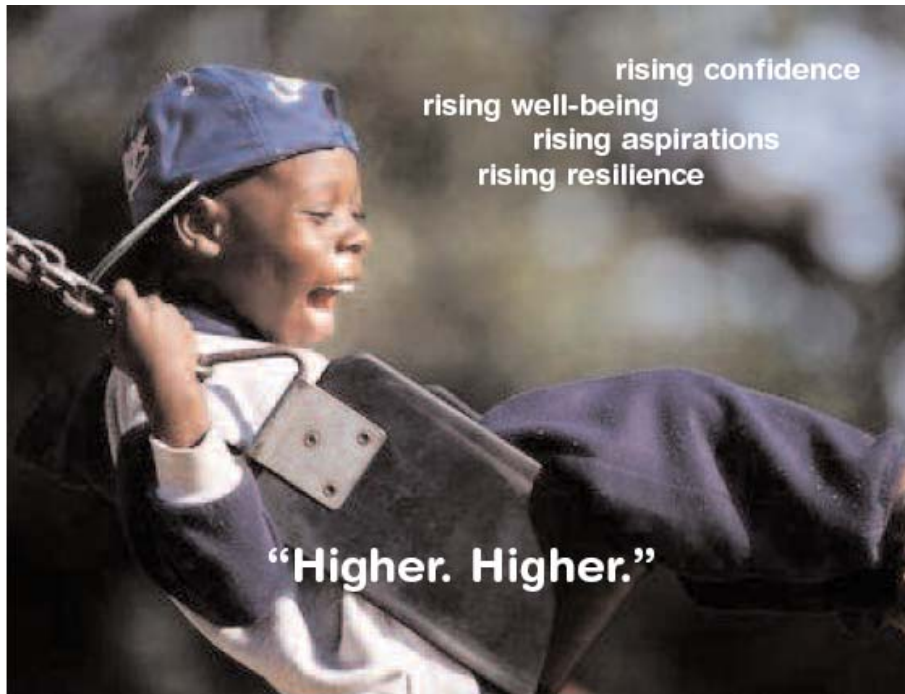


Children's Services and Education Scrutiny

Romi Bowen and Alison Delyth

10th July 2006



Vision for Children and Young People

We want Southwark to be a place where every child and young person can have high expectations and the best opportunities.

We will work together with children, young people and their families so that they can grow up in good health, feeling safe and secure, and realise their full potential.



Children in Southwark: Some Facts

- 62,000 children and young people aged 0-19
- 41% of resident school-aged children and young people are White British, 25% Black African, 10% Black Caribbean, 8% Mixed and 4% Asian
- More than 100 different languages are spoken in Southwark schools
- 41% of Southwark pupils are eligible for free school meals, compared to 15% nationally
- Up to 60 young people a month arrive new to the borough, mainly from over seas, needing a place in a Southwark secondary school



Children in Southwark: Some Facts

- About 4,000 children (7%) receive specialist child health services, with new referrals increasing fourfold in the last 6 years
- 1,771 children in need were identified in May 2005, a rate of 42 per 1000, up from 39 per 100 in 2003 and double the England average
- About 7,000 referrals a year are made to children's social care, a rate more than twice the average across inner London – half include concerns about domestic violence
- 760 children and young people provide unpaid care in Southwark (2001 census)



Our priorities for action

Outcomes

- Improve literacy and numeracy
- Reduce rates of teenage pregnancy
- Reduce crime against children and young people
- More for children and young people to do
- Reduce rates of childhood obesity

Service developments

- Coordinated locality networks
- Redesigned services for children with disabilities
- Common tools and processes
- Participation of children, young people and families
- Raised levels of awareness of child protection



What we've achieved (1)

- **Consistent improvements in educational attainment and inclusion measures 2004 to 2005**
- **Large increase in Southwark residents' satisfaction with our schools**
- **Consistent reductions in young people post not in education, employment and training**
- **Children's Centre network coming into place for September**
- **Integrated approaches for children with disabilities through the "MATCh" panel and with Parent Forum**
- **Child Development Centre building underway**



What we've achieved (2)

- **Excellent fostering inspection report,**
- **Building on strengths as 3 star social care, reinforcing quality assurance and consistency**
- **Leading edge work with effective early intervention to reduce youth crime**
- **Multi-disciplinary preventative teams – FRT, BEST, YOT**
- **Major programme of summer activities now underway, Southwark Community Games**
- **Southwark Children's Safeguarding Board established**
- **Young Southwark - Children and Young People's Plan/Children's Trust partnership arrangements**
- **Good first Annual Performance Assessment**



Challenges ahead

- **Developing a coherent ‘youth offer’, making use of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds**
- **Developing a multi-agency approach to support children who are victims of domestic violence**
- **Developing a parenting strategy, responding to the respect agenda**
- **Locality working - “team around the school”/”team around the child”**
- **Implementing the common assessment framework (CAF) and the child index**
- **Maximising benefits from building and regeneration projects (and minimising disruption)**
- **Drawing on the capacity of “the 3rd sector”**
- **Readiness for Joint Area Review**



Joint Area Review: January 2008?

- Detailed on site inspection focusing on problem areas
- Assesses how well services work together to improve well-being of children and young people
- Aims for services to be better integrated and greater than the sum of their parts
- Extensive fieldwork including a neighbourhood study, case tracking and interviews with key stakeholders including councillors and scrutiny members



Questions?

