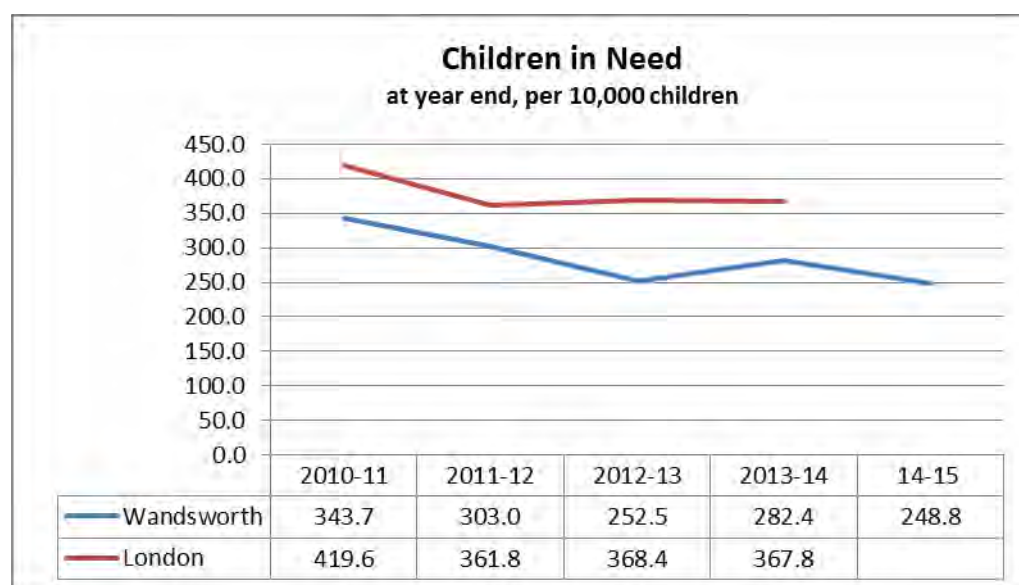


## **Children in Need (Updated June 2015)**

Based on the legal definition of “children in need” under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, a child in need is one who has been assessed by children’s social care to be in need of services. These services can include, for example social work intervention, family support, child care, targeted support such as for young carers, care packages for disabled children, advocacy services for children going through child protection processes, etc

There were 1449<sup>1</sup> children in need in Wandsworth at 31 March 2015, which equates to a rate of 248.8 children in need per 10,000 children. This is a decrease on 2013/14 and according to the latest nationally published figures is below the average rate for London.



Source: Children in Need census, Department for Education 2010-2014 and Council DMT Report 2014-15\*

The latest age breakdown available highlights that the majority of children in need are aged 1-15 years, with no age band within this large age spread having a significantly higher percentage than others.

### **Age Breakdown of Children in Need**

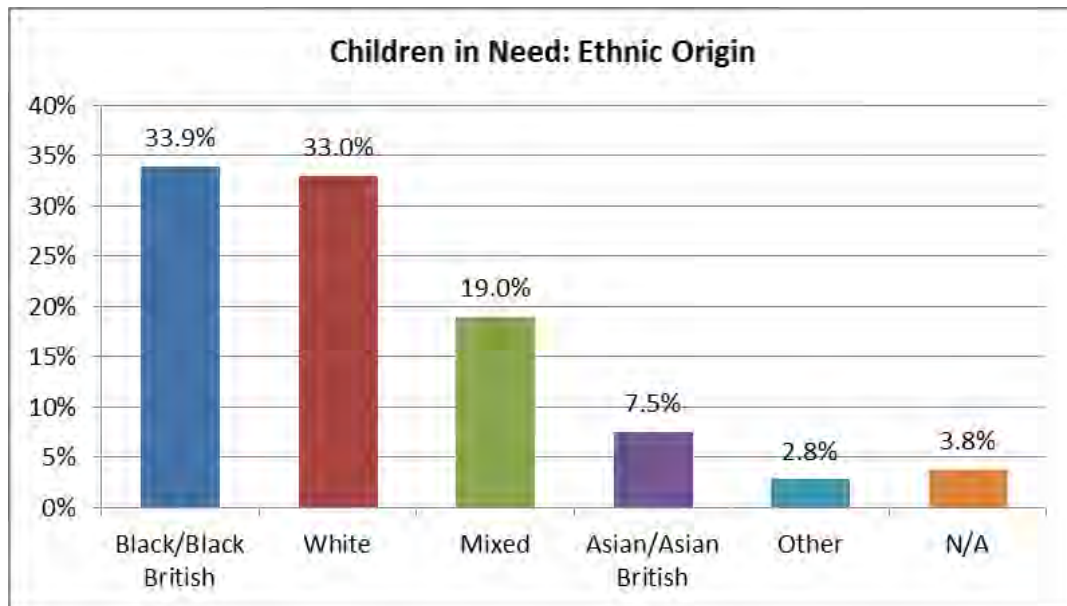
2013/14	Unborn	Under 1	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 & over
Number	37	170	478	457	471	153
Percentage	2%	10%	27%	26%	27%	9%

Source: Children in Need census, Department for Education 2014

As highlighted by the chart overleaf a significant proportion of CIN are BME (63%). The 2011 Census found that 44% of the 0-19 population were BME. This means that the percentage of CIN who are BME is 19 percentage points above the 2011 Census. The January 2015 schools census showed that 58% of Wandsworth pupils who were resident in the borough were BME. This is a more current figure and will pick up families who have moved into the borough, however it does not include independent schools. Using this figure as a baseline shows that the percentage of CIN who are

<sup>1</sup> From provisional data run 21/04/15 in monthly monitoring report (DMS post validation report)

BME is 5 percentage points above the School Census, which is a smaller variance than seen with the Census. Neither of these comparators provides a perfect baseline against which to compare the proportion of BME CIN and therefore this will continue to be an area the Council will keep as an area for action and constant review.



Source: Children in Need census, Department for Education 2014

## **Safeguarding Children** (updated June 2015)

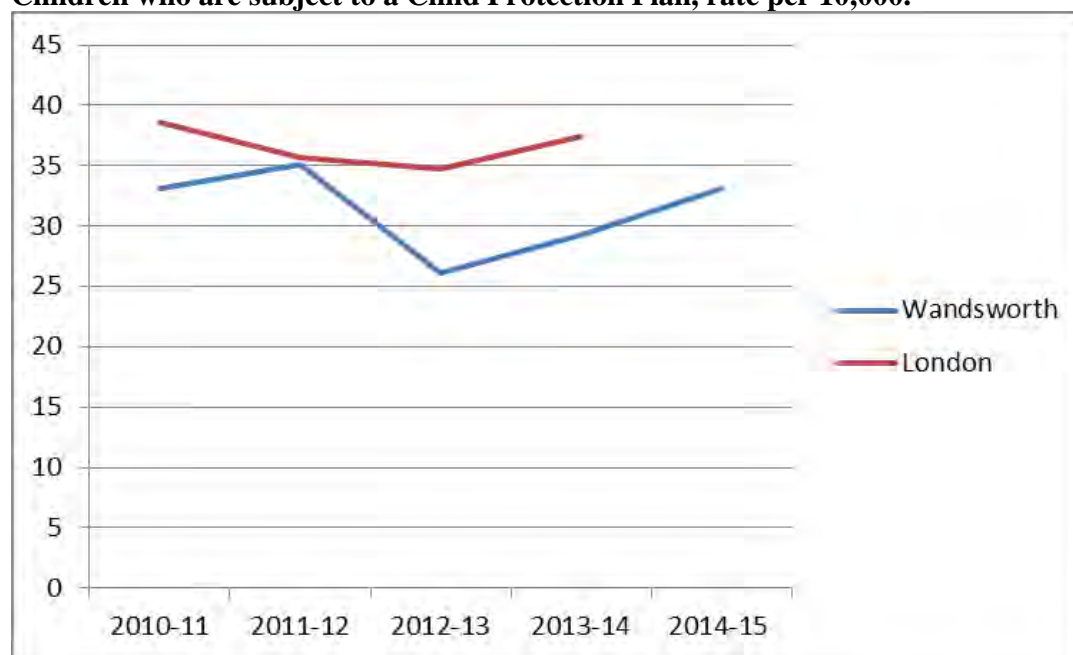
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances where they are receiving safe and effective care
- Undertaking that role to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Between April 1st 2014 and 31st March 2015 Wandsworth received 2309\* referrals. This is a substantial increase on 2013/14 when 1790 referrals were received.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. Child protection refers to activities that are undertaken in order to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. 193 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan on 31 March 2015. As the chart below demonstrates this equates to a rate of 33.1 children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 children. This is an increase on 2013/14, but given that London-wide there has been an increase Wandsworth should still remain below the London average.

### **Children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan, rate per 10,000.**



	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Wandsworth	33.1	35.1	26.1	29.3	33.1
London	38.6	35.7	34.8	37.4	

Source: Children in Need census, Department for Education 2010-2014 and departmental data (SMT report) 2014-15\*

The breakdown of children subject to a child protection plan by age highlights that the majority are aged 1-15 years old. This is broadly in line with the age spread seen within the Children in Need population.

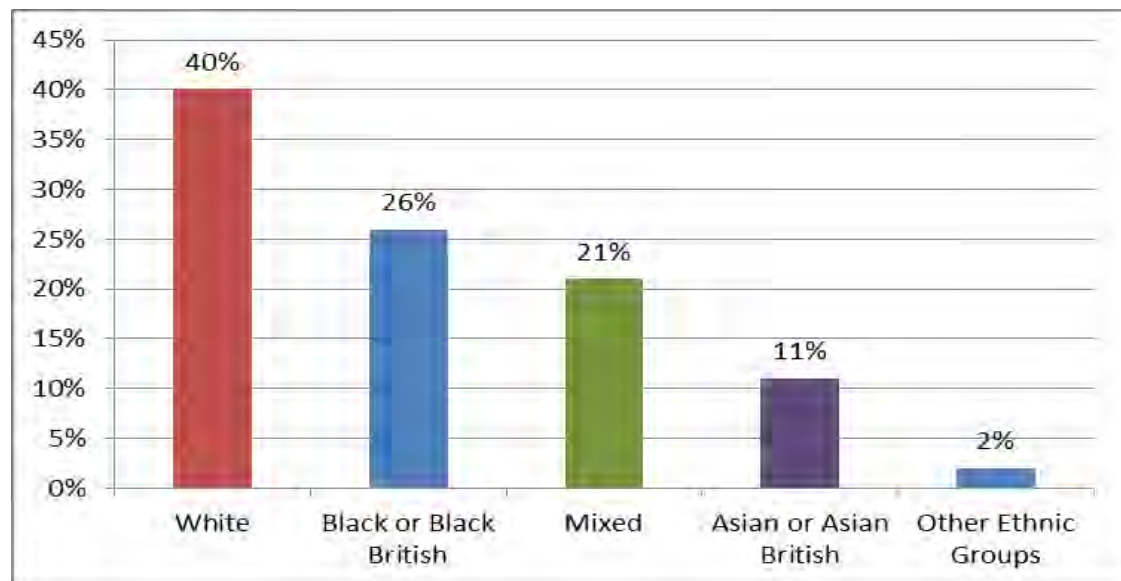
**Children subject to a Child Protection Plan by Age as at March 2015.**

	Unborn	Under 1	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 & over
<b>Number</b>	-	24	60	53	52	4
<b>Percentage</b>		12%	31%	27%	27%	2%

Departmental data 2014-15\*

As highlighted by the chart a significant proportion of children subject to a child protection plan population in Wandsworth are BME (60%). The 2011 Census found that 44% of the 0-19 population were BME. This means that the percentage of children subject to a child protection plan who are BME is 16 percentage points above the 2011 Census. The January 2015 schools census showed that 58% of Wandsworth pupils who were resident in the borough were BME. This is a more current figure and will pick up families who have moved into the borough, however it does not include independent schools. Using this figure as a baseline shows that the percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan who are BME is 2 percentage points above the School Census, which is a smaller variance than seen with the Census

**Children subject to a Child Protection Plan by Ethnic Group as at March 2015.**



Departmental data 2014-15\*

### **Children at risk of sexual exploitation (Updated June 2015)**

A substantial amount of partnership working is undertaken in relation to CSE in Wandsworth, which is co-ordinated via the Sexual Exploitation Multi-Agency Panel (SEMAP) meetings and overseen by the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children's Board.

In 2014/15 53 referrals were made to SEMAP. As data collection methodology changed in 2014/15 comparisons are not included in this report.

When a referral is made to SEMAP it is assessed and allocated a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating. In 2014/15.

- 28% of the referrals fell into the most serious 'Red' category and almost half were given an 'Amber' rating
- The majority of referrals were for young girls with the gender split being 89% female and 11% male.
- 55% of all the referrals related to young people aged 15 and 16. For the young men, 67% of the referrals are in this age category.
- White young people are the largest category of people referred to SEMAP, with 43% of the referrals being of that ethnicity. 53% of referrals were BME young people, with 4% of referrals where ethnicity was unknown. The 2011 Census found that 44% of the 0-19 population were BME, whilst the January 2015 schools census showed that 58% of Wandsworth pupils who were resident in the borough were BME.
- Referrals to SEMAP therefore broadly reflect the resident school profile but in terms of BME young people are above the borough profile. .

### **Children missing (Updated June 2015)**

A substantial amount of partnership working is undertaken in relation to missing children in Wandsworth. This work is overseen by the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children's Board.

In 2014/15 there were 810 reports of missing young people. These reports pertain to 324 separate individuals. Analysis of these referrals shows that:

- 54% were female.
- The average age of misper was 14.14 years old and the most common age range was 11 to 15 years.
- Black British young people account for 26% of the missing young people. Overall 20% of missing young people were white and 43% were BME with 37% where ethnicity was not recorded.
- 255 (76%) of the missing young people were missing from their family home and 80 (24%) are Children Looked After (CLA) This gives a total of 335 as some children have been reported missing as both CLA and non CLA.
- 56 of the CLA are in the care of Wandsworth, and 24 are CLA by other Local Authorities but placed in Wandsworth Borough. CLA accounted for 24% of the young people that are reported missing yet those 80 young people generated 404 missing episodes, which is 50% of the total.

**Domestic violence, parental drug or alcohol misuse or mental ill-health. (Updated June 2015).**

In 2014/15 20% of referrals made to Children's Specialist Services showed a primary need sub code of Domestic Violence. As of June 2015 the Wandsworth Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy had been refreshed and was awaiting Executive Approval. This Strategy highlights the support in place for families affected by Domestic Violence. A specialist social worker for domestic abuse provides the bridge between social work services and other agencies involved in domestic abuse work, undertaking joint work with other social workers throughout the child's journey. There is strong commitment and involvement in the MARAC by representatives across children's services, and in particular from children's social work.

The co-location of a police officer from the CSU within the MASH in June 2015 will further enhance the safeguarding and wellbeing response to children and their families affected by domestic abuse.

A further 6% of referrals related to parental drug or alcohol misuse. The Parental Substance Misuse Worker based in Children's Specialist undertakes direct work with parents and also supports parents to engage with treatment providers in relation to drugs or alcohol.

These data regarding referrals do not account for those cases where domestic abuse and/or parental alcohol and substance misuse, and/or mental health problems are identified following assessment.

Analysis of the primary need subcode also highlights that 9% of referrals relate to families impacted by parental mental ill health. The FRP Team has a mental health worker who is a trained AMHP and is seconded from adult mental health services.

The Adult and Children Safeguarding Sub-Committee scrutinises the work undertaken in relation to domestic violence, parental drug or alcohol misuse or mental ill-health.

### **Children Looked After (CLA) (Updated June 2015)**

Children Looked After are children who are looked after by the local authority. Some children are looked after only temporarily, whilst others are living in long term or permanent arrangements.

Children in care tend to have poorer health and social outcomes than those children not in care. This is particularly true when considering the issues of educational attainment, mental health and homelessness.

#### **Number of Children Looked After by Wandsworth Council.**

As of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 Wandsworth Council was responsible for 223 CLA, which is an increase on recent years, where it remained within the same band 207 – 217.

Despite this increase there has been a long-term decline in the numbers of CLA from 2007 onwards when there were 250 children in care in Wandsworth.

#### **Total CLA population in Wandsworth<sup>2</sup>**

As at	31/03/2010	31/03/2011	31/03/2012	31/03/2013	31/03/2014	31/03/2015 <sup>3</sup>
Total CLA	209	208	217	211	207	223

Analysis of the numbers of children becoming looked after and being discharged from care within a 12 month period highlights that whilst the overall numbers are remaining largely stable that the numbers coming and going out has risen. This is supported by the decrease in the average length of time for which discharged children have been looked after during 2009/10 -2014/15 (an average of 794 days in 2009/10 to an average of 688 days in 2014/15 and an increase of 20% in numbers of children discharged in under 1 year over the period). This has implications for the services provided and commissioned for CLA as greater numbers require support than previously.

#### **Accommodation and discharges of CLA in Wandsworth – count of children<sup>4</sup>**

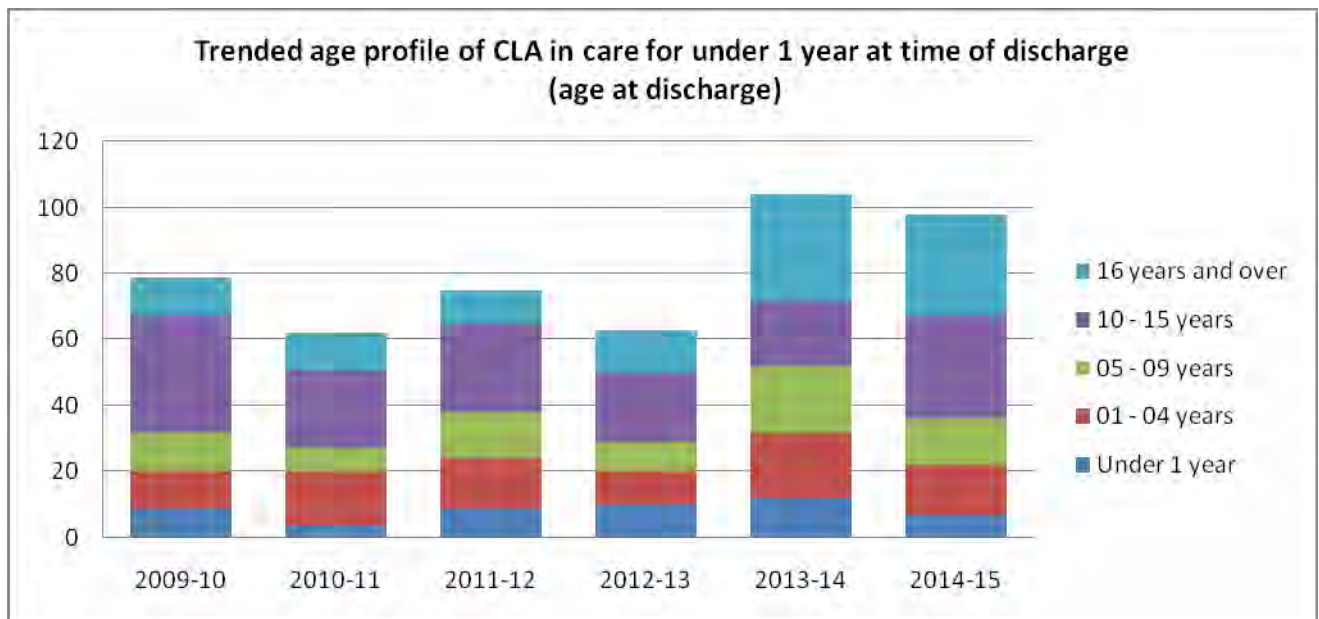
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Accommodations	104	99	113	98	134	152
Discharges	134	106	108	109	140	140

<sup>2</sup> From submitted annual data to DfE

<sup>3</sup> 2014/15 data quoted throughout this paper are provisional and subject to minor change through the end of year validation processes, but correct as at 24/04/15

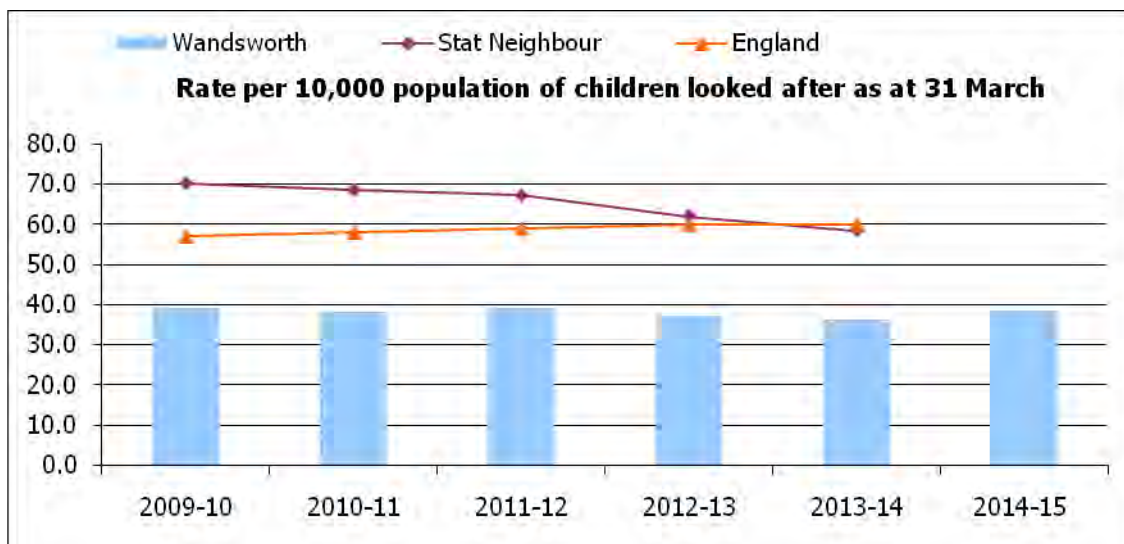
<sup>4</sup> From FWi accommodation and discharges data; all rerun 24/04/15 and checked to be a count of children (not episodes)

Analysis of Children Looked After for less than a year highlights that the largest increase is within the 16+ age group.



Despite an increase in CLA as of March 2015 the rate of Children Looked After in Wandsworth is low against statistical neighbours - 36 per every 10,000 children at March 2014 and 38.3 in March 2015 as illustrated in chart 1, below. The decline in numbers of Children Looked After is inline with trends in other Inner London boroughs.

**Rate of CLA per 10,000 0-17 population**





## Profile of Children Looked After

AGE: The majority of CLA are aged 10+. Analysis of the profile over 5 years also highlights that there has been a significant increase in CLA aged 16+.

### CLA by age 2011-15

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 1	13	6%	17	8%	14	7%	9	4%	12	5%
1 to 4	37	18%	33	15%	26	12%	26	13%	24	11%
5 to 9	32	15%	30	14%	35	17%	30	14%	31	14%
10 to 15	90	43%	93	43%	80	38%	76	37%	82	37%
16 and over	35	17%	44	20%	56	27%	66	32%	74	33%

The Southwark judgement, which mandates children's services to provide accommodation and support to additionally vulnerable homeless 16 and 17 year olds, has changed the demographic of the post 16 care population. Such changes have been further affected by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 which has conferred looked after child status on all young people who have been remanded through the courts since November 2012. The changes to the LASPO Act 2012 mean that any young person remanded in court – either to youth custody or to Local Authority accommodation - now becomes a Child Looked After. This has led to an increase in the number of adolescents coming into care with extremely challenging behaviour, who are not engaged in education, employment or training and who are involved with quite serious criminal activity.

This increase in older young people becoming looked after and some of the national drivers for it have implications for the type and level of support needed for CLA as older children and young people can have complex histories and behaviour, which require intensive, multi-agency support.

GENDER: The gender profile of the CLA population shows a higher percentage of males than in the 0-19 population in the borough, this is particularly noticeable in the higher age groups. 60% of CLA are male compared to 50% of the general population – for 17 year olds 68% of CLA are male.

ETHNICITY: As highlighted in Table 9 below 67% of CLA population is BME. This proportion increased in 2012 but has remained broadly stable since then. The 2011 Census found that 44% of the 0-19 population were BME, whilst the January 2015 schools census showed that 58% of Wandsworth pupils who were resident in the borough were BME.

### Proportion of BME CLA in Wandsworth

As at	31/03/11	31/03/12	31/03/13	31/03/14	31/03/15
Proportion of BME CLA	60%	65%	65%	67%	67%

DISABILITY, COMPLEX NEEDS, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH: Several indicators for disability are possible. At 31st March 2015 there were 9 CLA in the Disabled Children's Team or in transition to adult social care. There were also an additional 26 CLA who were not in the Disabled Children's Team but were recorded as disability being Primary Need Code. Of the total cohort of 35 disabled CLA, learning disabilities were most prevalent (7 cases), followed by multiple disabilities (5) and Global Development Delay (4). Other recorded disabilities included Autistic Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, speech and communications disability, physical disabilities and diagnosed emotional and behavioural disabilities.<sup>5</sup>

Benchmarking analysis of published data shows that SEN prevalence among CLA is particularly high in Wandsworth. As at the 31st March 2014 (most recent data), 77.1% of CLA who had been looked after for more than 12 months in Wandsworth had a Special Educational Need. This figure is high when compared with other areas and is also significantly higher than the Inner London (67.3%), London (67.6%) and England (66.6%) averages. Wandsworth consistently has a higher prevalence of any SEN and Statements compared to all comparator groups. Although the proportion of CLA with SEN has declined slightly in Wandsworth, it remains a dominant characteristic. Having such a high proportion of CLA with SEN has implications for the type and level of support needed for CLA.

A comprehensive analysis of CLA in Wandsworth was undertaken as part of the update to the Sufficiency Statement, which as of June 2015 was progressing through the Council's scrutiny process.

#### Health of Children Looked After.

HEALTH AND DENTAL ASSESSMENTS. As at 30th March 2015 84.8% of CLA had received a health assessment / had their teeth checked in the previous 12 months. This is an increase on March 2014 when it was 77.1%.

Historically performance was at 90% over a number of years but dipped in 13-14 due to a combination of recording issues and staffing resources (health input) resulting in delays in initial health assessments. Considerable focus was given to improving performance during 14-15 including adequate paediatric resources from health, ensuring that all out of borough CLA are seen and reminding foster carers about dental checks. Access to social care systems by health professionals was also improved and internal monitoring was stepped up.

Comparative data for March 2015 is yet to be released however, data for March 2014 showed that Wandsworth had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest percentage of CLA receiving both a health check and a dental check. In 2015/16 a target of 92% has been set, which is above the 13-14 statistical neighbour average of 87.1%. The relationship between the CCG as the health commissioner, the provider and the local authority has been strengthened, and challenge processes have seen improvements that continue to be monitored.

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<sup>5</sup> Information provided by CLA Service 19/01/14

<b>% with Annual Health Assessment</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Wandsworth	93.1	93.3	84.6	90.4
London	92.0	90.3	92.2	-

Source: Children looked after in England, Department for Education 2010-2014 and departmental data 2014-15\*

Children looked after in England annual data:

<b>% with Annual Dental Assessment</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Wandsworth	86.2	83.3	69.2	79.2
London	84.2	88.6	87.8	-

Source: Children looked after in England, Department for Education 2010-2014 and departmental data 2014-15\*

**IMMUNISATIONS:** In 2014/15 91% of Children Looked After had up to date immunisations. This is an increase on the previous year.

<b>% with Up to Date Immunisation</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Wandsworth	86.2	86.7	88.5	91.0
London	83.5	76.5	84.3	-

Source: Children looked after in England, Department for Education 2010-2014 and departmental data 2014-15\*

The educational attainment of CLA is analysed in-depth in the report by the Director of Education and Social Services on the Educational Performance of Children Looked After (CLA) for 2013-14, which was considered by Councillors in February 2015 <https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/documents/s36272/Paper%20No.%2015-91%20-%20CLA%20Performance%20Report%20final.pdf>

Wandsworth Council shares with its residents its performance across a large number of nationally collected indicators, including indicators relating to CLA: <http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/opencouncil>