

The Use of Residential Care in Southwark

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DFE Spotlight – Care Homes and Residential Care

- League table based on 11/12 figures
- Similar performance on 12/13 figures

	All Children		Children's Homes		Residential settings*	
	2011/12	2012/13	2011/12	2012/13	2011/12	2012/13
CLA as at end March	551	565	12	13	30	41
Number placed over 20 miles from their home	97	125	10	10	21	29
% placed over 20 miles from their home	17.6%	22.1%	83.3%	76.9%	70.0%	70.7%
Number placed out of the borough	385	393	12	13	29	41
% placed out of the borough	69.9%	69.6%	100.0%	100.0%	96.7%	100.0%

DFE Spotlight – Care Homes and Residential Care Data Pack

- Our care home population of 12 children is 2% of all children in care and below national (7%) and London (6%) averages and the 7th lowest figure in London
- Southwark is one out of 16 local authorities with 100% (all 12 children) in care homes placed outside the borough, the national average is 46%
 - 10 of the 12 children are more than 20 miles (83.3%) against 35% nationally
 - For total children in care population, 17.6% or 97 children are placed over 20 miles. This is line with national (16%) and just below London average (18%)
- The profile of those in care homes is
 - young adolescents ranging from 10 to 16 years, with an average age of 14 years
 - 75% boys (75%) - 4 children were black British, 7 were white and 1 of mixed ethnic background
 - Reflects national cohort of average age of 14.6 years and 63% boys
- Southwark has one children's home within its boundary, Lambeth has 2 and the national average is 9

Predominant Reason for Placement

- Majority are Adolescents (75%)
- 40 boys 16 girls
- Behaviour difficulties
 - Sexualised Behaviour
 - Sexual Exploitation
 - Frequent Absconding
 - Violent and aggressive behaviour
 - Criminal Activity

Current Safeguards

- All placements good or outstanding when young person is placed
- All young people have an independent reviewing officer
- All are visited by our Children's Rights Officer
- All children and young people offered an independent advocate

Commissioning Strategy

- Bringing Southwark Children Home
 - Recruiting 50 new foster care families currently at 5 per month
 - Influencing the market and using more local providers
 - Working with other authorities to commission more local provision
 - Moving young people from residential to fostering