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| Item No. | Classification: Open | Date: September 24 2009 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Update on GCSE Examination Results | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Children's Services | |

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee notes the measures undertaken by the Children Looked After Service to gather the Exam and Key stage 1 (KS1) and Key stage (KS2) results for Southwark children in care, and gives consideration to how this process might be improved.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Each year the Children Looked After Service contacts all schools, both in and out of the borough, attended by children in care. This is so that we can collect data on the individual performance of each child. Most of this data is needed for statutory returns, and is included in the OC2 which is returned to the DCSF. The information below sets out the current process for gathering information on educational attainment from schools.
3. On Friday 10th July a mail-out was sent to all schools with children in care of statutory school age to identify: absence from school; SEN status; and Exclusions. On Friday 28th August 220 out of 330 possible returns from schools were received and recorded in CareFirst, the social care database.
4. On Friday 4th September a second letter went out to the schools who had not responded. On Monday 7th September a letter was sent to all designated teachers (in/out of borough) requesting KS1 and 2 results for Southwark CLA. The deadline for this return was 21/09/09. This was followed up on Wednesday 9th September with an e-mail to all designated teachers/examination officers (in/out of borough) for GCSE results for year 11 cohort. Once again the deadline for return was 21/09/09. On Monday 21st September we will identify those schools who have not responded and agree follow-up actions to obtain the missing data.
5. Information is recorded as it is received back from schools, directly into CareFirst, so we will be able to generate our OC2 return for the DCSF. This allows the DCSF to monitor our performance, and benchmark us against other similar authorities.
6. In addition all social workers in the Adolescent and Aftercare service were sent reminders to contact those who sat GCSEs this year to congratulate or console the young people, depending on the outcome. While we are able to collect invalidated data this way, we have to exercise caution in publishing the information as it may often be incorrect.
7. Although at the time of writing this report we did not have the validated results, it is anticipated that we will be able to give a verbal update when the Committee meets on 24th September.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

8. Not applicable

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
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LIST OF APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
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AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

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| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson | |
| Report Author | Rory Patterson | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 14.9.2009 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comment Sought | Comments included |
| Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance | No | Yes/No |
| Finance Director | No | Yes/No |
| List other officers here | No | |
| Executive Member | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer | September 14 2009 | |