

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> November 26 2009	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Children Looked After: Performance Monitoring Report	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATION

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

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 Services for Children Looked After (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators.
- 3 This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
- 4 In year reporting is not always meaningful due to the way some indicators are calculated.

## Particular Success

- 5 Children Looked After short term stability shows an improvement on the end of year figure 2008/09 (12.6 per cent in Q2 2009/10 compared to 14.1 per cent end of year 2008/09).
- 6 A continued improvement in long term stability in Southwark with figures increasing by 2.3 percentage points from end of year 2008/09 (69.7 per cent).
- 7 Further improvement on end of year 2008/09 in the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation (98.1 per cent end of quarter 2 2009/10 compared to 97.6 per cent end of year 2008/09).

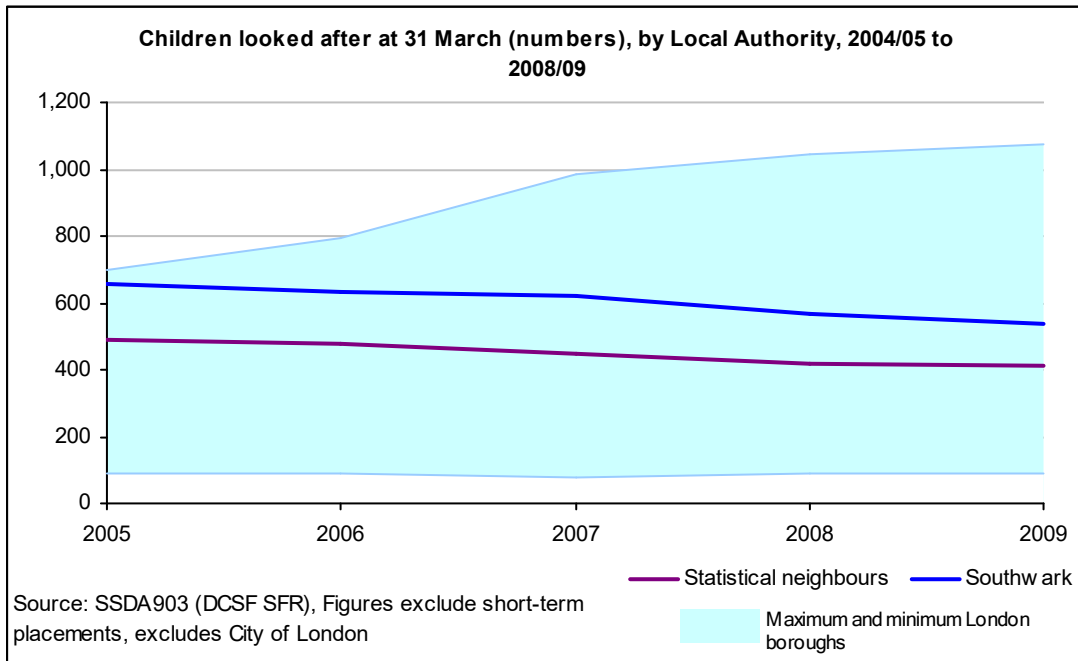
## Areas of Development

- 8 The proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training remains in line with end of year 2008/09 (61.1 per cent compared to 61.9 per cent respectively).

## Summary as of September 2009 Indicator Set

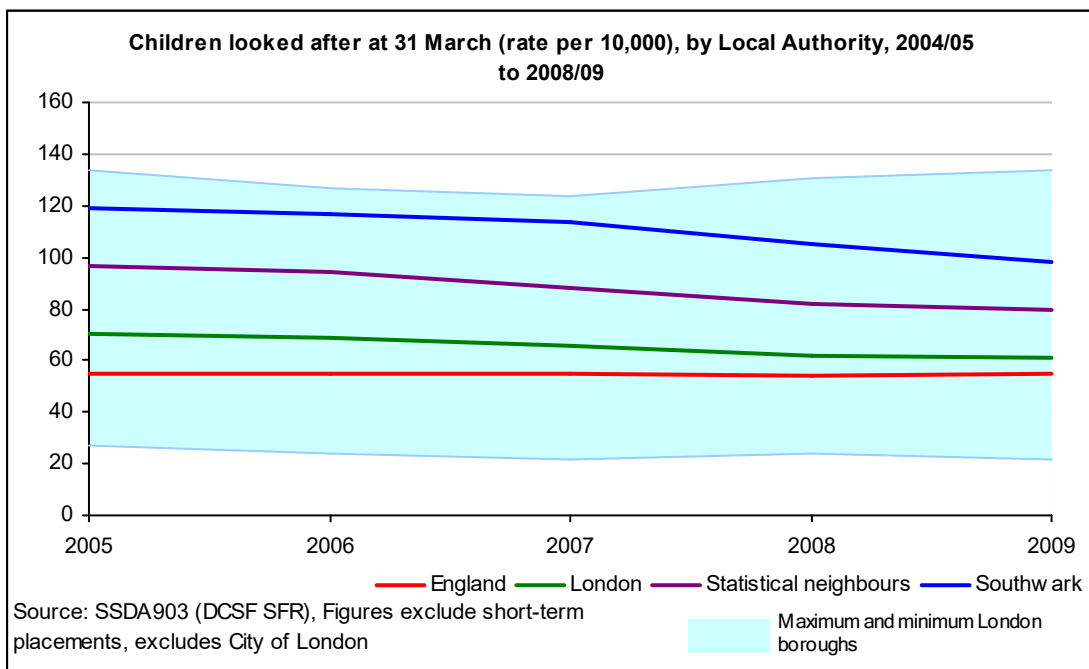
- 9 Children looked after as at 31 March 2009

End of year 2008/09 shows a further decline in the number of children looked after in Southwark (535 looked after children). Southwark had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of children looked after in London, improving from 3<sup>rd</sup> position end of year 2007/08. However, Southwark still remained in the top quartile nationally.



September 2009 figures show an increase in the number of children looked after in Southwark (572 looked after children).

The rate of children looked after had also continued to decrease in Southwark end of year 2008/09 (98 per 10,000 population under 18 years). Although Southwark has improved since end of year 2007/08 it still had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate out of the 32 London boroughs (excludes City of London).



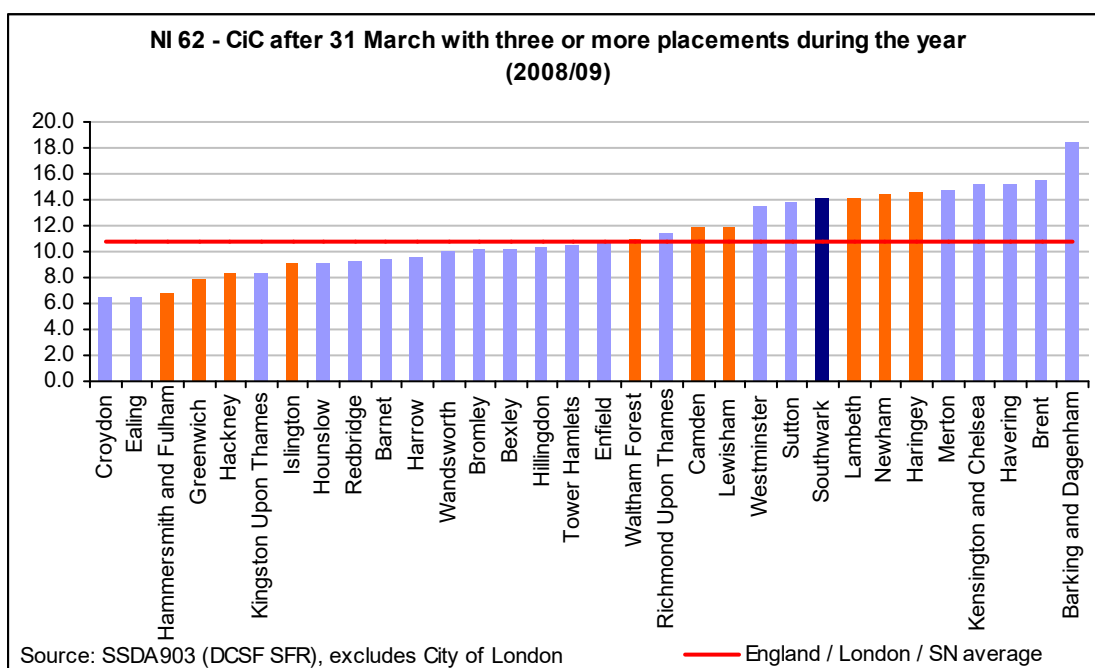
10 NI 62 – Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements

End of quarter 2 2009/10 performance shows an improvement on the end of year figure in 2008/09 (12.6 per cent in Q2 2009/10 compared to 14.1 per cent end of year 2008/09).

Southwark showed a decline in performance end of year 2008/09 with an increase by over two percentage points in the children looked after with three or more placements (14.1 per cent in 2008/09). The gap with the national, London and statistical neighbour average has

continued to increase and Southwark fell short of its target for the 4th consecutive year. Southwark continues to have one of the highest percentages in London being ranked 9<sup>th</sup> highest out of 33 London boroughs and is in the top quartile nationally.

(Good performance for this indicator is typified by lower percentages. Bandings for 2006-07 described performance as: 0 < 16.01 – Very Good; 16.01 < 20 – Ask questions about performance; 20 <= 100 – Investigate urgently. As a Key Threshold Indicator performance of > 20% has also limited overall performance judgements.)

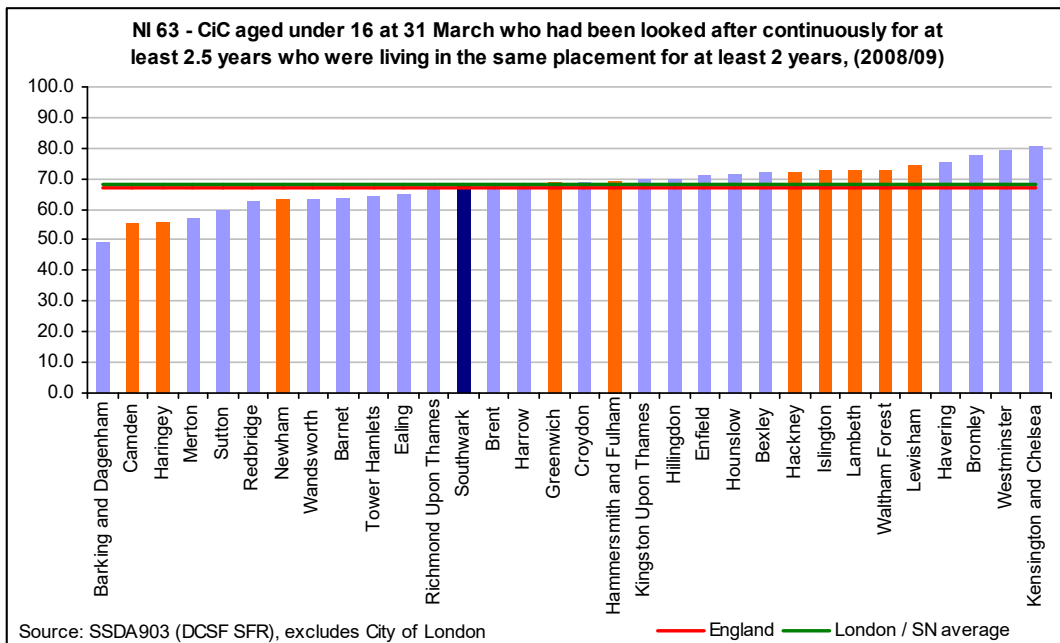


11 NI 63 – Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements

End of quarter 2 2009/10 figures (69.7 per cent) shows an improvement in performance from end of year 2008/09 with figures increasing by 2.3 percentage points (end of year 2008/09 - 67.4 per cent).

End of year 2008/09 figures (67.4 per cent) showed a three percentage point decrease in the proportion of Children Looked After living in the same placement for at least 2 years from end of year 2007/08 (70.0 per cent). Southwark fell slightly below the end of year 2008/09 target of 69 per cent (by 1.6 percentage points). Southwark was only slightly above the national average (67.0 per cent) in regards to long term stability but had fallen below the London (68.0 per cent) and Statistical neighbour (67.7 per cent) averages end of year 2008/09.

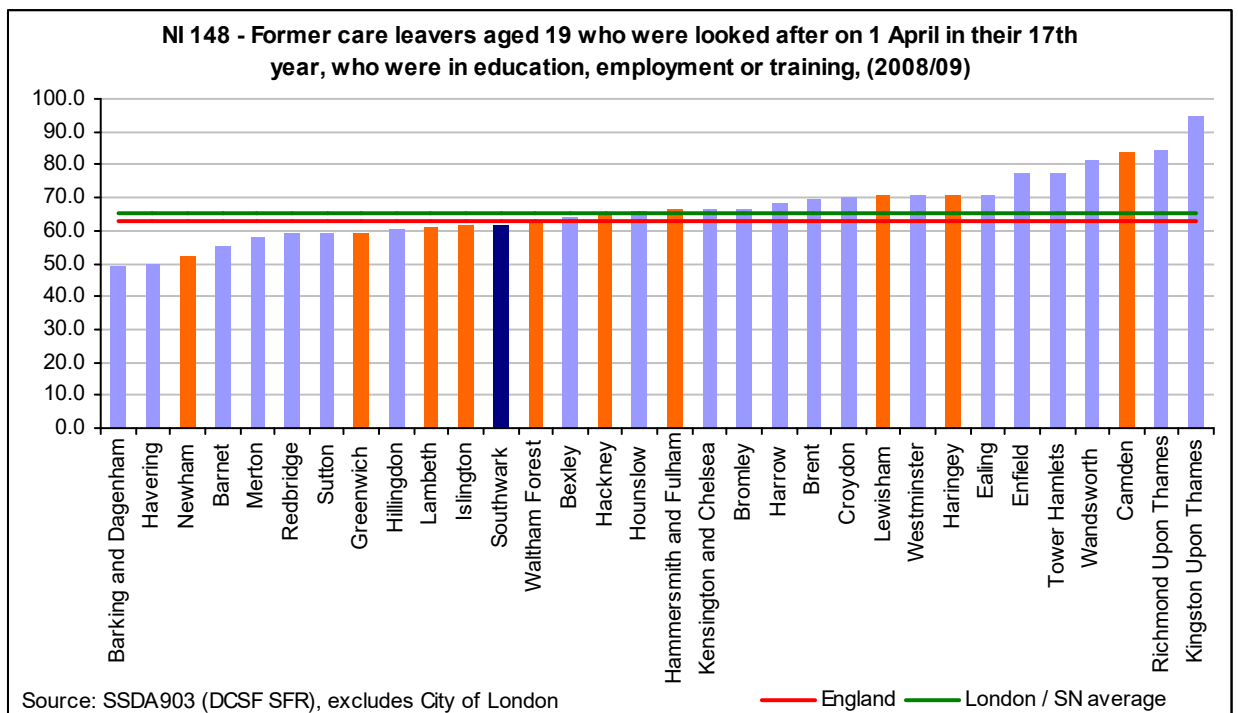
Southwark was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> out of 32 London boroughs, dropping 10 places from end of year 2007/2008 and has dropped to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally.



12 NI 148 – % of care leavers in education, employment or training

End of quarter 2 2009/10 (61.1 per cent) figures show Southwark remains in line with end of year 2008/09 (61.9 per cent).

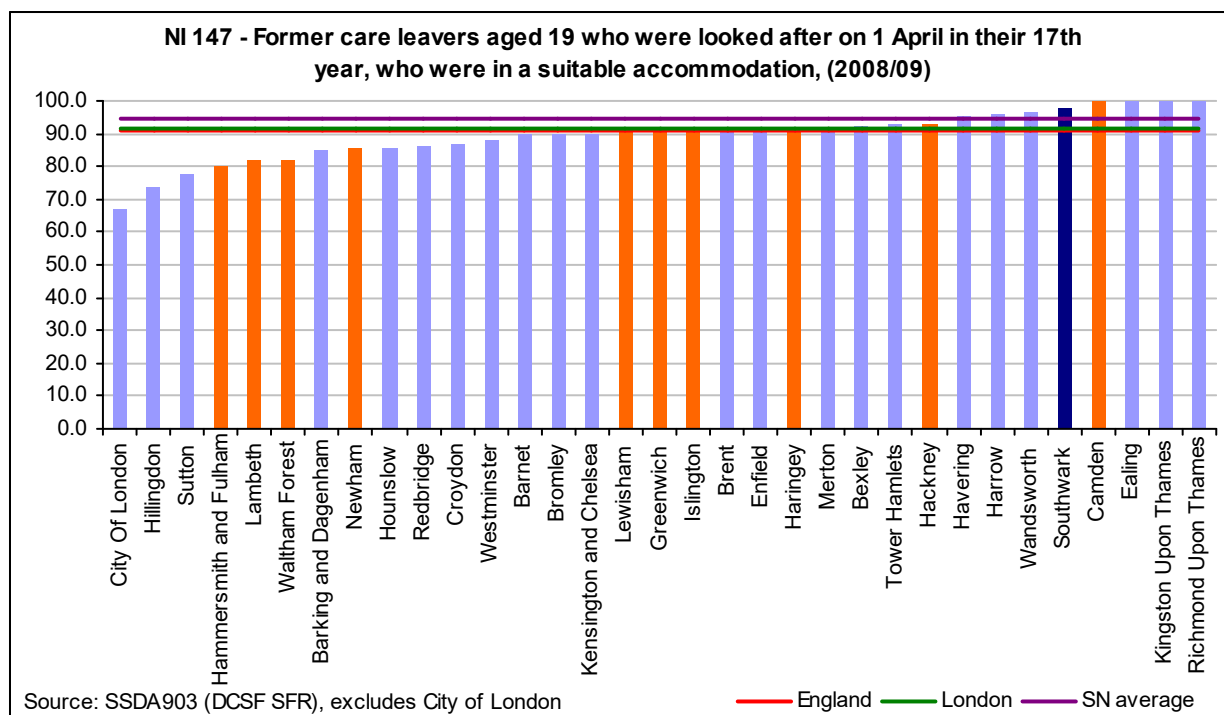
The proportion of Southwark care leavers in education, employment or training had decreased by nearly 6 percentage points end of year 2008/09 (61.9 per cent) and was in line with end of year 2006/07 (61.6 per cent) figures. Southwark had the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest proportion out of the 33 London boroughs and had fallen below the national average (63.0 per cent). Although the London (65.2 per cent) and statistical neighbour (65.3 per cent) average had decreased end of year 2008/09 Southwark had further increased the gap with London and statistical neighbours.



13 NI 147 – % of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation

End of quarter 2 figures in 2009/10 show further improvement on our high standards with 98.1 per cent of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation.

Southwark had improved end of year 2008/09 increasing by 6 percentage points in the proportion of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation. Southwark continued to exceed the national, London and statistical neighbour average considerably and had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest proportion out of the 33 London boroughs. Southwark also exceeded its target of 93 per cent.



## Policy Implications

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

## Community Impact Statement

15 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

16 This decision has no resource implications.

## Consultation

17 The management teams of Children’s Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in this report.

## Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

18 There are no specific implications

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson	
<b>Report Author</b>	Monika Ciurej / Gwen Sinnott	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS</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 Officer</b>	16 November 2009	