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## AGENDA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held via Zoom on **9 March 2021 at 7.00 pm**. The link to the Zoom meeting is below. If you prefer to join the meeting by phone please dial 0208 080 6591. Enter meeting 937 8783 7412 when prompted.

<https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/93787837412>

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Despatched : 1 March 2021

### Membership

#### **Councillors:**

Councillor Vivien Cutler (Chair)  
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford  
Councillor Janet Burgess MBE  
Councillor Joe Caluori  
Councillor Phil Graham  
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

### Substitute Members

#### **Substitutes:**

Councillor Sara Hyde  
Councillor Clare Jeapes  
Councillor Roulin Khondoker  
Councillor Nick Wayne

**Quorum is 3 Councillors**

**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
5. Chair's Report
6. Items for Call In (if any)

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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.

<b>B. Items for Decision/Discussion</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Scrutiny Review - Draft Recommendations	11 - 14
2. Executive Member Questions	15 - 20
3. Children's Services Quarter 3 2020/21 Performance Report	21 - 46
4. Assessment Support For Schools 2021	47 - 52
5. Islington Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report	53 - 130

**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 4 May 2021

**Please note that committee agendas, reports and minutes are available from the council's website: [www.democracy.islington.gov.uk](http://www.democracy.islington.gov.uk)**

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item A4

London Borough of Islington

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 7.00 pm.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cutler (Chair), Ozdemir (Vice-Chair), Bell-Bradford, Caluori, Williamson and Woolf
<b>Also Present:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	Councillor Ngongo
	<b>Co-opted Member</b>	Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese Claire Ballak, Parent Governor Representative (Primary)

### Councillor Vivien Cutler in the Chair

**221 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. A1)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Graham and Zaleera Wallace.

**222 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM NO. A2)**

There were no declarations of substitute members.

**223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. A3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**224 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM NO. A4)**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.
- 2) That the Chair identify questions that still required a response and would send these to officers.

**225 CHAIR'S REPORT (ITEM NO. A5)**

The Chair reflected on both the UK passing 100,000 deaths from COVID and the fatal stabbing of a young person in Islington on 25 January.

The Chair also stated that the majority of witness evidence on the COVID-19 recovery scrutiny review had now been collected. Every member had been involved in some way. Councillor Ngongo and Ozdemir were thanked for arranging the evidence gathering session with members of the BAME community and officers were thanked for arranging the meeting with headteachers.

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

None.

227 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM NO. A7)**

None.

228 **COVID-19 SCRUTINY REVIEW EVIDENCE (ITEM NO. B1)**

Councillor Cutler gave a presentation on the evidence gathered from children, young people and adults to date. In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- The meetings were undertaken in November and December 2020 and unlike in previous years, it was not possible to have face-to-face discussion or see the children and young people in their schools or settings. All discussions took place virtually.
- It proved impossible to arrange any meetings with primary schools pupils or their parents/carers other than incidentally in the Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Community Group discussion. It would have been useful to speak to primary school pupils or their parents/carers and, as a result of not being able to, the evidence was slightly imbalanced.
- In three of out of the five meetings, the number of participants was in single figures.
- There had been some technical problems with Zoom meetings.
- As the meetings took place in November and December 2020, the impact of the most recent lockdown was not captured.
- The meetings that took place were as follows:
  - Year 10 students at a secondary school and a senior member of staff
  - parents whose children attended an early years children's centre
  - Year 12 and 13 students and some staff from the Upward Bound project (an education project aimed at raising attainment for young people attending Islington schools and organised by Islington Council in partnership with London Metropolitan University)
  - members of the BAME Community Group (comprising community organisation and supplementary school leaders and some parents)
  - a member of the Children's Active Involvement Service (CAIS) group and an officer. CAIS is a group for care experienced and looked after young people.
- Both groups of students had found lockdown difficult. Reasons for this included a lack of routine, no interactive or face-to-face lessons, little feedback from teachers and anxiety about the virus. Some young people had barely left home since the start of lockdown. The extent of Year 10 students' learning was often dependent on parental encouragement.

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 26 January 2021

- Only one student had no access to a Chromebook or laptop but used his iPhone.
- The Year 10 group was worried about not sitting GCSEs; Year 12 and 13s raised concerns about missing exams and a lack of confidence in teacher assessment. The Upward Bound group had received their grades and most felt that they had been marked down. One student was concerned about being marked up as this meant now being expected to be working at a higher base level.
- The Upward Bound group found the pastoral support they were offered helpful.
- Parents from the BAME Community Group identified additional challenges such as a lack of resources and space to study, concerns about spreading the virus in intergenerational households and the difficulties of coping with children who had special and additional needs.
- Community leaders stated they lacked sufficient space, funding for teachers and IT devices to offer a broad curriculum and they were worried about sustainability.
- The chair of CAIS had raised the concerns of members. Some were isolated in university halls of residence, some were trying to get into training or employment and there was a lot of uncertainty. There was a request for more clarity around support for post-16s to access the jobs market.
- For some young people, the unavailability of adult and/or emotional support was a challenge. There was a need for better and timely communications to prepare them for a different kind of support in a pandemic.
- The early years parents were very happy with Bright Start online newsletters and activities for children and parents/carers. They requested more information on and reminders of events online. They also commented on how lockdown had meant they could not use the parks which had impacted on socialisation.
- A member reiterated that the reason more evidence could not be gathered from schools was that there had been a significantly increased workload as a result of COVID-19.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about the Year 10 student who had not had a device to work on other than his phone, the chair replied that the school had since received more devices. An officer stated that if this young person was identified, they would ensure he had received one.
- A member of the public asked whether libraries could be used in the future to distribute materials. She raised concerns about a lack of digital inclusivity and additional support being required for Black Caribbean and White British boys eligible for free school meals as well as parents of SEND students. The Chair stated that the next presentation would include details of what schools were doing for SEND students. An officer advised that Chromebooks had been distributed and he was confident that all Year 10 and Year 11 students from last year had all the resources they needed. A bid had been put into the Dame Alice Owen

Foundation for more devices. In total over 3,000 devices had been distributed and almost every secondary pupil had a device and every family with primary school children had at least one device. Another officer stated that 100 brand new books would be distributed to each of the 12 supplementary schools. These included picture books, short stories and longer ones.

- Families having access to a device meant they were able to join a library and access online books.
- It was hoped that if a bid for more devices was successful, gaps in device provision could be filled and there could be staggered provision for Year 5, 4, 3 and 2 children so that they could each have their own device.
- An officer stated that there had been supply chain issues in the government laptop scheme. While waiting for these, those provided by charities had been distributed as well as those purchased directly by the local authority.

Councillor Cutler gave a presentation on the evidence gathered from the Headteachers Panel. In the presentation and discussion the following main points were made:

- When asked which demographics had been most affected by lockdown, the headteachers advised that everyone had been impacted. In general, there had been the greatest impact on;
  - working families
  - single parents
  - families with more than three children
  - those with SEND children
  - those who had 'fallen through the cracks' and had low income
  - those who were on zero hours contracts
  - those who had little money for resources
  - those with No Recourse to Public Funds
  - those with no quiet space for children to learn
  - those with no access to IT devices or had connectivity issues
- Concern was raised, too, about those who were hard to reach and parents wanting to home educate them.
- Headteachers were of the view that schools should be given more discretion to interpret 'vulnerable' in relation to children that could attend during lockdown. A headteacher of a special school had stated that it should not be assumed that every child with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was vulnerable as many received support and with this support they should no longer be classed as vulnerable. This headteacher had also raised concern that the DfE had not considered special schools sufficiently when issuing updates in relation to the COVID pandemic.
- There had been a digital divide in the first lockdown and schools and the council had had to buy many devices, SIM cards, dongles etc. There was a lack of devices in many homes and some parents lacked an

understanding of IT. Where there was more than one child, the older child was often prioritised over younger ones to use the device.

- Remote learning hit the youngest children and SEND children the hardest. Vulnerable children also struggled.
- Some parents were concerned about the amount of screen time remote learning required and had asked schools for paper packs. Some schools let parents collect packs twice a week.
- Some schools, however, had managed to obtain 95% pupil attendance in remote learning.
- Teachers had become much more skilled at delivering remote learning and there had been a positive impact on pedagogy.
- When considering the impact of lockdown on SEND children, it was important to remember that each child was unique. Often school was a challenge to them. Those at home frequently preferred to work on paper. They could also struggle with a lack of routine. Those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) attending school in lockdown liked the smaller classes, less noise and more personal attention.
- A headteacher commented that there was a need to ensure that all SEND children were thriving not just surviving.
- The headteacher of a special school stated that, although there had been some loss of learning for children, many had developed new life skills with their parents and carers during lockdown and had developed holistically.
- There had been changes in mental health between lockdowns.
- Early years leaders had raised concern about anxiety. There was more separation anxiety in babies and parents; staff were affected by this, too.
- Younger children required social relationships and parent surveys revealed high levels of adverse mental health in them as well as their children.
- Some Year 11s lacked resilience and were unmotivated.
- Bereavement was very hard for everyone; children were often concerned about catching COVID and spreading it to family members or the community.
- Most children and young people were glad to be back at school. A few children had become 'lost to the system' with parents choosing to home educate them. However, these children had now re-entered the system.
- It was important to minimise pressure on children on their return to school and build on their learning rather than referring to 'catching up'.
- Priorities for re-opening and beyond included:
  - rethinking teachers styles
  - supporting staff
  - optimising resources to support the most vulnerable
  - developing digital capacity and skills further to enhance all learning
  - appealing to the government for more support in particular for SEND students
  - developing digital capacity further
  - encouraging socialisation, flexibility, resilience
  - creating fun activities and developing 'qualities for happiness'.

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 26 January 2021

- On the whole, there were positive responses about support from the council. The council had taken a holistic view across the 0-18 age range, providing support for devices for the disadvantaged, 11 x 11 materials and 100 hours of World of Work programmes.
- Headteachers commended Children's Social Care, Safeguarding and Public Health. They also stated that sometimes external agencies were less effective in fulfilling their obligations and would not assess/talk to children in schools.
- Arrangements around school closures were difficult for headteachers and messaging was not always timely. Consultation and clear direction were required during this time. An officer responded that officers had to wait for government guidance and government changes had to be presented to heads very quickly.
- There could be more awareness of the needs of leadership teams and new senior staff and more practical support could be offered.
- The headteacher of a special school said that in terms of support from the council to special schools, when compared to other boroughs, Islington performed well.
- The secondary headteachers who attended the session stated that they would welcome more networking opportunities with other secondary school headteachers. An officer would look into this.
- One member who had attended part of the discussion panel stated that a headteacher had raised concern about the impact of lockdown on the learning and mental health of children in Early Years and Key Stage 1.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about whether the Islington Education Awards would take place, an officer advised that the committee organising the awards were meeting and there were proposals to hold a virtual ceremony, possibly in April. COVID-19 heroes would be recognised.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about whether schools were providing spaces for exercise as some young people did not feel safe in certain areas and were confined to an estate or certain postcodes, an officer stated that this varied by school. Outside adventure playgrounds had just been reopened under COVID-secure conditions. A member stated that she was aware of a school that did not hold virtual classes on a Friday afternoon to allow time out. The council had an officer who promoted time away from the screen and exercise. The Health and Wellbeing sports team had provided resources for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- In response to a question as to whether a forum could be created to enable schools to share ideas, an officer stated that, at the Headteachers Briefings, the use of the chat function was encouraged. Schools collaborated well and supported each other and this would be encouraged going forward.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about promoting the use of parks, especially for those with children living on estates, the officer stated that in summer 2020 there had been six weeks of outdoor learning which involved parks. More outdoor learning work could be

written for the Easter holidays but this depended upon the public health messages at the time.

- A couple of members were still working on obtaining and collating evidence and would present this to the next meeting.
- The Chair explained that all the evidence collected would be used to formulate recommendations and members would be asked to participate in the process.

Anthony Doudle, Head of School Improvement – Primary, gave a presentation on the Richard Reeve's Year 6 Project.

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

- The data in the presentation was derived from a baseline assessment of pupils results on sitting a previous SATs paper. Schools were asked to choose an unfamiliar SATs paper from 2017, 2018 or 2019.
- In 2020, the Year 5 group was not a target group for returning to school and therefore they had not been in school consistently between March and September 2020. Most of them resumed full time education when they entered Year 6 in September 2020.
- Between 19 October and 23 October 2020 the overall attendance in Islington primary schools was 95%. For White British Free School Meals (FSM) children the figure was 89.2% and for Black Caribbean FSM children it was 93.5%. This could have been due to anxiety about their safety.
- Between 9 November and 13 November 2020 the figure for White British FSM children was 93.3% and 94.7% for Black Caribbean FSM children it was 94.7%. This may have been due to parents feeling more secure about sending their children to school.
- Since 4 January 2020, the government expectation had been that remote learning mirrored the learning taking place in schools.
- 689 Chrome books had been given out to Year 6 White British or Black Caribbean FSM pupils and all Year 6 teachers had received training and had taken part in regular networking meetings.
- Home learning resources had been posted online.
- Every family had received an overview of the 10 weeks of learning and a letter from the officer outlining expectations of parents and children. Teachers also sent home exercise books.
- In addition to the 10 weeks of learning, three hours of additional learning was published which included maths, reading, spelling and writing.
- In Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) and Maths, there were three grades – 1) working towards (WT), 2) working at (WA) and 3) greater depth (GD). In primary school, the aim was for most children to be working at. Greater depth was for those demonstrating skills beyond those expected. Islington did well at greater depth and was significantly above the national average and in line with the Inner London average.
- Each grade was based on a raw score converted into a scaled score e.g. GD was 110 and WT was 100. These grades did not change. However,

the raw score did change e.g. in 2017 the word count in reading was 1935 words, in 2018 it was 1717 words and in 2019 it was 2310 words.

- At the time the baseline assessments were undertaken, the transmission rate of COVID increased and many children were self-isolating for 14 days. Since the dataset was produced, ten more schools had undertaken the assessments.
- A high number of children were working towards but this was not uncommon in the autumn term. The children were likely to have forgotten some knowledge and might not yet have covered some areas of the national curriculum.
- There was capacity to move many pupils who were WT to WA and many who were WA to GD by May. This had been demonstrated in the last three years. Writing would be assessed by teachers in June.
- An Attitude to Learning Survey was undertaken which asked Year 6 pupils how often they read, whether they read for pleasure, were confident with spelling Year 5 and 6 words, their times tables, answering maths questions, enjoyed home learning, were confident to complete home learning independently, could manage their time, knew their strengths and challenges, learnt from mistakes and discussed difficulties with the teacher and/or parent/carer.
- All Key Stage 2 assessments had now been cancelled. Work was taking place to get schools to use 2017, 2018 or 2019 papers to assess children.
- The Chair commented that the White British and Black Caribbean FSM children appeared to be behind again and would continue to need additional support.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about whether SATS being cancelled could be an opportunity to look at alternative assessments, the officer advised that he had to be guided by the Standards and Testing Agency.
- A member asked whether schools could get information from Google Classroom on the amount of online learning children, types of connection, device and when logging on. The officer advised that a range of platforms were used by schools. He would speak to the Digital lead to ascertain what data could be collected digitally.

**RESOLVED:**

That the presentations be noted.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50 pm

Chair

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## **Strategy underpinning the transition from COVID-19 Chair's Foreword and Draft Recommendations**

### **Foreword:**

What had looked in the summer of 2020 to be an ambitious but relatively straightforward aim for this year's review - to interrogate a wide range of witnesses about the impact of COVID-19, make recommendations to reverse the effects 'on attainment, safeguarding, equalities, youth safety and justice' and prepare for future outbreaks – became ever more constrained by periods of lockdown, illness and self-isolation.

Nonetheless, members of the Committee were each able to attend at least one Zoom interview session with groups of secondary and post-16 students; members of the BAME Community Group (comprising community organisation and supplementary school leaders and some parents); parents of children attending an early years children's centre; a member of the Children's Active Involvement Service (a group for care experienced and looked after young people) and a group of head teachers from all phases.

A number of common threads in the evidence started to emerge and were echoed in officer reports and in research by academics and Ofsted. Over the three months of interviewing witnesses, two elements came to the fore - the corrosive impact of the virus on the disadvantaged and the near-universal experience of anxiety.

The legacy of austerity and the failure of this Government to predict the extent of the pandemic or to adequately fund councils and schools for the additional expenditure generated by it are a savage indictment of its so-called levelling up policies.

Our recommendations cover five aspects of work for the council and its schools. These comprise mental health and well-being; learning and pedagogy; funding; communications and developments post-COVID. They are grounded in Islington Council's commitment to challenge inequality and to make the borough a fairer place for all.

This review has been conducted under unique conditions and the Committee would like to convey its sincere thanks to the institutions, officers and witnesses that have helped to make it possible.

**CLlr Vivien Cutler**  
**Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

## Recommendations

### Mental Health and Well-being

1. For children, young people and young adults for whom it continues to have responsibility, Islington Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) service, building on existing good practice, should audit and extend provision where possible or use existing provision creatively to meet burgeoning need as identified both during and after the pandemic.
2. Schools and early years providers should use council information and other resources to ensure that parents/carers with mental health or well-being issues are signposted to appropriate help from adult and community services.
3. Islington Council should develop the Young Islington proposals, in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Public Health and appropriate providers, to offer a counselling service for children and young people during all holiday periods for the foreseeable future.
4. The council should also enhance its specialist youth, youth employment, careers and progression services to support those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or starting employment in such uncertain times. In addition to the current developments, including the partnership working with local employers, further education colleges and universities, it should continue to engage with partners such as London Councils and Central London Forward to ensure the local offer can respond to the changing skills needs and employment opportunities generated by growth sectors in the post-Covid economy.

It should further look to helping vulnerable young adults beyond the age of 25 years old through continued close collaboration across youth and adult services and with the borough's Islington Working Employment support partnership.

5. Building on the experience of developing and implementing the Recovery Curriculum, Islington Community of Schools should continue to build and promote a bank of resources to support the mental health and well-being of all children and young people returning to school, whether post-lockdown or following extensive individual absence.
6. The council should highlight its support services through the Employment Assistance Programme for teaching and support staff who may be suffering PTSD because of bereavement for colleagues and/or family.
7. A range of witnesses identified the importance of parks and playgrounds in maintaining well-being during lockdown periods. The council should identify capital funding opportunities to invest in any children's play areas that still need upgrading. The parks team should develop a comprehensive map of all parks and playgrounds, listing their distinctive features and facilities to raise awareness by schools and parents/carers to widen usage.

## **Learning and pedagogy**

8. In tandem with schools and supplementary schools, Islington Council should continue to source additional devices, dongles, SIM cards etc. from a range of donors and charitable organisations to safeguard provision across the board and ensure that every child and young person is prepared for further interruptions to learning. It should develop a culture whereby they recognise learning as easily accessible and not restricted to an educational setting.
9. The council should support schools to gain further understanding of effective learning platforms through undertaking additional research and obtaining best practice models via the Islington Digital Leaders Programme. As best practice and further safeguarding guidance (including GDPR issues) is released, officers should support schools to implement these changes in a timely and effective manner.
10. In order to encourage more primary age children to engage positively with remote learning, Islington Council should continue to provide professional development opportunities for education staff (including supplementary school and non-teaching staff) on how to deliver interactive lessons. This should include clear guidance on the purpose and benefits of live or recorded learning and how it may support learners and their parents/carers.
11. The council should provide support for parents/carers who are finding it difficult to help their children with online learning, especially those who have English as a Second Language or have literacy barriers. This support should cover both IT training and basic English and maths skills.
12. Where there continues to be a lack of devices for each individual pupil, or for vulnerable or SEND children and young people who find remote learning especially challenging, paper packs should continue to be provided by schools. Consideration should also be given to those early years children unable to access provision during lockdown.

## **Funding**

13. The Leader and council should continue to campaign vigorously for significantly more funding from the Government to:
  - Support schools and settings in providing COVID-related safe environments and targeted learning help to narrow the widening attainment gaps.
  - With our partners in North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, extend council services for mental health and well-being both for parents/carers and children and young people.
  - Underpin sustainability for Early Years and Bright Start services where working from home during lockdown and increased loss of employment threaten the viability of many settings and services.
  - Target financial and in-kind support for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and families including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and White British ones.

## **Communications**

14. The number of U-turns by the Government in relation to lockdown, examinations and provision of digital devices has undermined trust. The council, schools and school governors should endeavour to anticipate developments e.g. reduced capacity during holiday periods to support children and young people and their families and communicate these changes to their audiences as early and clearly as is possible in order to reduce anxiety.

## **Developments post-COVID**

15. The experience of life in a pandemic over the past year has highlighted the urgent need for a fundamental re-appraisal of the current education system. Islington Council and its schools should collaborate with academic institutions, local authorities and national organisations such as trades unions to develop alternative models for the future of our communities.

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

9 March 2021

### Executive Member Update and Questions

The Committee is invited to question the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families on her work and the work of the Committee.

The procedure for Executive Member questions is appended to this item.

**Questions for the Executive Member may be submitted in advance by emailing [democracy@islington.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@islington.gov.uk) by 5pm on Wednesday 3 March 2021**

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### Procedure for Executive Member Questions at Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Elected members and members of the public may ask the Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families questions on any matter in relation to the executive portfolio or the work of the committee.
- (b) The intention of the session is to complement and enhance the work of the committee. The Executive Member may submit written information in advance of the meeting to advise of their recent work and other topical and timely matters of relevance. The session is not intended to replace or replicate the questions sessions held at each ordinary meeting of the Council.
- (c) Questions should be submitted in writing to the committee clerk no later than three clear working days in advance of the meeting. Such questions will be notified to the Executive Member which may facilitate a more detailed answer at the meeting. Details of how questions should be submitted will be detailed on the agenda for the meeting.
- (d) Questioners should provide their name to enable this to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will include a summary of the question and the response.
- (e) The Chair may permit questions to be asked at the meeting without notice.
- (f) The time set aside for questions shall be no longer than 15 minutes.
- (g) No individual may ask more than two questions at each meeting.
- (h) Where there is more than one question on any particular subject or closely related subjects, the Executive Member may give a joint reply to the questions.
- (i) The committee clerk shall have power to edit or amend written questions to make them concise but without affecting the substance, following consultation with the questioner.
- (j) An answer may take the form of:

- A direct oral answer;
- Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner within 5 working days provided the questioner has given contact details.

(k) Priority shall normally be given to questions notified in advance.

(l) The Chair may permit supplementary questions to be asked. Supplementary questions must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

(m) A question may be rejected by the committee clerk, or the Chair at the meeting, if it:

- does not relate to the executive portfolio or the work of the committee;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question asked to the Executive Member at any meeting within the last six months;
- requests the disclosure of information which is confidential or exempt; or
- names, or clearly identifies, a member of staff or any other individual.

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE**

### **Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo – Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families**

It has been a very busy first month in the role. I would like to thank Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwarz for her support with the handover. I have been busy getting a handle on the job, meeting with officers and continuing Kaya's work in co-ordinating our Coronavirus response.

Headlines in my first month include:

- **Adventure playgrounds** are now reopen, with secure Covid-compliant measures in place from to ensure children have opportunities to play and socialise to support their mental wellbeing and development. All play will be held outside to ensure safety.
- **Procedures for safeguarding and contact with social workers** have been reviewed and reissued in accordance with current best practice from the sector to ensure every child at risk has good oversight. Face to face contact has been reviewed again to ensure all children who need this level of support have access to it and it is carried out in Covid-secure ways.
- **There are fewer children leaving care** currently due to continuing delays in the court system. This is causing some pressure on the number of children in Leaving Care service but is currently being managed.
- **Violence against women and girls** - we have seen a rise in women seeking support from commissioned services and the Council is acting on this accordingly.
- **Special school staff have been delighted to be included in the Vaccination programme** - at very short notice - 223 vaccinations will have been offered to them and the take-up has been extremely good. One Headteacher burst into tears at the news and called it a 'game changer'.
- **Mainstream school staff are currently not eligible for prioritisation for vaccination** under the current vaccination criteria but we have supported calls for them to be prioritised in the next stage of vaccinations and we will mobilise quickly to support this if the JCVI decides to take it forward.
- **Schools staff continue to be prioritised for community testing** and have been allocated priority slots at community testing sites. Schools have been told to expect lateral flow testing kits and will be expected carry these out at 8.00 on Mondays and Thursday to allow them to remain at home and inform the school if they test positive on the day. We will continue to support schools while this gets up and running.

- **There is a Covid-secure out of school** provision offer which has been drawn up for half term to support parents and children access play and childcare opportunities. Final details are being completed.
- Sadly 15 year old Romario Opia was murdered on Monday evening. Events have moved swiftly during the week and at 3am on Friday morning a 17 year old was charged with his murder. The 17 year old has been referred to the Youth Offending Service who will oppose bail. There is extensive support in place for those affected by the murder. The Leader and I went to visit Romario's family to offer our condolences and support, with appropriate liaison with the police.
- Sadly, we also mourn the passing of Yvonne Connolly, Islington's first black female headteacher and reportedly also the first black female head nationally. Yvonne's achievements inspired a 3-5 year project at FutureZone - a network of 22 Islington schools. The team have built a Wikipedia page [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yvonne\\_Conolly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yvonne_Conolly) to publicise her many achievements, build further on her legacy through the curriculum, and support building her rightful place in history and to celebrate her life.
- The Islington Annual Education Awards is currently being planned for a virtual event, currently scheduled for April, but with flexibility to adjust to Covid changes.
- Alexandra Burke (winner of the X factor, representing the Melissa Bell Foundation in honour of her mother) is working with officers to fund further chrome books/laptops for our children. She is also interested in publicising our Fostering campaign. Work is being co-ordinated with comms.
- 100 new books have been bought for each of the Mother Tongue Supplementary school groups to support reading and catch up
- The number of Care Leavers open to Children's Social Care is being closely monitored and interim arrangements in place to meet increased numbers. Courts are still operating slowly and some of our young people's anticipated discharge from care is therefore delayed. This is causing a financial pressure on the service which is being closely monitored.

## 1) Early years

Autumn term 2020 takeup of the early education entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds:

- Islington 70%
- England 69%
- Islington is first amongst statistical neighbours and second regionally and first time we have been above England average

These results are thanks to the sustained work of the Family Information Service, Bright Start outreach teams and Parent Champions to ensure eligible families access the offer

### **Lateral Flow Testing of early years practitioners:**

Between 26 Jan – 1 Feb:

- 638 early years workers had a test (an increase of over 200 from the previous week), out of a population of 1411 EY workers
- 14 EY providers where no staff members took a test

Work underway to improve takeup of testing. Main barriers are releasing staff who are needed to ensure appropriate ratios, opening hours of test sites, staff concerns re: using public transport to attend test sites

We continue to lobby DfE for home testing kits to be made available to EY provisions, as for schools and nursery schools, as this is currently not allowed under existing national protocols

### **2) Update on Digital Access for Islington school children**

Our exceptional funding bid to Dame Alice Owen Foundation was successful we have been awarded £132,000 to enable us to provide devices to students attending our secondary schools who do not have access. The devices have now been ordered and will be rolled out to schools next week. Based on data collected from secondary schools we estimated a further 600 devices were required to ensure that all secondary students who need a device at secondary school have access to one. The funding secured will facilitate the purchase of 600 Chromebooks.

The DfE announced last week that they will be making another allocation of devices to schools and are due to issue information about the number of devices each school will be offered. The further allocation will firmly secure digital capacity at secondary schools to ensure all children in households have access to a device and will support primary schools to reduce the remaining gaps.

Our current estimate is therefore that no further devices are required for secondary school pupils when all of the above allocations have been issued, and for primary schools we estimate c.1400 more chromebooks are needed and we will refresh this figure when the new DfE allocations are known.

There remains a need for devices for families of younger (early years) children to support access to services for families, which we are currently collating more information on and are sourcing ways to address this.

Detailed discussions are underway with the London Grid for Learning for a more effective connectivity solution for schools as the range of solutions across the region is currently patchy, short term and sometimes confusing for schools to access

### **3. Update on Food Provision for half term**

Guidance has been issued to schools for the provision of a £15 supermarket voucher for each FSM eligible child under the national benefits criteria to cover the February half term

A pilot will be running in the February half term of 'Take and Make' boxes for families providing food to take away as part of the holiday schemes.

#### **4. Attendance at school**

- School reports to DfE indicate that the attendance of pupils over the last week with social workers increased from 32.6% to 43.1%.
- Pupils eligible for free school meals who are vulnerable or children of key workers also increased attendance from 11.2% to 15.3%.
- All vulnerable pupils are being followed up at least weekly to address any reasons for non-attendance. 69% of schools are regularly reporting to DfE

#### **5. Islington Education Awards**

Planning has been underway for this year's Islington Education Awards ceremony which is currently scheduled to take place in April (a virtual ceremony is planned currently). A save the date invitation will go out shortly. It is particularly important this year to mark and celebrate the work of all schools in the pandemic.



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

## **Report of: Corporate Director of People Services**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	All

<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt
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## **SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 3 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 Q3 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 Q3 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.

3.3 New sub-measures have been added to the Corporate Indicator dataset since the Q2 Performance Report, looking at specific protected characteristics:

- A sub-measure to the Corporate Indicator on custodial sentences, focussing on young people from a Black ethnic group.
- Sub-measures on Children's Social Care contacts, looking at the over-representation of children and young people from the Black-Caribbean, overall Black and Mixed ethnic groups.

These have been included in the Q3 Performance Report.

#### **4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q2 2020/21 Performance Reports**

4.1 The Committee discussed the Q2 2020/21 performance reports at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. There are no outstanding queries to be resolved.

## 5. Quarter 3 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 ?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 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	91%	N/A	80%	Yes
1.2	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	58	61	60 (45 at Q3)	28	Yes	42	Yes
1.3	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	45%	37%	37%	31%	Yes	44%	Yes
1.4	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	26	7	10 (8 at Q3)	2	Yes	7	Yes
1.5	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of Domestic abuse offences	2640	2501	2641 (1981 at Q3)	1977	In line	1901	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.

12 out of 14 young people triaged in Q2 of 2020/21 were diverted away from the criminal justice system, resulting in percentage for that quarter of 85.7%. However, across the first three quarters of the year for this cumulative measure, 43 out of 47 young people triaged were diverted away from the criminal justice system (91.5%). This is above the proportion seen for the first three quarters in 2019/20, and indeed is above the proportion for the first three quarters of any year since we started reporting this measure to Children's Services Scrutiny.

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) continues to improve outcomes in relation to the percentage of young people diverted from the criminal justice system with a significant improvement in the cumulative measure for all three quarters. High quality assessments with these young people,

ensure the delivery of the interventions including targeted interventions to address risk of further offending and to promote desistance. This has included the prioritisation of continued face to face contact with young people throughout the pandemic prioritising children's complex needs including those at risk of offending and/or being excluded from school.

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

5.3 There have only been 28 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice System in the first three quarters of the year. This compares to 42 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 of 45 for the end of Q3 2020/21.

The latest available comparator data from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is for the period Jan - Dec 2019 – Sept 2019, when Islington had 61 FTEs reported for this period, which when compared to the population is 360 FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds. Islington remains above the London (267 per 100,000), Youth Offending Team (YOT) Family (286) and England (211) average rates.

The number of first-time entrants remains an important priority for improvement and as such we are continuing to prioritise early intervention. 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 of offending. The service recognises that there may have been some delay in young people with low level offences within the court and police process due to operational delays due to the pandemic. We continue to prioritise and respond to the needs of those at risk of offending with the continued support of commissioned services and other parts of the partnership system.

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

5.4 11 of the 36 young offenders from 12 months ago had reoffended by the end of Q3, so performance for this period was 31%. This is better than the target of 37%, which is based on performance during the 12 months of the 2019/20 financial year, and better than performance in Q3 of 2019/20 (44%).

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.

The latest available comparator data from the YJB is based on the period in the 2018 calendar year. Islington's re-offending rate for this period was 40.2%, a reduction from 50.8% for the 2017 calendar year. This was slightly above the England re-offending rate (38.5%) but slightly better than the London rate (41.8%) and the YOT Family average (41.5%).

Considerable progress has been made in relation to the re-offending rate, with the rate being positive in comparison to London and comparable YOTs. There has been a focus within the service to identify and respond to this cohort to ensure robust intervention and enforcement where appropriate. Interventions have been strengthened and targeted by way of a dedicated interventions lead and enforcement overseen by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Multi Agency Risk Panel and the Islington Group Offending Partnership Panel. We also continue to ensure that there are robust multi agency responses to young people risk of re-offending. We continue to work closely with police colleagues to ensure that enforcement is commensurate to each case

whilst providing targeted intervention. However, there are still young people with significant and multiple vulnerabilities that remain entrenched in their offending which has presents challenging in relation to reducing re-offending rates for this cohort.

#### **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 three quarters 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 seven custodial sentences, 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. The latest published Islington rate for October 2019 to September 2020 was 0.18, a new lowest ever rate for Islington. Islington remains above the England rates (0.10), in line with the London rate (0.16) and better than the YOT Family average (0.26).

Progress in relation to reducing the number of young who receive custodial sentences is positive. The number of young people receiving custodial sentences has fallen and this is reflected in Islington with a significant decline from 2018 to the present time. This has been achieved by improved quality assurance or court reports and robust sentencing proposals whilst building confidence with courts. Additional scrutiny in relation to sentencing outcomes by senior managers has further contributed understanding the service needs to reduce the use of custodial sentences and recommendation have been implemented year on year. Nonetheless there remains an entrenched but reducing cohort of young people, who by virtue of the seriousness of their offending and re-offending, end up in custody due to the seriousness of their offending.

#### **1.4a - New Corporate Sub-Measure: Custody rate per 1,000 10-17 year old residents - Black ethnic group**

- 5.6 This sub-measure is taken from the YJB's Disproportionality Tool. As there are relatively few custodial sentences, the data has been grouped across four years in the tool. The latest update of the tool shows that the rate of custodial sentences for Black young people in Islington was 12.4 per 1,000 10-17 year old residents for the period April 2015 to March 2019, compared to an overall rate of 7.0 for all Islington young people. The underlying data shows that the custodial rate was higher for Black-Caribbean young people than Black-African or Black-Other young people.

This measure is also reported to the Youth Justice Services Management Board and has been selected for reporting as a sub-measure to the Corporate Indicator set to ensure consistency in reporting to different boards and committees.

Updates from the Youth Justice Board were suspended for a time during the pandemic, but have now restarted, so we are expecting an update to the Disproportionality Tool during early 2021.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Islington has made significant progress in reducing the use of custody in recent years, there remain concerns in relation to disproportionality and sentencing. This has been a concern for some time and is one of the reasons why we carried out the project on disproportionality with City University. Additional training and workshops have been provided in recent times for practitioners in relation to diversity, unconscious bias and disproportionality. A disproportionality statement is now included all Pre-Sentence reports for Black and mixed-race young people to request that the court consider disproportionality in sentencing options and

outcomes. Subsequently, the service has a clear set of recommendations to address the issue of disproportionality. Islington continues to be committed to ensuring that this cohort of young people receive high quality youth justice services that provide tailored and targeted intervention that recognise diversity, discrimination and difference.

### **1.5 - Number of domestic abuse offences**

5.7 There have been 1,977 Domestic Abuse (DA) offences in the first three quarters of 2020/21. This is in line with the target of 1,981 and above the number at the same point during 2019/20 (1,901). 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.

While Islington has not seen a significant increase in DA offences since the start of the pandemic, local DA services have been extremely busy with many more survivors reaching out for support especially around emotional health and well-being. The positive news is that the council's additional investment and transformation of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) services has provided the capacity to support many more survivors and families. Solace and Samira Advocacy and Support service caseloads have increased by 58% and 37% respectively, and the DA counselling service has worked with 87 survivors since April. The VAWG Covid response meetings have met throughout the pandemic overseeing a comprehensive partnership response including communications campaigns to raise awareness of services and support among victims and specific communications aimed at DA perpetrators. Islington's new multi-agency DA Daily Safeguarding meeting was established in December and is supporting a more-timely partnership response to DA incidents, rather than waiting to be heard at the DA Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meeting. The new Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) service is due to start this spring following the successful recruitment of two IPV workers who commence their roles in February.

## 6. Quarter 3 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	Q3 2020/21	On target ?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 last year?
2.1	Percentage of 16 & 17 year olds (year 11 and 12 leavers) with an offer of a suitable place, by the end of September, to continue in education or training the following year	96.9%	96.6%	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>97.1% (2020 leavers)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	96.6%	<b>Yes</b>
2.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	New indicator in 2019/20	25	<b>40 (30 for Q3)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>No</b>	16	<b>Yes</b>
2.5	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	<b>1,170 (930 for Q3)</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>Yes</b>	n/a	<b>N/A</b>

### 2.1 - Percentage of 16 & 17 year olds (year 11 and 12 leavers) with an offer of a suitable place, by the end of September, to continue in education or training the following year

6.2 'The official Islington 'Offer made' figure for the 2020 leavers was 97.1%, which was above the London figure of 95.9% and the England figure of 94.3%. This is above our performance target and also last two years' figures, whilst nationally there was a decrease in the proportion of pupils with an offer. Islington's 'No offer' figure of 0.9% is in line/slightly lower than London (1%) and England (1.1%) figures. The Islington percentage of those young people whose September Guarantee info could not be found is 1.5%, below the 2.9% in London and 3.7% in England overall.

The September Guarantee figure of 97.1% is higher than the previous 2 years and this reflects the extensive follow up work that was done by the Progress Team to contact as many young people as possible through mailshots and phone contact. The extensive support and regular updates on data supplied by the Data and Performance team ensure focus and direction to this activity. The additional support provided by other partners within the council had significant impact especially the involvement of the Head of School Improvement who ensured that liaison with Head teachers raised the need for better response to data requests being made to their schools during the pandemic. The September Guarantee data helps the council identify young people at significant risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training. Young people without a September Guarantee were spread across all Islington's mainstream schools however, young people who were registered as home educated were highlighted as a cohort with no September Guarantee recorded.

It would be beneficial to continue to use the systems and processes used this year with escalation procedures in place to challenge schools who are not responding to data requests. We also to ensure we establish better process to refer young people who are home educated to ensure we can record their post 16 plans/offers and offer support to this vulnerable cohort.

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

- 6.3 Quarter 3 target of 30 schools engaging with 100 hours of world of work was not met, with 21 schools engaging with the programme between April and December.

Q3 saw renewed interest from schools in booking careers activities as part of 100hrs of the World of Work (WoW). Though this has led to a large increase in the number of booked activities in Q3 when compared to Q2, these bookings were made by schools we had already engaged this year. As a result, this Year To Date (YTD) figure did not increase. Schools have remained engaged in the programme through head teacher briefings, well attended careers network sessions with school careers leads and direct contact via key school leads. Requests for bespoke careers support from secondary schools have been received, with several seeking world of work activities for year 8's, 'meet the professional', Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) career support, and national careers week activities. The Service has been working with businesses to develop new and exciting online activities and resources for both primary and secondary schools which are available on a newly refreshed WoW website.

The Service has worked hard to have engagement with almost every secondary school in the borough this year already, so plans to focus on primary school engagement to widen participation. To achieve this, the team is developing primary-focussed resources and recruiting employer partners to engage new primary schools in Q4.

The development of high-quality bespoke activities for priority groups, partnership work with New River College Pupil Referral Unit (PRU - primary and secondary), Children in Need, Beacon High Wellbeing Centre and Children Looked After, continues. Work is underway to deliver virtual careers insight sessions, a community engagement programme (summer term), and contribute to curated careers weeks for these groups as part of an overall enrichment offer. The team is supporting the Islington Heritage team to deliver their Islington Stories programme, embedding modern day equivalent jobs in the world of work within it.

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

- 6.4 The cumulative total of page views for 100 hours of work of work was 2,760 at the end of December. Q3 has seen a large increase in the number of unique page views over Q2, with young people returning to school in September. The world of work menu, specifically, has seen an increase in page views. Updating the menu with new resources and activities has been a key

priority of Q3 and new additions to the web pages have been promoted through the careers bulletin, via social media and directly to schools. This high level of page views is anticipated to continue in to Q4, though more traffic may be directed to our home learning pages if schools are closed.

## Quarter 3 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	Q3 2020/21	On target?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 last year?
3.2	Percentage of 2 year old places taken up by low income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) or who are looked after	63%	70%	n/a	<b>70% (Autumn 2020/21 Academic Year)</b>	n/a	68%	<b>Yes</b>
3.5	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> – Early Years Number of children attending	4,839 2-4 year olds, Jan 2019	4,919 2-4 year olds, Jan 2020	n/a	<b>3,662</b>	n/a	Not comparable	n/a
3.15	Number of children in Alternative Provision	90	57	n/a	<b>34</b>	n/a	58	<b>Yes</b>
3.22	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> – Children's social care contacts in the past month	976 (March 2019)	998 (March 2020)	n/a	<b>919 (Dec 2020)</b>	n/a	766 (Dec 2019)	<b>Higher</b>
3.22a	<b>Corporate Sub-measure:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population	+5.1% (2019/20)	+3.5% (2019/20)	<b>Lower than +3.5%</b>	<b>+2.8% (Apr – Dec 2020)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	+3.4% (Apr – Dec 2019)	<b>Yes</b>
3.22b	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population	+11.0% (2019/20)	+6.9% (2019/20)	<b>Lower than +6.9%</b>	<b>+7.7% (Apr – Dec 2020)</b>	<b>No</b>	+6.8% (Apr – Dec 2019)	<b>No</b>
3.22c	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population	+3.6% (2019/20)	+6.0% (2019/20)	<b>Lower than +6.0%</b>	<b>+8.1% (Apr – Dec 2020)</b>	<b>No</b>	+6.0% (Apr – Dec 2019)	<b>No</b>
3.23	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	16.3%	16.7%	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>No</b>	17.3%	<b>No</b>

3.24	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	20.7%	18.3%	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>Yes</b>	18.3%	<b>Yes</b>
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%	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>n/a (year-end only)</b>	8.4%	<b>No</b>
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%	<b>70%</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>No</b>	79.1%	<b>No</b>
3.27	Number of Looked After Children	313	366	<b>n/a</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>n/a</b>	335	<b>Higher</b>
3.28	Rate of Looked After Children	74	86	<b>n/a</b>	<b>86 (2019/20, published in Q3 2020/21)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	74	<b>Higher</b>
3.29	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	11 (Mar 19)	15 (Mar 20)	<b>n/a</b>	<b>14 (Dec 2020)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	13 (Dec 19)	<b>In line</b>
3.30	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	New indicator	2,207	<b>n/a</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>n/a</b>	619	<b>Higher</b>
3.31	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	New indicator in 2019/20	65	<b>30 by end of year (26 for Q3)</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Yes</b>	65	<b>Higher</b>
3.32	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	<b>4,200 by end of year (3,000 for Q3)</b>	<b>16,321</b>	<b>Yes</b>	n/a	<b>n/a</b>

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

7.1 No target has been set for 2020/21 performance, as this measure was severely affected by the pandemic and was temporarily suspended from the Corporate Indicator set. As many settings were open during the Autumn term, we are able to report on this measure for that period.

We have managed to improve the proportion of eligible two year olds in funded early education places since last Summer. For the two years prior to this, performance had been bouncing around the 61-64% range. For Spring 2019/20 and Autumn 2020/21, we have managed to reach 70% take-up. The Autumn term figures represent 664 places taken up out of the eligible list of 949 children.

It is very positive to see that take-up of funded 2 year old places recovered so quickly in the Autumn following the easing of lockdown over the summer. The strategic approach outlined in the previous report and the relentless focus through Bright Start on encouraging eligible families to take up nursery entitlements continues to have a good impact despite concerns that this group of parents may be particularly anxious for their two year olds to attend nursery during a pandemic. As well as personalised written communications and a simplification of the eligibility checking process, the individual approach from Bright Start education and health practitioners and parent champions seems particularly effective. Opportunities to engage families with young children throughout the summer and early Autumn were maximised: Back to Nursery information which focused on how early years settings reduced risks to ensure the safety of children and staff was widely distributed; families with 2 year olds with SEND were invited to Bright Start picnics in August and more vulnerable or isolated families with very young children were invited to Bright Start "Explore the Parks" events where practitioners then had the opportunity to explain how provision for 2 year olds is organised with high adult-child ratios, a trusted key worker system and a play-based curriculum which follows the interests of the individual child. This seems to have helped to provide the reassurance that many parents needed.

While above both London and national 2020 figures, there is still considerable work to do to get more 2 year olds who are eligible into provision. As recovery takes effect during 2021, stretching targets will be set and the strategy reviewed to ensure that the direction of travel continues to improve.

### **3.5 - Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending**

7.2 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 Department for Education (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).

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, now reduced to weekly. The collection is not mandatory and although most providers do make a return, there are a very small number which do not. Numbers will therefore be slightly higher than recorded. 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, during December, 3,662 children were attending Islington early years settings. 235 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. The increase in

restrictions in early 2021 are expected to have a further impact on attendance, although early years settings remain open.

Take up of nursery provision remains a concern for the longer-term sustainability of the sector locally, regionally and nationally even during autumn when there were some signs of recovery. Local authorities have a duty to ensure sufficient childcare and early education places to meet the needs of working and studying parents and ensuring that there is sufficient and affordable childcare aligns with Islington's corporate strategic priorities around employment and Islington's Fairer Together agenda that all children should 'start well'. A lack of childcare always impacts primarily on women and retaining sufficient affordable childcare is therefore an equality issue. A shortened Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was undertaken during the Autumn term to summarise the impact that Covid-19 was having on the provision and delivery of childcare in Islington. The CSA confirmed data from the weekly survey that across all providers, nurseries and childminders, there was a significant increase in vacant places with an average vacancy rate of 20%, compared with an average rate of 12% in autumn 2019. This varied across different types of provider with rates of 17% for local authority (LA) maintained settings, 24% for school-based settings, 18% for the private sector and 25% for the voluntary sector. It is not possible to calculate vacancy or capacity rates for childminders because some childminders work with assistants, and the number of children childminders can look after, fluctuates according to the ages of the individual children with a childminder.

The biggest rise in vacancies was in under 2s although the largest proportion of vacancies are in the 3 and 4 year old age range.

A survey of the 8 LA nurseries revealed higher vacancies being due to changing parental working hours as a result of home working, parents being furloughed or being made redundant and some parents feeling anxious about their child's or their own exposure to Covid-19.

There have been no permanent closures to date in the nursery sector as a result of Covid-19, but a few childminders have resigned their registrations. It is difficult to predict if and when the under fives childcare market will recover. The Government's confirmation that it will cease funding early years provision on pre-Covid levels for early years entitlements from January 2021 is likely to worsen the situation as a reduced January headcount informs funding for the LA and providers.

Providers have been financially sustained so far through a range of government initiatives including, the funding of free early education based on pre-Covid occupancy rather than actual occupancy, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough), and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme – especially beneficial for childminders. Islington also supported 15 nurseries and 64 childminders during its first round of Small Business Grants, providing £107,000 across these settings. Nurseries will be supported and encouraged to apply for further grants and the Early Years and Childcare Service is working with the Inclusive Economy Team to identify ways to support the sector with longer term sustainability.

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

7.3

The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q3 2020/21 was 34 pupils compared to 58 at the same time last year. This equates to a decrease of 41% to comparable 2019 figures and includes all pupils attending Alternative Provision whether commissioned through New River College or directly by schools.

No target is set for this measure, but the general principle is that the best place for pupils is in schools, so we are looking to see as few students in Alternative Provision as possible.

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 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements.

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

7.4 A new Corporate Indicator looking at the number of children's social care contacts was 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, since July 2020, each month's number of contacts has been higher than the number in the corresponding month of 2019/20. In December 2020, there were 919 contacts, higher than the 766 contacts received in December 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

The view of the contact team is that contacts made are appropriate and could indicate increasing need due to the pandemic.

#### **3.22a – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population**

7.5 Following a request by Corporate Management Board to add sub-measures to the Corporate Indicators on protected characteristics, where appropriate, analysis was performed on the social care contacts received in recent years. This found that Black ethnic groups are over-represented in the ethnic breakdown of social care contacts compared to the Islington under-18 year old population, especially the Black-Caribbean group. Young people from Mixed ethnic groups are also over-represented. These differences were found to be statistically significant.

An estimated 4.5% of the Islington under-18 population are Black-Caribbean. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 7.3% of contacts in the year to date have involved young people from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group. Although this is an over-representation, it is less of an over-representation than previous years.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black-Caribbean young people from 2019/20 levels.

#### **3.22b – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population**

7.6 An estimated 22.1% of the Islington under-18 population are from a Black ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 29.8% of contacts in the year to date

have involved young people from a Black ethnic group. This is a slightly higher over-representation than last year, but less than in 2018/19 or 2017/18.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black young people from 2019/20 levels.

### **3.22c – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population**

7.7 An estimated 13.5% of the Islington under-18 population are from a Mixed ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 21.6% of contacts in the year to date have involved young people from a Mixed ethnic group. This is a higher over-representation than last year.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of young people from a Mixed ethnic group from 2019/20 levels.

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

7.8 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.

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 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). There had been an increase in the first half of 2020/21, but the figure for Q3 was lower than Q2, at 19.6% (292 out of 1,487 referrals in 2020/21 up to the end of December). This is above the target and above performance for the same time last year.

Latest data for London up to Q2 indicates there was a 3% increase across London as a whole, which is in line with the increase seen in Islington. Potential reasons are that nationally, assessments may not have been as thorough during first lockdown, or that families whose crisis had been resolved are now back in crisis due to the impact of Covid. Analysis supports that Covid has had an impact, as this year there is a shorter gap between each referral for those that had two referrals since 23<sup>rd</sup> March compared to the same period for 2019/20. There has been an improvement of 1.4% in Q3. However, if lockdowns are having an impact on this measure, it may be that there aren't further improvements until the current lockdown is eased although there are now more assessments and visits taking place face to face when possible to do so.

A deep dive into this issue by the Director of Safeguarding is underway, to report back to the Safeguarding Accountability meeting chaired by Richard Watts.

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 / Integrated Gangs Team (IGT). In some cases, a concern then

triggered Child Protection procedures which warranted a re-assessment from Children's Social Care (CSC). We are exploring the different ways we could intervene in adolescents who are at risks due to contextual safeguarding through our transformation programme.

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

7.9 16 of the 162 Child Protection Plans starting in the first three quarters of 2020/21 involved children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time, which equates to 9.9%. At the same point in 2019/20, the equivalent figures were 31 out of 146 plans, which was 21.2%. The proportion is lower than it was at the same point last year, and it is better than the target of 18.0%. To put this in perspective, out of every local authority in the country, only the Isles of Scilly had a lower proportion reported in 2019/20.

The following has contributed to this target being met:

- Alerts raised of potential repeat plans before a conference is booked
- Enhanced quality assurance of the child's file
- Child protection consultation to 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
- Ensuring child protection plans end only once positive change for the child has been sustained.

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

7.10 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 December, 33 of Islington's 351 Looked After Children had had 3 or more placements in the year, which equates to 9.4%. The figure for Q3 last year was 8.4%, so this is slightly up on last year. It is important to bear in mind that there are more children who are looked after at the end of Q3 2020/21, compared to the same time last year.

In December 2020, the DfE published comparator data for the 2019/20 for this measure. This showed that Islington's 2019/20 figure of 9.8% was better than the London (10.4%) and England (10.6%) averages.

The target for this measure is based on performance at the end of the financial year only.

Placement Stability continues to be 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 Children Looked After (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 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (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 and also have greater access to all the support services we have available in house from CLA CAMHS to the Virtual School and IGT.

### **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**

7.11 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 December 2020, 61 of the 94 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. This puts Q3 performance at 64.9%, below the target of 70%. The proportion in long term stable placements dropped in April 2020 to around 65% as has remained around this level in the subsequent months. In December 2020, the DfE published comparator data for the 2019/20 for this measure. This showed that Islington's 2019/20 figure of 73.1% was better than the London (69.8%) and England (68.2%) averages. Islington's performance was in the top quartile for this measure, nationally, in 2019/20.

The projected outcome for end of year is 68.4% based on the current cohort, which if achieved will be slightly below our target of 70%. A detailed analysis of the reasons for this will be completed in April 2021. Preliminary analysis indicates that performance has been affected by a large sibling group moving to a permanent placement having been living with their grandparents since coming into care. There is also evidence of greater instability for children from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and we are currently looking at how we can seek improvements in this area of work including matching children to placements and support.

### **3.27 - Number of Looked After Children**

7.12 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 had been gradually falling and have generally been around 360 in recent months. At the end of December 2020, there were 361 Looked After Children.

The rate of increase is partly due to the 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, the most common reason for young people leaving care is that they turn 18. Transformation work is currently underway to look at how we could work differently with adolescents without bringing them into care which does not always afford them better outcomes.

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.

### **3.27 - Rate of Looked After Children**

7.13 The DfE have now updated the comparator data on the annual rates of Looked After Children, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The Islington rate increased from 74 to 86 per 10,000 resident children. The national rate also increased, from 65 to 67, whilst the London rate fell from 50 to 49 per 10,000. Despite the increase in the Islington rate, Islington remains outside the bottom quartile on this measure.

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**

7.14 14 Looked After Children were missing from care for 24 hours or more in December 2020. This is a slight reduction from the number at the end of 2019/20 (15 in March), and marginally above the number as at the same point in 2019/20 (13). There was a peak in the Autumn of 2019 when numbers per month briefly rose above 20, but now it appears the figures are stable and 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.

National data on children missing from care for 2019/20 shows Islington has a relatively high proportion of looked after children who go missing from care, at 19% compared to 11% nationally. 13.7% of Islington looked after children went missing from care more than once, compared to 7.4% nationally. Whilst the number of missing incidents per looked after children who went missing is above the national average (7.3 compared to 6.5 nationally), it is in line with the average for our closest Statistical Neighbours and we are outside the top quartile on this measure.

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. Child Criminal Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation 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. 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.

### **3.30 – Applications for Free School Meals**

7.15 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 1,366 applications received in Q3 represents an increase of 747 on the same period last year, or a 221% 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.

As reported in the Q2 report, the October School Census showed there were significant rises in the proportion of pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals, so the increases in applications are leading to increases in the numbers who are known to be eligible.

### **3.31 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme**

7.16 **Target is met.** 66 schools have engaged up to end of Q3, ahead of the target set of 26 schools. While sustained activity in-person is still very heavily impacted by Covid-19, the Cultural Enrichment Team (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.

11 by 11 has had great recent success with online offers. Most notable of this was the live stream performance of *The Gruffalo*, by Tall Stories Theatre Company. This performance was offered to all under 5's and primary age children in Islington, and 55 Islington primary schools, early years settings and children's centres took part in the event, reaching between 7,000-8,000 children. 11 by 11 engagement with teachers and schools is set to continue as planned with digital interaction being prioritised over physical activity while closures remain in place.

11 by 11 will continue to work with schools and the cultural sector in a responsive fashion for the remainder of this year, as with extended furloughs for many arts and cultural organisations, the CET is keenly aware of respecting capacity limitations for those partners providing us with activity. 11 by 11 has 88 cultural partner organisation from Islington and neighbouring boroughs, and despite the difficulties of Covid-19, 45 of these organisations have participated in online networking events, training and/or activity offers over the Autumn 2020-21 term.

### **Cultural Lead Teachers and Culture Bank Continuing Professional Development (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 continues to be well received, increasing accessibility for many.

A key change in delivery during 2020-21 for the Culture Bank CPD sessions is that these have also been opened up (where relevant) to welcome interested cultural partner staff, supporting reciprocal training for each sector and increased communication between these key stakeholders for 11 by 11.

6 sessions have been held in the 2020-21 academic year to the end of Q3, and 62 teachers and/or cultural staff attended across these.

As previously outlined, focal points for the Cultural Lead and teacher CPD programme this year are:

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

### **Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11**

Secondary Engagement is gradually improving for 11 by 11. Attendance at CPD sessions by secondary teachers has increased over the last three quarters from April to December, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that online sessions are preferable for these teachers. We have secured new in person activity from an Islington based theatre partner which has capacity for all Islington Secondary Schools to receive face to face performances in school. So far 50% of secondary schools have booked this offer, our most engaged 11 by 11 secondary activity to date. The team have also prioritised targeted interventions at secondary with the PRU and Beacon High in particular, which is detailed further in updates on targeting vulnerable groups.

### **Targeting vulnerable groups**

Through joint working across Children Services and Employment, Skills and Culture, engaging vulnerable children and young people is being delivered via a tailored approach. 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. Please see details below:

### **Children in Need**

11 by 11 is working in partnership with Islington Council Children in Need services to collaborate on Islington Covid-19 response work for Children in Need (CIN) and Child Protection (CP) to improve educational achievement, prevent further marginalisation and divert from care. Following submissions of project proposals, four Islington based cultural organisations will partner with the 11 by 11 Programme to deliver part of Islington Council Children in Need services DfE Funded Covid-19 response work for Children in Need (CIN) and Children in Need of Protection (CP) to improve educational achievement, prevent further marginalisation and divert from care. Primary and Family enrichment activity will be delivered by [Little Angel Theatre](#) and [Estorick Collection of Modern Art](#). Secondary enrichment activity will be delivered by [Soapbox](#) (Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust) alongside one other organisation which is still agreeing terms.

### **Youth Voice**

As part of 11 by 11's Youth Voice work, the three Enrichment programmes (Music Education Islington, 11 by 11 and World of Work), are developing a trio of podcasts which follow the theme of each of programmes - Careers, Music and Culture. The project begins Spring term 2021 with an

online planning session with a small group of young people who will steer the direction of the podcasts and assist in the planning. Three podcasts will be recorded in person at Lift and will look to gain insight into young people's thoughts, needs and current challenges, contributing to future guidance for the programmes. The podcasts are due to be released by March 2021. Company Three theatre company are also progressing their plans with the Beacon High Wellbeing Centre and Inclusion Unit on a bespoke project of targeted intervention during Spring term, and further meetings are taking place at time of report submission, for update at next report.

### **Pupil Referral Units (PRU)**

CET and WoW have communicated regularly with the primary and secondary PRUs in the last three quarters. The teams are currently looking at music therapy, instrumental learning and careers support in terms of directly delivered enrichment at New River College settings, while both the Primary and Secondary sites also have Cultural Leads active in 11 by 11 CPD.

### **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.

We are pleased that school and teacher engagement from our target schools has continued in the 2020-21 academic year and we have now reached the level we had previously achieved, up to 77% from 63% at Q2.

With blended options for engagement for training and activity providing a higher level of accessibility, we intend to exceed the 2019-20 reach. As an example of the improved potential for interaction; 72% of target primary schools took part in the Tall Stories Gruffalo Holiday event. These broad universal offers provide an excellent base for sustained engagement which the team intend to build upon.

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

- 7.17 Target is **met**.  
16,321 Unique Page Views were registered in Q1-3, ahead of the target set of 3,000 views. As per Q2 the unique page views have increased with the inclusion of Music Education Islington webpage engagement.

### **Total YTD unique page views: 16,321**

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.

As per Q2, Cultural Enrichment focus has shifted back to the standard 11 by 11 and MEI schools menus for primary and secondary. Whilst Home learning resources are not being regularly updated, the resources available continue to be on offer to schools and families to support children's enrichment and creative learning.

There continues to be interest in these resources from an entertainment and wellbeing perspective, as evidenced over the Christmas period, when enrichment hashtags #11by11, #100HoursWorldOfWork and #MusicEdIslington were top tweets of the week in Corporate

Communications statistics. One of these holiday posts received 5.6k impressions and 72 engagements, a significant achievement.

## 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: Various – co-ordinated by Adam White, Business Intelligence Project Manager  
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## 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
<b>Outcome: Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all</b>									
1.1	x	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	<b>91%</b> (Q1-3 2020/21 provisional)	80% (Q1-3 2019/20)	80% (2019/20 Financial Year (FY))	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.2	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	<b>28</b> (Q1-3 2020/21 provisional)	42 (Q3 2019/20)	61 (2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.3	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	<b>31%</b> (Q3 2020/21 provisional)	44% (Q3 2019/20)	37% (2019/20 FY)	↓	YJB measure on reoffending uses a different cohort so is not comparable		
1.4	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	<b>2</b> (Q1-3 2020/21 provisional)	7 (Q3 2019/20)	7 (2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.4a	✓	<b>New Corporate Sub-Measure:</b> Custody rate per 1,000 10-17 year old residents - Black ethnic group	<b>12.4</b> (Apr 15-Mar 19)	11.3 (Apr 14-Mar 18)	11.3 (Apr 14-Mar 18)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.5	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Number of Domestic abuse offences	<b>1977</b> (Q1-3 2020/21)	1901 (Q3 2019/20)	2501 (2019/20 FY)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living</b>									
2.1	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Percentage of 16 & 17 year olds (year 11 and 12 leavers) with an offer of a suitable place, by the end of September, to continue in education or training the following year	<b>97.1%</b> (2020 leavers)	96.6% (2019 leavers)	96.6% (2019 leavers)	↑	95.9% (2020 leavers)	94.3% (2020 leavers)	n/a
2.4	x	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	<b>21</b> (End Q3 2020/21)	16 (End Q3 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	<b>2,760</b> (End Q3 2020/21)	New indicator	New indicator	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential</b>									
3.2	x	Percentage of 2 year old places taken up by low income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) or who are looked after	<b>70%</b> (Autumn 2020/21 Academic Year (AY))	68% (Autumn 2019/20 AY)	70% (Spring 2019/20 AY)	↑	59% (January 2020)	69% (January 2020)	2nd from bottom
3.5	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> – Early Years Number of children attending	<b>3,662</b> (Q3 2020/21)	3,466 (Q2 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	<b>34</b> (December 2020)	58 (December 2019)	N/A (End of 2019/20 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.22	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Children's social care contacts in the past month	<b>919</b> (Dec 2020)	766 (Dec 2019)	998 (March 2020)	↑	n/a	n/a	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
3.22a	✓	<b>Corporate Sub-measure:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population	<b>+2.8%</b> (Apr-Dec 2020)	+3.4% (Apr-Dec 2019)	+3.5% (2019/20)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.22b	✓	<b>Corporate Sub-measure:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population	<b>+7.7%</b> (Apr-Dec 2020)	+6.8% (Apr-Dec 2019)	+6.9% (2019/20)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.22c	✓	<b>Corporate Sub-measure:</b> % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population	<b>+8.1%</b> (Apr-Dec 2020)	+6.0% (Apr-Dec 2019)	+6.0% (2019/20)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.23	x	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	<b>19.6%</b> (Q3 2020/21 FY)	17.3% (Q3 2019/20 FY)	16.7% (2019/20 FY)	↑	17.8% (2019/20 FY)	22.6% (2019/20 FY)	2nd from bottom
3.24	✓	<b>Corporate Indicator:</b> Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	<b>9.9%</b> (Q3 2020/21 FY)	21.2% (Q3 2019/20 FY)	18.3% (2019/20 FY)	↓	17.9% (2019/20 FY)	21.9% (2019/20 FY)	2nd from bottom
3.25	x	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	<b>9.4%</b> (Q3 2020/21 FY)	8.4% (Q3 2019/20 FY)	9.8% (2019/20 FY)	↑	10.4% (2019/20 FY)	10.6% (2019/20 FY)	2nd from top
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	<b>64.9%</b> (Q3 2020/21 FY)	79.1% (Q3 2019/20 FY)	73.1% (2019/20 FY)	↓	69.8% (2018/19 FY)	68.2% (2019/20 FY)	Top
3.27	x	Number of Looked After Children	<b>361</b> (Q3 2020/21 FY)	335 (Q3 2019/20 FY)	366 (2019/20 FY)	↑	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a
3.28	x	Rate of Looked After Children	<b>86</b> (2019/20 FY)	74 (2018/19 FY)	74 (2018/19 FY)	↑	49 (2019/20 FY)	67 (2019/20 FY)	2nd from bottom
3.29	x	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	<b>14</b> (Dec 2020)	13 (December 2019)	15 (March 2020)	↔	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.30	x	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	<b>1,366</b> (Q3 2020/21)	619 (Q3 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	<b>66</b> (End Q3 2020/21)	65 (End Q3 2019/20)	New indicator	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.32	x	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	<b>16,231</b> (End Q3 2020/21)	New indicator	New indicator	-	n/a	n/a	n/a

Outcome: Ensuring our residents can lead healthy and independent lives

Outcome: Making Islington a welcoming and attractive borough and creating a healthy environment for all

Outcome: Continuing to be a well-run council, making a difference despite reduced resources



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

## **Report of: Corporate Director of People Services**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	All

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## **SUBJECT: Assessment support for schools 2021**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Due to the cancellation of national assessments for Early Years and Primary settings and the announcement of a consultation period regarding arrangements for General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and A Level assessments, School Improvement have designed alternative support measures for Islington educational settings.
- 1.2 This report sets out what Learning and Schools will provide to support educational settings undertake the most appropriate assessments to support the transition of children and young people.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note assessment arrangements being provided to educational settings

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 All EYFS and Primary assessments were cancelled in 2020. Education settings were still required to complete an annual report to parents/carers. A grades standardisation algorithm was produced by Ofqual, the regulator of qualifications, exams and tests in England. It was designed to combat grade inflation, and was to be used to standardise or moderate the teacher-predicted grades for A Level and GCSE qualifications
- 3.2 On 17 August, Ofqual and the Secretary of State for Education agreed that grades would be reissued using unmoderated teacher predictions. As a result, there was an annual increase by more than 10 percentage points in the number of top grades awarded (from 25.2% to an estimated 37.7%), the biggest increase for at least 20 years.

- 3.3 On 20 August 2020 the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) results were released. After the problems arising from the use of the grade algorithm for A Levels, it was decided that GCSE grades awarded to each student would be the higher of the teacher predicted result or algorithm standardised result for each subject they took.
- 3.4 As a result, all assessment data has not been published as it has not been validated and there are no comparative data sets available. Educational settings will be using their internal data to inform teaching and learning and adapting the curriculum to fill attainment gaps as a result of the extended lockdown period. Internal data will also be used to inform priorities for the national catch up programme.

#### **4. Early Years Assessment Arrangements 2021:**

- 4.1 **2 year old progress check:** this statutory assessment should be carried out unless a provider is affected by Coronavirus restrictions
- The assessment provides parents with a short summary of their child’s progress against the three prime areas of learning and development and is key to identifying emerging needs
  - Providers should remain alert to emerging concerns and refer appropriately; and carry out the progress check as soon as possible once the child has returned to the setting
  - Outcomes from the progress check are not reported to the LA
- 4.2 **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) at age 5 will not be mandatory again this year**
- EYFSP summarises the knowledge, skills and understanding that children have acquired by the end of reception in the six areas of learning and development
  - Highly valued assessment providing crucial information about children’s development and supports transition to Year 1
  - Department for Education (DfE) guidance expects schools to use their “best endeavours” to carry out the assessment and provide information to parents and to Year 1 teachers
  - No requirement for the LA to carry out their statutory moderation duties in relation to EYFSP
  - No requirement to submit data to local authorities or to confirm whether they have completed it to the DfE
- 4.3 **Early Years: Moderation and assessment- what we can offer:**
- Moderation in individual schools through Annual Service Package (ASP)
  - Facilitated non-statutory small assessment cluster groups during the summer term
  - Response to specific requests from schools
  - Can still use current national standards to support accurate assessment – Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) handbook and exemplification
  - Focus on equalities through spotlight on specific groups; white UK disadvantage/Caribbean

## **5. Primary Assessment Arrangements 2021:**

5.1 The following assessments, scheduled between April and July 2021, have been cancelled:

- Key Stage 1 teacher assessments
  - Key Stage 2 tests and teacher assessments
  - phonics screening check
  - Y4 multiplication test
- 
- Schools need to continue using assessment to inform teaching, to enable them to give information to parents on their child's attainment in their statutory annual report and to support transition of Key Stage 2 pupils to secondary school.
  - The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for statutory assessments has strongly encouraged schools to use past test papers in their assessment of pupils.

5.2 **Primary: Moderation and assessment- what we can offer:**

- Providing guidance on which assessment papers to use for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- Support schools to administer the phonics check to those pupils who did not reach the expected standard or were absent during the test window due to illness or self-isolation
- Offering a non-statutory moderation event for all primary schools – Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- May/June 2021 – focus on borderline pupils – Working Towards to Expected Standard/Expected/Greater Depth (3 pupils)
- Focus on White UK disadvantage/Caribbean pupils
- Venue – to be confirmed but potentially Laycock PDC – following strict public health guidance – two hour slots

## **6. Secondary Assessment Arrangements 2021:**

- 2021 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) exams cancelled.
- Exams regulator Ofqual published its proposals for replacing exams this year in mid-January.
- Proposal is for grades to be determined by teachers and, following "quality reassurance"
- Results will be issued by exam boards, who will "remain accountable for the results".
- Assessments to be undertaken during 'late May/early June'
- Grades based on current performance – not what students would've achieved
- Exam boards providing papers for teachers to mark but schools can use own papers under guidance
- 'Menu' of exams so pupils don't know which one they are sitting
- Coursework to be included
- Exams boards to provide support on grading
- School leaders to sign off on grades
- Exam boards to sample evidence
- Grades only changed if they're 'not legitimate'

## 6.1 **Secondary assessment:**

- Consultation ended 29<sup>th</sup> January – outcomes and final plan 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb
- Of 12,600 responses to last year’s consultation on replacing exams, 1,939 were from students.
- More than 94,700 responses to this year’s consultation – the biggest response to a Department for Education (DfE) consultation ever.
- 46,918 are from students.
- Department for Education (DfE) have said that they, exam boards and Ofqual “will ensure all schools and colleges have the guidance and training they need to make these crucial decisions”.

## 6.2 **Secondary: Moderation and assessment- what we can offer:**

- Ensure that timely support is given to schools once the consultation outcomes are clear
- Provide moderation support in subject leader meetings and with individual departments in English, maths and science – to include a reminder about the unconscious bias work with schools in the first part of 2020
- Make links between schools to compare approaches and to support moderation in smaller subjects
- Make offer to all schools of whole school unconscious bias training where this hasn’t yet happened to support teacher assessment

## 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 Assessment and moderation arrangements will support educational settings make accurate assessments to support pupil attainment and support the transfer of academic information as part of the transition process.

### Signed by:

[Corporate Director and Exec Member]

Date: [add date]

Anthony Doudle: Head of School Improvement: Primary

Report Author:

Tel: 3387

Email: Anthony.doudle@islington.gov.uk

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**Report of: Corporate Director of People Directorate**

<b>Children's Services Scrutiny</b>	<b>Date: 9 March 2021</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b> <b>All</b>
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## **SUBJECT: ISCB Annual Report 2019/20**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 The attached report shows that safeguarding activity is progressing well locally and that the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) will continue with its strategic priorities for the coming year.
- 1.2 The ISCB has worked well in fulfilling its statutory functions under *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018* statutory guidance. Statutory and non-statutory members are consistently participating towards the same goals in partnership and within their individual agencies.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2019/20 and the Key Messages (pp. 71-72) be noted:
  - Support and champion staff to share and record information at the earliest opportunity, and proactively challenge decisions that fail to adequately address the needs of children and young people and their parents or carers.
  - Make sure that help for parents and children is provided early in life and as soon as problems emerge so that children get the right help, at the right time.

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

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The safeguarding partners of the ISCB have a statutory obligation to prepare an annual report on the work of the ISCB and the safety of children in the Local Authority.

### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

#### **4.2 Legal Implications:**

The Islington Safeguarding Children Board must prepare and publish an annual report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Islington (section 14A Children Act 2004).

The role of the Islington Safeguarding Arrangements is;

To support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where;

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively

- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

The report should provide an assessment of the performance of local services, identify areas of weakness, set out proposals for action and include lessons from reviews (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*).

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

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report.

#### 4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

##### **Please retain this standard paragraph and add relevant text about specific impacts and mitigation below:**

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.

An RIA has not been completed because an assessment is not necessary in this instance. The Committee is asked to receive the report, note the ISCB priorities and utilise the priorities to inform its future work. No negative equalities implications for any protected characteristic, nor any human rights issues, are envisaged as a result of these recommendations. The report proposes actions which are intended to strengthen the Council's safeguarding measures. Should the Scrutiny Committee decide to take any other specific actions in response to the report, separate consideration of the impacts of these actions may be required.

### **5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

5.1 The LSCB Annual Report 2019/20 is for information and consideration by the Committee

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: ISCB Annual Report 2019/20

#### **Background papers:**

- None

#### **Signed by:**

Carmel Littleton,  
Corporate Director People

Date

Date

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# ISCB Annual Report

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1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 31 August 2020



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# Update from the Independent Scrutineer

### Introduction

The *Islington Safeguarding Partners* as part of their arrangements to safeguard children and promote their welfare are required to demonstrate that they are open to independent scrutiny.

I have been appointed to take on the role of independent chair and to offer independent scrutiny of the *Islington safeguarding arrangements*, and this is my assessment of how effective these arrangements have been in practice over the past 12 months. I will highlight where I feel the arrangements are performing well and where I consider further development is required.

### Engagement of *relevant agencies*

The *Local Authority*, the *NHS Clinical Commissioning Group*, and the *Metropolitan Police Service* form the three statutory safeguarding partners and have joint and equal responsibility for safeguarding children and young people in Islington.

The safeguarding partners have set out in their published arrangements the organisations that they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The *Islington Safeguarding Partners* have identified a wide range of agencies, as outlined their published arrangements. These other agencies, called *Relevant Agencies*

should then act in a coordinated way to ensure the effectiveness of the local arrangements. These agencies have been actively involved during and since the development of the arrangements and have demonstrated their commitment to safeguarding by contributing across a range of meetings and activities as both attendees and chairs of various sub-groups.

Whilst all schools, colleges and other educational settings form part of the local arrangements, the system by which the partners can engage with all schools and colleges could be improved. In order to develop this further the Safeguarding Partners have introduced an Education Subgroup to ensure that **all** schools, colleges and other educational settings can be fully involved in the new safeguarding arrangements.

### Covid-19

It was during this reporting period that the impact of Covid-19 became apparent. The partnership quickly recognised the detrimental impact that the pandemic would have on vulnerable families and the ability to effectively safeguard and protect children from harm and abuse. A core group comprising of key members of *Islington's safeguarding partnership* was formed during the early stages of the Covid. This group met weekly to discuss how the partners could work more effectively together during the pandemic along with using this forum as a platform to better identify

# ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

gaps in service delivery and develop quick-time solutions to emerging problems. The meeting was seen as being very valuable for the partnership and has continued on a monthly basis.

## **Learning from *serious case reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews***

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Such reviews should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. It is the responsibility of the *Safeguarding Partners* to identify *serious safeguarding incidents* at a local level and then to review them as appropriate so that improvements can be made.

This report includes the details of three such reviews that were undertaken during this reporting period, referred to as Child P, Child Q, and Child R.

*Islington Safeguarding Partners* have a well-organised group of multi-agency professionals that oversee reviews and ensure there is a culture of learning and continuous improvement. The group are very keen to see that the recommendations from reviews improve outcomes for children and that lessons learned are embedded into practice. Furthermore, the partners have created a robust audit regime that ensures that the learning is revisited and

embedded. I will closely monitor the audit process to confirm that learning is indeed embedded, and practice is improved.

## **Voice of children, young people and families**

Within Islington, there is a child centred approach which is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The partnership is very keen to see that children are involved and participate in child protection conferences where appropriate and that their wishes and feelings are understood when developing safeguarding strategies. Whilst the number of children attending child protection conferences has increased over recent years more work is being undertaken to ensure more children are represented so that their lived experience can be properly understood by professionals managing their care. The annual report highlights the innovative ways that partners across Islington have engaged with children and young people.

## **Performance monitoring and analysis**

The partnership, in order to fulfil its functions, uses a wide range of data. The partnership has developed a multi-agency performance dataset and is developing a *Performance Dashboard* to highlight emerging safeguarding issues or trends that need to be addressed. The data is continually reviewed by the *Quality Assurance Subgroup* and is reported on to the wider strategic board. There is a real desire by the partnership to properly understand the

data and use it effectively to assess the impact of safeguarding. There is good data provided to the partnership from the local authority. The data required from the police and health partners is improving but still needs further development.

### **Evidence of impact and challenge**

The partnership in Islington is mature and well developed; partners do put energy into scrutinising and challenging practice in an appropriate and considered way. A good example of challenge and scrutiny was where the partnership identified improvements in housing registered sex offenders within the community. This came about following local intelligence that indicated that a sex offender was living in the immediate vicinity of his child victim and therefore a considerable safeguarding risk. Although no child was harmed, the partnership quickly came together to review the circumstances and identify any learning they could from this particular incident. As a result, action was taken immediately to rehouse the offender and put in place actions and recommendations in order to prevent or reduce the risk of a similar occurrence.

### **Partner commitment to Islington safeguarding arrangements**

Safeguarding is and will continue to be nuanced in complexity. More so now than at any other time. In order to be effective, the ar-

rangements require resources and strong administration in order to function.

*Working Together 2018* highlights that working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. This funding for the arrangements should be equitable and proportionate across the partnership. The funding arrangements of the *Partnership* falls disproportionately on the local authority and should be reviewed.

### **Conclusion**

There are, in my view, many strengths to the safeguarding arrangements in Islington. I have found a strong partnership that is open to scrutiny, challenge, and one that strives to continually learn and improve practice. There is excellent engagement from leaders across the partnership who set a culture that drives improvement activity.

There are excellent examples in the annual report that highlight the breadth and depth of partnership activity across Islington to keep children safe. Such examples include *The Lighthouse project* on page 29, which is a support service for children and young people that have experienced sexual abuse. Work to prevent school exclusions on page 32, the *Keel Project* dealing with domestic abuse on page 25 and the *Disproportionality Project* designed to explore and tackle key issues relating to disproportionate representation of BAME young

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

people in the Criminal Justice System and beyond. These are just a few examples of the innovative approach taken by the *Islington partnership* to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families.

The effectiveness of the partnership in Islington was recognised in March 2020 following the Ofsted inspection of children's social care services when they were judged outstanding. Ofsted commenting that:

*'Partnership working is strong and well established and has contributed to the development and successful implementation of many creative and innovative services'.*

**Alan Caton OBE**  
**Independent Chair and Scrutineer**  
**Islington Safeguarding Children Board**

# Introduction

# ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Legislation\* requires *local safeguarding arrangements* to ensure that local children are safe, and that agencies work together to promote children's welfare. The statutory safeguarding partners must publish† a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. The report will also include:

- Evidence of the impact of *safeguarding partners' and relevant agencies' work* including training, on outcomes for children and families ranging from *early help to looked after children and care experienced young people*.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities, a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the reporting period, implementation of the recommendations of any local- and *national child safeguarding practice reviews*, including any resulting improvements.

- Ways in which the ISCB's partners and *relevant agencies* have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

## AUDIENCE OF THIS REPORT

The report will be submitted to:

- The Local Authority's *Chief Executive Officer and Leader of the Council*.
- The *Health and Wellbeing Board*.
- The *local Police and Crime Commissioner / MPS Borough Commander*.
- ICCG Governing Body.
- *National Child Practice Review Panel*.
- *What Works for Children Social Care*.

Individuals and Boards are asked to note the findings of this report, and to inform the Independent Chair / Scrutineer of the actions they intend to take in relation to those findings.

## REMIT OF THIS REPORT

This report follows the *ISCB Annual Report 2018/19*† and covers the period from 1st September 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

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\* Children Act 2004

† Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

‡ <https://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/2020.02.15%20ISCB%20Annual%20Report%202018-19.pdf>

### ***METHODOLOGY***

In writing this report, contributions were sought directly from board members, chairs of sub-groups and other relevant partnerships.

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

### ***PUBLICATION***

The report will be published as an electronic document on the Board's website.



### DEMOGRAPHICS

**Islington is a small, densely populated inner London borough with a total population of 236,400 in 2020, which is estimated to increase by 5.5% by 2040. The borough is the second smallest in London in terms of area (after the City) and has the highest population density.**

The population age profile is on average younger than those for London and England are, with 46% being young adults aged between 20 and 39 years. There are approximately 42,900 children and young people aged 0-19 living in Islington, and around 73,000 0-25 year olds. The proportion of children from a BAME background is relatively high at 66% and a significant proportion of children live in households where English is not the first language.

The borough is one of stark contrasts. In the *2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation* (IMD), Islington was found to be the 53rd most deprived local authority in the country and sixth most deprived in London. It is the tenth most deprived based on IDACI (*Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index*), an improvement from being the third most deprived in the 2015 release, but the most deprived in London, with 27.5% of children living in income-deprived households. 18.4% of Islington under 16 year olds live in *relative low income* households and 14.0% live in *absolute low income households*, based on the latest data for 2018/19.

Of 123 *Lower Super Output Areas* (LSOA) in Islington, none is within the least deprived (IDACI) quintile nationally, and six are within the second least deprived quintile. At the other end of the scale, 69 Islington LSOAs are within the most deprived (IDACI) quintile nationally, and 33 in the second most deprived quintile.

Just under 30% of children and young people live in one-parent households (one of the highest proportions in London). Most housing is in flats with no outdoor space - only 13% of the borough's land is green space, the second lowest proportion of any local authority in the country. Overcrowding levels are similar to the London average at 11% of households.

Educational attainment has improved in Islington. The most recent *Ofsted Official Statistics* show that 91.2% of Islington's schools are *good* or *outstanding* as judged by Ofsted, which is above the national average of 86.2% (as at the end of the 2019/20 academic year). The proportion of young people who were not in *education, employment or training* (NEET) or whose activity was not known was 4.1% in 2019/20 (compared to 5.5% across the country). Overall, the borough has a high proportion of residents with low or no qualifications (25%) and a very high proportion of highly qualified individuals (48% have university degrees), who will generally be working in the professions.

# ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

## CHAIRING AND LEADERSHIP

Alan Caton OBE independently chairs the ISCB, and he has been the independent chair since September 2013.

### *Accountability*

There are robust accountability mechanisms between the Board and chief officers in the authority with quarterly *Safeguarding Accountability Meetings* taking place between the *Chief Executive* of the LB of Islington, the *Lead Member* of the Council, the *Executive Member for Children's Services*<sup>4</sup>, *Corporate Director for People* and *Director for Safeguarding and Family Support*. The *Safeguarding Partnership Constitution* makes provision for these meetings to include the accountable persons from the *Clinical Commissioning Group* and the *Metropolitan Police*.

## AGENCY REPRESENTATION AND ATTENDANCE OF THE BOARD

Islington agencies are well represented with a range of suitably senior officers attending the ISCB on a regular basis. Where necessary, representatives send delegates if they are unable to attend. The sub-groups of the ISCB also have good attendance from a wide variety of *partners* and *relevant agencies*.

## BOARD STRUCTURE

The structure chart on page 17 shows how the functions of the ISCB are organised. Most of the Board's functions are discharged through one of its six sub-groups that report to the ISCB chair at the *executive meeting* whereas strategic oversight sits with the main board who is accountable for the Board's statutory functions.

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

The ISCB business unit supports the Independent Chair, Board, and sub-groups

### *ISCB Executive*

*Chair: Independent Chair of ISCB*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Develop, implement, and monitor the Islington Business Plan.
- Oversee the functions of Islington LSCB' sub-groups.
- Oversee the Learning and Improvement Framework.
- Agree priority actions against the Board's core business.
- Develop the Board's forward plan and

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<sup>4</sup> Section 19 of the Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority to designate one of its members as Lead Member for Children's Services. The LMCS will be a local Councillor with delegated responsibility from the Council, through the Leader or Mayor, for children's services

set the agenda for board meetings.

- Receive and agree policies and procedures received from sub-groups.
- Review relevant national policy developments and initiatives, prepare briefing papers to the Board, and recommended actions that may be required.
- Monitor attendance and agency representation at the Islington LSCB and its sub-groups and make recommendations as appropriate.
- Provide in-depth scrutiny around the Board priorities, including s11 duties.

### *Training and professional development sub-group*

*Chair: Named Nurse, Whittington Health*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Identify the inter-agency training and development needs of staff and volunteers.
- Develop and implement an annual training and development prospectus.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of single and multi-agency training.
- Ensure lessons from legacy *serious case reviews* (SCRs) and *local child safeguarding practice reviews* are disseminated.
- Measure the impact of multi-agency training.

### *Quality assurance sub-group*

*Chair: Head of safeguarding & Quality Assurance.*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Develop agreed standards for inter-agency safeguarding work.
- Establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms and processes for measuring the quality of inter-agency safeguarding work.
- Contribute to the development of strategies to address any shortfalls in effectiveness.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of safeguarding work within individual Board partner agencies.
- Contribute to the development of strategies for single agencies to address any shortfalls in effectiveness.
- Audit and review the progress of the implementation of recommendations of Learning Reviews.

### *Policy and procedure sub-group (ad-hoc),*

This sub-group is convened on a task-and finish basis only

- Review and monitor ISCB's policies, practice, and procedures, when necessary.

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- Plan the piloting of and / or introduction new multi-agency working practices.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of relevant research findings.
- Develop / evaluate thresholds and procedures for work with families.
- Assume editorial control over the ISCB website.

### *Missing, child and adolescent exploitation sub-group,*

*Chair: Detective Superintendent, MPS Central North BCU*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Reducing the risk of children going missing or being criminally exploited.
- Improving intervention and diversionary activity for those who go missing, and offend whilst missing, or who are at risk of criminal exploitation.
- Identifying perpetrators who assist children going missing, or aid in their criminal exploitation, and disrupt / prevent their activity.
- Building a problem-profile for both missing children and the criminal exploitation of children / adolescents in Islington.
- Identifying and disrupt peer-on-peer abuse in Islington.
- Using trauma-informed approaches to

problem solve in these areas and safeguard vulnerable children and adolescents from harm.

### *Case review sub-group,*

*Chair: Head of safeguarding & Quality Assurance.*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Arrange a *rapid review* meeting for a child after notification of a *serious safeguarding incident*.
- Consider all cases that may potentially meet the criteria for a *local child safeguarding reviews*.
- Appoint a suitable panel to carry oversee a *local child safeguarding practice review*.
- Commission, where necessary, a suitable independent reviewer to carry out a *local child safeguarding practice review*.
- To monitor implementation of agencies action plans after a *local child safeguarding practice review*.

### *Education Sub-group*

*Chair: Head of Primary School Improvement*

- To provide opportunities for the ISCB

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to hear and learn from Education providers in order to strengthen multi-agency working.

- To draw on the experiences of a core group of professionals engaged in the safeguarding and promotion of well-being of children and families to inform policies, procedures, and practices of the ISCB.
- To support the dissemination of recommended best safeguarding practice in education across Islington schools and settings.
- To collaborate with the ISCB to further strengthen agencies collective efforts to safeguard children.
- To ensure that any potential safeguarding concerns are followed up.

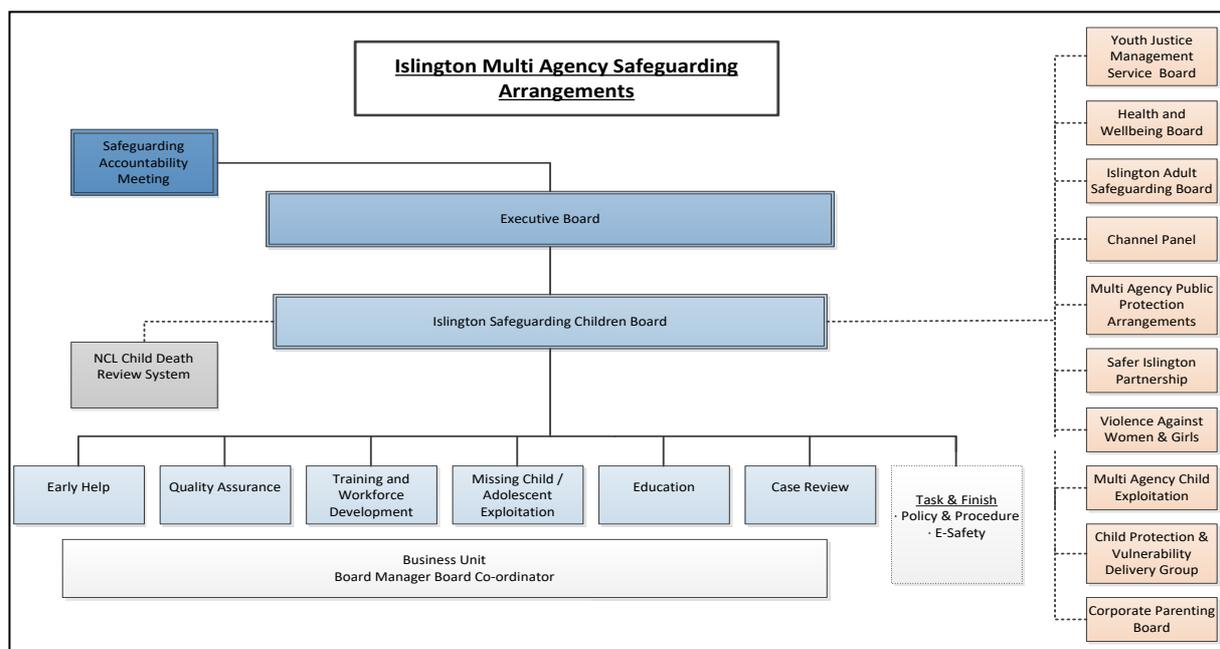
### Early Help sub-group

*Co-chair: Lay Member of ISCB*

*Co-Chair: Assistant Director Public Health*

Key responsibilities of the sub-group are to:

- Monitor progress by the Partnership against *Islington's multi-agency Children and Families Outcomes Plan*.
- Improve data and information sharing to support the delivery of early help and statutory support to families with multiple needs across children and adults services.
- Agree how and where to deploy resources to ensure they are targeted effectively across the partnership.
- Develop and nurture a children and adult workforce that takes a whole family, relationship-based, and



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trauma-informed approach to assessment, planning, and interventions.

- Ensure continuous improvement in the quality of practice, including assessment, planning, and the quality of interventions.
- Ensure consistent and effective monitoring and evaluation systems are in place across early help and statutory family support services that evidence the impact on children and families' lives.
- Promote and disseminate research findings and good practice in family support, share service developments and information across partners.

# Key activities of the ISCB

# ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

In previous reports, The Board set out the rationale for choosing our current priorities, and this is the fourth update on those priorities

## ISCB PRIORITIES

These priorities reflect our desire to improve the collective effectiveness of agencies in three key areas. *Partners* and *relevant agencies* should:

- Address the *impact of neglect* on children.
- Address the consequences of harm suffered by children because of *domestic violence, parental mental ill health, and substance abuse*, including helping children who have suffered harm to become more resilient.
- Identify and help children who are vulnerable to *sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and gangs*.

## THE VOICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN MULTI-AGENCY PRACTICE

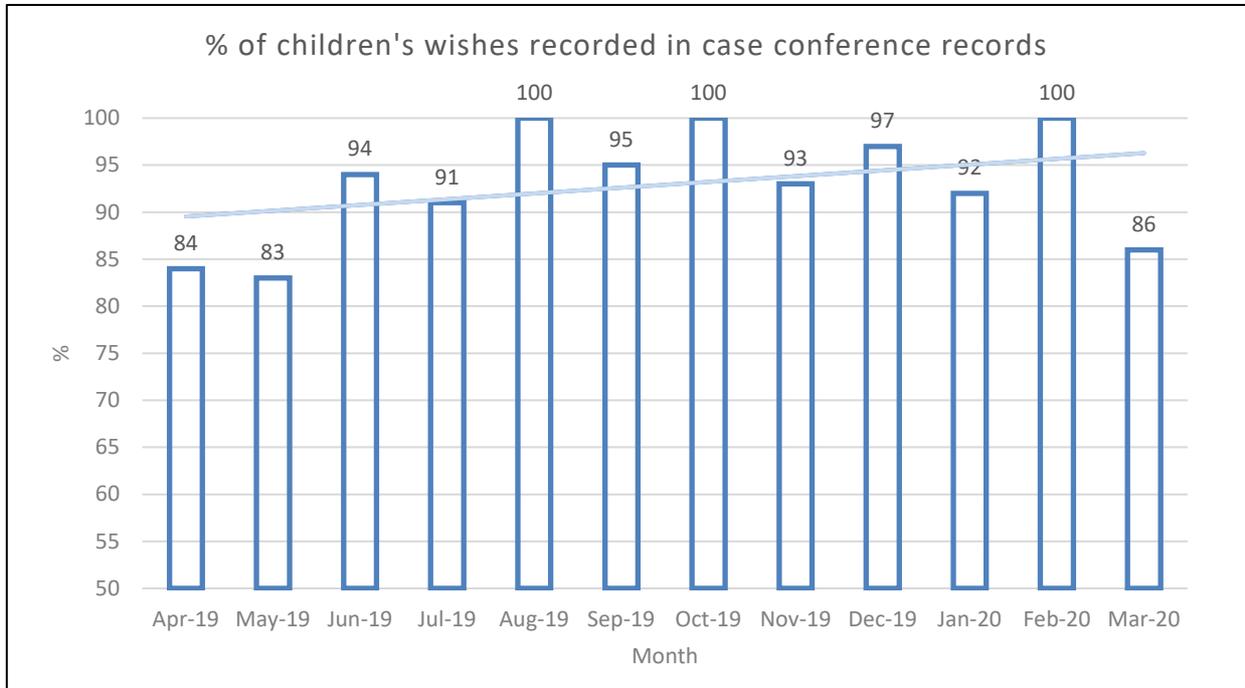
### *Children's wishes and feeling in Child Protection Conferences*

The safeguarding board's procedures require that the child, subject to their level of understanding, needs to be given the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the conference. Where this is not possible, the social worker should use alternative arrangements to ensure that the



wishes and feelings of the child are properly represented in the case conference. The ISCB has made available a suite of consultation documents for use with parents and children that all professionals can use.

Children and young people's presence may often not be appropriate due to their age and development or it may simply be that adults do not wish them to be present at a conference where parental issues pertaining to neglectful or abusive parenting are discussed. A recent report to the Board shows that participation of children



and young people at child protection conferences is a challenge<sup>5</sup>. Actual attendance of children at child protection conferences remains low. In 2019/20, 68% of children deemed eligible for attendance were invited. This is a significant improvement over the 43% from the previous year. However, only 15% of invited children attended conference this year compared to 31% in 2018/19. In real terms, only half as many children attended conferences compared to last year.

Children's wishes and feelings are represented via consultation forms or other

methods of direct work. Social Work reports to conferences have a separate section for the child's views, as do partner-agency reports. The whiteboard at the child protection conference also has a separate section called *child's wishes, feelings, and experience* to ensure this is fully discussed in the meeting.

### **Child participation audit**

Child's participation has been measured in more depth by looking at all conferences (children aged 5 and older) over a 12 months period. The audit looked at whether:

<sup>5</sup> Child Protection Annual Report 2019-2020, presented to Quality Assurance sub-group, May 2020.

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- The child attended the conference.
- They completed a consultation booklet.
- There was evidence in the *children and family assessment* of consultation with the child for the conference.
- There was evidence of the child's wishes, feelings and lived experiences were contained in the conference record.

The audit shows that while few young people physically attended *child protection conferences* there has been a continued improvement in terms of children's wishes, feelings and lived experience represented in social work reports.

## **Moorfields Eye Hospital— Learning from Practice**

Moorfields Eye Hospital drew attention to subtle and unusual forms of neglect after participating in an internal multi-agency review (Child O).

## **Whittington Health Trust**

The trust Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection noted several instances of the trust's ongoing effort to involve children and families in shaping their services:

## **Social Emotional Mental Health**

## **(SEMH)**

The Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) service had been designed in true collaboration with a range of local stakeholders. The SEMH model had been a direct result of listening to the local population who said they needed greater access, choice and reduced waiting times for young people who required support for their emotional wellbeing and mental health. The acronym name (SEMH) of the service had been decided by young people during the design process.

Participation and engagement is central to

the *Children's Joint Commissioning Team* and the team has a dedicated Participation Officer who leads on engagement and co-production involving Children and Young People, Parents and Carers and Service Users. This team is jointly funded by the CCG and the London Borough of Islington. Using a range of engagement and participation methods the *Children's Joint Commissioning Team* have

been successful in engaging children, young people (CYP) and their parents and carers in the ongoing development of service provisions across all commissioning areas.

The team worked collaboratively with young people to launch the *Social and Emotional Mental Health service*, where they collaborated with support-staff in delivering the launch for professionals and stakeholders. This also became a platform for them to share their initial experience of the provision and have open discussions to further influence the overall delivery.

In November 2019, CYP were involved in the design of the SEMH-pathways leaflet that has now rolled out to provisions across the borough in both digital and hardcopy form. Due to Covid-19, there was a halt to engagement with young people in face-to-face settings. However, using online platforms CYP had the opportunity to provide key feedback that informed the adaptations to general delivery. This was made possible via the Lead

CYP Group that meets bi-monthly to be informed, and to inform the overall delivery of services pertaining to their health and wellbeing.

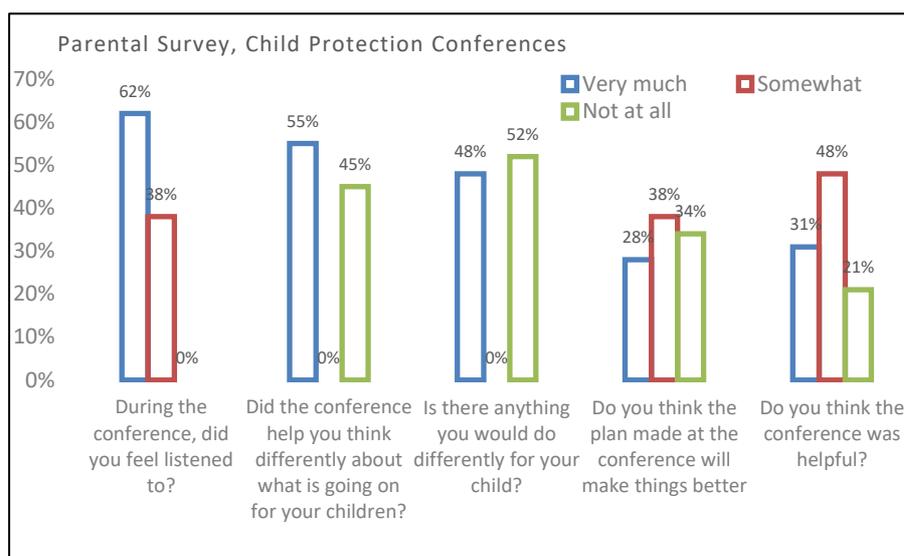
### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Through community engagement, clinicians had visited local community settings including schools and nurseries to cascade knowledge of ACEs, and how to better support young people who faced ACEs to minimise the impact of them in adult life.

### Youth Board

Young people, families, and carers were fully involved in the planning of their care and the service was accessible to people from a range of cultural backgrounds. The *Youth Board* in place across the service gave young people a clear voice and opportunity to shape decisions about the way in which the service was delivered, and members completed projects that en-

riched the experience of young people.



### Parental views about CP conferences

Seeking parental feedback about child protection conferences is difficult. These meetings can be stressful for families and it can be

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hard for parents to feel they have the space to reflect on their experience.

For the last three years, children social care has asked parents to complete an online survey to give anonymous feedback about conference. Parent's uptake has remained very low and was supplemented by telephone surveys. Last year we tripled the number of parents giving feedback, even though the number of parents involved was very low.

### Finding of parental views survey

The graph above (*Parental Survey, Child Protection Conferences*) shows the findings of the parental survey. Parents had differing views about the usefulness of case conferences and whether parents needed to change things at home for their children; but conferences made most parents felt listened to.

### KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE MAIN BOARD

The Board scrutinised work in the following areas:

#### *Private Fostering arrangements*

The Local Authority's annual report to the Board is a requirement under *The Children (Private Fostering Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005*.

#### Current Private Fostering Situation

There were **four** notifications in the year 2019-2020. This is down on the number of

notifications in 2018/19 and 2017/18 (9 and 10 respectively). Two of these notifications were not *private fostering arrangements*. The total number of *private fostering arrangements* was 6, involving 6 children.

#### Compliance with *private fostering standards*

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

**Standard 1** – statement on *private fostering*

**Standard 2** – notification

**Standard 3** – safeguarding and promoting welfare

**Standards 4-6** – advice and support

**Standard 7** – monitoring and compliance with duties and functions in relation to *private fostering*

The report showed that the Local Authority complied with the above standards. Statutory visits were carried out as required although there was one arrangement (involving 1 child) where the initial visit was delayed. The arrangement then ended and the children returned to her mother's care. Overall, 83% of visits were in time.

This year there was an equal divide of female and male children in *private fostering arrangements*. This has equalised slightly as in the past two year there have been more females. These children come from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds.

Two new notifications this year came from health, one from an *Islington Early Help Service* and the other from another local authority.

At the time of this report, there are two ongoing arrangements, both carried over from previous years.

Reasons for arrangements ending include young people returning to their family or reaching the age of 16.

### **Recommendations from 2018/19**

*Recommendation 1: Quality assurance and monitoring of privately fostered children to be transferred to the Permanence Service in partnership with the Data and Performance Team. Emphasis on future quality assurance will be around late visits*

The quality assurance and monitoring is now with the *Permanence Service*. Late visits, although small, continue to be prioritised, managers support practitioners to record outcomes appropriately.

*Recommendation 2: ISCB will continue to include Private Fostering as a compulsory*

*element to safeguarding training.*

This continues to be the case; private fostering remains an integral part of all ISCB safeguarding training.

*Recommendation 3: Team managers and Deputy Managers across the service to review and monitor initial and on-going visits. An audit of late visits should be carried out to better understand the challenges.*

This is taking place as evidenced in supervision records and management direction on case files.

### *Recommendations*

1. Team managers and practice managers across the service to review and monitor initial and ongoing visits to ensure that social workers are completing these within timescale and each visit meets the statutory requirement.
2. Fostering Team to appoint a lead to attend the *Private Fostering Consortium* meetings and liaise with the Child in Need (CIN) Service on any new developments.
3. The *North London Consortium* has recently devised the *Private Fostering Website* and this is soon to go live. The newly formed group will continue to review information and documentation and raise awareness. There will be

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a link from the *Safeguarding Board* to this website.

- 4. The COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, and next year’s annual report will report on if and how it impacted on *private fostering arrangements*.
- 5. Coram BAAF used to coordinate a national Private Fostering awareness week every July. This has now ceased, however it would be a positive step for Children’s Social Care to initiate this to promote more awareness across the authority.

### A Safer Workforce

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

### LADO report

#### Sources and nature of referrals

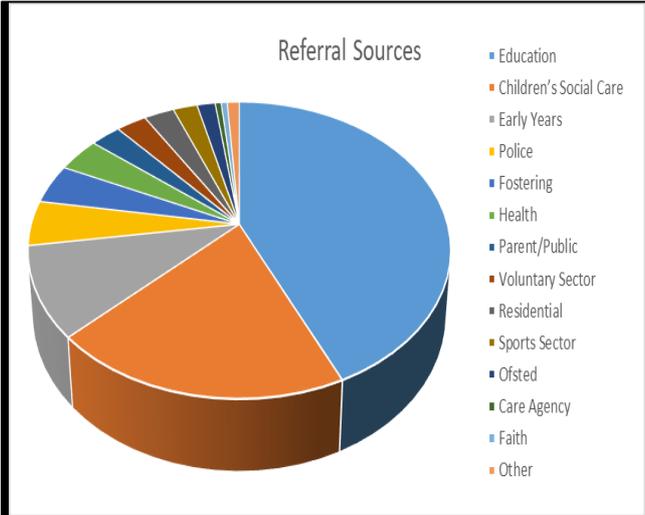
The ISCB received the 2019/20 LADO Annual Report for scrutiny

This report covered the period 1st April

2019 to 31st March 2020 and concerns **189 contacts with the LADO**.

This figure is down from the **202 contacts** in 2018/19. This may be because complaints from Ofsted (that are not safeguarding related) are now recorded and dealt with separately by the *Principal Officer for Safeguarding in Education (PO-SIE)*. There were **16 Ofsted category 3** complaints, which if added to the LADO contacts would bring the total to **205**.

For the period 2019/20, a new tracker for contacts to the LADO was introduced which can now be accessed by safeguarding leads in *Early Years, Education and Fostering*. This has helped in triangulation of enquiries across departments and in providing performance data for each service. The 2020 Ofsted inspection identified this as an example of good practice.



The vast majority of allegations are about staff in schools and colleges, which is proportionate because they are the biggest employer in the children’s workforce, having the more contact with children than any other agency. The *Principal Officer Safeguarding in Education* remains crucial in supporting head teachers and designated safeguarding leads.

The next most likely referral-setting is *Early Years* and referrals were very well supported by *Safeguarding Lead* in Early Years.

The wide variety of referral sources suggest that managing allegations procedures are well known across the professional network.

LADO Referrals Nature of concerns	N	%
	Previous year in brackets	
Physical	81 (82)	43% (41%)
Private-life matters	37 (36)	20% (18%)
Sexual	30 (14)	16% (7%)
Neglect	13 (16)	7% (8%)
Emotional	13 (12)	7% (6%)
Complaints / Care standards	11 (42)	6% (21%)

### Nature of referrals

The table (*LADO Referrals*) sets out the nature of referrals that were made to the LADO.

As with previous years, the majority of contacts related to concerns about *physical abuse*.

The second highest number of contacts related to *private life matters*; such contacts only progress to an ASV meeting if there is a police investigation or if a member of staff’s own children become subject to child protection procedures.

Complaints about *care standards* have vastly reduced. This may demonstrate an awareness by agencies that such referrals should be dealt with by way of *complaints* or *disciplinary procedures* rather than the ISCB’s *managing allegations procedures*.

Compliance with the ISCB *Child Protection Procedures*, that allegations must be referred within one working day, is fairly similar to last year, 85% (previously 90%). This demonstrates good knowledge by agencies of their responsibilities to report concerns swiftly. Where referrals are not made within one working day, this is taken up by the LADO and safeguarding leads for the relevant agency.

In 87% of referrals, the employer was given advice and 22 cases proceeded to an ASV meeting.

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The ISCB procedures expect that:

- 80% of cases should be resolved within one month.
- 90% of cases be resolved within 3 months.

All, but the most complex investigations, should be completed within 12 months.

Figures demonstrate that the LA completed 82% (previously 68%) of cases within 3 months.

## KEEL PROJECT

The *Keel Project (Keel)* was a prototype project established to test a new way of working with families affected by domestic abuse. The *Keel* evaluation provides a summary of the learning and good practice that have arisen from the *Keel project*.

The *Keel* findings are being used to inform the council's ambitious *VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Service* transformation programme. The council has invested substantial new funding to support this transformation including creating a new post of *VAWG Workforce Development and Practice Manager* who is already in post and will lead on the delivery of the dissemination of learning and good practice from the *Keel*. In particular to support the delivery of the three key findings:

- Supporting victims and moving away from *failure to protect*.

- Engaging men who use violence and abuse.
- A community response to domestic abuse.

The council investment is used to significantly increase *specialist service capacity* to support victims and survivors and their families, as well as developing a new *Intimate Partner Violence* service and monthly panel meeting to reduce the harm caused by people using violence in their relationships. Islington council and its partners is therefore in a unique position to be able to ensure that the *Keel* legacy is delivered and that the good practice and learning is disseminated across the wider workforce to prevent domestic abuse and violence and to ensure that more survivors and their families are protected and able to recover when they have experienced abuse.

An action plan has been developed to deliver the *Keel Project* legacy.

## DISPROPORTIONALITY PROJECT

This is the second partnership project involving Islington Borough Council and criminologists at *City University* of London.

The First project, *Enhancing the work of the Islington Integrated Gangs Team*, published in 2019. A third project is being worked on exploring the Andover Estate and youth offending.

The project was designed to explore and tackle key issues and outcomes relating to disproportionate representation of *Black, Asian and minority ethnic* (BAME) young people in the Criminal Justice System and beyond.

The programme was attended by multiple settings from two London Boroughs, Islington, and Haringey and sought to strengthen a multi-agency approach to addressing disproportionality:

- Islington: *Youth Services, Youth Offending Services* and the *Integrated Gangs Team*.
- Haringey: *Youth Justice Service, Early Help, and Youth Service*.
- Police, Probation, education, and health officers also attended sessions.

### Service Aims

- To provide training around *Adverse Childhood Experiences* within BAME communities for staff
- Setting up an initiative whereby parents from BAME backgrounds have 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 face.
- Better support young people and their families from the poor outcomes and lack of opportunity which unfortu-

nately is more prevalent in BAME individuals and families e.g. in education, employment, income, health outcomes and treatment. The criminal justice system and Covid-19 are further examples of these pressures.

- Strengthening communities that have been marginalized and helping to influence Islington and Haringey to shape and improve their services so that young people and their families are supported to 'live their best lives'.

### Evaluation Approach

- Research team attended all practitioner workshops, Aug-Nov. 2019.
- Interviews with cross-section of the frontline practitioners who attended workshops conducted at YOS sites in Islington and Haringey, respectively, in late 2019.
- Parents' workshops, at neutral venues, recorded to evaluate project and identify parents' lived experiences with regard to disproportionality.
- Young people engaged in criminal youth justice (CYJ) interviewed at YOS sites to capture experiences of criminal offending, victimisation, discrimination, racism, disproportionality.
- Evaluated delivery, outputs and, where possible, outcomes of Disproportionality Project.

### Recommendations

1. Structure and Approach

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

In any future disproportionality programme involving staff training, consider using full-day rather than half-day sessions, move ice-breaker activities to after the session outline, specify the cumulative nature of learning from session to session, and incorporate 'learning into practice' action planning after each session.

### 2. Dissemination

Disseminate this project's key findings regarding the challenges and obstacles faced by young people and parents to relevant staff members, including senior leaders, and beyond.

### 3. Use of academic research

Make fuller use of key social science research insights into implicit bias and the transmission of discrimination, particularly as these relate to race and ethnicity, in future iterations of the programme.

### 4. Young People's and Parental engagement

Continue capturing the voice of young people in relation to disproportionality and consider offering a more extensive programme of parents' forums, including parent-practitioner sessions moderated by a third party.

### 5. Responsiveness to local factors

Combine ad-hoc forums in response to

specific incidents and events with more regular outreach programmes that both draw on and share expertise from relevant services.

### 6. Review the safety and risk implications of YOS procedures

Consider whether the routinisation of young people's movements created by YOS procedures/protocols may increase risk of harm.

### 7. Reporting on and scrutinising disproportionate court outcomes

Explore the possibility of compiling regular reports for local courts detailing disproportionate outcomes for BAME young people from Haringey and Islington – particularly remand and custodial sentences – and introducing an annual or biannual scrutiny panel, including local court representation, to scrutinise those reports.

### 8. Replicating an action-orientated training focus

Prioritise the identification and dissemination of good practice, which can have an immediate impact on practitioners' day-to-day work, in future iterations of the programme.

### 9. Boosting parental trust and engagement

Consider strengthening whole-family

working practices and models, including the creation of parenting worker roles where these do not already exist.

### 10. Increasing accountability for school exclusions

Consider identifying and collating longer-term outcomes for excluded BAME young people, and disseminating this information on a school-by-school basis.

### 11. Police relations with young people

Police Borough Command Units should continue working to strengthen relations with BAME young people.

### *Lighthouse*

An update was presented to the Board in November 2019 on the *Lighthouse* service, which is a support service for children, and young people that have experienced sexual abuse. The service is available to:

- Children and young people aged 0-18 years.
- Young people with learning disabilities aged 18-25 years.
- Living in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, or Islington.
- Children where there is disclosure or professional suspicion of child sexual abuse.

In its first year, the *Lighthouse* has:

- Trained over 500 frontline staff in police, social care, health and care.
- Referred 363 children and young people – tripling referrals from 118.
- Supported over 200 children, young people and families
- Ran a parent psychoeducation course.
- Hosted regular open days and visits including: *MPS Commissioner*, CEO of *HMCTS*, *Ofsted*, local and national Judiciary and several national/international visits.
- Contributed to national policy and training across the criminal justice system

### *Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and Child Death Review (CDR) process*

New Statutory operational guidance around child death was published in October 2018 and put into place as per the national guidance on 29th September 2019.

The rationale for the new model was based on numerous factors: improving the experience of bereaved families and professionals and to ensure information would be systematically captured to enable local learning and, through the *National Child Mortality Database*, inform changes in policy and practice. The key changes were:

- Oversight of CDR has moved to the *Department for Education* and the *Department of Health and Social Care* with responsibility for the local child

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death review system with the local authorities and CCGs

- Each Child death review footprint to cover at least 60 deaths per year (rather than covering the number of deaths per borough).
- Establish the North Central London (NCL) wide Child Death Overview Panel that includes: *London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Islington* with a focus on thematic learning.
- The allocation of a *key worker* for each bereaved family to improve the bereavement process.
- A *Child Death Review Meeting* for every child.
- Where deaths are thought primarily to be caused by *not natural causes*, a *Joint Agency Repose* will occur (similar to current *rapid response* meetings) followed by a *child death review meeting* involving the same partners.

To ensure that any potential safeguarding concerns are followed up, the chair of Islington CDOP will continue to be represented on the *LSCB Executive Group* and *LSCB Partnership Board*.

### **ISCB Risks and Issues register**

The Board maintains a *risk / issues register* to ensure risks / issues are identified, and plans formulated to mitigate concerns.

The Board ensures that arrangements are in place to manage each risk / issue. All

risks /issues have ownership at board level and an agency action-plan to reduce or remove the risk / issue.

### **ISCB Escalation procedures**

In line with *Working Together to safeguard Children* and the ISCB's Child Protection Procedures there is a published protocol to resolve professional disagreements or concerns between professionals.

In 2019/20 the procedure was used on several occasions, with an update given by the Head of safeguarding at each board meeting.

In the last year, escalations have been mainly between CSC and MPS. Mainly around the progress around arrests of young people for breach of bail conditions and timelines of when young people were arrested (some in the early hours of the morning). Were there opportunities for more effective partnership working if:

- Social workers were given the chance to plan with police the best time to arrest a young person.
- Young persons were given the opportunity to present themselves to the custody officer, rather than being arrested.

Overall, there was a very good and swift response to any escalations raised. There is a solid working relationship between

CSC and Police. As well as quarterly partnership meetings so that systemic issues are raised and resolved to limit escalations.

### **Lay Members**

The Board benefits from having a lay member who actively contributes to the work of the Board. During this reporting year, the lay member also took on the co-chair of the Early Help sub-group that helped to establish a productive and well-attended committee.

The lay member consistently challenges the work of the Board where appropriate, and continues to bring a fresh perspective from Islington's residents.

### **EDUCATION SUB-GROUP**

The sub-group is coordinated with the *Islington Head Teachers' Forum* to ensure collaboration between the Board and Islington's Schools and Early Years settings. The membership of the group now includes senior manager representing the School Visiting Service and Safe Schools Officers.

### **Film Drawn Out**

Islington young people, in partnership with Arsenal in the Community have produced a film *Drawn Out* set in Islington about gang and youth violence. It received more than 3 million views on YouTube. As part of a targeted 12-week programme in

conjunction with Solace it will be shown in Islington schools and selected groups.

### **Sex, Relationships and Education**

In September 2020 *sex, relationships, and education* became a statutory requirement in schools. With the support of the *Department of Education*, 5 Islington schools became early adopters of the program. Elsewhere in the UK there has been considerable disagreement by parents about these changes and a lot of work is being done by the LA, including with the Diocese and Islington Faith Forum.

### **11 x 11 and other school contractors**

The ISCB business Unit has done extensive work with LBI colleagues launching the 11x11 project in schools:

- Advising LBI colleagues on S11 requirements for organisations and revising the team's internal safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Provide quality assurance and advice to providers regarding safeguarding policies.
- Commissioned safeguarding training for providers.

The education sub-group received a report from the Local Authority 11x11 service about all the actions that have been taken to enhance safeguarding requirements. The POSIE has also written to schools

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about safeguarding responsibilities in relation to contractors doing work in schools.

### **Section 11 self-audit in Schools**

The bi-annual *Section 175 (section 11) self-audit* in schools and early year's settings is co-ordinated by the *Principal Officer for Safeguarding in Schools* and the *Safe-guarding Lead for BrightStart 0-5*, and reports to this sub-group.

The Partnership Board requested the S11 audit in September 2019 and there has been a very good return (94% for Early Years and over 90% for Islington Schools). Most self-assessments contained appropriately detailed action plans for improvements.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Supervision in Early Years and Islington Schools**

The ISCB is pleased to see that DSL Supervision in schools and *early years* settings are continuing strongly. There continues to be a lot of pressure on DSLs with the task becoming ever more complex.

Themes emerging from discussions at Early Years DSL supervision are:

- Working with families with Mental health issues is very complex and difficult for staff to manage;
- Voluntary settings work with Islington families with same complex needs but

with very limited resources;

- Communication with CSC and social workers is sometimes challenging, e.g. lack of information sharing and not keeping settings informed
- Impact of COVID managing and containing children's, parents and staffs heightened anxieties.
- DSL's feeling very over-whelmed with impact of COVID and expectations of government and other agencies
- DSLs feeling the traumatic effect of Racism and the impact of death of George Floyd and BLM movement.
- Parental relationships and conflict

### **Exclusions Task and Finish Group**

The Local Authority has done a lot of work with schools to prevent exclusions and support children at risk of exclusion. A report about exclusions with a 13-point action plan has been agreed that also include recommendation from the Timpson Review about Schools exclusion.

### **Policies and procedures relating to schools and education**

- Metropolitan Police Safeguarding *children from sexual violence, child sexual exploitation, and harmful practices procedure* published. Unfortunately, the policy contradicts the *London*

*Child Protection Procedures* and the matter was raised with the London Safeguarding Partnership Editorial Board. This guidance has now been withdrawn.

- The ISCB's *Model Safeguarding Child Protection Policy* has been updated and is available on the ISCB website for schools to adapt as they see fit. It was also updated in response to *Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together 2018*.

### **Trauma Informed Training**

Trauma Informed Training for schools began 3 years ago and 15 primary and 3 secondary schools have now received training. It will continue to be rolled out with additional 1-2 secondary schools per year, and five additional primary schools per year. There are currently plans to involve the community and parents in *trauma informed training* although funding will need to be found.

### **MISSING AND CSE SUB-GROUP**

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

### **Strategic Development:**

The sub-group agreed four key themes, which forms the basis of the subgroup's action plan for 2018-2019:

1. Harmful Sexual Behaviour
2. Boys and Young Men
3. County Lines
4. Intelligence Gathering and Information Sharing

The sub-group annual report finds that:

***"...data consistently shows that risks to Islington's children and young people to become vulnerable to CSE, HSB, Gangs, SYV, Modern day Slavery and trafficking, are intrinsically linked to peer groups and offending networks, such as gangs. The cohort of children and young people vulnerable to exploitation overlaps significantly with children and young people that go missing from home and care."***

In response, the LA's *Exploitation and Missing Team* have focused on developing a less silo-ed, and more flexible model of *assessment, intervention and governance*; ensuring that children and young people across the spectrum of risk receive timely and targeted interventions, and that those children at acute risk receive a consistent safeguarding response.

*Analysis and mapping* of current risks related to exploitation and missing children remain an important priority; alongside that the *Safeguarding and Family Support Service* and *Youth and Community Services*

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have undertaken a number of large projects. This includes embedding *trauma informed* and *motivational practice* models.

A review of children and young people connected to serious youth violence demonstrated that childhood-experiences of domestic violence and abuse was significantly prevalent across all profiles of exploited children.

The Local Authority has in response developed the innovative, co-ordinated multi-disciplinary *Keel-project* for families who experience domestic violence and abuse.

### **MASE**

In November 2018, the MASE reviewed its Terms of Reference (TOR) given that the scope of MASE was expanding to consider not only *child sexual exploitation* but other areas of exploitation including *gangs, serious youth violence, harmful sexual behaviour* and *criminal exploitation*. It was agreed that input from additional partners was required to strategically respond to this broader area of exploitation; as such, *Community Safety* is now part of the MASE.

In the January 2019, the sub-group ratified the decision that the MASE should in future be known at the *Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE)* group to reflect all areas of exploitation. The MACE was also asked to prepare an annual report for the

sub-group to strengthen the Board's oversight of the MACE work.

In 2019, the changes in MACE meant that Pre-Mace needed to also expand. Pre-Mace is now attended by Gangs police, Exploitation police, TYS, IGT and chaired by the E&M team.

### **Ofsted inspection: child sexual exploitation**

In March 2020, Ofsted undertook an Inspection of Islington's Children's Social Care Services, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection was graded as outstanding. In the Inspection report, they commented:

*“Children and young people at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation and gang involvement receive a highly effective response. Creative and persistent efforts are made by exceptionally knowledgeable and skilled practitioners in the ‘exploitation and missing’ team and the integrated gangs unit to locate and engage with children who go missing.*

*The identification and understanding of risk for children facing exploitation are sophisticated and impressive. The quality of return home interviews has improved significantly since the last inspection; they are now of consistently high quality and they are promptly*

*shared. This informs effective disruption, prevention, and safeguarding activity, which reduces risk for these highly complex and vulnerable children and young people”.*

### **CSE Training and Awareness**

The Exploitation and Missing Team provide a significant amount of specialist training across Islington and to partner agencies in relation to CSE, *Harmful Sexual Behaviour* (HSB), *Serious Youth Violence* (SYV) and *Child Criminal Exploitation*. The team pride themselves on being very versatile and flexible in regards to training requests with partner agencies requesting ad hoc training to a varied audience. In the upcoming months there are several new training sessions booked in, including sessions being delivered to young people and staff at local colleges, sessions at the Muslim Welfare House, and, to reflect increased demand, several sessions at primary schools for staff on the signs and risks of exploitation.

### **School-based preventative education**

Children and young people also receive group work and awareness raising sessions across the Exploitation and Missing focus areas. Over the last year, almost 400 children have attended targeted awareness sessions at their schools, with year-9 children accessing sessions on *consent* and

*healthy relationships* delivered by Specialist Social Workers in the *Exploitation and Missing Team*. The feedback from these sessions has been very positive and the schools involved have requested they continue throughout the next academic year.

### **Missing Children**

From April 2019 – March 2020 245 children were reported *missing from home* and *from care*. This is reduction in number of young people who went missing in 2018-2019 which totalled at 265. These 245 children went missing a total of 972 times, in 2018/2019 the total of missing episodes was 995.

### **Children Missing from Home - length of missing episode**

In total, 49% of the *missing episodes* involved young people going missing for less than 24 hours, and 22% involved children returning the following day.

1% (one child) of the *missing episodes* related to children going missing for more than one month. This young person was considered to be at risk of child sexual and criminal exploitation. During this missing episode, her mother knew where she was but was refusing to give CSC the details of the property. The social work team had regular contact with the young person who stated she was staying with her boyfriend and his family in another borough.

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## Children missing from care - length of missing episode

In total 53% of the missing episodes involved young people going missing for less than 24 hours, and 17% involved children returning the following day.

No young people went missing for more than one month.

## Other missing children in the Local Authority area

Over the last year, April 2019 to March 2020, there were 67 children residing in Islington who were *Looked After Children* by another borough<sup>6</sup>.

No notification was received that any of the 67 children were reported missing from care or away from placement without authorisation. This is a decrease from 8 children in 2018/2019.

All Local Authorities who have placed children in Islington are written to on a quarterly basis and asked to provide an update as to whether their children are still placed and whether they have placed any new children in Islington. Where the LA believes a child to be at risk of exploitation or offending, the placing authority is asked

to clarify the risk to their child.

## Return Home Interviews (RHI's)

Oversight and management of the *Return Home Interview* (RHI) process was provided by the Exploitation and missing team (moved from the Youth and Community Directorate in July 2018). This was to enable closer collaborative working in regards to children who go missing from home and from care and to focus on developing and improving the take-up of RHI's and engagement with children and young people.

Between April 2019 and March 2020 171 more RHI's were completed than between the same date range in 2018 and 2019.

Since April 2019, the number of RHIs not completed due to whoever completing the RHI not being able to make contact with the child or their family has also significantly dropped, from 65 last year, to 26, which is quite significant. This is a reflection on the individuals completing the RHI's being more embedded in the service and better links being created between them and early help services, the missing police and MASH.

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<sup>6</sup> Their *home* borough remains responsible for their well-being and care planning. However, as the borough in which the children are placed, Islington can challenge the home authority if there are concerns about the children's safety.

There are some clear improvements regarding the number of young people contacted and engaged with the RHI process. When we consider that a third of all missing episodes related to just 10 children it supports the thinking behind the E&M team prioritising trying to build relationships with those who are missing most frequently.

### Child Sexual Exploitation

The number of contacts *Children Services Contact Team* (CSCT) received in regards to CSE has quite significantly reduced over the last year; in 2017/2018 there were 115 contacts, decreasing to 65 in 2018/2019 (table below). From April 2019 – March 2020 there was an increase of young people identified as being at risk of CSE, at the point of referral, from 65 to 81.

Forty six young people have been newly identified as at risk of CSE throughout the year.

Between April 2019 to March 2020 47 young people who were considered to be at risk of CSE received intervention and that CSE level either reduced or they were no longer considered at risk of CSE.

Return to home interviews	
Status	N
Completed	365 (194)
Attempted, Child Refused	88 (146)
Attempted, Parent(s) Refused	29 (25)
Not Possible, Unable to make contact	26 (65)
Not Possible, Other	0 (0)
Not Required, Authorised Absence	28 (29)
Not Yet Completed	127(118)
<b>Total (Excluding Still Missing Code)</b>	<b>663</b>
RHI Not Possible - Child is Missing	309 (418)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>972 (994)</b>

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In 2017/2018 the most common ages for a young people to be identified as at risk of CSE was 14 and 17. In 2018/2019 the most common age was 15. In 2019/2020 14 is the most common age with 17 being the second most common.

The majority of children who have been identified as at risk of CSE over the year 2019/2020 are female (39) with 7 males being identified. This gender breakdown is similar that of last year.

The ethnicity break down of young people identified as at risk of CSE has stayed very similar across the year and there is no particular pattern or themes identified in terms of ethnicity. As across the whole service, data is reliant on accurate recording and is open to cross over for example someone choosing “mixed parentage” or “white and black British”.

In Feb 2020 39% of the young people identified as at risk of CSE were white, 43% black, 13% mixed and 1% Asian.

## Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

The data in relation to the number of contacts CSCT received over the past year in regards to HSB shows that the number of referrals fluctuates month to month and it is not possible to identify a specific pattern.

When there are concerns a young person may have displayed HSB, a consultation with the Specialist Social Worker for CSE and HSB is held. Over the last year, 58 HSB consultations were held by the CSE and HSB Specialist Social Worker with front-line practitioners

## Child Criminal Exploitation

Between April 2019 and March 2020, 29 young people under the age of 18, were newly identified as being at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. Only 1 out of those 29 was female, a reduction from 5 last year.

In Feb 2020 50% of the young people identified as at risk of CCE were black, 40%

	April 19	May 19	June 19	July 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
<b>Number of young people identified as at risk of CSE, open to ICSC</b>	24	24	23	22	23	25	24	24	23	24	25	23
<b>Child Sexual Exploitation referrals</b>	10	1	5	7	9	5	2	11	3	0	4	3

black, 10% mixed. Please see the more detailed break down below:

### Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

There have been 19 fewer contacts to CSCT between April 2019 and March 2020 in comparison to 2018/2019, in relation to Gangs and SYV.

Over the year, 2019/2020 106 children were referred to CSCT in relation to gangs or SYV risk. There were a very similar number of young people referred due to child on child physical harm however, these referrals have not necessarily been identified as gang linked.

From April 2019 – March 2020 29 under 18 year olds have been identified as being at risk of SYV and 38 young people aged between 18 – 24

In Feb 2020 the ethnicity of the young people identified to be at risk of SYV was examined. Thirty one percent (31%) of the young people were white, 25% from mixed parentage and 44% were black.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB-GROUP

Attendance at the sub-group is good, and commitment is strong. The meeting is the chaired by the LA's Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.

The sub-group looks at five areas to assess quality assurance in partner organisations:

*performance data, audits, inspection reports, quality assurance frameworks, and annual safeguarding reports.*



### Performance data

#### ISCB Core Business Report

The sub-group scrutinises the performance report prior to it being presented to the Board. The members assist in the analysis that is written as an accompanying commentary report for each Board.

The sub-group has also discussed what additional data areas to present to the Board to enable a better overview of practice.

Areas discussed included:

- A reported reduction in the number of referrals to Children Social Care – agencies were asked to scrutinise their referral data and no concerns were found.

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- The number of S47 enquiries remains high compared to similar authorities – social work team managers will be more directly involved in authorising enquiries.
- Health Data from Fingertips included in data report.
- The data from the Metropolitan Police remain insufficient although some work is being carried out Pan-London to remedy this.
- The number of children in police custody would be useful.
- County Lines

The ISCB Business Unit has been working with data-analysts’ to develop a scorecard that will provide a quick overview of the most important safeguarding metrics. (Although this work has not been completed in the timescale of this report, a draft scorecard is now ready for Board approval).

### Data Highlights<sup>7</sup>

- Islington received 10,948 contacts requesting a service for children in 2018/19, a decrease from 2016/17 and 2017/18. The most common source of contacts is the police (33%), followed by schools (13%)
- The most common reasons for con-

tacts were *domestic violence, parenting capacity, physical abuse, and child mental health.*

- 3,542 (32%) went on to receive an early help service and 2,509 (23%) went onto receive a social care service
- Islington had the 18th highest rate of assessed *Children in Need* in the country in 2017/18
- Islington had a slightly higher rate of children with child protection plans per 10,000 compared to our statistical neighbours.
- Islington carries out a much higher rate of child protection enquiries than statistical neighbours do.
- We had a lower proportion of repeat child protection plans compared to statistical neighbours.
- Children do not have child protection plans for lengthy periods of time, this means that the harm they suffered is resolved as quickly as it can be.
- Islington applies to court for orders to protect children more than most other boroughs
- The number of children subject to court orders has risen.
- Islington has more children looked after per 10,000 than statistical neighbours.
- The proportion of Looked After children who had to move more than

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<sup>7</sup> LBI Child Protection Annual Report, 17 September 2020

three times during a year is slightly higher than our SN

## Children and Families Outcome Framework Measures

A *Children and families outcomes framework* has been agreed by CSC that reports to the Local Authorities *Practice and Outcomes Board*. The sub-group agreed that the outcomes framework is also useful for the Board to note and it was agreed that it would in future be included in the *ISCB's Core Business Report*.

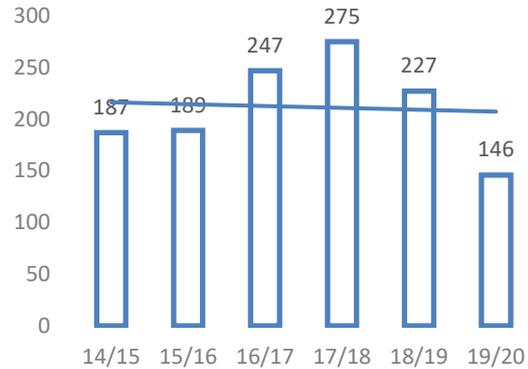
## Data from the Health Economy

The QA Sub-group receives an annual report from the CCG reflecting on Islington's performance against a wide range of health-related measures related to safeguarding, including some that were specifically requested by sub-group in the previous annual report. The report includes information on:

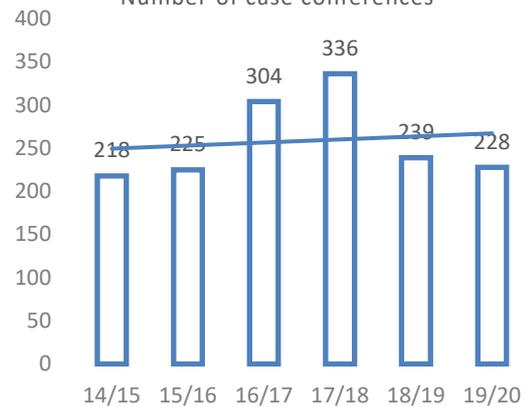
- Overall levels of hospital activity relating to children and young people in Islington.
- Mortality rates.
- Specific health issues.
- Commissioned health services.

Note: The graphs following are projected totals for 19/20 using data as of December 2019, for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>2020.

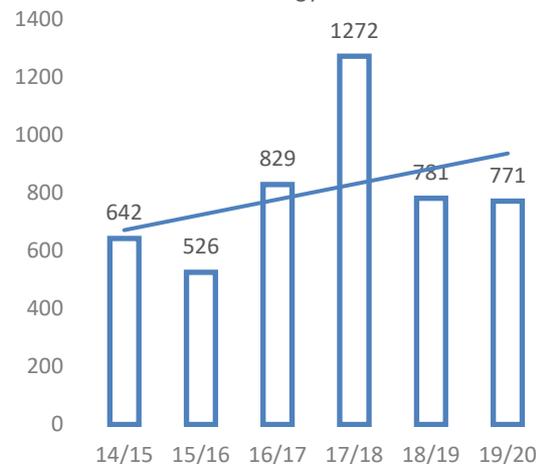
Number of children who became subject to CP plans during the year



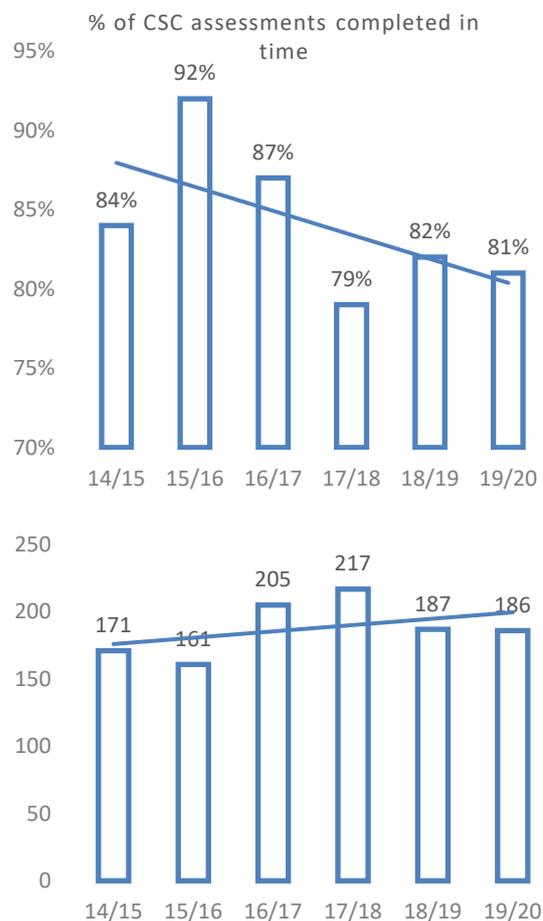
Number of case conferences



N of CP strategy discussions



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### Inspections

#### Islington Children Social Care

The Local Authority's Children Social Care services were inspected in March 2020 and Ofsted <sup>8</sup>found:

*“Children in Islington benefit from services that have gone from strength to strength since the last inspection in 2017, when*

*they were judged good overall, and outstanding for leadership, management and governance. Senior leaders and members of the council demonstrate an unwavering commitment to improving and enriching the lives of children and their families. This is evidenced by the significant and sustained investment in children's services, and by the wide range of highly successful initiatives that are having a positive impact on children and their families, whatever their level of need. Highly skilled and experienced staff listen carefully to children to understand their needs and ensure that plans are effective.”*

Overall, CSC services were rated *Outstanding*.

The sub-group noted the LA's action plan to address points of improvement:

- The timeliness and quality of planning for children at high risk in the community, when they are placed back with their parents while alternative accommodation is sought.
- The engagement of care leavers in pathway planning and the consistent provision of health histories.

A multi-agency protocol was drawn up in

<sup>8</sup> London Borough of Islington: Inspection of Children Social Care Services

response to high-risk children in the community.

A *high-risk panel* will in future take place between CSC and the Police once a month to have robust oversight over cases such as these. The sub-group will review the impact of the policies in future meetings.

### Whittington Health CQC Inspection

Head of Safeguarding / Named nurse presented findings from their most recent CQC inspection. In relation to children, the report mentioned several excellent achievements:

- The new Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) service.
- The service had raised awareness of *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)* with local stakeholders to help support the most vulnerable children and young people in the local area.
- Support teams provided for children aged under five took a truly preventative, family-based approach to empower parents to support their own children by teaching them new skills and building peer support networks.

### Learning from Audits

#### Multi-agency Audit – Child Sexual Abuse

Good practice:

- Professionals understand that not all children disclose and that they need to feel safe and be given opportunities to express what life is like for them.
- Management of uncertainty is a particular challenge for practitioners and managers in this area of work.
- Response to disclosure were found to be robust, timely, well thought through and managed.
- Assessments were found to be thorough, involving the network, appropriately highlighting risk and evidenced the child's voice and lived experience.
- Good quality supervision and reflection on complex situations.
- Designated leads and named professionals are well utilised in Islington.
- Adherence to the Safeguarding Board's escalation policy where necessary.

Practice that can be improvement:

- The impact of a family's culture was not always considered
- Social workers found navigating the complex health systems difficult.
- Better consideration of the impact of

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the mental health of the parent on the disclosure.

- More consideration for what is was like for practitioners, working with perpetrators who may be threatening and intimidating (and how difficult it was to practice within a trauma informed approach.)
- ISCB should raise with the *London SCB* the time that children wait for their alleged abusers to be tried.

### Repeat Child Protection Plans

Fewer children had a repeat plan in 2019/2020 than the previous year. In 2018/2019 the service saw 47 children from 30 families experience a repeat plan. In 2019/2020, this has reduced to 37 children from 21 families. While the percentage has reduced from 20.7% to 18.3%, it remains above the Islington target of 15%.

One hypothesis for this could be that we have CP plans for a smaller population of children but from families with more complex and chronic needs. The challenge remains helping such families make sustainable change for their children.

From the 21 repeat plans made we can see the following:

- Nine previous CP plans were of only a few months in duration although the vast majority continued to receive a service even after the plan ended.
- 40% of current plans were repeated within a two year period, which marks a welcome reduction from previous years 50%.
- Domestic abuse remains a significant factor in such plans.
- Nearly half of repeat plans were made with the support of most, but not all, agencies.
- Safety scales viewed in these and other conferences did not always suggest critical risk. This raises a question in terms of how we use the child protection process with families with chronic problems and how we help families manage the risk of relapse. However, for other children the continuing risk of harm has been clear and for a third this has resulted in escalation to a legal framework.

### Strategy discussion audit

Examined the thresholds across *Child in Need services* (CIN) management teams and the impact on numbers of strategy discussions across the *children in need service*. In teams where fewer strategy discussions took place, there was a better conversion of s47 enquiries to *initial child protection conferences*.

An action plan was drawn up to address

the discrepancies.

### Physical abuse audit

CSC Quality Assurance Service carried an audit on 30 children to consider:

- If responses were proportionate to risk.
- Whether the safeguarding Board's procedures were followed.
- Whether health professionals were included in strategy discussions.

Auditors found that responses were proportionate in 28 of the 30 cases audited but that health professionals were only included in about half (55%) of strategy discussions. More than a quarter of referrals passed to CIN teams (from the CSC front door) were not progressed to assessment.

An action-plan was put in place for Team Managers to ensure full implementation of *strategy discussion* procedures.

### Core Group meeting and CP Plans

The practice around *Core Group Meetings* (CGM) and Child Protection (CP) Plans were explored in a CSC audit that found:

- Core groups were well attended by the family and by health and education professionals.

- The first core group meeting was often held within time but practice varies with subsequent CG meetings (this may be a recording issue).
- There were examples of good practice but overall there was a lack of consistency with social workers doing different things.
- There appeared to be a lack of purpose in meetings and CP plans were not being reviewed.
- It was not always clear who was chairing CG meetings.
- The voice of the child was lacking in CG meetings, even with older children.
- Progress of CP plans was only discussed in 12% of supervisions.

Practice guidance has been formulated for social workers to address these concerns.

### No further action after a child protection enquiry

An audit showed that 23% of S47 enquiries had an outcome of concerns *not being substantiated*. The findings were that:

- The decision to begin a child protection enquiry was considered appropriate in 86% of cases.

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- The decision for *no further action* appropriate in 100% of cases audited
- Management oversight was evident in 73%.

An action-plan was put in place to remedy issues requiring attention.

### **Joint working between Targeted Youth Support and Children Social Care**

The focus of the audit was to examine the quality of joint work between *Targeted Youth Support* (TYS) and *Children's Social Care* (CSC). Findings were:

- Joint-supervision between services was seen as useful and needs to be embedded in practice.
- There was evidence of a shared understanding of young people's needs, and the purpose of intervention.
- There were good examples of joint working; both with young people, and with the wider professional network.
- Communication between YYS and CSC is generally frequent and good but could be better evidenced.

- Young people can be subject to multiple intervention plans.

It was recommended that the *Joint Protocol between Children's Social Care and Targeted Youth Support/Youth Offending Service* be revised.

### **Supervision Order (SO) Audit**

Supervision Orders (SOs) do not have the same level of multiagency scrutiny as children on child protection plans. There has been concern about SOs both in Islington and nationwide. Research also showed that children subject to supervision orders were most likely to have further proceedings. SOs also came under scrutiny in the Serious Case Review of *Polly*<sup>9</sup>, who was murdered by her mother in May 2014 while under an SO. The ISCB welcomed the audit in light of a *Rapid Review*<sup>10</sup> carried out by the Board in May 2020.

Positive Findings:

- Chronologies were largely up-to-date.
- There was a consistency of social workers.
- Good rapport with children and families and a good understanding of children's lived experience, wishes and feelings.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ddscp.org.uk/media/derby-scb/content-assets/documents/serious-case-reviews/Final--ADS14---31082015.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Rapid Review Child CK (unpublished)

- Supervision was in line with Islington’s policy

What needed improvement?

- Identifying children with SOs on management systems are problematic.
- Assessments often did not reflect the child’s current circumstances.
- Improve information-sharing procedures (including court assessments) with professionals—especially where children and family assessments are not appropriate.
- Improve management oversight.
- Professionals from partnership lacked understanding about the SOs and their status.

### **Annual Reports from partner agencies.**

The sub-group scrutinises Annual Safeguarding Reports of agencies, where these are available. It is proposed that the sub-group requests safeguarding annual reports from *all partners* in future, particularly from the three local safeguarding partners: Local Authority, Islington CCG and North Central London Borough Command Unit.

### **CSC Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Child Protection Annual Report**

The Service Manager for Safeguarding attended the sub-group in May 2020 to present annual report. The report highlighted

key safeguarding data e.g. CP investigations, referral, children subject to CP plan.

The report also summarised key quality assurance activity during the year, which is reflected elsewhere in this section.

### **Child Protection Report to Scrutiny Committee – September 2019**

The report presented by the statutory Director of Children Services to the LA’s scrutiny committee showed good governance over safeguarding in Islington.

It showed that *Islington Safeguarding and Family Support Service (SFSS)* is currently working with 1100 children in need, 313 children who are looked after, of which 24 are disabled children and 41 are *Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)*, 400 care leavers and 200 children with child protection plans. The majority of child protection plans are due to *emotional abuse or neglect*.

Characteristics of parents whose children have *child protection plans* include *domestic violence and abuse (45%)*, *adult mental health (31%)* and *adult substance misuse (24%)*.

Sixteen children were living in a *Private Fostering arrangement* at some point during the year.

Islington’s *Youth and Community Service* is

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working with 66 Youth Offending interventions. This includes seven custodial interventions, four remand interventions and 55 community interventions.

The report covered services, interventions, outcomes, and governance arrangements in the People Directorate very well

### **Whittington Health NHS Trust**

The Trust's *Quality Committee* receives a twice-yearly report from the *Head of Safeguarding* on the child and adults safeguarding arrangements in the trust relating to:

- Staff training compliance.
- Supervision.
- Serious case reviews.
- LADO allegations.
- Serious incidents.
- Inspections.

The Safeguarding report was comprehensive and informative.

### **Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust**

The *Director of Nursing and Safeguarding Manager* presents an annual safeguarding report to the Trust's *Quality Committee* and the ISCB sub-group covering:

- Training compliance.
- Safeguarding reporting data.
- Supervision.
- Local Safeguarding Policies and procedures.
- Prevent.
- Serious Case Reviews and Multi-Agency reviews / DHRs / SARs.
- LADO.
- Domestic Abuse and Violence.
- FGM.
- Modern slavery and Trafficking.
- MAPPA / MARAC / Channel.
- JTAI.
- S11 Audit.

The annual report is very comprehensive and highlights areas of good practice and improvement, giving assurance to the sub-group that safeguarding in the trust is a high priority and that children are safe.

### **Moorfields Eye Hospital Safeguarding Children and Young People Annual report 2019/20**

Moorefields Eye Hospital presented their annual report providing assurance of safeguarding activity in the health trust. The safeguarding report is always of a high standard and this year was no exception.

The S11<sup>11</sup> duty of organisations are specif-

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<sup>11</sup> Section 11, Children Act 2004

ically, and helpfully, addressed in the report, as are the *ISCB Priority* areas.

The report shows clear governance arrangements for safeguarding in the trust with excellent oversight by the *Director of Nursing* and the *Head of Safeguarding*.

During the reporting period, the following learning and improvement outcomes have been achieved:

- Queries to the safeguarding children and young people team rose again by 27% compared to 2018 – 2019, demonstrating staff are continuing to have a greater awareness and understanding of safeguarding and child protection and safeguarding is becoming a more integral part of practice.
- Mandatory safeguarding children training compliance at Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 remained above the 80% target throughout the year.
- Incident reporting by staff from a wide range of roles and responsibilities rose by 7% and identified no acts or omissions. There were no SI's relating to safeguarding during this reporting period.
- Referrals to children's social care rose by 6% and as in previous reporting, a third of which were related to children and young people of adult patients, which demonstrates engagement with the *Think Family / Child Behind The Adult* agenda in safeguarding the children of adult patients.
- A fourth cohort of staff completed their initial Safeguarding Champions training.
- Eight Trust documents, including policies, with a safeguarding focus or section were developed or reviewed and updated. This included in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure staff have access to and are working with best practice policies and processes.
- The safeguarding team supported managers to review 10 complaints of which 2 had a SGC&YP feature. This process ensures a high-quality response and understanding of the Trusts legal obligation to safeguard.
- The Trust was involved in the Child O Learning Review convened by Islington Safeguarding Children Board. A known patient of Moorfields, the issue of subtle neglect and how it might present in an ophthalmic setting was identified by the review.
- Systemic learning is supported through a variety of activities including face-to-face training, via team meetings and briefings, disseminated via SGC&YP group members, distribution of the internal safeguarding

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newsletters, attendance at meetings, and presentations at clinical governance sessions, via staff question and answer sessions and comprehensive feedback through incident reporting.

### Islington CCG Safeguarding Children and Adults Annual Report

The *designated nurse* presented their annual safeguarding report and noted the following actions for the year:

- To achieve  $\geq 80\%$  compliance with mandatory safeguarding training in ICCG,
- To achieve  $\geq 80\%$  compliance with mandatory safeguarding training across all trusts,
- Areas of weakness in providers as identified in the JTAI inspection,
- Roll out of *CPIS* in Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust,
- Meeting the requirements of the Mental Capacity (amendment act) 2019.

### Quality Assurance Frameworks

#### Islington CCG

The CCG presented the updated Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework.

The purpose of framework is to set out clearly the safeguarding roles, duties, and responsibilities of all organisations commissioning NHS health and social care. It has been refreshed in partnership with colleagues from across the health and social care system, the *Department of Health* (DH) and the *Department for Education* (DfE).

### TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

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

The ISCB has commissioned a comprehensive training offer in line with its training strategy, *Competence Still Matters* and the *ISCB Business Plan*.

### ISCB Training Strategy

The training strategy<sup>12</sup> was reviewed and the following requirements were inserted in light of Board's decision to embrace a *trauma informed approach* and findings from the JTAI inspection:

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<sup>12</sup> [Competence Still Matters](#)

- All agencies to ensure that staff receive at least introductory training in *Trauma Informed Practice*
- All agencies to ensure that staff receive training in *Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment* as part of agency training

### **Amendments to Core Training**

The ISCB have made the following amendments:

- Reviewed and incorporated learning from the serious case reviews for *Child P* and Rapid Reviews.
- Changes in *Working Together 2018*, information sharing
- Changes in *Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2019* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020*.
- Learning from London Borough of Islington *Practice Week*
- *London Child Protection Procedures*, 6 monthly updates
- *General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018*

### **Core Training Offer**

The core training offer has remained unchanged, and the Board will continue to offer multi-agency training as part of its core function.

The core-training offer to multi-agency staff includes:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (all groups)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead - Role and Responsibilities (group 5)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Refresher/Update (Groups 2-5)
- Safeguarding and Information Sharing Foundation (Group 2)
- Serious Case Review Briefing (All Groups)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Induction (Group 1, voluntary sector)
- Working Together: from referral to child protection conference - Part One
- Working Together: core group to child protection planning - Part Two

### **Key Training data**

Due to the impact of Covid -19, ISCB's face to face training offer was paused and a virtual offer was developed to supplement.

The ISCB trained 793 members of staff throughout the reporting period. This is significantly lower than the previous year (1125) but can be explained due to the pause in training program. Since the intro-

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duction of the virtual offer, uptake has remained high if not higher than in previous years due to the more accessible nature. At the current rate, training that was lost due to Covid-19 will be eradicated.

### Training cancellations

It is expected that some learners will need to withdraw from courses because of sickness, operational pressures, or staff changes. On advantage of online training is a much lower cancellation rate.

### Non-attendance

As in previous years, some course places were wasted because of staff not attending booked courses despite allowing course to be overbooked by 10-15.

### Places withdrawn by the ISCB

Learners apply for courses on-line using the multi-agency training portal. Line managers in partner agencies have oversight of applications and they approve all their own staff's training to ensure that staff are available, operational demand can be met, that the course is appropriate, and that staff meet the course requirement.

An audit of course bookings have shown that a significant proportion of approved bookings do not meet the course requirements. The most likely reasons are:

- Learners requesting a place on the *Designated Safeguarding Course* but they have not completed the foundation course in safeguarding.
- They have already done the same course within the last three years (or two years for schools).
- Learners apply for courses that are not appropriate for their role and the organisation does not intend to utilise the member of staff in that role.
- Organisations booking entire staff teams on one course, effectively using ISCB training as internal single-agency training.
- Learners booking themselves on several instances of the same course.

Responding to these issues are very time-consuming requiring significant administrative oversight, correspondence and managing complaints.

The ISCB Business Unit is doing further analysis to see how these issues can be addressed, including a charging model for partners who are not core financial contributors to the ISCB.

### Training audience

There is an excellent variety of staff from all sectors attending ISCB training, representing more than 290 individual settings. Attendance from schools (notably Primary Schools), early years, children's centres, child minders, and the local authority is

good.

### **Training Quality Assurance and impact**

Of the 793 who attended training 74.8% completed the course evaluation. ISCB training is very well regarded by attendees and 97% reported that the course met their training needs very well, 99% thought ISCB courses fulfilled their published objectives and 100% of participants stated that ISCB courses enhanced their learning and knowledge about safeguarding children and associated procedures.

*“I have always felt that Islington offers excellent courses. They are very thorough and well presented. I have been attending since 2002 and have experienced some superb interactive presentations.”*

Only 10% of participants claimed that they would not do anything differently as a result of attending the course and in all instances those participants explained that they are already very experienced in the field and attended only to refresh their knowledge. 99.7% of attendees will recommend ISCB course to their colleagues.

### **EARLY HELP (EH) SUB-GROUP**

The Early Help sub-group held its first meeting on 24 September 2019 and has been well attended by a wide variety of partners.

### **Children and Families Outcomes Framework**

The framework was agreed at the *Quality Assurance sub-group* after consultations with partners at EH sub-group. The governance / accountability of the framework is held with the local authority but it will inform work in the EH sub-group.

### **Liquidlogic EHM Portal**

The Service Manager for Early Help consulted with partners about the development of an online portal to facilitate referrals and early help assessment. A task and finish group was arranged to agree the specification of the system.

The project lead provided regular updates to the sub-group but in July, the LA reported that *user acceptance testing* showed serious drawbacks about the portal usability. These concerns were shared by other Local Authorities. These issues will only be ironed out when version 5 of the system is launched and the rollout of V5 is itself delayed.

A separate work stream within the project was to decide which one of the four options partners wish to specify. This will require significant input from partners, which is impossible because of the demands already placed on partners by Covid-19. The partnership therefore agreed to pause this work stream until 2021.

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## *Early Help Strategy*

The early help strategy<sup>13</sup>, *Giving children the best start in life*, was considered at the sub-group. The LA's Head of Early help was mindful that it could benefit from an update, and perhaps could be less LA focussed. This work was progressed by means of a *Hot House methodology* to establish the basis of a new strategy so that it could be commissioned. Partners agreed that school, early years and the private and voluntary sector should be better represented within the document.

When Covid-19 broke out in early 2020, the sub-group agreed that revision of the strategy was not a priority and agencies were rightly focussing on business continuity.

## **Troubled Families Performance**

The LA is undertaking work with the *Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government* looking at the *Troubled Families* agenda. Data-collection did not allow the LA to evidence the outcomes of the Troubled Families programme effectively.

In the summer, the sub-group assisted in completing the *community, workforce and leadership* section of a questionnaire for

*Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government* that they have shared as a condition of the *troubled families earned autonomy* funding.

## *Early Help Targeted Family Support Review*

In September 2019, the sub-group was informed that a review of these services were underway in the Local Authority. A new model is being developed that will be influenced by Islington's resident, including children and parents.

In June, the Head of Early help provided a further update on service development, outlining the five principles of the service:

1. **Responsiveness and flexible** – a front-door service with a team around the family/worker approach. Universal services for families who require targeted support.
2. **Graduated and enabling approach** – that builds on resilience and empowers families.
3. **Outcomes focused** – for the whole family, whole population, and individual family level outcomes.
4. **Consistent** – this will include whole

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<sup>13</sup> Giving Children the Best Start in Life—Islington Children and Families Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2015-2025

family, family-led, motivational practice that is trauma informed, and relational.

5. **Accessible** – ensuring services are community based, where families are and based in localities. Messaging about the service that normalises, rather than stigmatises, access to help ensuring that advertising makes the services visible and accessible.

The first three values are particularly impact in responding to the needs created by COVID. It will encompass two services: one that is *case-holding* and the other *out-reach*.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020, the service will have a new telephone number and will be known as Bright Start 5-19.

Staff recruitment and assimilations are taking place during the next phase to align with the *Fair Futures* project.

## Public Health Priorities

The Assistant Director for Public Health presented a model and priorities areas to the sub-group.

## Main areas of work

- Maternity and Early Years
- School-age and beyond
- Vulnerable children.

The sub-group agreed that these are the main areas that need to be considered, and that they were well aligned with the ISCB priorities.

Maternity & Early Childhood	School age	Progression to adulthood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Families are resilient and empowered to manage problems, develop skills &amp; tools and to help themselves and support each other</li> <li>▪ Families can access information and / or services at point of help or need</li> <li>▪ Children and families grow up feeling safe</li> <li>▪ Ensuring all children have the best possible start by identifying needs from pre-birth, promoting positive attachments, and children grow up in a in a stable home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouraging healthy eating to prevent and reduce childhood obesity and improve oral health</li> <li>▪ Supporting families to improve their relationships, reduce conflict and improve prospects for their children</li> <li>▪ Young people being healthy &amp; happy at home, in school and in the community</li> <li>▪ Every child is happy at school and feel they belong to the school family</li> <li>▪ Children &amp; young people have good self esteem</li> <li>▪ Increase in youth provision to identify much earlier young people at risk and children with additional needs</li> <li>▪ 11:11 all children and young people have outstanding cultural experiences by year 11 in school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helping families and young adults who are out of work find the right job</li> <li>▪ Support children and young people through key transition points that occur during their lives that may cause disruption to their well-being, such as transitions between schools, between education into employment, between services, between professionals and between localities.</li> <li>▪ Support on estates to tackle loneliness &amp; isolation, build community networks and reduce child poverty</li> <li>▪ Communities, children &amp; young people and partners work together to reduce youth violence in the borough</li> <li>▪ A relationship with a trusted 'lead professional' to coordinate the support needed from other agencies or the community and voluntary sector</li> </ul>

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The area of *vulnerable children*, in particular, was well aligned with the ISCB priorities and included:

- **Safeguarding:** Implementing learning from unexpected child deaths and establishing new arrangements under CDOP.
- **Mental Health:** Supporting good parental mental health, support student mental health, and improve pathways for those who self-harm.
- **Youth safety:** implement a public health approach to reduce youth violence
- **Poverty and inequality:** targeted provision to reach those with the highest need.

## Pre-vulnerable children and families

As the impact of Covid-19 became clearer, the partnership re-considered the group of vulnerable children and families and identified a group that could be considered *pre-vulnerable*. This may include an increased need from families who may not traditionally work with early help services. This would place additional need on services that are already stretched.

## Principles

- Good quality, integrated, universal services
- Reducing inequalities
- Think family
- From participation to co-production,

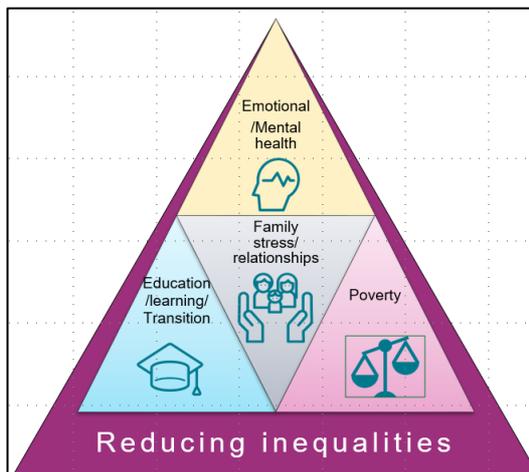
Universal	Pre-Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food- obtaining and eating well</li> <li>• Lack of exercise</li> <li>• Sexual health support</li> <li>• Reduced health services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mental wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress/ Routines/Family conflict</li> <li>• Social isolation</li> <li>• Transition difficult for YR6, YR11, YR13</li> <li>• Loss of early learning</li> <li>• Bereavement support</li> <li>• Not understanding guidance and how to find support</li> <li>• How to support young people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online safety</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff concerns of exposure</li> <li>• Reduced workforce- staff sickness</li> <li>• Anxiety around PPE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Risks and safeguarding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic abuse/violence</li> <li>• Substance misuse</li> <li>• Youth violence/gangs</li> <li>• FGM</li> <li>• Family conflict</li> <li>• Mental health conditions exacerbated</li> <li>• Children who are carers</li> <li>• Children left alone at home</li> <li>• Families not asking for help- how do we know who they are</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Poverty and inequality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding</li> <li>• No place for respite from isolation</li> <li>• Increasing inequalities</li> <li>• London already has a number of deprived areas</li> <li>• Food poverty</li> <li>• Scarcity of essential items</li> <li>• Digital divide- lack of IT resources and connectivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less access for advice and triage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overwhelming workforce with increased referrals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Risks and safeguarding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable families not attending school or nursery</li> <li>• Refusing contact- claiming self isolation</li> <li>• Respite/care reduced or unavailable</li> <li>• Reduced F2F interactions</li> <li>• Families awaiting referrals into services</li> <li>• Youth crime and SYV figures have not been high so far during the pandemic and have fallen</li> <li>• VAWG reports are lower than the same period a year ago but the severity of recent incidents more concerning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Poverty and inequality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As for pre-vulnerable</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health conditions preventing children who could be in school from going</li> <li>• going due to shielding</li> <li>• EHCP criteria (as vulnerable) not usually available for children aged &lt;5 – need adapted criteria</li> <li>• Autism – high percentage of EHCP and families might be finding circumstances difficult</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overwhelmed by increased referrals</li> <li>• Staff sickness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

the voice of children and parents.

- Connecting socially for a stronger community
- Innovation and evidence

Priority areas of work

Agreed priority areas for work in light of need, and in particular in response to COVID-19: emotional and mental health,



education and learning, transitions, poverty, family stress and relations with reducing inequality throughout all priority areas.

### **Targeted Early Help Systems and Outcomes Report**

The annual report has been produced and circulated. Although *IFIT* and *Families First* have now been reorganised into a new *Early Help 5-19 service*, it gives a good sense of outcomes.

Across all targeted services, 1,600 families received an intervention, about the same as the previous year. *Families First* worked with 711 families, *IFIT* with 89 intensively, *Bright Start* worked with 455. Overall 72% of families were from a Black or minority ethnic background, 219 family members out of the 2452 had two or more episodes of intervention.

The main referral sources were *education, health* and the *police*. One in ten referrals was from families themselves, which is fewer than preceding years.

### **Presentations to the sub-group relating to services**

During the year, several organisations presented to the sub-group about the work they are doing in the community, including:

#### **North London Partners in Health**

NCL STP is made up of 28 health and care organisations across five north London boroughs, delivering transformation and improvement work across a number of areas, including children and young people.

The *NHS Long Term Plan*, published in January 2019 provides the ambition and mandate across the system to work in partnership to deliver improvements for our population.

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The CYP Programme has three key priorities:

- Asthma
- Paediatric admissions
- Complex needs

### Fairer Together

The LA presented the outline of their work under the Fairer Together programme, which includes:

- **Strong Foundations** - effective partnership and successful multi-agency delivery – shared language and set of principles
- **Shared vision and strategy** – using collaborative resources to move forward
- **Target operating model** – how we are going to use our resources
- **Start well / live well / age well** - what could our shared ambitions look like?

The sub-group noted these developments and asked that the LA bring regular updates to the *ISCB Partnership Board* to ensure the work around targeted early provision and safeguarding are well co-ordinated. In particular, the sub-group would like to see that the project develops an even stronger children focus and felt it

might be in danger of becoming adult-focused. It is also essential that schools are partners in the process. The role of the MPS in *early intervention* needs to be clarified and included. The ISCB would like to see that its priority areas are reflected in the strategy.

### Youth Violence Strategy

The LA consulted with the sub-group and the priorities for the new *youth safety plan*. The priorities proposed:

- Public Health approach.
- Impact of trauma.
- Education and school inclusion.
- Impact and links with *violence against women and girls*.
- The role of *social media*.
- Impact and changes to drug markets and growth of *county lines*.

These priorities were well received and strongly supported. In addition, the group suggested that *unsafe places* in the community should specifically addressed in the strategy. They recognised that trauma is a huge factor but that not every children can or should be seen through that lens; the approach / model of working should accommodate that. The strategy should definitely address the antecedents leading

to youth violence including poverty and domestic violence and abuse.

### **Presentation about Family, stress and relationships**

(Family stress and relationships is one of the four priorities agreed by the sub-group)

The Head of *Bright Start and Early Help 5-19* provided an overview of the model, and how the service sets out to reduce family stress/ support strong relationships.

(The principles of the service are set out earlier in this chapter.)

The service has set up *Twitter* and *Facebook* accounts for early help and is developing a social media strategy. The aim is to link the service directly to families and community networks.

Recruiting to all outreach posts is ongoing which will increase capacity.

A lot of work is focussed on promoting strong early attachments.

#### *Covid-19*

In some families, stresses about behaviour at school have abated and relationships improved.

Building engagement over video and telephone calls is difficult with families newly referred. It takes longer to build trusting

relationships with families.

#### *Solihull parenting programme*

This parenting programme is available online for parents which includes developing an understanding of their child's feelings / needs, parenting responses, parenting styles, emotional regulation, and communication.

The service is considering how to bring more parenting programmes online, e.g. *Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)* / *Caring Dads*.

Although these programmes reduce stress on families, the aim is for face-to-face engagement. The *Early Intervention Foundation* found even one face-to-face meeting with facilitators makes a huge difference in engagement of parents and young people.

Practitioners are being trained in *AMBIT*, applying mentalization as the guiding framework across four areas of practice:

- Face-to-face work with clients.
- Mentalization between team-members.
- Mentalization across networks.
- Mentalization in fostering a team culture of learning.

#### *Conflict between parents*

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Healthy parental relationship training is now being rolled out. The aim is to move away from the notion of female victims failing to support or protect their children and more consistent engagement of men around abuse, including:

- Engaging community and independent DV advocates to wrap around practitioners
- Piloting DV advocates for children and young people.

## Education, shielding, and BAME during COVID

*Back to School Plan on a Page* has been developed that sets out a local framework for how schools might prepare for a gradual, safe, phased return of specific groups of children when a risk assessment confirms it is safe to do so.

There is no blueprint and schools faced many challenges in the process.

*Public Health* colleagues have developed excellent materials for schools and partners around shielding and what is required at the time to meet government guidelines.

## CASE REVIEW SUB-GROUP

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<sup>14</sup> The Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership oversees the completion of serious case reviews commissioned by ISCBs prior to 1.09.2019.

The case review sub-group oversee learning from *serious case review*<sup>14</sup>, *rapid reviews*, and *local safeguarding practice reviews*.

### Serious Case Reviews

The legacy ISCB commissioned two serious case reviews that were taken over as part of the transitional arrangements between the ISCB and MASA.

#### Child P

The investigation phase of this review about a teenage child who died because of serious youth violence has been completed. Once pre-publication work between the Board, Partners, and the *Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel* has been completed, it will be published on the [ISCB Website](#) where it will remain available for one year.

#### Child Q

The fact-finding phase of this review about a young child who died unexpectedly has been completed. The review panel is finalising the learning and recommendations after which the review will be published in the spring.

### Serious Incidents

There is a legal requirement<sup>15</sup> on Local Authorities when it knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, to notify the *Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel* (of a serious incident) if –

- (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
- (b) while normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

Serious incidents must similarly be reported to the multi-agency safeguarding partnership (ISCB).

### **Rapid Reviews**

On receipt of a *serious incident* notification, the safeguarding partners should promptly undertake a *rapid review* of the case.

The aim of this *rapid review* is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's

safety and share any learning appropriately.

- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a *child safeguarding practice review*.

In this reporting year, the safeguarding partnership received two appropriate serious child safeguarding incident notifications from London Borough Islington.

*Rapid Reviews* were undertaken on both occasions and reports made to the *child safeguarding practice review panel* (the Panel). In one instance, the partnership did not recommend a *local child safeguarding practice review*, and in the other it did. On both occasions, the *Panel* agreed with the Partnership's recommendation.

The case review sub-group is overseeing the implementation of learning and action-plans on all *Rapid Reviews*.

### **Local Child Safeguarding practice Reviews**

#### **Child R**

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<sup>15</sup> 16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017)

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

The Partnership has commissioned a *panel* and an *independent author* to oversee this review. The terms of reference has been agreed, and the review has entered the fact-finding and consultation phase. The review will not complete within the timeframe of this annual report but will be published on the partnership website on completion.

### ***National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews***

During this reporting period, the national panel has published two national reviews:

- Safeguarding Children at risk of criminal exploitation
- Safeguarding children at risk from sudden unexpected infant death

The serious case review sub-group have considered these reviews and local implications for Islington.

# Budget and resources

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

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

Safeguarding is a complicated and demanding partnership arrangement that needs appropriate resourcing if it is to be effective. If the *multi-agency safeguarding partnerships* are to carry out their statutory duties, they need to be properly supported.

The guidelines which we adhere to (*Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*) makes it clear that funding arrangements for Safeguarding should not fall disproportionately and unfairly on one or more partner to the benefit of others.

In London, this burden continues to fall unfairly on Local Authorities. MOPAC have been approached to provide reasonable and proportionate levels of funding to the multi-agency safeguarding partnerships. As yet, we have not seen an increase in funding.

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
<b>Agency contributions</b>		
London Borough of Islington	£132,200.00	£132,200.00
DSG Grant	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Islington CCG	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
NHS England (London)	£0.00	£0.00
Camden & Islington NHS Trust	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
Whittington NHS Trust	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
Moorfields NHS Trust	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
National Probation Trust	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
MPS (MOPAC)	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Cafcass	£550.00	£550.00
Fire Brigade	£550.00	£550.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£230,800.00</b>	<b>£230,800.00</b>
<b>Other income</b>		
None	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

<b>Total income</b>	<b>£230,800.00</b>	<b>£23,800.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Staff</b>		
Salaries, 2.5 staff	£111,248.77	135,955.85
Chair	£24,197.12	£0.00
Sessional worker	£15,760.00	£0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£151,205.89</b>	<b>£135,955.85</b>
<b>Board training</b>		
Facilities & refreshments	£4,092.75	£2,092.50
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£4,092.75</b>	<b>£2,092.50</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>		
SCRs	£12,490.00	£25,616.14
Training portal license	£276.00	£2,305.53
Legal costs	£0.00	£0.00
Board activities	£2,170.50	£0.00
Stationery, phones, equipment	£319.00	£215.47
Printing	£124.40	£0.00

## ISCB Annual Report 2019-20

Travel	£90.00	£0.00
Other	£0.00	£144.62
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£15,469.90</b>	<b>£28,281.76</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£170,768.54</b>	<b>£166,330.11</b>
Income	£230,800.00	£230,800.00
Expenses	£170,768.54	£166,330.11
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£60,031.46</b>	<b>£64,469.89</b>

# Conclusions and key messages

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

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

### Key Messages for all partner agencies and strategic partners.

Partner agencies and strategic partners should:

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

and that this is provided with a narrative that helps everyone understand how effective safeguarding services are.

## Key Messages for Politicians, Chief Executives, Directors

Politicians, Chief executives, and Directors should:

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

safeguard children and young people in Islington.

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

## Key Messages for the children and adult's workforce

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

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



