

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Monitor of Access to Higher Education in Light of the Change in Fee Regime	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Children Looked After	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the position of access to higher education for looked after children

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Corporate Parenting Committee at their meeting on 21 April 2010 requested that access to higher education be monitored by the Committee in order (to raise relevant issues with regard to looked after children) to ensure that looked after children are not disproportionately affected by the recent changes in the university fees regime.
3. On 8 December 2011 the committee received an update on the likely changes to university fees and potential implications for looked after children were highlighted. The risk at this stage was perceived to be low.
4. The change to university fees has subsequently come into effect from September 2012

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Locally there has not been a change to the number of Children Looked After accessing higher education; performance has remained consistent with previous years. There has however been an increase in care leavers accessing higher education at a later stage.
6. As per the report presented on 8 November 2011, the additional changes to the higher education system, including amendments to the repayment policy and greater scrutiny of Offer to Fair Access for universities (para 4 & 5) has reduced the potential barriers to access to higher education for looked after children and care leavers.
7. Since the introduction of higher university fees there has been a significant increase in the number of universities now offering bursaries to CLA and care leavers which is providing further financial support. The LA continues to offer a strong university package (as per the Succeeding to Adulthood Policy) which provides additional support for Southwark CLA.

Conclusion

8. The implications of the rise in university fees has been reviewed and there is no further risk associated. It is anticipated that Southwark care leavers will continue to access further and higher education with the Council's support.

Community impact statement

9. The Children Looked After Service supports some of the more vulnerable young people in the community and aims to narrow the gap between them and the general population. The service will continue to monitor uptake of university places.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Succeeding into Adulthood Policy	Children Looked After 7 Talfourd Place, London SE15	Alasdair Smith 020 7525 0654

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jodie Harris, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 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
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