

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	