

# Health of Looked After Children

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“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

# Overview

- Setting the scene
- Performance
  - Benchmarking
  - Statutory performance (SSD 903)
- Health Needs
- Applying a Safeguarding lens
- SWOT analysis
- What's next?

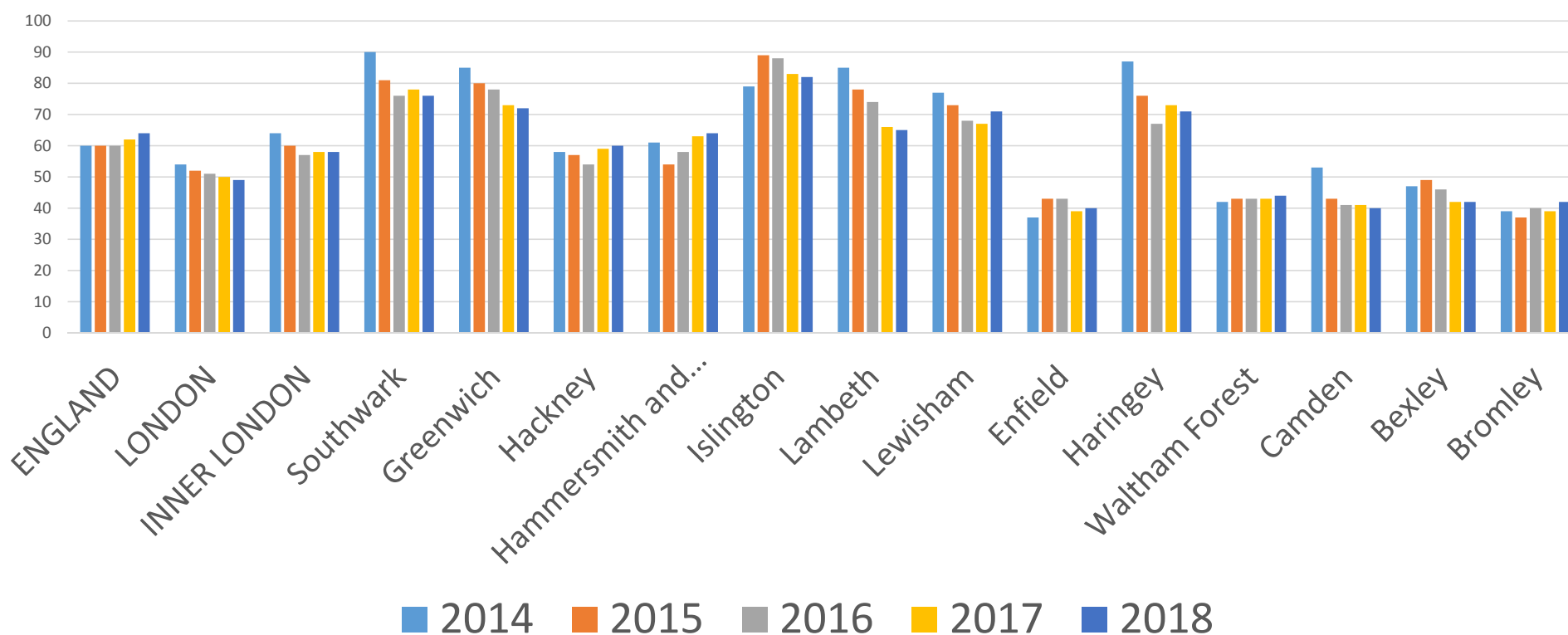
# Specially Commissioned LAC Health Services

- GSTT Southwark LAC Health Service
  - The service undertakes statutory health assessments on behalf of the local authority, provides enhanced clinical assessments and support for LAC and, when needed, careleavers.
  - The team supports a robust training and education programme across GSTT, the wider health economy and across sectors.
- Carelink CAMHS
  - Carelink is part of South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. Southwark LAC access a specialist NHS team who offer a specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for Southwark Looked After Children and Adopted children. The team work in very close partnership with Children's Social Care, Child Health and other agencies working with children and young people in Care.
  - During the year the team caseload usually fluctuates between 182-220 open cases

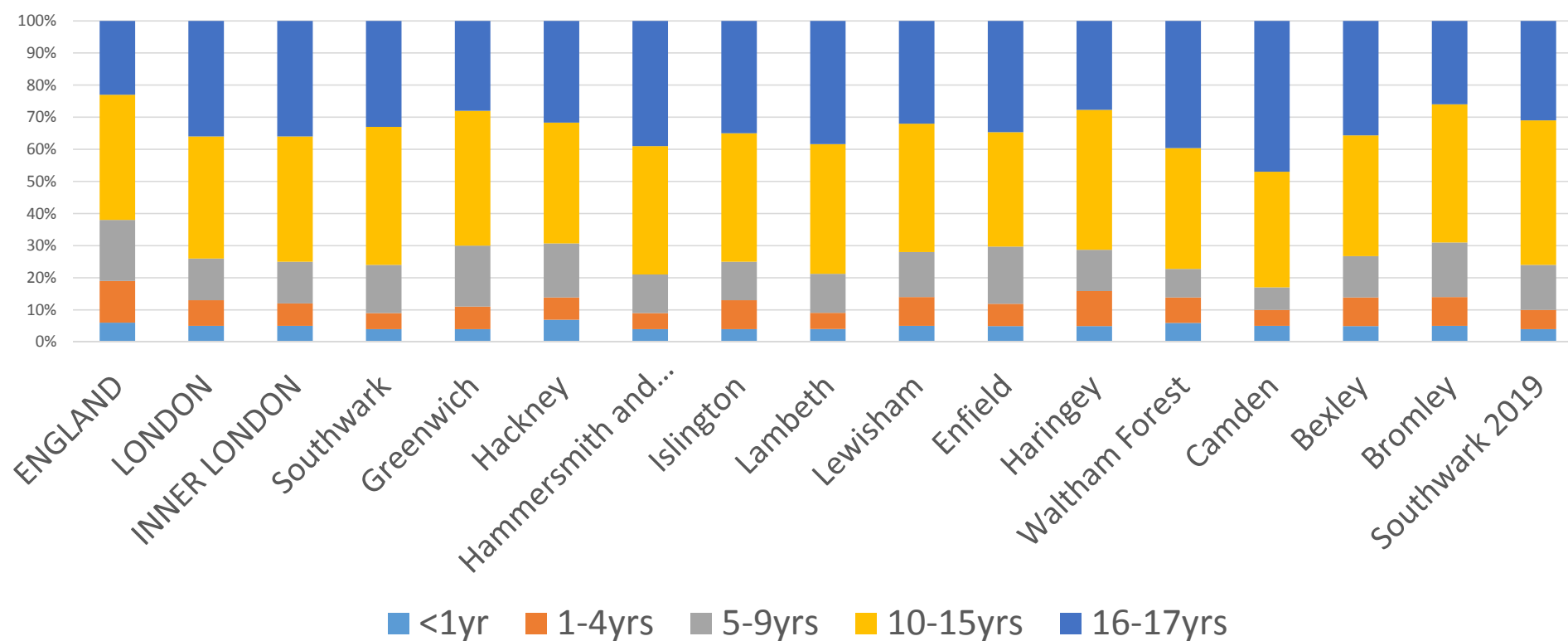
# Local Strategic Framework

- SOUTHWARK CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING - HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2021
- SOUTHWARK CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2016-2019
- SOUTHWARK SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

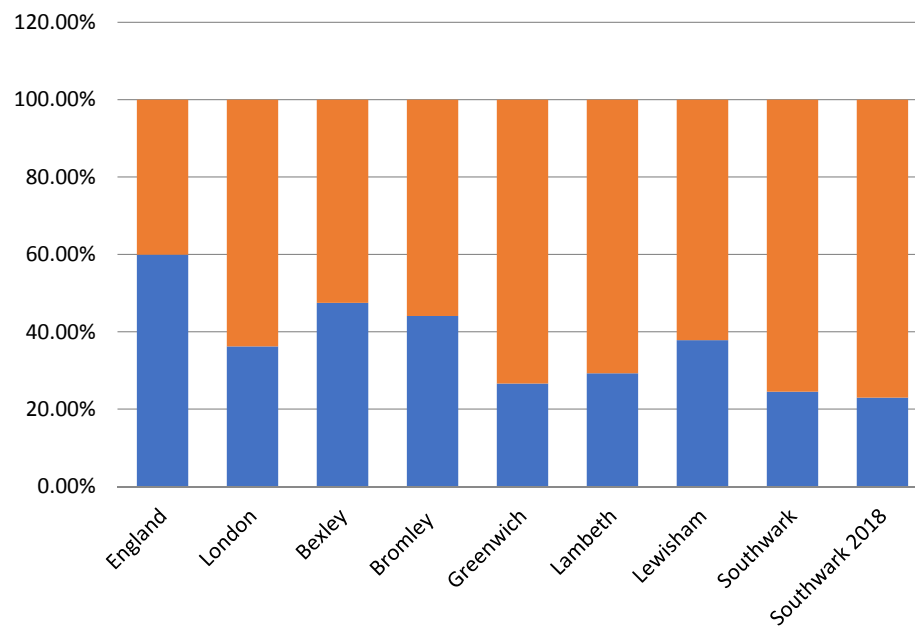
# Rates of Looked After Children



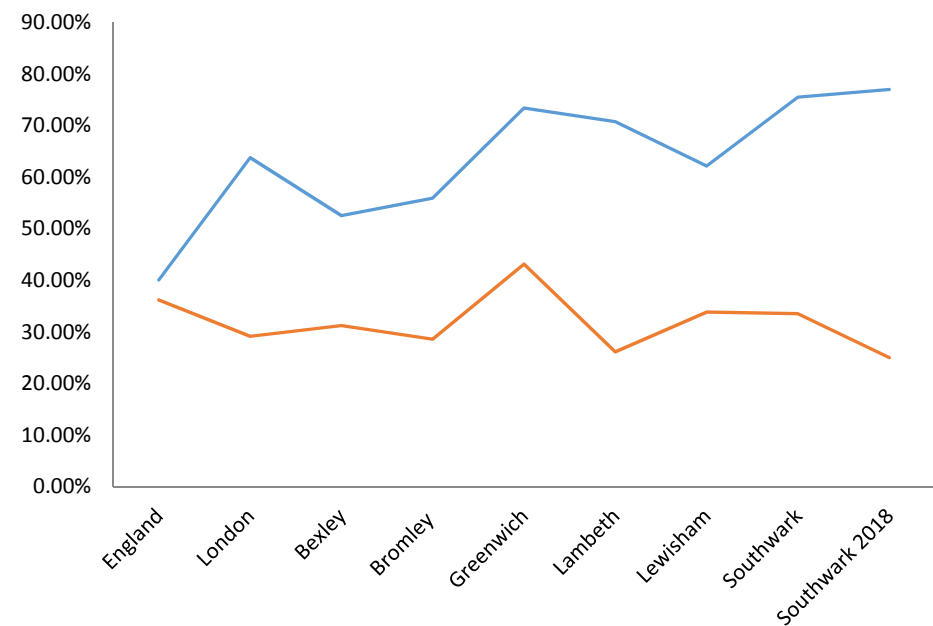
# Ages of looked after children



# Placement overview



■ Outside LA boundary  
■ within LA boundary



— Outside LA Boundary  
— >20miles outside LA Boundary

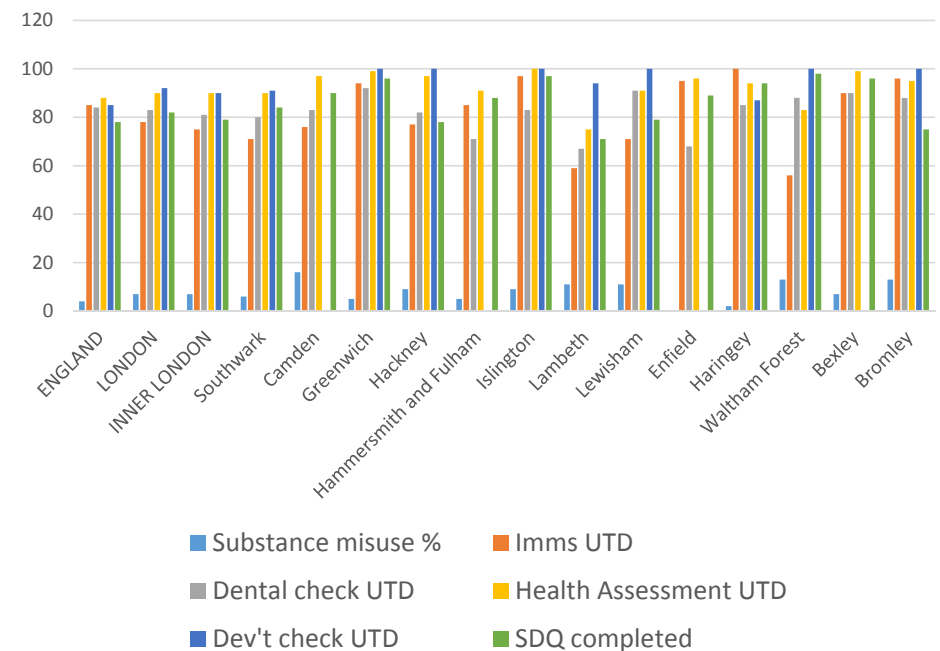


# Statutory Performance

## Southwark SSD903 performance 2014-2019

	31 <sup>st</sup> March	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	CLA at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	550	503	477	498	491	461
	CLA looked after for 12 months continuously at March 31 <sup>st</sup>	325	365	340	341	348	343
Key performance Indicators	Health Assessments up to date	90.8%	92%	96%	91% (n=311)	91% (N=315)	94%
	Immunisations up to date	69%	74%	69%	85% (n=291)	71% (N=246)	90%
	Dental Assessments up to date	84.6%	85%	83%	89% (n=294)	80% (N=278)	79%
	Developmental assessments up to date		100% (n=50/50)	80% (n=20/25)	93% (n=14/15)	92% (N = 11/12)	82%
	Substance abuse problem	2.6%	6%	3.5% (n=17)	6.7% (n=23)	6% (N = 21)	4%
	SDQ % completed	35%	68%	75%	82%	71%	86%
	SDQ average score *	13.6	14.5	14.8	14.9	13.9	13.9

## SSD903 Cohort – March 2018



# Health Needs

- Neurodevelopmental Diagnoses/Concerns
  - Autism Spectrum disorder
  - ADHD
  - Behavioural Diagnoses including conduct disorder
  - Learning disability
  - Speech, language and communication needs
  - Specific LD : Dyslexia
  - Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
- SEND
  - Education Health and Care Plans
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

# Health Needs

- Physical Health Needs
  - Asthma
  - Significant obesity
  - Cerebral palsy
  - Diabetes ( Types 1 and 2)
  - Eczema
  - Epilepsy
  - Infectious diseases including TB and BBV
  - Sexual Health Considerations
  - Drug and alcohol misuse
  - Sickle Cell Disease
  - Incomplete immunisations

# Carelink CAMHS – presenting problems

- emotional disorders
- low mood
- depression
- self harm
- suicidal thoughts
- post-traumatic stress
- eating problems
- anxiety
- attachment disorder and difficulties
- behavioural and conduct problems
- neuro-developmental problems

# Mental Health Considerations

- Inpatient admissions for mental health concerns
- CETR ( care/education/treatment reviews)
- Assessment under Section
  - Carelink involvement
  - Escalation
- Diagnostic conundrums
- Access to equivalent CAMHS outside of Southwark
- Not CAMHS ; then who ?

# Applying a safeguarding lens

- Contextual safeguarding considerations
- Strategy meetings
  - Missing/CSE
  - NAI/Youth violence/ CSA
- CP/CSA Medicals
  - Allegations of new and historic abuse
- Use of Judicial Authority DOL
  - young people under age of 18
- Access to health for those known to youth justice systems

# Strengths – lots to list 😊

- Multi-agency and multi-professional investment
  - Provider services - close links with CCG, CSC and virtual school
  - Access to Southwark health services for all Southwark LAC regardless of address
    - Includes CAMHS assessments in all services
- Complex needs Panel
- Low levels of IRO escalations for health reasons
- Recognition of need post-permanency
- Public Health measures referencing LAC and careleavers including:
  - Free Swim and Gym every day
  - HYP access to all Southwark LAC regardless of address
  - Extended FNP offer

# OFSTED Focused Visit January 2019

- *The physical and emotional needs of children in care are clearly identified and understood, and practice has improved since the last inspection. Health professionals are proactive and determined in ensuring that the health needs of children in care are met. Close working relationships and effective communication between health professionals and social workers are helping to ensure that children's needs are addressed holistically, whether children live within the borough or at a distance.*
- *The needs of disabled children are well considered in most cases.*



# Weaknesses ( recognised challenges )

- Transitions: Careleavers access to services
  - Differing thresholds for statutory adult services – All Age Disability team working groups formed
  - Capacity and decision making
  - Care and Support Needs
- Teenage pregnancy and early parenthood
- Navigation of care across different CCGs and provider services
  - Different service provision for same conditions
  - “Big city” effects
- Challenges to effective timely communication
  - Differing local IT systems
  - Placement changes
- Engagement of those “difficult to reach”

# Opportunities

- NHS Long Term Plan
- Joint Health and Social Care Forum
- Commissioning for outcomes
  - Access for Resources Team
  - Provider service specification includes quantifiable deliverables
  - Change management framework at LAC health provider service
- Sufficiency strategy
- Learning from South East London footprint

# Threats

- Vulnerability profile
  - Youth violence
  - Access to education – exclusions
- Increasing cohort of 16-17 year olds with a differing profile of need
- Increasing burden of health
  - Emotional and mental health needs that do not meet a diagnosis
  - Enabling engagement and outreach
- Teenage pregnancy and young parenting
- Variability in local service provision
  - Access to EHCPs for children placed outside the borough boundaries
  - Access to health services

# Journeying Onwards

- No health without mental health
- Lived experience prior to entry into care
  - Late entrants into care
- Continue focus on careleavers ( 2021 update to the HWB)
  - Health and social care priority
  - Understand and commission for vulnerability
- Maximise opportunities presented by planned CCG changes
  - Seek alignment of offer to LAC across the 6 SEL

Thank you