

Corporate Parenting Committee

Tuesday 26 February 2013

2.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2C, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)
Councillor Eliza Mann (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills
Gordon McCullough

Reserves

Councillor Poddy Clark
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor Lisa Rajan

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

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Contact

Sean Usher on 020 7525 5338 or email: sean.usher@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 18 February 2013



Corporate Parenting Committee

Tuesday 26 February 2013
2.00 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2C, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.

PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE THEME

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 interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

5. MINUTES

1 - 3

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 5 November, 2012.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	PUPIL PERFORMANCE IN 2011/2012 AND THE DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN EDUCATION TEAM	4 - 11
7.	MID YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	12 - 15
8.	MONITOR OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGE IN FEE REGIME	16 - 17
9.	IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	18 - 21
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11.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2012/13	31 - 33

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

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

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

Date: 18 February 2013



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 5 November 2012 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Poddy Clarke
Barbara Hills

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (director of children's social care), Alasdair Smith, (acting head of children looked after services), Jackie Cook (head of social work improvement and quality assurance), Linda Ryan (Carelink), Shelley Burke (head of overview and scrutiny), Sean Usher and Paula Thornton (constitutional team).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Gordon McCullough, Councilors Catherine Bowman and Wilma Nelson.

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 minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS) AND CARELINK

RESOLVED:

1. That the delivery of the children and adolescent and mental health (CAMHS) Carelink service be noted.
2. That the training with British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) for foster carers, social workers, independent reviewing officer's (IRO), members of the adoption and fostering panels and possibly contact workers be noted. The aim of this training will be to think specifically about the emotional and developmental needs of under 5's.
3. That it be noted that officers will promote key partnerships and protocols with other council services to target looked after children (LAC) and adolescents suffering from mental health issues and the other services and training provided by (CAMHS) Carelink service be noted.

7. TELL IT HOW IT WAS REPORT 2011-12

RESOLVED:

1. That the document attached as Appendix 1 to the report "Tell it How It Was 2011-12" be noted.
2. That the recommendations at the end of Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

8. SAFEGUARDING & LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN INSPECTION OUTCOMES

RESOLVED:

1. That the inspection report and the key areas for improvement in relation to looked after children listed in paragraph 7 of the report be noted.
2. That the director of children's social care bring a progress report to the next corporate parenting committee, including a focus on the economic wellbeing of children leaving care.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PLAN 2012/13

RESOLVED:

1. That corporate parenting committee work-plan for 2012/13 be noted.
2. That the item on the impact of welfare reforms on looked after children/young people be deferred until 26 February 2013 meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.10pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Pupil Performance in 2011/2012 and the Developments Linked to the Looked After Children Education Team	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Education	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee is asked to note the information in the report.
2. To feedback any comments to the relevant officer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Department for Education (DfE) publishes national performance data in December for children looked after (CLA)¹ based on a cohort of pupils who have been in care for at least 12 continuous months as at 31 March 2012². At the time of 2012 GCSE examinations, fifty year 11 young people were looked after by Southwark. However, DfE published data focuses only on a subset of these. DfE data is drawn from a range of national-level databases; Southwark Performance Information Analysis team are working with DfE to validate current data which may be subject to change. The following report is provisional and is based on actual data provided by the DfE.
4. Impact of cohort sizes: Small cohort sizes make meaningful interpretation problematic. Like-for-like, year-on-year comparisons for CLA are similarly problematic due to the highly changeable nature of CLA cohorts (e.g. significant variations in pupil care histories, numbers of school and care placement changes, education history, diagnoses of SEN and education attainment on entry to care).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Attainment at Key Stage 4: According to published DfE data and the cohort identified by DfE, 31% of Southwark CLA achieved 5+ A* - C at Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalents); further analysis by the DfE is suppressed due to the small numbers involved.
6. Analysis of pupils' attainment listed in the DfE file continues the positive trend recorded since 2009, showing a closing of the performance gap at GCSE with all Southwark pupils (reducing gaps with all Southwark pupils: 5+ A* - C to 28%, 5+ A* - C inc. English and maths to 25%, 5+ A* - G to 3%).

¹ Attainment data for LAC in alternative provisions or attending independent schools have not been provided to the LA. Figures referring to attainment are therefore based on LAC attending maintained provision and who have been matched to the National Pupil Database.

² National and London figures sourced from DfE publication: 'Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at March 2012'.

This information must be treated with caution and is subject to validation by Southwark's data analysis team in discussion with the DfE.

7. **Changes to care environment:** Within this subset, pupils with a greater number of care episodes did less well than those pupils who had more than one placement change. Pupils with the fewest care episodes and least placement changes achieved higher than others in the subset (see tables 1 and 2).
8. **Educated in/out of local authority schools:** Half of this cohort (52%) was educated in a Southwark school at the time of GCSEs. Pupils attending Southwark schools achieved better at 5+ A* - C than those outside of the borough. All pupils attending out-of-authority schools achieved 5 A* - G (see table 3).
9. **Progress Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4:** The national expectation is that all pupils are expected to make at least 3 levels of progress between KS2 and KS4 in English and in maths. Of this cohort, 44% made three levels of progress in English and 48% made three levels of progress in maths (see table 4).
10. **Attainment at Key Stage 2:** Owing to small numbers, KS2 results for Southwark's CLA have been suppressed by DfE. In this group, pupils with greater placement changes performed better at L4+ Maths, and L4+ English and maths combined, than pupils with fewer changes (see table 5).
11. Just under half (48%) of the KS2 cohort was educated in a Southwark school at the time of KS2 examinations. Pupils attending Southwark schools achieved better than those outside of the borough (see table 6).
12. **Progress Key Stage 1 - Key Stage 2:** The national expectation is that all children are expected to make at least 2 levels of progress between KS1 and Key Stage 2 in English and in maths. We are awaiting release of the national data set for CLA in schools outside Southwark to confirm these figures.
13. **Attendance and Exclusions:** We await the DfE release of national data for exclusions, due in July (see table 7).
14. **Development of Looked After Children Education Team:** The re-structured team is headed by the Education Lead for Looked After Children, supported by a secondary and primary education officer. The post of Project Officer has improved data tracking, increasing the team's capacity to deliver a targeted service. The SEN officer has returned to the LAC Education Team, improving the alignment for all education advice for LAC. The Service Development Co-ordinator role, key to improving pupil-centred practice, is increasing the support and challenge to care and education providers.
15. **Pupil Premium:** This financial year, Pupil Premium (LAC) is £623 per child looked after (children must have been looked after for six months as at 31 March 2012). In Southwark, we use the process of issuing Pupil Premium to collect pupil-level data directly from schools, developing an informed history of pupil progress.

16. **Home Tuition:** One-to-one Home Tuition continues to be used to raise pupil attainment and improve attitudes to learning. The introduction of formal assessment on entry to tuition (on-line 'GOAL assessment') has stimulated targeted approaches to tuition planning. Assessments on entry to tuition will generate benchmarking data to support quality assurance and improve our knowledge of individual academic progress.
17. **Developing practice:** Over the past twelve months the restructured LAC Education Team has:
- Improved pupil-level data accuracy and currency
 - Stimulated a cultural shift towards higher school attendance rates
 - Raised the profile of Southwark LAC Education within and beyond the authority, improving integrated working, particularly at times of challenge
18. The Committee is asked to note the information in the report.

Community impact statement

19. This report sets out the pupil performance data for children looked after for 2011/12 and the strengths and areas for further development for the looked after children education team, thus, impact on the community is minimal. The report contains actions which will improve outcomes for Southwark's looked after children and care leavers. The work of the team will be monitored to ensure these activities do not have adverse community impacts going forward.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Department for Education Statistical Return	DfE website	DfE website

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Tables to Illustrate Report
Appendix 2	KS2 LAC, DfE Cohort December 2012
Appendix 3	GCSE LAC, DfE Cohort December 2012

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Merril Haeusler, Director of Education	
Report Author	Liz Britton, Education Lead, Looked After Children	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 February 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 February 2013	

APPENDIX 1

Tables 1 and 2 - Changes to care environment (see report paragraph 7)

Greater care episodes and placement changes:

Attainment Measure	More than one episode of care	More than one placement change	All children in this cohort
	9 pupils	17 pupils	25 pupils
5+ A* - C	20%	28%	56%
5 A* - G	32%	64%	92%
5 A* - G inc Eng & Ma	4%	20%	32%

Fewer care episodes and placement changes:

Attainment Measure	One episode of care	One or less placement change	All children in this cohort
	16 pupils	8 pupils	25 pupils
5+ A* - C	56%	50%	56%
5 A* - G	94%	88%	92%
5 A* - G inc Eng & Ma	44%	38%	32%

Table 3 - Educated in/out of local authority schools (see report paragraph 8)

Attainment Measure	In-authority schools	Out-of-authority schools	All children in this cohort
	13 pupils	12 pupils	25 pupils
5+ A* - C	69%	41%	56%
5 A* - G	85%	100%	92%
5 A* - G inc Eng & Ma	31%	33%	32%

Table 4 - Progress Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 (see report paragraph 9)

Three levels of progress	In-authority schools	Out-of-authority schools	All Southwark children
English	62%	25%	74.3%
Maths	31%	66%	75%

Tables 5 and 6 - Attainment at Key Stage 2 (see report paragraphs 10 and 11)

Attainment Measure	More than one episode of care	More than one placement change	All children in this cohort
	5 pupils	13 pupils	19 pupils
L4+ Eng	60%	54%	62%
L4+ Maths	40%	62%	53%
L4+ Eng and Maths combined	40%	38%	32%

Attainment Measure	In-authority schools	Out-of-authority schools	All children in this cohort
	9 pupils	10 pupils	19 pupils
Level 4+ English	44%	40%	42%
Level 4+ maths	67%	40%	53%
Level 4+ English & maths	44%	20%	32%

Table 7 - Attendance and Exclusions (see report paragraph 13)

Attendance and Exclusions				
	Southwark CLA			National
	2010	2011	2012	2012
% of permanent exclusions	0.05	TBA	TBA	TBA
% CLA missing at least 25 days of school	10	TBA	TBA	TBA

2011-12 KEY STAGE 2 OUTCOMES									
Pupil Number	Date of Birth	LA	SEN Status	Eng L4+	Mat L4+	EM L4+	Number of Placement Changes		
1	Sep-00	Merton		1	1	1	6		
2	Sep-00	Southwark	SA	0	1	0	5		
3	Oct-00	Southwark		0	1	0	7		
4	Oct-00	Greenwich		0	0	0	3		
5	Oct-00	Croydon	SA+	0	0	0	1		
6	Dec-00	Southwark	Statement	1	1	1	2		
7	Dec-00	Kent	SA+	1	1	1	3		
8	Feb-01	Lewisham		1	0	0	5		
9	Apr-01	Southwark		1	1	1	1		
10	Apr-01	Southwark	SA	0	0	0	0		
11	May-01	Southwark		1	1	1	2		
12	May-01	Slough	SA+	0	1	0	1		
13	Jun-01	Lambeth	SA	0	1	0	2		
14	Jun-01	Lewisham		1	0	0	3		
15	Jun-01	Southwark		1	1	1	3		
16	Jun-01	Lewisham		0	0	0	0		
17	Jun-01	Southwark	SA	0	0	0	0		
18	Jun-01	Southwark	SA+	0	0	0	10		
19	Aug-01	Croydon	Statement	0	0	0	2		

2011-12 KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES										
Pupil Number	Date of Birth	LA	SEN Status	5+A*-C GCSE incl EM	5+A*-C (GCSE & Equiv)	5+A*-G (GCSE & Equiv)	3LP English	3LP Maths	Number Placement changes	Home Tuition
1	Oct-95	Southwark	SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	No
2	Oct-95	Southwark	SA+	0	0	1	0	0	0	No
3	Nov-95	Bexley		1	1	1	1	1	2	Yes
4	Nov-95	Southwark		0	1	1	1	0	4	No
5	Dec-95	Croydon		0	1	1	0	0	3	Yes
6	Dec-95	Southwark		0	1	1	1	0	2	Yes
7	Dec-95	Lambeth	SA+	0	0	1	0	0	0	No
8	Dec-95	Southwark	SA+	1	1	1	1	0	0	Yes
9	Jan-96	Kent		0	0	1	0	0	2	Yes
10	Feb-96	Southwark		0	1	1			2	No
11	Feb-96	Knowsley		0	0	1	0	0	12	Yes
12	Apr-96	Westminster		1	1	1	1	1	2	No
13	Apr-96	Lewisham		0	0	1	0	1	2	No
14	Apr-96	Southwark		1	1	1	1	1	2	Yes
15	May-96	Southwark	Statement	0	1	1	1	0	2	Yes
16	May-96	Southwark	SA+	0	0	1	0	0	5	Yes
17	May-96	Kent		1	1	1	1	1	6	No
18	May-96	Bexley		0	0	1	0	1	11	No
19	Jun-96	Lewisham	SA+	0	0	1	0	1	2	Yes
20	Jun-96	Southwark		1	1	1	1	1	1	No
21	Jun-96	Southwark	SA+	0	1	1	1	0	0	No
22	Jun-96	Southwark	SA+	1	1	1	1	1	1	Yes
23	Jun-96	East Sussex		1	1	1	0	1	3	No
24	Jul-96	Southwark	SA	0	0	0	0	1	63	No
25	Jul-96	Greenwich	SA+	0	0	1	0	1	0	No

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Mid year Performance Report – Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children’s Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes this report and discuss how they wish to take forward any issues arising, with a particular focus on adoption performance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report relates to 2012/13 mid year performance, and in particular provides in depth overview of adoption performance given this emerging national policy agenda and scrutiny of on councils to reform services in this area.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Overall performance in the service and its key performance remain stable and good, and within the context of a steadily rising figure of children in care, currently standing at 557. Overall performance in all key areas remains strong across stability (long and short term), reviews and education outcomes (details on attainment is to be covered on separate agenda item).
4. Recent publication of the national adoption scorecard in respect of key performance indicators in this area shows a mixed picture of top quartile performance such as timeliness of adoption when excluding foster carer adoptions and speed of care proceedings.
5. However, areas for improvement in regard to adoption and where we are behind both national and statistical neighbours focus on numbers awaiting adoption, and volume of adoption especially for older children and those from black and ethnic minorities.
6. The local Adoption and Permanence Taskforce chaired by the Director of Specialist Services has undertaken robust analysis of children’s experiences in this area. The outcome of analysis so far is underpinning our local improvement and reform plans. This will also include work jointly with a strategic partner to undertake a peer review in key areas identified for challenge and improvement.
7. As a local area we do not met national thresholds for A1 (average time in days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted). Those taking longer than the national average ranging from 637 to 4505 days. This accounted for approximately 40% or 25 out of the total 60 children adopted over three years. Local analysis shows, that those in the thousand days are older children and/or adopted by

former foster carer. This is adjusted through indicator A10 (A1 adjusted for foster carer adoption) which is top quartile performance nationally and approximately 100 days better than national.

8. Local analysis shows that those waiting longer or not matched tend to be from black and ethnic minorities, particularly black African, male and with family history of mental health.
9. Southwark had the highest number of those awaiting adoption in London and was in the bottom quartile nationally for performance. A closer look at the data has identified some recording issues, alongside areas for practice improvement to reform including how we recruit adopters that better match the needs of our children awaiting adoption.
10. Analysis has pinpointed several priority improvement areas – permanency planning, family finding and reforming practice in some areas such as blood borne virus testing.

Community impact statement

11. The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a strong impact on children looked after from all communities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
CLA Key Performance Indicators	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Monika Ciurej monika.ciurej@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix A	Anticipated Performance Score card

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Monika Ciurej, Performance Information Analysis Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 February 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		12 February 2013

Anticipated performance 2012/13 Scorecard

APPENDIX A

Indicator	Description	Published 3-trend		Year RAG	National 3-trend		Projected	Benchmark
		2008-	2009-		2008-	2009-	- 2012	
A1	Average time between a child entering care in with its adoptive family, for children who adopted	734	775		625	636	632	Below
A2	Average time between a local authority authority to place a child and the local authority on a match to an adoptive family	93	173		171	195	220	On par
A3	The number and percentage of children who than 21 months between entering care and	60	75		944	1018	18	Above
		52%	53%		58%	56%	64%	
A4	Adoptions from care (number adopted and leaving care who are	70	60		957	974	10	Below
		8%	7%		12%	12%	7%	
A5	The number and percentage of children for permanence decision has changed away from	x	x		103	136	na	
		x%	x%		7%	7%	na	
A10	Average time between a child entering care in with its adoptive family adjusted for adoptions, for children who have been	na	466		na	546	474	On par
A6	The percentage of black and minority ethnic leaving care who are	30	35		159	149	6	Below
		5%	6%		7%	6%	6%	
A7	The percentage of children aged 5 or over who are	20	10		256	252	0	Below
		3%	1%		5%		0%	
A8	Average length of care proceedings locally	51	50		52	53	na	Above
A9	Number of children awaiting adoption (as at last year in	35	65		429	575	31	Above
NEW	Number of approved prospective adopters March last year in	Not published					0	

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Monitor of Access to Higher Education in Light of the Change in Fee Regime	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Children Looked After	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the position of access to higher education for looked after children

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Corporate Parenting Committee at their meeting on 21 April 2010 requested that access to higher education be monitored by the Committee in order (to raise relevant issues with regard to looked after children) to ensure that looked after children are not disproportionately affected by the recent changes in the university fees regime.
3. On 8 December 2011 the committee received an update on the likely changes to university fees and potential implications for looked after children were highlighted. The risk at this stage was perceived to be low.
4. The change to university fees has subsequently come into effect from September 2012

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Locally there has not been a change to the number of Children Looked After accessing higher education; performance has remained consistent with previous years. There has however been an increase in care leavers accessing higher education at a later stage.
6. As per the report presented on 8 November 2011, the additional changes to the higher education system, including amendments to the repayment policy and greater scrutiny of Offer to Fair Access for universities (para 4 & 5) has reduced the potential barriers to access to higher education for looked after children and care leavers.
7. Since the introduction of higher university fees there has been a significant increase in the number of universities now offering bursaries to CLA and care leavers which is providing further financial support. The LA continues to offer a strong university package (as per the Succeeding to Adulthood Policy) which provides additional support for Southwark CLA.

Conclusion

8. The implications of the rise in university fees has been reviewed and there is no further risk associated. It is anticipated that Southwark care leavers will continue to access further and higher education with the Council's support.

Community impact statement

9. The Children Looked After Service supports some of the more vulnerable young people in the community and aims to narrow the gap between them and the general population. The service will continue to monitor uptake of university places.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Succeeding into Adulthood Policy	Children Looked After 7 Talfourd Place, London SE15	Alasdair Smith 020 7525 0654

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jodie Harris, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 February 2013	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	13 February 2013	

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Impact of Welfare Reform on Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Children Looked After	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee note the information and discuss any further actions required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 is resulting in all aspects of welfare support being overhauled, with the main objectives being:
 - a. to reduce the nation's benefit bill,
 - b. simplify the benefits system, and
 - c. 'Make Work Pay'.
3. Major changes from the Act include the introduction of Universal Credit and the Housing Benefit Cap. Both will have a significant impact on the financial situation of individual households receiving state support.
4. The Universal Credit will integrate some currently available means-tested benefits (including housing benefit, and working tax credit) into a single benefit and will be paid to claimants one month in arrears.
5. New claims for certain benefits (including housing benefit, job seekers allowance and income support) will be treated as a claim for Universal Credit from October 2013 with existing claims being transferred gradually by October 2017.
6. From April 2013, this will initially apply to four pilot councils - Bromley, Croydon, Enfield, Haringey – all other areas, including Southwark, will introduce the cap by end of September 2013, including Southwark.
7. Housing Benefit will be capped at £350 a week for single adults who don't have children, with households with a dependent child being capped at £500 per week
8. From January 2012 most single young people aged under 35 in the private rented sector will only be entitled to housing benefit 'shared accommodation rate' (SAR), which covers the equivalent of the cost of a single room in shared accommodation. Young people who have been in care are exempt from SAR between the ages of 16 and 21 but will be affected once they reach 22 years of age.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. This report sets out the possible impact the welfare reform changes may have on:
 - a. Looked after children and care leavers

- b. Foster carers and their capacity to continue their role
- c. Recruitment of new foster carers
- d. Kinship carers

Implications for Looked After Children and Care Leavers:

10. Unemployed care leavers reliant on housing benefit will be directly affected. The proposals that housing benefit rates will only cover 30% of local rents as opposed to 50% will further decrease the housing options available.
11. From the age of 22 care leavers in the private rented sector will be affected by the Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) and will only be paid the equivalent of a single room in shared accommodation. Consideration of this will be required to ensure care leavers are suitably informed and can make appropriate housing choices from an early stage, including how they might be affected by SAR when they reach 22.
12. In some instances, especially post 22 years when the SAR comes into effect, the reduction in housing benefit will leave a shortfall in covering the rental value of the property. Finding suitable accommodation for care leavers is likely to become increasingly difficult and some independently living CLA and care leavers may be required to move to more affordable accommodation, especially for those in the private rented sector.

Implications for Fosters carers and their capacity to continue in their role

13. Other than in exceptional circumstances, fostering couples will no longer be exempt from the work-related requirement and one person in the household will be required to be seeking work. Couples may be deterred from continuing as foster carers or require support as the balance of care responsibilities may have to shift if one person enters the workforce.
14. Fostered children living with a foster carer are not taken into account when calculating the size of accommodation required. The Government has proposed that local authorities make up the benefit shortfall for foster carers through the Discretionary Housing payment (DHP).
15. The Government announced an additional £30m a year DHP budget from 2013/14. This additional funding is aimed specifically at two groups:
16. Disabled people who live in significantly adapted accommodation; the extra funding will enable them to remain in their existing homes; foster carers, including those who need to keep an extra room when they are in between fostering.

Implications for the recruitment of new foster carers

17. Under-occupation criteria for the social rented sector will also be brought into force. From April 2013, the 'size criteria' will be used to determine how many rooms are needed by tenants and housing benefit will be adjusted and paid accordingly. This may result in housing benefit reductions for under occupiers in social housing. Tenants in social housing are unlikely to have spare rooms available. This may mean that fewer perspective foster carers are able to meet the requirements.

Implications for kinship carers

18. Family and friends carers in households of five or more people will be disproportionately affected by the benefit cap. Particularly for those who also have their own children living at home, the cap on household benefits will act as a disincentive to provide care and may lead to more children moving into care.

Conclusion

19. As a result of the introduction of Universal Credit and changes to housing benefit, in most circumstances household's financial position will change.
20. Universal credit may negatively affect some foster carers, especially those with dependent children over 16, placing an increased financial strain on foster families.
21. Fostering families, adolescent CLA and care leavers may all see a shortfall in rent following changes as a result of the housing benefit cap. This may require households to move to more affordable accommodation.
22. Looked after children living with a foster carer or in kinship care are not taken into account when calculating the size of accommodation required, deeming many households with CLA as under-occupied. Housing benefit will be amended accordingly and local Discretionary Housing Payments funding should be used to make up the shortfall.
23. Housing benefit for care leavers will change to shared accommodation rate from the age of 22. Consideration of this should be made when considering accommodation options for adolescent CLA.

Policy implications

24. The impact of welfare reform changes as outlined above will be taken to account in local strategic frameworks
25. Prioritisation of the local Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) will be required to support foster carers adversely affected by the Welfare Reform.
26. Succeeding to Adulthood Policy for care leavers will take into consideration the SAR from 22 when finding suitable accommodation for care leavers.

Community impact statement

27. Actions from any policy changes as a result of the welfare reform will be assessed and monitored to ensure they do not have adverse community impacts going forward.

Resource implications

28. The introduction of the Universal Credit and changes to housing benefit are expected to have some impact on resources, as outlined above. It is anticipated that these will be managed within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Welfare Reform Act 2012	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform	Jodie Harris 020 7525 3967

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jodie Harris, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 February 2013	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 February 2013	

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Progress on the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Post-inspection Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee are asked to note the improvement actions and their progress.
2. That officers continue to monitor service developments and improvements and to report back to committee as appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. On 10 July 2012 Southwark's safeguarding and looked after children inspection report was published. The report identified strengths and also areas for development to be completed in three phases; immediately, within three months and within six months.
4. An action plan was developed to address the areas for development and is attached as Appendix 1.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The areas for development for Looked After Children services are as follows:

Immediately:

- Ensure that clearly recorded care plans are in place containing clear, specific outcomes sought as well as realistic contingency plans.

Within three months:

- Ensure that assessments are comprehensive and up to date and that they take account of the full circumstances of the child in need plans and interventions.
- Ensure that transition to independence is effectively planned, commencing at an appropriate stage for young people, leading to the development of and support for independence skills
- Develop an evaluation of services for children and young people and their families on the edge of care to assess their effectiveness and ensure a robust monitoring leading to timely decision making should they need to become

looked after

- Ensure an effective dialogue with the family courts aimed at establishing an understanding of thresholds, quality of plans and proposals, and timescales for completion within a timeframe suitable for each child
- Ensure capacity of the independent visiting service is sufficient to meet need.

Within six months:

- Southwark NHS Primary Care Trust and the Council to ensure young people's health needs are fully addressed in preparation for leaving care.
- Ensure that themes identified within case audits are collated, leading to clear action plans and outcomes are systematically and consistently evaluated to achieve a full understanding of their service impact.

Progress update

6. Immediate areas for Improvement: This action is complete. All active care plans have been reviewed by the Independent Reviewing Officer and identified issues have been resolved.

Areas for improvement within three months

7. Out of the five areas for improvement requiring completion within three months all five have been completed.
8. The transition to independence for Looked After Children has been improved through a robust review of individual plans and a baseline quality audit which has resulted in more comprehensive and up-to date transition plans. Engagement events with Looked After Children and Care Leavers have also been carried out as a part of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) refresh. Issues raised regarding transitions have been feedback to senior managers and will be used to reform services.
9. Provision for children, young people and their families on the edge of care has been improved through an evaluation exercise which effectively challenged current practice and identified new local practice options. This activity will be linked with the troubled families agenda and is predicted to further reduce the numbers of children entering care.
10. Partnership arrangements between the Council and the family courts have been improved through the implementation of cross borough care proceedings pilot. The pilot will improve the quality of evidence to court by developing shared systems for ensuring social work statements are of good quality and Council submissions are delivered on time. Finally, sufficient capacity in the independent visiting service will be ensured through an annual Independent Reviewing Officer report which will be presented and scrutinised by senior social care and commissioning managers.

Areas for improvement within six months

11. Both actions requiring improvement within six months have been addressed and

activity will continue throughout 2013.

12. Looked After Children's health needs have been addressed through the reconfiguration of commissioning arrangements; including needs assessment and market analysis. Moreover, health needs have been identified through consultation with looked after young people as part of the CYPP renewal process. Outcomes are being analysed and will be used to increase the quality of health plans.
13. The process of case auditing is being transformed through implementation of an integrated performance management and quality framework for both Children's Services and the Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB). The framework will shift the purpose of performance management from one that describes activity and how well we do it; to one that demonstrates whether we have made a difference and captures the service users' journey.

Policy implications

14. The actions identified in the inspection are consistent with local strategic frameworks including the Children and Young People's Plan and Council Plan.

Community impact statement

15. The improvement actions identified comprise activities which will seek to make Southwark safer and improve outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. The action plan will be monitored to ensure these activities do not have adverse community impacts going forward.

Resource implications

16. The actions being taken forward will be achieved within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
Ofsted Inspection Reports	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report	Sadie Dann 020 7525 3863

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Safeguarding and Looked After Children Action Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Sadie Dann, Policy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	18 February 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	18 February 2013	

APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN

Area for Development	Proposed Action	Intended outcome (draft – based on BP KITs & inspection report)	Performance measures/targets (draft to be developed in line with actions/outcomes)	Lead Strategic/ operational leads & when
Looked After Children				
<p>Immediately: Ensure that clearly recorded care plans are in place for looked after children and care leavers containing clear, specific outcomes sought as well as realistic contingency plans.</p>	<p>QAU to review all active care plans to identify those that require improvement and provide list to Deputy Director</p> <p>Joint work between IRO and LAC services to improve plans prior to next LAC review</p> <p>Create interim solution within Carefirst to enable careplans to be visible and completed</p> <p>Ensure newly commissioned ICT service is fit for purpose in providing Child Protection and Care Plans</p>	<p>Care plans are firm well articulated and contain clear and evidenced contingency arrangements, especially for adolescents,. Action is taken where plans are not met or outcomes achieved</p> <p>All children in care experience high quality service and their history is used to build an effective relationship</p>	<p>Baseline quality indicator of care plans (review 6 months)</p>	<p>Alasdair Smith/ Jackie Cook</p>
<p>Within three months: Ensure that assessments are comprehensive and up to date and that they take account of the full circumstances of the child in need plans</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Findings to feed into development of future operating model for LAC and effective quality assurance</p>	<p>All children have an up to date comprehensive assessment that clearly relates to their care plan; chosen interventions; intended short and longer term outcomes; there is effective tracking of that plan by both social work staff and IROs</p>	<p>Review all current assessments</p> <p>Baseline quality indicator of assessments (review 6 months)</p>	<p>Alasdair Smith / Jackie Cook</p>

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection Action Plan

Area for Development	Proposed Action	Intended outcome (draft – based on BP KITs & inspection report)	Performance measures/targets (draft to be developed in line with actions/outcomes)	Lead Strategic/operational leads & when
and interventions.		An IRO function that effectively contributes and evidences improved outcomes for children looked after		
Ensure that transition to independence is effectively planned, commencing at an appropriate stage for young people, leading to the development of and support for independence skills	Identify strategic partner for young person led review of provision to result in whole system service redesign of provision	<p>High quality and consistent transition support for young people leaving care</p> <p>High quality, timely and consistent support for young people to develop skills that support them into successful independence or semi independence</p> <p>Good quality pathway plans that support improved outcomes for young people</p>	<p>% of CLA aged 13+ with up to date transition plan</p> <p>Review & rectify transition plans; and baseline quality audit with measures identified such as % with up to date transition plan and success measures (review 6 months)</p> <p>% of CLA with 3 plus placements in last 12 months</p>	Rory Patterson
Develop a systemic evaluation of services for children and young people and their families on the edge of care to assess their effectiveness and ensure a robust	Jointly with strategic partner to support development of local practice options, challenge and evaluation of impact of: edge of care services early intervention and support	Reductions in the numbers of children entering care and ceasing to be looked after for short periods through appropriate, assertive interventions and provision that are provided in a timely fashion and result in the child	<p>% of LAC accommodated under S20</p> <p>% of LAC placed with parents</p> <p>% of LAC missing for more</p>	Elaine Allegretti/ Vicky Agnew

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection Action Plan

Area for Development	Proposed Action	Intended outcome (draft – based on BP KITs & inspection report)	Performance measures/targets (draft to be developed in line with actions/outcomes)	Lead Strategic/ operational leads & when
monitoring of these children leading to timely decision making should they need to become looked after	for those at risk of care supporting commissioning choices for appropriate services links to troubled families	being able to remain at home where appropriate	than 24 hours % of LAC with multiple looked after episodes over the X years % of LAC ceased within 1 month, 1 year and 2 years + % where they went (destination) Adoption and permanency tracking measures including timeliness	
Ensure an effective dialogue with the family courts aimed at establishing a mutual clear understanding of thresholds, quality of plans and proposals, and timescales for completion within a timeframe suitable for each child	Review internal processes impact on court applications with legal Meet with senior judges to discuss issues and devise future way forward	Reduce difference in outcomes between courts and children’s services where the LA proposed care order applications A robust, assertive relationship with courts that fully utilises the range of challenge mechanisms available to the local authority	% of care proceedings applied & % of care proceedings successful % of adoption orders resulting in special guardianship orders, or supervision orders % of court applications completed to timescale	Rory Patterson
Ensure capacity of the independent visiting service is sufficient to meet need.	Review existing arrangements and consider whether they can be extended to increase capacity and redress shortage of provision Ensure IRO report annually on	All children that want access to IDV service can, and experience a sustained and helpful relationship with their independent visitor	% of children that request IDV service that receive it Number and length of time of CLA on IDV waiting list	Karen Sanderson/ Jackie Cook

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection Action Plan

Area for Development	Proposed Action	Intended outcome (draft – based on BP KITs & inspection report)	Performance measures/targets (draft to be developed in line with actions/outcomes)	Lead Strategic/ operational leads & when
	access and provision of IDV services including provision deficits and strengths			
<p>Within six months:</p> <p>Southwark NHS Primary Care Trust and the local authority to ensure that young people’s health needs are fully addressed in preparation for leaving care, including the consistent provision of summary health plans</p>	<p>Review commissioned arrangements for LAC physical health to secure</p> <p>increased capacity of designated doctor function</p> <p>redress inconsistency in practice between medical professional especially in LAC health reviews</p> <p>better engagement and outreach with older children including in transition and preparation for adulthood</p>	<p>LAC health provision that demonstrates improved health needs of children looked after across all ages, is high quality and provides a consistent level of care</p>	<p>% of LAC with up to date health plan including breakdown for 0-12 and 13+ services</p>	<p>Gwen Kennedy</p>
<p>Ensure that themes identified within case audits are collated, leading to clear action plans and that consequent outcomes are systematically and consistently evaluated to achieve a full understanding of their service impact.</p>	<p>Implement integrated performance management and quality framework for both CS and SSCB, to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learning from management reviews and SCRs - outcome focused measures and themes, and look beyond the process 	<p>Audit work that is strategic, enables local learning and can demonstrate impacts on targeted practice issues and outcomes</p>	<p>Baseline audits and quality measures established pertaining to audits, SCRs and management review</p> <p>Impact measures of population worked with at cusp of care; % accommodated post intervention; % re referred within X months etc in line</p>	<p>Jackie Cook/ Elaine Allegretti</p>

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection Action Plan

Area for Development	Proposed Action	Intended outcome (draft – based on BP KITs & inspection report)	Performance measures/targets (draft to be developed in line with actions/outcomes)	Lead Strategic/ operational leads & when
	- are sufficiently critical		with evaluation framework	

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work plan 2012/13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children’s Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2012/13 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 2012/2013 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 corporate parenting committee agreed on 7 July 2010 to move towards thematic meetings and have followed this framework since. Additionally, the committee agreed at its meeting on 21 April 2010 to receive a mid year performance review report. The committee also agreed to receive report/s of any significant performance variations evident from the monthly review of services for looked after children and care leavers.

Policy implications

4. The policy agenda has been measured against the 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 on these themes. In addition, the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children’s services published on 10 July 2012 and other Government guidance will be taken into consideration in determining and reviewing the committee’s work programme.

Future agenda items

5. The following work plan sets out themes for future meetings.

26 February 2013

Enjoy and Achieve Theme

- Key stage 2 results and confirmed GCSE results
- Report from the virtual head teacher (combined with item above for this agenda)
- Mid year performance review
- Report back to committee to monitor the situation relating to any likely impacts on access to higher education
- Impact of welfare reforms on looked after children/young people (deferred from 5 November 2012 meeting)
- Progress report on the action plan arising from the safeguarding and looked after children inspection, including a focus on the economic wellbeing of children leaving care.

29 April 2013

Stay Safe Theme

- Annual report on adoption services
- Annual report on fostering services
- Stability and permanency for children in care
- Children in care and youth offending
- Independent reviewing officer (IRO) annual report
- Adolescent and After Care Service.

July 2013

Making a Positive Contribution

- Feedback from joint meetings between Speaker Box and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Speaker Box action plan
- Speaker Box mission statement.

Ongoing/monitoring

- Performance monitoring – committee to receive report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly performance review of looked after children and care leavers services.

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 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ie/ListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=2012	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Sean Usher 020 7525 5338

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 February 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 February 2013	

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NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Sean Usher Tel: 020 7525 5338

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Councillor Barrie Hargrove	1		
Councillor Claire Hickson	1		
Councillor Wilma Nelson	1	Total:	24
Councillor Althea Smith	1		
Reserves		Dated: 18 February 2013	
Councillor Poddy Clark	1		
Councillor Lisa Rajan	1		
Councillor Patrick Diamond	1		
Councillor Helen Hayes	1		
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