

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 4 November 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Pupil Performance in Academic Year 2012-2013 - Developments Linked to the Looked After Children Education Team	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Education	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee is asked to note the information in the report.
2. To feed back any comments to the relevant officer.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Department for Education (DfE) should publish national performance data in December 2013 for children looked after (CLA)<sup>1</sup> based on a cohort of pupils in care for at least 12 continuous months as at 31 March 2013<sup>2</sup>.
4. The corporate parenting committee has requested a report on pupil attainment in advance of the DfE published data. Key Stage 2 data is available and outcomes are reported below. Key Stage 4 data is not yet available; LAC Education Team continue to collect individual learners results. A report will follow the DfE's data release in December, supported by individual narratives.
5. Key Stage 2 performance data is reported below in a way that echoes current DfE reporting methodology. Changes to DfE testing means that year-on-year comparisons are only available for maths.
6. Small cohort sizes make meaningful interpretation problematic. CLA cohorts are changeable in nature, due to (for example) 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.
7. An interim position statement regarding data collection is included in this paper.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. **Attainment at Key Stage 2:** Of the 13 children looked after for a year or more at 31 March 2013, 53.8% of children achieved level 4 or above in maths (an improvement on 50% in 2012), reducing the gap slightly with all Southwark pupils by 3.6%. A like-for-like comparison with English performance is not available as testing regimes have changed this year.
9. **Progress Key Stage 1- Key Stage 2:** For the first time, we are able to access a national pupil database which captures pupils' academic history irrespective of a

<sup>1</sup> Attainment data for LAC who have been matched to the National Pupil Database.

<sup>2</sup> National and London figures sourced from DfE publication: 'Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at March 2013'.

child's date of entry to care. Where data is available, we are able to measure pupil progress from Key Stage 1 to 2. According to the data available, 65% of pupils made two levels of progress.

10. **Attainment at Key Stage 4:**

Of the 47 children looked after for a year or more at 31 March 2013, 46.8% achieved five or more GCSEs (or their equivalence) at grades A\* to C, an increase of 15.8% on the previous year.

11. According to the data collected, just over 23% achieved five GCSEs at grades A\* to C including English and maths, a drop of three percentage points on 2011 results (latest available DfE comparison). In 2013, 27.65% of the cohort achieved English and maths at C grade or above, compared with 26.2% in 2011.

12. In 2013, 72.3% of pupils achieved 5+ A\* – G.

13. **Development of Looked After Children Education Team:** Since reporting to corporate parenting committee in February 2013, there has been further realignment of the looked after children (LAC) education team, driven by organisational restructuring and legislative change. The job description of the new post: manager, priority learners, includes strategic responsibilities to LAC Education. An interim team leader oversees operational management of the team. A post has been created to address the Raising Participation Age agenda, to promote the effective participation of all 16 and 17 year olds. This will add strength to Southwark's performance at the post-compulsory education phase.

14. In academic year 2013/14, LAC education team has stepped up its expectation for quality support to pupils from schools. It will:

- Send a letter to headteachers, designated teachers and Governors to raise awareness of new entrants to Southwark children looked after service
- Introduce a targeted approach for improvement in learning outcomes to 10 pupils with the greatest attainment gap.

15. **Interim position statement with regard to data collection:**

- a. Over the past 18 months the LAC Education Team has brought sharper focus to pupil, and school-level, data availability and accuracy. This has led to better pupil tracking and monitoring, bringing increased rigour and currency to Personal Education Plans.
- b. Data collection via the third party agency (Welfare Call) has been extended to include all pupils from Year R to Year 12. Pupil progress data is collected, where available, on a termly basis, directly from the education provider.
- c. This year, the Key Stage 2 SATs results for 23 pupils were collected directly from the school by LAC Education Team, within seven days of results being published. This was practicable as Key Stage 2 SATs results are published at a time during the academic year when schools are open, fully staffed and equipped to furnish information.
- d. GCSE results at Key Stage 4 have not been collected in the same way. GCSE results are published during school summer holidays. It is not practicable to collect results for 73 children from 48 education providers, at a time when schools are not fully staffed or equipped to respond to this

level of enquiry. It is important to remember that we do not have an automatic right to know the details of pupils' GCSE results; a pupil does not have to consent to sharing this information.

- e. Welfare Call have collected GCSE (and Key Stage 4 equivalents) results on our behalf from secondary schools. Social Workers have complemented the process collecting missing information via Foster Carers.
- f. A new database will be introduced in December 2013, provided by 'Schools Opt-In'. LAC Education Team will encourage schools to make best use of the direct input facilities, to add further to data currency and integrity.

#### 16. **Community impact statement**

The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of service provision will impact on children looked after from all communities.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

### **APPENDICES**

No.	Title
None	

### **AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Merril Haeusler, Director of Education		
<b>Report Author</b>	Liz Britton, Manager, Priority Learners		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	23 October 2013		
<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>
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services		No	No
Director of Legal Services		No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>			23 October 2013