

Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 22 April 2015

4.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Barbara Hills (Co-opted Member)

Reserves

Councillor James Barber

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

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Contact

Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395 or email: paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk

Webpage: www.southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 14 April 2015



Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 22 April 2015

4.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.

PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence have been received from Barbara Hills. To receive any further apologies for absence.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

5. MINUTES

1 - 4

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 24 February 2015.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER'S (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14	5 - 16
7.	TRANSITION FROM CARE TO INDEPENDENT LIVING	17 - 25
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9.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2014/15	34 - 36

ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY OTHER CLOSED BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 14 April 2015



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Tuesday 24 February 2015 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Jasmine Ali
 Councillor Radha Burgess
 Councillor Eliza Mann
 Councillor Kath Whittam
 Councillor Kieron Williams
 Barbara Hills (Co-opted)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
 Dr. Beatrice Cooper, Designated Doctor for Looked After Children
 Angela Brown, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
 Jane Scott, Team Manager, Specialist Children Services
 Jackie Cook, Head Of Social Work Improvement And Quality Assurance, Children's and Adults' Services
 Elaine Gunn, Principal Strategy Officer
 Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

OTHERS: Fabrizio Proietti, St. Christopher's Project
 Angela Harris, St. Christopher's Project

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received. All voting members were present.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

Further to a request made at the 3 November 2014 committee the chair agreed to hear a presentation from St. Christopher's project.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosure of interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

PRESENTATION FROM ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PROJECT

The committee received a presentation from the St. Christopher's fellowship, a children's charity that has been providing high quality care to vulnerable children and young people since 1870. The project provides high quality interventions for children and young people going missing from home and care and conduct independent return interviews.

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee receive a report back in 3 - 4 months time on further performance data (to be determined), comparing those who go missing to the general care population. Members of the committee to confirm the data that they would like included in the report by email to Rory Patterson, director, children's social care. For example, it was suggested that this data might include whether any health issues had been identified following medical examination of children who return from being missing.
2. To receive a report back in 1 year in order to review the process.

6. ANNUAL REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DOCTOR FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and the importance of good health and health care for looked after children acknowledged.
2. That the committee continues to ensure that the life chances of looked after children are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.
3. That an annual report on the health of looked after children be received by the

committee.

4. The following issues were identified for further updates/inclusion in the action plan:
 - Improving completion rates for health assessments (aim for 95%)
 - Work in improving immunisation rate and understanding what practical barriers are to accurate data capture
 - Mental health training for foster carers
 - Work in improving implementation of health care plan recommendations
 - Care leavers to be added to action plan and included in annual report to committee
 - Education healthcare plans and the need to ensure that health and education staff working better to identify and manage issues. The need to ensure that plans already in place, rather than waiting for the school to intervene.
5. That committee receive an update to the next meeting on the appointment of the medical advisor.
6. It be noted that the cabinet would be receiving a report on obesity setting out the council's strategy and that looked after children would be included.
7. That Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure, to follow up the issue with regard to the Fusion leisure centre cards for looked after children.

7. THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH (TRANSFER FROM NHS TO COUNCIL) ON CHILDREN IN CARE

The committee discussed the need to raise the profile of the needs of looked after children in public health and the development of an action plan to improve the public health outcomes for children in care.

RESOLVED:

1. That the information presented in the report on the effect of public health transfer from the NHS to the council on children in care be noted.
2. That the committee receive an update report to the July 2015 meeting.

8. TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) YOUNG PEOPLE

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report regarding teenage pregnancy and looked after children / young people be noted.
2. That Councillor Victoria Mills, cabinet member for children and schools request that the teenage pregnancy board look at what is happening in the care population as against the non-care population and work being done generally in this area,

including those children not in education, employment, or training to establish trends and what preventative support was provided and its impact.

9. TRANSITION FROM CARE TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

It was agreed to defer this item for a meeting to be arranged March/April 2015.

10. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER'S (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

It was agreed to defer this item for a meeting to be arranged March/April 2015 and that the independent reviewing officers would be invited to the meeting.

11. WORK PLAN 2014/15

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee receive a report on destination data, if possible to the next meeting to be arranged March/April 2015.
2. In terms of the agenda for the July 2015 the following items were confirmed:
 - The experiences/practices of other local authorities in improving educational outcomes
 - Update report on public health as outlined in item 7
 - Report on care leavers to include information on the health services they access (including ongoing support).

Meeting ended at 4.45pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 April 2015	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report 2013/2014	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee consider the information presented in the following report and note the priorities for 2015, as set out in paragraph 74.

Introduction

2. Independent Reviewing Officer's are dedicated to improving outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC). They have a unique insight into every looked after child and are committed to driving improved outcomes for LAC.
3. The IRO service is dedicated to ensuring good outcomes for LAC are achieved and enables the Corporate Parenting Committee to hold services to account.
4. This report contains a summary of work completed by Southwark IRO Service for the period 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Legal Context

5. Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 introduced the statutory role of the IRO; with a duty to monitor the Local authority's functions by means of regular statutory reviews of the Care Plan of looked after children. The IRO was given the power to refer a case to the Children's and Families Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) if any dispute could not be resolved within the Local Authority.
6. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 expanded the role of the IRO from just reviewing the child's Care Plan to monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis.
7. New regulations (Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations) were issued in 2010 and these are accompanied by 4 sets of statutory guidance including the 'IRO Handbook'¹, which came into force in April 2011. All children in care including those on Adoption Plans or receiving short breaks are now covered by these regulations.
8. The handbook states that 'the IRO's primary focus is to quality assure the care planning and review process for each child and to ensure that his/her current wishes and feelings are given full consideration. To be successful, the role must be valued by

¹ [Independent reviewing officers' handbook - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

senior managers and operate within a supportive service culture and environment. An effective IRO service should enable the local authority to achieve improved outcomes for children’.

9. A number of new procedures have been drafted as a result of the new guidance. These include primarily the new arrangements for ‘Staying put’ and the ‘Family and friends placement guidance’.
10. Every looked after child has a named IRO who has independent oversight of the child’s case including:
 - Determining and representing the child’s wishes and feelings
 - Ensuring their rights and interests are protected
 - Assessing whether the Local Authorities Care Plan for the child meets the assessed needs of the child within the timescale of the child
 - Negotiating with the social work team and managers on any identified issues arising from the Care Plan or implementation of the Care Plan and where necessary escalating unresolved concerns to an appropriate level in the Local Authority’s management structure, and /or if necessary to CAF/CASS.
11. The main forum through which the IRO carries out their monitoring role is the Statutory Looked After Review. These take place regularly at the following times
 - First Review within the first 28 days of the child becoming looked after
 - Second Review within 90 days
 - Subsequent Reviews at 180 day intervals
 - When a child or IRO asks for one
 - When significant events occur.
12. The review should, wherever possible, take place at the child’s placement. Parents, residential workers, foster carers and their support workers, social worker and the IRO are the expected attendees. Reports from other professionals such as Health, Education and CAMHS are also received. In some cases, it may be necessary to hold a series of meetings to facilitate all professionals and views to be heard – for example where a child does not want their parents or another professional to attend a review.
13. The LASPO Act 2012 came into force in December 2012. As a result all young people aged 16 and 17 who are remanded are now regarded as looked after children. This has slightly increased the number of looked after children and has put new pressure on the IRO service.

The Southwark Context

14. The census data in 2011 gave Southwark a population of 288,300. Southwark is an extremely diverse borough with over 181 languages spoken in its schools (January 2008). The largest ethnic minority group is black African (mainly Nigerian and West African) which accounts for around 15.6% of the whole population. In 2010 it was estimated that 64.8% of the population was white.
15. Southwark has relatively high numbers of looked after children compared to other London boroughs. There were 504 Children looked After in Southwark on the 21st January 2015.
16. Southwark has an over-representation of black and dual heritage children in care. On 2/12/13 only 35% of the care population were described as white. This reflects a similar position to most other London boroughs. The largest single ethnic group is

'White British' at 160 children (29%) and the second highest group is 'Black African' at 102 children (18.5%).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Key areas for improvement for Southwark Looked after Children Services

17. The key challenges for Southwark Looked after Children Services reflect many of the challenges faced by other Local Authorities and inner city areas, as follows:
- IRO will intervene following concerns where there are concerns that children and young people may be at risk of abuse or Child Sexual Exploitation. They provide an extra layer of support and advocacy for children and are well placed to develop strategies to keep children safe
 - How to ensure that all young people in care are in education or employment and in particular to ensure that children with special educational needs receive the support and help that they need
 - The need to ensure that children are in permanent stable placements, including adoption, as soon as possible if they are not returning to their family
 - There needs to be significant improvement in the timeliness of adoption. The service has a key function to make sure permanence planning is timely and effective
 - The need to identify sufficient local placements appropriate to the diverse needs of children and young people – especially for young people aged 16 plus
 - There is some evidence that not all young people are fully equipped for independence. The IRO service will take the lead on delivering effective plans for young people so that they are well prepared for leaving care.

Southwark IRO Service

18. The Southwark IRO Service is situated within the social work improvement and quality assurance business unit. The head of quality assurance reports directly to the Director making IROs independent of the operational children's services management structure where allocation of resources lies. The team is based at Tooley Street.
19. In addition to the core function of developing and measuring the implementation of children's care plans, the IRO Service is also involved in:
- Meetings on individual cases
 - Wider consultations
 - Planning forums where policy and procedures are developed e.g. Health, Education, Participation and Professional Standards groups,
 - Audit work in conjunction with other departments,
 - Training and liaison with teams
 - Assisting with Complaints
 - Working with the commissioning team to monitor the quality of placements.

20. During the year IROs have:
- Assisted with development of several policies and procedures including the new staying put procedure.
 - Provided induction training for new social workers around planning for looked after children
 - IROs have attended LAC service Health, Education, Participation and Adoption/Permanency groups
 - Met with the commissioning service to discuss the new Sufficiency policy and contribute to planning around improving the quality of placements.
21. IROs highlight good practice by workers as well as feeding back evidence of poor practice, poor standards of placements or safeguarding issues.
22. The IRO service establishment consists of 8 full time equivalent IROs. The permanent staff are line managed by the QA service manager. The sessional IROs have long-arm supervision via telephone contact with the QA managers and regular group meetings. Administrative support is provided by a full time executive officer managed by the QAU Admin Manager.
23. Staffing in 2013-14 consisted of:
- 4 directly employed permanent staff making up 3 f.t.e. posts
 - 14 freelance self employed sessional workers
 - These have varying caseloads of between 14-76 children looked after.
 - Of the 18 workers 2 are male, 16 female; 2 are black and 16 are white.

Performance

24. The IRO team provides an efficient service, within budget. During 2013 - 2014 the team chaired and completed reports for 1522 reviews of children looked after as well as making representations, participating in staff induction and training, undertaking audits and undertaking a range of other tasks.
25. Given the budget for the service this represents a unit cost of approximately £300 per review including professional and administrative costs.
26. The IRO service makes an important contribution to good performance against key performance indicators in the National Indicator Set: C63 (Participation at Reviews) and N166 (timeliness of Reviews). They also contribute to other Performance Indicators through quality assurance and collection of data or raising issues on cases at appropriate levels to minimise poor outcome e.g. drift in care planning, placement stability, educational achievements, health appointments etc.

Performance data 2010-2014

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Number of LAC Reviews	1521	1590	1599	1548
NI66 Reviews in timescales	95.7%	94%	95.5%	96.5%
C63 Participation at Reviews	90.2%	95.2%	95.8%	94%
No of LAC at March 31st	522	550	565	550

27. The performance in relation to reviews held within timescales 2013-2014 was slightly improved by 1%
28. There were 21 Looked after reviews held late out of 1548 during the year. In 6 cases the review was late due to IRO error or sickness. The other reviews were late due to late imputing of CLA status or social worker unavailability

Participation

29. The performance indicator for child participation is based on number of children who have not contributed to one of their reviews in a year. So although a child may participate in 2 out of 3 reviews in a year this would not fulfil the criteria for participation.
30. In total 33 looked after children did not contribute to one or more of their reviews in 2013-2014.
31. The recorded participation of children in reviews has worsened slightly in 2013-2014 which is concerning. In all reviews where a young person does not contribute to the review the IRO will agree a plan with the social worker or carer to ensure the young person's views are available for the next review if they are not attending.

Summary of participation at Reviews 2013-14	Total
PN0 Child under 4 at date of review	319
PN1 Attendance	1013
PN2 Attendance - views via advocate / IRO	23
PN3 Attendance - views via symbols	0
PN4 Attendance - without contribution	5
PN5 No attendance - views via advocate / IRO	56
PN6 No attendance - views expressed	96
PN7 No attendance - views not exp	36
Sum:	1548

32. IROs will always aim to spend time individually with children and young people prior to a review to determine their wishes and feelings identify if they have any concerns and find out how they would like to participate in the meeting. If necessary or requested the IRO will ensure an advocate is provided to support the child or young person.
33. Where a child has not attended at their review, the IRO will arrange to meet children and young people at different times, or speak to them on the phone to try and gain their views. Children or young people who have English as a second language will have an interpreter available. Children with disabilities or with communication difficulties will be supported to express their views with help of their carers or a specialist worker or an advocate.

Distribution of review records

34. Distribution of reviews is not currently a performance Indicator. However statutory guidance now indicates that decisions should be circulated within 5 working days/7 days and the full report within 15 working days /21 days.

Representations and Escalations

35. IROs seek to ensure good outcomes for children. They do this through their quality assurance role in LAC reviews e.g. by checking diets are healthy and culturally appropriate, medicals take place, foster carers attend parents evenings or read bedtime stories, check contacts with siblings take place.
36. IROs will speak to the allocated social worker and review the Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and health assessments on file for children prior to reviews.
37. IROs pick up often on matters which make a difference to a child if they get overlooked for example ensuring sleepovers or school trips take place; passports are obtained so holidays are not missed; ensuring cultural and faith needs are met. They will normally do this through suggestions at reviews and encouraging carers and workers rather than via formal escalation processes and so this cannot always be visibly evident or easily quantified.
38. Where there are concerns relating to implementation of the Care Plan, resources or poor practice, IROs will initially liaise with the team and seek to resolve things informally – often by bringing reviews forward or participating in professionals meetings. An ICS record format for IROs has been introduced which has assisted in tracking IRO interventions.
39. When a concern cannot be resolved informally each Local Authority must now have a formal 'dispute resolution' process through which an IRO can escalate their concern to the appropriate management level.
40. During 2013 -2014 there were 66 representations and escalations to managers from IRO's concerning 60 children. The majority of the escalations were followed up and resolved quickly but in 5 cases the matter had to be escalated to senior managers to resolve.
41. The main themes of the representations made were:

Safety of the young person including risk of CSE/going missing/emotional state	16
Quality of placement	12
Drift/delay in care planning	11
Case unallocated/worker unavailable	10
Education concerns	4
LAC review including no paperwork/social work attendance	4

42. In all of the above cases, following the escalation the managers concerned worked closely with the IRO's to take action to remedy the concerns noted.
43. Southwark Children's social care has been restructured during 2014. The Social Work Matters transformation led to a period in 2014 where there was a marked increase in

the number of children changing their allocated social worker. These changes may have contributed to the 20% increase this year in the number of IRO escalations.

44. However, the new social work operating model frees social workers from unnecessary bureaucracy and enables them to spend more time with children and young people. Work in the Practice Group is more transparent so that poor practice will be identified quickly and remedial action taken. The focus of the new model is high quality practice, delivering good outcomes for children.

Involvement and Feedback from Stakeholders

45. Speakerbox (Southwark children in care council) representatives continued to attend and contribute to the bi-monthly IRO meetings.
46. The Children's Rights service carried out an audit of children who run away from care in 2014. This audit involved face to face interviews of a number of children who had previously run away and flagged up a number of issues that lead children to run away. The audit has been presented to the IRO group and an action plan drawn up.
47. St Christopher's Fellowship are now running a return interview service in Southwark since November 2014 and the lead workers of this project have met with the IRO group.
48. Barnados' provide advocacy for children in care and care leavers in Southwark. The advocates have met with the IRO group.

Inspection

49. Children's Services were last inspected in May 2012. Services for looked after children were judged by the inspectors to be 'good with good capacity for improvement'.
50. Specific findings were that:

'The overall effectiveness of services for looked after children is good. The local authority and its partners present as effective corporate parents.'

'Speaker Box and its range of activities presents the authentic voice of the child in care, is very influential, impacting across a wide range of issues.'

'Reviewing officers prioritise contact with children they are responsible for, seeking to establish a meaningful relationship according to the age and capacity of the child.'

Education of Children Looked After

51. The educational attainment of Looked after children is priority for the IRO service. Many of the informal and formal representations from IROs concern the provision of appropriate education to looked after children.
52. As part of the Looked after review the IRO will always review the personal education plan for the child or young person.
53. The CLA education team works closely with IRO's. The education lead attended a number of IRO meetings in 2013-2014 to discuss how IRO's can work together with the education team to improve educational outcomes for children.
54. One area that continues to be problematic is the identification of education resources for children with Special Educational Needs where they are placed out of borough. In

these situations the IRO's work closely with the CLA education team and the host authority but there is often a delay in identifying appropriate resources.

55. During 2014 it has been a priority to improve social work performance in completion of Personal Education Plans for children. There is now a regular performance report sent out to all IRO's flagging up whether PEP's have been completed so that they can follow this up in reviews.

Safety of Children Looked After

56. During 2013-2014 there were 119 recorded episodes of children in care going missing for over 24 hours. These episodes were for 38 young people.
57. IRO's are always informed where young people looked after go missing and are invited to missing from care strategy meetings and planning meetings.
58. There has been research in 2013/2014 into children who go missing from care led by the Children's Rights worker. 15 young people were interviewed about their experiences and reasons for running away. One key finding of this review was that none of the young people who went missing recalled having a return interview to find out the reasons for their running away.
59. Southwark have now commissioned St Christopher's Fellowship to provide a return interview service for children missing from home and care. It is expected that this will strengthen the response to children who go missing and enable us to do more work to prevent running episodes.
60. The 'Signs of safety model' was introduced into CP conferences in October 2012. This is a systemic model of working which focuses on the strengths of parents and uses much more parent friendly language. IRO's have received information and training around this model and continue to use the principles of Signs of safety in their reviews.
61. There are a number of initiatives in Southwark to identify and work effectively with young people looked after who may be at risk of sexual exploitation:
 - Southwark is currently working with STEPS B on a research project to look at what works most effectively project. STEPS B is a service for teens engaging in problematic sexual behaviour. An IRO sits on the steering group for this and links to the whole IRO group.
 - A police led Multi-agency sexual exploitation (MASE) panel now meets monthly and looks at young people who may be at risk of CSE. This meeting is complemented by local MAS meetings for young people who may be at risk.
 - Southwark has recently carried out a review of CSE work – this flagged up some issues around identification of CSE which are being addressed by an on-line training programme which is to be rolled out to all staff in the council.
 - A CSE protocol has now been rolled out with clear referral pathways. All young people who may be at risk of CSE are now referred into the MASH for full assessment and to ensure that their cases are tracked.
 - Southwark have now adopted the Phoenix risk assessment model for CSE and this has been circulated to all IRO's so that they can use it in reviews to ensure recognition and response to CSE concerns.

Children placed out of borough

62. There continues to be focus on children who are placed in residential units out of London. Southwark has a high proportion of children who are placed more than 20 miles out of the borough. The Director of Children's Social Care has to sign off these placements and receives a regular report of these children. These placements are subject to careful scrutiny by the children's social worker and the IRO's.
63. IRO's feed into this process by giving their views of the safety of the young people placed out of borough and to ensure that this is factored into the care planning process.
64. The Children's Rights and participation worker is in the process of visiting all children placed in distant residential units to ensure that their voices are heard in this process.
65. A multi-agency audit was carried out in 2014 to look at those children placed long distances out of London. This audit found that the health needs of these children were met but there were some concerns about the co-ordination of other services, specifically education. The report recommended that where children were placed long distances away there should be more frequent looked after reviews. It was also recommended that where children placed far away were in transition that a 'team around the child' should be set up and chaired by the IRO to facilitate a joined up service to young people.
66. The 'Young Inspectors Project' has been started in a partnership between the Commissioning service and the Children's Rights service. In 2014 a number of young people were interviewed by trained young inspectors about their placement in semi-independent accommodation and a report produced for management. This project aims to drive up the quality of placements and will be expanded and continue into 2014-2015 to look at the quality of other residential and fostering placements.
67. In addition the Director, Strategy and Commissioning, has set up a 16+ accommodation review which will report in 2015, to look at how we can improve the accommodation available to older young people in care.

Service transformation

68. Southwark Children's Social Care has transformed the way that it works with children in 2014. The social work teams have been re-structured into smaller, more responsive 'practice groups' and a 'systemic' way of working is being introduced.
69. Whilst this does not directly impact on the statutory role of the IRO, we are looking at ways to ensure that the IRO service can be more closely aligned with the Child protection service. This is in order to ensure that CP chairs are more aware of issues around permanency and placements and conversely IRO's are more aware of risk and the history of children who are in care.
70. Both Child Protection chairs and IRO's will be encouraged where possible to participate in the regular group discussions that the new social work groups have about children in care.
71. We intend to move towards having a joint IRO/CP job description for CP chairs and IRO's. This will mean for example that a CP chair who starts out reviewing a family where a child is on a CP plan will be able to then chair the looked after review of the child if s/he moves into care. It is hoped that this new arrangement will mean a better service for children who are in care or on the edge of care.

72. As part of this process IRO's will now routinely meet together with the CP chair group in 2014-2015.

PRIORITIES FOR THE SERVICE

73. **Key successes in 2013-2014 have been:**

- Maintaining an experienced, committed and trained team of IROs providing consistency for children and young people
- Conduct an audit of review reports to ensure standards are suitably high. The standard of review reports remains high. Review reports provide a pen picture of the child, synopsis of the family history and a good 6 monthly summary of the case, including assessed needs and action plan
- A regular bi-monthly IRO report is being sent to the Director Children's Social Care. This report raises the profile of the IRO service and ensures feedback and escalations are immediately brought to the attention of the senior management team
- The IRO service received positive feedback from partner agencies such as Health, Education and CAMHS. Partners state that they value having an independent professional to liaise with, giving their views weight and integrating them into Care Plans
- IRO's to attend the adoption working group to reduce delay in permanency planning and achieve better outcomes for Southwark Looked After Children.

74. **Key priorities for the IRO service for 2014-2015 are:**

- Continue to work with operational services to reduce delay in permanency planning: Timeliness on adoption remains a challenge for the service
- To improve the recognition and risk assessment of CSE and ensuring a pro-active response to protect young people including response to running away
- To ensure that children placed in residential units out of London are safe and well cared for with improved plans for transition
- To work with front line teams to improve the placement stability of children looked after
- Ensure social workers comply with statutory regulations and guidance in relation to visiting and recording in case records
- To work with the Children's Rights service and the Speaker Box children in care council so that the looked after review process can be made more useful and relevant for young people
- To monitor compliance of social worker with statutory guidance and take swift action whether there are deficits in practice including notifying senior managers

- To improve the IRO overview of the personal educational planning process ensuring that all children who need them have a PEP. Work with the CLA Education Team to improve performance for looked after children
- To ensure that all children and young people participate in a meaningful way in their LAC reviews and are always spoken to separately by the IRO
- To improve the rate of progress of Permanency plans for Adoption or Special Guardianships and Long-Term Fostering to ensure our children are in their permanent family at as early an age as possible through closer working with operational teams and Adoption and Fostering
- To improve co-working with Southwark legal services to ensure that IRO's are always able to give their views on care plans presented to court.

Summary

75. The IRO Service has continued to provide an efficient and effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for Looked After Children during 2013-2014
76. The IRO service seeks to improve outcomes for children looked after through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care as well as making independent representations to social work teams and management on planning and practice issues
77. Communication and relationships with teams are positive with the independent scrutiny valued by social workers and management. However, further work needs to be undertaken by the service to evidence a significant impact on outcomes for this vulnerable group.

Community impact statement

78. Southwark Looked After Children services works to promote the best possible outcomes for children in care. The care population is diverse in terms of age, gender and ethnicity and we closely monitor these protective characteristics to ensure we understand specific needs and are able to deliver services that address these needs. It is recognised that placement stability, engagement in education, access to leisure and healthy lifestyles all help to build resilience for young people to successfully achieve economical wellbeing and make a positive contribution. Effective performance monitoring supports these objectives and enables us to identify areas where improvements may need to be made.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care		
Report Author	Jackie Cook, Head Of Social Work Improvement And Quality Assurance		
Version	Final		
Dated	11 February 2015		
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
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		11 February 2015

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 April 2015	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Transition from Care to Independent Living	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. Members consider the information presented in this report on transitions from care to independent living and note the actions we are taking to ensure positive outcomes are achieved for looked after children in Southwark.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. For most young people, moving to their own independent accommodation, entering further or higher education, engaging with apprenticeships and employment, enjoying good health and wellbeing, represent significant events in their journey to adulthood.
3. There is evidence that, as a group, care leavers are more disadvantaged and experience more challenges than the general population of young people.
4. Ensuring successful transitional planning for young people leaving care is crucial to them living happy and fulfilling lives.
5. Mike Stein is an experienced researcher in the area of leaving care. He comments on how many care leavers have to cope with major changes in their lives, at a far younger age than other young people. 'Many care leavers have compressed and accelerated transitions to adulthood.'¹ There is evidence that both physical and mental health problems increase at the time of transition and may combine with earlier pre-care and in-care difficulties. Combined with the new challenges of transitioning into new accommodation and relationships. The impact upon young people's health and wellbeing can affect their overall health and well-being.
6. Working with the Princes Trust the National Children's Bureau has conducted research² into the successful transitions from care to independent living. They have found that the key factors that contribute to successful outcomes are:
 - Stable placements whilst children and young people are in care, particularly placements that enable them to develop strong relationships

¹Promoting the resilience and wellbeing of care leavers-Mike Stein. 2009

²[Supporting care leavers' successful transition to independent living, NCB. August, 2012](#)

- Access to and continuity of both professional and informal support for young people as they prepare for and during the transition out of care
 - Effective forward planning and preparation for the transitions to independence, including solid contingency planning
 - Access to a range of support services as success in one arena of their lives seems to pave the way for success in others
 - Ensuring young people are involved as key partners and decision makers throughout the planning and transition period, including garnering their views on their readiness to leave care
 - Equipping young people with key practical and life skills, providing them with the underlying capacity to live independently.
7. In Southwark we are delivering and developing new services to respond to the needs of this group of particularly vulnerable young adults. We provide a range of suitable accommodation and access to continuing education, good quality training and employment opportunities to ensure young people succeed into adulthood. Critical to successful transition is effective pathway planning, the full involvement of health and education colleagues in receiving good services for mental, emotional and physical health needs and access to a range of support services.

Care Leavers Strategy

8. In October 2013, a cross-departmental strategy for young people leaving care was published. The strategy sets out a vision to remove some of the practical barriers that care leavers face as they progress to adulthood. The key to achieving sustained and good outcomes into adulthood are the availability of good education, employment and health provision, access to housing, help to remain outside the justice system and access to good quality, consistent long term support.
9. The Department of Education has published a data pack on outcomes for care leavers. Its aim is to consider the findings and to learn from the best practice.
10. The new inspection arrangements will have a specific focus and 'sub judgment' on care leavers. In particular it will look at: 'Young people leaving care and preparing to leave care receive support and help to assist them in making a successful transition to adulthood. Plans for them to leave care are effective and address their individual needs. They are safe and feel safe, particularly where they live. Young people acquire the necessary level of skill and emotional resilience to successfully move towards independence. They are able to successfully access education, employment, training and safe housing. They enjoy stable and enduring relationships with staff and carers who meet their needs.'³

³ HM Government. Care Leaver Strategy. A cross-departmental strategy for young people leaving care. 2013

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Care leavers information 2013-2014

11. The following information considers all young people who had left Southwark's care, aged 19 and 20 years, during 2013 and 2014. The details refer to their known accommodation, education and employment status.
12. The total of young people entitled to a leaving care service, aged between 19 and 20 years, was 102. There was no notable gender difference in each age group.

Age	Female	Male
19 years	10	10
20 years	38	44

13. Understanding the ethnic profile of the young people within this cohort is important in addressing the issues they may encounter in accessing accommodation and education/employment.

Aged 19

Ethnicity	Female	Male
Mixed Other	1	1
Black Other	1	
White Other	1	
White Irish		1
Black Caribbean		3
White British	2	2
Black African	5	3
Asian		

Aged 20

Ethnicity	Female	Male
Mixed Other		2
Black Other	9	2
White Other	2	3
Asian Other		6
White Irish		1
Black Caribbean	5	4
White British	11	12
Black African	10	9
Asian	1	
White and Black Caribbean		5

14. Information on residence and accommodation type highlights that both age groups predominantly live in council/private housing or supported housing in London. The majority of young people live in Southwark or South East London. That's important in ensuring they can continue to have contact with birth families and access to services in Southwark.

15. Ten young people live outside of London. These are generally related to good attachments with previous care placements and/or opportunities in the locality enabling good education and employment outcomes. Seven young people were not registered as having current accommodation. These young people either preferred not to work with the leaving care service and therefore information regarding their housing and education was not clear or were struggling to maintain living in supported housing. The service continues to offer support to these young people should they chose to make use of it.
16. Six young men were serving a prison sentence during this period. All came into care age fifteen and over. Most entries from care for this group were as a result of parents being unable to manage their behavior. For at least three young men, there were immigration issues regarding parent's status, which may impact on the young men's current and future status. All of them spent some time in custody, prior to their eighteenth birthday. All of them were involved in some offending behaviour prior to coming into care and this continued whilst in care. Two of them were involved with gangs. They all experienced more than four placement changes, including one custodial sentence for one young man. They all experienced four or more social worker changes.
17. The current accommodation range of provision for young people aged eighteen years and over includes the following:

Type	Provider	Location	Criteria
Prevention and inclusion	Look Ahead	Gateway Borough Southwark	Foyer for young people aged 16-25, including care leavers. 24/7 supervision and support available.
Prevention and inclusion	Salvation Army	Springfield Lodge Camberwell Southwark	Range of Supported housing for young people aged 16-25, including care leavers. 24/7 supervision and support available.
Prevention and inclusion	Oasis	Peckham Southwark	Supported housing for young women aged 16-25, including care leavers. 24/7 supervision and support available.
Young people floating support	Look Ahead	Gateway Borough Southwark	Floating support for young people aged 16-25, including care leavers.
Young people floating support	Look Ahead	SABs	Scheme for young people aged 16-

Type	Provider	Location	Criteria
			21, at risk.
Staying Put	Southwark Fostering. Independent foster carers.	Varied	Manages the option for young care leavers to remain with foster carers they have lived with previously.
Council tenancy	Southwark council	Southwark.	For those young people who are identified as able and wishing to move to their own tenancy.
Private Housing	Private landlords	UK wide. Predominantly South East London.	For young people with a variety of needs which can be related to preference for location or temporary arrangements.

18. Staying Put with fostercarers would not have been an option for the group of care leavers considered in this paper. We will monitor the impact that this has upon the next cohort of rising 19-20 year olds who choose to remain with fostercarers. A comparison of the information will assist us to learn from the outcomes.
19. The same cohort had differing profiles for education employment, training and those who were NEET. There was a greater disparity between age and gender in terms of outcomes.

19 year olds analysis 2013-2014

Type	Female	Male
University	3	
College	4	
Apprenticeship	1	
Work and college	1	
EET		2
Prison		1
Not in touch		4
NEET	1	3

20 year olds analysis 2013-2014

Type	Female	Male
University	5	4
College	4	4
Apprenticeship	2	
Work and college		
EET	9	11

Type	Female	Male
Prison		4
Not in touch	4	10
NEET	14	11

20. Recent internal reviews undertaken by Catch 22, December 14⁴ and the Speakerbox Young Inspectors Project, November 14⁵, have highlighted the challenges for managing the way forward for care leavers.
21. The Catch 22 review has recommended further development of accommodation provision which helps create greater choice, flexibility and safety for care leavers. More robust pathway planning at an earlier stage to ensure there are clear plans with contingency measures identified to ensure greater likelihood of positive outcomes, particularly in education and health. A clear Southwark offer which is accessible and understandable.
22. The Speakerbox Young Inspectors project reported on their inspection of semi-independent providers and young people's experiences from sixteen years of age. In addition, complaints by care leavers regarding accommodation were collated and reflected similar themes. 76% of young people reported feeling safe in the accommodation inspected. The remaining young people reported feeling unsafe and commented on the following area's as causing them concern:
- **Anti-social behaviour** in the area of the property was the most common reason for a young person feeling unsafe
 - **Unsecure access doors** also was a common reason why young people felt unsafe (due to faulty doors)
 - **Other tenants** in the property made some young people feel unsafe
 - **Lack of security** allowing access to other people not living in the property was also a common reason
 - **Health concerns**
 - **Lighting** (en-route to the property)
 - **Fear of break in**
 - **Burglary of property**
 - **Property unclean.**
23. 88% of young people reported feeling confident in managing independent living with the help of keyworkers. They reported feeling able to complete general tasks, such as cleaning washing and payment of bills. The area where they felt most input was required was in obtaining employment. For some their legal status inhibited them being able to take up legal employment.
24. For those young people who were eighteen plus. The complaints submitted and managed by the advocacy service commented on similar issues regarding safety and the condition of properties.

⁴ Catch 22. London Borough of Southwark Diagnostic report. December 2014

⁵ Speakerbox. Young Inspectors Project Report. November 2014

Actions being taken

25. As noted above achieving good outcomes for care leavers involves careful planning, co-ordination of services and a good choice of quality provision.
26. A LAC Strategic Group has been established to improve co-ordination between the different parts of the looked after system. This incorporates leaving care. The group will co-ordinate the development and delivery of a LAC Strategy which will incorporate the review recommendations from Catch 22 and the feedback from Speakerbox young inspectors and representations managed through the advocacy service.
27. Key area's for focus will be:
 - **Developing the range and safety of accommodation provided to care leavers:** Social Care are working in partnership with commissioning colleagues to review current provision with providers and young inspectors, which is part of a wider 16+ accommodation review which commissioning are leading on. We are working on the feedback and observations to improve the commissioning arrangements with those providers who are delivering well and could provide more. For those providers who are not delivering well we are reviewing the commissioning agreements and considering other types of provision which will broaden the choice of safe accommodation and support.
 - **We are developing a strategy to review all rising eighteen year olds and improve pathway planning:** Learning workshops are being delivered throughout February and March for social workers to assist them in developing their pathway planning skills. These workshops will also introduce the new pathway plan. Carelink, our mental health provision for the care service, are working closely with us to assist with transitional planning for those young people who have particular mental health and learning difficulties. IRO's are involved in this process to strengthen their understanding of need and services post eighteen.
 - **We are reviewing 'The Southwark Offer':** Ensuring that our offer to care leavers is clear and accessible. We are exploring different media to assist young people to access and understand what is available.
28. In addition the LAC Strategic Group is prioritising work on initiatives which will increase services and support to enable more children and young people to remain at home. This includes developing more "edge of care" services with a particular focus on work with adolescents and helping those young people who want to return to family members as part of their pathway plan to be able to do this safely and with support.

Community impact statement

29. Southwark Looked After Children services works to promote the best possible outcomes for children in care. The care population is diverse in terms of age, gender and ethnicity and we closely monitor these protective characteristics to ensure we understand specific needs and are able to deliver services that address these needs. It is recognised that placement stability, engagement in education, access to leisure and healthy lifestyles all help to build resilience for

young people to successfully achieve economical wellbeing and make a positive contribution. Effective performance monitoring supports these objectives and enables us to identify areas where improvements may need to be made.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Case Study A
Appendix 2	Case Study B

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jane Scott, Head of Care	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 February 2015	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 February 2015	

Case Study A**APPENDIX 1**

ChildA has been in the care of the local authority since 2002 having been neglected and suffering physical and emotional abuse and was subject of a Care Order, Section 31 Children Act 1989. ChildA experienced 20 changes in placement during time in care, mostly because of challenging behaviour, and was eventually placed with an in-house foster carer in 2007 until their 18th birthday.

ChildA attended college and completed a level 3 course, along with GCSE English and Maths. They went on to complete a six week work experience placement and aspires to work in the health field.

ChildA is now living in a council tenancy, living independently and doing very well. They are very focused and determined to make a success of life. ChildA was being supported by Carelink for several years, until their 18th birthday, and reports that they have helped to come to terms with some painful earlier life experiences when they lived with their birth family.

ChildA recently started university and is thoroughly enjoying the course and managing well. They have a good supportive relationship with Personal Advisor says that it is reassuring to know that the PA can be contacted for practical and emotional support.

Case study B**APPENDIX 2**

ChildB was born outside the UK and came to the UK to live with father, who was a British Citizen as their mother was unable to provide care. Father passed away in 2008.

ChildB initially lived with relatives but was told to leave due to answering back on occasion. They went to live with other relatives who found it difficult to manage their behaviour.

ChildB consistently said that they were unhappy living with the family and felt un-cared for and un-loved. They were assessed at hospital after a suicide attempt but was not diagnosed with a mental health difficulty. ChildB moved from relatives and went to live with a family friend. In 2009, ChildB was accommodated by Southwark as all family and friends' placement options had been exhausted.

ChildB was placed with a Southwark foster carer and remained with the same carer until leaving care at 18. The carer developed strategies to support ChildB through challenging behaviour towards independence at 18 years. ChildB moved into supported accommodation at eighteen but struggled to manage behaviour, this culminated in B in an episode which resulted in eviction.

ChildB worked with their personal advisor and arranged to stay with friends for a short period and was then helped to move into a supportive hostel. ChildB demonstrated their ability to manage within the hostel and therefore was supported to obtain their own council tenancy. ChildB has since had some rent arrears which are being managed. The Care Service has supported ChildB by providing some funding toward the arrears.

Recently ChildB secured a job with the support of the Personal Adviser, specialist careers advisor, for the Care Service. They remain in contact with their foster carer.

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 April 2015	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Educational Outcomes for Care Leavers (Destination Data)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children’s Social Care	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee notes the content of this data analysis report and the importance of achieving good educational outcomes to secure long term economic wellbeing for those who have been in care.
2. That the committee receives further information in relation to placement stability, being developed through the 16+ accommodation review, to provide more context for the factors affecting the achievement of good educational outcomes for those in care.
3. That the committee continues to monitor educational outcomes of looked after children and champion the rights of looked after children to have access to a good education whilst in care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Educational achievement is fundamentally important to the life chances of most children. The right to education is enshrined in the United Nations convention on the ‘Rights of the Child’, and attaining success in education is one of the key indicators of future economic well-being. There are a range of socio-economic factors that are associated with family breakdown and admission to care which predict low educational achievement for those who experience time in care therefore, whilst children in care span a full range of educational potential, they do not, in general, perform as well as other children living in their local area, this is true nationally and in Southwark.

Summary of findings

5. Our findings included:
 - a. Considerably fewer care leavers achieved good educational outcomes at GCSE level than at Key Stage 2 in comparison with all Southwark pupils.
 - b. Care leavers who were in care at the time of their Key Stage 2 or GCSE exams did not perform as well as those who were not in care at that time.
 - c. Care leavers who did not achieve at KS2 were unlikely to achieve at GCSE.
 - d. Almost all care leavers who went into care less than one year before their 18th birthday achieved the GCSE threshold, whereas almost none of those who started their latest episode of care around the time of their GCSE exams achieved the threshold.

- e. Care leavers who achieved at GCSE are more likely to be in EET when they're older.
- f. Care leavers who have been in care from a younger age are more likely to be in EET and/or live in suitable accommodation when they're older.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

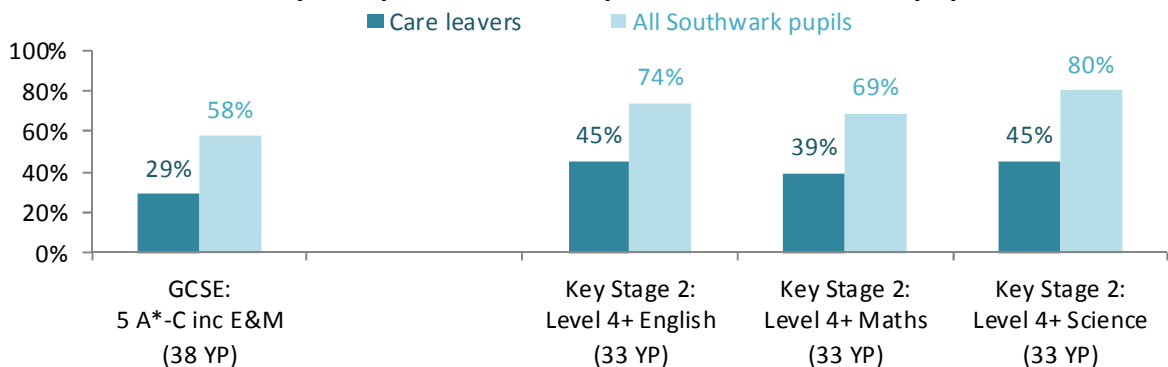
Educational achievement

6. There were 111 care leavers who had their 19th birthday in the year April 2013 to March 2014. Attainment information could only be matched to care leavers who attended Southwark schools. We were only able to capture 30%, because this data is not held internally and the national database (Key to Success) removes children's data once the young person turns 17. For this reason we were only able to match care leavers with historic Southwark Schools data where the young person's UPN was available.
 - Key Stage 2 attainment information could be matched to **33 care leavers (30%)**
 - GCSE attainment information could be matched to **38 care leavers (34%)**.
7. For the cohort of care leavers considered in this report, Key stage 2 assessments took place in 2005/2006 (age 10-11) and GCSE exams took place in 2010/2011 (age 15-16). The 3 thresholds for 'good' attainment at Key Stage 2 is **at least a level 4 in English / Maths / Science**, and the threshold for 'good' attainment at GCSE is **at least 5 A* to C grades, including English and Maths**.

Overall achievement of care leavers with matched attainment information

8. Of the 33 care leavers with matched Key Stage 2 results, **45% achieved** at least a level 4 in English, **39%** in Maths, and **45%** in Science. The proportion of all Southwark pupils who achieved the KS2 thresholds in 2006 was 74% in English, 69% in Maths and 80% in Science.
9. Of the 38 care leavers with matched GCSE results, **29% achieved** the threshold for 'good' attainment at GCSE, compared to 58% of all Southwark pupils in 2011.

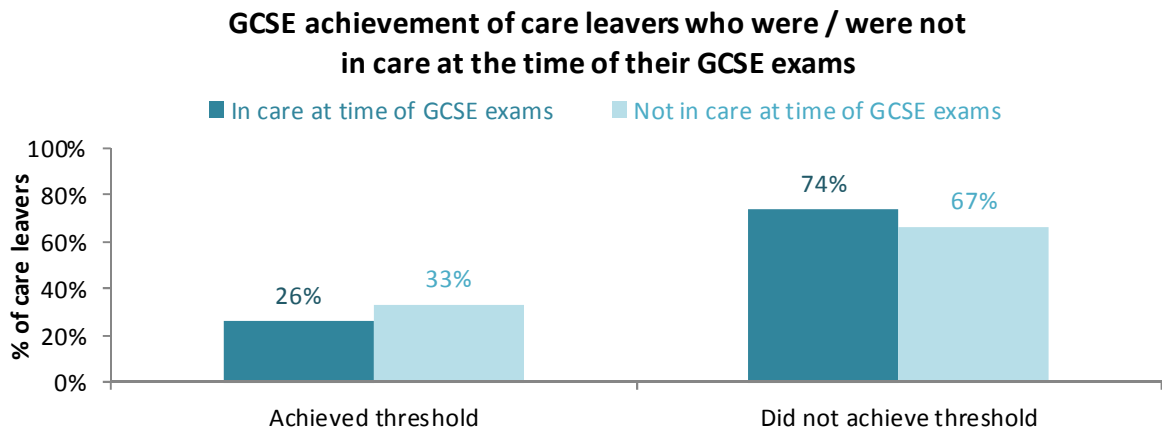
'Good' attainment at GCSE and KS2 of care leavers with a 19th birthday in the year Apr13-Mar14 compared to all Southwark pupils



10. This shows that in line with the performance of all Southwark pupils, the proportion of young people who achieve the thresholds at KS2 is higher than at GCSE. However, the drop in the proportion of pupils who achieve at KS2 compared to GCSE is more pronounced for the care leaver cohort than for all Southwark pupils.

Achievement of those in care at time of GCSE

11. Of the 38 care leavers with GCSE attainment information, **23 were in care** at the time of their GCSEs. Of these, **26% (6 young people) achieved** the GCSE threshold for 'good' attainment, compared to 33% (5/15 YP) of those not in care at the time.



12. Of the 33 care leavers with matched Key Stage 2 attainment information, **25 were in care** at the time of their Key Stage 2 assessments. Of these, **40% (10 YP) achieved** at least a level 4 in English, **36%** in Maths and **44%** in Science. These proportions are lower than those care leavers who were not in care at the time of their KS2 assessments (63% for English, 50% for Maths and 50% for Science.)

	Achieved level 4+ KS2 English			Achieved level 4+ KS2 Maths			Achieved level 4+ KS2 Science		
	Y	N	Y%	Y	N	Y%	Y	N	Y%
In care at time of KS2	10	15	40%	9	16	36%	11	14	44%
Not in care at time of KS2	5	3	63%	4	4	50%	4	4	50%

13. The data shows that a lower proportion of those in care at the time of their KS2 assessments or GCSE exams achieved the thresholds of 'good' attainment.

Achievement at GCSE in relation to Key Stage 2

14. Just over half of those care leavers who achieved at least a level 4 in Key Stage 2 English / Maths / Science went on to achieve the 'good' attainment threshold at GCSE (60% of those who achieved at KS2 English, 54% who achieved at KS2 Maths and 53% who achieved at KS2 Science.) In contrast, of those children who did not achieve good attainment at KS2, the vast majority did not achieve good attainment at GCSE (94% in English, 85% in Maths and 89% in Science.)

	KS2 English	KS2 Maths	KS2 Science
<i>Of those who achieved the KS2 threshold, % who went on to achieve GCSE threshold</i>	9/15 YP 60%	7/13 YP 54%	8/15 YP 53%
<i>Of those who did not achieve the KS2 threshold, % who did not achieve GCSE threshold</i>	17/18 YP 94%	17/20 YP 85%	16/18 YP 89%

15. This shows that although not all children who achieve at Key Stage 2 will achieve at GCSE, those who do not achieve at Key Stage 2 are very unlikely to achieve at GCSE.

Achievement at GCSE in relation to duration of latest episode of care

16. The table below shows the breakdown by age at the start of the care leavers' latest episode of care. Pupils sit their GCSE exams aged 15-16, and the data shows that those young people who started an episode of care at the age of 15 or 16 were very unlikely to achieve the GCSE threshold of 'good' attainment (1/12 YP = 8%), whereas the majority of those young people who started to be looked after at the age of 17 had already achieved good educational outcomes (4/5 YP = 80%.)

Age at start of latest care episode	GCSE: 5 A*-C inc E&M	
	Achieved	Did not achieve
0 yrs		1
1 yr	1	
2 yrs		2
3 yrs	1	
4 yrs		
5 yrs		1
6 yrs	1	1
7 yrs		
8 yrs		
9 yrs		
10 yrs		
11 yrs		1
12 yrs		2
13 yrs	1	3
14 yrs	2	4
15 yrs		3
16 yrs	1	8
17 yrs	4	1
Total	11	27

17. This shows that young people who are taken into care around the time of their GCSE are unlikely to achieve the threshold of good attainment, whereas those taken into care after they have completed their GCSEs are more likely to have already achieved a good outcome.

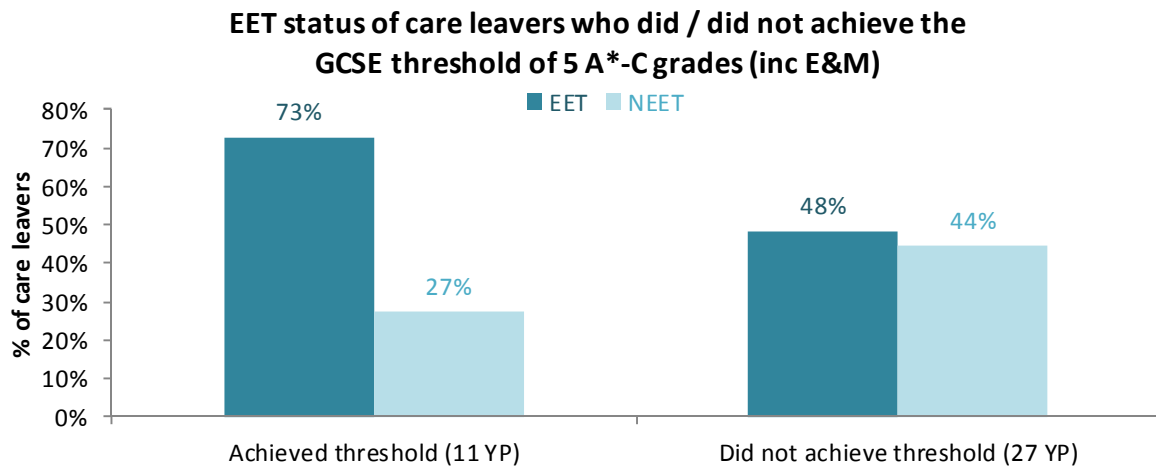
Employment, Education and/or Training (EET)

18. Of the 111 care leavers who had their 19th birthday in the year, Southwark had EET information for **91 young people**. Of those, **40% were in education, employment or training** and 42% were not. The changes in the mandatory school age will have an impact on EET in future years.

	Number of care leavers	Summary
Higher education (full time)	7	EET 40%
Higher education (part time)	1	
Other education (full time)	24	
Other education (part time)	2	
Training / employment (full time)	6	
Training / employment (part time)	4	
NEET (illness / disability)	2	NEET 42%
NEET (other)	45	
No information	20	No info 18%

EET status in relation to GCSE achievement

19. Of the 11 care leavers who achieved the GCSE threshold for 'good' attainment, **73% (8/11 YP) were in Employment, Education and/or Training** in 2014, compared to 48% (13/27 YP) of those who did not achieve the GCSE threshold.



20. This shows that those who do achieve at GCSE are more likely to be in EET when they're older, than those pupils who do not achieve at GCSE.

EET status in relation to age at the start of the latest episode of care

21. Half of the care leavers cohort started their latest episode of care at age 15-17 (56/111 YP), and of those **34%** were Education, Employment and/or Training in 2014. In comparison, of those care leavers whose latest episode of care started before the age of 15, **45%** were in EET in 2014.
22. This shows that care leavers who have been in care for a longer time before their 19th birthday are more likely to be in EET when they're older.

Age at care episode start	EET	NEET	No info	Total
0 yrs		1		1
1 yr	1			1
2 yrs	1	1		2
3 yrs	3	1		4
4 yrs		1		1
5 yrs	2			2
6 yrs	1	1		2
7 yrs	2	1		3
8 yrs	1	3	1	5
9 yrs	1	3		4
10 yrs	2	2	1	5
11 yrs	3			3
12 yrs	3	1	1	5
13 yrs	3	5		8
14 yrs	2	6	1	9
15 yrs	3	6	1	10
16 yrs	11	8	6	25
17 yrs	5	7	9	21
Total	44	47	20	111

Suitable accommodation

23. Of the 111 care leavers who had their 19th birthday in the year, Southwark had accommodation suitability information for **91 young people**. Of those, **70% were in suitable accommodation**, and 12% were in unsuitable accommodation.

Suitable	78 (70%)
Independent living	33
Semi-independent transitional	14
Other accommodation	11
Parents or relatives	9
Supported lodgings	7
Foyers & similar supported	4
Unsuitable	13 (12%)
In custody	8
Other accommodation	3
Bed and breakfast	1
Emergency accommodation	1
No information	20 (18%)

Accommodation suitability in relation to age at the start of latest episode of care

24. Half of the care leavers cohort started their latest episode of care at age 15-17 (56/111 YP), and of those **54%** were in suitable accommodation. In comparison, of those care leavers whose latest episode of care started before the age of 15, **87%** were in suitable accommodation. All care leavers who were not in suitable accommodation were also not in education, employment and/or training.

Age at care episode start	Suitable	Unsuitable	No info	Total
0 yrs	1			1
1 yr	1			1
2 yrs	2			2
3 yrs	4			4
4 yrs	1			1
5 yrs	2			2
6 yrs	2			2
7 yrs	3			3
8 yrs	3	1	1	5
9 yrs	4			4
10 yrs	4		1	5
11 yrs	3			3
12 yrs	4		1	5
13 yrs	8			8
14 yrs	6	2	1	9
15 yrs	8	1	1	10
16 yrs	15	4	6	25
17 yrs	7	5	9	21
Total	78	13	20	111

25. This shows that care leavers who have been in care for a longer time before their 19th birthday are more likely to be in suitable accommodation when they're older.

Community impact statement

26. The care population is diverse in terms of age, gender and ethnicity and we closely monitor these protective characteristics to ensure we understand specific health needs and are able to deliver services that address these needs. Delivering services that improve educational outcomes can help to build resilience for children and young people to successfully achieve economic wellbeing and make a positive contribution. Effective performance monitoring and joint working supports these objectives and enables us to identify areas where improvements may need to be made.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jean Mallo, Strategic intelligence analyst	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 April 2015	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	13 April 2015	

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 April 2015	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2014/15	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children’s Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2014/15 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2014/2015 records the corporate parenting committee’s role and functions as follows:
 1. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 2. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan.
 3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of looked after children are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.
 4. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
 5. To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all council departments, schools and the voluntary sector to lead towards better outcomes for looked after children.
 6. To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable looked after children and young people to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
 7. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
 8. To receive an annual report on the adoption and fostering services to monitor their effectiveness in providing safe and secure care for looked after children.
 9. To report to the council’s cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
 10. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
 11. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children’s services after each meeting.
 12. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The corporate parenting committee review and update the work plan each meeting.

22 April 2015

- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report
- Transition from Care to Independent Living (including availability of independent living accommodation)
- Destination Data
- Verbal update on leisure cards and appointment of medical advisor (arising from annual report on Designated Doctor for looked after children).

13 July 2015

- The experiences/practices of other local authorities in improving educational outcomes
- Update report on public health (as discussed at February 2015 meeting)
- Care leavers, to also include information on the health services they access
- St. Christopher's Project. Report back on performance data requested February 2015 committee
- Update report on public health (with officer from public health to attend)
- Update on action plan on report from Designated Doctor for looked after children.

Items to be programme 2015/16

- Foster care training available, including foster carers experience
- Analysis of children out of borough who go missing and the numbers that actually return to their home
- Specific data that the committee should monitor to be aware of in order to promote placement stability
- Two or three examples/case studies of instability that has arisen in placements
- A readiness for school evaluation and clarification at the point at which the child/young persons enters care
- Report back on St. Christopher's Project in order to review the process (due February 2016)
- Report back on performance data (raised as a response to the St. Christopher's presentation comparing those who missing to the general population. Members of the committee to confirm data that they would like included).

Ongoing/monitoring

4. Performance monitoring. Committee to receive report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly performance review of looked after children and care leavers services.

Community impact statement

5. The work of the corporate parenting committee contributes to community cohesion and stability.

Resource implications

6. There are no specific implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
Web link: http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=0		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 March 2015	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	23 March 2015	

CORPORATE PARENTING DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-15****NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Kenny Uzodike Tel: 020 7525 7236

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Membership		Constitutional Team	
Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)	1	Paula Thornton	1
Councillor Evelyn Akoto	1	Kenny Uzodike	10
Councillor Jasmine Ali	1		
Councillor Radha Burgess	1	Others	
Councillor Kath Whittam	1	Florence Emakpose, World of Hope (external)	1
Councillor Kieron Williams	1		
Councillor Eliza Mann	1		
Reserves		Total:	28
Councillor James Barber	1		
Co-opted members		Dated: 13 April 2015	
Barbara Hills (external)	1		
Children's Services			
David Quirke-Thornton	1		
Rory Patterson	1		
Alasdair Smith	1		
Elaine Gunn	1		
Jackie Cook	1		
Jane Scott	1		
Legal			
Sarah Feasey	1		