

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 July 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Performance Report – Looked After Children	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes this report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Children in Care

This report relates to provisional 2011/12 end of year performance. The SSDA903 statutory return is due end June 2012. The team is currently cleansing the data and hence not all performance measures are available. An update for end of year performance will be available 2 July 2012.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Overall performance in the service and its key performance remain strong. This reports sets out some key issues for consideration.
4. The number of looked after children continues to rise, current figure is 540.
5. Permanence planning remains good. Recent inspections of fostering and adoption found services to be good with some outstanding features. Recent figures released by the DfE regarding adoption timeliness shows that in 2012 Southwark had a shorter than average time scale between the appointment of court authority and matching to an adoptive family (93 days compared to the 171 nationally). However the proportion of children adopted from care and adoptions for children aged over 5 years in particular, fall below the national averages.
6. Planning and review of children looked after remains strong. Provisional end of year performance shows a slight decrease of children who have had an up to date review to 91% from 96%. All reviews are completed by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service, which also monitors the quality of reviews and care planning. For older children, there is proactive screening of drug use and teenage pregnancy, although improving timeliness of pathway planning remains an area for improvement.
7. The council continues to perform on par with the national picture on finding suitable accommodation for care leavers. NI 147 - Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation (as judged by the council). Provisional end of year performance for care leavers in suitable accommodation has decreased to 90%, compared to 95% last year. However, this includes more children in custody compared to last year (5 children compared to 3). The children looked after service and Youth Offending Service work together to

support young people who enter custody to ensure that they have accommodation, and access to employment, education and training when they leave custody. This area of work was commended in the recent YOS inspection.

8. Due to the economic climate there was an expectation that that the performance of care leavers in employment, education or training would decrease by March 2012. NI 148 - % of Care leavers in employment, education or training at age 19 LAA, recent figures show that, in contrast, the proportion of EET care leavers has remained in line with last year performance (60% compared to 61%), and is still in line with national performance.
9. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) suggests mental and emotional wellbeing of CLA remains stable. NI 58 - Emotional and behavioural health of children in care, the current score of 14, remains in line with last years performance and with national figures. Children and young people do not have to undertake this questionnaire, so some caution must be applied when interpreting the results.

### Community impact statement

10. 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, SE1 2QH	Monika Ciurej <a href="mailto:monika.ciurej@southwark.gov.uk">monika.ciurej@southwark.gov.uk</a>

### APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix A	Score card

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director, Specialist Children's Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Monika Ciurej, Performance Information Analyst Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	4 July 2012	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		4 July 2012