

<b>Item No</b> 7	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> February 3 2009	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Children Looked After: Performance Report	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee note this report and identifies areas for future consideration.
2. That the committee note the comparative position of Southwark to statistical neighbours.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Services for Children Looked After (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators. Southwark's latest performance against these indicators, together with other relevant activity data, can be seen in the scorecard in **appendix 1**. This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
4. Data in appendix 1 shows the comparative position of Southwark's Statistical Neighbours (SN) which under the new system are;
  - Hackney
  - Lambeth
  - Haringey
  - Islington
  - Lewisham
  - Hammersmith and Fulham
  - Greenwich, Waltham Forest
  - Camden
  - Newham

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Overall the performance data set for **Children Looked After** for Southwark as at the end of November 08/09 is strong and improving.

### Indicator 5: Number of Adoptions & SGOs

6. There was a total of 44 adoptions in the whole of 2007/08; a 10.1% rate of all CLA for more than one year, which was above the statistical neighbour average of 9.5%. This year has shown to be considerable improvement and we currently have 38 adoptions & SGO Year To Date from April 08.

### NI 61 (Indicator 39):

7. % of CLA adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision has shown steady improvement since its drop in August 08 of 88.2% from 90.9% ending Q1, and is now currently at 91.3%

### Indicator 9: Number of CLA

8. This PI has shown an overall improvement from previous years (Fig 1 in page 3) down from 655 CLA in 2004/05 to 575 in 2007/08 to it's current steady position at 549 CLA, maintaining a rate of 100.7 per 10, 000 under 18 population (Indicator 20), which is inline with it's Target of 101. It however, still stands high compared to SN at 87.

**NI 148 (Indicator 45): % Care Leavers in EET (Employment, Education or Training)**

9. The Performance of Care Leavers in EET decreased to 57.8% in Q2 08/09, from 68% in Q1 08/09, but has since improved and is currently **69% in November 08/09**.

**NI 147 (Indicator 46): % Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation**

10. Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has been dropping since it's high performance in Q2 of 95.6% to **93.1%**. However, it is still a better performance than it's SN of 91.1%

**NI 63 (Indicator 22): % CLA under 16 yrs old who have been looked after for 2-1/2+ years and living in the same placement for 2+ yrs or who have been placed for adoption.**

**Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (Length of Placement) (APA 2065SC)**

11. % Long Term Stability has dropped in performance from it's financial year high of last month, 69.78% to **67.21%** in November 08/09. This accounts for 123 CLA in stable placements of the 183 under 16 Children Looked After. However the performance is still in line with statistical neighbours.

**NI 62 (Indicator 21): % CLA with 3 or more placements Short Term Stability of Placement of CLA (No. of moves) (APA 2043SC)**

12. The performance of CLA with 3 or more placement improved to 9.3% in 08/09 Q1 from 12.2% 2007/08 outturn but dropped in performance to 10.9% in 08/09 and 12.8% in October 08. However, it has remained steady at **12.8% in November** and is only slightly over the Target of 12%.

**Indicator 47: % YP Leaving Care at 16+ with at least 1 GCSE (A\* – G) or a GNVQ (APA 3072SC)**

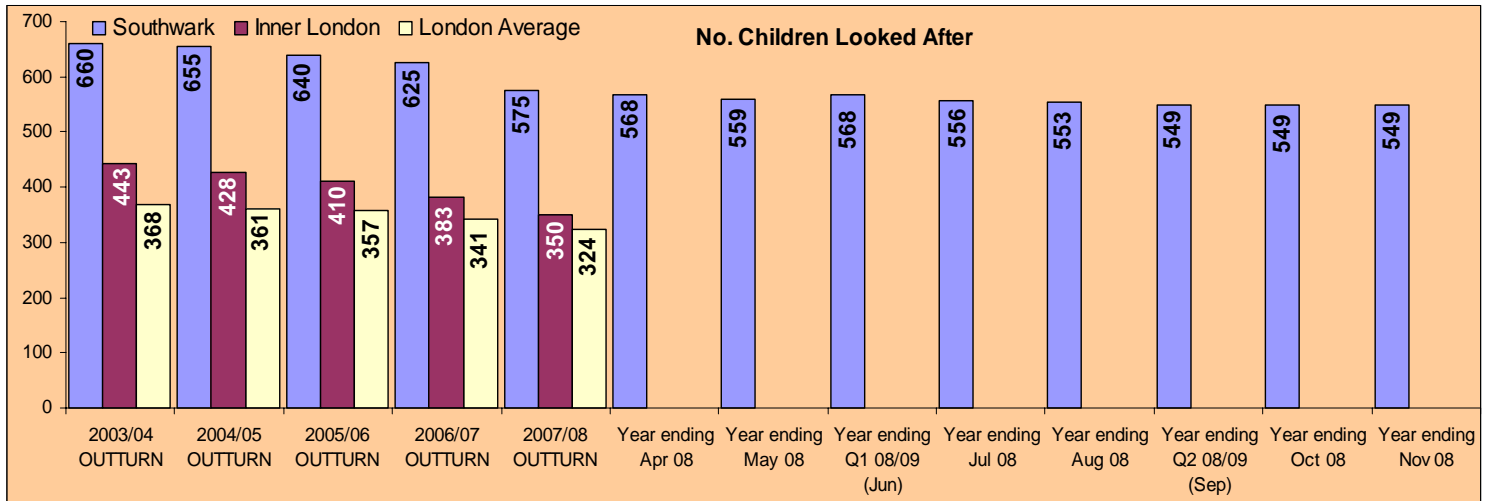
13. This performance dropped in performance in July 08 to 53.6% from 63.9% in Q1 08/09, but has shown a steady improvement ever since and is currently at **62%**; better than it's SN of 52.1%, but less than it's Target of 65%

**Indicator 49: % YP Leaving Care at 16+ with 5 or more GCSE (A\* – C) (APA 3073SC)**

14. This indicator has shown improvement to currently **17.7%** from 07/08 outturn of 12.1%.

**SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 2008 INDICATOR SET (APPENDIX 1)**

**Indicator 9: Number of CLA**



**Fig 1: Number of Children Looked After**

15. The **number of Children Looked After** has remained steady at **549** since end of 08/09 Q2 a drop 07/08 outturn of 574. Maintaining a rate of 100.7 per 10,000 under 18 population (**Indicator 20**) marginally below the Target of 101 (approximately 550 CLA). However, the rate still stands high as compared to its Statistical Neighbour group of 87

#### Accommodation of CLA

16. The number of CLA in Residential Care (Indicator 1) has dropped to 87 from 90 in 08/09 Q2 reducing the percentage (Indicator 31) to 15.8% from 16.4%; a better performance than it's SN of 16.8%
17. The number of CLA in Foster Care (Indicator 2) was 431 ending 2007/08 and has shown a steady drop to 422 in 08/09 Q1 to 384 in 08/09 Q2 and is currently steady at 379 from previous month (October 08). A current rate at 69% similar to 04/05 SN.
18. There are currently 48 CLA in lodging, residential employment of living independently (Indicator 7) an increase from 07/08 outturn of 32 CLA.
19. There are 13 CLA Living with Parents (Indicator 6) in November; a drop from 19 in 08/09 Q2 but higher than 07/08 outturn of 9.

#### Indicator 12: Number of CLA Section 20 Agreements

20. The number of CLA Section 20 Agreements has shown continuous drop since its financial year high of 190 in 08/09 Q2 and is currently at 171 in November. It fell from 227 in 06/07 to 188 in 07/08

#### Indicator 5: Number of Adoptions & SGOs

21. There were 5 (adoptions or SGOs) in Q3, bringing the total from 33 to **38**.

#### NI 61 (Indicator 39):

22. **% of CLA adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption dropped** in August 08 to 88.2% from 90.9% ending Q1, but has had a steady increase and is currently at **91.3%**

#### Indicator 11: Number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

23. Numbers continue to fall, from 55 in Q1 08 to 50 in September compared to 86 in 2006/07 and is currently steady at **47**.

**NI 62 (Indicator 21): % Short Term Stability of Placement of CLA (No. of moves) (APA 2043SC)**

24. CLA with 3 or more placements showed an increase in performance to 10.3% in Q1 08/09 from 9.3% in Q1 08/09 and is currently at **12.8%**.

**NI 63 (Indicator 22): % Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (Length of Placement) (APA 2065SC)**

25. Of the 183 CLA (under 16) in 2-1/2 years, there were 123 CLA in placement of 2 years or more – **67.2%** a drop after improving to a financial year high of 69.78% in October; in line with SN performance of 68%

**Indicator 35: % CLA aged 10 – 15 in Foster Placements or Placed for Adoption (APA 2068SC)**

26. This is now showing improvement and is currently at **84.6%** after dropping to 83% in Q2 from 85.7% 2007/08 outturn

**Indicator 40: % CLA who communicated their views in a statutory review (APA 4016SC)**

27. This Indicator still remains at approximately 94% or higher throughout the year, exceeding our CYPP 08/09 and better than our Statistical Neighbour (SN) 07/08 average of 91%

**Indicator 47: % Care Leavers with at least 1 GCSE A\* – G or a GNVQ (APA 3072SC)**

28. The percentage of children leaving care with at least 1 GCSE A\*-G has shown improvement since it's drop from 63.9% in Q1 08/09 to 53.6% in July 08 and is currently at 62% November ending towards the target of 65%. This is better than its 07/08 SN group rate of 52%.

**Indicator 49: % Care Leavers achieving 5 GCSEs A\* – C (APA 3073SC)**

29. Children leaving care achieving 5+ GCSEs A\*-C also shows a improvement from Quarter 2 at 13.6% to 17.7% in November.

**NI 148 (Indicator 45): % Care Leavers in EET (Employment, Education or Training)**

30. This is a new National Indicator which decreased in September to 58%, but has improved significantly to above 08/09 Target of 68% to 69%. Heading towards Southwark population of the same age group in EET, which has recently been published for 2007 at 77.7% (Labour Force Survey).

**NI 147 (Indicator 46): % Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (APA 5037SC)**

31. Southwark currently has 54 of 58 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation ending November 08 (93.1%); good performance, but slight drop from Q2's 95.6% (43 of 45 care leavers)

**Indicator 42: % Plan for Permanency**

32. There are currently 87.1% (437 with completed plan and 65 CLA without a completed plan) CLA that had a plan for permanency as recorded on CareFirst; a drop from Q2 08/09

of 89.8%, but still better than 07/08 outturn of 83.4.

#### **Indicator 55: % Health of CLA (Dental & Annual Health Checks) (APA 1037SC)**

33. The Health of CLA has decreased from 91.3% in September (Source – CLA OC2 Returns) to currently at 88.5%, but still in line with our Target of 88%.

#### **Indicator 57: % CLA missing 25+ days of School (APA 3074SC)**

34. Great improvement from 07/08 outturn of 14.5% to 7.9% in September (Source – OC2 Returns). Although it is currently at 8.1%, it still stands better than it's statistical neighbour group of 13%

#### **Policy Implications**

35. This decision has been judged to have no policy implications.

#### **Community Impact Statement**

36. The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a big impact on children looked after from all communities. The ethnicity breakdown of the children looked after population is shown in appendix 1.

#### **Resource Implications**

37. This decision has no resource implications.

#### **Consultation**

38. The management team of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in appendix 1.

#### **Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

39. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **Finance Director**

40. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Every Child Matters Performance Reports	Performance Team	'Eko Gilbert 0207 525 5243

#### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Children Looked After Performance Scorecard November 08

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson	
<b>Report Author</b>	'Eko Gilbert / Adrian Ward	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	January 23 2009	
<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 Legal and Democratic Services	Yes	Yes
Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	January 23 2009	