



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 **20 March 2018 at 7.00 pm.**

Lesley Seary
Chief Executive

Enquiries to : Jonathan Moore
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Despatched : 12 March 2018

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

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 Members:

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. 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.

3. Declaration of Substitute Members
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
5. Chair's Report
6. Items for Call In (if any)
7. Public Questions

TO FOLLOW

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. Islington Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report	1 - 52
2. Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q3 2017/18)	53 - 68
3. Vulnerable Adolescents Scrutiny Review - Draft Report	69 - 92

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 19 June 2018

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

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2018

ISLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: ANNUAL REPORT

Alan Caton OBE, the Independent Chair of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board, will be in attendance to introduce the appended report.

The Committee is invited to consider the report and question the Chair on the Board's work.

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ISCB Annual Report

March 2016 – April 2017

Independent Chair
Alan Caton OBE



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) Annual Report covering the period April 2016 to March 2017.

This report sets out the work of The Board and its understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Islington. The report also aims to give those people who live and work in Islington a greater understanding of the way agencies work together and individually to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

The year was challenging for all of the partner agencies who continue to work in a context of shrinking budgets and resources. However, whilst this has been the case for several years now, this report provides evidence of the commitment and determination amongst agencies and professionals to keep all of Islington's children and young people safe.

One of the roles of The Board is to influence and shape service delivery. It does this through effective multi-agency case audits and by challenge and scrutiny of existing practice.

During this reporting period audits were carried out with a focus on *powers of police protection* and *child sexual exploitation*. Learning points identified from these reviews were translated into action plans to ensure the learning was disseminated into front-line practice.

The Board challenged the effectiveness and the data collection of return home interviews conducted with children who go missing. This challenge led to a review of practice and a change in

processes which should ultimately improve performance; both in the quality and quantity of return home interviews.

In the coming year, we will give priority to ensuring that there is a continuing focus on child sexual exploitation, on the effectiveness of early help and on domestic violence. We will also monitor, and ensure improvement, in the identification and response to children's mental health and wellbeing along with cases of neglect.

Included at the rear of this report there are a number of key messages for all partner agencies and strategic partners. These messages are to ensure that safeguarding and protecting children in Islington remains a priority for all.

The Board partners have worked hard to ensure that front-line practice is as good as it can be to keep children in Islington safe from harm and abuse. The Board was delighted that following the recent Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the LSCB it was found to be *Good*¹.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of ISCB all of the organisations and individuals in the public, voluntary and private sectors who work tirelessly across Islington to improve the safety and quality of life of our children and young people.

Alan C Caton OBE



**Independent Chair
Islington Safeguarding Children Board**

¹ Single Inspection of LB of Islington Children's Services



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Legislation² requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs / “The Board”) to ensure that local children are safe, and that agencies work together to promote children’s welfare. The Board has a statutory duty³ to prepare an annual report on its findings of safeguarding arrangements in its area:

“The chair of the LSCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.

The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies’ planning, commissioning and budget cycles.”

AUDIENCE OF THIS REPORT

The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Authority, the Leader of the Council, the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB) to:

- note its findings and,
- inform the Independent Chair of actions they intend to take in relation to those findings.

REMIT OF THIS REPORT

This report follows the *ISCB Annual Report 2015/16*⁴ and covers the financial year from April 2016 to March 2017.

METHODOLOGY

In writing this report, contributions were sought

directly from board members, chairs of sub-groups and other relevant partnerships.

The report drew heavily on numerous monitoring reports presented to The Board and its sub-groups during the year, such as Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Report, Private Fostering Report and Corporate Parenting Board report.

PUBLICATION

The report and child-friendly executive summary will be published as an [electronic document on The Board’s website](#)

² Children Act 2004

³ Apprenticeships, Skill, Children and Learning Act 2009

⁴ <http://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>



ABOUT ISLINGTON AND THE BOARD

DEMOGRAPHICS

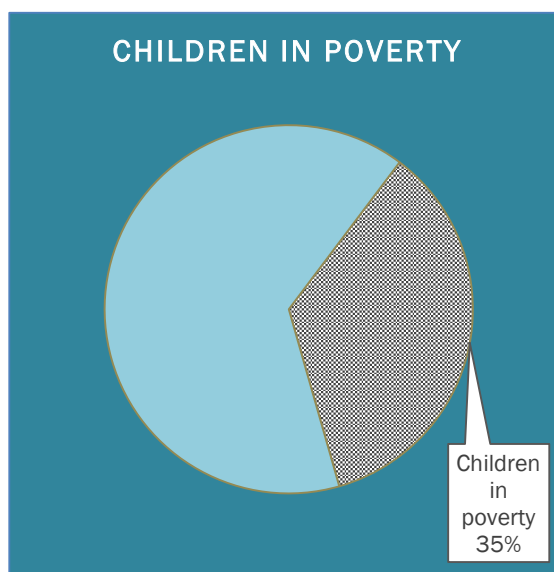
London Borough of Islington has a population of about 220 100. Islington is a relatively small authority, but has the highest population density in the country.

The authority is one of stark contrasts, with high levels of deprivation and areas of significant wealth. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) listed Islington as the 14th most deprived local authority in the country,

Islington has one of the highest rates of population turnover ⁵ in London. Population churn⁶ in Islington is low compared to other areas in London⁷.

Children living in Islington

- Approximately 40,500 children and young people under the age of 18 live in Islington. This is 17.4% of the total population in the area.
- Nearly 35.3% of the local authority's children are living in poverty.
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals in primary schools is 29.1% (the national average is 14.5%). In secondary schools is 33.6% (the national average is 13.2%).
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 67% of all children living in the area, compared with 26% in the country as a whole.
- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are young people of *mixed ethnicity* and from the *white-other* ethnic group.



- The proportion of children and young people who speak English as an additional language: in primary schools is 43.7% (the national average is 20.1%); in secondary schools is 45.9% (the national average is 15.7%).
- 6 out of 10 families with dependent children live in social housing (compared to 2 out of 10 nationally). 11% of households live in overcrowded conditions

Islington's population-profile in terms of relationship status is considerably different from other London boroughs and England, with 60% of residents recorded as *single* compared to 44% in London and 35% in England. The percentage of people recorded as *single* in Islington has increased from 54% in 2001. The equivalent figure was 41% in London and 30% in England in 2001.⁸

CHAIRING AND LEADERSHIP

The ISCB is independently chaired by Alan Caton OBE and he's been the independent chair since

⁵ New people moving to the area and old residents leaving

⁶ Residents moving house within the borough

⁷ [Islington Evidence Hub](#)

⁸ Census 2011

September 2013.

Accountability

There are robust accountability mechanisms between The Board and chief officers in the authority with quarterly *Safeguarding Accountability Meetings* taking place between the Chief Executive of the LB of Islington, the Lead Member Officer of the Council, the Lead Member for Children's Services⁹, Director for Children Services and the Director for Targeted and Specialist Children Services.

AGENCY REPRESENTATION AND ATTENDANCE OF THE BOARD

Islington agencies are well re-represented with a range of suitably senior officers attending the ISCB on a regular basis (Appendix 2 – ISCB). Where necessary, representatives send delegates if they are unable to attend.

The Chair has been concerned that NHS (London) England is a statutory board partner but they have not yet been able to attend because of pressures from multiple LSCBs Pan-London. The ISCB Chair has raised this with the NHS England representative.

BOARD STRUCTURE

The Board structure has remained unchanged for most of the year. In February 2017 at an ISCB away-day The Board agreed that the work of the *Policy and Practice sub-group* should be continued by means of task and finish groups, as and when required.

The Board also proposed that the work of the

Harmful Practices Steering Group should be moved under governance of the Violence Against Women and Girls Steering Group (VAWG). The current *Core Business and Improvement Group* will in due course be replaced by a group with more executive features. The hierarchy at the end of this chapter shows the proposed new structure.

The Board further wished that an *Education sub-group* be established to allow early years, schools and colleges to be better represented on The Board.

Sub-groups continue to be chaired by a range of senior multi-agency partners.

Training and Professional Development sub-group

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Identify the inter-agency training and development needs of staff and volunteers.
- Develop and implement an annual training and development prospectus.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of single and multi-agency training.
- Ensure lessons from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are disseminated.
- Measure the impact of multi-agency training.

Quality Assurance sub-group

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Develop agreed standards for inter-agency safeguarding work.

⁹ Section 19 of the Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority to designate one of its members as Lead Member for Children's Services. The

LMCS will be a local Councillor with delegated responsibility from the Council, through the Leader or Mayor, for children's services

- Establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms and processes for measuring the quality of inter-agency safeguarding work.
- Contribute to the development of strategies to address any shortfalls in effectiveness.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of safeguarding work within individual Board partner agencies.
- Contribute to the development of strategies for single agencies to address any shortfalls in effectiveness.

Policy and procedure sub-group

This sub-group ceased mid-way through the year.

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Continually review and monitor ISCB's policies, practices and procedures.
- Plan the piloting of and / or introduce new multi-agency working practices.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of relevant research findings.
- Develop / evaluate thresholds and procedures for work with families.
- Assume editorial control over the ISCB website and Newsletter.
- Going forward into the new financial year, this sub-group will function as a task-and-finish group.

Missing and CSE sub-group

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Agree and monitor the implementation of a child sexual exploitation strategy and action plan to minimise harm to children and young people.
- Raise awareness of sexual exploitation within agencies and communities.
- Encourage the reporting of concerns about sexual exploitation.
- Monitor, review and co-ordinate provision of

missing and child sexual exploitation practice.

Case Review sub-group

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Consider all cases that may potentially meet the criteria for a serious case review.
- Appoint a suitable panel to carry out a serious case review.
- Commission a suitable independent reviewer to carry out a serious case review.
- To evaluate and monitor implementation of agencies case review action plans.

Child Death Overview Panel

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Collect and analyse information about each unexpected death with a view to identifying any learning.
- Notify the ISCB of cases that may need to have a Serious Case Review (SCR).
- Review and respond to any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children.
- Review and respond to any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death, or from a pattern of deaths.
- Put in place procedures for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by the Authority and its Board partners and other relevant persons to an 'unexpected' child death.
- Alert The Board about professional practice concerns that may require a review.

Core Business and Improvement Group

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to

- Develop, implement and monitor the Islington LSCB's Annual Report and Business Plan.

- Oversee the functions of Islington LSCB' sub-groups.
- Oversee the Learning and Improvement Framework.
- Agree priority actions against The Board's core business.
- Develop The Board's forward plan and set the agenda for board meetings.
- Receive and agree policies and procedures received from sub-groups.
- Review relevant national policy developments and initiatives, prepare briefing papers to The Board, and recommended actions that may be required.
- Monitor attendance and agency representation at the Islington LSCB and its Sub-groups and make recommendations as appropriate.
- Provide in-depth scrutiny around The Board priorities, including s11 duties

Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Executive Group

Case
Review

Quality
Assurance

Training /
Workforce

Missing /
CSE

Education

CDOP



KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE ISCB

In previous reports The Board set out the rationale for choosing our current priorities, and this is the second update on our three-year work plan. This is therefore an interim report on the progress we have made against our agreed objectives. The Board and sub-groups' key-activities are captured in an accompanying business plan

BOARD PRIORITIES

These priorities reflect our desire to improve the collective effectiveness of agencies in three key areas:

- Addressing the impact of neglect on children, including to help children become more resilient.
- Addressing the consequences / harm suffered as a result of domestic violence, parental mental ill-health and substance abuse.
- Identification of children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and holding perpetrators to account.

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE MAIN BOARD

The Board scrutinised work in the following areas (in chronological order):

PREVENT and Radicalisation

In last year's report The Board was concerned about the absence of a strategic multi-agency action plan to protect children and young people from harm because of radicalisation.

We were therefore pleased that the Chief Executive Officer and Leader of the Council attended

The Board in May 2016 to assure the partnership that suitable arrangements are now in place.

Considering the progress that had been made, we agreed at the ISCB away-day that in future *Prevent* and *Radicalisation* should be progressed at the *Safer Islington Partnership*¹⁰ and that The Board would monitor its progress by means of an annual update from the SIP about the progress against the action plan.

Private Fostering arrangements

In anticipation of the annual Private Fostering report¹¹, the chair wrote to all partners asking that agencies intensify their efforts to raise the profile of Private Fostering.

Current Private Fostering Situation

The Local Authority had 12 new Private Fostering notifications during the year ending 31st March 2016, which is 5 more than the year before.

Although this is still not enough, the increase suggested that a dedicated SSWPF raised awareness of private fostering and led to more notifications.

By year end, 31st March 2016, there were fifteen Private Fostering arrangements (twelve new notifications and another three which TSCFS had already been notified of in the previous year).

Compliance with Private Fostering Standards

¹⁰ Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) coordinates work on crime reduction and community safety in Islington. The Council is a lead authority in this partnership, which also includes the Police, Islington Primary Care Trust, London Fire Brigade, the Probation Service, and representatives from the voluntary,

community, faith, and business sectors ([Safer Islington partnership](#))

¹¹ The annual Private Fostering report to the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) is a requirement under *The Children (Private Fostering Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005*.

The Regulation (as before) requires the Local Authority to comply with the following Standards.

Standard 1 – Statement on Private Fostering

Islington Children's Services Statement of Purpose on Private Fostering was updated and meets the statutory requirements

Standard 2 – Notification

The above data shows that the majority of Private Fostering arrangements are initiated during the child's adolescence but, in contrast to last year's arrangements, most of the children were female. Data evidences that our privately fostered children are ethnically diverse and from a wide range of nationalities, which corresponds with last year's findings.

The Local Authority accounts for one third of Private Fostering notifications, the remainder are from a variety of sources including other Local Authorities, schools, health, Youth Offending Service and self-referrals.

It is important to note that in the cases where notifications were received from agencies other than the Local Authority the primary reason for referral was not Private Fostering - even when the child was being Privately Fostered at the time.

By July 2016 the new SSWPF has made contact with every state-funded school in Islington, children's centres, Families First, teams within TSCFS and re-established links with Arsenal Football club regarding their Host Family scheme. The SSWPF has strengthened links with community, voluntary and faith organisations.

Awareness-raising work showed that some agen-

cies / settings still lack basic awareness of private fostering.

There continues to be routine screening for Private Fostering cases on the Schools Admission Board, with screening questions added to all in-house admission papers. This will continue, and the SSWPF will look into whether a similar approach can be adopted with GPs.

A referral pathway tool was developed in different formats appropriate to different settings i.e. education, health, internal and external services, and distributed during training sessions, forums and meetings.

An adaptation of this tool was used for a service-wide audit on all open cases in CSC to try and find privately fostered children.

Standard 3 – Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare

Three privately fostered children became Looked After; one was due to a bereavement another because the child's mother did not consent to her remaining with the private foster carer and the other was to secure a more permanent arrangement for the child in the form of a Special Guardianship Order.

The SSWPF undertakes DBS checks on all private foster carers and anyone else over 16 years old living in the household where the child lives. All private fostering arrangements are signed off by a senior manager at the Access to Care and Resources Panel.

Standards 4-6 – Advice and Support

The Local Authority provides advice and support to private foster carers and prospective foster

carers. Children who are privately fostered are able to access information and support when required so that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Privately fostered children are enabled to participate in decisions about their lives. The local authority also provides advice and support to the parents of children who are privately fostered with in their area.

Standard 7 – Monitoring and Compliance with Duties and Functions in relation to Private Fostering

In the year ending 31st March 2016, there were two young people whose initial visits were delayed, and with such low numbers, it meant that only 83% of cases had a visit undertaken within seven working days after notification

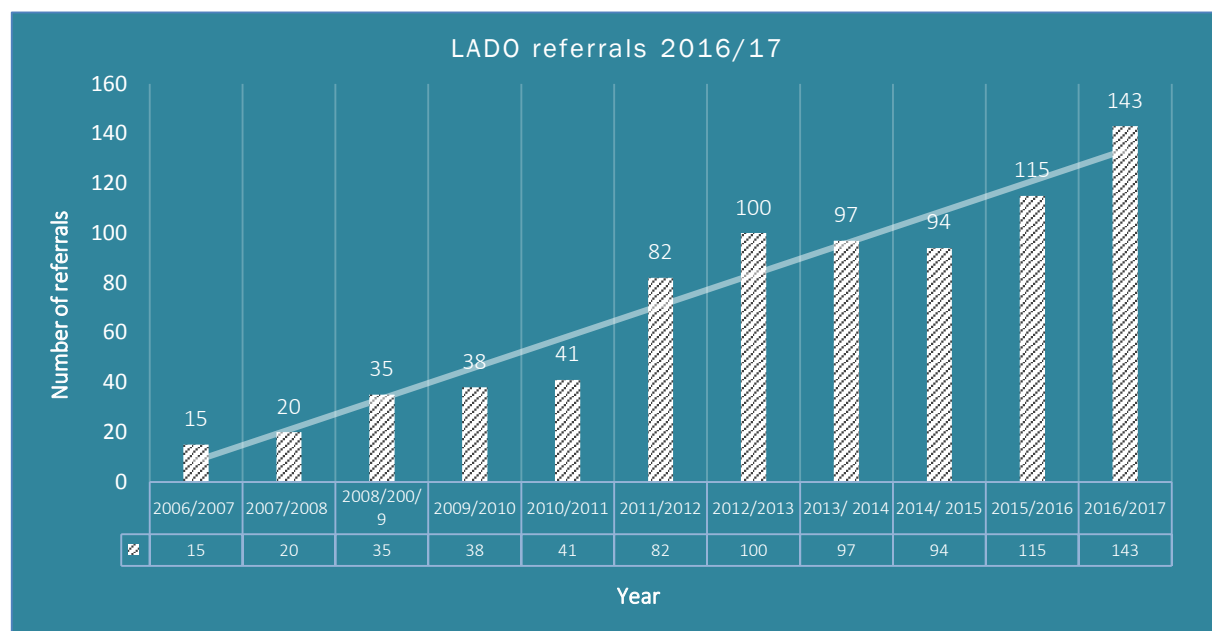
The council maintains confidential records of all Privately Fostered children, their carers and their parents on the electronic records of the child's file (LCS). Visits, actions, decisions and information regarding the child, carers and parents are appropriately recorded and there is a performance management system in place to ensure that statutory duties are complied with.

Safer Workforce

Children and young people are occasionally harmed by professional who are responsible to promote their welfare and safeguard them. This is never acceptable and The Board wants to be sure that those who work with children are carefully selected and that concerns or allegations are thoroughly investigated by the LADO, in accordance with The Board' procedures¹².

LADO report

The Board received the LADO's annual report on



¹² Section 7 of London Child Protection Procedures sets out roles and responsibilities in managing allegations against staff or volunteers who work with children. These procedures are applied when there is an allegation or concern that any person who works with children has: 1.) Behaved in a way that

has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; 2. Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; 3.) Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

12 July 2016 and again, with improvements, on 20 September 2016.

A multi-agency LADO steering group continues to raise awareness, share best practice and learning from serious case reviews.

Sources and nature of referrals

As in previous years a variety of agencies made 143 referrals between them, which is 28 more than the last year. This increase continues an almost unbroken trend in referrals year-on-year as can be seen above.

The steepest rise has been school-based referrals which is likely due to the LADO providing more advice directly to schools following the retirement of the Safeguarding Lead in Education who had been in post for a substantial period of time.

There was also an increase in sports-based referrals which is probably attributable to the high-profile child abuse enquiries in football in recent

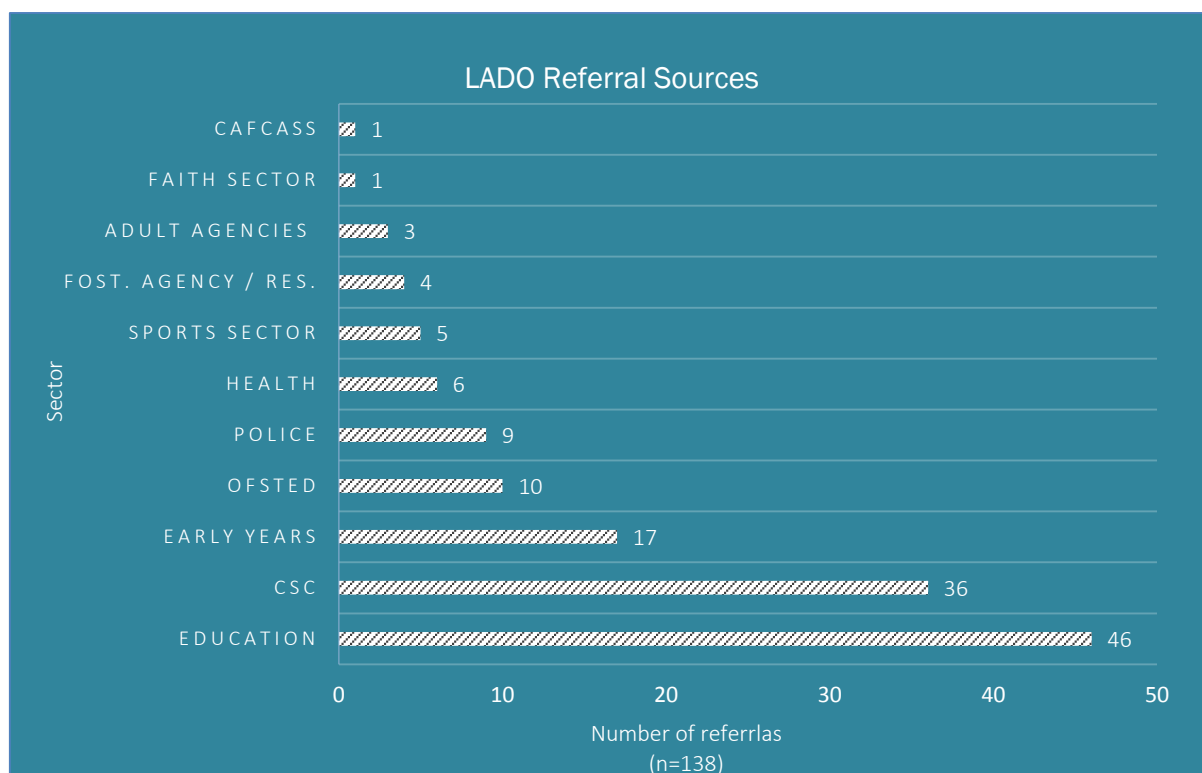
months.

Highlights from referrals include:

- 111 (78%) referrals were related to an allegation in the workplace (99 in 2015-16)
- 32 (22%) referrals related to issues in staff's private lives that raised concern about their suitability to work with children (16 in 2015-16)
- 13 referrals (12% of work-based referrals) concerned disabled children. The local estimated percentage of disabled children in Islington is 4%-6% of the child population. The fact agencies are considering a higher percentage of disabled children in managing allegations procedures is therefore positive.
- The gender-split of children is about even (54% boys and 46% girls).

Outcomes of investigations

As in previous years, the most frequent outcome was to give advice without the need to take fur-



ther steps. A number of allegations (11), however, were substantiated and a small number were very serious:

- 8 referrals involved private-life matters (including domestic violence and sexual abuse)
- 2 physical abuse allegations
- 1 was an historic sexual abuse allegation.
- 6 members of staff were dismissed and two are pending disciplinary hearings
- 2 members of staff resigned and were referred to the *Disclosure and Barring Service* by the LADO.

Timescales

There has been a real improvement in terms of complying with The Board's procedures of making a referral within one working day (82%). This demonstrates good knowledge by agencies about LADO procedures and their responsibilities to report swiftly.

Like last year, the vast majority (88%) of referrals were dealt with within one month from referral. Where allegations / concerns were substantiated, it often took longer due to criminal investigations, awaiting trial and/or awaiting disciplinary investigations and hearings.

Even though it is not a requirement that the same person must investigate all referrals, The Board was nevertheless pleased that almost 70% of referrals were dealt with by the same senior manager. This provides a greater sense of overview and consistency.

Elective Home Education

¹³ The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) acts strategically to ensure that children looked after and care leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting,

The Boards Learning and Schools representative presented an annual report on elective home education to The Board on 12 July 2016.

The Board was pleased that the LA partners are doing everything possible to identify children and young people who may be home educated *and* at risk, we remained concerned that there were not sufficient national safeguards / procedures in place to assist the Local Authority in finding children that may potentially be at risk.

The Chair wrote to the Children's Minister on 25 August 2016 to raise concerns about this. The Board was pleased that the minister's office responded but was disappointed that he did not outline any additional actions to address our concerns. As a board, we'll continue to look at practice locally.

Corporate Parenting Board¹³ report

The Local Authority Corporate Parenting report was presented to the ISCB in March 2017. The ISCB noted strong performance around attaining suitable placements for children and young people and especially strong commitments in relations to long-term planning e.g. special guardianship orders and adoption.

It is clear that the authority takes its role as corporate parents seriously and constantly strives to promote LAC's welfare, educational attainment and health outcomes.

The Board particularly welcomed the emphasis on LAC who are missing from their placements.

high quality education, and opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood

CAHMS Transformation Strategy

The transformation strategy was sighted at the ISCB in March 2017 and agreed by The Board with comments.

The Pause Project

The Pause Project provides ongoing practical and emotional support to women with two or more children in care. The project is at full capacity and has seen 18 women make significant and lasting changes to their lives, and none of the women in the project had got pregnant.

The 18 women who have signed up for Pause Project have, between them, 80 children in care. The local authority currently spends over £1,100,000 per year on the care of these children in direct payments to carers alone. Given previous rates of birth, we would have expected these women to have 7 children in the next year, and 35 children over the next 5 years, if PAUSE wasn't involved. Given these projections, PAUSE has already paid for itself 7 months after the project started.

Islington has mainstreamed PAUSE into its core-offer of services, and all members of the team now have permanent jobs in Islington. Islington are the first borough to mainstream PAUSE, although other boroughs have extended their funding commitment to 2018.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The strategy was reviewed in the Autumn of 2016 and the LA updated the ISCB on progress on 22 Nov 2016. The ISCB agreed the strategy in

January 2017 and will participate in its implementation. The strategy will sit under the governance of the VAWG Steering Group.

Youth Crime Strategy

The strategy was reviewed in the Autumn of 2016 and the LA updated the ISCB on progress on 22 Nov 2016. The refreshed strategy came to The Board in January 2017 and will sit under the governance of the Safer Islington Partnership.

Housing Changes

Government announced significant changes in national housing policy and housing benefit. The ISCB received an update from a senior Housing Manager on 22 Nov 2016. The partnership is predicting an impact on children and families to the extent that it was placed on the ISCB's risk register at the same board meeting. It currently remains on the risk register.

Key Partnership Changes

Islington Services Review and restructuring

The Director for Children's Services¹⁴ (DCS) updated The Board (Nov 2016) on organisational changes that will affect services in the foreseeable future.

Children's Services Directorate were previously constituted of two sub-directorates:

- Schools and Learning and,
- Targeted -and Specialist Children and Families Service¹⁵ (TCSF).

¹⁴Section 18 of the Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services. The DCS has professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services

¹⁵ The name of this directorate has since changed to *Safeguarding and Family Support (S&FS)*.

Schools and Learning will mostly continue as before.

Youth and Community Services, the *Integrated Gangs Team (IGT)*, *Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)* and all *universal youth services* will be delivered under the auspices of a new interim Director of Youth and Communities, and she will also join the ISCB.

Work, Skills and Culture, *Getting Residents into Work*, *Adult Learning*, and *Arts and Library Services* will join the directorate and will be overseen by an Interim Director for Employment, Skill and Culture.

Elsewhere, *Community Safety* has moved from *Corporate Services to Environment and Regeneration* and is being headed up by Service Director Public Protection. The PREVENT agenda will also in future sit under this directorate. A new representative from the SIP / Environment and Regeneration will join the ISCB in the near future.

Domestic Violence Advocates (DVA) will sit under Children's Services Directorate as will Troubled Families.

Metropolitan Police Service

"In March 2017, a new safeguarding policing model was introduced on Islington Borough, which ensures that every investigation has renewed focus around the individual needs of the victim and how best they can be supported by police and partner agencies. The safeguarding strand now comes under the leadership of one Detective Superintendent, and services that were previously delivered separately by Islington Borough officers and the Sexual Offences Exploitation and Child Abuse Command have now been integrated. This means that the investigation of domestic abuse, sexual offences and child abuse

is now delivered locally by omni-competent teams, ensuring that there is one lead investigator who is the sole point of contact for the victim, avoiding unnecessary duplication and ultimately improved victim care. To support this, a new performance framework is being developed that centres around all positive outcomes for victims, not just sanctioned detections, so that we may fully understand how their lives have improved as a result of police and partnership intervention.

The deployment of an immediate safeguarding response-car to all serious and complex safeguarding offences allows for specialist detectives to own the investigation from the outset so that they can maximise evidential recovery and ensure that the wellbeing of any child connected to the crime or offender is at the forefront of our response and intervention.

The aim over the coming year is to train as many officers as possible from the safeguarding strand in the specialist child and domestic abuse training programmes so that we enhance our response to victims by developing a wider pool of omni-competent officers who possess the necessary skills and acumen to investigate all forms of abuse and neglect where a child is at risk. This training will be completed in conjunction with our partners so that we maximise the opportunities to learn from one another and augment the excellent partnership arrangements that already exist within Islington Borough.

MPS Single Front Door

The new safeguarding model has created a single front door for all referrals involving vulnerable children, aiming to merge the Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) referrals desk with the Public Protection Desk already situated in the Islington Local Authority Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The CAIT referrals desk and the Police

Conference Liaison Team, who attend case conferences for children on a Child Protection Plans, will shortly be co-located with partners in the MASH to support timely strategy discussions, enhanced information sharing and overall improved case management.

The Board continues to monitor the effectiveness of the new model to ensure that its priorities in respect of safeguarding children are being met.

Presentation from Duncombe Primary School

In September 2016, the ISCB met at *Duncombe Primary School* whose debate team prepared a challenging presentation for the ISCB about safeguarding in their area. The Board heard that:

Young people and their families appreciate:

- Local libraries
- Their after-school club: SWES
- Local parks and sporting facilities

They also had concerns, and asked the partnership to address the following:

- They want to see more police and community support officers on the street
- Better street lighting on key roads
- More police patrolling key roads and they are concerned over young people riding mopeds and stealing mobiles.
- Enough funding for After School Club, SWES and local libraries so they are not forced to close
- More staff helping out at foodbanks
- Better housing for poorer members of the community
- Noisy neighbours keeping children awake at night
- Concerns about gun- and knife crime causing

them to be scared about using local parks.

The ISCB chair has since met with the young people again to feed back the actions the partnership had undertaken. Actions have been added to the ISCB action-tracker.

Strategic Direction of ISCB – away day.

In February 2017, The Board met to consider its Business Plan. We also:

- Reviewed the ISCB Terms of Reference, ISCB membership and ISCB sub-groups
- Scrutinised the ISCB self-assessment and effectiveness of ISCB that was prepared by the ISCB Chair and Business Unit.
- Considered further ISCB priorities, including: County Lines, Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime and Early Help.

Knife-Crime Review

The Assistant Director Public Health and chair of CDOP presented the key findings of the *Islington Knife Crime Review* that was jointly commissioned between the ISCB and The Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB). The review made the following recommendations:

1. Ensure our early intervention gets earlier.
2. Strive for better engagement and supporting protective relationships.
3. Make trauma informed approaches more widespread.
4. Support better education journeys for young people.
5. Break down silos of working.
6. Consider how we support boys' journeys

through adolescence and peer relations.

7. Take a stronger focus on intervention and impact.
8. Adapt and learn as we try to improve our response to adolescent risk and safeguarding practice.
9. Effectively support professionals across the public system

Co-operation with other strategic boards.

The Board continues to improve its working relationship with other strategic boards i.e. the *Health and Wellbeing Board*, *Islington Children and Families Board*, *SIP*, *Corporate Parenting Board* and *Adult Safeguarding Board*. The Chair (or ISCB representative) attends all these boards in order to facilitate co-operation. This report will also be shared with the chairs of those boards.

ISCB Risk register

The Board maintains a risk register to ensure risks are identified and plans formulated to mitigate risks.

The Board carried over several risk from the previous year:

- “Vacancies in key-staffing areas (Whittington Health) – now removed.
- “Vacancies in key staffing area (CSC) – now removed
- “Children waiting more than a year to see perpetrators charged.”- current risk.
- “Staff not meeting ISCB training requirements because of job-roles being reclassified.” – removed.

The following risks were added to the risk register in 2016/17:

- “Absence of LBI multi-agency Prevent Action Plan to identify, prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions to reduce the risk of children / young people being drawn into terrorism in LA area” – now removed.
- “Long term staff sickness impacting on Early Years ability to provide staff with Safeguarding Training” – now removed.
- “Whittington Health concerns that MASH was not functioning optimally and that only a very small number of cases are coming through to MASH. Health staff have been withdrawn due to underutilisation”. – now removed.
- “CP-IS has gone live in the borough but Whittington Health is not yet online.” – current risk.
- “Concerns about young people running drugs across county lines” – current risk.
- “Potential Impact of changes in housing and welfare legislation.” – current risk.
- “Early Years Services are going through transformation; there may be some disruption to services. Services to be maintained as best possible”- current risk.

In most instances e.g. staff vacancies and training, arrangements are in place to manage the risk. All risks have ownership of a board member as well as action plan to reduce / remove the risk.

Escalation procedures

In line with *Working Together to safeguard Children* and The Board’s Child Protection Procedures, The Board published a procedure to resolve professional disagreements or concerns between professionals.

In 2016/17 the procedure was used on several occasions, with an update given by the Head of safeguarding at each board meeting. Matters

were most frequently escalated by schools and escalations related to the application of the threshold criteria.

All escalated matters were satisfactorily resolved before reaching The Board for resolution.

Lay Members

The Board continues to benefit from having two lay members that actively contribute to the work of The Board.

They have consistently challenged the work of The Board where appropriate, and continue to

bringing a fresh perspective from Islington residents.

MISSING AND CSE SUB-GROUP

The Board, through the work of its Missing and CSE sub-group, challenges all member agencies to identify, address and respond to children who were at risk of going missing or who are at risk of sexual exploitation.

The sub-group is well attended and has developed a strategy and an overarching action plan based on a *Victim, Offender, Location* and *Time* profile.

Comment from lay members

'We joined Islington LSCB as the first lay members in the Spring of 2015 so we have now been members for just over two years. We are very committed to ensuring that all children in Islington, but particularly vulnerable children, are safeguarded and that the welfare of children and families is actively promoted by all the agencies who work with them or provide services locally. We continue to be well supported to carry out our role on the Board by the Chair and the Business Manager and by the Co-ordinator who ensures hard copies of papers are available for us at meetings. We continue to be impressed overall by the good attendance from agencies at the Board meetings, the evidence of working together across agencies on issues relating to children and families and to the coherent programme of work the Board is carrying out.

We feel that we have been able to take an active part in meetings and to contribute an independent view of issues under discussion, to seek clarification and to challenge when necessary. We have been able to attend sub-committee meetings and meetings on particular issues arising at the Board, which has extended the possibilities for putting forward a lay perspective.

We played an active part in the review of the Board's activities and priorities and gave interviews to the Ofsted inspector looking at the role of the Board in the recent inspection of children's services in Islington.

We have continued to press for a focus on information about the quality of services of delivered and for the greater involvement of children and parents in service reviews and audits and we feel that we have made progress with this. We look forward to seeing further engagement with children and families in evaluating the quality and impact of services they have received.'

Since 2011, there has been a year on year increase in referrals to CSC (2011/12: 3, 2012/13: 68, 96 in 2013/14: 96 and 2014/15: 125).

This year, however, saw a reduction in referrals (98) similar to 2013/14. It's postulated that as identification and risk assessment processes become more embedded and accurate, numbers will slow down. The Board will continue to seek evidence for this hypotheses.

The Board believes the partnership's efforts, training, CSE awareness raising and prevention work targeting potential offenders have also reduced the number of potential CSE victims.

Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE)

The sub-group works closely with the police, CSC and key partner agencies in the development of Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings (MASE). In 2016/17, in line with Pan-London guidance, the MASE was reviewed and developed to be more strategic. This has resulted in themes now being identified and followed up via the sub-group and / or MASE.

The CSE and Gangs Analyst developed a CSE Profile that is regularly shared with the MPS and CSC. Profiling is an on-going process of linking, charting, mapping MASE subjects to identify those at risk, themes, trends and locations/friendships etc. that provide the basis for discussion at the MASE panel.

Return to home Interviews¹⁶

Ensuring that Return to Home Interviews are offered on time (i.e. within 72 hours) remains a development area. A small proportion of RHIs are refused by either the parent or the child or because the young person cannot be contacted. In other cases, the young person remains missing and the RHI cannot be completed.

There has been some system-difficulties during this reporting year, where teams did not receive system notification and this has now been rectified.

RHIs for CLA Missing

There have been a total of 502 missing episodes for 45 young people (averages 9 episodes each). Of the 502 missing episodes:

- 141 RHI's were offered out of a possible 152 opportunities (93% and an increase of 59% on the same time period last year).
- 67 RHI's were completed (44% and a decrease of 9% on the same time period last year).
- 90% were offered a RHI within 72 hours.

RHIs for CLA away from their placement

There have been a total of 202 recorded missing episodes for 30 CLA who have been away from placement. Of the 202 missing episodes:

- 55 RHI's were offered out of a possible 55 opportunities (100%).
- 24 RHIs were completed (44%). 94% were offered a RHI within 72 hours.

¹⁶ the data in relation to this section runs September 2016 – end of March 2017

- There is no comparative data for the previous year.

RHIs for children going missing from home

There have been a total of 200 recorded missing episodes for 99 young people. Of the 200 missing episodes:

- 96 RHI's were offered out of a possible 121 opportunities (79% and an increase of 24% on the same time period last year).
- 25 RHIs were completed (21% and a 54% decrease on the same time period last year).
- 89% were offered a RHI within 72 hours.

CSE policy

Over the last year the sub-group has seen considerable activity, oversight and influence on the development of:

- Several key policies, including the *Islington Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation* (ISCB, 2016), *Islington Child Sexual Exploitation Profile 2016* (Missing and CSE sub-group, 2016).
- *Islington Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity and /or gang-related Serious Youth Violence Multi-Agency Protocol and Practice Guidance 2016* (ISCB, 2016).

Staffing and resources

London Borough of Islington

Has demonstrated a commitment to this area with recruitment to a number of posts to support children at risk of going missing or becoming sexual exploited; Missing and CSE Project Officer who supports, among others, Missing and Trafficking Coordinator, Gangs and Safeguarding Coordinator and the MASE.

Funding has also been continued for the Gangs and Safeguarding Coordinator Post.

A Specialist Interventions Pilot Project (SIPP) has been launched in September 2016.

The Local Authority has also put in place the role of the Return Safe Manager in March 2017.

Metropolitan Police Service

As part of the new Safeguarding model of policing on Islington Borough, there is now a dedicated CSE team consisting of three Detective Constables to investigate offences, engage and support victims and pursue offenders.

CSE Training and Awareness Raising events

Over the past 2 years Safeguarding and Family Support practitioners have developed and delivered the following training and awareness:

LB of Islington

- AIM2 Assessment and Intervention training for Social Workers.
- Direct Work with Adolescents training for practitioners across Safeguarding and Family Support and Targeted Youth Support (TYS).
- Young men and Gender Perspectives
- Gangs and Safeguarding (mandatory training delivered to 349 front-line practitioners)
- Mandatory CSE training for all S&FS staff.
- Specialist indication training is now provided
- Mandatory missing briefings were delivered to all social workers
- Serious Case Review Learning Practitioners Forum.

The partnership

Over the last two years S&FS practitioners have delivered numerous training and awareness

courses across the partnership to a wide range of professionals. Some of this training includes:

- The Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) combined CSE and Gangs training for the partnership.
- CSE and Gangs training has been delivered to approx. 50 British Transport Police Officers in 2017 and is ongoing.
- Targeted training for health staff, housing and estate management officers.
- Development of the *Adolescents at Risk Update* and the first issue distributed in September 2016 to disseminate key information and updates on relevant issues affecting the adolescents at risk in the borough.

Children, Young People and Families

Since the SIPP project started in September 2016 they have delivered awareness raising and socio-educational sessions to approx. 300 children and parents. This includes:

- 2 x sessions on healthy relationships (consent, CSE) delivered to all year 9 pupils at a Secondary Schools.
- Secondary school year 7 induction sessions for parents and children on staying safe online and CSE. This was co-delivered with Islington Safer Schools Officers
- Specialist CSE and children with disabilities training and awareness raising session for a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Secondary School
- *Chelsea's Choice*: As part of the lead-up to National CSE day SIPP facilitated and supported the delivery of Alter Ego's Chelsea's Choice performances to all Islington schools including the PRU, an independent performing arts school and a special school (LD). SIPP also organised a community showing of

the play for parents/ carers and young people out of school or attending college. In total approximately 1200 young people were able to see the performance.

SIPP supported several disclosures following the performances and we have supported schools to follow up the messages. In total 10 young people were supported via 1-1 discussions and individual follow up sessions.

CSE Awareness Raising Events

CSE Awareness Day (March 2017) included joined-up working with Camden Children's Social Care (CSC), Borough Police, Sexual Exploitation Team (SET) police, Islington Council Licencing and the ISCB; where an awareness raising stall was held at Kings Cross station and local premises such as hotels, pubs, licensed premises and massage parlours were visited to raise awareness.

- CSE and HSB stall was facilitated at the recent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy launch community event.
- SIPP presented at the Islington Youth Health Forum.

CSE Children's Home

The Board has oversight of the first CSE children's home in London. The sub-group identified a need for safeguarding training to staff, and the ISCB Workforce Development sub-group has ensured that most staff have now received training at the appropriate level, including senior managers and designated safeguarding leads.

Missing Children

Children Missing from Education.

Reasons why children are not in education include:

- Failing to start appropriate provision i.e. not entering the system at all;
- Stop attending, due to exclusion (e.g. illegal unofficial exclusions) or withdrawal from educational placement;
- Failing to complete a transition between providers (e.g. being unable to find a suitable school place after moving to a new local authority).

The sub-group receives assurance at each meeting that a range of robust procedures are in place to preventing pupils from going missing from education at these key transition points.

The partnership has agreed that after exhausting all avenues of investigation through the LA's *Pupil Services Children Missing Education process*, a child is still not found, the case will be escalated to MASH, and reporting the child to the Metropolitan Police as a missing child.

The sub-group has been effective in ensuring that local processes are effective. There have been (between 2016.04.01 & 2017.03.31):

- 109 Missing Pupil Alerts received by Pupil Services
- Of these, 87 children were found and returned to school while
- 17 were not found and registered to s2s (DfE secure site), 14 due to an unconfirmed school destination abroad, and 3 with an unknown location.
- 5 were under investigation at that time

The Board was satisfied that for the 17 children who were not found, a full multi-agency investigation was carried out.

Missing from Care and Away from Placement without Authorisation

Away from placement without authorisation is where the young person's whereabouts are known but they are not at their placement or place where they are expected to be. Some children may stay out later with family or friends as a boundary testing activity, others may go to stay with their family members and stay for longer than agreed with the carer. These children are considered to be absent rather than missing by the police and they would not usually be involved in trying to locate them. The Local Authority's response will depend on an ongoing assessment of risk and particular attention is paid to repeat episodes.

In total over the course of the year, 98 children were reported as missing from care and 63 were reported as away from their placement without authorisation.

55 of these 161 children were recorded as both missing from care and away from placement without authorisation, which leaves a total of 106 children overall.

The total of 161 children went missing from care or away from placement on 1000 episodes, with 736 episodes being recorded as missing from care and 264 being away from placement without authorisation.

Boys are more likely to go missing from care than girls (60 boys and 38 girls). Boys are also more likely to be away from placement without authorisation as boys (35 boys and 28 girls).

Those aged 17 years were significantly more likely to go both missing from care and away from placement without authorisation (with 48 chil-

dren aged 17 years accounting for 49% of the total children missing from care, and 38 children aged 17 years accounting for 60% of the total children away from placement without authorisation).

Missing from care	
Duration of absence	N of episodes
< 24 hours	440
1 day / overnight	129
2 days	58
3 days	30
4 days	15
5 days	11
6 days	12
1 wk. to 2 wks.	27
2 wks. to 1 month	7
One month +	7
Total	736

Table 1- Duration and number of missing from care episodes

All children that are reported missing from care and away from placement are cross matched with CSE, Gangs and radicalisation risk markers to ensure necessary oversight:

- Out of the 161 Children missing from care/away from placement 30 were considered to be at risk of CSE. These 30 children went missing from care/away from placement a total of 184 episodes over the course of the year.
- 16 children were considered to be at risk of gangs or identified as a gang nominal. These 16 children went missing from care/away from placement a total of 123 episodes over the course of the year.

Children Missing from home

Over the course of the year 177 children were reported as missing from home.

The 177 children went missing from home on 372 missing episodes.

Boys are more likely to go missing than girls (100 boys and 77 girls going missing from home).

Those aged 15, 16 and 17 years were significantly more likely to go missing 102 of the 177 children missing were in this age range).

All children that are reported missing from home are cross matched with CSE, Gangs and radicalisation risk markers to ensure necessary oversight:

- Out of the 177 Children missing from home 16 were considered to be at risk of CSE. These 16 children went missing a total of 64 episodes.
- 8 children were considered to be at risk of gangs or identified as a gang nominal. These 8 children went missing a total of 15 episodes.

No children recorded as missing from home were referred to PREVENT in response to radicalisation risks.

Other missing children

Over the course of 2016/17 there were 128 Looked After Children placed in Islington by other boroughs. Their 'home' borough remains responsible for their well-being and care planning. However, as the borough in which these children are placed, Islington can challenge the home authority if there are concerns about these children's safety. Islington Children's Services Contact Team receives notifications from the police of missing children in Islington and this includes

Looked After Children placed in Islington by other Local Authorities. The team contacts the home authority to ensure they are aware of the missing episode. The home authority is responsible for responding and ensuring the child's safety.

14 of the 128 children recorded as other borough's Looked After Children went missing from care or were away from placement without authorisation during the year 2016/17 and only one went missing on more than one occasion. There were no challenges needed to home authorities about the suitability for the placements for these children.

All Local Authorities are written to quarterly and asked to provide an update as to whether their children are still placed and whether they have placed any new children in Islington.

We request that an "Arrangement for the Placement of Children" form is completed which requires the risk to be clarified in terms of missing, CSE, gangs and offending behaviour. The CSE, Missing and Trafficking Co-ordinator cross-checks these children quarterly with the Missing contact code. The purpose of this is to provide support and challenge to the home Local Authority about

Missing from Home Duration	N of Episodes
< 24 hours	142
One day / overnight	70
2 days	43
3 days	29
4 days	12
5 days	8
6 days	9
1 wk to 2 wks	35
2 wks to 1 month	16
One month +	8
Total	372

whether the care plan keeps the child safe.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB-GROUP

Attendance at the sub-group is good, and commitment is strong. Due to the volume of the work the sub-group has met 5 times during the year and is now chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in the Local Authority.

Performance data – Core Business Report

The sub-group scrutinises the performance report prior to it being presented to The Board. The members assist in the analysis that gets written into an accompanying commentary report for each Board. During the year the ISCB requested that the data include other areas that would assist The Board to have a better understanding of children's safeguarding and therefore the report was changed to include more data. Repetitive data was removed.

Learning from the multi and single agency audits.

Repeat Child Protection Plans

2015/16 saw a substantial increase in children who were made the subject of a CP plan who had previously been subjected to a CP plan (22% of all the children made the subject of CP plans within the year). All 42 children (24 families) were audited and a number of recommendations were made.

Repeat child protection plans have been significantly reduced and this year only 12% of children had previously been on a plan, this is within the target.

Children on CP plans for 15+ months

Some boroughs have a multi-agency panel to consider children who have been the subject of a

CP plan for 15 months or more (i.e 4 Child Protection Conferences have taken place).

Analysis showed that 14 children met the criteria this year. An audit concluded that 11 of the 14 children who were subject to a CP Plan for this length of time were also in Court Proceedings where a judge had made the decision for the child/ren to remain at home.

Due to the small number of cases and their rigorous oversight in court, a decision was made that a multi-agency panel was not necessary but that the Service Manager for Child Protection would consider all cases prior to the 4th Child Protection Conference to ensure there was no drift in implementing the plan and detriment to the child's welfare.

Re-referrals

There had been a steady increase in re-referral rates, 2014/15, 12.4%; 2015/2016, 17% and 2016/2017 23%.

The increase was above that of statistical neighbours. An intensive audit within the Children in Need Service had taken place of the 58 cases where there had been a re-referral in the previous 6 months. The following themes were found:

- DVA incident which reached the threshold for a further assessment,
- adolescence/behaviour
- concerns/gangs and
- closing case too quickly.

The national average for re-referrals is 22%. Further work is planned in this area.

Timeliness of allocation

Via a school inspection, a matter was raised with

the CIN service that there was a delay in responding to a contact from the school for 7 days. On looking at the case in depth it was ascertained that CSCT progressed the school's contact to the CIN service the same day and the content of the referral required swift action. This precipitated the need for a further exploration of cases within the CIN service and whether there were delays within the CIN Service in allocating cases for assessment.

Data showed that 18% of cases were allocated on the same day of the contact. 21% were allocated the next day, 11% in 2 days, 78% in 3 days, 11% in 4 days and 7% in 5 days.

This equates to 75% being allocated to a worker within 5 days. Several recommendations were made and there is ongoing weekly quality assurance of timeliness of allocation resulting in all cases being allocated within 2 days, and where they are not, the rationale for delay is recorded by a manager.

Increases of referrals

The data for the year showed that there had been 500 more referrals to Children's Social Care this year, mainly from the police.

The HMIC inspection in child protection may account for the increase and given the referrals are assessed as needing statutory intervention this is a positive.

The increase in referrals, however, was mirrored in the system as whole with increases in the Number of Child and Family Assessments and the Number of Children Made the Subject to a CP Plan.

This year ended with over 200 children subject to CP plans, compared with the year before at 130.

There has also been a rise in the number of court proceedings. The sub-group postulated that this may be due to deprivation as there was not one specific characteristic that the increase could be attributed to.

There has not been a change in threshold and the increase in Child Protection Plans are needed.

All London Local Authorities have seen a rise in referrals in Court Proceedings during this reporting year.

Health Involvement in Strategy Meetings

In 2015/16 audits showed that most strategy meetings did not include a contribution by health.

The Named Nurse and the Head of Safeguarding worked together to address this concern and a re-audit demonstrated that in 75% of cases health contributed to the strategy meeting; where they hadn't, cases were mainly in the Children Looked After Service or the Disabled Children's Service and further action will need to be taken to develop the practice in these service areas.

Early Help Review

An external consultant had undertaken a review of early help. The findings were that:

- the ISCB should have more oversight of Early help services,
- that the migration onto the Early Help Module (EHM) system was positive,
- the work of early help services was variable and most cases viewed required improvement.

An Improvement Plan was put in place and has resulted in the Early Help services being graded

as *Good* in the recent Ofsted inspection.

Other Local Authority's children in Islington

The subgroup receives figures on other LA's children who are Looked After and placed in Islington or who are subject to a Child Protection Plan and are temporarily in Islington.

An overview of these cases did not highlight any concerns.

Child Participation in Child Protection Conferences

Last year highlighted concerns about the lack of involvement of children in their Conferences.

Work was undertaken with agencies to consider all types of participation ranging from attendance, to advocacy, to completing a *Have Your Say* booklet as well as Child Protection Co-ordinators specifically recording the wishes and feelings of a child and their experiences.

A further audit was presented to the sub-group which noted that in 85% of cases children over 5 years old now participated in their conference.

Children Vulnerable to Extremism

All cases that were presented over a 6-month period were audited, but numbers were too small to make thematic conclusions; however, the subgroup were pleased to note that referrals were being made from different agencies and young people's welfare were considered in relation to this area. Ofsted found this area of practice effective.

Children at risk from Harmful Traditional Practices

In response to agency concerns at the Harmful

Practices Sub-group, all cases that related to FGM presenting over a 6-month period were audited. Numbers were too small to make thematic conclusions however the response of the referring agency in all but one case was appropriate as was the response from Children's Social Care. Ofsted found this area of practice effective and strong.

Children coming into care for a subsequent time

All cases presenting over the last year were examined and equated to 20 children, 7 of whom were remanded into LA care. The audit showed improved management oversight was noted but improvements were required to strengthen the child's voice and to better use (mental health) assessment to inform the planning for the young person

HMIC inspection of MPS

The inspection report was presented to the sub-group which highlighted the need for improvements in the police force to safeguard children. Islington's practice in relation to Section 47 investigations was highlighted as a positive.

A restructure of services has since taken place, and there will be a further HMIC inspection in Autumn 2017.

FGM Midwifery Audit

This was the 4th audit report which initially started in 2014. The audits in 2014/15 and 2015/6 highlighted that the existing systems were not effective and breached recommended national and local guidance.

The current audit monitored compliance of the 13 standards contained within the FGM audit

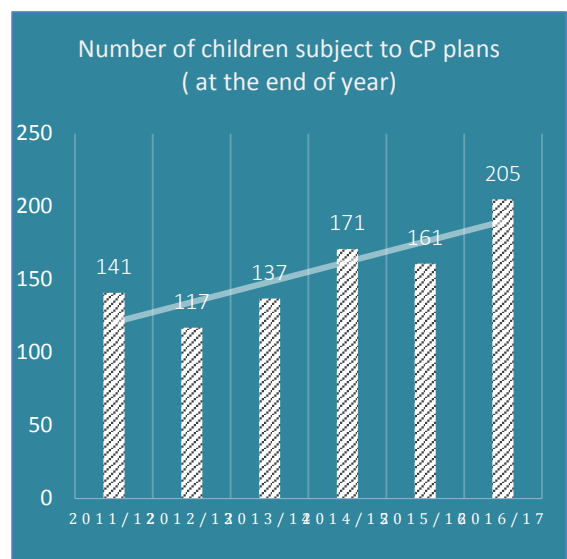
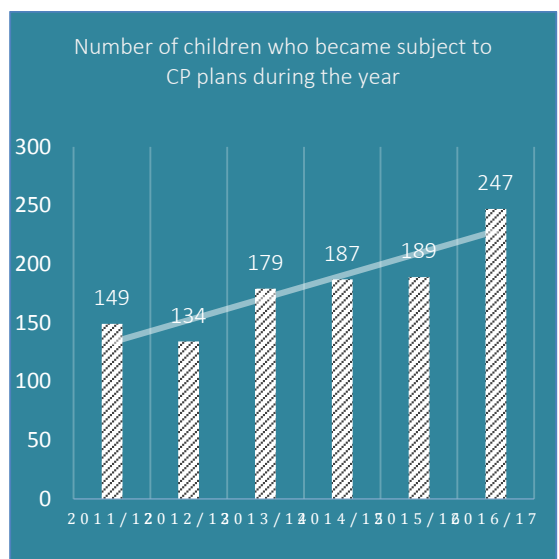
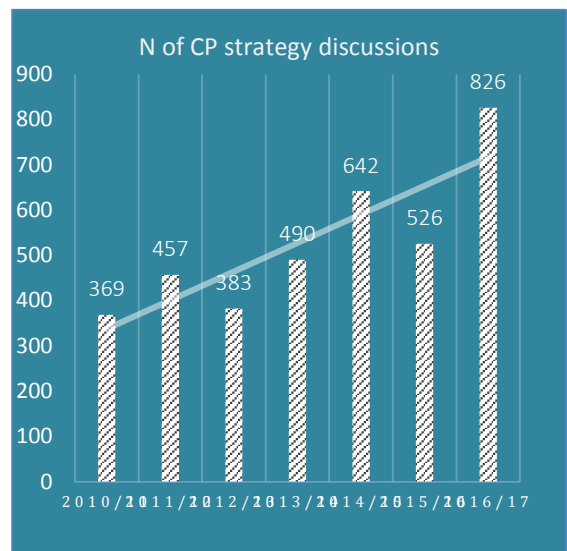
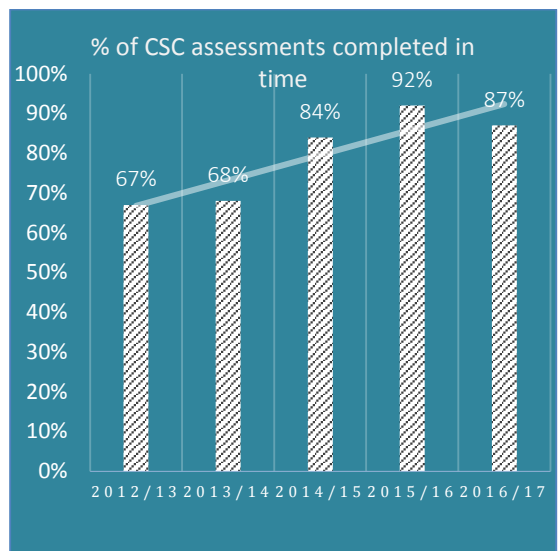
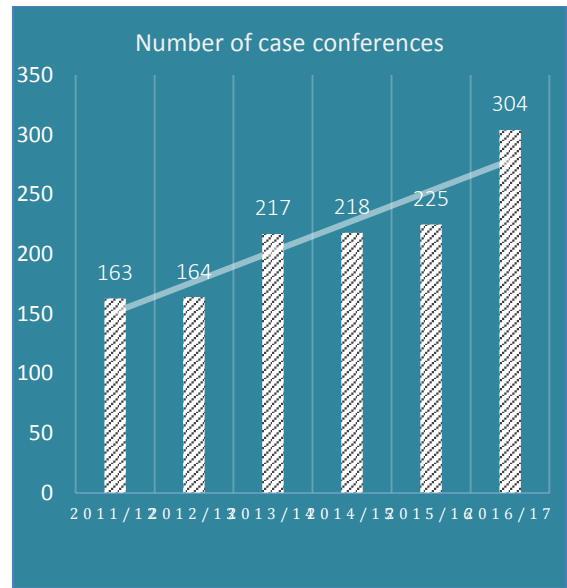
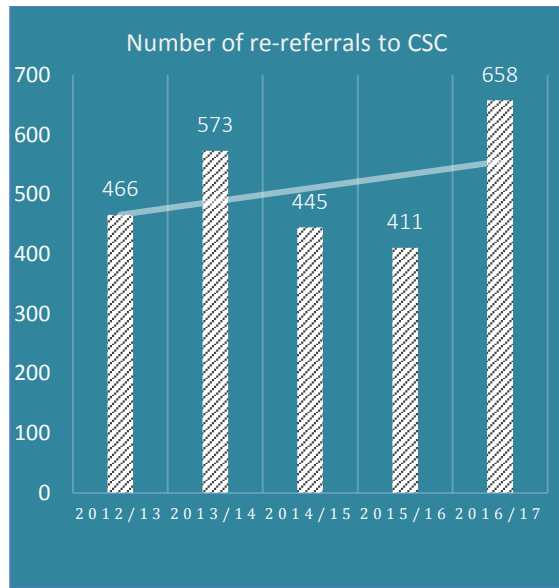
tool and had produced 100% compliance. Because of good progress future audits would now be carried yearly.

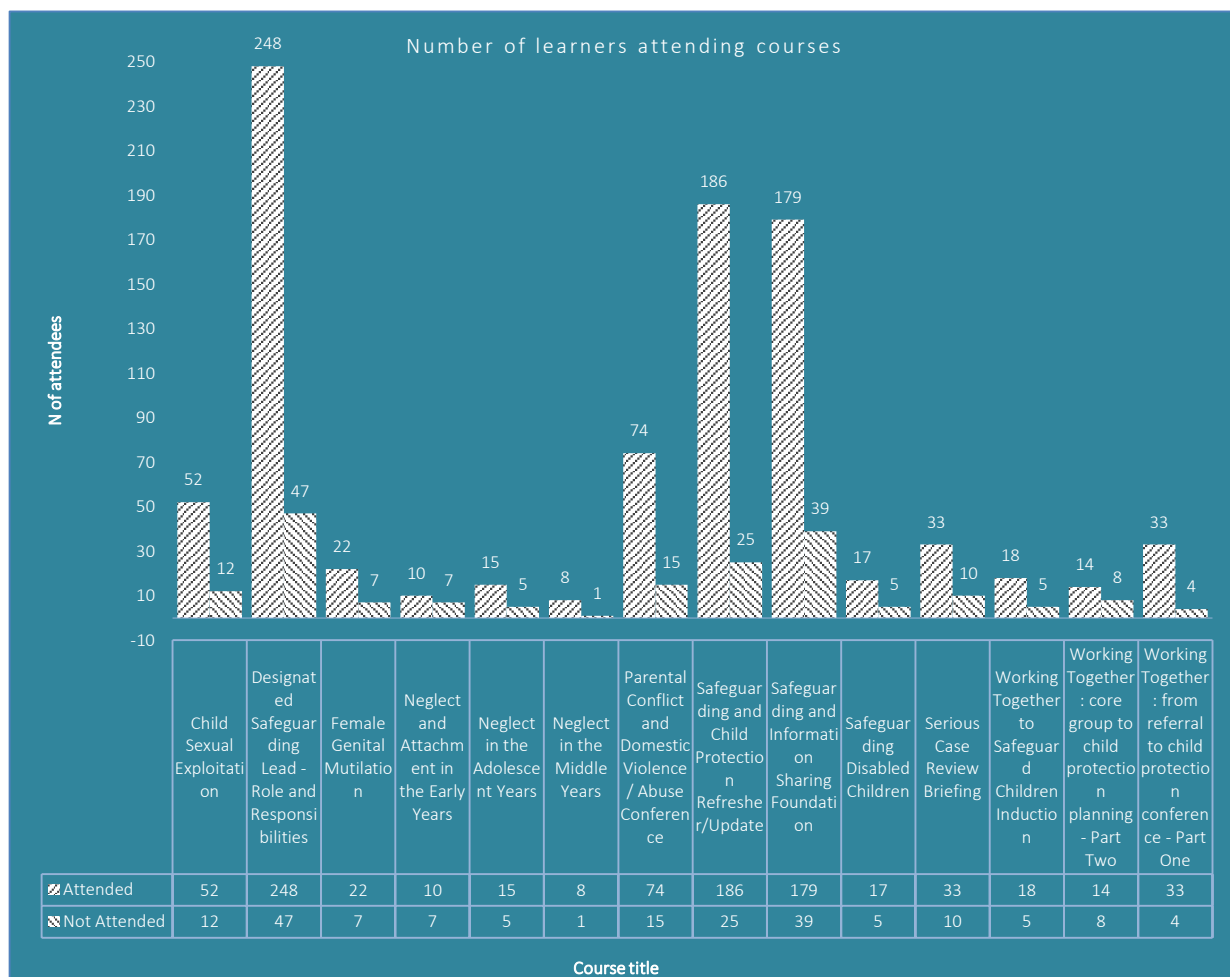
Agency Participation in Child Protection Conferences

Agency participation is examined at every meeting and reported to the QA sub-group to challenge non-attendance or failure to provide CP reports in line with LSCB procedures.

The sub-group on behalf of the ISCB held agencies to account against the standard required in its safeguarding procedures i.e. to produce a report and attend; the ISCB is no longer satisfied solely with attendance and verbal reporting.

All agencies participated to a high standard. The Board was, however, concerned about the lack of school-nurse attendance at Review Child Protection Conferences but noted this was due to the shortage of School Nurses. It appears they are unable to attend case conference because they are required to meet the demands of the immunisation programme.





TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

The ISCB sub-group is chaired by the Named Nurse for Safeguarding in Whittington NHS and attended by a wide variety of agencies, including representatives from the private and voluntary sector.

Once again, the ISCB has commissioned a comprehensive training offer in line with its training strategy, *Competence Still Matters*.

ISCB Training Offer

The core training offer to multi-agency staff included:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (all groups)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead - Role and Responsibilities (group 5)
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Neglect and Attachment in the Early Years (All Groups)
- Neglect in the Adolescent Years (All Groups)
- Neglect in the Middle Years (All Groups)
- Parental Conflict and Domestic Violence / Abuse Conference (in partnership with LBI Early Help) (Groups 205)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Refresher/Update (Groups 2-5)
- Safeguarding and Information Sharing Foundation (Group 2)
- Safeguarding Disabled Children (Groups 2-5)
- Serious Case Review Briefing (All Groups)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Induction (Group 1, voluntary sector)
- Working Together: from referral to child protection conference - Part One (Group 1)

- Working Together: core group to child protection planning - Part Two

Key Training data

This year, the ISCB offered in excess of 1300 training places, 85% of which were taken up by the work force. The most popular courses were: *Safeguarding Training for Designated Safeguarding Professionals*, *Safeguarding Foundation* and *Safeguarding Refresher Course*.

The least popular courses were the suite of *Neglect* training courses and *Working Together Parts 1 and 2*. The sub-group will need to do more work to understand why these course were not popular, especially because child Neglect continues to be the most prevalent form of child abuse in Islington.

Working Together to Safeguard Children courses specifically covers the role, policy and procedures around child protection enquiries and Child Protection planning. It is disappointing that more professionals did not make use of the learning offered by the ISCB because Quality Assurance reports show that more could be done to ensure that procedures are followed, e.g. quality of referrals, quality of CP reports to conferences and ensuring that parents and young people routinely see reports before they are presented at professional meetings and that their wishes and views are consistently reported.

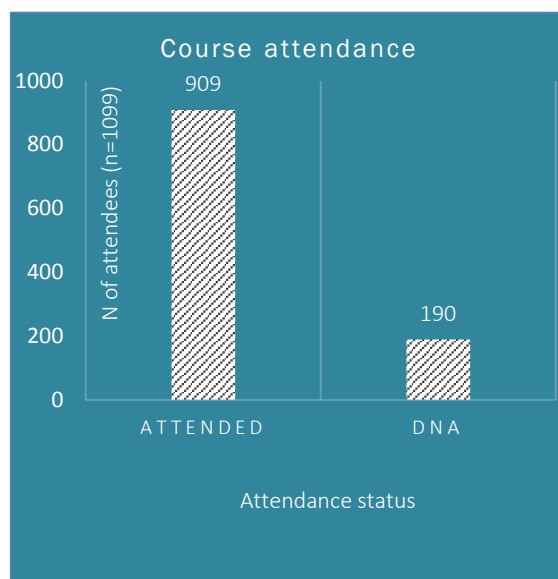
Education establishments, in particular, are prone to send staff directly to more advance courses e.g. *Designated Safeguarding Lead* training while neglecting the foundation courses: Group 2 and especially Groups 3.

Training evaluations had shown that staff attending Group 5 courses often lack sufficient experience and understanding of quite basic concepts such as thresholds, referrals procedures child protection roles and responsibilities. Next year, The Board will ask agencies to carry out self-audits against The Board's workforce development strategy.

Non-attendance

The ISCB training portal has introduced a good level of management oversight to ensure that the correct courses are selected and managers are notified if staff cancel courses.

Even though this has increased course attendance, 17% of learners did not arrive for courses. It costs The Board just over £33¹⁷ per head to provide a course translating into an opportunity cost loss in excess of £6000 per year. Although The Board has not yet charged agencies for failed attendance, it plans to introduce charging which will equate to an unnecessary expenditure of £9500 to partners.

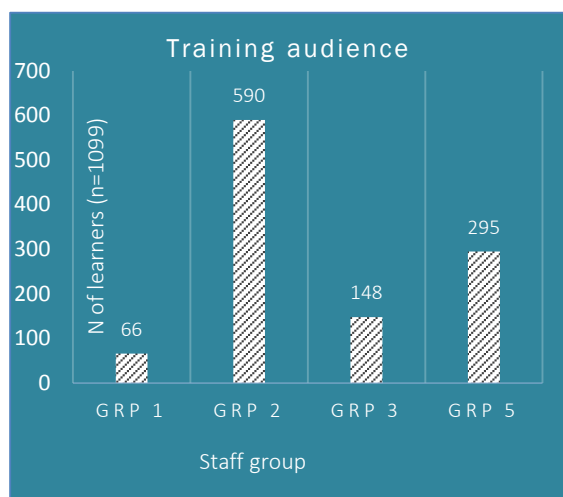


¹⁷ DSG Review.

Training audience

There is an excellent variety of staff from all sectors (table below) attending ISCB training, representing more than 290 individual settings. Attendance from schools (notably Primary Schools), early years, children’s centres, child minders and the local authority is very good. The Board is pleased that school settings are much better represented compared to the first annual report in this Business Planning Period.

There has been a steady increase in attendance from Health Partners, albeit not as high as it could be. Islington GP practices have been diligent in attending training which is attributable to the active involvement of the Named GP on the LSCB.



Training attendance by sector	N
Academy - Primary	4
Academy - Secondary	12
Adventure Playground	33
Alternative Provision	9
Chaperone Service	5
Charity	106
Childcare on Domestic Premises	1
Childminder	28
Children's Centre	69
Children's home / residential	15
Church, Temple, Mosque etc.	4
College Nursery	12
Company	7
Criminal Justice	4
Family Justice	1
Free School	9
GP Practice	12
Independent (PVI)	10
Independent School	17
Leisure Centre	1
Local Authority	238
NHS Trust	59
Other	2
Out of School Club	17
Primary Health Care	1
Primary School	127
Private (PVI)	70
PRU	10
Secondary School	28
SEN School	18
Supplementary school	6
Tertiary education	24
Voluntary (PVI)	51
Voluntary Children's Centre	28
Voluntary Sector	50
Youth Service	2
Not specified	9
Grand Total	1099

Quality Assurance and impact

ISCB training is very well regarded, with more than 80% of training rated *Excellent* and the re-

remainder *Good*. One course by an external provider was rated *Poor*. That course wasn't recommended and subsequent courses were rated as *Excellent*.

As in previous years, the ISCB Business Unit randomly selected learners from every ISCB course and asked a secret shopper to enquire about the quality and impact of ISCB training. All ISCB courses received excellent feedback with 100% respondents saying they will definitely recommend the course to a colleague.

The majority (95%) of respondents were able to give examples of how training had improved their safeguarding practice / enhances their role. Those who were not able to give examples cited that they attended the course before and they hadn't expected their practice to change.

A number of attendees continue to re-attend the same course as a means of updating their safeguarding knowledge. In most cases this is not appropriate; it is almost always preferable to attend the *Refresher Safeguarding Course* that provides and update on a wider range of local and national learning and developments.

CASE REVIEW SUB-GROUP

During this year, The Board agreed the Serious Case Review and action plan for Child E and it was published on the ISCB website in June 2016.

Multi-agency briefings took place to disseminate learning and the sub-group is tracking implementation of agency action plans.

The knife-crime review recommended by the CDOP chair was also published and the action plan has been incorporated in the Youth Crime Plan.

Draft PACE Concordat Review.

The ISCB chair had previously raised the matter of young people remaining in custody overnight.

Sparked by a Judicial Review (LBI) The Board agreed to commission an Independent Management Review to examine a set of relevant cases to understand what can be learned from children remaining in custody overnight and to recommend best practice.

The review found that the Draft-Concordat applied to very few instances of young people being in custody overnight. By far the majority of instances related to young people who were in breach of bail condition, the latter being an explicit exception to the Concordat.

The independent author had made recommendations for both the Police and the Local Authority in relation to case management recording.

The reviewer also recommended that the Practice Protocol between LBI and the Police be updated / re-developed and that it should include the role of agency champions to act as advisors of best practice.

SCRs

There had been two Serious Incident Notification in this reporting year. One of these incidents (Child K) did potentially fit the criteria for a serious case review, but the decision was delayed pending forensic evidence.

The chair agreed in May 2017 that there should be an SCR in relation to Child K and the final report is expected in November 2017.

CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

In its 9th year of working, the Child Death Overview Panel continues to be well attended by a

core group of professionals from health, social care and the police. Additional members from other services are invited to attend depending on the cases being discussed. We also held our first joint Islington and Camden neonatal CDOP. This was attended by a specialist obstetrician and neonatologist from UCLH. We will continue to review neonatal deaths in this way as the additional specialist input added great value to the review.

In 2016/17 there were 11 deaths of Islington residents under the age of 18 years; compared to the long term average of 14 deaths per year, since the CDOP process began.

The vast majority of deaths reviewed in 2016-7 had no modifiable factors identified.

Concerning one case, where CDOP has not completed its review, it was recommended to the Safeguarding Board that they undertake a SCR (in relation to Child K as highlighted previously). In addition, we have written to a local NHS Trust asking them to review their involvement. The Board recommended to the Adult Safeguarding Board that this case should also be considered by them and the local primary care trust as part of the LSCB's SCR or as a separate SAR alongside it.

The panel intends to follow up regarding concerns regarding urgent access to tertiary care for children with complex congenital cardiac disease.

The panel continues to engage with partners with respect to maximising approaches to prevent youth violence. The ISCB and partners are working on an action to plan to raise awareness about knife and weapon crime in school.

Since the last annual report

- All families are now offered the opportunity to be involved in the CDOP process. This is by writing to them to offer to meet with the CDOP chair and Designated Doctor.
- Information for families and professionals regarding the ICDOP can now be found on the ISCB website.
- We have been engaging in the Healthy London Partnership Children and Young People's Programme – London CDOP Project.
- We have commenced an audit through the NCL maternity network (better births) on how non-obstetric risk factors (such as Domestic violence, smoking and mental illness) are addressed in antenatal care.
- The Designated Doctor for Child Death and CDOP SPOC have met with the Islington coroner and have agreed processes to access post mortem and Inquest findings, as well as how to meet the requirements locally of the new guideline into Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) guidelines for care and investigation.
- The designated doctor for child death in Islington, Dr Tracy Ellenbogen has attended Warwick Training Programme in Unexpected Child Deaths and has shared her learning with the panel and the HLP programme

Over the coming year we intend to:

- Review family feedback.
- Seek to improve contributions from primary care into CDOP process.
- Continue to engage with HLP to develop practice in line with changes to CDOP process in London.



BUDGET AND RESOURCES

Funding of LSCBs continues to be challenging, and collectively the London LSCB chairs are disappointed, as they were last year, that the MPS continues to choose to fund partnership safeguarding in London at a level which is 45% less than all the other large urban Metropolitan Police Forces in England.

Safeguarding is a complicated and demanding partnership arrangement that needs appropriate resourcing if it is to be effective. If the ISCB is to carry out its statutory duties, it needs to be properly supported.

The guidelines which we adhere to (*Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)*) makes it clear that funding arrangements for Safeguarding should not fall disproportionately and unfairly on one or more partner to the benefit of others.

In London this burden does fall unfairly on Local Authorities. MOPAC have been approached to provide reasonable and proportionate levels of

funding to the Local Safeguarding Boards. As yet we have not seen an increase in funding.

Historically, The Board understood that NHS (England) London should contribute financially to The Board and the contribution from the Islington CCG has been reduced as a result. It appears that the total funding should be provided by local CCGs. This matter still needs to be clarified as a matter of urgency.

The Safeguarding structures in London are due to change in a year or two. When they do, there will still be a need to resource whatever arrangements are put in place. The police are a key partner in the future arrangements for safeguarding and we ask that the MPS and The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime increase their funding to a level which is fair to the other partners and which will assist in keeping London's children safe.

ISCB Annual Report 2016-2017

	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17
INCOME	Projected	Actual	Projected	Actual
Balance brought forward				
Balance 2013/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Agency contributions				
London Borough of Islington	£118,754.00	£74,100.00	£132,200.00	£132,200.00
DSG Grant	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Islington CCG	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
NHS England (London)	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Camden & Islington NHS Trust	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
Whittington NHS Trust	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
Moorfields NHS Trust	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
National Probation Trust	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
MPS (MOPAC)	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Cafcass	£550.00	£550.00	£550.00	£550.00
Fire Brigade	£550.00	£550.00	£550.00	£550.00
Subtotal	£226,854.00	£172,200.00	£230,800.00	£220,800.00
Other income				
None	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Subtotal	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total income	£226,854.00	£172,200.00	£230,800.00	£217,354.00

EXPENDITURE	Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
Staff				
Salaries, 2.5 staff	£134,663.90	£134,663.90	£134,663.90	£131,572.04
Chair	£23,316.88	£23,316.88	£23,316.88	£28,789.61

ISCB Annual Report 2016-2017

Agency (training)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sessional worker	£8,824.11	£6,716.63	£5,000.00	£7,522.51
Subtotal	£166,804.89	£164,697.41	£162,980.78	£167,884.16

Board training				
Facilities & refreshments	£2,262.50	£2,262.50	£2,262.50	£4,281.75
ISCB Conference	£0.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
Trainers	£0.00	£1,818.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Subtotal	£2,262.50	£4,080.50	£6,762.50	£4,281.75

Other expenses				
SCRs	£13,432.75	£13,432.75	£12,000.00	£23,436.09
Training portal license	£0.00	£0.00	£12,000.00	£15,517.00
Legal costs	£9,389.69	£9,389.69	£1,500.00	£0.00
Board development	£599.75	£599.75	£2,000.00	£2,108.25
Stationary + phones	£880.76	£880.76	£880.76	£898.92
Printing	£0.00	£0.00	£1500.00	£1,350
Travel	£203.00	£203.00	£203.00	£162.00
Subtotal	£24,505.95	£24,505.95	£30,083.76	£43,472.26

Total expenditure	£193,573.34	£193,283.86	£199,927.04	£215,638.17
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Income	£226,854.00	£172,200.00	£230,800.00	£220,800.00
Expenses	£193,573.34	£193,283.86	£199,927.04	£215,638.17
Balance	£33,280.66	-£21,083.86	£30,872.96	£5,161.83



CONCLUSIONS AND KEY MESSAGES

Our aim year on year is to make sure that children in Islington are best protected from harm. This can only be achieved through ensuring the right systems are in place, that agencies work well together for each individual child and family and we develop our learning culture.

We need to be constantly reflecting whether children in Islington are safe and, if not, what more can be done to reduce incidents of child maltreatment and intervene quickly when children are at risk of suffering significant harm. We will continue to raise awareness within our local community that safeguarding children is everybody's business.

Key Messages for all partner agencies and strategic partners.

Partner agencies and strategic partners should:

- Support and champion staff to share and record information at the earliest opportunity, and proactively challenge decisions that fail to adequately address the needs of children and young people and their parents or carers.
- Make sure that help for parents and children is provided early in life and as soon as problems emerge so that children get the right help, at the right time.
- Ensure that the priority given to child sexual exploitation by the Safeguarding Board is reflected in organisational plans, and that partners play their part in the work of The Board's sub-groups.
- Ensure that work continues to address domestic abuse and that the evaluation of the local approach recognises the needs and risks to children and young people.
- Ensure work being undertaken to tackle neglect is evaluated and evidence of its impact on children and young people informs both strategic planning and service delivery.
- Ensure that substance misuse services continue to develop their role in respect of safeguarding children and young people and that greater evaluation is undertaken in regard to the links between parents and carers' substance misuse and the high number of children and young people at risk of significant harm.
- Focus on young people who may be at risk and vulnerable as a result of disabilities, caring responsibilities, radicalisation and female genital mutilation.
- Make sure that young people going into Adult Services for the first time get the help they need and that there is clarity about the different processes and timescales involved.
- Ensure that agencies commissioning and delivering services to adults with mental health issues need to ensure mechanisms are in place for the monitoring and reporting of their performance in respect of safeguarding children and young people.
- Ensure that performance information is developed, collected and monitored and that this is provided with a narrative that helps everyone understand how effective safeguarding services are.

Key Messages for Politicians, Chief Executives, Directors

Politicians, Chief executives and Directors should:

- Ensure their agency is contributing to the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and that it is given a high priority that is evident in the allocation of time and resources.
- Ensure that the protection of children and young people is consistently considered in developing and implementing key plans and strategies.
- Ensure the workforce is aware of their individual safeguarding responsibilities and that they can access LSCB safeguarding training and learning events as well as appropriate agency safeguarding learning.
- Ask how the voice of children and young people is shaping services and what evidence they have in relation to the impact it is having.
- Ensure the agency is meeting its duties under Sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 and that these duties are clearly understood and evaluated.
- Keep the Safeguarding Children Board informed of any organisational restructures so that partners can understand the impacts on their capacity to safeguard children and young people in Islington.

- Ask questions about ethnicity, disability, gender to ensure strategic planning and that commissioning arrangements are sensitive to these issues.

Key Messages for the children and adult's workforce

Everyone who works with children, in a paid or voluntary capacity, should:

- Use safeguarding courses and learning events to keep themselves up to date with lessons learnt from research and serious case reviews to improve their practice.
- Should familiarise themselves with the role of the ISCB and *London's Child Protection Procedures*.
- Should subscribe to the Islington Safeguarding Board website and visit it regularly to keep up to date at www.islingtonscb.org.uk
- Ensure that they are familiar with and routinely refer to The Board's Threshold document and assessment procedures so that the right help and support is provided and that children and young people are kept safe.
- Should be clear about who their representative is on the Islington Safeguarding Children Board and use them to make sure the voices of children and young people and front-line practitioners are heard at The Board.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – PRIVATE FOSTERING STANDARDS

Regulations above requires the Local Authority to comply with the following Standards.

Standard 1 – Statement on Private Fostering

- The Local authority has a written statement or plan, which sets out its duties and functions in relation to Private Fostering and the ways in which they will be carried out.

Standard 2 – Notification

- Promotes awareness of the notification requirements and ensures that those professionals who may come into contact with privately fostered children understand their role in notification;
- Responds effectively to notification; and
- Deals with situations where an arrangement comes to their attention, which has not been notified.

Standard 3 – Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare

- The local authority determines effectively the suitability of all aspects of the Private Fostering arrangement in accordance with the regulations.

Standard 4-6 – Advice and Support

- The Local Authority provides such advice and support to private foster carers and prospective foster carers as appears to the authority to be needed.
- Children who are privately fostered are able

to access information and support when required so that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Privately fostered children are enabled to participate in decisions about their lives.

- The local authority provides advice and support to the parents of children who are privately fostered with in their area as appears to the authority to be needed.

Standard 7 – Monitoring and Compliance with Duties and Functions in relation to Private Fostering

- The local authority has in place and implements effectively a system for monitoring the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. It improves practice where this is indicated as necessary by the monitoring system

APPENDIX 2 – ISCB ATTENDANCE

Designation	Agency	May-16	Jul-16	Sep-16	Nov-16	Jan-17	Mar-17
ISCB Chair	ISCB						
ISCB Coordinator	ISCB						
ISCB Board Manager	ISCB			A			
Lay Member	Lay Member	A		A			
Lay Member	Lay Member						
Leader of Council	London Borough of Islington		Not expected				
Lead Member for Children's Services	London Borough of Islington	A				A	
Director, Children's Services	London Borough of Islington						
Director Youth and Community Services	London Borough of Islington						
Head of Community Safety	London Borough of Islington						
Head of Service, Early Help for Families	London Borough of Islington						D
Chief Executive	London Borough of Islington		A	A	A	A	A
Director TSCFS	London Borough of Islington						
Dir of Operations HASS	London Borough of Islington		A	A	A		
Ass Director Public Health	London Borough of Islington	A		A			A
Head of Pupil Services	London Borough of Islington				A	A	A
Safeguarding Q&A	London Borough of Islington	A					
Head of Early Years Service	London Borough of Islington			D	D		
Head Safeguarding Adults	London Borough of Islington			A	A		A
CCG Representative	Islington CCG	A		A	A		
Designated Nurse CP	Islington CCG						
Designated Paediatrician	Islington CCG					A	A
Named GP	Islington CCG						
Dir Nursing	NHS (London) England						
Chief Operating Officer	C&I Mental Health NHS			A			D
Deputy Director of Nursing	Whittington Health NHS	A	A	A		A	
Head of Nursing	Whittington Health NHS						
Head of Safeguarding	Whittington Health NHS	A		D	D	D	D
Director of Nursing	Moorfields Hospital NHS			A	A		D
London Ambulance Service	London Ambulance NHS						
Det. Superintendent	Metropolitan Police		D	A			
DCI	Metropolitan Police			D			
Head of Islington NPS	National Probation Service		A	A			A
Service Manager	CAFCASS				A		A
Voluntary Representative	Voluntary Representative						
Voluntary Representative	Voluntary Representative						
Deputy Headteacher	Secondary School Rep			A		A	A
Headteacher	Primary School Rep			A			
North London LIT	UK Border Agency	Attend as necessary					

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Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children Services Scrutiny Committee	20 March 2018	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Performance 2017/18: Quarter 3 Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This Quarter 3 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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider Children's Services performance in Quarter 3 2017/18.

3. Background

- 3.1 The main body of this report is set out using selected KPIs under each of the aims within the Children's Services Plan 2016/19, with a focus on outcome measures where suitable. Corporate Indicators, including Equalities Indicators, are highlighted. 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.

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

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

Provisional local data for the full 2016/17 academic year suggests that persistent absence levels amongst Islington primary schools were 9.4% during the year, a marginal rise on the 9.2% reported in 2015/16. However, persistent absence has significantly reduced in the longer term. Comparator data for this period is not available until the end of March 2018.

PA still remains high compared with other LAs, particularly at primary level. Illness remains the highest reason for absence in our primary schools. We are working closely with Islington Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, and School Nurse Team to develop strategies to help support schools tackle illness related absence.

The Minor illness and School Attendance, Guide for Parents/Carers booklet will be reviewed and updated with Health colleagues. Attendance Matters Guidance (updated version) will be distributed to all schools in March which includes practical advice and guidance in tackling health related absence.

We are also working with targeted schools (ie those with highest persistent absence) to develop action plans, and encouraging all schools via the Attendance Network (for School Attendance Leads that meet termly) to consider legal action where other interventions have failed to secure improved attendance.

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.

1.6 – Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2

66% of Islington's pupils reached the expected standard for all three core subjects in the revised Key Stage 2 results for 2017. This is a 9 percentage point increase on 2016 results and 4 percentage points above the national in this second year of the new assessments. Islington is now in the top quartile of local authorities on this measure.

Additionally, 14% of Islington pupils reached the 'higher standard' for Reading and Maths and a Good Level of Development for Writing, which is a 5 percentage point increase on 2016 and 4 percentage points above the national average. Islington is ranked joint 6th in the country on this measure.

Islington schools have responded well to the demands of the KS2 assessments. Many schools focussed on reading as this was a key issue following 2016 outcomes. The % of pupils attaining greater depth is a good indication of how schools are challenging the ablest pupils so that they can demonstrate a mastery of the national curriculum. A focus for the coming year will be to provide additional support to schools in relation to tracking the attainment of reading, writing and maths.

1.7a – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between the Black Caribbean pupils and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)

Results for 2017 show that the proportion of Black Caribbean pupils achieving the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths increased from 42% in 2016 to 50% in 2017. However, as the results for all Islington pupils improved from 57% achieving the expected standard in 2016 to 66% in 2017, the gap between Black Caribbean pupils and the Islington average widened slightly, from 15 percentage points in 2016 to 16 percentage points in 2017.

Key Stage 2 results broken down by ethnicity are not published below national level. In 2017, 54% of Black Caribbean pupils in England achieved the expected standard at KS2, compared to only 43% the previous year, and the gap between Black-Caribbean pupils and the national average for all pupils narrowed from 10 to 7 percentage points.

Support to schools to address this issue will be linked to better tracking and analysis of those pupils who are at risk of not achieving the expected standard by the end of KS2.

1.7b – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)

The proportion of White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals who achieved the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths improved slightly, from 45% in 2016 to 46% in 2017. However, as the results for all Islington pupils improved from 57% achieving the expected standard in 2016 to 66% in 2017, the gap between White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals and the Islington average widened from 12 percentage points in 2016 to 20 percentage points in 2017, when rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

It should be noted, however, that changes in benefit eligibility over the last few years have meant there are fewer pupils eligible for Free School Meals in Islington, and so the results for the group of pupils eligible for Free School Meals are less comparable over time than they are for other groups of pupils.

Key Stage 2 results broken down by both ethnicity and Free School meal eligibility are not routinely published, so no comparisons with other local authorities can be made. Nationally, 43% of all pupils eligible for Free School Meals achieved the expected standard at KS2 in 2017 - below the proportion of Islington White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals who achieved this level.

Support to schools to address this issue will be linked to better tracking and analysis of those pupils who are at risk of not achieving the expected standard by the end of KS2.

1.8 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

In consultation with headteachers arrangements for Alternative Provision (AP) in Islington have changed from September 2017. This provision is now managed and commissioned through New River College (NRC) Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Currently six Islington schools (including Academies) are signed up to this service. The remaining four Islington schools manage AP through their own arrangements. There were 45 students in AP commissioned by NRC at the end of Q3 2017/18.

The AP team are now based at NRC. This team monitor the quality and delivery of AP for those schools purchasing the service. However the message from the Local Authority remains that the best place for the vast majority of students is in a school and in the exceptional circumstances where they are not in school they must receive the best possible provision. However, the LA will continue to strengthen its role in holding both the commissioned provider NRC and all schools to account for the provision of AP. This will include:

- Ensuring that the LA is immediately informed of any student (Y11 and Y10) likely to be placed in AP or already in AP provision (including the naming of the provision). Current 'B' codes do not provide sufficient reliable information.
- Attendance at AP provision
- The quality of the provision and the outcomes
- Students at particular risk – including preventative work so that they can remain in school
- Continue to work with secondary schools and with early help services to ensure that Alternative Provision is a final resort for only a small number of pupils.

The 2018 spring and summer term headteacher meetings will focus on determining the process and protocol for the LA to receive the information above.

Islington schools have the responsibility for managing their own arrangements for Year 10 pupils in Alternative Provision including the quality of the provision and attendance. This number is low but will fall within the remit of the bullet points above

This academic year the current number of Year 11 and Year 10 students in AP are down substantially on previous years. This reduction has not led to an increase in permanent exclusions.

1.9 – Corporate Indicator: Average Attainment 8 Score

The revised Attainment 8 figure for Islington schools for 2017 is 45.6. This is below the Inner London Attainment 8 figure of 48.2, although it is above the England average of 44.6.

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 revised Progress 8 figure for Islington schools for 2017 is 0.13. This is below the Inner London Progress 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

26.1% of Islington pupils attained the English Baccalaureate in 2017. This is below the Inner London and London figures of 27.8% and 28.8% respectively, although it is above the national average of 21.4%. 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. 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 Progress 8 score for Black Caribbean pupils in Islington schools in 2017 was -0.09. The gap between Black Caribbean pupils in Islington schools and the Islington average was 0.22. Although this gap is slightly wider than the gap between national average for Black pupils compared to all pupils, the average Progress 8 score for all Black Caribbean pupils across the country was -0.23 - lower than the equivalent for Islington pupils.

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

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)

The average Progress 8 score for Islington White British pupils eligible for FSM was -0.51 in 2017. The gap between White British pupils eligible for FSM and the LA average is 0.64, more than half a grade. However, the score for Islington White British pupils eligible for FSM was higher than the national average for this group of pupils (-0.72) and the gap between White British pupils eligible for FSM and their peers was narrower in Islington than across the country as a whole.

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

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

2.2 - Percentage of Reception pupils above health weight in LBI schools

2.3 - Percentage of Year 6 pupils above health weight in LBI schools

22.1% of Reception pupils in Islington school were above a healthy weight when measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. This is a slight reduction from the previous year, and below the London (22.3%) and England (22.6%) averages.

38.3% of Year 6 pupils in Islington school were above a healthy weight when measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. This is a reduction from 38.6% in 2016, below the London average (38.6%) but above the England average (34.2%).

The Healthy Living Practitioner (HLP) based within the school nursing team provides weight management for children and young people in Islington identified through the NCMP, GPs, school nurses and via Tier 4 service at UCH. Overweight children and their families are offered one to one support including home visits if needed. Due to the volume of overweight/very overweight children the HLP service will triage children/families who are motivated to change and refer these children into the community based Families for Life Services. The HLP service is currently experiencing a delay in reporting on Q3 as the Practitioner post has been vacant since December 2017.

The enhanced Tier 2 HLP has been in operation since October 2017. This is a 12 month pilot programme (jointly funded between Camden and Islington) exploring the need and type of intervention that supports children with co-morbidities and/or complex needs. This involves working collaboratively with CAMHS, dieticians and community paediatricians via a MDT. 12 referrals have been accepted and 8 children with complex needs have accepted the service.

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, with a further 70 families claimed for in January 2018, bringing the total for the financial year to 210 families. The next claim is due in March 2018, and with the additional families we expect to claim for in this claim, we should be above the target of 260 for the year. Claims have been made for a total of 427 families since April 2016.

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 from 21.1% at the end of Q1 2017/18 to 19.6% at the end of Q2 and now 17.7% at the end of Q3 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. The reduction in the re-referral rate may be an early indication that the Motivational Social Worker approach is having some sustainable and longer term effects for families.

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 eight months of 2017/18, 11.9% (25 out of 210) children who became the subject of Child Protection Plans did so for the second or subsequent time. However, a third of the children who became the subject of Child Protection Plans in December 2017 did so for the second or subsequent time, which raised the cumulative total for the year to 14.1%, which is higher than at the same point during the previous year (12.2%). An annual report on Children subject to subsequent Child Protection Plans will be completed at the end of the financial year. The increase in this indicator is not so significant, given it would need to reach 12% to trigger earlier reporting.

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.

The proportion of Children in Need seen in accordance with their plans increased during Q3 2017/18 and by the end of the quarter reached 70% compared to 63% and 62% at the end of the preceding two quarters. This rise is indicative of an increased and ongoing focus on practice and recording on Children in Need case.

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 decreased in the first half of 2017/18 and there were 9 children and young people missing from care for 24 or more hours in December 2017. This compares to over 20 each month towards the end of 2016/17.

The number of children who went missing from home each month is falling slightly over the year, from a peak of 31 during June 2017 to 21 in December 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 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.

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

Performance in Q3 alone was 80%, an increase on performance in Q1 of the year. The cumulative total for the year to date is 79% due to the outcomes in Q1. This is in line with performance than at the same point during the previous year.

The Triage service, which is offered by the Targeted Youth Support team, is proving that it is continuing to be successful in diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. The offer that is provided to relevant young people is as robust, specific and multi-agency where appropriate, and may involve support from education and health partners. Work has commenced with the Police to extend and enhance this offer further still. This will include the expansion of the remit of the Pre-Court Panel to cover No Further Action cases, by ensuring that support packages are provided to those young people whose cases are dropped by the Police.

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

Provisional data suggests there were 44 first time entrants into the Youth Justice System during Quarters 1 to 3 2017/18, a significant reduction of almost a third from the same point during 2016/17, when there were 64 first time entrants during the first three-quarters of the year. This means our performance is better than the profiled target of 53 for the first three-quarters of 2017/18.

Islington is no longer one of the poorest performing London Boroughs for this measure. Having been 28th in London based on the June 2014 – July 2015 FTE, Youth Justice Board figures show that we are now 14th. Some of the reasons for this include the multi-agency Triage service which is offered and provided through Targeted Youth Support being part of a duty service via the front door in Children's Social Care. This means that the Out of Court disposals of Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions can be used for young people who would benefit more from this approach than a court imposed order. This means that court orders can be reserved and used for those young people who are in most need.

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

Provisional data suggests out of the 37 young people in the cohort for 2017/18, 21 had reoffended as at the end of Q3 2017/18 (57%). This is higher than the 47% of the cohort for 2016/17 we were reporting as being reoffenders at the same point in the previous year.

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. In looking at the backgrounds of these offenders they have led chaotic family lives and have not lived with parents. Increasing the transition work as the leave primary school, ensuring all the siblings and family members of this group have an enhanced offer will reduce the numbers entering into offending. For the current offenders, a Mentor is allocated from St Giles as standard as well as work being undertaken with the youth Employment Team to ensure an offer of employment or education is in place which is meaningful.

Note – the comparison shown above is a snapshot at the end of quarter 3 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 Q3 2017/18 suggests that only 14 Islington young people received custodial sentences during the first three-quarters of the year, which is a substantial reduction (26%) from the 19 custodial sentences during the same period in 2016/17, and less than half of the profiled target for the first three-quarters of the year of 22.

The achievements in relation to the imposition of custodial sentences for our young people continues. This is significant given the high custody rates that Islington experienced for young people over the past few years (which at one point was the highest in country and then in London). The courts and sentencers have greater confidence in the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and this has assisted in the imposition of more community penalties as opposed to custodial sentences. The use of the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) offer for our highest risk young people, who are at risk of custodial sentences, has contributed towards this achievement due to the fact that courts are more comfortable with the packages that we provide to these young people within the community environment. The YOS also has more appropriate and targeted resources available to staff to work with the groups of young people who have more complex needs. External auditors, who are assisting with the YOS's inspection preparation, have confirmed the cohorts of young offenders in Islington have extremely complex circumstances.

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

4.1 – Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 2

100% of Islington primary schools met or exceeded the floor standard in 2016/17, based on the provisional results. This is the same as last year.

The Department for Education sets a floor standard for schools, to achieve a minimum level of attainment and expected progress. At primary for the 2017 results year this was:

- at least 65% of pupils meet the expected standard in English reading, English writing and mathematics; or
- the school achieves sufficient progress scores in all three subjects. At least -5 in English reading, -5 in mathematics and -7 in English writing.

To be above the floor, a primary school needs to meet either the attainment or all of the progress elements.

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 revised results. This is the same as last year. This is above the Statistical Neighbour (90.6%), Inner London (91.6%), London (93.1%) and England (88.0%) averages.

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.

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

Provisional data shows that at the end of Q3 2017/18, 8.8% of Islington's looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year. This slightly better than the same point during 2016/17, when 9.3% of looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year.

There are a number of reasons why children have been in 2 or more placements. There have been positive moves for children from their placements particularly children returning home, children moving from therapeutic residential care to foster carer or children placed for adoption. However, late entry to care is an issue for the young people who have 3 placements or more. 80% of the 26 children who have had 3 or more placements came into care as older teenagers. Often for these young people, behaviour has become a way to communicate their distress and behaviour is usually a long established response/way of communicating their distress to early childhood trauma and their placements are not always able to address these difficulties and/or availability of placements impacts on matching children to carers.

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

Provisional data shows that at the end of Q3 2017/18, 64.4% of Islington's looked after children who had been looked after long term were in stable placements. This is a slight decrease on the 66.2% for the end of 2016/17.

The data indicates clearly that the older the young person, the greater the risk of placements ending. The greatest number of young people who did not achieve long term stability are over 16 years old. Adolescence is a key factor in young people moving.

For some young people recorded placement changes were positive because 10 young people returned home or to birth families. However, for too many young people placements which had been secure, broke down during their adolescence.

A programme of work is in place to train and support carers to better manage the challenges and complexities of adolescents in their care. There are also a number of measures now in place to pick up concerns about placement stability at an earlier stage, with the aim of avoiding break down.

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 third quarter of 2017/18, from 92.4% at the end of September 2017 to 95.3% at the end of December 2017. Islington is now above the London average and remain above the national average.

The breakdowns by school phase are:

- 100% of nursery schools (3/3)
- 98% of primary schools (43/44)
- 80% of secondary schools (7/8). Note City of London Academy - Highgate Hill and Highbury Grove are now registered as new establishments and the inspection judgements under their previous Ofsted registrations no longer apply.
- 100% of special schools (5/5)
- 75% of Pupil Referral Units (3/4)

Islington is within the top quartile, nationally – we are ranked 18th 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 2017/18, from 188 at the end of March 2017 to 176 at the end of December 2017.

We have seen number attending the introduction to childminding course pick up recently and are awaiting notification from Ofsted of new registrations. However, the reasons for the fluctuation in numbers are complex. Setting up as a childminder is expensive and the current government grant of £500 only meets a proportion of the costs that a new childminder incurs. At the same time, many parents find childminders in Islington to be unaffordable with Islington childminders charging upwards of £7.00 per hour. There continues to be more churn in childminding than used to be the case, with people setting up as childminders for just a couple of years (often while their own children are young) before moving on to other jobs. The Early Years Service continues to run regular sessions for people interested in childminding and works with IWork to who refer prospective childminders to these sessions and help with the cost of setting up.

5.4 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington

We have met the target to recruit 12 mainstream foster carers over the course of the financial year. As at 19th January we have recruited 12 carers, including 2 Specialist foster families who are caring for young people with a higher level of needs and 2 other carers recruited are caring for children with additional needs.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

No implications

4.2 Legal Implications:

No implications

4.3 Environmental Implications:

No implications

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 has not been completed because this report is reporting on performance only - no recommendations for action or decision are made.

5. Reason for recommendations

5.1 Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A – Data Dashboard

Background papers:

None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

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Appendix A - Data Dashboard

CS PI No.	Corporate PI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
CS 2016/19 Aim ONE:										
Through strong universal services, children, young people and adults are enabled to achieve good education and employability outcomes										
1.5	CS6	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	Termly	9.4% (2016/17 full year - provisional)	9.6% (Autumn & Spring terms 2016/17)	9.2% (2015/16 AY)	↑	9.0% (Autumn & Spring terms 2016/17)	8.7% (Autumn & Spring terms 2016/17)	2nd from bottom
1.6	x	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2	Annual	66% (2016/17 AY - revised)	57% (2015/16 AY)	57% (2015/16 AY)	↑	67% (2016/17 AY)	62% (2016/17 AY)	Top
1.7a	CS10a	Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between the BCRB pupils and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)	Annual	16 ppts (2016/17 AY - revised)	15 ppts (2015/16 AY)	15 ppts (2015/16 AY)	↑	Not available below National level	7 ppts (2016/17 AY)	n/a
1.7b	CS11a	Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)	Annual	20 ppts (2016/17 AY - revised)	12 ppts (2015/16 AY)	12 ppts (2015/16 AY)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.8	CS7	Corporate Indicator: Number of children in Alternative Provision	Quarterly	45 (End Q3 2017/18 FY)	112 (End Q3 2016/17 FY)	117 (End 2016/17 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.9	CS8	Corporate Indicator: Average Attainment 8 score	Annual	45.6 (2016/17 AY - revised)	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a	48.9 (2016/17 AY - revised)	44.6 (2016/17 AY - revised)	2nd from bottom
1.10	CS9	Corporate Indicator: Average Progress 8 Score	Annual	0.13 (2016/17 AY - revised)	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a	0.22 (2016/17 AY - revised)	-0.03 (2016/17 AY - revised)	Top
1.11	x	Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate	Annual	26.1% (2016/17 AY - revised)	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a	28.8% (2016/17 AY - revised)	21.4% (2016/17 AY - revised)	Top
1.12a	CS10b	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)	Annual	BCRB = -0.09 Gap = 0.22 (2016/17 AY - revised)	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a	Not available below National	BCRB = -0.23, Gap = 0.20 (2015/16 AY - revised)	n/a
1.12b	CS11b	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)	Annual	White British FSM pupils = -0.51 Gap = 0.64 (2016/17 AY - revised)	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a	Not available	White British FSM pupils = -0.72 Gap = 0.69 (2016/17 AY - revised)	n/a
CS 2016/19 Aim Two:										
The resilience of children, young people and families is strengthened by accessing effective early intervention approaches										
2.2	x	Percentage of Reception pupils above health weight in LBI schools	Annual	22.1% (2017)	22.3% (2016)	22.3% (2016)	↓	22.3% (2017)	22.6% (2017)	2nd from top
2.3	x	Percentage of Year 6 pupils above health weight in LBI schools	Annual	38.3% (2017)	38.6% (2016)	38.6% (2016)	↓	38.6% (2017)	34.2% (2017)	Bottom
2.4	CS4	Corporate Indicator: Number of families in Stronger Families programme with successful outcomes as measured by payment by results	Min. 2 claims a year - September, January and March for 17/18	210 (2017/18 September & January claims)	143 families (Sept 2016, Jan 2017 claims)	217 families (Sept 2016, Jan and March 2017 claims)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a

CS PI No.	Corporate PI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
CS 2016/19 Aim Three:	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	x	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	17.7% (Q3 2017/18 FY)	19.6% (Q2 2017/18 FY)	21.7% (2016/17 FY)	↓	16.2% (2016/17 FY)	21.9% (2016/17 FY)	2nd from top
3.2	x	Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	14.1% (Q3 2017/18 FY)	11.8% (Q2 2017/18 FY)	12.1% (2016/17 FY)	↑	14.8% (2016/17 FY)	18.7% (2016/17 FY)	Top
3.3	x	Percentage of children who were seen in accordance with a Children in Need Plan	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	70% (Q3 2017/18 FY)	62% (Q2 2017/18 FY)	73% (2016/17 FY)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.4	CS5	Corporate Indicator: Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	9 (December 2017)	9 (Sept 2017)	22 (March 2017)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.5	x	Number of children missing from home	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	21 (December 2017)	27 (Sept 2017)	27 (March 2017)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.6	CR1	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	Quarterly	79% (2017/18 Q1-3 provisional)	78% (2017/18 Q1&2 provisional)	80% (2016/17 FY provisional)	↔	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.7	CR2	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	Quarterly	44 (2017/18 Q1-3 provisional)	30 (2017/18 Q1&2 provisional)	79 (2016/17 FY provisional)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.8	CR3	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	Quarterly	57% (2017/18 Q1-3 provisional)	47% (2016/17 Q1-3 provisional)	45% (2016/17 FY provisional)	↑	YJB measure on reoffending uses a different cohort so is not comparable		
3.9	CR4	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	Quarterly	14 (2017/18 Q1-3 provisional)	7 (2017/18 Q1&2 provisional)	30 (2016/17 FY provisional)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
CS 2016/19 Aim Four:	Children, young people and families thrive through good local area health, care and education provision									
4.1	x	Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 2	Annual	100% (2016/17 AY - revised)	100% (2015/16 AY - revised)	100% (2015/16 AY - revised)	↔	99% (2016/17 AY revised)	96% (2016/17 AY revised)	Top
4.2	x	Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 4	Annual	100% (2016/17 AY - revised)	100% (2015/16 AY - revised)	100% (2015/16 AY - revised)	↔	93.1% (2016/17 AY revised)	88.0% (2016/17 AY revised)	Top
4.5	x	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	8.8% (Q3 2017/18 provisional)	9.3% (Q3 2016/17)	12.0% (2016/17 FY provisional)	↓	10% (2015/16 FY)	10% (2015/16 FY)	2nd from bottom
4.6	x	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	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	64.4% (Q3 2016/17 provisional)	72.8% (Q3 2016/17)	66.2% (2016/17 FY provisional)	↓	68% (2015/16 FY)	68% (2015/16 FY)	Bottom
4.8	x	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	Quarterly	95.3% (Q3 2017/18 FY provisional)	92.4% (Q2 2017/18 FY)	87.5% (Q4 2016/17 FY)	↑	93.9% (Q3 2017/18 FY provisional)	89.1% (Q3 2017/18 FY provisional)	Top
CS 2016/19 Aim Five:	A high quality strategic and business support infrastructure stimulates the development and delivery of efficient and effective services									
5.1	x	Number of active childminders	Quarterly	176 (As at end Q3 2017/18 FY)	181 (As at end Q2 2017/18 FY)	188 (As at end Q4 2016/17 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
5.4	x	Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington	Monthly / quarterly for Scrutiny	11 (Q1-3 2017/18)	8 (Q1-3 2016/17)	11 (2016/17 FY)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a



Co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents

DRAFT REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

London Borough of Islington
March 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents

Aim:

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

Evidence:

The Committee commenced the review in September 2018. Evidence was received from a variety of sources:

Evidence from Council Officers:

- Lisa Arthey, Director of Youth and Community Services
- Finola Culbert, Service Director of Safeguarding and Family Support
- Laura Eden, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
- Catherine Briody, Head of Youth and Community Services
- Curtis Ashton, Head of Targeted Youth Services and Youth Offending Service
- Abi Onaboye, Head of Early Help
- Holly Toft, Head of Play, Youth and Post-16
- Helen Cameron, Health and Wellbeing Manager
- Naomi Bannister, CSE Lead
- Sarah Whelan, Safeguarding Gangs Lead
- Gabriella Di-Sciullo, Head of Admissions and Children Out of School
- Sheron Hosking, Head of Children's Joint Health Commissioning

Evidence from young people:

- Simone Headley, Chair of the Childrens' Active Involvement Service Council
- Visit to the Children's Active Involvement Service

Evidence from partner organisations

- 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

Documentary evidence:

- Early Intervention and Help Strategy for Islington, 2015-2025
- 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
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Transformation Plan
- Islington Safeguarding Gang Protocol and Procedure 2016
- Briefing Note on Contextual Safeguarding

Main Findings:

- There are many services available to support vulnerable adolescents in Islington; these may be universal or targeted, statutory or non-statutory, provided directly by the council, or commissioned and delivered by others. The Committee is concerned by the growing demand for these services, and the increasing complexity of cases.
- The council has carried out a great deal of work in recent years to strengthen its services for vulnerable adolescents. Committee welcomes the council's sustained focus on improving services for vulnerable young people, however considers that there is scope for further improvement.
- Although the Committee was satisfied that a consistent and joined up approach was being taken by Children's Services, young people and their families also rely on a range of other local services. The Committee would welcome a greater strategic join up between these services and Children's Services, particularly on issues affecting the most vulnerable young people.
- The Committee received evidence on the challenges faced by the council in providing effective services for vulnerable adolescents. The borough's administrative boundaries made it challenging to engage with Islington's young people who choose to congregate outside of the borough. The Committee also noted that traditional family-based safeguarding approaches may not be wholly relevant to the issues faced by vulnerable adolescents. The Committee considers that a cross-borough approach to safeguarding is needed, which makes use of contextual safeguarding methods to protect vulnerable young people across London.
- The Committee is supportive of trauma informed approaches to working with young people, and would support these approaches being used more widely in schools and by other professionals working with young people.
- The Committee would support stronger and earlier interventions on domestic violence and abuse from both the council and the Police. The Committee would also support further work in schools to support young people affected by domestic violence and abuse.
- The Committee believes that there is a great deal of potential in the local community and voluntary sector, and suggests that working even closer with the sector could assist in safeguarding and supporting vulnerable young people.
- Witnesses providing evidence to the Committee commented on the difficulty of communicating the range of services available to marginalised young people, particularly to those who did not access services at Islington's youth hubs. The Committee would support the development of an app/website, to communicate targeted information about support services, events, health and wellbeing messages, and other advice and guidance for young people. It is also suggested that young people should be able to contact their social worker through instant messaging, subject to all necessary safeguarding and data security criteria being met.
- Evidence received by the Committee highlighted a number of positive examples of services listening and responding to the views of children and young people.

Conclusions:

Overall the Committee was impressed with the wide range of support services available for vulnerable adolescents. The Committee considered a number of examples of different services and agencies working together to provide co-ordinated services for the benefit of young people. It is clear that the council and its partners recognise that providing joined up services is the best

approach to supporting vulnerable young people. However, further improvements could be made to improve the effectiveness of services.

14 recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to a greater strategic join-up between services; working differently by adopting new practices, such as trauma informed and contextual safeguarding approaches; closer work with the Police around domestic violence and the sharing of intelligence; making the most of existing resources; and communicating more effectively with young people and the professionals that support them.

The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. A borough-wide pledge to support vulnerable young people should be developed by Summer 2018. Ownership of this pledge at Chief Executive level will help support accountability cross the council. All council services should commit to working collaboratively to reduce the risks to young people and improve their wellbeing. Partner organisations should also be encouraged to commit to the pledge. This would assist in developing more joined up early intervention approaches.
2. It is suggested that the delivery of the pledge should be incorporated into the terms of reference and work plans of all relevant multi-agency forums. These forums should monitor delivery of the pledge through their work. A member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee should be invited to observe relevant meetings. In addition, the Youth Council and CAIS should be invited to undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of the Pledge and report their findings back to the Chief Executive.
3. To foster a more effective and joined-up approach to safeguarding across London, Children's Services should seek to work with neighbouring boroughs and other agencies to develop a contextual safeguarding approach. This approach is focused on reducing risks and vulnerabilities and promoting safeguarding by intervening in the social environments experienced by young people, rather than focusing interventions on individuals. As part of this work, the council should lead on the development of protocols across borders with neighbouring local authorities focusing on risk management and the sharing of good practice.
4. Subject to the results of the trauma-informed approaches pilot, Children's Services should work with the Community of Schools to encourage schools to engage with these approaches and adopt related screening tools. This may assist in identifying a range of issues, including the diagnosis of mental health issues, at a much earlier age. The five schools engaging in the ARC pilot project should be asked to support in cascading this approach.
5. A trauma-informed approach to working with young people should be embedded in multi-agency training through a review of the Safeguarding Children Board training offer.
6. A high number of vulnerable adolescents have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse earlier in their lives. It is recommended that the council and police work together to develop stronger and earlier interventions on domestic abuse. This work should include the development of Operation Encompass in schools and a focus on partnership work through Islington Safeguarding Children Board.
7. Children's Services should review if greater information can be shared between agencies to develop a more joined up approach to working with vulnerable adolescents. The Council should work with Police to ensure that lower level non-criminal concerns about young people are reported to the school via the Safer Schools Officer, so that young people's behaviour can be monitored and they can be referred to appropriate support services as appropriate.

8. The Committee considers that greater use could be made of Safer Schools officers. The promotion of Safer Schools officers and their role in safeguarding children should be reiterated through the Islington Community of Schools.
9. The council should ensure its strategic and commissioning priorities for vulnerable adolescents are shared with the voluntary and community sector and that priorities between the council and voluntary and community sector organisations are aligned. This could include the alignment of grant funding to these priorities.
10. Children's Services should continue to work closely with voluntary and community sector organisations and develop these relationships further as appropriate. This may assist in generating referrals, normalise accessing support, and help to ease transitions between services.
11. The council should work to improve its communications to young people. The Council should lead on the development of a multi-purpose young people's app/website to ensure a wider reach for communicating targeted messages and information about health and wellbeing and support services.
12. Children's Services should review the feasibility of allowing young people to contact their social worker through instant messaging.
13. The council should review its directory of services and ensure it is proactively promoted to professionals in the health, education, and voluntary and community sectors to raise awareness and understanding of the range of support services available to vulnerable adolescents.
14. The council should review if support services for young people are sufficiently flexible and accessible, and should consider the appropriateness and feasibility of providing evening and weekend support services, if such services are not already available.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2017/18

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

Co-opted Members:

Erol Baduna – Primary Parent Governor Representative
Mary Clement – Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
James Stephenson – Secondary Parent Governor Representative

Substitutes:

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

Acknowledgements:

The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses who gave evidence to the review.

Officer Support:

*Tania Townsend – Children's Partnership Development and Strategy Manager
Jonathan Moore – Senior Democratic Services Officer*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The review was held between September 2018 and February 2018. The overall aim of the review was to review how effective the council is in providing joined up services; and to ensure that there are effective processes and practices that ensure young people are involved in all aspects of their support and intervention.

The Committee also agreed the following objectives:

- To further understand the current and future risks and challenges faced by our young people who are vulnerable and how the council is continually responding to these in Islington.
 - To evaluate how the views and experiences of vulnerable adolescents are considered when planning and delivering services.
 - 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.
 - To assess if the support available to vulnerable adolescents from council services is sufficient, and how other support networks in the family, community, and peer groups can be developed to support further.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 1.2 In carrying out the review the Committee met with young people, council officers and representatives of partner organisations to gain a balanced view. The Committee also considered relevant strategies, plans and other documents.

Context

- 1.3 Adolescence is a difficult time for young people. As children develop into adults they face a range of social pressures and expectations, new freedoms, boundaries and responsibilities, and changes to their relationships with their family, peers, and wider society. Whilst the majority of young people living in Islington progress through adolescence in an overall positive way, this is not the case for all young people. Some young people have negative experiences during their childhood which can make them vulnerable. The council has statutory duties to protect vulnerable young people, and a moral obligation to support these young people in achieving the best possible outcomes.
- 1.4 There are many different views on when adolescence begins, however it is generally accepted that adolescence commences at the onset of puberty. The Committee focused its review on early adolescence, between the ages 10 to 13, as this is a key time during child development. It is also a time at which a young person's relationship with the local authority changes dramatically. Young people of this age are no longer the small children accessing early years provision and adventure play activities, however they are not yet the teenagers with complex and entrenched needs accessing the council's support services. It is crucial that young people, particularly vulnerable young people, receive effective and joined up support during this key period of change in their lives.

- 1.5 The Committee wished to review if the council and its partners could better support vulnerable adolescents; if there are opportunities for closer partnership work; if different approaches to working with these young people would be beneficial; and if the council is listening to the voices of young people when planning, commissioning and delivering services.

2. Findings

Summary of issues and risks faced by Islington's vulnerable adolescents

- 2.1 The Committee considered the wide variety of issues and factors which may make a young person vulnerable. Some young people will face a range of issues, and may have multiple and complex vulnerabilities.
- 2.2 Adolescents may be vulnerable due to neglect or physical or emotional abuse. They may be deprived of food, education, parental care, or normal childhood experiences. Young people, or their parents, may have mental health issues or special educational needs. Young people may be victims of domestic abuse, or may have witnessed domestic abuse between their parents. Drug and alcohol misuse may be a factor for parents, or young people themselves. Vulnerable adolescents may be victims of exploitation. They may be victims of child sexual exploitation, which in Islington is generally perpetrated in a peer-to-peer context. They may be affiliated to a gang, or on the periphery of gang involvement. They may be being groomed to commit criminal activity, being used as a drug mule, or be involved in county lines drug dealing. They may be a young offender, or frequently go missing from home, care, or education. They may display challenging behaviour in school, commit anti-social behaviour on the streets, or be involved in serious youth violence.
- 2.3 There are many services available to support vulnerable adolescents in Islington; these may be universal or targeted, statutory or non-statutory, provided directly by the council, or commissioned and delivered by others. The Committee is concerned by the growing demand for these services, and the increasing complexity of cases. Officers advised that the number of adolescents on child protection plans had increased in recent years. Historically, the majority of child protection plans related to babies; however roughly the same number of adolescents as babies were now the subject of a child protection plan. Nationwide, the number of children aged 16 or over on a child protection plan increased by 70% between 2010 and 2013. Since 2010 there has been a national increase of 132% of the number of children aged 16 or over in care. In Islington, young people aged 13 to 17 represent 62% of looked after children, 17% of those on child protection plans, and 28% of those classified as a child in need. Over 3,000 referrals were made to social care in 2016/17, an increase of over 500 on the previous year. There are various factors contributing to this increase in demand and complexity, including escalating poverty, deprivation, and associated parental stresses.
- 2.4 The council has carried out a great deal of work in recent years to strengthen its services for vulnerable adolescents. The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee previously reviewed Knife Crime and Mobile Phone Theft and made a number of recommendations to improve services. A Youth Crime Plan was subsequently developed by the council in partnership with the Safeguarding Children Board and Safer Islington Partnership. This plan is consistent with the council's Early Intervention and Help Strategy, which recognises that it is more effective to intervene earlier by supporting families, before needs escalate and issues become entrenched. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee previously carried out a review of the council's early help services and made recommendations to develop them further. Work has also been carried out to transform the Youth Offending Service, young people's mental health services and youth employment services. In 2016/17 the council allocated an extra £500,000 for targeted support for young people most at risk of turning to gangs and crime.

2.5 Islington considers young people's involvement in gangs to be a safeguarding issue; whereas some boroughs only consider gang activity from a criminal perspective. Islington's overall approach is to build resilience in adolescents, to support them in making the right choices, and to improve their outcomes. The Committee welcomes the council's sustained focus on improving services for vulnerable young people, however considers that there is scope for further improvement.

Promoting joined up working between council services and partners

2.6 Children's Services provide and commission numerous services for vulnerable young people, the majority of which fall under either the Safeguarding and Family Support directorate, or the Youth and Communities directorate.

2.7 The Safeguarding and Family Support directorate includes early help and family support services, the 'front door service' which provides a single referral point for the council's services for vulnerable young people, Children in Need social work teams, Looked After Children social work teams, the 'Independent Futures' care leavers service, fostering and adoption services, and safeguarding and quality assurance teams.

2.8 The Youth and Community Services directorate was established in 2016 to align the early intervention and prevention of youth crime alongside safeguarding and family support services. The directorate includes the Youth Offending Service, the 'Targeted Youth Team' which carries out community outreach work with young people at risk of offending, the Integrated Gangs Team which works with the Police to offer support to those involved in gang activity, play and youth services, and the council's three youth hubs.

2.9 The Committee considered a number of case studies related to vulnerable adolescents and their families accessing a range of support services. Officers explained how the council's services work to minimise the risks to vulnerable adolescents, and as a result help young people and their families to build resilience, improve school attendance and attainment, cease gang involvement, reduce offending, secure employment, develop confidence and personal and social skills, engage with health services, reduce substance misuse, and achieve other positive outcomes. The Committee reviewed how different services operate in considerable detail.

2.10 Although the Committee was satisfied that a consistent and joined up approach was being taken by Children's Services, young people and their families also rely on a range of other local services. These may be other services provided by Islington Council, such as housing services or benefits assessment, or services provided by partners, including the Police, Schools, NHS, and the voluntary sector. Although Children's Services already engage with all of these partners, the Committee would welcome a greater strategic join up between these services and Children's Services, particularly on issues affecting the most vulnerable young people.

2.11 During the review officers commented that both GPs and schools could be more effective in referring vulnerable young people to support services at an earlier stage. Specific actions to support this are set out elsewhere in this report. However, it is suggested that further join up across services and partner organisations would foster a more consistent and holistic approach, and may in turn improve outcomes for vulnerable adolescents. Having a shared vision and priorities is key to this; and for this reason, it is recommended that a borough-wide pledge to support vulnerable young people is developed. This pledge should be owned at Chief Executive level to ensure that all council services contribute to the delivery of the pledge.

2.12 **A borough-wide pledge to support vulnerable young people should be developed by Summer 2018. Ownership of this pledge at Chief Executive level will help support accountability cross the council. All council services should commit to working collaboratively to reduce the risks to young people and improve their wellbeing. Partner**

organisations should also be encouraged to commit to the pledge. This would assist in developing more joined up early intervention approaches.

- 2.13 It is important that the delivery of the pledge is monitored to ensure that all services are working together in the best interests of vulnerable young people. Rather than task an individual or group with monitoring the pledge, it is recommended that delivery and monitoring should be incorporated into the terms of reference of all relevant multi-agency forums. This approach would allow services and partner organisations to hold each other to account without significantly increasing the burdens on services. Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee could be invited to attend relevant meetings where delivery of the pledge will be reviewed to provide democratic oversight and scrutiny.
- 2.14 The Committee also considers that it is important for young people to monitor the delivery of the pledge. Young people have valuable insights into the reality of service delivery and it is essential that their voices are heard. The Committee received evidence from Simone Headley, Chair of the Children's Active Involvement Service (CAIS) Council, and visited the CAIS Council to discuss their views on council services. The CAIS Council is open to all young people who are looked after or who have a social worker, and regularly provides feedback on services through the Corporate Parenting Board and other forums. Simone Headley commented that she was keen to keep senior officers "on their toes" and make sure they were listening to young people.
- 2.15 Young people should have a key role in holding services to account. This would not only help to improve services, but also help to develop the skills of the young people participating the process. The Committee recommends that both the CAIS Council and the Youth Council should carry out an annual review of how the pledge is being delivered and report their findings to the Chief Executive.
- 2.16 **It is suggested that the delivery of the pledge should be incorporated into the terms of reference and work plans of all relevant multi-agency forums. These forums should monitor delivery of the pledge through their work. A member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee should be invited to observe relevant meetings. In addition, the Youth Council and CAIS should be invited to undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of the Pledge and report their findings back to the Chief Executive.**

Working differently to achieve the best outcomes for vulnerable adolescents

- 2.17 The Committee received evidence on the challenges faced by the council in providing effective services for vulnerable adolescents. Officers commented that the borough's administrative boundaries presented certain challenges. Although the council engages with young people on Islington estates, holds events in local youth hubs, and has a positive working relationship with the Police's local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, it was noted that some vulnerable young people from Islington frequently gather outside the borough boundary in Wood Green, Kings Cross, and the West End. The council is not able to target interventions in these areas, which makes it more difficult to engage with these young people.
- 2.18 The Committee also noted that traditional safeguarding approaches may not be wholly relevant to the issues faced by vulnerable adolescents. Traditional social work approaches are based on safeguarding children within a family; they work with young people and their parents on an individual basis, with interventions related to what happens within the family home. Whilst this is very effective for some vulnerable adolescents, this approach does not adequately address the risks to vulnerable adolescents in the community. Young people are not only influenced by what happens at home, but what happens in their peer group. Family based approaches only have limited relevance to, for example, a young person being exploited by a gang, or peer to peer child sexual exploitation. Parents have little influence over these risks.

- 2.19 The Committee received evidence on 'contextual safeguarding', a new approach being trialled in the London Borough of Hackney through government innovation funding. This new approach recognises the need to protect children from risks outside of the home; from peer groups and social media, and the community risks in their neighbourhoods and schools. The approach seeks to work in partnership with organisations that would not normally be involved in safeguarding, such as transport providers, local businesses, and fast food restaurants. The approach recognises that peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence, and these relationships are shaped by the local context of where they develop. Targeting interventions outside of the family home provides a more holistic safeguarding approach, in which children are protected in the places they are most vulnerable.
- 2.20 The Committee is supportive of contextual safeguarding approaches, however notes that current statutory frameworks are based on traditional family-based approaches. For this reason it is not possible for the council to fully implement contextual safeguarding approaches at present. However, the Committee considers that a cross-borough approach to safeguarding is needed, which makes use of contextual safeguarding methods to protect vulnerable young people across London. It is recommended that Islington Council work with other boroughs and key agencies such as the Police to develop such an approach as far as possible within the current statutory framework.
- 2.21 **To foster a more effective and joined-up approach to safeguarding across London, Children's Services should seek to work with neighbouring boroughs and other agencies to develop a contextual safeguarding approach. This approach is focused on reducing risks and vulnerabilities and promoting safeguarding by intervening in the social environments experienced by young people, rather than focusing interventions on individuals. As part of this work, the council should lead on the development of protocols across borders with neighbouring local authorities focusing on risk management and the sharing of good practice.**
- 2.22 The Committee also received evidence on a new approach to working with young people in schools and other settings. Islington Council is currently delivering a project in partnership with Islington Clinical Commissioning Group and Whittington Health, which is seeking to implement trauma informed approaches in primary schools. This 'ARC Pilot Project' recognises that young people are affected by trauma; this might include physical, emotional or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect, or 'household dysfunction' such as domestic violence, substance misuse, mental illness, an incarcerated relative, or divorce. Experiences of trauma can lead to children developing coping strategies which may express as distressing behaviours, such as provoking conflict or avoiding seeking help. As a result, children who have experienced trauma may be under-developed in areas which are not useful to coping with trauma. For example, young children who have experienced trauma may have difficulty in sharing, problem solving, sustaining attention, seeking help, forming relationships, and managing emotions.
- 2.23 The pilot project was working with teachers and others working with young children to help them identify signs of trauma and target support at vulnerable young people who need it. This could include taking different approaches to managing behaviour in the classroom, or making referrals to support services as appropriate. It was suggested that those who have experienced trauma were more likely to have poorer outcomes, or develop vulnerabilities including mental health issues.
- 2.24 Whilst the results of the pilot project have not yet been evaluated, the Committee is supportive of trauma informed approaches, and considers that this work has significant potential to support vulnerable young people from an early age. The Committee suggests that these approaches,

and related screening tools for vulnerabilities, should be adopted more widely by schools. Engagement with the Community of Schools on this would be beneficial.

- 2.25 **Subject to the results of the trauma-informed approaches pilot, Children's Services should work with the Community of Schools to encourage schools to engage with these approaches and adopt related screening tools. This may assist in identifying a range of issues, including the diagnosis of mental health issues, at a much earlier age. The five schools engaging in the ARC pilot project should be asked to support in cascading this approach.**
- 2.26 There may be learning from the trauma informed approaches pilot which would benefit all professionals working with young people. To ensure this learning is shared as widely as possible, it is suggested that any relevant information should be incorporated into existing training provided through the Islington Safeguarding Children Board. It is hoped that this will assist professionals in identifying vulnerabilities and increase the number of referrals to support services.
- 2.27 **A trauma-informed approach to working with young people should be embedded in multi-agency training through a review of the Safeguarding Children Board training offer.**

Working with the Police to facilitate earlier intervention

- 2.28 The Committee received evidence on the close working relationship between Children's Services and the Police. The Committee welcomes that key agencies are working together through the Integrated Gangs Team, which includes staff from the council, Police, the Probation Service, the NHS, Victim Support, and others. The Police also engage in various multi-agency forums focused on safeguarding vulnerable young people, including the Islington Safeguarding Children Board. A sub-group of the Safeguarding Children Board has been formed to focus on the exploitation of young people, and this is chaired by the Police's safeguarding lead. This work makes a positive contribution to safeguarding in the borough, however, the Committee suggests that more could be done by both the council and the Police to ensure even earlier intervention for vulnerable young people.
- 2.29 Officers reported that domestic abuse and violence is a key factor experienced or witnessed by vulnerable adolescents. The Committee noted that this is a sensitive topic and acknowledged the difficulties associated with addressing domestic violence issues; some perpetrators of domestic violence are very effective in controlling and coercing their victims, and some victims of domestic violence will not seek help out of fear.
- 2.30 The council and Police work in partnership to provide services for both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. This work is informed by the multi-agency Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. Services include confidential drop in services and targeted interventions. Officers advised that there have been a number of local success stories where victims have left their abusive partner, perpetrators have changed their behaviour and formed healthy relationships, and vulnerable young people are protected. Whilst this work is welcomed, the Committee would support stronger and earlier interventions on domestic violence and abuse from both the council and the Police, given the high proportion of vulnerable adolescents being affected by domestic violence and abuse.
- 2.31 The Committee would also support further work in schools to support young people affected by domestic violence and abuse. Operation Encompass is a national partnership between the Police and Education. Participating boroughs establish processes for the Police to report to schools the

next day if a young person has been exposed to or witnessed domestic abuse the previous evening. This information is passed to a responsible person at the school who can then arrange support as required. The Committee would support Islington participating in Operation Encompass. The Safeguarding Children Board may be best placed to lead on the implementation of the partnership.

- 2.32 **A high number of vulnerable adolescents have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse earlier in their lives. It is recommended that the council and police work together to develop stronger and earlier interventions on domestic abuse. This work should include the development of Operation Encompass in schools and a focus on partnership work through Islington Safeguarding Children Board.**
- 2.33 The Committee considers that there are further ways in which the Police could strengthen their partnership work with schools. The Police may hold useful information on young people which, if shared with schools and the local authority, could help to target support and interventions at an earlier stage. For example, Safer Neighbourhood Teams may have useful intelligence on young people at risk of gang activity. The information held may not be related to a particular crime, but local police officers may know, for example, which young people have been involved in anti-social behavior the previous evening, or who has been socialising with known gang members. The Committee noted that a young person's activity in a gang tends to escalate over time; young adolescents may start their gang involvement as a drug mule, before progressing to serious youth violence. It is important to engage with these vulnerable children as early as possible, before their gang involvement becomes entrenched. Greater use of Police intelligence may help in targeting this engagement.
- 2.34 **Children's Services should review if greater information can be shared between agencies to develop a more joined up approach to working with vulnerable adolescents. The Council should work with Police to ensure that lower level non-criminal concerns about young people are reported to the school via the Safer Schools Officer, so that young people's behaviour can be monitored and they can be referred to appropriate support services as appropriate.**

Making the most of existing resources

- 2.35 The Committee is acutely aware of the financial constraints on local authorities, schools, the Police, and the wider public sector. Resources to invest in new or enhanced services to support vulnerable adolescents are increasingly limited. It is essential that all partners involved in safeguarding children make the best use of existing resources.
- 2.36 The Committee received evidence on the Safer Schools offer provided by the Metropolitan Police. In Islington, every secondary school is assigned a Safer Schools Officer. This is a named Police Officer who will work in close partnership with the school, providing advice to pupils and staff on personal safety, crime prevention, safeguarding issues, drug awareness, exploitation, hate crime, knife crime, and domestic abuse. Although it was not possible to objectively measure the impact of Safer Schools officers, the sessions and advice provided was tailored to the needs of each school, and the project was intended to reduce the risks to young people and offending rates.
- 2.37 The Police advised the Committee that Safer Schools officers were being underused in Islington, and noted that Islington currently received a higher resource level than many other London boroughs, some of which only had four Safer Schools officers covering an entire borough. The Police commented that if Islington schools did not make greater use of Safer Schools officers

then resource levels would have to be reviewed. The Committee considers that Safer Schools officers provide a valuable service and suggests that the benefits and opportunities they provide should be promoted through the Community of Schools.

- 2.38 The Committee considers that greater use could be made of Safer Schools officers. The promotion of Safer Schools officers and their role in safeguarding children should be reiterated through the Islington Community of Schools.**
- 2.39 The Committee received evidence on how the community and voluntary sector supports vulnerable adolescents. The Committee received a presentation on the work of Arsenal in the Community. Although the organisation delivers activities through the medium of football, the focus of the organisation is on education, employment, and reducing youth crime. The organisation received funding from MOPAC, the Home Office and Sport England to deliver projects, and the effectiveness of its work was evaluated through key performance indicators. The organisation engaged with 5,700 participants a week through a range of short-term and long-term programmes. It was commented that long term approaches were most effective for vulnerable adolescents. These allowed workers to build relationships with young people; workers could then recognise when young people were struggling, and also when they were most receptive to support and open to changing their behaviour.
- 2.40 The Committee also received a presentation on the work of Abianda, a small social enterprise that works with young women affected by gangs and the professionals that support them. Abianda provided targeted services and bespoke projects for these young women, working with them on a one-to-one or small group basis. The organisation's work includes the Star Project, which explores issues such as healthy relationships, violence and exploitation; the Young Trainer Programme, which trains young women affected by gangs to become young trainers who can engage with professionals and help them to tailor their services; and the 'Be Your Own Boss' project, run in partnership with the London Village Network, which provides advice and support to young women wanting to start their own business. Abianda's work was focused around solution-based therapies, and all services were non-judgemental; they focused on the young woman's strengths and her future. Young women did not have to disclose any information about their relationships, associates or past traumas if they did not feel comfortable doing so. It was commented that this approach tended to allow young women to build relationships quickly with their support worker, even if the young woman had a history of non-engagement with support services. The organisation was currently working with 25 high-risk young women in Islington. Abianda hoped to develop services for younger girls as a form of early intervention, however this would require additional funding.
- 2.41 The Committee welcomes the work of the community and voluntary sector in supporting vulnerable adolescents. These organisations provide valuable services and are able to work with young people in a way that local agencies are not able to. Young people can face stigma when engaging with council services, health services, or the Police. For this reason, young people are more likely to engage with support organisations based in their community. The Committee is encouraged that this is recognised in the commissioning of services for young people, and that the council is working closely with voluntary sector organisations that deliver innovative and high quality support programmes.
- 2.42 The Committee believes that there is a great deal of potential in the local community and voluntary sector, and suggests that working even closer with the sector could assist in safeguarding and supporting vulnerable young people. Engaging with the sector on the council's priorities and early intervention approach would be a valuable exercise, and may result in greater

alignment between council priorities and the priorities of the sector. It is also thought that aligning grant funding to these priorities may encourage a greater join up between council services and the community and voluntary sector. This could result in a more coherent approach to working with vulnerable young people across the borough.

2.43 The council should ensure its strategic and commissioning priorities for vulnerable adolescents are shared with the voluntary and community sector and that priorities between the council and voluntary and community sector organisations are aligned. This could include the alignment of grant funding to these priorities.

2.44 The Committee notes that some smaller community and voluntary sector organisations may be keen to work with the council on projects to support vulnerable young people, but need help in developing their approach. Developing closer relationships with these organisations may assist in generating referrals to the council, normalising accessing support services, and help to ease transitions between voluntary sector services and the council's support services.

2.45 Children's Services should continue to work closely with voluntary and community sector organisations and develop these relationships further as appropriate. This may assist in generating referrals, normalise accessing support, and help to ease transitions between services.

Improving communication with young people and professionals

2.46 The Committee considered the importance of communicating effectively with young people. There are a range of support services available to vulnerable adolescents, and it is crucial that young people are signposted to these services successfully.

2.47 The Committee visited the CAIS Council to discuss young people's views on council services. It was commented that some young people working with CAIS did not know about all of the services available to them. For example, a regular drop-in health clinic was held for these young people, however not all of those eligible were aware of this. It was commented that young people working with CAIS were provided with a printed booklet of services. The young people wanted to be able to find out about services in a more engaging way, and had recommended through the Corporate Parenting Board that an app be developed. The young people wanted the app to contain key information which could be updated regularly, and send notifications about upcoming events and drop-in sessions. Officers commented that progress on the development of the app had been slow due to technical and contractual issues.

2.48 The Committee considers that an app/website would be useful, not only for young people working with CAIS, but for all young people in the borough. Witnesses providing evidence to the Committee commented on the difficulty of communicating the range of services available to marginalised young people, particularly to those who did not access services at Islington's youth hubs. Abianda had received feedback from gang affected young women that they did not know there were services available to support them.

2.49 It is thought that a young person's app/website could communicate targeted information about support services, events, health and wellbeing messages, and other advice and guidance for young people, particularly vulnerable young people. Although it is suggested that the council lead on this, the app/website could also include useful information from the Police, NHS, voluntary sector, and others. Any app/website developed would need to be promoted regularly through

schools and social media.

- 2.50 **The council should work to improve its communications to young people. The Council should lead on the development of a multi-purpose young people's app/website to ensure a wider reach for communicating targeted messages and information about health and wellbeing and support services.**
- 2.51 The CAIS Council also reported that young people were frustrated at not being able to contact their social worker at short notice. The CAIS Council understood that social workers had a caseload of around 20 young people and were generally not free for unscheduled meetings or calls, however commented that the use of instant messaging would be a good service development and provide them with a faster response. Some young people knew they could email their social worker, but the CAIS Council highlighted that this was not a form of communication widely used by children and younger adolescents. There was a duty social worker available for short notice appointments, but young people emphasised that they did not have a relationship with this individual and wanted to be able to talk to their own social worker, who knew and understood their issues. The Committee would support allowing young people to contact their social worker through instant messaging, subject to all necessary safeguarding and data security criteria being met.
- 2.52 **Children's Services should review the feasibility of allowing young people to contact their social worker through instant messaging.**
- 2.53 It is suggested that services could be better promoted to professionals working with young people also. A directory of services is available on the council's website; however, witnesses queried the effectiveness of this. Both Arsenal in the Community and Abianda commented that their services were sometimes misunderstood by professionals, and this resulted in young people having different expectations of their services. The directory of services should be reviewed to ensure that it clearly communicates how a service is able to support a young person; this could include details of the programmes available and the methods they use alongside eligibility criteria. This would support professionals in judging whether a referral is appropriate or not.
- 2.54 It is also important that the directory is proactively promoted to all relevant professionals working with young people. The Committee suggests that the directory should be promoted through a series of communications about how to use it effectively; and if necessary officers could visit professional network meetings to discuss its use with colleagues in other sectors, including education and health. The directory could also be promoted through relevant safeguarding training.
- 2.55 **The council should review its directory of services and ensure it is proactively promoted to professionals in the health, education, and voluntary and community sectors to raise awareness and understanding of the range of support services available to vulnerable adolescents.**

Other findings

- 2.56 Members of the CAIS Council suggested that services for young people could be more flexible and accessible. One care leaver commented that she was unable to access certain support services as she worked full time and the services were only available during standard office hours, Monday to Friday. It was thought that other young people may be in a similar position, or

have other reasons why they are not able to access services during usual hours. For this reason, it is suggested that it may be appropriate to provide evening and weekend services if there is sufficient demand from young people. This would need to be reviewed on a service-by-service basis.

- 2.57 The council should review if support services for young people are sufficiently flexible and accessible, and should consider the appropriateness and feasibility of providing evening and weekend support services, if such services are not already available.**
- 2.58 Evidence received by the Committee highlighted a number of positive examples of services listening and responding to the views of children and young people. The Youth Council has an active role in developing and reviewing services. Young people accessing Children in Need services are asked about their views and experiences, which inform targeted interventions with their parents. Senior officers regularly engage with the CAIS Council and officers suggested that this resulted in Islington providing some of the most comprehensive services for looked after children in London. Young people have been consulted to co-design future CAMHS services. Young people regularly sit on staff interview panels to ensure that the child's voice is reflected in the recruitment of relevant staff. The Council had established the Fair Futures Commission, which worked closely with young people and included young commissioners. The Commission had made several recommendations to the council and others on how to improve services for young people.
- 2.59 Of course, it is not possible to implement all suggestions made by young people. For example, it was highlighted that some young people were keen to self-refer to support services, however officers thought that this would not allow for the effective triaging of support. There was a concern that if access to certain services was not managed effectively then services could become overwhelmed. The Committee appreciates these concerns, welcomes that services proactively seek the views of young people, and is satisfied that services are positively responding to young people's feedback when possible.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Overall the Committee was impressed with the wide range of support services available for vulnerable adolescents. The Committee considered a number of examples of different services and agencies working together to provide co-ordinated services for the benefit of young people. It is clear that the council and its partners recognise that providing joined up services is the best approach to supporting vulnerable young people. However, further improvements could be made to improve the effectiveness of services.
- 3.2 14 recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to a greater strategic join-up between services; working differently by adopting new practices, such as trauma informed and contextual safeguarding approaches; closer work with the Police around domestic violence and the sharing of intelligence; making the most of existing resources; and communicating more effectively with young people and the professionals that support them.
- 3.3 The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)
Title: Co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents
Scrutiny Review Committee: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Directors leading the review: Lisa Arthey, Director of Youth and Communities Finola Culbert, Director of Safeguarding and Family Support
Lead officers: Catherine Briody, Head of Youth and Community Services Laura Eden, Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Overall aim: To review how effective the council is in providing joined up services; and to ensure that there are effective processes and practices that ensure young people are involved in all aspects of their support and intervention
<p>Objectives of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further understand the current and future risks and challenges faced by our young people who are vulnerable and how the council is continually responding to these in Islington. • To evaluate how the views and experiences of vulnerable adolescents are considered when planning and delivering services. • 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. • To assess if the support available to vulnerable adolescents from council services is sufficient, and how other support networks in the family, community, and peer groups can be developed to support further. • 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. • 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>How is the review to be carried out?</p> <p><u>Scope of the review</u></p> <p>The review will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Types of evidence

- Evidence from officers across Children's Services
- Evidence from partner organisations that work closely with vulnerable adolescents
- Visits to services, to enable the committee to interview young people and front-line staff
- Evidence from other local authorities which demonstrate best practice in terms of services for vulnerable adolescents and integrated and joined up services
- Documentary evidence on young people's vulnerabilities, best practice, and service performance.

Additional information:

For the purposes of this scrutiny review, adolescents are young people aged from the onset of puberty to 19 years. Focus will be given to young people aged 10-13, as this is a crucial age at which they transition from young people to teenagers and change schools.

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Programme

Key output:	To be submitted to Committee on:
1. Scrutiny Initiation Document	19 September 2017
2. Draft Recommendations	20 February 2018
3. Final Report	20 March 2018

WITNESS EVIDENCE PLAN

Aim:

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 Billinghamurst - Founder and Director of ABIANDA • Sharon 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.

Documentary evidence:

- Briefing Note on Contextual Safeguarding

2. Visits

Visits			
Who	Organisation/remit	Area of focus	When
Young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAIS representatives	Looked after children engaging in the CAIS Council	What works or could work better for them re: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support- Involvement in planning or reviewing services	February 2018

3. Report

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