



AGENDA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held via Zoom on **14 December 2020 at 7.00 pm.**

The link to the Zoom meeting is below. If you prefer to join the meeting by phone please dial 0203 481 5240. Enter meeting ID 946 9471 9397 when prompted.

<https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/94694719397>

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Despatched : 4 December 2020

Membership

Councillors:

Councillor Vivien Cutler (Chair)
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford
Councillor Joe Caluori
Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Councillor Flora Williamson
Councillor John Woolf

Co-opted Member:

Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese
Zaleera Wallace, Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Claire Ballak, Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Vacancy Church of England Diocese

Quorum is 3 Councillors

Substitute Members

Substitutes:

Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Nick Wayne

A. Formal Matters **Page**

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

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

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

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

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

***(a) Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.

(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.

(d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.

(e) Licences- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.

(f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.

(g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1 - 12
5. Chair's Report
6. Items for Call In (if any)

7. Public Questions

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

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B. Items for Decision/Discussion	
1. Children's Services Quarter 2 2020/21 Performance Report	13 - 32
2. COVID-19 Recovery Scrutiny Review - Witness Evidence	Verbal Report

C. Urgent non-exempt items (if any)

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

D. Exclusion of press and public

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

E. Exempt items for Call In (if any)

F. Confidential/exempt items

G. Urgent exempt items (if any)

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

The next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be on 26 January 2021

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

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

London Borough of Islington

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 3 November 2020

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Cutler (Chair), Ozdemir (Vice-Chair), Ngongo, Williamson and Woolf

Also Present: **Co-opted Member** Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese
Claire Ballak, Parent Governor Representative (Primary)

Councillor Vivien Cutler in the Chair

201 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. A1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Bell-Bradford, Caluori and Graham. Apologies were also received from Carmel Littleton.

202 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM NO. A2)

None.

203 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. A3)

None.

204 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM NO. A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 September be confirmed and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

205 CHAIR'S REPORT (ITEM NO. A5)

The Chair reported that, as she was concerned that some of the wording of the recommendations on the scrutiny review into educational outcomes was not clearly enough focused on the target groups, she had attended an Executive meeting to clarify this and the Executive had taken it on board.

206 ITEMS FOR CALL IN (IF ANY) (ITEM NO. A6)

None.

207 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM NO. A7)

In response to a public question the officer gave an update on digital devices for young people. The number of devices expected from the DfE was now lower and other sources were being looked into, a survey to check access to devices was being undertaken and work was taking place to reach 100% access. The council was ahead of other boroughs in its work to achieving this.

208 CHILD PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2020 (ITEM NO. B2)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 3 November 2020

Laura Eden, Director of Safeguarding, presented the Child Protection Report which provided an update on the progress being made in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Islington's most vulnerable children.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- As of August 2020, Islington Safeguarding and Family Support Service (SFSS) was working with 900 children in need, 377 children who were looked after, of which 26 were disabled children and 62 were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), 538 care leavers and 180 children with child protection plans.
- In 2020 Islington had a full Ofsted inspection. The inspectors considered the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families and concluded Islington's overall effectiveness as outstanding.
- Islington had a Motivational Practice Model which was relationship based and feedback from children, families, staff, services and Ofsted had been positive.
- The report outlined quality assurance through data and auditing activities.
- Safeguarding was a high priority for the council.
- The Chair asked about the performance outcomes in relation to paragraphs 6.14, 6.15 and 6.16 of the report. The officer advised that all auditing activity highlighted areas for improvement, senior officers discussed this and action plans were signed off. The officer would provide data relating to this.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

209

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 (ITEM NO. B1)

Anthony Doudle, Head of School Improvement - Primary, presented the report which outlined the work of SACRE.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- The four recommendations in the report were outlined.
- Increasing diversity and membership of SACRE would mean more voices would be heard and more perspectives would be included. Using partners and resources could make studies more attractive and relevant at Key Stages (KS) 3 and 4. More members were required to help share the workload.
- Work had taken place in relation to remote and blended learning. During lockdown some Religious Education (RE) materials had been provided online but this required more work.
- Developing professional development opportunities for staff across Islington had stalled during lockdown but this was now being progressed.
- The RE Syllabus and Scheme of Work would be implemented in light of

the Islington Recovery Curriculum and the Children's Scrutiny Education Inequalities 14 recommendations with a particular focus on KS3 and KS4.

- There had been no secondary membership for three years. This meant SACRE was lacking the secondary perspective.
- The 2020 GCSE results were a reflection on the impact of COVID-19, the lockdown of schools, partial reopening and the challenges of the teacher assessment processes that secondary schools were asked by the DfE to implement. The number of GCSE entries decreased by 45 in 2020. Pupils achieving the highest grade (9) remained stable compared to 2019. Work was being planned to work with secondary schools to raise the profile of Religious Education studies at KS3 and KS4.
- There had been no complaints about RE and no requests for withdrawal. There had also been no requests for change of designation and no complaints about collective worship.
- There were two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests which were responded within the statutory time frame.
- The current syllabus would expire in July 2022 so SACRE would have to start reviewing the syllabus soon. There would be considerable cost to this.
- In response to a question from a member on the relevance of a Philosophy for Children approach in RE, the officer advised that collective worship meant schools providing an opportunity to reflect and contemplate. This could be in relation to a word, emotion or situation and what this meant to the individual. It was not necessarily praying.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**210 COVID-19 RECOVERY SCRUTINY REVIEW - WITNESS EVIDENCE
(ITEM NO. B4)**

Penny Kenway, Head of Early Years and Childcare, gave a presentation on supporting families with children in their early years.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- COVID-19 had resulted in the dramatic shut down of most Bright Start face-to-face services for families.
- Work had taken place with partners to put alternatives in place and there had been a quick move to online services.
- Families had been reached through virtual platforms including home learning via their nursery.
- The Bright Start vision over the last 4-5 years was about building resilience and reducing stressors such as physical ill-health, mental ill-health, drugs and alcohol misuse, harmful relationships and domestic abuse, poverty and housing. Building resilience included engagement with high quality early childhood services, supportive relationships and social networks, good parenting, knowledge, skills and behaviours, positive parent-child attachment and relationship and self-belief.

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- The main impacts of COVID-19 on children under 5 and their families were poverty and inequalities being highlighted by COVID-19, growing poverty and food insecurity, domestic abuse, lack of usual support networks for new parents, the exclusion of fathers from ante-natal appointments and early labour, cramped housing, no access to play and stimulation, low nursery uptake by the most vulnerable, digital poverty i.e. no access to digital device or data poor. There was a particular impact of COVID-19 on BAME families.
- Many services continued to run including health appointments and vitamin distribution. Courses and sessions were delivered by the service of partners and most sessions were targeted with families invited. The bilingual songs and rhyme sessions had been popular.
- Since May there had been 6,982 virtual contacts with children and families through universal Bright Start early childhood services.
- Between April and September 2020 there had been 3,697 Bright Start face-to-face health visiting meetings in clinics and 17,532 non face to face health visiting appointments.
- There were 3,583 subscribers to the Bright Start Bright Ideas e-newsletter. These were sent out twice weekly with ideas on how to support early health and development along with links to activities, research and other resources. It was also sent out in Turkish, Bengali and Somali.
- There had been 16,942 parent champion contacts since April 2020 by 28 parent champions who together spoke 16 languages.
- The figures of those attending nursery were 73 in March, 361 in May, 2,057 in July and 3,552 in October.
- Activities had been run for children with special educational needs, play and learn activity packs had been distributed as had healthy start vouchers and food parcels.
- 190 families had been supported through the crisis by Bright Start family support practitioners.
- There had been 281 face-to-face family support contacts with adults and children since September.
- There had been 678 contacts with children and their parents via face-to-face Bright Start sessions since July.
- 1,249 families with 2,720 children with additional vulnerabilities (aged 0-19) known to social care and early help were provided with food hampers.
- The number of vulnerable children attending nursery since the start of lockdown was 8 in March, 75 in May, 167 in July and 249 in October.
- There had been much positive feedback from parents.
- There was a need to build more resilience and make more use of virtual platforms and social media, extend partnership working (Fairer Together), raise awareness of Bright Start with BAME communities, increase visibility of Bright Start in the community, adapt the Bright Start offer to address cultural barriers to participation, target dads with an online offer, address the impact of food poverty on young children, use the right platform for the right activity, make more use of parks and open spaces, assess and address the impact of digital exclusion.

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- Even before COVID-19, five year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds were already 4.5 months behind their better off peers. In Islington there was a long-standing commitment to closing this gap and making the borough a fairer place for all. Through Bright Start there was an effective model of integrated support for children and families in this critical phase but there was still more work to be done. It was important to keep a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the youngest children to ensure they were not left behind.
- In response to a question from a member about whether outreach work was being done with the families of children who were not attending nursery, the officer advised that attendance was below pre-COVID levels however some parents had lost their jobs and were not using childcare in the same way as previously. Work was taking place with parents who were reluctant to send their children back to nursery.
- A member requested data on the number of children attending nurseries over the last two years. The officer stated that this could be arranged.
- A member asked what mitigation measures were in place for new mothers who were not able to meet up in person. The officer advised that the government had recognised the need for new parents to meet up and it was permitted to have support groups of up to 15 people. These would be run in a COVID secure way.

Laura Eden, Director of Safeguarding gave a presentation on early help and supporting vulnerable children.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- Impacts of COVID-19 included gaps in, and disruption to, early childhood outcomes and relationships; loss of families' engagement due to suspension of services/changes to virtual service delivery; disruption to the development of social and emotional capabilities connected to issues such as employability, youth crime and preparation for adulthood; disruption to education; loss and bereavement; continued stress and anxiety for families; higher risks in the BAME populations and the impact that this had had on children seeing higher mortality in their families; hidden harm, parental mental health, child mental health, abuse and neglect; not finding the best placement that meets children's needs and reduces risk.
- Some children were entering care as a result of emergency situations e.g. parents with Covid-19, domestic violence abuse (DVA) and parental mental health breakdown.
- There were increased numbers of children staying in care and not having permanent plans made for them by the courts and there were changing care plans for children.
- There were difficulties in monitoring and safeguarding children at risk of/living in situations of domestic abuse, an increase in the level and severity of abuse and decreased opportunities to identify, report and respond to domestic abuse.

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- New operating procedures involved prioritising cases including face-to-face visits from Early Help to children in need, to children in need of protection, to Children Looked After and care leavers. Thresholds of intervention and service delivery maintained the same.
- Weekly monitoring and tracking of visits to children was undertaken.
- A campaign had been launched with partners and the community to increase referrals to social care and early help.
- There had been increased creativity in terms of ways to reach out to each other and families.
- Daily communications had been sent out to all staff to keep them updated about new procedures.
- There were increased resources for children in care, care leavers, foster carers and placement finding.
- Joint support between safeguarding services, school improvement and schools taking vulnerable children had been put in place quickly and the attendance of vulnerable children had been tracked.
- Changing to a more virtual way of working had increased proficiency with IT systems, accessibility of training and development opportunities and greater opportunities to engage family and friends from outside of Islington in supporting children.
- There was now an enhanced joint understanding of safeguarding and increased contact with vulnerable children and families using virtual platforms. Partnership and collaborative working had been strengthened and video conferencing was more accessible to a wider range of professionals than physical meetings.
- Laptops had been distributed to children and families in need to enable increased contact with professionals and schools.
- A wrap-around service was provided to adolescents who were no longer going missing or being exploited.
- Regular newsletters were sent to families and carers suggesting activities that could be undertaken with children and where they could get support.
- All referrals by social care were responded to swiftly and early help was maintained in line with legislation.
- Social workers and practitioners had responded well to challenges and these were communicated to all staff to learn from.
- Creative ways of responding to the needs of children had been developed.
- As a result of the service's response to COVID-19, referrals quickly increased to just below what they were the previous year, children were supported to move to their permanent families wherever possible, all children were now seen face-to-face where this was permitted and all children were seen virtually.
- The response to delayed disclosures of abuse was swift and high quality to combat longer term harm.
- Staff reported feeling supported and safe in undertaking their daily work.
- Parents had reported preferring virtual Child Protection Conferences and Children Looked After Reviews.

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- Care Leavers had stayed at university and were able to complete courses. Care Leavers had been surveyed and 80% had responded that they felt supported.
- Placement stability had been maintained during lockdown and placements which met all of children's needs and risks had been located for most children.
- Data on individual children and the attendance rate by status of children was monitored and tracked weekly.
- Prospective foster carers, family members and prospective adopters were still being assessed.
- The staff infection rate was low and services had been operating at over 90% staffing capacity since March 2020.
- A member asked how many children had been taken into care because their parents had been ill with COVID-19 and also their ethnicity breakdown, how many children had lost parents and grandparents from COVID-19 so bereavement services could be targeted to these children and how many school children and staff had tested positive with COVID-19 and their ethnicity breakdown. Officers did not have these figures but would liaise with colleagues to see if this data was available.
- There were more children entering care in crisis which often meant the cases were more complex. There had also been an increase in police referrals. The numbers of children in care had partly increased as court proceedings had slowed down so children were remaining in care for longer.
- Bereavement support was offered to children who wanted it. Schools had received guidance and there was an educational psychologist available to them.

Curtis Ashton, Acting Director of Youth and Community gave a presentation on Youth Safety and Crime.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- There had been a sustained reduction over 3 years of knife injury crimes. In October 2017 there were 79 victims and in August 2020 there were 35 victims. This had been attributed to a number of initiatives including the prevention work carried out by Targeted Youth Support.
- The Integrated Gangs Team managed intelligence and risk, the partnership approach to youth offending, the out of court disposal scrutiny panel and the joined up police and partnership tasking. This was further supported by the No Knife Shop scheme and the introduction of knife bins.
- A Knife Crime Prevention film featuring bereaved parents would soon be launched.
- Recovery planning took place early on during lockdown so that support could be provided to high risk and vulnerable young people soon after. Many of the most vulnerable young people were already identified which made it easier to engage with them and their families during lockdown.

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- There had been good performance in relation to national indicators – First Time Entrants and Custody.
- The Youth Offending Service and Targeted Youth Support duty systems were maintained which meant the service could be responsive to need and carry out statutory functions such as court duty at Highbury Magistrates Court.
- At the start of lockdown, virtual and telephone contact was established immediately with a RAG rating system introduced to determine need. Higher risk and more vulnerable children were seen face-to-face in a safe way through most of lockdown.
- Partnership working had been effective e.g. ensuring no casework duplication with Social Care and receiving assistance from the police to visit the highest risk young people and adults.
- There had been a focus on emotional wellbeing.
- Detached youth work had been delivered early on in lockdown.
- Community engagement events had taken place with young people due to the Black Lives Matter initiative.
- Planning for young people's post-16 academic year had continued.
- The purchase of a video conferencing facility for children who were in Young Offender Institutions or in Secure Training Centre detention had been fast tracked.
- There was robust contingency planning in order to ensure that universal play and youth provision could provide children and young people with adequate support as part of the 'earliest help' offer.
- Online youth hub forums were designed and implemented to engage with young people.
- There was accessible integrated and effective support for survivors of violence against women and girls and domestic abuse via commissioned and new internal resources.
- There was a need to monitor more closely the interactions and behaviours of organised criminal groups online.
- It was important to maximise intelligence to keep track of the more sophisticated techniques and methods of organised groups and their networks, particularly in relation to county lines mechanisms.
- There had been an increase in murders in July when lockdown measures were eased. Two young men had been murdered – one in July and one in September. Five men had been charged in relation to one of the murders. In the other case, no one had yet been charged.
- Work would take place to build upon the cross border and pan-London response due to the transiency of young people.
- There was a continued disproportionality of stop and search during the pandemic and post lockdown. Issues with disproportionality may have been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Domestic abuse had increased nationally and locally during lockdown.
- It was important to continually engage communities who felt marginalised and disaffected e.g. the Somali community, to continuously promote Modern Day Slavery awareness and referral pathways and to ensure that there is a continued focus on the needs of young women and girls from a youth safety perspective.

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- The new youth safety strategy would be launched in the near future and would reference COVID-19 and the likely after effects.
- There should be a whole-family approach and support to parents, especially in communities who felt left behind.
- Young people within the secure estate would be supported so that they did not feel forgotten.
- Child poverty and deprivation was likely to increase following the pandemic and the emotional and mental health of young people and families would be compromised.
- Young people and their families were being prepared for the economic down turn and job losses.
- Young people had said that they were worried, but that they wanted the service to be optimistic in its outlook.
- In response to a member's question about hate crimes and domestic violence increasing during lockdown, the officer advised that sanctions and detections had risen and women could be supported at an early stage. It was not known if the hate crimes were as a result of people thinking BAME communities were more likely to suffer from COVID-19 but officers could look into this.
- In response to a member's question about engaging communities who were marginalised and disaffected and whether youth violence figures related to young people over school age, the officer advised that the service wanted to engage all communities. There were not many Algerian, Egyptian or North African young people involved with the service but the service was seeing more people from the Somali community. The Mother Tongue Supplementary School was helping to engage with this community. The serious youth violence statistic included youths up to 24 years of age.

Jane-Amanda Stephenson-Glynn, Children's Health Joint Commissioning Manager(SEMH/CAMHS) and Jill Britton, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning, gave a presentation on Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- The Children and Young People Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) integration had taken place over a year ago. An annual review report would be completed by mid-November 2020.
- There was an integration central point of access with the Children's Services Contact Team/Whittington Health Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Barnardos.
- Daily triaging and allocations of referrals took place, there were weekly SEMH intake meetings with SEMH therapeutic and emotional wellbeing providers and there was an expanded community therapeutic and emotional wellbeing offer.
- Partners included CAMHS, Barnardos, Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Counselling, Brandon Centre, Isledon Emotional Wellbeing Service, Early Help, Mental Health in Schools Teams and Kooth.

- Some children and young people and their families had coped well with the COVID-19 restrictions whereas others had struggled. Impacts included stress and anxiety caused by disruption to schooling; lack of personal/private space had been challenging for some virtual/telephone interventions; some had limited access to virtual equipment and data; low moods, sleep disruption, some with social anxiety using lockdown to 'hide'; deterioration in progress made pre-lockdown; reluctance to and/or restrictions on travel
- During the pandemic there had been ongoing SEMH virtual provision with face-to-face contact for priority groups.
- There was a policy of no closure of cases until the child or young person had been seen face-to-face.
- Assistance with virtual access had been provided and phone calls had been made to children and young people and families who were shielding.
- Collaborative partnership working between all SEMH therapeutic and emotional wellbeing services and Public Health, Early Help, Bright Start; School Nursing and the School Improvement Service Health and Wellbeing Team to support return to school including resources for young people and families.
- Access to SEMH was being encouraged through We Are Islington.
- The children and families section on the council's coronavirus website pages included information on emotional wellbeing and coping at home.
- Service user feedback on the impact of COVID-19 would inform required changes/additional support.
- Monthly SEMH meetings would address gaps and identify solutions by sharing best practice.
- Since lockdown, face-to-face therapeutic/counselling support had been resumed for priority groups.
- The Islington School Wellbeing Service was delivering evidence based interventions to children and young people and families; supporting schools to develop their whole school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing; increasing access to other SEMH services and sharing updates and good practice e.g. through the Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Network (Young Minds).
- SEMH leaflets for children and young people and families were being distributed to community nursing services and schools.
- All SEMH services were monitored for equality of access to different ethnic groups and more detail would be provided in the Annual Report.
- Following lockdown, referrals had increased to a similar level to those at the beginning of the year.
- There would be a fully inclusive and equitable offer to all young people who required additional support as they moved into adulthood.
- Where appropriate, young people would be supported to access early intervention and prevention services with the voluntary and community offer, ensuring they got the right support at the right time.
- There would be a strong focus on supporting young people to find and keep jobs and a focus on vulnerable groups.

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- A new format assessment would be trialled, which would be more flexible and proportional to peoples' needs.
- The SEMH pathway offer had been extended from 18 to 25 yrs, which enabled young people to continue to receive appropriate support whilst moving on from school/college and settling into adulthood.
- Partners from Children and Young People and adults health, social care, cultural, employment, and the third sector had formed a task and finish group to identify gaps and improve holistic provision for 16-25 year olds
- There would be a local deep dive on Autism Spectrum Disorder cases.
- Personal Health Budgets for Children Looked After, Care leavers and SEMH cases would be merged.
- There two North Central London (NCL) crisis hubs were the Northern Health Centre and Edgware Community Hospital, there was a 24/7 crisis line for professionals working with young people in crisis and the NCL CAMHS Board had established two task and finish groups – crisis and community.
- A solution focused approach was currently underway, both locally and across NCL, to address the rise in Children and Young People presenting in crisis, the increase in referrals, stays and social care cases.

The officers were thanked for their presentations and congratulated on their successes so far in mitigating the effects of COVID-19.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

211 **STUDY ON DISPROPORTIONALITY OF BAME YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (ITEM NO. B3)**

Curtis Ashton, Acting Director of Youth and Community, gave a presentation on The Disproportionality Project: Addressing issues relating to the disproportionately high representation of Islington's and Haringey's BAME young people in the Criminal Justice System.

In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- Crime had decreased and serious offences were curtailng.
- The project had been initiated as a result of the disproportionality of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) young people in the Criminal Justice System. These young people were more likely to be treated more harshly and more likely to be sent to custody than White young people.
- The programme sought to strengthen the multi-agency approach to addressing disproportionality.
- The project was the second partnership project involving Islington Council and criminologists at City, University of London. The first project – Enhancing the work of the Islington Integrated Gangs Team was published in 2019. The third project was exploring the Andover estate and offending originating from there.

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- There four service aims were: 1) To provide training around Adverse Childhood Experiences within BAME communities for staff; 2) To set up an initiative whereby parents from BAME backgrounds had a safe space to discuss the pressures associated with their children's involvement in ASB and/or offending behaviour and the structural and societal pressures they faced; 3) To better support young people and their families from the poor outcomes and lack of opportunity which was more prevalent in BAME individuals and families e.g. in education, employment, income, health outcomes and treatment etc. The criminal justice system, unemployment and Covid19 were also examples of this; 4) To strengthening communities who had been marginalised - helping to influence Islington and Haringey to shape and improve the services provided, so that young people and their families were supported to 'live their best life'.
- The 11 recommendations of the project were included in the report and the action plan had been submitted to the previous meeting of the committee.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about whether the study had found any racial discrimination at the council, the officer advised that no young people had said they had been discriminated against by council staff. Staff had been trained to understand possible biases and unconscious bias training was being rolled out across the council. The study had focussed on courts and the police. The Borough Commander was from a BAME community and was determined to tackle disproportionality issues.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 pm

Chair



**People Directorate
222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR**

Report of: Corporate Director of People Services

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	14 th December 2020	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 2 2020/21 Performance Report

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The council has in place a suite of corporate performance indicators to help monitor progress in delivering the outcomes set out in the council's Corporate Plan. Progress on key performance measures are reported through the council's Scrutiny Committees on a quarterly basis to ensure accountability to residents and to enable challenge where necessary.
- 1.2 This report sets out Q2 2020/21 progress against targets for those performance indicators that fall within the Children and Young People outcome area, for which the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note performance against targets in Q2 2020/21 for measures relating to Children and Young People.

3. Background

- 3.1 A suite of corporate performance indicators has been agreed for 2018-22, which help track progress in delivering the seven priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. Targets are set on an annual basis and performance is monitored internally, through Departmental Management Teams, Corporate Management Board and Joint Board, and externally through the Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is responsible for monitoring and challenging performance for the following key outcome area: Children and Young People. The Committee also

reviews performance related to children and young people under the Safety outcome area, i.e. key measures for the Youth Offending Service.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q1 2020/21 Performance Reports

- 4.1 The Committee discussed the Q1 2020/21 performance reports at its meeting on 28th September 2020. There are no outstanding queries from this discussion.

5. Quarter 2 performance update – Outcome: Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all

5.1 Key performance indicators relating to 'Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all'

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q2 2020/21	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
1.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	83%	80%	n/a	94%	N/A	75%	Yes
1.2	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	58	61	60 (30 at Q2)	15	Yes	24	Yes
1.3	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	45%	37%	37%	55%	No	53%	No
1.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	26	7	10 (5 at Q2)	2	Yes	5	Yes
1.5	Corporate Indicator: Number of Domestic abuse offences	2640	2501	2641 (1321 at Q2)	1358	Yes	1282	Yes

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

5.2 No target has been set for this measure, as it is no longer a corporate indicator. Performance has consistently around 80-85% over the last few years. Meanwhile, the cohort of young people has shrank significantly, in line with the similar reductions in the number of offenders in the borough. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to continue to monitor this at a service level only.

16 out of 17 young people triaged in Q2 of 2020/21 were diverted away from the criminal justice system, resulting in an overall percentage of 94.1%. This is the highest quarterly figure since the measure was initially added as a Corporate Indicator several years ago, although it is based on a relatively small cohort compared to the size of the cohorts in the past.

Targeted Youth Support continues to provide early and targeted help to vulnerable children, young people and their families throughout the pandemic. The use of the multi-agency, in work with these young people, continues to assist with the delivery of the interventions including targeted interventions. Commissioned services continue to support delivery and detached youth work has been supported by partnership with Prospects and CYP. This has included the prioritisation of

continued face to face contact with young people during the pandemic during Q1 and prioritising children's needs. Practitioners have received additional training to ensure improved assessments for young people triaged that support tailored planning and intervention to reduce the risk of further offending.

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

- 5.3 There have only been 15 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice System in the first half of the year. This compares to 24 over the same period last year. The target for the year is for a reduction in FTEs compared to last year, so the target is split equally into 15 each quarter. Therefore, we are well below the target for the end of Q2 2020/21.

There has been no update on the comparator data from the Youth Justice Board, as they have not been provided new data by the Ministry of Justice due to Covid-19 priorities. The latest available comparator data from the Youth Justice Board remains for the period Oct 2018 – Sept 2019, when Islington had 56 FTEs reported for this period, which when compared to the population is 339 FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds. Islington was above the London (271 per 100,000), YOT Family (286) and England (219) average rates.

Improvements have continued to be made in relation to this indicator. Early intervention remains robust and assessments and targeted intervention have been a key priority during the pandemic, including continued face to face contact and the early identification of young people at risk at risk of exclusion. The service has prioritised and responded to the needs of those at risk of offending with the continued support of commissioned service. Further identification of offence type and indicators will support improved early identification and targeted early help to reduce FTE further.

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

- 5.4 18 of the 33 young offenders from 12 months ago had reoffended by the end of Q2, so performance for this period was 55%. Although this is above the target of 37%, which is based on performance during the 12 months of the 2019/20 financial year, it is only slightly above performance in Q2 of 2019/20 (53%).

This measure is now based on the re-offending over the previous 12 months for the cohort of offenders from the quarter immediately prior to this 12-month period (i.e. those who offended between 15 and 12 months ago), so is looking at a different cohort each quarter.

As with the FTE measure, there is no further update on the comparator data published by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on reoffending. Therefore, in the latest data, Islington remains at 44.4%, for the 2018 calendar year, slightly above the borough's comparators.

Our re-offending rate, using the local formulae, remains higher than we would like due to the fact that we continue to have a small, but significant cohort of young men who ultimately continue to offend whilst subject to YOS supervision and monitoring. These are young people with significant and multiple vulnerabilities - domestic abuse; broken attachments to carers; parental substance and/or alcohol misuse; chaotic school histories; speech and language difficulties and special educational needs. In relation to the latter, the work of the Educational Psychologist is identifying various vulnerabilities with the cohort. Subsequently, because of the complex needs of the cohort and due to how entrenched their offending actually is, it has been more difficult to make a significant impact with the curtailing of this indicator. There is a lot of work and action taking place, however, to ensure that this cohort (and any potential newcomers) are provided with appropriate

interventions via tailored support packages alongside enforcement. We also continue to work closely with police colleagues to ensure that enforcement is commensurate to each case.

1.4 - Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 5.5 There have been two custodial sentences of Islington young people in the first half of 2020/21. The target for the year is to have fewer than 10 custodial sentences, so this is on target. During the same period in 2019/20, there were five custodial sentence, so performance has improved on last year.

The YJB publish custodial figures as rates per 1,000 10-17 year olds, to allow comparisons to be made between different areas. This data has been updated since the Q1 report was presented. The published Islington rate for July 2019 to June 2020 was 0.30, a new lowest ever rate for Islington. Islington remains below the YOT Family average (0.35), in line with London (0.30) and remains above the England rates (0.18).

All reports for young people at risk of custody have received additional quality assurance by managers. Guidance has also been produced in relation to requirements for Youth Rehabilitation Orders (which is the main community order that young people are sentenced to) and use of GPS monitored monitoring as a direct alternative to custody. There has been increased focus on tailored programmes and activity requirements to support robust proposals at court. The quality assurance process has reviewed the use of a trauma lens and the report template has been amended to ensure that the assessment of the young person is as comprehensive as possible. Additional training and workshops have also been provided for practitioners in relation to theoretical perspectives, complex trauma and critical analysis in Pre-Sentence and Breach reports. Disproportionality remains an area for continued focus in relation to sentencing outcomes for mixed and black groups who have historically been over-represented in our cohort's number of young people receiving custodial sentences in our borough.

1.5 - Number of domestic abuse offences

- 5.6 There have been 1,358 domestic abuse offences in the first half of 2020/21. This is above the target of 1,321 and above the number at the same point during 2019/20 (1,282). The aim of the target was to have a high number of offences reported to the Police, as the number of offences is an under-representation of the true number of incidents. It was widely anticipated that the Covid 19 pandemic would lead to a significant increase in Domestic Abuse incidents and the council mobilised a comprehensive partnership response at the start of lockdown. This included weekly VAWG Covid response meetings, communications campaigns, and additional welfare funding to support victims/survivors and families. All specialist DA services continued to offer ongoing support to victims and survivors with a focus on current home situations, changing safety plans and stability for children, keeping survivors focus on the need for safety (both emotional and physical) in the home of their partners and children. Referrals to Solace increased by 37% during April - July and the council 's additional £2million investment in VAWG services announced in January has increased service capacity to meet the increased demand including recruiting more IDVA posts who are co-located in health, housing and family support settings etc.

6. Quarter 2 performance update – Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living

6.1 Key performance indicators relating to 'Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living'

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q2 2020/21	On target ?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
2.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	New indicator in 2019/20	25	40 (20 for Q2)	21	Yes	14	Yes
2.5	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	1,170 (780 for Q2)	1,628	Yes	n/a	n/a

2.4 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme

6.2 Quarter 2 target of 20 schools engaging with 100 hours of world of work was met with 21 schools engaging with the programme between April and September. School engagement was lower during Q2 due to the impact of Covid, school closures and summer holidays. This continued to impact the programme with all of the activities and resources offered virtually rather than face to face. As students were studying from home until September, we supported them with regular enrichment activity packs and through sharing our partner resources. This was distributed through the Islington School Improvement Home Learning web page, which became a central hub for parents and young people to find home learning resources. Additionally, the team ran a workshop through Islington's Summerversity programme about Covid and career choices to directly reach young people during the summer holidays.

Schools have remained engaged in the programme through heads briefings, governors briefings, and well attended careers network sessions with school careers leads. We have received requests for bespoke careers support from five secondary schools so far during the autumn term, and have been working with businesses to develop online activities and resources for both primary and secondary schools which are available on a newly refreshed WoW website.

We have identified priority groups going in to Q3 including New River College PRU, Children in Need, Beacon High Wellbeing Centre and Children Looked After. Work is underway to plan bespoke workshops for these groups as part of an overall enrichment offer.

2.5 - Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work

- 6.3 The cumulative total of page views for 100 hours of world of work was 1,628 at the end of September 2020. Though promotion of home learning resources continued throughout the summer holidays, we did see a drop off in page views. As of September we have launched our new activity and resource menu pages, which contributed a large number of the total page views. These pages are updated weekly and promoted to schools regularly. We are promoting World of Work online resources via our new careers bulletin aimed at careers leads and advisers, and also our youth employment bulletin.

7 Quarter 2 performance update – Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q2 2020/21	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
3.5	Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending	4,839 2-4 year olds, Jan 2019	4,919 2-4 year olds, Jan 2020	n/a	3,466	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.15	Number of children in Alternative Provision	90	57	n/a	21	n/a	44	Yes
3.22	Corporate Indicator – Children's social care contacts in the past month	976 (March 2019)	998 (March 2020)	n/a	1056 (Sept 2020)	n/a	895 (Sept 2019)	Higher
3.23	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	16.3%	16.7%	18.0%	21.1%	No	16.4%	No
3.24	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	20.7%	18.3%	18.0%	13.6%	Yes	17.8%	Yes
3.25	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	11.8%	9.8%	11.0%	6.2%	n/a (year-end only)	4.7%	No
3.26	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	68.9%	73.1%	70%	62.4%	No	72.9%	No
3.27	Number of Looked After Children	313	366	n/a	357	n/a	318	Higher
3.29	Number of children missing from care for	11 (Mar 19)	15 (Mar 20)	n/a	11	n/a	21 (Sept 19)	Yes

	24+ hours							
3.30	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	New indicator	2,207	n/a	2,779	n/a	827	Higher
3.31	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	New indicator in 2019/20	65	30 (25 for Q2)	28	Yes	59	No
3.32	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	4,200 (2,100 for Q2)	4,622	Yes	n/a	n/a

3.5 - Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending

7.1 A new Corporate Indicator has been added for 2020/21, to look at the number of children attending early years settings. During the pandemic, many settings have been closed or only partially open. We have been regularly collecting information from early years settings to monitor how many children are attending, both for our own awareness and also for a new DfE survey during the pandemic.

No target has been set for this measure as it will vary depending on how many settings are open and the gradual easing of the lockdown. Ultimately, we want to see numbers at least return to previous 'normal' levels (around 5,000). We are also particularly monitoring 2 year old take-up in indicator 7.2 and hope to see us maintain our high level of take-up for 2 year olds in the Autumn term data, to be reported on in the Q3 report. Once we have more information on take-up and further consult with providers on the challenges they are facing, we may be able to set a target for this measure for the remainder of the year.

The number reported each month relates to the highest number of children recorded as attending during the month, based on what had originally been a twice-weekly collection, which is now a weekly collection, in line with DfE requirements. After the summer break, there was a significant increase in the number of early years children attending settings compared to before the summer break. The highest number of children attending early years settings before summer was 1,986 in mid-July. However, by the end of September, 3,466 children were attending Islington early years settings. 233 settings were open, compared to 200 during July.

While it is highly positive to see the return so far, attendance at early years provision is not statutory (unlike schools) and numbers have not yet returned to pre-Covid levels. A more precise analysis comparing 2020 with 2019 will be available in Q3 following analysis of Autumn headcount and further data collection on vacancies from early years providers.

Frontier Economics have recently published research into the impact of Covid-19 on early years and childcare provision (Childcare and Covid-19: ...) which indicates local concerns are mirrored regionally and nationally and shared by all types of provider - private, voluntary and school/maintained.

Concerns are broadly two-fold: that children are missing out on early years education and therefore on the long-term positive impact that early years education has on educational outcomes; and that

some childcare provision will not be sustainable in the longer term if more fee-paying parents do not return. As well as the disruption this would cause in the sector, this potentially could lead to a shortage of childcare post Covid recovery.

The Early Years and Childcare Service is working closely with all partners, including health partners, parent champions and the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors to encourage parents to have confidence in children returning to nursery. Ensuring positive messages about the safety as well as benefits of early years provision in the borough continues to be a priority area of work for the service. The service continues to monitor and review risk assessments for council and voluntary sector settings and supports the private sector with advice and guidance. Parents of eligible two year olds have all received personalised letters highlighting the offer.

To support sustainability, the council has used the flexibility afforded by the Government for summer and autumn terms 2020 to fund providers on pre-Covid levels in relation to the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant element of funding. Officers are using every available opportunity to lobby government to extend this flexibility to Spring 2021 funding, given that it appears that numbers are not yet returning to pre-Covid levels and providers are reporting a reduction in the number of working families seeking childcare or eligible for the 30 hours entitlement. The service also seeks to lead the sector in treading a fair and balanced path in relation to charging parents whose incomes have been affected by Covid-related legislation.

7.2 **3.15 - Number of children in Alternative Provision**

The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q2 2020/21 was 21 pupils compared to 44 last year. This equates to a decrease of 52% to comparable 2019 figures and includes all pupils attending Alternative Provision whether commissioned through New River College (NRC) or directly by schools.

Local and national data confirms that mainstream schooling offers the best outcomes and life chances for most students. Islington schools are therefore committed to only placing students on AP in exceptional circumstances. To this end, the Secondary Securing Education Board monitor the number of students attending AP. All of our Secondary schools have identified a contact person to facilitate the sharing of data in relation to students attending AP. This information is collected on a monthly basis prior to the Securing Education Board meetings and the LA pupil database updated accordingly in line with GDPR requirements.

3.22 – Children's social care contacts in the past month

7.3 A new Corporate Indicator looking at the number of children's social care contacts has been introduced as a result of the pandemic. In the initial weeks of lockdown, there was a considerable drop off in contacts. Whilst some fall may be understandable, as most contacts come from partner organisations that were not fully open during lockdown, there were concerns that there was unmet need amongst the local population of children and young people.

Most months, prior to the pandemic, we would expect to see 900 to 1,000 contacts each month (although generally there are slightly fewer around the Summer holidays and Christmas). In the first few weeks of the lockdown, there was a noticeable fall in the number of contacts. However, by September 2020, there were 1,056 contacts with children's social care. This was the highest monthly total since the national lockdown in March and was higher than the 895 in the same month in 2019.

No target set - safeguarding numbers are not suitable for targets. A high number could mean that partners are feeling confident about making appropriate contacts, but it could mean they are making unsuitable contacts or that there are more safeguarding concerns in the community.

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

7.4 Historically, our re-referral rate had been fairly constant at about 20%, which has been similar to the national average. However, the proportion of re-referrals within the last 12 months has reduced in recent years, and was below 17% for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. We had been meeting the long term targets set as part of the Children and Families Outcomes Framework, as agreed with the MHCLG. However, there has been an increase so far in 2020/21 and the figure for Q2 is 21.1%.

This indicator relates to children who have had a social care assessment and intervention which has resulted in their case being closed and who have then been referred again within 12 months of the case closure. Our previous auditing of these cases suggests that the majority of these children relate to children living with domestic abuse where either the level of risk had apparently diminished or where the family no longer wanted social work intervention and the needs were not so great as to warrant statutory child protection processes being instigated. Audits of the cases when they are referred is indicative of new incidents of domestic abuse or an escalation of the original concerns. It may well be that the slight increase relates to Covid and families struggling with isolation and lockdown in relation to Children's behaviours and domestic abuse. In context, as explained, the numbers are also of a smaller cohort of referrals, so we expect the performance to return to the target as the cohort increases over the following quarters. We plan to undertake a review of the recent re-referrals to assist our understanding and develop a plan to address if needed.

A recent review of re-referrals supports the comments above. Assessments undertaken during lockdown had to be carried out remotely via video contact, this did not always allow for as in-depth discussions to take place and ongoing direct intervention was less likely to occur, therefore some cases have been re-referred. There are a small number of older young people where there are contextual safeguarding concerns with no concerns regarding parenting capacity. Assessments were completed and interventions put in place by TYS /IGT. In some cases a concern then triggered Child Protection procedures which warranted a re-assessment from CSC.

Assessments and visits are now taking place directly and we are exploring the different ways we could intervene in adolescents who are at risks due to contextual safeguarding.

3.24 - Corporate Indicator: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

7.5 12 of the 88 Child Protection Plans starting in the first half of 2020/21 involved children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time, which equates to 13.6%. At the same point in 2019/20, the equivalent figures were 16 out of 90 plans, which was 17.8%. The proportion is lower than it was at the same point last year, and it is better than the target of 18.0%.

An alert is raised of any potential repeat plan before a conference is booked and therefore highlights the need for advance quality assurance of the child's file and a Child Protection consultation is held where required. This has helped to either divert children who may not require a plan or if they do, ensure parallel plans are in place to ensure that the risk of drift is reduced.

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

7.6 This measure restarts in April each year, with the number of children with 3 or more placements growing over the course of the year. At the end of September, 22 of Islington's 357 Looked After Children had had 3 or more placements in the year, which equates to 6.2%. The figure for Q2 last year was 4.7%. It is important to bear in mind that there are more children who are looked after at the end of Q2 2020/21, compared to the same time last year.

Placement Stability is discussed and monitored in a range of forums including Practice and Outcomes meetings and supervision. The weekly Placement Stability meeting (attended by the virtual school, fostering, placements and CLA service) is now embedded in the service and cases are regularly being presented to request packages of support when placements become unstable. It continues to be our policy that children cannot move placement without agreement of the service manager and the head of the virtual school so that the holistic needs of the child are considered if a placement move must take place. When children and young people do have to move placement, the focus shifts on trying to ensure some stability for them wherever possible, for example, through maintaining the same school placement. The Permanency Team chair multi-agency permanency planning meetings for all children under 14 (involving fostering, the regional adoption agency, placements team, Permanency Team and where appropriate CAMHS). This means that there is a focus on identifying the right placement for children in our care at the earliest possible opportunity and that carers are appropriately supported in caring for children in their care. Nevertheless, there continues to be a particular cohort of children aged 13-17, who have been in our care for less than three years, where it is apparent that we struggle to identify the right placements across the spectrum of placement provisions. The reasons for this are multi-faceted, some of our children do not accept the reasons they are in Local Authority care and do not identify the benefit of the placements being offered to them; many placements do not have the expertise or persistence to work with some of the behaviours presented by our children, such as going missing and being involved in criminal activity. The fostering strategy has a particular focus on recruiting more specialist foster carers and upskilling our existing carers so that they feel more able and confident to meet the needs of our adolescents. This will have the benefit of allowing more of our children to remain living in or near Islington, where they can remain near their families, but also have greater access to all the support services we have available in house from CLA CAMHS to the Virtual School and the Integrated Gangs team.

3.26 - 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

7.7 After peaking at the end of 2019, there has been a fall in the proportion of children in a long-term stable placements, based on the definition used in this measure. At the end of September 2020, 58 of the 93 Islington Looked After Children who had been looked after for 2.5 years or more had been in the same placement for at least 2 years, or were placed for adoption.

Long term stability continues to be monitored within the same forums discussed above. Our analysis of the children in this cohort projects an outcome of 70.4% (69) by 31 March 2020.

There continues to be a small cohort of adolescent boys where it is particularly challenging to identify the right placement for them, that can provide a trauma informed response to their presentation; to de-escalate challenging situations in the placement; and to provide them with the consistency and care that they clearly need. The approach to working with adolescents is currently being considered in an Adolescent Review that is due to report at the end of this year.

Our practice model continues to support practitioners to build relationships with all of the children in our care, their carers and their parents, in order to support placements and identify what the right placement for our children is at the earliest possible opportunity. The embedding of this model through workshops, group supervision and the support of the CAMHS clinicians across the CLA service all support the skills and confidence of practitioners in the CLA, IF and fostering service, which in turn supports long term placement stability for our children

3.27 - Number of Looked After Children

7.8 There has been an incremental rise in the number of children looked after at the end of each month over 2019/20, peaking at the end of April 2020 at 373. Numbers of looked after children are now gradually falling and had fallen to 357 by the end of September 2020.

The rate of increase is partly due to those become looked after by Islington as part of the Dubs scheme. We also have a high number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who are looked after, and despite being double our quota, we continued to look after new UASC due to lockdown and the collapse of the National Transfer Scheme. The rate of children leaving care is lower than it would have otherwise been, due to delays in care proceedings during the pandemic, although the most common reason for young people leaving care is that they turn 18.

No target is set for this safeguarding measure, as decisions around whether a child should become looked after should be based purely on safeguarding needs, and there should not be any influence on the decision by an overall need to hit a performance target.

3.29 - Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours

7.9 11 Looked After Children were missing from care for 24 hours or more in September 2020. This is a reduction from the number at the end of 2019/20 (15 in March), and also lower than the number at the same point in 2019/20 (21). There was a peak in the Autumn of 2019 when numbers per month briefly rose above 20 and now it appears the figures are back down around the long term average.

No target has been set for this measure as it is not a Corporate Indicator, but it is reported to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee as it remains an area of focus for Safeguarding and Family Support, to ensure there is no sustained increase in numbers.

Islington's demographics profile for children missing from care remains consistent, with more boys than girls, and those children aged 16 and 17 years old going missing from care more frequently than younger ages. Our profile of children missing from care, who are also at risk of exploitation (i.e. CCE, SYV and CSE etc.) also remains consistent – with a higher number of children missing from care and at risk of exploitation identified, than those that go missing from home.

Children that are identified as missing from care and also at risk of exploitation continue to be overseen by the Specialist Social Workers in the Exploitation and Missing Team who chair the initial strategy meetings for children missing from care. This allows for risks to be independently monitored, greater oversight of contextual risks and profile, and ensures a specialist lens through which interventions are delivered.

The Exploitation and Missing Team continue to provide training across the council and through the Islington Safeguarding Children Board which explores the link between children that go missing and risk of exploitation. During the previous quarter the training offer was reduced due to COVID-19 however all training has now restarted and is held online. There is continuous scrutiny and senior management oversight of children who do go missing with briefings provided every Friday to senior leaders.

The Exploitation and Missing team have two permanent members of staff who complete the return home interviews (RHIs) for children who have returned from a missing episode. Their responsibilities include completing RHIs with children who go missing and providing ongoing additional intervention to a cohort of young people who go missing, where there are exploitation concerns. This is in order to minimise instances of repeat missing episodes and to address exploitation concerns.

3.30 – Applications for Free School Meals

7.10 Applications for Free School Meals (FSM) have been added to the measures included in this report as there has been a substantial increase in the number of applications since the Covid-19 lockdown. This reflects both the impact on demand for services and also the economic well-being of local families. The 2,779 applications received in Q2 represents an increase of 1,952 on the same period last year, or a 236% increase.

No target has been set for this measure, as it is not a corporate indicator.

FSM applications are seasonal and the summer term / beginning of the autumn is where we receive the majority of the applications, ready for the new starters in September. For maintained schools, this is also linked to their funding as based on the October census. Whilst the data is indicating an increase to the applications received, this does not directly correlate to an increase in the number of pupils who are new to eligibility. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Not all applications find the young person is eligible.
- Schools are working with their parents to ensure all have completed the process ahead of the Autumn census date, and therefore, the applications are received in Quarter 2.
- We have received duplicate applications where their eligibility status has not changed and, therefore, the subsequent application was not required.

The October School Census data provide a meaningful comparison of FSM eligibility. The following table shows there has been a significant increase in the levels of FSM eligibility in the October 2020 School Census, compared to October 2019:

Phase	Oct 2019 FSM %	Oct 2020 FSM % (provisional)	Change
Primary	27.3%	35.7%	+8.4%
Secondary	33.6%	37.7%	+4.0%

3.31 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme (moved)

7.11 Target is met. 28 schools were engaged with in Q2, ahead of the target set of 25 schools
11 by 11 is a commitment to providing all children and young people in Islington with 11 outstanding cultural experiences by Year 11 in school. It is a programme which aims to ensure equality of access to enrichment activities, particularly targeting those who are disadvantaged. This new corporate plan priority and recommendation of the Fair Futures Commission is an evidence-based response to enhancing life skills through engagement with cultural activity.

School engagement with the 11 by 11 programme has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, and the 20/21 targets have been revised from last year to reflect this.

A key focus of 20/21 for 11 by 11 will be to support both schools and the cultural sector to rebuild capacity and confidence in working together. While working with schools has become more challenging, the Cultural Enrichment Team (CET) and the 11 by 11 Cultural Partners are working with the education sector to think creatively about approaches to enrichment provision during the CV-19 crisis that are feasible in light of reduced capacity and changing priorities. To date, cultural partners have benefitted from 3 sessions led by the School Improvement Service on incorporating the Recovery Curriculum into their programming, and discussions are underway on how best to use vacant event space and blended learning approaches to enhance offers for children and young people this year.

School staff have reiterated their appreciation of the 11 by 11 initiative to the team, and while general capacity is reduced, the CET is offering a range of options for engagement, from resource and activity menus, training and discussion opportunities, and 1:1 support for Cultural Leads or headteachers on utilising partner offers for their children and young people.

Targeting areas of low engagement

By the close of the 2019/20 academic year, 77% of our identified target schools had engaged with 11 by 11. CET will be consulting with the School Improvement service and comparing engagement across year 1 to take a decision on whether the target schools list needs adjusting or additions.

The team have noticed an improvement in teacher engagement from less proactive schools as a result of offering sessions online. Anecdotal evidence suggests teachers can be more flexible when travel is not a barrier to attendance.

At end of Q2, we are engaging 63% of our existing target schools. As this is still very early in the academic year, it is a satisfactory result, particularly when the booking window for 11 by 11 Activity Menus remains on hiatus. CET expect to match or exceed the annual target by end of year.

Cultural Lead Teachers and CPD

The team has reengaged Cultural Lead Teachers in 20/21 through meetings, training sessions and regular contact since school resumed in September.

The programme of support for Cultural Leads moved online during lockdown, and this has been well received to date, increasing accessibility for many teachers.

Focal points for the Cultural Lead and teacher CPD programme this year will be:

1. Partnership working for Schools and Cultural Organisations
2. Diversifying the curriculum
3. Approaches to blended delivery
4. Artform specific explorations of enrichment linked to the curriculum

Three sessions have been held since September, and 29 teachers attended across these.

Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11

Engagement by secondary schools with 11 by 11 has been less than that of primary. However, Secondary and SEND online CPD sessions held since lockdown attracted teachers who had not previously engaged, such as St Aloysius.

Conversations have begun to work towards a more bespoke offer for secondary schools with more vulnerable young people, such as the Beacon High Inclusion Unit and New River College Pupil Referral sites.

Targeting vulnerable groups

Through joint working across Children, Employment and Skills, a tailored approach to engaging vulnerable children and young people is being developed. Priority groups have been identified with the collaboration of other key services, and the Youth Voice strand of 11 by 11 will now be fully embedded within CET's targeted work strategic plans.

Youth Voice

Islington young people's theatre group, Company Three, will deliver a new bespoke Youth Voice project of targeted intervention, in partnership with the CET and council services. This work will run alongside School Improvement at the new Beacon High Wellbeing Centre and Inclusion Unit. Planning is ongoing, taking into consideration the recent increased restrictions, scheduled to take place in the Spring Term.

We are also working with Children in Need (CiN) service to develop targeted enrichment activity for CiN to be delivered as part of their newly funded Covid Response work.

3.32 - Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages

7.12 Target is met. 4622 UPVs were registered in Q2, ahead of the target set of 25 schools

Q2 Unique page views (Apr-Jun 2020):

Islington CS Creative Activities (11 by 11): 636

Islington CS Music Activities (MEI): 735

Guildhall Music Activities (MEI): 729

Total unique page views: 2100

Total YTD unique page views: 4622

This PI was added at Q1 in response to the shift towards online provision following Covid-19 related closures. From April to July, the Cultural Enrichment Team released regular updates to have home learning pages and school resources for use by teachers and by families at home. These activities were designed to encourage creative expression and exploration by children and young people to complement the wider school curriculum.

With the return to school in Autumn term, no new updates were made to these pages, because the need for home learning was no longer as vital. The CET contributed towards the School Improvement 2 week lockdown resources for schools on individual lockdowns, but shifted the focus of its online 11 by 11 work to its standard schools menu on Islington CS.

Music Education Islington online engagement continued throughout lockdown and the Autumn term through both the home learning pages and the Guildhall maintained MEI micro-site. The Guildhall MEI stats have been included for the first time in Quarter 2.

Q2 engagement with the home learning pages has been lower than Q1, due to the summer holidays, followed by the physical return of schools in September. CET will be monitoring the needs of schools and families over this year, and will pivot the targeting of online resources back to the home learning pages, if required. Q2 engagement with the Guildhall MEI pages has slightly increased, due to the increased delivery online in the Autumn term, and this accounts for the increase in the UPVs.

8. Implications

Financial implications:

8.1 The cost of providing resources to monitor performance is met within each service's core budget.

Legal Implications:

8.2 There are no legal duties upon local authorities to set targets or monitor performance. However, these enable us to strive for continuous improvement.

Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

8.3 There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

Resident Impact Assessment:

8.4 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).

8.5 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.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The Council's Corporate Plan sets out a clear set of priorities, underpinned by a set of firm commitments and actions that we will take over the next four years to work towards our vision of a Fairer Islington. The corporate performance indicators are one of a number of tools that enable us to ensure that we are making progress in delivering key priorities whilst maintaining good quality services.

Signed by:

[Corporate Director and Exec Member]

Date: [add date]

Report Author: [name]
Tel: [extension]

Email: [email]

Appendix A - Data Dashboard

CS PI No.	Corporate Indicator?	Indicator	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
Outcome: Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all									
1.1	x	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	94% (Q1-2 2020/21 provisional)	75% (Q2 2019/20)	80% (2019/20 FY)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.2	✓	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	15 (Q1-2 2020/21 provisional)	24 (Q2 2019/20)	61 (2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.3	✓	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	55% (Q2 2020/21 cohort provisional)	53% (Q2 2019/20)	37% (2019/20 FY)	↑	YJB measure on reoffending uses a different cohort so is not comparable		
1.4	✓	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	2 (Q1-2 2020/21 provisional)	5 (Q2 2019/20)	7 (2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.5	x	Number of Domestic abuse offences	1358 (Q1-2 2020/21)	1282 (Q2 2019/20)	2501 (2019/20 FY)	↑			
Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living									
2.4	x	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	21 (End Q2 2020/21 snapshot)	14 (End Q2 2019/20)	25 (End 2019/20)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.5	x	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	1,628 (Q1-2 2020/21)	New indicator	New indicator	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential									
3.5	✓	Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending	3,466 (Sept 2020)	1,828 (Q1 2020/21)	4,919 2-4 year olds, Jan 2020	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.15	x	Number of children in Alternative Provision	21 (September 2020)	44 (Q2 2019/20 FY)	N/A (End of 2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.22	✓	Corporate Indicator: Children's social care contacts in the past month	1056 (Sept 2020)	895 (Sept 2019)	998 (March 2020)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.23	x	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	21.1% (Q1-2 2020/21)	16.4% (Q2 2019/20 FY)	16.7% (2019/20 FY)	↑	16.0% (2018/19 FY)	21.4% (2018/19 FY)	2nd from top
3.24	✓	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	13.6% (Q1-2 2020/21)	17.8% (Q2 2019/20 FY)	18.3% (2019/20 FY)	↓	18.9% (2018/19 FY)	20.8% (2018/19 FY)	2nd from top
3.25	x	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	6.2% (Q1-2 2020/21)	4.7% (Q2 2019/20 FY)	9.8% (2019/20 FY)	↑	10.6% (2018/19 FY)	10.4% (2018/19 FY)	2nd from bottom
3.26	x	Placement stability - long term - Percentage of children who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years who have been looked after in the same placement for at least 2 years or placed for adoption	62.4% (Q2 2020/21 snapshot)	72.9% (Q2 2019/20 FY)	73.1% (2019/20 FY)	↓	68.7% (2018/19 FY)	68.7% (2018/19 FY)	2nd from top
3.27	x	Number of Looked After Children	357 (Q2 2020/21 snapshot)	318 (Q2 2019/20 FY)	366 (2019/20 FY)	↑	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a

CS PI No.	Corporate Indicator?	Indicator	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
3.29	x	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	11 (Sept 2020)	21 (Sept 2019)	15 (March 2020)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.30	x	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	2,779 (Q2 2020/21)	827 (Q2 2019/20)	2207 (2019/20)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.31	x	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	28 (End Q2 2020/21 snapshot)	59 (End Q2 2019/20)	New indicator	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.32	x	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	4,622 (Q1-2 2020/21)	New indicator	New indicator	-	n/a	n/a	n/a