

Item No: 9.	Classification: Open	Date: November 22 2007	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Children Looked After Performance Indicators 2007-8 Quarter 2	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Services for Children Looked After are monitored through a series of national performance indicators. Southwark's latest performance against these indicators, together with other relevant activity data, can be seen in the scorecard at appendix 1. This information is monitored closely by the management team and subject to monthly monitoring meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Overall the performance data set for Children Looked After (CLA) for Southwark at the end of Quarter 2 is very strong and improving. In particular, the positive trend on adoption rates and total numbers of children looked after is worthy of note. The main area of weakness remains the educational attainment of children looked after.

Summary of the September 07 indicator set (appendix 1)

4. **The number of looked after children (*Indicator 9*)** at 593 represents a continued downward trend since the last report towards the target level of approximately 580. This target was set taking into account the fact that Southwark's rate per head of population remaining significantly above a number of comparable boroughs, hence this progress is to be welcomed.
5. **Adoption rates (*Indicator 5 and 34*):** Very strong performance in Quarter 2 has brought the total to 28 adoptions (or special guardianship orders) so far this year. The rolling 12 month rate is now 8.4% and we can be very confident that the annual target of 7% will be exceeded in this key improvement area. There has also been an improvement in the numbers placed within 12 months of the best interest decision (increasing from 50% in 2006/2007 to 90% of the current cohort).
6. Within the CLA population there are comparatively few placed in **residential care** (12% compared to 18.7% Statistical Neighbour average) which is consistent with the policy of placing children in a family setting wherever possible (*Indicator 27*). There is a high level of usage of in-house **foster care** services (*indicator 2*) which is a strong feature of the local

system in terms of both outcomes and value for money. Both these areas have improved in the year to date.

7. The number of **unaccompanied asylum seeking children** has fallen to 78 compared to 86 at the year end (*Indicator 11*).
8. The percentage of CLA in “**kinship placements**” with relatives or friends at 7.6% is improving but remains below the comparator average of 10.9%. (*Indicator 30*)
9. Around half of CLA are **placed outside the borough** but 69% are placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address. Only 8.7% are placed more than 20 miles from home, which is better than the comparator group average (*Indicators 20,21 and 22*).
10. **Stability of placements for children looked after:** the indicators covering this show reasonable performance with scope for improvement. CLA with 3 or more placements has increased slightly above target to 12.8%, but is in line with the statistical neighbour average and target of 12%. (*Indicators 17 and 18*).
11. **Children looked after who communicated their views to their statutory review** (*Indicator 36*): Latest performance shows that 93.2% have communicated their views to their statutory reviews. This continued improvement now exceeds the 92% 2007/2008 target and is significantly above the national 2006/2007 average of 87%.
12. **Timeliness of reviews for children looked after** (*Indicator 37*): end of year performance at 94.3% was strong compared to the national average of 87%. In-year data is not yet available but system improvements are expected to rectify this later this year.
13. **Employment, Education and Training status of Care** (*Indicator 40*): Finalised 2006/2007 performance was good at 0.85, although a decline on 2005/2006 when Southwark was highest nationally. This value shows that, unlike the previous year, fewer 19 year old Care Leavers were in employment, education or training than the overall population in this age group. The overall population in this age group in ETE increased from 63% to 76%. Data for 2007/2008 is currently 0.78 meaning ETE rates for Care Leavers are 78% of the rate experienced by the population in this age group.
14. **Education of children looked after** (*indicators 41,42 & 43*): The indicators on the qualifications of children leaving care continue to be below target – but the June GCSE exam results of children in care are stronger, meaning that as these children leave care the headline PI will improve.
15. **Children looked after who missed 25+ school days in the last 12 months** (*Indicator 51*): at 13% Southwark performance has declined since the very good 2006/2007 outturn of 8.3%. Although 13% remains better than the 2006/2007 statistical neighbour average of 15.2% and in the CSCI satisfactory band this trend clearly needs further examination.

16. **Health of Children Looked After (Indicator 49):** 87% of CLA have update dental and health checks, which meets the 2007/2008 target.
17. **Final warnings and convictions of children looked after (Indicator 50):** performance improved in 2006/2007 but remains slightly above target and the statistical neighbour 2006/2007 average of 1.7.

Policy implications

18. This report is for information and the on-going monitoring of these indicators contributes to Departmental policy decisions.

Community Impact Statement

19. 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 significant impact on children looked after from all communities.

Resource implications

20. This decision has no direct resource implications.

Consultation

21. 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, Planning and Quality	Adrian Ward 020 7525 3720

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Children Looked After Performance Scorecard Sept 2007

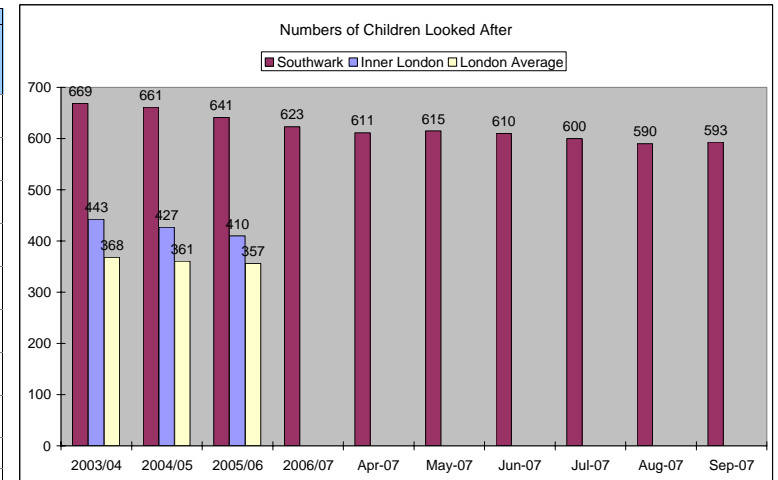
AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson	
Report Author	Adrian Ward	
Version	Final	
Dated	13/11/07	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Director of Finance	No	No
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	13/11/07	

Children's Specialist Services Performance Scorecard

September 2007

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER												
Accommodation of CLA											Trend	
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07		
1	No. of CLA in Residential Care	81	81	94	90	83	79	82	81	78	70	↓
2	No. of CLA in Foster Care	468	481	463	419	413	424	421	415	421	424	↑
3	of which no. in Agency Foster Placements	N/a	98	102	96	96	92	94	94	92	88	↓
4	No. of CLA Placed for Adoption	28	30	31	24	24	26	28	25	17	24	↑
5	No. of CLA Adoptions including special guardianships (Cumulative Apr to present)	28	30	23	32	0	4	8	22	23	28	↑
6	No. of CLA Living with Parents	21	24	15	27	22	21	16	15	14	14	→
7	No. of CLA in lodging, residential employment or living independently	71	43	37	62	69	65	62	62	58	59	→
8	No. of CLA Absent from agreed placement	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	→
9	Total No. CLA	669	661	641	623	611	615	610	600	590	593	↑
10	No. of CLA placements out of borough	340	351	330	304	317	321	320	315	316	298	↓
11	No. of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	86	72	71	86	82	78	79	84	78	78	→
Legal status of CLA												
12	No. of CLA on Section 20 agreements	N/a	241	232	227	215	209	201	200	200	199	→
13	No. of CLA on Full Care Order	N/a	323	317	308	299	298	300	298	289	291	↑
14	No. of CLA in Interim Care Order	93	92	82	80	78	83	85	81	80	82	↓
15	No. of CLA - Other legal status	N/a	5	10	18	19	25	24	21	21	21	→



2038SC - Pathway plans

2038SC 2005/06	No. of young people as at 31/03/06	% of with pathway plans	% with allocated personal adviser	% Resident outside the council's boundaries
Eligible	111	85%	100%	66%
Relevant	4	75%	100%	25%
Former relevant	330	96%	100%	38%

2038SC 2006/07	No. of young people as at 31/03/07	% of with pathway plans	% with allocated personal adviser	% Resident outside the council's boundaries
Eligible	169	85%	100%	68%
Relevant	5	40%	100%	20%
Former relevant	433	93%	100%	49%

* July 06 - Totals of accommodation of CLA breakdown is different to 'total number of CLA' stated above. This is because data in CareFirst is constantly being updated and it is not possible to run all reports simultaneously.

Key	
N/a	Not available
TBA	To Be Advised
A	Annual
Trend : ↑ / → / ↓, means trend increase / same/ decrease from previous period	
Progress : ↑ / → / ↓, means performance improving / stable / worsening	

Southwark 0-17 population (mid 2005 Census estimates) used for 2005/06 54,580
mid 2004 estimates used for 2004/05 55,079