

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 12 July 2016	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Southwark's All Age Autism Strategy and How this Impacts Looked After Children - Update	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		ALL	
From:		Senior Commissioning Manager	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That a review of the support needs of the 23 young people identified as looked after with a diagnosis of autism be undertaken. This review will include any other young people who are looked after or care leavers who are subsequently identified that have not been included in the report below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. At the corporate parenting committee in February 2016 it was requested a desktop review be undertaken to identify the numbers of young people who are looked after and / or care leavers that are known to have a diagnosis of autism.
3. This report is to update the committee on the findings of the desktop review, including the challenges presented in pulling together the information included below.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. There has been no simple way in order to collate information on the numbers of looked after children and or care leavers who have a diagnosis of autism provided by our current information systems.
5. The core database for all social care information does not systematically record this information that is then able to be collected or reported on. Different teams also hold information in different places.
6. The information provided below has had to be collected from across a number of different service managers within children's social care and education teams. At this point in time there is no guarantee that these numbers are mutually exclusive and there is no double counting. No information regarding care leavers has been identified by the time of producing this report.
7. Within the children with disabilities team there are 11 looked after children, of which 8 are known to have a diagnosis of autism.
8. Within the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) team, there are 43 children with a known autism diagnosis, 15 of whom are known to be looked after.
9. Currently, more information is known about the children within the SEND cohort to be able to report on, with a third of those children living in Southwark or a close-by borough. The remainder are living outside of London (the majority being Kent).

Resource implications

10. In order to undertake a needs assessment, a significant amount of time will be required by an analyst working with social workers to have access to care records for each of the identified young people. This will provide a better understanding of the specific needs of Southwark children in care or care leavers with a diagnosis of autism.

Community impact statement

11. The autism strategy and action plan will affect people across the borough from all equality groups, with a particular focus on disability, gender and age. However, the aim of the strategy is to improve access to diagnosis and support. The intention is to improve the life outcomes achieved by residents with autism, thereby increasing the independence, inclusion and wellbeing of these equality groups.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
All Age Autism Strategy (Cabinet, December 2015, item 10)		
Web link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=5142&Ver=4		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Peta Smith, Commissioning Manager	
Report Author	Simon Mitchell, Senior Commissioning Manager	
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Dated	28 June 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	29 June 2016	