

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 21 July 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		2012/13 Provisional end of year performance report – Looked After Children	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director, Children's Social Care	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Members to note the information provided in this report.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. Every year, all local authorities with responsibilities for social care are required to make a number of statutory returns to the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted.
3. The SSDA903 statutory return specifically relates to those children who were in care of the local authority at any time in the reporting year, from the 1 April to the 31 March in the following year.
4. Local authorities are required to complete and submit this return by the end of June following the end of the reporting year.
5. The DfE publishes data based on these returns in the late autumn following the end of the reporting year, releasing progressively, national level data, local authority level data and then finalised data.
6. The published data at a local authority level allows individual authorities to benchmark themselves against other authorities. Before this data is published it is only possible to benchmark against the data for previous years.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Provisional end of year figures from the data collection**

7. The number of children looked after at the end of the year (31 March 2014) is 548, which is a 3% drop on the previous year. The table below shows the numbers of children looked after and rate per 10,000 at the end of the year and historically together with benchmarking for 12/13 (latest available). Although our end of year number of children looked after has reduced, we are still above our statistical neighbours, London and National average. Comparing our number of children in care at 31 March 2014 (548) with 2012/13 published data we would have the 3rd highest number in London and 37th nationally. For rate of children we would be 2nd highest in London and 20th nationally.

Description	Benchmarking			Southwark Historic					2013/14 (provisional)
	2012/13								
	National	London	SN	2008 /09	2009/ 10	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012/ 13	
Number of children looked after at end of reporting period	68110	10090	392	535	557	522	552	565	548
Rate of children looked after at end of reporting period per 10,000 pop aged under 18	60.0	55.0	72.0	92.7	95.5	89.1	93.5	95.7	92.8

8. The proportion of children looked after at 31 March in each placement type is largely unchanged from 2013. There have been small increases in the number of children placed for adoption (+9 children) and in foster placements with a relative or friend (+10) and decreases in those living independently (-10) and placed with parents or guardians (-11). In 12/13 the official figures show that 12 children were placed in residential schools on 31 March 2013. This is inaccurate, although these placements are schools, because they are dual-registered as Children's Homes (as defined in section 1(6) of the Care Standards Act 2000) they should be shown in our figures as Children's Homes. The figures for 2013/14 correct this.

CLA as at 31 March - Placement Type						
Placement type	Southwark				Stat neighbours	
	2012/13	%	2013/14	%	2012/13 Ave	%
Foster placements	425	75%	425	78%	300	76%
Placed for adoption	20	4%	29	5%	16	4%
Placement with parents	15	3%	4	1%	10	3%
Other placement in the community (Independent living)	35	6%	25	5%	18	4%
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	17	3%	49	9%	42	11%
Other residential settings (Residential care home, mother and baby unit, NHS, Youth offender institute)	37	7%	13	2%	9	3%
Residential schools	12	2%	0	0%	5	2%
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	3	1%	3	1%	0	0%
Other placement	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>548</b>		<b>400</b>	

9. More children are looked after on full care orders (+39 children) and S20's (+11) than in 2013 and fewer on interim care orders (-52).

<b>CLA as at 31 March – Legal Status</b>				
<b>CLA at 31/03/2014 - Legal status</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>
Detained in LA accommodation under PACE	1	0%	1	0%
Full care order	224	40%	263	48%
Interim care order	115	20%	63	11%
On remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA	11	2%	4	1%
Placement order granted	80	14%	72	13%
Single period of accommodation under section 20	134	24%	145	26%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>548</b>	

10. The average age of this cohort has increased from 2013 with more children aged 10-15 (+5 children) and 16-17 (+16), there are 38 fewer children aged 0-9. Compared to the Southwark 0-18 population a greater proportion of CLA at 31st March are aged 10-18 (+23 percentage points).

<b>CLA as at 31 March - Age</b>						
<b>CLA at 31/03/2014 - Age</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Southwark 0-18 pop</b>	<b>%</b>
0	42	7%	28	5%	22100	35%
1-4	88	16%	78	14%		
5-9	115	20%	101	18%	16650	26%
10-15	183	32%	188	34%	16300	26%
16-17	137	24%	153	28%	8800	14%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>548</b>		<b>63850</b>	

11. The ethnic make-up of children looked after at 31 March 2014 is roughly the same as in 2013, with Black or Black British (43%) and White (34%) children making up the biggest proportions. These were in line with Southwark 0-18 population figures (although due to the differing categorisations used it was hard to match them completely), compared to the Southwark population there were very few children from an Asian or Asian British background (3% compared to 13%) in care.

<b>CLA as at 31 March - Ethnicity</b>						
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Southwark 0-18 pop</b>	<b>%</b>
White	193	34%	188	34%	20700	32%
Mixed	93	16%	90	16%	5650	9%
Asian or Asian British	20	4%	18	3%	8550	13%
Black or Black British	239	42%	236	43%	29000	45%
Other ethnic groups	20	4%	16	3%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>548</b>		<b>63900</b>	

12. There were more Males than Females in care at 31 March, this contrasts with the general population where there is an almost even split.

CLA at 31 March - Gender						
CLA at 31/03/2014 - Gender	2012/13	%	2013/14	%	Southwark 0-18 pop	%
Female	249	44%	241	44%	31,400	49%
Male	316	56%	307	56%	32,550	51%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>548</b>		<b>63,950</b>	

13. **Health Outcomes and Convictions** (children looked after for 12 months or more at end of year) The provisional health outcomes for children looked after have improved on last year, except for immunisations and the Service are currently validating these to ensure Carefirst accurately reflects immunisations for this group of children.
14. Children aged 10 years plus who have offended during the year has increased this year compared to last year.
15. The table below shows 2013/14 performance against last years performance.

Conviction during year	Health Checks up to date (aged 5 years and under)	Immunisations up to date	Dental checks up to date	Health Assessments up to date	
3.2%	93.2%	68.9%	84.3%	90.3%	EOY 13/14 performance
252	59	383	383	383	Denominator
8	55	264	323	346	Numerator
2.1%	76.2%	71.8%	82.6%	89.2%	2012/13

#### Children in Care Missing from Placement 2013/14 (provisional)

16. As shown in the table below, there were 112 occasions when a child went missing from care in 2013/14, down from 165 in 2012/13. The number of children who went missing increased from 2012/13 to 37 (up from 34 in 2012/13), children who went missing accounted for 5% of the total number of children in care throughout 2013/14.
17. At the 31 March 2014 there were 3 children missing, one of whom had been missing since the beginning of December.

18.

Care Episodes Throughout Year				
	2012/13		2013/14	
Missing?	Number of episodes	%	Number of episodes	%
Yes	165	9%	112	7%
No	1658	91%	1497	93%
Total	1823	100%	1609	100%
CLA Throughout Year				
	2012/13		2013/14	
Missing?	Number of children	%	Number of children	%
Yes	34	4%	37	5%
No	821	96%	773	95%
Total	855	100%	810	100%

19. 26 of these children went missing on more than one occasion with 1 child going missing on 10 occasions throughout the year (as shown in the table below).

Number of occasions each child went missing from care in 2013/14		
Number of occasions child missing	No. of children	%
1	11	30%
2	11	30%
3	6	16%
4	2	5%
6	3	8%
8	2	5%
9	1	3%
10	1	3%
Total	37	100%

20. The majority of times children went missing from care they returned within a week (80%) but there were still 20 occasions when children were missing for over a week and 10 for over a month. One child was missing for 122 days in 2013/14, in 2012/13 a child was missing for 185 days (see table below).
21. The average length of the missing episodes has decreased slightly from 2012/13 to 8.7 days.

Length of Time Missing from Care				
	2012/13		2013/14	
Length	No. of children	%	No. of children	%

Length of Time Missing from Care				
1 day	45	27%	31	28%
<b>Length</b>	<b>No. of children</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No. of children</b>	<b>%</b>
2-7 days	74	45%	58	52%
8-28 days	31	19%	10	9%
29-84 days	10	6%	9	8%
122 days	3	2%	1	1%
Missing as at 31/03/2014	2	1%	3	3%
Total	165		112	
Average length of time missing (days)	9.3		8.7	
Longest time a child was missing for	185		122	

22. Compared to all placements of children in care throughout 2013/14 a higher proportion of children who went missing had been placed in out of borough placements, 72% of all placements throughout 2013/14 were out of borough but 91% of placements which children went missing from were out of borough (Tables below and on next page).

Location of Placement Prior to Missing Episode				
Placement location	Missing placements (excluding those currently missing)	%	All placements (excluding missing episodes)	%
In borough	10	9%	422	28%
Out of borough	99	91%	1075	72%

Type of Placement Children Went Missing From				
Placement type	Placement prior to going missing	%	All placements 2013/14	%
Foster placement with relative or friend	1	1%	90	6%
Placement with other foster carer	74	66%	1009	63%
Independent living	19	17%	110	7%
Placed for adoption	0	0%	6	0%
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	0	0%	36	2%
Residential care	13	12%	150	9%
Secure unit	0	0%	7	0%
Whereabouts known (not in Refuge)	1	1%	16	1%
Whereabouts unknown	2	2%	96	6%
Young Offender Institution or prison	1	1%	29	2%
NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	0	0%	7	0%
All types of temporary move (see paragraphs 2.4.31-2.4.34)	1	1%	2	0%
Grand Total	112		1609	

**23. Demographics**

In comparison to all children who had a care placement in 2013/14 a higher proportion of those that went missing were White (41% compared to 32%) and a lower proportion Black or Black British (35% compared to 45%).

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>No. missing</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CLA throughout 2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>
White	15	41%	262	32%
Mixed	6	16%	132	16%
Asian or Asian British	2	5%	25	3%
Black or Black British	13	35%	365	45%
Other ethnic groups	1	3%	26	3%
Total	37		810	

24. There was an almost even split of male and females going missing from care; this meant the proportion of females was slightly higher than for all those who had a placement through 2013/14.

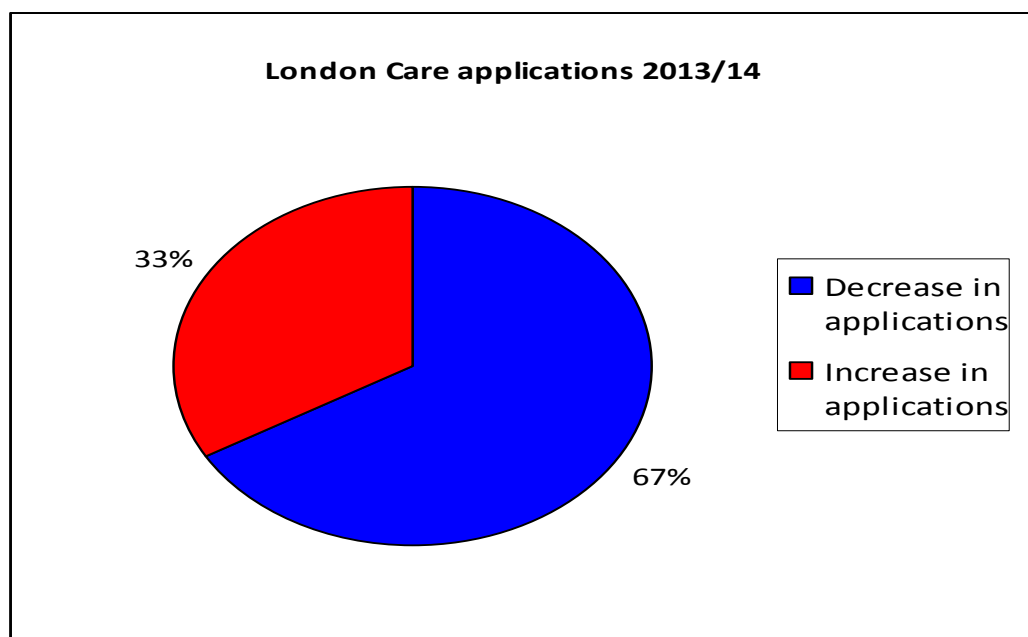
<b>Gender</b>	<b>No. missing</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CLA throughout 2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	19	51%	444	55%
Female	18	49%	366	45%
Grand Total	37		810	

25. The majority of children who go missing from care are 16-18 years old (78%); the youngest to go missing was 13 years old.

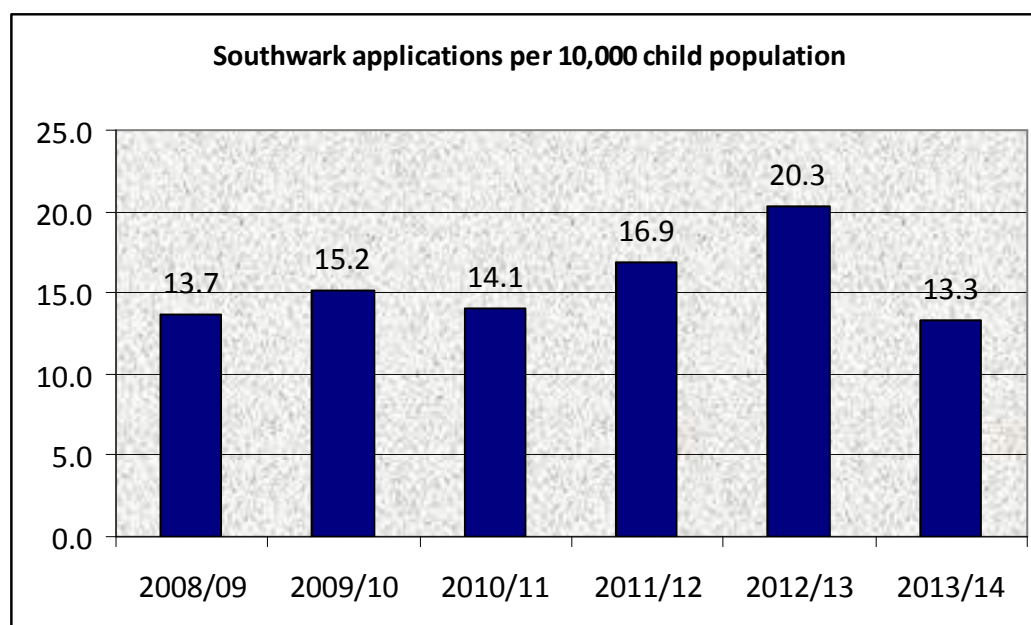
<b>Age</b>	<b>No. missing</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CLA throughout 2013/14</b>	<b>%</b>
Under 1	0	0%	43	5%
1-4	0	0%	159	20%
5-9	0	0%	143	18%
10-15	8	22%	214	26%
16-18	29	78%	251	31%
Total	37	100%	810	100%

**Children in Care Applications 2013/14**

26. Latest figures released by Cafcass show that the majority of English councils, including Southwark, have recorded an annual drop in the number of children in care applications.
27. In 2013/14 two thirds of London boroughs experienced a fall in care applications, which is similar to the national picture.

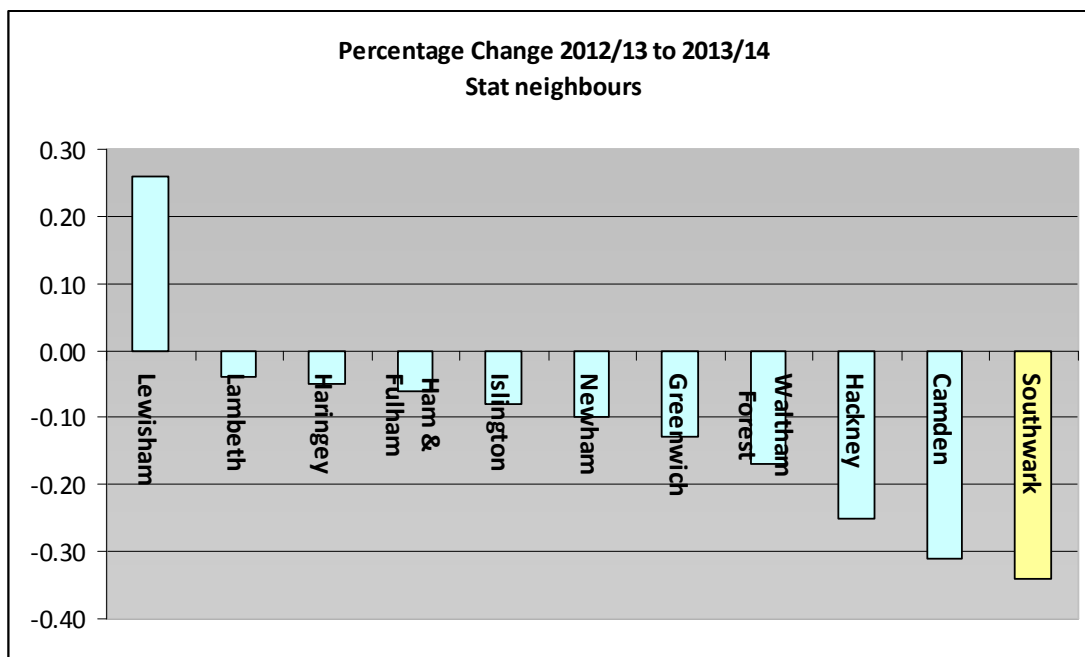


28. Southwark has seen a significant fall in the number of applications per 10,000 children when compared to the previous year. Figures show applications fell from 20.3 in 2012/13 to 13.3 in 2013/14.

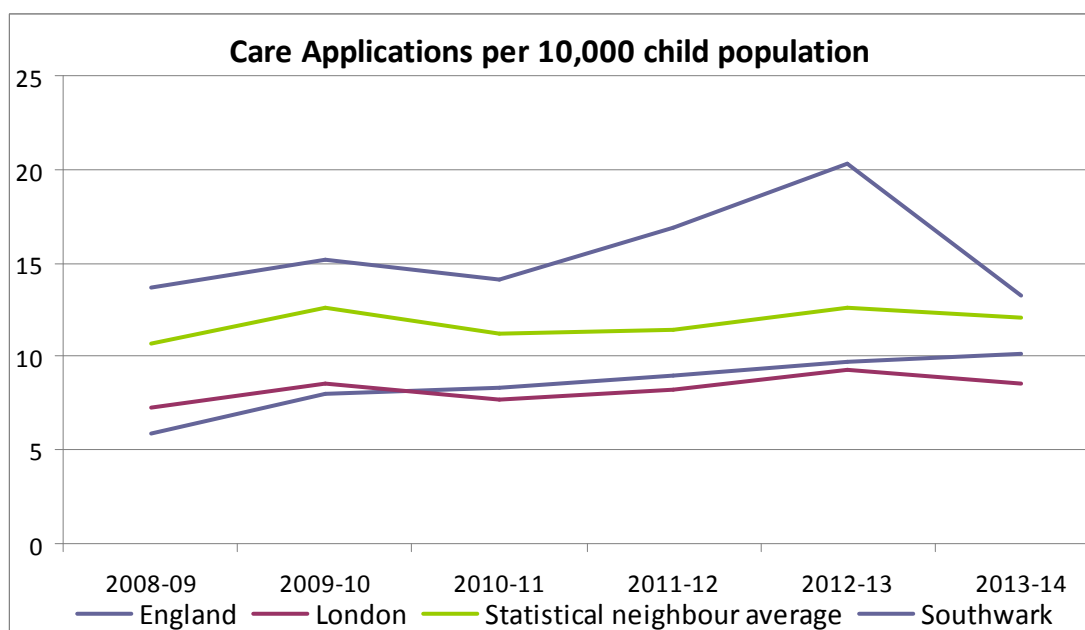


29. The graph below shows the percentage change between the applications in 12/13 and 13/14. The decrease in Southwark's applications constitutes a 34.5% change and was the second largest percentage change in London behind Kingston at 40%. Bexley, Camden, Enfield and Havering also experienced large decreases of 30% or more. Nationally, Reading recorded the largest percentage change of 52%.



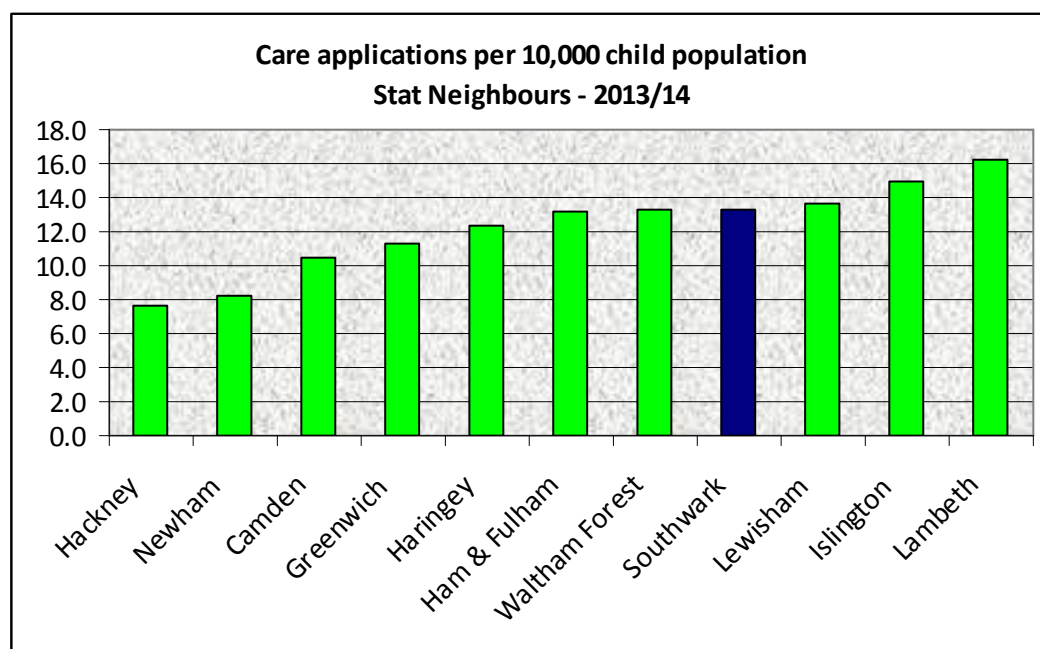


30. The significant decrease in care applications in 2013/14 has brought Southwark more in line with national, London and statistical neighbour averages.



31. Although, Southwark has seen a dramatic decrease in care applications the actual number of applications per 10,000 children is still high, the 6th highest in London and the 4th highest when compared to our statistical neighbours. This places Southwark higher than all comparator averages.

2013/14 averages	
England	9.2
London	8.6
Stat neighbour	12.1
<b>Southwark</b>	<b>13.3</b>



### Community impact statement

32. Southwark Children Looked After services works to promote the best possible outcomes for children in care. 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

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Director, Children’s Social Care		
<b>Report Author</b>	Rashid Jussa, Strategic intelligence and performance manager		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	3 July 2014		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Officer Title</b>		<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services		No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>		N/a	N/a
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>			3 July 2014