

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 6 November 2017	<b>Meeting:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Looked After Children Health Annual Report 2016-2017	
<b>From:</b>		Dr. Stacy John-Legere, Designated Dr. for Looked After Children (LAC) Angela Brown, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children (LAC)	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. The committee note the report attached as Appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report is to assure Southwark corporate parenting committee areas of significance for children looked after by the London Borough of Southwark. It provides an overview of multiple areas of importance and continues the theme of partnership working across the sectors; and expands on the client experience. The full report presents updates regarding physical health, emotional health and wellbeing of looked after children, access to local services and indicators of need. The views and experiences of the young people themselves are reflected in consultation responses.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) recently considered this report and were required to note:
  - Feedback from the recent OFSTED inspection of the local authority – publication date June 2017; is integrated into the action plan for 2017-2018
  - Overall statutory performance is satisfactory
  - Further work is required to improve the timeliness of initial health assessments
  - The issues reflected in overall performance of the provider service (Southwark LAC Health Service) have been noted by the CCG. They are being monitored via provider assurance pathways. The CCG has committed additional resource.
4. The CCG is engaged in robust scrutiny of issues pertinent to the health of looked after children in partnership with the local authority and the wider health economy.

Table 1: Statutory performance 2016/2017 compared with 2015/2016

Processing Year	Number of children with health surveillance checks up to date	Number of children immunisations up to date	Number of children their teeth checked by a dentist	Number of children who have had their annual health assessment	Number of children identified as having a substance misuse problem	Number of children who received an intervention for substance misuse problem	Number of children who were offered an intervention for substance misuse problem but declined
2017	13	296	291	306	25	16	7
	87%	90%	89%	93%	8%	64%	28%
2016	26	236	312	327	29	11	8
	90%	69%	91%	96%	9%	38%	28%

Processing Year	Number of children with an SDQ score	Average score per child	SDQ Score Normal	SDQ Score Borderline	SDQ Score Concern	Number of children convicted during year
2017	254	14.7	119	35	100	21
	95%	-	47%	14%	39%	8%
2016	198	14.7	91	31	76	23
	74%	-	46%	16%	38%	9%

## Introduction and background

- This report outlines the achievement by Southwark CCG and local partners in understanding and progressing the health of Southwark's looked after children. It provides an overview of multiple areas of significance, continuing the theme of partnership working across the sectors and expanding on the client experience. The report presents updates regarding the physical health; emotional health and wellbeing of looked after children, their access to local services and indicators of need. The views and experiences of the young people themselves is reflected in the consultation responses. The development of an overarching strategy for LAC health in Southwark was a significant achievement of 2015/2016. This report explores the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the strategy with respect to LAC health.
- We define health in this document as "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". This definition underpins the work of the designated professionals and the many teams providing services to Southwark's looked after children.
- The Southwark Looked after Children's Health Service is commissioned and funded by NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) from Guys and St Thomas' NHS Trust (as the provider) and lies within the Trust's Vulnerable Person's Assurance Group with direct reporting into the Children's Safeguarding Executive at Guys and St Thomas'. It designates the professionals for LAC. The Designated Doctor and Nurse form part of the CCG Safeguarding Children and Adults Team and its governance is to the CCG Safeguarding Executive Committee chaired by the CCG Director of Quality and Chief Nurse. Strategically, children in care remain a priority for both the CCG and

Children's Social Care. They are factored within the Southwark Children and Young People's Wellbeing, Health Education and Social Care Strategic Framework 2016-2021 as well as the specific Southwark Children in Care and Care Leaver's Strategy. The Children and Young People Commissioning Development Group (chaired by Caroline Gilmartin) are progressing the development of a joint work stream to collectively improve outcomes of LAC and ensure they experience stable placements.

8. Strategically, the health and well-being of looked after children remains a national and local priority. LAC is well represented in the established priorities of the council as well as the CCG as can be demonstrated by the work of the children and young people integrated commissioning group. Services specifically commissioned to deliver high-quality care for the children looked after by the London borough of Southwark, continues to provide good care, including the provision of care leavers health summaries as well as health and lifestyle input.
9. The specially commissioned Carelink CAMHS service has continued to provide high-quality care to children and young people, their carers as well as the offer of professional outreach to the network around the children and young people. Carelink have a strong tradition of high quality research into the mental health and well-being for children – notably, the SUSI project which is showing very positive outcomes at an early intervention stage for our youngest and most vulnerable children.
10. Southwark looked after children are also prominently figured in one of the work streams of the Children and Young People Health Partnership Programme (CYPHP). The strategic issues regarding Southwark's looked after children are reviewed at the Children in Care Board chaired by David Quirke-Thornton. The designated health professionals also report to the corporate parenting committee, and in their provider roles work closely with social care colleagues as well as the wider health economy both in the assessment of need as well as teaching and training
11. Additionally children looked after by Southwark continue to benefit from high-quality services available at acute hospitals (KCH & GSTT) as well as community health provision including sexual health services. Access to well-being services made available through free gym and swim and other local initiatives is maintained.
12. Another strength lies in the positive service user feedback. Ensuring the voice of the children and young people is captured is a continuous driver throughout the work done by services commissioned by the CCG. There is close work with Speakerbox as well as integration of this within individual health assessments and LAC reviews

### **Progress in the action plan**

13. The inspection highlighted very positive areas in the delivery of services to Southwark's children and young people. There were also recommendations for improvement most pertinent to children who are looked-after as well as care-leavers.
14. We note the inspector's comments regarding the access to essential health services and health assessments of those children placed outside of the borough boundaries. This has been an area of focus for both the commissioned LAC health services and had already been identified as an area for special focus and resource.
15. Additionally, inspector comments regarding the timeliness of assessment regarding physical health needs and the variability in quality of health assessments has been recognised and acknowledged by the CCG and provider services. Specific quality improvement work was implemented in 2016 and continues. The CCG has committed

additional resource to the Southwark LAC health team to ensure ability to meet statutory timescales.

16. Progress against the recommendations contained within the OFSTED report will be monitored via the CCG assurance systems. Additionally, the CCG and provider services will continue to work with Southwark Children's Services to improve the outcomes for looked-after children and care leavers.
17. Great opportunities are present in developing an understanding of the vulnerabilities of children and young people. A refreshed JSNA (joint strategic needs assessment) to include looked after children, has been requested, A more systemic understanding of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and/or are missing from their placements is emerging through the work of specific operational meetings/panels. Joint work has led to greater understanding of the health needs of late adolescent LAC and the possible impact this may have on the stability of their tenancy. Building on the work of the CYPHP project with respect to the needs of children placed OOB affords good opportunities to understand this population

### **Challenges**

18. The equity of care delivered to those children who are placed outside the borough boundaries, including those children who require mental health services is a recognised challenge. The delivery of statutory health assessment within timescales remains a challenge for the provider service
19. The changing financial envelope within which services are commissioned will be a challenge for delivery. Additional drivers will include the changes described under the Children and Social Care Act.
20. There is great drive and ambition to further develop a more-joined up approach to the delivery and promotion of the health and well-being for Southwark's looked after children. Matching ambition to available infrastructure and resource is a challenge

### **Commissioning Commitment**

21. The CCG will work towards:
  - Commissioning services that afford equity
  - Mapping of resources to need and pooling of resources including assessing third sector offer
  - Use of the evidence base as regards the local population to inform service delivery and reduction of vulnerability and risk.
22. Directly, through the commissioned provider services, the CCG will work towards:
  - All receive comprehensive and quality health assessment on time
  - Map health assessments onto the looked after review process and education health and care plan formation as needed.
  - Careleaver service design and co- delivery so that they are able to live independent fulfilling lives, positively contributing to society.

## Community impact statement

23. The health of looked after children is an important aspect of their care. All children in care to Southwark, with the exception of some unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, come from communities based in Southwark although many are placed with carers outside Southwark. It is hoped that the attention we give to the health and well-being of children in care makes an important impact on the community both now and in the future in relation to their health and wellbeing.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Looked After Children Health Annual Report 2016-2017

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Dr. Stacy John-Legere Designated Doctor for Children in Care	
<b>Report Author</b>	Designated Doctor for Children in Care	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	25 October 2017	
<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>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	25 October 2017	