

Southwark Corporate Parenting Committee Health of Children Looked After 2020/2021

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Contributors

- Regional Adoption Agency
- GSTT LAC Health Service
- Carelink CAMHS
- Southwark CSC – Care & Careleaver service
- Southwark CSC – Clinical Service
- Virtual School – SLT provision

2021 - 2022

Update against the action plan

Full 2021-22 annual reports including mental health provision will be made available to the Corporate Parenting Committee as per agenda

Update – focus

- Statutory performance
- Health needs
- Recognising and responding to additional needs
- Mental health highlights

Note : response to the needs of careleavers is included in the session following.

Key Ambitions

Improving health outcomes for looked after children and care leavers

- Improvement in initial health assessment timeliness
- Equity of offer to children and young people placed outside the boundaries of LB Southwark
- Further develop mental health commissioning to ensure that the needs of children who may not qualify or are unable to access CAMHS services are met.
- Working with the Virtual Mental health Lead for LAC and Carelink CAMHS to improve our understanding and ability to report on mental health needs and provision for LAC.
- Restoring access to dental care for children and young people in care; as well as access to routine services disrupted by the pandemic.

Voice of the Child

- Work with Speakerbox to ensure the voice of our looked after children and care leavers is captured and embedded in the work we do.
- Ensure care leaver health summaries fit for purpose

Recognising and supporting additional vulnerabilities

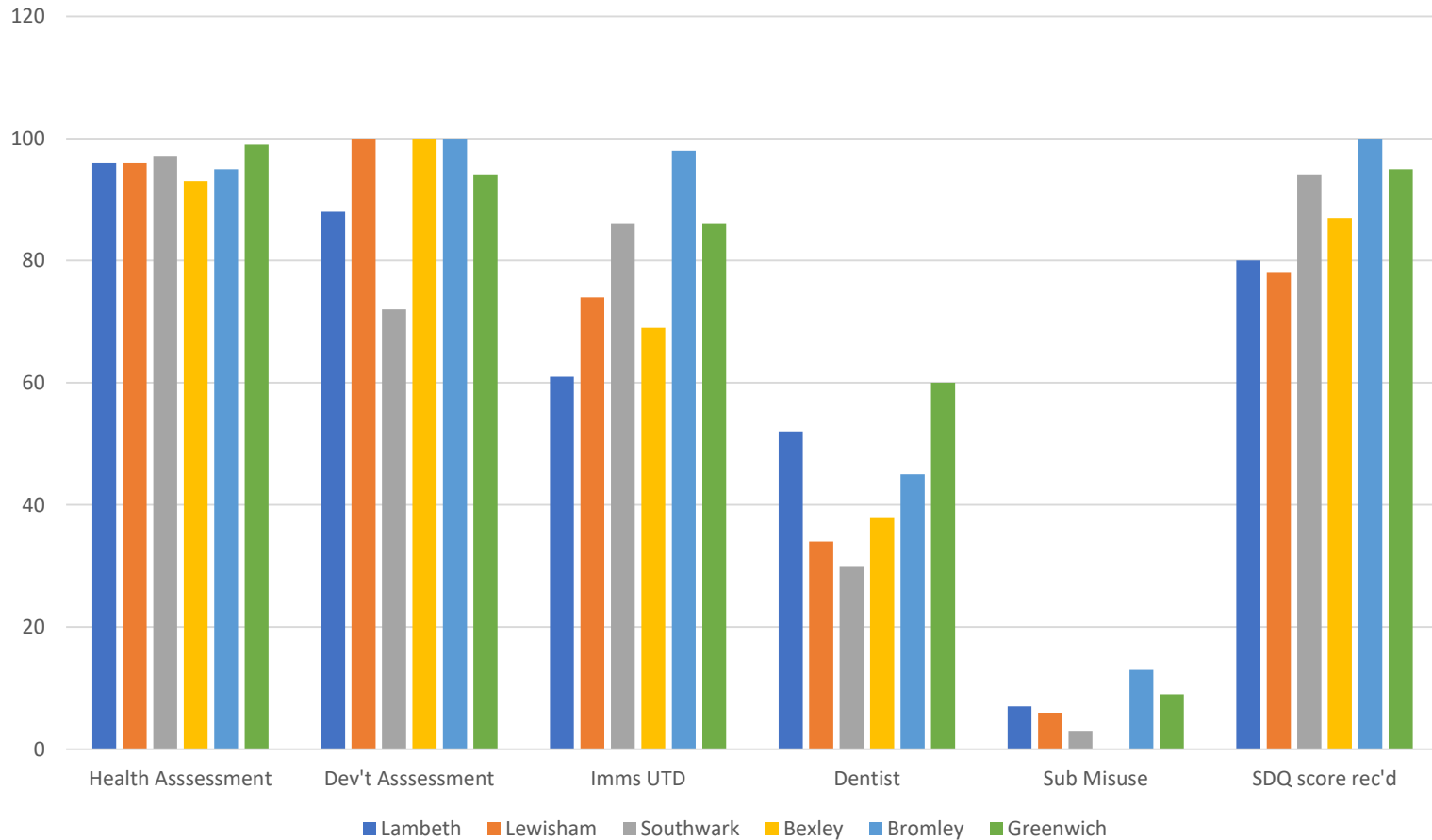
- Young people in secure estates – ensuring and advocating that their health needs are met
- Looked after children and young people with diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or learning disability – recognition and support

Key priorities – continuum 2020

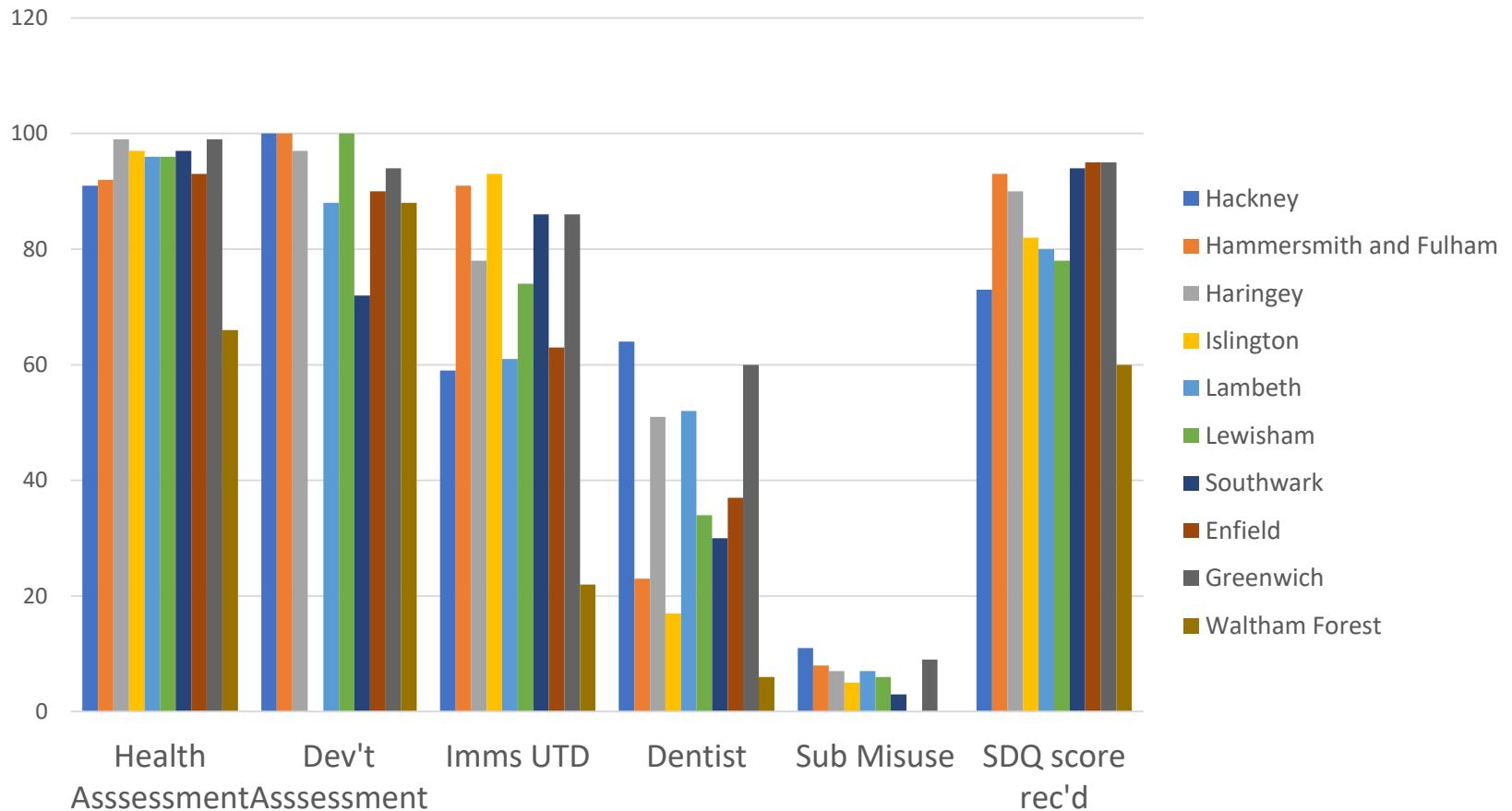
4 Overarching areas identified at 1st April 2021

- Meeting statutory objectives
- Identification and support of additional needs
- Services meet the mental health needs of children looked after and careleavers
- Development of a holistic offer to Care leavers

Health parameters(%) SEL CCG 2021



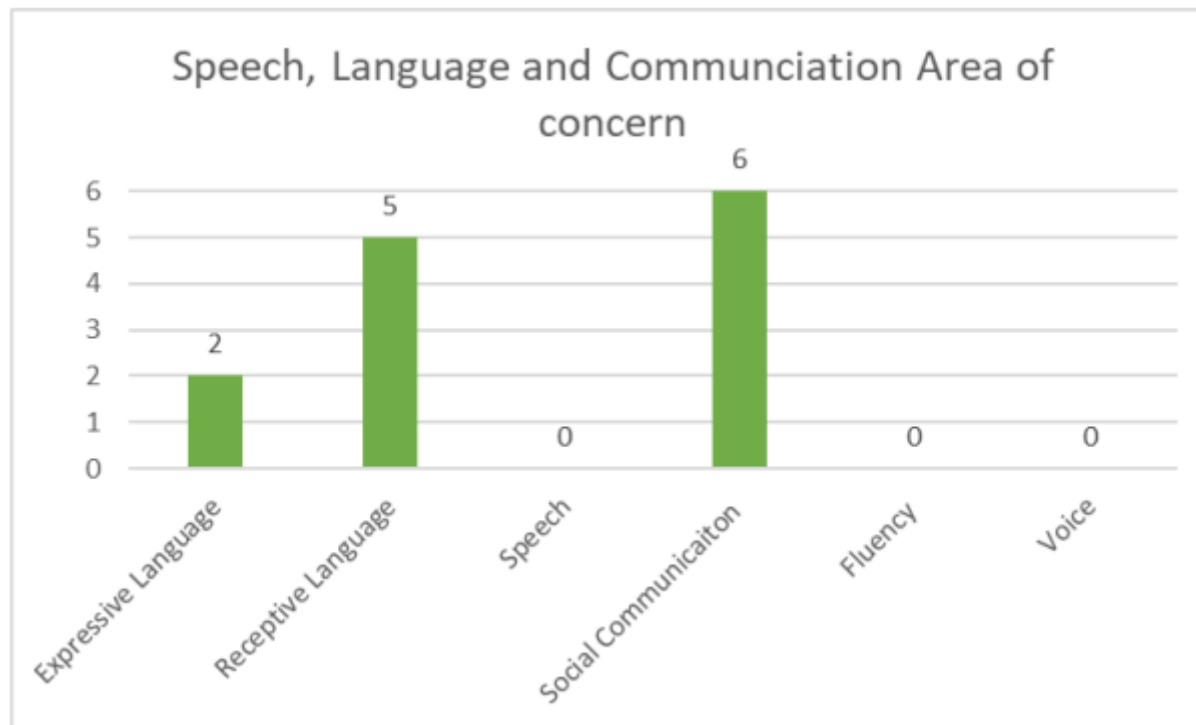
Health parameters(%) statistical neighbours 2021



Most common health needs of Southwark looked after children at March 2021

Ranked diagnosis	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
1	SALT	Behaviour	Behaviour	Behaviour
2	Developmental delay	Learning Difficulties	Asthma	Sleep (joint with asthma)
3	Sleep (joint with eczema)	SALT	ASD	Asthma
4	Eczema	Eczema	ADHD	ASD (joint with eczema)
5	Social communication (joint with ASD)	ASD	Learning Difficulties	Eczema (joint with ASD)
6	ASD	Sleep	SALT	Learning Difficulties
Total with learning difficulties	0	9	9	8
Total with learning disability	0	2	4	1

Virtual School – SLT input



Meeting Statutory Objectives

- Section 20 guidance/consent updated
 - Aim : to improve timeliness of completion of IHA
 - Progress : 14% (2020) → 17% (2021) → 48% (2022 – TBC)
- Health services have continued and achieved a good uptake of health assessment and individual follow up of health needs as required
- Immunisation of children has been a priority with CLA Nurses, school immunisation Team and GP's.
- Children and young people have experienced challenges in accessing dentist; this is gradually improving. 30% (March 2021) → 58% (Dec 2021)

Identification and support of additional needs

- Training of CSC and GSTT Health staff has continued virtually - educating and updating those new in post and experienced staff
- GSTT LAC health team continue to attend, advise and contribute to complex strategy meetings and CETR meetings for children and young people in hospital with mental health issues and safeguarding concerns
- EHCP assessments and amendments

Identification and support of additional needs

- Ongoing involvement in CSC case panels
 - provide advice, guidance and problem solving regarding young people's medical needs
 - actively pursuing assessments/treatments for children placed OOB,
 - without this - significant delay in children receiving appropriate assessment/treatments.
- Children placed out-of- borough
 - Liaison and referrals
 - Carelink CAMHS & CLA Health team

Impact of the Covid Pandemic

- The CLA health team have provided ongoing advice and information on Covid vaccine to CSC staff, vulnerable children and carers in the last reporting year
- The CLA Nurse team have engaged with Speakerbox in discussions around the impact of the pandemic on their daily lives in 2020

Children Looked After in Secure Estates

- Contact made with secure estates health team to enquire about health and emotional wellbeing of our young people during lockdown and restrictions
- Health assessments carried out by local teams
 - CHATs returned to LAC health team & SW

Mental Health Highlights

Core mental health provision

Southwark's looked after children continue to benefit from access to an array of mental health provision:

- As well as initial and annual holistic health assessments, all our children and young people are looked after by social work teams with embedded mental health clinicians, so that their individual psychological needs, and the relational issues they face in their placements and with their birth families, can be considered without delay
- Where children/young people and/or their networks would benefit from a clinical assessment or a therapeutic intervention, this can be accessed via our specialist NHS CAMHS provision (Carelink), our Open Access CAMHS provision (The Nest), our embedded clinical staff, or via out of borough NHS or private CAMHS providers.

New developments

- We have recently introduced a new mechanism for recording all referrals for mental health assessments and interventions (and the outcomes of those referral) as part of our MOSAIC system, therefore allowing for more robust monitoring of access, equity and outcomes in the future
- The Council have invested in the implementation of the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths Framework (CANS) to assist our understanding of our children's needs – this will be going live in 2022

New developments

- Carelink CAMHS now have 1 day/week of dedicated psychiatry time to assist in meeting our children's needs
- Carelink and the CSC Clinical Service are working together on reviewing the provision available to our UAS Children & Young People, including specific recruitment to a specialist post within Carelink
- CSC Clinical Service are working with SLAM AMHS on implementation of a Trusted Assessor approach to improve access to AMHS for our over 18 careleavers

Carelink CAMHS

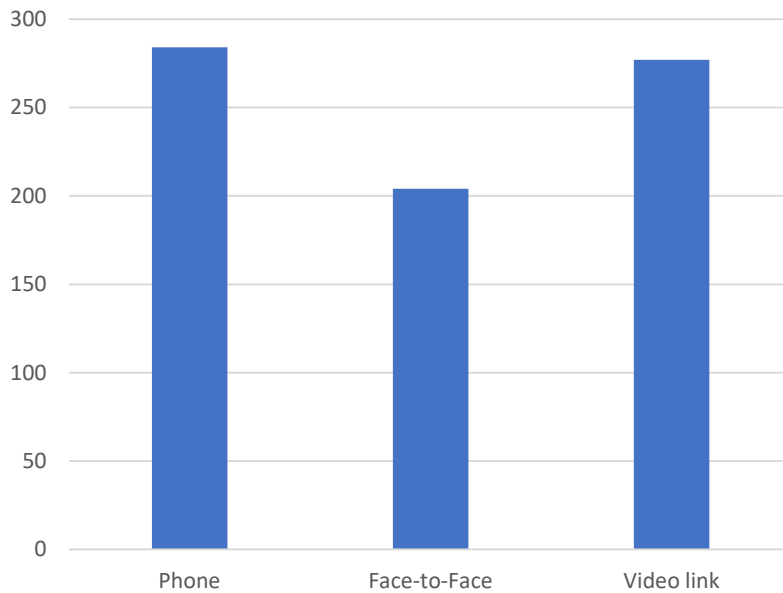
Additional information for period from April 2021 to present

Data for the last year shows a steady increase in children, young people and families accessing face to face appointments over the last year.

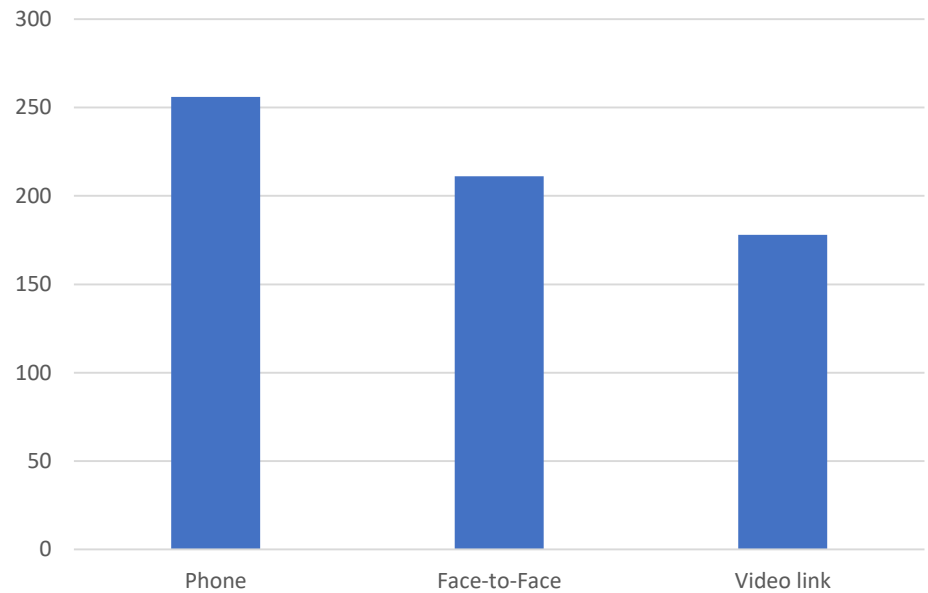
Alongside this Carelink has continued to offer flexible access to the service through the alternatives of video call or phone call.

Contact Type: April-September 2021

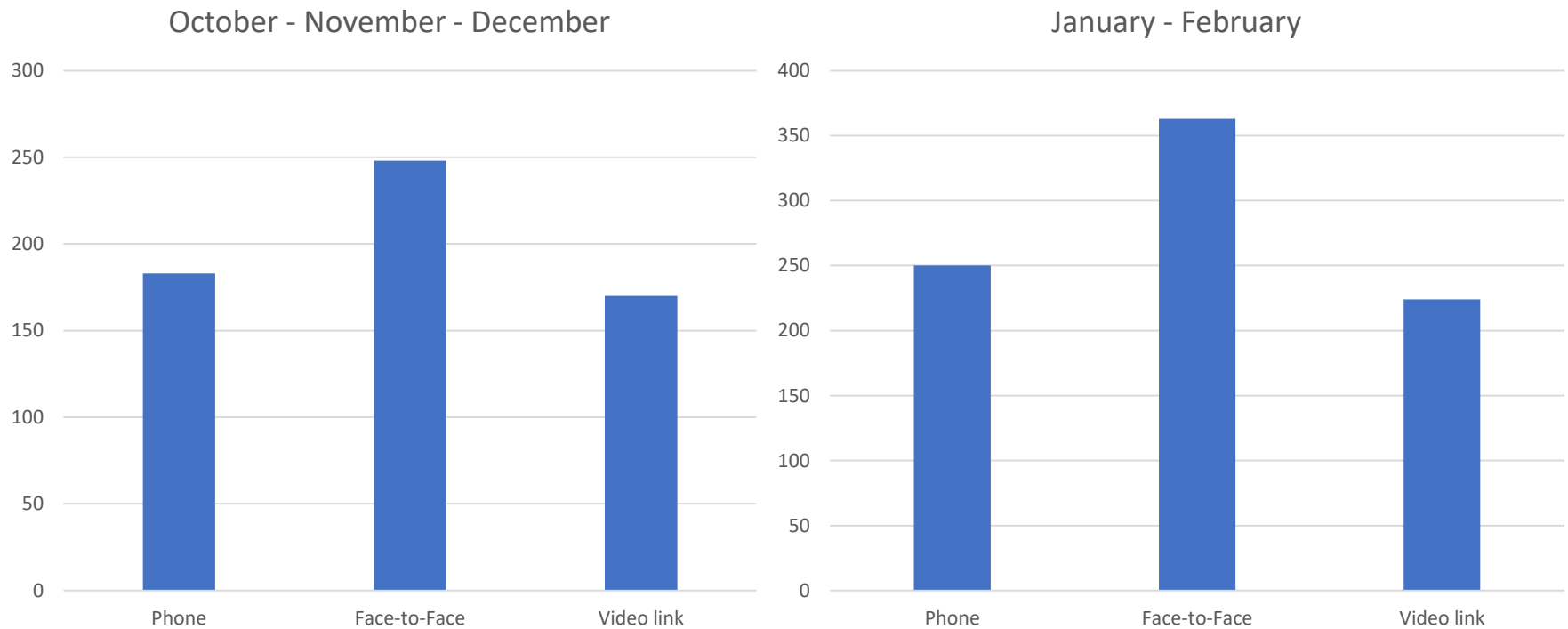
April - May - June 2021



July - August - September



Contact Type: October 2021 – February 2022



Carelink completed an audit using a snapshot of the caseload to look at accessibility of the service to minority Ethnic groups in February 2021.

Ethnicity distribution in the CAMHS Carelink Looked After Children caseload compared with CSC LAC and LA schools.

Ethnicity (n.149)	LAC Carelink	Social Services LAC	LA schools data
White	(37) 24.8%	25%	31%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups	(36) 24.2%	19%	12%
Asian and Asian British	(2) 1.3%	5%	5%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	(70) 47%	47%	43%
Other ethnic group	(4) 2.7%	4%	9%

The LAC caseload contains mostly “Black, African, Caribbean or Black British” children (47%), followed by white (24.8%), “Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups” (24.2%). 2.7% are from “Other Ethnic groups” and 1.3% are “Asian or Asian British”.

The small differences seen between local authority and CAMHS figures is due to slightly different ways in which ethnicity is recorded.

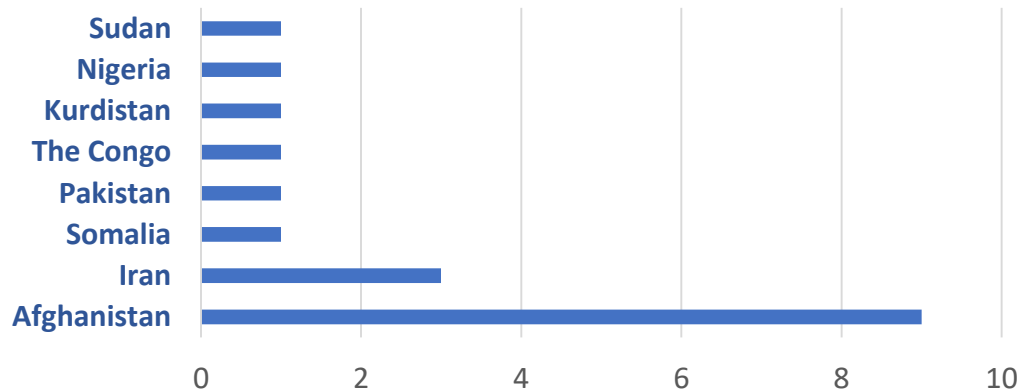
The Audit also looked at the percentage of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in the CAMHS Carelink Looked After Children caseload (February 2021 snapshot).

Ethnicity (n.13)	% CAMHS LAC UASC cases	% CSC LA UASC cases
White	(0) 0%	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups	(7) 53.8%	5%
Asian and Asian British	(1) 7.7%	39%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	(3) 23%	26%
Other ethnic group	(2) 15.4%	29%

A more recent review shows that the current caseload for Southwark Carelink includes 18 UASM referred by Southwark CSC

This represents 12.5% of Carelink caseload (6 of these were referred more than a year ago and 3 more than 6 months ago and have been offered ongoing support requiring longer term intervention).

Countries of origin are:



In response to the higher levels of referral of UASM with significant symptoms of PTSD Carelink are actively seeking to recruit new member of staff with interest and expertise in offering a range of treatments.

New challenges:

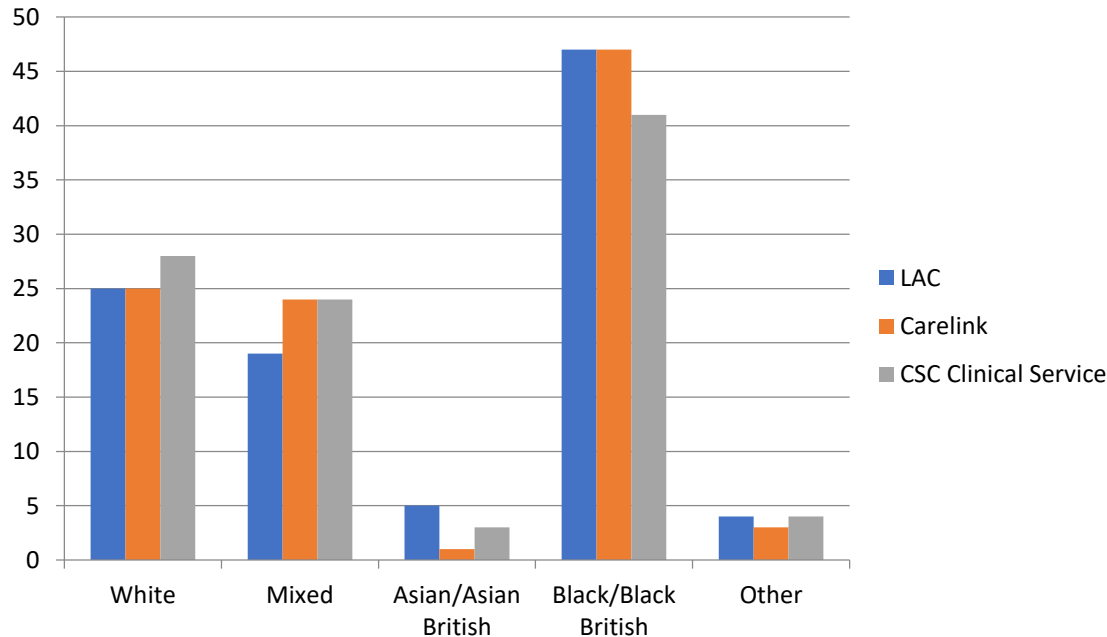
Changes to legal requirements around registration of children's homes have created a significant challenge where young people need prescribed medication to support their recovery – but there is a legal requirement for qualified staff to dispense medication. Although it may be possible to organise external health staff to attend provision for this purpose we have found it is not always helpful as young people may well prefer to be supported by the staff they know.

Other developments:

CAMHS now have 1 day of dedicated psychiatry time and we are looking at resources within the borough in the hope that psychiatry time dedicated to Children in care can be further increased

Monitoring of equity of access

- In February 2021 the CYPMHWB Equality Monitoring Group supported an audit of equity of access across our CAMHs provisions – the data regarding access for our LAC does not indicate any concerns regarding equity of access



- This is now part of the routine reporting requirements for all our services

Next Steps

- Build on successes over the last year
- Quality
- Safeguarding
- Equity
 - Children placed out of borough
- Engagement
 - Training
 - Multi-agency panels/joint assessments/joint working
 - Links with Speakerbox
- Opportunity
 - Integrated Care Partnership

Thank you

Any questions?