

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 2 March 2010

7.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Membership

Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Nick Vineall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jelil Ladipo
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Veronica Ward
Reverend Nicholas Elder
Colin Elliott
Jane Hole
Sharon Donno

Reserves

Councillor James Barber
Councillor Michelle Holford
Councillor Andrew Pakes
Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Bob Skelly

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Contact

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Webpage: www.southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Annie Shepperd

Chief Executive

Date: 22 February 2010



Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 2 March 2010
7.00 pm
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any personal interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
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	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 19 January 2010.	
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DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 22 February 2010



CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Tuesday January 19 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Nick Vineall
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Veronica Ward
Reverend Nicholas Elder
Colin Elliott
Sharon Donno

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Nick Stanton

OFFICER SUPPORT: Pauline Armour, Assistant Director of Access & Inclusion, Children's Services
Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Sarah Feasey
Susie Haywood, Senior Media Officer
Christine McInnes, Assistant Director Children's Services (Leadership & Learning Services)
Mike Smith, Asst Director Community Services
Julie Timbrell

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Holt, Councillor Lisa Rajan, Executive Member for Children's Services and, for lateness, from Councillor Jonathan Mitchell.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The Chair asked Cllr Nick Stanton if he would like to answer the question submitted about snow and school closures. Cllr Stanton responded that as relevant data is being compiled and he would circulate a response.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members made the following declarations: Sharon Donno as an employee of Kintore Way Nursery School; Cllr Ward as the grandparent of a child at a local primary School. Cllr Ward as a governor at Dulwich Wood Children's Centre; Cllr Mitchell as a governor at Harris Girls' Academy; Cllr Rhule as parent of a pupil at Kingsdale Foundation School; Reverend Elder as the chair of governors at Kinderella Pre-School; Jane Hole as an employee of Harris Academy at Peckham and governor at the City of London Academy; and Colin Elliott as a parent governor at St Saviours and St Olave's.

4. MINUTES

These were approved.

5. EXECUTIVE INTERVIEWS

- 5.1 Cllr Nicholas Stanton drew Members attention to the written answers emailed to Members and tabled at the meeting.
- 5.2 A Member asked Cllr Stanton a supplementary question on Q14 (How is the Council ensuring a smooth transfer of all post 16 education from the Learning and Skills Council to Southwark Education?) and asked for his view on the role of Southwark College in providing post 16 education? Cllr Stanton commented that Southwark College is on special measures and is currently reviewing its focus and purpose.
- 5.3 Concern was expressed regarding the number of NEETS in Southwark and the Local Authority's place in the worst performing 3rd of Councils. Cllr Stanton explained that given Southwark's level of deprivation it would probably be expected that Southwark would be faring worse than many other Local Authorities; however the proportion of NEETS is reducing year on year. Pauline Amour; Assistant Director (Inclusion and Access), elaborated that there have been a higher percentage coming out of Southwark College but a relatively lower number overall.
- 5.4 Cllr Stanton commented that there is a new non-governmental body, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), who will work with Academies, Sixth Forms and other providers.
- 5.5 A Member asked a supplementary question arising from Q15 (How is the Council coordinating all the many agencies offering post 16 work experience and placements; and how are the Council ensuring good quality placements and teaching). The Member asked how young people who had left school would access

appropriate information about the many opportunities that are available as these are often advertised and promoted through a variety of media.

RESOLVED Cllr Stanton said he would take this away and come back with an answer.

- 5.6 A supplementary query was raised on Q17 (What remedial measures are now in place to ensure that KS 2 English and Maths results improve in those Primary Schools where results have not been as good as the previous year). The Member queried if the Primary School results were out yet? Pauline Amour confirmed that they were.
- 5.7 A Member asked if there were any further issues in relation to Q18 (What does the Executive member see as the biggest challenges to the department over the next 24 months for Southwark primary schools?). Cllr Stanton commented that there is an ongoing problem of parents navigating the application process and turning up at School at the start of term with out making a prior application.
- 5.8 A question was asked on how well Southwark performs at accurately estimating changing demographics. The problems in the Dulwich area are well known but it is unclear if this is to do with more children in the area or caused by the recession fallout whereby more parents opt for a state school whom would have previously chosen a private school.
- 5.9 Cllr Stanton replied that Southwark uses demographic data, and while usually very reliable is has sometimes been inaccurate. There is anecdotal evidence that a number of factors have affected raising demand for primary schools in Dulwich including less parents leaving for the countryside and the increased pressure as schools improve. For example Heaver has restricted its catchment due to rising popularity. There is more pressure; however this could change. There could also be something about East Dulwich becoming a more popular area for families.
- 5.10 There are measures in place to deal with hot spots like East Dulwich. This year, three schools, including Goodrich Primary School in Dunstan's Road, East Dulwich, agreed to open extra classes temporarily to help cope with demand. There are ongoing temporary and permanent measures to increase capacity at St Anthony's Primary School and Lyndhurst Primary School.
- 5.11 A Member commented that they are receiving anecdotal stories of this still being a big issue; will these measures be enough? Cllr Stanton replied that they will look at admissions data and will then consider working with local schools to open a bulge class. Also Bessemer Grange has capacity so there is something about it marketing itself. Goose Green is in special measures, so it is understandable if there is reluctance by parents to apply, but there is now a fantastic new head and if and when it comes out of special measures the schools appeal will further increase. There is capacity; but it is a question of these schools raising their cache so that parents want to send their children there.
- 5.12 There was a query raised about the catchment areas of primary schools. Cllr Stanton explained that these are not fixed and can change as the popularity of a school fluctuates and capacity alters. There is a 2 mile rule; however Southwark aims for an offer within a mile as this is more suitable for a dense urban

environment. The rules refer to the 'nearest community school' followed by the nearest school; however we are scrapping this as it is so confusing. We will be looking at plain distance.

- 5.13 There was a question raised about disappointed parents who applied to Heaver or Goodrich Primary Schools. Cllr Stanton commented that they may have resided in the Peckham Rye end of East Dulwich. Although Southwark was able to offer every child a place there were some unhappy parents who did not get their school of choice. People were disappointed as perhaps in previous years might have lived close enough to Heaver or Goodrich, but this year the schools were unable to accommodate these families. There were also a lot of parents who applied late and this caused problems.
- 5.14 Admissions processes are changing. Formally parents applied to three local schools; now there is a form where you put down four schools. The new national initiative means you can apply all over London. The common admission procedure will help the administration process and also with forward planning.
- 5.15 Pauline Amour explained that all Early Years providers have been contacted to check that parents have applied for school places. Cllr Stanton commented that parents still think that if they have siblings in the school that they can turn up at the gates at the start of term, but they still need to follow the admissions process.
- 5.16 A Member made a comparison between Southwark and Lewisham and the perception that they had been able to be more flexible with catchment areas and so had less of a problem
- 5.17 Cllr Stanton replied that there is a national criterion that everybody applies. They probably did a better job with communication. We have now increased our staff capacity and made it more user friendly so we will have an ongoing dialogue with parents. Pauline Amour elaborated that they have recently seconded staff to deal with the increased demand Southwark have in January to deal with applications for September places.
- 5.18 A Member commented that changes to the admissions process delay the speed that Schools can accept children; they used to be able to accept children Friday for a Monday start but now the process can take three weeks. Cllr Stanton agreed that recent changes to government policy mean the Local Authority now have to coordinate mid year admissions . The new application process does delay admissions; it is now a maximum of 3 weeks whereas before it could take a matter of days.
- 5.19 A supplementary query was raised on Q19 (this question asked what measures are being taken to reduce the negative impact on children's education in light of the continuing financial crisis and the number of homes being repossessed). The Member asked if there any figures on the number of successful interventions.
- 5.20 Cllr Stanton answered that although he looked into this issue there is no data and commented that this is not the kind of information that schools would normally collect. The Homeless Unit did not report a huge rise; but then they would not always be involved.

6. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

This was not covered as there was no officer to present.

7. SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA - UPDATE

7.1 Mike Smith gave an update on the Single Funding Formula and consideration given to the option to defer full implementation for a year. This has been out for consultation and the view from Schools is that there is potential for the shift from funding 'participation' rather than 'places' to negatively impact on Schools; most thought they would lose. On the other hand the PVI sector probably thought they would gain as they are already funded for 'participation'.

7.2 There is transitional grant funding for Schools to mitigate any adverse affects. The Schools wanted to defer implementation; the PVI sector wanted to go ahead, so the compromise has been to introduce it for the PVI sector but not the Schools. Those providers who qualify will also benefit from the deprivation funding.

7.3 The other issue is that if we went ahead this year and fully implemented we would have to make a special application with the legal complexities this involves. Officers do not recommend this option. Deferring it will give more time for Schools to make adjustments while still giving PVI sectors the additional deprivation funding.

7.4 A Member commented that this is a different recommendation from the report. Mike Smith agreed and explained that this was because they had not received the consultation responses from the head teachers. The other issue is that the Government could change and an upheaval such as this could mean that some nurseries could face part or total closure. Another change that could impact on Schools and the implementation of the SFF is the proposed single admission point – rather than the dual intakes at January and September.

7.5 Mike Smith explained that they are proposing to do a 'dry run' whereby the Schools get to see how it would affect their financial position. A Member queried if they were getting additional resources? Mike Smith confirmed they were and this year these additional resources would be targeted at the PVI sector.

7.6 Mike Smith also flagged up that Southwark has a historical framework for part-time / full time places with no policy framework. We want to develop a policy frame work; to target those full time places at those most in need. This review could help with this. This is why we don't want providers to make these changes until this is completed.

7.7 A Member commented that her Nursery has lots of part time and full time places and this can be challenging to manage. Mike Smith commented that flexibility is an issue that has not been dealt with in depth. It is very difficult for settings to offer complete flexibility and remain economically viable. The duty to offer flexibility is placed on the Local Authority; not the individual provider.

8. EARLY YEARS REVIEW - CONTINUED

8.1 There was a recap on the Site Visits planned for the Early Year's review. Members plan to visit to Kintore Way and Robert Browning. Kintore Way Nursery School's provisional meeting will be rescheduled. Robert Browning visit is scheduled for 28 January 2010. Details will be circulated to Members. Members commented that it would be good to visit another couple of providers and both a private and community nursery would be ideal.

RESOLVED Mike Smith will provide details of another couple of providers; both a private and community nursery if possible.

8.2 .Session/s will be organised at Sunshine House for Members of the committee to meet parents and childminders. The Chair also reported that Rachael had conducted two telephone interviews with parents and these will be written up and circulated

8.3 Sharon Donno, Member and head teacher of Kintore Way commented that that they would particularly welcome the visit to look at the impact of the SFF. There is concern that the move to 'participation' rather than 'places' will negatively impact on those children who are transitioning from a 'Toddler' place into an Early Year's place. The ethos of the centre is to ensure that children can make these smooth transitions but the present SFF proposals would mean either the parents would face extra charges they could not meet, or it would adversely affect the nurseries economic viability.

8.4 Members recapped on the focus of the Early years review and the ability of providers to meet demand. Waiting list information would be useful however caveats were raised as a many parents put their children on a number of waiting lists.

RESOLVED Mike Smith will supply some sampled waiting list information.

8.5 There was a discussion about the need to refine the focus of the review; particularly in light of the full implementation of the SFF now being delayed. Mike Smith said that addressing flexibility, a policy around the allocation of part-time / full-time places, and the effect of SFF on admissions would all be helpful in guiding its implementation. The Committee were advised that although officers are recommending that the Single Funding Formula (SFF) will not be fully implemented this year it remains valuable for the Early Year's review to inform this process.

8.6 Member raised concerns about children who do not access any formal Early Year's education. There is concern that those most in need may not be aware of the provision or find it difficult to access. The importance of Early Year's education in promoting emotional, social and educational development is well-known; however some of the most disadvantaged families may not be accessing it.

RESOLVED The Early Year's review will focus on the following:

- i. Responding to the flexible offer
- ii. Developing a policy framework for the allocation of part time and full time places
- iii. Admissions to Early Years ; with particular regard to hard to reach / disadvantaged groups

A draft will be done ready for the next Committee meeting.

9. PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS - CONTINUED

- 9.1 The meeting started with a presentation from Christine McInnes, Assistant Director of Children's Services(Leadership & Learning Services).
- 9.2 Christine McInnes first spoke about the report circulated to the sub – committee. This explained that the programme aims to raise the standard for all with a core offer for all schools while raising standards for identified vulnerable groups though targeted intervention programmes.
- 9.3 Recent data has identified widening gaps in attainment between Southwark overall and Black Caribbean pupils. BC pupils (as a group) have not made expected gains at KS 1 and 2. We are committed to narrowing the gap between this group of pupils and Southwark pupils and this is a key focus of work. Specialist support is also available for schools to improve provision for gypsy, Roma Travellers and pupils with English as an additional language.
- 9.4 There a number of initiatives including 'The Hero Inside' project which focuses on raising achievement of groups of children in selected schools who may be underachieving or not reaching their full potential. It will fuse culture, Literacy, ICT, History, citizenship and the arts together to reflect the cultural diversity of Southwark. Using animation and drama identified key stage 2 pupils will explore how stories can provide a framework for problem solving and finding solutions.
- 9.5 White British boys on Free School Meals are another group who have been identified as a cause for concern both locally and nationally. There is a project to address this delivered in 2 parts. The first part looks at national research and the successful work in a number of Southwark schools/settings to identify strategies that appear to make a difference. The second part of the project will engage other Southwark schools that wish to narrow the gap and improve attainment of this group in their schools.
- 9.6 The importance of having positive role models for children and young people in school cannot be underestimated. Children's Services have a commitment to helping schools to recruit and retain a high quality workforce which reflects the local community. The current data on the schools workforce is being analysed by ethnicity, particularly focusing on staff in senior management posts. This information will be used as the basis of a report which will make recommendations about how we can improve current recruitment and retention strategies to work towards a better representation of the local community in the schools workforce.

Alongside this we are piloting a coaching programme for nine black and minority ethnic leaders in schools who aspire to headship.

- 9.7 Christine McInnes then spoke about the Parental Engagement work in more detail and showed a presentation (published on the website) put together by lead External Consultant: Dr Jan McKenley. This initiative is using Action Research to discover how we can best build parental engagement processes with parents in homes where an effective learning culture may not be evident. New engagement strategies will be explored through this project which will lead to parental engagement at home as well as parental involvement in school. This project will work in identified schools identifying good practice as well as development opportunities and is based on the most recent research (Professor Alma Harris: Do parents know they matter – Raising achievement through parental engagement). It offers school visits and the possibility of learning networks.
- 9.8 A member commented on the importance placed on good transitions in the Scrutiny reports circulated from Haringey and Tower Hamlets. They particularly focused on primary to secondary. Christine McInnes responded that this is a very important area, particularly for vulnerable children. They are looking to develop consistency and good practice from Early Year's settings into Primary School to impact on Key stage 1.
- 9.9 There was a comment on how the report had very much emphasised the importance of parents involvement in their child's learning; particularly fathers. Is there mentoring of parents and fathers in their own home to encourage skills and confidence? Christine McInnes commented that yes, sometimes a parental support advisor might do that; one to one will really help but it is resource intensive.
- 9.10 Kintore Way Nursery School did some excellent work with fathers and male carers. This started with breakfast play set up indoors and outside supported by members of staff. The children sent invitations to fathers and male carers. This has reached over 100 different parents and carers with around 30 attending 6 sessions over a year. This has helped parents gain confidence and understanding of the value of play; helped parents appreciate and value their children's learning and provided opportunities for male networks of friendship and support to develop. Sometimes parents have a poor experience of school themselves and it is important to get over that. The sessions aim to empower parents to carry on playing and encouraging their children to learn in the home.
- 9.11 A query was raised about how to get males involved where the mother is a single parent. Kintore Way had encouraged children to invite any significant male in their lives; uncle; grandparent; step-father etc.
- 9.12 A Member commented that sometimes there are no males in the children's lives and that membership of men on the PTA of Schools can really help. Christine McInnes commented that there is a growing focus on workforce development to get more males employed.
- 9.13 There followed a discussion on how to reach those families who were least involved in engaging with their children's learning. The importance of not patronising people or making assumptions about parental engagement because of false assumptions or stereotypes was emphasised. Members thought that blanket

and regular communication was a good approach. This should emphasise the role of parents in play, games and reading to improve numeracy and literacy.

- 9.14 It was noted that the fathers' role was particularly important but it is vital that the approach does not undermine fathers but rather promotes the importance of their roles and empowers fathers through developing skills and confidence.

RESOLVED

A one page report will be drafted noting the importance of family learning and the key role that parent's play as informal educators.

The report will briefly draw out particular issues discussed by the committee including the importance of male carer's / father's participation in children's learning and recommend that further resources be devoted to developing this area.

10. MATTERS ARISING

- 10.1 Members considered the answer to the request for a brief written update on the general wellbeing of the children affected by the Lakanal fire several months on; and to confirm whether any of the children have been referred for adolescent psychological counseling.
- 10.2 Members noted that an executive question on counseling to children affected by the Sumner Road fire has been put to Cllr Lisa Rajan.
- 10.3 A Member asked if there were numbers on children receiving counselling. Pauline Amour; Assistant Director (Inclusion and Access) responded that this was not possible as children can access counselling in various ways including through their GP and local mental health services and therefore a school would not necessarily know. Welfare officers have contacted the school. It is understood that more people requested counselling following the fire at Sumner Road as over 20 people lost their homes.
- 10.4 There was a discussion on when families would request counselling and it was noted that the schools offered emotional support.
- 10.5 Members considered the response from an officer at the Department of children, schools and families regarding the query on sports provision. There was concern that the response has not clarified if provision of '5 hours of high quality PE and sport per week ; in and out of schools ' is aspirational or prescriptive. Moreover what our Schools actually do is also a pertinent point.

RESOLVED

- i) The Chair indicated that the sub-committee would give full support if Cllr Nick Vineall was minded to write a further letter.
- ii) There may be an opportunity for further written questions to be submitted to Cllr Lisa Rajan to clarify the provision of sport in Southwark.

11. UPDATE WORK PROGRAMME

	Hold Executive Questions with Cllr Lisa Rajan
	Consider the combined report and brief Q & A session (no longer than 20 minutes) on both the 'Review of integrated youth support services' and 'Overview of the project for 14 – 19 year olds coordinated by the Learning Skills Council'.
	Early Year's review - committee to consider draft report
	Parental engagement review - committee to consider draft report
	Consider the Children's and Young People's Plan - the Chair recommended that members consider the report already circulated via email

Meeting ended at 10.20pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Southwark Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Executive Interview – March 02 2010

Questions to Councillor Rajan, Executive member for Children's Services:

1. Have you got the latest figures for teenage pregnancy levels and obesity for Southwark? How do these figures compare with previous statistics on these two issues?
2. Could the Executive member give an update on the restructuring of the Youth Service? How is the service ensuring that the voluntary sector and Tenants and Residents Associations, also providing youth services, are involved in stakeholder meetings taking place at this time?
3. Could the Executive member give an update on the Connexions Service? What numerical impact is the service making on the numbers of NEET young people in Southwark?
4. Following the publication of the Ofsted Report on the Adult Learning Service judged to be satisfactory, what key headings in the Action Plan will ensure that services which prepare people for employment and the teaching of English as a second language will be improved? How will the Action Plan be funded given the comments by the Finance Director?
5. Could the Executive member for Children's Services give the sub-committee an update on Youth Council development and the election of representatives onto Community Councils? How will Youth Council representatives input into Community Councils to ensure a significant impact?
6. What steps have been taken by the Executive members in response to the recommendations in the sub-committee's report on Youth provision in Southwark.
7. How does the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) perform its quality assurance role? What evidence is there to show service improvement at system and frontline practitioner level?
8. Is the LSCB gathering and using the experience of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?
9. What safeguards are in place to protect children and families from inappropriate child protection interventions?
10. Do all Child Protection Plans contain specific, achievable, child focussed outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child? Are these measurable and are those protection plans independently reviewed?

11. Please provide recruitment and retention figures for the last three years for Southwark Social Workers?
12. What progress is being made with Southwark Youth Councils and do you have any views on how they might interface with scrutiny?
13. To what extent has counselling been provide to children affected by the Sumner Road fire? Please set out counselling arrangements for both those families displaced as well as those who have been allowed to return to their homes.
14. In light of the absence of records showing how many children are removed from school as a result of having their family home repossessed, how does the council monitor the effectiveness of aftercare and support given to such children, in terms of maintaining their academic performance and any special educational requirements a child may have previously enjoyed, prior to the involuntary move?

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 March 2010	Meeting Name: Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Universal youth activities and information, advice and guidance (IAG)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director, 11-19 Services and Youth	

Background

- 1) At the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 19th January 2010, the Sub-Committee requested a report updating on integrated youth support services.

This report provides an update following the report of the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee into youth provision in June 2008 and the subsequent proposed actions provided in January 2009.

A diagram is included as an appendix which shows how integrated youth services are configured in Southwark.

Universal Youth Activities and IAG: Overall aims

- 2) The reorganisation of Southwark services for young people came into effect in September 2009. Since then our focus has been on building effective area teams of Southwark youth staff who can:
 - Offer high quality positive activities delivered in Southwark run centres
 - Work closely with private and voluntary provisions in the area
 - Alert the detached youth team to any new local need
 - Offer information, advice and guidance
 - Signpost young people with particular needs to appropriate support services
 - Support local youth community councils
 - Create and communicate a shared vision for the area, detailed in the area plan
- 3) Currently the four area teams are working with private and voluntary providers to produce joint area plans. Young people will be asked to contribute their ideas through their youth community council and plans will be shared with community council’s for agreement. All plans will be in place by April and will detail:
 - Ways of increasing Friday and Saturday night provision
 - Opportunities for joint working with extended schools coordinators in local schools and Academies
 - Quality assurance activities, including the involvement of young people in assessing what is provided
 - Any gaps in provision including ‘girl friendly’ provision

Developments since September

- 4) Four area managers are in post and working hard to get to know their community. They each have particular borough wide responsibilities that include curriculum, youth participation, quality assurance and accreditation.
- 5) We now have a clear procedure for involving young people in the democratic process that includes schools, youth centres and community councils. Eight youth community councils have been elected and we are soon to have two young people from each youth community council to represent their area on the Southwark Youth Council (SYC). The plan is for SYC members to hold individual portfolios that replicate those of The Executive, so ensuring that the voice of young people is heard across all areas of community life. Next year the SYC will be moving to brand new headquarters as they will be based in the exciting Canada Water library development. This will allow the SYC to host youth events designed by young people for young people across the borough.
- 6) A major development in communication with young people and their families has been the bi-monthly youth insert in Southwark Life. Delivered to all Southwark households, this publication is jointly owned by young people who contribute ideas, articles and their editorial views. In addition, youth members of The Magazine Project are offered valuable work experience with our communications team so that they can contribute to the whole production process. A recent additional offer was a map of the borough that detailed key youth activities in each area.
- 7) For young people, the website Whatvr, is regularly updated and will be linked to the new Council website once it comes into operation. Council members have all received a directory of youth activities across the borough, arranged into local areas so they can see at a glance what is on offer within their ward.
- 8) The Mix Festival planning is underway, due to take place on Saturday August 14. This is an event that encourages collaborative working across the council as well as with a range of partners and stakeholders. One new idea for this year is the introduction of intergenerational activities and we are pleased that The Mix steering group includes representation from each of the eight youth community councils.
- 9) Two other exciting developments that are underway are Camberwell Baths youth facility and Belair Park youth hub. Belair will house an outdoor education centre that will be a borough wide resource and support more young people into accessing The Duke of Edinburgh qualification, an area where we are already very successful. Southwark has 1.70% of its 14-25 population participating in the D of E scheme, compared to 0.17% Lambeth, 0.98% Lewisham 0.58% Tower Hamlets, 0.57% Camden and 1.43% Wandsworth.
- 10) In an effort to improve our youth database, Electronic Youth Service (EYS), we have appointed a new data manager who will take up his post in early April. Much work is currently underway to integrate the Connexions database with EYS and the good news is that smaller providers who lack the capacity to easily access the database will be able to send their information through to our small central team at Tooley Street for entry.

- 11) Much of our targeted work has been focused on reducing the number of young people classified as NEET, not in education, employment or training. We currently have 230 young people who fall into this category as compared with 420 at the same time last year. Our current figure shows as 6.8% of the learner population aged 16-19 in Southwark. It must be remembered that the majority of our sixth form age group travel outside the borough for education, hence the fact that our percentage is higher than it would be if it were calculated against the number of residents of this age group in Southwark.
- 12) Alongside the work around our universal youth offer we have also been reviewing the provision of Information, Advice and Guidance through Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs). Currently we commission the firm Prospects to provide Careers Information, Advice and Guidance in all our schools and Academies as well as offering targeted work with young people over the age of 16. In addition, the authority directly employs a team of PAs who each have a caseload of young people identified as in need of additional support, advice and guidance. The PAs employed directly by the authority work as part of our integrated area youth teams and are contributing their ideas for development to the area plans. Evidence of their impact can be found in the much reduced NEET figure but we also want to explore ways of increasing the number of young people able to benefit from their support. Some of our youth centres have Connexions Access Points where a Connexions PA is on hand to offer advice and guidance and we are currently reviewing the impact of these.

Area Information

- 13) Following the start of the new structure from 1st September, work has been underway to develop the work areas and the four area plans. Examples of key pieces of work from each area are provided below.

14) **Area 1 Bermondsey & Rotherhithe**

Surrey Docks Adventure Playground is being used from 23 February as a temporary replacement for Odessa St youth club.

Work is taking place with the new members of the Southwark Youth Council to support them as they take on their new roles.

Work continues with young people to support their role as members of grant panels allocating funds through the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund.

15) **Area 2 Borough, Bankside & Walworth**

Within this area, we are planning to start new provision in the following venues:

Rockingham Jubilee Hall within the next 4 weeks. Delivery of statutory provision with the detached team in Draper Hall subject to final agreement. Mint Street Youth provision, the service is in discussion with Blackfriars Settlement to determine arrangements for additional provision from this venue.

Developments with Walworth Academy to open the school as an IAG access point are under discussion. Plans are also in place to deliver service provision at Pembroke House.

16) Area 3 Camberwell & Dulwich

New developments within Camberwell and Dulwich include the development of the youth wing at Camberwell Leisure Centre which is due to open in April 2010. A new youth hub to be built in Belair Park; building work was due to start in February 2010 ready for completion in November 2010 in partnership with Environment & Housing (Leisure) to offer structured outdoor learning opportunities. A programme of activities for both projects will be developed in conjunction with young people.

Two youth community councils are meeting twice a month with members attending community council meetings. Voluntary sector provision being extended at Bellenden to include AAINA in February.

An accreditation strategy is being developed in conjunction with the 14-19 team. An action plan to implement across Youth Services is being drawn up to commence in September 2010, in addition Youth workers and Personal Advisor's who support access points are focusing on NEET young people.

17) Area 4 Peckham, Peckham Rye & Nunhead

Currently in this area we have a NEET project running at Damilola Taylor Centre (DTC), this is a Personal Development Opportunity, and while it's specifically for NEET young people, we are including some young people at risk of becoming NEET.

They undertake a fitness programme, Mentoring and motivation sessions, they get Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG) from a Personal Advisor and also will be able to undertake accreditation courses in boxing and football. Two of those young people now volunteer on a boxing fitness session which takes place at DTC on Saturday.

The Fast Forward project has just started to take direct referrals from Highshore school, the school are looking at a way that someone from their staff team can volunteer on sessions, to assist with young people's transition.

Central Venture are working in partnership with the kick-start project who are running a session one day per week, addressing a range of issues, negotiations are taking place with Catch 22 who are Kick-start, about locating an IAG access point at Brimington Estate, where they run a range of sessions.

APPENDICES

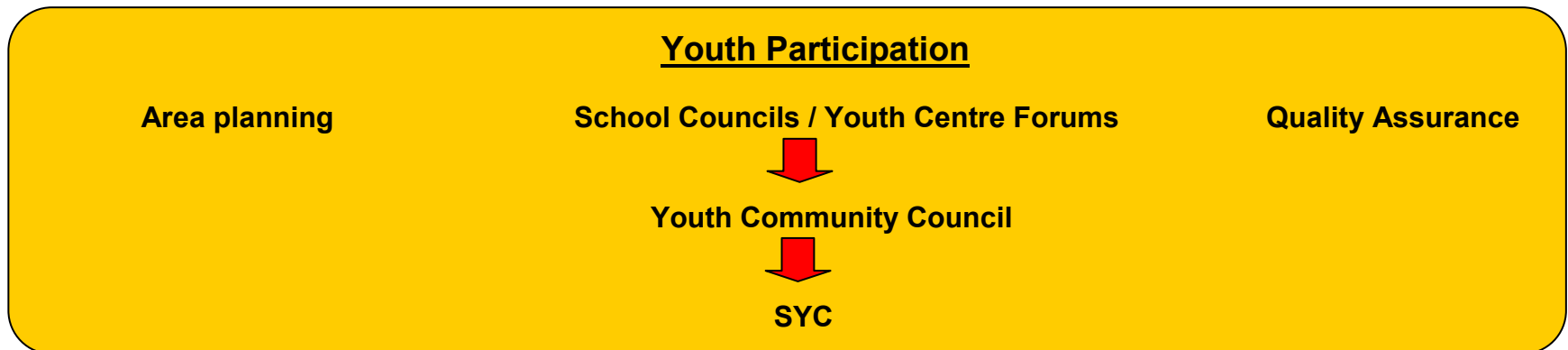
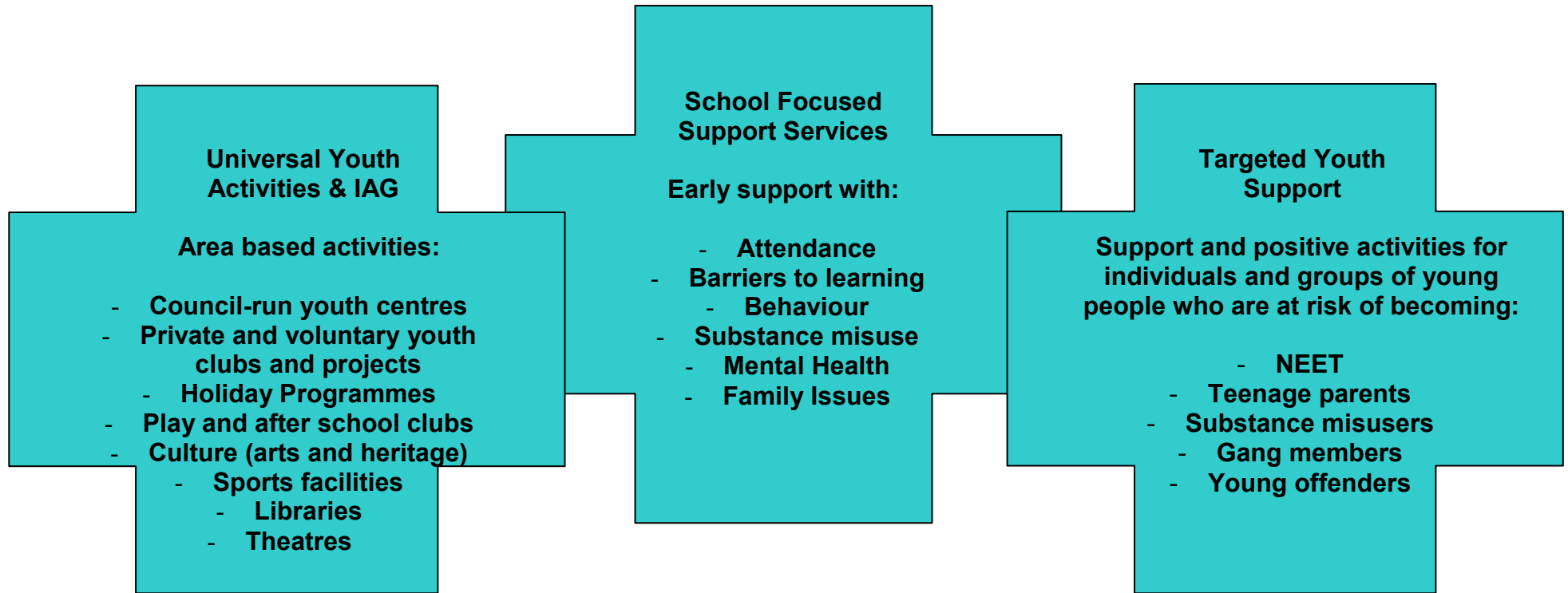
No.	Title
Appendix 1	<i>Diagram to show Southwark Integrated Youth Support Services</i>

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

Lead Officer	Jane Bailey	
Report Author	Colin Gale	
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SOUTHWARK INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES



Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 March 2010	Meeting Name: Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub- Committee
Report title:		Overview of provision of education, training and apprenticeships for 14-19 year olds	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director, 11-19 Services and Youth	

Background

- 1 At the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 19th January 2010, the Sub-Committee requested a brief overview of projects for 14-19 year olds, and the following question was raised:

How is the provision of education, training and apprenticeships for 14 - 19 year olds coordinated, and specifically is there a menu setting out the offer? Is there a specific body with responsibility for this?

- 2 This report provides information in response to this question.
- 3 The Department for Children Families and Schools is leading on a reform programme designed to fundamentally change the way in which young people learn. Central to these reforms is the concept of a curriculum entitlement for all young people. The entitlement includes access to:
 - All of the Diploma lines of learning
 - Functional skills in English, maths and ICT to at least level 2
 - The work related curriculum
 - Apprenticeships
- 4 The provision of education, training and apprenticeships for 14 to 19 year olds is coordinated by the Southwark 14-19 Partnership. The partnership is made up of the local authority, all secondary schools, academies, Southwark College and work based learning providers. It is a sub group of the Children’s Trust and progress is regularly reported to the full Trust.
- 5 The 14-19 Partnership has agreed a strategic approach to achieving the entitlement and this has been captured in the new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP). Progress towards meeting the requirements of the 14-19 reform programme is measured annually through the Government Office for London review. The recent review graded Southwark Green or Green Amber on all of the key indicators.
- 6 The CYPP will form the basis of our commissioning strategy to meet the needs of all young people aged 16-19 who are resident or learn in the borough. This will be articulated through an annual commissioning statement.

- 7 The post 16 offer available to young people can be accessed via the Choice web site. www.mychoicelondon.co.uk This is the pan London post 16 prospectus. The 14-19 Partnership is at present working with providers to ensure that the offer for September 2010 is fully up to date. This process will be complete by the end of March.
- 8 Choice also contains information on local Connexions centres, plus careers-related information and tools including a career-matching analysis, a CV builder and an individual action planner.
- 9 The full range of 14-16 provision can be accessed via the Southwark Guarantee website, www.southwarkguarantee.com
- 10 Universal information advice and guidance for young people is provided by the Connexions Service. This starts when the young people are in year nine and continues until they are 19.
- 11 All year 9 students in central London schools receive a booklet setting out the 16+ offer and options, plus the sources of support.
- 12 All year 11 students in central London schools are offered a range of 11 factsheets on topics such as apprenticeships and training opportunities, job interviews for young job seekers, student finance in FE colleges, Connexions, FE qualifications, volunteering, etc.
- 13 All year 12 students in central London schools receive a booklet setting out the 16+ offer and options, plus the sources of support.
- 14 In February 2010 the parents of all young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Central London received a personal invitation to meet a Connexions Personal Adviser to access their January Offer of a training place.
- 15 Those young people who are NEET are assigned a personal advisor. The advisor will actively contact the young person to establish a personal development programme to engage the young person with education, employment or training.
- 16 In March 2010 all parents of year 9 students will receive a personal mailing setting out the 14-19 offer and sources of help.
- 17 In addition all schools, colleges and specialist agencies, plus many community centres, have resident Connexions Personal Advisers who advise young people on their options.

AUDIT TRAIL

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Report Author	Darren Coghlan	
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**Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-committee 2009/10
Early Years Review**

Summaries from telephone interviews with local parents about Early Years arrangements

Telephone interviews were held with two Southwark mothers with Early Years aged children who, due to work commitments, were unable to meet with councillors at the proposed times. They found it easier to speak during their lunch break, responding to the questions listed below.

Interview 1.

Ms A has a professional career and works full-time in a job that typically requires 60 working hours weekly. She has a 2 year old son, whom she is raising on her own. Having moved to London from overseas, she has no network of family members on hand to help with childcare.

Ms A has opted to employ a nanny, as this arrangement suits her long work hours. She conveniently found the nanny through a 'flyer' at her workplace, before she had started to look for childcare alternatives. She therefore has not enquired about places with Southwark Early Years providers.

Ms A requires additional care for her son when the nanny is on leave however - and she is currently looking to the Council for assistance in finding appropriate provisional childcare.

Ms A has also already had contact with the Council and Council services through participating in activities for Early Years children. She is impressed by the multitude of free activities, which both she and her nanny have accessed for her son. Ms A receives updates from the Council on activities tailored to son's age group and finds this very effective. Southwark officers have also twice visited her home to ensure that it is child-proof, according to her son's age and mobility. The first visit was free of charge.

Interview 2.

Ms B found it difficult to find cost effective childcare provision that was suitably close to where she lives. She initially hoped to enrol her daughter at the Coin St nursery near Waterloo Station, but the waiting list was too long. (She later heard of a mother who had enrolled her child at Coin St when she was 3 months pregnant, in view of the list's length.)

Ms B therefore looked at 4 other nurseries in her area, none of which seemed appropriate: she found them either too expensive or the premises too unpleasant/dirty.

She also spoke with other mothers; researched for alternative providers on the internet and used networks such as the Riverside Parents' Association. She could not easily find a single source on the web of co-ordinated information about the various alternative providers and options. She did consult the Southwark council website which has a list, but didn't find this particularly useful. She suggested, for example, that it would be handy to access reviews from other parents about the childcare providers they use, and that it would be very helpful to have one website location that co-ordinated all the relevant local information.

The childcare provision that Ms B finally arranged is split between her husband, who is currently looking for work following redundancy, and a relative. She would have preferred her daughter to have been with other children and so to have attended a nursery for at least 2 or 3 days. It makes no economic sense however, for her to use a nursery, when the costs are over £50 to £55 per

day. As an alternative, Ms B arranges for her child to attend a different activity each day with other children. Some of these are organised by council services and are subsidised or paid for by Sure Start.

She would have preferred to use a nursery, but as outlined, found those in her area either unsuitable or unaffordable.

Starter questions for meetings with parents of Early Years children:

1. Have you obtained an Early Years place for your child in a setting of your choice?
2. If your child does not have a place of your choice, why is this?
 - A) There are currently no vacancies at your preferred setting(s)?
 - B) The place(s) of your choice are too far from your home?
 - C) Your preferred provider does not offer the length of hours or combination of days that you require?
 - D) The costs for childcare at your preferred setting are too expensive for you?
 - E) You are unable to find a provider who can cater for your child's special needs
 - F) Other reasons
3. To what extent did you find the steps for finding and securing your child's place straight forward?
4. How far in advance of requiring an Early Years place, did you start to look for one, - and did this give you adequate time to find a vacancy with a preferred provider?
5. To what extent was your search for an Early Years place assisted by the Council and/or by information from the Council?
6. How do you generally view the provision of Early Years education and care for your child? What aspects are you pleased with, - and what aspects would you most wish to improve:
 - A) the quality of the education / care
 - B) the costs
 - C) the standard of the premises and facilities
 - D) the proximity of the centre / nursery / childminder to your home
 - E) the availability of a place at the times and on the days you need them
 - E) the provision for children with special needs
 - F) other aspects

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 March 2010	Meeting Name: Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub- Committee
Report title:		Waiting Lists for Under 5 Places in a Range of Southwark Settings	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director, 0-5 Services and Community	

Background

- 1) At the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 19th January 2010, the Sub-Committee requested information on waiting lists for early years services.

Waiting Lists for Under 5 Places in a Range of Southwark Settings

It is common practice for settings to keep a waiting list of parents wishing to send their child to the nursery. There is no standard approach to this and each setting has its own way of keeping these. Periodically, they may share this with the local authority to enable the Family Information Service to provide information on current vacancies and to support parents in finding appropriate care.

A child may go on a waiting list for a number of reasons. These can range from the parent wanting a place for a newly born child in a few weeks or months through to parents wanting additional days for a child already in provision. Consequently, the figures provided by settings are not always easy to interpret. Below is a sample of settings in the borough indicating current size of their waiting list.

Camberwell Grove	Southwark maintained	170
1 st Place CC	Voluntary	300
Blossoms Nursery	Private	30
Skallywags	Private	100
South Bermondsey CC	Southwark maintained	35
Gumboots	Voluntary	80
The Arc	Voluntary	40
Peckham Rye Day Nursery	Private	15
St Wilfrids	Private	4
Mini Treasures	Private	4

It should be noted that whilst 1st Place Children's Centre has a very long waiting list, this does not necessarily mean that there are 300 children without a nursery place. 1st Place is a new and very desirable establishment and many parents want their children to go there and several will keep their child on the waiting list even though they are already in alternative local provision.

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment that the council is about to commission we will be asking for all settings to share their lists with us so that we can do some more detailed analysis which will take account of the different age ranges and those children who are on the waiting list of more than one establishment.

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

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Report Author	Mike Smith	
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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment February 2008

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Introduction

Southwark children's services have spent the last 6 months listening at length to over 1000 parents, and over 100 childcare providers, who have helped us to understand their differing childcare needs.

The duty to secure sufficient childcare

The Childcare Act 2006 gives local authorities a new duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by them) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work. It also gives them a related duty to secure free early learning provision for pre-school children of a prescribed age.

In preparation for this duty, a detailed assessment of the supply, and demand for, childcare in Southwark has been undertaken. This assessment is a measurement of the nature and extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area. The assessment is a necessary step towards securing sufficient provision, enabling local authorities to identify gaps and establish plans to meet the needs of parents. It will be subject to annual reviews with a new assessment undertaken on a three year basis.

The role of the local authority is to facilitate the childcare market so that provision meets the needs of parents, carers, children and young people. The authority will also support childcare providers to develop their workforce and promote their services.

What are the assessment steps?

Our approach to the assessment involved the following methods:

- A review of the current supply of childcare through analysing: official data, data held by Southwark's children's information service, the Early Years Census and Minimum Free Entitlement data and a survey of childcare providers across the borough
- A review of the current demand of childcare through: parents' household survey, major survey of Southwark pupils, interviews with parents, consultation with local employers and key stakeholders in the borough such as the Jobcentre Plus
- A review of the context of local childcare services in the borough to include an analysis of official data on socio-economic profiling underpinned by official national and local statistics.

The process of producing the assessment has been overseen by a Local Authority steering group. The Surestart Parent Participation Forum, which has previously received training in social survey methods, was involved over a number of sessions in designing the questionnaires used.

The National Centre for Social Research has provided substantial assistance in the Latent Class Analysis of parental attitudes to childcare.

Finally, thanks are due to all the parents who have given up their time to complete questionnaires, to colleagues within Southwark and in other Authorities who have provided assistance.

Summary of key findings

Parents' views

Satisfaction with childcare is generally quite high. As parents' perception of choice over their childcare increases, so does their satisfaction with the childcare.

Parents take different approaches to choosing childcare: for example, some will focus on the staff; while others will look more to Ofsted reports and the activities offered.

Cost and location of childcare are the most frequent choice-limiting factors; quality was least frequently cited. Although these reasons vary with the age of the child, the overall pattern is the same at all ages.

Use of informal childcare includes caring by family members (other than the respondent and their partner, if applicable), friends and babysitters. An issue of concern for the Local Authority is the prevalence of unregistered childminding, particularly for older children. Even among those parents who do require childcare, family members are the most popular choice.

Children with a disability or special need were more likely to be cared for by family or friends (39% compared with 22% for children with no disability), and correspondingly less likely to use formal childcare. A number of parents expressed their concerns that childcare settings would be able to care appropriately for the special needs of their child.

A significant number of parents do not want to use childcare.

A high number of parents reported that they had flexibility at work. However inflexibility of employers is seen as a big factor by many parents, when considering whether to work, much more so than a lack of childcare.

Children's views

Children and young people prefer to participate in sports and other activity clubs rather than remain in the childminder's home (both at primary and secondary age). Attendance at homework and study clubs increases as children reach the end of each school phase. Attendance at youth clubs goes from 46% going at least once a year at primary level, to 61% at secondary level.

Provider views

Overall childminders tend to agree that there is sufficient childcare in their area: 76% agree 'there is a good mix'; 59% agree 'there is sufficient childcare locally'; and only 27% agree that 'there is too much childcare locally'. Amongst other childcare providers (day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) only half agree that there is enough childcare and that parents have a reasonable range of options, half of settings sometimes find it difficult to fill vacancies, and only one-quarter agree that 'most parents can afford childcare'.

78% of childminders agree or strongly agree that their business is sustainable. All other childcare providers are even more positive, with 38% planning to increase the number of places they offer, by an average of 21 places each. None expect to reduce in size or close completely.

The main demand is for additional care and activities that operate every school holiday for children aged five to 14 years.

London Borough of Southwark

Located on the south side of the Thames, immediately opposite the cities of London and Westminster, Southwark has undergone massive change in recent years to become one of the most vibrant, exciting and culturally diverse areas of London. Although Southwark is described as an “inner city” borough it covers areas of very diverse housing type, which have driven the changing demographic profile. The borough includes areas of “leafy suburbia” as well as fashionable riverside flats and converted Victorian terraces. In general there is a mix of increasingly expensive private sector housing mingled with large estates of social rented accommodation, often home to disadvantaged households.

Many parts of the borough have been transformed over the last few years. The scale of change has been felt in many places such as Peckham and north Southwark, the latter being repositioned as a vibrant part of central London, opening up new opportunities for residents and businesses. However the problems of poverty and low income remain very real for many people all over the borough. Southwark is the 12th most deprived borough in England and Wales (rank of average score, Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004).

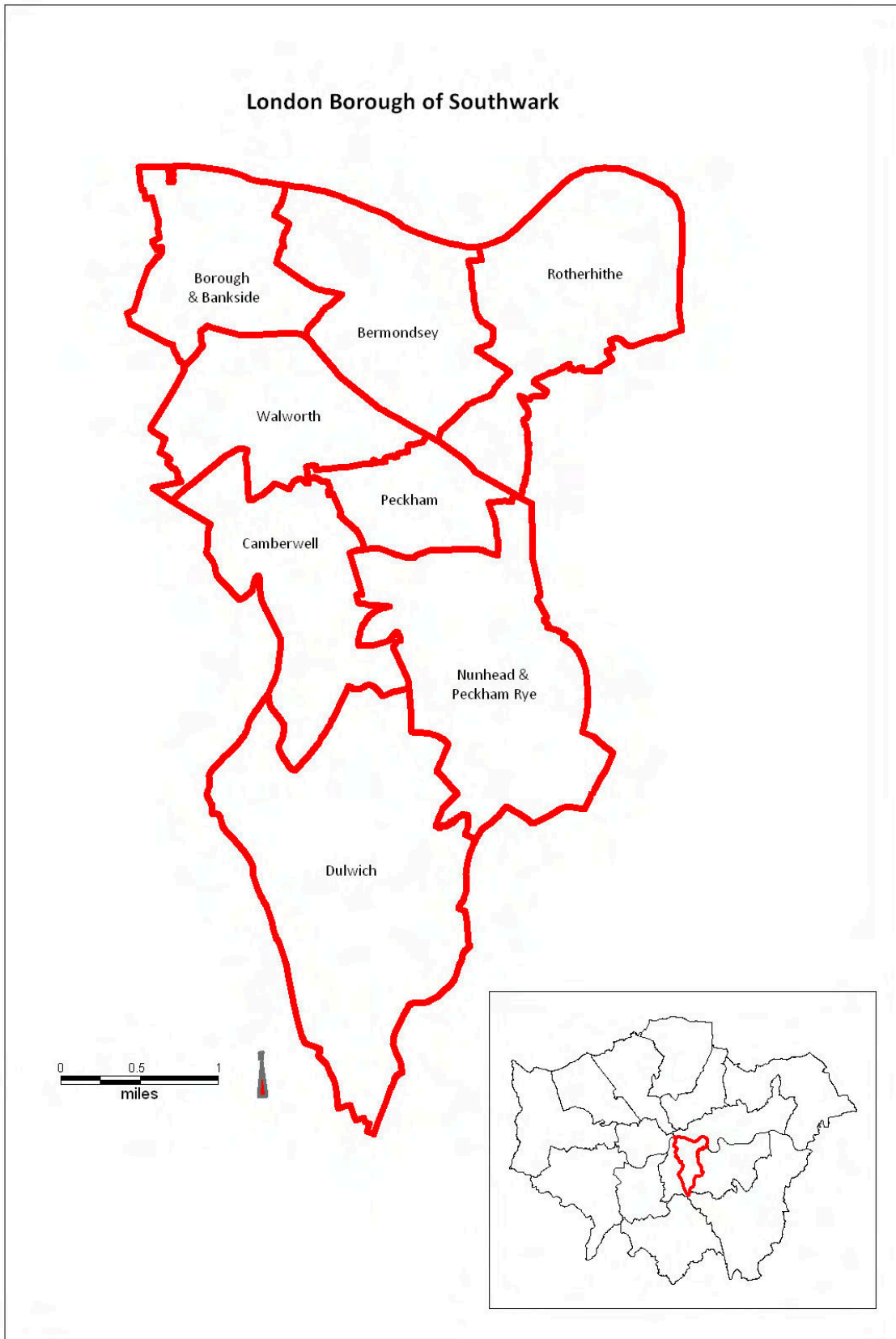
Southwark had an estimated population of 253,800 (Office of National Statistics 2003 mid-year estimate). The population is expected to rise to 285,000 by 2011. Southwark’s population on average is relatively young (five years younger than England as a whole), with one in five of the total population being below the age of 15 years. Over the past decade there has been an increase in 30 to 44 year olds and a decrease in those aged 65 to 84 years (Office of National Statistics, 2003).

Some communities in Southwark still suffer from high levels of deprivation characterised by high levels of unemployment, benefit dependency, ill health and crime. 15 of Southwark’s wards, 60 per cent in total, are in the 10 per cent most deprived wards nationally. Unemployment is above the London average, and five times that for Black and Minority Ethnic communities. 26,525 people in Southwark claim income support (Office for National Statistics 2003). For those in work, incomes are lower than the national average. The take-up of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit in Southwark has increased by 3% from 24% to 27%. The England average has risen 2% from 14% to 16%. Southwark has the highest take-up in the country. See Appendix 1 for maps showing the number of families claiming child benefit (map 5), relative child population at different ages (map 6), job seekers (map 7) and families out of work (map 8) in Southwark.

More than 40 per cent of the borough is covered by a current or planned regeneration area. Over the next ten years between £2-3 bn will be invested in regeneration in the borough, including the Elephant and Castle, Canada Water and Bermondsey Spa.

There are many complex challenges facing Southwark, but our diversity presents exciting opportunities for the future. Through continuing commitment to partnership working and innovative partnership activity we are successfully moving towards our vision of **making Southwark a better place to live, to learn, to work and to have fun.**

The Community Council areas of Southwark



Map 1 – Southwark Community Councils

Overview of current supply

Childcare

As of December 2007, Southwark has 759 childcare settings offering 9145 places. There has been a 2.6% annual increase in number of places over the last couple of years, while in England as a whole there has been little change.

Below shows a breakdown of the types of provision available. Please note that the number of places does not equal number of children cared-for, two part-time children may use on place.

	<i>Number of settings</i>	<i>Number of places</i>	<i>Number of settings with vacancies</i>	<i>% of settings with vacancies</i>	<i>Total number of vacancies</i>
Breakfast club	34	1101	11	32%	108
Out of school care	88	3013	16	18%	128
Childminder	438	1579	358	82%	611
Day Nursery	85	3223	76	89%	424
Crèche	11	181	n/a	n/a	n/a
Holiday Scheme ¹	73	3486	n/a	n/a	n/a
Supplementary school	8	229	2	25%	4
Total	759	9145	463	63%	1275

Table 1. Number of childcare settings and vacancies in Southwark Source: Children's information service December 2007

¹ Settings and places as of summer 2007.

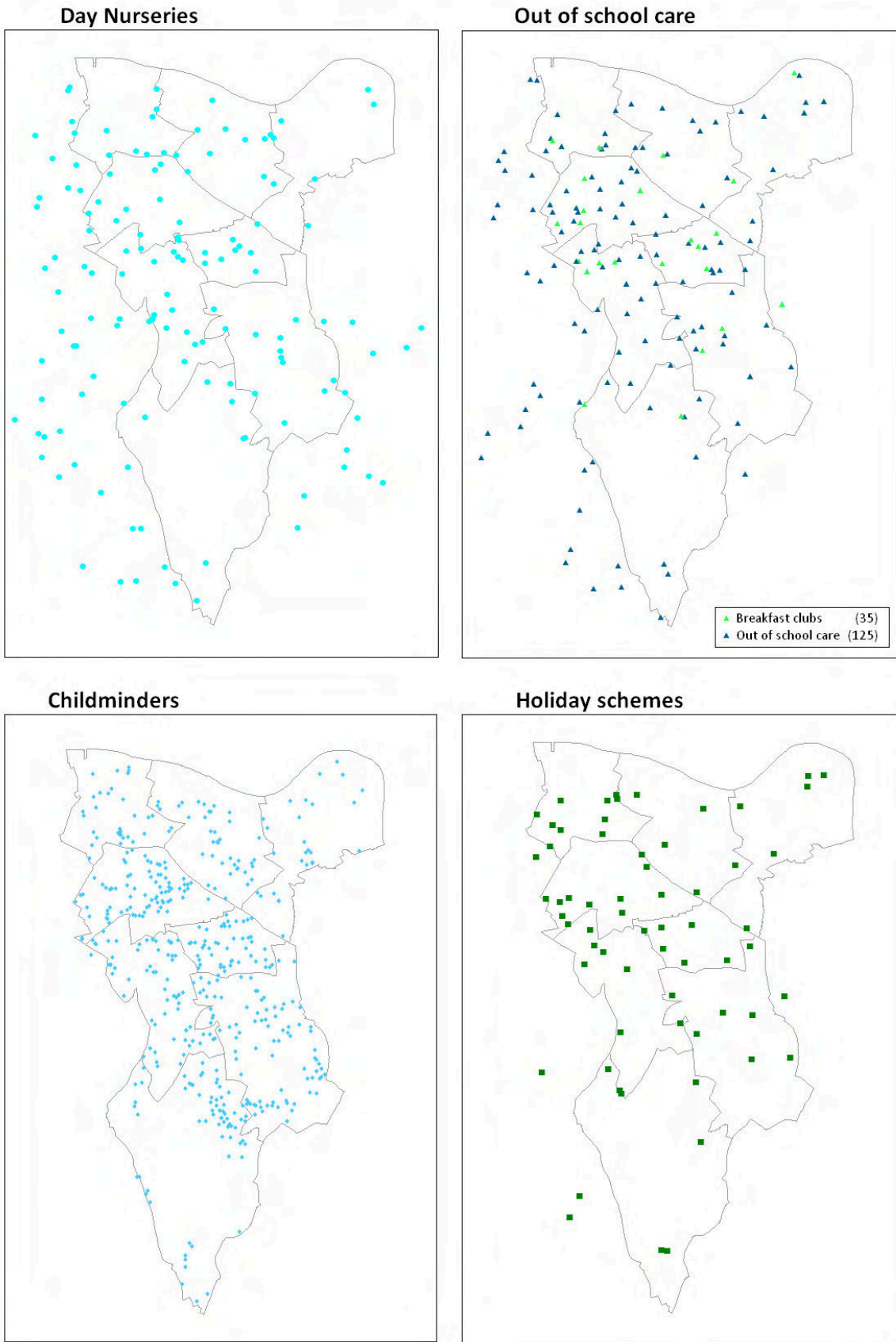
Minimum Free Entitlement

Minimum Free Entitlement is the 12.5 hours/week free early years education to which all three and four year olds are entitled. Details of the children claiming it at private, voluntary and independent (PVI) settings and in maintained schools are gathered termly. Overall, 87% of children receive MFE; 67% in schools, and 20% in PVI settings.

These overall rates, and the balance between schools and nurseries vary quite considerably around Southwark: there are much higher take-up rates in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Nunhead & Peckham Rye; and in Dulwich almost as many children attend PVI settings as do maintained schools.

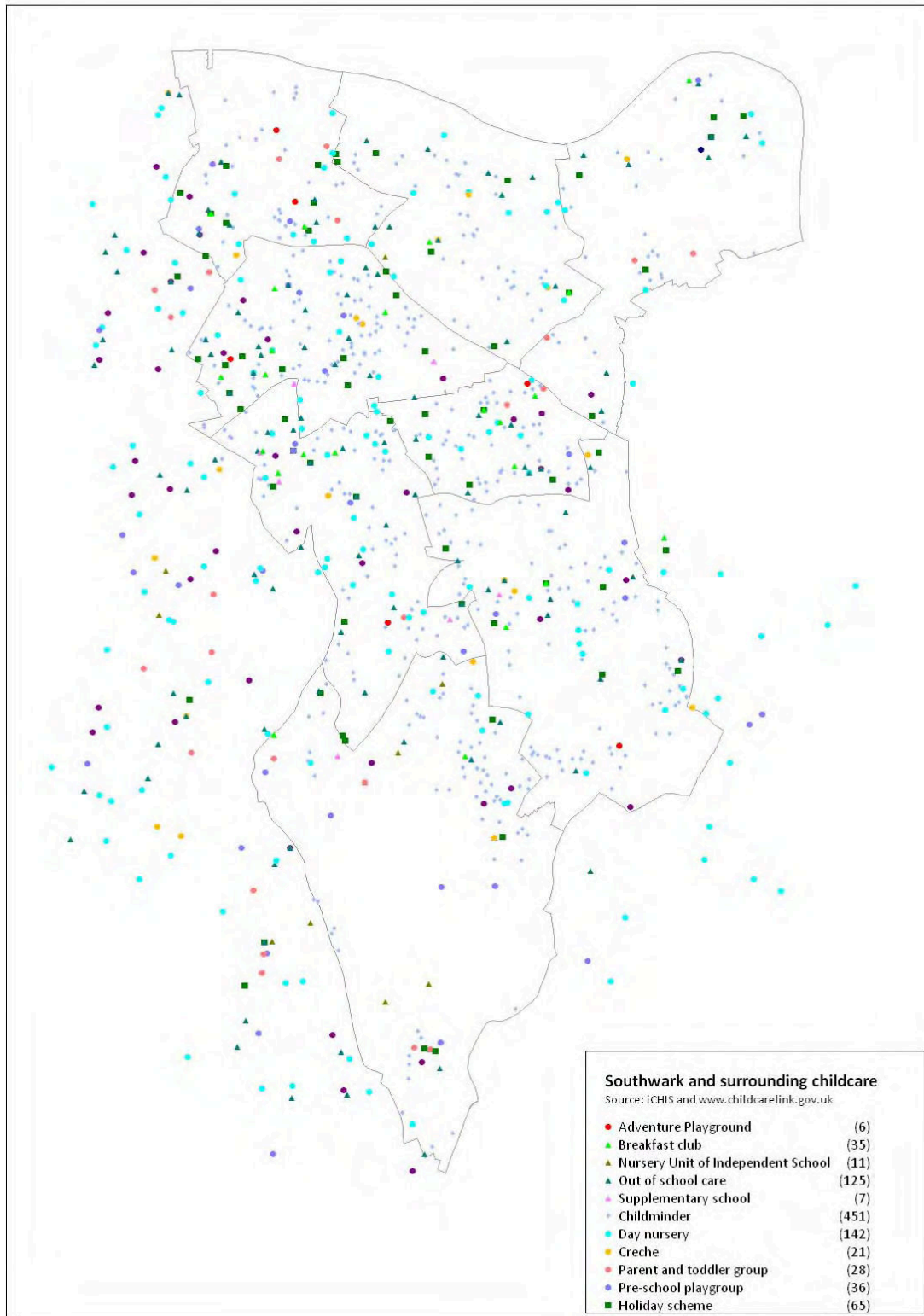
<i>MFE receipt</i>	<i>Autumn 2007</i>								
Pupil home address Community Council	MFE in schools	% in schools	MFE in PVI settings	% in PVI settings	Total receiving MFE	Population (SNAP)	% in schools	% in PVI	Total % in provision
Bermondsey	606	86%	99	14%	705	731	83%	14%	96%
Borough & Bankside	338	80%	85	20%	423	512	66%	17%	83%
Camberwell	678	79%	177	21%	855	976	69%	18%	88%
Dulwich	374	52%	352	48%	726	881	42%	40%	82%
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	647	75%	212	25%	859	980	66%	22%	88%
Peckham	515	85%	91	15%	606	755	68%	12%	80%
Rotherhithe	480	87%	70	13%	550	549	87%	13%	100%
Walworth	654	78%	187	22%	841	1048	62%	18%	80%
Total	4292	77%	1273	23%	5565	6432	67%	20%	87%

Table 2. Minimum Free Entitlement take-up. Source: Southwark Early Years MFE collection Autumn



Map 2 – Childcare settings in and around Southwark

Current childcare supply in and around Southwark



Map 3 – Childcare in and around Southwark combined. Source: iCHIS and www.childcarelink.gov.uk Dec 2007.

Vacancies

Vacancies are indicated by the darker areas in map 4; highest numbers of vacancies are in Walworth and West Peckham. Holiday schemes and crèches have been excluded.



Map 4 – Number of vacancies in different areas of Southwark

Table 1 (page 7) shows current vacancies by type of setting; most day nurseries, childminders, and pre-schools have some.

Quality of childcare

The national measure of quality of childcare available is through Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection judgements. Chart 1 shows that, for most types of childcare, the quality of provision is lower in Southwark than in England. It should be noted however that the differences are not statistically significant, due to the relatively small number of inspections carried out in Southwark.

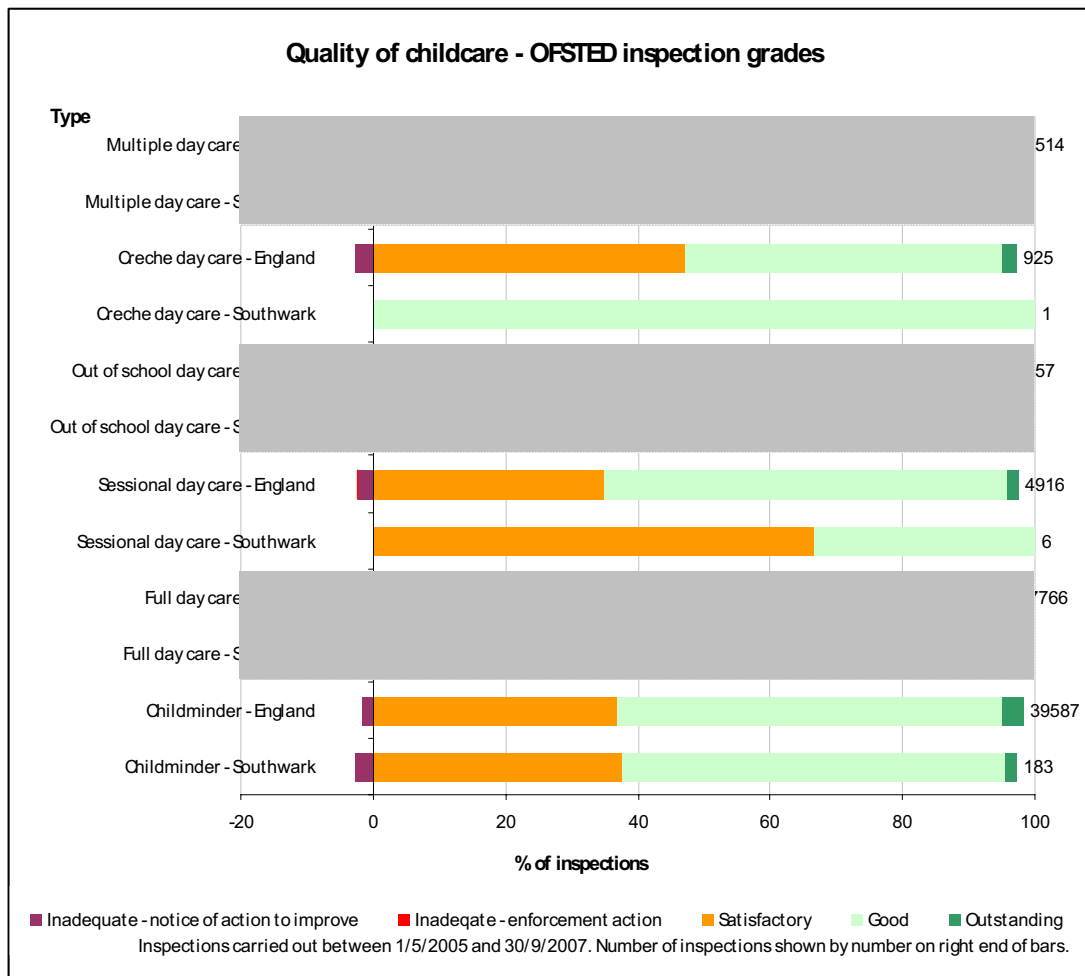


Chart 1. Quality of childcare, Southwark compared to England. Source: Ofsted

Provider opinions

Overall childminders tend to agree that there is sufficient childcare in their area: 76% agree 'there is a good mix'; 59% agree 'there is sufficient childcare locally'; and only 27% agree that 'there is too much childcare locally'. Amongst other childcare providers (day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) only half agree that there is enough childcare and that parents have a reasonable range of options, half of settings sometimes find it difficult to fill vacancies, and only one-quarter agree that 'most parents can afford childcare'.

78% of childminders agree or strongly agree that their business is sustainable. All other childcare providers are even more positive, with 38% planning to increase the number of places they offer, by an average of 21 places each. None expect to reduce in size or close completely.

Current childcare use

Childcare use varies, with the age of child, from table 3 it is clear that use of:

- families is highest for children aged 0 to four years
- childminders decreases when children reach five years
- after school clubs and other school-based provision increases when the child reaches five years but decreases when they reach 11 years
- use of family and friends is the highest for children aged over 11 years

Childcare used in past month (multiple selections permitted)	Age band of child using childcare		
	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 10	Age 11 to 14
family	42.6%	56.7%	36.7%
friends	18.0%	32.0%	23.3%
babysitter	9.8%	7.2%	0.0%
childminder	27.0%	9.3%	10.0%
nursery	44.3%	6.2%	6.7%
playgroup	9.0%	6.2%	3.3%
after school club	7.4%	39.2%	16.7%
youth club	0.0%	4.1%	6.7%
crèche	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
nanny/au pair	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%
breakfast club	7.4%	18.6%	6.7%
holiday schemes	0.8%	12.4%	6.7%
other school-based acts	3.3%	13.4%	20.0%
other type childcare	2.5%	1.0%	0.0%
not used any childcare	7.4%	4.1%	13.3%

Table 3. Childcare use by age of child. Source: SHPS 2007

There is also substantial variation around Southwark: below shows the proportion of households using childcare in different areas. See Appendix 1 for childcare use by Community Council (chart 17).

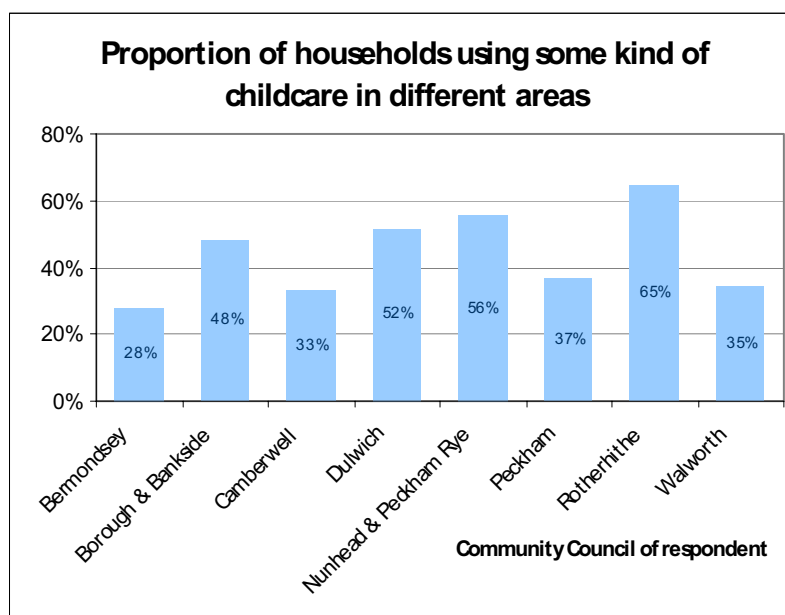


Chart 2. Proportion of childcare by Community Council. Source SHPS 2007

There is no clear pattern of different use of childcare by different ethnic groups. Although Black British, mixed background and Asian families were more likely than average to use formal childcare only, these differences were not found to be statistically significant. Black British and Asian families were less likely to claim the Minimum Free Entitlement in 2007. There were no significant differences in use of childcare by gender or first language.

Informal care

Use of informal childcare includes caring by family members (other than the respondent and their partner, if applicable), friends and babysitters. An issue of concern for the Local Authority is the prevalence of unregistered childminding: tables 4, 5 and 6 suggest that this is more likely to be an issue for slightly older children, and in Peckham and Nunhead & Peckham Rye. The proportion of parents who don't know if their childcare is registered, or don't know what registered means, is quite high at 14% overall. Note the absolute numbers at this stage are relatively low.

Are family, friends, babysitters paid for caring?	Age band of child using childcare (% of people using family, friends or babysitters)			Total
	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 10	Age 11 to 14	
Yes	41%	20%	29%	30%
No	59%	80%	71%	70%

Table 4. Is informal care paid for? by age of child. Source: SHPS 2007

Are family, friends, babysitters paid for caring?	Yes
Bermondsey	12%
Borough & Bankside	26%
Camberwell	20%
Dulwich	15%
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	54%
Peckham	43%
Rotherhithe	29%
Walworth	28%
Total	28%

Table 5. Is informal care paid for? by area. Source: SHPS 2007

Is childcare provided by family and friends paid for and registered?	Age band of child using childcare			Total
	Age 0 to 4 %	Age 5 to 10 %	Age 11 to 14 %	
Yes	62%	15%	20%	43%
No	27%	62%	80%	43%
Don't know	12%	8%	0%	9%
Don't know what registered means	0%	15%	0%	5%
Total (count)	26	13	5	44

Table 6. Is informal paid-for care registered? Source: SHPS 2007

Satisfaction with childcare

In general, levels of satisfaction with various aspects of childcare are quite high, as table 7 shows. Satisfaction levels tend to drop slightly as children get older, with the exception of location.

<i>Satisfaction with childcare</i>	<i>Age band of child using childcare</i>			
	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 10	Age 11 to 14	Total
<i>Is childcare available at right times?</i>				
Yes	88%	80%	81%	84%
No	13%	20%	19%	16%
<i>Satisfaction with quality of childcare</i>				
Very satisfied	66%	54%	62%	60%
Fairly satisfied	30%	35%	31%	32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3%	4%	0%	3%
Fairly dissatisfied	0%	4%	8%	3%
Very dissatisfied	1%	2%	0%	1%
<i>Satisfaction with location of childcare</i>				
Very satisfied	60%	62%	69%	62%
Fairly satisfied	35%	28%	23%	31%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2%	4%	4%	3%
Fairly dissatisfied	3%	3%	4%	3%
Very dissatisfied	1%	2%	0%	1%
<i>Are you satisfied with cost of childcare?</i>				
Yes	53%	56%	42%	53%
No	25%	11%	23%	19%
Not applicable	22%	33%	35%	28%

Table 7. Satisfaction with childcare by age of child. Source: SHPS 2007

Satisfaction levels also vary in different areas of Southwark: worries about quality are higher in Borough & Bankside; and about location and cost in Peckham (see charts 3 to 6).

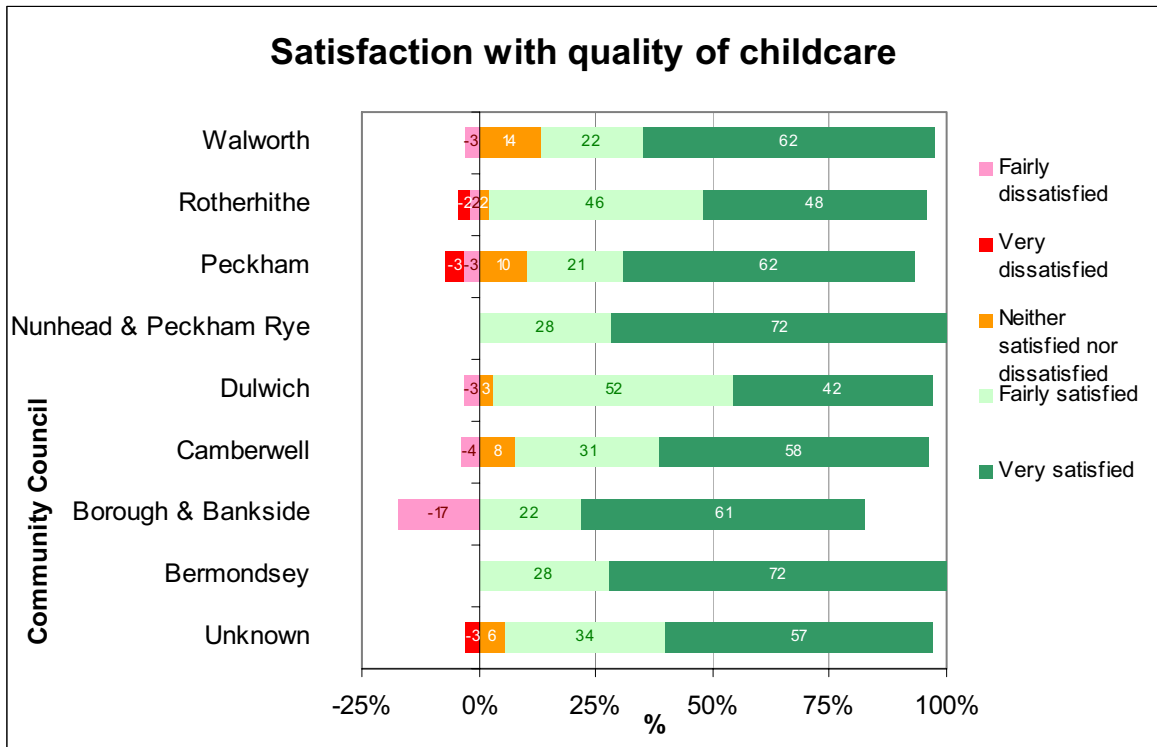


Chart 3. Satisfaction with quality by area. Source: SHPS 2007

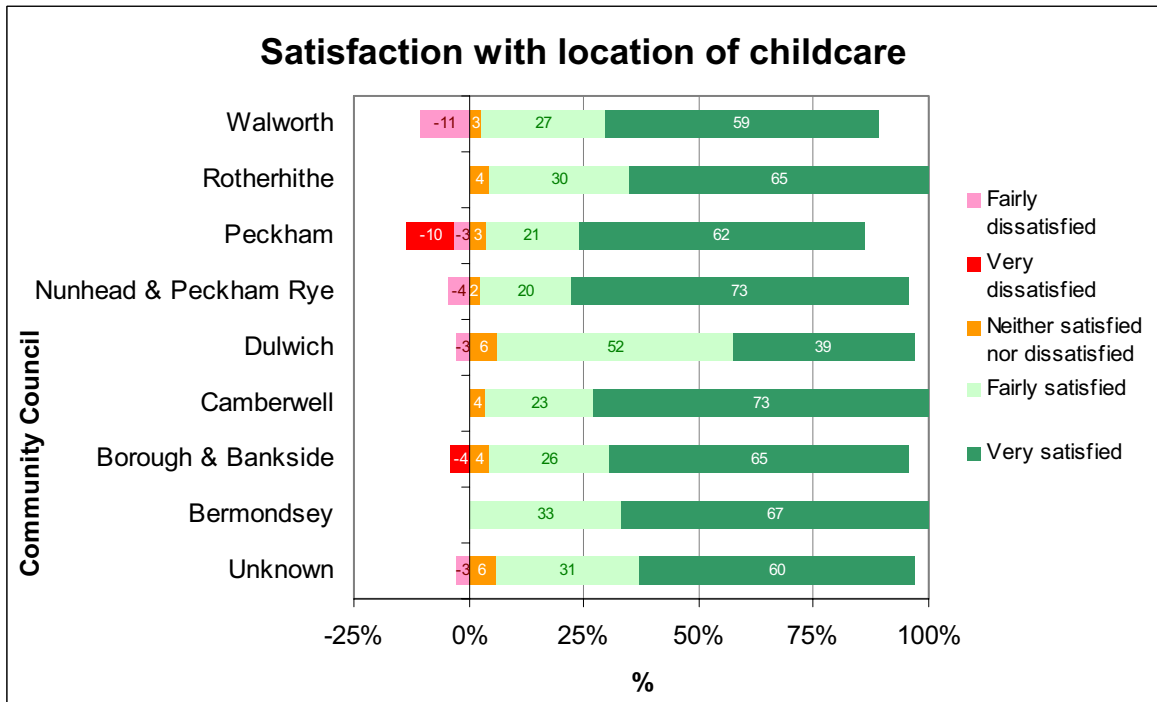


Chart 4. Satisfaction with location by area. Source: SHPS 2007

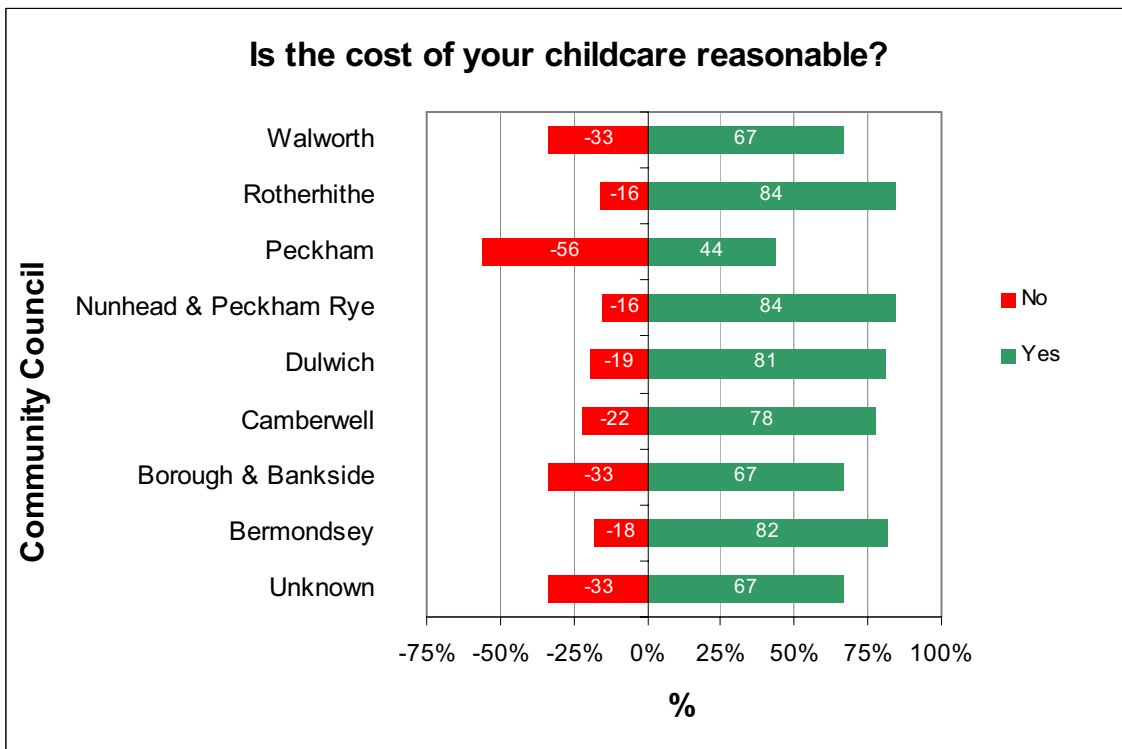


Chart 5. Satisfaction with cost of childcare. Source: SHPS 2007

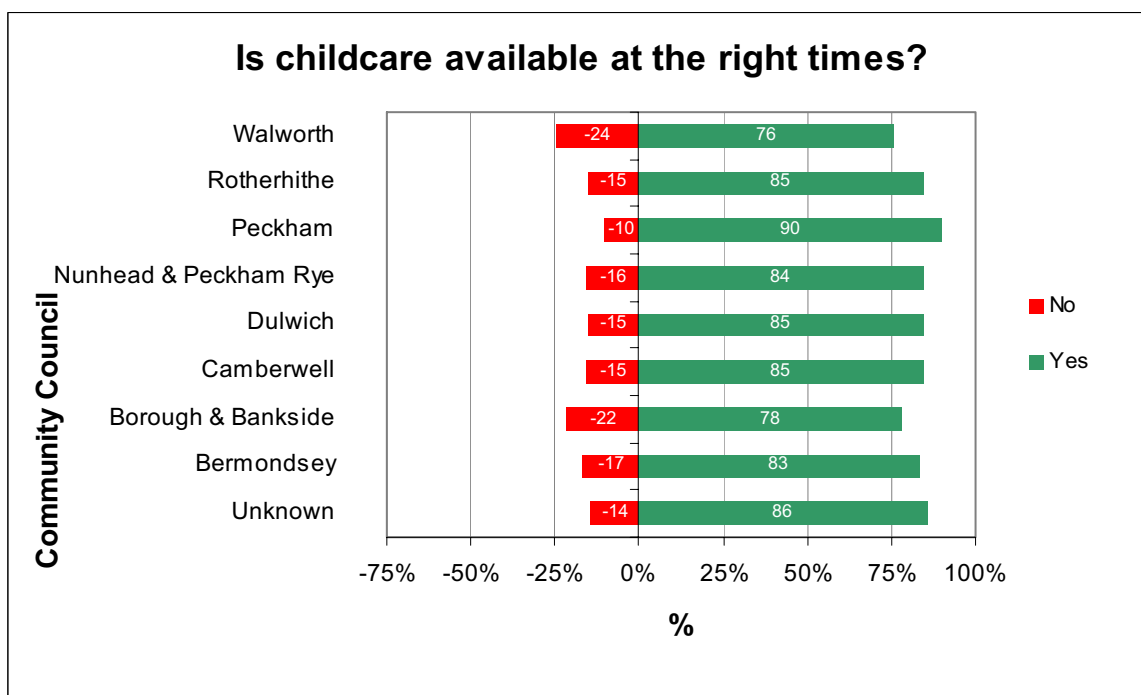


Chart 6. Satisfaction with times childcare is available. Source: SHPS 2007

As parents' perception of choice over their childcare increases, so does their satisfaction with the childcare.

Parent's comments

"Where my child is now is good so I do not mind paying".

"I have had positive experiences with childcare in Southwark. With my first child I used a minder and we had a good relationship. I am happy with the afterschool my second child attends".

"Childcare in Southwark has been a good experience for me and my child, I have had to change three times, to different private nurseries, due to changes in area of work and all the three offered excellent staff and services. My child's current minder after school is one in a million and the journey so far with childcare in Southwark is very good".

"I found the services, as a dad, very helpful".

"You have a very good service that you provide for parents whom are seeking work. One of the main concerns that I have is childcare for my son, especially because of his disability. I am grateful for the support and advice available to me with regards to services".

"When having a child with special needs and wanting childcare, it takes my daughter at least two months to get used to anyone looking after her. This is hard for parents with special needs children".

Choice about childcare

Overall, 40% of parents felt that they had a lot of choice about the childcare they use, and parents of younger children felt they had more choice than those of older children.

Did you feel you had much choice about childcare you used? (column percentages)	Age of child using childcare			Total
	0 to 4 %	5 to 10 %	11 to 4 %	
Yes a lot	44%	38%	27%	40%
Not very much	37%	35%	46%	37%
No	20%	26%	27%	23%
Why did you feel that you didn't have any or much choice? (multiple selections permitted)				
All the others were too expensive	38%	48%	58%	45%
It was the only place in a convenient location	43%	43%	42%	42%
I found it hard to find somewhere that would accept my child	21%	27%	21%	23%
other	24%	21%	21%	22%
It was the only place I knew about	19%	16%	16%	18%
It was the only place that was of good enough quality	11%	18%	11%	14%
It was the only place with space	21%	7%	0%	12%

Table 8. Choice about childcare and age of child. Source: SHPS 2007

Parent's comments

"During holiday the choice is limited and pricey.....also, the places of playschemes change each holiday. If you want to be part of the community there is nothing prepared to cater for parents at evening who want to participate to meetings (council)".

"School based club would and should open during half term. Registration process is long winded, could be simplified via email and even postal application".

"I believe that many parents with secondary aged children would welcome more diverse providers. Many parents have good relationships with schools and trust in their provision, we also have trusting relationships with Church organisations".

"Afterschool care doesn't exist in all schools – but is still required whatever the area".

"I think my family will benefit from more choice of childcare and activities during half terms and other odd days such as inset days and so on. I find whenever my child has the odd day or week off, if I cannot get family to look after her, I'm forced to take annual leave. I try to take a couple of weeks off in the 6 week holiday so this means that the majority of my leave has to be taken when my child has to be off of school".

"Facilities like breakfast and other afterschool clubs would help most parents in Southwark".

Cost and location of childcare are the most frequent choice-limiting factors; quality was less frequently cited. Although these reasons vary with the age of the child, the overall pattern is the same at all ages.

There is also very substantial variation in perceptions of choice in different areas (table 9): parents in Rotherhithe, Borough & Bankside and Bermondsey were all more likely to say that they had little or no choice, while 83% of parents in Camberwell said they had a lot of choice. Table 10 shows that the reasons for the lack of choice vary: for example cost was a big factor in Rotherhithe; but knowledge about childcare places was more of a factor in Bermondsey.

<i>Did you feel you had much choice about the childcare you used? (row percentages)</i>	<i>Yes, a lot</i>	<i>Not very much</i>	<i>No</i>
Bermondsey	23%	50%	28%
Borough & Bankside	17%	58%	25%
Camberwell	83%	17%	0%
Dulwich	48%	10%	41%
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	55%	36%	10%
Peckham	40%	15%	45%
Rotherhithe	16%	54%	30%
Walworth	42%	33%	25%

Table 9. Choice about childcare by Community Council area. Source: SHPS 2007

<i>Why did you feel that you didn't have any or much choice? (% of all respondents in each Community Council. Multiple selections permitted.)</i>	<i>others too expensive</i>	<i>only place good quality</i>	<i>only place in location</i>	<i>only place I knew about</i>	<i>nowhere accepted my child</i>	<i>other</i>
Bermondsey	11%	5%	11%	15%	10%	14%
Borough & Bankside	17%	2%	12%	3%	17%	7%
Camberwell	5%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Dulwich	5%	1%	8%	1%	1%	4%
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	5%	1%	12%	4%	2%	1%
Peckham	9%	4%	16%	4%	2%	4%
Rotherhithe	21%	6%	12%	5%	12%	11%
Walworth	17%	3%	8%	0%	4%	0%

Table 10. Reasons for lack of choice by Community Council area. Source: SHPS 2007

Parent's comments

“It was difficult to get a nursery place – we have been lucky to get a place at 6 months. Even then the days aren’t those I needed but have had to fit in around what the nursery offered”.

“Lack of nursery places for under two’s”.

“There is not enough good childcare and transport for teenage children, and I will not leave a 12 year old alone at home without an adult to care for, and stimulate the child in learning activities and leisure past-times”.

Reasons not to use childcare

Many parents do not want or need to use childcare; of parents who have not used and do not expect to use childcare, 80% say they don’t want or don’t need to. Extending this to all parents, 46.5% say they do not want or need to use childcare.

Cost is a larger issue in Borough & Bankside, Peckham, and Rotherhithe. Capacity locally is a larger issue in Rotherhithe particularly, and far fewer parents there say they don’t want or need to use childcare. Parents of a child with a disability or special need were more likely to say that they didn’t want to use childcare, or couldn’t find childcare that would accept their child. A number of parents expressed their concerns that childcare settings would be able to care appropriately for the special needs of their child.

<i>What is your attitude towards childcare? (Multiple selections permitted)</i>	<i>Age band of child using childcare</i>			<i>Total</i>
	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 10	Age 11 to 14	All ages
Don't want to use childcare	33.8%	19.9%	19.7%	25%
Don't need to use childcare	49.7%	67.3%	67.6%	60%
No childcare available	1.3%	0.6%	2.8%	1%
Too expensive	32.5%	23.7%	14.1%	25%
Not high enough quality	3.3%	5.1%	4.2%	4%
Location	3.3%	2.6%	4.2%	3%
Don't know what's available	6.0%	5.8%	7.0%	6%
Hard to find somewhere that would accept child	8.6%	5.8%	7.0%	7%
Other	5.3%	5.1%	9.9%	6%

Table 11. Attitudes to childcare. Source SHPS 2007

Parent’s comments

“I hope to be self-employed in a few months so that I won’t miss my child going to, and coming from, school”.

“I would appreciate it if the Government would be more lenient with lone parents. We want to be there for our children at all times”.

“I think that mothers should be paid more to look after their children, instead of letting someone else do it for you”.

Work and Childcare

Most parents attending Jobcentre Plus are currently looking after their home and family, but around 20% are currently working or waiting to start a job. Parents of younger children are more likely to be working, parents of older children are more likely to be looking for work. Two-thirds of parents would like to get a job, and 40% would like to start some training or education.

The vast majority (83% overall; 93% for children aged 0 to four years) of parents planning to start work, who are not currently, would need childcare. Three-quarters would like to work for less than 25 hours per week and half of parents would consider working some unsociable hours.

Between around 40% and 50% of parents completing the Jobcentre Plus survey would be prepared to work non-standard hours.

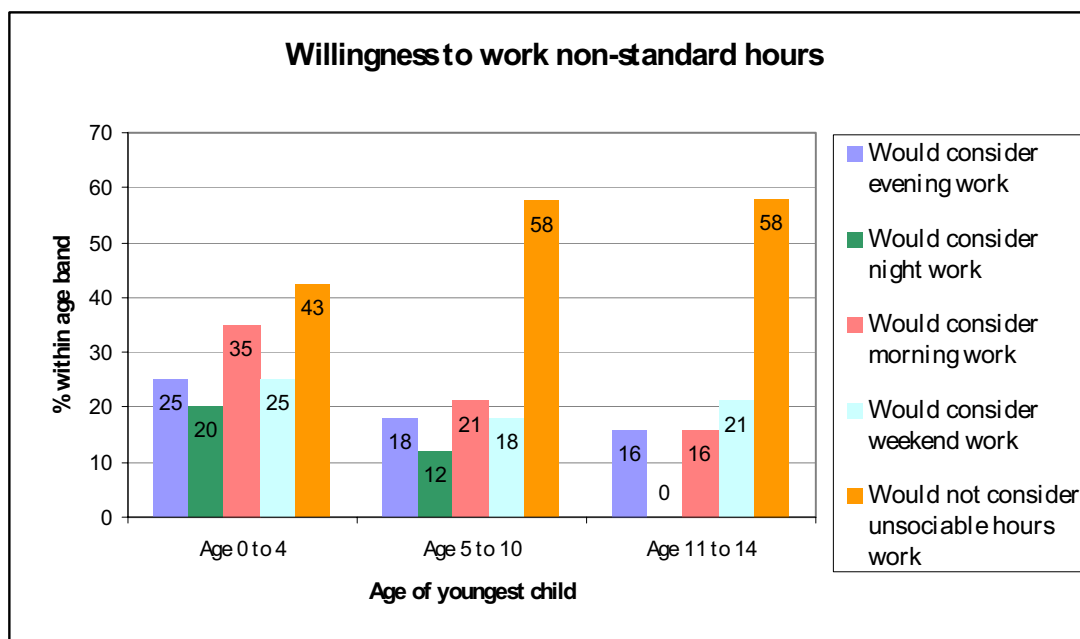


Chart 7. Willingness to work non-standard hours. Source JCP survey 2007

In terms of both non-standard hours and number of hours worked per week, parents of younger children looking for work at Jobcentre Plus seem prepared to work more than parents of older children.

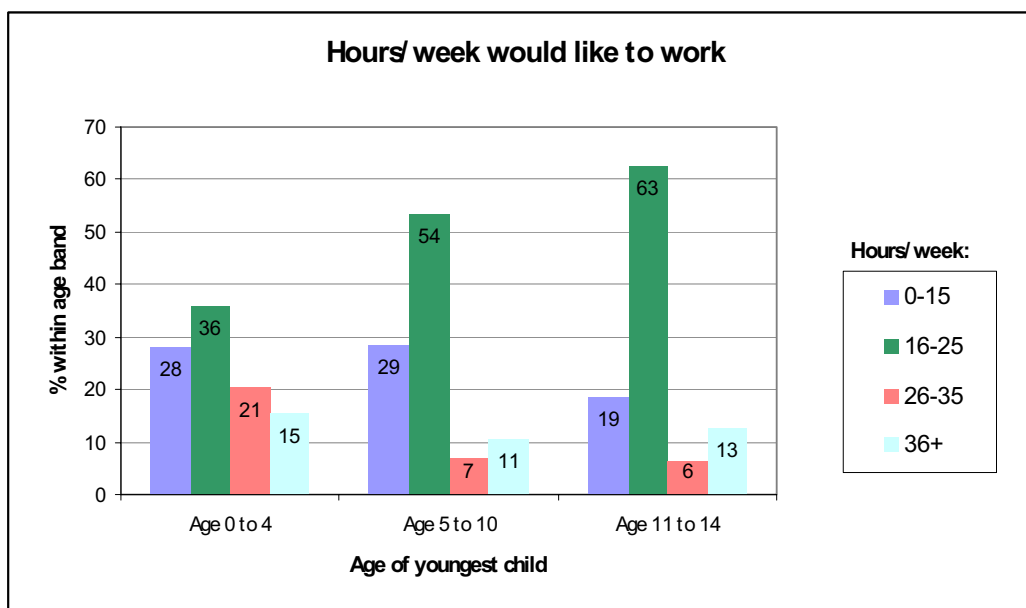


Chart 8. Hours per week would like to work. Source JCP survey 2007

A small number of the parents in the household interview had stopped working, or found it difficult to start, because their employer would not offer sufficient flexibility to balance parenthood and work.

Non-working parents in the household survey were asked to identify factors influencing their decisions about work. The results are summarised in chart 9 below: flexibility at work is a big factor for 66% of parents. Lack of childcare was a big factor for 35%.

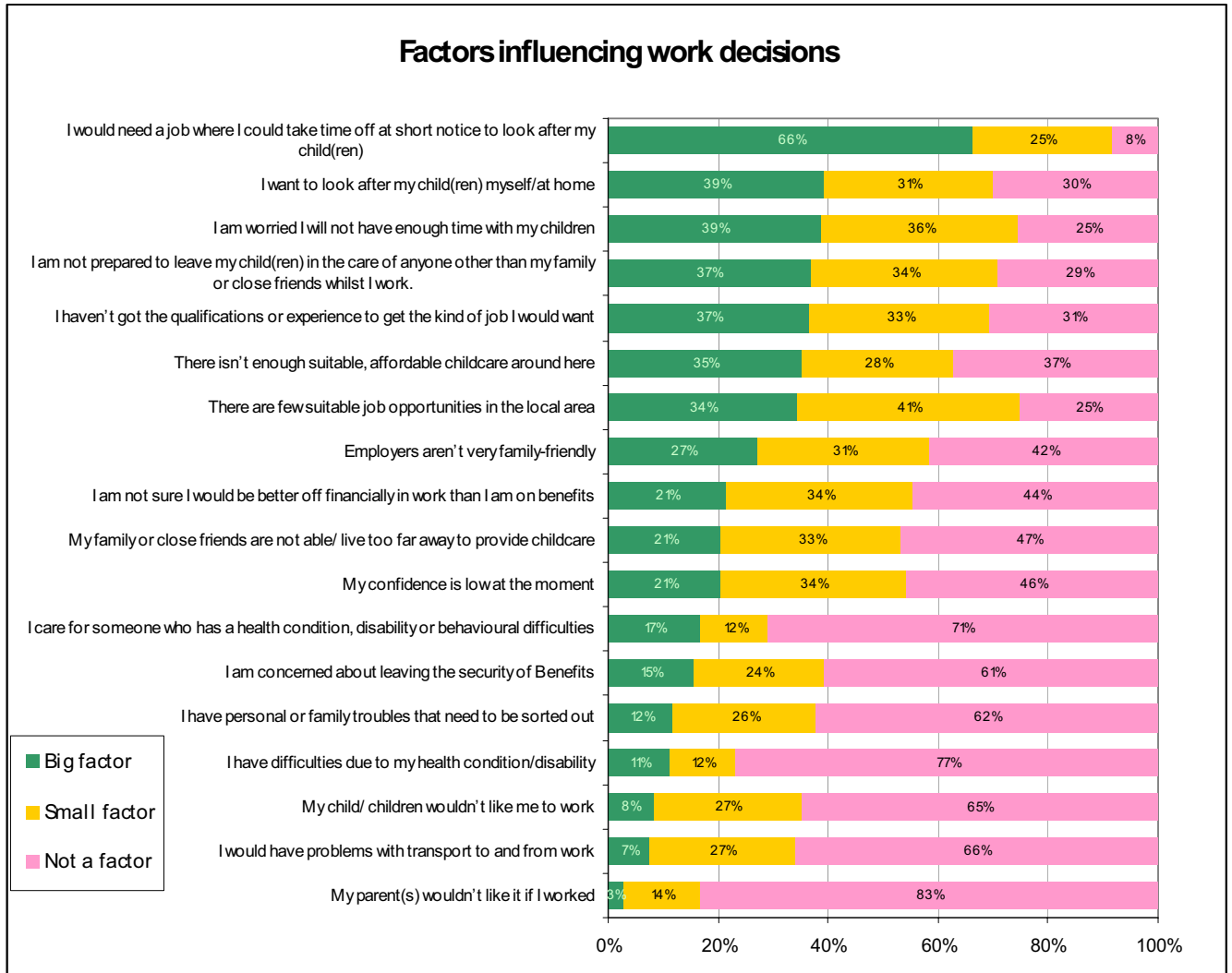


Chart 9. Factors influencing work decisions. Source SHPS 2007

Parent's comments

"I am a single parent with a child aged 15. Although he is a sickle cell sufferer, he can dress and go to school by himself. At the moment I do a part time job in the morning, so I have no problems to work".

"You cannot do a job interview while the children are at playgroup for just 2 hours".

"I would love affordable children nursery that would take my child for a few hours to enable me to look for a job".

Minimum Free Entitlement (MFE)

It is clear from the detailed analysis that there is some confusion in parents' minds about the free entitlement.

Overall, 55% of parents with a child aged three or four years said that they receive free early years education – considerably fewer than are actually funded in Southwark. However, of these, one-fifth do not use any eligible types of childcare; a further 13% use childminders only; Southwark does not fund any childminders to provide MFE. The number of parents saying that they didn't know if they received it, or didn't know what it is, was very low.

Half of childminders know about MFE; only 40% know that childminders could claim it, and only 18% are sure that the children they care for receive MFE elsewhere. Almost two-thirds said that they would be interested in claiming.

Children's views

Children and young people prefer to participate in sports and other activity clubs rather than remain in the childminder's home (both at primary and secondary age). Attendance at homework and study clubs increases as children reach the end of each school phase. Attendance at youth clubs goes from 46% going at least once a year at primary level, to 61% at secondary level.

However there are still substantial proportions of children who might use some of these services, but are currently put off because they can't be bothered or don't like the activities.

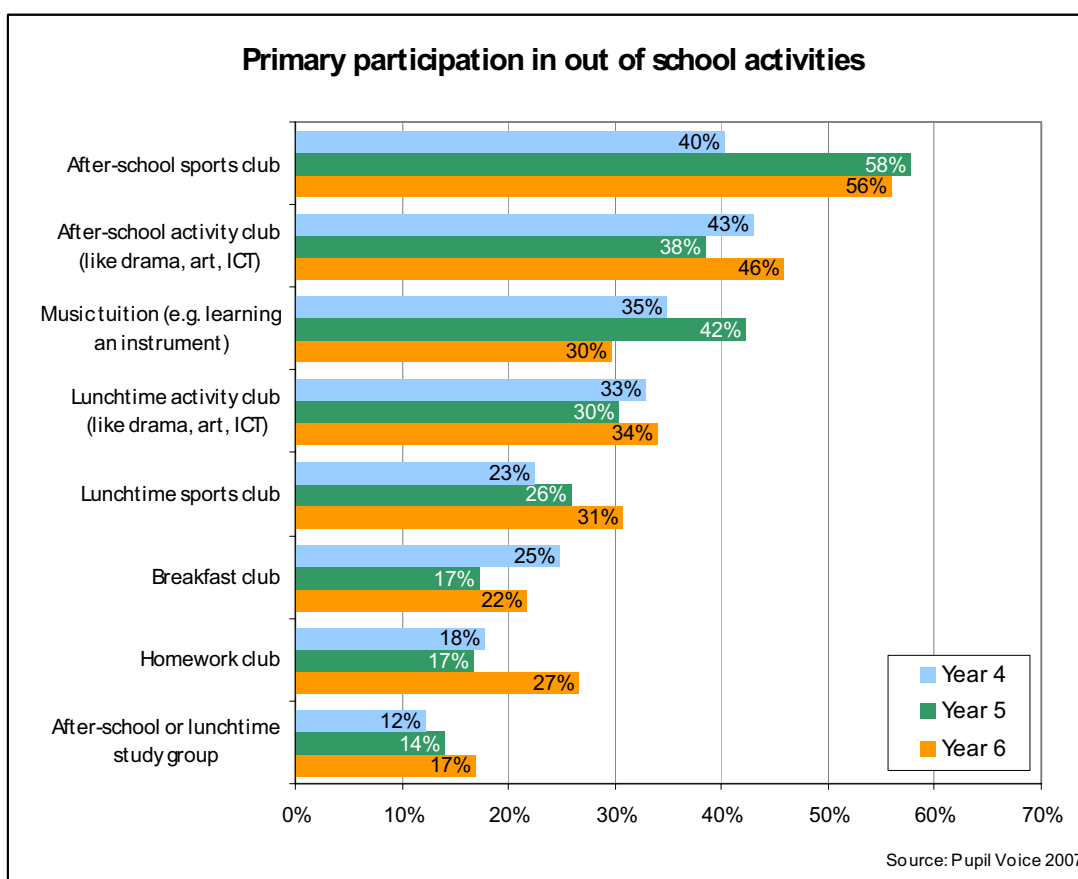


Chart 10. Primary age participation in out of school activities. Source: PV 2007

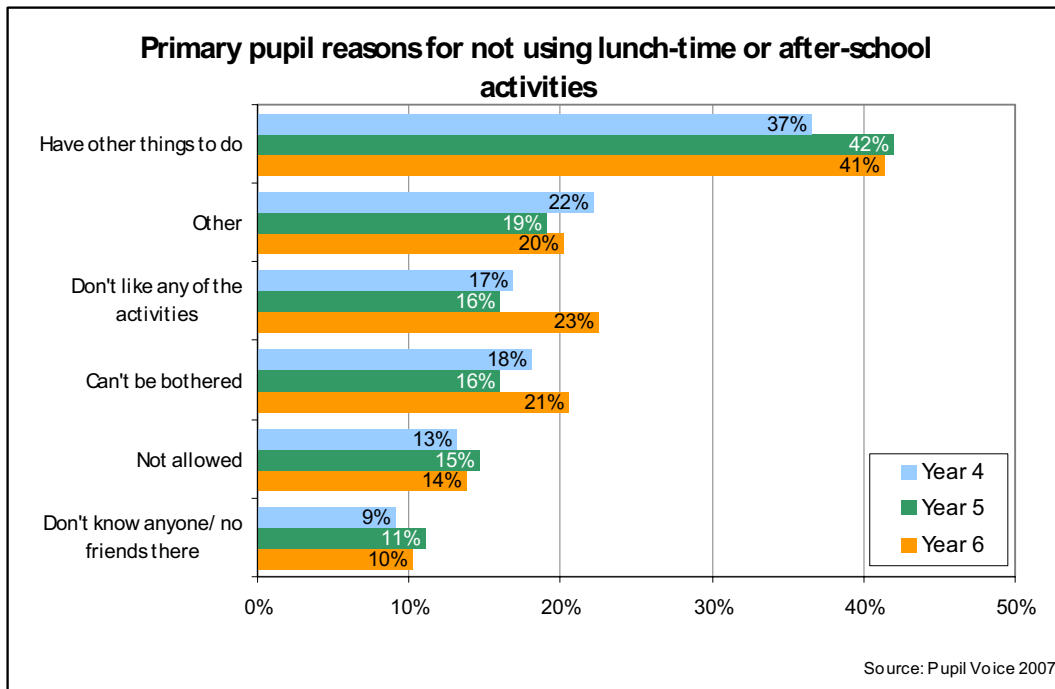


Chart 11. Primary age reasons for not participating in out of school activities. Source: PV 2007

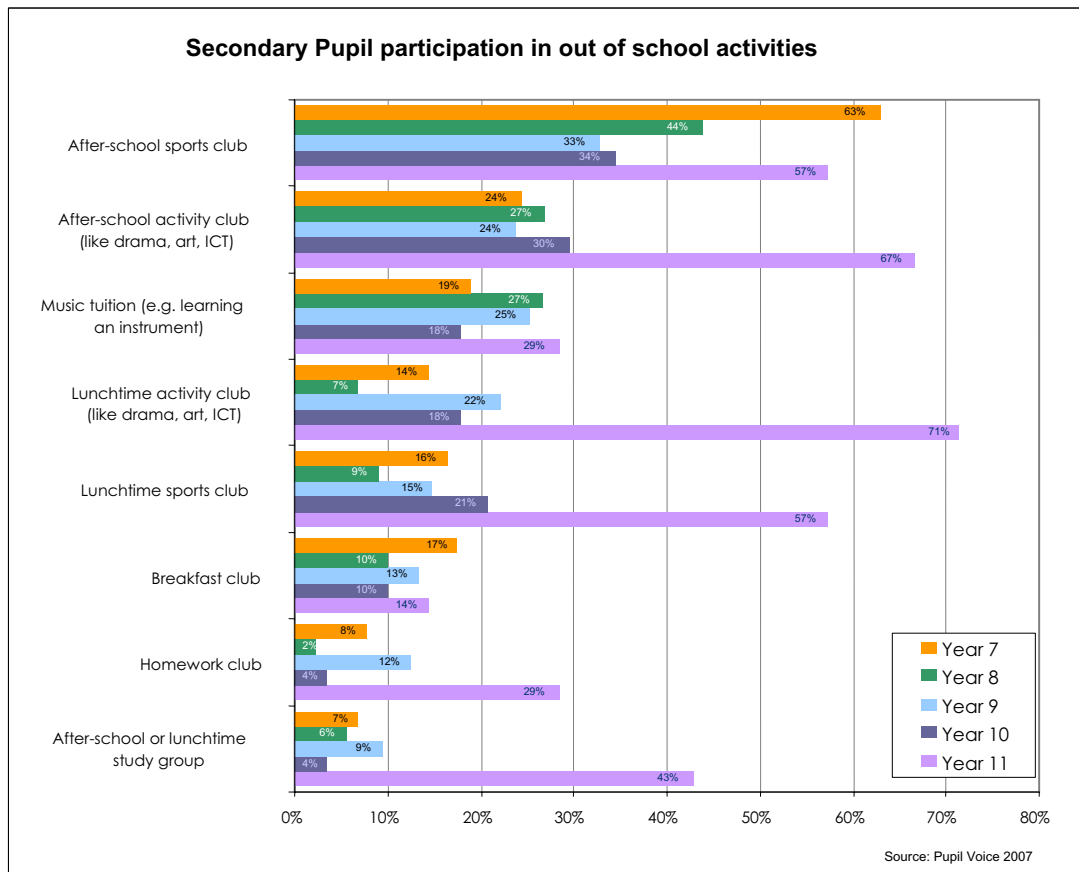


Chart 12. Secondary age participation in out of school activities. Source: PV 2007

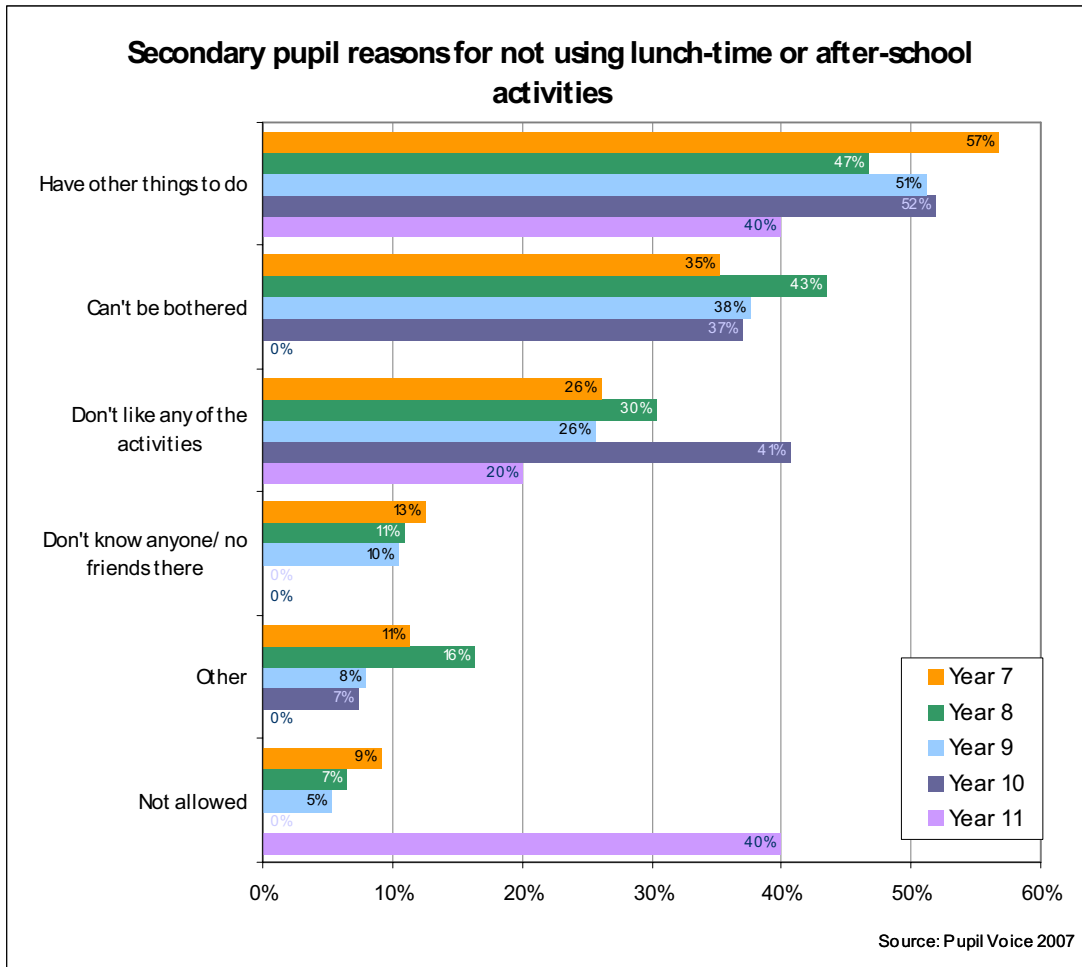


Chart 13. Secondary age reasons for not participating in out of school activities. Source: PV 2007

Childcare use, expected use, and current provision levels

By comparing the current use of childcare to what parents expect to use, we can estimate the changes in different types of childcare around Southwark, illustrated by chart 14.

In the chart, green bars indicate an expected increase within that type of childcare: the left-hand end of the bar indicates current usage, and the right-hand end indicates future expected use. So for example, in Southwark overall use of after school clubs might be expected to increase from around 10% of households currently (left-hand end of the green bar) to around 17% (right-hand end of the same bar).

Red bars indicate an expected decrease in use, from the right-hand end of the bar to the left-hand end. Percentages are the number of households indicating that they currently use or expect to use a particular type of childcare, out of all households with a child aged 0 to 14 years in that area. Note that one household could use more than one type of childcare - on average in Southwark overall parents expect to use 2.5 different types of childcare, up from 1.9 currently. Also note that a registered place with Ofsted may be used by more than one child (household), and this may vary with type of childcare.

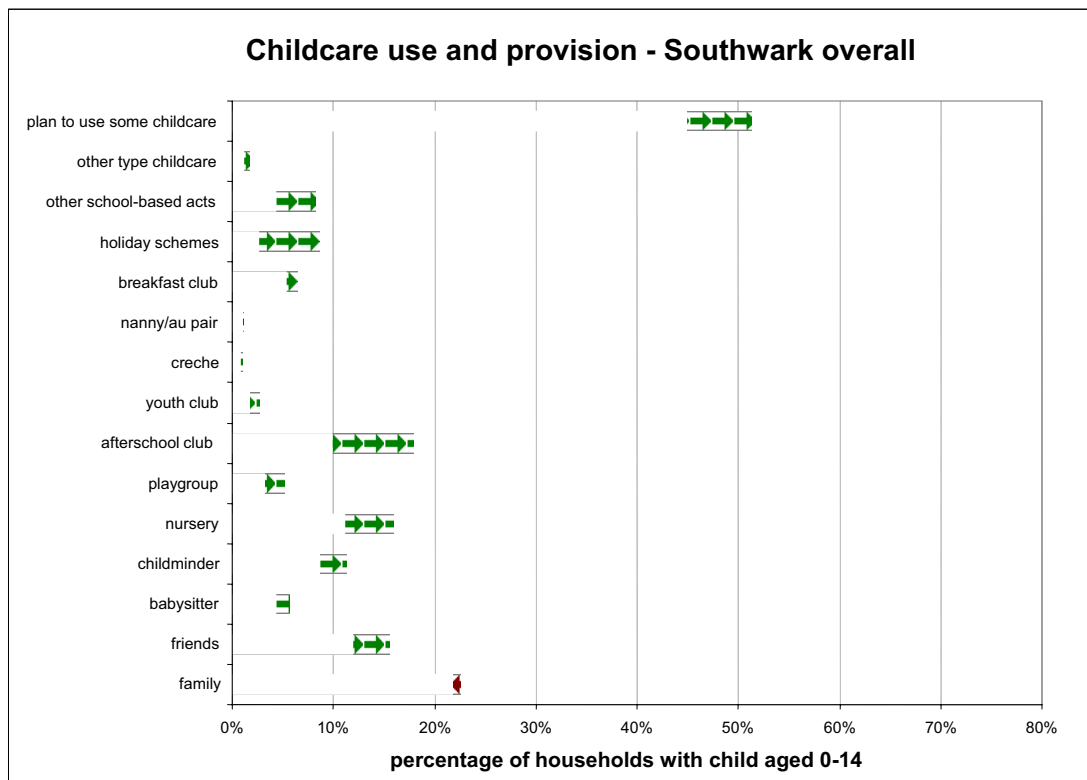


Chart 14. Childcare changing use - overall. Sources SHPS 2007, iCHIS

Looking at smaller age bands we see the changes in childcare type use and expected use by age: use of formal childcare peaking at age two years, various mixes of childcare greatest at age three

to four years, and, as you would expect, out of school clubs (breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday playschemes) increasing at age five years.

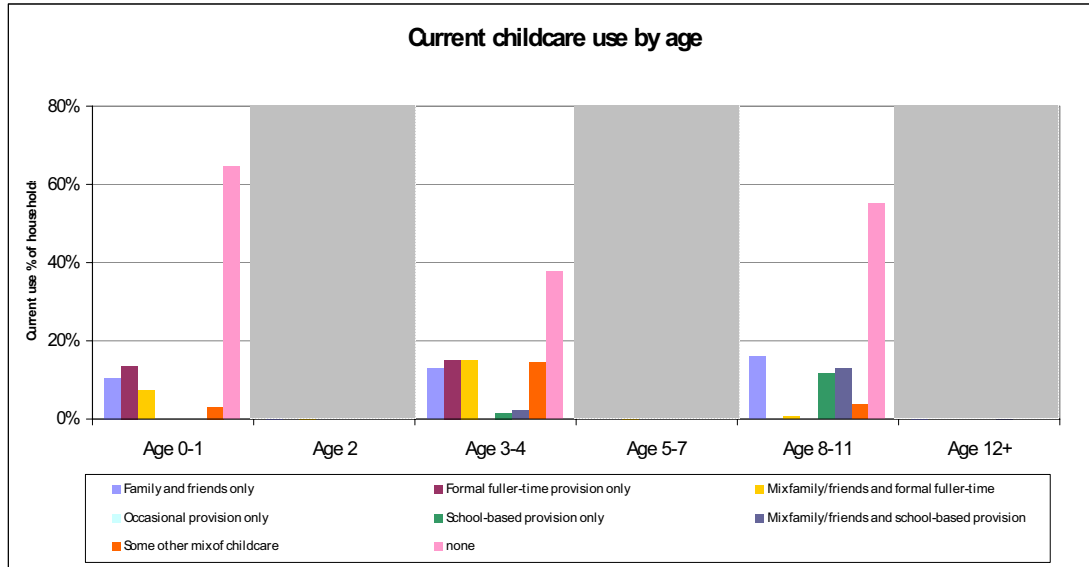


Chart 15. Current childcare use by age of child. Source SHPS 2007

Changes in childcare are based on expected use over the next year or so; but the age of the child is the age now: hence the large increase expected for children aged three to four years.

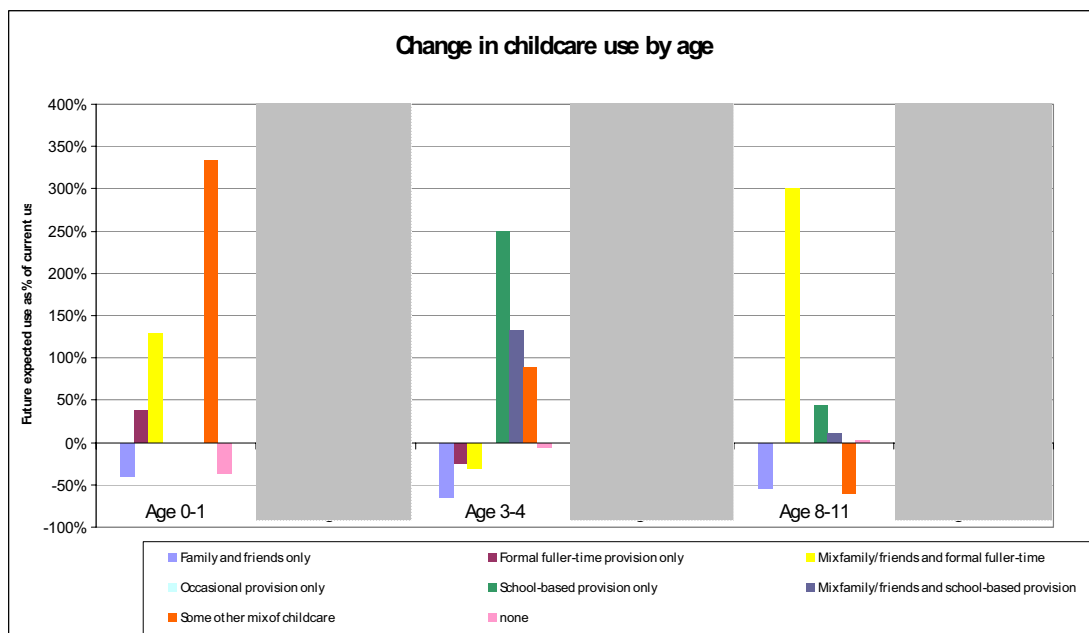


Chart 16. Expected change in childcare use by age of child. Source SHPS 2007

Sources of information about childcare

Friends are the most important source of information about childcare for parents of children of any age.

<i>Sources of childcare information (multiple selections permitted)</i>	<i>Age band of child using childcare</i>			<i>Total</i>
	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 10	Age 11 to 14	
Friends	42.6%	45.4%	40.0%	43.0%
School	24.6%	41.2%	26.7%	31.5%
Family	20.5%	28.9%	30.0%	24.7%
Council	19.7%	21.6%	13.3%	19.5%
Web	19.7%	12.4%	6.7%	15.1%
Library	11.5%	13.4%	26.7%	13.9%
Children's information service	15.6%	9.3%	6.7%	12.0%
Health visitor	14.8%	7.2%	3.3%	10.8%
Other	8.2%	7.2%	16.7%	8.8%
Social worker	7.4%	4.1%	0.0%	5.6%
JobCentre Plus	2.5%	3.1%	10.0%	3.6%
Religious establishment	0.8%	5.2%	0.0%	2.4%

Table 12. Information sources about childcare. Source SHPS 2007.

Parent's comments

"Childcare seems very complicated. People like health visitors and the social workers were not a great help and did not know how to help me".

"I think parents need better information from Southwark about how to identify good quality childcare and there should be more emphasis on higher qualification levels".

"More encouragement for young people to gain knowledge in childcare, and more opportunities for young families to get help and child support".

Conclusions

- Most parents within the authority have access to sufficient childcare to enable them to work and/or train.
- Workers must work closely with local groups and schools to carefully ascertain demand before encouraging further supply.
- Extended services need to focus on childcare and activities for children aged five to 14 years for school holidays throughout the year.
- A brokerage service is needed to help parents/carers, wherever possible, find suitable childcare, free early learning, and to work in partnership with childcare providers to help fill their vacancies.
- Throughout the authority as a whole there is sufficient provision for all children eligible to receive early learning.

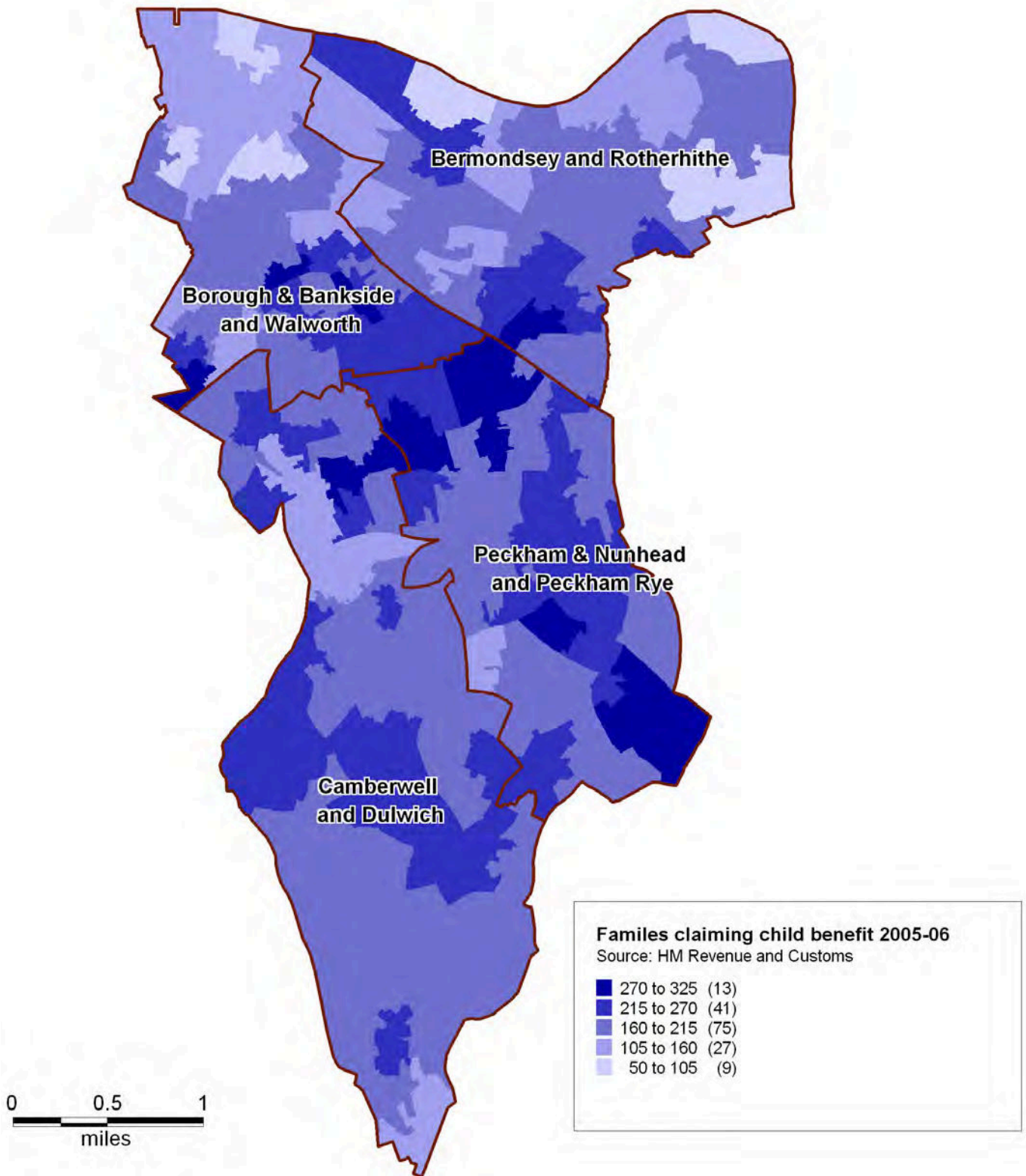
Other factors to be taken into account in meeting childcare needs

The high cost of childcare, afforded more easily by some than others, is an issue unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Remembering that provision must be sustainable, creative solutions are required in areas where there is only limited demand. Resources in area of over supply may require some redirection.

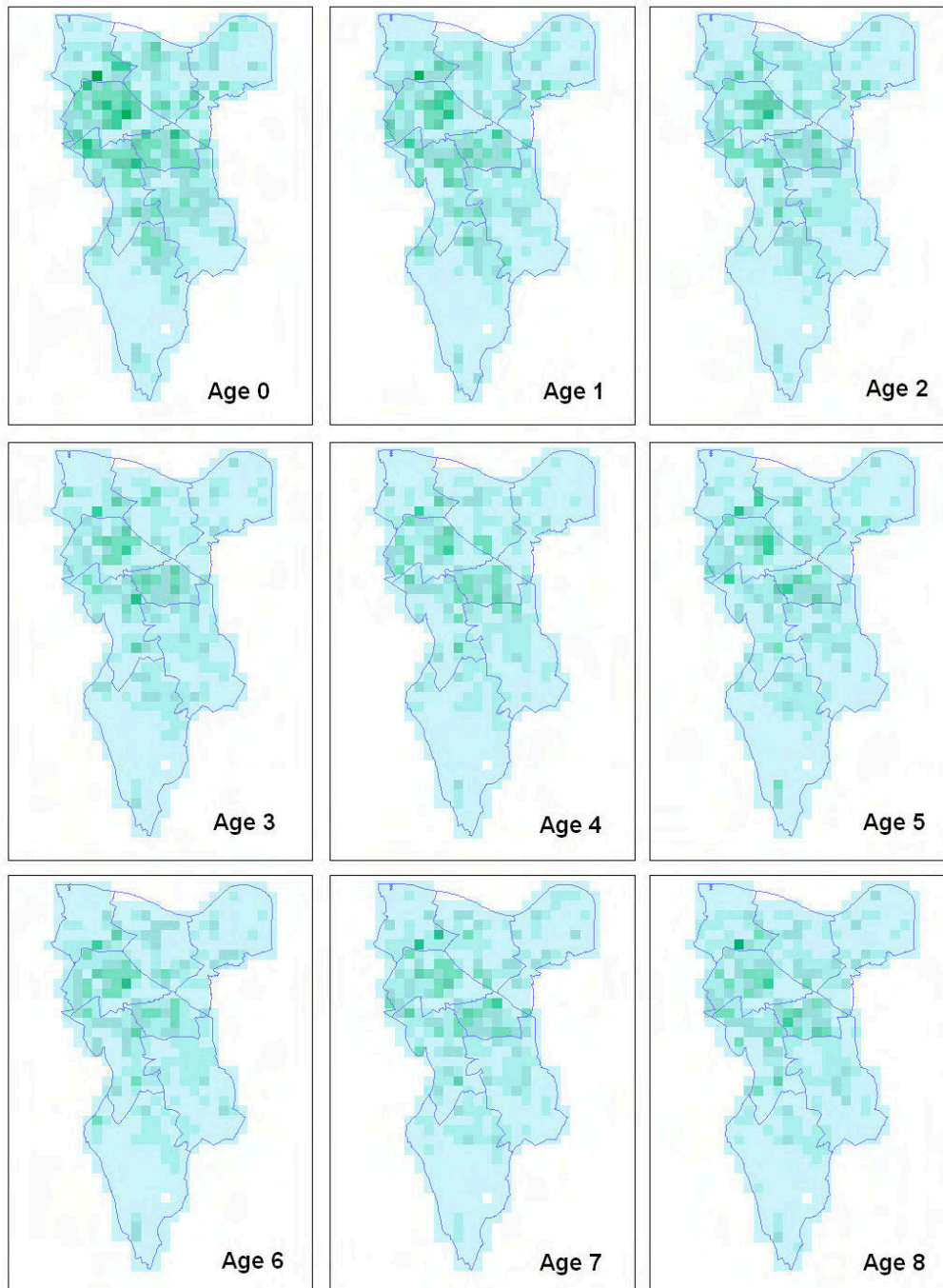
The Government will be increasing the length of the free early learning session for three and four year olds, as well as permitting more flexibility in its use. The increased offer may inadvertently result in a decrease in the number of places available. Some providers have time constraints which mean they are unable to operate for more than five hours and can therefore only accommodate one x 3 hour session per day instead of two x two ½ hour sessions.

The childcare sufficiency assessment will be subject to annual reviews with a new assessment undertaken every three years. In order to ensure that we maintain our knowledge of parents needs the involvement of children's centres and schools in collecting supported questionnaires needs to be maximised, and this will also ensure the continued targeting of individuals and groups for this purpose. This can be achieved through a process of capacity building, training and involvement in the whole process of the sufficiency assessment.

Appendix 1: Maps and charts



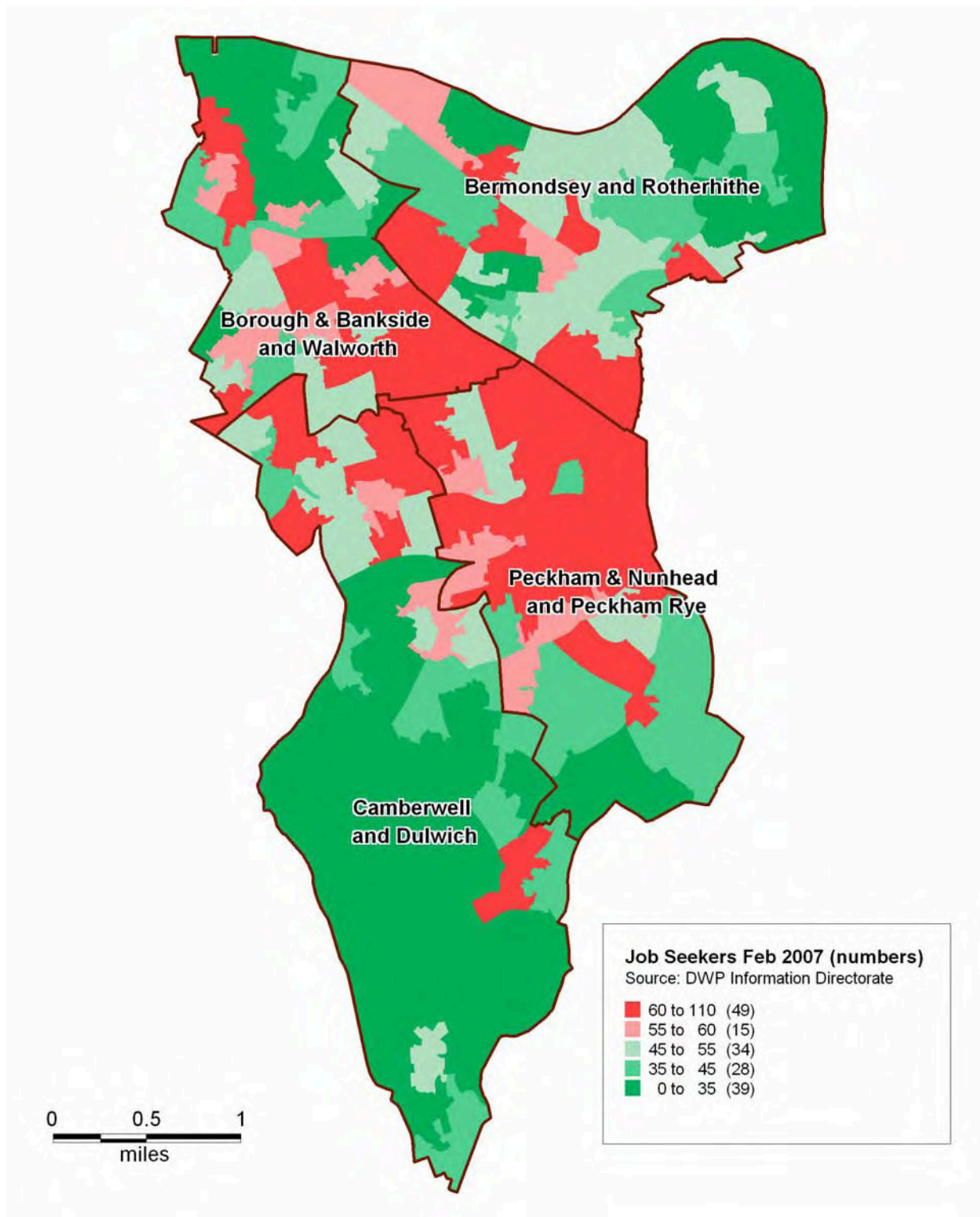
Map 5 – Number of families (not children) claiming child benefit



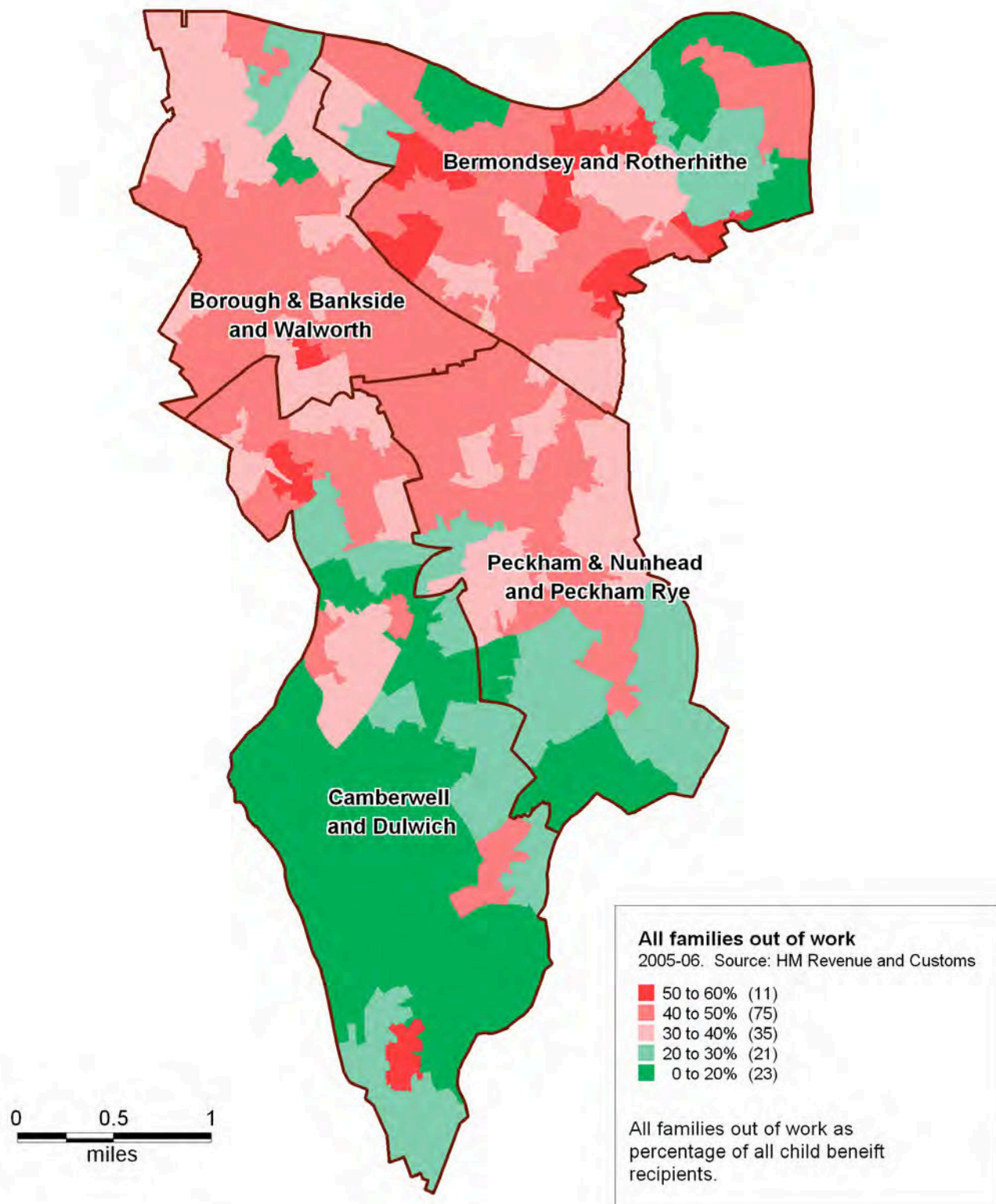
Childcare population derived from SNAP project, Southwark Analytical hub.
Population data derived from combined administrative datasets 2006.

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Map 6. Relative child population at different ages. Source: SNAP



Map 7 – Job Seekers in Southwark



Map 8 - Families out of work

Use of childcare in different areas

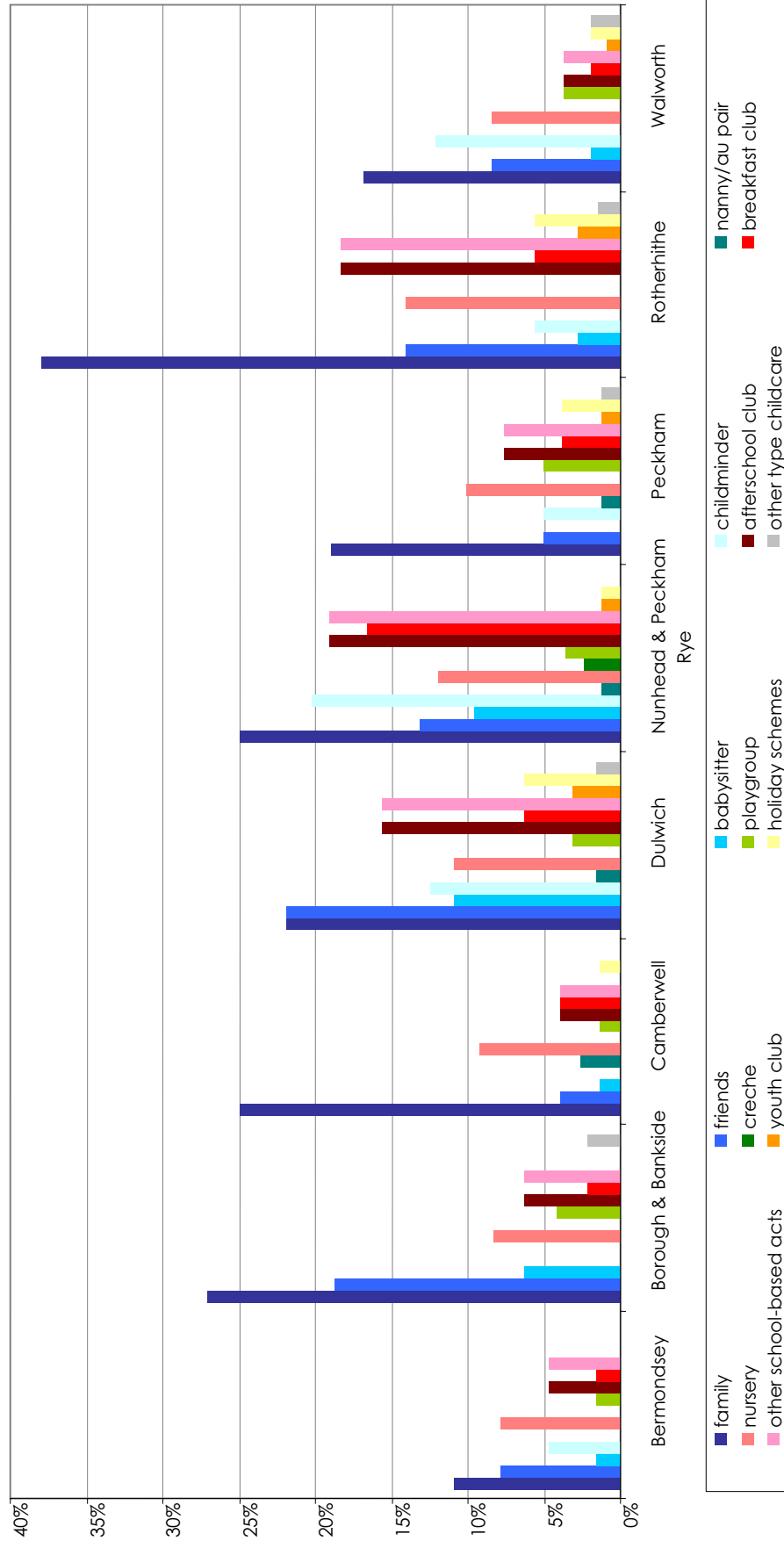


Chart 17. Childcare use by Community Council. Source SHPS 2007

Southwark Childcare Sufficiency

Gap Analysis

December 2008



1 Introduction

This gap analysis is based on the information contained in Southwark's detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, designated "draft 3" and prepared in January 2008. The report is organised as follows:

Section 2 addresses the following cross-borough issues:

- Supply and demand
- Age
- Specific needs of disabled children
- Location
- Timing and flexibility
- Affordability
- Working parents
- Black and minority ethnic groups

Section 3 takes each community council area in turn, and addresses the following key points:

- Type of care
- Age
- Affordability
- Timing and Flexibility
- Specific needs of disabled children
- Location
- Other key issues (where appropriate)

Section 4 provides a one page summary of the key known gaps.

2 Cross-borough issues

2.1 Supply and demand

Although there are vacancies in the borough, it appears that parents may have difficulty accessing them.

Summary of Evidence:

- A relatively high proportion of childcare providers in the borough have vacancies: 63% of providers have an average of 3 childcare vacancies – a total of 1275 vacancies (see table 1).
- Southwark can be relatively confident that the current level of provision will not shrink. Page 21 “Provider Opinions” indicates that around 78% of providers agree that their business is sustainable, with no providers expecting to reduce in size or to close completely.
- However, feedback from parent interviews indicates that, for some parents at least, finding facilities which have vacancies is problematic (see page 57).
- Table 7 indicates that the majority of parents, in all age groups feel that there is “not very much” or “no” provision for their children.

This may be because the right *type* of childcare is not being offered in the right *location*. However, more detail regarding the demand and supply of childcare in specific areas is set out in section 3 below.

2.2 Age

In spite of comments above regarding the relatively high number of vacancies in Southwark, there appears to be demand for increased provision at all ages. Taking all the evidence together, we can tentatively draw the following conclusions:

- Access to affordable childcare is the main problem for the 0-4 age group (which means this age group tends to make more use of informal care).
- Choice of childcare is the main problem for older age groups.

Summary of Evidence:

- A relatively high proportion of childcare providers in the borough have vacancies: 63% of providers have an average of 3 childcare vacancies – a total of 1275 vacancies (see table 1).
- However, Table 7 indicates that the majority of parents, in all age groups, feel that there is “not very much” or “no” provision for their children.
- Table 3 indicates that:
 - most of the families who choose informal care have children aged between 0 and 4 (41% of all users of informal care)
 - 20% of families who use informal care have children aged between 5 and 10.
 - 29% of families who use informal care have children aged between 11 and 14.
- Although Table 7 indicates that parents tend to feel that their choice of provision decreases as their children get older, this finding needs to be balanced with Table 10, which indicates that:
 - demand for childcare is highest for children aged 0-4
 - concern over cost is also most marked for this age group.

2.3 Specific needs of disabled children

Initial evidence suggests that the needs of disabled children are not being met effectively. Data suggests that this is principally about availability of places that can meet the needs of these children. Further information is required to more accurately understand the barriers faced by this group.

Summary of Evidence:

“Parents of a child with a disability or special need were more likely to say that they didn’t want to use childcare, or couldn’t find childcare that would accept their child. In free-text questions a number of parents expressed their concerns that childcare settings would be able to care appropriately for the special needs of their child” p35

2.4 Location

Chart 11 and table 10 indicate that respondents are generally relatively satisfied with the location of services. However, there are some key pockets of concern which will be dealt with separately below.

2.5 Timing and flexibility

Although the feedback is mixed, on balance the available evidence indicates that timings and flexibility do not represent key gaps for Southwark.

Summary of Evidence:

- Feedback from some interviews with parents (see page 57) suggests that there may be some difficulties with flexible timings.
- However, chart 13 indicates that respondents are generally very happy with the times that childcare is available. Responses ranged from 76% (Walworth) of people agreeing that childcare is available at the right time, to 90% (Peckham).
- Comments on p45 reinforce the suggestion that the number of people who find timings problematic is relatively low: *“a small number of the parents in the household interview had stopped working, or found it difficult to start because their employer would not offer sufficient flexibility to balance parenthood and work”*.

2.6 Affordability

Table 24 indicates that across Southwark as a whole, the affordability of childcare is not an overwhelming problem; only 16% of those who were unable to find childcare through the Children’s Information Service felt that cost was a key barrier. **[NOTE: We were quite surprised to come to this conclusion. Do you have any other data that we can use to triangulate this finding – for example, data on average fee rates or take up of working tax credits which we could compare with London-wide averages?]** However, this issue appears to vary for different parts of the borough and will be explored in more detail below.

2.7 Working parents

The available evidence indicates that the majority of parents who are currently not in employment or training would like to start. However, the most important factor affecting people’s decision to take paid work relates to concerns over workplace flexibility.

Summary of Evidence:

Chart 15 indicates that the most important factor affecting people’s decision to take paid work is work-place flexibility (91% of respondents feel that this is a factor). Other key factors are as follows:

- the availability of suitable employment (75%);
- concern about spending enough time with children (75%);
- refusal to leave children with anyone other than friends and family (71%);
- desire to look after children myself (70%);
- lack of qualifications/experience to get the job I want (70%)

The least important factors appear to be:

- My parents wouldn’t like it if I worked (17%)
- I have difficulties due to my health condition/disability (23%)
- I care for someone who has as health condition disability etc. (29%)
- I have personal or family troubles that need to be sorted out (39%)
- I am concerned about leaving the security of benefits (39%)

Information on page 44 indicates that two thirds of parents who attend jobcentre plus would like to get a job and 40% would like to start some form of education or training. The vast majority (83% overall and 93% for children aged 0-4) of parents who are planning to start work would need childcare.

2.8 Black and minority ethnic groups

Information on page 23 explains that the available data suggests that there are no statistically significant differences in the take up of childcare among different ethnic groups. However, it appears that Black British and Asian children were less likely to claim the minimum free entitlement in 2007.

3 Gaps by community council area

3.1 Bermondsey

3.1.1 Type of care

There is likely to be increasing demand for nursery places, holiday schemes and play schemes in Bermondsey.

Summary of Evidence:

- Bermondsey has a moderate provision of all types of service; when compared to other community council areas, there appears to be neither a large over- or under-provision (see maps 8 and 9).
- Most households make use of family, friends and nurseries (see chart 3).
- However, this level of provision may not be meeting demand. Bermondsey ranks 6th (out of eight sub-local areas) in relation to parents stating that they have “not very much” or “no” choice of childcare provision (see table 8).
- Only 28% of households in Bermondsey make use of childcare. This means it has the lowest take up of childcare of any of the community council areas (see chart 2).
- Bermondsey is likely to see the greatest increase in demand for nursery places, holiday schemes and play groups (see chart 18).

3.1.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps.

3.1.3 Affordability¹

Although the feedback is mixed, on balance, it appears that Bermondsey does not present important gaps in relation to the affordability of childcare.

Summary of Evidence:

- One of the key reasons why parents in Bermondsey felt their choice was limited related to finding services which were affordable (see table 9).
- The latent class analysis set indicates that cost may be one of the key concerns for parents living in places like Bermondsey. However, this information is not specific to Bermondsey, and is drawn from evidence which is based on a number of assumptions (see tables 12-14)
- However, chart 12 indicates that respondents in Bermondsey are generally happy with the cost of childcare: 82% of respondents agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable.
- Parents who chose not to use childcare (table 11); only 6% felt that that cost was the key reason for their decision.

3.1.4 Timings and flexibility

This does not appear to be a key gap for Bermondsey. Chart 13 indicates that around 83% of respondents in Southwark felt that childcare was available at the right times.

3.1.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

¹ Although table 15 indicates that around 96% of the eligible population in Bermondsey is taking up the minimum free entitlement, we have disregarded this piece of evidence because we understand that there is some doubt in relation to these findings (see comments on page 40).

3.1.6 Location

Although the location of childcare in Bermondsey could probably be improved, the balance of evidence suggests that this location of childcare does not present a key gap for this sub-local area.

Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that, for parents in Bermondsey, finding services in the right location is an important barrier to choice (second only to “finding out about services”).
- However, children in Bermondsey have the shortest journey to take up minimum free entitlements; 0.75 km on average (see page 39)
- Chart 11 indicates that respondents to the SHPS are generally satisfied with the location of childcare; just 5% of respondents felt that they were “fairly dissatisfied” and none indicated that they were “very dissatisfied”.

3.2 Borough & Bankside

3.2.1 Type of care

The available evidence suggests that there is an important need to increase all childcare provision in Borough and Bankside, with the following types of provision being particularly in demand: after school clubs, youth clubs, nurseries, holiday schemes, childminders, after school-based activities and play groups.

Summary of Evidence:

- Map 8 indicates that Borough & Bankside may have slightly less provision of the full range of childcare than other sub-localities in the borough. This is especially notable in the North-West of Borough & Bankside².
- This finding is reinforced by table 8 which indicates that parents in Borough and Bankside expressed the second-highest degree of concern about the choice of services available to them: 83% stated they had “no” or “not very much” choice.
- Chart 20 indicates that there are likely to be increases in service take up in Borough and Bankside, particularly in the following types of childcare (in priority order): after school clubs, youth clubs, nurseries, holiday schemes, childminders, after school-based activities, play groups, other types of childcare.

3.2.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps.

3.2.3 Affordability

There is evidence to suggest that the affordability of childcare is an important gap in Borough and Bankside^{3 4}.

Summary of Evidence:

- 33% of respondents did not feel that the costs of childcare were reasonable. This places Borough and Bankside “mid-table” as regards affordability (chart 12).
- Table 9 indicates that one of the two most important reasons why parents in Borough and Bankside feel unable to exercise choice relates to the availability of affordable provision.
- Table 10 reinforces this finding: 23% of parents who do not use childcare cite affordability as a key barrier (second only to “don’t need to use childcare”).
- The latent class analysis indicates that cost may be one of the key concerns for parents living in and around this sub-local area. However, this information is not specific to Borough and Bankside, and is drawn from evidence which is based on a number of assumptions (see tables 12-14).

3.2.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap for Borough and Bankside. Chart 13 indicates that around 78% of respondents in Borough and Bankside feel that childcare is available at the right times for them.

3.2.5 Specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

² However, it should be noted that Map 3 indicates that this is the area of the borough with the lowest number of families (based on HM Revenue and Custom’s data regarding take up of child benefit by location).

³ Although we acknowledge that affordability is an even greater difficulty for some other community council areas.

⁴ Table 15 indicates that around 83% of eligible families in Borough & Bankside take up the minimum free entitlement, which ranks them in the “bottom-half” of the table by this measure. However we have set aside this piece of evidence as we understand there are some doubts about this information (see page 40).

3.2.6 Location

The evidence regarding location of childcare is mixed. However, on balance it would appear that location is not a *key* concern in Borough and Bankside.

Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that the third largest barrier to parents being able to exercise choice relates to location.
- However, Chart 11 indicates that the majority of respondents are happy with the location of childcare.

However, when combined with the findings of 2.2.1 “Type of care” above it would seem reasonable to conclude that problems with location may be one of a number of factors contributing to an overall need for increased provision in Borough and Bankside.

3.2.7 Other relevant issues for Borough and Bankside

Chart 10 indicates that parents in Borough and Bankside have greater concerns about the quality of childcare than any of the other sub-local areas. Borough and Bankside scores minus 17 on this measure, with the average score being in the region of minus 4.

3.3 Camberwell

3.3.1 Type of care

Households in Camberwell make less use of childcare than almost all other community council areas; there is no evidence to suggest that demand will increase significantly in the future.

Summary of Evidence:

- 33% of households in Camberwell make use of childcare; only Bermondsey has a lower take up of childcare (see chart 2).
- Households in Camberwell are especially unlikely to take up school-based activities (see chart 3).
- Parents in Camberwell feel they have much more choice of childcare options than any of the other wards. When asked about the degree of choice available, 83% of respondents in Camberwell chose "yes, a lot of choice". This is significantly higher than the ward which came second on this scale (Nunhead and Peckham Rye) where 55% of parents agreed that they had a lot of choice (see table 8).

Table 22 suggests that changes in childcare use will be relatively limited in Camberwell when compared with other wards. It appears that there is likely to be a small increase in the number of people making use of childminders, and after school clubs. There is likely to be a small reduction in the number of people making use of nursery places.

3.3.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.3.3 Affordability⁵

Overall, affordability does not appear to be an important concern for parents in Camberwell.

Summary of Evidence:

- A small proportion of respondents felt they had "little" or "no" choice of childcare. Of these respondents, most (5%) cited affordability as the key barrier (see table 9). However overall the numbers involved are too low to be of real concern.
- Around 78% of respondents agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable, which means that Camberwell ranks among the better performers by this measure (see chart 12).
- Table 11 indicates that only 1% of respondents to the Southwark Household Parents Survey found childcare in Camberwell to be too expensive.

3.3.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap in Camberwell. Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents in Camberwell feel that childcare is available at the right times.

3.3.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

⁵ According to table 15, around 88% of the eligible population take up the minimum free entitlement, which means that take up is Camberwell is better than most other wards (Camberwell is joint third out of eight when ranked by this measure). However we have decided not to take this information into account as we understand there are some concerns about this data (see p40).

3.3.6 Location

The available evidence indicates that overall location of childcare is not an important gap for Camberwell.

Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 suggests that only 2% of parents felt that the location of childcare was a barrier to access or choice of provision.
- Chart 11 which indicates that all respondents are satisfied with the location of their childcare; Camberwell performs better than all the other community council areas in this regard.

3.4 Dulwich

3.4.1 Types of care

The available evidence regarding gaps in types of care in Dulwich is a little mixed.

Summary of Evidence:

- Parents express a high need for services
 - Table 10 indicates that 62% of parents in Dulwich need to use childcare. This is higher than most other areas (only Rotherhithe has a higher score).
 - Chart 2 indicates that 52% of households in Dulwich make use of childcare; this is the third highest take up of childcare among community council areas in Southwark.
- There appears to be a limited local supply of services
 - Map 11 indicates that there is generally less childcare provision for all ages in Dulwich than in other parts of the borough.
 - Providers in Dulwich perceive their businesses to be less sustainable than in other areas.
- Yet parents still feel they have a reasonable degree of choice.
 - Table 8 indicates that parents in Dulwich tend to have more choice than the majority of other community council areas (although, even so, only 49% of parents in Dulwich felt they had sufficient choice).

In Cordis Bright's view, this mixed picture could be explained by parents in Dulwich making high use of services in neighbouring areas or boroughs (since Dulwich has borders with Lewisham, Lambeth and Bromley). However, we have no hard evidence to support this opinion.

On balance it appears that demand will increase a great deal in the future in Dulwich and that current provision is unlikely to meet this demand. In particular, there are likely to be gaps in school-based activities, childminders and holiday schemes.

Summary of Evidence:

Chart 23 indicates that Dulwich will experience a number of changes in the take up of childcare services in future. This area can expect large increases in the take up of after school clubs and other school-based activities, childminders and holiday schemes. There will also be some increase in the take up of breakfast clubs, youth clubs and nurseries.

3.4.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.4.3 Affordability⁶

Affordability would not appear to be a key gap for families in Dulwich.

Summary of Evidence:

- Affordability was the second most important reason given by parents regarding limitations of choice in child-care, however, even so, this was only a concern for around 5% of parents.
- Chart 12 indicates that 81% of parents in Dulwich agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable, ranking Dulwich among the better performers in this regard.

⁶ According to table 15, in common with most other areas, a high proportion of eligible families (82%) make use of the minimum free entitlement in Dulwich. However, we have decided not to include this data in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about the available information (see page 40)

3.4.4 Timings and flexibilities

Chart 13 indicates that 85% of parents in Dulwich feel that childcare is available at the right times.

3.4.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

3.4.6 Location

The location of childcare does not appear to be a key gap for families in Dulwich.

Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that the main reason why parents feel they have a lack of choice in Dulwich relates to problems with location. However, even so, only 8% of respondents felt this was a difficulty.
- This is reinforced by Chart 11; no respondents from Dulwich indicated that they were dissatisfied with the location of their childcare provision.

3.5 Nunhead & Peckham Rye

3.5.1 Type of Care

There is high take up of childcare in Nunhead & Peckham Rye, particularly after school clubs, breakfast clubs, other school-based activities and childminders.

Summary of evidence:

- Nunhead & Peckham Rye has the second highest take-up of childcare in Southwark, with 56% of households using childcare (see chart 2).
- Chart 3 indicates that families make a lot of use of after school clubs, breakfast clubs, other school-based activities and childminders. They appear to make relatively limited use of holiday schemes.

However, there is evidence to suggest that this high level of demand will not continue.

Summary of evidence:

- Parents in Nunhead & Peckham Rye indicated that they have a relatively high degree of choice over childcare provision; 54% of parents feel they have a reasonable choice (only Dulwich appears to offer more choice).
- Providers in Nunhead & Peckham Rye tend to be less confident about the sustainability of their business than providers in most other parts of the borough.
- Chart 24 indicates that there is likely to be some change in the way that childcare services are taken up, with respondents indicating a slight down-ward trend in the amount of childcare provision that they use.

3.5.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.5.3 Affordability⁷

On balance, the available evidence indicates that affordability is not a key gap for Nunhead & Peckham Rye.

Summary of evidence:

- Table 11 indicates that around 10% of parents in the area perceive childcare to be too expensive.
- However, table 8 indicates that just 5% of parents felt that the cost of childcare limited their choice of provision.
- Chart 12, indicates that 84% of respondents agree that the costs of their childcare is reasonable

3.5.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap in Nunhead & Peckham Rye. Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents feel that childcare is available at the right times.

3.5.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

⁷ Table 15 indicates that a good proportion (88%) of eligible families in Nunhead & Peckham Rye take up their minimum free entitlement place. However, we have decided not to include this data in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about the available information (see page 40).

3.5.6 Location

On balance, the available evidence indicates that location of services is not a major concern for parents in Nunhead and Peckham Rye.

Summary of evidence:

- Maps 8 and 11 indicate that the northern part of Nunhead & Peckham Rye may have slightly less provision than other areas of Southwark, although the rest of this community council area appears to have a reasonable balance of services.
- Table 8 indicates that around 12% parents in Nunhead & Peckham Rye felt that location of services was a key factor in limiting their choice of childcare provision.
- However, table 11 indicates that only around 1% of parents perceive location of childcare services to be problematic.
- Chart 11 which indicate that most parents are satisfied with the location of childcare (only 7% of respondents indicated that they were “fairly dissatisfied”).

3.6 Peckham

3.6.1 Type of care

The available evidence indicates that there may be a slight under provision of childcare for families in Peckham, and that in the future, there are likely to be quite notable gaps in terms of after-school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes.

Summary of Evidence:

- Only 1% of parents in Peckham perceive it to be difficult to find a place for their children or believe there to be no childcare available (see table 11).
- However, around 60% of parents in Peckham felt they had “little” or “no” choice about the childcare available to them (table 8).
- Chart 25 indicates that Peckham should expect an increase in the take up of childcare in the coming years. In particular, increases are most likely in after school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes. Increases are also likely to occur in the take up of other school-based activities, play groups and childminders.

3.6.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.6.3 Affordability⁸

The affordability of childcare appears to be a relatively important problem in Peckham.

Summary of Evidence:

- Around 24% of parents in Peckham perceive childcare to be too expensive. This is a high proportion compared to responses from other areas; only in Rotherhithe do a higher proportion of parents consider childcare provision to be more expensive (table 11).
- Chart 12 indicates that only 44% of parents agree that the costs of childcare are reasonable; this means that Peckham ranks as the “worst” performer; in all the other community council areas, respondents were more likely to state that the costs were reasonable.

3.6.4 Timings and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 90% of respondents in Peckham feel that childcare is available at the right time. By this measure, Peckham is the best performing community council area.

3.6.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

3.6.6 Location

Peckham appears to have greater difficulties with the location of childcare than all the other community council areas. However, even so, these difficulties do not appear to be affecting a large proportion of the population.

⁸ Table 15 indicates that 80% of eligible families in the area take up their minimum free entitlement. Whilst this is a relatively high proportion, it still means that Peckham has one of the lowest take up rates in the Borough. However we have decided to set aside this piece of information as we understand there are some concerns about the data (see comments on page 40).

Summary of Evidence:

- The western part of Peckham appears to have a high level of vacancies which may suggest a degree of over-provision in the area. However, neighbouring areas in North Peckham may have a lack of supply (map 11).
- Table 9 indicates parents who felt their choice was limited indicated that location was a key limiting factor. This was the second most important issue highlighted, suggesting that this is an important challenge for parents. However, even so, only 9% of parents responded in this way.
- This finding is reinforced by Chart 11; it indicates that Peckham has greater difficulties regarding location than any of the other locality areas. However, even so, only 15% of respondents highlighted this issue.

3.6.7 Other relevant gaps for Peckham

Table 8 indicates that parents in Peckham may have more concerns about quality of provision than parents in other areas. 16% of those who felt that their choice of childcare was limited, indicated that quality of provision was the main limiting factor.

3.7 Rotherhithe

3.7.1 Type of care

There is a lot of evidence to indicate that there is a large gap in the supply of childcare provision in Rotherhithe across all age ranges, with the greatest need likely to be for school clubs and other school-based activities.

Summary of Evidence:

- Rotherhithe has the highest proportion of households (65%) making use of childcare (chart 2).
- However, Rotherhithe has fewer services than other parts of Southwark. In particular, holiday schemes, day nurseries, and parent & toddler groups/playgroups appear to be under-represented (see maps 8 and 9).
- Most provision is therefore made by families and friends (see chart 3).
- Table 8 which suggests that parents in Rotherhithe have less choice than any other community council area; 84% of respondents felt they had “little” or “no” choice about childcare in the area.
- At present, families in Rotherhithe make a lot of use of after school clubs and other school-based activities. Families in the area appear to make almost no use of crèches and play groups (see chart 3).
- Rotherhithe will witness large increases in demand for after school clubs, holiday schemes and other school-based activities (chart 19).
- Increases in demand for breakfast clubs, play groups, nurseries and “other” types of childcare are also likely (chart 19)

3.7.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.7.3 Affordability⁹

The information regarding the affordability of childcare in Rotherhithe is mixed. However, on balance it would seem that efforts to improve affordability of childcare in Rotherhithe would be beneficial, but not essential.

Summary of Evidence:

- Chart 12 indicates that 84% of respondents are happy with the costs of childcare.
- Nevertheless, parents in Rotherhithe considered affordability to be the key barrier to their ability to exercise choice over childcare provision. 21% of respondents highlighted this issue; this is the highest response of any of the other community council areas (table 9).
- In addition, table 11 indicates that 34% of parents in Rotherhithe perceive childcare to be too expensive; this was the highest response received, with fewer parents perceiving cost to be a concern in all other parts of the borough.

3.7.4 Timings and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents in Rotherhithe feel that childcare is available at the right times.

3.7.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

⁹ This finding regarding concerns over cost is of particular concern given that, according to table 15, Rotherhithe has the highest number of eligible parents taking up their minimum free entitlement (close to 100%). This suggests that improving affordability in this community council area may be challenging.

3.7.6 Location

The information regarding location is rather mixed, however, on balance, it does not appear to be an overwhelming concern for parents in Rotherhithe.

Summary of Evidence:

- Children using PVI settings appear to have further to travel in Rotherhithe (1.7km on average) than in any other community council area.
- However, table 9 indicates that only a relatively modest proportion of parents (12%) consider the location of services to have hindered their choice.
- In addition, chart 11 indicates that only 2% of parents have concerns about the location of their childcare provision. By this measure, Rotherhithe is one of the better performers.

3.8 Walworth

3.8.1 Type of care

Overall, it appears that provision in Walworth is largely meeting demand, with no particular gaps in types of care.

Summary of Evidence:

- Walworth has the third lowest take-up of childcare in Southwark; 35% of householders make use of childcare (see chart 2).
- Around 58% of parents in Walworth feel they have “little” or “no” choice of childcare. This results places them “mid-table” with 3 community council areas appearing to have more choice and 4 areas appearing to have less choice (see table 8)
- Map 10 indicates that there is a relatively high number of vacancies in Walworth.
- Chart 24 indicates that Walworth should not necessarily anticipate significant changes in demand. Any increase is likely to be in the take up of after school clubs, but the overall increases in demand are likely to be small.

3.8.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

3.8.3 Affordability¹⁰

There is some evidence to suggest that affordability may be a concern for families in Walworth.

Summary of Evidence:

- Chart 12 indicates that 67% of respondents agree that the costs of childcare are reasonable, which ranks Walworth as “middle of the table” by this measure.
- 17% of parents who felt their choice was limited, felt that cost was the main barrier (see table 9). By this measure, Walworth is the second-most unaffordable area (after Rotherhithe – 21% of respondents).
- This finding is reinforced by table 11 which indicates that a moderate amount of parents (around 16%) perceive childcare to be too expensive.

3.8.4 Timing and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 76% of respondents in Walworth feel that childcare is available at the right time. This is actually the lowest response which was received to this question, suggesting that timing and flexibility is more problematic in Walworth than in any other area.

3.8.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

3.8.6 Location

On balance, location of services does not appear to be an important concern in Walworth.

¹⁰ Table 15 shows that around 80% of eligible families in the area take up the minimum free entitlement. Whilst this is a high proportion, it still means that Walworth has the lowest take up when compared with the other community council areas. However, we have not included this information in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about this data (see page 40).

Summary of Evidence:

- Map 11 indicates that most of Walworth is generally well-served, however it does highlight that East Walworth has a lower level of provision than most other parts of the borough.
- According to Chart 11, Walworth ranks as the second worst community council area as regards location. However, even so, only 8% of respondents raised this as a concern.

4 Summary of key known gaps

	Bermondsey	Borough & Bankside	Camberwell	Dulwich	Nunhead & Peckham Rye	Peckham	Rotherhithe	Walworth
Type of care	Nursery places; holiday schemes; play schemes	Increase all provision, especially: After school clubs and activities; youth clubs; nurseries; holiday schemes; childminders; playgroups.	-	Increase all provision, especially: school-based activities; childminders and holiday schemes.	-	After-school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes.	Large gap in all types of provision across all age ranges. Greatest need likely to be for school-based activities.	-
Age ¹¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affordability	-	More affordable provision needed.	-	-	-	Relatively important need for more affordable provision	-	Some concerns over affordability
Timing and flexibility ¹²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Some concerns over timing and flexibility.
Needs of disabled children ¹³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Location	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other issues	-	Concerns over quality	-	-	-	Concerns over quality	-	-

¹¹ It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on age gaps.

¹² It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on timings and flexibilities.

¹³ It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on the needs of disabled children

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 March 2009	Meeting Name: Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub- Committee
Report title:		Proposed Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Romi Bowen, Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To note the proposed new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2010 to 2013, which is proposed as Southwark Council's key policy framework document for children and young people, and its implications for the council.
2. To note that this proposed CYPP will be subject to final partner and public consultation, as set out in paragraphs 28 and 29, with publication by April 2010.
3. To raise any comments at the meeting to feed back as part of the consultation process.
4. To note that the CYPP 2010-2013 will be subject to new statutory guidance, expected later this year, which may require revisions to these proposals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. The report to the Executive in July 2009 set out the expected system-wide implications arising from changes to statutory guidance on children's trusts, CYPPs and for the lead member and director of children's services. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009, amends the Children Act 2004 to enable the establishment of a children's trust board. It is therefore expected that, from April 2010 children's trusts will become a statutory body and the duty to cooperate will be further strengthened, including the addition of relevant partners, and requirements on the CYPP to set out local arrangements.
6. By April 2011, it is expected that the CYPP will need to meet new requirements as set out in draft statutory guidance, which is currently out for consultation. We anticipate that this guidance will require the CYPP, as the joint commissioning strategy of children's trust partners, to set out in detail how partners will cooperate to improve wellbeing for children, young people and their families. It will need to show how partners will commission services to address locally identified needs, integrate provision better and focus on early intervention, safeguarding and reducing the impact of child poverty on outcomes. The CYPP will be expected to set out what actions will be delivered by which partner or partnership and what resources they will commit. The CYPP set out in

appendix 1 will form the strategy for these developments.

7. The CYPP also needs to inform a wider range of planning arrangements, including borough and council-wide strategic and partnership plans and those that impact on outcomes for children, such as our spatial plan and the PCT Strategic Commissioning Plan. It is expected that the plans of partners will form a complex array of inter-related strategic, commissioning and operational plans with their children and family aspects aligned through the CYPP and informing operational planning for frontline services. The CYPP will be central to future inspection arrangements of both the council and partners alike and is likely to have implications for the council's use of resources and capacity to improve outcomes, as well as direct implications for the planning arrangements of corporate, local strategic partnership, PCT, adult services and other significant council plans which will need to be aligned accordingly.
8. In addition, proposed Working Together [to safeguard children] guidance indicates that the children's trust, from April 2010, should draw on support and challenge from the local safeguarding children board. It is anticipated this will form the basis of a new annual safeguarding report from the safeguarding board to the children's trust board that will set out what improvements need to be made locally to improve safeguarding. In response, from April 2011, the CYPP is likely to need to set out what needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes for safeguarding in a local area in line with the annual safeguarding report recommendations. This could impact on a range of council and partnership wide delivery arrangements in the future.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Development of the proposed CYPP commenced in April 2009 and has been overseen by the children's trust at each stage. Development to date has included a wide range of council and children's trust partners, including key personnel from leisure, the PCT, housing, regeneration, community safety and the voluntary sector.
10. The evidence gathering included a comprehensive joint strategic needs assessment, and senior and strategic conversations across the five ECM outcomes and cross-cutting themes including parenting, workforce and prevention to identify as a system what we are doing well, what we can build on and where we need to do it differently. This set the framework for stakeholder consultation through borough-wide storytelling events with children, young people, parents, carers and frontline staff with some 14 dedicated events from July to September 2009 and a wide range of workshops and programmes in schools, libraries, and a youth festival. Some 1,000 stories have been collected and used to shape and inform priorities. Partners have collectively then reviewed the data, stories and views of strategic and senior stakeholders to make sense of it and develop priorities.
11. The resultant priorities and commitments form the basis of the proposed CYPP, as set out in Appendix 1, which the Scrutiny Committee is asked to note, subject to the provisos below.
12. A summary of the needs assessment against the five Every Child Matters

outcomes is being prepared, ahead of publication in April 2010 to meet statutory requirements. It is currently in draft form, and is expected to be finalised for Council Assembly's consideration on March 24 2010.

13. A statement of how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to the commitments in the plan, plus a statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons are also being prepared. The information contained in the proposed plan (in Appendix 1) is currently draft, and will be expanded and finalised through final partner consultation, which will be completed by Council Assembly on March 24 2010.
14. The current CYPP expires on 1 April 2010, and the proposed CYPP as set out in Appendix 1 will meet current existing statutory requirements, by the time it goes to Council Assembly. It also anticipates the expected changes, which are currently out for consultation and due to come into effect in 2011. These changes are expected to require the CYPP to become the commissioning plan for services for children, young people and families from April 2011. In this context, commissioning means how we redesign services to better improve outcomes in line with local need using the range of resources available across children's trust and council partners.
15. The commitments outlined in Appendix 1 form the basis of the strategy and priorities for the proposed CYPP for 2010 to 2013. Once the CYPP has been agreed, these commitments will remain unchanged. In light of any revisions to meet the new guidance, it is anticipated these will have implications for the detail only, such as financial obligations or service configurations resulting from partnership decisions, not strategy.
16. The commissioning framework has been developed with partners, children, young people and parents and sets out how we as a children's trust wish to work, commission and deliver services. This will form the basis of all work in delivering the proposed CYPP. Central messages in the way we will work in improving outcomes for local children, young people and families are:

Values: ambition, high aspirations, shared responsibility and building social capital in our communities; building capacity of families and communities to raise their children and solve their problems independently

Principles: needs-led, targeted early intervention; thinking creatively, being realistic about impact, jointly deciding what to do and stop doing; making better use of specialist resources; simplifying the local system; shared choices

Accountability: commitment to cooperate as partners; an equipped workforce and shared focus; responding to the inspection agenda; benchmarked, evidence-based practice; constructive challenge of each other's action and solutions

Quality standards: services need to make a difference, build capacity and resilience of families, improve independence and self sufficiency (i.e. do not facilitate a dependency culture), safeguard children, narrow the gap in outcomes, and use integrated working principles and tools.

17. Key to the implementation of the CYPP will be working through partners over the coming year to:
- Specify action based on needs assessment of where we want to target resources and efforts and what we want to achieve through the CYPP. The transformed statutory landscape and the current harsh economic climate provide an opportunity to reshape the local marketplace and deliver the step change we require in how we commission and deliver provision to children, young people and their families
 - Understand the causal factors leading to dependency and poor outcomes. Identifying how as a council we can work together jointly to negate the interdependencies between different provision and its impact on improving outcomes, such as the effect of social housing and issues such as domestic violence on the life chances of children, young people and families
 - Identify the shared resources and jointly looking at how we can better use these across the system – making shared decisions about what to stop and where we will target for most impact against priority outcomes
 - Commission provision in partnership that supports reducing dependency both in terms of the type of provision provided and the behaviours of the workforce

Policy implications

18. As highlighted in the previous section, the CYPP as a document has significant implications for the council and partners going forward. However, in particular the Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider the following implications arising from emerging priorities
19. **Thinking families** – families at the centre of all we do. Priorities within this area may have implications for:
- Future configuration of information and outreach services, as a key message has been the difficulty of parents getting information on local provision. Improving this within children's services will potentially impact on development and future delivery of corporate models and potentially the use of the CSC across a range of channels
 - Coordinating the range of activities on offer for children, young people and families across the council and partners, including how leisure, the sustainability agenda and cultural opportunities can be seen as part of a 'core offer'. This will include considering how we can work together to improve provision for those with learning difficulties and disabilities so they and their families can better access mainstream provision and take up the range of opportunities available in the borough
 - As we move forward in developing the 'think family' agenda, how we bring together family support and the continuum of provision that supports vulnerable families across the council and

partners, the use of resources and enforcement to support families that pose challenges for a range of different council services and provision. This is likely to include how we share information, identify our families in greatest need in the borough and redefining who we will target collectively in our local response to the agenda

20. **Narrowing the gap** – better life chances for all. Priorities within this area may have implications for:
- How as a borough we plan, commission and work differently across the range of provision available in health, children's and other providers (such as GPs, poly clinics, children's centres, local hospitals and one stop shops) to support better health outcomes for babies, infants and mothers
 - How we work across the council and partners to raise aspirations of local families, improve conditions for family life and better tackle generations of worklessness and dependency
21. **Raising the bar** – high-quality provision that meets local needs. Priorities within this area may have implications for:
- As a council, how we work together to equip schools as hubs of our local community. Developing improved pathways to a range of support to better meet the wide range of needs of their students and community
 - How we work across council services to support those groups within our community that are experiencing poorer outcomes across the board rather than addressing these only within service boundaries
22. **Succeeding into adulthood** – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing. Priorities within this area may have implications for:
- How we can use the range of partner expertise, provision and opportunities in the borough to improve skills and employability of young people. Utilising corporate relationships with the private sector to enable better pathways for young people to take up local learning and employment opportunities
 - How to utilise the range of resources available in the borough to better meet our corporate parent and statutory responsibilities in a joined-up way for care leavers and young offenders
23. **Working Together** – to safeguard children from harm. Priorities within this area may have implications for:
- How we work across the range of partners supporting vulnerable adults that are parents in safeguarding their children from harm, including shared assessment processes and support for those on a child protection plan

- The future delivery of domestic abuse provision in the borough that is delivered in a joined-up way across all partners. A key risk factor for a range of services that are supporting families across the council

Community Impact Statement

24. The work of the children's trust and the CYPP has wide-reaching implications for all children, young people and families, including the most vulnerable. A key underpinning principle will be to ensure it embeds considerations of equalities and human rights throughout its development, action and review. We are currently working to mainstream equalities in all aspects of the work such as the needs assessment, stakeholder engagement and performance review arrangements. The CYPP and children's trust will be underpinned by a range of equality impact assessments in line with the corporate model and approach.

Resource implications

25. The CYPP is expected to require a statement of how the local authority's use of resources will contribute to the improvement of outcomes. Both the current statutory guidance and the revised guidance out to consultation note that detailed financial information is not required, but that the statement of resources should be sufficient to give confidence that the actions proposed by the CYPP are realistic, affordable and not merely a set of aspirations. Financial information will need to be available to elected members and boards of local partners when they are endorsing plans. This will need to be reflected in council budget setting processes.
26. By April 2011, it is expected that the CYPP will have to show how the budgets of local partners involved in preparing the plan, including the voluntary sector, will be used to contribute to the delivery of the plan. It should also set out progress on the pooling and aligning of budgets and how children's trust partners intend to integrate the use of assets, resources and new technologies in support of delivery. It is particularly important where joint actions are proposed without a pooled budget that partners set out clearly the level of resources committed to and how budgets will be aligned or funding apportioned.
27. The quality of service provision is one of the most important factors in delivering overall improvement in outcomes. The challenging public sector financial context over the coming years makes it vital that services are evidence-based, cost-effective and efficient. The CYPP will be used as a driver to remove duplication where it exists across the children's system and target resources against the agreed set of priorities.

Consultation

28. The proposed CYPP as set out in Appendix 1 is being considered and agreed by other children's trust partners, the PCT and the police, in line with statutory requirements. This will be completed when Council Assembly considers the proposed plan on March 24 2010. In addition, members are being consulted through the Executive and Corporate Parenting Committee, as well as an open members' seminar to which all ward members were invited.
29. A programme of formal public consultation on the proposed CYPP is planned in

line with statutory guidance and local requirements, and is running until 9 March. It included an open consultation event on 1 March, to which all members, stakeholders and partners were invited. There has been widespread involvement of partners and stakeholders to date, including children, young people, parents and frontline staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OFFICERS TO THE EXECUTIVE, 9 FEBRUARY 2010

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

30. The Executive is being asked to note:
- i. the proposed new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2010 to 2013 and its implications for the council.
 - ii. the further work which is being undertaken to complete the plan, including consultation and then to recommend the Plan to Council Assembly after this work is completed.
 - iii. the requirements of the CYPP are changing and those changes are expected to require a new plan to be published by 1 April 2011.
31. In accordance with the council's constitution agreement of the CYPP is a matter reserved for Council Assembly.
32. The report sets out that changes to the content of the CYPP are anticipated. However, the precise extent of these cannot be known until the guidance and regulations currently out to consultation, have been finalised. Although the proposed Plan is for 2010 to 2013, it is expected that a further plan will be brought back to Executive, as explained in the report.
33. The requirements of the CYPP are set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 as amended, and require the plan to set out the improvements which the authority intend to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and relevant young persons so far as relating to—
- (a) physical and mental health and emotional well being;
 - (b) protection from harm and neglect;
 - (c) education, training and recreation;
 - (d) the contribution made by them to society; and
 - (e) social and economic well-being
34. The regulations set out specific matters which need to be covered in the plan, most of these have been covered. The report sets out the matters which are outstanding. They are the following:
- iv. Needs assessment against outcomes
 - v. A statement of how the council's budget will be used to contribute to these improvements
 - vi. A statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons.

Finance Director

35. This report asks the Executive to note the priorities and partnership commissioning intentions to be included in the new CYPP, as well as the

supporting vision and commissioning framework.

36. As required by current statutory guidance, the CYPP must include a statement of how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to the commitments in the plan. The information contained in the proposed plan (in Appendix 1) is currently draft, and will be expanded and finalised through final partner consultation, which will be completed by Council Assembly on March 24 2010.
37. In the introduction to the plan it is recognised that the Children and Young People's Plan for 2010 to 2013 will need to be implemented in a transformed statutory landscape and the harshest economic climate seen in decades.
38. The Council and each of partners will undoubtedly be facing severe financial challenges over the life of the plan. As set out previously in reports to Executive relating to the Policy and Resources Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13, the government has given no indication of revenue support grant for local government for 2011/12 and beyond and has not provided any assurance that the existing grant floor will continue to be in place for future years. The failure to set out future grant allocation makes it extremely challenging to plan with any certainty for future years.
39. Further, the Council services included within the CYPP currently rely on significant specific grant funding streams, including Area Based Grant (£10.7M) and Sure Start (£16.4M). The future of these funding sources is particularly uncertain and there is, for example, no commitment to continue any Sure Start funding beyond March 2011.
40. Given the above, it will be particularly important for the Council and its partners to explore every opportunity for achieving efficiency gains by creatively aligning budgets and by joint commissioning of services to deliver the CYPP priorities.

Other Officers

n/a

REASONS FOR URGENCY

Legislative requirement

n/a

REASONS FOR LATENESS

n/a

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Statutory Guidance on cooperation arrangements including the children's trust board and the children and young people's plan	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street	Fiona Russell 53923

	London SE1 2TZ	
Proposed Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013 – Executive Report February 2010	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Fiona Russell 53923
Young Southwark - Statutory Changes to Children's Trust Board Executive Report July 2009	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Fiona Russell 53923
Children and Young People's Plan Guidance 2009 (January 2009)	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Fiona Russell 53923
Children's Trust: Statutory Guidance on inter agency cooperation to improve wellbeing of children, young people and their families (November 2008)	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Fiona Russell 53923

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft CYPP 2010-2013

2010-2013

Children and Young People's Plan

Welcome

We, the partners of Young Southwark, are pleased to introduce our Children and Young People's Plan for 2010 to 2013. It has been developed in an unprecedented environment, with a transformed statutory landscape and the harshest economic climate seen in decades.

We have not shied away from these challenges. We see them as a historic opportunity to reshape what services we offer to ensure they better meet the needs of the children, young people and families we serve.

This plan sets out how we will work together over the next three years to meet these challenges and improve the life chances of our children, young people and families. It was developed by involving those who have the biggest stake in our borough – our children, young people, parents, carers, staff and practitioners – and we are proud of how their voice has shaped it.

Now that we have agreed our priorities, we are committed to driving through the major changes we and our communities need. We will focus our efforts solely on the priorities identified in this plan, and will decide together how we will target our limited resources for maximum effect. Sometimes this means knowing what to stop as well as which new directions to take to make sure we get the best value and have the biggest impact.

We will ensure services are of the highest quality and based on evidence of need. We will focus on improving family life and ensuring that children are safe from harm. We recognise the importance of having a home and neighbourhood you enjoy living in, and will work to make sure vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and families have the best chances in life.

We are committed to acting early to try and prevent problems where we can, and on creating a workforce able to achieve our vision.

We aspire to shape the borough for the better, and call on everyone involved in the lives of children, young people and families in Southwark to work with us to ensure every child, young person, family and community thrives.

[Signatures of all Young Southwark executive members to be included]

How was the plan developed?

We are committed to making sure the views of children, young people, families and staff influence how services are designed and run. Their views are a central part of our assessment of needs and support our understanding of what is working well and where we need to change things.

To develop this plan, we completed a detailed analysis of the demand and performance of services, and talked to senior decision-makers. Then we went out into our communities and workforce, and asked them to tell us a story.

We organised more than a dozen events, which included Saturday family sessions, as well as activities specifically for children and young people in libraries, a festival and schools.

We were honoured and delighted that more than 1,000 children, young people, parents, carers, staff and practitioners responded. Their stories tell of the ups and downs of growing up in Southwark, of the challenges and celebrations of local families, of the difference we can make when we get things right, and where sometimes we are getting things wrong.

The stories told us about childcare and schools and activities for young people, about life with children with special needs, about crime and healthcare, about being a new parent, growing up or being a grandparent. Many spoke of pride of living or working in Southwark – all provided fresh insights into family life and gave us a powerful evidence base to inform this plan.

We also involved young people, parents and practitioners in helping us to make sense of the stories, particularly in identifying some of the themes and issues that cut across services and interpreting evidence such as data.

We are proud of our communities' contribution and have published a selection as a companion to this plan, alongside a summary of the comprehensive needs assessment used to shape it.

The involvement of children, young people, families and staff does not stop with the plan's publication. Just as they helped shape it, we will ensure they play an equally important role reviewing and challenging our progress. Together, we can shape the borough for the better.

How does the plan fit with national priorities?

This plan sets out how we will improve the wellbeing of children and young people in regard to the five Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

This plan recognises and addresses the far-reaching implications of statutory changes to children's trusts, local safeguarding children boards, Children and Young People's Plans and the roles of lead members and directors of children's services, which came into force on 1 April 2010.

By April 2011, this plan, as the joint strategy of children's trust partners, will set out in detail how we will cooperate to improve the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. It will show how we as partners will commission services to address locally identified needs, integrate provision better and focus on early intervention, safeguarding and reducing the impact of child poverty on life chances. The plan will also set out what actions will be delivered by which partner or partnership, and what resources they will commit.

This plan informs a wider range of planning arrangements, including borough and council-wide strategic and partnership plans and those that impact on life chances for children. The plans of partners form a complex array of inter-related strategic, commissioning and operational plans with their children and family aspects aligned through the plan and informing operational planning for frontline services.

This plan is central to future inspection arrangements of both the council and partners alike. In addition, *Working Together to Safeguard Children* guidance has set out how the children's trust should draw on support and challenge from the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board. This work is ongoing and will form the basis of a new annual safeguarding report to the children's trust board, in which the safeguarding board will scrutinise the work of the children's trust.

Our vision

“Every child, young person and family in Southwark leading independent, healthy lives, feeling safe and secure and achieving their full potential. We have high expectations for our communities and will work together to make a measurable difference in a way that helps overcome inequality and disadvantage, and strengthens families’ abilities to raise their children successfully.”

In order to achieve this vision, we will work in partnership across five priorities:

- **Thinking family** – families at the centre of all we do
- **Narrowing the gap** – better and more equal life chances for all
- **Raising the bar** – high-quality provision that meets local needs
- **Succeeding into adulthood** – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing
- **Working together** – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect

Our principles and values

We, Southwark's Children and Families' Trust, agree to follow the principles outlined below when implementing this plan. They will inform how we commission services by and through the trust board, and be used to challenge the decisions of the partnership and all partners.

We will continue to work throughout the duration of this plan to ensure that these principles and values are shared and understood by all partners.

The principles fall into four categories:

- Our values for working together
- Our principles for redesigning services
- Our commitments to share accountability
- Our quality pledges for services

Our values for working together

- We will be ambitious for our children, young people, their families and the community. Our starting point is that parents and carers are best placed to promote their child's wellbeing.
- We will share responsibility for achieving the priorities in this plan, working together to carry out the changes needed locally.
- We will prioritise and decide what action we need to take to address local priorities and issues.
- We will build social capital in our communities to help respond to local priorities.

Our principles for redesigning services

- We will shape services to fit the needs of our communities. We will look to offer services as locally as possible and will always prioritise the use of resources on the commitments in this plan.

- We will work together to simplify the local system and improve its value for money and effectiveness.
- We will ensure that keeping children and young people safe from harm or neglect will inform all actions overseeing and implementing the commitments in this plan, just as it has been central to the plan's development.
- We will make shared choices about where, when and how we narrow the gap in individual or group outcomes when redesigning services.
- We will think creatively and be open to opportunities of doing things in new ways.
- We will decide together what we are going to do differently or stop doing, when decisions impact on other partners.
- We will be clear and realistic about the impact we want to have when changing the way we do things.
- We will target early intervention and preventative services to help further strengthen and build capacity in universal services to meet needs earlier and more effectively.
- We will ensure specialist services help to support the development of strong universal and targeted services as the bedrock of local provision.
- We will use specialist services and non-statutory and community partners to ensure that resources are targeted at those most in need.

Our commitments to share accountability

- We will maintain a clear and separate identity, as the children's trust board, while working within wider co-operation arrangements to improve the life chances of children, young people and families.
- We will work together to develop and equip a workforce that can deliver the changes needed at all levels across the partnership.

- We will strengthen our priorities and areas for service improvement with robust and systematic performance, risk management and evaluation systems.
- We will focus on improving the life chances for children, young people and families while recognising the need to respond to inspection and regulation requirements.
- We will make sure that we are clear about the roles, responsibilities and resources each partner brings to achieve the priorities in this plan.
- We will seek to continually improve as a local area and benchmark our performance against local and national best practice, and evidenced-based models.
- We will use our shared commitment to local priorities to challenge each other and the solutions we develop as a partnership.

Our quality pledge for services

Every service will be measured for its impact against the following pledges:

- They are high quality and make a measurable positive difference to the lives of children, young people and families.
- They seek to build the ability and resilience of children, young people and their families to be independent:
 - We will make use of family, community and social networks, and ensure every staff member, agency and partner acts to support independence
 - Where children, young people and their families have additional needs, there will be clear pathways that they and practitioners can use, and where appropriate they are supported in their transition between services
- They ensure children and young people are safeguarded in all we do:
 - Each staff member, agency and partner will have the skills and knowledge to take appropriate action for those identified at risk of harm

- We will ensure the system is fit to deliver the step change in local arrangements to protect children and young people from harm or neglect
- They work to narrow the gap and improve life chances for all:
 - We will recognise the importance of outreach and parental engagement in designing and providing services
- They support better ways of working together:
 - We will use local and national common tools and processes, and ensure information sharing and the role of the lead professional are central to how we deliver services in partnership with families and other agencies
 - We will recognise children and young people as part of families and ensure their family story is understood and respected when families interact with our services

Our priorities and the results we expect

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

- Simplifying how you access services and information about them
- Improving the quality, suitability and range of activities for children and young people
- Independence for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families
- Children and families being a healthy weight
- More effective support for families most in need

Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

- Better health for babies, infants and mothers
- Early years provision that meets the needs of vulnerable children
- Looked after children achieving their educational potential
- Raising the achievement of those groups falling behind

Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

- Children are school ready and schools are child ready
- Every school and setting aspires to excellence
- Schools and settings are able to meet their students' needs
- Raising attainment at 19

Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

- More young people in education, employment or training
- Looked after young people succeed as young adults
- Less crime by and against young people
- Lower rates of teenage conceptions

Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect

- Services that meet the needs of our children and community
- A stronger family-based approach to safeguarding
- Fewer children and families experiencing domestic abuse

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

Our priority is... **Simplifying how you access services and information about them**

You can expect... To find it easier to learn about and use universal services covering birth to adulthood. Age, culture or level of need or resources will not be a barrier because we will reach out in ways most appropriate to our diverse communities. You will also see more parents shaping services and participating in their community, empowered by strong local networks.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Put in one easily accessible place, information on what is universally available for children, young people and families with children up to aged 19</p> <p>Make better use of existing community providers of information and services to children, young people and families</p> <p>Better coordinate and target outreach and parental engagement activities to narrow the gap in life chances</p>	<p>Children, young people, parents and practitioners report a better experience when accessing information, advice and guidance</p> <p>A more streamlined information service and improved performance across a range of areas targeted by outreach activities</p> <p>A robust infrastructure which supports parental engagement at all levels and is central to how we improve services</p>

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

***Our priority is...* Improving the quality, suitability and range of activities for children and young people**

You can expect... More children and young people choosing to play, volunteer, participate and be active in Southwark. More will be shaping services, being part of their community and participating in the decisions that affect their lives – and those who are vulnerable will find the support and opportunities they need to get back on track and realise their potential.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Bring together and better promote a borough-wide offer of good-quality play opportunities and activities for children and young people which also meets the needs of at-risk groups</p> <p>Provide young people with opportunities to be active citizens and participate in their local community</p>	<p>Improved quality and suitability of youth provision in the borough</p> <p>A well communicated and coordinated programme of activities for young people that meets a range of local needs</p> <p>More children and young people participating in activities such as volunteering, contributing to the decisions that affect their lives and involved in planning and evaluating youth work</p>

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

***Our priority is...* Independence for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families**

You can expect... Services focused on building the capacity and skills of children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, and their families to be more independent and enable them to make better use of a wider range of local opportunities and services. You can also expect a more streamlined, consistent approach to transition between life stages or services.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Improve the experience of children, young people and their families moving from early years to school and from children's to adult services</p>	<p>A more streamlined, consistent approach to transition between services or life stages, and for children, young people and their families to report a better experience</p>
<p>Provide care and short break support to enable children, young people and their families to make the most of universal services such as local leisure facilities and childcare placements</p>	<p>More children, young people and families receiving care and short breaks outside the home and choosing to use a wider range of local facilities</p>
<p>Build the capacity of children, young people and families to live independent lives at all key stages of their development, from birth to young adulthood</p>	<p>Children, young people and their families with the skills to enable them to lead more independent lives and make better use of the range of opportunities available to them</p>

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

Our priority is... **Children and families being a healthy weight**

You can expect... Partners to be more active in encouraging children, young people and families to live healthy lifestyles and to improve how we identify those in need of support. Children, young people and families with unhealthy weights can expect effective tailored services that meet their needs by bringing together the right mix of advice, treatments and providers.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Enable children, young people and families to maintain a healthy weight through effective early intervention and prevention activity</p> <p>Target those at risk of an unhealthy weight through tailored advice and support, and help reduce the prevalence of overweight children, young people and families</p> <p>Develop a range of effective treatments for anorexia, obesity and other weight disorders through timely, multi-component, family-based interventions</p>	<p>Reduced rates of overweight children in key at-risk groups</p> <p>Lower rates of childhood obesity at year 6 and reception</p>

Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

Our priority is... **More effective support for families most in need**

You can expect... More families breaking out of the cycle of disadvantage and becoming more independent because we will target the right kind of help when and where we see it is needed. There will be a single front door to a better coordinated range of intensive support for families, and these will be tailored to meet families' needs and based on what works.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Promote a shared understanding and common approach across partners to identifying and assessing families' strengths and needs</p> <p>Reshape what services are offered to families in need of additional help and create a single front door to intensive support programmes</p> <p>Are tailored to families' needs, based on evidence of what works and are provided through multi-agency teams working around the family</p>	<p>Families identified for additional support and challenge to tell their story once, are heard and get the help they need faster</p> <p>More families are able to solve their own problems and develop independence, leading to better life chances</p> <p>Parents and practitioners are able to find out about and get access to intensive support programmes</p> <p>Services will be brought together and continually reviewed according to need and what works</p>

Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

Our priority is... **Better health for babies, infants and mothers**

You can expect... Antenatal support that is high quality, coordinated and accessible, and more pregnant women using it earlier in their pregnancy. There will be fewer deaths in infancy and more babies will have good health. Practitioners will be working more closely with partners and better able to identify and take action to support families with additional needs.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
Ensure women can access high-quality antenatal support at an earlier stage of pregnancy by coordinating provision of services	A reduction in infant mortality rates
Promote the health of children in their early years including improving joint working between health visitors and early years services to identify families in need of targeted support	A higher percentage of women seeing a midwife or a maternity healthcare professional by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy
Establish effective pathways for practitioners working with families with additional needs	Higher immunisation rates for those under 5, and a greater percentage of infants being breastfed at 6 to 8 weeks
A more efficient and effective approach to assessing a child's health needs	More children enjoying good health

Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

Our priority is... **Early years provision that meets the needs of vulnerable children**

You can expect... Settings have the necessary skills and access to appropriate expert support to ensure vulnerable children achieve better health, wellbeing and educational outcomes. Parents will get better support in understanding and dealing with their and their child's needs. Children's centres will be the hub of services, working with partners to provide seamless, effective support.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Meet the social and emotional needs of children and better support parents in the development of their child's social and emotional needs</p> <p>Provide suitable early years placements for vulnerable groups such as children with a child protection plan, children in need and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities</p> <p>Support local developments and tackle needs in line with the revised Healthy Child Programme for those with additional needs</p>	<p>To narrow the gap in achievement at foundation stage profile for the lowest achieving 20%, and for PSED and CLLD scales and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>Better joined-up support for children and families through Sure Start children centre hubs across the network of early years practitioners, providers and settings</p>

Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

Our priority is... **Children in care achieving their educational potential**

You can expect... More children and young people in care attending school, realising their educational potential and overcoming the gap in achievement with their peers. They can expect partners to be working together to maximise local expertise and provision, offer flexible, quality educational opportunities appropriate to their need, and support them when changing schools.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Better use the variety of expertise and services available across children's trust partners to help keep children in care in education and support them in achieving their educational potential</p> <p>Are flexible and able to respond to the educational needs of children in care wherever they are placed</p> <p>Manage the transition of children in care from one educational setting to another and from education to employment</p>	<p>Greater numbers of children in care achieving their learning and educational potential</p> <p>The gap in educational achievement between children in care and their peers further narrowing</p> <p>More children in care attending school or an equivalent setting appropriate to their needs</p>

Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

Our priority is... **Raising the achievement of those groups falling behind**

You can expect... More children and young people reaching at least the educational achievement of their national peers. Their schools will be more strategic, coherent and effective in targeting underachievement and sharing good practice. The aspirations of children, young people and families will be higher, strengthened by a greater use of activities and services in and out of school.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
Target cohorts of children and young people to help buck the trend of key underachieving pupils	Continued improvements in achievement and attainment up to the age of 19, to approach and exceed national figures
Ensure good practice and learning is spread across the whole system	A further narrowing of the gap between underachieving groups and their peers
Be targeted in our approach to raising the aspirations of children, young people, their parents and the community through an improved range of coordinated in-school and out-of-school provision	Schools share good practice and target pupil underachievement in a strategic, coherent and effective way An improved quality and range of provision both in and out of school, and greater take-up

Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

Our priority is... **Children are school ready and schools are child ready**

You can expect... All children able to access high-quality early years settings which address their social, emotional, physical and learning needs so they are well prepared for the challenge of starting school. Schools will be better informed about the needs of their children and will be able to support them whatever stage of development the child has achieved.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Are high quality, age appropriate and help prepare children for school by supporting them to participate and achieve early learning skills</p> <p>Ensure there are sufficient school places to meet all the needs of local children irrespective of their developmental stage and where possible close to their home</p> <p>Better support the transition of children from early years to school settings so their social, emotional, physical and learning needs are met</p>	<p>More children to be able to access good-quality early years settings and to see improved achievement in the early years foundation stage and at KS1</p> <p>More children have access to places in local schools that meet their requirements</p> <p>Children are well prepared for the challenge of starting school</p>

Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

Our priority is... **Every school and setting aspires to excellence**

You can expect... More families choosing a Southwark school or setting because standards are higher, and more children and young people are realising their potential. Schools can expect quality services and strong leadership from the local authority and, as leaders too, will be working together and with partners to ensure every child, young person, family and community thrives.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Enable children and young people to reach their full potential through a consistent range of high-quality services that are based on need and delivered collaboratively across a range of providers</p> <p>Raise standards through sustainable, strong leadership at school and borough level</p> <p>Incorporate the voice of pupils, parents and the community, and encourage members of the community to be involved in school leadership</p>	<p>All aspects of provision judged good or better by Ofsted, and more schools and settings classified as 'outstanding'</p> <p>Schools to rate local authority services highly and for demand for local authority services to be high</p> <p>Schools to be making a major contribution to improving life chances children, young people and families, and to ensuring they are safe</p> <p>Increased pupil and parent satisfaction reported with Southwark schools, and fewer parents opting out of Southwark's schools and settings</p>

Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

Our priority is... **Schools and settings are able to meet their students' needs**

You can expect... Children and young people overcoming barriers to learning and achieving their full potential. They and their families can expect their school to be inclusive and have the capacity and skills to meet their social, emotional and additional learning needs. Schools, working together and with partners, can expect to access specialist support when appropriate.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Through consistent, high-quality services, build the capacity of universal settings to better identify and take targeted action to meet the social and emotional needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families</p> <p>Redesign how we provide community mental health support to children, young people and their families in mainstream settings, including when and how to access specialist provision</p> <p>Enable partners to make better use of the specialist learning skills and resources available in the borough</p> <p>Create and use a clearer framework of tiered support for children with additional learning needs</p>	<p>Greater numbers of young people with barriers to learning achieving higher, including less exclusions and improved attendance</p> <p>More children and young people feeling safe and fewer incidences of bullying</p> <p>Investment in early intervention to be according to need and evidence of what works, while building the capacity of families to solve their own problems</p> <p>Universal settings to be confident and equipped to meet their students' and families' needs</p> <p>A greater consensus about what works and how we can share expertise and best practice across the system, as well as more quality referrals and better use of specialist provision</p>

Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

Our priority is... **Raising attainment at 19**

You can expect... More young people staying in education or training after 16, choosing to do this locally and achieving better qualifications. More will be making good choices about their future because they and their parents will be receiving quality careers and education advice, and the curriculum and opportunities on offer will meet their needs and those of local employers.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Develop a high-quality, broad, balanced curriculum for those aged 14 to 19, ensuring that it is both coordinated and meets the needs of our employers and young learners at levels one, two and three</p> <p>Provide good-quality careers and education advice and guidance that results in young people making good choices</p> <p>Build capacity with local employers to ensure there are better pathways for young people into employment</p>	<p>More young people choosing to take up appropriate provision locally</p> <p>Attainment at levels two and three to rise and the gap between Southwark and national figures to disappear</p> <p>Fewer young people dropping out post-16</p> <p>More young people continuing in education or taking up apprenticeships and work placements in the local area</p>

Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

Our priority is... **More young people in education, employment or training**

You can expect... More young people choosing and remaining in a quality local education placement suitable to their needs. Parents and the community will have higher aspirations for their children, young people at risk of dropping out will have been identified and guided on to an appropriate path to employment, and those in need will be receiving tailored advice and support.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Work collaboratively to identify and target earlier young people not taking up education, employment or training, and support them to access a broad, balanced curriculum</p> <p>Provide quality advice to young people at an earlier age to reduce the likelihood of them not taking up education, employment or training</p> <p>Work with the community to increase aspirations and engage parents in supporting their child's post-16 choices</p> <p>Provide co-ordinated, tailored advice, guidance and support for those not in education, employment or training, to enable them to take up and remain in one of a range of quality local placements appropriate to their needs</p>	<p>More young people in education, employment or training including those at greater risk and with more complex needs</p> <p>A broader range of quality education, training and employment opportunities available to young people</p> <p>Parents having higher aspirations for their children and supporting them in making good choices about their future</p>

Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

Our priority is... **Looked after young people succeed as young adults**

You can expect... More young people in care living in a stable placement, taking up education, employment or training, and managing independent lives successfully. All partners will bring together their services to support those under 22 years of age into adulthood, and specialist expertise will be available to ensure the most vulnerable are safeguarded.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Consolidate what is on offer across council, children's trust and local strategic partnership partners for young people in care aged 16 to 21, to support them to move successfully into adulthood</p> <p>Provide tailored support for those that need it in order to help them succeed in adulthood and be independent</p> <p>Ensure a multi-agency response that draws on a range of specialist services and expertise for young people in care with very complex needs</p>	<p>More young people in care in education, employment or training</p> <p>More stability in placements</p> <p>More care leavers managing their lives successfully as young adults</p> <p>Better safeguarding of those at risk of harm to themselves and/or to others through improved specialist support</p>

Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

Our priority is... **Less crime by and against young people**

You can expect... Fewer and less serious crimes being committed by young people and a fall in reoffending. There will also be fewer young people being victims or fearful of crime or antisocial behaviour. And more young offenders will be choosing to enter education, employment or training, living in suitable accommodation and leading a law-abiding lifestyle.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Target early intervention services at young people and their families who are at risk of involvement in crime as either victim or perpetrator</p> <p>Prevent reoffending and reduce the seriousness of crimes through a model of multi-agency, evidenced-based intervention and support</p> <p>Assist young offenders to engage positively in their community through supported opportunities to enter education, employment or training, live in suitable accommodation and develop law-abiding lifestyles</p>	<p>Fewer and less serious crimes being committed by young people</p> <p>Fewer young people becoming victims of crime and fewer being fearful of youth crime and antisocial behaviour</p> <p>More young people who have committed crimes desisting from reoffending, taking up education, employment or training opportunities and living in suitable accommodation</p>

Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

Our priority is... **Lower rates of teenage conceptions**

You can expect... More young people, whatever their level of need, making positive choices about their sexual health and relationships, and more parents feeling able to guide their child's choices. Young people will be accessing quality advice and contraception as and when they need it, and there will be self-development opportunities for our vulnerable young people.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Ensure good-quality sexual health and relationship information, advice and guidance is available to all young people and their families</p> <p>Ensure young people have increased access to contraception as and when they need it</p> <p>Provide targeted information and support on a range of services including sexual health, educational and self-development opportunities to at-risk groups, including young offenders, young people in care and vulnerable parents</p>	<p>More young people are able to make positive choices around sexual health and relationships, and more parents feel able to guide and influence their child's choices</p> <p>A rise in the number of young people accessing contraception</p> <p>Reduced rates of teenage pregnancy, and more teenage parents in education, employment or training</p>

Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect

Our priority is... **Services that meet the needs of our children and community**

You can expect... More children to be safe because services are meeting their and the community's needs, and the workforce is able to recognise and respond quickly to potential signs of abuse and neglect. Partners, with the community, will work more effectively together to ensure children are protected from harm and to improve the quality of referrals when these are necessary.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Develop provision that responds to local community and safeguarding needs to keep children safe</p> <p>Improve the quality and consistency of contact and referrals to social care or to other agencies as appropriate</p> <p>Secure a well-trained workforce able to understand child development, and recognise and act, in a timely fashion, on potential signs of abuse and neglect</p> <p>Deliver the system-wide improvements to achieve the step change required by <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> requirements</p> <p>Develop the positive relationship with the borough's communities to build their capacity to keep children safe</p>	<p>More children are safe and/or report they feel safe</p> <p>More good-quality and timely referrals to the most appropriate agency</p> <p>Improvements to frontline practice in line with serious case review recommendations, the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board annual report and <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> requirements</p> <p>All agencies will be reviewing safeguarding performance and be reporting to the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>More voluntary, community and faith group involvement in keeping children safe</p>

Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect

Our priority is... **A stronger family based approach to safeguarding**

You can expect... Partners to reshape services for children at risk of harm so they are more responsive, integrated and effective. You can expect us to bring together the widest range of knowledge and expertise to support children with a child protection plan, which will lead to less time on plans, fewer re-registrations and improved outcomes for the child and family.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Enable the holistic assessment of a child at risk of harm, recognising the difficulties being experienced in the household and drawing on evidence from all services involved with the family</p> <p>Reshape the way we support children with a child protection plan that builds on the wide range of knowledge and expertise of all the professionals involved with the family</p> <p>Improve the effectiveness of joint working to ensure there is appropriate multi-agency targeted, specialist support for a child on a plan and their family</p>	<p>Improved joint assessments and greater integrated working across the partnership</p> <p>More effective child protection plans, which will result in less time being spent on them, and more efficient use of resources</p> <p>Fewer hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people</p>

Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect

Our priority is... **Fewer children and families experiencing domestic abuse**

You can expect... Lower rates of domestic abuse and repeat victimisation because we are working better together to ensure prevention, intervention and enforcement services are more coordinated and effective. Children in families experiencing domestic abuse will be safer and have better life chances, and more young people will choose to engage in positive relationships.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Develop a partnership-wide approach to prevention, intervention and enforcement activities to ensure a more integrated continuum of support for families experiencing domestic abuse</p>	<p>Lower rates of domestic violence and repeat victimisation</p> <p>A fall in the negative impact of domestic abuse on children's safety and life chances</p>
<p>Improve the coordination of support for children in families experiencing domestic abuse, both through greater integrated working by partners across the system and better training opportunities</p>	<p>Fewer sexual offences by and against young people, and more young people choosing to engage in positive relationships</p>
<p>Ensure that information, guidance and support services for young people encourage positive relationships</p>	

Review of needs, stakeholder views and performance

This plan has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of children's trust partners at all levels, and has been overseen by the children's trust board at each stage.

The priorities and commitments identified in this plan are the result of detailed analysis of a comprehensive joint strategic needs assessment, widespread stakeholder consultation and extensive performance review, as follows:

Needs assessment

We undertook a comprehensive joint strategic needs assessment across the five Every Child Matters outcomes and cross-cutting themes including schools, parenting, workforce and safeguarding to identify as a system what we are doing well, what we can build on and where we need to do it differently.

A summary of this analysis is included in this plan and is available as a separate document [to be confirmed]. It is available [details to follow].

Views of children, young people and families in Southwark

The needs assessment set a framework for stakeholder consultation through borough-wide storytelling events with children, young people, parents, carers and frontline staff. Some 1,000 stories have been collected and used to shape and inform priorities. In addition, a parent and child survey collected a further 800 views on issues across the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

A selection of the stories collected has been published [due April 2010] and is available [details to follow].

Performance review

The third strand to the plan's development was a senior management review of our performance to date, to identify what we are doing well and what we can build on and where we need to do it differently – against each of the Every Child Matters outcomes.

We are publishing this analysis alongside the needs assessment, and it includes

summaries for each outcome, showing how we are building on our strengths and addressing areas for improvement.

Use of resources

Investing in outcomes for children, young people and families

We are committed to providing the resources needed to deliver effective services for children, young people and families, and to ensuring these resources are used efficiently. Over the past three years [details to follow to include description of funding arrangements].

Current expenditure plans

The finance and resource requirements arising from the Children and Young People's Plan can be divided between direct expenditure by the three core providers (education, social care and health) and expenditure by other council departments, the police and the voluntary sector, which also impact upon the outcomes sought by the plan.

[Table to come]

Resources

The resources required to fund the above expenditure, come from a variety of sources as follows:

[Table to come]

Directing resources to priority outcomes

Because this plan has been developed in the harshest economic climate seen for decades, this strategy and its commissioning plan focus on identifying priorities, detailing what is achievable on current resource assumptions, and mapping the core resources available.

We will also use the priorities to identify system-wide priority and improve the use of resources by working to reduce duplication and better utilise a range of partnership-wide resources to deliver outcomes.

What happens next?

Democratic, financial and procurement planning and governance

The quality of service provision is one of the most important factors in delivering overall improvement in outcomes. The challenging public sector financial context over the coming years makes it vital that services are evidence-based, cost-effective and efficient. This plan is the driver to remove duplication where it exists across the children's system and target resources against our agreed set of priorities.

We have already begun developing a framework for the democratic, financial and procurement governance required to enable joint commissioning between local authority departments, the primary care trust and schools.

We intend to publish, in April 2011, financial information which details that the commitments in this plan are realistic, affordable and not merely a set of aspirations. The plan will also show how the budgets of local partners, including the voluntary sector, will be used to contribute to the delivery of the plan's commitments.

This includes setting out our progress on pooling and aligning budgets, and how children's trust partners intend to integrate the use of assets, resources and new technologies in support of delivery.

Supporting strategies

We are developing a range of strategies which set out what we agree we need to do to ensure we meet the commitments set out in this plan – they are the plan's enablers or building blocks.

Collectively they will provide the vehicles for implementing the plan's priorities, be that through information sharing protocols, third sector involvement or ways to work in a more integrated way.

They will explain in more detail the scope and priorities for universal, preventative and specialist services, as well as addressing the needs of cross-cutting issues such as the involvement of the third sector and the community, our action to address child poverty and the development needs of our workforce.

We will publish these strategies in summer 2010.

And so the work begins...

Now we embark on achieving our priorities and making sure we create over the next three years the major changes we and our communities need.

We know that by working together, being of one mind, we will be more effective because we will jointly plan and apply the use of our resources and improve the services on offer.

And now that we have set our priorities, it is our workforce who will make them happen. We are confident we will meet the expectations and challenges you have told us matter because of our staff's skills and commitment to turning our aspirations into changes you see in your daily lives.

Above all, we must ensure that everything we do is focused on ensuring all children, young people and families have the best chances in life.

Although this plan is our strategic intentions for the whole borough, it should and will translate into changes to the services you use or work with – the schools, youth clubs, and antenatal services in your neighbourhood.

It aims to help families be more independent and able to solve their own problems. And for more children and young people to be healthier, happier, safer and achieving their full potential.

Work Programme: Children's services and education scrutiny sub committee

	Early Year's review - committee to consider draft report March 2 2010 and make recommendations for final report
	Parental Engagement - committee to consider draft report March 2 2010 and make recommendations for final report
	OSC 8 March 2010

**Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2009/2010
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