



Report of: **Director of Children's Services**

Meeting of :	Date:	Ward(s):
Children Services Scrutiny Committee	21 November 2016	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Performance 2016/17: Quarter 2 Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This quarter two (Q2) performance report provides an update on progress against key performance indicators across Children's Services.
- 1.2 Only those Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) where new data are available at the time of writing are shown in this report, to avoid repetition from previous performance updates.
- 1.3 Corporate Indicators are highlighted – these have profiled targets for each quarter.

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

KPI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Period covered	Current Figure	Profiled Target (where applicable)	2016/17 Target (where applicable)	2015/16 Actual	Same period previous year	Direction of travel
1.2	Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD) in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	Annual	2015/16 Academic Year	65.8%	-	-	63.8%	-	Better
1.4	Equalities: Improving Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes for Turkish/Kurdish pupils (GLD)	Annual	2015/16 Academic Year	45.9%	-	-	41.5%	-	Better
1.5	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	Termly	Autumn & Spring terms 2015/16	9.9%	11%	11%	TBC on completion of Autumn Census	10.4%	Better
1.7	Equalities: 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	2015/16 Academic Year (provisional)	15 percentage points	-	-	Not comparable	-	-
1.8	Corporate Indicator: Number of children in Alternative Provision	Quarterly	Snapshot end Q2	95	n/a	100	127	102	Lower

1.2 - Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

The proportion of Islington children (aged 5) achieving a good level of development has continued to rise, increasing by 2 percentage points between 2014/15 and 2015/16. Nationally, the proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development increased from 66.3% to 69.3%, so Islington remains below the national average.

1.4 & 1.7 – Equalities indicators

These new equalities indicators will help strengthen our focus on areas where there have been persistent inequalities in outcomes. The percentage of Turkish and Kurdish children reaching a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile has improved, though remains substantially below the borough average (KPI 1.4). As 2015/16 saw substantial changes to the primary school curriculum; this year will act as a baseline for the gap at key stage 2 (KPI 1.7).

1.5 - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent

The persistent absence rate among Islington primary school pupils reduced by half a percentage point to just below 10% during the first two terms of the 2015/16 academic year, compared to 2014/15 (this is based on using the new more challenging definition in both years¹). However, Islington's persistent absence rate amongst primary school pupils remains above the national average.

1.8 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

We are aware that the best place for the majority of students is to remain in mainstream school, and aim to do everything possible to minimise the number of referrals for Alternative Provision. One of the intended outcomes of the improvement plan is to reduce the number of students referred to alternative provision from mainstream schools by 30% by January 2017. A detailed plan is in place to improve outcomes for all young people who do attend Alternative Provision. Actions include:

- A Service Specification between Islington schools and Islington Council - to identify clearly the roles and responsibilities of each.
- Revised arrangements for referral by school to alternative provision
- Non-attendance at Alternative Provision challenged more rigorously through legal action
- Regular half termly meetings with providers that focus on ensuring individual students are challenged and stretched.
- New students who are referred to AP will be assessed to make sure that both they and their families have the right level of support from Early Help / Targeted services. Key Stage 3 students at risk of AP are being identified in school, needs are being assessed and students and families are being referred appropriate outside agencies to support them to remain in mainstream education.

¹ The DfE set out a new challenge for school attendance by further raising the level at which a child is deemed persistently absent. From September 2015 persistent absence (PA) will include all pupils whose attendance is 90% or less. Previously, persistent absence was based on a minimum number of days of absence. This was to prevent a pupil who is only enrolled at a particular school for a short period of time before transferring being classified as a persistent absentee if they are absent for a few days. For 2015/16 academic year onwards, the DfE have changed the PA definition to be any pupil who misses 10% or more of their own total possible days of school. Because different terms have different lengths, there will also be a varying impact in each term. Pupils taking unauthorised leave of absence early in the year could be categorised as persistently absent well into half term five but have perfect attendance from their return date onwards.

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

KPI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Period covered	Current Figure	Profiled Target	2016/17 Target	2015/16 Actual	Same period previous year	Direction of travel
2.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of families in Stronger Families programme with successful outcomes as measured by payment by results	Min. of 2 claims a yr.	Sept. 2016 claim	87 families	40	100	30 families (4%)	N/a (Phase 1)	Na/ - cumulative

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

Having achieved our target of ‘turning around’ 100% of 815 families known to the Stronger Families programme in phase one 2012-2015, we are now in phase two of the programme.

The government has expanded the criteria for inclusion and tripled the number of families we must engage with and ‘turn around’ on all identified problem areas including crime or ASB, education, employment, child welfare, domestic violence and health.

As well as adding three further Payment by Results (PbR) criteria, the government had tightened the eligibility requirements for a claim to require that any families claimed must have demonstrable evidence of whole family assessments and plans.

In September, 87 claims were made. Our own internal target for the end of the financial year is nearly met already. Future confirmed claim dates in January and March 2017. Claims will be (at least) twice a year in Phase 2, rather than quarterly as they were in Phase 1.

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

KPI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Period covered	Current Figure	Profiled Target	2016/17 Target	2015/16 Actual	Same period previous year	Direction of travel
3.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of children missing from care	Monthly	September	22	10 or fewer a month	10 or fewer a month	18	11	Higher
3.5	Number of children missing from home	Monthly	September	30	-	-	20	12	Higher
3.6	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	Quarterly	Apr-Sept 2016	77%	85%	85%	80%	76%	Similar
3.7	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	Quarterly	Apr-Sept 2016	44	47	95	102	45	Similar
3.8	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	Quarterly	Apr-Sept 2016	41.3%	37%	43%	48%	32%	Higher
3.9	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	Quarterly	Apr-Sept 2016	22	18	35	37	20	Higher

3.4 and 3.5 - Number of children missing from care; and home

The figures for children missing from care in each month have been 15, 28 and 22 for July, August and September 2016. We have appointed a project officer for CSE and Missing and have developed a new process for missing episodes and return home interviews. These measures should ensure that we have completely accurate missing children data and will be able to quickly tackle any problems with compliance in this area. We will then be able to have a sharper focus our work to reduce the frequency of missing episodes as we will be able to ensure a consistent response to every missing episode. We will have an accurate picture of our highest risk missing children and will be able to ensure that all necessary measures are completed for these children including strategy meetings, safety plans and return home interviews. Missing episodes are very often linked to risks of child sexual exploitation and gang or criminal activity and we have a number of initiatives in place to reduce risks of CSE and gang activity for our young people.

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

We have revised our Out of Court Disposal protocol to ensure a coherence of Met police and YJB guidance and recommendations from the Laming Review. The number of young people being identified for triage has increased, rather than reduced and with the changes in the early cancellation of bail for these cases we have seen a slight drop in compliance with triage. However we have a success rate of 77% in Q2 this year among triage cases, which is overall positive.

3.7 - Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System

There has been a long term trend reduction in the numbers of first time entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system and the number of young people who reoffend. This is in line with the national picture. Provisional figures suggest a rise in FTEs at the start of 2016 and it is believed that this is in part due to the rise in youth violence on borough and a surge in young people being arrested for Possession of an Offensive Weapon. This number has since come down and we hope to see a continued reduction in FTE.

3.8 and 3.9 - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s); and number of custodial sentences for young offenders

Islington Council has increased their capacity to work with our most vulnerable Adolescents at risk of entering the youth justice system by using in part additional funding. This has allowed for a wider range of skills from the voluntary and community sector to be utilised across borough for our young people. It will of course take time to build positive relationships with young people but further investment in a range of preventative and therapeutic interventions will continually reduce the numbers of young people undertaking a “revolving door” process of returning to criminal activity repeatedly and escalation in their behaviours. Commissioning has commenced for this work.

An Evaluation of the Criminal behaviour Orders and how they were used in Islington has been completed and the new joint working protocol which looks at utilising existing orders or more focused effective sanctions imposed is now starting to be embedded in practice. This will assist in reducing the reoffending rate for the borough.

The YOS is strengthening its work with partners at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, to reduce up-tariffing in sentencing and promote a range of community based options. The Chief Magistrate attended the last Youth Justice Services Management Board to increase positive partnership working and a continued dialogue with the court is now established.

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

KPI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Period covered	Current Figure	Profiled Target	2016/17 Target	2015/16 Actual	Same period previous year	Direction of travel
4.1	Percentage of primary schools that meet or exceed the floor standard	Annual	2015/16 Academic Year (provisional)	100%	-	-	100%	-	Same
4.2	Percentage of secondary schools that meet or exceed the floor standard	Annual	2015/16 Academic Year (provisional)	100%	-	-	100%	-	Same
4.3	CLA educational outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4	Annual	2015/16 Academic Year (provisional)	18.2% (5+ A*-Cs. Inc. E&M) -11.3 (Progress 8)	-	-	17.6% (5+ A*-Cs. Inc. E&M)	-	Better
4.4	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	Quarterly	Snapshot end Q2 (provisional)	88.0%	-	-	86.2%	86.0%	Better
4.5	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (primary, secondary and special)	Quarterly	Snapshot end Q2	92.2%	-	-	87.5%	87.5%	Better

4.1 and 4.2 - Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 2; and Key Stage 4

All Islington primary and secondary schools are above the floor standard for 2016. If a school's performance falls below the floor standard, then the school may come under scrutiny through inspection.

The Department for Education sets a floor standard for schools, to achieve a minimum level of attainment and expected progress. At primary for the 2016 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. A secondary school would be below the floor standard if its Progress 8 score is below -0.5, and the upper band of the 95% confidence interval is below zero.

4.3 - CLA educational outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4

The educational results of our Looked After Children were positive in 2015/16. The proportion of those looked after for over a year achieving the old GCSE benchmark of 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths improved on the 2014/15 results, which were already above the national average for looked after children.

By comparison, the borough average for all children in Islington mainstream schools (provisional) was 58.0% achieving 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths, above the national published at 57.0%. The gap between the attainment at Key Stage 4 of Islington's Looked After Children and the attainment of all Islington school pupils was narrower in 2014/15 (2015/16 national comparators for all Looked After Children will be published in March 2017). The Progress 8 average score for Islington pupils was 0.19, which means that Islington pupils on average make almost a fifth of a grade more progress than the national average. Islington is ranked 19th best in the country for Progress 8.

It is important to note that a significant minority of these pupils only became looked after very late in their school careers. This includes 21 Year 11 pupils (14 boys and 7 girls) who came into care within 14 months of the start of their GCSEs. The majority (12) were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and two-thirds (14) had to be placed outside the Borough.

Actions taken by the borough's Virtual School Team during the 2015/16 academic year include improvements in the quality and use of the daily attendance and termly attainment & progress data collected, improvements to the quality and timeliness of Personal Education Plans, 1-to-1 catch up tuition and exam revision support for pupils with English as an Additional Language and mentoring interventions for teenagers.

4.4 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

In Quarter 2, three childminders whose previous inspection outcome was 'Requires Improvement' received a 'Good' inspection outcome. One childminder moved from 'Inadequate' to 'Good', and an Out of School Club on the Early Years Register moved from 'Inadequate' to 'Outstanding'. Overall, 84% of childminders and 94% of non-domestic childcare settings are judged good or better. This compares favourably to the latest published comparator data for the end of March 2016, which shows that 86% of early years

settings nationally were judged to be good or better, whilst 81% of the settings in the authority's Statistical Neighbours were good or better.

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

All secondary schools were judged as good or better by Ofsted in their last inspection. All maintained special schools are outstanding and an increasing proportion of primary schools are judged good or better (90.9%), which is now above the national average (primary 90.3% nationally).

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

KPI No.	Indicator	Frequency reported	Period covered	Current Figure	Profiled Target	2016/17 Target	2015/16 Actual	Same period previous year	Direction of travel
5.1	Corporate Indicator: Number of active childminders	Quarterly	Snapshot end Q2	191	191	195	187	191	Same
5.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington	Quarterly	Apr-Sept 2016	2	6	12	9	6	Lower

5.1 - Number of active childminders

The number of childminders has remained stable and the quality of provision has continued to improve (childminders' inspection outcomes contribute to KPI 4.4).

5.2 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington

In the first two quarters of the year, we have approved two mainstream foster care households, which is lower than expected. However, another new foster family has been approved in October and another 6 families are due to be approved before Christmas. There are also a number of new applicants at an early stage in the process, following a 100% increase in applications since April. However there are challenges in attracting applicants who speak enough English and have a spare bedroom and because of concerns about teenage behaviour.

We would like Councillors and staff to visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/islington.fostering> to attract a wider audience and to follow us on Twitter@isfostering.

The foster care recruitment strategy was presented to Corporate Parenting Board in September 2016.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



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