

Item No 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 25 March 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Children Looked After: Performance Monitoring Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the committee note this report, and endorse the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 Services for Children Looked After (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators.
- 3 This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
- 4 Quarter 1 and 2 figures have been revised and updated. These figures reflect the quarterly position as at early January 2010 and hence will be different from previous reports provided. However, the overall patterns have not changed.

Particular Success

- 5 Children Looked After short term stability shows an improvement on the end of year figure 2008/09 (13.0 per cent in Q3 2009/10 compared to 14.1 per cent end of year 2008/09).
- 6 A continued improvement in long term stability in Southwark with figures increasing by 2.2 percentage points from end of year 2008/09 (69.6 per cent compared to 67.4 per cent respectively).
- 7 Further improvement on end of year 2008/09 in the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation (98.1 per cent end of quarter 2 2009/10 compared to 97.6 per cent end of year 2008/09).

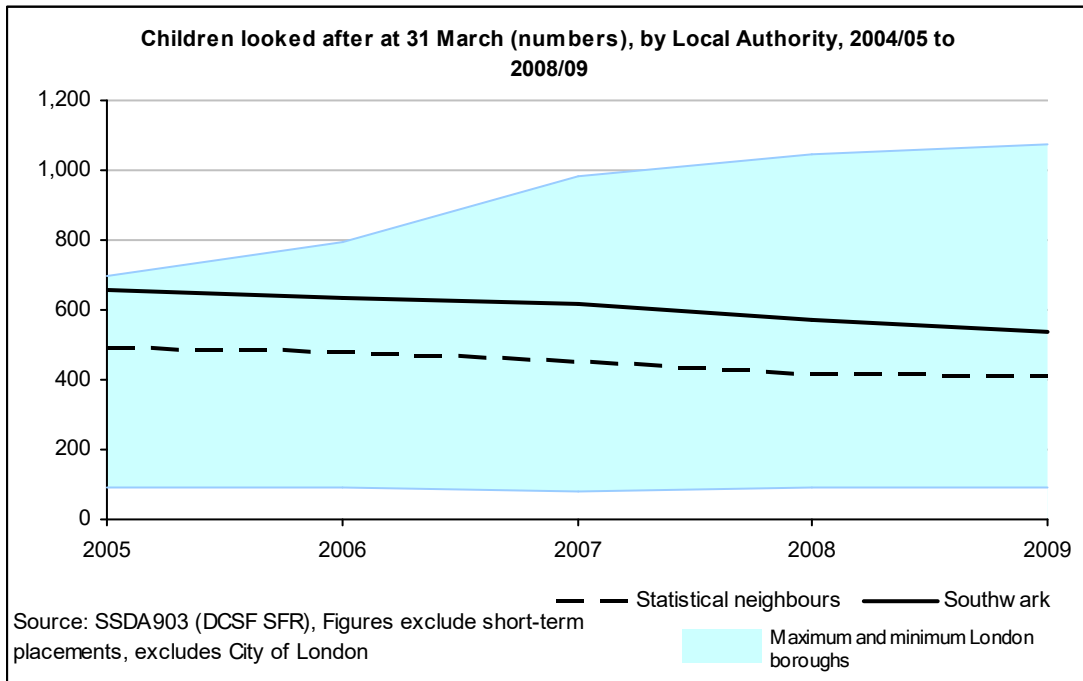
Areas of Development

- 8 The proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training remains in line with end of year 2008/09 (60.9 per cent compared to 61.9 per cent respectively).

Summary as of December 2009 Indicator Set

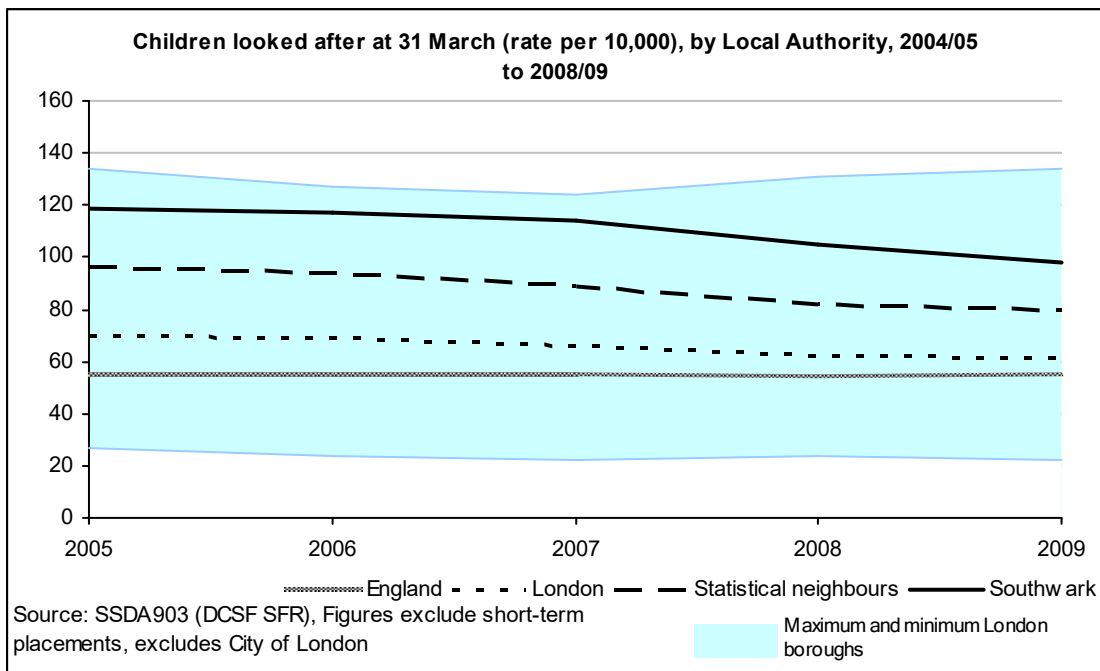
- 9 Children looked after as at 31 March 2009

End of year 2008/09 showed a further decline in the number of children looked after in Southwark (535 looked after children). Southwark had the 5th highest number of children looked after in London, improving from 3rd position end of year 2007/08. However, Southwark still remained in the top quartile nationally.



December 2009 figures show a slight increase in the number of children looked after in Southwark from end of year 2008/09 (558 looked after children). However, this is a decrease from end of September 2009 figures (572 looked after children).

The rate of children looked after had also continued to decrease in Southwark end of year 2008/09 (98 per 10,000 population under 18 years). Although Southwark has improved since end of year 2007/08 it still had the 5th highest rate out of the 32 London boroughs (excludes City of London). End December 2009 figures show an increase in the rate of children looked after (102.2 per 10,000) from end of year 2008/09.

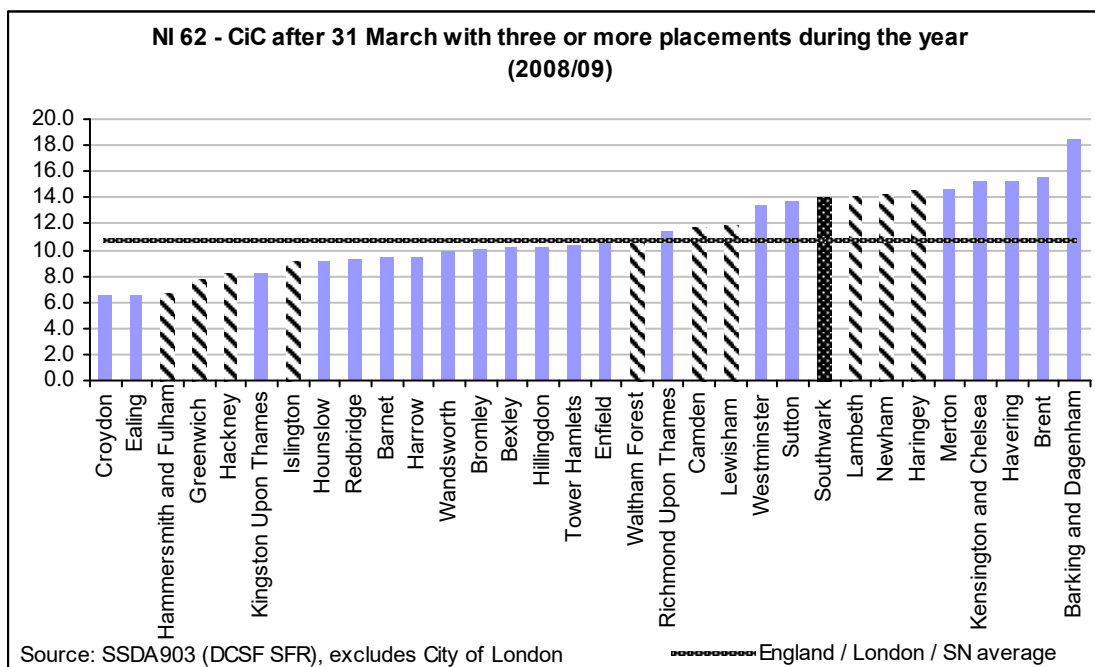


10 NI 62 – Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements

At the end December 2009, the 12 month rolling average indicates an improvement from end of year 2008/2009 (13.0 per cent in Q3 2009/10 compared to 14.1 per cent end of year 2008/09). This remains in line with quarter 2 (12.6 per cent) performance but is a slight increase from quarter 1 (11.9 per cent).

Southwark showed a decline in performance end of year 2008/09 with an increase by over two percentage points in the children looked after with three or more placements (14.1 per cent in 2008/09). The gap with the national, London and statistical neighbour average has continued to increase and Southwark fell short of its target for the 4th consecutive year. Southwark continues to have one of the highest percentages in London being ranked 9th highest out of 33 London boroughs and is in the top quartile nationally.

(Good performance for this indicator is typified by lower percentages. Bandings for 2006-07 described performance as: 0 < 16.01 – Very Good; 16.01 < 20 – Ask questions about performance; 20 <= 100 – Investigate urgently. As a Key Threshold Indicator performance of > 20% has also limited overall performance judgements.)

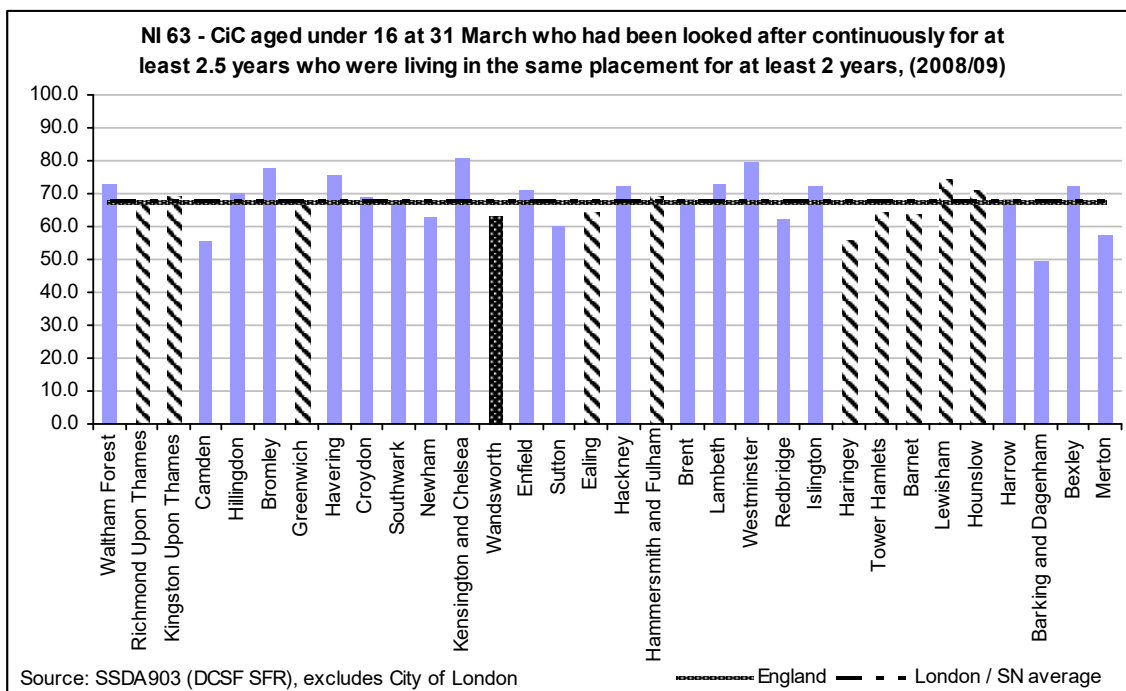


11 NI 63 – Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements

End of quarter 3 2009/10 figures (69.6 per cent) shows an improvement in performance from end of year 2008/09 with figures increasing by 2.2 percentage points (end of year 2008/09 – 67.4 per cent). End of quarter 3 figures remain in line with end of quarter 2 figures (69.7 per cent) but are an improvement from end of quarter 1 figures (63.3 per cent).

End of year 2008/09 figures (67.4 per cent) showed a three percentage point decrease in the proportion of Children Looked After living in the same placement for at least 2 years from end of year 2007/08 (70.0 per cent). Southwark fell slightly below the end of year 2008/09 target of 69 per cent (by 1.6 percentage points). Southwark was only slightly above the national average (67.0 per cent) in regards to long term stability but had fallen below the London (68.0 per cent) and Statistical neighbour (67.7 per cent) averages end of year 2008/09.

Southwark was ranked 20th out of 32 London boroughs, dropping 10 places from end of year 2007/2008 and has dropped to the 2nd quartile nationally.



12 NI 99 / 100 – Children in care reaching level 4 in English / maths at Key Stage 2

2009 results have shown an improvement in the proportion of children achieving the expected levels at Key Stage 2 (from 30.8 per cent to 40.0 per cent in English and 26.9 per cent to 45.0 per cent in maths).

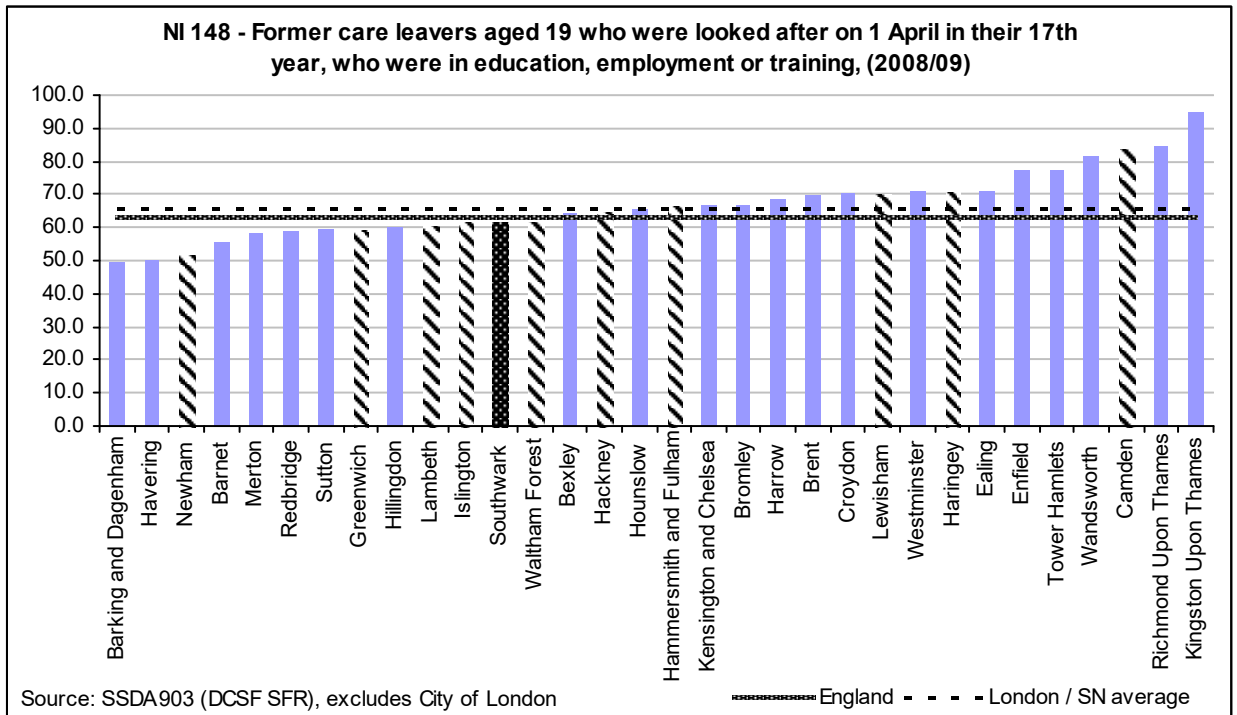
13 NI 101 – Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths)

Key Stage 4 results in 2009 exceeded the target with nearly one fifth (18.4 per cent, 6 out of 32 children) of children in care obtaining at least 5 A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE or equivalent.

14 NI 148 – % of care leavers in education, employment or training

End of quarter 3 2009/10 (60.9 per cent) figures show Southwark remains in line with end of year 2008/09 (61.9 per cent).

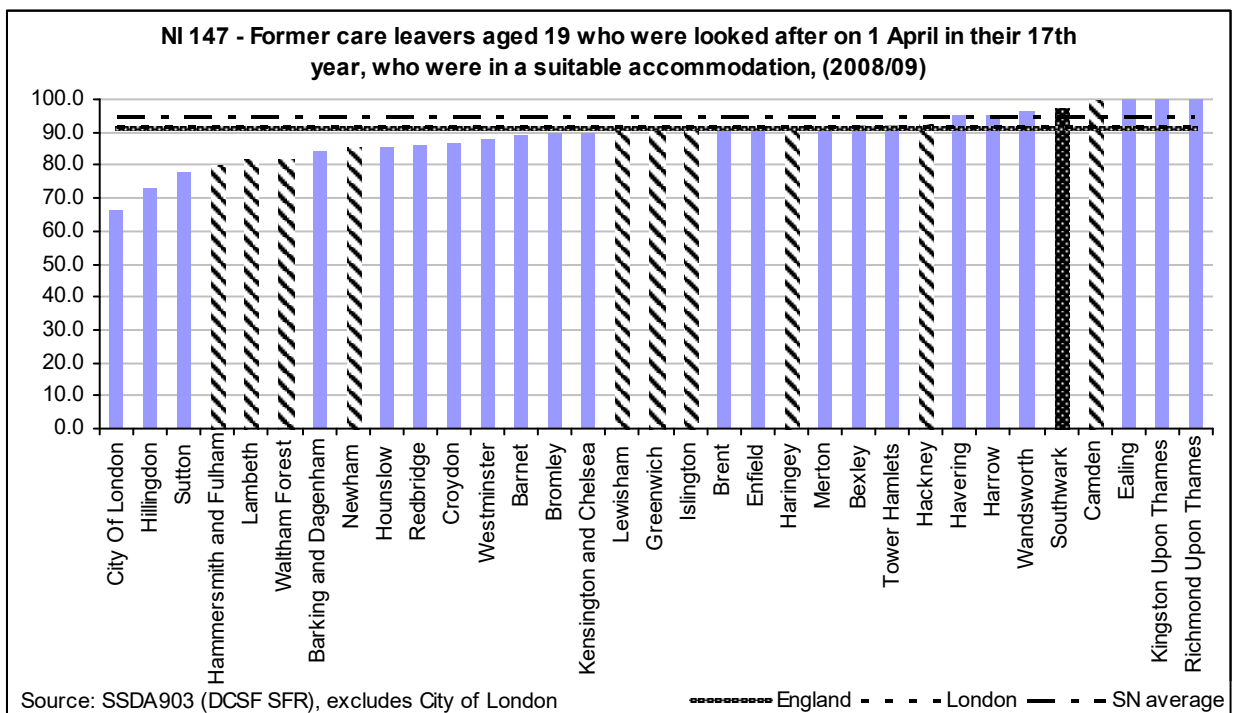
The proportion of Southwark care leavers in education, employment or training had decreased by nearly 6 percentage points end of year 2008/09 (61.9 per cent). Southwark had the 13th lowest proportion out of the 33 London boroughs and had fallen below the national average (63.0 per cent). Over the last financial year Southwark have declined at a faster rate than London and its statistical neighbours further widening the gap.



15 NI 147 – % of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation

End of quarter 3 figures in 2009/10 show Southwark remains in line with end of year 2008/09 with 97.1 per cent of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation (compared to 97.6 per cent end of year 2008/09).

Southwark had improved end of year 2008/09 increasing by 6 percentage points in the proportion of care leavers at age 19 in suitable accommodation. Southwark continued to exceed the national, London and statistical neighbour average considerably and had the 5th highest proportion out of the 33 London boroughs. Southwark also exceeded its target of 93 per cent.



Policy Implications

16 This decision has been judged to have no policy implications.

Community Impact Statement

17 The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a big impact on children looked after from all communities. The ethnicity breakdown of the children looked after population is shown in appendix 1.

Resource Implications

18 This decision has no resource implications.

Consultation

19 The management teams of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in this report.

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

20 There are no specific implications.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson		
Report Author	Monika Ciurej / Gwen Sinnott		
Version	Final		
Dated	16 March 2010		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS			
	Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
	Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	Yes/No
	Finance Director	No	Yes/No
	List other officers here	No	
	Executive Member	Yes	No
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	16 March 2010	