

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 25 June 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>		Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services	

## 1.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the committee note this report, and endorse the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 CLA Business Unit Report (**appendix 1**).

This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.

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**

## 3.0 KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Overall the performance for Children Looked After for Southwark as at the end of March 09 is strong and improving.

### 3.1 Particular Success

- The number of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 has shown great improvement from a 105 rate (574 CLA) ending 2007/08 to currently 97.8 (533 Children Looked After; exceeding our 2008/09 Target of 101. Indicators 8 & 14.
- Of the 213 of CLA aged 10 to 15, Southwark had 184 in foster placements or placed for adoption an 86.4% rate; hitting the target of 86% and better in performance than 2007/08 outturn of 85.7% (192 of 224) and 2007/08 SN performance of 83%.Indicator 17
- % of CLA adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision (NI 61) has shown steady improvement (Fig 7 in page 6) since its drop in August 08 of 88.2% from 90.9% ending Q1, and is currently at 90.3% end of 2008/09 Q4 exceeding the 2008/09 Target of 85%. Indicator 18
- Excellent performance through out the year for CLA who communicated their views with a provisional 2008/09 outturn of 95.7%; exceeding the Target of 94% and better than last year outturn of 94.7% and 2007/08 SN average of 91%. Indicator 19

- As at end of 2008/09 quarter 4. of the 86 Care Leavers, 82 of them are in suitable accommodation a 95% rate; exceeding 2008/09 Target, last year's performance and 2007/08 SN of 93%, 91.6% and 91.1% respectively. Indicator 29
- % of CLA with 3 or more placements has shown steady increase throughout the year and is currently at **12.0%** ending 2008/09 Q4; hitting the Target at 12% and exceeding 2007/08 SN of 11%. Indicator 39
- Of the 174 Children under 16 who had been looked after continuously for more 2.5years prior to date, there were 121 CLA living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or were placed for adoption for at least 2 years. A Rate of **69.5%**, (NI 63) hitting the 2008/09 Target of 69% and better in performance than last year's outturn of 68% and 2007/08 SN of 68%. Indicator 40
- There was a total of 44 adoptions in the whole of 2007/08 (Indicator 39); a 10.1% rate of all CLA, which was above the statistical neighbour average of 9.5%. This year has shown considerable improvement and as of 2008/09 Q4, Southwark has 54 adoptions (including SGO) Year To Date (from April 08 to end March 2009); a 14.1% rate. Indicator 41
- % Care Leavers aged 16 or over with 5 or more GCSEs at grade A\*-C has typically shown improvement over the years and is currently at 17.3% 2008/09 Q4, exceeding its 07/08 Target and SN average of 13% and 12.2% respectively. Indicator 44

### **3.2 Areas for development**

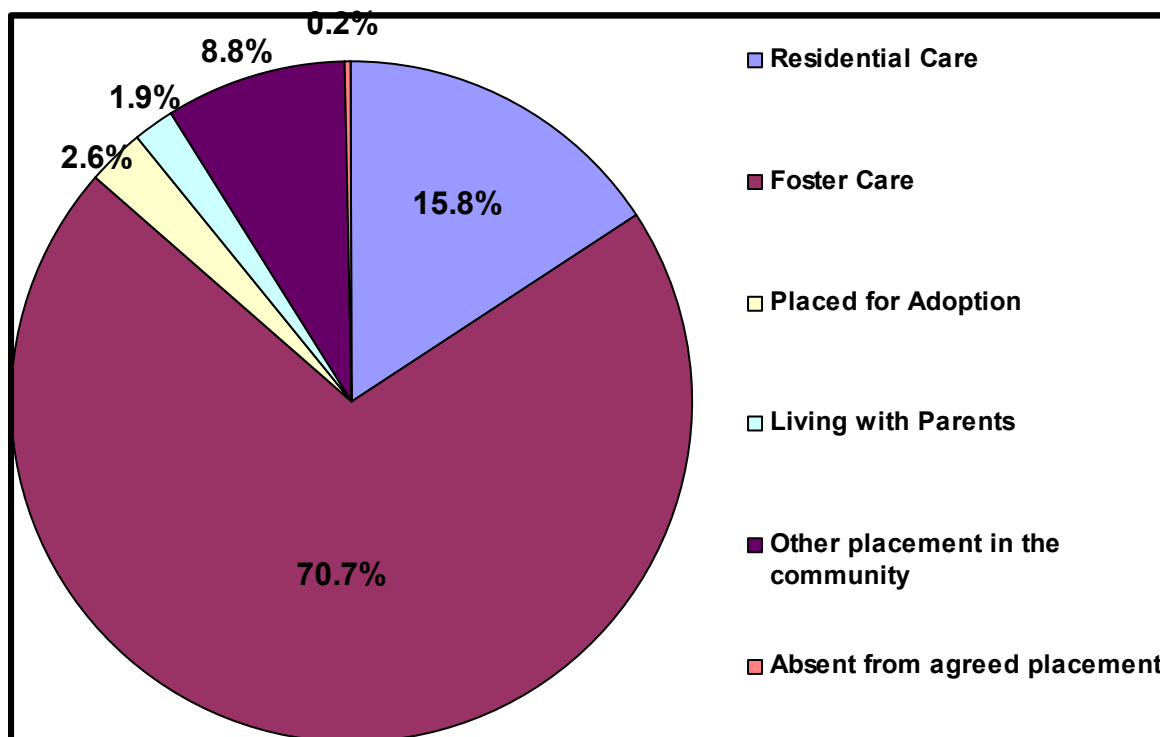
- Due to the great increase in the number of care leavers reaching 19 (from April 1st to Date) compared with the slower-moving trend of CLA in EET, there was a drop from 2007/08 outturn at 67.5% to 61.6% ending March 2009; below the 2008/09 Target of 68%. Indicator 28
- Children in Care reaching level 4 in English at KS2 (NI 99) and Math at KS2 (NI 100) are both below their targets of 50% at 30.8% and 26.9% respectively. Indicators 51 & 52

### **3.3 Ones to watch**

- Of the 533 CLA, only 33 are staying with Relative/Friend at 6.2% a poorer performance than 2007/08 outturn of 7.4%. 2007/08 SN average at 9.8%. Indicator 16. However, this is balanced by the very high rate of adoption and Special Guardianship Orders.
- % of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address has been steady at 64% since November 2008, 6% below its 2007/08 Target of 70%. Indicator 22

## 4.0 SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 2009 INDICATOR SET (APPENDIX 1)

### 4.1 Accommodation of CLA



**Fig 1: Accommodation Breakdown of CLA in Southwark**

4.1.1 With the reduction in the number of CLA, the % of CLA in Residential Care (*APA 2052SC, Indicator 15*) increased from 2007/08 outturn of 14.8% (85 of 574 CLA) to 15.8% (84 of 533 CLA) end March 2009. 2007/08. SN average was 15%.

4.1.2 Whereas there was a slight drop in the % of CLA in Foster Care (*Indicator 23*) from 2007/08 outturn of 75.1% (431 of 574 CLA) to 70.7% (377 of 533 CLA) end March 2009. SN average was 73%

4.1.3 There are currently 47 CLA in lodging, residential employment of living independently (*Indicator 6*) an increase from 07/08 outturn of 32 CLA.

4.1.4 There are 10 CLA Living with Parents (*Indicator 5*) ending Mar 09; a good improvement from 19 in 08/09 Q2 but close to 07/08 outturn of 9.

4.1.5 There has been a steady drop in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) since 06/07 outturn of 86 and is currently at 41 children end March 09.

### 4.2 Legal Status

4.2.1 There has been an increase in the number of Interim Care Orders, from 67 in 07/08 to 75 ending Mar 09, and may be a reflection of the events in Haringey last year. Indicator 12

4.2.2 There has been a drop in the number of Section 20 Agreements from 232 in 05/06 to 188 in 07/08 and currently 173 ending Mar 09. Indicator 10

4.2.3 The number of children with Full Care Orders has dropped from 317 in 05/06 to 304 07/08 and is currently at 246 ending Mar 09. Indicator 11

### 4.3 CYPP Outcomes 1: Being Healthy

- **Health of CLA (medical & dental) – 1037SC, Indicator 45**

This Indicator has improved over the years with current OC2 Return shows we have 91% on the health of CLA (dental & annual health checks) which exceeds 2008/09 target of 88% and 2007/08 Statistical Neighbour average of 89%.

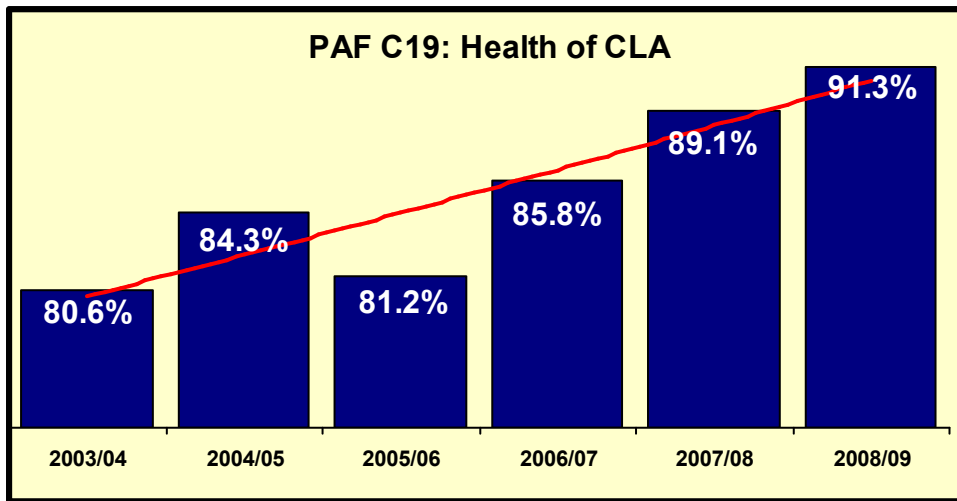


Fig 2: Health of Children Looked After

### 4.4 CYPP Outcome 2: Staying Safe

#### 4.4.1 Placement Choice

- **No. of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Indicator 14) – 2042SC:**

This Indicator has shown great improvement from a 105 rate (574 CLA) ending 2007/08 to currently 97.8 (533 Children Looked After; exceeding our 2008/09 Target of 101.

Although this PI has shown great improvement from previous years down from 660 (120 rate) in 2003/04 outturn, however the rate still stands higher than as compared with it's 07/08 SN of 87 (Figure 3 & 4)

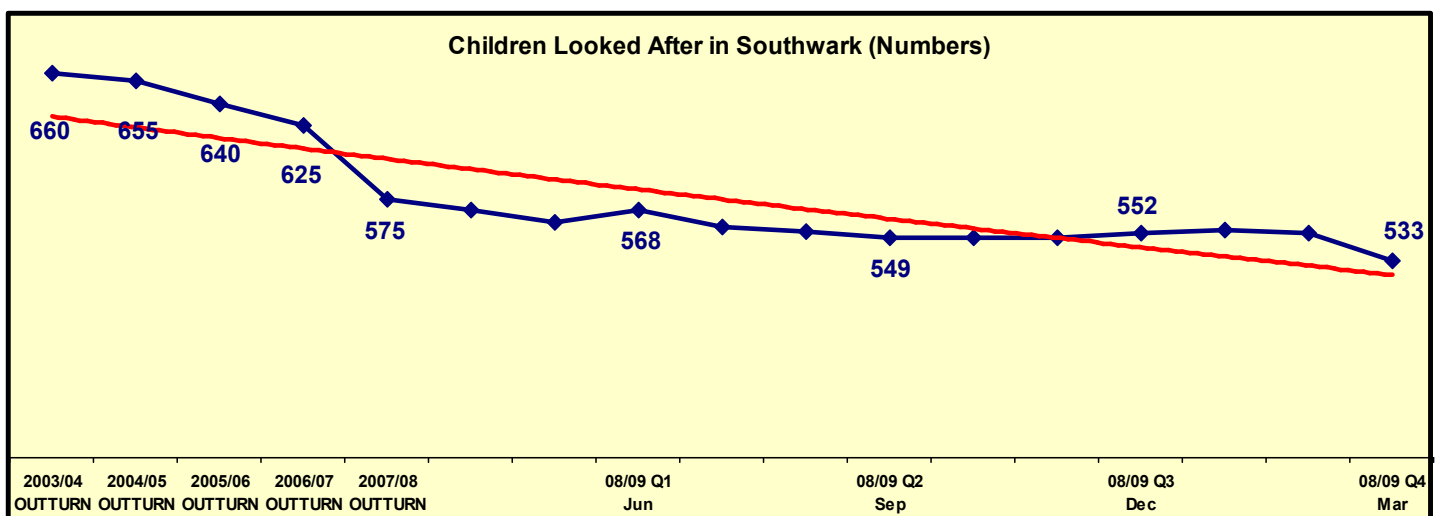


Fig 3: Southwark Performance over the years

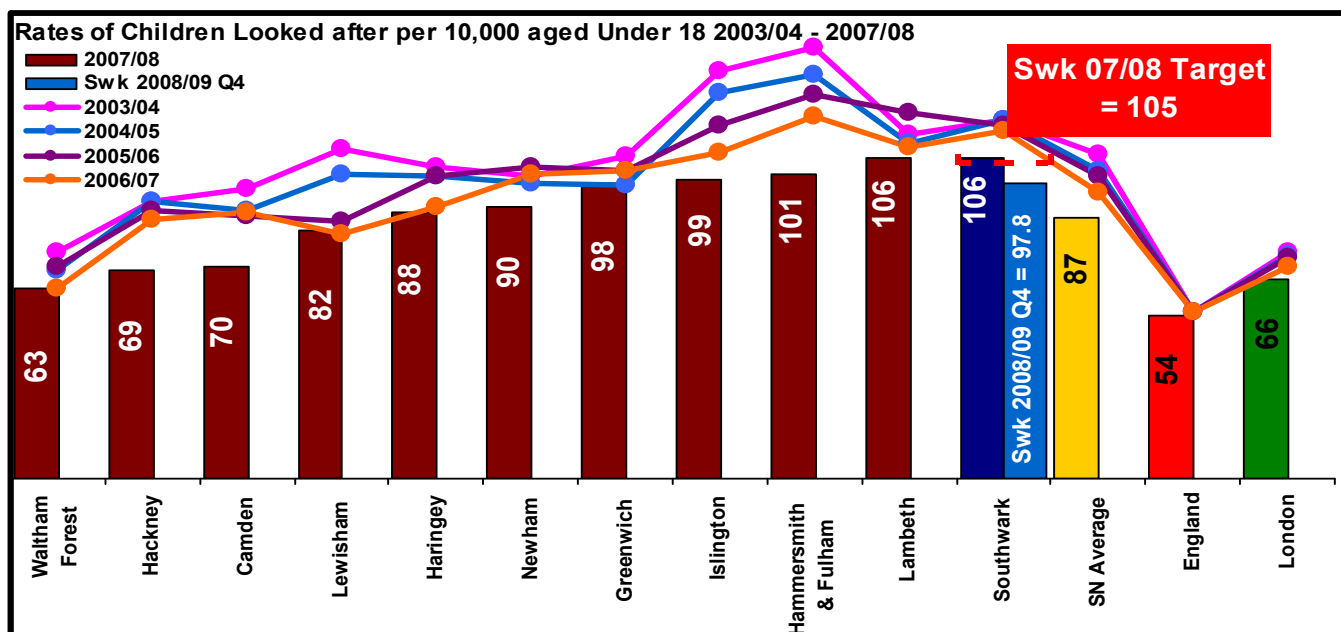


Fig 4: Comparing CLA Rates with Statistical Neighbour (2003/06 – 2007/08)

- **% of CLA fostered by Relative or Friend (Indicator 16) – 2054SC:**  
Of the 533 CLA, only 33 are staying with Relative/Friend at 6.2% which is less than 2007/08 outturn of 7.4%. 2007/08 SN average at 9.8%

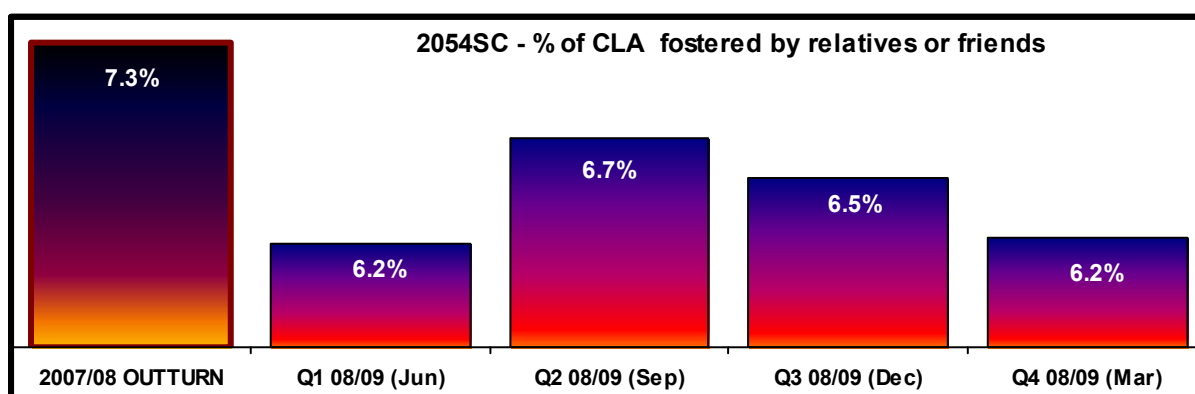


Fig 5: % CLA being fostered by a Relative or a Friend

- **% CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement (Indicator 17) – 2068SC**  
Of the 213 of CLA aged 10 to 15, Southwark had 184 in foster placements or placed for adoption an 86.4% rate ending 2008/09 Q4; hitting the target of 86% and better in performance than 2007/08 outturn of 85.7% (192 of 224) and 2007/08 SN performance of 83%.

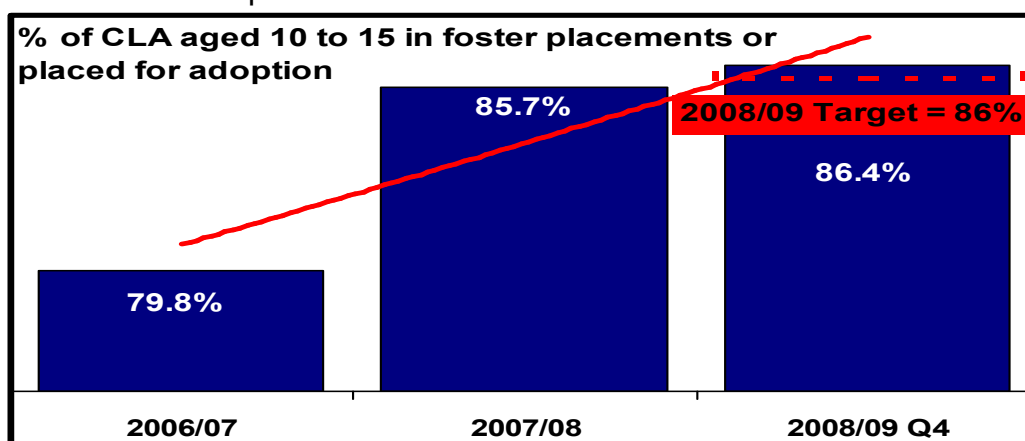


Fig 6: CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement/placed for adoption

- **NI 61: Timeliness of Placement (Indicator 18)**

As of 2008/09 Q4, Southwark had a total of 31 adoptions and 27 SGOs (58 in total) and of the 31 adoptions, 28 adopted within timescale; 90.3% within timescale. This Indicator has been above its 85% 2008/09 Target and steady within 90% (Fig 7)

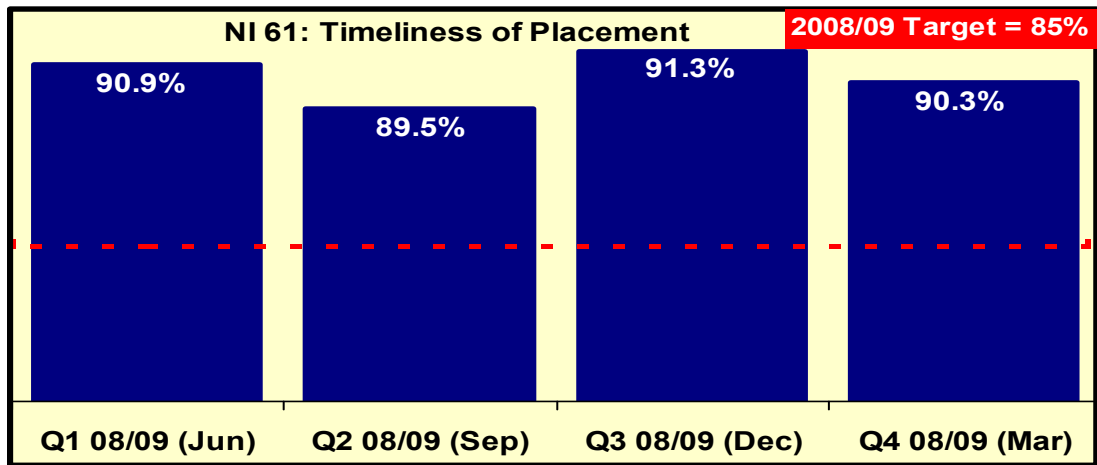


Fig 7: Timeliness of Placement

#### 4.4.2 Adoption

- **NI 62: Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (Number of Moves)**

**Indicator 39:**

The % of CLA with 3 or more placements has increased from 2007/08 outturn at 11.4% to 12%, but is in line with the 2008/09 Target. Our performance was behind 2007 statistical neighbours and at 11%. (Fig 9).

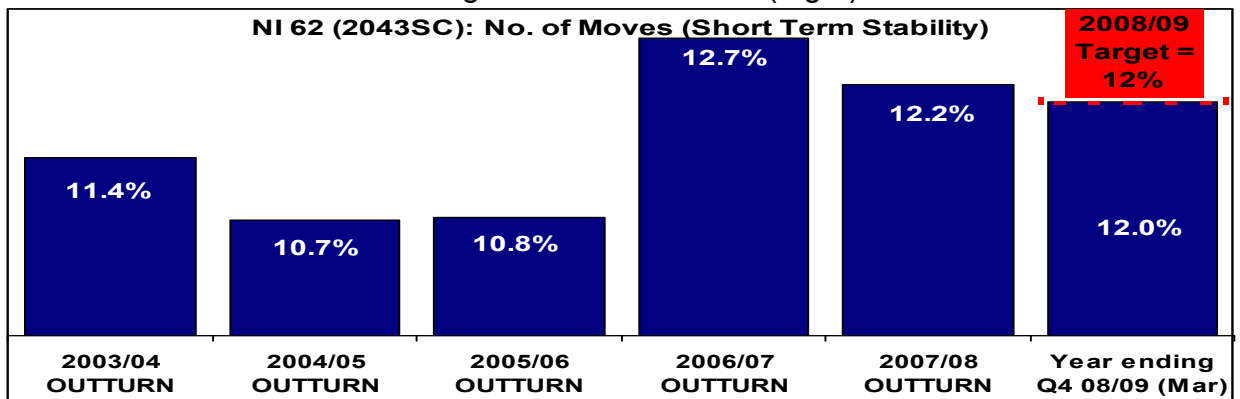
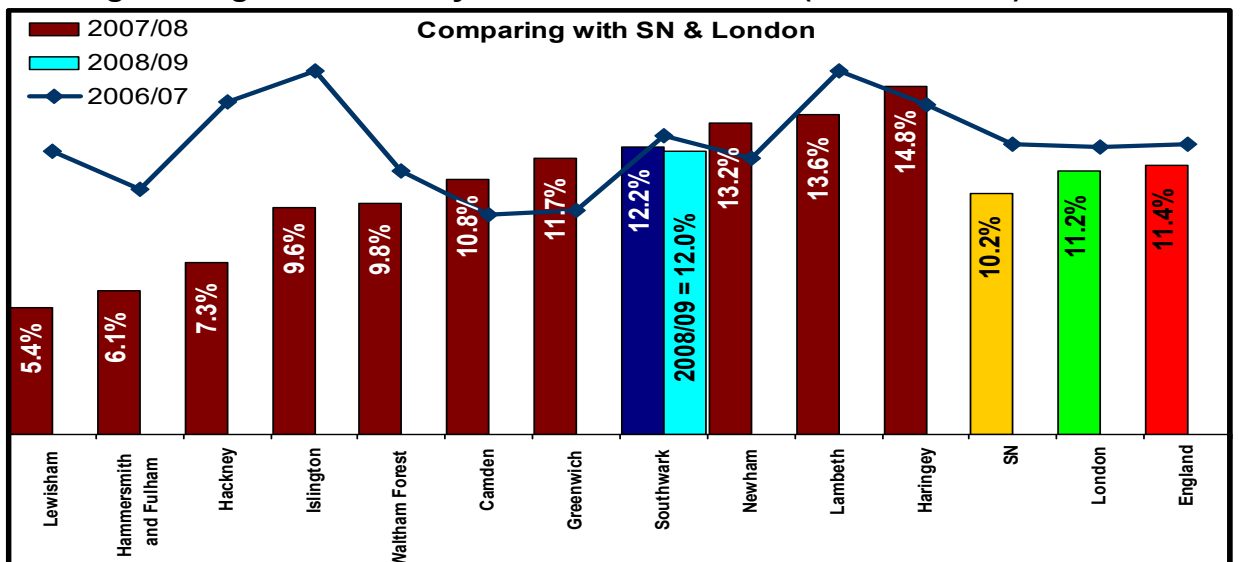


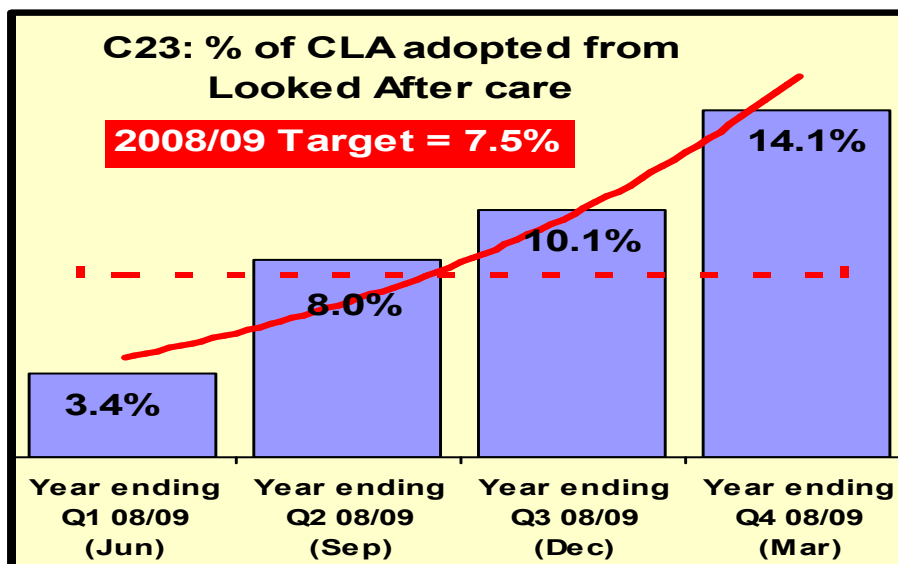
Fig 8: Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (No. of moves)



**Fig 9: No. of moves (Comparing with SN, London & England)**

- **% of CLA adopted from Looked After Care – Indicator 41**

There was a total of 44 adoptions and SGOs in the whole of 2007/08 (at 10.1% rate), which was above the statistical neighbour average of 9.5%. This year has shown considerable improvement and as of 2008/09 Q4, we have 54 adoptions & SGO Year To Date (a 14.1% rate); exceeding last year's performance and its target of 7.5% (Fig 9)

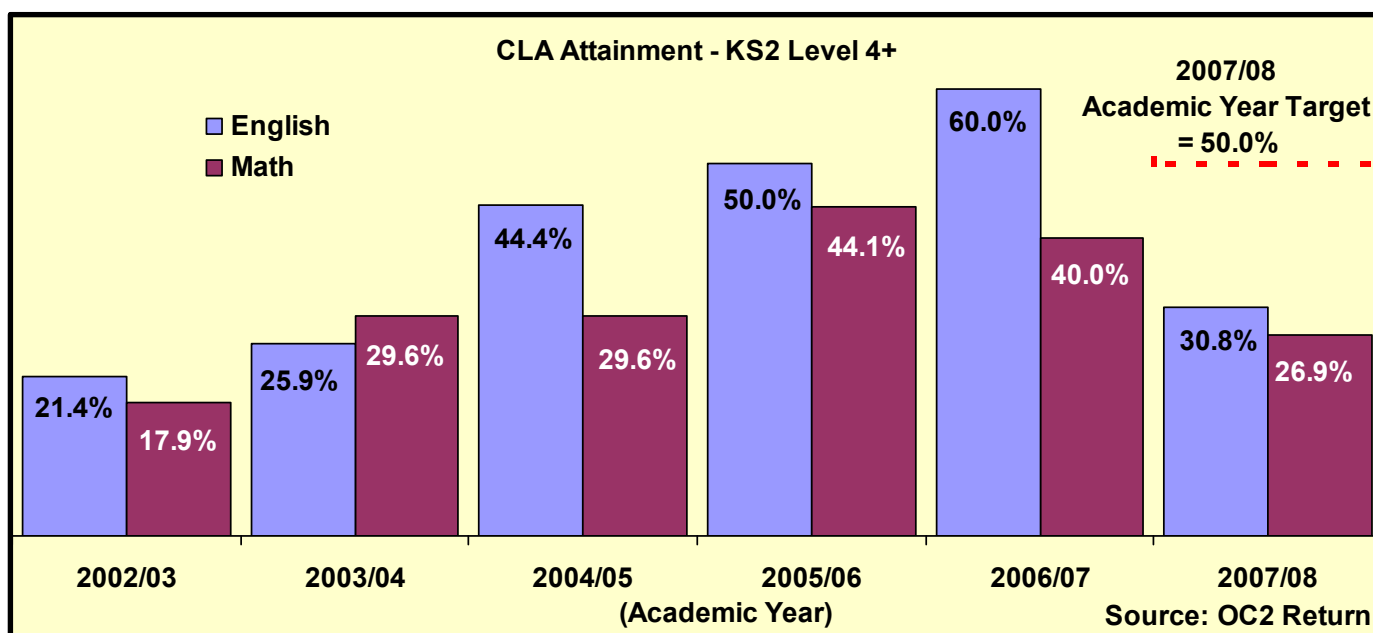


**Fig 10: CLA Adopted from Looked After Care**

#### 4.5 **CYPP Outcome 3: Enjoying & Achieving**

##### 4.5.1 **Attainment (NI 99 & 100; Indicators 51 & 52)**

- Of the 26 CLA in year 6 at school who were eligible for the end of year Key Stage 2 tests, 16 sat for all the SAT tests, and only 8 and 7 of the 26 Children in Care attained at least level 4 in the English (NI 99) and Mathematics (NI 100) respectively. Both Indicators fall below their Summer 2008 targets of 50% at 30.8% and 26.9% in English and Math respectively.



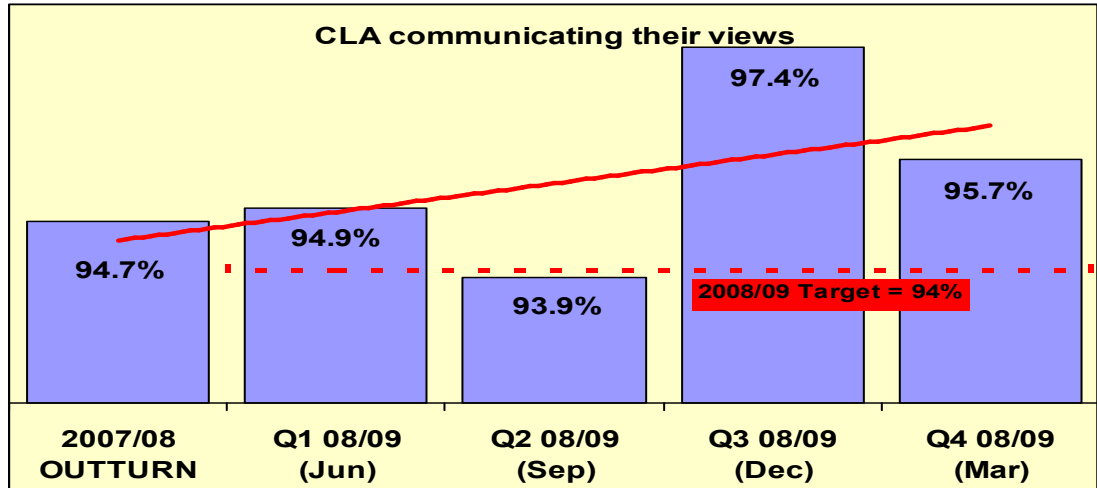
**Fig 11: Attainment for CLA**

**CYPP Outcome 4: Making a Positive Contribution**

**4.5.2 Placement Choice**

- **4016SC: CLA who communicated their views (Indicator 19):**

Excellent performance through out the year with a provisional 2008/09 outturn of 95.7%; above the Target of 94% and better than last year outturn of 94.7% and 2007/08 SN average of 91%



**Fig 12: CLA communicating their views**

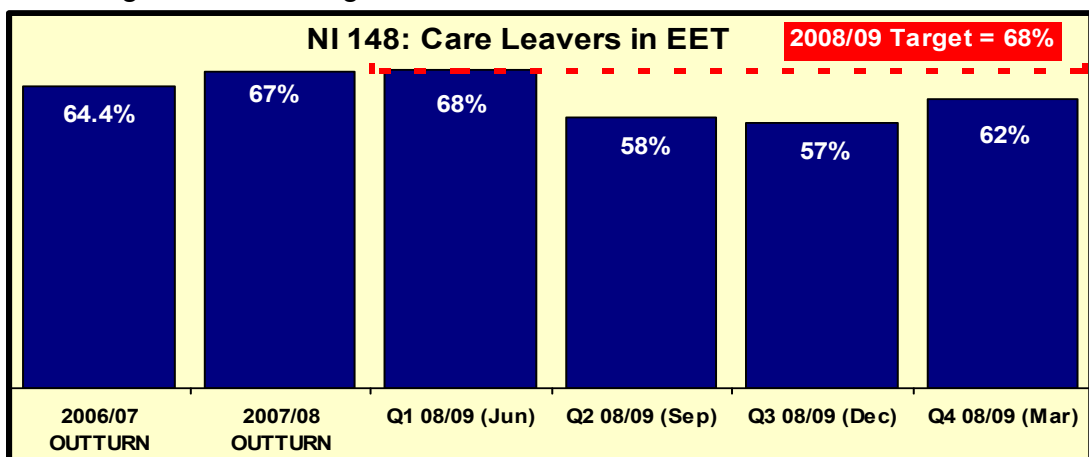
**4.6 CYPP Outcome 5: Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

**4.6.1 Care Leavers**

- **Care Leavers in EET**

Indicator 28, NI 148

As at end of quarter 4, 61.6% of care leavers (86 at age 19) were in Employment Education or Training (53 in EET); a poorer performance from last year's 64.4%. It is also below the current Southwark population (Labour Force Survey data 2007 for Southwark at 77.71%) of the same age group in EET (76%). This equates to a ratio of 0.79, which is below target of 1.0. Falling below the Target of 68%



**Fig 12: Care Leavers in EET**

- **Care Leavers in suitable accommodation**

Indicator 29, NI 147

As at end of quarter 4, 95% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation, exceeding 2008/09 Target, last year's performance and 2007/08 SN of 93%, 91.6% and 91.1% respectively



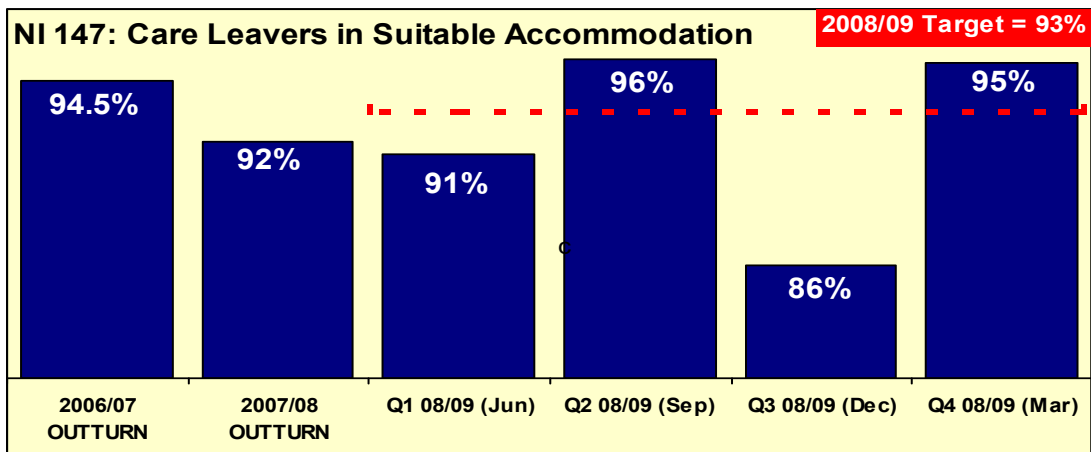


Fig 14: Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

#### 4.7 Other Placement Outcomes

The capacity of councils to have sufficient placements near to home to allow contact with natural parent(s), siblings and other relatives and local communities to be facilitated; typically the further from home a child is placed, the harder it is to maintain links with their family and for them to return to their community when they leave school or care.

- **Indicator 22: Placement within 7 mile Radius of Home**

% of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address has been steady at 64% since November 2008, worse than its 2007/08 Target of 70%.

- **Indicator 21: Placement outside 20 mile Radius of Home**

Although worse in performance than its last year outturn of 4.8%, it is better in performance than it's 2007/08 SN of 11%

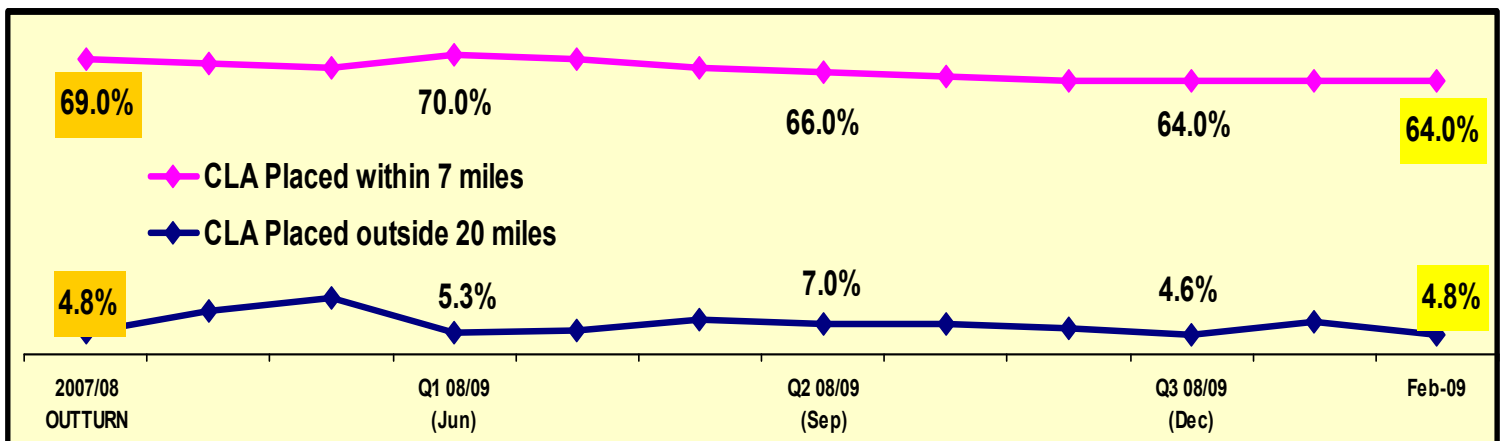


Fig 15: Placement within 7-mile and outside 20-mile radii

- **Indicator 25: % Plan for Permanency**

There are currently 84.1% (401 with completed plan and 76 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% a better performance than last year's outturn of 83.4%

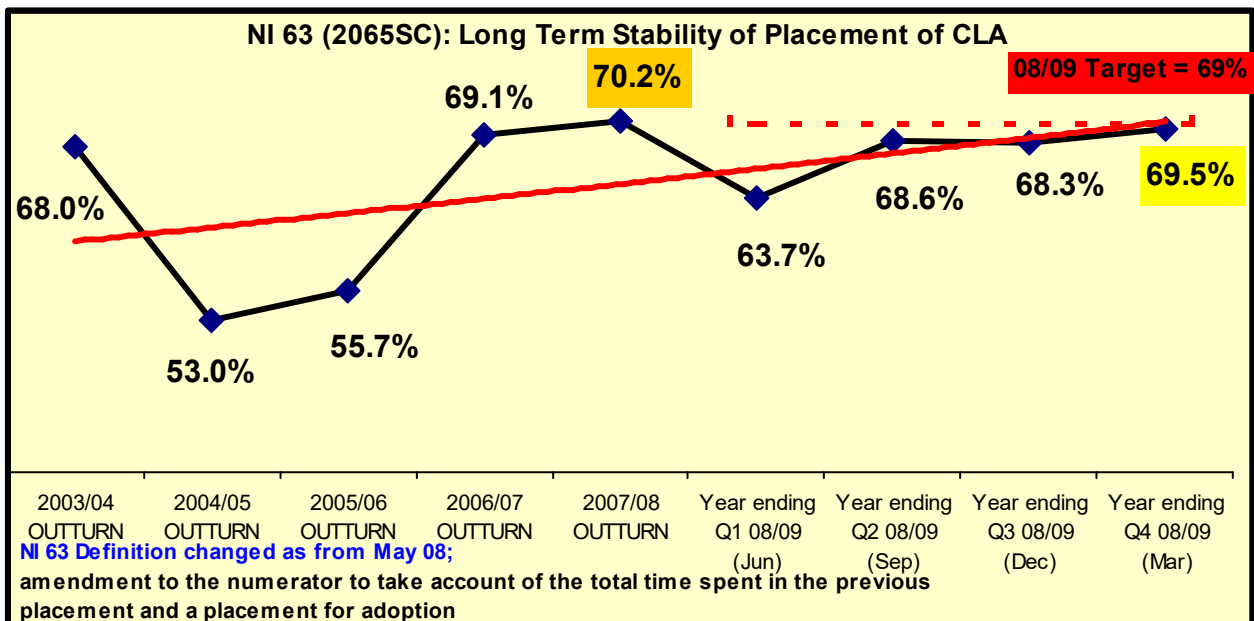
- **Indicator 55: % CLA missing 25+ days of School (APA 3074SC)**

Great improvement from 07/08 outturn of 14.5% to 7.9% in September (Source – OC2 Returns).

- **NI 63: Long Term Stability of Placement of CLA (Length of Placement) (2065SC) Indicator 40:**

Placement stability is crucial for children in care to help them achieve better outcomes and have a good experience of being in care. It is therefore vitally important that authorities make achieving very high levels of placement stability a high priority. Placement stability is a critical quality indicator about standards of care in any children’s residential service. In Southwark’s JAR, it was identified as an area for improvement, even though the performance is in line with comparator authorities. (Figure 16)

Of the 174 Children under 16 (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009) who had been looked after continuously for more than 912 days (2.5years+) prior to date (excluding children with agreed short – term placements), there were 121 CLA living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or were placed for adoption (their adoptive placement together with their previous placement) for at least 2 years. A Rate of 69.5%, better in performance than last year’s outturn of 68% and 2007/08 SN of 68%; hitting the target at 69%



**Fig 16: Long Term Stability of CLA (Length of Placement)**

### Policy Implications

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

### Community Impact Statement

6. 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

7. This decision has no resource implications.

## Consultation

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

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

## LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Children Looked After Business Unit Report March 2009

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director of Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	'Eko Gilbert / Gwen Sinnott	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	16/6/2009	
<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 for Communities, Law Governance	No	N/a
Director of Finance	No	N/a
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	16/06/2009	