

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
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