

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 25 March 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Health of Children in Care	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Service for Children in Care	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee note and accept the update report from the Designated Doctor for Children in Care.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Committee allocates a future committee meeting to address the whole theme of "Being Healthy" for looked after children. This would address all the strategies relating to health of children in care namely, mental health, substance use, teenage pregnancy, physical health and positive activities.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. For the last five years Southwark has had a children looked after steering group responsible for overseeing coordinated activities to promote healthy outcomes for children in care and care leavers (also known as Health Management Group – HMG)
4. The health steering group develops an annual action plan to address key issues relating to mental health, sexual health, physical health (including annual health assessments, dental health assessments and optical assessments) and substance misuse. (Appendix 3 provides the 2009/10 Children Looked After (CLA) Health Plan).
5. The Corporate Parenting Committee received periodic reports relating to various components of the overall health strategy for example: access to leisure (Fusion) and young people accessing annual health assessments.
6. The CLA Health Steering group comprises representatives from all parts of the children looked after service as well as:
  - the lead clinician from South London and Maudsley (SLAM) relating to child and adolescent mental health services
  - the designated doctor for children looked after (consultant paediatrician)
  - the designated nurse for looked after children,
  - teenage pregnancy nurse
  - drug treatment agency
  - senior registrar sitting on Southwark's adoption panel
  - Carelink Manager
  - Team leader of Blenheim Community Drugs Project
7. The CLA Health Steering Group develops and underwrites the "Be Healthy" SEF (Self Evaluation Framework) whereby Southwark articulates its annual position statement to government as to how it is addressing the needs of Southwark children.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. The DOH guidance "Promoting the health and well being of looked after children 2009" requires the designated doctor to produce an annual report concerning progressing healthy outcomes for looked after children. (Appendix 1 summarises DOH statutory guidance for PCT's to deliver services for children in care).
9. The annual report (Appendix 2) provides a headline summary of the key activity areas being

managed in partnership between Southwark Children's Services and Southwark PCT and SLAM.

10. The JAR inspection in April 2008 highly praised the quality and management of integrated health services for children in care.
11. Performance related for health outcomes for children in care is strong and compares well with statistical neighbours. Officers from SLAM and Southwark PCT have in post for a significant period of time and have developed effective and confident working partnerships with CLA Services.
12. There are effective tracking communication and escalation processes which enable individual interventions to be delivered to avoid delay.
13. Additionally there are good information exchange processes and shared data system arrangements to enable the CLA Health team to immediately access children's records and to input directly health findings to ensure prompt communication with social work staff.

### Community Impact Statement

14. It is recognised that young people leaving care at 18 will have far better life chances if they have experienced a degree of emotional stability and have remained free from substance misuse, are physically active and have not already become a parent. The "Being Healthy" agenda has an impact upon care leavers capacity in being able to successfully engage in education, employment and training whilst making a positive contribution to society.

### Financial Implications

15. The PCT are currently reviewing their funding arrangements for all specialist services in light of recently announced budget constraints. It is therefore not assured that ongoing funding for these key partnership posts will be extended.

### Policy Implications

16. There are no new policy implications relating to this report.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
"Promoting the health and well being of looked after children 2009"	Department of Health website	<a href="http://www.doh.gov.uk">www.doh.gov.uk</a>
"Be Healthy" SEF (Self Evaluation Framework) produced by the CLA Health Steering Group	Looked After Children Services Southwark Council 1 Bradenham Place London	Chris Saunders 020 7525 1039

## LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
1	Summary of DOH Statutory Guidance "Promoting the health and well being of looked after children 2009"
2	PCT Report: Update on the Health of Children looked After in Southwark 2008/2009
3	2009/2010 CLA Health Steering Group

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chris Saunders	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Saunders	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	16 March 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here	No	
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	16 March 2010	