as Adoptions reduced in this year demonstrating that issues were related to court proceedings and outcomes generally not just Adoption. Alongside this there is the ongoing challenge in finding carers for children with a high level of need.



- Of the 12 children matched, 3 were placed for adoption with their foster carers and a further 3 were placed for adoption with family members.
- 16 new prospective adopters were recommended for approval. This is in line with the number of new approvals over each of the previous five years. These new prospective adopters are then available as adopters for Southwark children or children from other local authorities. Whenever a child is placed by another local authority with an adopter approved by Southwark, this is known as an inter-agency placement and the placing local authority pays an interagency fee to Southwark.

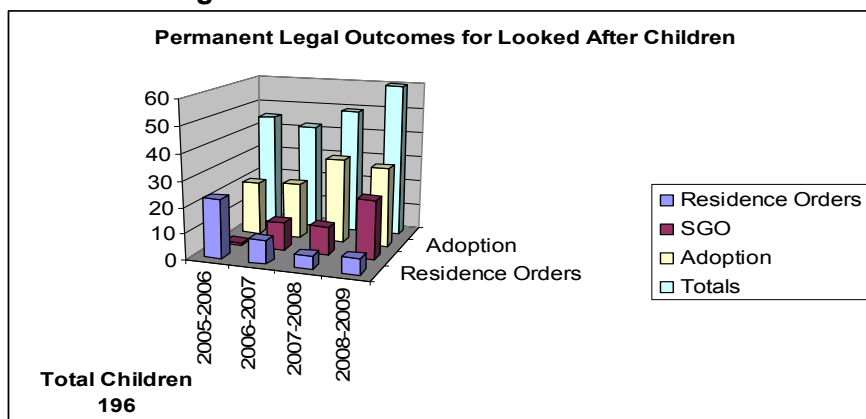
Permanency Outcomes – Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders



Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders

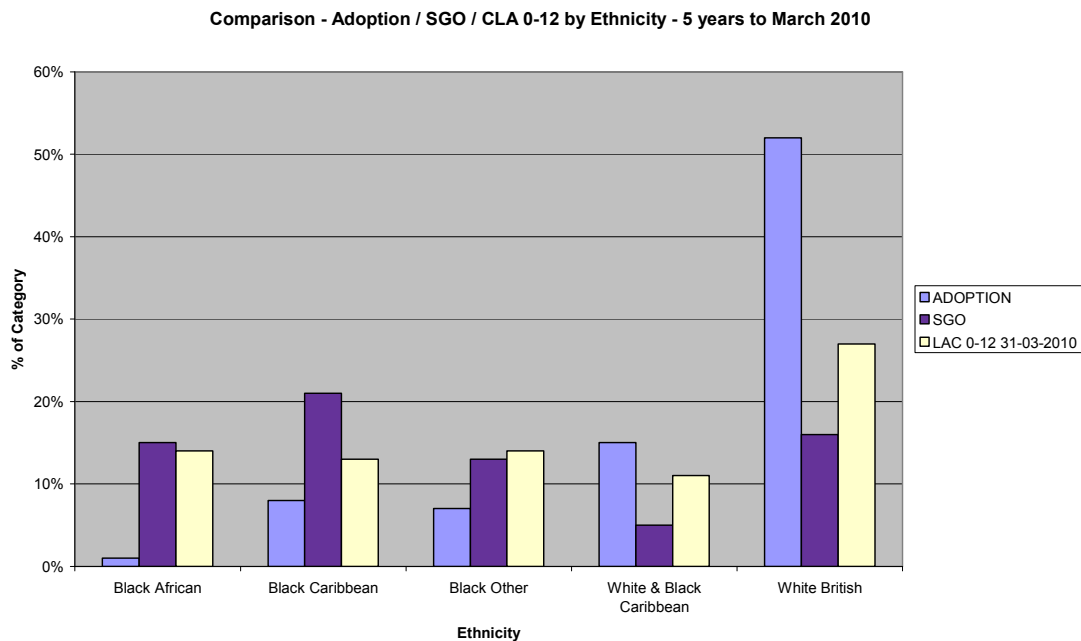
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Special Guardianship Order	10	11	23	17
Adoption Order	22	33	31	22
Total	32	44	54	39

Permanent Legal Outcomes



22 children were adopted during this period and 17 were made the subject of Special Guardianship Orders.

Permanency outcomes by ethnicity of children



16. There is an on-going challenge to the care system to enable the adoption of children of black and minority ethnicity. This is a national issue and the above graph illustrates the evidence supporting this within Southwark. What it also shows however is that special guardianship as a route to permanence in Southwark for BME children illustrating there is a legitimate and well used facility through the courts that enables such children to leave the care system and achieve permanence with family members. The introduction of Special Guardianship Orders was made deliberately with the value base of enabling a route to permanence for BME children in recognising that some minority ethnic communities have religious and cultural difficulties with adoption.

Permanence Tracking

17. There have been regular quarterly meetings chaired by a senior manager, involving CLA 0-12 Team Managers, Adoption & Permanence Service and Independent Reviewing Officers to track the permanence plans of all children looked after aged 7 years and under. About 120 children have been tracked through this process to ensure that there are no avoidable delays by the local authority in permanency planning for these children. These meetings often highlight complex legal and interagency issues

Panel Training & Panel Review Day

18. Members of both Adoption Panels attended a Training Day in December 2009 to examine trends and emerging practice issues. The day included input from an adopter and from an external expert. Feedback from people attending the training indicated that they had found it stimulating and helpful.

Children's Adoption Day Celebration

19. The 5th adoption celebration was held for Southwark adopted children in April 2009 with a range of entertainment provided. It was attended by approximately 70 children and 80 adults. The event celebrates being adopted and is also used as an additional opportunity for children to have contact with their siblings and with previous foster carers.

Ofsted Adoption Inspection programme

20. The Southwark adoption service was last inspected by Ofsted in December 2008. These inspections tend to occur every 3/4 years so there is a high chance of an inspection during 2011.

The following is a summary of the findings of the 2008 Adoption inspection by Ofsted.

Summary Extract

21. The overall quality rating is good. This was a key, announced inspection, conducted over five days by two inspectors.

"Southwark delivers a solid and strong adoption service with elements of outstanding practice in all outcome areas inspected, but particularly so in relation to the support offered to adoptive families who commented, for example: 'Southwark was amazing and would recommend it to everyone' "

"Adopters are welcomed without prejudice; they are highly satisfied with the way their assessment and preparation is conducted and with what is offered to enable placements to settle and develop into stable families."

"Birth parents value the information and support received and the arrangements made regarding direct and indirect contact, to ensure that children maintain heritage."

"There is excellent attention to individual needs and the positive promotion of diversity. This is especially so in relation to the identification and support of adoptive children's emotional and mental health issues and the successful work done to find adoptive placements for children with disabilities."

"There is a commitment to improve the quality and timeliness of life story work. There is a sense that all are aware of its importance; the shortfalls are mainly caused by difficulty in finding the time to do it."

"No actions arise from this inspection. Recommendations are made regarding a number of records, applications from prospective adopters and the support to birth parents before adoption. "

The Fostering Service

22. The following is a summary of the statistical information provided to the then DCSF for the year ending 31 March 2010.

	Descriptor	2009/10
1	New fostering households approved	6
2	Number of fostering households at year end	205
3	Number of households deregistered	9
4	Number of new fostering households approved	6
5	Number of exemptions (an exemption is where a foster is asked to look after more than 3 children who are not all part of a sibling group)	18
6	Ethnicity of approved foster carers - white - mixed - Asian / Asian British - Black / Black British	128 7 0 153
7	Placements on 31 March 2010 - Approved placements - Filled placements - Vacant placements - Non available placements	332 307 12 13
8	Number of places purchased from independent fostering agencies on 31 March 2010	91
9	Number of sibling groups not placed together where the LA placement assessment was for them to be placed together	0
10	Number of long term placements	64
11	Number of time limited placements	223
12	Number of emergency care placements	10
13	Number of disabled children who used short break services in full year	31
14	Number of "family and friends" placements	34
15	Number of parent and baby placements	6
16	Number of unplanned endings of placements of over 3 months duration	14
17	Number of applications from new prospective foster carers	22
18	Number of new fostering households approved	6
19	Number of foster carers who have successfully completed CWDC training	10
20	Ethnicity of foster children placed with the service on 31 March	

	Descriptor	2009/10
	- White	83
	- Mixed	64
	- Asian / Asian British	15
	- Black / Black British	139
	- Other	6
21	Number of placements provided to children seeking asylum	19
22	Number of allegations of misconduct made against foster carers	11

Recruitment

23. Recruitment plays a key role in Adoption & Fostering Services and we operate in a competitive market for both adopters and foster carers. Successive inspections of both areas have commended the impressive support to both foster carers and adopters.

As noted previously, we have a high success rate in placing children in-house, initially but we wish to increase capacity for children who require long term fostering, and that requires a different strategy.

Developing and commencing a Long Term Fostering Strategy will be a key objective for 2009.

Policy implications

24. There are no policy implications contained in this report. Community impact assessment would say that where ever possible Southwark seek to recruit foster carers from within the London Borough of Southwark. Southwark is in a unique position however as one of the biggest social landlords in the country which places it at a disadvantage because of the statutory requirement that children should have their own bedroom. By its nature, the allocation of council tenancies does not afford residents additional bedroom space. During the last twelve months however the fostering service has revised its screening processes in partnership with Southwark housing where potentially high quality applicants (likely to become approved following the assessment process) could be allocated a larger tenancy.

Resource implications

25. There are no resource implications outlined in this report.

Community impact statement

26. It is judged to have no or very little impact upon local people and communities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Method of Statement for Adoption Method of Statement for Fostering	47B East Dulwich Road	Can be requested in writing from Paul McCarthy at Children's Specialist Services

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director, Specialist Children's Services	
Report Author	Chris Saunders, Head of Services for Children in Care and Susan Sinclair, Team Manager Adoption and Fostering	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director, Communities Law & Governance	Yes	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 April 2011

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Adolescent and Aftercare Service	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To receive the annual report relating to the delivery of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for looked after children and care leavers (13-21).
2. In the event of planning permission being granted the Corporate Parenting Committee endorse the current plan to locate the CLA service in a single central location in Peckham from November 2011 (from its current three separate locations).
3. Corporate Parenting Committee to continue to scrutinise and support the delivery of key partnerships/protocols with other council services to target looked after children and care leavers to deliver tangible outcomes.

KEY POINTS

4. The Adolescent and Aftercare service (A & AC), continues to perform well, delivering good outcomes for older children in care and care leavers.
5. The A & AC service has developed a broad range of service partnerships to enhance services and target support where most needed.
6. The key challenges for the service centre around delivering successful independence transition at 18 for the most vulnerable care leavers and successfully helping them to engage in Education, Employment and Training as young adults.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Adolescent and Aftercare Service

7. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service was established in 2007 as part of a single service (business unit) for Southwark's looked after children and care leavers.

The Adolescent and Aftercare service (A & AC) is one of three services which make up the overall service for children in care and care leavers, these being the:

- Adolescent and Aftercare service (13-21)
- Services for children in care 0-12
- Adoption & Fostering Services

Each service area is led by a Service Manager consisting of a number of social

work teams with support from administration, finance and specialist co-located staff.

8. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service provides the care planning function for looked after children from the age of 13-18 and aftercare support until the young person achieves the age of 21 (24 if attending university/higher education).
9. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service has five teams which provide the full range of services for looked after children and care leavers (13-21). These being:-
 - Two teams for children in care aged 13-18
 - Two aftercare teams for care leavers aged 18-21 (24 if in university or higher education).
 - One team for unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied minor care leavers.
10. The core responsibilities of the Adolescent and Aftercare service are:-
 - Effective care planning to include health, education, pathway and transition plans
 - Maintain meaningful contact and support for young people who have left care up to age of 21.
 - Deliver support to young people who wish to attend university/higher education up to the age of 24.
 - In partnership with primary health, Specialist Health Trusts and Drug Treatment Agencies deliver effective health interventions to include reducing teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.
 - Deliver specialist partnerships with Police, Community Safety and Youth Offending Services to address issues relating to youth offending including children in care who are on the cusp of crime or associating with gangs.
 - To work alongside colleagues in Southwark Virtual School to narrow the gap relating to attainment especially at Key Stage 4 (GCSE)
 - Deliver a range of interventions post 16 to promote semi independence skills including group work, mentoring, life skills training and placement stability.
 - Deliver effective participation arrangements with young people and Speakerbox to improve and shape services.
 - Working in partnership with Southwark housing, supporting people (including Adult Services) and the private sector (commissioned services) deliver appropriate living accommodation and support for care leavers post 18
 - Contribute towards an effective strategy to support young people in employment, education or training from the age of 16 -21, involving partnerships with Connexions, Southwark works, Southwark College,

Southwark's Apprenticeship Scheme and targeted youth support (TYS).

- Provide specialist advice, intervention and support, specific to unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied minors leaving care.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Case Management

11. The core function of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service is to provide qualified experienced and motivated social workers and personal advisors to be allocated to each looked after child and care leaver. Currently the Adolescent and Aftercare team have no social worker or personal advisor vacancies and has one management vacancy which will be filled from May 2011. Social workers currently have a maximum case load level of 16 looked after children and personal advisors between 22 & 25 care leavers
12. Social work activities are monitored with regards to the impact of their direct work with children and care leavers as well as delivering key planning activities around health, education, transition (at 18) and preparation for independence.

Additional Vulnerability

13. Some looked after children may be additionally vulnerable to teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and engagement in youth crime. Others might have additional pressures upon their emotional well being (mental health) as a result of previous trauma or neglect. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service therefore have a screening process which can identify young people from the age of 13 (or later if arriving in care over the age of 13) which can highlight specific vulnerability and trigger referrals to key partners.
14. As a result of the vulnerability screening the following specialist referrals can be made: -
 - (a) Teenage pregnancy services. The CLA Service joint funds a specialist nurse with the teenage pregnancy strategy to target young women in care. The Family Nurse Partnership Service is also available to provide support to young mothers.
 - (b) Insight (commissioned substance misuse services for young people) through a specific protocol which offers targeted services to looked after children.

NB: Members of Insight attend Southwark's drop in and group work programmes to directly engage with Southwark's most vulnerable children and will receive referrals directly from social workers who have undertaken screening activities relating to substance misuse.
 - (c) Vulnerability to youth crime. The screening process enables young people to be identified as vulnerable to youth crime which triggers a strategy meeting involving Southwark's youth offending service to identify early intervention and diversionary activities as well as support to placement carers.
 - (d) Emotional Well Being. All looked after children coming into the care system

are subject to mental health screening (Strength and difficulty questionnaires – SDQ) which can identify early issues relating to mental health. This screening process enables prompt referrals to be made to Southwark's co located mental health team (Carelink) to deliver specific interventions.

15. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service has developed a number of key initiatives to enhance services provided and improve outcomes for children leaving care at 18 and achieving full independence at 21.

These are as follows: -

- **Apprenticeship Scheme**

16. In partnership with Southwark's organisational development team, the looked after service has developed a protocol to enable care leavers to fully access the Council's apprenticeship scheme.
17. The protocol has clear targets with regards to Southwark's care leavers accessing apprenticeship placements as a percentage of all apprenticeships on offer.
18. To support this process, each year the Adolescent and Aftercare Service deliver a short preparation course for those care leavers who wish to apply for a Southwark apprenticeship.
19. The CLA Service provides a leadership role (modeling) through the establishment of three apprenticeship posts within the business unit, (IT, finance and group work)
20. To support care leaver apprenticeships successfully completing their training and placements, there are designated lead officers within the Aftercare Service and organisation development who track progress and intervene early should any problems develop.

- **Coaching Scheme**

21. In partnership with Southwark's organisational development team, a pilot project was successfully delivered in 2009 which allocated care leavers with Senior Southwark Managers who wished to coach care leavers. Specific training was provided for Southwark Managers as to coaching/mentoring skills for vulnerable young adults and whilst raising awareness as to the needs of care leavers. The pilot scheme has now been reviewed with a second recruitment and matching process scheduled for May 2011.

- **Drop In Service**

22. In January 2010 the Adolescent and Aftercare service introduced a "drop in" service at Bradenham Close. The drop in service is a key initiative delivered in partnership with Southwark's youth work service (TYS) to maintain contact with the most difficult to engage children in care and care leavers aged 16-21. The Bradenham resource centre is available three days per week for young people who are not engaged in employment, education and training or have been assessed as having raised vulnerability. The service has input and advice from partner workers including specialist nurses, employment advisors, connexions and substance misuse team.

23. The drop in is provided to maintain contact with vulnerable care leavers to enable the service to continue supporting them and maintaining some momentum towards them regaining access to employment, education and training opportunities.

- **Housing Protocol**

24. Southwark Specialist services has a long standing protocol with Southwark housing (over 20 years). The protocol enables care leavers to access level 2 priority for Southwark housing at 18. Under leaving care legislation, local authorities are required to provide suitable accommodation for all care leavers. For most care leavers in London this results in care leavers being allocated a house of multiple occupation or a temporary tenancy in the private market. Through Southwark's protocol with housing (including supporting people) Southwark is able to offer a tenancy (twelve month probationary tenancy in keeping with all Southwark policy) at 18 which provides suitable accommodation at affordable rental costs. For all young people who are deemed to be vulnerable at 18 and require additional support, Southwark housing allow the children looked after service to have a designated number "supporting people" placements which provide up to 2 years supportive housing till the young person is ready and able to cope with their own tenancy.

- **Southwark Works and Connexions**

25. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service have an active partnership with Southwark Connexions and Southwark Works to provide allocated staff who are able to target the most vulnerable care leavers who may struggle to access the employment, education and training markets.

26. In partnership with the virtual school social workers identify the young people who do not have firm plans and directly intervene to help young people (16+) clarify their pathways and access special projects to help them engage and prepare. The impact of these partnerships and protocols are measurable through attainment levels at 18 and those that are accessing employment, education and training at 17 and 19 (key performance indicators). The CLA Services ability to maintain it's current employment, education and training levels in the current economic circumstances reflects the impact of these partnerships.

- **Group Work and Fusion Partnership**

27. The CLA service has a group worker who is able to deliver a range of activities and learning opportunities for young people in care and care leavers. This acts as a focal point for partners who wish to deliver key health and developmental inputs for looked after children and care leavers. Examples of the impact of group work can be seen through the delivery of sexual health promotional activity and more social events such as black history month (Windrush) and the young people/staff choir (CLA celebration ceremony).

28. Southwark's leisure centre contractor, Fusion is committed to a further protocol from April 2011 to deliver free gold memberships to looked after children and care leavers from 14 – 20.

- **Communication and Participation**

29. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service are fully committed to consulting with young

people relating to their individual care plans and evaluation and shaping of services. The service actively uses the Speakerbox magazine to promote services and delivers a range of information materials for young people. In addition all young people when they reach the age of 13 are invited to visit the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for an induction event where they meet staff and key partners.

30. A similar induction event is managed by the Aftercare Team when young people reach the age of 18 to explain the service and introduce them to key partnership staff.

31. In 2011/12 the Adolescent and Aftercare Service are piloting how communications can be improved through an automated text communication system.

32. Single Location for CLA Service

It is currently proposed that the whole CLA Service will be integrated into a single location in the Autumn of 2011. The current design proposals incorporate all of the current facilities available to the Adolescent and Aftercare Service which will be updated and modernised. This resource will enhance the work of the service as a whole particularly the drop in, employment, training, skills development and group work processes. It is expected that through the co location of the Carelink team (now increasing its remit from 16 years to 18 years of age) there will be more effective early intervention planning for young people who have emotional well being issues.

33. Service Overview

The performance and impact of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service is subject to regular scrutiny by the Corporate Parenting Committee through the series of partnership reports and performance analysis submitted.

34. Examples of the relevant reports during 2010/11 have been: -

- Apprenticeship Protocol
- Fusion Protocol
- Delivery of Virtual School
- Employment, Education and Training Strategy
- Youth Offending Services
- Teenage Pregnancy and Substance Misuse Initiatives
- Youth Offending Services for Children in Care

Policy implications

35. There are none.

Resource implications

36. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service delivers statutory provision for looked after children and care leavers and is delivered within current resources allocated to the Children's Looked After Services. There are no additional resource implications in this report.

Consultation

37. As part of the overall looked after service, the Adolescent and Aftercare service has a

key part in delivering direct involvement of young people in their individual service plans and evaluating and shaping service delivery.

Community impact statement

38. Southwark CLA Services works to promote the five outcomes for children in care as outlined in every child matters. It is recognised that placement stability, engagement in education, access to leisure and healthy lifestyles all help to build resilience for young people to successfully achieve economical wellbeing and making a positive contribution from 18.
39. The children looked after service recognises that the Adolescent and Aftercare Service provides support for some of the most vulnerable young people and young adults in the community. It is recognised that this group may be particularly subject to issues relating to youth crime, substance misuse and anti social behaviour and would therefore want Southwark's services to be effective in delivering economic well being and ensuring care leavers are able to make a positive contribution. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service therefore has a key role to lead a range of strategic partnerships to provide targeted interventions as appropriate.
40. Many of Southwark's looked after children do not begin to settle and make sense of their lives until they have left care. It is therefore crucial that the Adolescent and Aftercare Service maintain effective contact with care leavers up to the age of 21 to provide all the necessary support and encouragement. Over 95% of Southwark's care leavers at the age of 19 are still in touch with their personal advisor and living in suitable accommodation.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Head of Service will provide a range of leaflets available to young people in care and care leavers about the services available.	Bradenham Close	Chris Saunders

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Chris Saunders, Head of Services for Children in Care	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 April 2011	
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		
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	7 April 2011	

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 April 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2010/2011	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children’s Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2010/11 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. 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

3. 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. The corporate parenting committee agreed on 7 July 2010 to move towards thematic meetings.

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 may wish to review the scheduling.

21 April 2011

Economic Wellbeing Theme

- Annual report on the adoption and fostering services (deferred from February 2011)
- 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
- Financial management issues for children leaving care and avoidance of loan sharks
- Virtual Head report: appraisal concerning the possible impact the reconfiguration of the children looked after education team might have upon placement support and stability.

July 2011

Making a Positive Contribution

- Feedback from joint meetings between Speakerbox and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Speaker box action plan
- Speakerbox mission statement
- Report on the proposed new scheme to replace educational maintenance grants (EMA); deferred from April pending further detail to be announced.

Items to be allocated

- Report on the intergenerational review and the results to be reported back to corporate parenting committee (as requested under Designated Doctor for

Children Looked After Annual report 2009/10 and Draft teenage pregnancy strategy items considered 22 September 2010)

- Report from the Lead Commissioner (CAMHS) (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) on the impact of any proposed service reductions upon Carelink and its capability to deliver targeted interventions for children in care and foster carer support. The review to include impact on young people in gangs or at risk of gang activity.
- To receive the draft 2011/12 Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioning Update Treatment Plan for comment prior to its presentation to the Southwark Children and Families trust and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board
- Financial costings for extending the 16 plus transition phase and to mainstream more comprehensive work in respect of the work of the under 5's.

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	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Bola Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 April 2011	
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	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	6 April 2011	

**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:	30
Councillor Lisa Rajan			
Councillor Eliza Mann			
Councillor Claire Hickson			
Councillor Patrick Diamond			
Councillor Althea Smith			
Reserves	1 each		
Councillor James Barber			
Councillor Helen Hayes			
Councillor Darren Merrill			
Co-opted members			
Barbara Hills			
Chris Sanford			
Children's Services	1 each		
Romi Bowen			
Rory Patterson			
Chris Saunders			
Legal			
Sarah Feasey			
		Dated: 11 April 2011	