

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 November 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Performance Report, Services for Children Looked After	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the committee note the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 This report contains an analysis of performance against key indicators for 2010/11, and 2011/12 to date.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3 The performance report is attached in Appendix 1. The key issues for consideration are set out in the report. Of particular note are:
 - numbers of looked after children reduced 6.3% to 522 in 2010/11, although this remains above benchmark levels
 - benchmarking data suggests the number of adoptions of children looked after could be increased
 - performance on National Indicators has been relatively strong overall, particularly with respect to the measure on long term stability of placements. Some areas for further improvement have been identified, including education, employment and training of care leavers.

Policy implications

- 4 This decision has been judged to have no policy implications.

Community impact statement

- 5 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.

Resource implications

- 6 This decision has no resource implications.

Consultation

- 7 The management teams of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have

discussed the analysis set out in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Performance (Children Looked After)	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Michelle Harris 020 7525 5013

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Children Looked After Performance Report

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Report Authors	Michelle Harris, Performance and Information Analysis Officer Adrian Ward, Acting Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 October 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No
	Finance Director	No
	Cabinet Member	No
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	26 October 2011

APPENDIX 1

Children Looked After Performance Report

2010/11 End of Year Performance Summary

1. Children looked after – key activity data

- End of year 2010/11 shows a 6.3% decrease in the number of children looked after over the last 12 months (522 compared to 557 children looked after). However, this is still a high rate compared to England, London and our statistical neighbours.

Chart 1: Children Looked After (rate per 10,000 children)

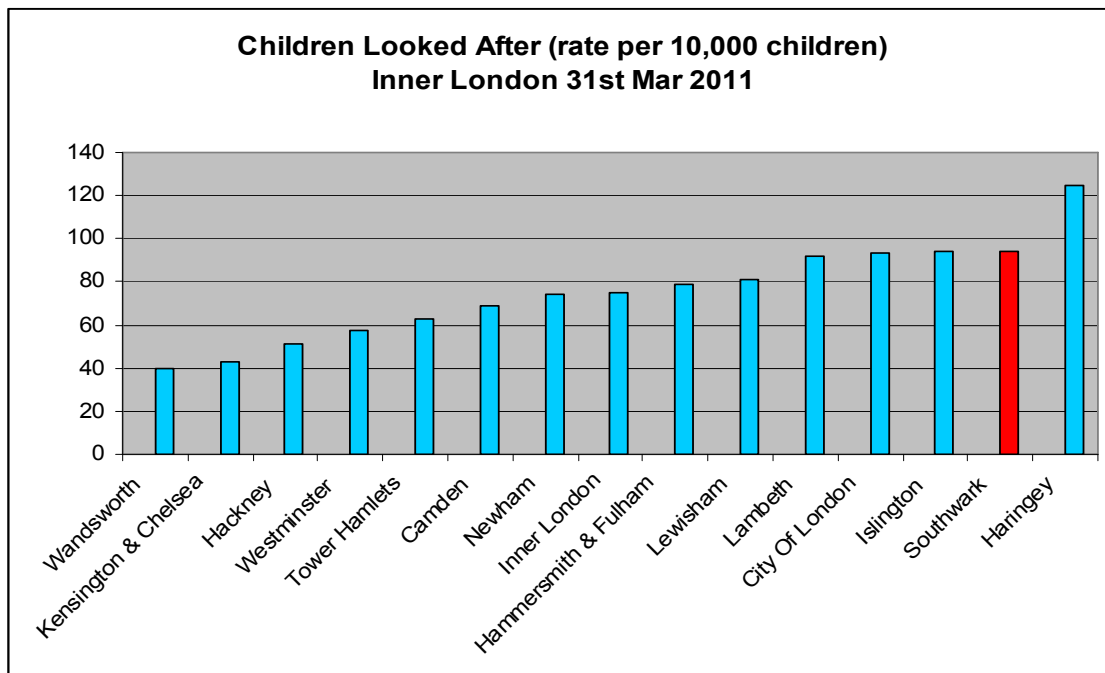


Table 1: Numbers of children looked after 2010 and 2011 and Rates per 10,000 children

	Number		Rate	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
England	64,410	65,520	58	59
London	10,960	10,390	66	61
Inner London	4,910	4,600	81	75
Camden	265	275	67	69
City Of London	15	10	159	93
Hackney	295	265	57	51
Hammersmith & Fulham	260	250	82	79
Haringey	590	615	121	125
Islington	315	325	94	94
Kensington & Chelsea	155	130	52	43
Lambeth	565	500	105	92
Lewisham	525	485	90	81
Newham	560	490	85	74
Southwark	555	520	100	94
Tower Hamlets	350	325	70	63
Wandsworth	205	205	41	40
Westminster	245	210	71	57

Source Dfe 28 Sept. 11 (LA numbers rounded to nearest 5).

The benchmarking data suggests that further in-roads can be made into reducing the total numbers of looked after children – this is in line with the commissioning strategy for the service.

2. Adoption of children looked after

Although the rate of adoption was not an indicator in the National Indicator set it is an area of increasing national focus. The recent report by the government's ministerial advisor on adoption (Martin Narey) was highly critical of the perceived low rates of adoption and the Children's Minister Tim Loughton has identified this issue as a priority. It can be seen from the table below that Southwark's rate of adoption is below the Inner London average, and whilst not an outlier it suggests there is scope to increase the rate.

	Adoptions 2010/11 Number	% of looked after children*
Inner London	170	7
Camden	5	5
City Of London	0	0
Hackney	5	6
Hammersmith & Fulham	10	11
Haringey	15	5
Islington	X	x
Kensington & Chelsea	5	8
Lambeth	20	7
Lewisham	25	11

	Adoptions 2010/11	
	Number	% of looked after children*
Newham	30	11
Southwark	15	5
Tower Hamlets	10	5
Wandsworth	15	14
Westminster	X	X

Source Dfe 28/9/11 (LA numbers rounded to nearest 5 by Dfe). X = small value suppressed (< 5)

*Percentages based on the number of children that ceased to be looked after during the year.

Alongside 17 adoptions completed by Southwark in 2010/11, there were also 21 Special Guardianship Orders, which are a valid form of permanency comparable to adoption. This gives a total of 38 children (or 8.9% of children looked after for over 12 months) moving onto adoption or special guardianship orders. However the Narey report questions the extensive use of such orders and suggests that in some cases they may be inferior to adoption. It is planned to undertake a more detailed analysis of the relationship between Adoption and Special Guardianship Orders. In particular the analysis should look at the issues around legal processes that may increase the use of Special Guardianship Orders at the expense of Adoption.

3. National Indicators (NI)

The National Indicator set has been abolished by the government, but the underlying data for Children's Services is still collected nationally and locally, and considered to be an important reflection of performance. The headline results are set out below:

3.1 Summary

- 2010/11 performance remains comparatively strong with no major areas of concern arising.
- Improvements have been made in indicators relating to long term stability of placements, cases reviewed within timescales, children in care achieving the expected level in English at KS2, the health of looked after children, timeliness of placements for adoption, short term stability, care leavers who are in education employment and training, children in care achieving 5+A*-C grades at KS4 including English and maths.
- Reductions are seen for care leavers in suitable accommodation, children in care achieving the expected level in maths at KS2, the score on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the proportion of children in care aged 10 to 15 placed for adoption or in a foster placement.
- Educational attainment of looked after children remains the key outcome indicator requiring improvement, although performance is in line with national data.
- Employment, Education and Training of Care Leavers is also an area that could be improved further.

3.2 Detail of indicators

NI 58 Emotional and behavioural health of children in care – the average score on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for children aged 4 to 16 who been looked after continuously for at least 12 months as at 31 March 2011 was 14.4.

Although a slight deterioration on 2009/10 (12.1) our performance is in line with end of year 2009/10 national, London and statistical neighbours.

NI 61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption – performance has slightly improved (from 81.8% to 82.4%) and we remain above end of year 2009/10 national, London and statistical neighbour averages (65.3%). However as part of the increased national focus on adoption associated with the Narey report there is an increasing expectation that 100% should be achieved on this target as a standard, which is reflected in the latest methodology for Ofsted’s inspection of adoption services. This will present a major challenge in complex adoption cases.

NI 62 Short term stability: % Children looked after with 3 or more placements in last 12 months– end of year 2010/11 (13.4%) shows that performance has slightly improved with end of year 2009/10 (14.9%) and is now in line with London and statistical neighbour averages. It is however still below the 2009/10 national average (10.9%).

NI 63 Long term stability: % of children looked after aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption. Performance has improved over the last 12 months to 75.2% from 72.8% last year on this key measure. This is strong performance compared to 2009/10 national performance (68%) and London (68.5%) and a good long term improvement following local prioritisation of this area. Southwark’s performance was 67.4%. in 2008/09.

NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales – 95.7% of cases were reviewed within the required timescales during 2011. This is an improvement on last year (92.8%) and we are now above end of year 2009/10 national, London and statistical neighbour averages.

NI 99 / 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in English / maths at Key Stage 2 – 2010 results have shown an improvement in the proportion of children achieving the expected levels at Key Stage 2 in English (from 40 per cent to 60 per cent) but a decline in those achieving the expected levels in maths (from 45 per cent to 40 per cent). Performance in English is now above the national, London and statistical neighbour averages but maths is below.

NI 101 Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths – results in 2010 showed 13.7 per cent of children in care obtained at least 5 A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE or equivalent which is a slight improvement from last year. This was higher than the national average and in line with London but below the statistical neighbour average. This indicator is featured in the Council Plan as a key success measure.

Note: analysis of 2011 academic results for children looked after reported on separately in the Corporate Parenting Committee agenda.

NI 148 % of care leavers in education, employment or training (EET) – has slightly increased over the 12 month period (from 60.5% to 62%), but remains below average for Inner London.

2010/11	Care Leavers in EET %
Westminster	48
Hammersmith & Fulham	58
Hackney	59
Southwark	62
London	66
Islington	67
Newham	67
Inner London	70
Wandsworth	71
Haringey	73
Kensington & Chelsea	73
Lewisham	74
Camden	77
Lambeth	79
Tower Hamlets	87

Dfe Sept 2011

NI 147 % of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation – performance has declined slightly from 97.5% to 95.2%, linked to a small increase in young people in custody. However figures for 2010/11 show performance remains above national, London and statistical neighbour averages.

	CLA in suitable accommodation (%)
Westminster	83
London	90
Kensington & Chelsea	91
Haringey	92
Islington	92
Inner London	93
Hackney	93
Lambeth	93
Lewisham	93
Tower Hamlets	94
Hammersmith & Fulham	95
Southwark	95
Camden	97
Newham	97
Wandsworth	100

Dfe Sept 2011

Health of Children Looked After (CYPP indicator): the % of children with all medical checks and immunisations up to date increased from 91.9% to 94.7%, above the last recorded London average of 90%, and the previous CYPP target of 91%.

Children in foster placements (aged 10-15) (CYPP indicator): the % of children looked after aged 10-15 who are in foster placements or placed for

adoption decreased slightly from 85% to 83.8%, and was below the previous CYPP target of 88%.

Other relevant indicators:

CLA placed more than 20 miles from home: there was a marginal increase from 9.2 % to 10.1% on this measure. The level of out of borough placements is a consideration within the commissioning strategy in order to make progress towards the Sufficiency Duty.

Children looked after who communicated their views to their statutory review: the indicator dropped from 94% to 90.2% in 2010/11. This has been examined and the change is attributed to a recording issue regarding children who gave a view after the review which was taken into account.

Children looked after offending: figures suggest an offending rate of 9.4%. This indicator is based on a new definition, so is not directly comparable to previous data (suggesting 5%). The Committee may wish to consider recommending that officers undertake a more detailed analysis for the next corporate parenting committee.

4 Social care performance mid year update: September 2011

Children Looked After activity

- Mid year 2011/12 data (August 11) shows a small increase in the number of children looked after over the 5 months since March 31st 2011 (535 compared to 522 children looked after at year end).
- Adoptions completed by the end of August stood at only 2, although 20 children were placed for adoption.