



AGENDA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held in Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **9 January 2018 at 7.00 pm.**

Lesley Seary
Chief Executive

Enquiries to : Jonathan Moore
Tel : 0207 527 3308
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 21 December 2017

Membership

Councillors:

Councillor Theresa Debono (Chair)
Councillor Nick Wayne (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Councillor Marian Spall
Councillor Nick Ward

Substitute Members

Substitutes:

Councillor Alex Diner
Councillor Satnam Gill OBE
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE
Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Angela Picknell
Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Nurullah Turan

Co-opted Member:

James Stephenson, Secondary Parent Governor
Erol Baduna, Primary Parent Governor
Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese
Vacancy, Church of England Diocese

Quorum: is 4 Councillors

A. Formal Matters

Page

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declaration of Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may **choose** to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.

In both the above cases, you **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a **personal** interest in an item of business **and** you intend to speak or vote on the item you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you **may** participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

- ***(a) Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.
- (c) Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1 - 8
5. Chair's Report
6. Items for Call In (if any)
7. Public Questions

For members of the public to ask questions relating to any subject on the meeting agenda under Procedure Rule 70.5. Alternatively, the Chair may opt to accept questions from the public during the discussion on each agenda item.

B.	Items for Decision/Discussion	Page
1.	Vulnerable Adolescents Scrutiny Review - Witness Evidence	9 - 56
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Laura Eden, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance b) Naomi Bannister, CSE, Missing and Trafficking Coordinator c) Sarah Whelan, Gangs & Serious Youth Violence Coordinator d) Gabriella Di-Sciullo, Head of Admissions & Children Out of School 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) <i>Written Evidence (for information only)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Islington Safeguarding Gang Protocol and Procedure 2016</i> 	
2.	Update on the Islington Fair Futures Commission	57 - 66
3.	Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q2 2017/18)	67 - 82
4.	Executive Member Questions	
	<i>Questions may be submitted in advance of the meeting by emailing democracy@islington.gov.uk by 3 January 2018.</i>	
5.	Review of Work Programme	83 - 84

C. Urgent non-exempt items (if any)

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

D. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Constitution and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

E. Exempt items for Call In (if any)

F. Confidential/exempt items

G. Urgent exempt items (if any)

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

The next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be on 20 February 2018

Please note that committee agendas, reports and minutes are available from the council's website: www.democracy.islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

266 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM NO. A7)**

Ernestas Jegorovas asked how the overspend in the Children's Services budget was going to impact on school improvements.

Councillor Caluori advised that the budget proposals go through formal scrutiny and that there are a number of opportunities to review them. Councillor Wayne also suggested that as this question did not relate to any of the items on the agenda, it might be more appropriately discussed when the Committee receives the Quarterly Performance Report.

267 **VULNERABLE ADOLESCENTS REVIEW - WITNESS EVIDENCE (ITEM NO. B1)**

The Committee reviewed the Draft Witness Evidence Plan and received a number of presentations as follows:

The Committee received a presentation from Helen Cameron, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Schools Improvement Service on 'Islington TRIPPS – Trauma informed PRU, primary schools and partners project'.

The following main points were made:

- Trauma is common and can happen as a result of a variety of experiences in childhood, including physical, emotional or sexual abuse, physical or emotional neglect or issues within the family, such as domestic violence, mental illness and substance misuse.
- Developmental trauma is also referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) can have detrimental effects that last into adulthood. It can affect the physical and chemical development of the brain.
- Children who have experienced ACE learn to survive by assuming situations are dangerous. They can have heightened survival skills that are not useful in a classroom; instead of learning to wait, share, problem solve, seek support and form relationships, they become ready to respond to any threat and develop strategies to meet their developmental needs, such as controlling or provocative behaviour. They can also seek out conflict or dissociate.
- For children who have experienced ACE there can be a school to prison 'pipeline', starting with exclusion from school.
- The trauma project aims to catch this early, to encourage children to think about what's safe and to build the skills they haven't got because they've been learning how to survive.
- Rather than looking at individual children, the project looks at what the system can do by equipping school staff to support children who may be dealing with underlying trauma, so that children see their school as a safe and caring environment in which there is an adult they feel comfortable talking to.
- In addition to increasing their capabilities in supporting vulnerable children, schools are also helped to make more effective use of referral pathways.
- The training has been completed in three schools and work is ongoing on developing a model and reviewing policies. By the end of the academic year we will have evaluated the outcomes.

The Committee asked a number of questions. The following main points were noted in the discussion:

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 28 November 2017

- The referral pathways and responsibility for safeguarding are already embedded within schools, the training helps them to develop a different, more questioning and considered approach to what would previously have been described as naughty behaviour.
- In the USA, where the system has been used for some time, it is working very well and is helping children to remain in school; it's keeping them in the classroom more.
- This approach is evidenced based, recommended by clinical psychologists and part of a national response to trauma. It's not an individual intervention; it changes the way schools relate to, support and work with children.
- The training is undertaken by all staff in the school from the Head Teacher to the Caretaker. It should affect what happens in the classroom and the playground and help staff to build relationships. The school decides how to use the additional time; they can focus on particular children or particular issues, such as how a child might return to school after a difficult weekend.

The Committee received a presentation from Abi Onaboye, Service Manager Early Help. Case studies featured examples of experience of Families First and Islington Families Intensive Team NRC Outreach services.

The following main points were made:

- The service works with the whole family; you can't change the behaviour of an adolescent by working with them alone.
- Targeted services are available to help with multiple problems and the Islington Families Intensive Team (FIT) provide intensive support to families with higher risks, such as eviction, involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour, children not attending school and at risk of becoming looked after.

The Committee asked a number of questions. The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- Where there are serious issues, such as violence in the home, or a breakdown in the relationship with one or both parents, an extensive whole family assessment is undertaken so everyone involved understands.
- Of approximately 1,800 families who are in receipt of services, only 10% go into specialist service provision. In these cases the level of complex need requires specialist intervention.

The Committee received a presentation from Holly Toft, Head of Play, Youth and Post 16. Case studies featured Adventure Playgrounds, Accessing Youth Provision - Open For All services and Youth Hubs.

The following main points were made:

- Attending an Adventure Playground can help children develop positive relationships with significant adults outside their family.
- The 'free play' at Adventure Playgrounds, with the support of skilled play workers, can help children learn to negotiate relationships and provide a positive experience in the lives of children who may be struggling at school and who have no other opportunities for success.
- If a child has a difficult day at school that information can be passed on to the staff at the playground and it can be taken into account.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 28 November 2017

- Children who attend regularly can start to manage conflict better, resolve problems, learn to negotiate their own solutions and have improved confidence, better social skills and communicate better.
- The children that do attend Adventure Playgrounds, tend to be heavy users and to attend 6 days a week.
- The Launchpad programme offers young people who are experiencing frustration and social isolation because they have difficulty accessing services that appropriately meet their social needs, a commissioner who helps them engage.
- Attending these activities, helps socially isolated young people develop confidence, positive relationships with their peers and improves their mental wellbeing.

The Committee received a presentation from Curtis Ashton, Head of Targeted Youth Support, Youth Offending and Integrated Gangs.

The following main points were made:

- Serious youth violence is estimated to cost the UK £4B per annum.
- It costs a minimum of £204K pa for one young person to be accommodated in a secure children's home, £163K pa for one young person to attend a secure training centre and £75K pa for one place in a young offenders institution.
- If the young person continues to offend as they become adults, the costs continue to accumulate; custody costs £80K pa and there are often increased health care costs. Early intervention is therefore essential.
- Children and young people with multiple vulnerabilities are more likely to become offenders or affiliated with a gang.
- Although they are generally demonised in the media, evidence is increasingly showing that many young offenders have experienced significant episodes of trauma in their lives; a large number have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse or have been exposed to significant levels of neglect and this has a significant effect on their behaviour.
- Many young offenders also have speech and language issues or special educational needs, such as dyslexia.
- Many young offenders are also victims.
- The number of victims of serious youth violence has risen in London over the past four years; there have been 7,700 recorded victims in the past 12 months. Islington borders two boroughs which have some of the highest levels of youth crime in London.
- Incidences of young people carrying weapons has increased; in 2016 there were no gun related fatalities in London and there have been 7 so far this year. There have also been over 2,000 knife related incidents in London over the same period.
- The main responsibility of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending and re-offending, using a multi-agency approach.
- The service works closely with the Police, Children's Social Care, Placements and the Integrated Gangs Team and tries to provide suitable residential placements for those leaving custody and as an alternative to custody. The service also works with the Courts to encourage their consideration of alternatives to custodial sentences.
- The Targeted Youth Support service works with people aged 10 to 21, predominately males, who may have disengaged with school and are engaging in low level offending / anti-social behaviour. Many have problems at home and have experienced trauma. They may also be at risk of exploitation or being encouraged to offend by their peers. The service

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 28 November 2017

supports them to make better informed, more positive choices and decisions. The work includes Youth Counselling between the ages of 12 and 21.

- The Integrated Gangs Team objectives are to improve safeguarding for children and vulnerable young adults at risk of gang affiliation or already involved in gangs, to reduce levels of violence and reoffending and to reduce victimisation of local people as a result of gang activity.

The Committee asked a number of questions. The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- The Youth Offending Service has up to 100 cases open at any one time, although it varies from month to month.
- The Targeted Youth Support Service has over 100 cases open at any one time.
- The Integrated Gangs Team has approximately 75 cases open at any one time.
- The ethnicity of those involved is very diverse, except that young black men are over-represented in Youth Offending Service cases, in common with the rest of London.
- Many have multiple needs, speech, language or learning difficulties. New research also suggests that many adult offenders have undiagnosed needs / learning difficulties.
- If those involved are NEET, that will be the service's main area of focus.
- The services try to intervene as early as possible and engage with young people based on referrals from schools, parents, neighbours. Staff also directly engage with groups of young people on the streets.
- The team works closely with Early Help Family Services.
- The service helps about 10 young people per year avoid a custodial sentence, by assisting them with employment, helping them managing their finances and identifying appropriate accommodation.
- We have some reciprocal arrangements with other boroughs when young people need to be rehoused out of the borough.
- An Open Day was held recently for Magistrates to highlight alternatives to custody and regularly reviews behaviour orders with the Police.

The Committee thanked the officers for their attendance.

268 **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REFORMS AND IMPACT (ITEM NO. B2)**

The Committee received a presentation from Candy Holder, Head of Pupil Services on progress with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms and their impacts.

The following main points were made:

- The robust identification of children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) has been confirmed by an independent review by the National Autistic Society. We are on trend with the numbers expected and other areas are now catching up; York has seen a 93% increase of cases in the past 12 months.
- The Early Years services has improved the timeliness of assessments and we have good data on children by the time they get to school.
- A SEND co-production board has been established with parents.
- Parents are being trained to be parent consultants.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 28 November 2017

- We are developing a Parent Parliament to consult as services develop.
- Three special schools have been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted.
- We have launched a handbook for early years and primary schools and are working on a second handbook for secondary/post 16s.
- We have a higher than average number of children per 1,000 in specialist settings, with statutory plans and at SEND support, in comparison to similar local authorities and the high numbers stretch resources; we have to plan carefully.
- Good progress is being made transitioning from the old plans and we are confident all children will be on the new plans by the 2018 target. Once that work is complete we will have one plan in place for each child and can start to be more strategic.
- Four strategic areas of work have been identified
 - Delivering services within budget
 - Social, emotional and mental health
 - Consistency in schools SEND support
 - Progressing to adulthood
- The Local Area Inspection is expected soon; inspectors are in Hackney now. 13 out of 33 boroughs inspected have gone into special measures. We are working on a self-evaluation and progression to adulthood is a key risk at the moment.

The Committee asked a number of questions. The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- The biggest overall risk is delivering services within budget. Early intervention through the Early Help service will help prevent higher costs at a later stage, but early intervention also sometimes means longer intervention, so it can also increase costs. We are working on increasing people's resilience as they move into adulthood so we can reduce levels of support.
- A root and branch review of transport is ongoing, as the costs associated are extremely high.

269 **ALTERNATIVE PROVISION REVIEW 2015/16 - 12 MONTH REPORT BACK (ITEM NO. B3)**

The Committee received a presentation from Jeff Cole, Head of School Improvement – Secondary on the 12 month report back on the Alternative Provision Review.

A lot of work has been undertaken to implement the recommendations of the review, including:

- Management of Alternative Provision has been passed to New River College.
- Year 10 pupils are under an entirely new system.
- Schools remain responsible for the progress, attendance and wellbeing of referred pupils and pay up to a limit of £10,000 per placement. The pupils stay on the school roll until Year 11.
- From 104 the numbers have reduced to 40; 35 children in year 11 and 5 children in year 10. Those that are referred are receiving better quality services from a small number of providers.
- The number of exclusions has not increased and there have been none so far this term.
- The team is in constant contact with the New River College and Schools to ensure that the service is working well and that children are not pushed out into other areas.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 28 November 2017

The Committee asked a number of questions. The following main point was noted in the discussion:

- The significant decrease in the number of referrals is one of the results of the scrutiny review which helped to convince Heads that they were drawing the line in the wrong place and that many of the children previously referred were entitled to a normal education.

270 EXECUTIVE MEMBER QUESTIONS - VERBAL UPDATE (ITEM NO. B4)

Councillor Caluori was asked to provide a brief update on progress with the Fair Futures Commission and advised that the consultation went well and work is now ongoing to analyse the responses. Jermaine Jackman, Chair of the Commission, has already published some of the emerging issues and a set of proposals will be available in February and will be presented at Budget Council.

271 REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME (ITEM NO. B5)

Reviewed. It was agreed that the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report currently on the agenda for the meeting on 9 January 2018 would be circulated by email and the item is to be removed from the agenda.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 pm

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Review of co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents

DRAFT WITNESS EVIDENCE PLAN

To review how effectively the council is in providing joined up services for Adolescents; and to ensure that there are effective processes and practices that enable young people to be involved in all aspects of their support and intervention

Scope of the review:

- The changing vulnerabilities and risks identified by the young people themselves and professionals working in Islington
- The current services provided to vulnerable adolescents in Islington
- The young person's pathway between preventative, early help and specialist services and how successfully this is navigated.
- A closer look at the engagement with young people across all services, and how effective this is in ensuring the voice of the young person is heard and acted upon.
- Different models of service delivery, including multi-disciplinary and wrap-around services, and exploration what works best for the young person in achieving change

Theme	Related SID Objective
From risk to resilience	SID Objective 1: To further understand the current and future challenges and risks faced by our young people who are vulnerable and how the council is continually responding to these in Islington.
The network of support for vulnerable adolescents	<p>SID Objective 3: To assess how the current transition arrangements for vulnerable adolescents between early help, targeted and specialist services are continuously effective in providing a seamless support and intervention service/approach.</p> <p>SID Objective 4: To assess if the support available to vulnerable adolescents from council services is sufficient across the age range and demographic of the borough</p> <p>SID Objective 5: To explore the support network of young people within the family, community and friendships, and how they can support council services for vulnerable adolescents to reach their full potential.</p>
Working collaboratively with adolescents, across the council and with partners	<p>SID Objective 2: To evaluate how the views and experiences of vulnerable adolescents are considered when planning and delivering services.</p> <p>SID Objective 6: To consider the effectiveness of partnership and integrated arrangements that the council has, if these achieve better outcomes, and to consider if further join up operationally and strategically would assist.</p>

Suggested Work programme

Given the breadth of the subject area chosen, the committee has identified a number of areas for the review to focus on. These are:

- vulnerable adolescents who are missing from home, care, or education;
- young people aged 10 to 13 years (but not exclusively);
- the issues faced by vulnerable young adults and what services or actions would have helped them as younger adolescents;
- the 'child's voice' and how the council ensures that services for vulnerable adolescents are tailored to their specific needs;
- the specific local causes of vulnerability.

1. Witnesses

Tuesday 19 September: Witnesses	
Who / Organisation	Area of focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Arthey, Service Director of Youth and Community Services, • Catherine Briody, Head of Youth and Community Services • Laura Eden, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance 	Scene-setting / introduction to vulnerable adolescents and what is currently in place to support and work with this age group.

Monday 30 October: Witnesses	
Who / Organisation	Area of focus – Preventative services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finola Culbert, Service Director of Safeguarding and Family Support • Lisa Arthey, Service Director of Youth and Community Services 	Overview of how services for vulnerable adolescents are structured.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from a young person: Simone Headley, Chair of the In Care Council. 	A young person to share their experiences and give their views on council services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Kier Newman – Police representative for Safer Schools and Youth Engagement • Freddie Hudson – Community Manager, Arsenal in the Community • Abi Billingham - Founder and Director of ABIANDA • Sheron Hosking – CAMHS, Head of Children’s Joint Health Commissioning 	Services provided and/or procured
	Involvement of young people in planning/commissioning/reviewing services or support
	Use of other support networks - family, community, and peer groups
	Different models of service delivery and what works best for delivering change
	How effective are these services? How can we measure if they are effective or not? Are services joined up?

Documentary evidence:

- Early Intervention and Help Strategy for Islington, 2015-2025
- Mapping of preventative services / resources in the borough for adolescents
- Working together to safeguard young people in Islington - Youth Crime Plan, 2017-20
- Recommendations & Executive Summary of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee report on Knife Crime, 2015/16
- CAHMS transformation plan

Tuesday 28 November: Witnesses	
Who / Organisation	Area of focus – Early Help & Specialist Services Part 1 <i>Instability in the family / anti-social and criminal behaviours</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtis Ashton – Head of Targeted Youth Services and Youth Offending Service • Abi Onaboye – Head of Early Help Children Skills and Employment Services • Holly Toft – Head of Play, Youth and Post-16 • Helen Cameron – Health and Wellbeing Manager (Trauma Informed Practice) 	Services provided and/or procured - Step up from early help / step down from specialist
	How the child's voice can be heard throughout service commissioning and delivery.
	Involvement of young people in planning / commissioning / reviewing services or support where risk behaviours are identified
	Use of other support networks - family, community, and peer groups and how they support the young person
	How effective are these services? How can we measure if they are effective or not? Are services joined up?

Tuesday 9 January: Witnesses	
Who / Organisation	Area of focus – Early Help & Specialist Services Part 2 <i>Abuse and neglect / missing from home, care or education</i> <i>Child Sexual Exploitation / Edge of care work</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Eden – Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance • Naomi Bannister – CSE lead • Sarah Whelan – Safeguarding Gangs Lead for Children, Employment and Skills • Gabriella Di-Sciullo – Head of Admissions & Children Out of School 	Services provided and/or procured - Step up from early help and how to support where risk is identified that impacts on the young person's level of vulnerability
	How the child's voice can be heard throughout service commissioning and delivery.
	Involvement of young people in planning / commissioning / reviewing services and how this translates to actions
	Use of other support networks - family, community, and peer groups
	How effective are these services? How can we measure if they are effective or not? Are services joined up?

Documentary evidence:

- Islington Safeguarding Gang Protocol and procedure 2016

Tuesday 20 February: Concluding Discussion and Draft Recommendations for approval	
Who/Organisation	Area of focus – Conclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Arthey – Service Director, Youth and Community Services • Finola Culbert – Service Director, Safeguarding and Family Support 	To assist the Committee in forming conclusions and to provide updates on any outstanding matters. To provide comparative information on how other authorities deliver their services.

2. Visits

Visits			
Who	Organisation/remit	Area of focus	When
Young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Mayor • CAIS representatives • YOS representatives • ABIANDA – young female representatives 	Youth Council Looked after children Youth Offending Voluntary and Community sector organisation	What works or could work better for them re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support - Involvement in planning or reviewing services 	TBC – potentially linked to other events young people will be attending
Frontline staff	TYS staff in situ YOS staff in situ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key issues and what could work better to support adolescents using all agencies together • Joined up services in operation 	TBC
Other areas with established good practice	Return Safe Team lead CP Chair and observation of Conference CSCT- Children Services contact team		TBC
	Good practice outside of Islington to view – No wrong door – North Allerton Yorkshire Margate– Multi agency team impacting on Vulnerable young adults Greenwich – effective front door and has reduced risk in South London		TBC

3. Report

- **20 February 2018:** Draft recommendations
- **20 March 2018:** Draft report



Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity and/or Gang-Related Serious Youth Violence

Multi-agency Protocol and Practice Guidance

Date approved: 22 February 2016

Document status: Current

Approved by: ISCB Policy and Practice Subgroup

Next review date: February 2017

Last revised: Not applicable

Location: www.islingtonscb.org.uk

This document is the property of Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Contents

1	Aim of the Protocol and Practice Guidance.....	3
2	Who should read this?	3

PROTOCOL

3	Underlying Principles.....	3
4	Why are gangs a safeguarding issue?	4
5	Relevant legislation and guidance – our duties to work together to safeguard children ...	5
	5.1 Definitions.....	6
6	Governance and Oversight of Islington’s response to gangs.....	8
	6.1 Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB).....	9
	6.2 Safer Islington Partnership (SIP)	9
	6.3 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Approach.....	9

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

7	Assess, Plan, Do Review	10
	7.1 Recognise needs	10
	7.2 Assess needs and vulnerability.....	12
	7.3 Gang involvement – responding to risk.....	14
	7.4 Plan: Ensure a co-ordinated approach.....	17
	7.5 Do: Deliver individual and group interventions that address both risk and vulnerability ...	18
	7.5.1 Universal.....	18
	7.5.2 Targeted	19
	7.5.3 Specialist	19
	7.6 Review	20
8	Information Sharing and parental engagement.....	20
9	Different Professionals’ Roles and Responsibilities.....	21
	9.1 All Agencies.....	21
	9.2 Open access universal services eg. early years, play & youth work & community organisations	21
	9.3 Education Providers	22
	9.4 Health	23
	9.5 Police.....	23
	9.6 Early help family support services	25
	9.7 Targeted Youth Support (TYS)	25
	9.8 Youth Offending Service (YOS)	25
	9.9 Probation (NPS and CRC)	26
	9.10 Integrated Gangs Team (IGT).....	26
	9.11 Children’s Social Care	27
10	Contact Details	28
11	Useful documents	28

APPENDICES

Appendix A:	Governance and Oversight Structure	30
Appendix B:	Process for Universal and Targeted Services.....	31
Appendix C:	Process for Children’s Social Care.....	32
Appendix D:	Integrated Gangs Team Eligibility Criteria and Referral Process	33
Appendix E:	Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Interventions.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1 Aim of the Protocol and Practice Guidance

This protocol has been developed to ensure consistency and effectiveness in the partnership's approach to safeguarding those at risk of, or who have suffered, significant harm in relation to gangs.

The protocol will aim to:

- Ensure the effective delivery of a partnership response in safeguarding children affected by gang activity whilst outlining the accountability of each agency involved
- Identify children at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour, emergent criminality and gang activity and identify appropriate responses
- Enable professionals to empower children and families to make safe choices and improve the outcomes for all people identified as at risk

Islington's Youth Crime Strategy 2015 sets out 3 priorities: 1) Interventions, Enforcement and Reintegration; 2) Prevention and Diversion; and 3) Community Engagement. The approach to tackling gangs reflects these priorities with the welfare and safeguarding of children being of paramount importance.

This protocol clarifies the safeguarding responsibilities of agencies whether they deliver universal, targeted or specialist services, to intervene in ways that will prevent and minimise risk from gang activity and to identify and act when there is high risk of significant harm as a result of gang related violence.

The actions of frontline practitioners across the Local Authority's children's services and partner agencies have the power to transform the futures of those children and avoid the damaging effects of gangs.

2 Who should read this?

This protocol is intended for all organisations and teams working with Islington's children and families across universal, targeted and specialist services.

This document should be read by managers and frontline practitioners in all agencies working with children and their families.

Protocol

3 Underlying Principles

The following principles should underpin the partnership's work to prevent and minimise the harm caused by gangs and serious youth violence.

- Child's welfare is paramount consideration
- Minimum intrusion into family life - only intervening when there is real concern for the safety or well-being of a child to address problems as early as possible
- Support children to make positive and safe choices
- Support children to stay in the community wherever possible
- Ensure children see and learn from the consequences of their actions through the appropriate and effective use of enforcement
- Persevere, even when children and families resist support

4 Why are gangs a safeguarding issue?

Significant harm is defined as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention into family life in the best interests of children. Physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect are all categories of Significant Harm.

A child who is affected by gang activity or serious youth violence may have suffered, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

The YOS inspection (2015) highlighted a need for us to better recognise significant harm to children that may arise as a result of gang involvement and violent incidents such as stabbings. It also noted we need to better recognise and respond to the risk of harm to siblings and girlfriends of gang involved children and young adults.

The safeguarding risks posed by violent gang crime are a consistent and striking issue for Islington and pose a major concern for all agencies working to safeguard children.

Effective safeguarding procedures are essential to support children associated with gang members; those who have been drawn into the periphery of gangs; as well as promoting the exit from gangs of the small but significant number more heavily involved. Procedures also crucially need to protect those who are at immediate risk of harm either as gang members and/or (potential) victims of gang related behaviour.

Children resorting to violence have often themselves suffered trauma early in life. Many have been victims themselves, or witnessed domestic violence and abuse in the home at an early age. They have grown up without the emotional tools that children should develop, like empathy towards others, resilience and self-esteem to believe they can succeed in mainstream society (education, employment). We also know that children are directly put at risk as a result of their participation in crime and violence; becoming victims of crime and violence; or indirectly as a result of risks posed by or to members of their families, peer groups or neighbourhoods. **Potentially a child involved with a gang or with serious youth violence could be both a victim and a perpetrator. This requires professionals to assess and support his/her welfare and well-being needs at the same time as assessing and responding in a criminal justice capacity.**

Children at additional risk of becoming involved in gang activity are those who have learning difficulties or disabilities, mental health problems and substance misuse problems as well as those at risk due to family breakdown and trauma.

Of significant concern in Islington is the familial impact of gang activity. Children report becoming involved in gangs due to experiencing older siblings and parents being actively involved or associated with gangs. Children are being drawn into the gang lifestyle from a younger age for a number of reasons including: peer pressure, family connections, protection due to their post code and the perception that the lifestyle brings wealth and status.

Gang members may groom vulnerable young males and females, incentivising with food, money and offering a sense of belonging and 'family'.

Girls and boys (and younger girls and boys than in the past) are being drawn into the periphery of gangs by holding, transporting or storing items such as drugs (see section below on county lines), tools for moped stealing, knives and phones for older gang members. They may also be asked or forced to carry items such as drugs as they are less likely to be stopped by police.

Potential victims include siblings and girlfriends of children and young adults involved in gangs and serious youth violence. Younger children who may not be of an age to actively become involved in gang activity could be at risk if a family member is involved in gangs. These children may be at risk not only out in their community but in their homes as rival gang members may seek to take revenge on an opposing gang member.

Girls may be at risk of being exploited both violently and/or sexually due to gang associations with family members and peers. They may not recognise that they are at risk and may 'idolise' the male gang members who they perceive as having status and wealth. Others may not see any safe way out

and know that the repercussions of telling anyone about what is happening will result in rape, physical violence or being branded or cast out by their peers. Some females from black and minority ethnic communities in particular, may not disclose the abuse to their parents for fear that they will be perceived to have brought shame on their family. This protocol will clarify the alignment of Islington's multi-agency approach to tackling gangs with approaches to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE), domestic violence (DV) and missing children.

Whilst CSE is the most prevalent form of victimisation that girls will experience, they do not always present as obvious victims and may too be involved in criminal gang related behaviour (often as a result of their relationships, coercion and control). As a result of this young women can remain hidden because their vulnerability is not recognised.

We must also consider the risks to children of young gang members and of young mothers who are associated with gang members.

The particular risks that children may face because of gang involvement will vary from area to area and over time, but they may include:

- Retaliatory violence
- Territorial disputes with other gangs
- Psychological harm due to the trauma gang members experience and witness
- Physical harm suffered whilst committing a crime
- Use of violence to assert authority in the local area
- Sexual violence and sexual exploitation
- Exploitation to commit crimes such as selling drugs, stealing phones etc

A child who is affected by gang activity or serious youth violence can be at risk of significant harm.

County Lines

Gang members are moving into drugs markets outside Islington, outside London, to the counties where they are unknown to the local police, there is less competition locally from rival gangs, and non-metropolitan police forces tend to have less experience of addressing this type of activity.

The exploitation of vulnerable children is central to county lines. For example, children are groomed and/or coerced into moving and selling drugs, and the homes of vulnerable adults can be taken over as a base from which drugs are sold.

There is evidence that young people involved in drug dealing can be targeted often by older members of their own gang who steal drugs/money to make them owe a debt which must be repaid. This can lead to further coercion and exploitation including violence.

Those targeted include Looked After Children and other children known to Children's Social Care (CSC) and the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

5 Relevant legislation and guidance – our duties to work together to safeguard children

This Protocol should be considered as a supplementary tool to be used in conjunction with National Legislation and Guidance. It does not replace existing Safeguarding Procedures.

The following Legislation and Guidance should be utilised by all agencies involved in Safeguarding.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in statutory guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;

- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Children Act 2004, section 10, states the requirement for agencies to cooperate with local authorities, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding to promote the well-being of children in each local authority area. This cooperation should exist and be effective at all levels of the organisation, from strategic level through to operational delivery.

Local agencies, including the police and health services, have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions.

The Guidance **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)** emphasises the necessity for interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This includes a requirement to identify and assess the need for early help and provide effective early help support.

Section 11 of London Child Protection Practice Guidance sets the context, indicators and professional response to gangs and serious youth violence in more detail.

The **Troubled Families** agenda requires agencies to work together delivering a whole family approach to support families as early as possible to overcome multiple and complex problems.

The Joint DCSF and Home Office have also produced supplementary guidance called **Safeguarding Children and young people who may be affected by gang activity**. Anyone working with children involved or at risk from gang activity should use this tool for guidance.

The **Crime and Disorder Act 1998** granted local authorities more responsibilities with regards strategies to for reducing crime and disorder which aim to protect the public, including children, from antisocial behaviour and crime.

Partners must consider, in addressing gang activity, the possible safeguarding risks a child's involvement may pose for themselves, families, siblings and wider communities. Their direct practice should mitigate against these risks as much as is possible.

5.1 Definitions

5.1.1 Child

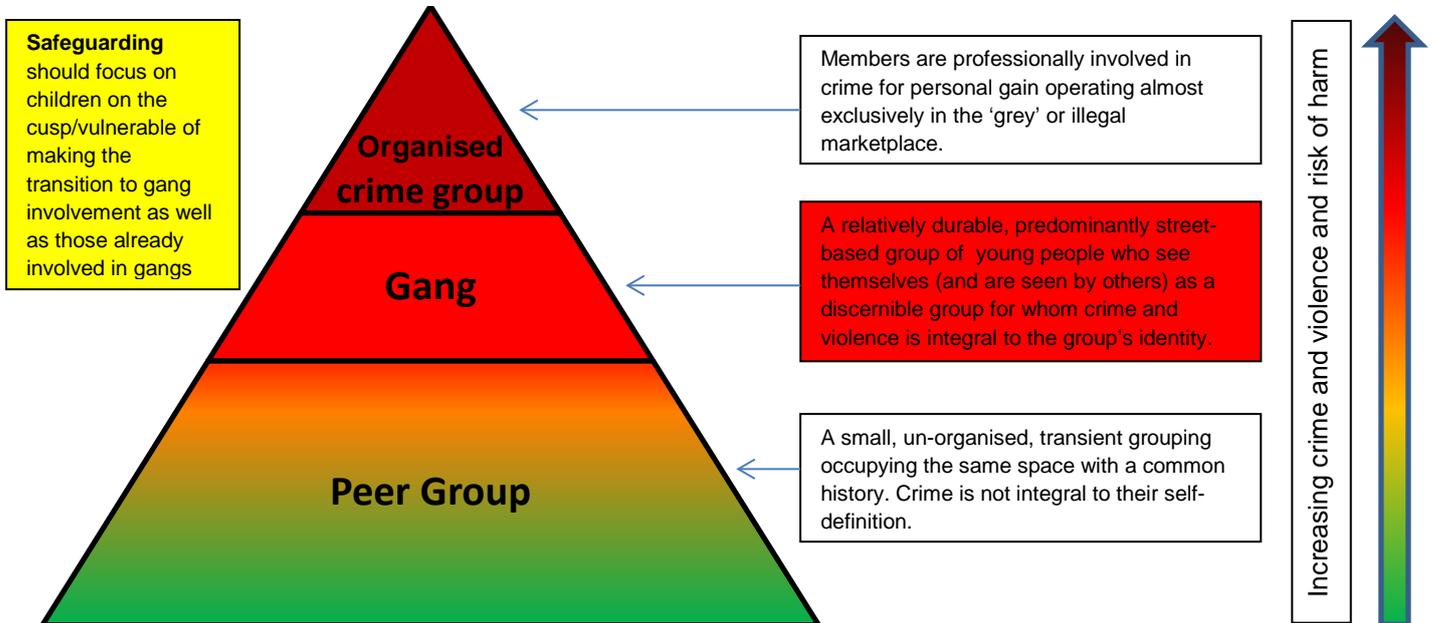
For the purpose of this protocol a child/young person under 18 years old will be defined as a 'child' in line with the definition in child protection guidance.

Other areas of the law consider the 'child' in ways that perhaps lessen the focus on vulnerability. For example, the age of consent in UK is 16 and the age of criminal responsibility in England is 10 years old. Criminal responsibility is based on when a child is considered capable of committing a crime and old enough to stand trial and be convicted of a criminal offence.

Islington recognises the challenges these different definitions pose for agencies working within different remits of the law and how challenging it therefore is to have a consistent approach to children involved in violent and gang related offending or associated with child or young adult gang members.

5.1.2 A gang

Pyramid of Gang Involvement



Islington uses the above definition of a 'gang' from Hallsworth and Young: 'Getting Real About Gangs' (2004)

5.1.3 Serious youth violence

Serious youth violence is defined as any offence of Most Serious Violence and Assault with Injury or Weapon Enabled Crime, where the **victim** is aged 1-19. The perpetrator could be any age.

5.1.4 A gang member

Someone who has self-identified themselves as being a member of a gang (as above), e.g. through verbal statements, tattoos, correspondence, graffiti etc, and this is corroborated by police, partner agencies, or community intelligence.

5.1.5 A gang associate

Someone who offends with gang members (as above); or who is associated, by police, partner agencies, or community intelligence, with gang members; or who has displayed, through conduct or behaviour, a specific desire or intent to become a member of a gang.

5.1.6 A gangs -associated girl

There is not yet an agreed definition of gang-associated women and girls. The below definition was piloted by the Home Office and partners:

“A woman or girl who is a family member of or in an intimate relationship with a gang nominal”

It is recognised that this definition does not capture all girls who may be affected by gangs; however it is a useful starting point.

5.1.7 Victim of Child sexual exploitation

Victims of gang related activity could require services that address child sexual exploitation (CSE), if their situation meets the following Government definition:

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child Sexual Exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/ mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

5.1.8 Harmful sexual behaviour

Harmful sexual behaviour involves one or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults. (NSPCC)

Children may be victims of child sexual exploitation and also pose a risk to others due to their harmful sexual behaviour. Victims and perpetrators are not necessary discreet groups and therefore assessment of need and appropriate interventions must address both risk and vulnerability.

5.1.9 Victims and those at risk of, domestic violence by gang members

Victims of gang related activity could require services that address domestic violence (DV), if their situation meets the following Government definition:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional.”

5.1.10 Children missing from home and care

The following definitions are taken from the Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care. (June 2013)

A ‘*young runaway*’ is a child who has run away from their home or care placement, or feels they have been forced or lured to leave.

A ‘missing child’ is a young runaway reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

Children who run away from home/care or go missing from home/care are very vulnerable and may be a sign that they are involved in risk taking activities and/or are at risk of harm from others. This could be gang related including running county lines drug routes.

6 Governance and Oversight of Islington’s response to gangs

6.1 Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB)

The ISCB is a multi-agency body responsible for ensuring that agencies work well together to safeguard and protect children from harm, and improve their welfare and wellbeing.

ISCB is responsible for:

- assessing the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- ensuring that protocols, such as this one, are in place and are effective
- offering training to support professionals fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities when working with children and families

6.2 Safer Islington Partnership (SIP)

The SIP is a multi-agency board that coordinates work on crime reduction and community safety in Islington.

It is responsible for the oversight of the current crime and disorder picture in Islington and proposes and hold agencies to account for the measures put in place to tackle priority crime and disorder issues.

6.3 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Approach

In 2015 the Council and the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) Board agreed the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) approach to tackling individuals involved in persistent and high risk criminality, including children suspected to be involved in or high risk due to their involvement in gangs. IOM brings together a cross-agency response to crime and reoffending threats faced by Islington's communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by Islington's partner agencies working together.

There are a range of panels that sit within the IOM approach and to avoid duplication, children will only be discussed at one panel. Wherever a child is known to YOS the case will be discussed at the Youth Offending Service MARP (Multi-Agency Risk Panel) and information from this panel will then be shared with IOM Operational Panel or Bronze as appropriate.

Please see Appendix A for the Governance and Oversight structure.

Practice Guidance

This practice guidance is in line with Islington's general approach to safeguarding children. It covers all levels of safeguarding from prevention and early intervention right through to specialist support for children at high risk of serious harm.

To best meet the needs of the child professionals (as expressed in Islington's Early Help Pledge¹) should **Think Child, Think Parent and Think Family** at every stage of the safeguarding cycle from assessment through planning and interventions to review. This is no different when considering children at risk of gang related harm.

Agencies must ensure they

- **Recognise needs**
 - **Risk Factors:** A strong understanding of the risk factors linked to child distress and possible harmful activity including violent gang crime
 - **Tell-tale signs:** be alert to signs that may suggest gang involvement
- **Assess** needs and vulnerability thoroughly: Assessments need to take place in a timely manner, drawing on all available information and intelligence
- **Plan:** taking a co-ordinated approach
- **Do:** Deliver **interventions** that effectively consider and address **both risk and vulnerability**
- **Review the child/family multi-agency plan** drawing on all relevant information about outcomes achieved, strengths/resilience factors and risk and vulnerability factors
- **Share** appropriate and useful **information and intelligence** in a timely manner

Please see sections below which explain these expectations in more detail.

7 Assess, Plan, Do Review

7.1 Recognise needs

7.1.1 The risk factors

All practitioners who have contact with children should be familiar with the broad range of risk factors that indicate a child may be in distress and without additional support that builds resilience their needs may escalate. Risk factors may indicate child distress due to trauma or abuse, including witnessing domestic violence in the home, or involvement in harmful activities including youth offending generally, violent extremism or gangs and serious youth violence.

Whilst there is no direct cause and effect between risk factors and becoming involved in gangs and serious youth violence, we do know that if we don't support a child in distress quickly and effectively their needs are likely to escalate and early concerns may become more severe resulting in more risk to themselves and others.

An awareness of these risk factors allows all organisations within Islington's children and families partnership to stay alert to risk factors and act quickly and effectively to support the child and family in ways that make them more resilient which may prevent anti-social behaviour and other risk taking activities that could lead to gang involvement and serious youth violence.

¹ For full details of the Early Help Pledge refer to the pledge contained within [Islington-Early-Help-Strategy-2015-2025.pdf](#)

Islington's Early Help and Social Care Assessments are based upon an analysis of the 3 inter-related domains: developmental needs of the child; capacities of parents and carers to respond appropriately to those needs; and the impact of the wider family and environmental factors on parenting capacity and children (See section 7.2 for the assessment process).

The Early Intervention Foundation's 2015 report [Preventing gang and youth violence: A Review of Risk and Protective Factors](#) summarised risk and protective factors into five different domains, as set out below.

Within each domain, the review identified the following as the strongest signals of risk for gang involvement and youth violence (by age group).

Domain	Strong risk factors for youth violence	Strong risk factors for gang involvement
Individual	Troublesome (7-9; 10-12) High daring (10-12) Positive attitude to delinquency (10-12) Previously committed offences (7-9) Involved in antisocial behaviour (10-12) Substance use (7-9) Aggression (7-9) Running away and truancy (7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-25) Gang membership (13-15; 16-25) Low self-esteem (13-15) High psychopathic features (13-15)	Marijuana use (10-12) Displaced aggression traits (13-15) Anger traits (13-15) Aggression traits (13-15)
Family	Disrupted family (7-9; 10-12; 13-15) Poor supervision (10-12)	No strong risk factors identified
School	Low commitment to school (13-15)	Low academic achievement in primary school (10-12) Learning disability (10-12)
Peer Group	Delinquent peers (7-9; 10-12; 13-15)	No strong risk factors identified
Community	No strong risk factors identified	Marijuana availability (10-12) Neighbourhood youth in trouble (10-12)

7.1.2 Tell Tale Signs of gang involvement

Below are some of the signs that would indicate that a child may be involved or at risk of becoming involved in gang activity:

- child withdrawn from family;
- sudden loss of interest in school. Decline in attendance or academic achievement;

- started to use new or unknown slang words;
- holds unexplained money or possessions or cannot explain where large sums of money have gone (financial exploitation);
- stays out unusually late without reason;
- sudden change in appearance – dressing in a particular style or ‘uniform’ similar to that of other children they hang around with, including a particular colour;
- dropped out of positive activities;
- new nickname;
- unexplained physical injuries;
- graffiti style ‘tags’ on possessions, school books, walls;
- constantly talking about another young person or adult who seems to have a lot of influence over them;
- broken off with old friends and hangs around with one group of people;
- increased use of social networking sites;
- started adopting certain codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs;
- expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of children or young adults, some of whom may have been friends in the past;
- signs of sexual exploitation e.g pregnancy, abortion (perhaps forced), sexually transmitted infections and injuries
- signs of psychological effects of exploitation – eg. depression and suicide attempts
- scared when entering certain areas;
- concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods

(DCSF & Home Office, Safeguarding Children & Young People who may be affected by Gang Activity, 2010)

7.1.3 Tell-tale signs of Sexual Exploitation

Children at risk of sexual exploitation (which may be linked to gang activity and/or serious youth violence) may present with:

- Running away (missing from home/care)
- Overt sexualised dress/attire
- New and unexplained possessions/receipt of regular ‘gifts’
- Internal injuries, multiple sexually transmitted infections (STIs), miscarriages and/or terminations
- Chronic drug dependency (particularly crack/heroin)
- Expressions of despair eg. self-harm – cutting, overdosing, eating disorders, sexualised risk-taking

7.2 Assess needs and vulnerability

7.2.1 Levels of need

A range and severity of a child’s needs, the balance of protective factors and risk factors, determine the level of intervention required to support the child and family.

Level of Intervention	Level of Need	Level of Need (Gangs and Violent Crime specific)	Gang Risk Category (Risk of gang involvement)	C-SE Risk Category (Risk of child sexual exploitation)
<p><i>Levels of need & intervention as defined in Islington Safeguarding Children Board Threshold Document</i></p>				
<p>Level 1 Universal</p> <p>Agencies have local processes in place to respond to need</p>	<p>Child achieving outcomes, whose health and developmental needs can be met by universal services.</p>	<p>No history of criminal offences within the family</p> <p>The family members are not involved in gangs</p>	<p>See section 7.3.1 for more details</p>	
<p>Level 2 Targeted (Early Help)</p> <p>Early Help Assessment considered/required. Referral to Children's Social Care is NOT required</p>	<p>Vulnerable child with some additional needs that can be met through the provision of targeted 'early help', either within, alongside or outside universal services.</p>	<p>There is a history of criminal activity within the family</p> <p>There is suspicion, or some evidence, that the family are involved in gangs</p>	<p>Category 1 (At Risk)</p> <p>A vulnerable child who is at risk of being targeted to become a gang member or who has familial or relationship links to children or young adults known to the Integrated Gangs Team</p>	
<p>Level 3 Statutory and Specialist</p> <p>(Early Help Assessment required & possible children's social care assessment)</p>	<p>Vulnerable child with multiple complex needs who need statutory or specialist services.</p>	<p>A criminal record relating to serious or violent crime is held by member of the family which may impact on the children in the household</p> <p>There is known involvement in gang activity</p>	<p>Category 2 (Medium Risk)</p> <p>A child who is involved in offending and has known peer associations which increase likelihood of offending or associations with known gang members. This includes children who have been stabbed as part of gang activity.</p>	<p>Police Category 1</p> <p>A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted or groomed and where any of the CSE warning signs have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences.</p>
<p>Level 4 Statutory and Specialist</p> <p>(Children's Social care assessment required)</p>	<p>Child in acute need. Require immediate referral to Children's Social Care and or/police.</p>	<p>A criminal record relating to serious or violent crime is held by member of family which is impacting on children in household</p> <p>There is known involvement in gang activity which is impacting significantly on the child and family</p>	<p>Category 3 (High Risk)</p> <p>A child who is entrenched in gangs and violent crime. Are likely to be (but not always) identified by the Met Police to be high risk on the Met Police Gangs Matrix (red).</p>	<p>Police Category 2</p> <p>Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. This will also include a child or young person being sexually exploited through the use of technology and without the child or young person receiving a reward. Eg. the exchange of indecent images on-line. The likelihood of coercions and control is significant.</p>
			<p>Category 3 (High Risk)</p> <p>A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, self-denied and where coercion/control is implicit. This is often carried out by multiple perpetrators.</p>	<p>Police Category 3</p>

7.2.2 Assessing and responding to needs

For the majority of children universal services are best placed and able to respond to need, ensuring that children build resilience and achieve expected outcomes.

However, there are circumstances in which a child presents additional needs that cannot be successfully addressed by one service/organisation alone. In considering the needs and vulnerability of a child, professionals should be mindful of the gang related risk factors in section 7.1.1 and tell-tale signs of gang involvement as highlighted in section 7.1.2.

Where professionals identify a child has additional needs, they should refer to their agency's internal procedure and adhere to Islington's early help process. **Please see Appendix B: Process for Universal and Targeted Services.**

The Early Help Assessment is the tool practitioners should use to holistically assess, share information and implement appropriate support at an early stage to reduce risk factors and child distress, which could prevent children becoming involved or entrenched in gangs.

Professionals should assess the presenting behaviours/what a child is telling them in the context of whatever information they know or can gather from the child and family.

Practitioners should always obtain the consent of the child and parent(s) before sharing information, unless doing so would put the child/ren at risk of serious harm (see section 8.2 for more information re: parental engagement).

Children's Service Contact Team (CSCT) is the single point of contact for a request for Targeted or Specialist Children and Families Services (TSCFS). CSCT will determine whether level of need meets threshold (see ISCB Threshold Document) for specialist or targeted services and will allocate to a relevant team (eg. Targeted Early Help Services such as Early Years Family Support; Families First; IFIT, Islington Families Intensive Team; Targeted Youth Support; or to Specialist Service -Children's Social Care).

Please refer to Appendix C showing the process for Children's Social Care.

Where domestic abuse is identified (for children 16 and 17 years of age) the lead professional will undertake a risk assessment using the CAADA DASH Risk Indicator Checklist. This will help identify the level and type of intervention required to reduce the risk to the victim. Very high risk cases should be referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Where child sexual exploitation is identified, the child protection procedures should be followed and CSC will make a decision about whether the case should be discussed at Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE). *Please refer to Islington's procedure for Safeguarding Children abused through sexual exploitation.*

7.3 Gang involvement - responding to risk

As referred to above, the threshold document describes when a referral should be made to CSCT.

No matter what level of intervention a child is receiving (universal, targeted or specialist/statutory), when a concern is raised that a child is at risk of or participating in gang activity, professionals need to take appropriate action to protect the child, reduce the risk to all children in the family/family network (including siblings and girlfriends), prevent or divert the child from such activity and minimise the impact of any harm.

A child could be:

- Non-involved, but at risk from becoming involved and harmed from gang activity OR
- Involved with gang related activities and/or serious youth violence; at risk of harming others and being harmed him/herself

Many (but not all) children and young adults involved in gang activity will be known to the Youth Offending Service or Probation due to having been convicted of a criminal offence.

Potentially a child involved with a gang could be both a victim and a perpetrator.

This requires professionals to assess and support his/her welfare and well-being needs at the same time as assessing and responding in a criminal justice capacity.

When a professional identifies a child is at risk the following procedure should be followed, in conjunction with the:

- London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance (5th Edition 2015, in particular sections 6, 11 and 27)

7.3.1 Identifying Categories of Risk

By identifying what category of risk a child is in, the team around the child is better able to identify appropriate interventions, including whether the Integrated Gangs Team should deliver interventions. Also the partnership can more effectively understand the gangs make up in the borough and the risks of harm this poses.

Once a concern regarding (potential) gang involvement is identified, the child's lead worker, whether that's in universal, targeted or specialist services, should convene a multi-agency discussion to assess the level of risk in accordance with the below risk assessment framework.

A consultation with the Safeguarding Gangs Co-ordinator or the IGT YOS Manager (based within the IGT) can be sought to assist with this risk assessment.

Indicators of risk are grouped in the following categories:

- **Category 1 (At Risk):** a vulnerable child who is at risk of being targeted to become a gang member or who has familial or relationship links to children or young adults known to the Integrated Gangs Team;
- **Category 2 (Medium Risk):** a child who is involved in offending and has known peer associations which increase likelihood of offending or associations with known gang nominals, this includes children who have been seriously harmed (eg. experienced sexual violence and /or exploitation, or been stabbed) as part of a gang activity.
- **Category 3 (High Risk):** a child who is entrenched in gangs and serious youth violence and are likely to be (but not always) identified by the Met Police to be high risk on the Met Police Gangs Matrix (red).

7.3.2 Responding to identified risk

7.3.2.1 Child is assessed as category 1 risk

Where there are indications a child is at risk of being targeted to become a gang member or who has familial or relationship links to children or young adults known to the IGT, the lead professional or professional who identifies the concern should convene a network meeting/discussion to confirm the level of risk and develop a diversion plan. This could be held as part of:

- A team around a child (TAC) or team around the family (TAF) meeting

- A core group meeting or child protection conference for children subject to child protection plans.
- A child in need (CIN) meeting
- A step-down meeting where an agency other than Children's Social Care are to be lead agency.

It is important that any diversion plan is incorporated into the child's or family's plan.

7.3.2.2 Child is assessed as category 2 or 3 risk

Where it is believed that a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to gangs and youth violence a **strategy meeting/discussion*** should be held within 3 working days to determine whether there is a need to commence a child protection enquiry under section 47 Children Act 1989 (**see Appendix C: Flowchart 2**).

Attendance at the strategy meeting should include:

- As a minimum - children's social care, police (gangs unit), health and the referrer (if a professional) And IGT Safeguarding Gangs Co-ordinator/ CSC Team Manager/Deputy Team Manager (chair)
- Lead officers from IGT and education
- Any other relevant person working with the child
- Carer/parent (unless this would place the child at more risk)
- Young person if appropriate

The purpose of the Strategy Meeting/Discussion is to:

- Consider risks to all children in the family
- Identify perpetrators and likelihood of prosecutions
- Decide on whether a section 47 investigation should be initiated and if so plan that investigation
- If not S47 enquiry record why and decide whether a CIN assessment needs to be completed and a separate planning meeting to create a CIN Plan
- Decide whether a referral should be made to the Integrated Gangs Team (IGT) for specialist gang interventions. Interventions include those for victims and/or perpetrators (Appendix D for eligibility criteria and referral process for IGT intervention)

7.3.2.3 Immediate Protection

Where there is a risk to the life of a child or the possibility of serious immediate harm, action must be taken to secure the immediate safety of the child (see section 3.2 London Child Protection Procedures). This would normally necessitate an immediate strategy meeting / discussion between children's social care, police and other agencies. Following such emergency action, if needed a strategy meeting, chaired by the Safeguarding Gangs Co-ordinator must be convened within 3 working days as set out above.

Outcome of the Strategy Meeting/Discussion

There are three main possible pathways following a strategy meeting:

1. **Child protection enquiry (section 47)** to determine the risk of harm to the child and evaluate the need for a child protection conference
 - Local Authority children's social care is responsible for deciding how to proceed with the enquiry based on the strategy meeting/discussion and taking into account the views of the child, their parents and other relevant parties. Please see London Child Protection Procedures for more information.
2. **Further Assessment and/or Child In Need plan** to be developed if the child meets the threshold for services as a 'child in need'.

- The plan will then be reviewed by further Child In Need Review meetings chaired by the Safeguarding Gangs Co-ordinator or Deputy Team Manager which must be held at no less than 6 monthly intervals until risks have reduced. At each meeting a decision will be made as to whether or not there are new concerns which warrant a strategy meeting or whether the risk has reduced and step down to targeted or universal services is appropriate.

3. **No further action** (if no further risk is identified) or **diversion planning** if child is identified at risk (category 1) as described above. The child's needs will be managed by Children's Social Care (if the case is already held within children's social care), Targeted Services, YOS or other lead agency.

Alongside any of the above outcomes following a strategy discussion, consideration should be given to the holistic needs of all children in the family and identification, where appropriate of mental health pathways.

7.3.3 Escalation process

If there is disagreement about the level of risk and which category to assign to a child, the issue should be escalated to more senior officers: Police Gangs Lead (Chair of Bronze) and Head of Safeguarding within children's social care.

7.3.4 Recording and sharing information about risk

Category 1 risks do not require a flag. However, it is essential that the risk is noted in the child's file along with clear details of any diversionary plan.

All category 2 or 3 risks need to be flagged on the child's case file by the Social Worker (and where relevant, the YOS Case Manager).

There is read across between the systems used by Early Help Services (Families First, Islington Families Intensive Team and Targeted Youth Support) and Children's Social Care. However, Youth Offending Service use a different system and will therefore need to also flag their case file whenever risk category 2 or 3 is assigned to a child or the risk category is changed.

If the risk is category 2 or 3 the lead professional should share the information with the IGT to cross reference with information from the Met Police. This information sharing may lead to a re-evaluation of the risk category and this will need to be updated on the case record.

As with assigning a risk category to a child, a multi-agency decision is also required to change a category. Multi-agency meetings can be called more frequently (as is appropriate) but risk flags should be reviewed a minimum of 6 monthly. The Social Worker and where relevant the YOS Case Manager are responsible for amending flags on the case file.

7.4 Plan: Ensure a co-ordinated approach

Agencies supporting children and families have signed up to the Early Help Pledge, to ensure that children and families get the right support at the right time and delivered in a safe, practical and useful way.

In all cases where the child is at risk of harm from gangs and youth violence it is important to identify the right level of support for the family, child and siblings and deliver or make requests for appropriate services and interventions.

All relevant agencies must contribute to the child/family plan to identify what interventions will best meet need, reduce risk of harm and minimise the impact of any harm the child/ren have experienced. The plan must focus on what outcomes the child and family want and need, and which services are best placed to support and deliver interventions.

The Plan makes clear to everyone, including importantly the family, what role different services will be taking to help achieve the outcomes set out in the plan.

7.5 Do: Deliver individual and group interventions that address both risk and vulnerability

The evidence base for effective gang interventions is thin but nonetheless Islington works hard to deliver interventions that have strongest evidence base for what works in promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors.

[Early Intervention Foundation \(EIF\) 2015 report](#) found that what works with children and families are school or community based or family focussed programmes which address risk factors, are interactive and enable children to practice the skills they were taught and families to practice effective communication and problem-solving strategies. In the highest risk children and families, both family and trauma focused therapy was noted as effective. Key to the success of the programmes is skilled facilitators with experience of working with children and families.

Below summarises some of the many services and interventions within Preventative, Targeted and Specialist Services.

Please see Appendix E: Interventions Referral Pathways which gives more detail on some of these services and interventions.

7.5.1 Universal

The best way to tackle gangs and safeguarding risks associated with gang activity is to prevent children from becoming drawn into gang activity in the first place.

The key to prevention is supporting children to achieve positive outcomes, building confidence, a sense of self-worth and the resilience that will help act as protective factors, enabling children to overcome distress and trauma and to make positive choices, reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and gang involvement. High quality universal services (eg. health, early years, schools, play work, youth work) are important in increasing the protective factors that help children avoid being drawn into gang activity. Islington has a wealth of universal services, working with children from early childhood through to late adolescence.

Midwifery, Health visiting and Early Years services provide universal support to parents to build strong attachments, have the confidence and skills to provide positive nurturing parenting and these services are also able to identify early where parents need additional support to manage any problems they encounter.

Schools play a key role as we know that gaining a good education and qualifications is a strong protective factor. Schools use their pupil premium to target interventions and additional resources at those children who need additional support to help them achieve. Schools use their PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education curriculum to build protective factors, increasing pupils' knowledge of and resilience to a range of safeguarding issues.

Universal settings deliver a range of preventative support in the form of anti-bullying initiatives, parenting programmes and support for new parents in building attachments and giving the child a strong and safe sense of belonging.

Safer schools police officers work within schools to support preventative and diversionary work within an educational setting (see section 9.5 for more information).

Playwork and youth work offer children and young adults a range of opportunities to improve their social and emotional capabilities, develop resilience and broaden their peer networks. Key to playwork and youth work, like other services, is the relationships built between the professional and the child. It provides learning opportunities in a safe space, outside formal learning, for individuals to share concerns and anxieties and seek support and help at an early stage. Through these relationships, professionals can ensure the effective engagement of children in exploring personal identity, self-confidence, positive relationships and making safe choices, which forms part of the preventative approach to discourage risk taking behaviour and activities, which could include gang involvement.

7.5.2 Targeted

Islington provides a range of interventions to support children (and their parents) who are on the fringes of gang activity, vulnerable to or involved in antisocial behaviour and offending that may escalate without additional support.

Targeted Youth Support Service offers a range of interventions to children who need it. These include group work and 1:1 interventions based on estates and in environments where children reside or spend time. TYS also delivers a counselling service for 12- 21 year olds to offer them therapeutic support to address a range of issues, with aim of to reducing the risk factors, building the protective factors and minimising the impact of any trauma the child has already experienced. TYS also delivers Islington Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, providing direct support and interventions to children affected by substance misuse.

Islington also delivers a suite of parenting programmes to build confidence in parenting and support the development of skills to address their child's behaviour in a positive and nurturing way, reducing the likelihood of behavioural problems escalating.

Early Years Family Support, Families First and Islington Families Intensive Team all deliver interventions as part of a whole family approach, to support families who have additional and often complex needs. Targeted interventions sit as part of a jigsaw of interventions that support the whole family to address a range of needs including antisocial behaviour, offending (by adults or children in the family), and prevent needs escalating to a point where there is serious risk of harm to a child.

Services deliver a range of targeted interventions to younger siblings of offenders, being mindful of the importance of getting in early to offer support and diversionary activities and interventions.

7.5.3 Specialist

Specialist services provide a range of 1:1 and group interventions to support children who are at risk of or who have suffered significant harmed, including harm that has resulted from gang activity or serious youth violence.

The Youth Offending Service accesses the range of services offered by Targeted Youth Support as well as delivering a range of group and 1:1 interventions to reduce the likelihood of offending/reoffending. These include interventions tackling emotional health, personal relationships, attitudes to offending and motivation to change.

YOS delivers interventions to enable children under 16 to exit gangs. IGT delivers a range of specialist gang interventions for children 10-24 who have been identified as risk category 3 (see section 7.3) and provides access to services for victims including services for girls and young women who are known gang associates. It also leads on Islington's gang exit strategy for Islington and delivers gang exit interventions to over 16s who wish to exit gangs. Please see section 9.10 for more information about the IGT). IGT does not hold statutory responsible for cases for under 18s as the Lead professional.

Core to Children's Social Care's direct work is giving child/ren the time and space to talk about the trauma they have experienced.

7.6 Review

Reviews bring the team around the child (TAC)/family (TAF) together at timely intervals to review the Plan and are an opportunity to hold all partners, including children and parents, to account for their role in the support plan.

The TAC/TAF should review the extent to which the outcomes in the plan have been met; review and update the needs assessment; and amend the plan to ensure it continues to identify the right level and type of interventions to meet the needs of the child and family.

8 Information Sharing and parental engagement

8.1 Information sharing

Professionals in all agencies need to be confident and competent in sharing information appropriately and in a timely manner to safeguard children at risk of harm through gang activity and/or serious youth violence. It is important that agencies work together and have a good understanding of current and emerging local problems so that solutions can be found to address them.

Professionals in all agencies should share information in line with Section 4, Sharing Information, in the London Child Protection Procedures².

All agencies are empowered to share information without consent for the purpose of preventing or assisting the detection of crime in accordance with section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, although obtaining consent in good practice.

8.2 Parental engagement

Developing trusting and respectful relationships is a key component to effective work with children and their families.

Wherever possible, professionals in all agencies should involve parents as early as possible in cases where there are concerns that a child may be affected by gang activity and serious youth violence; and the child and his/her parents should be invited to multi-agency meetings as appropriate to discuss the concerns.

Staff have a duty to look at every possible way that parental co-operation can be achieved, including the use of community organisations and/or community leaders to facilitate the work with parents/family (whilst keeping the child's interests paramount).

Parental consent is required to undertake an Early Help Assessment. In seeking consent practitioners must use their skills in engaging families to accept help.

The exception to this is where professionals have concerns that to involve parents would risk further harm to a child.

Staff should work to maintain parental involvement throughout but it should be noted that consideration should be given to the possibility that the Parent or Carer could be involved in gang activity and that this

² Please refer to [4. Sharing Information - London Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures](#)

could heighten the risk.

Where there are concerns about potential collusion or failure to protect the child exposed to significant harm the child must be referred to CSCT (see flowchart 1) at which point Children's Social Care will make an assessment of whether child protection procedures need to be followed (see flowchart 2).

9 Different Professionals' Roles and Responsibilities

9.1 All Agencies

Safeguarding children (including from harm through gang activity and serious youth violence) is everyone's responsibility³. Professionals in all agencies should ensure practitioners take a **Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family** approach to working with children and families. Agencies should refer to their organisation's internal procedure and must follow the process in Section 7.2 if they identify a child has additional needs that require a multi-agency response or is at risk of/ may have already suffered significant harm as a result of gang activity and/or serious youth violence.

Professionals should be aware of the significance of issues such as those listed in 7.1.1, identification of which may provide an opportunity for prevention and early intervention.

Professionals in all agencies should be confident, competent and easily able to access support from:

- Their agency's Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)
- Children's Service Contact Team (CSCT) – the single front door to Targeted and Specialist Children and Families Services
- Integrated Gangs Team (**See Appendix D for eligibility and referral process to IGT**)

Each agency should ensure that their staff are receiving the information and training required to enable them to identify risks of harm to children from gangs and serious youth violence and act in line with child protection procedures.

Organisations and teams across public and voluntary sector, spanning universal, targeted and specialist services have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and whilst the IGT will help provide a strategic co-ordinated response to gangs, individual agencies continue to form a crucial part of the jigsaw and to hold the baton for the children and families for which they have lead professional responsibility.

9.2 Open access universal services (eg. early years, play and youth work, voluntary and community organisations)

Early Years staff, including child minders, and staff in nurseries and children's centres support families with a range of needs, a key focus of which is parenting support. However, they also play a key role in identifying families where there are risk factors such as an adult or older sibling involved in criminal activity and older siblings involved in gangs. The prevention and early intervention work Early Years delivers to children and their parents, builds protective factors including parenting skills and confidence.

Universal play and youth provision should work closely with TYS colleagues to share information and identify children at risk of offending and work together with the child to identify needs and interests to divert from anti-social behaviour.

Play and youth providers have an important role in responding to early signs of youth crime and provide children and young adults with opportunities to discuss and explore issues that may be worrying them or affecting them or someone they know, as well as building resilience and confidence following incidents of violence in their communities.

³ [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.pdf](#)

Community groups and voluntary agencies can be well placed to know the profile and location of local gang activity and potential or actual serious youth violence through their community links and the work they do to support children and their families. In addition, these organisations can be best placed to reach children who are at risk of harm from their peers.

Information sharing and partnership working between universal and targeted and specialist services is vital in trying to keep children safe and communities feeling safe.

9.3 Education - Schools, Alternative Provision Providers, Pupil Referral Units and FE Colleges

For many children being in a peer group is a key part of forming their sense of identity (see section 5.1.2: Pyramid of Gang Involvement), building social skills and support networks. Being part of a group is a powerful and positive part of the school experience. The use of the term 'gang' by professionals should be used with caution as it can be misleading and glamorise and reinforce the group identity.

Attendance and achievement at school are key protective factors. Children who offend or are involved in gang activity are more likely to have been excluded from school and/or been persistent absentees than their non-offending peers. Education providers have a role to support all children to attend, learn, achieve and develop self-esteem and resilience.

A school's PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education curriculum is integral to their duty to safeguard pupils and should include issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence.

Education providers can be well placed to pick up signs of anti-social behaviour, aggression/bullying and gang activity among children and identify those at risk of harm as victims (such as siblings, girls and boys at risk of sexual exploitation etc) and/or perpetrators – see section 7.1. By listening to children, parents and families, education staff may be able to judge how significant the signs are as indicators of serious activity that may pose a risk of harm to themselves and/or others.

Education providers must identify as early as possible when a child has additional needs requiring a multi-agency response, so early concerns regarding for example attendance or behaviour, can be addressed working as part of the team around the child/family to prevent problems escalating.

There is national evidence that pupil referral units are being targeted by gang members to exploit and recruit new gang members. Gang members have also been known in other parts of the country to wait outside education establishments to meet children, taking them away from school to participate in criminal activities and returning them in time to avoid them being reported missing or raising suspicion. We have to be mindful that this can and may already be happening in Islington. Education providers should be alert to anything that may raise suspicion that a child could be vulnerable to gang exploitation or involvement.

Education staff should identify pupils who are likely to be vulnerable during transition from primary to secondary and from secondary to further education. They should support pupils prior to and during periods of transition, to prevent and intervene early when there are concerns about a child's wellbeing.

Education providers have a duty to establish a behaviour policy which should be reviewed to ensure that it covers actions relevant to preventing and tackling gang impact. Behaviour policies should reflect schools' efforts in preventing knives coming into schools and the way in which they work with the Safer Schools police (See section 9.5 which covers role of safer schools police in more detail). The policy should reflect schools' responsibilities in sharing information regarding possibly gang related incidents in the school. Likewise the partnership should share appropriate information with schools regarding the behaviour of pupils in the community.

Head teachers should also review their existing emergency plans in the light of possible scenarios relevant to their community, for example if:

- There is immediate threat of gang conflict on site of immediately off site; or
- There is credible information about a pupil/adult carrying a weapon with serious intent to do immediate harm

9.4 Health

Health professionals, in particular GPs and A&E staff, may become concerned about a child's involvement in serious youth violence due to injuries or wounds, particularly those caused by sharp instruments or knives.

Through their home visiting, health visitors and other health professionals may become aware of gang involvement by the parents, older siblings or other adults linked to the household, or that the children in a household are affected by gang activity and/or serious youth violence in the neighbourhood. Health professionals may come into contact with girls who, they suspect, may have been sexually exploited or abused perhaps presenting at sexual health clinics, and GPs. The professionals should be alert to a child's likely reluctance and fear of discussing this.

If a person is admitted to hospital and the injuries sustained are suspected of being part of a gang related incident, information should be shared appropriately as soon as possible, a risk assessment conducted and risk reduction strategies put in place.

Where health practitioners have concerns that a child is at risk or has suffered significant harm they should make referrals to CSCT in accordance with the guidance in this protocol.

9.5 Police

The Metropolitan Police's approach to children is underpinned by the National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People produced by National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) in 2015. The Strategy highlights that children are not 'mini-adults' and this should be reflected in the way they are policed. In all encounters with the police, children should be treated as children first. All officers must have regard to their safety, welfare and well-being. The vulnerability of children should be identified and responded to effectively to protect them from harm.

When a crime has been committed then police have a duty to act. For serious and persistent offenders enforcement may be the most effective tool. However, evidence shows that highly punitive sanctions have little impact on recidivism⁴, so enforcement should be considered when appropriate in conjunction with interventions that address the child's offending behaviour to prevent them and others from becoming victims. Islington's police force works with partners to deliver the right intervention at the right time.

The Police should inform Children's Services of victims of gang related crime and serious youth violence, given the correlation between victims and future gang members.

Police must also consider, in addressing gang activity, the possible safeguarding risks their direct actions pose to children (either directly or indirectly involved in gang activity such as informants, siblings) and mitigate against these as much as is possible.

Police should make every effort with Children's Social Care to ensure that children who are arrested are found appropriate safe accommodation so that they do not remain in police cells overnight.

Police should record information on Merlin (Police database) about any children who have become known to the police for any reason. Islington Police should share information on all Merlin records with Children's Services on a daily basis.

⁴ [National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People 2015](#)

The **Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Police Officer and YOS Police Officers** are responsible for checking daily for any overnight offending or incidents that relate to children who are in the IOM cohort (See section 6.3 on the IOM Approach). They provide daily information briefings to the YOS case manager.

The **YOS Police** are co-located and are an integral part of the YOS. They act as a single point of contact for the YOS on policing issues while providing a visible police presence, undertaking such tasks as delivering Youth and Youth Conditional Cautions. They gather and disseminate intelligence in relation to children known to the YOS and coming to the attention of police. They provide unique skills and knowledge and are able to re-engage those hard to reach children who have disengaged with their statutory orders. The YOS Police are often the first to have intelligence about children involved or on the edge of the gang culture and work with YOS case managers or TYS to divert children away from further offending or anti-social behaviour. YOS police inform case managers where they identify safeguarding concerns.

The **Gangs Police** are based within the Integrated Gangs Team. YOS case managers work closely with the Police Officers in the gangs team. When a child has a nominated Gangs Police Officer and a YOS case worker, agencies work in partnership to ensure that both teams are fully informed of the child's current situation and decisions around issues of enforcement are made on factual and up to date information. The gangs police undertake joint visits to the child and attend relevant professional meetings to formulate plans to divert the young person away from gangs.

The Police, especially **Neighbourhood Policing Teams**, should be alert to children living in households which are affected by gang activity and/or serious youth violence. This also includes parents/older siblings who are adult gang members. The Neighbourhood Policing Teams should share information internally with Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT), with the Police Gangs Unit (based within the IGT), and externally with LA Children's Services, at the earliest opportunity, for an assessment to be undertaken (See section 7.2)

The **Safer Schools Officers** act as a single point of contact for schools on policing issues while providing a visible police presence. They work in partnership to ensure a correct balance between engagement and enforcement, pursuing a restorative approach where appropriate. They gather and disseminate intelligence in relation to pupil behaviour (potentially) linked to crime or antisocial behaviour. Safer Schools Officers make pupil referrals to partnership agencies as necessary, for the purpose of safeguarding the child's welfare and/or diverting them from criminal activity and antisocial behaviour.

9.5.1 Osman Warnings (Threats to Life)

In the context of gangs, a threat to life (Osman Warning⁵), may occur as a result of gang rivalry or because of an incident occurring within a young person's own gang (for eg. threatening to leave or refusing to commit an act of violence).

If the Police give an Osman Warning to a young person or an adult who is residing with a child, they should inform Children's Social Care immediately and consider whether (in line with section 7.3.2):

- There is a need for immediate action OR
- There is risk of significant harm OR
- The child should be referred for an early help assessment and access targeted early help services
- This is a need to inform all professionals who are involved with the family

9.5.2 Serious incidents

A critical incident is defined as '*any incident where the effectiveness of the police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family and/or the community*' (College of Policing).

⁵ Named after the Osman v UK case 1998 which placed a positive obligation on the authorities to take preventative measures to protect an individual whose life is at risk from the criminal acts of another individual.

A Gold Group is a multi-agency meeting convened and chaired by the police as part of the police's efforts to prevent or respond to critical incidents (eg. a murder). Gold Group aims to add value to the police response to an incident. It brings together appropriately skilled and qualified internal and external stakeholders who can advise, guide and support the management of an effective response to the identified incident or crime.

It is considered for a number of reasons but in relation to gangs it is most commonly convened when:

- A Critical Incident has already taken place and is risk assessed as high impact
- Where actions are necessary to prevent the existing victim/family/community confidence issues from escalating and to ensure a co-ordinated police, external agency and citizen/community focussed response
- Police senior management require internal and external stakeholders knowledge, skill support and advice to effectively manage the police response to an incident/offence/issue and there are no other alternative forums to provide this

Gold Group meetings provide a factual update of the situation; consider family and community concerns and community impact; identified the resources required to respond to the incident and consider the appropriate communications strategy. The Gold Group also reviews critical incidents to identify learning which may drive changes to local police or multi-agency procedures as well as organisational learning.

Gold Group meetings are attended by senior officers in the local authority eg. Community Safety Partnership Unit.

9.6 Early help family support services (eg. Families First and Islington Families Intensive Team -IFIT)

Early Help Services provide whole family early help interventions with families who need and want support to address problems that may escalate without additional support. Families First has an important role in supporting children, parents and carers to develop resilience and self-esteem, building stronger parental and family relationships and positive networks. Families First and IFIT receive self-referrals and requests for services from CSCT.

In working with the whole family, early help practitioners must be alert to safeguarding concerns that may require CSC involvement and when there are concerns that a child may be or is at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of gang activity or serious youth violence, should follow the process shown in section 7.2 and 7.3.

9.7 Targeted Youth Support (TYS)

TYS workers have a key role in delivering support that diverts children away from anti-social behaviour and crime, including gang activity and serious youth violence.

TYS must share information with police about the work they are doing on estates so police know what interventions YYS are delivering to ensure a co-ordinated response to issues in localities.

TYS has responsibility for conducting Return Home Interviews for children who have been Missing from Home or Care and need to flag risks (eg. involvement in county lines), which are then picked up by the Lead Professional if known to other services.

TYS is responsible for all Out of Court Disposals and is part of the No Further Action (NFA) protocol to divert children away from youth crime.

9.8 Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The role of Islington YOS is to prevent offending and re-offending by Islington children 10-17 years of age.

YOS staff should follow their YOS risk and vulnerability management processes.

Where children are known to both Children's Social Care and YOS, YOS must keep children's social care staff updated with information such as criminal activity or associations which suggests increased (or decreased) risk of significant harm as a result of gang activity to ensure social care can effectively assess risk and put plans in place to safeguard the child and others (eg siblings/girlfriends).

YOS professionals must liaise with establishments to ensure that the secure estate staff have knowledge of an inmate's gang affiliations, any risks they pose to others and any known risks to them from other children.

YOS case managers work closely with YOS Police Officers and Officers from the Gangs Unit to ensure a co-ordinated approach to reducing reoffending and reducing the risk of harm to the child and others (see more about YOS police and Gangs police in Police section 9.5 above)

YOS must ensure that all children who are highest risk gang nominals are discussed at MARP (Multi Agency Risk Panel). IGT's YOS link manager and the YOS link worker both attend Bronze and should share information from MARP as relevant.

In the lead up to the end of a statutory order YOS will ensure there is smooth transition planning. When a decision is made to step down to targeted or universal services following the end of a statutory order this will come as a result of a multi-agency decision acknowledging that positive changes have been made and the severity of risk has reduced. YOS will ensure that there is a comprehensive step-down plan which identifies strengths/resilience factors and any ongoing needs.

Supporting young offenders through transition from YOS to Probation

YOS and Probation, National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), must work together in a timely way to effectively plan for the transition of a child from YOS to adult services (Probation), ensuring that plans take into account any safeguarding concerns.

The vast majority of offenders in Islington's youth offending service have experienced trauma in their childhood and the impact of this trauma is often evident well into adulthood. Adult offenders receiving a service from probation continue to be vulnerable and therefore the relationship between YOS and probation is key to ensuring that assessments, plans and interventions transition smoothly, addressing vulnerability as well as risk.

Please refer to Islington's YOS/Probation Transitions Protocol.

9.9 Probation (NPS and CRC)

Professionals in the probation service (NPS and CRC) are in a position to identify children at risk of harm from gang activity and/or serious youth violence through their work with adults who are violent and/or gang members. These adults may be parents, older siblings, people engaged in recruiting children into gang activity and/or serious youth violence, or living in households with children.

Probation service professionals should share information about children at risk of harm by following procedure in section 7.2)

Please see section 9.8 above regarding Probation's role regarding transitional arrangements for children being transferred from YOS to Probation.

9.10 Integrated Gangs Team (IGT)

The IGT is a multi-disciplinary team (gang specialists, CSC, YOS, police, mental health, probation, VAWG – 'violence against women and girls' specialists) with a focus on 10-24 year olds, aligned to Islington Council's Community Safety Partnership Unit. The co-location of these core agencies in IGT, and being based at Tolpiddle Police Station with the Police Gangs Team, enables more robust information and

intelligence sharing and a better co-ordinated approach to tackling gangs with the view to reduce gang related violence and harm.

The purpose of the IGT is to:

- hold the oversight of the gangs work in Islington
- co-ordinate and disseminate gang related intelligence
- provide consultation to other services and agencies on gang related issues and to advise on individual cases
- take the strategic lead for specialist gangs interventions
- deliver specialist gang interventions and lead on gang exit for those children and gang adults considered to pose highest risk to others and most vulnerable to suffering serious harm

Lead professionals from core services (eg. YOS, Targeted Youth Support, Police, Early Help Services, Children's Social Care, Probation) can request a service from IGT who will advise, support and provide expertise to add value to the work undertaken by the lead agency, including delivering specialist gang interventions to children and young adults considered highest risk and/or most vulnerable to minimise the risks to children and families and supporting individuals to exit gangs. IGT practitioners do not hold statutory responsibility for cases as the Lead Professional.

IGT have responsibility for sharing daily intelligence from police about overnight activity with relevant partners, including crucially YOS and Children's Social Care.

The IGT, with its overview of gangs intelligence and the individuals on the gangs matrix, identify those children (and adults up to 24 years) who present as most vulnerable or pose the highest risk to others, and will refer these for discussion at Bronze (**see IOM diagram in Appendix A**).

IGT has a Gangs Safeguarding Co-ordinator and a CSE Co-ordinator seconded from CSC providing IGT with a single point of contact (SPOC) regarding safeguarding and CSE specific concerns.

IGT will ensure there is a smooth transition when ending IGT input to ensure appropriate ongoing support from targeted or universal services. The decision to end an IGT input will come as a result of a multi-agency decision acknowledging that positive changes have been made and the severity of risk has reduced. The IGT will ensure that there is a comprehensive step-down plan which identifies strengths/resilience factors and any ongoing needs.

Please see section 9.10 for more information about the role of the IGT in safeguarding children affected by gangs.

Please see Appendix D – IGT eligibility and process to request a service

9.11 Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care professionals need to be alert to the possibility that a child referred to them or a child they are already working with may, in addition to any of the child's other presenting issues, be or become vulnerable to/involved with, gangs or serious youth violence.

In undertaking assessments and holding strategy meetings (See section 7.2 and 7.3) they must consider potential or actual harm from gang related activity as a safeguarding matter and must consider the risk of harm to the whole family (including siblings) as well as the child's wider network (eg. girlfriend).

Where children are known to both Children's Social Care and YOS, children's social care must keep YOS staff informed of any new information such as Missing from Home/Care episodes or additional information to ensure YOS effectively manage the risk of reoffending and related risk of harm.

CSCT and social workers can consult with the Safeguarding Gangs Co-ordinator based in IGT if they have concerns that a child poses a risk to others due to their gang involvement or is at risk of gang related harm.

9.11.1 CSC responsibility in finding suitable accommodation

9.11.1.1 Children when arrested

When police notify Children's Social Care that a child has been arrested, CSC should make every effort to find appropriate safe accommodation so that they do not remain in police cells overnight.

9.11.1.2 Looked After Children

When children are known to be involved with or affected by gangs, professionals need to take into account gang territory and gang membership when planning placements for Looked After Children, to avoid placing a child in a situation which exposes him/her to serious youth violence.

9.11.1.3 Children exiting gangs

When children/families are moved out of the borough as part of a gang exit strategy, professionals need to take into account gang related activity in that area to ensure children are not placed in a vulnerable new location. For example, police should share County Lines information (See section 4 for more information on County Lines) so this can be taken into account when identifying a new location for the family.

10 Contact Details

Children's Service Contact Team

Tel: 020 7527 7400
Fax: 020 7527 7402
Email: csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk

Integrated Gangs Team (including the Police Gangs Unit)

Email: IGT@islington.gov.uk

11 Useful documents

11.1 Laws

- Children Act 2004 Section 10: Co-operation to improve well-being
- Children Act 2004 Section 11: Arrangement to safeguard and promote welfare

11.2 Statutory Guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- Controlling or Coercive behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship 2015
- Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence 2015

11.3 Child Protection Procedures

- Islington Safeguarding Children Board website providing links to many useful local and regional guidance and procedures including [London Child Protection Procedures](#)

11.4 National Strategies and Approaches

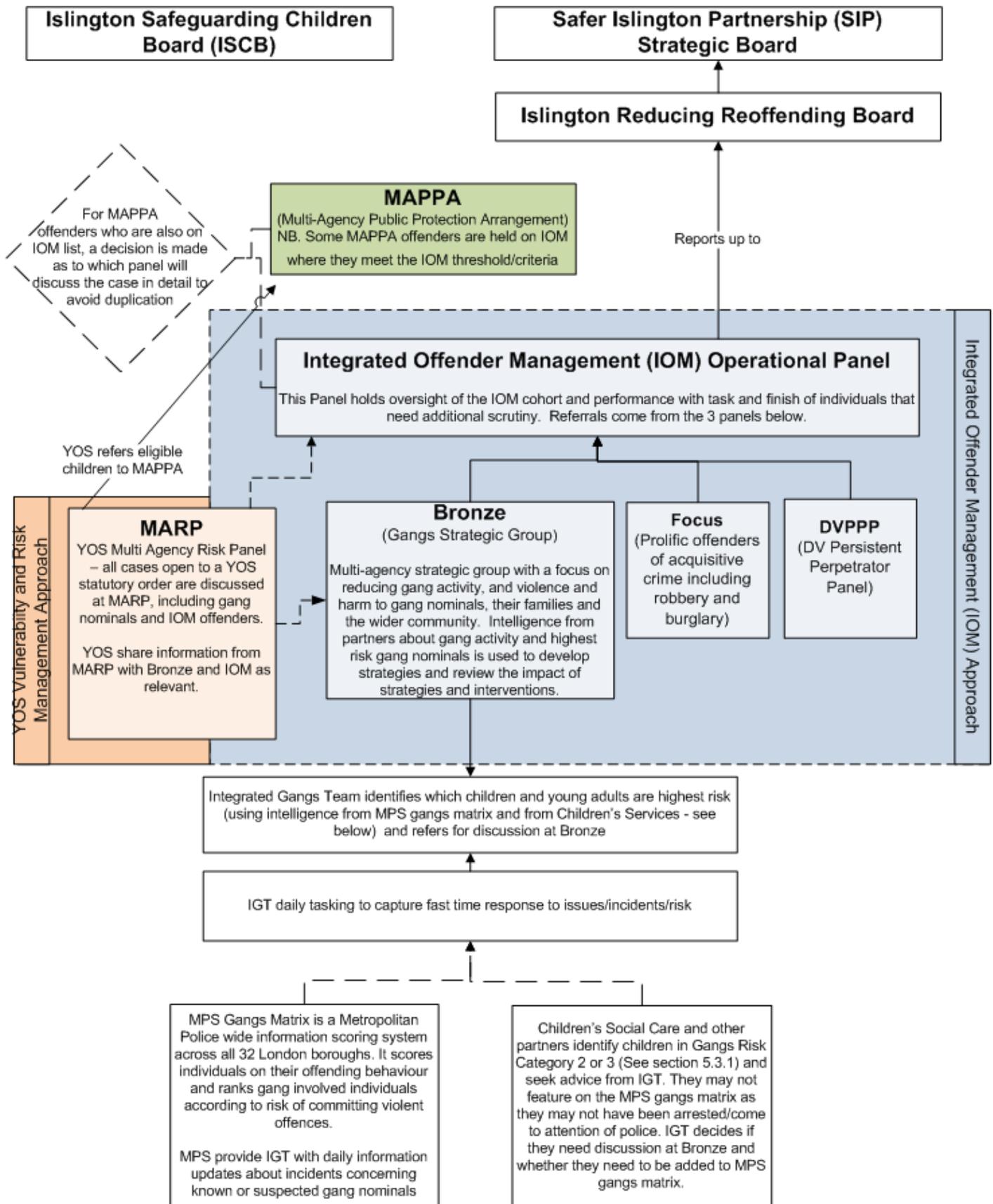
- National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) [National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People 2015](#)
- Home Office Jan 2016 Approach to [Ending gang violence and exploitation](#)

11.5 Advice, Guidance and Best Practice

- Home Office guidance for all agencies on [Safeguarding children who may be affected by gangs](#)
- Practical advice for schools and colleges on [Preventing youth violence and gang involvement 2013](#)
- Early Intervention Foundation's [Preventing gangs and youth violence report: spotting signals or risk and supporting children and young people 2015](#)

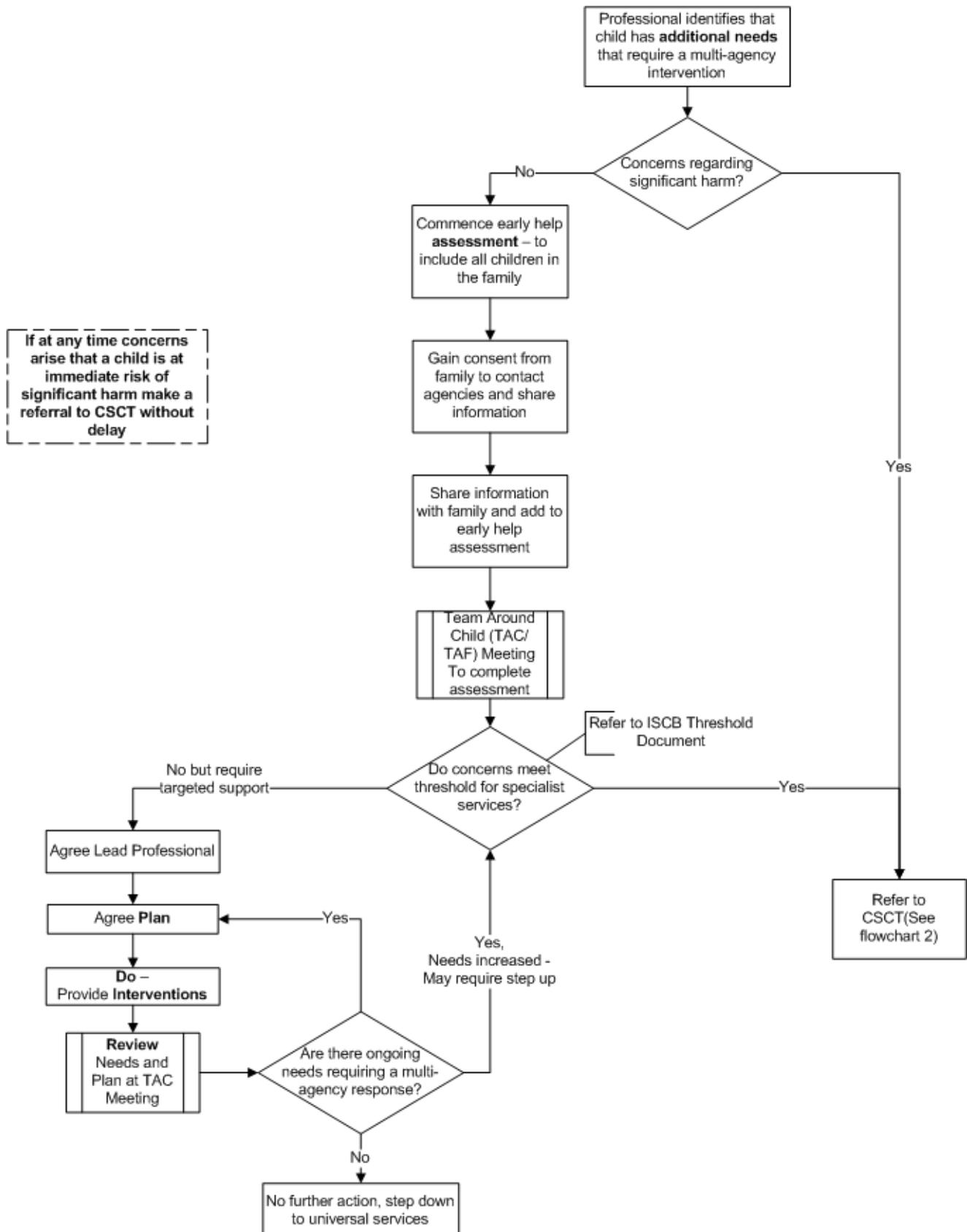
Appendix A: Governance and Oversight Structure

Governance and Oversight of Islington's response to gangs (and how this sits within overall approach to offending)

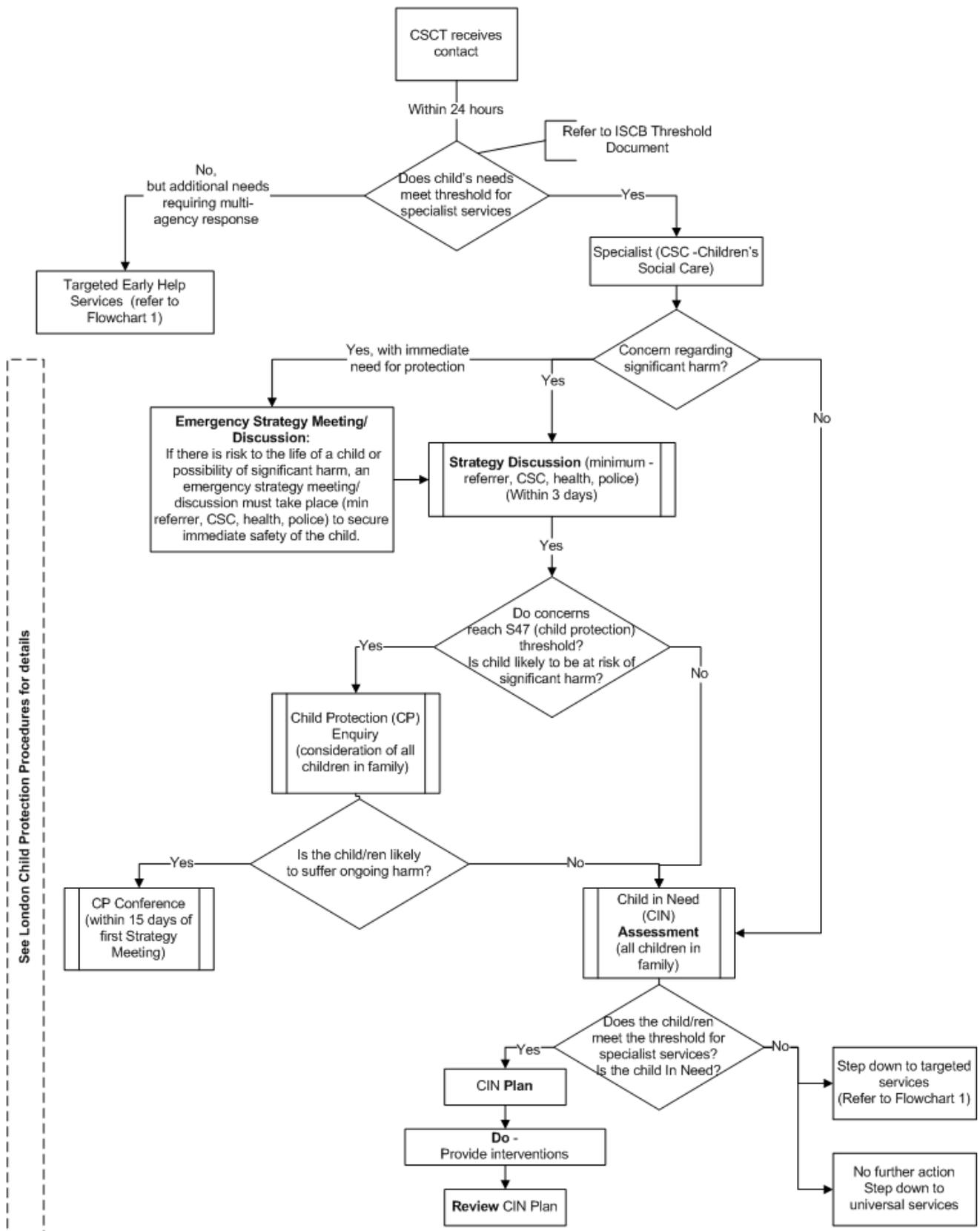


Appendix B: Process for Universal and Targeted Services

Flowchart 1: Process for Universal and Targeted Services Recognise, Assess, Plan, Do, Review



**Flowchart 2: Process for Children’s Social Care
Recognise, Assess, Plan, Do, Review**



Appendix D: Integrated Gangs Team Eligibility Criteria and Referral Process

Eligibility criteria for IGT involvement is:

- Be an Islington resident (at time of referral)
- Aged 10-24 years

With at least one of the following key criteria:

- Offending history linked to group/ gang criminality with evidence of involvement in gang related serious youth violence
- Evidence that the child/young adult has been the Victim of gang related serious youth violence (targeted victimisation due to gang associations/affiliations)
- Evidence that the child/young adult is gang-affected (in a relationship with someone who is gang involved; experienced sexual violence and/or exploitation in the context of gangs)
- On the MPS Gangs Matrix or identified as Category 3 risk

Decision making process for service requests

Following multi-agency identification of gang risk (See section 7.3) the lead professional can make a referral to IGT by completing the IGT Referral form and emailing it to **IGT@islington.gov.uk**

Practitioners can ring the IGT to discuss a possible request for service prior to completing a referral form.

The weekly IGT multi-agency panel meeting will review new requests for IGT input to determine whether they meet the threshold for IGT intervention. Where declined the referral agency will be informed within 5 working days.

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

All agencies working with children and families deliver interventions that address gangs and serious youth violence, minimising the risk factors and helping build protective factors that prevent, divert or support children to exit gangs.

This document covers a sample of services and interventions that children can access dependent on need.

Chance UK

Chance UK runs an award-winning mentoring programme for primary-aged children which has proven impact. It has been replicated around the UK. The programme involves:

- A trained, screened, supported and closely managed volunteer mentor delivering one year of weekly 1:1 mentoring sessions for a child. These take place outside of home and school time, in public places
- Sessions that work on child-centred goals using a solution-focused approach
- Families are given access to an inclusive support option
- There is a planned and positive ending to the year. Throughout the year staff work with other professionals to ensure the child is kept safe.

Chance UK was set up to work specifically with children who have behavioural difficulties, but has always viewed it as essential to support their parents/carers and wider families too. The difficulties that these families face are not unique to them. Like many others across the UK, they are struggling to cope with poverty, mental and physical health difficulties, drug and alcohol issues and gang-related crime. Additional challenges that have confronted them more recently include changes to the benefits system, zero-hours work contracts and cuts to a wide range of public services.

For more information please email admin@chanceuk.com or telephone 020 7281 5858

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Families First

The service is designed to provide locally-based advice, information and help to the families who need it most by tackling difficulties early and stopping them from escalating. All families need extra help at some stage as their children grow up. Families First can provide that assistance when other support – like family, friends and neighbours – is not there to families in Islington where they have a child aged 5 to 19.

Families First can reach out to families who are isolated or where additional pressures mean that their usual sources of support are not enough. This might be when, for example, a parent loses their job, a relationship breaks down, a young person's behaviour worsens, a family member gets sick or unexpected financial pressures mean that they fall into arrears with their rent or mortgage payments or take on a debt that they cannot manage. A family may have multiple needs including debt, risk of homelessness, domestic violence or problems with drugs or alcohol.

Trained family workers engage families by providing one to one support by telephone, at home or in a convenient local venue. They also co-ordinate assistance from other family services such as health, housing, school, young people's services or Jobcentre Plus and organise regular Team around Family meetings. Support will range from one-off advice and assistance to regular home visiting for a maximum of six months.

For more information please telephone 020 7527 4343 or email CSCTreferrals@islington.gov.uk

IFIT (Islington Families Intensive Service)

IFIT is the Council's intensive service for families within the Stronger Families Programme

The service is generally provided to families with at least one child aged eleven or over, who have three or more different 'family problems' as defined by the national troubled families' criteria.

The problems are most often related to the behaviour of an adolescent, and these will evidence current antisocial behaviour, offending or disengagement from education, or their behaviours will be indicative of problems in these areas in the future. These are often families who have had interventions from other services but things have not improved. However, sometimes this will not be the case and IFIT will intervene earlier without trying other services given known risk factors and likelihood for future problems.

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

From 2012-2015 in the first phase of the Stronger Families Programme, IFIT provided intensive interventions lasting ten to twelve months to families in difficulty. In SF2, i.e. from 2016, IFIT will vary the length and intensity of interventions in order to meet the Council's objective of intervening earlier when adolescents show signs of involvement in antisocial behaviour and crime, and begin to offer earlier intervention to families with these emerging needs.

The IFIT Model includes:

- Support for the whole family, delivered in the family home and community, outside of office hours where required.
- Intensive, assertive outreach approach – minimum of two face-to face visits weekly
- Multi-agency joint working approach
- Weekly group supervision
- An intensive intervention
- An intervention in which practical and therapeutic interventions are delivered hand-in-hand
- An approach which assesses and plans for the whole family's needs to bring about sustained change
- Working with the professional network (children's Social Worker, YOS-TYS, Housing, Education, Adult Mental Health, Employment advisor)
- IFIT aims to increase parents/carers understanding, skills and confidence to meet their child/young person's needs. We facilitate communication between parents/carers and other helping agencies. We work jointly with other agencies to promote parenting capacity and a whole family approach.
- Parenting intervention; behaviour contracts; behaviour monitoring
- Coordination of Stronger Families plans
- Employment / training advice and support for adults in the house

For more information please email ifit.smaos@islington.gov.uk

Targeted Youth Support (TYS)

TYS works with young people aged 10 to 21 years old (12 – 21 for Youth Counselling), who require additional support to enable them to make informed choices and maintain positive pathways. YYS is made up of 4 service areas that provide interlinking support: YYS area teams providing tailored support, 1:1 and group work support, education, detached youth work, Return Home Interviews, and the completion of all Out of Court disposals; Islington Young People's Drugs and Alcohol Service (IYPDAS); Young Parent Support Coordinator and the YYS Youth Counselling Service.

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Targeted youth support is specific, tailored interventions aimed at young people and their families who need extra provision on top of universally provided services. They work with each young person from their own starting point, drawing in partners, peer and parents as appropriate, challenging and enabling them to understand the consequences of their actions. Work is delivered in 1:1 sessions, in groups or on the streets. We run single-gender and mixed groups developing social education on issues such as joint enterprise, internet safety, positive relationships, sexual exploitation, crime and gangs, first aid, consequential thinking, life choices and careers.

TYS teams also deliver work in local secondary schools covering issues such as substance misuse, positive and healthy relationships, keeping safe, gangs, weapons awareness and joint enterprise. Teams also work with partners such as Children's Social Care, IFIT and Families First to support the young person within the Children and Families Plan.

For more information please email tys@islington.gov.uk or telephone 020 7527 2600.

Dogs Trust - Taking the Lead Project

Taking the Lead' aims to provide educational activities that meet the interests of young offenders and have a positive effect. There are two main strands to this programme, based around the young person's circumstances (whether they are in prison or serving a community sentence):

1) Responsible Dog Ownership Workshops

These are available to both Young Offenders in Custody and those on Community Orders. They are carried out in custodial establishments, at Youth Offending Team offices or similar suitable environments. The sessions cover respect, responsibility, empathy, following rules, taking care of others, understanding and self-worth. Whilst the exact structure and content of the workshops is based on the outcome of an initial induction of the group, modules have been created around Canine Communication and Body Language, Dog Law, Responsible Ownership, Grooming, Health, and Dog Handling and Training. Our Education team employ a range of interactive techniques, discussions, group work, hands on activities with dogs and creative strategies (e.g. street art, rap, drama) to get the relevant messages across. Dogs are used to deliver certain aspects of the workshop and provide some youth /dog interaction, however the workshops can be delivered without dogs should they not be allowed in the establishment. We also offer a range of resources and activities that can be used before, during and after the programme. These have been developed to support the individual with communication, effective group work, problem solving and literacy and numeracy skills.

2) Responsible Dog Ownership Classes

These are offered to Young Offenders on Community Orders and are carried out at Dogs Trust Rehoming Centres. Young people work one-to-one with our

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Education team and our rehoming centre dogs to find out all about dogs' needs, dog welfare issues, grooming, health, basic dog handling, training and dog care. They also learn valuable lessons regarding responsible behaviour, commitment, confidence, accomplishment, anger management, respect, empathy and compassion.

This is also beneficial to the dogs as the scheme provides dogs with even more opportunities to interact with different people and be further socialised while waiting to be rehomed.

For more information please go to www.dogstrust.org.uk or telephone 0207 837 0006

Abianda

Abianda is a social enterprise that works with gang-affected young women and the professionals that support them.

Abianda delivers one-to-one and group work to high risk, high vulnerability gang-affected young women, aged 16 – 24. They work as part of Islington's Integrated Gangs Team (IGT).

See information on The Star Project and Abianda Young Trainers below.

For more information about Abianda's work and approach please visit their website at www.abianda.com, email hello@abianda.com or call 020 7684 0118

The Star Project

The Star Project is delivered by Abianda in partnership with the IGT.

The Star Project is a specialist 12-session one-to-one service for gang-affected young women aged 16-24. We work alongside young women to explore issues of:

- healthy relationships;
- sexual violence and exploitation and other VAWG (violence against women and girls) issues in the context of gangs;
- risk for gang-affected young women;
- anger, power and harm

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Abianda uses a model of working with young women to create safe spaces and support them to achieve the changes they want in their lives and develop skills and strategies to navigate risk.

Abianda works with young women who have safeguarding and risk issues due to their gang-association, have complex needs and a history of non-engagement.

Referrals for The Star Project should be made by completing a referral form and submitting to IOM central inbox. For an informal conversation about the project and how we could support young women you are working with please contact Abi Billingham on 07771 737463/abi@abianda.com or Jenny Duggan on jenny.duggan@islington.go.uk

New Horizons

New Horizon Youth Centre is a centre for young people aged 16-24 near Kings Cross station is open seven days a week from 10:30am to 4:00pm offering a range of free services on a daily basis:

- Breakfast (from 10:30 – 11:30am)
- Lunch (from 1:00 – 2:00pm)
- Showers (from 10:30 – 3:00pm)
- Laundry (from 10:30 – 1:30pm)
- Change of Clothes
- Baggage Storage (maximum of 1 bag per person)
- Tea & Coffee
- Postal Address

Weekly Timetable:

Employment & Education Advice, Housing Advice & Referrals, Numeracy, Literacy & ESOL training, Gym & Running Club, Nurse, Counselling, Cooking Lessons, Music Studio, Benefits Advice & Legal Support, Men's & Women's Support Groups, Communication Skills and Independent Living Skills.

For more information please email info@nyouthcentre.org.uk or telephone 0207 388 5560

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The principle aim of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people. The National Standards for Youth Justice Services are set by the relevant Secretary of State on advice from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB), and are intended to provide a set of minimum requirements for those organisations providing youth justice services.

There is a Youth Offending Team (YOT) in every local authority in England and Wales. They are made up of representatives from the Police, Probation Service, Children's Social Care, Education, Health, Drugs and Alcohol Misuse services and Housing Officers.

Since Islington YOS incorporates representatives from a wide range of services, it can respond to the needs of young offenders in a comprehensive way. It identifies the needs of each young offender by assessing them with a national assessment, which identifies the specific problems that contribute to the young person's offending, positive factors to help stop offending as well as measuring the risk they pose to others, themselves and further offending. This enables the YOS to identify suitable programmes to address the needs of the young person with the intention of preventing further offending. Islington YOS provide 1-1 and group work to address the young person's offending behavior and prevent further re-offending.

The Youth Offending Service works with young people who are:

- between 10-17 years old (up to 20 when on orders given before 18)
- resident in London Borough of Islington (and looked after children placed out of borough)
- involved in offending, or
- at risk of offending

For more information please email grp.islington-yot@islington.gov.uk

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Integrated Gangs Team (IGT)

The IGT is a multi-agency team that aims to safeguard young people, families and communities from violent gang activity and support young people to exit from gangs and offending lifestyles. The team comprises of staff from the police, children's services, youth offending, probation, community safety, Job Centre Plus, and the NHS, and third sector organisations including Victim Support and Abianda. The co-location with other agencies provides a collaborative and integrated approach that is underpinned by clear governance and information sharing arrangements. Most referrals to the team are from the MPS Gang Matrix and partnership intelligence, based on violence, criminal offending and gang membership, and on young people at risk from gangs.

The IGT works with gang involved/affected young people aged 10 – 24 delivering a series of interventions to:

- provide support and targeted interventions through 1:1 and group work to gang involved young people e.g. housing, mental health and substance misuse
- safeguard young people and families affected by gangs
- provide support for victims and families and specialist interventions with gang-affected young women
- supports young people to access education and employment and positive activities
- uses enforcement including statutory and civil powers where gang members continue to offend and pose a risk to themselves and others
- provide therapeutic support to young adults around mental health.

For more information please email IGT@islington.gov.uk

Abianda Young Trainers

Abianda's Young Trainers are young women who have used Abianda's service and have been affected by gangs in some way. During 2016 they will be delivering free seminars to Islington professionals on working with gang-affected young women. For more details please contact: youngtrainers@abianda.com

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Safer London Foundation

Safer London is an independent pan-London charity that supports young people affected by violence and crime. Their projects, programmes and training are developed in partnership with young people and those involved in their lives, responding holistically to all the challenges they face. Skilled specialist staff and volunteers provide tailored intensive support, group education and on-going mentoring to enable young people to reflect on their lives, develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience and positively plan for the future.

They also provide advice and training for parents, carers and the professionals involved with young people to raise awareness of the issues they face and their vulnerability to exploitation and crime.

The current services available are:

- **Empower** – a Comprehensive programme for young people affected by sexual violence and exploitation
- **Aspire** – a Mentoring and skills development for young people affected by violence and crime
- **Safe & Secure** – an Intensive support for young people at high risk of gang related violence
- **Specialist Training & Consultancy** - Workshops, courses and advice service for professionals, parents and carers

For more information please call 0207 021 0301 or email info@saferlondon.org.uk

Camden and Islington Integrate Project

Camden and Islington Integrate is a multi-agency project which works with children and young adults up to 25 years in the Kings Cross and Islington areas, who are involved in or at risk of serious youth violence and offending and who services have found difficult to engage in a meaningful way. It targets them in the context of their peer group using an authentic youth-led approach, supporting children and young people to break away from these activities. The project works across the boroughs of Camden and Islington.

It is anticipated that all young people engaged with Integrate will fall within Category 2 or 3 gang risk category, however it is acknowledged that these vulnerable young people are not responding to statutory services in a meaningful way. As a result Integrate utilises a harm reduction and positive risk taking approach when working with these young people.

The project aims to:

1. Reduce serious youth violence and reoffending
2. Enable young people to engage in training and/or education

APPENDIX E ISLINGTON GANGS SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL: GANGS AND GANGS RELATED SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

3. Bridge young people into existing services (health, social care and diversionary)
4. Promote and respond to emotional wellbeing and mental health needs
5. Facilitate the increased exit of young people from gang related activity
6. Enhance resettlement work undertaken with young people within the justice system to increase positive outcomes within the community on release
7. Enhance the work of wider services that can support young people involved in or at risk of serious youth violence and offending
8. Increase public opinion of local community safety

The integrate model operates on the principle of peer referral. Young people's ownership of the project is paramount. Professionals referring into or recommending the project to young people are likely to disrupt engagement and future of the project. Although services cannot refer into the Project, they can request that staff target particular young people. At the discretion of the Project Lead, staff can direct resources at these young people.

Please contact Dr Michelle O' Sullivan at michelle.o'sullivan@candi.nhs.uk or on 07775 110841 for more information about the project.

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	Date: 9 January 2018	Ward(s): All
---	-----------------------------	---------------------

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
------------------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: Making Islington a great place to grow up, learn and work: Update on the Islington Fair Futures Commission

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Islington has committed to create a place where everyone, whatever their background, has the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life – a fairer Islington. This also means fairer for the forty thousand children and young people living in over twenty thousand households in Islington to ensure that they are life-ready. Children and young people still have to compete for political priority and resources without an accountability mechanism directly to them for a place they have to grow up in. The local authority has a statutory duty to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the Council and its partners with a view to improving the five statutory well-being outcomes of children and young people. This means reflecting and challenging ourselves to do better in the way we exercise our role as the place leader, shaper and maker of Islington for children and young people.
- 1.2. To enable a focused and independent reflection on our ambitions to build resilience through prevention and early intervention for this key group in Islington, Cllrs Richard Watts and Joe Caluori via the Children and Families Board requested a Commission inquiry focused on children and young people that will help to fast track our journey to making Islington a great place to grow up in.
- 1.3. The Fair Futures Commission was successfully launched at the end of February this year. This report outlines the progress and key highlights to date.
- 1.4. The Commission was clear that as well as needing to develop some big solutions, they needed to think about other ways to meet need through small changes, such as the way we use an existing spaces and

places, the system design around population groups as well as service design, behaviour change by both citizens and organisations, or community empowerment.

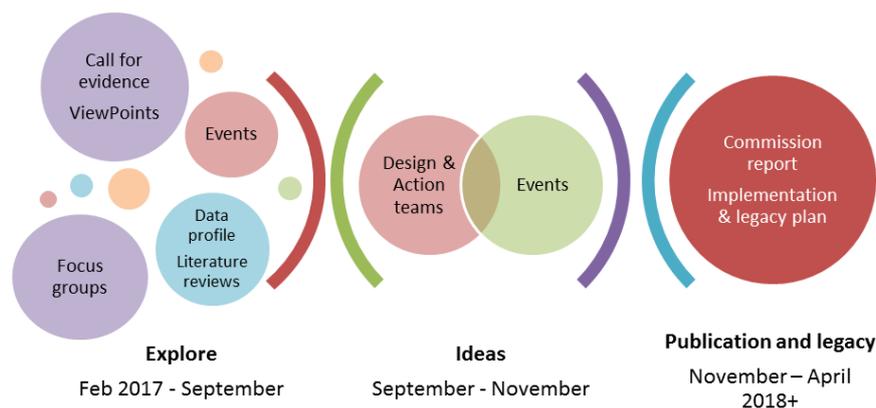
2. Recommendations

2.1. To note the progress and the next steps for the Commission.

3. Key issues, highlights and next steps: moving from challenges to action

3.1 The Commission has entered its final phase and developed recommendations for building a fairer Islington for children and young people (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fair Futures Commission Roadmap



3.2 The Commission chose three themes to guide its discussions and research: place, power and possibilities.

- **Place** is about the physical environment. It looked at what children and young people need from their local area in order to thrive. Particular issues included safety, housing, outside space and travelling across Islington.
- **Power** focuses on how children, young people and families can shape and support their own lives. This focused on the role of the wider community and different types of networks including digital support.
- **Possibilities** focuses on how we can ensure that children and young people develop the life skills that they need to thrive. This included inclusive economic growth, preparation for the workplace, independent living and other key transitions in life.

3.2 The Commission used an evidence-informed approach. We conducted a programme of insight and intelligence gathering to enable the Commission to understand the issues for Islington's children and young people. At the Commission's launch, organisations and individuals were spurred to debate the challenges and opportunities to make Islington a great place to grow up in.

3.3 We issued a [Call for Evidence](#) asking departments within the council, organisations and individuals to send in submissions that answered questions about Place, Power and Possibilities. We received submissions covering a range of perspectives.

3.4 A data profile, existing evidence, information and intelligence from published and 'grey' literature was developed for all three themes. This identified knowledge and awareness about what is already happening and promising practice.

3.5 We ran a [Viewpoint essays](#) initiative which outlined the opinions and stories of young people, parents and those who work with or devise policy for children and young people. These formed part of the evidence for the Commission. Jermain Jackman, Chair of the Fair Futures Commission, also produced a [think piece advocating the need to put children and young people's issues and needs back on the agenda](#).

- 3.6 Several external organisations and several councils expressed an interest in meeting or working with the Commission to contribute intelligence and ideas. There have also been enquiries about replicating the Fair Futures Commission.
- 3.8 One success of the Commission's process so far is that values such as the involvement of the voice of children and young people are now at the forefront of non-Children's Services officers' ambitions e.g. in Greenspace and Leisure.
- 3.9 A core thread that brought together the issues and themes is **using the opportunities and assets Islington has – as a community and a network of organisations - to make social mobility real particularly for the children and young people who face challenges as they grow up**. The recent [Social Mobility Commission report on the State of The Nation](#) as one of the best performers against their social mobility indicators. However, the report also highlights that Londoners who experience challenges that disadvantage them face a competitive labour market after statutory education. London still experiences one of the highest unemployment rates for young people aged 16 to 24 year olds and London residents are more likely to cycle in and out of low pay. London also has the highest living costs in the country alongside unaffordable housing.

Place: A safe and prosperous community with space and room to grow, live, play and work

- 3.10 We hosted the **Place Summit** on 27 June. This was attended by architects, planners from Islington council, the GLA, developers, housing associations, council officers, FF Commissioners and young people. It followed two successful youth-led borough tours which brought council officers and young people together to reflect on places and spaces in Islington. The Summit reflected on good practice and key findings. Participants visited the local area and identified how it could be designed differently. The outcome of these events can be read [here](#).
- 3.11 [Dinah Borat](#), who worked with us on the borough walking tours and the Place Summit, is now a Design Adviser for the Mayor of London and has advocated the Commission's approach to progressing children and young people's needs in urban planning and the forthcoming London Plan. Deputy Mayor Nicky Gavron is also working on the creation of child-friendly neighbourhoods to feed into the development of the London Plan.

3.12 Summary of Place issues and challenges:

Built environment

- Islington is a borough of lots of people and very little land, meaning space is hugely valuable to people and under an enormous amount of pressure. Whether we are talking about public space, infrastructure or housing, the lack of space is something which looms over Islington's ability to adapt and change to accommodate children, young people and families' needs. We have to start thinking about other ways to meet need through small changes, such as the way we use an existing space, behaviour change, or community empowerment.
- **Contested Space:** Space means different things to different ages and those with particular needs. The conflict between generations and the purpose/use of space can be an issue in a borough with such limited space.
- **Ownership of space:** It's not always that space is contested for different uses, but that sometimes, children, young people and family needs are misunderstood (for example, safety vs risk)
- **Inclusive Design:** a way of making space usable for all is a good use of space
- **Public/Private Space:** Some developments with social housing cut off access to open space to these tenants. Many new developments feature private space that has public access but there is threat that this access could be revoked by official owners. Planning Policy tries to protect it, but more could be done to convey the importance of it.

In this context, where our spaces are under such pressure, with competing demands and a strong sense of ownership, how do we ensure that these spaces benefit and work for children and young people and their parents and carers?

Travel and safety

- There is perception that much crime in the borough is committed by young people (whether to other young people or the wider general public)
- Children surveyed at our Adventure Playgrounds identified that they hardly travelled or played out without their parents.
- A strong feeling of safety on a street or access route may result in the area being used for play and socialising rather than simply for access, but this has to be cultivated

Housing

- The lack of space in the borough combined with an ever increasing population and high levels of poverty has led to problems such as overcrowding and challenging living conditions for families.
- Some young people expressed a feeling of being forgotten in Islington's regeneration and agitation with the gentrification around them. Several young people suggested that they cannot see themselves living here to raise a family due to the cost of living and unaffordable housing. However, it was also suggested that Islington is part of a big city with great access links.
- This set of issues suggested a need to build more homes that are truly affordable, including enabling young people to either rent or buy, in a borough that has some of the most premium property prices in the country and with very little space left for development.

Power and Possibilities

3.12 We conducted several focus groups and interviews with young people to complement the thematic analysis of evidence submissions from organisations and the public, previous consultations, needs assessments and local intelligence about the issues for this theme. This was complemented by results from a Health and Wellbeing Survey conducted in schools earlier this year. There was a focus on the lived experiences and hidden voices particularly young carers, LGBTQIA young people, BAME young people and those who have overcome challenges.

3.13 Young people expressed that although there is a strong focus on their academic success, they felt there is limited support for teaching the social and emotional capabilities which are connected to issues such as employability, youth crime and preparation for adulthood. This was the focus of the final workshop held on Wednesday 8 November. It saw young people brainstorm ideas with professionals from business, education, health, social and youth work sectors for working with both children (primary-aged) and young people to prepare them and develop their skills for:

- Preparing for work and the future of work
- Managing emotional wellbeing and feelings
- Positive relationships with their peers and adults
- Independent living including planning for and managing a home and money

The event was well received by both professionals and young people as a way of unpicking the issues and co-creating ideas for solutions.

3.14 Summary of Power and Possibilities issues and challenges:

Children and young people in Islington

- The younger age groups are more culturally diverse than the older age groups
- A significant number of children live in poverty
- Young people and families are mobile. There are also a range of vulnerabilities experienced by children and young people in Islington. The issues for children, young people and families are becoming more complex e.g. youth crime, special educational needs and disability, problems within families
- National policies such as housing and welfare reform are intensifying the challenges of growing up in Islington
- The challenges are affecting middle-income as well as low-income families

Table 1: Resolution Foundation Living Standards Audit 2017

Living Standards	Household incomes	Poverty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing variation of living standards across the UK in recent decades. Private rents have increased significantly faster than mortgage interest costs over the past five years, especially in regions near London. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagnated incomes of low to middle income households, through a combination of low earnings growth, rising housing costs and reduced state support. Households with children, and younger working-age families having the lowest incomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the UK, 49% of all children and 57% of children in working families lived in low to middle income families in 2015-16. The share of low to middle income people living in poverty (defined as below 60% of median income) rose by 7% between 2003-4 and 2015-16.

Living in Islington

- There is positivity about living in Islington
- There is also a sense of feeling removed or disenfranchised by external forces such as gentrification, money and people in control (local and national decision-makers, schools, police, etc)
- There are a range of assets and resources in Islington – it just depends on whether you know about them
- Some young people felt unsafe in Islington; others thought that this is being “over-hyped” by the media and others

Early childhood, children and the transition to adolescence

- The foundations set in early childhood are significant and [Bright Start Islington](#) is intrinsic to a sustained focus on this.
- Before and after the birth of the child is a crucial time to support families to give children the foundations for good health, as they are especially receptive to offers and advice. Early identification and intervention can identify families at risk of problems escalating into neglect and abuse
- The active involvement and full participation of parents including fathers contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of early childhood interventions for vulnerable children.
- Playful children are securely attached to significant adults. The lack of play can be from:
 - Poverty and urban living, resulting in stressed parenting and lack of access to natural and outdoor environments
 - Over-scheduled and over-supervised children, as a consequence of perceptions of urban environments as dangerous for children
 - Growing culture of risk-averse parenting
- Positive factors which might support wellbeing during transition to early adolescence include positive parent-child relationships, attainment, and children’s friendships.
- For some of our young people who had poor childhood experiences, the loss of attachment to significant adults as they grew up may have played a role in their future negative or risky circumstances
- Families, particularly those contending with a significant number of problems (e.g. parental depression, low income), benefit from accessible and non-stigmatising support.
- Schools play a positive role in fostering engagement and enjoyment of learning, improving school wellbeing, particularly important for children who have particular pressures in their lives (e.g. difficulties at home, poor parental support or experiencing stressful events).
- The Community Budget for Families with Multiple Needs provided a partnership approach to the strategy and funding for early help. This could be disrupted by potential changes to the national Troubled Families approach and funding.

Supporting adolescents

- The focus during adolescence tends to be on the negative things to do with this phase in life e.g. involvement in crime, risky health behaviours, rather than how we build on young people’s assets and strengths

- There are groups of young people who are not within the council's child protection, care or youth offending system and may still need support although not necessarily from those services
- The totality of a young person's vulnerability may not always be recognisable from apparently isolated incidents e.g. focusing solely on their involvement in crime
- Some young people expressed a sense of disempowerment as if power is not a personal ability
- Relationships when working or engaging with young people and parents were key and understanding the lived experiences and realities has been called for at all levels including those who make decisions
- Peer relationships and attachments are key. This also requires adolescents to be equipped with good judgement and a sense of self-worth. There is a call for dealing with the contexts and issues such as youth crime or exploitation through a different lens e.g. as a public health or societal issue
- Poor childhood experiences can lead to worse health and wellbeing, being more likely to engage in harmful behaviours and at greater risk of poor physical and mental health, chronic disease and premature mortality. This can particularly affect health and wellbeing in adulthood and the need for adult services to address these issues.
- Evidence suggests that ways of addressing the effects of poor childhood experiences include trauma-informed approaches, effective early childhood services, strong relationships with a trusting adult and social and emotional learning programmes. There may also be a need to form relationship-based approaches to engaging with young people.
- Children's health particularly those with long-term conditions and mental health continue to be key issues in Islington.
- Young carers' peer relationships and opportunities to connect with other young carers helped to cope with the challenge of being a young carer. They called for better awareness about their situation particularly in schools and the NHS.
- LGBTQIA young people highlighted that, despite the changes enabling equality, they still experience challenges with other young people and adults. They are still a group that remain a hidden voice, including recognising their diversity, when it comes to understanding and thinking about services and support for them. They also called for better awareness about LGBTQIA young people in schools and proactively addressing their challenges.
- Young adults who reflected on their difficult experiences highlight that there is a need to look beyond those who will be easier to involve (for example, only using established forums) and what has happened throughout their lives to avoid repeating the same practice and identify ways to intervene earlier
- Some young people such as young carers, care leavers and homeless 16/17 year olds have to move to independent living or managing the household at a young age. Support to manage money, a home and emotions well is key to entering independence successfully at an earlier age and with less family help than the average young person
- Islington should have people and places (services) that empower imagination and possibilities

Readiness for work and the future of work

- Some young people felt left behind by gentrification. However, for some, living cheek by jowl to wealthier residents/families encouraged their aspirations to succeed in life
- Where young people could no longer afford to live in Islington, this could lead to a brain drain which could be detrimental to local economic growth
- Non-cognitive skills refer to a set of attitudes, behaviours and strategies that are thought to underpin success in school and at work, such as motivation, perseverance and self-control. There is substantial evidence that non-cognitive skills are important determinants of school and labour market outcomes, both directly and indirectly (through their effect on education attainment). Non-cognitive skills are also strong predictors of engagement in risky behaviours (e.g. involvement in crime, or exclusion from school).
- Overcrowding at home often affected a young person's ability to study
- Young people would value independent careers advice and guidance from those who work in the different sectors at the right time

- Young people highlighted that it can be about who you know and that if a young person is from a disadvantaged background, they are several steps behind young people whose parents have the connections in the business world or different industries. This also includes connections for good work experience.
- They don't feel prepared with employability skills to compete with others or for the future of work (the 4th industrial revolution) e.g. flexible working, skills particularly technological innovation and adapting to this
- There were not many opportunities to consider being an entrepreneur and this wasn't encouraged as much as it could be. It was also identified that to do so would take finances to tide young people over at the start and some young people were from families that are not in a position to do that.

Other

- Interactive support such as using digital technology to complement and extend how services are delivered. This is a slightly different approach from digital skills education and what is provided in settings to support that. It focuses on how organisations who work with children, young people and their parents can use digital technology to support them, active citizenship and social action. An example of this is [Newham University Hospital DAWN project](#).
- Adopting a focus on health and care for children and young people in the same that it is now viewed for adults and older people
- A different way for leaders across the public, business and third sectors to constructively drive and invest in children and young people. This will require a rethink about how the democratic and accountability structure for children, young people and families works.
- Engineering a strategic shift of this kind when the pressures on public funding are intense is challenging.
- For the benefit of children, families and a thriving community it is a challenge that those involved in all areas of children and young people's lives must continue to invest in.

Key themes for the Commission's final recommendations

- 3.15 This understanding has led to the emergence of some key themes that inform the commission's recommendations on how improve the lives – and life chances – of Islington's young people for generations to come including:
- A guarantee for young people living or studying in the borough about what the outcomes and support they can expect
 - A better focus on work experience
 - Making life skills in preparation for adulthood a reality for all young people
 - More emphasis on youth leadership, social action and giving young people a say, for example in planning and managing public spaces and housing
 - Exploring housing options for young people that allow them to pursue education and work
 - Changing the approach to rules on estates such as 'no ball games'
- 3.16 The commission emphasise that when the time comes to implement the final recommendations, actions must be tailored for the appropriate equality groups and other key groups of children and young people such as young carers and those in care.
- 3.17 The commission is formulating recommendations that take account of the severe budget pressures on the council, but also the opportunities afforded by its relationships with other organisations in the private and public sectors.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council has a duty under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to promote cooperation with relevant partners (including health, education, police and probation services) regarding children's well-being in Islington, and relevant partners have a duty to cooperate with the council. The focus of the arrangements referred to is children's physical and mental health and emotional, social and economic well-being; protection from harm and neglect; and education, training and recreation.

4.3 Environmental Implications

None

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment will be completed when the Fair Futures Commission has developed its recommendations for submission to the Council and its partners.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. The overall goal of the Commission is promoting the necessary social and health development of all children and young people to ensure a sustainable community which is fit for all. It embeds the original imperative of the Children Act 2004 and subsequent Every Child Matters programme where the wellbeing of children and young people is everybody's business.
- 5.2. The Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on local authorities to lead co-operation arrangements that will improve the five statutory children's wellbeing outcomes:
- Physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
 - Protection from harm – both from a safeguarding children and community safety perspective;
 - Education, training and recreation
 - Opportunities and support to make a positive contribution to society; and
 - Social and economic well-being

This can only be achieved by:

- enabling the statutory roles of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children to fulfil their place leadership function by steering, promoting and creating opportunities for cooperation within the council and with local partners;
 - working together across the Council departments;
 - working with other public, private and social sector organisations; and
 - working with children, young people, families and the wider community
- 5.3. Full Council will receive the final recommendations from the Commission on 22 February 2018. Consideration of the issues within the Fair Futures Commission will support progression towards becoming a UNICEF child-friendly community and the place leadership and legacy required for children and young people for the future.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Signed by:



20 December 2017

Carmel Littleton,
Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

Date

Report author: Tania Townsend, Partnership Development and Strategy Manager and
Fair Futures Commission Programme Lead
Tel: 020 7527 3080
E-mail: tania.townsend@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Tim Partington, Head of Finance
Tel: 020 7527 1851
Email: Tim.partington@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Peter Fehler, Acting Director of Law and Governance
Tel: 020 7527 3126
Email: peter.fehler@islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: **Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills**

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Children Services Scrutiny Committee	9 January 2018	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
-----------------------	-------------------	------------

SUBJECT: Children's Services Performance 2017/18: Quarter 2 Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This Quarter 2 performance report provides an update on progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across Children's Services.
- 1.2 A Data Dashboard, showing performance against the KPIs, is included in a separate attachment. This report should be read alongside the dashboard for a full, rounded understanding of performance in each area.
- 1.3 Only those KPIs where new data is available at the time of writing are discussed in this report, to avoid repetition from previous performance updates.
- 1.4 Corporate Indicators, including Equalities Indicators, are highlighted.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider Children's Services performance in Quarter 2 2017/18;
- 2.2 To note the following changes to Children's Services KPIs:
 - The methodologies for calculating Attainment 8 and Progress 8 have changed for 2017 results. Therefore, the 2017 results are not directly comparable with the results in previous years.
- 2.3 To note that the revised Key Stage 2 results were not available at the time this report was prepared, although they will be available by the time the Children Services Scrutiny Committee is held. The revised results will be included in the Q3 Update Report.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 1: Through strong universal services, children, young people and adults are enabled to achieve good education and employability outcomes

1.1 – Corporate Indicator – Percentage of families with under-5s registered at a Children's Centre

In the Summer term of 2017/18, 85% of families with children aged under 5 were registered with an Islington children's centre. Once families are registered, they receive regular general information about services available at their local children's centre and can receive targeted information about key entitlements, such as their eligibility for a funded two year old place. The figure of 85% relates to 7,457 families reached, out of 8,824 known to our services.

In terms of individual children reached by an Islington children's centre, a slightly higher percentage of 87% were reached during the Summer term of 2017/18. This relates to 9,654 out of 11,157 children aged under 5.

Reach for our target groups during the Summer term was as follows:

- 81% of families living in social housing
- 78% of Black and Minority Ethnic families
- 81% of lone parent families
- 87% of families living in overcrowding
- 80% of families known to be workless households.

Reach is cumulative throughout the year, so the proportion of families reached should rise throughout the rest of the year.

A successful transformation programme for early childhood services, now known as Bright Start Islington, has been underway over the past year and has seen the co-ordination and responsibility for early childhood outreach services move from 16 individual children's centres to three council-run area teams. With a high level of stakeholder, partner and officer engagement throughout, there is reduced duplication and more consistency in services across the borough and the Bright Start Islington brand continues to grow. A staffing re-organisation involving over 50 children's centre and family support practitioners from all sectors was undertaken during the summer term and is now embedding. Our co-location plans with health visiting teams is still in progress and while reach figures fell during the transition period, this was expected. Bright Start teams are developing a focused outreach strategy for their area and will concentrate initially on improving reach to the disadvantaged groups.

Data solutions, scheduled for mid-way through 2018, will also enable electronic initial self-registration and registration for specific services. The move from paper-based to electronic recording will contribute to improved reach, accuracy of data and better analysis which can be used to shape effective outreach strategies to key groups.

1.2 – Percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

As reported in the Q1 report, 69.9% of Islington pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile in 2017, an increase of more than 4 percentage points on the 2016 results and more than 6 percentage points

higher than in 2015. 2017 results for other local authorities are now available and show that although Islington was below the London and England averages, Islington has narrowed the gap with these comparators compared with last year. Islington has moved from being bottom quartile, nationally, for the GLD measure to the second from bottom quartile (ranked equal 92nd out of 151 local authorities).

The GLD is the proxy indicator used to measure the impact of the cumulative range of early childhood services on children's development and learning at age 5. For the first time, Islington's GLD is virtually in line with the national average. The GLD has risen by 26% over the past five years in Islington, and while nationally the rate has also improved, the rate in Islington has improved faster. Further analysis is needed to see if anything in particular has made such a difference this year although it is likely that a combination of factors have contributed. For example, integrated early childhood services have become more embedded over the past five years and the reach and quality of services is good (87.5% judged as good by Ofsted); the quality of early years settings and teaching and learning in primary school nursery and reception classes has also improved (see 4.7 and 4.8 below).

Early analysis of EYFSP scores shows that 67.3% of low income and FSM children who took up a funded place when their child was 2 achieved a good level of development compared with 60.2% of eligible children (FSM only) who did not take up a place. (Please note while this is not a directly comparable group, all funded 2 year olds are from families with incomes of less than £16,190 per year and/or have severe and complex educational needs and disabilities.)

Impact on children's outcomes will be carefully scrutinised over the next year, as the reduction in entitlements to funded early education particularly affects low income families following changes to national policy.

1.5 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent

As reported in the Q1 report, figures for the Autumn and Spring terms during the 2016/17 academic year show that 9.6% of Islington primary school pupils were persistently absent (i.e. were absent for 10% or more of the time) during these two terms. This is lower than the 9.9% persistent absent rate for Islington during the same terms of 2015/16.

Comparator data has now been published, allowing us to compare absence levels against the target for this academic year, which is to be at or lower than the Inner London average. The Inner London average for the Autumn and Spring terms 2016/17 was 9.3%, an improvement on the 9.6% persistent absence level during the same terms in 2015/16. Islington has remained narrowly above the Inner London average by the same margin as last year. However, Islington has moved out from the bottom quartile of local authorities, nationally.

Persistent Absence (PA) is moving in the right direction since resources previously held centrally were delegated to schools from 2015/16. But it still remains too high when compared to other LAs, particularly at primary. Interventions are targeted on schools with the highest levels of PA. An emphasis is placed on the consistent use of systems and procedures (e.g. first day calling) and a range of in-school factors (e.g. encouraging extra-curricular participation). An Attendance Network for School Attendance Leads in our primary and secondary schools now meets termly, and is well attended. It has contributed to a more consistent approach across our schools through sharing of good practice.

Recognising that some of the factors associated with chronic absence are beyond the school's direct control, we are also supporting improved links between schools and the Early Help Service, and with colleagues in health, to target children with PAs and their families.

1.8 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

There are currently (September 2017) 40 pupils in Alternative Provision. This is made up of 35 year 11s and 5 year 10s.

Arrangements for Alternative Provision in Islington have changed from September 2017. Year 11 pupils continue to be monitored by the AP team in partnership with schools. This provision is now managed by New River College PRU. Islington schools now have responsibility for managing their own arrangements for Year 10 pupils in Alternative Provision – including the monitoring of attendance and progress. This can be through a paid procurement and quality assurance service managed by New River College PRU. Most Islington schools have purchased this service. Going forwards the Alternative Provision team will only be managing cases where schools purchase this as a service. The message from the Local Authority remains that the best place for the vast majority of pupils is in a school. We continue to work with Secondary Schools and with early help services to ensure that Alternative Provision is a final resort for a small number of pupils. This academic year the current numbers of Year 10 pupils are down substantially. The current Year 11 has also fallen in relation to previous years.

There is no evidence as yet that this has led to an increase in permanent exclusions.

Although the number of young people recorded through the new arrangements has fallen significantly it is important that the LA continues to monitor the number of young people still accessing AP through other means and also the quality of the provision – this is particularly the case where a school does not access the service provided by New River College. We are currently clarifying with all schools the process that should be followed which includes the correct attendance coding, code 'B'. Where data is available through attendance recording there is no evidence currently that this is a significant number, however we will continue to refine and seek compliance from schools and report back further on action being taken.

1.9 – Corporate Indicator: Average Attainment 8 Score

The published provisional Attainment 8 figure for Islington schools for 2017 is 45.4. This is below the Inner London provisional Attainment 8 figure of 47.8, although it is above the England average of 44.2.

Attainment 8 measures achievement across 8 qualifications.

Attainment 8 scores are not directly comparable between 2017 and 2016. In 2017, Attainment 8 scores were calculated using slightly different point score scales in comparison to 2016, in order to minimise change following the introduction of 9-1 reformed GCSEs. Attainment 8 scores look different in 2017, as a result of this change to the methodology.

1.10 – Corporate Indicator: Average Progress 8 Score

The published provisional Progress 8 figure for Islington schools for 2017 is 0.14. This is below the Inner London provisional Attainment 8 figure of 0.21, although it is above the

England average (for state-funded schools) of -0.03. Islington remains in the top quartile of local authorities in England for the Progress 8 measure, as we were in 2015/16.

A Progress 8 score is calculated for each pupil by comparing their achievement (Attainment 8) with the average of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (prior attainment) based on assessment results at end of primary school. The greater the Progress 8 score, the greater the progress made by the pupil compared to those starting from a similar position. A school or local authority's Progress 8 score is the average of its pupils' scores.

Due to changes in the methodology, Progress 8 scores from 2015/16 and 2016/17 are not directly comparable.

1.11 – Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate

At the time the provisional GCSE results have been published, 25.8% of Islington pupils had attained the English Baccalaureate. This is below the Inner London and London figures of 27.5% and 28.5% respectively, although it is above the provisional national average of 21.2%. Despite being below the London average, Islington's performance is in the top quartile of local authorities across the country.

In line with national changes, this measure has been amended to reflect the rise in expectation of results from a C grade pass to a 5, which is equivalent to a high C in both English and Mathematics. As a result, figures are not comparable to previous years.

Turbulence continues in GCSE assessments, with significant changes in curriculum and in assessment and accountability measures. Challenges for schools will continue over the next few years with outcomes at GCSE gradually moving from the familiar A*-G to a scale that measures from 9-1 with associated new grade boundaries. The next few years will also see new and untried GCSE specifications coming on-line. This makes year on year comparison impossible this year and for the next two years. In spite of this, Islington secondary pupils have continued to performed very well in relation to the Progress 8 measure and have performed strongly in other measures.

1.12a – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between Black-Caribbean (BCRB) pupils and the LBI average at KS4 (gap in Progress 8 between BCRB pupil and LBI average)

The provisional Progress 8 score for Black Caribbean pupils in Islington schools in 2017 was -0.07. The gap between Black Caribbean pupils in Islington schools and the provisional Islington average was 0.21. This is based on the provisional data published by the DfE in October 2017. Locally, we are receiving the results of remarks, so the figure is currently subject to change.

Due to changes in the methodology, Progress 8 scores from 2015/16 and 2016/17 are not directly comparable. Revised results will be published in January 2018.

1.12b – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS4 (gap in Progress 8 between White-British FSM pupils and LBI average)

In Islington, in the 2017 provisional figures, the equivalent figure for White British pupils eligible for FSM was -0.48. The gap between White British pupils eligible for FSM and the LA average is 0.62, more than half a grade.

Due to changes in the methodology, Progress 8 scores from 2015/16 and 2016/17 are not directly comparable. Revised results will be published in January 2018.

These gaps are real areas for concern and work is continuing to support schools in addressing these areas of underachievement. This is through networks of good practice sharing both within and from outside of the local authority. Schools are also challenged and supported to monitor their data at group and at pupil level to ensure that interventions are made and that impact is felt on both progress and attainment. Since March 2017 there has been a borough conference, two network meetings and two workshops to share what is known about factors affecting, and strategies to improve, the achievement of Black Caribbean and White British FSM pupils. The ultimate purpose of these events, and individual follow up sessions, has been to design school specific action in relation to one or both groups. Work is ongoing to ensure this has high profile with school leaders. School based projects include: the development of a peer mentoring scheme, supported by good practice from Upward Bound; Debate Mate running in 6 secondary schools with a focus on recruitment from the two target groups; strengthening whole school careers advice and guidance; parent/carer-daughter maths and English engagement evenings; curriculum projects designed to improve parental engagement and provide a meaningful and relevant learning experience for pupils.

Finally, a member of the secondary school improvement team is involved in specific research into White British disadvantaged pupils' achievement in Islington This work is supported by the Institute of Education and represents a commitment over several years to a full academic understanding of the issues together with school based research into current experiences and practices. From this should come greater engagement from schools, on-going practical recommendations and a forum for sharing good practice.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 2: The resilience of children, young people and families is strengthened by accessing effective early intervention approaches

2.1 - Corporate Indicator: Percentage of 2 year old places taken up by low income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) or who are looked after

This is based on the number of children in funded places compared to the size of the list of eligible parents received from the DWP. There were 702 2 year olds in funded places, compared to 710 the previous term. However, the size of the cohort of eligible children also fell slightly, so overall the proportion of eligible 2 year olds in funded places remained at 67% in the Autumn term, the same as in the Summer term.

The reviewed communication strategy with strong social media presence will reach wider groups of potentially eligible families. This will be underpinned by the development of the family engagement worker role and improved integrated working with health colleagues as part of Bright Start Islington. The new role of parent involvement development officer will help to grow awareness of the entitlement through a parent champion model. The slight decline in take up may be due to a number of children with additional needs, who were previously counted, but who do not meet the national SEND eligibility criteria. Further data analysis will allow for trends to be identified.

We will continue to monitor the update and the sufficiency data to plan appropriate expansion works in areas with high demand.

2.4 - Corporate Indicator: Number of families in Stronger Families programme with successful outcomes as measured by payment by results

Claims for 140 families were made in October 2017. The target for this measure is to make claims for an additional 130 families in each claim, so the target was met for the latest claim. Claims have been made for a total of 357 families since April 2016. The next claim is due in January 2018.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 3: Children and young people are kept safe through effective safeguarding and child protection arrangements which respond to risk, early identification and reduce escalation of concerns

3.1 - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months

The proportion of re-referrals within 12 months has reduced slightly from 21.1% at the end of Q1 2017/18 to 19.6% at the end of Q2 2017/18. Comparator data has now been published for 2016/17 and this shows that Islington had a lower proportion of re-referrals in 2016/17 than the national average.

3.2 - Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

In 2015/16, Islington had the 28th highest proportion of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time in the country. However, the year-end figure of 12.1% for 2016/17 almost halved compared to 2015/16. Comparator data shows Islington had the 20th lowest proportion of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time in the country in 2016/17.

During the first six months of 2017/18, 11.8% (19 out of 161) children who became the subject of Child Protection Plans did so for the second or subsequent time. This is slightly below the figure for 2016/17.

In terms of the year 16-17:

There have been repeat plans for 31 children from 24 sibling groups in the year 2016/17. This accounts for 12% of all child protection plans made in this period which is Islington's target. This is a reduction from last year's percentage of 22%.

The 5.3% cases that have been repeated within a 2-year period (10 children from 7 families) have been examined to identify themes and lessons learnt.

This year has been an improvement in terms of numbers of repeat plans and in the main those that have been repeated have been appropriately escalated.

This reduction is a result of the intensive work being performed to ensure children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan are not removed from the plan until their needs are met.

3.3 - Percentage of children who were seen in accordance with a Children in Need Plan

There is no statutory obligation to report on this measure and therefore no comparator data is available for this indicator. There is no statutory timescale setting out how frequently children subject to Child in Need plans are seen though the DFE/Ofsted expectation is generally that children on Child In Need plans are seen approximately every 6 weeks. In Islington, we set high expectations regarding the frequency of visits to children and this report measures against a 4 weekly visiting timescale.

At the end of Q2 2017/18, 62% of Child in Need were seen in accordance with their plans, compared to 73% as at the end of 2016/17.

A number of factors are considered to have contributed to the fall in recorded visits completed on time over this period. These include staff turnover in 2 CIN teams, some delays in recording by newer staff and some challenge in securing the engagement of older young people, particularly those affected by gangs or serious youth violence.

A number of measures have been implemented to improve on timeliness of visits and of recording those visits. These include more supervision and management input into teams where staff turnover has led to a drop of timely recording of visits, as well as some focussed work with team managers on performance in this area. Improvements in timeliness and recording are already evident in recent weeks.

3.4 – Corporate Indicator: Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours

3.5 - Number of children missing from home

The number of children missing from care for more than 24 hours has decreased in the last few months, from 14 during June 2017 to only 9 in September 2017. This compares to over 20 each month towards the end of 2016/17.

The number of children who went missing from home has reduced slightly in the last few months, from 31 during June 2017 to 27 in September 2017.

The data evidences that fewer children are going missing – specifically those in care – than in the previous year. A significant part of this reduction relates to more appropriate recording of missing children, rather than those who are merely absent for a short time, or with friends or family. Extensive work has also been done with the fostering team, foster carers and semi-independent units around supporting young people to prevent young people going missing and to enhance their role in the safeguarding of the most vulnerable young people.

Islington's demographic profile remains similar – in terms of the boys more likely to go missing than girls, and children aged 16 and 17yrs going missing more frequently.

A new missing protocol has been developed with the Police – to support the response to children missing for less than 48hours

3.6 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system

Performance in Q2 alone was on target at 85%, an increase on performance in Q1 of the year. The cumulative total for the year to date is 78% due to the outcomes in Q1. This is slightly higher than at the same point during the previous year.

The increase in Q2 was predicted, following a dip in performance in Q1, due to the modifications that have been made to the Triage service. This service, which is offered by the Targeted Youth Support team, is continuing to be successful in diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. There has been an increased focus, in recent times, to ensure that the offer that is provided to relevant young people is as robust as possible. The main objectives of the offer is to increase the young person's protective factors and reducing their vulnerability and susceptibility to continue with offending behaviour. Further work is being planned with the Police to strengthen this work further still, which will include enhancing the support packages which are available to those young people whose cases are dropped (NFA'd) by the Police.

3.7 - Corporate Indicator - Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System

Provisional data suggests there were 30 first time entrants into the Youth Justice System during Q1&2 2017/18, a significant reduction of almost a third from 2016/17, when there were 44 first time entrants during the first half of the year. This means our performance is better than the profiled target of 35 for the first half of 2017/18.

Our performance in relation to this indicator continues to be extremely positive and means that Islington is no longer one of the poorest performing London Boroughs for this measure (moving from 28th in London based on the June 2014 – July 2015 FTE rate to 18th based on the provisional June 2016 – July 2017 rate). This is related to the robust multi-agency and young-person centred Triage service and through Targeted Youth Support being part of a duty service via the front door in Children's Social Care. The latter in particular means that Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions can be used for young people who would benefit more from this approach than a court imposed order. Further work is being planned to ensure that this cohort do not progress any further within the system.

3.8 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)

Provisional data suggests out of the 51 young people in the cohort for 2017/18, only 20 had reoffended as at the end of Q2 2017/18 (39%). This is lower than the 41% of the cohort for 2016/17 we were reporting as being reoffenders at the same point in the previous year.

These reductions are certainly positive, but there is still a lot of work to do to tackle the reoffending rates of this cohort. The young people identified via the 'live tracker' tool have accrued a substantial amount of offences between them (in the hundreds) and this is a priority to reduce. There are a number of proposals being planned to address this issue including the provision of mentors to this cohort and the creation of new multi-agency approaches to support this cohort.

Note – the comparison shown above is a snapshot at the end of quarter 2 each year. This measure actually gets refreshed during the year and is not totally reliable until around a year after the data is reported (as the outcomes of offences are confirmed throughout the year).

3.9 - Corporate Indicator - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

Provisional data for the end of Q2 2017/18 suggests that only 7 Islington young people received custodial sentences during the first half of the year, which is a substantial reduction from 22 custodial sentences during the same period in 2016/17, and less than half of the profiled target for the first half of the year of 15.

This is a significant achievement given the sustained high custody rates that Islington has experienced for young people over the past few years, which at one point was the highest in country and then in London. A recently held magistrates day, which took place in October, reinforced the fact that the courts and sentencers have greater confidence in the YOS and this has assisted in the imposition of more community penalties as opposed to custodial sentences. The YOS also has more appropriate and targeted resources available to staff to work with young people with more complex needs and further work is being developed at the current time to strengthen these interventions further still.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 4: Children, young people and families thrive through good local area health, care and education provision

4.2 – Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 4

100% of Islington secondary schools met or exceeded the floor standard in 2016/17, based on the provisional results. This is the same as last year. Full details for all schools will be published with the revised results in January 2018.

A secondary school would be below the floor standard if its Progress 8 score is below -0.5, and the upper band of the 95% confidence interval is below zero.

4.3 – CLA educational outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 (Progress 8)

The local authority reports annually on looked-after children who have been in care for one year or more. The reporting cohort for LAC in years Reception to Year 11 was 138 and 131 in years 12 and 13.

Revised results should be available during Q4 2017/18, and the figures for our comparators are due to be published at the end of March 2018

- At Key Stage 1 (age 7) there were 2 pupils. Neither pupil reached the expected standard in all areas, although they are making good progress from when they became looked-after. The key areas for improvement at Key Stage 1 are to improve the quality and impact of Personal Education Plans and support schools and carers to provide intensive support to improving the reading skills of pupils.
- At Key Stage 2 (age 11) there were 7 pupils. 28.6% met the expected standard in all areas, this is well below the achievement of all pupils but comparable with looked-after children nationally. As with other Key Stages, pupils in stable and long term care and school placements generally achieve well. Pupils with complex or Special Educational Needs achieve less well than other pupils, as do pupils who did not reach the expected standard of attainment at Key Stage 1. The Virtual School will support these pupils to achieve better outcomes by ensuring all pupils have a high quality Personal Education Plan, which highlights the support and interventions they require to make expected levels of progress. The Virtual School will also support and challenge schools to set aspirational and challenging targets for pupils and ensure that these pupils are provided with the necessary support to enable them to achieve. The Virtual School will also implement a specific programme of support for carers to enable them support pupils reading.
- At Key Stage 4 there were 28 pupils. The provisional Progress 8 score for Islington's Looked After Children was -2.09. Although this is lower than the previous year's reported figure, changes in the methodology mean the two figures are not directly comparable, and the published provisional results for all pupils suggest that Progress 8 scores are lower than last year.

14.29% of pupils at KS4 achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*C/4-9. This is below what was achieved last year but similar to what looked-after children achieve nationally. Pupils who achieved these outcomes tended to be those who are in long term and stable school and care placements. They also tended to be in schools who were most effective in understanding and meeting the needs of looked-after children. While most pupils did

not achieve 5 or above “good” GCSEs many pupils still achieved positive outcomes. There are various reasons why some pupils who achieved less well. The age at which the pupils entered care is one of the most significant factors. Analysis of the 28 pupils at Key Stage 4 shows that 7 of these entered care during Key Stage 4 and 12 of these entered care during Key Stage 3. The impact of entering care during this period undoubtedly has impacts on the overall level of achievement of these pupils. However, within this cohort it is positive to note that 23 of the pupils achieved some level of qualification at the end of Key Stage 4 and 21 pupils achieved their expected qualification set during their PEP in year 11. There are also a number of pupils where we are able to demonstrate that coming into care had a significant impact on their final attainment.

Comparisons with CIN pupils provides a useful way of analysing whether care is effective in improving outcomes for pupils. The CIN pupils’ outcomes are not available for 2017, however, analysis of previous years’ outcomes is likely to show that LAC generally achieve better outcomes than CIN pupils.

- 18% of pupils missed 10% of school during the year. 29 pupils had one or more fixed term exclusion. The majority of these pupils were in Key Stage 3 or 4. No pupils were permanently excluded. This is higher than the national average for looked-after children. Sustained effort and work needs to be undertaken to improve outcomes for this group of pupils.
- There 131 pupils aged 16-18 at the end of the academic year. 71% of these pupils in Education, Employment or Training at the end of the academic year. 23% of pupils are on track to or achieved a Level 3 qualification. This figure is likely to be better than the national average for looked-after children but still an area for development.

Area for development:

- The Virtual School will develop and improve its profile and role so it effectively supports and challenges the practice of professionals working in Children’s Social Care and Schools.
- Personal Education Plans need to be more effective tools for improving the progress of children and young people.
- Pupil Premium Funding needs to be used more effectively to improve the progress of children and young people.
- Social Workers, carers and schools need to understand and develop a consistent and clear understanding of the impact of trauma and attachment difficulties on children and young people’s learning and development.
- Targeted and intensive work needs to be put in place on how to improve the outcomes for adolescents, late entrants to care, and care leavers. The planned extension of the remit of the Virtual School to 18-25 young people, to create a Virtual College, is designed to improve the support older LAC and care leavers receive with regard to education, employment and training. Central to the development of the Virtual College will be developing programmes of support that improve the employability prospects and skills of young people. The Virtual College will use its knowledge of the post EET provision to develop effective working relationships with a range of services and organisations and open up these opportunities for care leavers.

The commentary above summarises the latest performance – a full Virtual School Annual Report is presented to the Corporate Parenting Board each year, analysing the educational outcomes for our Looked After Children in greater detail.

4.5 - Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year

At the end of Q2 2017/18, 6.8% of Islington's looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year. This is in line with the same point during 2016/17, when 6.6% of looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year.

Comparator data for 2015/16 has now been published for this measure. Islington figures improved in 2015/16 and moved into the second from bottom quartile, after being in the bottom quartile the previous year. It should be noted that published data on this measure is only reported to the nearest whole percentage, so most local authorities are closely bunched together.

There are various reasons why some children have not been in the same placement for 2 years. There have been positive moves for children from their placements particularly children returning home, children moving from therapeutic residential care to foster care or supported accommodation, placed for adoption or who have moved to permanent families. There has been a trajectory for improvement for children placed for adoption with some children being placed swiftly. Some young people placed in supported accommodation have been moved to improve their safety.

4.6 - Placement stability - long term - Percentage of children who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years who have been looked after in the same placement for at least 2 years or placed for adoption

At the end of Q2 2017/18, 71.3% of Islington's looked after children who had been looked after long term were in stable placements. This is an increase on the 66.2% for the end of 2016/17, but a decrease compared to performance at the same point during last year.

As above, the comparator data for 2015/16 has now been published for this measure. Islington's performance on this measure was ranked in the bottom quartile for 2015/16.

The majority of changes in long term placements involve children over the age of 14, and in short term moves young people over the age of 17. The themes are late entry to care, difficulty in meeting behavioural needs and the shortage of placements available for these children and young people. Some of these young people have benefitted from placements out of the area, where specialist help is available for them and they can make a new start away from negative influences.

A policy is already in place whereby all second moves and above are scrutinised at senior management level. There are also processes in place to scrutinise the placements of children in long term fostering arrangements. Permanency Planning Meetings are held by the adoption Service for children up to and including 13 year olds. Our Adoption and Permanency panel approves fostering matches for children under the age of 10 and our Long Term Fostering panel scrutinises and decide whether to approve all prospective long term foster placements for children over the age of 10. A Care Planning Panel has been established which is chaired by the director of Children's Services or Head of Service CLA to ensure greater oversight of these cases and in particular children in residential care. An analysis is being completed on children who have had 3 or more moves and on those who have been in the same placement for 2 years (and LAC for 2.5) between March 2017-September 2017.

4.7 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

After increases in the proportion of early years settings judged to be good or better in their most recent inspection throughout 2016/17, there was a slight levelling off during the Summer term of 2017. The latest published data (as at the end of August 2017) shows 89.1% of Islington's early years settings are good or better, which is slightly below the London and England averages.

The most recent Ofsted dataset includes one nursery setting which failed its Ofsted inspection; another which declined from outstanding to requires improvement but has subsequently closed; and a third nursery which declined from good to requires improvement. Action is being taken to support rapid improvement in the two early years settings with a less than good judgement with additional resource directed towards the nursery currently judged as inadequate.

The percentage of childminders judged good or better increased during this period.

Changes to inspection judgements of out of school providers include one which received an inadequate judgement and has subsequently closed; and another which resigned their registration meaning the good judgment no longer counts in the Islington statistics. Support for out of school childcare continues to be provided through the Early Years monitoring officer.

4.8 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (primary, secondary and special)

The proportion of schools judged good or better rose again in the second quarter of 2017/18, from 90.8% at the end of June 2017 to 92.4% at the end of September 2017. This is higher than the national average, although it is just below the London average.

The breakdowns by school phase are:

- 100% of nursery schools (3/3)
- 96% of primary schools (43/45)
- 80% of secondary schools (8/10)
- 100% of special schools (4/4)
- 75% of Pupil Referral Units (3/4)

Islington is within the top quartile, nationally – we are ranked 38 out of 152 local authorities.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 5: A high quality strategic and business support infrastructure stimulates the development and delivery of efficient and effective services

5.1 - Number of active childminders

There has been a fall in the number of childminders during the second quarter of 2017/18, from 189 at the end of June to 181 at the end of September 2017. There was a lower than normal number of new childminders registered during the quarter, whilst there were a number of registrations that were cancelled or resigned.

The length of time needed for DBS checks has improved but during the period of DBS delays some prospective childminders found employment elsewhere and have postponed registration or are no longer planning to register. Although the childcare business grant is now available, we have not yet seen an impact and there continues to be a low number of applications received for initial childminder training.

5.4 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington

In 2017/18 (as of November 2017), we have approved 6 new foster carers, including a specialist foster carer. The target for this indicator is to recruit 12 mainstream foster carers of the course of the financial year, i.e. one per month, so we are in line with the target. However, we have 5 new foster families who are completing assessments before Christmas, which should ensure we are surpassing the target by the end of Q3.

Appendices: Appendix A – Data Dashboard

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

20 December 2017

Date:

Report Authors: Adam White, Special Project Analyst
Tel: 020 7527 2657
Email: adam.white@islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

Monday 10 July 2017

1. Membership, Terms of Reference, Dates of Meetings
2. Post-16 Education, Employment and Training – Draft Report
3. Education in Islington: Annual Report
4. Update on trends and demand for places at Islington schools
5. Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q4 2016/17)
6. Scrutiny Topics and Work Programme 2017/18

Tuesday 19 September 2017

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review– Scrutiny Initiation Document and Introductory Briefing
2. Results of Children's Services Ofsted Inspection
3. Executive Member Annual Presentation
4. Review of Work Programme

Monday 30 October 2017

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review – Witness Evidence
2. Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q1 2017/18)
3. Executive Member Questions
4. Review of Work Programme

Tuesday 28 November 2017

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review – Witness Evidence
2. SEND Reforms and Impact – Update
3. Alternative Provision Review 2015/16 – 12 Month Report Back
4. Executive Member Questions
5. Review of Work Programme

Tuesday 9 January 2018

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review – Witness Evidence
2. Recommendations of the Fair Futures Commission
3. Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q2)
4. Executive Member Questions
5. Review of Work Programme

Tuesday 20 February 2018

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review – Witness Evidence and Recommendations
2. The Children’s Services Response to Prevent – Update
3. Update on bullying and discrimination in schools
4. Executive Member Questions
5. Review of Work Programme

Tuesday 20 March 2018

1. Vulnerable Adolescents Review – Draft Report
2. Islington Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report
3. Education Annual Report
4. Quarterly Review of Children’s Services Performance (Q3)
5. Executive Member Questions

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Tuesday 19 June 2018

1. Membership, Terms of Reference, Dates of Meetings
2. Child Protection Annual Report
3. Quarterly Review of Children’s Services Performance (Q4 2017/18)
4. Scrutiny Topics and Work Programme 2018/19