

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