

<b>Item No.</b> 10	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 28 February 2024	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Report from the Working Group on mental health provision for families with children subject to SGOs	
<b>From:</b>		Jenny Taylor, Assistant Director – Clinical Practice, Virtual MH Lead for Looked After Children	

## RECOMMENDATION

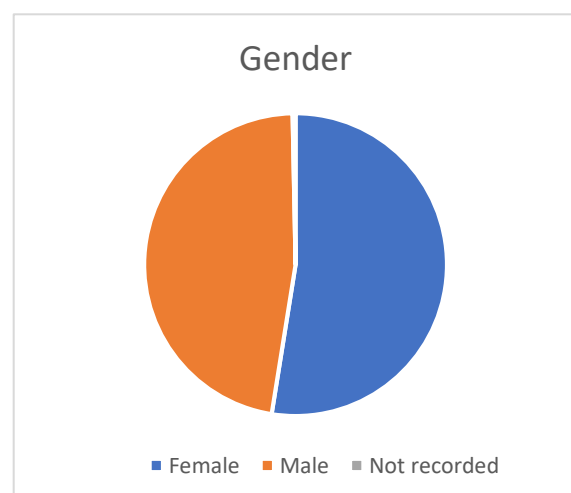
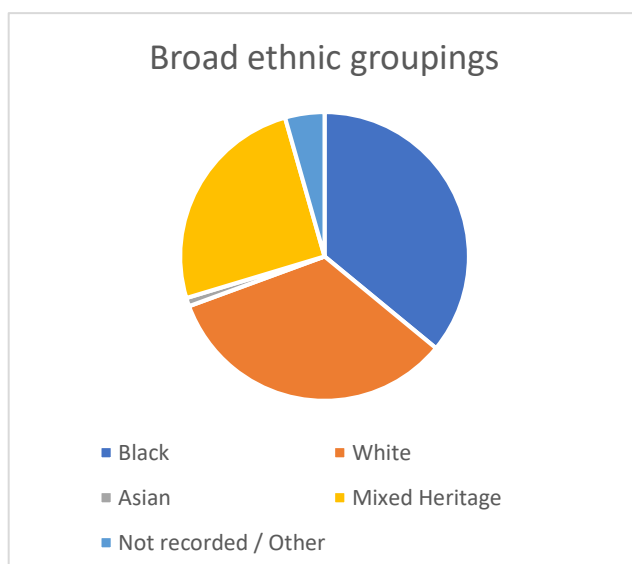
1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee note the contents of the report.

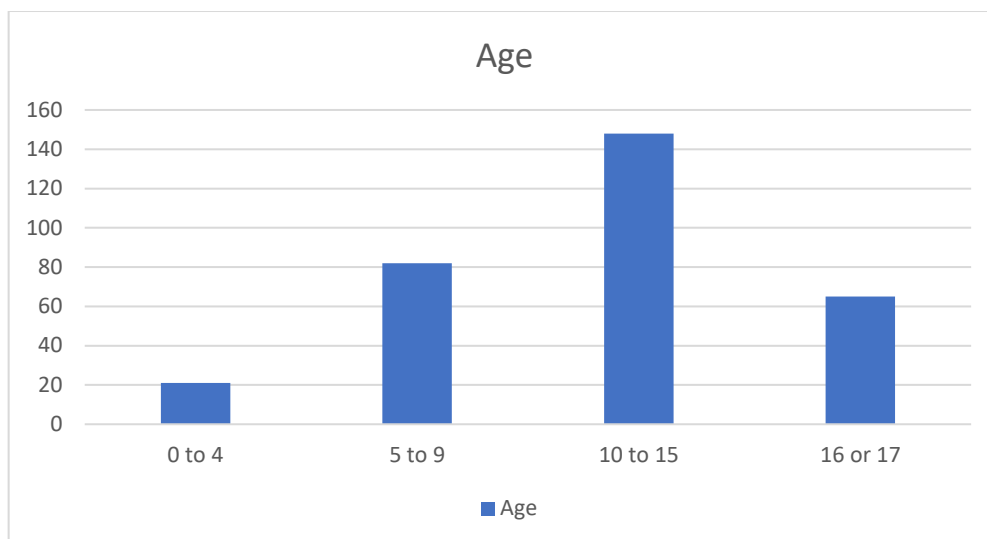
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As requested at the Corporate Parenting Committee in June 2023, a working group was convened to look at the issues impacting on children on SGOs and their families receiving timely mental health support. Elspeth Pluckrose (SLAM CAMHS), Jenny Taylor (LBS C&F), Suzanne Green (LBS Joint Commissioning) and Claudia Kwaku/Emma Hiley (LBS SGO team) met on four occasions, in August, September, October and November 2023, to develop this report for the Corporate Parenting Committee in December 2023. Due to time constraints this item was moved to the agenda for the Corporate Parenting Committee in February 2024.

## KEY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLIENT GROUP

3. The population of children/families under consideration by this working group are those families granted an SGO via Southwark, who continue to live in Southwark, AND those families granted an SGO via a different local authority, but who now reside in Southwark, as these groups together make up the population who would be eligible for mental health services from Southwark CAMHS.
4. We have so far been unable to extract data related to the above population, but we do know that there are currently 316 children who have been granted SGOs by Southwark – see below for some demographic data.





- Epidemiological data suggests that approximately 24% of these children/families might have needs that would require mental health intervention at any one time, i.e. 76 children needing mental health support.

## CURRENT PROVISION

- As with any other children with mental health needs living in Southwark, children on SGOs' mental health provision is primarily the responsibility of the local CAMH services. Currently SLAM CAMHS does not have a separate funding stream, pathway or team focussing on these children – they would be assessed and offered a service via the Single Point of Access (SPA) system for referrals as with any other children in the borough.
- There is a clinical practitioner (family therapist) from LB Southwark's in-house clinical service linked to the SGO team (along with 2 other teams) whose role is primarily to support the team with their work rather than to offer direct work to families. When clinical/therapeutic work is indicated for children/families he will try to support with arranging access to relevant NHS provision. Where this doesn't fit with NHS criteria (e.g. relational work between adult family members), or where the timescales don't meet the child's needs (e.g. wait time is jeopardising stability of placement) we would look at delivering this via the in-house clinical service where possible, but the capacity from this service for direct work is very limited as it is primarily designed to enhance social work practice.

## RECENT / PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP

- In order to improve the service children on SGOs receive via SLAM CAMHS, SLAM CAMHS are now including a question to clarify if a child is subject to a SGO on their referral form, to alert them to the particular issues the family may be struggling with. In addition the SLAM CAMHS Carelink team (which works with looked after children) have been offering training to colleagues in the core CAMH service to improve their understanding of supporting children in more complex family arrangements who may have experienced significant abuse or neglect.
- Where referrals originate from LB Southwark's SGO team, the Clinical Practitioner attached to the SGO team will help ensure that referrals are as clear and detailed as possible to support CAMHS in understanding the needs.
- An additional approach would be to clarify the likely number per year of children eligible for ASF (those children who were looked after prior to their SGO) *and* likely to have a

mental health need, and fund a position to deliver this care (either via the local authority or SLAM CAMHS) and reclaim the ASF funding to recoup this cost. This would not however answer the needs of families not eligible for ASF funding.

11. The SGO team are currently in the process of having a PowerBI Dashboard set up to provide oversight of this group of children. This would provide ongoing oversight of numbers and demographics. In addition we are proposing that where LBS is aware of a referral for a child subject to an SGO to a mental health service that a Mosaic workflow is created, as is currently done for LAC referred for MH input, thus allowing the PowerBI dashboard to also help us track access to mental health services for this group of children and their families.

## NEXT STEPS

12. The Children & Young People’s Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will explore the possibility of using ASF funding to support those children eligible via an additional clinical post.
13. The Children & Young People’s Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will also be considering whether there are there any other options for resourcing additional provision for this group, particularly to cover those not eligible for ASF funding.
14. The Children & Families Division will develop a PowerBI dashboard and mental health Mosaic workflow to help with monitoring and oversight of mental health provision for this group.
15. The Children & Young People’s Mental Health & Well Being Steering Group will consider how best to ensure ongoing oversight of mental health provision for this group e.g. whether within the remit of Southwark’s Virtual MH Lead for LAC or elsewhere within our governance system.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Papers Clinical Service, Looked After Children	Clinical Service, Children's and Adults' Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	<a href="mailto:Jenny.taylor@southwark.gov.uk">Jenny.taylor@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Web link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Jenny Taylor, Assistant Director, Clinical Practice, Virtual MH Lead for Looked After Children	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	16 February 2024	
<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>
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	16 February 2024	