



Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

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

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

1. Synopsis

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

2. Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.8 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

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

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

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

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

1.9 – Corporate Indicator: Average Attainment 8 Score

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

Attainment 8 measures achievement across 8 qualifications.

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

1.10 – Corporate Indicator: Average Progress 8 Score

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

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

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

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

1.11 – Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In terms of the year 16-17:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 - Number of children missing from home

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Area for development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.7 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

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

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

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

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

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

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

The breakdowns by school phase are:

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

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

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

5.1 - Number of active childminders

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

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

5.4 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington

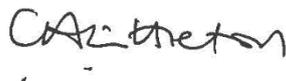
In 2017/18 (as of November 2017), we have approved 6 new foster carers, including a specialist foster carer. The target for this indicator is to recruit 12 mainstream foster carers of the course of the financial year, i.e. one per month, so we are in line with the target. However, we have 5 new foster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

Appendices: Appendix A – Data Dashboard

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

20 December 2017

Date:

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