



AGENDA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on, **18 October 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

Enquiries to : Zoe Lewis
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Despatched : 10 October 2022

Membership

Councillors:

Councillor Sheila Chapman (Chair)
Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong
Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir
Councillor Saiqa Pandor

Co-opted Member:

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

Quorum is 3 Councillors

Substitute Members

Substitutes:

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Praful Nargund
Councillor Toby North
Councillor Caroline Russell

A. Formal Matters	Page
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Declaration of Substitute Members	
3. Declarations of Interest	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	1 - 8
5. Scrutiny Committee Response Tracker	9 - 10
6. Chair's Report	

7. Items for Call In (if any)

8. 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.

9. External Attendees (if any)

B. Items for Decision/Discussion	Page
1. Executive Member Annual Report	11 - 24
2. Making Children Visible Scrutiny Review - Scrutiny Initiation Document, Introductory Presentation and Witness Evidence	25 - 26
3. Corporate Director, Children's Services - Verbal Update - Provisional School Results	27 - 44
4. Child Protection Annual Report	45 - 70
5. Quarter 1 - Performance Report	71 - 102
6. Work Programme	103 - 104

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 29 November 2022

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

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

London Borough of Islington Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 5 July 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Chapman (Chair), Bossman-Quarshie (Vice-Chair), Burgess, Craig, Jegorovas-Armstrong, Ogunro and Pandor

Also Present: **Councillors:** Kay and Ngongo
Co-opted Member: Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese

Councillor Sheila Chapman in the Chair

15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. 1)**
Apologies were received from Councillor Ozdemir, Zaleera Wallace and Jon Stansfield.

16 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM NO. 2)**
There were no declarations of substitute members.

17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. 3)**
There were no declarations of interest.

18 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM NO. 4)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them subject to the following amendment:

Item 9 – bullet point 9 – The words 'and changed the nature of that cohort which meant it was likely that outcomes for this group would improve' be deleted from the last sentence.

19 **CHAIR'S REPORT (ITEM NO. 5)**
There was no chair's report.

20 **ITEMS FOR CALL IN (IF ANY) (ITEM NO. 6)**
None.

21 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM NO. 7)**
None.

22 **MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DATES OF MEETINGS (ITEM NO. B1)**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

23 **SCRUTINY TOPIC AND DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME (ITEM NO. B2)**

The chair suggested that officers be asked to provide a report back on each of the previous scrutiny reviews that had taken place since 2017.

The chair confirmed that the committee had agreed to undertake a scrutiny view on Making Children Visible. Within this topic there would be mini-scrutinies on those who were not in education, employment or education (NEET), attendance and the voice of the child/family.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That officers be asked to provide a report back on each of the previous scrutiny reviews that had taken place since 2017.
- 3) That the subject of the committee's scrutiny review for 2022/23 be Making Children Visible.

24 **SEND TRANSITIONS SCRUTINY REPORT (ITEM NO. B3)**

The chair thanked officers for those involved in the scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

That the scrutiny report be approved.

25 **QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT (ITEM NO. B4)**

Jon Abbey, Corporate Director of Children's Services introduced the report.

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

- The Quarter 4 report provided a summary over the year.
- There was encouraging data regarding youth offending. An inspection of this area was expected.
- Attendance data had been affected by the Covid pandemic.
- Islington should be compared against the London figures rather than the national figures.
- In response to a member's question, officers advised that a large number of those the youth offending service worked with had Special Educational Needs (SEN). An educational psychologist had been recruited and worked with the Youth Justice Service three days a week. Work included assessing young people and applying for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) where appropriate. Those on remand and in secure units were also visited. There was a SEN protocol in place. Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) was the second largest area of need behind autism and increasingly young people had a dual diagnosis of Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). There

were concerns about overrepresentation among those in the youth justice system.

- A member commented that it was positive that the not in education, employment or training (NEET) figure had reduced and asked what work would be undertaken during the school holidays. Officers stated that the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) was being used to prevent children and young people from becoming NEET. Summerversity would take place in the holidays. There was also a Holiday Activity Fund, a number of different holiday activities were planned and work was taking place to help young people understand the employment opportunities available to them. Upward Bound was a project run through London Metropolitan University. Work was also taking place with the Arts Council to engage cultural partners and provide opportunities.
- A member asked how opportunities including Summerversity were offered to children not in school. An officer stated that as well as brochures being distributed in schools, they were also sent to those who worked with vulnerable children and these children were prioritised for opportunities.
- A member asked if reoffending was a particular problem in any specific areas of the borough and was advised that it was not and there was a general reduction in reoffending rates. In response to a question about preventative measures, an officer advised that a multi-agency plan was in place for these children. This included support in confidence and self-esteem building, help writing CVs, speech and language therapy and emotional support.
- In relation to questions about attendance, officers advised that attendance was high in primary school but lower in secondary school. The Secretary of State had set a challenge of 100% attendance from September 2022 and the government was expecting each local authority to have a plan for provision in place by 2023. Islington's plan would be in place by September 2022. Islington's attendance figures had gone from the bottom quartile of all local authority figures to the top quartile in recent years. There were sensitive arrangements in place for children with medical conditions. Illness was the main reason for absence. Work had taken place with health colleagues to have a school nurse speak to families whose child was persistently absent and this was resulting in improvements in absence figures.
- A member asked how information about opportunities was shared with children from ethnic minority backgrounds and from families with English as an additional language, where they did not attend school or went to faith-based schools out of borough. Officers stated that work took place with communities and supplementary schools and that it was important to keep all young people and their families visible, identify families and address their needs. Community leaders could be advised how they could help families engage. Members, parents, the community and officers could all help to engage families.
- In response to a member's question an officer advised that the percentage of 2-year-old places taken up by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SNED) or who

were looked after had improved and was below the England average but higher than the London average. A new strategy was in place and engagement work was taking place with the community. Everyone had a role in promoting the benefits including playing, learning, developing language skills. The places were for 15 hours per week.

- Work was taking place with community partners, health colleagues and Bright Start. All evidence showed that attending early years settings gave children the best start in life. The council had a target of 76% for 2-year-olds.
- In response to member's questions about home-schooling, an officer advised that there were two groups of parents who home educated - those with philosophical reasons or medical reasons and those who had left school for reasons not related to education. Parents were legally required to assure the local authority that the home education was satisfactory, but no minimum hours were set and there was no requirement to comply with the national curriculum. During covid, the numbers being educated doubled and some of these were from vulnerable families. It was expected that these figures would return to pre-covid levels but this had not happened in Islington or nationally. Work took place to look at the quality of the offer and the safety of children and there was annual contact or more frequent contact where appropriate. These children were also flagged with health colleagues. The government was introducing requirements for a register and for local authorities to keep those families informed. The register would include those being flexi-schooled, children in alternative provision or in unregistered schools.
- In response to a member's question about the alternatives to home-schooling, an officer advised that alternatives were school, New River College and there was a range of alternative providers. Schools could commission vocational training. Some young people required flexibility, some were unable to cope in full time education or had issues relating to health and wellbeing. Schools applied flexibility where required and tried to keep children in school and carefully nurtured those who needed it. To keep children in school the schools had to be inclusive. This would be addressed through the SEN Strategy and Education Plan.
- In response to a member's question about Children's Services identifying young carers, an officer advised that schools usually identified young carers through soft information picked up through observations. A member commented that sometimes parents were concerned that their children would be taken away from them and therefore had a distrust of the local authority. An officer stated that it was important that all services were vigilant and awareness training was important. Work on the carer's strategy was being implemented. There was also a young carer's contract and members could be provided with more information.
- In response to a member's question about how families could be encouraged to send their children back into school, an officer advised that although the local authority could not stop parents from home-educating their children, these families could be monitored. From

September 2022 an ex-headteacher would be employed to meet parents and discuss their individual circumstances and options. The chair stated that as part of the committee's scrutiny review, attendance would be considered.

- In response to a member's question about the cost-of-living crisis, an officer stated that early help teams would work closely with communities and advice organisations. Families could be helped with managing their finances, practical help, supermarket vouchers were provided over the holidays for those on free school meals as well as families on universal credit but who were not eligible for free school meals and there were activity programmes in the holidays which included a lunch being provided. For the under 5s, childcare costs were based on income.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That members be provided with more information on the young carer's contract.

26 DRAFT EDUCATION PLAN AND DRAFT SEN STRATEGY (ITEM NO. B5)

Jon Abbey, Corporate Director of Children's Services introduced the item. He stated that the documents were mindful of the manifesto commitments and young people would be at the centre. The documents would be brought back to the Committee in the Autumn.

Sarah Callaghan, Director of Learning and Culture gave a presentation on the draft Education Plan.

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

- There were nine key pillars, each with an ambition statement and in the document there was contextual information about each one.
- Key priorities would be delivered through collaboration.
- The chair stated that it was important to ensure that outcomes were measurable as some of the ambitions were targets and aspirations rather than actions.
- The council always aimed to work with all schools including Academies. This included in relation to attendance. Secondary headteachers were meeting each other and relationships were being improved.
- In response to a member's comments that there were some outstanding secondary schools in Islington but perceptions of parents could be improved, an officer stated that social media should be used more and every school should be challenged to be the best it could be. It was important to maximise information, advice and guidance to parents and promote equity and excellence. In relation to place planning, there was a need to ensure Islington schools were competitive and parents had choice. Good relationships were being built with schools. The chair stated that historical perceptions may no longer be accurate and it was important to help change the narrative and the way people spoke about Islington's offer.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 5 July 2022

- In response to a member's question about innovation, an officer advised that innovation was the opportunity to build on strengths, drive educational excellence and have high aspirations for every young person regardless of their starting point.

Candy Holder, Head of Pupil Services gave a presentation on the draft SEN Strategy.

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

- The strategy built on work already achieved to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- The strategy was jointly developed with children and young people, parents and carers, schools and partners. It supported the inclusion of all children and young people in Islington.
- The strategy outlined a programme of work for the next three years involving a wide range of services and providers, with schools and education settings being partners in ensuring transformation.
- There were four main ambitions: 1) Fully inclusive education for all; 2) Right support in the right place at the right time for parents and carers; 3) Equity and excellent education provision; and 4) All young people are well prepared for adulthood.
- Many of the recommendations in the committee's SEND Transition review had informed the draft SEN Strategy.
- The chair stated that the committee had struggled to hear from parents from ethnic minorities and those with English as an additional language so it was important their views were captured in the strategy work.
- A member commented that members were often in schools and could champion the good work taking place.
- In response to a member's question about activities for SEND children in the school holidays, the officer stated that the budget for short breaks for those with the most severe and complex needs was strongly protected and there would be a full offer over the summer holidays.
- In response to a member's question that some parents were not aware of the summer holiday activities offer, the officer advised that if parents searched for the SEND Local Offer on a search engine, they would find detailed and comprehensive information. Work was taking part with Communications to promote this. It was important that when parents of children with SEND signed up for holiday activities, they advised providers about their child's needs so that the providers could contact the council for support.
- Joined up work was taking place with the five authorities in North Central London.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the presentations be noted.
- 2) That the Education Plan and SEN Strategy be brought back to the Committee in the Autumn.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 pm

Chair

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Scrutiny Committee Response Tracker

Date of meeting	Query raised	Response / Update
5 July 2022	Further information on Young Carers contract	<p>Detail: The Young Carers project is a joint Camden and Islington Young Carers Service (CIYC). The contract is jointly commissioned across Camden and Islington with Camden acting as the Lead Commissioner. The contract was originally awarded for a three-year term, from April 2017 until March 2020, with two options to extend for two years. It has been extended once (2020-2022), and a final extension was awarded for the period 2022-2024. Family Action were awarded the contract and continue to deliver the services. The contract value is £188,390.60</p> <p>The role of the service is to support young carers in their caring role by working collaboratively with families, the wider community, schools, and statutory services. The impact of this work is reducing inappropriate caring levels and feelings of responsibility, isolation and loneliness, anxiety, and stress. Boosting young people’s self-esteem and emotional resilience, improve educational attainment, peer, and family relationships, and improve the life chances of young carers and their families.</p> <p>The CIYC can provide support that is bespoke to the young carer and their family’s wishes and needs. It includes advocacy, referrals to community and specialist services, leisure and recreational activities, training, volunteering opportunities and other routes to employment. Family Action have performed well in delivering the service.</p> <p>Kidstime is a multi-agency service providing social and educational interventions for families affected by parental mental ill health and is part of the multi-agency parental mental illness service for Camden and Islington. Kidstime provides workshops for families in which one or both parents are experiencing or has experienced mental health issues and is coordinated and led by a Senior Young Carers Practitioner from the Family Action Islington and Camden Young Carers team but is delivered in partnership with a multidisciplinary team including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Children’s Social Work Practitioner • Family/Systemic Psychotherapist • Consultant Child and Adult Psychiatrist • Drama facilitator <p>The aim of this service is to which to reduce the negative impact of parental mental ill health on children and to build their resilience by providing them with information about mental illness that reduces their fears. In addition to the monthly workshops Family Action offers support outside of these group sessions to families in response to presenting needs, offering emotional and practical support, signposting and liaising with the professional network. This can include separate family and child sessions with the Family Therapist and</p>

Senior Young Carers Practitioner as well as attending core meetings for families where children are on a Child in Need of Child Protection plan.

Family Action offer mentoring for young carers who previously received whole family support or Kidstime. A Sterling Wellbeing Scale is completed at the beginning and reviews at the middle and end of mentoring.

Mentoring is offered for up to 12 months with sessions offered twice a month.

Family Action is linked to schools working with School to train staff to identify children who may benefit from the service. There is a proposal to support families to engage with the service via Schools including work to dispel myths regarding the service and links to safeguarding.

Impact

A summary of key impact in the last year include:

- End of year monitoring statistics showed intervention led to a reduction in the amount of care undertaken in 67% of cases closed in March 2020-April 21.
- End of year monitoring statistics showed intervention led to a decrease in the negative impacts of caring reported in 80% of cases closed in 2020 – 21 and an increase in positive impact in 40% in this period.
- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scales - End of year monitoring statistics showed an increase in self-esteem at point of closure in 67% of cases closed in March 2020- April 21.
- School Attendance percentage - At the point of closure 52% of YC closed to support had attendance of 95% or above, and 13% had 90% or above. With a combined total of 65% of cases attendance percentage between 90-95% attendances for March 2020-April 2021.

The pandemic impacted on face-to-face delivery. However, the provider continued to support young carers and families remotely and resumed face to face once restrictions lifted. Service user feedback also allowed young carers to determine how to receive support in the absence of a face-to-face service due to the pandemic restrictions. Adolescent young carers preferred telephone calls over virtual platforms such as zoom, as these were less exposing and intrusive. By combining telephone calls with more frequent support, Family Action were able to respond to young carers needs more effectively.

Islington's budget is made up of a combination of the Troubled Families Grant and NCL CCG funding. Service user feedback is collected on an ongoing basis. Feedback led to changes to the frequency of support, increasing contact to bi-weekly for Kidstime families and young carers.

Having traditionally delivered Young Carers awareness training, events, and workshops to multiple agencies in multiple settings across Camden and Islington, Family Action have spent much of 2020/21 to developing and finalising their Young Carers Champion Award, to promote a whole family approach and develop new partnerships. In doing this, they have engaged with local teams and services to offer additional support to youth practitioners and HUBS.

Nurturing our Children and Young People

Executive Member Annual Report

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Cllr Michelline Ngongo

Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

September 2022

Agenda Item B1

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Nurturing our children and young people to give them the best possible start in life

Reflecting Back: 2021/22

Overview

- Thanks to the late Carmel Littleton for her commitment and leadership, bringing Children's Services to where it is today
 - The separation of Children's and Adults Services; recruitment to new children's senior leadership
 - A tremendous welcome to new leadership from Jon Abbey
- Page 13
- Local council elections and new Council Executive team
 - In and out of pandemic – the impact for children and young people
 - New central government policies published
 - Children's Social Care and National Care Reviews
 - Green Paper on Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - White Paper on Education

Achievements and challenges in 2021/22

Lifelong learning and enrichment

- It has been key to work in partnership with schools to identify and facilitate their work to support children in a post-Covid environment.
- Heightened focus on outcomes for vulnerable groups leading to a reduced attainment gap for Black Caribbean boys
- A refreshed and revised strategic approach to education including how we support a more inclusive culture in all of our schools, to reduce exclusion and improve attendance, developing our additional resource provision on our mainstream school sites so that more children with special educational needs can remain in school and in their communities.
- Six clear priorities have been identified including take up of the two year old offer, reducing exclusions, improving attendance, outcomes for vulnerable groups, increasing the number of young people progressing in education and training, increasing attainment at KS2 and KS4. Each priority has a plan with clear targets that will be recurrently reviewed at our developing Education Board (shadow).

Achievements and challenges in 2021/22

Early Help and Working Together for A Safer Islington

- Gradual recovery in take up of early years and after school childcare but has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels (change in working patterns, impact on employment etc)
- Good recovery in certain areas, particularly in the take up of funded 2 year old places: Summer term performance in 2021/22 was 67%, 6% points above last year's equivalent term
- Bright Start: return to face to face activity and take up: 62% 0-4s registered by Q4 with significant increases in registrations for under 1s
- HAF: Successful Easter/summer/winter programme run despite the impact of Covid surges in all seasons; Summer 2021 take up was 37% against a 30% target
- Bright Start & Bright Futures Early Help family support: 61% increase in the number of children and young people worked with compared to 20/21 with a surge in referrals in summer 21, following lockdown
- Of the 10 domains measured, families made most progress following EH intervention with "Your Well-being" and "Meeting Emotional Needs" and least with "Progress to Work and "Social Networks"

Achievements and challenges in 2021/22

Early Help and Working Together for A Safer Islington

- Youth Justice Service
 - Reduced the reoffending rate of young people in our Youth Justice service with lower rates than most of London and our statistical neighbours
 - Significant improvement in our EET figures for YJS YP with a 10% increase in 2021-22 (72%) compared to 2020-2021 (62%)
- New Young Islington universal youth work offer in place - supporting quality youth work relationships and experiences, reaching more vulnerable young people and those at 'transition' age
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Launched 2021-2022 VAWG Strategy in November 2021
 - Increase in domestic abuse (DA) criminal offences (2,756 compared to 2,537 in 2020-2021).
 - 85% increase in number of referrals to VAWG services (2,342 compared to 1,264 in 2020-21)
 - 2,008 survivors and families supported by specialist VAWG services
 - Islington DA Daily Safeguarding Meeting received nearly 2x number of high-risk referrals (695) compared to UK average (398) our repeat referral rate (25%) is lower than UK average (33%).
- Challenges: Impact of the cost-of-living crisis on VAWG and increasing criminal justice outcomes for survivors of rape and sexual assaults and domestic abuse

Achievements and challenges in 2021/22

Care, Choice and Control | Maximising independence

- Children's Social Care Transformation Programme
 - Launched Adolescent Intervention Team for children at high risk of exploitation and on the edge of care; 75% success rate over the year meaning 75% of children have been prevented from coming into care by having intensive wrap around support within their family home and community
 - Children's Social Care Transformation Programme - In house fostering recruitment and new models of care, housing. More Foster Carers recruited last year than year before. 15 Current Foster Carers assessed as being able to carer for more children if they had the space too and are currently awaiting housing with one carer already moved and one carer having had adaptations to their property.

Page 17 Very positive Local Area SEND Inspection in Nov 2021: recognised strengths in strategic leadership and joint working, with well-established teams and meaningful and effective partnerships with parents

- SEND Strategy 2022-27 is informed by a detailed review and case for change in response to increased demand. Key outcome indicators are set out under four Ambitions in the Strategy in the form of 'what success will look like'
- Lifelong corporate parenting - Task and Finish Group Launched chaired by the Chief Exec and attended by all senior leaders across the council to improve the life chances of care leavers in accommodation, employment, education and training, health etc.
- Challenges: placement sufficiency both locally and nationally, numbers of UASC coming into care from local hotels and social work recruitment crisis

Building a More Equal Islington for: Children and Young People - Future focus

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Executive Member 2022/26 priorities

Nurturing our children and young people to give them the best possible start in life

Children's Services Vision

- Every child and young person feels safe and thrives, leading to a fulfilling life

Our Mission

- To care for our children and young people is to invest in their futures. It is our calling to build their and their family's resilience, secure the best education and skills, in places where they are safe, for their best start in life.
- Together, as guardians of a system, we will influence, flex, combine and connect to the situations of each individual child and young person because they deserve the right support at the right time.
- Excellence and equity drive us to have the services and systems in place and be ahead of the curve.
- Guided by the aspirations of children, young people, and their families, we will work with passion and ambition to co-create a place, particularly for those with complex needs or have challenging circumstances, where they feel they belong and included.

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- New government policy and legislation across health, education and social care
- A focus on equalities and equities that affect childhoods and life chances
- Care leavers – more we can do as a council that reduces isolation, opens up avenues for them and progressing focus on care experience as a protected characteristic
- Strengthening participation and involvement of children and parents
- Ambitious for our safeguarding system
- Strengthening relationships with external stakeholders to improve children's outcomes through individual actions e.g. headteachers.
- Future funding and income across services and support for children and young people

2022-26 Future focus

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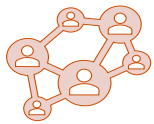
Lifelong learning, skills and enrichment

Children, young people and their families are empowered with the learning and skills for life, work and the future of work supported by a high quality and high performing, inclusive education and skills system.

- Education Plan and sustainable school system
- School Catering
- School Place Planning
- Devices for Islington Year 7s
- Free School Meals
- SEND Strategy

2022-26 Future focus

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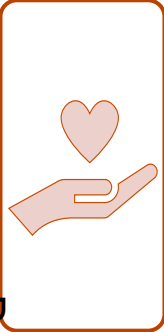
Resilient children and families

The resilience of children, young people and families is strengthened through system-wide approaches with local partners to intervene early and prevent problems from escalating.

- Supporting Families, Family Hubs and Reducing Parental Conflict
- Adventure Play capital redevelopment
- Mental health services in schools and youth hubs
- Reducing exclusions and persistent absence
- Young Islington Universal Youth Offer
- Revised Children Trust Board
- Child-friendly Islington

2022-26 Future focus

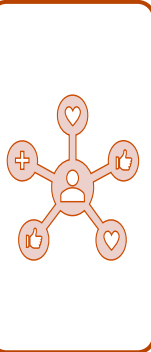
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Care, support and safeguarding

Children, adolescents and young people are kept safe through effective safeguarding, preventative and violence reduction arrangements which respond to familial and extra-familial harm, early identification and reduce escalation of concerns

- Children's Social Care Transformation Programme and resources review
- YOS Inspection
- Young people at risk of involvement in crime



Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

Young adults, particularly those whom we are corporate parents for, those with disabilities, women and girls transition well to and/or live healthy, independent and fulfilled lives with strong networks.

- Lifelong Corporate Parenting
- Proposed Youth Employment Service: input from Children's Services



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SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)
Title of review: Making Children Visible
Scrutiny Committee: Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee
Director leading the review: Jon Abbey, Corporate Director, Children’s Services
Lead officers: TBC
<p>Overall aim of the review: To assess the way the council works to improve the visibility of vulnerable children in relation to 1) attendance and wellbeing; 2) children missing from education; 3) children who are not in education, employment or education (NEET); 4) children who are being home-schooling; 5) children being supported by the virtual school.</p>
<p>Objectives of the review:</p> <p>1. Attendance – To assess the attendance figures for the 2022 summer and autumn terms and disaggregate the data by reference to children with a social worker,</p> <p>2. NEETS – To ascertain where care experienced young people aged 16+ and 18+ without A Levels/GCSEs/vocational qualifications are gaining the support they need. To assess how effectively the care leaving service and council services prepares care experienced young people for work? Where there is the disproportionality in the data (what can be done about it?)</p> <p>3. Voice of the Child - where is the voice of the child and family voice heard across the system and how can it be captured more effectively and inclusively?</p>
<p>How does this review contribute to the Council’s priorities?</p> <p>This scrutiny review will contribute to the Council’s strategic priority to nurture our vulnerable children and young people in Islington so everyone has the very best start. Making children visible enables young people have the access to the opportunities they need to thrive in life, including an excellent and inclusive, trauma informed education.</p> <p>This scrutiny review will enable the committee to explore issues related to making children visible, intergenerational issues resulting from children being invisible, work currently being undertaken, changes to legislation and explore areas for further service improvements.</p>
<p>Scope of the review and evidence to be received:</p> <p>The review will focus on...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Legislative Framework in which we operate now and into the future. 2. Current work being undertaken to improve the visibility of children. 3. Challenges, opportunities and developments 4. Potential areas of work to improve the visibility of children. 5. Disproportionality/disparity in equalities. <p>The Committee will receive the following evidences,</p>

Meeting 1 - 8 September 2022

- Scrutiny Initiation Document
- Introductory Presentation
- Documentary Evidence

Meeting 2 – 18 October 2022 – Focus on the voice of the child/family

- Data on where the voice of the child/family is heard across the system and suggestions for how this could be captured more effectively and inclusively.
- Experiences from other local authorities.

Meeting 3 – 29 November 2022 – Focus on NEET, employment, readiness for work and the youth employment hub

- Data, destinations and pathways to include colleagues from the wealth building team.

Meeting 4 – 17 January 2023 – Focus on attendance

- Attendance data to include which groups of young people are/are not attending, pre-school and nursery complexity, transition points (e.g. attendance is 98% in primary schools and 89-93% in secondary school), and what care leavers are doing if they aren't at school? Attendance breakdowns should include those with medical issues, EHCPs and SEN funding.
- Work and interventions being undertaken.

Meeting 5 – 28 February 2023 – Focus TBC

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Visits/evidence gathering to be agreed potentially including:

1. meet young people and their carers who are home-schooled
2. meet young people and their carers who are supported by the virtual school
3. meet with young people who are NEET and in supported living to ascertain why they disengage in the first place, and how all the work around them is impacting on their lives.
4. visit Lift and Platform to meet the professionals who provide advice for young people and meet some young people who are accessing that advice
5. meet Job Centre workers to find out what their approach is when meeting NEET young people (so we can find out what works, what doesn't etc)
6. meet the Executive Members for Job and Inclusive Economy (Cllr Bell Bradford) and Children and Families (Cllr Ngongo)
7. meet with secondary schools and further education colleges to hear how they succeed with students who are disengaging and what support they would like from the council
8. meet with charities/third sector organisations operating in the borough in different ways and working with the cohorts of young people we are concerned with
9. meet with all relevant senior council officers
10. look into how neighbouring boroughs are capturing the voice of the child
11. review of policy papers, think tank reports, and academic studies that pertain to the subject matter

Headline Summary Provisional Outcomes 2022

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October 2022

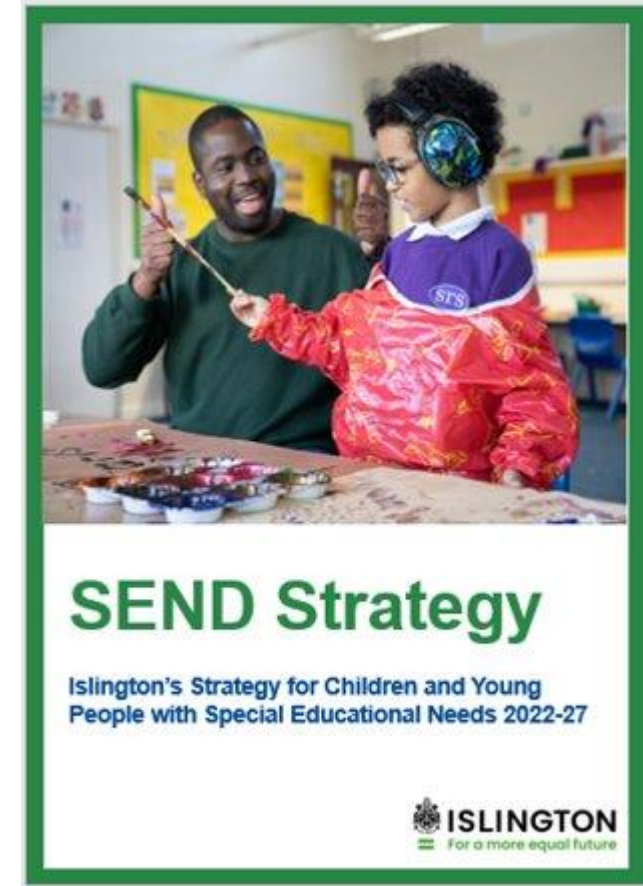
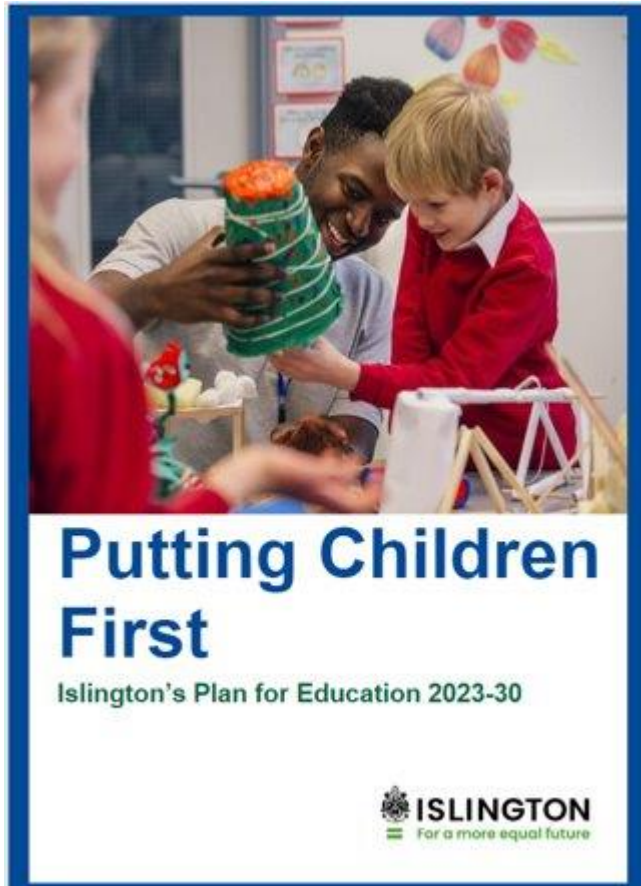


ISLINGTON

For a more equal future

Agenda Item B3

Key documents to drive improvements in outcomes:



The data highlights the following:

Challenges:

- Significant variability of outcomes in phases across Islington
- FSM most impacted by the pandemic
- Ensuring schools use **ALL** of the available resources they have to fill the gaps created by the pandemic and that these resources have a sustained impact
- All schools are good or better

Opportunities:

- Education Board supported by Strategic Oversight meetings will deliver a school to school self led improvement culture
- Education plan priorities the 6 core opportunities to bring about change
- Potential delivery of Islington Professional Partners creates a culture of support and challenge using the strengths and resources across the borough

Our Offer to support improvement:

- External support provided to the school – support and challenge linked to Education Plan
- CPD using keynote speakers to explore relevant challenges – disadvantage, support for FSM, parents
- Core and traded offer to all schools
- Targeted support for schools identified as requiring additional support
- Brokering school to school support

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Islington Professional Partners

Islington Investigates

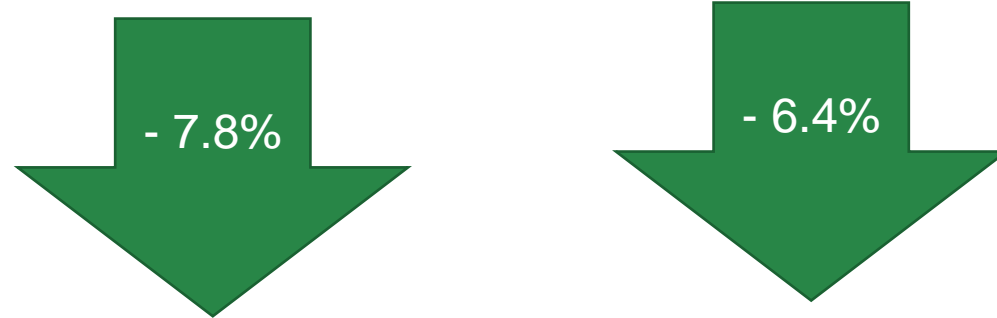
School Improvement Offer

Good Level of Development at the end of Reception:

- 65.0% (1,162 out of 1,788 children) achieved a GLD in Islington, 0.2% lower than the National average of 65.2%. This is the equivalent of 4 fewer pupils achieving a GLD compared to the National average.
- The average total points score, in all GLD goals is 21.6 out of a possible 24

	Islington	National
Prime Areas - communication and language, physical, personal, social and emotional development	71.6%	75.9%
4 specific areas combined (maths, literacy, understanding the world, expressive arts and design)	65.2%	64.9%
Maths	76.2%	75.9%
Literacy	66.9%	68.1%

Phonics 2019	Islington	National	Inner London
Islington	84.4%	81.8%	84.0%



Phonics Provisional 2022	Islington	National	Inner London
Islington	76.6%	75.5%	NA

+1.1% equivalent to 20 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.

What are we doing?

- Introducing additional support through Islington Professional Partner Programme
- Targeted support for 12 schools
 - Tracking pupils
 - Using data to inform groupings
- LA training – Y1 network meeting every half term
- Brokering school to school support – 12 schools with outcomes greater than 85% supporting the 12 lowest performing schools
- Promoting Every Child a reader by age 7 (Part of Education Plan)

KS1 2019	Islington		National		Inner London	
	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
Reading	76.3%	27.9%	74.9%	25.0%	78.0%	27.0%
Writing	71.4%	18.5%	69.2%	14.8%	73.0%	18.0%
Maths	77.7%	25.2%	75.6%	21.7%	78.0%	25.0%

KS1 2022	Islington		National		Inner London	
	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
Reading	71.4%	24.4%	66.9%	18.0%	NA	NA
Writing	65.3%	14.0%	57.6%	8.0%	NA	NA
Maths	71.0%	21.3%	67.7%	15.1%	NA	NA

	What does the data tell us – Expected		What does the data tell us – Greater Depth	
	Islington	National	Islington	National
Reading	- 4.9% difference to 2019	- 8.0% difference to 2019	-3.5% difference to 2019	-7.0% difference to 2019
	+4.5% equivalent to 83 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.		+6.4% equivalent to 117 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.	
Writing	-6.1% difference to 2019	-11.6% difference to 2019	-4.5% difference to 2019	-6.8% difference to 2019
	+7.7% equivalent to 141 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.		+6.0% equivalent to 111 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.	
Maths	-6.7% difference to 2019	- 7.9% difference to 2019	-3.9 difference to 2019	-6.6% difference to 2019
	+3.3% equivalent to 60 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.		+6.2% equivalent to 114 more pupils achieving the expected standard compared to the National average.	

What are we doing?

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- Introducing additional support through Islington Professional Partner Programme
- Targeted support for schools
- LA training – Y2 network meeting every half term
 - Tracking pupils
 - Using data to inform groupings
- Brokering school to school support – schools with outcomes greater than 70% supporting the 12 lowest performing schools

KS2 2019	Islington		National		Inner London	
	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
Reading	76.3%	30.5%	73.2%	27.0%	71.0%	25.0%
Writing	81.8%	27.8%	78.4%	20.1%	81.0%	24.0%
Maths	80.4%	28.5%	78.7%	26.6%	80.0%	34.0%
Combined RWM	69.7%	14.6%	64.9%	10.5%	69.0%	14.0%

KS2 2022	Islington		National		Inner London	
	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
Reading	76.5%	30.9%	74.5%	27.8%	NA	NA
Writing	70.0%	18.5%	69.5%	12.8%	NA	NA
Maths	71.8%	26.3%	71.4%	22.5%	NA	NA
Combined RWM	62.1%	10.9%	58.7%	NA	NA	NA

What are we doing?

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- Introducing additional support through Islington Professional Partner Programme
- Targeted support for schools – meeting with 12 schools to identify support
- LA training – Y6 network meeting every half term
 - Tracking pupils
 - Using data to inform groupings
- Brokering school to school support – 15 schools with outcomes greater than 70% supporting the 12 lowest performing schools

Secondary – Provisional GCSE:

- 70.2% of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths in 2022. This is seven percentage points higher than the 2019 results day figure.
- 52.6% of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths in 2022. This is over ten percentage points higher than the 2019 results day figure.
- The proportion of Islington school pupils who achieved three or more GCSEs at the highest grades (7+) increased from 25.0% in 2019 to 31.9% in 2022.

	Islington	UK	England	London
% entries 7+	29.8%	26.3%	26.0%	32.6%
% entries 4+	76.3%	73.2%	73.0%	Not available
% entries 1+	98.6%	98.4%	98.4%	Not available

Pupil Level Results by school	% English & Maths at 4+	% English & Maths at 5+	% 3+ GCSEs 7+	Attainment 8 score
X	65.6	47.5	21.3	45.6
I	46.2	18.3	7.5	34.7
P	84.9	71.9	52.5	61.0
G	62.2	41.8	19.4	46.3
F	62.5	36.5	14.4	41.7
G	72.5	52.9	33.3	50.1
D	80.3	69.7	39.3	51.8
Y	77.9	61.8	42	55.2
B	78.5	58.3	35.6	56.1
Z	79.9	63.8	48.9	57.9
Islington overall	70.2%	52.6%	31.9%	49.5

Secondary – Provisional A Levels:

Islington schools have seen considerable improvements in the grades received in 2022:

- 25.0% of entries received A*-A grades, up from 16.3% in 2019
- 56.5% of entries received A*-A grades, up from 43.8% in 2019
- 82.3% of entries received A*-A grades, up from 73.7% in 2019

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LBI*	2019 (Final)	2022 (Provisional)	2022-2019 Diff
A*-A	16.3%	30.4%	+14.1%
A*-B	43.8%	58.9%	+15.1%
A*-C	73.7%	82.0%	+8.3%
A*- E	98.9%	99.4%	+0.5%
APS	32.8	37.3	+4.5
Entries	828	829	1

2022 A level entry grades - PROVISIONAL

	A*%	A*-A%	A*-B%	A*-C%	A*- E%	Entries	APS
A	5.7%	32.8%	64.9%	89.7%	100.0%	174	38.9
B	7.9%	26.3%	53.5%	82.5%	99.1%	114	36.3
C	5%	22.2%	65.4%	88.9%	100%	81	37.9
D	2%	14.9%	37.9%	65.5%	98%	87	30.2
A - D	5.5%	25.9%	57.0%	83.1%	99.3%	456	36.4
E	6.3%	16.7%	52.1%	75.0%	100.0%	48	34.4
F	13.8%	38.8%	62.5%	81.5%	99.4%	325	38.9
2022 LBI schools (Provisional)	8.8%	30.4%	58.9%	82.0%	99.4%	829	37.3
2019 LBI schools (Final)	3.6%	16.3%	43.8%	73.7%	98.9%	828	32.8
2022 England (Provisional)	14.5	35.9	62.2	82.1	98.4		
2019 England (Final)	7.7	25.2	51.1	75.5	97.5		

What are we doing?

- Introducing additional support through Islington Professional Partner Programme
- Targeted support for schools – two secondary schools
- LA training – Introducing Deputy Head Meetings, building on transition for Y6 – Y7 network meeting every term
 - Tracking pupils
- Brokering school to school support – through the Islington Secondary School and College Leaders Network – particular focus on GCSE provision and support across the borough

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Children's Services
222 Upper Street

London N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of: Children's Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18 October 2022

Ward(s): All

Subject: Child Protection Annual Report

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Committee on the progress being made in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Islington's most vulnerable children from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the committee scrutinise the headline performance outcomes
2.2 That the Committee scrutinise the governance arrangements for safeguarding children.
2.3 That the Committee scrutinise the findings of quality assurance activities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The welfare of Islington's vulnerable children is rightly one of the Council's highest priorities. As of March 2021, Islington Safeguarding and Family Support Service is currently working with 980 children in need, 357 children who are looked after, of which 21 are disabled children and 57 are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), 582 care leavers and 188 children with child protection plans. 61% 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, adult mental health, and adult alcohol or substance misuse. 5 children were living in a Private Fostering arrangement at some point during the year 2020/21. As of March 2022, Islington's Youth Justice Service is currently working with 50 Youth Offending interventions. This includes 2 custodial interventions, five remand interventions and 43 community interventions.

There are more boys (55%) than girls (45%) supported; and the age profile varies across the status of children, with significantly more adolescents looked after than younger age groups. Some ethnic minority groups are over-represented in comparison to the Islington child population, while others are under-represented. Children of Black Caribbean and Mixed backgrounds are over-represented across all CIN, CP and CLA groups, Black Caribbean and Black African young people are over-represented in the care-leaver cohort. Work has been focused in the year on reducing the disparity across the Safeguarding services and with the Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership.

- 3.2 In 2020 Islington had 1 full (ILACS) inspection. The inspectors considered the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection and the experience and progress of children in care and care leavers. This was in accordance with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services framework (ILACS). The inspection concluded Islington's overall effectiveness as Outstanding and that:

"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.

Senior leaders promote a strong culture of learning and development and have built on the findings of the focused visit and the joint targeted area inspection in 2018. Partnership working is strong and well established and has contributed to the development and successful implementation of many creative and innovative services. Senior managers have an accurate picture of the quality of practice and services delivered in Islington and the improvements that are still required, through highly effective performance information and quality assurance systems. Staff receive high-quality support and take great pride in their work."

There were 2 recommendations which have been fully implemented through an Action Plan:

1. 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 needs to improve.

It should be noted that there is between 0 and 3 children that fall into this remit at any one time. An action plan regarding this finding and recommendation was drawn up during the actual inspection. It contained a strategic and an operational stream with 19 associated specific actions, including senior leadership partnership oversight, development of protocols, quality assurance and a multi-agency monthly partnership meeting to review the children.

2. The engagement of care leavers in pathway planning and the consistent provision of health histories needs to improve

An action plan regarding this recommendation was drawn up and submitted to OFSTED after the inspection. It contained 2 overarching actions. These have all been implemented.

- 3.3 Our routine Annual Engagement Meeting with Ofsted has been set for September 2022. This annual conversation is used to jointly identify areas for further scrutiny / inspection and is informed by the annual self-evaluation. We expect further Ofsted inspection activity in Children's Social Care and Early Help in late 2022, early 2023. We are still awaiting the long overdue Youth Offending Inspection by HMIP.
- 3.4 Between 8th to 12th November 2021 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Islington to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The findings were positive including fully committed council members in providing the very best for children and young people with SEND. Many parents spoke of very positive experiences and productive partnerships with schools and early years settings. Many parents praised the efforts of school staff, including special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), in supporting their children's educational needs. Inspectors also found that children and young people under the age of 18 receive

comprehensive support while they wait for a diagnosis of ASD and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). This Committee had SEND as its scrutiny focused piece of work and concluded with a number of recommendations. A year on report has been provided to this Committee regarding the implementation of those recommendations

4. Governance Arrangements

- 4.1 The governance and scrutiny of the arrangements for safeguarding children take place through this Committee and the following inter-agency fora:
- 4.2 **Safeguarding Accountability Meetings** chaired by the Leader of the Council and attended by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director of People, Independent Chair of the Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Director of Safeguarding. The meeting is held eight weekly and allows senior members to hold senior officers and the chair of the Safeguarding Partnership to account, to scrutinise performance related to vulnerable children, to be appraised of any concerns about the safety and welfare of children and to drive improvement.
- 4.3 **Corporate Parenting Board** co-chaired by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families and the In Care Council (Children Looked After and Care Leavers) and attended by four elected members and senior officers in the council as well as across the partnership. The Board meets eight weekly and scrutinises performance and strategic planning related to children in care and care leavers, sets direction and drives improvement.
- 4.4 **Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership (ISCP)**, is chaired by an independent chair and scrutineer. The *ISCP Executive* meets quarterly to set the strategic direction of the ISCP which also meets every quarter. The three statutory safeguarding partners, *London Borough of Islington*, *MPS Central North Borough Command Unit* and *North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group* have established a local protocol for the functioning of safeguarding arrangements and is working well. The Government has announced a transfer of responsibilities from CCGs to *Integrated Care Systems*, to come into effect from July 2022, which means the safeguarding responsibility that currently sits with the CCG's *accountable officer* will transfer to the *Chief Executive Officer* of the *Integrated Care Board*; work is under way to make the necessary amendments to the local safeguarding arrangements.
- 4.5 During the previous 12 months LBI informed the ISCP of three *Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents* which produced one Multi-Agency Management Review and two *Rapid Reviews*, one of which led to a *Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review*. The ISCP have also overseen the completion of two Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews (Child R and Child U). This year, the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has endorsed all the ISCPs recommendations.
- 4.6 In July 2021 the partnership reviewed and agreed its new priority areas for the next 3 years:
- Address the impact of inequality and structural racism on vulnerable children and to create a better understanding of data across all of Islington Safeguarding Partners.
 - Address the impact of neglect on children and help them become more resilient.
 - Address the consequences of harm suffered by children because of domestic violence, parental mental ill health, and substance abuse, including helping who have suffered harm to become more resilient.
 - Identify and help children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and gangs.

The strategic work-plan is being developed with the chairs of the ISCP sub-groups to take this work forward. The sub-groups are Quality Assurance, Training and Workforce Development, Missing and Vulnerable Adolescents, Case Review, Education and Early Help.

The ISCP annual report evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection in Islington and the ISCP August 2020 – September 2021 report was presented to the Committee in February 2022.

5. Islington's Motivational Practice Model and Partners in Practice Work

- 5.1 The DfE granted nearly £5m from 2012-2018 to children's social care in three Phases to transform services to improve outcomes for children and their families. Phase 1 involved building a practice model- "Motivational Social Work" and Phase 2 expanding the reach to include children who receive an early help service, children who are known to the Criminal Justice System, gang affiliated or at risk of criminal exploitation and Looked After Children- "Motivational Practice Model". Phase 3 now involves working with other Local Authorities to improve their practice and outcomes for their children- Partners In Practice. We have a team who go into other Local Authorities Social Care Services and more recently their SEND services to work alongside staff and leaders until their OFSTED rating changes from Requires Improvement to Good.
- 5.2 The Motivational Practice model is relationship based and feedback from children, families, staff, and services has been very positive. Ofsted also commented on the model: *"A stable workforce and manageable caseloads enable social workers to develop positive and enduring relationships with children. The local authority's preferred social work model is well embedded, and workers demonstrate a good understanding of the impact of trauma on children's lives. Practitioners build effective relationships with parents and provide appropriate challenge"*. This Practice Model has demonstrated impact on our data for example the reduction in re-referral rates to Children's Social Care. Islington is now undertaking Partners in Practice work with 3 Local Authorities.

A review of the Motivational Practice model which is now wholly council core funded is underway, conclusion and implementation date for any changes is 1st April 2023.

6. Performance Management and Quality Assurance

- 6.1 In order to ensure that Islington's most vulnerable children are safe and that our services continuously improve, a range of quality assurance measures are employed to continually test the quality of our service provision and to learn lessons about how to improve. It should be noted that during this reporting period that the impact of Covid-19 has been a factor and some of the data collected, and audits carried out throughout the year were designed to understand the impact on children and families of the pandemic and ensure services were continuing to safeguard vulnerable children and families.
- 6.2 Through performance management we are able to use key performance indicators as a proxy measure for quality of service and to support service improvement. Caution needs to be exercised in relying on performance indicators in isolation as it is possible to have good performance indicator but poor quality of service; although conversely it is unlikely that there could be good quality of service and poor performance. Therefore, to ensure that there is a comprehensive understanding of the quality of service both quantitative and qualitative information must be reviewed.
- 6.3 The data tells us that:
- We received 12199 contacts requesting a service for children in 2021/22, an increase from 2020/21.
 - The most common source of contacts was the police (29.9%), followed by schools (15.0%)
 - The most common reasons for contacts were domestic violence (14.4%), parenting capacity (10.8%) information requests (8.4 %), child mental health (8.3%), specific concerns regarding a sibling (6.4%), Physical Abuse (6.1%) and parental mental health (5.6%).
 - 4724 (38.5%) went on to receive an early help service and 2325 (19%) went onto receive a social care service
 - We had the 32nd highest rate of assessed Children in Need in the country in 2020/21.
 - We had a higher rate of children with child protection plans per 10,000 compared to our

statistical neighbours (SN) in 2020/21 (48 per 10,000 for Islington, 45 per 10,000 for our SN)

- We have carried out a much higher rate of child protection enquiries than statistical neighbours
- We had a lower proportion of repeat child protection plans compared to our SN in 2020/21 (10.5% compared to SNs 21%).
- 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. The average duration of a child protection plan in 2021/22 is 7 months
- We applied to court for orders to protect children more than most other boroughs, we had the 25th highest nationally.
- Islington has more children looked after per 10,000 than the SN average, and only one SN had a higher rate in 2019/20
- The proportion of Children Looked After who had to move more than three times during a year is slightly lower than our SN (9.8%)
- 42 children in our care moved 3 or more times in 2021/22. Children and young people with the most complex needs (are more likely to be older when they come into our care, have an Education, Health & Care Plan, known to be physically violent, have exploitation risks or those who have experienced complex trauma in their parents' care) are likely to have the most moves.
- Fewer children 16+ are becoming looked after (from 55 in 2021/21 to 35 in 2021/22). There is a slight increase in 11-15-year olds (from 41 in 2020/21 to 45 in 2021/22).
- 42 young people are remained with their foster carers after their 18th birthday
- Placements for children looked after are becoming much more difficult to find, there is a national shortage of foster homes and significant challenges of supply within the children's homes sector
- 63 children were placed more than 20 miles away (19%)
- No children were subject to secure orders to protect them from absconding and harm related to Child Exploitation (sexual or criminal). For the 2 years proceeding this was 4 children.
- 2 children were adopted in 2021/22 (5 in 2020/21) and 24 made the subject to a Special Guardianship Order (15 in 2020/21). Looking at just Children Looked After with Special Guardianship Orders, 10 were made the subject of an order in 2021/22, up from 9 in 2020/21.
- Average attendance for school age Children Looked After in the academic year 2020/21 was 81.8% compared to 89% for all pupils and 60.2% for school age children open to the Youth Justice Service. 17.8% of Children Looked After and 20% of YJS children received a fixed term exclusion with no permanent exclusions for either group.

6.4 A monthly meeting is held within the Safeguarding and Family Support Service and Young Islington Service that holds all Senior Managers to account on the key performance data and the quality of the intervention to families. From monitoring key performance indicators, we are able to identify that:

- 10% children who received early help in 2020/21 went on to receive a social care service (reduced marginally from 11% in 2019/20).
- 89% of children who received a Triage in 2020/21 were diverted from the Criminal Justice System (increased from 2019/20 at 80%).
- Children have an allocated social worker within 48 hours of being referred to the service and following assessment have a plan that sets out the actions required to improve their outcomes; children newly allocated to a social worker are seen within 10 days (sooner if needed). This is monitored weekly.
- Offence gravity for the YOS cohort has increased in 2021/22, despite a drop in the overall number of offences.

- Children who have child protection plans have a core group of professionals who have prescribed tasks in respect of their involvement with the child
- 97.8% of children who have child protection plans have their plan reviewed after three months and six monthly thereafter as per London Child Protection Procedures and where the review doesn't take place in time there are clear reasons for this
- 10.9% of the children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan have a disability in 2020/21, while national figure is 3%.
- 20% of children in the Criminal Justice System reoffended in 2021/22 (based on the Q4 2020/21 cohort)
- 4 young people received a custodial sentence in 2021/22, a slight increase from 2 the previous year but a significant decrease from 26 in 2018/19. This drop moves us in line with our closest comparators
- Children looked after are seen at four weekly, six weekly or at 3 monthly intervals in accordance with their needs and placement stability. This was both face to face and virtual depending on risk assessment and need during lockdown
- All children looked after are independently reviewed every six months, this was conducted virtually in most cases during Covid, all reviews are now held face to face.
- Practitioner caseloads vary from an average of 12 - 15 children per worker for Children in Need, 11 per worker for Disabled Children, 7-18 children per worker for Children Looked After and 5-7 in the Youth Offending Service. This variance is due to staff turnover and the need for newly qualified staff to have protected caseloads. A caseload of 15 children maximum is the accepted standard in line with our Motivational Practice Model. The voice of the child is clear and social workers evidence direct work with children.
- All cases are subject to supervision and management oversight at least monthly.

6.5 A key theme that these monthly meetings have focused on during the latter half of the year has been disproportionality in Safeguarding and Family Support. Whilst services were keenly aware there was disproportionality between different ethnic groups amongst the cohorts of Children in Need, Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After, compared to the Islington population, a detailed 'deep dive' looked at the journey through the social care system for children and young people from different ethnic groups, and differences in outcomes. Amongst the findings were:

- Black-Caribbean and Mixed ethnicities are over-represented amongst children's social care contacts and referrals compared to the Islington population of children.
- A higher proportion of contacts from Schools and Police are for children from a Black ethnic group, compared to contacts from other agencies.
- Black young people referred by schools are more likely to be referred due to abuse or neglect than other ethnic groups. However, once we look at the key factors identified during assessment, the factors that are recorded significantly more often for Black young people are 'gangs' and 'socially unacceptable behaviour'.
- It took on average around 200 days longer for an Islington child of Mixed ethnicity to move in with their adoptive family after they became looked after, compared to White-British children. This is consistent with the findings from a 2000 study across England.
- Black-Caribbean children and young people are more likely to come into the social care system repeatedly – this ethnic group has the highest rate of re-referrals and the highest rate of becoming subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time.

Following these findings and others, services are now considering what can be done to address this disproportionality. This includes work with our partners and the findings were shared at an ISCP Away Day in July 2021.

- 6.6 To assure the quality of our safeguarding services we routinely review qualitative information alongside performance data through our Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). There are a wide range of activities which constitute the Quality Assurance Framework for Islington Council's Safeguarding and Family Support Service and Young Islington. This enables the services to build a clear picture of the effectiveness of our practice with children, young people, and their families. During Covid-19 some Quality Assurance Activity has been very fast paced and focused on gaining an immediate understanding of the service delivery on children and young people.
- 6.7 The Motivational Practice model articulates a clear vision of good practice and sets out how practice quality should be measured against it. The child's databases are a system that allows us to collect and analyse a wide range of simple data, which over time allows us to track changes in demand and service delivery. Covid-19 interrupted this but not to a significant extent as the data collected was still meaningful.
- 6.8 Good quality assurance ensures that we are doing the right things to a high standard. It helps us notice and attend to new challenges, build on and replicate our successes, and plan for future needs.
- 6.9 Usually twice a year, all senior managers and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families and the Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership chair spend a week on the frontline observing practice and talking to social workers and practitioners about the children, families, and carers they work with. In 2021/22 despite some Covid-19 restrictions we held two Practice Weeks.

The aims of practice week are:

1. Ensure Senior Managers understand what it is like for front line practitioners and gaining a deeper understanding of current frontline practice.
2. To help understand the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of services to families and to measure support staff were able to access while working remotely.
3. Assist in consistency of understanding and practice throughout the organisation.
4. Gather a deeper understanding of practice in relation to a particular theme.

Activities include:

- Gathering feedback directly from families and children
- Auditing case files along with social workers
- Virtual and direct observations of group supervision and one to one supervision
- Combination of virtual and direct Observations of home visits and professional's meetings
- Parental and staff feedback

6.10 This year Practice Week was undertaken in June 2021 and November 2021. Due to Covid-19 Children's Services staff had to make some adjustments to how work with children and families was carried out. Children subject to child protection plans or Children Looked After were seen face to face by their social workers for home visits. Some meetings moved to Hybrid with a few Virtual meetings on Microsoft Teams, which allowed for families or professionals to contribute to meetings where it was not possible for everyone to attend. The aim of this years' Practice Week was to ensure senior managers understood the experiences of families and frontline practitioners.

In June 2021 Practice Week included the children open to the Children in Need teams, the Disabled Children's Service, Children Looked After teams, the Fostering service, and our Care Leaving Service Independent Futures. The Practice Week also included parents who were care leavers, and adolescents who were impacted by domestic abuse. This allowed managers to review their intervention and to gain an understanding of the effectiveness of the interventions and support those young people received. As well as looking at domestic violence and abuse, the SEND Inspection audit was undertaken. The audit aimed to elicit any key themes that emerged that may help identify practice strengths and any gaps in SEND Practice area to ensure that as a social care service work is being carried out collaboratively with the children, parents, carers, health and education. The audit also looked at how the local areas meet their responsibilities to children and young people from birth to 25 who have special educational needs or disabilities. The audit also looks at the offer made to children from Children's Social Care, CIN and CLA/IF and children from Early help.

The overall findings were that practice across the services was good or outstanding. Despite Covid-19 restrictions families still received a good service, children were regularly visited, and staff continued to receive a good level of management support through supervision and oversight. The voice of the child was evident in files. Domestic violence and abuse interventions were generally good with evidence of safety planning with clear risk assessments including identified protective factors. The review of children receiving support via SEND and EHCP was positive and evidence of collaborative planning and support for those children was identified as strong. Areas for improvement across the services were addressed and reflected in the positive SEND inspection carried out in November of 2021.

The second practice week of 2021 was conducted in November. As a senior leadership team, it was agreed the week would look at a number of different areas of practice. During the pandemic, the data and performance team showed that re-referrals had increased slightly and although the timeliness of assessments had improved, the numbers of referrals had increased. It was therefore agreed that Practice Week would look at all the children where following their Child & Family Assessments the recommendation was step down to a tier 2 provision within the last 6 months.

Another factor considered was the increase in contacts to CSCT over 2021 since the beginning of the Pandemic. The data showed that as well an increase in contacts a significant proportion were progressing to Early Help Services for support. The question raised was whether the increase was a reflection of the increasing needs within the population or whether there had been any shift in the application of threshold at the initial point of decision making. Therefore, a multi-agency audit was carried out that looked at 100 children referred in 2021 to examine the application of threshold decision and how the London Continuum of Need Threshold is applied and whether it is consistent. The data provided over the last 2 years told us that on average any child made subject to child protection plans for over 14 months are either in Pre-Proceedings PLO or subject to Care Proceedings. During practice week the senior leadership team looked at those children to help understand:

the impact of progressing into proceedings
whether entering care proceedings was the most proportionate response
the overall outcomes for those children where proceedings had been issued.

The audits completed showed the proceedings were necessary safeguards for those children and the interventions were proportionate. The feedback from CAFCASS and judges supports that view and that care proceedings are issued where necessary and children experienced care planning which minimised delay in the implementation of permanency planning.

The week also involved auditing the work of child subject to Care Proceedings to establish whether an alternative action would have made a greater impact.

The practice identified continuous strengths and the majority of files audited were either good or outstanding practice, 84% rated as good. Auditors found 97% of assessments stepped down to early help were agreed. Overall auditors agreed that for cases in PLO and proceedings the response was proportionate and 75% of the cases rated as good and 20% outstanding, court interventions were seen, as necessary.

In considering our Care Experienced children from our leaving care service, there was auditing activity on the quality and timeliness of the review of pathway plans as during the Pandemic the numbers of Pathway Plans completed on time fell. The Senior Management Team therefore wanted to understand the impact of a delay on completion of a Pathway Plan for care leavers and audited any plan overdue by 3 months or more. The auditing activity found there a only 7% were delayed and were still receiving a service and interventions were in place. The auditing also showed that the data had picked up children not eligible for a pathway plan due them being in care for less than 13 weeks, or had returned home within 13 weeks of being looked after.

6.11 **Quality Assurance Activity:**

The Safeguarding and Family Support Service and Young Islington Service also undertake a substantial number of themed audits in response to what the data tells us, feedback from children and families, feedback from staff and partners and/or following the introduction of legislation or guidance. Action Plans from each audit are then developed and monitored by the Senior Management team. The following gives examples of audits and associated findings that have been used to improve practice throughout the year:

6.12 **Repeat CP Plans**

An audit of 17 repeat Child Protection Plans (for 22 children) in 2020/21 looked at the times lapse between plans. Most Plans were repeated after a time gap of over two years. 41% were repeated within a 2 year period. Like previous years, the most common risk factor in repeat plans was Domestic Violence and Abuse. 53% of the repeat plans also had parallel escalation and planning, meaning that there was no drift or delay and children's cases were within a legal framework - Court or Pre-Proceedings

6.13 **Children Isolated at home due to Covid-19.**

This audit was of children who had been in isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Audit looked at whether their RAG rating matched their need and whether safeguarding measures were being carried out in accordance with their RAG rating. The findings were:

- All children rated RED were seen face to face in line with their high risk level and risks were managed well.
- Amber rated children were seen in person or via video as per operational procedure
- Evidence of social workers demonstrating creativity in seeing children and meaningful work with children and their families, even via video.
- Risk ratings on the whole matched need.
- Network checks carried out for most children.

6.14 **FGCs identifying alternative care**

This audit was in response to Islington's Ofsted inspection in 2020, which suggested that although Family Group Conferences routinely take place and respond to children's immediate support or care needs, they do not consistently consider or identify alternative carers within the family.

The findings were:

- 42 referrals were made for an FGC in 2019/20 where the primary reason was looking for alternative care.
- 31 (74%) progressed to an FGC (Higher than the London rate at 66%)
- 29 of these resulted in a plan that included detail about alternative carers.

Therefore, 94% of family plans considered or identified alternative carers.

6.15 **Supervision Orders**

This audit was undertaken in response to a rapid review action plan regarding a child who was on a Supervision Order who suffered serious harm. The purpose was to review whether Islington's protocol and minimum standards regarding Supervision Orders were being adhered to. The findings were:

- Areas of good practice included use of chronologies, continuity of social workers, good rapport with children and families, good understanding of children's lived experience and good supervision.
- Areas in need of improvement were multi-agency involvement in devising plans, lack of Supervision Order (CIN) meetings, lack of purpose and momentum in working with children on Orders, need for assessments that reflect children's needs and the need for greater management oversight.

Subsequently an improvement plan was put in place and included:

- Case file upgrade to include a Supervision Order flag
- Monitoring data about children on Supervision Orders at Performance meetings.
- Regular Audits of cases independently
- Supervision Order policy updated to emphasize greater management oversight.

6.16 **CP Plans over 18 Months**

This audit was undertaken in response to an increase in CP plans over two years with following findings:

- Of the 19 child protection plans, 16 had undergone parallel family court proceedings, which contributed to the length of the CP plan due to the delays in Court Proceedings during Covid.
- There were just three children from two families that were not subject to family court proceedings but had long plans due to the chronic nature of the risks.

6.17 Re-Referrals

This audit was carried due to an increase in re-referrals from the previous year. While the majority of re-referrals were deemed unpreventable, the following practice themes were identified:

- **Information sharing:** some assessments were incomplete because of a misconception that social workers and their manager's had needed consent for agency checks.
- **Refusal of Service:** A considerable proportion of families refused a service first time around, even though social care identified that one was required.
- **Adolescents at risk:** Social care is the principal agency responsible for safeguarding but is the last agency young people or their families wish to engage with. Specialist agencies like TYS or YOS may be tried initially but if there is a safeguarding need, this is re-referred to CSC.
- **Domestic violence and abuse:** Re-referrals are a reflection of the cyclical nature of abuse women are caught in but also the trauma it causes contributes to children and young people developing problems such as vulnerability to exploitation and serious youth violence later in life.

6.18 **Timescale in initial child protection conference:**

This audit was carried out in a response to the lower level of conferences held within statutory timescales than the rest of London. There were 44 initial CP conferences for 79 children that were over the 15 working day timescale from the strategy discussion (65% - the London average is 75%). The findings were:

- 58% were late by just a few days, most between one and seven days.
- 40% were late bookings by social workers, most of which could have been avoided since they were families already receiving a service.
- 45% were late due to illness or other availability issues, which has been more marked due to the pandemic.
- No child was left at risk due to delay
- Delaying a conference at times may be preferable in order to ensure the meeting is more meaningful and purposeful.

Child and Family Assessment with an No Further Action Outcome:

This audit set out to understand C&F Assessments of 275 children from 131 sibling groups that resulted in no further action (NFA) in the period between April to December 2021. The Audit found that

- Almost 50% of C&F Assessments concluded that there was no unmet need of the child assessed.
- Domestic Violence was the most consistent reason for referral for an assessment.
- Managers must ensure stepdown to other agencies is the preferred option to NFA prior to closure.

SYV 3 or more contacts between April 2020 to August 2021:

This themed audit took place considering 43 children and young people for whom there were three contacts for either serious youth violence (SYV) or Child Criminal Behaviour (CCB). The 43 children were from 34 siblings' groups with just one young person identified as the index child of concern. The purpose of the audit was to review the threshold decision at the front door, to establish if intervention could have been in place earlier. The audit found that:

- No child or young person had concerns raised about the response to the referrals being disproportionate or left any child at risk.
- One child had been stepped down with the caveat he would be re-referred to social care if he did not engage, the case closed to a targeted service without re-referring.
- The number of contacts did not reflect a revolving door for young people
- A number of contacts were not due to interventions ending and being re-referred.
- Threshold decisions were considered proportionate.

6.19 **Health Involvement in Strategy Discussions**

The purpose of this audit was to look at the involvement of our health partners in strategy discussions/meetings, between January to March 2021. The audit considered 95 children who had met the threshold for a strategy discussion and whether health provided a view in respect of the outcome of the strategy discussion/meeting. The findings of the audit affirmed that health and all the key partner agencies are involved consistently in strategy discussion across the Children in Need Teams.

In the Children Looked After service and Independent Futures health were not involved in all strategy discussions and therefore managers were to attend refresher training and details of the MASH safeguarding health advisor were shared with the CLA and leaving care teams to improve compliance in those teams

6.20 **GP Reports to Conferences**

70 Child Protection Conferences held during June and July 2021 were audited examining the reports submitted by GPs

- 62 conferences (89%) received a GP report
- 8 conferences had no reports submitted
- 93% of reports were submitted on time
- 90 % were on Islington template
- 98% were judged to be fully completed
- 90% judged satisfactory

6.21 **Review of Permanency Protocol**

This audit was commissioned to review the effectiveness of the Permanency Team's involvement in permanency planning for young people aged 12-14. The audit recommended that:

- Selection meetings need to ensure good decisions are made about children aged 12-14 years old
- Together and Apart assessments are completed for all siblings where there is a consideration of placing them apart

6.22 **Permanency Planning for Children Age under 6 Years old** The audit found some children in care could have had their plan for permanency action earlier to ensure they experience no delay in being placed in long term permanent families. This led to the recommendation of the need to strengthen the permanency planning protocol to ensure planning is explored at the earliest opportunity and also recommended that:

- Quality of permanency planning minutes need to improve.
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) recommendations should always include referrals to permanency planning meetings for all children
- IROs should trigger the dispute resolution process where these decisions are not implemented.

6.23 **Placement with Parents Regulations Including Vulnerable High-Risk Children at Home Awaiting Placement.** Some children at risk of contextual and extra familial harm on Care Orders may experience placement breakdown and are at home until a placement can be identified. An audit was undertaken to ascertain if the protocol is consistently followed for these children, and the multi-agency network were working together to safeguard children while at home under care orders

- The timeliness of recording the legal and placement status of all children to be recorded within 24 hours.
- Children were safeguarded and multi-agency safety plans were in place.
- The High Risk Panel had scrutiny over the plans and regularly reviewed their effectiveness.

6.24 **Experience of Virtual Children Looked After Reviews**

Following Covid lockdown in 2020 and social distancing the changes in the legislation which provided guidelines to assist some statutory duties, the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) moved from face to face to virtual meetings. The aim of the audit was to explore the experience of virtual reviews in order to learn from it and ensure we adjust future practice to consider the learning.

All the respondent with the exception of 1 were of the view that the virtual CLA review went well or very well. The advantages of a virtual meeting meant less travelling long distances, greater flexibility and using time more efficiently and that reviews were less intrusive/intense or demanding for children. The disadvantages identified were technical issues, attendees getting distracted doing other tasks and the lack of human interaction and difficulties if serious issues were to be discussed and potentially difficulty for young people to engage via video conference. All the respondents except 1 preferred a combination

of virtual and face to face reviews and decisions being made on a case-by-case basis.

- A recommendation to apply a flexible approach to take into account the particularities of each circumstance
- Where safe and agreed the relationship between the IRO and the child/young person should be prioritised as its important for the child/young person to have an independent person to share their views, wishes and feelings.

The IRO to ensure that these are given consideration in the review process

7 Contextual Safeguarding

7.1 Continued analysis undertaken over the last two years consistently highlights that Islington's profiles of children and young people at risk, or a victim of Child Sexual/Criminal Exploitation, harmful sexual behaviours, trafficking and modern slavery, gangs, and serious youth violence are intrinsically linked through vulnerability, peer groups and offending networks. 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 to our profile, we have focused on developing a less siloed, 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. Islington's shift toward a more fluid approach to Exploitation and Missing risk supports a trauma informed practice model; focusing more on the experience, vulnerabilities, strengths and needs of the individual child, rather than on the specific type of risk label and subsequent intervention pathway. The participation of children is essential and their wishes, feelings and lived experience is represented fully at child protection conferences via consultation forms and other methods of direct work.

- 7.2 The response to Exploitation and Missing is currently led by:
- **The Exploitation and Missing Team:** The team work to develop the safeguarding and intervention plans, chairing strategy meetings, developing and delivering training programmes as well as linking with the multi-agency partners to create practice pathways and develop joint working. Managed by the Exploitation and Missing Safeguarding Manager. The team consist of 3 specialist social workers, a missing coordinator and an Exploitation and Missing intervention worker. ASIP joined the team when it launched in June 2021
 - **Specialist Social Workers:** All three social workers cover Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Missing. One of the social worker posts is the named social worker for the Integrated Gangs Team.
 - **Exploitation and Missing Intervention workers:** The work is primarily to undertake Return Home Interviews (RHI) for children reported missing from home and care. Their work helps with early identification of children reported missing and to allow for early intervention and engagement with vulnerable children to prevent future missing episodes.
 - **Child Exploitation and Gangs Analyst:** This post works across Services and data systems to develop the understanding of Exploitation networks and risk profiles. This post was recruited to in February 2019 and in February 2020 it was agreed, after consultation, the manager from the IGT would line manage the post. This has been a positive move which has benefited both teams and the service.
 - **Adolescent Support Intervention Project ASIP:** The Adolescent Support Intervention Project, is a wraparound edge of care service that aims to prevent young people who have contextual risks from becoming looked after and being placed in specialist provisions usually located outside of the borough. The team consists of four ASIP Case Managers, as well as one CAMHS Clinical Psychologist, a contextual safeguarding and education lead and the practice manager. The work consists of working closely with not only the young person, but also with their family, their peer networks, with services that they access such as education and through upskilling the professional networks that surround them. ASIP is a psychologically and trauma informed service that is underpinned by the principles of the community psychology, narrative therapy as well as drawing upon elements of psychoanalysis (Attachment Theory), co-production and family systemic therapy. Children and young people have fed back they feel listened to and supported by their ASIP worker. They have established trusting relationships and utilised the trust helped inform how to improve the way ASIP work with new children coming into the service.

7.3 The above teams also work closely with the local Police teams and the Community Safety Unit.

7.4 There is a clear and consistent format to the sharing of information to support safeguarding children and young people and recognise that this is crucial to developing an understanding of peer networks and exploitation profiles. Information is shared at a practitioner level across the partnership through the co-location of staff, safeguarding meetings, consultations, Integrated Gang Team tasking meetings and community safety briefings etc. and fed back into safeguarding meetings to inform the response to children and families. This information is collated by the Child Exploitation and Gangs analyst and feeds into to practice panels such as the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (formally known as the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel) and the Exploitation and Missing subgroup of the ISCP. This also includes the council's response to contextual safeguarding focus areas such as creating safe spaces for young people through work with departments such as licensing and estate management.

- 7.5 The Exploitation and Missing team have returned to working in the office but still hold some meetings with professional virtually or as hybrids. Strategy meetings are hybrid with the social work team and E&M practitioner generally meeting in person at the office with other professionals such as police and health joining via video. Return Home Interviews were completed over the telephone with young people during lockdown restrictions, this moved towards face to face where possible. Young people have said in feedback that having the choice of both face to face or virtual is helpful for them to share their views.
- 7.6 Due to the Lockdowns the Exploitation and Missing team were not able to deliver group work in schools. This is something that will be picked up again in 2021/2022 as in previous years the team were delivering sessions to more than 500 children a year. This year the team will continue to prioritise training and awareness raising within schools and across the partnership to bring the training offer in line with previous years. The team did manage to deliver training across the partnership to include children's social care, VCS, Community Child Health, Foster Carers, Designated Safeguarding leads, Lambeth Child Protection Co-Ordinators (as part of PIP) and external partners.
- 7.7 Children who are in need of a targeted service receive this through the early help offer. Our Targeted Youth Support team provide a range of interventions through a number of outreach programmes individually and group based to prevent escalation of contextual safeguarding. Through the parenting programme offer, parents of vulnerable adolescents receive advice and guidance on areas such as boundary setting, the adolescent stage and managing the balance between the push for freedom and the need still for protection. Our Early Help teams work closely with young people and parents to educate them on risks, prevent missing episodes, manage social media safely as well as to ensure that parents are well informed about what to do if their child goes missing.
- 7.8 When a child is identified as at risk, a safeguarding strategy meeting is held. Strategy meetings are held across exploitation and missing risk areas, and dependent on the situation and risk may focus on a single child or a number of children. If a peer group, network or location of risk is identified by practitioners, through safeguarding meetings or practice panels, a mapping meeting will be organised. A mapping meeting is held with partners to pull together agency information, develop a better understanding of the network or location, and to develop an action plan to disrupt exploitation and improve the safeguarding of children and families. Children and young people from other Local Authorities are also considered as part of mapping meetings, and the relevant professionals are invited to attend and contribute.

8 Missing Children

8.1 Performance Information

From April 2021 to March 2022, the total number of children missing from home and from care including away from placement without authorisation was 190. This is an increase from 156 in 2020/21. This year, children aged 14,15- and 16-year-olds were most likely to go missing. However, there is a disparity between the age groups. Over the last year 14-year-olds accounted for 16% of those missing from home episodes, 15-year-olds accounted for 36% and 16-year-olds accounted for 12%. This year children aged 17 years old were most likely to go missing from care, totalling 36% of the total numbers of episodes. The numbers have remained consistent from 2019-20 and 2020-21 when the numbers of children missing from care were 30 and 39% respectively.

Over the last three years we have seen a gradual shift in which gender are most frequently missing from home. In 2019/20 males were more often reported missing at 59% whilst females were at 41%. In 2020/21 the numbers were evenly split at 50% for both male and female. Over the last year we see that females accounted for 64% of the missing from home episodes with males at 35% and non-binary at 1%. Far more males than females were reported missing from care, with 71% of children reported missing being male. This has remained consistent, from last year when it was 72% male and 28% female. In children classified as away from placement without authorisation 25% were female and 75% male.

This year the data indicates that there is still an over representation of Black children reported missing from care. The breakdown for the year 2021-2022 is as follows;
White British 26% White Irish 5% Black British Caribbean 7%, Black British African 17%, 9% were any other African background, 2 % Black British other 4% were White and Black Caribbean and 15% mixed parentage.

8.2 Children Missing from Home - Length of Missing Episode:

In total 54% of the missing episodes from home involved children returning in less than 24 hours and 24% of episodes related to young people returning the following day. Meaning 78% of the missing episodes involved young people returning the next day or earlier which is aligned with the missing from care figures and is an increase of 5% on the year before for children missing from home.

1 child was missing from home for over a month. There were concerns that they were at risk of sexual exploitation. During these missing episodes, strategy meetings were held regularly, chaired by the Exploitation and Missing Team, and referrals to Rescue and Response (County Lines) and the National Referral Mechanism (Human Slavery and Trafficking) were made where needed.

8.3 **Children Missing from Care - Length of Missing Episode**

In total 77% of the missing episodes involved young people returning the next day or earlier, an increase of 2% from last year. This figure supports the development being put in place through the Philomena protocol as previously young people had been recorded as missing but were returning to their placements late. 4% of missing episodes were for young people who went missing longer than a week, the same as last year. This equates to 24 separate incidents where young people went missing from care for longer than 1 week.

In previous reports, we have explored the difficulty of producing statistics for how many young people who have gone missing have been identified as at risk of exploitation and/or serious youth violence. This is because young people could be identified at different risk levels throughout the year meaning there would be many duplicate results. It is because of this we have to look at the number of episodes, rather than the unique children who have gone missing, and those figures are limited in how useful they are.

It has been found more useful to explore further the vulnerabilities of the children who have gone missing most frequently throughout the year.

In 2021/22 there were 10 children who went missing most frequently. All the 10 children were considered at some point throughout the year to be at risk of exploitation or serious youth violence. 7 of the 10 children who went missing most frequently were male. All 3 female and were considered at risk of sexual exploitation. 7 of the most frequently missing children in 2021/22 are looked after children.

- 8.4 In response to the connection between missing and additional vulnerabilities the initial sit-down strategy meeting for missing young people is chaired by the Exploitation and Missing team so that a contextual and multi-vulnerability approach is taken. If a young person is at risk of being exploited in a gang linked setting, then they are included in the IGT search stream document meaning if they are missing it will be monitored in discussions with IGT, Exploitation and Missing team and gangs police team.
- 8.5 Senior managers are immediately notified when a child goes missing. The Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families are briefed every Friday on children who are currently missing. This ensures oversight at the most senior level, the collection and scrutiny of these briefings and associated interventions is undertaken by the Exploitation and Missing Safeguarding Manager.

8.6 **Return Home Interviews (RHI's)**

Where possible, every child that goes missing from home or missing from care is offered a Return home Interview. Between April 2021 to March 2022, 719 RHI's were offered to children missing from care and home. This also included those away from their placements without authorisation. In 105 episodes, (15%) the child refused the interview, in 208 episodes, 29%, it was not possible to contact the child for the interview to go ahead after several attempts. 9 (1%) were not required due to it being an authorised absence. For 281 episodes, (39%) it was not possible for the RHI to be conducted as the child was still missing. For all other children the RHI was undertaken.

When a Return Home Interview is requested but not completed (i.e., the child refused or multiple contact attempts were unsuccessful), the allocated Social Worker is contacted so that they can make alternative arrangements to discuss the missing episode directly and at times complete the return home interview.

The role of the Specialist Missing and Engagement Worker has expanded over the last two years, and now as well as undertaking the return home interview, they will now offer some of the young people 3 – 6 intervention sessions. These are offered to young people who frequently go missing and to those who may go missing less frequently but the indicators show that they could be being exploited or there is an escalation in concerns. This work has proved very successful and is built on the theory around contacting a family and/or young person at the "reachable moment".

8.7 **Missing from Education**

Children fall out of the education system for a variety of reasons which include:

- a) Failing to start appropriate provision and hence never entering the system at all;
- b) Ceasing to attend, due to exclusion (e.g. illegal unofficial exclusions) or withdrawal;
- c) Failing to complete a transition between providers (e.g. being unable to find a suitable school place after moving to a new local authority).

A range of robust procedures are in place for preventing pupils from going missing from education at these key transition points. Schools are very clear about their duties and responsibilities for securing pupils' regular attendance and seeking LA support.

For the financial year 2021/22, there were 44 missing pupil Alerts by pupil services, 24 children (55%) were found and returned to school and 15 (34%) were not found, 4 (9%) had unconfirmed school destinations abroad and 11 (25%) with an unknown location, 5 (11%) are currently open.

9 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

9.1 Performance

During 2021/22 46 young people have been identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). In 2020/2021 41 young people were identified as at risk of CSE, and in 2019/2020 the number was also 46. The slight decrease in numbers last year was likely due to the lockdown, and less children being out of the home. Although we are aware that children are often groomed online, but again due to children and parents having less contact with professionals during this time, incidents of online grooming and child sexual exploitation may have gone unreported.

The majority of children who have been identified as at risk of CSE in 2021/2022 are female (41) with 4 males and 1 young person who is transgender and identifies as a male. In 20/21 there were 4 males identified as at risk of CSE. Given the small numbers it is difficult to identify any patterns or themes around this. Two of the males had an open hazard for a short period (1 month) the concerns were in relation to their older sibling but as the exploitation was happening in the family home it was felt that they could also be at risk. One of the other males was groomed online to send images of himself. He had additional emotional and mental health needs which may have made him more vulnerable. The ethnicity breakdown of young people identified as at risk of CSE has shifted since 20/21 particularly in relation to Black and White young people. This year 50% of the children identified as being at risk of CSE were white compared to 36% last year and 23% were Black in comparison to 39% in 20/21. Although young white females make up the majority of the children identified as being at risk of CSE, this does not mean that young people of other ethnicities are not at risk. The numbers remain consistently low for Asian young people, and we need to question whether we are reaching all ethnic groups in the borough, to help understand the reason for this low number.

9.2 Regarding the age of children at the time they were assessed at risk of CSE, the most common age is 16, followed by 17 year olds, last year 15-year-olds were the most common age. The next highest ages were 15- and 13-year-olds. This year there are also 2 children aged 12 years old. There is an increase in younger females being identified as at risk of CSE and this is an indication of agencies identifying the risks earlier on a which is initiating early responses from services.

9.3 Themes

Throughout the year themes are identified, analysed and responded to by the partnership. The theme this year was still young people being exploited via the internet and has remained a significant issue throughout the year. Children and young people have stated their preferred forms of communication as online sources like, "ticktock" and "Snapchat". It is an ongoing challenge to safety plan against adolescents' need to seek out sexual contact, respond to attention and express themselves sexually when they have such free access to the internet. The Exploitation and Missing team regularly send out up to date resources for young people, families and professionals on internet safety. One of the specialist social workers in the Exploitation and Missing team has completed a course and is a CEOP ambassador and disseminates resources and information across the borough. Islington has run regularly online parent sessions to inform them how to keep young people safe online.

10 Modern Slavery / Trafficking

10.1 **Modern Slavery** is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categories the offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking is the trade and/or movement of someone from one place to another for the purpose of enslavement and exploitation through: Forced labour, domestic servitude, organ harvesting, child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation, forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc and forced marriage and illegal adoption (if other constituent elements are present)

10.2 Islington Council and Police have identified SPOCS to lead on developing a joint response to modern Slavery/Trafficking. There are named SPOCS across Children's Services. Training in Modern Slavery and Trafficking (including county lines) has been delivered through the Exploitation and Missing Team across Safeguarding and Family Support and Young Islington. This training covers the safeguarding response to children at risk of or victims of Modern Slavery and Trafficking including those at risk of county lines. Incorporated within this response are referrals the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the Rescue and Response team (for county lines cases).

In January 2021 Islington and Camden Social Care were successful in a bid they made to Home Office to be part of the pilot project to explore how decision making for the NRM could be devolved and built into local safeguarding procedures. The year long pilot saw the formation of a monthly panel attended by representatives from Islington and Camden children's social care, YOS, Central North Police, Community Safety, Rescue and Response and Health. The Home Office will continue to filter the NRM applications, but the majority will be sent to this Monthly panel to make a Reasonable or Conclusive ground decision.

11 **Child Criminal Exploitation**

11.1 Between April 2020 and March 2021, a total of 16 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals were made for children identified as at risk of criminal exploitation. From the 16 referrals, 15 involved males and one was for a female.

The Exploitation and Missing Team are of the view that the training and awareness that has been provided across Safeguarding and Family Support and Young Islington, and the safeguarding response being embedded across the service, has contributed to earlier identification of county lines indicators. Between April 2021 and March 2022 51 young people, under the age of 18, were identified as being at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation this is a small decrease on the year before when the number was 55. 11 out of those 51 were female, in 2020/2021 the number was 5 and in 2019/20 there was only 1 female identified as at risk of CCE. This is a significant increase, and it has been noted over the last year that new cohorts of younger children and these groups are mixed in terms of gender. We are seeing more females coming to police attention for criminal activity.

In one month, there were 39 young people with a CCE hazard on their file records. The data showed that 16- and 17-year-olds make up the largest age group identified. Older young people may be stopped and searched by police more and therefore more likely to be found in possession of drugs, indicating they are being exploited to deal or run county lines. Older children may be used to transport drugs around the country because if a younger person was seen alone on public transport, they may be more likely to be approached by staff or police. It is likely that while grooming younger children the elders will use them to run drugs around the local area, building their trust and grooming them to the point they can trust them with large amounts. Whilst also potentially placing them at continued risk of being set up in a robbery placing them in debt and entrenched further in the exploitation.

The ethnicity analysis of the cross section of young people who were considered at risk of CCE, in the one month selected (March 2022), shows that 30% of the young people were recorded as Black, 33% as white, 23% having mixed parentage and 7% as Asian. This shows almost the same percentage between White and Black young people at risk of CCE. Over the last year there has been robust work across the partnership directed to raising awareness around the over representation of black children identified as at risk of CCE. The data would indicate that this work is making an impact and improvements moving in the right trajectory.

The team have continued to have good working relationship with the British Transport Police and there are effective communication routes between the services. BTP have contributed to meetings focusing on the vulnerabilities of Finsbury Park relating to young people being criminally exploited and trafficked. If a young person is at risk of criminal exploitation the threshold may be met for an NRM application under the Modern-Day Slavery Act 2015. Professionals across the whole service have a good understanding of the process and reason for applying for an NRM.

11.2 Strategy meetings and consultations in relation to County Lines are currently included within the data for gangs and Serious Youth Violence. For a number of children identified as at risk of county lines, they are also assessed as at risk of other forms of exploitation, including gangs and Serious Youth Violence, and CSE. The MACE identified a gap in terms of the MPS response to children at risk of Criminal Exploitation (CCE) as they do not fall into the current remit of the CSE or gangs Police unit. This, alongside pan-London discussions regarding the safeguarding responses to child victims of CCE has led to a positive shift in the Police response to children at risk of criminal exploitation. Currently the Safeguarding Unit respond to any referrals in relation to CCE and will attend a strategy meeting as required. Decisions are currently being made within the MPS London wide, in terms of which unit in the Police will hold CCE cases moving forward, which will allow for further proactive work to be completed, as with CSE cases.

12 Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

- 12.1 Over the year 2021/22, a total of 86 children and young people were referred to the Children's Services Contact Team in relation to gangs or Serious Youth Violence. This is an increase in 2020/21 which was 76. Also of the total 86 1 was female.

From April 2021 to March 2022 39 children have been identified as being at risk of Serious Youth Violence. In the same period of 2020/21, there were 32, showing a slight increase. It should also be noted that 47 young people were over the age of 18 also these are the young people in March 2022 so why there were identified as at risk of SYV some of those 47 young people may have been under 18 years old.

In looking at ethnicity and SYV across London Black children continue to be overrepresented and is a pattern also represented in Islington.

Over the year 58% of the young people were Black 29% White, 13%, Mixed Parentage backgrounds. Ethnicity is an important factor to consider when thinking about risk of SYV. Studies have looked into how perpetrators of SYV pick their victim when undertaking ride outs into rival areas. It appears that it is not just due to the physical location of the victim, they also pick someone they think is likely to be affiliated with a gang and their view is influenced by what age, gender and race of a stereotypical gang member that media projects on society.

12.3 Practice

Strategy meetings are attended by the partnership, including, police, health and education and any other services involved with the family such as IGT, housing and probation etc. A multi-agency approach is agreed at the strategy meeting in order to safeguard the young person at risk of gangs/SYV. When a child has been a victim of SYV or are at risk of gangs and are in hospital, the strategy meeting is held in the hospital, so that a discharge plan can be incorporated into the safety plan for the child and their family. Where the risks to a child and their family are so significant that they are not able to remain residing at the family home due to the location being known, immediate action is required for the family to move out of the borough for their immediate safety. Housing will be consulted prior to the strategy meeting and a housing representative will attend to provide advice and guidance. A rapid response is then provided by Safeguarding and Family Support and Young Islington Services, housing partners and police in order to move the family as part of the safety plan. Feedback from children and their families via LSCPR have recommended a thinking period to allow families time to reflect and play a meaningful role in the moving on plan, if one is agreed. That way relocation of families is more likely to be successful and careful consideration given to where the family eventually live.

- 12.4 Last year the police and social care have seen a very large increase in young people being stopped with "prescription" drugs. Young people have been found with large amounts of Xanax and diazepam. It is a significant concern that it appears young people are also taking the drugs alongside being exploited to deal them. Some young people have had to be hospitalised due to taking these drugs. Young people and families do not understand the medical impact of taking this sort of medication without a prescription especially when it is mixed with alcohol and other drugs. This has continued to be a concern and the team continue to raise awareness and training across different services.

- 12.5 Since the scope of MACE was broadened in November 2018, the partnership has been better placed to consider the links between gangs and SYV, CSE, and CCE in terms of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. This has also supported the partnership to consider contextual safeguarding including specific locations in the borough which require intervention in order to reduce risks and safeguard children. Community Safety is now part of the MACE and we have seen some very positive examples of partnership working as a result of this.

13 Implications

13.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report

13.2 Legal Implications

13.3 The Children Act 1989 as amended, and the Children Act 2004, place a number of statutory duties on Local Authorities, including overarching responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. The Children Act 2004 introduced the requirement to set up Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The Act also places partner agencies (including the police and health services) under a duty to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. A range of other agencies are also required to cooperate with Local Authorities to promote the wellbeing of children in the local authority area.

13.4 The Children and Social Work Act 2017, (CSWA 2017), sets out how agencies must work together by placing new duties on the police, clinical commissioning groups and the Local Authority to make arrangements to work together and with other partners locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in need within their area.

13.5 The Council must have regard to the Statutory Guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, which is currently in the process of being amended to take into account the provisions of the CSWA 2017.

13.6 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended) place further duties on Councils with regard to looked after children.

14 Environmental Implications

14.1 None

15 Resident Impact Assessment:

15.1 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.

15.2 A very high proportion of vulnerable children known to children's social care live in workless households. All social care interventions aim to address the needs of the whole family which include maximizing benefits and supporting routes into employment, education and training. There is a shared commitment to improve school attendance, we know that children open to Children's Services are over-represented among persistent absentees and there are robust plans in place to improve attendance as part of education plan that involves collaboration across the partnership. As a council we are committed to recognising and readdressing the disproportionate numbers of children from Global Majority families represented in our Safeguarding and Youth Justice Services. We are committed to addressing all inequalities and supporting our workforce with tackling these issues and to promote better understanding of the diverse community we serve.

15.3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council rightly places a high priority on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable children in Islington. This report provides assurance about the quality and effectiveness of Safeguarding and Children Looked After services provided through a range of performance and quality assurance measures that are in place to ensure that services to Islington's most vulnerable children are as safe as they can be.

Appendices

- None

Background papers:

- None

Signed by:

Jon Abbey Director of Children's Services	Date
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Children's Services

222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18th October 2022

Ward(s): All

Subject: Children's Services Quarter 1 2022-23 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 is 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 Quarter 1 2022-23 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 review the performance data for Q1 2022/23 for measures relating to Children's Services.

3. Background

- 3.1. The performance measures covered by this report are largely based on the Corporate Performance Indicator set, which is refreshed annually. Additional measures that were not available during the pandemic have been brought back into the basket of indicators for 2022/23. For example, many of the measures relating to pupil attainment were not available for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, as Teacher Assessed Grades and Centred Assessed Grades

replaced exams. The 2022/23 Corporate Indicators for Children's Services have been selected so that they are aligned with the key objectives in the Service Plans developed for 2022/23.

- 3.2. Some additional measures which are not Corporate Indicators are also reported to provide an overall context to the quality of provision in Islington, such as the proportion of schools judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- 3.3. Note that not every measure is available or updated every single quarter. Therefore, there will be some gaps in the numbering used in this report. Where applicable, performance is reported once comparator data becomes available, to give context to the performance. In some cases, there are time lags in this data becoming available (e.g. pupil suspensions and exclusions, which are reported to the local authority up to two terms in arrears and comparator data is not available until the end of the following academic year – i.e. July 2022 for 2020/21 data).
- 3.4. This report is currently structured using the outcome areas from the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. Although the 2021 Strategic Plan has been published, the priorities do not cover every area of Children's Services. Therefore, we are continuing to use the objectives from the previous plan to help structure these performance reports.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q4 2021/22 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q4 2021/22 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 5th July 2022. There was one query that required a follow-up action, in relation to officers providing more information on the young carers' contract. Further information was then provided after the meeting. Therefore, there are no outstanding actions.

5. Quarter 1 2022-23 performance update - Make sure young children get the best start

5.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Make sure young children get the best start':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q1 2022/23	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
1.1	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement	70%	70%	To improve on the % for the same term previous year	73% (Summer term)	Yes	67%	Yes
1.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of families achieving a good outcome in the Supporting Families Programme	Not comparable	Not comparable	292	104	Yes	102	Yes
1.3	Corporate Indicator - Number of new families receiving support under the Supporting Families Programme	-	-	n/a	125	n/a	100	Yes
1.4	Corporate Indicator - % of eligible children & young people aged 4-15 taking part in the holiday activity and food programme	-	-	To improve on the % for the same term previous year	18% (for Easter offer)	-	-	-
1.5	Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 5–12-year-olds	1,030	2,047	>2,047	974	Yes	837	Yes
1.6	Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds	1,062	2,089	>2,089	526	In line	712	No

1.7	Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 5–12-year-olds	1,583	3,185	>3,185	1645	Yes	1575	Yes
1.8	Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds	1,972	3,875	>3,875	1077	In line	1559	No
1.12	Number of children being supported through our Bright Start & Bright Futures family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000	(not comparable to 2022-23)	(not comparable to 2022-23)	n/a	490 (provisional)	n/a	Not comparable	Not comparable
1.13	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	95.7%	95.6%	At or above Inner London (94.9%)	95.0%	Yes	n/a	n/a

1.1 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement

- 5.2. The local level of take-up of places for the Summer 2022 term is 73%. This is an increase on the target based on the take-up of places at the same point during the previous year (67%), although the previous figure was likely affected by the coronavirus restrictions in place during that term.
- The DfE have now published the official statistics for every local authority, based on the January 2022 take-up of funded places. Islington's take-up of places at this point was 70%, which was well above the London figure of 62%. Despite this strong performance, Islington appears lower down in the national rankings, but compares well with London boroughs, particularly inner London, which have lower levels of take-up than other regions.

Many inner London local authorities have seen increases in take up compared with the same time last year as parental confidence continues to build since the lifting of Covid restrictions. Nevertheless, the extent of Islington's increased take up indicates encouraging signs that our strategic approach, one of the 6 priorities within the Education Plan and a key focus area across the Bright Start early childhood partnership, is making a sustained difference. Recent activities have included marketing/communication initiatives including the production of language videos for the Turkish and Somali communities whose take-up rates are lower (available online from mid-autumn term). This parent-to-parent support empowers people to take up the offer: "I want to say this first as a mum I understand parents' feelings, in my opinion there is nothing to be scared of, they should start their children and not waste the opportunity. They should be confident in sending their children at a young age; they're going to have their own time and see their children develop and be school ready, it will really help their

development!". Marketing activity has also included producing new-look banners for display outside nursery providers.

In the area of data analysis and sharing, we are interrogating the Supporting Families data to identify how to target communication and support to encourage some of our most vulnerable families to take up free early education entitlements, reaching them via the practitioners working with them. We continue to contact eligible families directly through use of DWP data. We have also expanded the number of practitioners who are able to support families to apply through the assisted application process.

1.2 - Corporate Indicator - Number of families achieving a good outcome in the Supporting Families Programme

5.3. This is a new measure added to the basket reported to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee as it is a new Corporate Indicator for 2022/23.

This measure relates to the number of families in the programme who successfully achieve the full range of outcomes. The target for 2022/23 is for 292 or more families to achieve a good set of outcomes, and so by achieving 104 families with successful outcomes at the end of Q1, we are making good progress towards meeting this year's target. Note that the Supporting Families Progress is moving to a new framework, which will involve a wider set of outcome areas to measure. To qualify for the programme families must have a minimum of three of the ten "needs" as set out in the framework. To be considered a successful outcome for the programme, all "needs" they enter the programme with must have been resolved as defined by the evidence sources in the outcome's framework. The ten outcome areas are getting a good education, improved mental and physical health, recovering from and reducing harm from substance misuse, good early years development, financial security, secure housing, improved family relationships, children safe from abuse and exploitation, safe from domestic abuse, crime prevention and tackling crime. In addition, they must have had an early help assessment and plan coordinated by a lead practitioner.

Achieving 35% of the year-end target for outcomes provides a good start to the year and means that we are slightly ahead, a good position to be in as we implement the new outcomes framework with expanded outcomes to achieve.

1.3 - Corporate Indicator - Number of new families receiving support under the Supporting Families Programme

5.4. This measure has been added as a Corporate Indicator to provide further context to the measure above. This shows how many new families Islington services are working with who have met the Supporting Families qualifying criteria in the quarter. To meet the qualifying criteria families must have at least three of the ten 'needs' outlined in the outcomes framework and have had an assessment and plan coordinated by a lead practitioner.

Islington services work with many more families than are included in this indicator; for example, families who do not meet the eligibility criteria or who have previously achieved successful outcomes and have returned to any Islington service. These families are not counted as a 'new' family receiving support under the DLUHC Supporting Families programme.

The fact that the figure is higher than the same quarter last year may reflect that wider societal issues are having an impact on Islington families, for example, increased levels of pupil absence since the start of the pandemic, increased levels of unemployment during the current economic downturn, all pointing to growing complexity of need.

1.4 - Corporate Indicator - % of eligible children & young people aged 4-15 taking part in the holiday activity and food programme

- 5.5. 2022-23 Quarter 1 period coincides with the Easter 2022 Holiday Activities and Food offer (HAF). HAF is a government funded programme introduced in Easter 2021 for children aged 4-16 who are eligible for free school meals. The offer is extended in Islington to other vulnerable children including those with a social worker, family support practitioner and/or Education Health and Care Plan. 1,371 eligible children took up the offer over the 9 days in which it was offered. This equates to 18% of the eligible cohort. The initial year's figures found take-up had seasonal trends and so term-by-term improvement would not be appropriate to use as a target. While the target is to see an increase based on the corresponding term in the previous year, there is no comparable data because of the way information was collected in the first iteration of the programme during Easter 2021, where Covid restrictions impacted face-to-face provision.

Easter HAF saw 32 providers (some with multiple sites) including 5 schools delivering a range of activities over two holiday weeks. We target eligible children and young people both through direct communications and via professionals including social workers, family support practitioners and schools. We also work closely with comms to ensure the offer is promoted widely.

We are currently analysing the data for the summer holiday 2022 programme to determine take-up levels. 79 organisations/activities were listed on the directory for summer HAF, including 9 schools. Due to the flexibility of the grant funding, we have been able to meet an increase in requests for additional funding to meet the needs of children with SEND and secure their access to the programme. With the number of providers and places significantly expanded, we have focused on quality assurance in order to ensure the Islington offer is of high quality and officers observed some fantastic provision while on visits this summer. We took swift action in the summer to withdraw funding and close the programme for one VCS provider due to unsatisfactory performance.

We are now preparing for the Winter programme. While the winter offer is generally smaller, we will be looking to maximise the number of children we can reach with this offer. We will also be using the flexibility within the programme's eligibility criteria requirements to ensure that a wider group of children can be targeted.

1.5 - Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 5-12-year-olds

- 5.6. Quarter 1 figures show 974 participants aged 5-12 at Youth & Play provision between April and June 2022. Participants are those that have five or more contacts at the same provision within a year. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a participant at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of participants during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q1 figure is 837, so performance is up on last year.

This performance is positive as it indicates that over 59% of the children who visited an adventure playground came back to the same playground five times or more in Q1. This in turn suggests that these children are likely to be receiving the support of a quality play work relationship. The participant rate also builds over the year so we would expect this percentage to grow in Q2 to Q4.

1.6 - Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds

- 5.7. Quarter 1 figures show 526 participants aged 13-25 at Youth & Play provision between April and June 2022. Participants are those that have five or more contacts at the same provision within a year. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a participant at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of participants during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q1 figure is 712, so the figures are down on last year.

The poorer performance on this indicator when compared to last year is likely to be related to data gaps rather than less young people becoming participants within the youth offer. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that post-Covid, young people are coming back to youth provision in larger numbers to seek support, meet their friends and make new connections. Following different arrangements during the pandemic, commissioners have now launched a new round of face-to-face monitoring meetings which will include a sharp focus on data, reporting and the quality of provision. It is anticipated that this will stimulate improvement in data capture and overall performance. We expect this to result in improvement by the end of Q3.

1.7 - Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 5-12 year olds

- 5.8. Quarter 1 figures show 1,645 contacts aged 5-12 at Youth & Play provision between April and June 2022. Contacts are children and young people who attend at least one session at a provider. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a contact at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of contacts during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q1 figure is 1,575, so the figures are up on last year.

This performance is positive as it suggests that children are returning to adventure playgrounds in increased numbers this year. Additional public health funding (Better Mental Health Fund) has been helpful in drawing in more children, by working more closely with schools and more closely with families.

1.8 - Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds

- 5.9. Quarter 1 figures show 1,077 contacts aged 13-25 at Youth & Play provision between April and June 2022. Contacts are children and young people who attend at least one session at a provider. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a contact at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of contacts during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q1 figure is 1,559, so the figures are down on last year.

The poorer performance on this indicator when compared to last year is likely to be related to data gaps rather than fewer young people being reached by the youth offer. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that post-Covid, young people are coming back to youth provision in larger numbers to seek support, meet their friends and make new connections. Following different arrangements during the pandemic, commissioners have now launched a new round of face-to-face monitoring meetings which will include a sharp focus on data, reporting and the quality of provision. It is anticipated that this will stimulate improvement in data capture and overall performance. We expect this to result in improvement by the end of Q3.

1.12 - Number of children being supported through our Bright Start & Bright Futures family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000

- 5.10. This indicator is collected quarterly as part of the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance quarterly collections, so comparator data is available with a time lag of one quarter.

The methodology of this measure has been reviewed, as the Islington figures were always the highest in London in previous quarters. A change to the methodology has been made for 2022/23. Rather than reporting on all open cases during a quarter where there has been an assessment at some point since the case started, this measure is now only reporting on those open cases where there was an assessment completed in the quarter in question. Therefore, previous figures are not presented here as they are not directly comparable.

Comparator data for Q1 is not available at the time of writing. However, the Islington rate for Q1 2022/23 is equivalent to being the third highest rate in London for Q4 2021/22. Therefore, despite the change in methodology, this provides some assurance that Islington's early intervention services are still providing a high level of support and reaching far into the community.

No targets are set for this measure, as an increase could be a positive move, if more families are willing to work with our services, or a negative move, if this is reflecting an increase in levels of need below social care thresholds.

1.13 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

- 5.11. Statistics on early years inspection outcomes had previously been published with a significant time lag. Ofsted are now publishing 'management information', which should be treated as provisional, but is available closer to the time the snapshot relates to. The latest available information is based on a snapshot at the end of June 2022 (Q1 2022/23) and shows that 151 of the 159 early years registered childcare settings in Islington that had been inspection were judged to be good or outstanding (36 outstanding, 115 good). This equates to 95.0%. The target is to be at or better than Inner London. At the same point in time, 94.9% of the settings inspected across Inner London were good or better, so Islington has met the target at this point.

The figures are slightly down on the previous quarter (95.6%). One setting that was previously judged to be Good had a 'Requires Improvement' (RI) outcome in April 2022, whilst another setting went from Good to Inadequate in May 2022. On the other hand, one setting moved from Inadequate to Good following an inspection at the end of April 2022.

Islington has moved just inside the bottom quartile, nationally, on this measure. However, almost all local authorities have between 93 and 99% of settings judged good or better, so there is little between most local authorities. If four of the eight Islington

settings not judged good or outstanding were reinspected and received a better outcome, Islington would be in the top quartile, nationally.

Of the three EY group settings with less than good, one with an RI inspection is closing at the end of this month; a second with an inadequate outcome, has had early education funding withdrawn in line with statutory guidance. Liaison with Ofsted with regards to this nursery is ongoing. The third nursery which requires improvement is seeking an early re-inspection as the specific reason for the outcome has been addressed. The nursery received good judgements for the quality of teaching and learning and the excellent provision for children with SEND in their Ofsted inspection report.

The remaining 5 outcomes counted as less than good relate to childminders who have “met” the basic requirements of the EYFS but who cannot receive a full judgement as they have no children on roll. One has since resigned their registration.

More recently, we are starting to see some general issues arising over the effective implementation of aspects of the statutory welfare requirements. This is potentially due to the emphasis providers have placed in the last 18 months on curriculum and EYFS reforms. We have placed emphasis on our consultant training and support to ensure that settings are paying due attention to systems and processes re; for example, food hygiene and medicine procedures.

Challenges around staffing are undoubtedly beginning to impact on Ofsted outcomes. More providers (both nationally and locally) are reporting ongoing and often crisis level issues with recruitment and retention of quality EY staff. Ofsted recognises these challenges and raised the topic during the recent discussion with the LA.

6. Quarter 1 2022-23 performance update - Always keep children and young people safe and secure and reduce the number of children growing up in poverty

6.1. Key performance Indicators relating to Always keep children and young people safe and secure and reduce the number of children growing up in poverty’:

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q1 2022/23	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
2.1	Corporate Indicator - Number of Looked After Children	342 (March 2021)	377 (March 2022)	No target	399	-	349	Higher
2.2	Corporate Indicator - % of repeat CLA	5.9%	5.0%	<=5.0%	0.0%	Yes	2.5%	Yes
2.6	Number of children and young people referred to the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Central Point of Access	1,484	2,162	>2,162	537	In line	545	In line
2.7	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,126 (March 2021)	1,002 (March 2022)	n/a	1,002 (March 2022)	n/a	1,126 (March 2021)	Lower
2.8	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.5%	17.6%	n/a	17.7%	n/a	21.1%	Lower
2.9	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	194	160	n/a	160	n/a	182	Lower
2.10	Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	10.5%	23.8%	n/a	19.6%	n/a	34.3%	Lower

2.11	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	15.0%	10.8%	n/a	0.8%	n/a	1.7%	Lower
2.12	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	69.1%	65.1%	n/a	68.2%	n/a	65.7%	Higher
2.14	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	13 (Mar 21)	8 (Mar 22)	n/a	8 (June 2022)	n/a	13 (June 2021)	Lower

2.1 - Corporate Indicator - Number of Looked After Children

6.2. There has been an increase in the number of Children Looked After since October 2021. In seven of the eight months between the end of October 2021 and June 2022, there have been more children becoming looked after than ceasing to be looked after. Short term increases in the number of children looked after relating to older Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) have occurred frequently in recent years. The majority, but not all, of the recent increases have been related to older UASC. In October 2021, there were 31 UASC, but by the end of June 2022 this had more than doubled to 73 UASC. Many recent UASC are aged 17 and will cease becoming looked after in this financial year. They will however require care leaving services. The numbers of UASC are unlikely in the short term to decrease given the vast majority of them have become looked after through being placed in the asylum hotels in Islington. In CLA we have implemented the return home project and we are working with 14 families to support the reunification of long term looked after children to return to their birth families. There are also 10 children in family and friends foster placements where the plan is to discharge the care order (and support a Special Guardianship Order being made) within the next 12 months and another 18 within 18 months.

2.2 - Corporate Indicator - % of repeat CLA

6.3. This measure has been added as a new Corporate Indicator for 2022/23. It is based on the proportion of those who become looked after during the year that have become looked after more than once during the year. By the end of Q1, none of those who had become looked after during the year had repeat episodes of care in the year. The target for this new measure is to be at or below 5%; in recent years this measure has tended to be at or just above 5%. This measure is therefore currently on target.

Last year, one of the forty children and young people who became looked after in the first quarter of the year had two episodes of care within the same quarter, equating to 2.5%.

2.6 - Number of children and young people referred to the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Central Point of Access

- 6.4. This measure has been added to reflect the work of the Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Central Point of Access (CPA), which started in late September 2019. The target is for an increase in the number of referrals compared to the previous year, to reflect the intended increased awareness of the services available and the NHS targets to increase access to SEMH support.
- In the first quarter of 2022/23, there were 537 referrals to the CPA. This is in line with the same number last year. If we see the same number of referrals in the remaining three quarters of the year, we would be within 1% of the number received last year, so this measure is judged to be in line with the target.
- More detailed work is underway to capture and analyse the profile of children and young people accessing the range of SEMH services, working to ensure access is equitable across all groups.

2.7 - Children's social care contacts in the past month

- 6.5. There were 990 children's social care contacts in June 2022. This was significantly lower than the 1,254 contacts received in June 2021. This appears to be part of an ongoing trend – the numbers of contacts have been lower in each month during the first half of 2022 than they were in the equivalent month of 2021. June 2022 saw the largest drop compared to the same month in 2021. The view of the Service is that contacts made are appropriate from the partnership. The London wide review of Merlins (contacts by the police) which make up 40% of all contacts is underway, the audit has been completed by all London boroughs identifying that those RAG rated green don't all need to be contacts to Local Authorities and the police have been advised of this message, this may account for some of the reduction. The London wide MPS protocol is being redesigned as is the London Threshold Continuum of Need. Following the National Panel Review into the deaths of Star and Arthur there will be auditing activity of contacts by family members and/or friends as this was a theme raised by those Reviews.

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

- 6.6. 99 out of the 557 referrals in the first quarter of 2022/23 were re-referrals with 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 17.7% of referrals. This is lower than in Q1 in 2021/22 (21.1%) and in line with performance for the whole of 2021/22 (17.6%). Re-referrals are audited to ascertain whether it was right to close the children to social care in the first place. Audits reveal no concern in this area and re-referrals are largely due to: families not wanting to engage with social care post an assessment and child protection threshold is not met, repeat domestic violence incidents that were not predicted or children involved in exploitation/ serious youth violence.

2.9 - Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan

- 6.7. 160 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan, as at the end of June 2022. This is lower than the same point in 2021, when there were 182 children subject of a Child Protection Plan, and the same number as at the end of 2021/22.

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

- 6.8. Nine of the 46 children who became newly subject to a Child Protection Plan in Q1 2022/23 did so for a second or subsequent time, equating to 19.6%. This is lower than the same period in 2021/22, and it is also lower than 2021/22 as a whole. It is also below the most recently published national comparator (for 2020/21). However, because of the lower numbers of Child Protection Plans there may be a rise in this indicator.

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

- 6.9. As at the end of June 2022, only three of the 399 Looked After Children had had three or more placements during the year. This equates to 0.8%. which is lower than the same point in 2021/22 (1.7%). This measure is cumulative, and the figures reset at the start of each financial year.

2.12 - 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

- 6.10. At the end of June 2022, 60 of the 88 looked after children who had been looked after long-term were in stable placements, which equates to 68.2%. This is a higher percentage than at the same point the previous year, and higher than at the end of March 2022. Last year predicted that there were children who would be in long term stable placements by the end of Q2 this year and we expect this indicator to rise.

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

- 6.11. Eight different children went missing from care for 24+ hours in June 2022 (11 different incidents between them). This is lower than the 13 in the same month in 2021, and in line with the number in March 2022.

7. Quarter 1 2022-23 performance update - Ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive

7.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q1 2022/23	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
3.3	Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of suspensions - primary	1.46%	Published 2023	<=0.61% (Inner London – 20/21 AY)	1.46% (2020/21 AY)	No	1.34% (19/20 AY)	No
3.4	Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of suspension - secondary	14.95%	Published 2023	<=6.42% (Inner London – 202/21 AY)	14.95% (2020/21 AY)	No	13.26% (19/20 AY)	No
3.18	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	247	258	n/a	264	n/a	273	Yes
3.19	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2	n/a	61% (prov.)	65% (Inner London 2021/22 prov.)	61% (prov.)	No	n/a	n/a
3.21	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	66	64	60	30	Yes	24	Yes
3.22	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	20,192	15,815	12000	4455	Yes	3,888	Yes
3.23	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	91.2%	92.5%	>94.8% (based on Inner London average)	92.6%	No	n/a	n/a

Please note that at the time of writing, no comparators are available for many of the Key Stage results for 2022 – only provisional Key Stage 2 attainment results are available.

3.3 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of suspensions - primary

- 7.2. The 2020/21 suspension rate of 1.46% in Islington primary schools is a 0.12% point increase compared to 2019/20, although schools remained open for more of the year in 2020/21, so an increase was expected. The Inner London average for 2020/21 was 0.61%, so Islington remained higher than the target.

The higher-than-average percentage of primary suspensions is accounted for by a small number of schools. Reducing suspension (previously fixed period exclusion) rates is therefore a priority within the Education Plan 2022-30. A key focus within the plan is on creating more inclusive approaches to managing challenging behaviour that are rooted in trauma informed practice that takes account of Islington's diverse population, particularly in terms of ethnicity and disability.

Other actions include increased focus on early intervention strategies, encouraging uptake of whole school strategies particularly where suspensions are exceptionally high, update of interactive behaviour handbook for all schools, and encouraging a 'Team Around the School' model for those schools where suspensions are exceptionally high.

3.4 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of suspensions - secondary

- 7.3. The 2020/21 academic year suspension rate of 14.95% for secondary schools is 1.69% points higher than 2019/20 figure. The Inner London average for 2020/21 was 6.42%, so Islington remained higher than the target.

The rise in the percentage of secondary suspensions is accounted for by a small number of schools. Reducing secondary school suspension (previously fixed period exclusion) rates is therefore a priority within the Education Plan 2022-30. A key focus within the plan is on creating more inclusive approaches to managing challenging behaviour that are rooted in trauma informed practice that takes account of Islington's diverse population, particularly in terms of ethnicity and disability.

Reducing suspensions is also a focus for the newly formed Islington Secondary School and College Leader network (ISSCL). The ISSCL network will share best practice from within Islington and from other areas, work closely with partners across the Council using available resources across the system, with a focus on a small number of schools who are currently significantly above national levels so that the borough average falls across the 2022/2023 academic year. The LA's approach is status neutral and will continue to include all schools.

Disproportionality among students suspended from secondary school remains a concern – particularly for Mixed White, Black Caribbean, Black other and White British boys, who are all overrepresented compared to statistical neighbours, Inner London, and England. We have engaged with several projects to address this including Young Black Men and Mental Health (Becoming a Man) programme in secondary schools to improve personal wellbeing, aspirations, and opportunities. The project has met with great success in Lambeth (e.g., 75% showed improved empathy; 68% improved

assertiveness; 67% improved critical thinking across 95 students after one year) and we are anticipating similar results in Islington. An Aspire: Father to Father recently carried out a scoping study and have made further recommendations that have been incorporated into our work programme, e.g., supporting transitions, trauma informed practice. We have recently been successful in bidding to join a Violence Reduction Unit Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme which will support work with targeted groups across ten of our schools. The London Row project, encouraging young people to take up rowing activity, will also target the most vulnerable groups in our secondary schools. Engagement with all of these projects is so far good, but it is too early to report on impact.

Other actions include increased focus on early intervention strategies, encouraging uptake of whole school strategies particularly where suspensions are exceptionally high, update of interactive behaviour handbook for all schools, development of the 'Team Around the School' model for those schools where suspensions are exceptionally high and wider sharing of school-level data across the secondary sector.

3.18 - Number of Electively Home Educated pupils

7.4. 264 for the period ending 30th June 2022.

During the pandemic, we saw a significant increase in the number of pupils Electively Home Educated (EHE). Although the DfE do not collect or publish data on the numbers of children being EHE, The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has surveyed local authorities in England for the six years with an 88% response rate, suggesting a 38% increase nationally between October 2019-October 2020. There has been closer local monitoring because of these increases, with an initial target set relating to the level seen during April 2021.

The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q1 was slightly lower than the same time last year.

The Schools Bill includes for legislation to establish a register for children not in school, with clarity on how this data should be used by local authorities and multi-agency teams to undertake their duties and support children's education. This Bill is currently on hold by the new Government, however.

More positively, we are currently recruiting locally for a new Elective Home Education Adviser post following retirement; the post has been increased from 1.5. to 3 days per week to reflect increased numbers and provides an opportunity to take refocus our approach to supporting electively home educated children and their families.

We already have in place an agreed protocol with our schools whereby any child home educating can return to the same school if within 20 school days, they decide (or the LA believe) that home education is not suitable.

Other actions include:

- Expanding on existing work with partner agencies such as CAMHS, CSCT, Bright Futures to offer a more targeted support to home educating families

- A new School Nurse role will provide more targeted support to families facing health related challenges.
- Expanding on the work with schools and partner agencies to ensure elective home education is not promoted to avoid exclusion, poor attendance or challenging behaviour
- Supporting schools to have potentially difficult conversations with parents where it appears elective home education is not in the best interest of the child

We will continue support parents and children where there are no concerns about the home education provision, including careers information, detail of support services available, signposting to exam centres and other relevant support.

3.19 - Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2

- 7.5. Based on the provisional results published in early September 2022, 61% of Islington pupils achieved the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths. Islington's long-term target on attainment measure is to be at or above the Inner London average. The provisional Inner London average was 65%, so Islington has not met this target. However, London boroughs tend to have relatively strong performance on attainment measures, and this has continued in the 2022 Key Stage 2 results. Islington is above the national average of 58%, and is only one place outside the top quartile, nationally. Note – only attainment measures have been published in the provisional results. Progress measures will be included in the revised results, due to be published in December.

The Education Plan has identified 6 key priorities to bring about sustained change. Attainment at KS2 is an identified priority. The variability of outcomes at KS2 varies significantly and this range will need to be narrowed. Schools below the national floor target (65%) are meeting with the local authority to identify what support is needed to bring about improvement and raise outcomes to be at/above the floor target. The School Improvement team are refocusing their training offer and support to schools, including the use of data and tracking pupils to inform interventions and tutoring opportunities that are available to pupils working below national expectations. The local authority will be implementing the Islington Professional Partners" programme to provide external challenge and support to all schools. This will help to facilitate school to school support is being brokered to share effective practice.

The gap to Inner London is currently 4%. The impact of the above actions will see this gap reduced.

3.21 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme

- 7.6. **Target is met.** 30 schools engaged in Q1, which exceeds the target of 20 schools. Engagement is defined as expressing or booking interest in or booking 11 by 11 activity, sending a teacher to a Culture Bank or CPD session or having a one-to-one session with a member of the Cultural Enrichment Team.

22 schools engaged in our Summer Festival in total (20 primary and 2 secondary), and 2840 pupil experiences were offered.

Cultural Lead Teachers and Culture Bank CPD

The final Culture Bank workshops of 2021-22 were specifically developed to challenge inequalities and the final two focused on artmaking inclusive of disabilities and equity in arts play. The sessions were attended by teachers from 15 (out of 65 schools) with very positive feedback; respondents agreed that the courses gave them more confidence in planning and delivering creative activities and that they benefited from the chance to share practice.

There were three additional CPD and networking sessions attended by teachers from 14 (out of 65 schools):

- Dance CPD with Arts and Media School – for AMSI’s Primary Dance Festival
- Cultural Leads network meeting
- Andria Zafirakou – Visual Art CPD

Children in Need (CiN)

In Q1, in partnership with the CiN Service, we commissioned Crafts Council to deliver arts and craft school sessions over the summer holiday period to primary aged students and their families. Each workshop was led by a different artist and were designed specifically for children in need.

As with previous CiN projects, recruitment of children and families was challenging. CiN is an extremely difficult cohort to engage – parents and carers choose what their child will engage in, under advice from social workers – and developing trust in parents/carers in the offer is a long-term process. We are planning training and taster sessions for social workers to help them understand how 11 by 11 works and the value of cultural enrichment for their service users to enable them to advocate for enrichment activities.

We commissioned Soapbox to deliver a music production project with secondary aged pupils. Again, due to issues with recruitment, this project has now been delayed and is to be completed by December 2022.

11 by 11 Cultural Sector Challenging Inequalities Survey

We are developing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion SMART targets for what the 11 by 11 partnership should achieve each year, in order to better align the programme content and delivery to the needs of the children and young people in Islington. To help us develop these targets, we have surveyed cultural organisations to establish a baseline in terms of programme content and workshop delivery.

Targeted work with CYP in challenging circumstances

We have submitted an EOI to Arts Council Place Partnerships Fund, working in partnership with Youth Employment and a consortium of cultural organisations. The target cohorts will be secondary aged young people in Special Schools, young people at risk of being excluded and young people with an allocated social worker. The initiative aims to help them improve their life skills through sustained cultural enrichment experiences and pathways into employment. If the EOI is successful, we will submit a full bid in December 2022, aiming to start delivery in Spring 2023.

National Youth Theatre - Digital Heroes of the Imagination (DHOTI) project – The DHOTI project with Richard Cloudesley School was completed in July 2022, and a report and findings will be shared when the evaluation is submitted in September.

Youth Voice

We are looking for ways to develop further opportunities for youth voice to inform the 11 by 11 programme, taking on learning from previous youth voice primary school consultations, Company Three's work with Beacon High and the [Young Minds podcast](#).

Other updates

11 by 11 Summer Festival 2022 – 4-15 July

Nearly 3,000 children took part in [Islington's 11 by 11 Festival](#), from 19 schools, focused on the theme 'Celebrating our creative community' with activities provided by 23 11 by 11 cultural partners.

11 by 11 Evaluation Report

The CET team commissioned an independent evaluation of the 11 by 11 programme, assessing how it embeds culture in the curriculum for schools and how the programme embeds culture in targeted work with CYPs in challenging circumstances. The report will inform how the programme develops, and we will create a new 11 by 11 evaluation framework ready for Spring term 2023.

Self Evaluation Tool for Music, Careers and Culture

The Self Evaluation Tool for Music, Careers and Culture (SET MCC) – formerly called the Enrichment WISS - is a self-assessment framework to guide schools towards best practice in enrichment provision and help us to identify how best to support schools. The SET MCC is being piloted with a small group of primary and secondary schools.

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

7.7. Target is met.

Total YTD unique page views: 4,455

3.23 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)

7.8. 92.6% of Islington schools have been judged good or better by Ofsted in their most recent inspection (63 out of 68 schools). Three inspection reports have been published in Q1 2022/23:

- City of London Academy – Highgate Hill's inspection from Q4 2021/22 was published – Requires Improvement. The previous inspection of the school before academisation was in 2014 and had a Good outcome.
- The Bridge Satellite Provision's inspection from Q4 2021/22 was published – Good. This was the first inspection for this setting.
- City of London Academy – Highbury Grove received a Good outcome, an improvement on the previous inspection outcome before academisation of Inadequate.

The breakdown of Islington schools' inspection outcomes by phase is:

- Nursery - 100% good or better (3 / 3)
- Primary – 95.6% (43 / 45)

- Secondary – 70% (7 / 10)
- Special – 100% (6 / 6)
- PRU & Alternative Provision – 100% (4 / 4)

The target for this measure is to be at or above the Inner London figure for good or better inspection outcomes. The Inner London figure at the end of Q1 2022/23 was 94.8%, so Islington is below this target.

Three further inspections were undertaken in the Summer Term. The outcome of these inspections was positive; however, their publication date means that they will not be included in the current figures until Q2. Once published, our overall position will be:

- Taking secondary inspections to 80%
- Overall inspections will increase to 94.1%, which is 0.7% below Inner London. It should also place Islington in the top quartile: 23/152 local authorities

Two schools graded as Requiring Improvement are currently awaiting a Graded Inspection. Both schools are currently receiving additional support from the local authority. The local authority has no influence of when the inspections are timetabled. If both schools have positive outcomes within Q2 this will put Islington above Inner London.

8. Quarter 1 2022-23 performance update - Make sure fewer young people are victims or perpetrators of crime

8.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Make sure fewer young people are victims or perpetrators of crime':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q1 2022/23	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
4.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	89%	91%	85%	100%	Yes	89%	Yes
4.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	38	45	<45	17	No	12	No
4.3	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	27%	20%	Reduction from same period last year	14%	Yes	27%	Yes
4.3a	Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure	26.3%	n/a – time lag in reporting	n/a	27.8% (Q3 20 - Q2 21)	n/a	56.5% (Q3 19 - Q2 20)	Yes
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	2	4	<4	3	No	2	No
4.5	Corporate Indicator - Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,542	2,756	Increase on 2021/22 (662 for Q1)	660	In line	662	In line
4.6	Reduction in over-representation of Black young people in under-18 offending population	+22%	+23%	Reduction on 2021/22	+5%	Yes	+29%	Yes

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

- 8.2. All 15 of the young people triaged were diverted away from the criminal justice system in Q1 2022/23. This is an improvement on the same period in 2021/22 (89%) and also an improvement on 2021/22 (91%). The diversion rate for 2021/22 was 91%, compared to 89% the previous year. This relates to 41 out of 45 young people triaged not going on to receive a substantive outcome. The Q1 2022/23 data represents 100% success in diverting young people away from the criminal justice system.

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Triage assessment and intervention plans remain targeted to provide targeted support that improves outcomes and divert more young people from the criminal justice system. Triage remains an effective to promote early intervention with all young people triaged being supported to make positive choices and to not re-offend. The service has achieved this by continuing to provide a high level of quality assurance to ensure high quality assessments. This ensures that targeted interventions can be put in place that address a variety of needs that increase the young person's desistance and well-being. This has resulted in important improvements in the cumulative measure for all recent quarters.

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

- 8.3. There were 17 young offenders in the first quarter of 2022/23. This is an increase on the same period in 2021/22 (12). The target for this measure is to improve on last year's performance (45 across the year), so this measure is not on target for the first quarter.

The first quarter data whilst not on target may not be representative of future quarters. FTE data per quarter is subject to fluctuation and is influenced by court processes, length of time to conviction and increased offending from previous quarters. Offending patterns post pandemic saw a relative increase following periods of reduced offending and delays to court outcomes. The 2021/22 target was 60 with 45 First Time Entrants. Given post pandemic increases in offending the quarter one data represents a small but relative increase. Although this was higher than the figure in 2021/22, offending levels dropped significantly around the coronavirus restrictions, and so are not directly comparable. Increases may further be attributed to impact of the current economic climate on children and families with relative links between inequality and increases in crime. The complexity of young people as FTE has increased due to the pandemic with young people often presenting with more serious gravity of offending.

Making sustained reductions to the number of first-time entrants remains a significant priority for the Youth Justice Service and the partnership. Much of the focus remains on targeted early intervention and prevention for young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system. Early intervention and identification of young people at risk of offending continues to be a key priority and our partnership response to the needs of those at risk of offending has helped immensely. The Early Intervention and Diversion Panel has been strengthened by closer information sharing with the Police to identify young people who may have had contact with the Police and not progressed through the court process. All young people are reviewed and offered an enhanced offer of support at an earlier stage. Our early intervention and diversion services have been central to this also and we have strengthened our triage interventions to make them

better tailored to the multi-faceted (and often complex) needs of young people as per the quarter one data in relation to 100 percent of young people being diverted away from the criminal justice system.

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

4.3a - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure

- 8.4. Only four of the cohort of 28 young people who offended in Q1 2021/22 went on to re-offending in the subsequent 12 months, so the re-offending rate for Q1 2022/23 was only 14%. There were only nine offences committed, so the rate of reoffences per offender in the cohort was 0.32. Both were record lows for the Youth Justice Service. The target for the re-offending measure is to see a reduction from the same point the previous year. In Q1 2021/22, the re-offending rate was 27%, so this measure is on target.

The Youth Justice Board also publishes information on re-offending rates. However, there is a time lag in their reporting to allow for data to be confirmed on the Police National Computer. The latest information available is for the cohort of offenders from Q2 2020/21, and their subsequent offending levels in the following 12 months. Five of the 18 Islington young people in this cohort re-offended, so the Islington rate was 27.8%. This is lower than the London (34.0%) and England (32.9%) re-offending rates for this period. It is also a substantial reduction from the same period the year before (56.5%) - offending levels were lower overall during this period when social restrictions were in place due to Covid. The rate of re-offences for the cohort of offenders from Q2 2020/21 was 1.0 for Islington – 18 re-offences amongst the cohort of 18 offenders. This was lower than the London and England rates for the same period (both 1.13).

The Youth Justice Service continues to make positive progress in relation to reducing re-offending rates with the rate now below the re-offending rates of comparable youth offending teams both in London and nationally. In view of previous re-offending rates in Islington being far above its statistical neighbours this has been a significant achievement. This has been achieved by ensuring that assessments and interventions are both robust and targeted thus ensuring any work undertaken with young people is desistance focused. The service has ensured that young people who are at a higher risk of re-offending are identified through our re-offending 'tracker' and intelligence systems to ensure where intensive support and monitoring is required it is identified and actioned. The YJS has also strengthened its interventions by further mobilising the multi-agency nature of the YJS, including an appropriate level of management oversight and multi-agency risk management. Oversight of high risk and complex cases are reviewed at the Youth Justice Service (YJS) Multi Agency Risk Panel, Clinical Specialist Panel and the Islington Group Offending Partnership Panel. We continue to work closely with police colleagues to ensure that enforcement is proportionate to each case whilst providing targeted interventions to young people of particular concern and who present a high level of risk. In view of the current economic climate and the impact of pandemic on vulnerable children and offending the Youth Justice Service continues to prioritise the needs of complex high risk young people with the aim of reducing re-offending.

4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 8.5. There were three custodial sentences for Islington young people in the first quarter of 2022/23, an increase compared to the two in the first quarter of 2021/22. The target on this measure is to be at or below the previous year's performance, so this measure is currently not on target.

The comparator data on this measure looks at the rates per 1,000 residents aged 10-17, to allow comparisons between areas of different sizes. The latest rate for Islington is for Q2 2021/22 to Q1 2022/23 at 0.06 custodial sentences per 1,000 10–17-year-olds, which is below the London (0.16) and England (0.11) rates.

The quarter one data represents a comparatively small increase from the 2021/22 first quarter. This should be considered within the context of the significant decrease of young people receiving custodial sentences year on year since 2018 to date. Due to the low increase on the previous year's performance the increase may have less statistical relevance. However, the reduction of the use of custody and reducing serious offending remains a priority for the Youth Justice Service. Potential increases in the number of young people receiving custodial sentences are a consideration given the current economic climate. The Youth Justice Service continue to ensure that courts have confidence sentencing proposals and in the YJS's ability to effectively supervise high risk young people in the community when the custody threshold has been met whilst managing risk to public protection. This includes the use of Intensive Supervision and the use of external controls (such as electronic monitoring and curfews) to support children to remain in the community. The significant progress that has been made is very positive and encouraging, but we are aware that, post lockdown, more young people have been involved in offending behaviours. This is likely to lead to an increase in the imposition of custodial cases in the near future, particularly as some of these offences have been serious in nature and gravity.

4.5 - Corporate Indicator - Number of Domestic abuse offences

- 8.6. There were 660 domestic abuse offences reported in Islington in Q1 2022/23. This is almost exactly the same as Q1 the previous year. The target for this measure is to see an increase in the number of offences, as it is known that domestic abuse offences are under-reported.

While the number of domestic abuse (DA) offences in Q1 is the same as last year, we are anticipating that DA will increase as we move into the autumn and winter period. This is largely due to concerns that the cost-of-living crisis will place unprecedented stress and hardship to many families this winter. In addition, the football world cup starts in November, and we are working with Arsenal to develop joint comms around this as we know that sadly DA increases during major sporting events. The VAWG Service is continuing to work with our partners to raise awareness of DA through our training and consultation services. During the summer we ran a very well received Teen Dating Abuse training attended by 40+ parents and we are delivering an on-line workshop on the 3rd of October to raise awareness of the new non-fatal strangulation (NFS) offence which came into legislation on 7 June 2022. Women's charities estimate that 20,000 women per year in the UK experience non-fatal strangulation or suffocation. It is also the second most common method of killing of women by men and this must be tackled.

The council is arranging a VAWG Conference on Monday 28th November to provide an opportunity to review the progress of the delivery of the VAWG strategy since the launch in November 2021 as well as increasing awareness of teen dating abuse. Our VAWG services continue to be busy with Solace and Samira providing IIDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) support to 327 survivors and families in quarter, with 74% feeling safer after engaging with the service. 303 cases were heard at the Daily Safeguarding Meeting / Pre DSM resulting in 559 actions to support the safety of the survivor and their children and to hold the perpetrator to account.

4.6 - Reduction in over-representation of Black young people in under-18 offending population

- 8.7. This measure looks at the proportion of the offending population by ethnic group in comparison to the overall population of 10–17-year-olds. 25% of 10–17-year-old Islington residents are from a Black ethnic group. In Q1 2022/23, 30% of the Islington offending population of young people were from a Black ethnic group, which is a 5-percentage point over-representation. This is a reduction from the over-representation during Q1 2021/22, when 54% of the offending population were from a Black ethnic group, and also a reduction from 2021/22, when 48% of the offending population were from a Black ethnic group.

Although data is published for London and England as a whole, they are not directly comparable to the Islington figures, as Islington has a significantly higher proportion of young people from a Black ethnic group.

Addressing the over-representation of Black and Mixed heritage boys remains a significant priority for the service and partnership. The focus on early intervention is significant here (led by universal youth services and Targeted Youth Support in particular) but the YJS has specific interventions to respond to the needs of this group including mentoring programmes. Further interventions are being developed and designed.

9. Quarter 1 2022-23 performance update - Help residents get the skills they need to secure a good job

9.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Help residents get the skills they need to secure a good job':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q1 2022/23	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
5.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of new businesses offering world of work activities	New indicator	39	40	6	Y	7	In line
5.5	100 hours of the world of work - Number of pupil experiences delivered	New indicator	5314	5000	1362	Y	1245	Y

5.4 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of new businesses offering world of work activities

9.2. Of the 45 employers that volunteered by delivering world of work programme activities in Q1, 6 were new businesses. Sectors represented incl: Law, Health and Social Care and Green Skills, with young people gaining the opportunity to learn about eco awareness and climate change roles. This performance is on a par with the 7 new businesses engaged during the same period last year.

5.5 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of pupil experiences delivered

9.3. In Q1, the World of Work programme reached 1362 students (1235 secondary and 127 primary) through 24 different activities. The majority of these were career insights and employability workshops delivered at KS4 where careers and progression were a main feature at the end of the academic year. This exceeds 21/22 performance and represents growth in the programme, particularly in primary school settings, which previously reached 1245 students (1185 secondary and 60 primary).

10. Implications

10.1. Financial Implications

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

10.2. Legal Implications

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

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

- 10.3.1. There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

10.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 10.4.1. 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.
- 10.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because this report is looking at historical performance information and does not relate to a new policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision. Where a new policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision is mentioned in the commentary within this report, there should be a separate Equalities Impact Assessment for that specific development, rather than attached to the reporting on performance for any measures that this would affect.

11. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 11.1. This report has presented a detailed narrative describing the performance of Children's Services in Quarter 1 2022-23 and the outcomes achieved by Islington's children and young people. This reports how Children's Services have contributed to this performance, and any external factors that have affected these measures. Where performance is off target, a summary of the actions being undertaken to improve performance has been included.

Appendices:

- None

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date: **Date the report received final approval**

Report Author: Various – co-ordinated by Adam White, Head of Data & Performance, Children's Services and Burak Cingi, Business Intelligence Project Manager, Children's Services

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Appendix A - Data Dashboard

CS PI No.	Corporate Indicator?	Indicator	Frequency reported	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
Outcome: Make sure young children get the best start										
1.1	✓	Percentage of eligible 2 year olds taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement	Termly	73% (Summer term 2021/22 AY)	67% (Summer term 2020/21 AY)	70% (Spring term 2021/22 AY revised)	↑	62% (Spring 2021/22)	72% (Spring 2021/22)	2nd from bottom
1.2	✓	Number of families achieving a good outcome in the Supporting Families Programme	Quarterly	104 (Apr-Jun 2022)	102 (Apr-Jun 2021)	502 (2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.3	✓	Number of families receiving support under the Supporting Families Programme	Quarterly	125 (Apr-Jun 2022)	100 (Apr-Jun 2021)	375 (2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.4	✓	% of eligible children & young people aged 4-15 taking part in the holiday activity and food programme	Termly	18% (Easter 2022-23 Offer)	13% (Winter 2021-22 Offer)	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.5	✓	Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 5-12 year olds	Quarterly	974 (Apr-Jun 2022)	837 (Apr-Jun 2021)	2,047	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.6	✓	Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 13 to 25 year olds	Quarterly	526 (Apr-Jun 2022)	712 (Apr-Jun 2021)	2,089	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.7	✓	Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 5-12 year olds	Quarterly	1645 (Apr-Jun 2022)	1575 (Apr-Jun 2021)	3,185	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.8	✓	Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 13 to 25 year olds	Quarterly	1077 (Apr-Jun 2022)	1559 (Apr-Jun 2021)	3,875	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.12	Directorate	Number of children being supported through our Bright Start & Bright Futures family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000	Termly	490	Not comparable	Not comparable	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.13		Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	Termly	95.0% (June 2022)	Not previously reported for June	95.6% (March 2022)	↔	95.3% (June 2022)	96.3% (June 2022)	Bottom
Outcome: Always keep children and young people safe and secure and reduce the number of children growing up in poverty										
2.1	✓	Number of Looked After Children	Quarterly	399 (June 2022)	349 (June 2021)	385 (March 2022)	↑	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a
2.2	✓	% of repeat CLA	Quarterly	0% (Q1 2022/23)	2.5% (Q1 2021/22)	5.0% (2021/22)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.6	Directorate	Number of children and young people referred to the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Central Point of Access	Quarterly	537 (Q1 2022-23)	545 (Q1 2021-22)	2,162 (2021-22 FY)	↔	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.7	x	Children's social care contacts in the past month	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	990 (June 2022)	1,254 (June 2021)	1002 (March 2022)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.8	x	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	17.7% (Q1 2022/23)	21.1% (Q1 2021/22)	17.6% (2021/22)	↓	19.3% (2020/21 FY)	22.7% (2020/21 FY)	Top
2.9	x	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	160 (Q1 2022/23)	182 (Q1 2021/22)	160 (end of 2021/22)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.10	x	Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	19.6% (Q1 2022/23)	34.3% (Q1 2021/22)	23.8% (2021/22)	↓	18.4% (2020/21 FY)	22.1% (2020/21 FY)	Top
	x	Percentage of assessments completed within time	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	83.2% (Q4 2021/22)	87.0% (2020/21 FY)	87.0% (2020/21 FY) (94.8% on DfE measure in 20/21)	↓	89.1% (2020/21 FY)	87.6% (2020/21 FY)	Top
2.11	x	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	0.8% (Q1 2022/23)	1.7% (Q1 2021/22 FY)	10.8% (2021/22 FY)	↓	10.4% (2019/20 FY)	10.6% (2019/20 FY)	2nd from top

CS PI No.	Corporate Indicator?	Indicator	Frequency reported	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
2.12	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	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	68.2% (Q1 2022/23)	65.7% (Q1 2021/22 FY)	65.1% (2021/22 FY)	↑	69.8% (2018/19 FY)	68.2% (2019/20 FY)	Top
2.14	x	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	Monthly (internal) / quarterly for Scrutiny	8 (June 2022)	13 (June 2021)	8 (March 2022)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
Outcome: Ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive										
3.3	✓	Percentage rate of suspensions - primary	Annual	1.46% (2020/21 AY)	1.34% (2019/20 AY)	1.34% (2019/20 AY)	↑	0.56% (2020/21 AY)	0.99% (2020/21 AY)	Bottom
3.4	✓	Percentage rate of suspensions - secondary	Annual	14.95% (2020/21 AY)	13.26% (2019/20 AY)	13.26% (2019/20 AY)	↑	5.55% (2020/21 AY)	8.48% (2020/21 AY)	Bottom
		<i>Percentage of mainstream school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)</i>	<i>Termly</i>	20.4% (Autumn term 2021/22 AY)	15.2% (Autumn term 2020/21 AY)	13.2% (20/21 AY)	Not directly comparable	19.3% (Autumn term 2021/22 AY)	23.2% (Autumn term 2021/22 AY)	Top
		<i>Percentage rate of suspensions - mainstream schools</i>	<i>Annual</i>	6.69% (2020/21 AY)	5.71% (2019/20 AY)	5.71% (2019/20 AY)	↑	2.74% (2020/21 AY)	4.2% (2020/21 AY)	Bottom
3.17		Percentage rate of suspensions - Black-Caribbean secondary school pupils	Annual	27.75% (2020/21 AY)	25.49% (2019/20 AY)	25.49% (2019/20 AY)	↑	12.25% (2020/21 AY)	12.69% (2020/21 AY)	Bottom
3.18		Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	Quarterly	264 (Q1 2022/23)	273 (Q1 2021/22)	258 (End of 2021/22 FY)	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.19		Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2	Annual	61% (2022 provisional)	Not comparable	Not comparable	-	65% (2022 provisional)	58% (2022 provisional)	2nd from top
		<i>Narrowing the gap in attainment between the BCRB pupils and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)</i>	<i>Annual</i>	13 ppts (2018/19 AY)	19 ppts (2017/18 AY)	19 ppts (2017/18 AY)	↓	12 ppts (2018/19 AY)	9 ppts (2018/19 AY)	n/a
		<i>Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)</i>	<i>Annual</i>	15 ppts (2018/19 AY)	19 ppts (2017/18 AY)	19 ppts (2017/18 AY)	↓	n/a	22 ppts (2017/18 AY)	n/a
3.20		Average Attainment 8 score	Annual	TBC - Q3/Q4	45.8 (2018/19 revised)	Not available		TBC - Q3/Q4	TBC - Q3/Q4	TBC - Q3/Q4
3.21		Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	Quarterly	22	24 (End Q1 2021/22)	64 (End Q4 2021/22)	↔	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.22		Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	Quarterly	4455	3,888 (End Q1 2021/22)	15,815 (End Q4 2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.23		Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	Quarterly	92.6% (Q1 2022/23)	n/a	92.5% (Q4 2021/22 FY)	-	94.0% (Q1 2022/23)	87.6% (Q1 2022/23)	2nd from top
Outcome: Make sure fewer young people are victims or perpetrators of crime										
4.1	x	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	Quarterly	100% (Q1 2022/23)	89% (Q1 2021/22)	91% (Q1-4 2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
4.2	✓	Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	Quarterly	17	12 (Q1 2021/22)	45 (Q1-4 2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
4.3	✓	Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	Quarterly	14% (Q1 2022/23)	27% (Q1 2021/22)	20% (Q4 2021/22)	↓	YJB measure on reoffending uses a different cohort so is not comparable		
4.3a	x	Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure	Quarterly	27.8% (Q3 20 - Q2 21)	56.5% (Q3 19 - Q2 20)	26.3% (2020/21)	↓	34.0% (Q3 20 - Q2 21)	32.9% (Q3 20 - Q2 21)	2nd from top

CS PI No.	Corporate Indicator?	Indicator	Frequency reported	Current Figure (Period covered)	Previous Figure (Period covered)	Figure at end of previous year	Direction of travel	London	England	National quartile
4.4	Directorate	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	Quarterly	3 (Q1 2022/23)	2 (Q1 2021/22)	4 (Q1-4 2021/22)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
4.5	✓	Number of Domestic abuse offences	Quarterly	660 (Q1 2022-23)	662 (Q1 2021/22)	2,756 (Q1-4 2021/22)	↔	n/a	n/a	n/a
4.6	Directorate	Reduction in over-representation of Black young people in under-18 offending population	Quarterly	+5% (Q1 2022/23)	+29% (Q1 2021/22)	+23% (2021/22)	↓	Not comparable	Not comparable	n/a
Outcome: Help residents get the skills they need to secure a good job										

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

18 October 2022

1. Scrutiny Review – Scrutiny Initiation Document and introductory presentation
2. Scrutiny Review – witness evidence
3. Executive Member Annual Report
4. Corporate Director, Children's Services - Verbal Update - Provisional School Results
5. Child Protection Annual Report
6. Quarter 1 Performance Report

29 November 2022

1. Scrutiny Review – witness evidence
2. SACRE Annual Report
3. Quarter 2 Performance Report
4. Annual report back on the Transition from COVID-19 scrutiny review
5. Education Plan and SEN Strategy

17 January 2023

1. Scrutiny Review – witness evidence
2. Executive Member questions
3. Report back on Fixed Period and Permanent Exclusion from School (2018/19) scrutiny review

28 February 2023

1. Scrutiny Review – witness evidence and concluding discussion
2. Islington Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report (to be noted)
3. School Results 2022
4. Report back on Equalities in Educational Outcomes (2019/20) scrutiny review

20 March 2023

1. Scrutiny Review – Draft Recommendations
2. Quarter 3 Performance Report
3. Report back on Vulnerable Adolescents 2017/18 scrutiny review

25 April 2023

1. Scrutiny Review – Report
2. Update on Supported Internships