

Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 28 February 2024

2.00 pm

Ground Floor (G02 rooms), 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Charlie Smith (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sarah King

Reserves

Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Joseph Vambe

Non-voting co-opted members

Dr Mark Kerr and Rosamond Marsall

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

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Access

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Contact

Beverley Olamijulo or email: paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk or beverley.olamijulo@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 20 February 2024



Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 28 February 2024
2.00 pm
Ground Floor (G02 rooms), 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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 interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
5.	MINUTES	1 - 6
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 7 December 2023.	

6. SPEAKER BOX UPDATE (2.15 - 2.45 PM)

Presentation: Malcolm Dechaun, Children’s Rights & Participation Officer

7. WORKSHOP ON CAREERS AND WELLBEING (YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE PART OF THIS) (2.45 - 3.15 PM)

Presentation: Malcolm Dechaun and young people.

8. UPDATE: OUTCOME OF FOCUSED VISIT ON CARE LEAVERS (BRIEF REPORT) (3.15 - 3.35 PM) 7 - 14

Presentation: Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director - Safeguarding and Care, and Elaine Reid, Head of Service, Children and Adults Services.

9. BRIEF PAPER ON THE IMMIGRATION PLEDGE (3.35- 3.50 PM)

TO FOLLOW

10. UPDATE ON SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP - INCLUDING UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT (3.50 - 4.05 PM) 15 - 18

Presentation: Jenny Taylor, Assistant Director – Clinical Practice, (Virtual MH Lead for Looked After Children)

11. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN (4.05 - 4.10 PM) 19 - 23

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.”



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 10.00 am at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
 Councillor Naima Ali
 Councillor Rachel Bentley
 Councillor Esme Dobson
 Councillor Natasha Ennin
 Councillor Darren Merrill

OFFICER SUPPORT: Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families, Children's and Adults' Services
 Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Care
 Audrey Bouazizi, Head of Service, Adopt London Regional Adoption agency
 Elaine Reid, Head of Service: Permanence and Resources
 Dr Jenny Taylor, Head of Clinical Service
 Dechaun Malcolm, Children's Rights and Participation Officer and colleagues from the team
 Speakerbox representatives
 Clare Ryan, Service Manager, Looked after Children, Children and Adult's Services
 Andrew Marling, Deputy Headteacher
 Joy Hopkinson, Head of Safeguarding & Community Services, Governance and Assurance (legal)
 Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer
 Beverley Olamijulo, Constitutional Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Charlie Smith
- Joy Edwards and Joy Izod, looked after children nurses
- Dr Stacy John-Legere, looked after children doctor
- Usha Singh, Head, looked after children
- Dr Mark Kerr, subject matter expert.

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

No late items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors Jasmine Ali and Darren Merrill for the purposes of transparency, declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of item 11: Southwark Adoption Performance in 2022-23 as parents who have adopted children.

5. SPEAKERBOX UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Dechaun Malcolm, children's rights & participation officer, along with colleagues and members of Speakerbox presented the annual report and a presentation to members of the committee.

Headlines from the presentation:

- Reference to team expansion and new officers
- 55% increase of the level of engagement from April to November 2023
- Examples and work to upskill young people
- Showed the committee the Speakerbox film, a collaboration with Bromley care council on stigma and capturing the challenges sometimes faced on assumptions
- The care free kitchen. Cooking skills and an opportunity to engage, learn new skills and build confidence
- Positive feedback from under 12s

- Feedback from young people in custody/ risk of exploitation
- How Speakerbox involve and hear young people. Outline of measures and activities/events
- Outline of positive outcomes for children and young people over the past eight months and
- Looking ahead for 2023-24 and key objectives supported with an extended team and plans to do more, to reach and empower children and young people.

Issues / queries arising from presentation

- What further the committee can do to support this work?
- Query relating to the level of engagement of boys and young men (traditionally a hard to reach group). Dechaun Malcolm explained that positive male roles was key and would help to attract this hard to reach group. Additionally, sport had proved to be an attraction for this group
- Reference to podcast by Councillor Portia Mwangangye, deputy cabinet member for young people about vulnerabilities. Counselling sessions were also provided as a follow up after this podcast
- Arising from the film, a query about the process of social workers meeting with young people. It was confirmed that the social worker would liaise with young people on best times / locations to meet. It was discussed that showing the Speakerbox film in schools would contribute towards co-developing practice and guidance in association with the teachers schools and provide a general awareness of the issues and challenges that arises
- Dechaun Malcolm also mentioned the aim to develop training and ensure embedded in Southwark practice, with the possibility of addressing as part of school INSET days
- Reference also to use of film as part of health and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Apprenticeships and ring fencing. Helen Woolgar referred to an initial meeting, with a second meeting that was postponed. She would aim to get this meeting rearranged in the next four weeks. Councillor Jasmine Ali asked to be kept updated with progress.
- NVQ qualification for young people was raised when providing support. This would provide a pathway for those who do not have the necessary qualifications but the skills to progress to employment
- Mention was made of London South Bank University (LSBU) apprenticeships: further detail to be sent to Dechaun Malcolm.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Alasdair Smith, director, children and families, children's and adults' services, presented the corporate parenting annual report 2002-23 to committee. It was explained that there was a constitutional requirement to present an annual report to cabinet each year and was due for submission to cabinet 17 January 2024 meeting.

- Looking at creating a young person version of the report that could be easily read
- Request to add photos to the annual report
- Cabinet member forward to also include a foreword from Speakerbox when report finalised for cabinet January meeting
- Provide link in report to Speakerbox film
- Members of the committee to provide any additional comments on the report within seven days (by 14 December 2023).

RESOLVED:

1. The report contents and structure were considered and changes advised in preparation for cabinet on 17 January 2024.
2. That it be agreed for any recommendations to cabinet to be set out in a cover report, for example to note the report and endorse the 2023-24 draft priorities.
3. That if time allowed, a young person's version of the report should be produced.
4. That members of the committee submit any further comments / input to the report no later than 14 December 2023 to Paula Thornton, constitutional team.

8. ANNUAL VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT 2022-2023

Adam Marling, deputy head, KS5 lead, children's and adults' services presented the annual headteachers report to the committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the virtual headteacher's report for Southwark looked after children be noted.
2. That the comments as set out below on Southwark looked after children's education for consideration by the Virtual School Head teacher be noted:
 - Exclusions. Query relating to the reasons/breakdown in the 30%

miscellaneous category

- Issue of access to laptop for care leavers raised (for those who were not in education) in terms of job applications and access to an online platform
- Many positive examples provided of the use of care leavers who have gone to university/apprenticeships to work with current students to provide good role models/inspiration.

VOTE OF THANKS

It was confirmed that Adam Marling, deputy head would be leaving Southwark Council employment shortly. A vote of thanks and appreciation was recorded by the corporate parenting committee for Adam Marling, Deputy Head for all his work for young people in education.

9. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Clare Ryan, Service Manager, looked after children, children's and adults' services presented the report and key issues to the committee.

Councillor Jasmine Ali asked what the committee could do to assist with the profile of this work. Clare Ryan advised that she would give some thought to the role/assistance that could be provided from members of the committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Independent Review Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2022-23 be noted.

10. SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP VERBAL UPDATE

It was agreed that this update be deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

11. SOUTHWARK ADOPTION PERFORMANCE IN 2022-2023

Helen Woolgar, assistant director, safeguarding and care introduced Audrey Bouazizi, head of service Adopt London Regional Adoption agency to the committee who presented the report and key highlights.

Issues /queries arising from presentation:

- Housing needs for potential adopters when considering adopting from sibling groups. It was explained that kinship carers do receive increased priority for rehousing
- Looked at issues relating to delays in the court process
- Systemic issues relating to black children having to wait longer to be adopted discussed. Ongoing piece of work with partners.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress of children with a care plan of adoption during 2022-23 be noted.
2. That the activity of the local authority working in partnership with Adopt London South (ALS) during 2022-23 be noted.
3. That the Adopt London South Annual Report for 2022 – 2023 be noted.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**RESOLVED:**

That the work plan be noted. The agenda for the next meeting will be determined in consultation with the chair and Alasdair Smith, director of children and families.

The meeting ended at 12.20pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 8	Classification: Open	Date: 28 February 2024	Meeting name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Ofsted Focussed Visit for Care Leavers - December 2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:			
From:		Director of Children Services for Children and Families Directorate	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee note the contents of the Ofsted letter following the focused visit on 13 and 14 December 2023, in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Committee note the evidence of continued improvement in the Care Leaver Service since the last inspection in September 2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Ofsted inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, as well as services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. Ofsted stated aim is to improve lives by raising standards in education and children's social care.
4. In January 2018 Ofsted implemented the current inspection framework for local authority children's services. This is known as ILACS, Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services.
5. As a local authority with an existing "good" judgement, the council can expect one focused visit or joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) over a three year period between inspections.
6. In September 2022 the council had its last ILACS short inspection and was graded 'good' in all areas (Appendix 2).
7. In January 2023 Ofsted introduced a graded separate judgement the progress of care leavers in the ILACS inspection. The new separate judgement focusses on things that matter to young people who are leaving care including:
 - Opportunities to learn and get into work

- Relationships and ensuring access to recreational and social activities
 - Good health and emotional well-being
 - The ability to feedback and influence on the services they are offered
8. To be judged as outstanding a local authority will need to demonstrate consistent good performance in relation to the areas noted above alongside support to help care leavers transition into adulthood.
 9. Following the ILACS inspection in September 2022 officers led by the Director Children's Service (DCS) have been continuing to drive continuous improvement overseen by Children's Services Continuous Improvement Board with the aspiration of moving from good to outstanding as that quality of service is what is required for our children in care and care leavers.
 10. In December 2023 Ofsted notified the council it would be undertaking a focused visit under their ILACS framework on the theme of care leavers on 13 and 14 December 2023.
 11. Focused visits do not generate a graded judgement but a narrative letter that details findings, outlines strengths, areas for development and impact on outcomes for children and young people that the improvements make.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

What did inspectors look at?

12. Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for care leavers aged 18 to 25, focusing specifically on:
 - Quality and suitability of accommodation;
 - Support into adulthood.
 - Care leavers with specific needs (for example, unaccompanied asylum seekers, young parents or those who have had contact with the criminal justice system).
13. This visit was carried out in line with the ILACS framework. Inspectors looked at a range of evidence, including case discussions with personal advisers (PAs), experienced practitioners and managers. They also looked at local authority performance management and quality assurance information and children's case records.

What did inspectors find?

14. The letter sets out that inspectors found, *“since the last inspection in 2022, services to care leavers have continued to improve, with the needs of most care leavers being met well. Care leavers are well supported into early adulthood, and care leavers with specific or complex needs receive tailored provision. The specialist experienced practitioner roles located within the service provide invaluable support, advice and help to care leavers across a range of needs.”*
15. Ofsted found that, *“Care leavers are involved in service development and their voices are heard.”* The findings were that *“there is a clear local offer, co-produced with care leavers, which identifies their rights and entitlements effectively. There are many opportunities to ensure that the voice of care leavers is heard, understood and acted upon. The corporate parenting committee is active and inclusive for care leavers, being arranged to ensure that care leavers can attend, fully participate in the meeting and be involved in developing services”.*
16. The letter positively notes the critical role that PAs play noting, *“Care leavers receive high-quality support from skilled and committed PAs who know them well and provide practical advice and help when needed. PAs visit care leavers, including those who have children of their own, at a frequency that is consistent with their levels of need and risk, with patterns of contact increasing or decreasing as necessary as care leavers transition into adulthood.”*
17. It was really positive to see the positive acknowledgement of the independence hub where care leavers of over 21 with no maximum age can return to seek help and support. *“An independence hub enables care leavers who are over 21 and have opted not to keep in regular contact to receive ongoing and well-defined assistance. When a care leaver needs more intensive support, they are reallocated to a PA in the care leaver teams.”*
18. The mental health provision for care leavers in Southwark was acknowledged as being met well through access to counselling from The Nest, a mental well-being service, and the support from the council’s Clinical Service which can also support care leavers outside of Southwark.
19. In respect of feedback on education, employment and training the feedback was very positive noting the impact of the dedicated Experienced Practitioner and that care leavers are actively encouraged to pursue higher education. It was further noted our ambition to further improve in this area by our ambition to increasing the number of apprenticeships available through the council and its partners.
20. Securing housing was seen as a strength the support for young people

to access secure and suitable housing with a range of options to include: staying put, supported accommodation and independent accommodation.

21. During the focussed visit inspectors considered how we are supporting disabled care leavers and found that our disabled care leavers had benefited from skilled and knowledgeable practitioners who know them well from the All Age Disability Service (AAD). It was also noted that the practitioners in AAD work well with PAs to ensure that disabled care leavers receive their entitlements when leaving care.
22. In line with our own self-assessment and the findings in September 2022 the inspection found support for unaccompanied young people was good noting, *“Their health, education and cultural needs are understood by their PAs, including the impact of trauma. The provision of effective advocacy and legal advice helps to ensure that these care leavers are able to navigate successfully through the relevant processes to progress their asylum claims.”*

What did inspectors recommend?

23. The focussed visit made two key recommendations for improvement which are:
 - Access to Health Histories
 - Ensuring that accommodation is well maintained
24. In relation to health histories these are provided by our Child Health Service for care leavers and distributed by the Care Leaver Service. In the inspection the group of young people inspectors met did not recall receiving these and some PA's struggled to find these on the case management system. An action plan was submitted to inspectors during the inspection and in February 2024 we will be re-sending all current care leavers a copy of their health history and have a schedule to complete this in the next couple of months.
25. In relation to ensuring accommodation is maintained we are developing function in our Access to Resources Team (ART) to ensure all different types of homes for care leavers are of excellent quality. ART are working to further develop a proactive quality assurance and contract monitoring function in order to ensure that our children and care leavers thrive in high quality homes that are proportionate to their needs whilst providing value for money. A program of quality assurance visits has already commenced and work is taking place with colleagues in the performance and Mosaic teams to make these visible and reportable on Mosaic. It is planned for young people to be actively involved in paid roles to quality assure accommodation and to create a specific email where young people and professionals can report any concerns about their accommodation directly to ART.

26. As part of the continuous improvement and learning approach there has been a strengthening of quality assurance and the introduction of a quarterly cycle of *Learningfest* events for all staff in the Children and Families Division. The impact of this was seen and it was noted that, “*the quality assurance framework in Southwark demonstrates a reflective, self-critical approach to continuous learning and development in work with care leavers. A regular programme of auditing the experiences of care leavers clearly informs leaders as to the impact of the work undertaken.*”

Policy implications

27. In July 2021 the Corporate Parenting Committee agreed *Caring to Care: Achieving Excellence for Our Children - Southwark’s Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024*. This reports sets out feedback on Ofsted’s assessment of the service we are providing to our Care Leavers. This report also links to the Council Delivery Plan 2022 – 2026 section on supporting families.

Financial implications

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

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

29. The decision to note this report has been judged to have a small but important impact on local people and communities. The work relating to children in care and care leavers is intended to improve the outcomes for them.
30. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, lays out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. The council’s Approach to Equality commits the council to ensuring that equality is an integral part of our day to day business.
31. The council’s Children’s Services involves working closely with all relevant stakeholders and partners across the sector and collectively we are committed to upholding the responsibilities towards advocating the Public Sector Equality Duty and complying with the Equalities Act 2010. 13. The PSED enables public bodies to consider the diverse needs of groups and have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Due regard is about

considering the different needs of protected characteristics in relation to the three parts of the duty.

32. The Equalities Act 2010 define the following as protected characteristics; age; disability, gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement 15. The report takes account of the ethnicity, age and disabilities of care leavers, as well as their racial ethnic background and considers these areas in light of commitments set out by Southwark Stands Together.

Health impact statement

33. The report and inspection by Ofsted considers how we are meeting the health needs of care leavers. The Designated Doctor for Looked After Children, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children and the Virtual Mental Health Lead for Looked after Children report regularly to the committee to provide assurance on service performance for children in care and care leavers.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

34. Research suggests that when children in care are compared with children who have not been in care, they tend to have poorer outcomes in a number of areas including their and mental and physical health. Corporate parenting work supporting our care leavers seeks to address these inequalities.

Climate change implications

35. There are no relevant climate change implications

Resource implications

36. There are none.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Legal implications

37. There are none.

Financial implications

38. There are none.

Consultation

39. There are none.

Assistant Chief Executive of Governance and Assurance

40. A concurrent is not required.

Strategic Director of Finance

41. A concurrent is not required.

Other officers

42. There are none.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Ofsted Focused Visit on Care Leaver Services Dec 2023
Appendix 2	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services Sept 2022

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director - Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	
Version	Final	
Dated	19 February 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive of Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	19 February 2024	

Item No. 10	Classification: Open	Date: 28 February 2024	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Report from the Working Group on mental health provision for families with children subject to SGOs	
From:		Jenny Taylor, Assistant Director – Clinical Practice, Virtual MH Lead for Looked After Children	

RECOMMENDATION

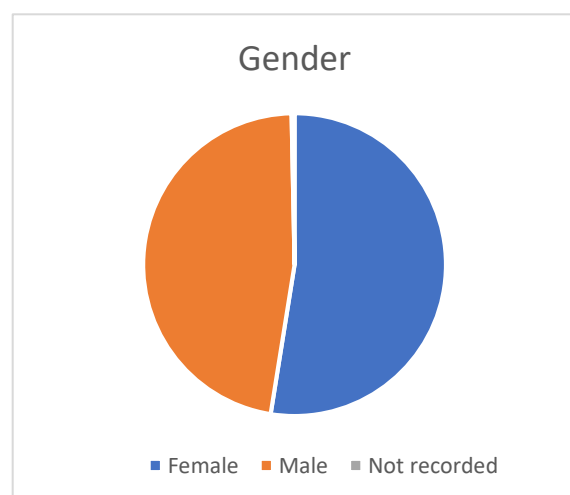
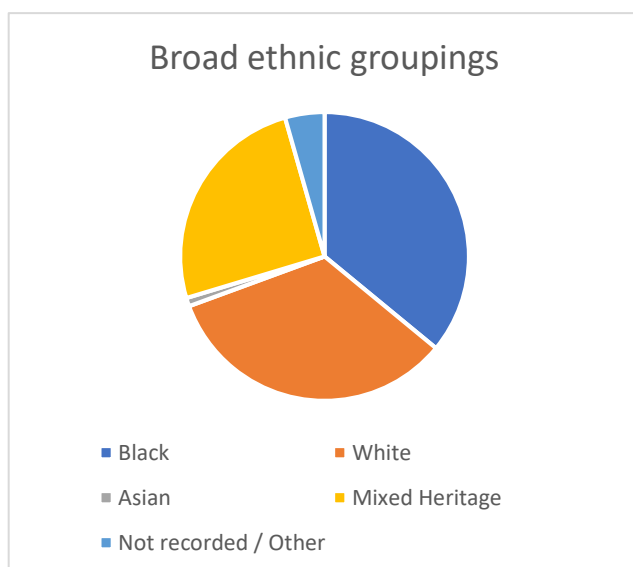
1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee note the contents of the report.

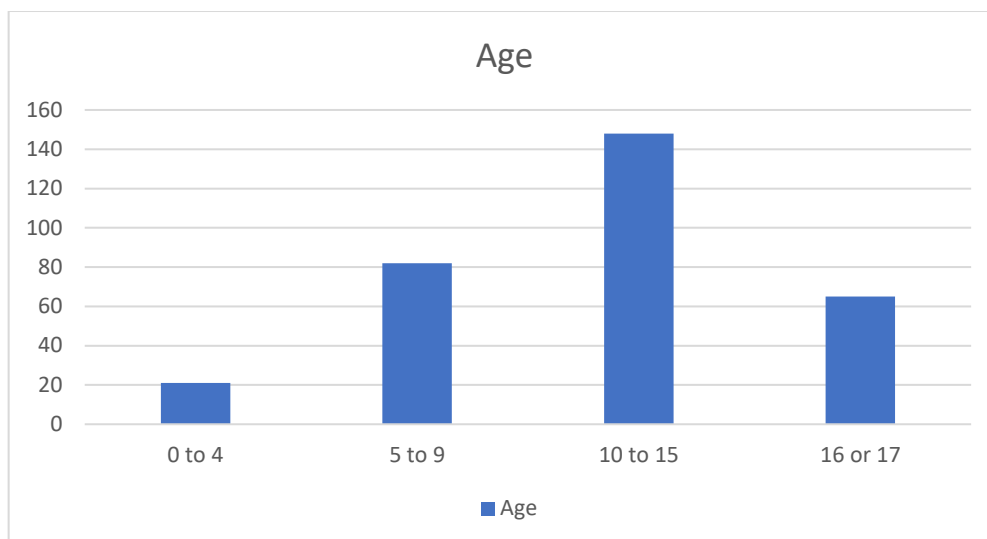
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As requested at the Corporate Parenting Committee in June 2023, a working group was convened to look at the issues impacting on children on SGOs and their families receiving timely mental health support. Elspeth Pluckrose (SLAM CAMHS), Jenny Taylor (LBS C&F), Suzanne Green (LBS Joint Commissioning) and Claudia Kwaku/Emma Hiley (LBS SGO team) met on four occasions, in August, September, October and November 2023, to develop this report for the Corporate Parenting Committee in December 2023. Due to time constraints this item was moved to the agenda for the Corporate Parenting Committee in February 2024.

KEY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLIENT GROUP

3. The population of children/families under consideration by this working group are those families granted an SGO via Southwark, who continue to live in Southwark, AND those families granted an SGO via a different local authority, but who now reside in Southwark, as these groups together make up the population who would be eligible for mental health services from Southwark CAMHS.
4. We have so far been unable to extract data related to the above population, but we do know that there are currently 316 children who have been granted SGOs by Southwark – see below for some demographic data.





- Epidemiological data suggests that approximately 24% of these children/families might have needs that would require mental health intervention at any one time, i.e. 76 children needing mental health support.

CURRENT PROVISION

- As with any other children with mental health needs living in Southwark, children on SGOs' mental health provision is primarily the responsibility of the local CAMH services. Currently SLAM CAMHS does not have a separate funding stream, pathway or team focussing on these children – they would be assessed and offered a service via the Single Point of Access (SPA) system for referrals as with any other children in the borough.
- There is a clinical practitioner (family therapist) from LB Southwark's in-house clinical service linked to the SGO team (along with 2 other teams) whose role is primarily to support the team with their work rather than to offer direct work to families. When clinical/therapeutic work is indicated for children/families he will try to support with arranging access to relevant NHS provision. Where this doesn't fit with NHS criteria (e.g. relational work between adult family members), or where the timescales don't meet the child's needs (e.g. wait time is jeopardising stability of placement) we would look at delivering this via the in-house clinical service where possible, but the capacity from this service for direct work is very limited as it is primarily designed to enhance social work practice.

RECENT / PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP

- In order to improve the service children on SGOs receive via SLAM CAMHS, SLAM CAMHS are now including a question to clarify if a child is subject to a SGO on their referral form, to alert them to the particular issues the family may be struggling with. In addition the SLAM CAMHS Carelink team (which works with looked after children) have been offering training to colleagues in the core CAMH service to improve their understanding of supporting children in more complex family arrangements who may have experienced significant abuse or neglect.
- Where referrals originate from LB Southwark's SGO team, the Clinical Practitioner attached to the SGO team will help ensure that referrals are as clear and detailed as possible to support CAMHS in understanding the needs.
- An additional approach would be to clarify the likely number per year of children eligible for ASF (those children who were looked after prior to their SGO) *and* likely to have a

mental health need, and fund a position to deliver this care (either via the local authority or SLAM CAMHS) and reclaim the ASF funding to recoup this cost. This would not however answer the needs of families not eligible for ASF funding.

11. The SGO team are currently in the process of having a PowerBI Dashboard set up to provide oversight of this group of children. This would provide ongoing oversight of numbers and demographics. In addition we are proposing that where LBS is aware of a referral for a child subject to an SGO to a mental health service that a Mosaic workflow is created, as is currently done for LAC referred for MH input, thus allowing the PowerBI dashboard to also help us track access to mental health services for this group of children and their families.

NEXT STEPS

12. The Children & Young People's Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will explore the possibility of using ASF funding to support those children eligible via an additional clinical post.
13. The Children & Young People's Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will also be considering whether there are there any other options for resourcing additional provision for this group, particularly to cover those not eligible for ASF funding.
14. The Children & Families Division will develop a PowerBI dashboard and mental health Mosaic workflow to help with monitoring and oversight of mental health provision for this group.
15. The Children & Young People's Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will consider how best to ensure ongoing oversight of mental health provision for this group e.g. whether within the remit of Southwark's Virtual MH Lead for LAC or elsewhere within our governance system.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Papers Clinical Service, Looked After Children	Clinical Service, Children's and Adults' Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Jenny.taylor@southwark.gov.uk
Web link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
Report Author	Jenny Taylor, Assistant Director, Clinical Practice, Virtual MH Lead for Looked After Children	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 February 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	16 February 2024	

Item No. 11	Classification: Open	Date: 28 February 2024	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2023-24	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee agree the approach and work plan as set out in the report.
2. That the committee review and identify any further items for consideration in the work plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

3. The constitution for the municipal year 2023-2024 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions as follows:
 - a. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 - b. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan.
 - c. 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.
 - d. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.

- g. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
- h. 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.
- i. To report to the council's cabinet on an annual basis.
- j. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
- k. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
- l. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

National and local context for care leavers

- 4. There is national momentum towards improving outcomes for care leavers. The government introduced 'Keep on Caring' strategy in 2016, increased council statutory duties to care leavers in the Children and Social Work Act in 2017, appointed a national Adviser for Care Leavers who produced a report in 2018, alongside the national launch of the Care Covenant. The council has responded to the various recommendations, for example by prioritising education, employment and training outcomes for care leavers in the Council Plan and developing the care leaver local offer as well as increasing service capacity for the extended personal adviser duties to 25.
- 5. Although much has been done to improve services and outcomes for care leavers, the council has an ambition to go above and beyond, by creating the best Leaving Care Service possible, by co-designing this with young people, learning from other organisations and trialling new ideas to test what works best.
- 6. In 2017 the council and Catch22 received funding from the DfE Social Care Innovation Programme to work in partnership to design and test new ways of working to support care leavers. The Care Leavers Partnership (CLP) works to improve outcomes for young people in Southwark by working across boundaries, reshaping the service delivery model, unlocking capacity in the community, and co-designing solutions. There are a number of strands that the CLP is working on to achieve our goals.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 7. The corporate parenting committee review and update the work plan each

meeting. Following the beginning of the municipal year 2019-20, and reflecting on the momentum towards improving outcomes for care leavers, the opportunity has been taken to review how the committee works and present proposals to refresh this in relation to: non-voting co-opted members; committee approach; and work plan and suggested agenda items.

Corporate Parenting Committee work plan – draft outline

16 April 2024

- Speakerbox verbal update
- Update on Southwark Homes Programme
- Lifelong Links
- Care Leaver and Housing Protocol

SpeakerBox

8. SpeakerBox, established in 2005, ensures that the views of looked after children and care leavers are used to influence decision making that affects their care and support particularly service planning and design. Representing children and young people between 8 and 24 years the group also provides a peer to peer networking support system for looked after children. The programme is operated independently and run by the young people themselves, although it is supported by the council's children services and councillors.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

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

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact and health impact statement

6. Relevant issues will be addressed in the reports submitted to the corporate parenting committee.

Climate change implications

7. The work plan process for the committee has no direct implications.

Resource implications

8. 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 London SE1 2QH	Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk
Web link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
Report Author	Beverley Olamijulo/ Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 February 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		

CORPORATE PARENTING DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
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Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall (acting as reserve member)	1	Total:	14
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Councillor Rachel Bentley			
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Councillor Natash Ennin			
Councillor Sarah King			
Councillor Charlie Smith (Vice-Chair)			
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