

Stability Index 2018

Detailed Local Authority Report for Brent

Children's Commissioner's Office

Official Sensitive

For further information on this report please contact

[Tom Clarke - CCO Senior Quantitative Analyst](#)

Executive summary

Summary: Overall levels of instability for looked after children in Brent

- The table below outlines the % of children looked after on the 31st March 2017 experiencing each key measure of instability in Brent compared to national, regional and (where possible) statistical neighbours

Key measures	Brent	National	London	Stability Index neighbours	DfE Statistical neighbours
Single year instability					
2+ placement changes 16/17	14% (46)	10%	12%	12%	10%
Mid-year school move 16/17	8% (12)	11%	11%	10%	11%
2+ social worker changes 16/17	36% (110)	26%	25%	NA	NA
Repeated instability					
2+ placement changes in 15/16 + 16/17	5% (11)	3%	3%	3%	3%
Any school move in both 16/17 + 15/16	4% (6)	4%	4%	5%	5%
2+ social worker changes in both 16/17 + 15/16	11% (35)	6%	6%	NA	NA

Note:

Bases vary across key measures as described in Appendix B. Numbers in brackets correspond to the number experiencing each form of instability. National social worker %s are based on returns from 78 LAs weighted to be representative of national profile of looked after children. LA and regional totals are unweighted.

Summary: Single year instability for looked after children in Brent

The previous table shows that in 2016/17:

Placement instability

- Brent had levels of single year placement instability 4pp higher than the national average and 3pp higher than its regional average. It is 2pp higher than its Stability Index neighbours.¹

School instability

- Brent had levels of single year school instability 3pp lower than the national average and 3pp lower than its regional average. It is 2pp lower than its Stability Index neighbours.

Social worker instability

- Brent had levels of single year social worker instability 10pp higher than the national average and 11pp higher than its regional average.

¹Note: pp = percentage points

Summary: Repeated instability for looked after children in Brent

The previous table shows that in 2016/17:

Repeated placement instability

- Brent had levels of repeated placement instability 2pp higher than the national average and 2pp higher than its regional average. It is 2pp higher than its Stability Index neighbours.

Repeated school instability

- Brent had levels of repeated school instability within 1pp of the national average and within 1pp of its regional average. It is 1pp lower than its Stability Index neighbours.

Repeated social worker instability

- Brent had levels of repeated social worker instability 5pp higher than the national average and 5pp higher than its regional average.

Detailed Findings

Interpreting this report

How to interpret this report

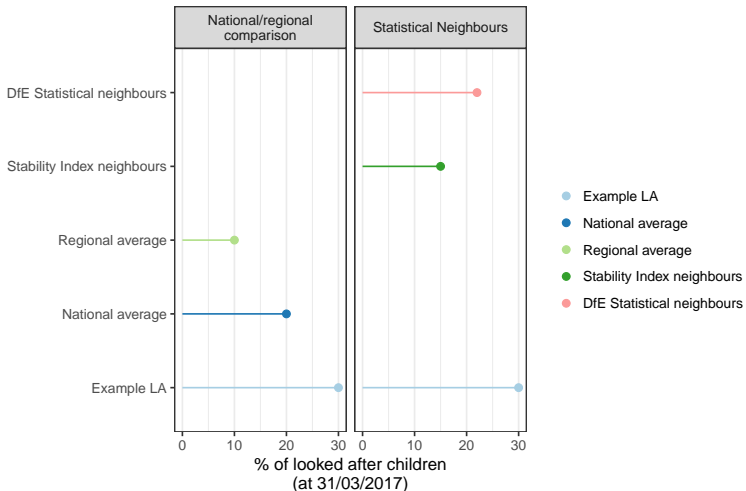
- These slides present information on the placement, school and social worker stability of children in care in Brent at the 31st March 2017 in a single year (16/17) and over two years (15/16 + 16/17).
- They include overall levels of stability as well as highlighting sub-groups that are at greater risk than national and regional averages. These should be read alongside local knowledge of the looked after children population. Note: Sub-groups smaller than 20 are not shown. We also advise caution where overall proportions are based on less than 50 looked after children.
- More detail on sub-groups and key measures is available in the [Stability Index 2018 technical report](#).
- Experimental comparisons are also made with the 5 most similar local authorities (termed 'Stability Index neighbours') based on key indicators of instability. More information about how these have been selected is available at the end of these slides.
- Comparisons are also shown with Brent's 5 nearest statistical neighbours as presented in [LAIT](#).

How to interpret this report

- The next 2 slides demonstrate examples of the charts used to highlight these differences.
- Key sub-groups with higher rates of instability are highlighted where 95% confidence intervals around these rates do not overlap with national or regional estimates. This is to reduce the risk of highlighting differences that may just be due to small numbers of looked after children.
- Note: comparisons for social worker data are based on the 78 local authorities that submitted data. As a result, comparisons are only made with this sample average (weighted to be representative of the full LAC population) and the 15 LAs that are within the same GORS region as Brent.

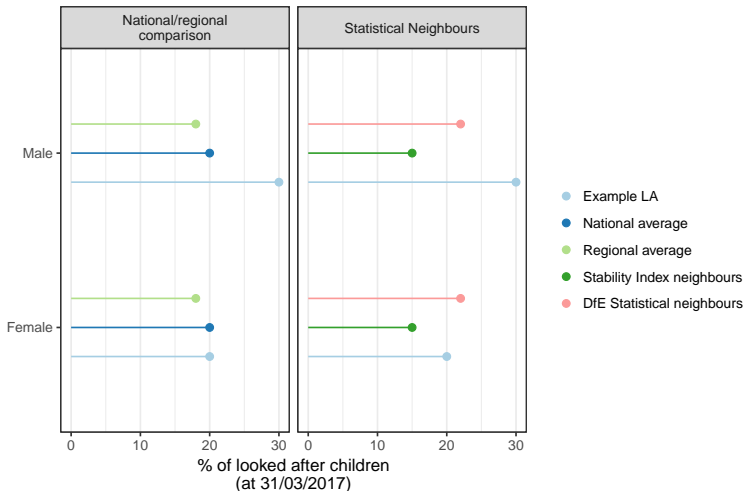
Example Charts - Overall levels of instability

- This chart shows the 'Example LA' had higher levels of instability than national/regional averages and its Stability Index neighbours in 2016/17



Example Charts - Instability amongst sub-groups of LAC

- This chart shows the 'Example LA' had higher levels of instability than national/regional averages and its Stability Index neighbours in 2016/17 for male looked after children but not female



Context: Characteristics of looked after children in Brent

Context: Brent's case mix compared to national and regional averages

- The table below demonstrates how Brent's case mix compares to England overall and to London's overall average on key indicators of instability.

Key indicator	National	London	Brent
Age at 31/03/2017: 12-15	29%	29%	29%
Age at earliest period of care: 12-15	21%	29%	35%
Initial legal status: FCO	44%	36%	39%
Initial legal status: ICO	17%	12%	10%
Initial legal status: s20	32%	44%	41%
Primary need code: Behaviour	2%	3%	3%
Rate of LAC per 10,000 children	68	51	42
SEN: Social, Emotional and Mental Health	12%	10%	7%
SW turnover rate: leavers per 100 social workers	15	18	22

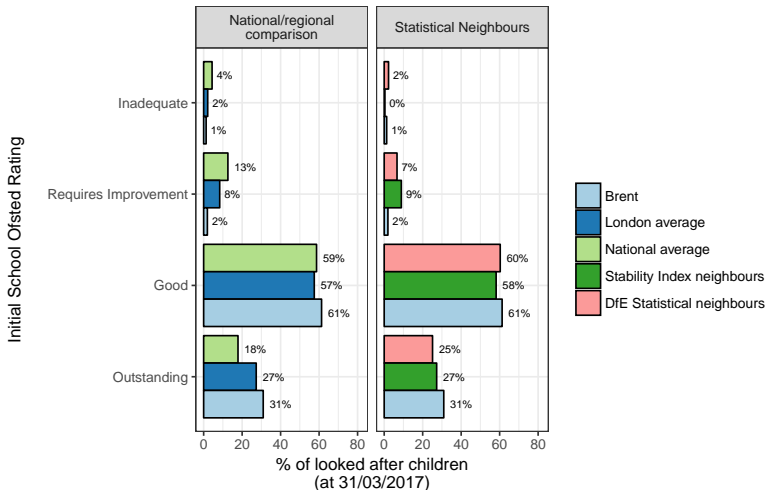
Brent's case mix compared to its statistical neighbours on key indicators of instability

- The table below compares Brent to an average of its 5 most similar Stability Index neighbours and its 5 most similar DfE Statistical neighbours
- Brent's 5 most similar Stability Index neighbours are: Camden, Barnet, Enfield, Merton, Bath and North East Somerset
- Brent's 5 most similar DfE Statistical neighbours are: Ealing, Waltham Forest, Croydon, Haringey, Enfield

Key indicator	Brent	Stability Index neighbours	DfE Statistical neighbours
Age at 31/03/2017: 12-15	29%	30%	32%
Age at earliest period of care: 12-15	35%	30%	32%
Initial legal status: FCO	39%	37%	38%
Initial legal status: ICO	10%	11%	10%
Initial legal status: s20	41%	43%	44%
Primary need code: Behaviour	3%	2%	3%
Rate of LAC per 10,000 children	42	39	56
SEN: Social, Emotional and Mental Health	7%	12%	11%
SW turnover rate: leavers per 100 social workers	22	21	17

Distribution of looked after children in Brent by school Ofsted rating

- The plot below demonstrates the Ofsted rating of looked after children in Brent's first school in 2016/17¹.



¹Note percentages may not sum to 100 as children in schools without an Ofsted rating are not included in the plot

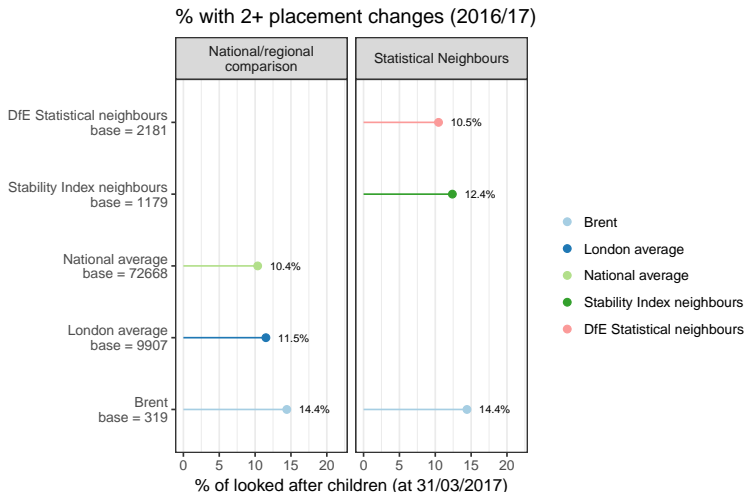
Detailed findings: Placement instability

Key measures of placement instability

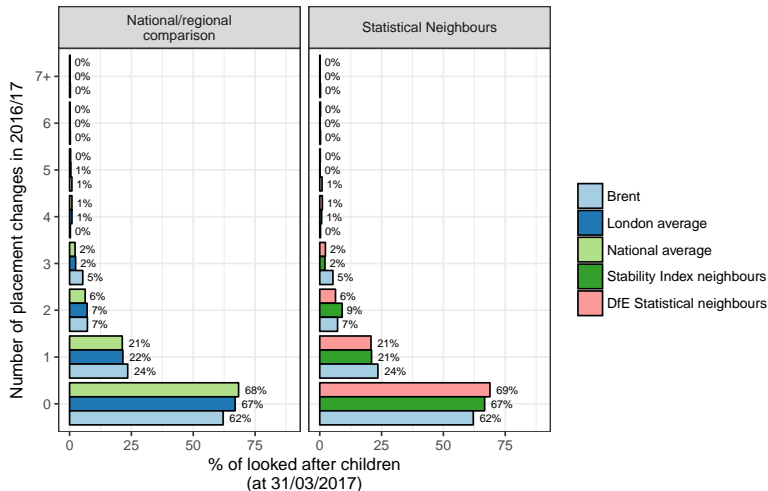
- **Single year placement instability:** % of children in care experiencing 2+ placement moves in 2016/17
- **Repeated placement instability:** % of children in care (in both 15/16 and 16/17) experiencing 2+ placement changes in both 15/16 and 16/17

Single year placement instability - Overall

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of single year placement instability 4pp higher than the national average and 3pp higher than its regional average. It is 2pp higher than its Stability Index neighbours.

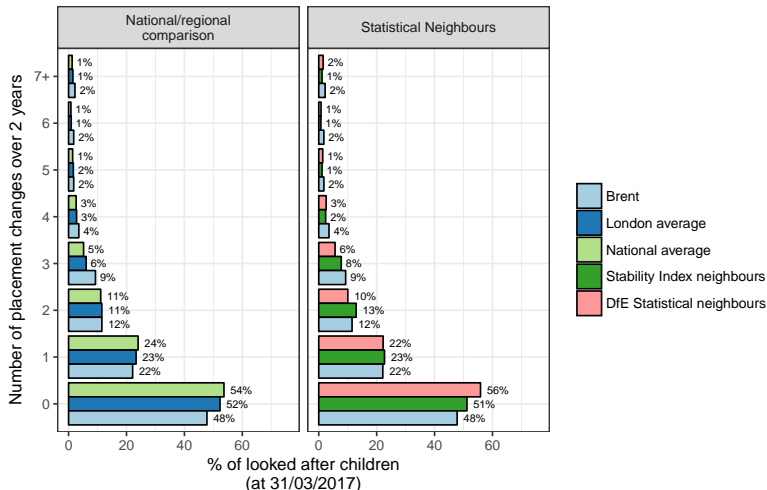


Single year placement change distribution

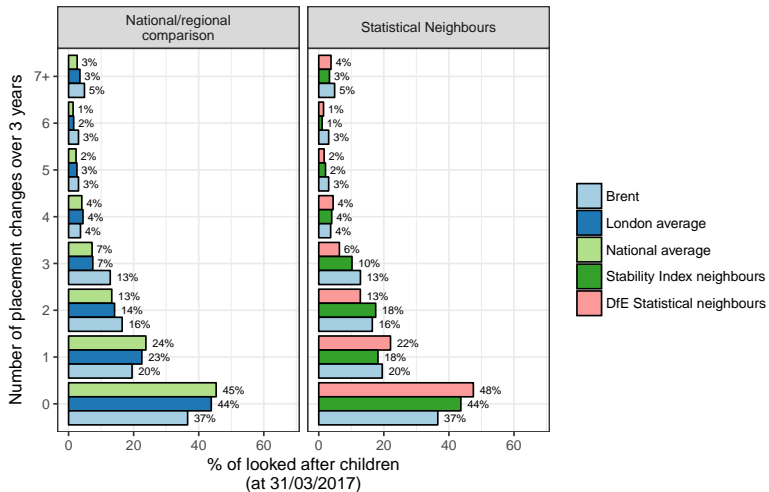


Two year placement change distribution

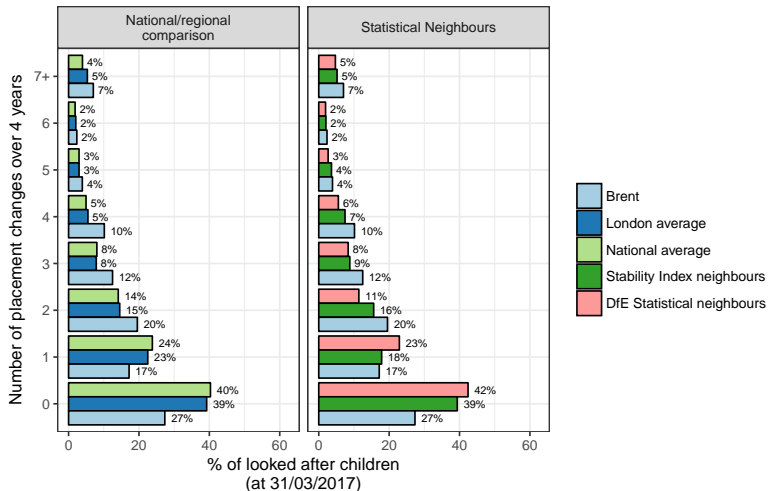
- In 2016/17, 30% of looked after children in care in Brent in both 15/16 + 16/17 had 2 or more placement changes over 2 years



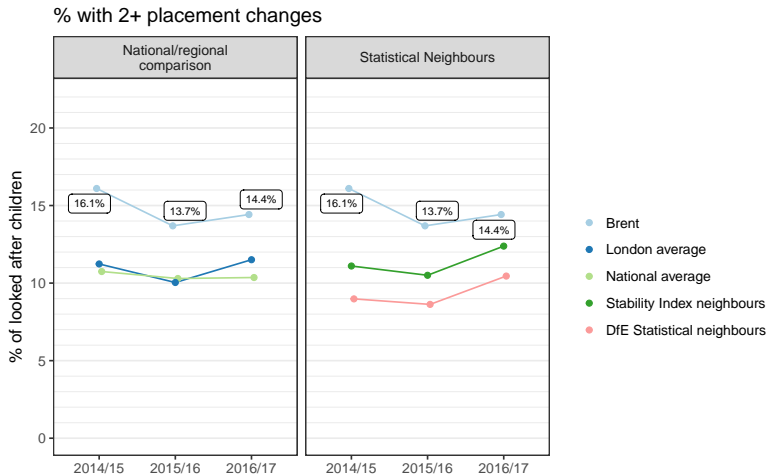
Longer term placement instability - placement changes over 3 years



Longer term placement instability - placement changes over 4 years



Trends over time: Brent's single year placement instability is within 1pp of its 2015/16 level

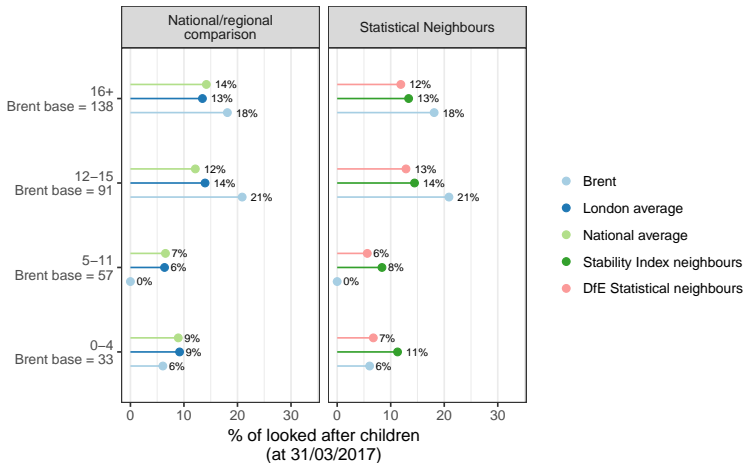


* = base less than 50, ** = base of 0

Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Age at 31/03/2017. Key differences: 12-15

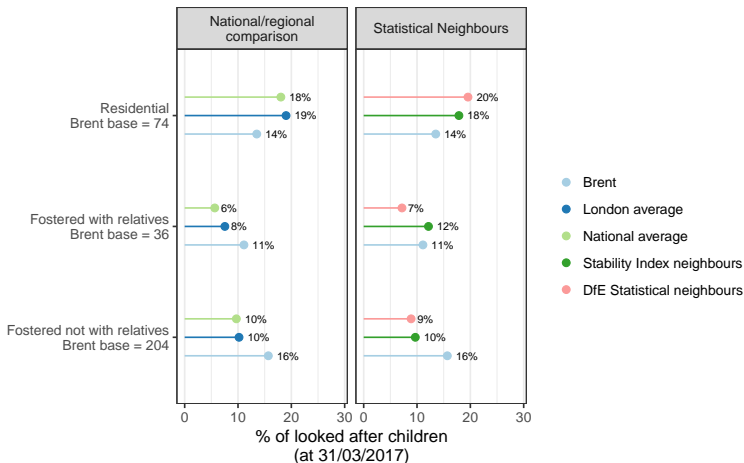
% with 2+ placement changes (2016/17)



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

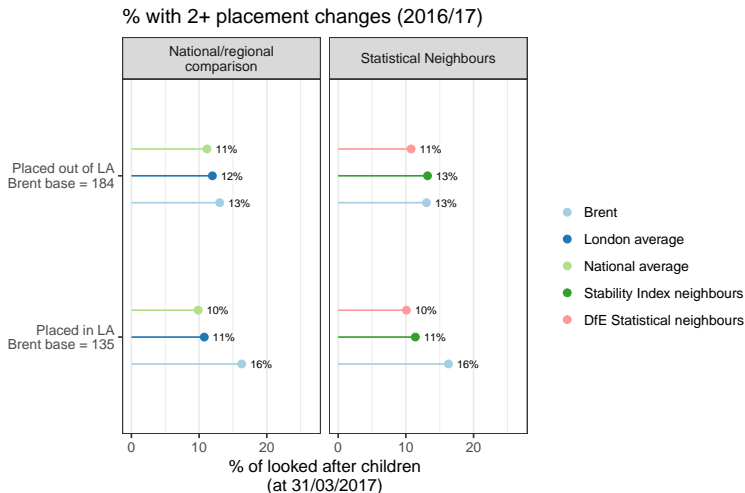
- Child's Initial placement type. Key differences: Fostered not with relatives

% with 2+ placement changes (2016/17)



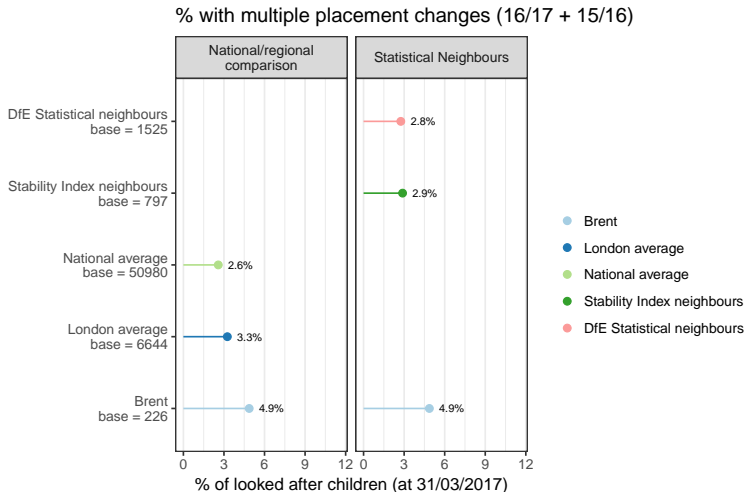
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Placement In or Out of LA. Key differences: Placed in LA



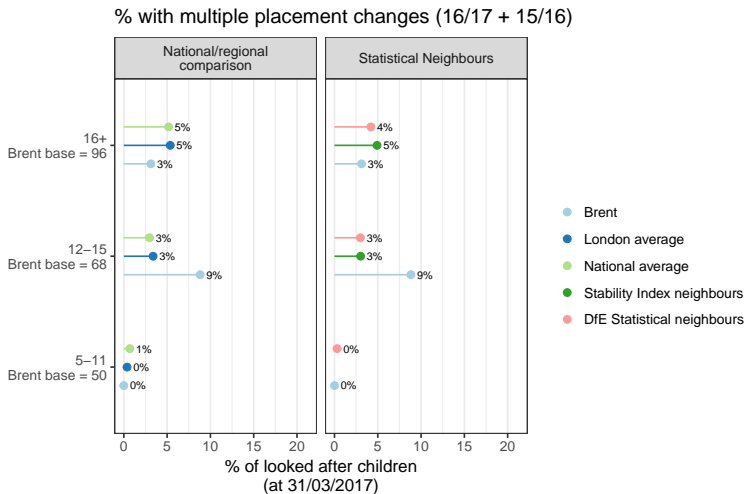
Repeated placement instability - Overall

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of repeated placement instability 2pp higher than the national average and 2pp higher than its regional average. It is 2pp higher than its Stability Index neighbours.



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

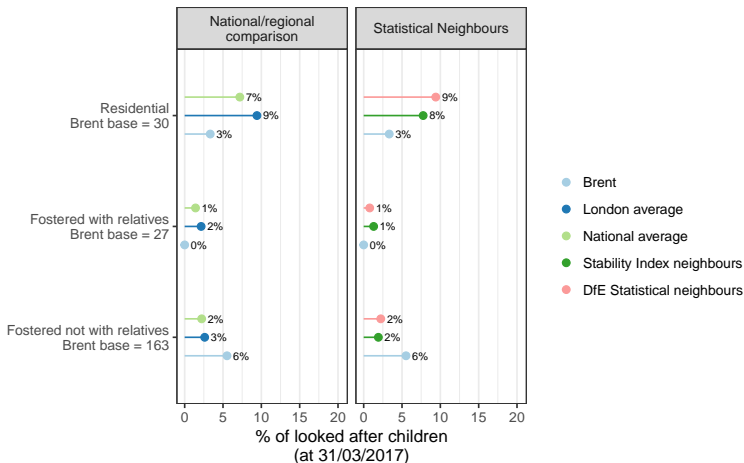
- Child's Age at 31/03/2017. Key differences: 12-15



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

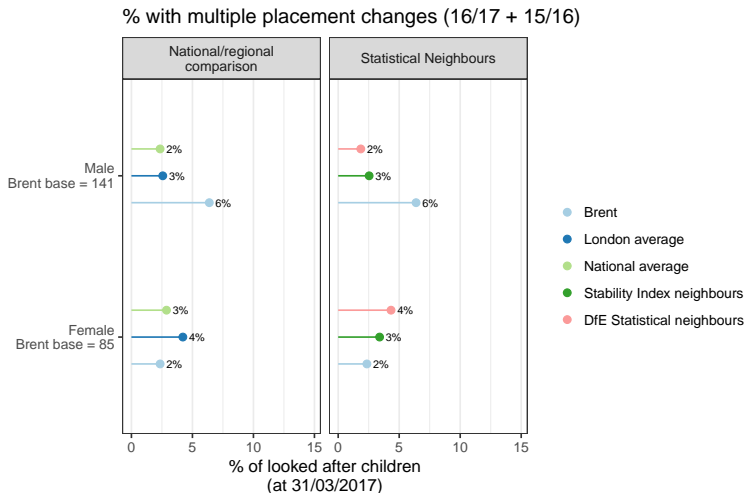
- Child's Initial placement type. Key differences: Fostered not with relatives

% with multiple placement changes (16/17 + 15/16)



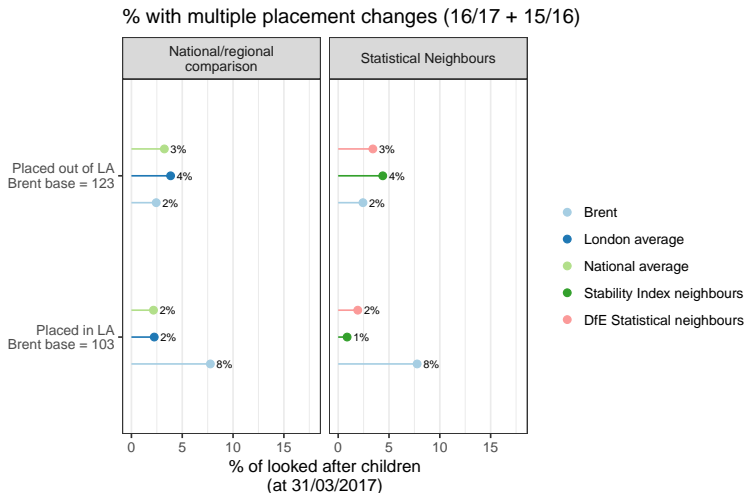
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Gender. Key differences: Male



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated placement instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Placement In or Out of LA. Key differences: Placed in LA



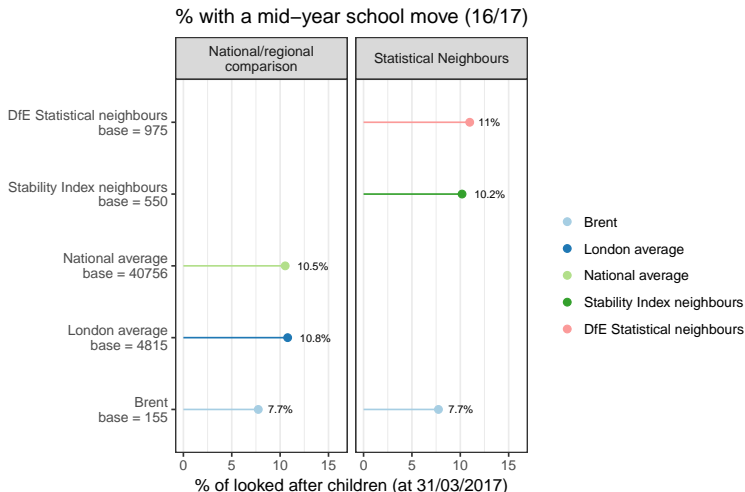
Detailed findings: School instability

Key measures of placement instability

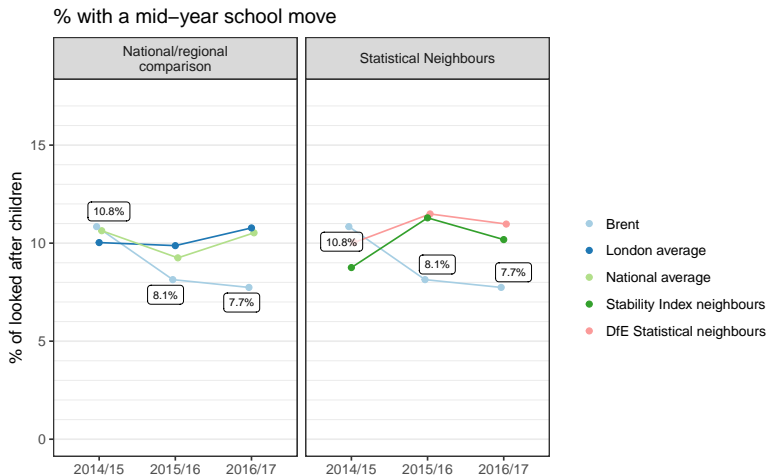
- **Single year school instability:** % of looked after children experiencing a mid-year school move in 2016/17
- **Repeated school instability:** % of looked after children experiencing a school move (of any sort) in both 15/16 and 16/17. Note this excludes those moving from primary to secondary school.

Single year school instability - Overall

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of single year school instability 3pp lower than the national average and 3pp lower than its regional average. It is 2pp lower than its Stability Index neighbours.



This single year school instability is within 1pp of its 2015/16 level



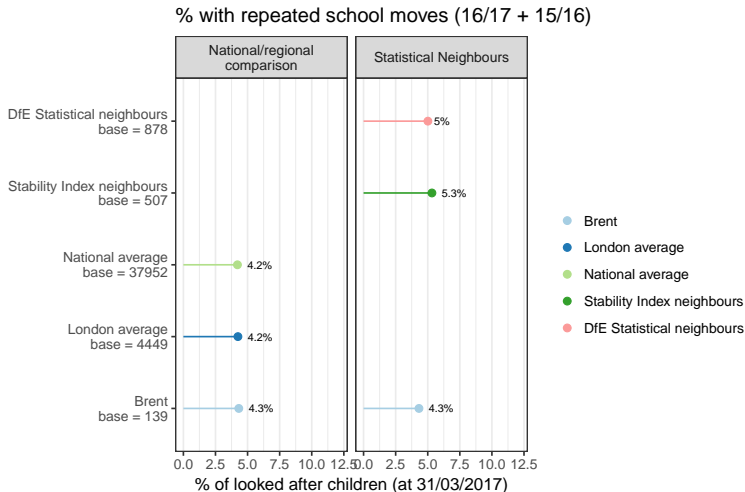
* = base less than 50, ** = base of 0

Single year school instability amongst sub-groups of looked after children in Brent

- We found no sub-groups of looked after children with significantly higher rates of single year school instability in Brent when compared to national and regional averages

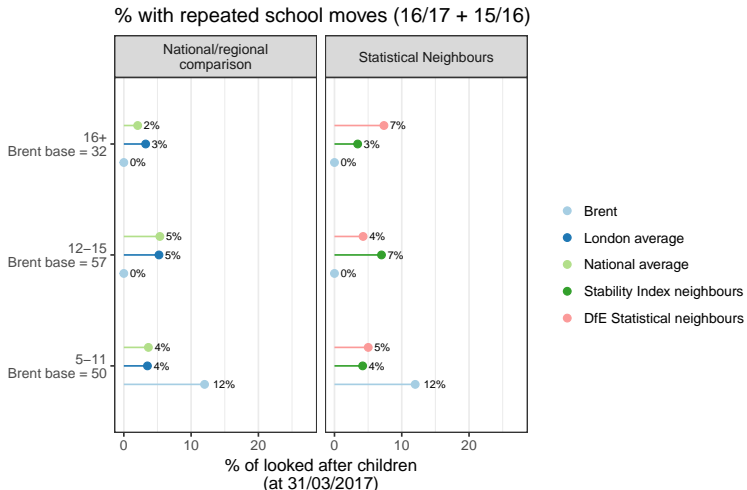
Repeated school instability - Overall

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of repeated school instability within 1pp of the national average and within 1pp of its regional average. It is 1pp lower than its Stability Index neighbours.



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated school instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Age at 31/03/2017. Key differences: 5-11



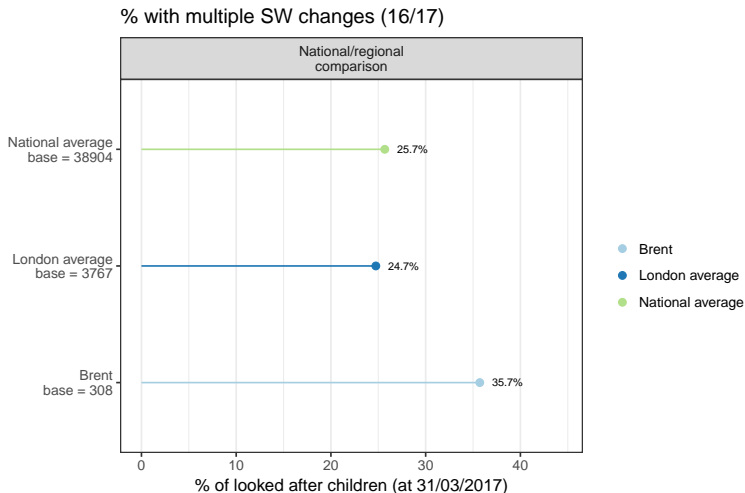
Detailed findings: Social worker instability

Key measures of social worker instability

- **Single year social worker instability:** % of looked after children experiencing 2+ social worker changes in 2016/17
- **Repeated social worker instability:** % of looked after children experiencing 2+ social worker changes in both 15/16 and 16/17

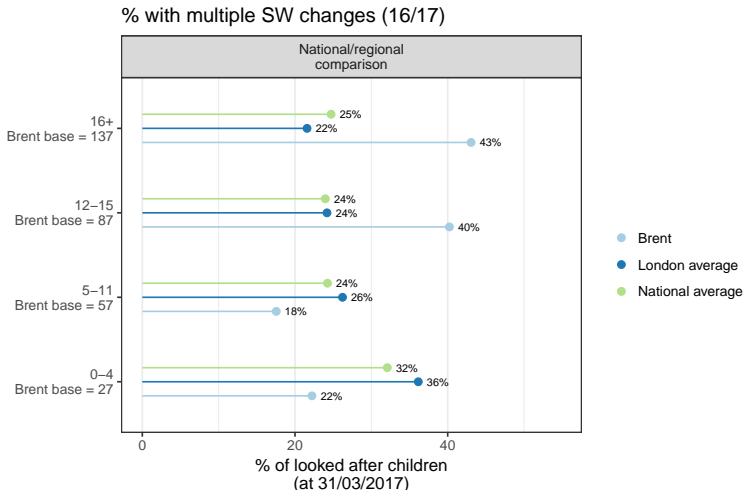
Single year social worker instability

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of single year social worker instability 10pp higher than the national average and 11pp higher than its regional average.



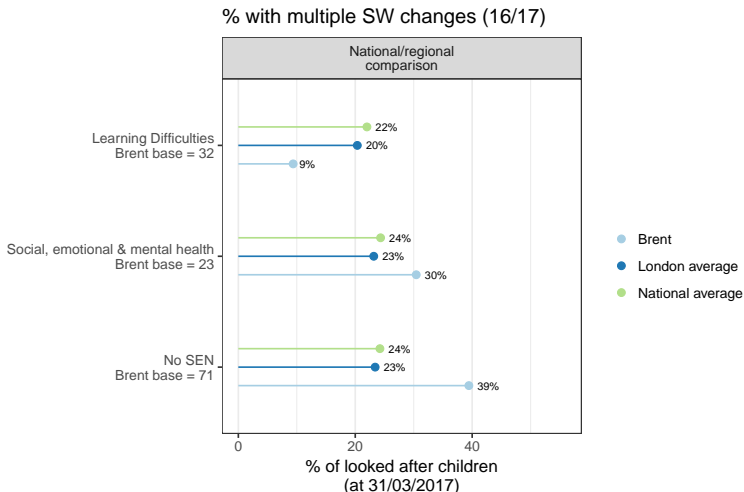
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Age at 31/03/2017. Key differences: 12-15, 16+



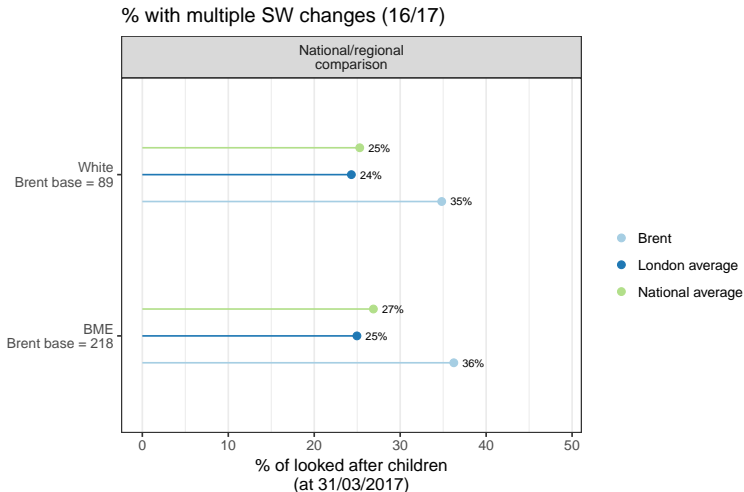
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's SEN. Key differences: No SEN



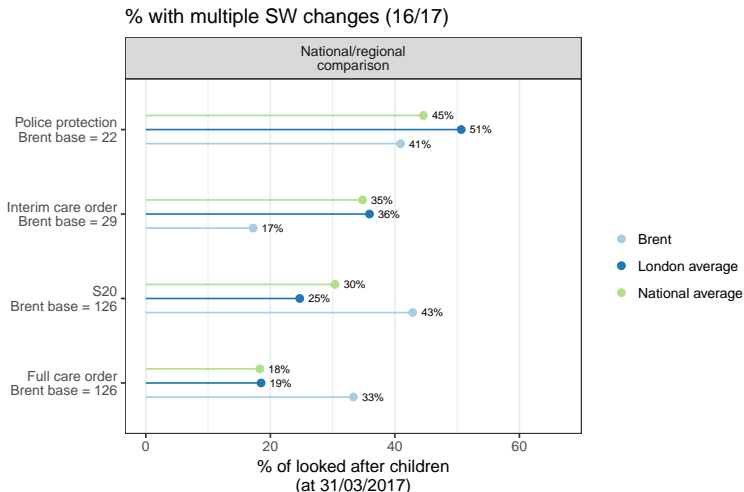
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's Ethnicity. Key differences: BME



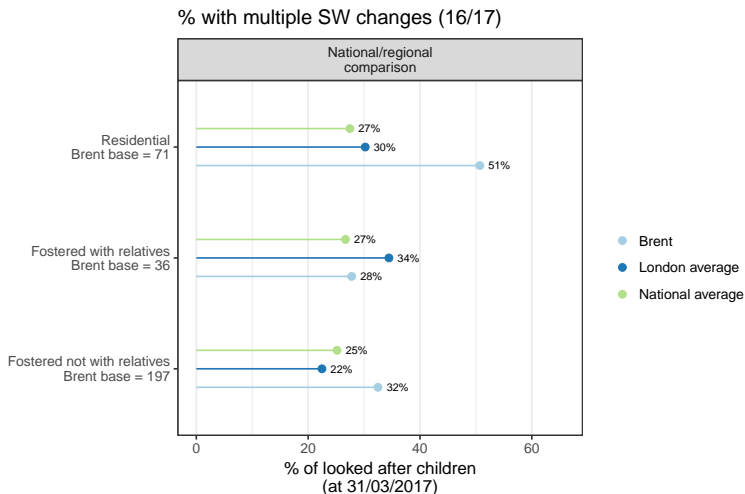
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Initial Legal status. Key differences: Full care order, S20



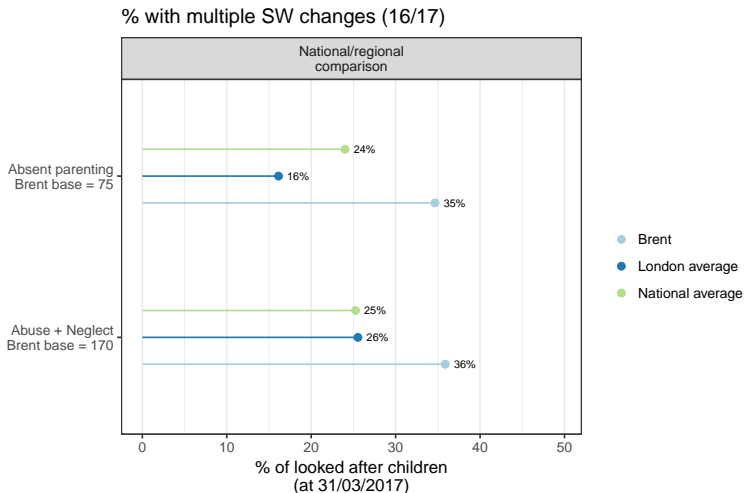
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Initial placement type. Key differences: Fostered not with relatives, Residential



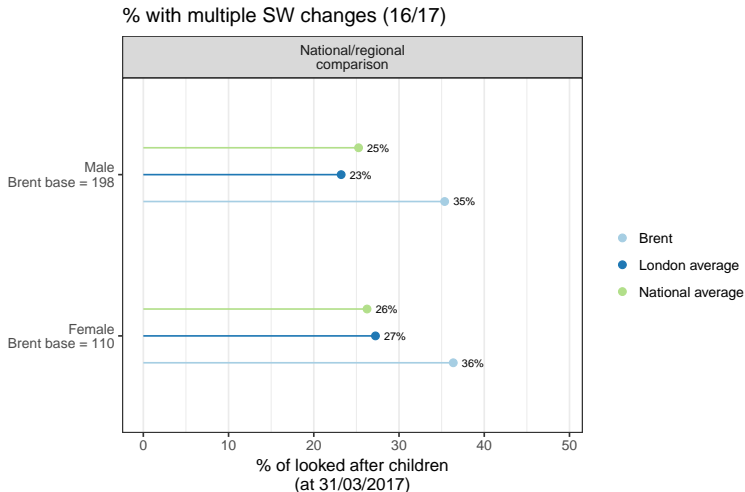
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's CIN primary need code. Key differences: Absent parenting, Abuse + Neglect



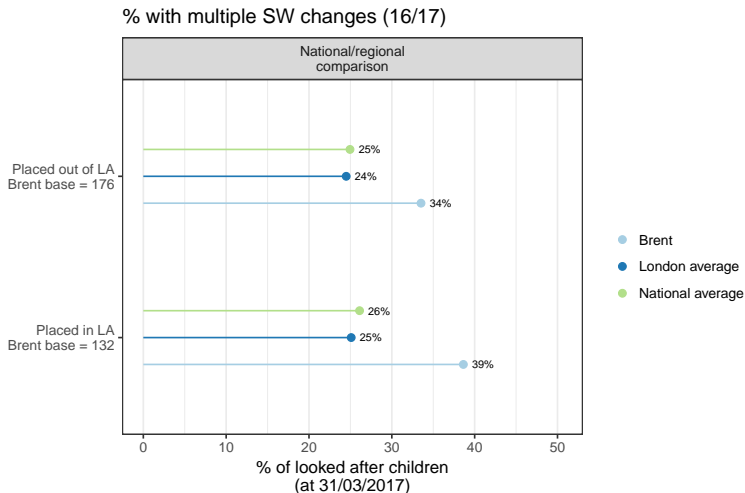
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's Gender. Key differences: Male



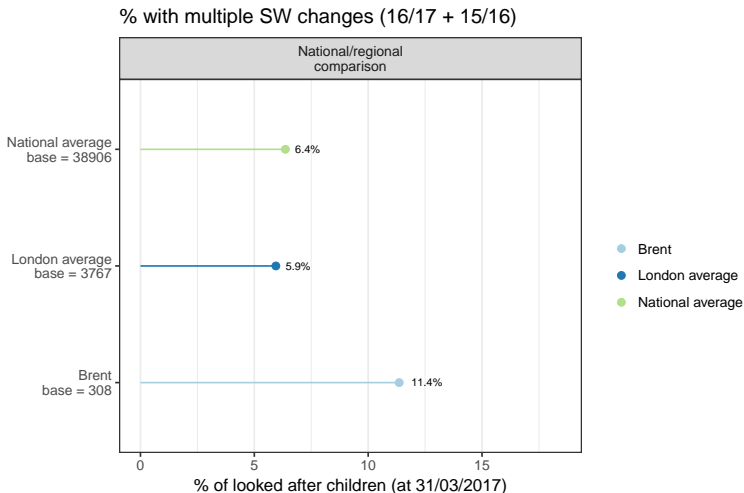
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of single year social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Placement In or Out of LA. Key differences: Placed in LA, Placed out of LA



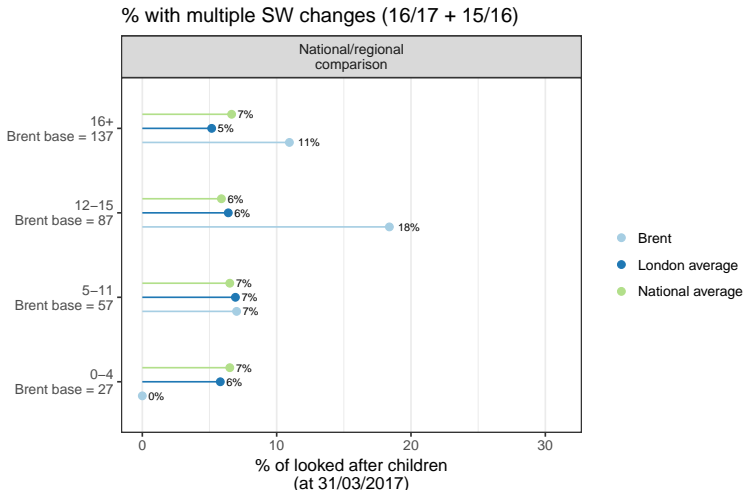
Repeated social worker instability

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of repeated social worker instability 5pp higher than the national average and 5pp higher than its regional average.



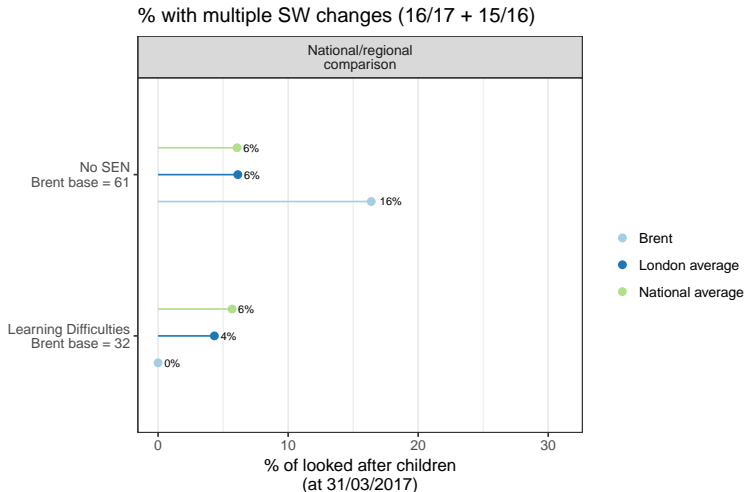
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Age at 31/03/2017. Key differences: 12-15



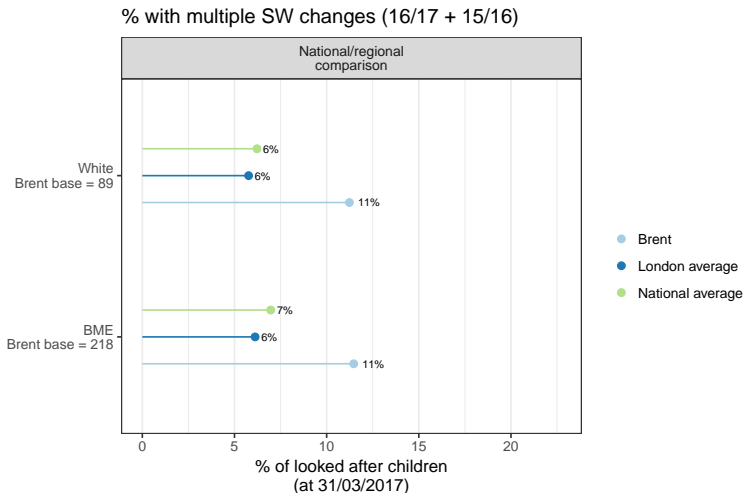
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's SEN. Key differences: No SEN



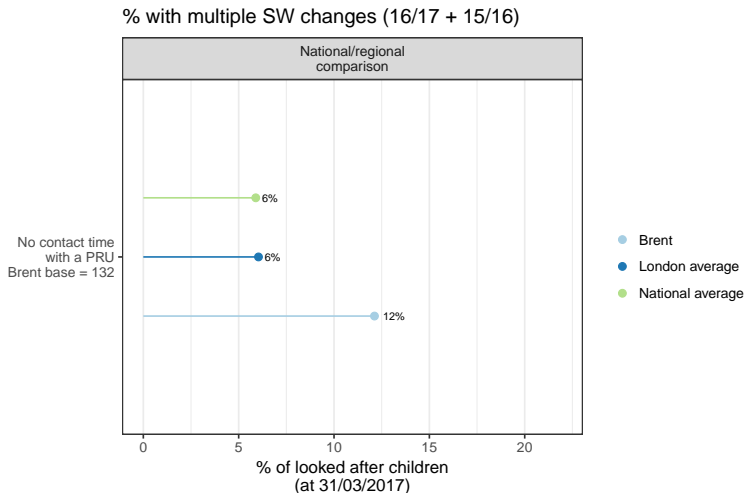
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's Ethnicity. Key differences: BME



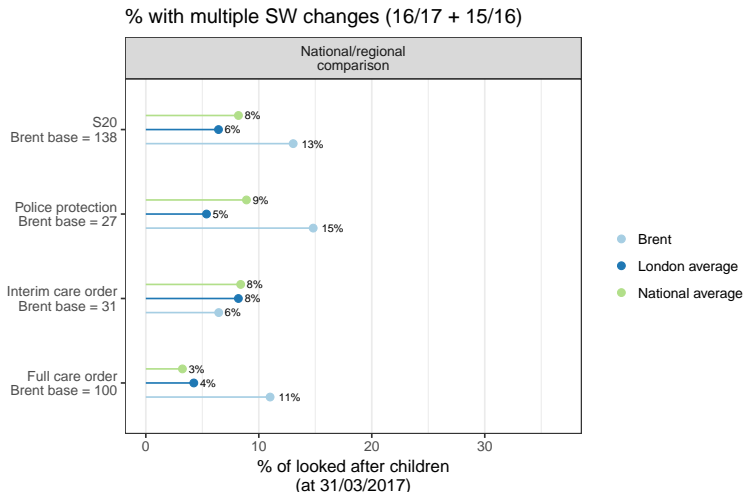
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Contact time with PRU. Key differences: No contact time with a PRU



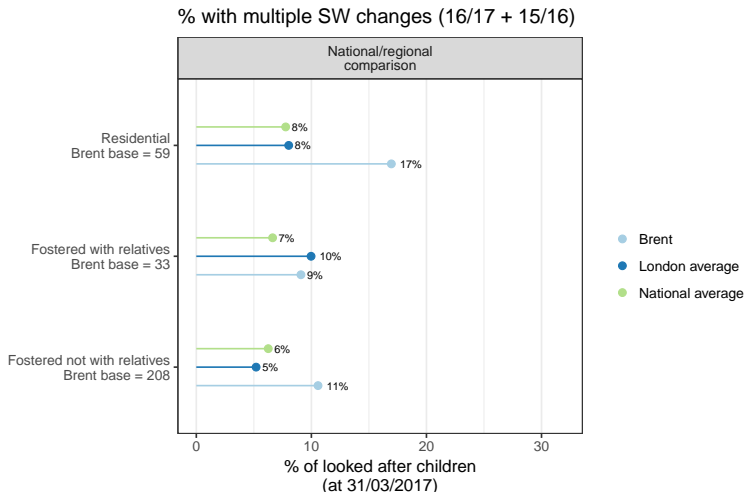
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Initial Legal status. Key differences: Full care order, S20



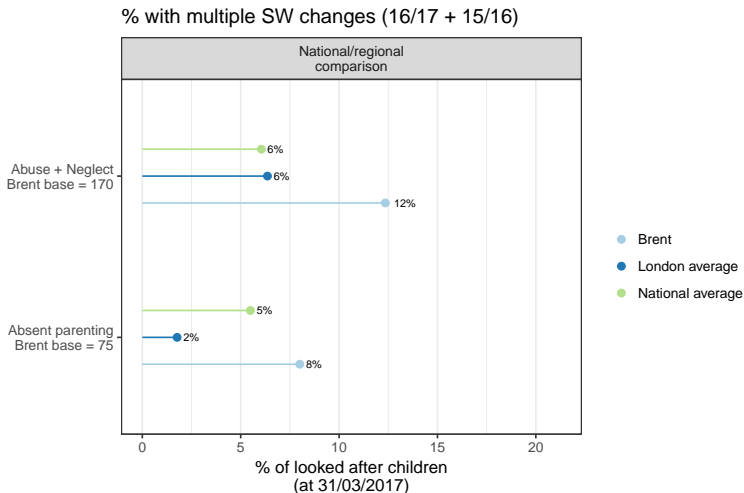
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Initial placement type. Key differences: Fostered not with relatives



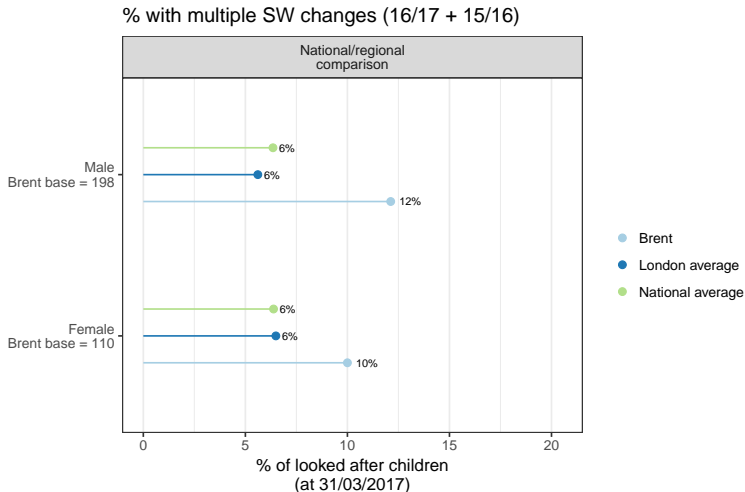
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's CIN primary need code. Key differences: Absent parenting, Abuse + Neglect



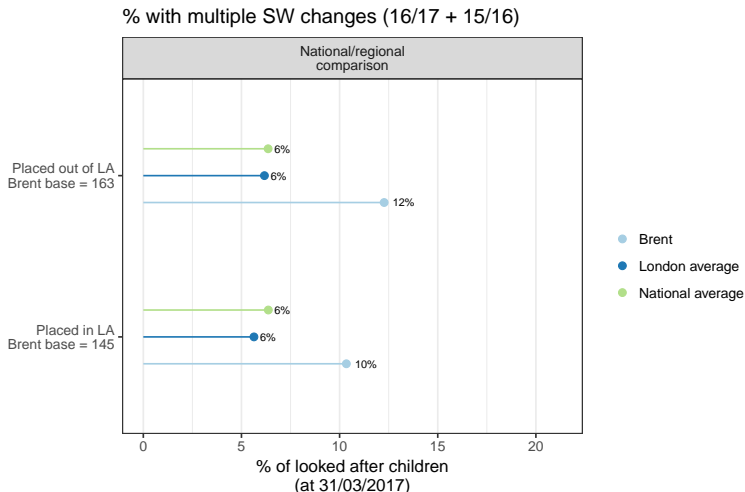
Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

■ Child's Gender. Key differences: Male



Sub-Groups: In 2016/17, Brent had higher rates of repeated social worker instability than national/regional averages based on:

- Child's Placement In or Out of LA. Key differences: Placed out of LA

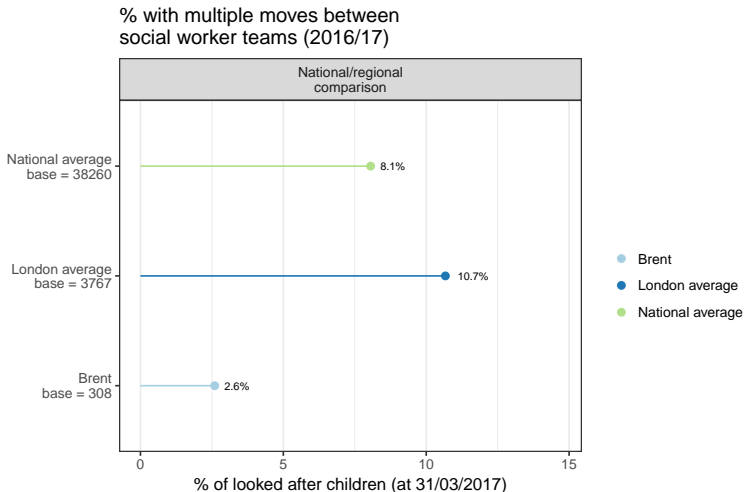


Multiple moves between social worker teams

- Multiple social worker moves between teams highlight where a child's change in social worker is due to moving between social work teams within an LA rather than (for example) a social worker leaving
- These are more likely to be changes due to a change in the child's circumstances and so are more likely to reflect a planned change of social worker

Multiple moves between social worker teams

- In 2016/17, Brent had levels of multiple moves between social worker teams 5pp lower than the national average and 8pp lower than its regional average.

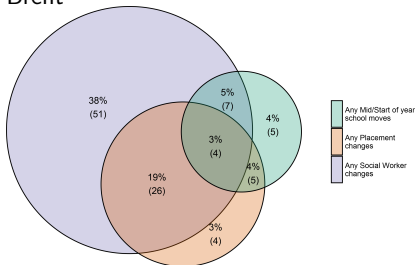


Detailed findings: Combinations of instability

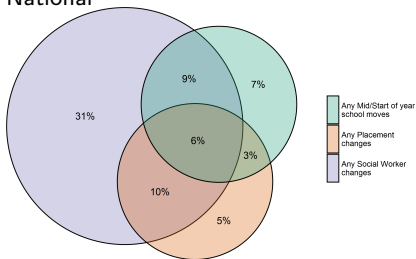
Brent's overall single year stability picture - any changes

- These Venn diagrams demonstrate the proportion of looked after children in Brent experiencing combinations of any type of change in 2016/17¹. Note these proportions are based on looked after children that are enrolled in school

Brent



National

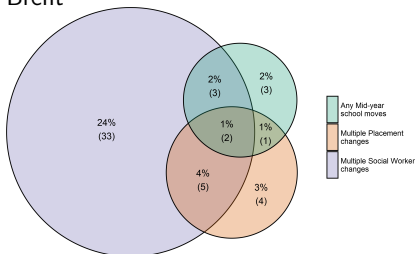


¹Frequencies in brackets

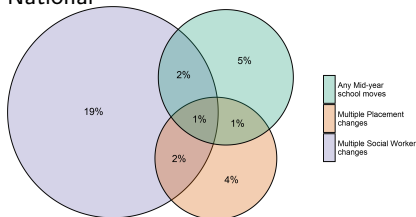
Brent's overall single year stability picture - multiple changes and mid-year school moves

- These Venn diagrams demonstrate the proportion of looked after children in Brent experiencing combinations of multiple placement moves, multiple social worker changes and mid-year school moves in 2016/17¹. Note these proportions are based on looked after children that are enrolled in school

Brent



National



¹Frequencies in brackets

Brent's overall two year stability picture

- The four groups below represent a summary measure of instability experienced by children in care (in both 2015/16 and 2016/17) in Brent. More information on their construction is available in the [Stability Index technical report](#) (pg 19).

2 year instability groups	Brent	National
1st year instability	6%	5%
High instability	5%	5%
Stable	85%	83%
Stable except SW team	4%	7%

Appendix A - Constructing Stability Index neighbours

Appendix A - Constructing Stability Index neighbours

- Stability Index neighbours come from clustering local authorities based on key indicators of instability highlighted in the [Stability Index 2018 technical report](#)
- The Stability Index neighbours represent the 5 LAs with most similar values on these 10 measures based on euclidean distance (after rescaling)
- These measures are shown on the next slide

■ These indicators are:

- Rate of looked after children (per 10,000 children),
- % CLA aged 12-15 at earliest care entry,
- % CLA aged 12-15 at 31st March 2017,
- % CLA with primary need code of child's behaviour,
- % CLA with a S20 initial legal status,
- % CLA looked after under a full care order,
- % CLA looked after under an interim care order,
- % CLA initially in a school rated 'Requires Improvement/inadequate'
- % CLA with a Social Emotional and Mental Health primary SEND code
- 2016/17 social worker turnover rate

Appendix B - Bases for key measures

Appendix B - Bases for key measures

- The basis for the sample analysed in these reports is Looked After Children in Brent at the 31st March 2017. However, this group contains children that have been in care/school for varying amounts of time. For example, not all children will be in care/school in both 15/16 and 16/17 and so not all can have placement changes/school moves in both years
- To address this we have restricted our 2 year measures of school and placement instability to those in care/school in both 15/16 and 16/17. Exact definitions are provided on the next slide and more detail is available in the [Stability Index 2018 technical report](#)

Appendix B - Bases for key measures

■ Bases for key measures:

- 2+ placement moves in 16/17: Children in care at 31st March 2017 (LAC)
- 2+ placement moves in 15/16 + 16/17: LAC in care in both 15/16 + 16/17
- Mid-year school move 16/17: LAC matched to both Autumn and Summer 16/17 School Censuses
- Any school move in 15/16 + 16/17: LAC matched to both Autumn 15/16 and Summer 16/17 School Censuses
- 2+ social worker changes 16/17: children matched to Looked After Children Census from social worker data return
- 2+ social worker changes in 15/16 + 16/17: children matched to Looked After Children Census from social worker data return