

<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 6 November 2017	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children 2018-2022	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Commissioning Director of Children and Families	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Corporate parenting committee is asked to comment on the strategy and note the action plan.
2. Corporate parenting committee is asked to note the proposed governance arrangements in paragraph 8.

## SUMMARY

3. The purpose of the report is to share the Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children 2018-2022.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Issues and Analysis

4. The attached strategy sets out seven strategic priorities which include:
  1. Reduce the need for children to come into care
  2. More looked after children will live in a location that is right for them
  3. Enable more stable and long term placements
  4. Support looked after children to have good physical and mental health, achieve educationally and develop positive connections within their communities
  5. Support young people in their teenage years to ensure smooth transition into adulthood and ability to gain independence
  6. Work with other local authorities to facilitate the market; and
  7. Better outcomes and therefore better value for money.
5. The strategy has been informed by key stakeholders across health, social care, commissioning, education, and housing as well as hearing the voices of looked after children and care leavers. A series of individual stakeholder meetings took place during June-August 2017 as well as a looked after children and care leaver focus group. A well-attended (professionals) workshop was held on 21 September 2017 and the children and young people (CYP) commissioning development group discussed the strategy in October.
6. Delivery of the strategy by implementing the action plan. There would be quarterly monitoring by the sufficiency strategy steering group co-chaired by the director of commissioning and director of children and families. This will report into children and adults board (CAB) at least quarterly. There would also be a monthly sufficiency strategy working group (not meeting in the month that a steering group meeting takes place) that ensures that the actions are being implemented and will be co-chaired by the head of partnership commissioning for children and young people and the head of permanence. The terms of reference (ToR) for both groups will be signed off by the directors for commissioning and children & families and these

ToR will be supported by a sufficiency strategy delivery dashboard (currently in development) to support monitoring progress.

7. There will be annual reporting of progress against the strategy to the corporate parenting committee. For the first year of the strategy, there will be an update to the committee after the first six months of the strategy, July 2018.

8. **Governance timetable:**

Forums	By when?
Children and Adults Board (CAB)	18 October
Cllr Mills Lead Member Briefing	19 October
Final draft strategy is received by the Corporate Parenting Committee	6 November

**Financial, Risk and Equality implications**

9. There are a number of actions that are known to have cost implications. These are set out below in paragraphs 10-12.
10. £30,000 investment has been agreed to support the South London Commissioning Collaboration / Dynamic Purchasing System. This will enable Southwark to contribute towards the mobilisation of procurement across 7 South London boroughs and yield collective influence over the current provider-led market.
11. Nationally and locally, there is a shortage of good quality in-house and Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) foster carers. There is a risk that Southwark may not be able to meet the needs of all our looked after children unless we support foster carers to manage behaviour which challenges amongst our adolescent cohort who have additional needs including special education needs and disabilities (SEND), and looked after children who require therapeutic interventions; and
12. There could be a cost implication depending on the proposed decisions taken following an options appraisal and these decisions will be presented individually through the relevant governance process.
13. Equalities information is set out in the section of the strategy entitled 'Profile of LAC and Care Leavers in Southwark.'

**Community impact statement**

14. Compared to their contemporaries who are not in care, Southwark's population of looked after children often experience poorer outcomes, therefore through development of this strategy we will improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

## Resource implications

15. Pathways will be reviewed to ensure resources are in the right place to increase early action and prevention of children and young people going into care.

## REASONS FOR URGENCY

16. Corporate parenting committee are not due to meet until February 2018 and in order to progress this strategy and ensure that further input is received from the committee, the report needs to be considered at this meeting. The strategy addresses the adequate supply of high quality accommodation and support; and meet the needs of, and improve the outcomes for looked after children, young people, and children on the edge of care and as such needs to be progressed without delay.

## REASONS FOR LATENESS

17. The sufficiency strategy has been subject to extensive consultation and discussions and it has not been possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting to ensure that all submissions and representations have been incorporated before consideration by the corporate parenting committee.
18. Following a consultation event with looked after children and care leavers which was supported by Speakerbox and following advice from CAB, a set of *I statements* have been developed that will feed into the Sufficiency performance reporting dashboard. It is intended that the I Statements will be built into our contracting with providers who are responsible for delivering placements, health and care services for our looked after children and care leaver population in order to align outcomes and encourage improved pathways and partnership working.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children 2018-2022

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Sophie Gray, Senior Joint Commissioning Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	31 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>	31 October 2017	