

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 November 2018	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Care and Care Leavers	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the briefing note set out at Appendix 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Corporate parenting committee at its meeting on 9 July 2018 requested a briefing paper on unaccompanied asylum seeking children in care and care leavers. This is attached at Appendix 1.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. All relevant information is set out in Appendix 1.

Community impact statement

4. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) are in local authority care as they are extremely vulnerable without any known adult in the UK who is able or willing to accept responsibility for them. Former UASCs are care leavers aged between 18 – 25 years of age. As a group they are also less likely to be engaged in anti-social or criminal behaviour or experiencing problems in conduct or attendance at school / further education. However the cohort is not fixed or heterogeneous and is shaped by international / political events and pressures.
5. The rise in numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people over 2017-18 will have a limited impact on communities in Southwark as they are placed in accommodation in different locations across south London and establish connections there. Appendix 1 gives details of this small but growing, vulnerable group of young people including their countries of origin.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Briefing report - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Care and Care Leavers

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
Report Author	Andrew Fowler, Head of Service Children in Care	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 October 2018	
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	23 October 2018	