
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, **14 September 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Enquiries to : Theo McLean
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Despatched : 6 September 2023

Membership

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Councillor Sheila Chapman (Chair)
Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie
(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-
Armstrong
Councillor Toby North
Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Saiqa Pandor
Councillor Claire Zammit

Substitutes:

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Benali Hamdache
Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Heather Staff

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

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 - 6
5. Chair's Report
6. External Attendees (if any)

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.

B.	Items for Decision/Discussion	Page
1.	Quarter 1 Performance Report	7 - 34
2.	Child Protection Annual Report	35 - 62
3.	Headline/Provisional School Results	63 - 102
4.	Work Programme 2023-24	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) **Page**

F. Confidential/exempt items **Page**

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 31 October 2023

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

Agenda Item 4

London Borough of Islington
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Wednesday, 19 July 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Present:	Councillors:	Chapman (Chair), Bossman-Quarshie (Vice-Chair), Craig, Jegorovas-Armstrong, North, Ogunro, Pandor and Zammit
Also Present:	Councillors	Ngongo
	Co-opted Member	Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese Zaleera Wallace, Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

Councillor Sheila Chapman in the Chair

117 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. 1)

Apologies were received from Jon Stansfield

118 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM NO. 2)

There were no declarations of substitute members.

119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

120 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM NO. 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2023, and the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023, both be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

121 CHAIR'S REPORT (ITEM NO. 5)

The Chair had attended sessions set up for all of the Council's scrutiny chairs to attend. In those sessions, one of the key points raised was that Committee meetings should have regular attendance from relevant senior officers, should be held in such a manner that all are assured that they will be treated respectfully and that where possible, questions should be directed to the Executive Member. Additionally, there should be feedback after each meeting where required.

Another item raised out of these sessions was publicity on the work of the scrutiny committee, particularly regarding the outcome of scrutiny reviews. Positive feedback was received for the Committee's 2022-23 report into Making Children Visible, and the Chair would be writing to all the parties that had given evidence / participated.

The Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families thanked the Committee for their hard work on the 2022-23 scrutiny review.

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The point was also made that scrutiny meetings should be democratic, and that Committee members should consider inviting delegations to attend.

The Chair referenced a story circulating in the news highlighting that families were projected to pay on average, £943 per child for childcare this summer, as well as highlighting the lack of childcare for families of SEND children. The Chair noted that in the context of this, it was good to see the work that was taking place locally in Islington to address the provision of affordable childcare.

122 **EXTERNAL ATTENDEES (IF ANY) (ITEM NO. 6)**

123 **ITEMS FOR CALL IN (IF ANY) (ITEM NO. 7)**

124 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM NO. 8)**

125 **SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID) & INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION (ITEM NO. B1)**

Further to the production and circulation of the Scrutiny Initiation Document (SID) for this year's (2023-24) scrutiny review into The Children's Workforce, Recruiting, Retaining and Growing Talent in Islington, a presentation was delivered to the Committee. In the following discussion, the following points were raised:

- The SID focussed on recruitment and retention of the children's workforce in its various forms, and how the Council grows its talent.
- Nationally, the Children's Workforce was really varied, comprising multiple professions and services. Most of these services come into contact with young people at different stages.
- The core children's workforce consisted of those working directly with children and young people, such as social workers, teachers and CAMHS workers, often with statutory responsibilities. There were limited budgets and capacity in these services, leading to complications and pressures in service delivery. It was essential that these services were adequately equipped to provide the preventative service they were designed for. Social workers and teachers played an essential role in the development of children and young people but were not the only aspect.
- The wider children's workforce complemented the core children's workforce, in a more universal capacity and also had a focus on early intervention. This included support staff, developing connections with families, children, and other outreach beyond statutory interventions.
- Pastoral support staff, nurses, and employment coaches were examples of staff that helped young people with transition into adulthood.
- Children and young people should receive the necessary support to access all the opportunities in life. Nationally there had been an erosion of services that meet these needs such as early help and youth work. Early years support was crucial in the development of a child, so that they could reach attainment later on school ready, but this sector needed long-term sustainable funding to realise the benefits. Nationally it was vital this section workforce was addressed to address capacity issues.
- The government continued to invest in new routes into social work. However, despite the investment, significant challenges remain in retention. Social work occurs in challenging environments with lack of resources and increasing demand leading to high levels of stress and departures.
- The role of the family social worker has changed considerably, with challenges that could not be met by social workers alone.

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- Real-term cuts to local authority budgets and funding gaps were impacting the support that could be provided to families. Most local authorities were already overspending on Children's Services.
- Teacher sufficiency remained a problem nationally.
- There needed to be a national drive to recruit occupational, speech and language therapists.
- The National Youth Agency had estimated that there were 3000 youth practitioners working without qualification.
- Youth Offending Services teams have had a demonstrable, positive impact on and were part of a targeted approach to helping families.
- Progression was cited as a key point to consider – locally, that meant looking at workers in the sector progressing into senior leadership roles. Traditionally, said senior leadership roles skewed against particular ethnic groups whereas communities were becoming more diverse.
- It was suggested that Committee members could speak to Human Resources about the current approach to recruitment and retention. There could potentially be a lot of older workers that were suitable fits for these careers but didn't think that they were eligible. The job advertisements were said to sometimes be disillusioning, and the suggestion was made to the Committee that having current staff talking about their roles at job fairs, might help.
- There were also workers/mentor from the voluntary sector, which were generally, demographically diverse, that would be enthusiastic for the opportunity to work for Islington, but may not have the required qualifications, and thus needed additional support to do so. The suggestion was made to reach out to these voluntary organisations as part of the review.
- It was suggested that Committee members also looked at the voluntary youth workforce such as sport coaches, mentors, and the barriers to these voluntary positions in Islington.
- It was suggested that Committee members also consider talking to parent/guardians/ parent carer champions to see how they were coping, and the paths into recruitment for those whose children might have left home or progressed into higher forms of education.
- It was suggested that a workforce media campaign to attract the talent that Islington needed to be comprehensive.
- It was suggested that the Committee should have overall statistics of what the local workforce looked like currently, including the local challenges.
- It was also suggested that the Committee spoke to some frontline staff about what made them start working for Islington and what would make them stay.
- It was also suggested that the Committee speak to MOPAC on issues concerning police liaison.

ACTION:

Officers to co-ordinate the collation and circulation of local workforce statistics, covering early years, education, and youth services, to help inform the Committee's review.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Initiation Document be agreed.

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SCHOOL REORGANISATION (ITEM NO. B2)

Officers delivered a presentation to the Committee on School Organisation. Key points highlighted in the discussion included:

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- In October 2022, the Executive approved several big plans that drove the borough's educational outcomes.
- Educational excellence would be driven through the education plan.
- It was also an ambition to have inclusive, welcoming schools as set out in SEND strategy.
- There were significant challenges, namely that there were too few children for too many places.
- The school organisation plan was about reconfiguring schools to better reflect school numbers.
- One of the plans going through was the asset management strategy, in which the Council considered the use of the actual buildings that remained, across several departments.
- An increasing number of the borough's schools was struggling financially, but the problem was not unique to Islington. Central Government funded schools on a per child value, and each vacant place represented a loss in income to the school. Other pressures not budgeted for included maintenance and wage cost increases.
- Islington's deficit would be worse were it not for surpluses at some schools.
- There had been a sharp decline in pupil numbers in the past two years particularly, with the context including cost of living, low birth rates, families moving out of London, and housing.
- There were 430 spare places, across reception classes, equating to 14 forms of entry.
- The plan was being implemented in phases. Phase 1 included the amalgamation of two in south of the borough, Copenhagen Primary and Vittoria Primary. The plan also included the removal of six and a half forms of entry borough-wide, but due to the decision made regarding Pooles Park Primary School, this had reduced to 5.5.
- The decline in pupil numbers were projected to become more acute. The Council planned for primary school places by dividing borough into six planning areas, in line with Department for Education (DfE) policy. The Barnsbury planning area was the most impacted (south).
- Data informing decision making was obtained from a number of sources which included birth data, the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Office for National Statistics (2021 census), and other Council services.
- The guidance says that surplus should be between 5 and 10%.
- DfE guidance, which the Council has to operate within, had a presumption to not close schools, and fully address other options to address surplus capacity before moving to closure. This included looking at reducing admission numbers and merging schools through federation, and only when all have been exhausted can closure be considered.
- The quality of education, parental preference, and financial viability; whether the school was a faith school or the only school in the community, were all taken into consideration. In the case of faith schools, the diocese can also propose closure, in addition to the local authority.
- Academies and free schools are their own admission authorities. Their expansion plans can affect local authority planning.
- In the amalgamation of Vittoria and Copenhagen Primary Schools, the service first had to conduct an informal consultation for four weeks, which was extended to ensure community had enough time to consider the proposals. The proposals then went to the Executive for the representation period, for four weeks, then another paper had to go back to the Executive for a formal

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decision. The Copenhagen Primary School site was identified as larger with greater flexibility and thus chosen to account for potential, unforeseen upticks in the school population.

- Islington was sharing best practice with colleagues, including its approach and methodology, which had also garnered interest from London Councils.
- There was a big drift of 20% between primary and secondary school pupil numbers. Officers said they were fortunate to have additional resource currently conducting a media campaign on why Islington was the best choice for education, and engaging with families, to encourage them to stay with us. In terms of families choosing private, secondary education, it was around 6%, in line with national data.
- Camden had a larger independent sector, leading to a larger drift between primary and secondary school.
- It was noted that much of the drift in Islington came from parental choice and perception. It was said that each secondary school had a unique selling point that could attract or repel families. Officers were surveying schools about what it was that was driving parental choice. All Islington schools were rated good or outstanding except one. However, perception was a strong factor, and the ability for a school to offer the diverse curriculum that can attract students could be compromised by low interest / student numbers, because of the value attached to each student.
- The objective of the media campaign was getting schools to talk about the offer they provided and reinforcing positive messages that didn't often get highlighted. Examples were cited of other local authorities celebrating school results and achievements at Town Halls. It was also noted that there was sometimes perception among parents and families that schools in the neighbouring boroughs were better.
- There was not a scientific tool in weighing deficit versus quality outcomes, it was nuanced, and some schools were managing the deficit whereas others were not.
- Officers were having conversations with several Council departments such as Housing, so that issues were not being addressed in isolation.
- All types of schools were included in calculations.
- The Council had recruited to a specialist Elective Home Education (EHE) post. Students lost to EHE did have a financial impact.
- In Islington, SEND educational outcomes were better than national averages, year on year. Islington was three times better in term of its children going on to employment, education and/or training.
- Islington was adopting a status-neutral approach, centred on outcomes for children rather than the type of school. However, there was agreement among the borough's academies to reduce their PAN, but that still needed to go through the due process.
- Long-term, the situation was worsening, according to the data. The GLA data in particular was up to 2030. Islington had a surplus of capacity that needed to be reduced in that time, but there were a number of variables that could disrupt that.
- Officers were looking at the communities that were not accessing the Council's childcare offer. Particular focus was centred on the Turkish, Cypriot and Black Caribbean communities. It was noted that the sooner the families were able to access childcare, the more positively the child would be able to progress through their education.

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QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT (ITEM NO. B3)

In the discussion of the report, the following points were raised:

- Attendance remained a key priority for the council, but the data demonstrated it was still quite an acute problem. Factors could include issues at home, and holidays during term time, among others, and work was needed to understand the issues driving the situation.
- There was a lag in the reporting of suspensions in the report against the live data, which had showed improvement in the attendance figures.
- Every single school in Islington was RAG rated (risk assessed).
- The approach officers were taking was on how to support individuals from a multi-agency perspective. The Department for Education (DfE) had a positive response to Islington's approach and adopted a mostly hands-off approach with Islington, due to the robust procedures already in-place.
- All schools were rated good or outstanding, except one which required improvement.
- The Council was not encouraged to make direct comparisons because the assessment framework had changed.
- Take up of the two-year old offer had improved, but because the report data was for Quarter Four, there was not comparative data for the current, improved position.

ACTION:

Officers to provide the Committee with further analysis to give reassurance on how and when attendance penalties are being used, and who they are being used against.

ACTION:

Officers to provide the Committee with provisional, live data on suspensions.

ACTION:

Officers to provide the Committee with information on which secondary school Ofsted ratings.

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WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24 (ITEM NO. B4)

Members requested a one-off presentation on attendance be added to the 2023-24 work programme.

ACTION:

The Chair to work with officers to find a suitable date on the work programme for the presentation on attendance.

RESOLVED:

That the 2023-24 work programme be noted.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 pm

Chair

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: 14th September 2023

Ward(s): All

Subject: Children's Services Quarter 1 2023-24 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 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. For 2023/24, the Corporate Indicators for the Children and Young People directorate have been selected from a wider set of measures within the service plans for 2023/24. The service plans are aligned with the Islington Together 2030 Plan, and this Performance Report is now structured using the missions within the 2030 Plan, along with the directorate's objectives from our service plans.
- 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. Other additional measures remain included in these reports where it was felt they provide context to specific services, e.g. the number of Child Protection Plans for Safeguarding and Family Support.

- 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.
- 3.4. We are now providing additional breakdowns by pupil characteristics for education outcomes, in alignment with the breakdowns used in the Education Plan.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q4 2022/23 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q4 2022/23 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 19th July 2023. There were three provisional actions from the Q4 report: Officers were asked to provide the Committee with provisional, live data on suspensions. This has been included in the commentary under sections 6.5 and 6.6. Officers were asked to provide the Committee with information on secondary school Ofsted ratings which have been provided in the commentary under section 6.2. Officers were asked to provide the Committee with further analysis to give reassurance on how and when attendance penalties are being used, and who they are being used against. Officers confirmed attendance penalties are primarily issued for holidays in term time where parents arrange holidays knowing they will incur a fine. Occasionally fines may be issued for prolonged absence where all other strategies have failed and there is multi-agency agreement that this may have a positive impact for the child.

MISSION: CHILD-FRIENDLY ISLINGTON

5. Resilient Children and Families

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
1.1	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,011 (March 2022)	1,303 (March 2023)	n/a	1,242 (June 2023)	n/a	999 (June 2022)	Higher
1.2	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.6%	17.2% (2022-23)	n/a	15.2% (Q1 2023/24)	n/a	17.7% (Q1 2022/23)	Yes
1.3	Inequalities measure - % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people	21.4%	22.1%	Less than 4.9 % pts above LBI average	11.9% (3.3 % pts below LBI average)	Yes	19.1% (1.4 % pts above LBI ave)	Yes
1.8	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	160	169	n/a	189 (Q1 2023/24)	n/a	160 (Q1 2022/23)	No
1.9	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	23.8%	24.0%	20%	40.7%	No	19.6%	No
1.10	Corporate Indicator – Number of Looked After Children (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children)	320	290	281	290 (end of June 2023)	No	326 (end of June 2022)	Yes
1.13	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	10.9%	11.1%	11% at end of year	1.5% (Q1 2023/24)	n/a	0.8% (Q1 2022/23)	No
1.14	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	65.1%	63% (2022-23 FY)	70%	61.1% (Q1 2023/24)	No	68.2% (Q1 2022/23)	No

1.15	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	8 (March 2022)	9 (March 2023)	n/a	10 (June 2023)	n/a	8 (June 2022)	No
1.16	Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Adventure Playgrounds	59.3%	60.3%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 58.6%	52.0%	No	56.0%	Lower
1.17	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Adventure Playgrounds	3,452	3,559	~5,128 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,887	Yes	1,861	Stable
1.18	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Adventure Playgrounds	2,048	2,146	~3,003 – similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	981	Yes	1,042	No
1.19	Corporate Indicator – Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres	41.6%	49.6%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 43.6%	36.6%	No	47%	Lower
1.20	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres	5,282	5,097	~6,706 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,633	No	971	Yes
1.21	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres	2,196	2,528	~2,927 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	598	No	454	Yes

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

- 5.1. There were 1,242 children's social care contacts in June 2023. This was higher than the 999 contacts received in June 2022. There has generally been an increase in the number of contacts in recent months, since the middle of 2022/23. Between October 2022 and June 2023 there have been an average of 1138 contact each month. In comparison, in the previous 12 months, the average number of contacts each month was only 967. The view of the Service is that this rise is a reflection of the impact of the pandemic and the economic hardship and resulting stress factors family experience, we remain of the view that contacts made are appropriate.

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

- 5.2. 84 out of the 554 referrals in Q1 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 15.2% of referrals. This is lower than in the same

period in 2022/23 (17.7%). The service is of the view that the decrease is a result of scrutiny of re referrals and actions by managers to further ensure issues are addressed appropriately so they will not need to be referred again and stepping down to targeted services if some families need continued support.

1.3 - Inequalities measure - % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people

- 5.3. Five of the 42 referrals that involved Black-Caribbean children and young people in Q1 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 11.9%, which is 3.3 percentage points below the overall Islington average in Q1. Most of the time, re-referrals are higher for Black-Caribbean children and young people than the overall average, so this measure is currently on target.

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

- 5.4. 189 children were supported by a Child Protection Plan at the end of June 2023. This is higher than the same point in 2022/23, when there were 160 children supported by a Child Protection Plan. 2022/23 saw a particular drop in child protection plans, going as low as 146 at the end of Q2. This was unusually low for Islington. At the end of Q4 of that period, numbers had risen to 169 and have continued to rise to a level more in line with the last three years. This number appears broadly in line with the needs of children in Islington.

1.9 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

- 5.5. On average over the last few years, around four children a month become subject to a Child Protection Plan each month. This was the case in April and May this year, but in June there was a larger than normal number of plans where the child had previously been the subject of a plan. During Q1 as a whole, 22 of the 54 plans that started involved a child who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. These 22 children came from just 10 families. Two of these sibling groups are large, one with four children and the other with five children which therefore raised the percentage. If these 2 families were removed, the percentage of repeat plans for the quarter would be 24%, more in line with previous quarters.

The measures introduced to reduce the number of repeat plans includes (1) the CP Coordinator and their Service Manager being alerted to any potential repeat plan to ensure sound decision making, and (2) prior to social work teams recommending for a CP plan to end, a consultation is sought to ensure any positive change for children's outcomes can be sustained to reduce the risk of a repeat plan.

1.10 - Corporate Indicator - Number of Children Looked After (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)

- 5.6. At the end of Q1, there were 326 CLA, 36 of whom were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), so 290 were non-UASC. There has been no change in the total since the start of the year. There continues to be focused work on reducing the number of children becoming Looked After by: Initiating pre proceedings PLO before court action is taken wherever safe to do so, through the Adolescent Support Intervention Project, the reunification project which supports children to return home to their parents when this is in their best interests and supporting increased use of Special

Guardianships arrangements to reduce the numbers of children in family and friends fostering arrangements

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

- 5.7. As at the end of June 2023, five of the 326 looked after children had three or more placements during the year, equating to 1.5%. It should be noted that this measure resets at the start of each financial year, so the percentage tends to be very low three months into the new year, with larger increases towards the end of the financial year. No comparison with the target can be made until the end of the year. As a comparison, at the end of Q1 in 2022/23, three of the 399 looked after children had three or more placements during the year to date.

We have completed an analysis of the reasons for short term instability last year which concluded short term placement stability continues to be at about 11% which means we met our 2022/23 target. This is against the context of a national placement sufficiency crisis that is worsening year on year. Importantly, there has been an increase in moves for positive reasons, which account for about 35% of all moves. The significant increase in the average length of Care Proceedings means that children and young people are often moving more regularly as part of the assessment processes within Care Proceedings, and this is being further explored.

As in recent years, the data reinforces the challenges of finding the right placement to meet the complex needs of our children that come into care at an older age (aged 14 upwards). The Children Looked After Service, Independent Futures, the fostering and permanency team and commissioning team continue to take a creative approach to identifying and supporting placements, increasingly creating bespoke packages of support for our children and young people, that can at times support them in more suitable placements.

Placement stability continues to be a focus for all parts of the Corporate Parenting Service as we recognise the importance of finding the right placement to support all aspects of our children and young people's needs. The embedding of the Motivational Practice model with a focus on the language and understanding of the trauma that our children and young people have experienced assists practitioners in supporting those caring for our children and young people and thereby supporting placement stability.

1.14 - 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

- 5.8. At the end of June 2023, there were 95 children looked after for more than 2.5 years, 58 of whom had been in the same placement for at least 2 years or were placed for adoption. This makes a total of 61.1% of looked after children in long term stable placements. The long-term target is to increase long term placement stability to 70%. Normally performance fluctuates between 60% and 70%, so the current performance is in line with recent trends.

We have reviewed the reasons for long term placement stability last year. The majority of our children who have been in our care for more than two and a half years are in stable placements. Whilst last year we did not meet our target in terms of the number of children in placement for 2 years, further analysis to date highlights that the vast

majority of these children (25 out of 33) are now in long term placements. Whilst it has taken longer than we hoped to identify their long-term placements, the hard work and dedication of their Social Workers and Supervising Social Workers in finding the right placements for them is predicted to succeed.

Of those 8 children where we have not been able to achieve long term placement stability, one is in the process of being moved to their long-term placement with a family member. The remaining children have robust plans in place to try and identify a suitable long-term placement for them and to put in place multi agency support to ensure that their needs are being met. These plans are being progressed by the Social Work teams and monitored by their IROs.

This data set continues to highlight the successful work across Children's Services in identifying and supporting long term placements for our children, set against the context of a national placement sufficiency crisis. A range of factors contribute to this including the skills of Social Workers and Young People Advisers working with our children, comprehensive training and support for our foster carers the impact of our practice model and the ongoing development of Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) and the tenacity of our placement service. Our permanency service lead on effective permanence planning for our children. All our placements, practitioners and carers continue to be supported by our integrated Child & Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Lifestory work and sibling assessments continue to be embedded in the service and support effective long-term placement planning for our children. The fostering recruitment strategy is focused on identifying skilled carers who can care for our children in local placements, and we continue to develop the support we offer to our in house foster carers.

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

- 5.9. There were 10 different children missing from care for 24+ hours in June 2023. Although this is two higher than the same point in 2022 and one higher than in March 2023, it is in line with recent trends. The Exploitation and Missing team continue to prioritise quality assuring the services response to young people who are missing or away from placement without authorisation. This work includes professional training, daily reviewing of missing episodes, collating missing briefings for senior managers and chairing the strategy meetings when a young person is missing.

1.16 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Adventure Playgrounds

- 5.10. This indicator measures the participant to contact rate of those age 5 to 25 who attended Adventure Playgrounds and those aged 5-12 who attended Rose Bowl. Contacts are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider at least once during the reporting period. Participants are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider 5 or more times during the reporting period.

The rate of engagement in Q1 2023/24 was 52%. This figure is slightly down from the same period last year when the rate was 56%.

The target is to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures. 2019/20 full year engagement figure was 58.6% so Q1 figure is below the target.

It is difficult to determine why there has been a slight drop in the rate of engagement in Q1. This could be due to a wide range of reasons relating to children's lives and the out

of school activities and opportunities that they and their parents are able to choose from. Whilst the intention is always for children to access adventure play opportunities consistently, this engagement may not always take place at one playground, for example if a child lives near to one playground and goes to school near to another one, they may have attended a number of times at both but not become a participant at either.

Additionally, Cornwallis and MLK adventure playgrounds have been closed for another year, which if were open could have increased both contacts and participation numbers and positively affected engagement rates.

Commissioners will continue to work with the three providers of adventure play to ensure that their programmes maximise regular engagement from children. The rate of engagement always builds throughout the year, and it is anticipated that the rate will recover by the end of Q3.

1.17 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Adventure Playgrounds

- 5.11. Quarter 1 figures show 1,887 contacts aged 5-25 at Adventure Playgrounds and aged 5-12 at Rose Bowl. Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 5,128 so this quarter's performance is a good start.
This quarter's figure is in line with the same period last year.

1.18 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Adventure Playgrounds

- 5.12. Quarter 1 figures show 981 participants aged 5-25 at Adventure Playgrounds and aged 5-12 at Rose Bowl. Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 3,003 so this quarter's performance is a good start.
This quarter's figure, however, is slightly lower than the same period last year with just above 5% decrease.

1.19 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.13. This indicator measures the participant to contact rate of those age 5 to 25 who attended Youth Provision and those aged 13-25 who attended Rose Bowl. Contacts are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider at least once during the reporting period. Participants are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider 5 or more times during the reporting period.

The rate of engagement in Q1 2023/24 was 36.6%. Despite an increase in both the number of contacts and participation compared to same period last year, the engagement figure is down from the same period last year, when the rate was 47%.

The target is to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures. 2019/20 full year engagement figure was 43.6% so Q1 figure is below the target.

It is difficult to ascertain accurately why the rate of engagement has fallen in Q1 compared to last year this may be connected to the very wide range of opportunities available to young people. It may be that some young people are attending a number of youth centres but haven't yet become a participant at any one Islington club by the end of the quarter.

Commissioners will continue to work with providers of youth services to ensure that they plan programmes appropriately to build participation, for example, providing regular and consistent sessions rather than one off events.

The rate of engagement builds throughout the year and it is anticipated that an improvement will be seen by the end of Q3.

1.20 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.14. Quarter 1 figures show 1,633 contacts aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl. Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 6,706 so if there are similar number of contacts in the following quarters, this indicator will be slightly below target at the of the financial year.

This quarter's contacts figure was noticeably higher than the same period last year.

1.21 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.15. Quarter 1 figures show 598 participants aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl. Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 2,927 so if there are similar number of participants in the following quarters, this indicator will be below target at the of the financial year.

This quarter's participants figure was higher than the same period last year.

6. Lifelong learning, skills and enrichment

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
2.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	95.6% (March 2022)	95.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 95.3% (June 2023)	96.3% (June 2023)	Yes	95.0% (June 2022)	Yes
2.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	92.5%	97.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 95.9% (June 2023)	97.1% June 2023)	Yes	92.6% (Q1 2022/23)	Yes
2.3	% of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation	64.7%	66.6% (provisional)	>Inner London	66.6% (p)	TBC	n/a – new framework	n/a – new

	Stage Profile							framework
2.4	Corporate Indicator - Take up of 2-year-old FEEE places by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and children who are looked after	70% (Spring term 2021/22 AY)	75% (Spring 2023)	>same period previous year	72% (Summer 2023)	In line	73% (Summer 22)	Stable
2.5	Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools	1.81	TBC	<0.81 (Inner London figure)	1.81 (2021/22 final)	No	1.46	No
2.6	Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools	21.84	TBC	<9.56 (Inner London figure)	21.84 (2021/22 final)	No	14.95	No
2.7	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools	7.28	TBC	<3.47 (Inner London figure)	7.28 (2021/22 final)	No	5.43	No
2.8	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools	45.49	TBC	<21.69 (Inner London figure)	45.49 (2021/22 final)	No	37.12	No
2.9	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools	3.95	TBC	<2.21 (Inner London figure)	3.95	No	3.78	Stable
2.10	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools	65.35	TBC	<24.64 (Inner London figure)	65.35 (2021/22 final)	No	36.22	No
2.11	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools	18.4% (21/22 AY)	TBC – Q4	in line or below Inner London	21.0% (Aut Spr 23 terms provisional)	TBC	16.6% (Aut-Spr terms 2021/22)	Higher

2.12	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools	26.5% (21/22 AY)	TBC – Q4	in line or below Inner London	27.2% (Aut 22 - Spr 23 terms provisional)	TBC	24.8% (Aut-Spr terms 2021/22)	Higher
2.13	Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1	76.6%	TBC – Q3	in line or above Inner London	78.9% (2022-23 provisional)	TBC	76.6%	Yes
2.14	Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2	47.4%	TBC – Q3	in line or above Inner London	55.8% (2022-23 provisional)	TBC	47.4%	Yes
2.15	Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 1 - Reading at expected standard	71.4%	TBC – Q3	in line or above Inner London	69.9% (2022-23 provisional)	TBC	71.4%	No
2.16	Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 2 - Expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths	63.3%	TBC – Q3	in line or above Inner London	64.4% (provisional)	TBC	63.3%	Yes
2.20	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	258 (March 22)	294 (March 23)	n/a	318 (June 2023)	n/a	264	Higher

2.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

- 6.1. As at the end of June 2023, 157 of Islington's 163 registered early years settings that had been inspected by Ofsted had received a good or outstanding inspection outcome. This puts Islington above the target, based on Inner London's overall performance, which was 95.3% at the same point. Islington was level with the overall national average, whereas generally inspection outcomes for London boroughs have tended to be just below the national average in recent years. 100% of LBI managed centres with an Early Years registration have received a good or better outcome, with 5 out of the 9 judged to be outstanding.

Of the six settings that had not had a good or outstanding inspection outcome, as at the end of June, only one was judged to be inadequate. However, since Ofsted have published their statistics, the nursery that had previously received an inadequate outcome has had a re-inspection published (the inspection took place just before the end of June) and they had received a requires improvement outcome. Therefore, at this snapshot, there were no settings judged inadequate in Islington.

Three of the six settings judged as requiring improvement are childminders who have very old inspection judgements reported against them. Since these inspections, the childminders have no longer had any children on roll. 'No Child On Roll' inspections

only judge whether the childminder has met the requirements of registration or not, and don't get reported in Ofsted statistics. In effect, there are only three Islington early years settings that are looking after children that are judged below good.

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

6.2. The percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases) at the end of Q1 was 97.1% The breakdown of Islington schools' inspection outcomes by phase is:

- Nursery 100% (3/3 – 1 outstanding and 2 good)
- Primary 98% (44/45 – 9 outstanding, 35 good)
- Secondary 90% (9/10 – 4 outstanding and 5 good)
- Special 100% (6/6 – 4 outstanding and 2 good)
- PRU 100% (4/4 – 2 outstanding and 2 good)

The target for this measure is to be at or above the Inner London figure for good or outstanding inspection outcomes. The Inner London figure at the end of Q1 2022/23 was 95.9% (of inspected schools), so Islington was above this target.

18 schools are due an inspection from Ofsted in 2023/24. The local authority will be provided additional support to these schools through the Islington Professional Partner programme. Schools will be notified of their allocated professional partner in September 2023. Professional Partners will provide an external advice and support in preparation for Ofsted inspections and ensure that schools are focussed on improving outcomes for all pupils in line with the ambitions of the Islington Education Plan.

2.3 – % of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

6.3. Provisional figures show 66.6% of Islington pupils achieved a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Islington's figure is just below the provisional national average (67.3%) and below the London (69.1%) average.

The target is to be in line with or above the Inner London average, which will be released in Q3.

At this stage, we have no detailed comparators, and the new framework introduced means there are no trends, but we can give the following provisional figures for the breakdowns used in the Education Plan monitoring:

- FSM-eligible = 57.5%
- SEN Support = 33.2%
- Education, Health and Care Plans = 5.4%
- Black-Caribbean = 60.0%
- Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean = 65.8%

All figures are based on the proportion of each group achieving a Good Level of Development. All figures are provisional and should be seen as subject to change, however, the figures indicate that attainment gaps for contextual groups have narrowed. A more detailed set of comparisons will be made when comparator data is available in Q3.

2.4 – Corporate Indicator - Take up of 2-year-old FEEE places by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and children who are looked after

6.4. The Summer 2022/23 term take up was 72%. This is based on 530 funded 2-year-olds taking up places, out of a potential 732 who were listed on the April 2023 list provided by the DWP. Although this is down on the 75% in Spring, we have seen seasonal variation in performance, so we compare to the same point in the previous year. In Summer 2022, 73% of eligible 2-year-olds were taking up places, so we are marginally below that level of performance.

Most of the breakdowns used for monitoring the Education Plan are not reportable for the 2-year-old take up. For example, we don't know the ethnicities of those not taking up places unless they have used another service, so we have incomplete information on the take-up of places by different ethnic groups. We have started to match the DWP lists to our Children's Social Care caseloads, however, and found that 7 of the 11 (64%) 2-year-olds on the June DWP list that were known to Children's Social Care were taking up funded places. We are now sharing the data on those not taking up places, so social workers working with the families can encourage them to take up the funded childcare offer. This is a model which has been in place for Family Support for some time and shown to be effective.

Reaching the remaining eligible population not taking up free early learning remains the priority of a multi-agency working group. A recent initiative has been to add a prompt about take-up to the case management recording systems for both Children's Social Care and Family Support caseloads.

2.5 – Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools

6.5. 2021/22 academic year published figure showed Islington primary schools to have 1.81% suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 0.81%, so the target for this year was not met. Islington was also above the national average (1.42%), although the gap was narrower than with inner London.

The following % rate of suspensions table shows how Islington's primary schools performed against the national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington 2021/22	England 2021/22
FSM-eligible	3.15%	3.53%
SEND Support	6.83%	6.27%
Education, Health & Care Plans	9.09%	13.75%
Black-Caribbean	6.19%	3.08%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	3.95%	3.17%

Provisional data for Islington primary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 79 suspensions in the Autumn term 2022/23. This is lower than in any of the preceding five years. On average, there are around 100 suspensions in the Autumn term for Islington primary schools each year.

As part of Islington's approach to 'Working together to improve school attendance', children's social care information is matched against locally held attendance and

exclusions data for all CLA pupils. For CIN and CP children, attendance and exclusions information are matched for children attending schools in borough who share attendance with the local authority. Locally held provisional data shows that 1% of primary school CLA pupils (including children attending out of borough schools) were suspended in 2022/23 and 5.1% of Islington CIN and CP children were suspended in 2022/23. Please note that this information refers to the percentage of children with one or more suspension rather than the suspension rate.

Local data for the subsequent academic year 2022/23 indicates that the suspension rate has reduced across the majority of primary schools (51% (23 schools) had no suspensions at all during the 2022/23 academic year), with two schools accounting for 40% of all primary suspensions. One of these schools is in a Project Group due to a range of concerns (leadership and financial), while the other is part of the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme which focuses on reducing suspensions through whole school strategies addressing inclusion and healthy relationships.

Action in 2023/24 to further reduce primary suspensions will include targeted work with those schools with the highest levels of suspension, including work with families that we can identify at most risk based on most recent research.

2.6- % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools

- 6.6. 2021/22 academic year published figure showed Islington secondary schools to have 21.84% suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 9.56% so the target for this year is not met.

The highest % of suspensions this year were from 3 academies. Without these Islington would have one of the lowest secondary school suspension rates in the country.

The following % rate of suspensions table shows how Islington's secondary schools performed against the national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington 2021/22	England 2021/22
FSM-eligible	34.26%	34.20%
SEND Support	45.34%	36.19%
Education, Health & Care Plans	46.30%	38.03%
Black-Caribbean	44.0%	20.13%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	65.35%	27.81%

Provisional data for Islington secondary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 727 suspensions in the Autumn term 2022/23, an increase on the 552 in Autumn 2021/22. However, across the year, the local data shows suspensions overall have significantly reduced.

Local data for the subsequent academic year 2022/23 indicates a significant reduction in the combined figure of the two schools with the highest number of suspensions, falling by 336 (66%) when comparing data from Autumn Term 2022 to Spring Term 2023. Islington's suspension rate remains a key focus of discussion and collaborative

problem-solving for the Islington Secondary School and College Leadership (ISSCL) group.

In addition, two other academy schools have joined the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme as outlined above which aims to reduce suspensions and exclusions through whole school initiatives.

As part of Islington's approach to 'Working together to improve school attendance', children's social care information is matched against locally held attendance and exclusions data for all CLA pupils. For CIN and CP children, attendance and exclusions information are matched for children attending schools in borough who share attendance with the local authority. Locally held provisional data shows that 15% of secondary school CLA pupils (including children attending out of borough schools) were suspended in 2022/23 and 25% of Islington CIN and CP secondary children were suspended in 2022/23. Please note that this information refers to the percentage of children with one or more suspension rather than the suspension rate.

2.7 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools

- 6.7. 2021/22 academic year published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington primary schools was 7.28%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 3.47% so the target for this year is not met.

Provisional data for Islington primary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 55 suspensions involving pupils with SEND in the Autumn term 2022/23. This is lower than the previous year (74).

As reported above, action in 2023/24 to further reduce primary suspensions will include targeted work with those schools with the highest levels of suspension, including work with families that we can identify at most risk based on most recent research. This will include a focus on children with SEND.

2.8 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools

- 6.8. 2021/22 academic year published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington secondary schools was 45.49. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 21.69 so the target for this year is not met.

Provisional data for Islington secondary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 322 suspensions involving pupils with SEND in the Autumn term 2022/23. This is higher than the previous year (214).

As reported above, action in 2023/24 to further reduce secondary suspensions will include targeted work with those schools with the highest levels of suspension, including work with families that we can identify at most risk based on most recent research. This will include a focus on children with SEND.

2.9 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools

- 6.9. 2021/22 academic year published figure showed pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group in Islington primary schools to have 3.95 suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 2.21 so the target for this year is not met.

Provisional data for Islington primary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 6 suspensions involving pupils from the Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean ethnic group in the Autumn term 2022/23. This is lower than the previous year (10).

As reported above, action in 2023/24 to further reduce primary suspensions will include targeted work with those schools with the highest levels of suspension, including work with families that we can identify at most risk based on most recent research. This will include a focus on children from over-represented groups, including Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils.

2.10 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools

- 6.10. 2021/22 academic year published figure showed pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group in Islington secondary schools to have 65.35% suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 36.22% so the target for this year is not met.

Provisional data for Islington secondary schools from the 2023 spring term school census returns shows there were 83 suspensions involving pupils from the Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean ethnic group in the Autumn term 2022/23. This is higher than the previous year (74).

As reported above, action in 2023/24 to further reduce secondary suspensions will include targeted work with those schools with the highest levels of suspension, including work with families that we can identify at most risk based on most recent research. This will include a focus on children from over-represented groups, including Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils.

2.11 - Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools

- 6.11. The provisional 2022/23 Autumn and Spring term figure shows 21.0% of primary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 87th in England in terms of highest persistent absence, down from its 24th place the previous year.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which will be available in October 2023.

Provisional severe absence rate for this period is 1%, an increase from 0.5% during the same period last year.

While the figures are still provisional, the following % persistence absence table shows how Islington's primary schools performed against the national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington Autumn/Spring 2022/23	England Autumn/Spring 2022/23
FSM-eligible	28.9%	30.1%
SEND Support	28.4%	26%
Education, Health & Care Plans	34.4%	32.4%
Black-Caribbean	27.6%	TBC – Q3
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	31.3%	TBC – Q3

As part of Islington’s approach to ‘Working together to improve school attendance’, children’s social care information is matched against locally held attendance and exclusions data for all CLA pupils. For CIN and CP children, attendance and exclusions information are matched for children attending schools in borough who share attendance with the local authority. Locally held provisional data shows that 11.5% of primary school CLA pupils (including children attending out of borough schools) were persistently absent in 2022/23 and 43.9% of Islington CIN and CP primary children were persistently absent in 2022/23.

Provisional data for 2022/23 as a whole is available for the majority, but not all, of Islington primary schools. This shows that 21.0% of primary school pupils were persistently absent.

Figures for 2022/23 are not directly comparable with previous years, as this was the first full year where absence due to Covid was included in the absence statistics.

Overall, our approach to reducing persistent absence focuses on the following four priorities:

- All parents meet their responsibilities to ensure their child attends school regularly
- All schools have effective leadership and management of attendance in place
- All partners provide needs-based support to improve attendance at school
- The Local Authority continues to challenge and support schools to ensure measures taken to improve attendance are effective

‘Working Together to Improve Attendance’ (DfE Guidance) requires all local authorities to have in place a School Attendance Support Team that works with all schools in its area from September 2023. A key introduction will be Targeting Support Meetings -at least termly meetings with every school to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so.

Plans for implementation are in place and these have been ratified and signed off by the DfE, with positive feedback on detail and readiness.

Support will be prioritised for schools where attendance is most impacted. All schools have been categorised according to levels of absence, and intervention will be proportionate to absence levels, with four primary schools identified as requiring intensive support because of high levels of persistent absence.

2.12 - Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools

- 6.12. The provisional 2022/23 Autumn and Spring term figure shows 27.2% of secondary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 73rd in England in terms of highest persistent absence, down from 37th place the previous year.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which will be available in October 2023.

While the figures are still provisional, the following % persistence absence table shows how Islington's secondary schools performed against the national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM-eligible	36%	42.2%
SEND Support	39.4%	37.4%
Education, Health & Care Plans	36.1%	37.8%
Black-Caribbean	36.6%	TBC – Q3
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	45.6%	TBC – Q3

As part of Islington's approach to 'Working together to improve school attendance', children's social care information is matched against locally held attendance and exclusions data for all CLA pupils. For CIN and CP children, attendance and exclusions information are matched for children attending schools in borough who share attendance with the local authority. Locally held provisional data shows that 35.0% of primary school CLA pupils (including children attending out of borough schools) were persistently absent in 2022/23 and 65.3% of Islington CIN and CP primary children were persistently absent in 2022/23.

Provisional severe absence rate for this period is 2.5%, an increase from 2.2% during the same period last year.

Provisional data for 2022/23 as a whole is available for the majority, but not all, of Islington secondary schools. This shows that 32.3% of pupils in these secondary schools were persistently absent.

See 7.2 above for information about our overall approach to addressing poor attendance and School Attendance Support Teams. All schools have been categorised according to levels of absence and intervention will be proportionate to absence levels, with four secondary schools identified as requiring intensive support because of high levels of persistent absence.

2.13 - Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1

- 6.13. Provisional figures from NCER show 78.9% of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1 below London figure of 80.8% and in line with the national figure of 78.9%.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure which will be released in Q3.

Group	Islington 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM-eligible	71.2%	66.6%

SEND Support	61.9%	48.5%
Education, Health & Care Plans	23.5%	19.8%
Black-Caribbean	72.2%	74.2%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	67.1%	75.6%

Narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups is an ambitious priority of the Islington Education Plan. Two groups remain below national averages – Black Caribbean (2% gap to national) and Mixed White and Black Caribbean (8.5% gap to national). In 2019 outcomes for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils was 79.3% and Black Caribbean pupils it was 87.8%. The primary education team will be working with schools to highlight and develop pedagogical strategies to support schools address this challenge and aim to achieve outcomes close to 2019 for both groups. This will be developed and shared through local authority network meetings with English Subject leaders and Year 1 teachers.

2.14 - Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2

- 6.14. Provisional figures from NCER show 88.3% of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 2, very marginally below the London figure of 88.8% and national figure of 88.6%.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure which will be released in Q3.

Group	Islington 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM-eligible	82.5%	80.7%
SEND Support	76.1%	66.4%
Education, Health & Care Plans	42.3%	30.0%
Black-Caribbean	85.3%	86.1%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	81.5%	87.0%

Narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups is an ambitious priority of the Islington Education Plan. Two groups remain below national averages – Mixed White and Black Caribbean (5.5% gap to national) and Black Caribbean (0.8% gap to national). In 2019 outcomes for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils was 78.2% and Black Caribbean was 85.7%. This represents an improvement in outcomes for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils. The primary education team will be working with schools to highlight and develop pedagogical strategies to support schools address this challenge and aim to achieve outcomes close to 2019 this group. This will be developed and shared through local authority network meetings with English Subject leaders and Year 2 teachers.

2.15 - Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 1 - Reading at expected standard

- 6.15. Provisional figures from NCER show 69.9% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 1 Reading. This percentage is below the provisional London figure of 71.1% but above the national percentage of 68.3%.

2023 provisional figure is lower than 2022 percentage (71.4%).

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure which will be released in Q3.

Group	Islington 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM-eligible	60.8%	53.8%
SEND Support	43.8%	32.0%
Education, Health & Care Plans	22.9%	12.5%
Black-Caribbean	63.8%	63.8%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	53.8%	63.6%

The Islington Education Plan sets an ambitious target that by 2024 the percentage of pupils reading by age 7 will be 75%. All groups are above national outcomes in 2023, except for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils (9.8% gap to national). The gap between vulnerable groups and all pupils represents a significant challenge. In 2019 outcomes for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils was 72.6%. The primary education team will be working with schools to highlight and develop pedagogical strategies specific to reading to support schools address this challenge and aim to achieve outcomes close to 2019. This will be developed and shared through local authority network meetings with English Subject leaders and Year 2 teachers.

2.16 - Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 2 - Expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths

- 6.16. Provisional July data from NCER shows 64.4% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths. This percentage is below the provisional London figure of 65.3% but above the national percentage of 59.4%

2023 provisional figure is better than 2022 percentage (63.3%).

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure which will be released Q3.

Group	Islington 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM-eligible	55.3%	43.4%
SEND Support	36.3%	23.6%
Education, Health & Care Plans	17.3%	8.4%
Black-Caribbean	47.4%	49.9%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	48.8%	50.4%

The Islington Education Plan sets an ambitious target that by 2024 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will be 72%. Two groups remain below national averages – Mixed White and Black Caribbean (1.6% gap to national) and Black Caribbean (2.5% gap to national). In 2019 outcomes for Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils was 75.3% and for Black Caribbean pupils it was 70.8%. The primary education team will be working with schools to highlight and develop pedagogical strategies to support schools to address this challenge and aim to achieve outcomes close to 2019 for this group. This will be developed and shared through local authority network meetings with English/Maths Subject leaders and Year 6 teachers. The key strategy will focus on tracking pupils towards achieving a combined

outcome and provided the appropriate and timely intervention to support individual pupils to achieve the expected standard.

2.20 - Number of Electively Home Educated pupils

6.17. There were 318 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 30th June 2023.

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

Although the DfE have not previously collected or published data on the numbers of children EHE, they did so for the first time this academic year.

The Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) has surveyed local authorities in England for the past six years with an 88% response rate. Their most recent survey (published in Nov 2021) suggested a 34% increase nationally since the 2019/20 academic year. Further, it is estimated that almost half (49.8%) of this cohort became EHE during the 2020/21 academic year, suggesting that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the number of children and young people that are currently electively home educated.

The Schools Bill which includes proposals for legislation to establish a register for children not in school, is currently on hold by Government.

Locally we have increased Elective Home Education Adviser time to reflect increased numbers. We have in place an agreed local protocol with our schools whereby any child home educating can return to the same school if within 20 school days if 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 dedicated School Nurse providing 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.

7. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives.

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
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3.1	Corporate indicator - % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training	62%	55.4% (prov.)	70%	n/a - annual	n/a	n/a	n/a
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3.1 - Corporate Indicator - % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training

7.1. Provisional data from the 2022/23 statutory returns shows that 55.4% of 19- to 21-year-old care experienced young people were in Education, Employment or Training. This is lower than the previous year, but higher than in any other year since 2016/17. This is below the target set for 2023/24 of 70%.

We are currently looking at the reasons why our EET figures are 55.4 which is a reduction from 63% in April 2023. The summer is always a difficult time to measure EET targets and we will have a better picture in the next quarter. Comparator data will be available in Q3.

MISSION: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

8. Care, support and safeguarding

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24	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	91%	96%	>85%	83%	Stable	92%	Lower
4.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	45	37 (Q1-Q4)	<37	7	Yes	15	Yes
4.3	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	20%	22% (Q4 2022/23)	Reduction from same period last year	14.3%	Yes	18.2%	Yes

4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	4	5 (Q1-Q4)	<5	1	Yes	3	Yes
4.5	Corporate Indicator - Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,756	2,783 (Q1-Q4)	Increase on 2022/23	636	Stable	662	Stable

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

- 8.1. In quarter one, 83% of young people aged 10-17 triaged were diverted away from the criminal justice system. The target is to have more than 85% of young people (aged 10-17) triaged, diverted away from the criminal justice system at the end of the financial year.

While this percentage is currently slightly below target and the 2022/23 quarter one figure, this is due to an overall smaller triaged cohort. Like the same period last year, only 1 young person in the cohort could not be diverted away from the criminal justice system and this has made the % lower.

There have been no updates to the published YJB data since the Q4 2022/23 Children's Services Scrutiny report.

Despite the percentage of young people triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system being below target, in relative terms (due to the reduced number within the cohort) it is on a similar trajectory as per the previous year with one young person in the quarter re-offending, Targeted Youth Support and the partnership continue to focus on early intervention and diversion through effective Triage delivery. Such interventions are significant to ensure that relevant young people receive an appropriate, well-balanced and suitable tailored level of support. The aim is to prevent any further escalation in their needs, circumstances and behaviours. The service has had considerable success in recent times, achieving high success rates in the previous financial. 2022/23 Quarter 4 also had a 100% success and therefore, the 2022/23 figure is 96%. This is an improvement on the 2021/22 as a whole (91%).

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

- 8.2. There were 7 first time entrants into Youth Justice System in quarter 1. This figure is noticeably lower than the FTEs in the same period last year (15). The target for this measure is to improve on last year's performance, so this measure is on target.

There have been no updates to the published YJB data since the Q4 2022/23 Children's Services Scrutiny report.

The early intervention and prevention offer that exists in the borough, led by Young Islington, but also shared with key stakeholders has enabled us to make significant inroads in relation to our First Time Entrant (FTE) performance. The early identification of children and young people who are vulnerable and who are in need of interventions

has become stronger and more effective. This has included revision of the Early Intervention and Diversion remit. These systems and methods continue to evolve and reach the appropriate cohorts of young people. The 37 FTE's to Youth Justice System at the end of 2022/23 is an improvement on 2021/22 (45) and early indications from Q1 indicate a positive reduction.

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

- 8.3. Three of the 21 young people who offended in Q1 2022/23 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate was 14.3%, lower than the Q1 2021/22 re-offending rate of 18.2%. The target is to improve on the same period previous year, so this measure is on target for this quarter.

There have been no updates to the published YJB data since the Q4 2022/23 Children's Services Scrutiny report.

The service (and the partnership) has a range of interventions available to young people who are assessed as presenting a medium to high risk of reoffending following assessment. This has helped to reduce the figures in relation to young people who pose a higher risk of further offending. A reoffending tracker is also used to identify the young people who are most at risk of this and this helps to put the relevant interventions in place for them.

The cohort of young people involved reoffending are low in number and this still represents a significant increase considering where the YJS was in relation to this measure in previous years. In addition, the cohort of children being worked with are presenting with more complexities due to the effects of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. These young people are being provided with more intensive support from the network due to their needs. The average of 4 quarters in 2022/23 shows re-offending figure at 15%, below previous year's 23%. The indicators for the current quarter is lower than the Q1 2021/22 re-offending rate of 18.2%. The target is to improve on the same period previous year and as such is positive.

4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 8.4. There was one custodial sentence for Islington young people at the end of quarter 1 in 2023/24. This is lower than the same period last year-end total for 2021/22.

The target is to have a lower number of custodial sentences than in 2022/23 so this measure is currently on target.

There have been no updates to the published YJB data since the Q4 2022/23 Children's Services Scrutiny report.

Having a range of effective interventions to manage risk in the community and a strong working relationship and reputation with various courts has helped with the improvement of this measure. There are some offences, however, where only a custodial sentence is justified. There were five custodial sentences for Islington young people at the end of 2022/23. This is higher than the year-end total for 2021/22. Therefore, this measure did not reach the annual target. It should be noted that the long-term trend for this measure remains positive, especially considering where Islington had performed in the past in relation to this indicator and the rate or Q1. The

number of custodial sentences so far this year remains lower than the totals seen prior to the pandemic – 30 in 2017/18, 26 in 2018/19 and 7 in 2019/20.

4.5 – Corporate Indicator – Number of Domestic abuse offences

- 8.5. There were 636 domestic abuse crime offences reported to Islington police, slightly down compared to 662 in Q1 2022/2023. There were 56 domestic abuse sanction detections achieved by the police during this period a rate of 9% which is a slight improvement on last year's sanction and detection rate of 8%.

Local VAWG services received 510 referrals in quarter 1, with 313 survivors and families provided specialist support through an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, and 71% feeling safer because of the support they receive.

Outputs:

- 313 survivors (510 referrals received) were supported by the VAWG advocacy services
- 81 professionals supported with advice around working with survivors
- 10 women supported following experiencing harmful and abusive practices including FGM and forced marriage
- 86% occupancy rate in Islington's refuges
- 129 play and therapeutic sessions were delivered to women and children living in refuges by the refuge family support teams

Outcomes (for survivors who exited the service following completion of the intervention):

- 71% felt safer
- 60% increased their confidence and self esteem
- 66% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours
- 74% felt less isolated

9. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
5.1	IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services	New indicator	12	Increase on 2022/23	9	Yes	6	Yes
5.2	IYPDAS - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service	New indicator	85	Increase on 2022/23	48	Yes	24	Yes

5.1 – Corporate Indicator - IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services

- 9.1. This is a new indicator reporting on the referrals to Tier 3 (structured and specialised interventions with care plans). This is in relation to children and young people who need support with alcohol and/or substance misuse. Previous quarter 1 figure was 6 so the number of referrals in 2023/24 Q1 shows an increase compared to same period last year.

There has been a slight increase in Tier 3 referrals which could be due to IYPDAS being fully staffed in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 when the service was integrated into the new YCSMAS offer via a reorganisation. IYPDAS also had one out of four staff in post in 2022/23. IYPDAS has promoted the service throughout Islington and delivered various SMU awareness and information workshops to young people, parents, schools and colleagues, which may also have helped to generate more referrals. There has also been an increase in polydrug use in young people and in the number of complex cases being referred.

Please note that Tier 3 cases can only be recorded as such if a young person agrees to a structured care plan and if they do not consent or are unable to engage for various reasons (e.g. chaotic home life, unable to attend on a regular basis, unable to engage with a structured care plan, etc), then they will be recorded as a Tier 2 intervention.

5.2 – IYPDAS - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service

- 9.2. This is a new indicator reporting on the referrals to Tier 2 services, which is indicative of a higher level of need. Quarter 1 referrals for young people accessing tier 2 services has doubled compared to the same period last year. This could be due to the same reasons mentioned above.

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 2023-24 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.A.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date: 5th September 2023

Report Author: Various – co-ordinated by Adam White, Head of Data & Performance, and Burak Cingi, Business Intelligence Project Manager, Children & Young People
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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: September 2023

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 2022 to 31st March 2023

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.

- 3.2. As at end of March 2023, Islington Safeguarding and Family Support Service was working with 839 children in need, 325 children who are looked after, of which 38 were disabled children and 35 were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), 627 active care leavers and 169 children with child protection plans. 88% of child protection plans are due to emotional abuse or neglect. 8 children were living in a Private Fostering arrangement at some point during the year 2022/23. As of March 2023, Islington's Youth Justice Service was working with 37 Youth Offending interventions. This included one custodial intervention, two remand interventions and 34 community interventions.
- 3.3. 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's free school meal (FSM) eligible 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, as are the White Other and Asian Other ethnic groups. Work has been focused in the year on reducing the disparity across the Safeguarding Services and with the Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. Our routine Annual Engagement Meeting with Ofsted took place in September 2022. In October 2022 a Focus Visit to Islington's Local Authority Children's Services was undertaken. Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangement for care experienced children and young people. The visit was carried out on site in line with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework.
- 3.6. The findings were extremely positive and inspectors found "exceptional and aspirational corporate and operational leaders work together to listen to care experienced young people, to understand their work and to act on their views. A stable leadership and an ambitious vision driven by the Chief Executive and the lead members for children are key factors in their success. Islington's Motivational Practice Model ensures that all staff and many partner agencies provide trauma-informed assessments.
- 3.7. Social workers and YPAs actively work to stay in touch which promotes reciprocal and trusting relationships within a safe, therapeutic practice culture, enhanced by joint work with accessible mental health clinicians and housing services". These focus visits are not graded in the way a full ILACS inspection would operate. This

was a positive inspection and Ofsted will take the findings from the focus visit into account when planning the next inspection or visit. It is 3 years since the last ILACS inspection, and work is robustly underway to plan for the next inspection. We expect further Ofsted inspection activity in Children's Social Care and Early Help in late 2023/ early 2024. We are still awaiting the long overdue Youth Offending Inspection by HMIP.

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 Children and Young People, Independent Scrutineer 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 Scrutineer 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 *Intergrated Care Board (Health)* have established a local protocol for the functioning of safeguarding arrangements, and this is working well.
- 4.5. During the previous 12 months LBI informed the ISCP of three *Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents* which produced two *Rapid Reviews*, one of which led to a *Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)*. The review for Child X is ongoing and not yet completed. The ISCP have also overseen the completion of one *Local Safeguarding Practice Review (Child U)*. This year, the *National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel* has endorsed all the ISCPs recommendations of whether to conduct an LCSPR.

- 4.6. In July 2021 the partnership reviewed and agreed its priority areas for the next 3 years (this has been reviewed again in June 2023):
- 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.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. The ISCP annual report evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection in Islington and the ISCP August 2021 – September 2022 report was presented to the Committee in February 2023.

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 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.

- 5.3. A review of the Motivational Practice model which is now wholly council core funded was undertaken during the year and changes were implemented on 1st April 2023. The review findings reconfigured the model due to a reduction in demand. The conclusion of the review meant staff in the Children in Need service and Children Looked After service could be reduced without increasing caseloads above acceptable levels. Teams in the child in need service are now delivered out of 6 locality teams which were ward areas, and are aligned with the now locality areas North, Central and South which sets the service up for future likely legislative changes which are expected to combine Early Help and Children in Need into "Family Help".

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 still 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:
- 6.4. We received 12,346 contacts requesting a service for children in 2022/23, an increase from 2021/22. The most common source of contacts was the police (27.3%), followed by schools (14.5%)
- 6.5. The most common reasons for contacts were parenting capacity (13.4%- highest over domestic violence for the first time), domestic violence (12.4%), information

requests (9.7 %), child mental health (7.5%), specific concerns regarding a sibling (5.4%), Physical Abuse (5.3%) and parental mental health (4.8%).

- 6.6. 5423 (43.6%) went on to receive an early help service and 2094 (16.8%) went onto receive a social care service.
- 6.7. We had the 31st highest rate of assessed Children in Need in the country in 2021/22. Rates of CIN and CP were based on the population estimates prior to the publication of 2021 National Census data. Therefore, the population figures used for Islington were considerably higher for the 0-17 age group.
- 6.8. The rate of children with child protection plans as at 31st March 2023 was 37 per 10,000 children. While not the highest among our statistical neighbours (SN), it was higher than the average combined rate of 34 per 10,000 children. Islington's rate of child protection enquiries was the 5th highest among our statistical neighbours. We had a higher proportion of repeat child protection plans compared to our SN in 2021/22 (24% compared to SN average 21%).
- 6.9. 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 2022/23 was 11 months.
- 6.10. We applied to court for orders to protect children more than most other boroughs, we had the 47th highest rate out of 150 nationally in 2020/21. As the rate is from 2020/21, the population estimates used were over estimating the current Islington population. Islington has more children looked after per 10,000 than the SN average, and only one SN had a higher rate in 2021/22. The rate was calculated using population estimates based on 2021 national census, which had Islington's population considerably lower than previously estimated.
- 6.11. The proportion of Children Looked After who had to move more than three times during a year was in line with our SN (11%) in 2021/22. 36 children in our care moved 3 or more times in 2022/23. 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.
- 6.12. The number of children becoming looked after has decreased from 145 in 2021/22 to 89 in 2022/23) with fewer children in almost all age groups becoming Looked After with the exception of 2-4 age group which had marginally higher number of children (8 in 2021/22 compared to 9 in 2022/23). 22 children have remained with their foster carers after their 18th birthday as at the end of March 2023.

- 6.13. 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
- 6.14. 64 (22%) children looked after, excluding UASC and placed for adoption at the end of March 2023 were placed more than 20 miles from home outside the LA Boundary.
- 6.15. One child was 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.
- 6.16. 2 children were adopted in 2022/23 (2 in 2021/22) and 12 made the subject to a Special Guardianship Order (24 in 2021/22). Looking at just Children Looked After with Special Guardianship Orders, 9 were made the subject of an order in 2022/23, down marginally from 10 in 2021/22.
- 6.17. Average attendance for school age Children Looked After in the academic year 2021/22 was 91.1% compared to 92.7% for all pupils. 18.6% of Children Looked After received a suspension in 2020/21. There were no permanent exclusions.
- 6.18. Average attendance year to date for school age children open to the Youth Justice Service was 54% as at March 2023. Of the 2021/22 YJS cohort, 45% was suspended and 7% was permanently excluded.
- 6.19. 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:
- 6.20. 9% children who received early help in 2022/23 went on to receive a social care service (increased marginally from 8% in 2021/22).
- 6.21. 96% of children who received a Triage in 2022/23 were diverted from the Criminal Justice System (increased from 2021/22 at 89%)
- 6.22. 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.
- 6.23. Offence gravity for the YOS cohort has increased in 2022/23, despite a drop in the overall number of offences.

- 6.24. Children who have child protection plans have a core group of professionals who have prescribed tasks in respect of their involvement with the child
- 6.25. 97.5% 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.
- 6.26. 8.9% of the children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan have a disability.
- 6.27. 22% of children in the Criminal Justice System reoffended in 2022/23 (based on the Q4 2022/23 cohort). The average percentage of children and young people reoffending over the 4 quarters was 15% below previous year's average of 23%. 5 young people received a custodial sentence in 2022/23, a slight increase from 4 the previous year but a significant decrease from 26 in 2018/19. This drop moves us in line with our closest comparators.
- 6.28. Children looked after are seen at four weekly, six weekly or at 3 monthly intervals in accordance with their needs and placement stability.
- 6.29. All children looked after are independently reviewed every three, then six months all reviews are now held face to face.
- 6.30. Practitioner caseloads vary from an average of 11-14 children per worker for Children in Need, 17 per worker for Disabled Children, 10-11 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 14 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.
- 6.31. All cases are subject to supervision and management oversight at least monthly.
- 6.32. 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:
- 6.33. Black and Mixed ethnicities are over-represented amongst children's social care contacts and referrals compared to the Islington population of children.

- 6.34. A higher proportion of contacts from 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.
 - Children and young people from Mixed ethnic groups excluding Mixed White & Black Caribbean are more likely to come into the social care system repeatedly – this ethnic group has the highest rate of re-referrals and the second highest rate of becoming subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time.
- 6.35. Following these findings and others, services are taking action to reduce the disproportionality this includes work with our partners and the findings will be shared at an ISCP Away Day in June 2023.
- 6.36. 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.
- 6.37. 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.
- 6.38. 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.
- 6.39. Twice a year, all senior managers across Children’s Social Care and Early Help, including the DCS spend a week on the front-line observing practice and talking to social workers about the children, families, and carers they work with as well as the families directly. The aims of practice week are:
- Ensure Senior Managers understand what it is like for front line practitioners,

walking in their shoes and gaining a deeper understanding of current frontline practice.

- Improve visibility of Senior Managers and role modelling of use of the MSW practice model.
- Assist in consistency of understanding and practice throughout the organisation.
- Gather a deeper understanding of practice in relation to a particular theme.

6.40. All activities are tracked using a range of audit tools aligned to the Motivational Practice evaluation framework and incorporated into an overview report which is compiled by the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. The report is then discussed at Practice and Outcomes Boards to guide future audit and quality assurance activity.

6.41. We held two Practice Weeks, the first in May 2022 and second in November 2022. Children and families continued to report a consistently high quality of service, feeling listened to and supported with an understanding of the reasons for involvement. Practitioners were found to have a good understanding of the families they are working with and can assess risk and build relationships with a high level of skill. The social work practice continued to be well aligned with the Motivational Practice Model, with social workers and managers demonstrating a high level of professional skill and Trauma-informed practice training is still having a positive impact on workforce's understanding of children and young people who have experienced trauma.

6.42. In May 2022 the theme of practice week was all children where persistent absence (attendance below 90%) was an issue. Information was also collected on family feedback which asked parents and carers to provide a view on whether they felt the social work involvement and intervention was purposeful and helped improve school attendance. We also asked Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in schools to provide feedback on the quality of the social work intervention and whether they felt social care's involvement was helpful in improving school attendance. Auditors also looked at children open to the Children's Looked After Teams, whose Care Proceedings had concluded in the previous 6 months and where at the first care proceedings hearing an Interim Care Order was granted. 2 Senior Managers led on completing a themed audit on care experienced parents whose children were aged under 1 years old following learning from a Rapid Review on unsafe sleeping. For the November 2022 Practice Week there was a focus on managers observing practice, providing feedback, and scoring practitioners on how well they met the requirements of the practice model. Senior Managers were also able to seek the views of children and families, to understand how well families knew why they had

a social worker, how they worked with their social worker and whether the intervention brought about any positive changes.

- 6.43. The other area of focus for Practice Week came from one of the key findings of the National Safeguarding Practice Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. In May 2022 the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published their review looking at the circumstances leading up to the deaths of Arthur and Starr. The review explored why the public services and systems designed to protect Arthur and Starr were not able to do so and in both children's situations the review found that referrals from families as well as anonymous referrals did not lead to action. Therefore, senior managers carried out an audit in the Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT) in response to this finding. This audit was designed to provide assurances that such referrals are responded to appropriately and children receive a proportionate and safe response. The findings were positive.
- 6.44. In May 2022 Practice Week 111 audits were carried out and in November 2022 there were over 40 different types of observations carried out across the services and feedback from over 40 service users.
- 6.45. The two Practice Weeks demonstrated that practice is purposeful, collaborative and services are delivered to a high standard. Most cases audited were graded as good or outstanding and direct observations and family feedback showed social workers and practitioners continue to work well with children and families.
- 6.46. **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. A wide range of quality assurance activities take place throughout the organisation. These remain focussed on improving outcomes for children and young people, and that information drawn from them leads to a deeper and more detailed focus on skills and behaviours that represent good practice.

A sample of the Themed Audits that took place in 2022/23:

6.47. **Children with Multiple Contacts**

There had been a rise in the number of Multiple Contacts (more than one contact about the same child) into CSCT, this audit was to look closer at the activity of the front door to establish an understanding of why this area had increased and seek assurances that contacts were appropriately considered. Managers obtain weekly data on all contacts, including repeats and they are reviewed by a manager prior to

a decision being made regarding outcome, managers are therefore aware when this is a repeat contact and ensures the reasons for this is explored. There had been 5738 contacts in the last 6 months prior to the audit being undertaken, 740 of these were 2 contacts, 163 there were 3 contacts and 113 had 4 or more contacts. The reasons for the increase were due to:

Contact recordings that are in relation to contacts received from multiple referral sources not received at exactly the same time are recorded as more than one contact.

The Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) are co-located within CSCT and contacts that may have previously solely be directed to health, are now also recorded within our contact system given the overlapping issues of child welfare and children's health.

Unconfirmed unborn babies- when the unborn is too young in gestation to either confirm or progress made up a small number of repeat contacts.

The audit found that the largest rise in contacts was not linked to an increase for demand to the service but the multiple routes and referrals relating to police Merlins that relate to children from other local authorities placed in the borough or were in the borough at the time of reporting of a concern.

6.48. **Children not seen in assessment**

Out of 1170 assessments completed in the first 5 months of the year, the data reported 15% of children were not seen during their assessment. This audit was carried out to ensure management oversight and appropriate thresholds were applied. 20% of children in the data were sampled, this totalled 175 children. The audit found the majority of children not seen was because parents refused an assessment. Appropriate action was taken such as consultations with a Child Protection Co-ordinator which confirmed threshold for child protection procedures was not met and therefore, we could not intervene with the family any further. In some cases, children were seen, but in error this was not recorded on the LCS system. Auditors found proportionate thresholds were applied and there was no evidence to indicate that children not seen were a concern and checks carried out included those with external agencies for assurance.

6.49. **Child Protection (CP) Plan Re-Registrations**

Data over 6 months in 2022/23 showed 16 of 72 children who started being supported on a CP plan were previously supported on a CP Plan. This audit reviewed those plans to explore if their plans should have ended and whether the multi-agency decision to end those plans was appropriate and a further period of CP planning was needed. The audit found the 16 children came from 10 families. The length of time between plans ranged from four months to over 14 years. In all but one case involving one child, it was considered safe and appropriate to end the previous plan 94%. In 2021/22, 23.8% of new CP plans were repeat plans. 41 children from 23 families became subject to a repeat plan. The high percentage was viewed in the context of an overall reduction in CP plans, which suggested a more concentrated group of children with chronic problems. At the time of the audit the number of CP plans in Islington continued to be the lowest they had been in nine years and the number of children with a repeat plan is much lower than previous years.

6.50. **Children Seen Alone at their last CP visit**

Data showed (24 children) 15% were not seen alone on the previous Social Work visit. An audit was conducted on CP visiting and children not seen alone. In 30% (7) children parental refusal or avoidance was the main issue. Managers had robust plans in place for monitoring and plans for escalation. 16% (4) were of nursery age and they had been seen at their nursery, but this was not recorded on LCS. 8% (2) children with ASD and were seen in alternative provisions but not recorded as alone given other carers were present, for 2 children it was a recording issue, and the children were seen alone, 1 child was on holiday over the summer and had since been seen alone and for 1 child the primary concern related to the older child who was seen alone. For 5 children auditors were of the view that practitioners could have challenged more to see the children alone at home. The audit provided assurance that most children supported by a CP Plan were seen alone and where that had not happened it was a recording issue, the child had been seen in another setting or there were plans in place to monitor the situation.

6.51. **Section 47 Audit**

An audit was carried out across CIN and CLA assessing the quality of section 47 decision making, the effectiveness and the impact of multi-agency working and decision making. 83% were graded as good, 7% outstanding and 10% required improvement. Children from global majority groups were disproportionately represented in this current cohort with mixed parentage, black British Caribbean and Black African as the most represented groups. 79% of audits showed the reason for the strategy discussion was clearly recorded. In progressing to Section 47, 72% had the views of all statutory partners clearly evidenced within the record. Multi-agency

working was evidenced well, and auditors found evidence of good multi agency network in the decision making.

The child's ethnicity was not explicitly considered within the section 47 in 79% of cases, although ethnicity and culture were evidenced in the assessments. The audit identified the need for the continuation of work on challenging inequalities with managers to help them understand the importance of including culture and ethnicity in all interventions including section 47 investigations.

6.52. **Supervision Order Audit**

The overview of the quality of supervision orders are monitored through quarterly and annual reporting. Auditing found in the first quarter 15 children were supported under a supervision order. 80% are under 5 years old, children who are mixed parentage and white and black African or Caribbean made up the largest cohort, making up 60% of the cohort. Some areas for improvement were found to be required around timeliness of supervision order meetings and recommendations are in place to improve this area of practice.

6.53. **Children with repeat episodes of being Looked After (CLA)**

From the data on CLA in the first quarter of the year no children who became looked after had been previously looked after. Part way through quarter 2, 9 children who had been previously looked after entered care again equating to 11% in that period. This audit looked at the cohort of children who experienced a repeated period in care to identify any learning. The audit found 2 Unaccompanied and Separated Children re-entering care following legal challenges regarding age disputes. This was the first time this had happened in Islington. The other children were all adolescents with long standing histories of social care involvement including removal from parents in early childhood and placements permanently under Special Guardianship Orders with family members and for 3 children there were concerns of exploitation, offending and missing episodes. The audit found that re-entry into care could not be avoided for those adolescents with no other family or alternative arrangements available to them. Auditing showed family arrangements had broken down due to an inability of family members to meet their child's complex, challenging needs and risks. The audit found alternative arrangements were explored and attempts to keep them in their families were made. A repeat entrance into care was considered appropriate for all children.

6.54. **Audit for Child Safeguarding Practice Review: Children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings.**

This multi-agency audit was carried out following the request from the Chair of the National Review Panel to provide assurance that children with complex needs and

disabilities currently living within residential specialist schools as children's homes were appropriately safeguarded. In Islington 2 children were within the scope of the audit. The audit involved Children's Social Care, Whittington Health and Education. The audit found that work with Health, Education and Social Care was collaborative in planning and ensuring the safety of children placed outside of the borough and at some distance from the local authority. The mechanism for reviewing and monitoring these children locally is held at strategic level via the Joint Multi Agency Funding Panel (JMAP) as well as by services under Safeguarding and Family Support. Social work visits were above statutory timescales, and social workers were found to have a good understanding of children's lived experience. The virtual school in partnership with Special Educational Needs service worked collaboratively to ensure that the education needs of these children are iteratively reviewed. The oversight of health including primary health services' and CAMHS was robust.

6.55. Care Experienced Young People in Custody

The aim of the audit was to understand the overview of practice and involvement with Care Experienced young people in custody, including their pathways plans, frequency of social worker/young person's adviser contacts and level of supervision/management oversight. At the time of the audit Islington had 31 care experienced young people in custody, all men, ages varied between 17 and 24 years of age. There was found to be disproportionality in terms of black and dual heritage young boys in custody as is the case across London. 75% were visited around every 3 months, 87% had a pathway plan in the last 6 months, 48% had supervision every 2 months. Joint supervision did take place, but it was inconsistent across the leaving care teams. 71% had an up-to-date case summary on their records. A finding from the audit was a recommendation that the Supervision Policy is updated for young people who wish to have less frequent contact with their worker.

6.56. Siblings in Care

The audit focused on CLA who have siblings in care. There were 62 families representing 161 children who had siblings in care. The audit found 56% of siblings in care in Islington are placed together and 44% placed apart. The audit also found 61% of children from a sibling group of 2 were placed together, and as the sibling group grows larger there is more likelihood that they are able to be placed together. The audit also found children from Black British Caribbean backgrounds and from mixed parentage backgrounds are more likely to be placed together. The audit recommended that sibling groups across the service are audited regularly, that where siblings have different social workers managers ensure joint reviews of the cases take place to align decision making, and that a further in depth audit is undertaken to understand the reasons why children are placed separately, the quality of the Together and Apart assessment (an assessment of whether siblings

should be placed together or apart) and that there is evidence of the reasons for the placements so that the service can set a target and monitor this monthly.

6.57. **Family and Friends' Carer Audit**

An audit was carried out on children aged under 14 years old placed in a Family and Friends' Carer arrangement, due to the increase seen over the last 2 years in these types of arrangements. The purpose of the audit was to interrogate the ethnicity, gender and age demographic and to understand the decision making on how those placements started and whether they needed to come into care to remain under this arrangement. The audit covered 69 children. 72% of children were the subject of an Interim Care Order, 13% of children were on full care orders, 9% of children were under section 20 arrangements, 5% were in placement still under Supervision Orders and 1% a placement order (an order granted to allow adoption) was in place. The audit found that 44% of these children had returned home, 4% were placed for adoption, 31% were now living under Special Guardianship arrangements with the family member and 22% achieved permanency through fostering.

- 6.58. The audit identified areas for improvement in early care planning and early use of Family Group Conferences to ensure children are placed with their families where possible without the need to become Looked After wherever possible. The audit recommended that a Care Planning Panel take place to discuss plans for children living with family or friends' carers progressing to permanency and that a Senior Management Family and Friends' Carer Panel is established to track these children.

7. Contextual Safeguarding

- 7.1. Continued analysis undertaken over the last three 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, group offending, 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:
- 7.3. **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
- 7.4. **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.
- 7.5. **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.
- 7.6. **Child Exploitation and Gangs Analyst:** This post works across Services and data systems to develop the understanding of Exploitation networks and risk profiles.
- 7.7. **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.
- 7.8. The above teams also work closely with the local Police teams and the Community Safety Unit.
- 7.9. 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 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.

- 7.10. 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. 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.
- 7.11. The Exploitation and Missing team deliver training in person on the topics of exploitation, serious youth violence and harmful sexual behaviour. This training is available to all professionals across the safeguarding board. The team also offer ad hoc training to various services across the borough that may request it including to Community Child Health, Concierge teams, Foster Carers, Designated Safeguarding leads, other local authorities as part of PIP and external partners.
- 7.12. 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.
- 7.13. 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. From April 2022 to March 2023 the total number of children missing from home and from care was 198, who went missing a total of 1031 times. This total includes 63 episodes of “away from placement without authorisation”
- 8.2. The number of children missing from care was 84 and missing from home was 118. Thirty children were away from the placements without an authorisation.
- 8.3. 2022-23 data indicates a much higher concentration of missing episodes for the ten children who were missing most frequently (443 episodes which represents 43% of all missing across the service). This is a higher number, as well as a higher proportion of episodes, than is usually recorded for the ten most frequently missing children, which last year totalled 367 episodes and 38% of all missing. The most frequently missing child in 2022-23 went Missing from Care or was Away from Placement Without Authorisation 93 times within the year and this is compared to the most frequently missing child last year with 66 episodes.
- 8.4. In 2022/23, 101 children who were missing were female, 51%. 93 were male, 47% and four children were non-binary, Transgender or Gender Fluid, 2%.
- 8.5. Last year the service noted a shift over three years of increasing number of girls Missing from Home. This increase spiked started in 2021-22 when girls made up 64% of the total number of children Missing from Home and 70% of episodes. This year it is most evident in Missing from Care where the number of males has reduced from 57 to 39 and the number of episodes from 457 to 420. This is also reflected in a decrease in episodes of Away from Placement from 74 to 26, and in numbers from 27 to 13.
- 8.6. The majority of missing episodes continue to involve 16-17 year olds with just under 59% of the total number of episodes. This is a slight increase on last year (56%) which means the average age of overall missing children is slightly older this year than in 2021-22. Males predominate this older age group with 425 episodes from a total of 607 (70%).
- 8.7. There was a significant reduction in the number of episodes for 15 year olds with 92 episodes (9% of all missing), from 264 episodes last year (26%), and 220 episodes (24%) in 2020-21. This seems to be a demographic situation where some children who were missing very regularly last year aged 15 have continued to do so a year

older at 16 and these episodes have risen from 238 to 356. The number of episodes for 13-14 year old children has more than doubled in 2022-23 from 119 episodes to 262. For this age group, girls went missing 181 times, boys 78 times, and 3 episodes involved two children who are gender fluid/transgender. This represents 69% of missing episodes by young girls aged 13-14. For the youngest age groups, 11-12, and under 10 years, there were 70 missing episodes this year compared to 55 last year. This is due to one female child missing from care on 28 occasions within 4 months, April–July 2022. This child had multiple vulnerabilities including a Level 3 CSE hazard and she was placed in a provision of safety while work could be undertaken with her.

- 8.8. The data for 2022/23 shows that in addition to a higher proportion of girls who were missing at the younger ages, girls were missing more often. Data shows that the duration of missing is also longer on average for these girls.
- 8.9. The over-representation of missing Black children and children who have Mixed Parentage, is something that is being actively considered through our transformation to help ensure inclusive robust work with children and their families to address disproportionality. In 2022/23, the overall number of children from these groups has increased throughout the year to 102 children (52%) and the number of episodes has increased from 551 to 670. The pattern in CLA is slightly different in that the number of Black children or children with Mixed Parentage continued to decrease to 45 (54%), but the number of episodes has risen to 525 (69%).
- 8.10. Children who are Black or Mixed parentage made up eight of the ten most frequently missing children in 2022/23, all of whom are Children Looked-After. In 2021-22, the most frequent children Missing from Care were split evenly between children who were Black/African/Mixed Parentage (5) and children who were White (5). This Missing episodes for 2022/23 may be more indicative of data two years ago, where Black/Mixed Parentage children went missing for 68% of all episodes, and that the changes in data last year may have been specific to other children, ie: children who are British or White with a high number of repeat episodes. The current year has seen a much higher frequency of missing particularly for boys with Mixed Parentage and for Black girls, where the average number of missing episodes per child was 15 and 12.9 respectively.
- 8.11. **Children Missing from Home and Care – Length of Missing episodes:**
546 (53%) of missing episodes involved young people going missing for less than 24 hours and 75% of children had returned within 48 hours. This is consistent with last year where the proportion was also 53% children returning within 24 hours and a total of 77% within 48 hours. There were a total of 43 episodes (4%) where a young person went missing for more than a week, which is also consistent with 42 episodes last year. There appears to be no variation in 2002/23 between children

missing from home and children missing from care in terms of duration of missing, with all categories (<24 hours to over one month) within 1-2 percentage points.

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 into the IGT/I-CAN search stream document meaning if they are missing it will be monitored in discussions with IGT/I-CAN Exploitation and Missing team and gangs police team.

- 8.12. 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.

8.13. **Return Home Interviews (RHI's)**

A return home interview is automatically triggered when a young person returns from a missing episode. A pattern for the last few years has been that the 10 children who go missing most frequently account for about 50% of the missing episodes. Due to the frequency of the missing episodes it is often difficult to complete an RHI due to the young person being missing again when attempts are made. In these cases, the RHI worker will make contact with the allocated social worker and offer some advice and guidance around working with frequently missing young people. The RHI worker will also offer the placement of foster carer advice and in some cases up to 6 sessions of support and upskilling.

- 8.14. The young people who engage with the RHI process are additionally offered 3 to 6 sessions to explore their missing episodes and everything else the young person would like to discuss. What we have found is some of the young people have found it useful to have a person separate from their immediate network to speak to in moments of crisis and have shared important information relating to the risk posed to them.

- 8.15. When we exclude the episodes relating to the 10 young people who are missing most frequently, our analysis tells us that return home interviews are just as likely to be successfully completed with children missing from care as children missing from home, which is positive as they provide a key opportunity for us to learn directly from our children and young people where they have been, what they are doing and what services might help avoid this happening again in the future.

8.16. In 20/23 it was not possible to complete 38% of the RHI's triggered due to the child unfortunately being missing when attempts were made. 1% of the RHI's were not possible due to a parent refusing and 8% were not possible due to the child specifically refusing to engage. 31% of the RHI's were unsuccessful due to not being able to contact with the child, the majority of these will be when the child does not answer the phone which is not unusual behaviour for teenagers. 20% of the RHI's attempted were successful and the missing episode was discussed with the child.

8.17. **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).

8.18. 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. Refresher training has been provided to schools. There has been an improvement in the quality of referrals made and more comprehensive enquiries made by schools before referring cases to the LA. In 2022/23, we have joined a project that allows LAs to make referrals to HMRC, and as a result one of our historic missing cases was found.

8.19. We hold our data by academic year in line with educational activity for children of compulsory school age. For the academic year 2022/23, there were 29 Missing Pupil Alerts received by Pupil Services:

8.20. 26 children (90%) were found and returned to school, 2 (7%) had unconfirmed school destinations abroad, with no cases of children with an unknown location for the first time in an 8-year period. At the time of writing, 1 (3%) case is currently open and under investigation.

8.21. Following a dip in 2021/22, the number of successful investigations has increased significantly, with the second highest proportion of children being found and returned to education over a three-year period in 2022/23

9. Child Exploitation and Group Offending

- 9.1. 124 children aged 12-17 were identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation or Serious Youth Violence in 2022/23. 59 of these children are female, 64 children are male and one child is transgender who identifies as a male. 58 children were identified as at risk of child sexual exploitation, 65 children were identified as at risk of child criminal exploitation and 59 children were identified at risk of serious youth violence.
- 39 children were identified as being at risk of CCE and SYV.
- 15 children were identified as being at risk of CSE and CCE.
- 2 children were identified as being at risk of CSE and SYV
- 1 child was identified as being at risk of CSE, CCE AND SYV.
- 9.2. For the past two years, 50% of children at risk of CSE were White although this had increased from 36% in 2020/21. This year 17% of children were Black compared to 18% last year, which had decreased significantly from 23% in 2021/22 and 39% in 2020/21. 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. A theme of discussion this year has been the adultification of black children and how this may skew professionals' ability to identify when a child is being exploited. The training available to all professionals through the Safeguarding Partnership has been updated to focus on this issue. Alongside this issue the numbers remain consistently low for Asian young people (5%), and we need to question whether there are any barriers in young people from Asian backgrounds accessing support or being identified as victims of exploitation.
- 9.3. Sampling of last year's monthly figures indicated a decrease in the proportion of Black children identified at risk of CCE in the second half of the year, with the recommendation of regular monitoring to establish if this was an outlier relating to specific children in Islington, or would remain at a lower level. We have been able to track full-year data for 2022/23 which fully positively supports last years' finding, that there has been a decrease in disproportionality. Prior to October 2021, the over-representation of Black children at risk of CCE correlated to the national picture.
- 9.4. Young Black male children are still disproportionately impacted as victims and suspects of serious youth violence in Islington: 71% of children who were identified as being at risk of serious youth violence are Black (39%) or children of Mixed Parentage (32%). When analysed further in respect of gender 54 of the 59 (92%) of children at risk of SYV are male, the proportion of Black male children becomes 37% and males with Mixed Parentage 29%. A total of 66 % of all Islington children identified as at risk of SYV therefore are Black males or males with Mixed Parentage. Research published by City Hall in December 2021 evidenced that

young Black Londoners are significantly over-represented as both victims and offenders. Black teenage boys are six times more likely to be killed by violence than White boys in London. The data from 2022/23 shows that children who are Black or who have Mixed Parentage have lower representation in exploitation data for CSE and this increases to overrepresentation for risks associated with CCE and particularly SYV. When data for children who are Black or have Mixed Parentage are combined, the disproportionality towards CCE and SYV becomes increasingly evident.

9.5. **Practice in respect of exploitation and serious youth violence.**

9.6. Strategy meetings are attended by the partnership, including, police, health and education and any other services involved with the family such as IGT/I-CAN, housing and probation etc. A multi-agency approach is agreed at the strategy meeting in order to safeguard the young person at risk of exploitation and/or serious youth violence. If a child has been a victim of SYV and are in hospital, the strategy meeting is held with 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.

9.7. 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 a National Referral Mechanism (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.

9.8. **Modern Slavery/Trafficking**

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)

- 9.9. 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).
- 9.10. 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 pilot, which is still running, 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.
- 9.11. There has been an increase in referrals and an increase in referrals for female victims, as well as high risk safeguarding cases. The panel continue to see a greater variety in referrals, discussions and evidence provided. The panel have also noted links between the referrals for child victims and that the same individuals/groups are being named as suspected exploiters. This has enabled greater analysis of wider concerns and further discussions about disruption. Such trends are fed back to MACE in both Local Authorities and the Modern Slavery Board in Islington.
- 9.12. The quality of referrals has improved, and the assisting evidence produced by professionals around the child has been extremely useful and has sped up decisions. For many of the referrals heard at panel there has been immediate follow up with relevant agency partners to ensure that the child is safeguarded. Between April 2022 and March 2023 46 young people were heard at the NRM panel, 28 of them were open to Islington Children's Social Care and 18 open to Camden Children's Social Care. 38 of the 46 were male and 8 were female. The age breakdown is as follows, one 13-year-old, seven 14-year-olds, ten 15-year-olds, twelve 16-year-olds and sixteen 17-year-olds.

10. Implications

10.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report

10.2. Legal Implications

10.2.1. 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.

10.2.2. 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.

1.1.1 The Council must have regard to the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 which replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

10.2.3. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England)(amendment) Regulations 2021 place further duties on Councils with regard to looked after children .

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

10.3.1. None

11. Resident Impact Assessment:

11.1. 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.

- 11.2. 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.
- 11.3. 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.

12. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 12.1. 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

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Jon Abbey

Director of Children's Services

Date: 23 August 2023

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Headline Summary Provisional Outcomes 2023

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September 2022

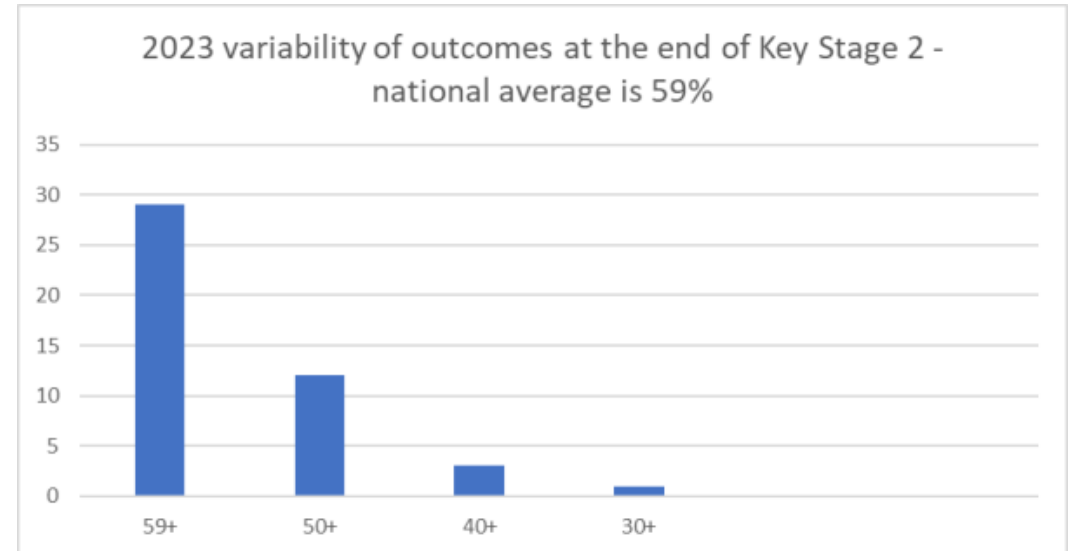
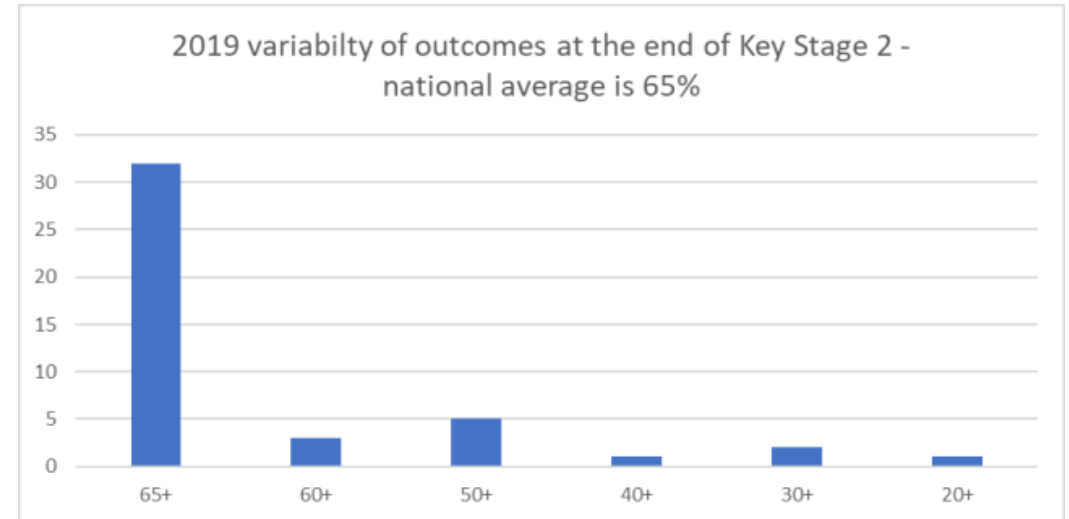
Key documents to drive improvements in outcomes:

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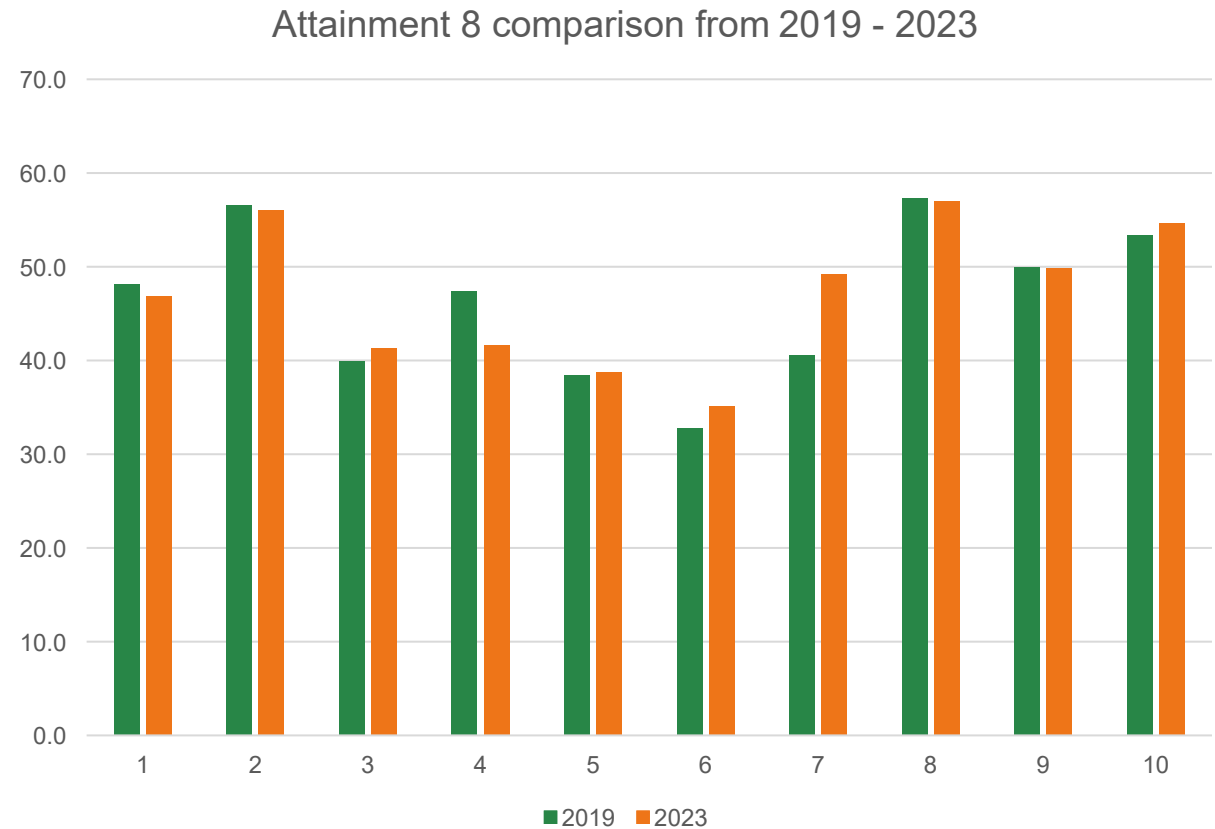


Recommendations:

- **To note:** The Education Plan, SEND Strategy and School Organisation Plan will be the vehicle to drive education outcomes and reduce the gap between vulnerable groups and all Islington pupils.
- **To note:** all phases of statutory assessment remain above national. However, school to school variability of outcomes remains a challenge, particularly at Key Stage 2.
- **To note:** the provisional 2023 outcomes vary from 39% combined at KS2 for Reading, Writing and Maths to 97% for the same measure. In 2019 published outcomes varied from 20% to 94% for the same measure. This is summarised in the tables opposite:



- **To Note:** the provisional outcomes for Attainment 8 in 2023 compared to pre pandemic levels in 2019. While there remains variability, Islington schools have returned in general to pre pandemic levels with some schools making an improvement



Recommendations:

- Schools to ensure that the gap between pre pandemic levels for pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics improves to above Inner London by 2024 (which provisionally is 80.8% in 2023)
- Schools to ensure that outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 improve to be in line with Inner London by 2024 (which provisionally is 65.3% in 2023)
 - Continue to support secondary schools so that the 14 – 19 strategy secures further improvements with outcomes at both key stages, including the reduction of suspensions and persistent absence
 - Reduce the variability across the secondary school provision by sharing effective practice through the Secondary Deputy Head network and the newly established Secondary Curriculum network

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21 schools have been identified for additional support from the local authority. This support will focus on:

- Ofsted preparation – supporting schools with allocated professional partners
- Improving outcomes and supporting schools in financially challenging circumstances.
- Targeted support for schools will remain the focus of the education team to ensure that the quality of education demonstrates impact through improved outcomes to meet the milestones of the Education Plan.

To note:
the
progress
towards the
ambitious
targets set
out in the
Islington
Education
Plan as set
out opposite

Priority four – Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups

**Please note 2019 – pre
pandemic figures**

Increase the percentage of
children reading at age 7

84%

2023

79%

2024

75%

**Direction
of Travel
returning
to pre
pandemic**



Priority six – Attainment (KS2 and KS4)

Increase the percentage of
mainstream children who
achieve combined, reading,
writing and maths outcome
at the end of Year 6

70%

64.5%

72%



Increase the percentage of
mainstream children who
achieve a Level 5+ in
English and Maths

39.3%

46.8%

55%



Increase the percentage of
mainstream school children
who achieve an Average
Point Score (APS) above
4.0 (2019)

4.09

NA

4.50

Increase the Attainment 8
(A8) score for all children
(2019)

45.7

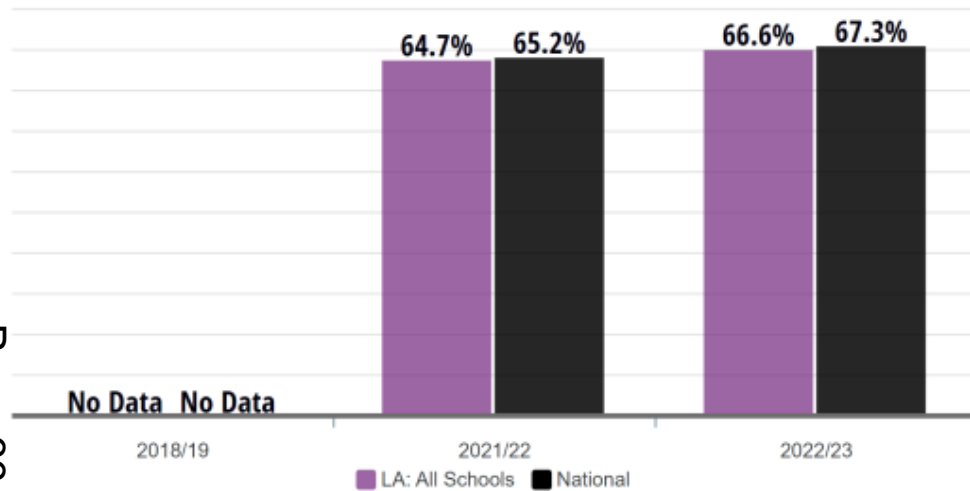
46.0

47.5



Early Years (End of Reception):

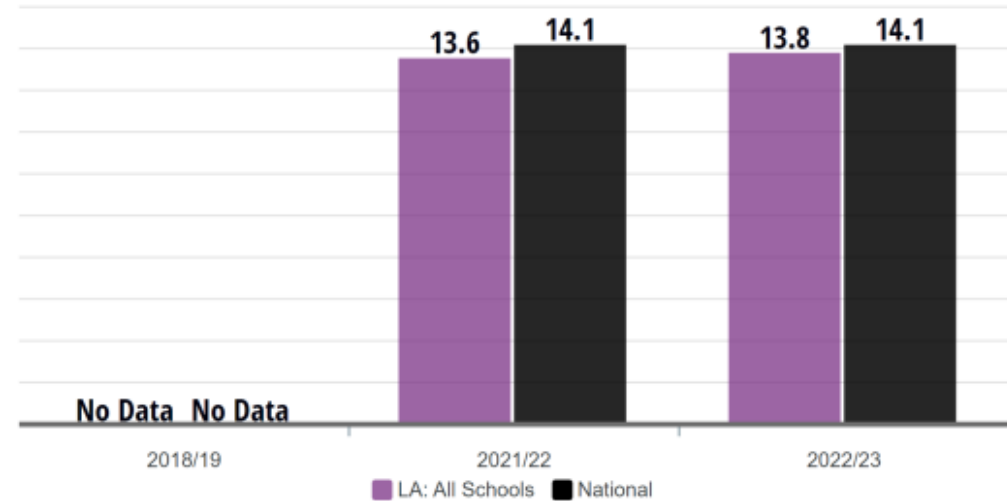
EYFSP: Good Level of Development | Trend



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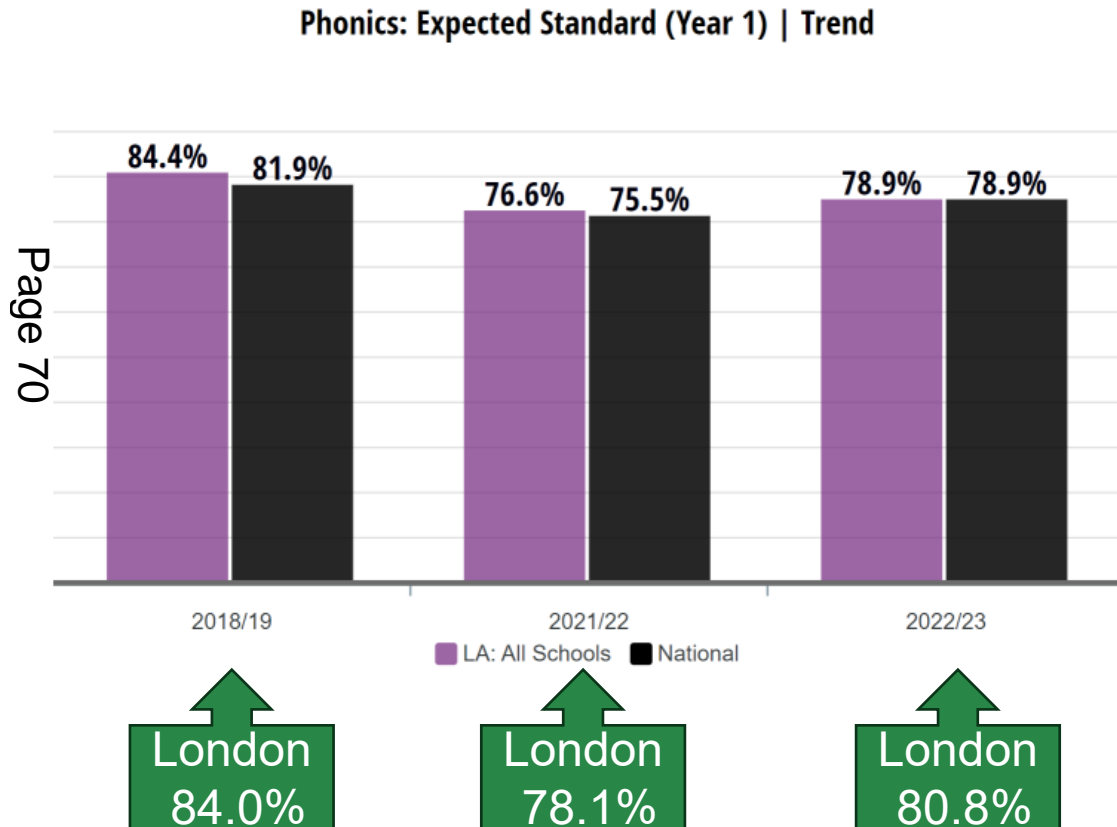
66.6% of Islington children achieved a good level of development at the end of their Reception year. Islington is below National 67.3 ▼; however, it is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (64.7% ▲)

EYFSP: Average no. ELGs at expected level | Trend



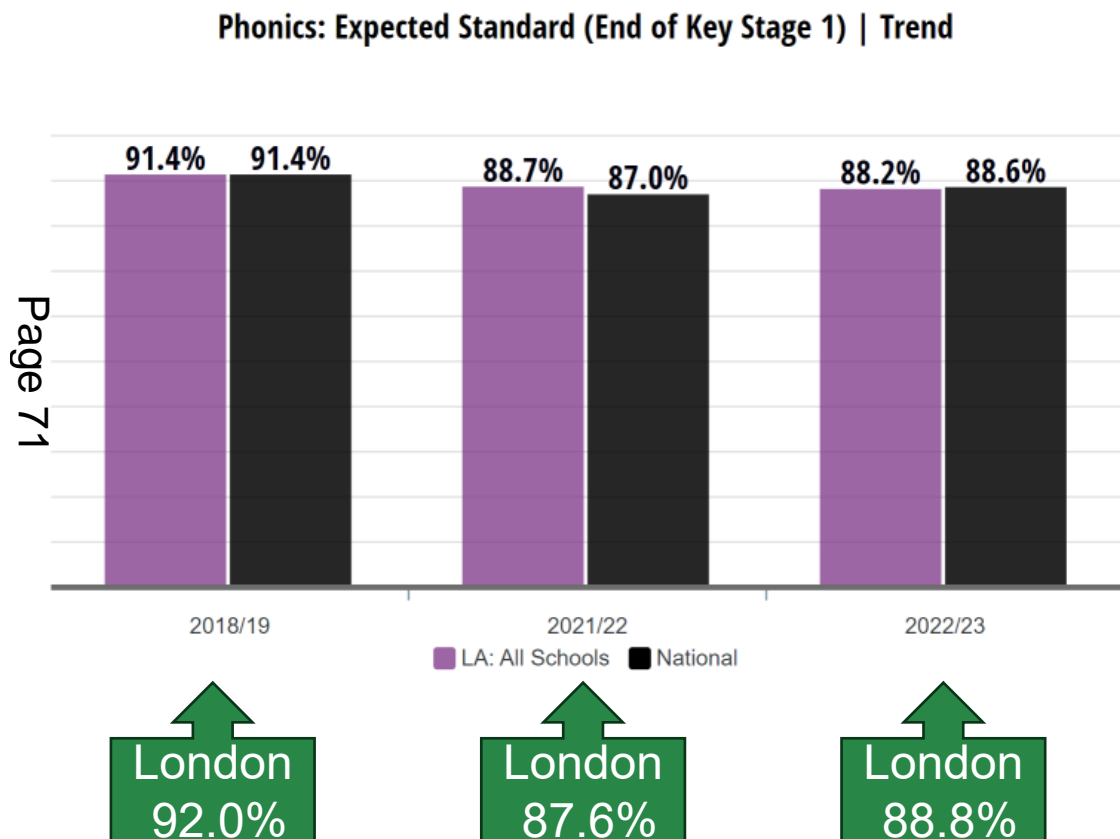
On average, Islington pupils were at the expected level in **13.8** out of the 17 early learning goals (new measure). This remains below national 14.1 ▼, however it is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (13.6 ▲)

Phonics at the end of Year 1:



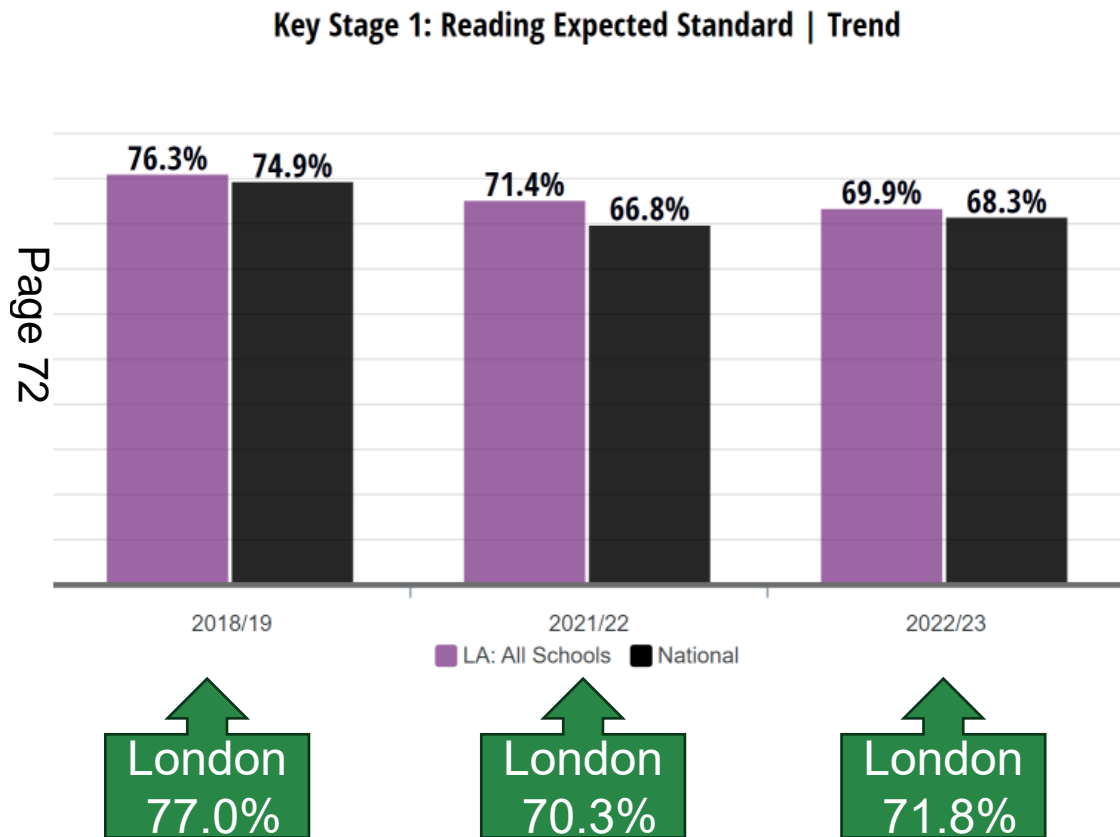
- **78.9%** of Islington children met the expected standard in phonics in Year 1. This is in line with national (78.9%) and an improvement from Islington in 2022 (76.6% ▲)
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard at Year 1 since 2019 (84.4%) in Islington is -5.5% compared to national -3.6%
- Islington outcomes have been below London for two years

Phonics at the end of KS1 (Year 2):



- **88.2%** of Islington children met the expected standard in phonics by the end of Key Stage 1. This is below national (88.6% ▼); and it represents a decline from Islington in 2022 (88.7% ▼)
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 1 since 2019 (91.4%) in Islington is -3.2% compared to national -2.8%
- 2023 outcomes are below London for the first time

Reading at the Expected Standard (End of Year 2):



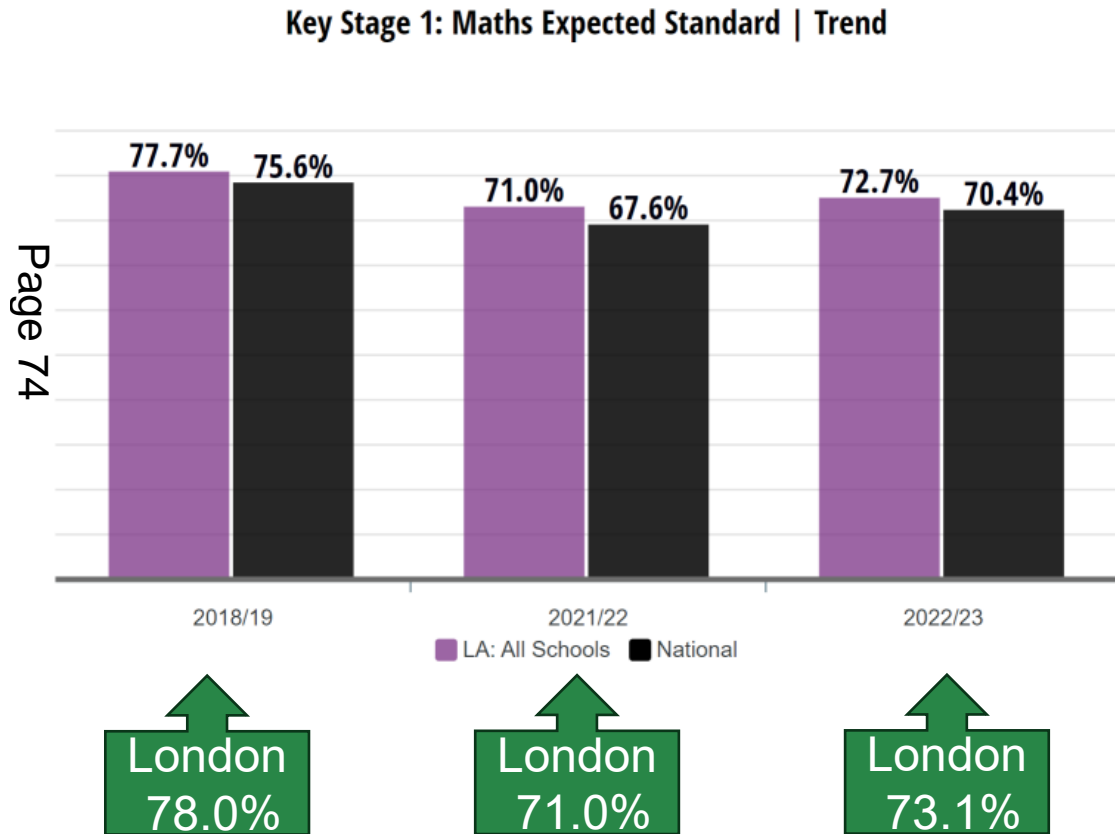
- **69.9%** met the expected standard in Reading. This remains above national (68.3% ▲); however, it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (71.4% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (76.3%) in Islington is -6.2% compared to national -6.6%
- Islington was above London in 2022

Writing at the Excepted Standard (End of Year 2):



- **63.3%** met the expected standard in Writing. This remains above national (60.1% ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (65.3% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (74.4%) in Islington is -8% compared to national -9%.
- Islington was above London in 2022

Maths at the Expected Standard (End of Year 2):

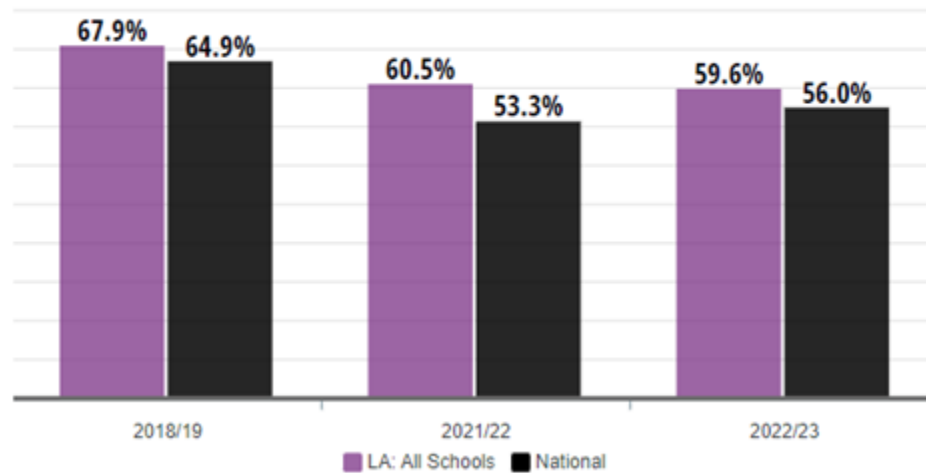


- **72.7%** met the expected standard in Maths. This remains above national (70.4% ▲) and represents an increase compared to Islington in 2022 (71.0% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (77.7%) in Islington is -5% compared to national -5.2%.
- Islington was in line with London in 2022

Combined RWM at the Excepted Standard (End of Year 2):

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Key Stage 1: RWM Expected Standard | Trend



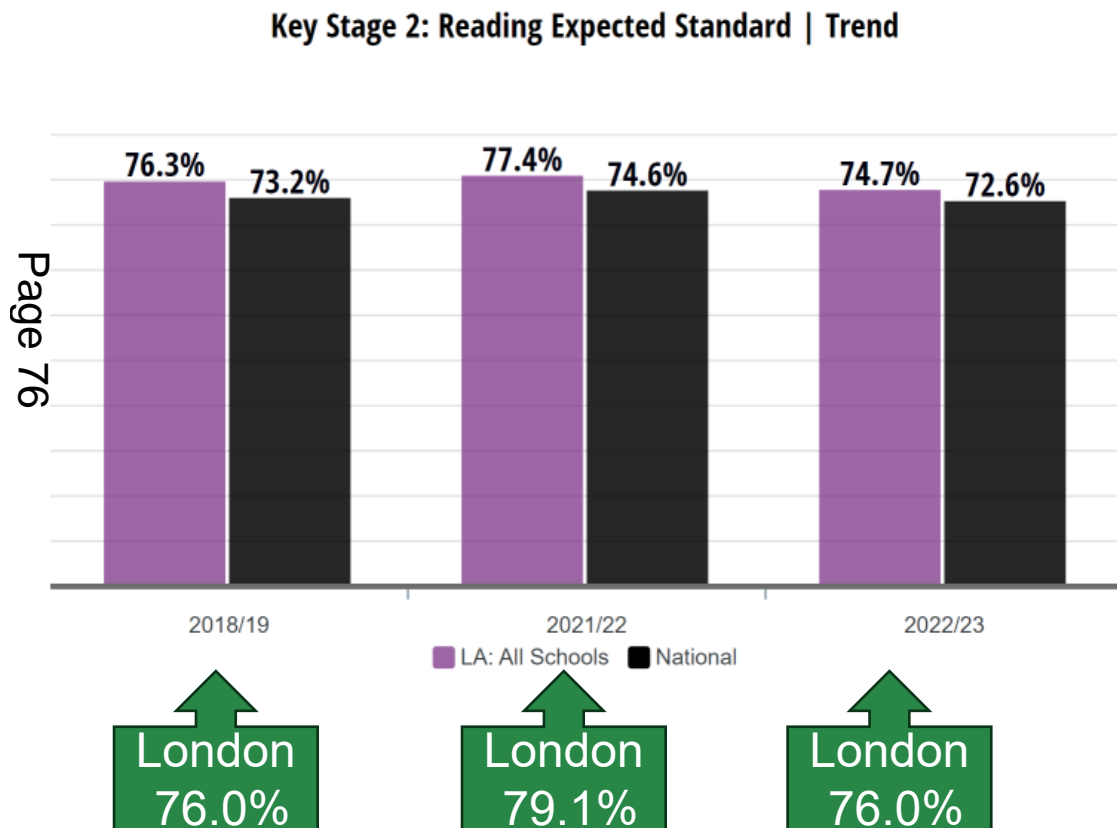
London
NA

London
58.6%

London
60.7%

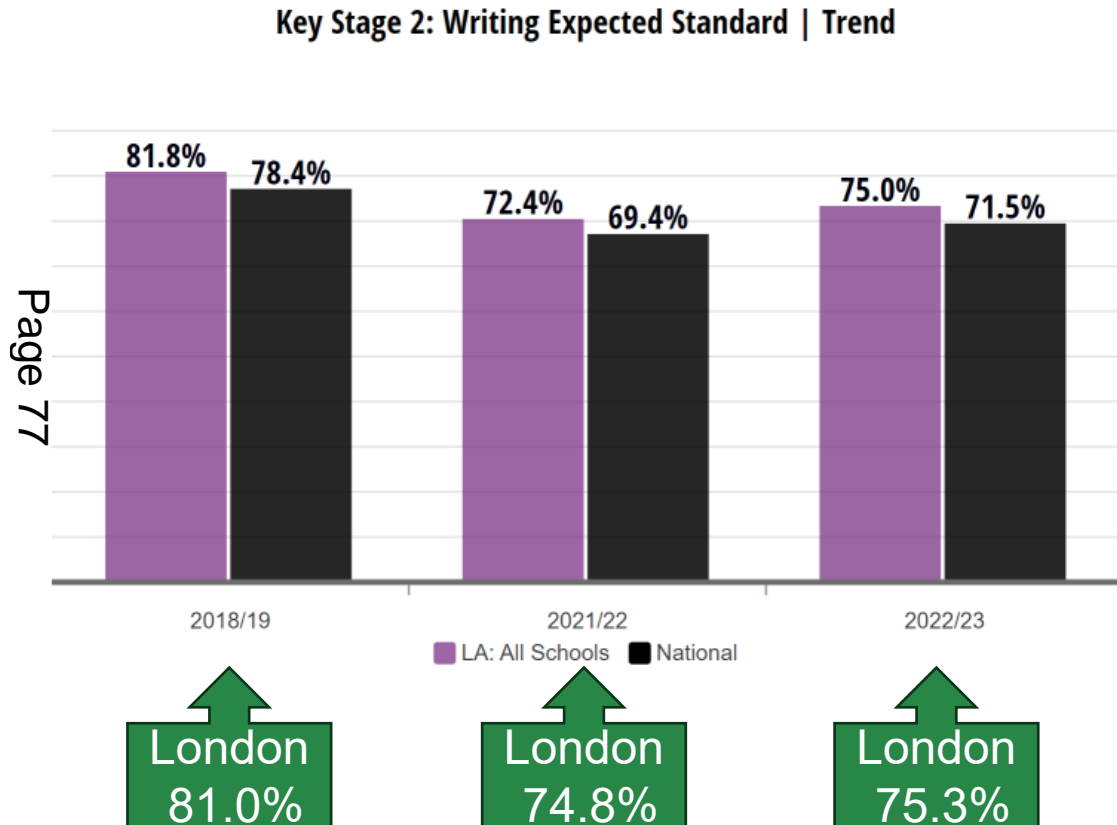
- **59.6%** met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. This remains above national (56.0 ▲); however, it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (60.5% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (67.9%) in Islington is -8.3% compared to national -8.9%.
- Islington was above London in 2022

Reading at the Excepted Standard (End of Year 6):



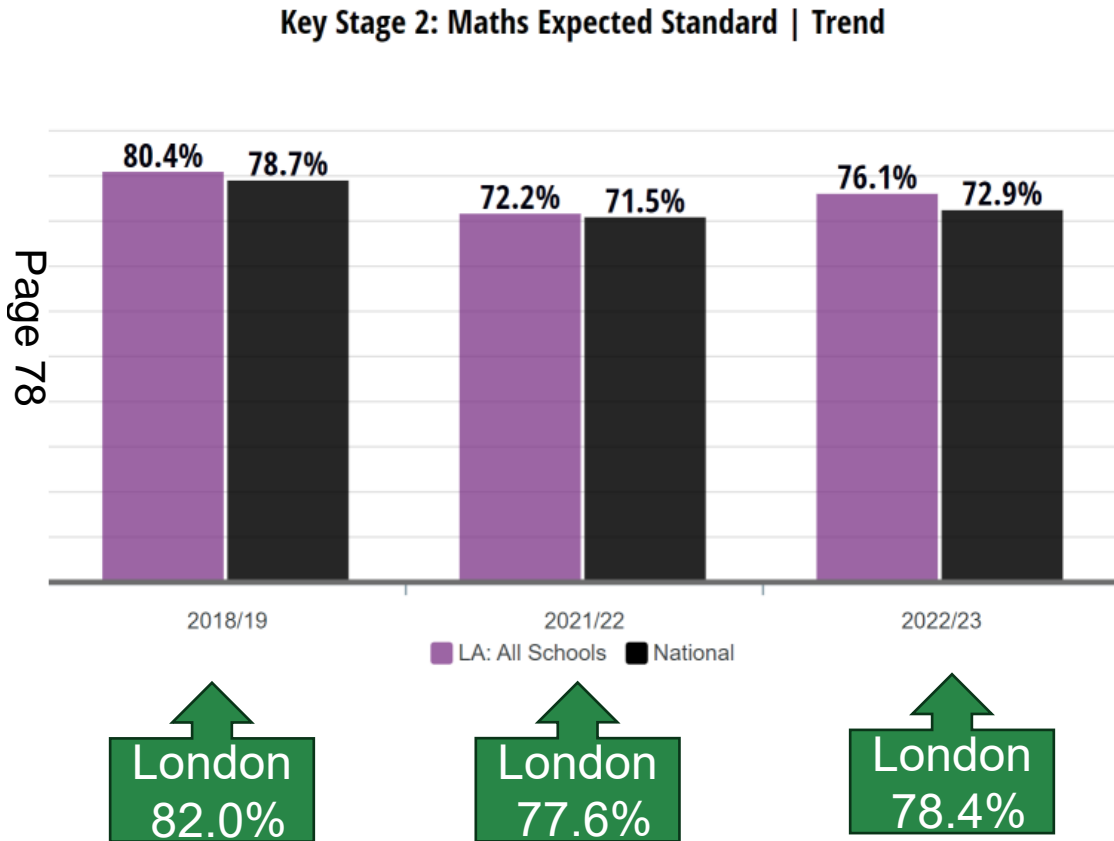
- **74.7%** met the expected standard in Reading. This remains above national (72.6% ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (77.4% ▼).
- Outcomes for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (76.3%) in Islington is -1.6% compared to national -0.6%.
- Islington was above London in 2019

Writing at the Excepted Standard (End of Year 6):



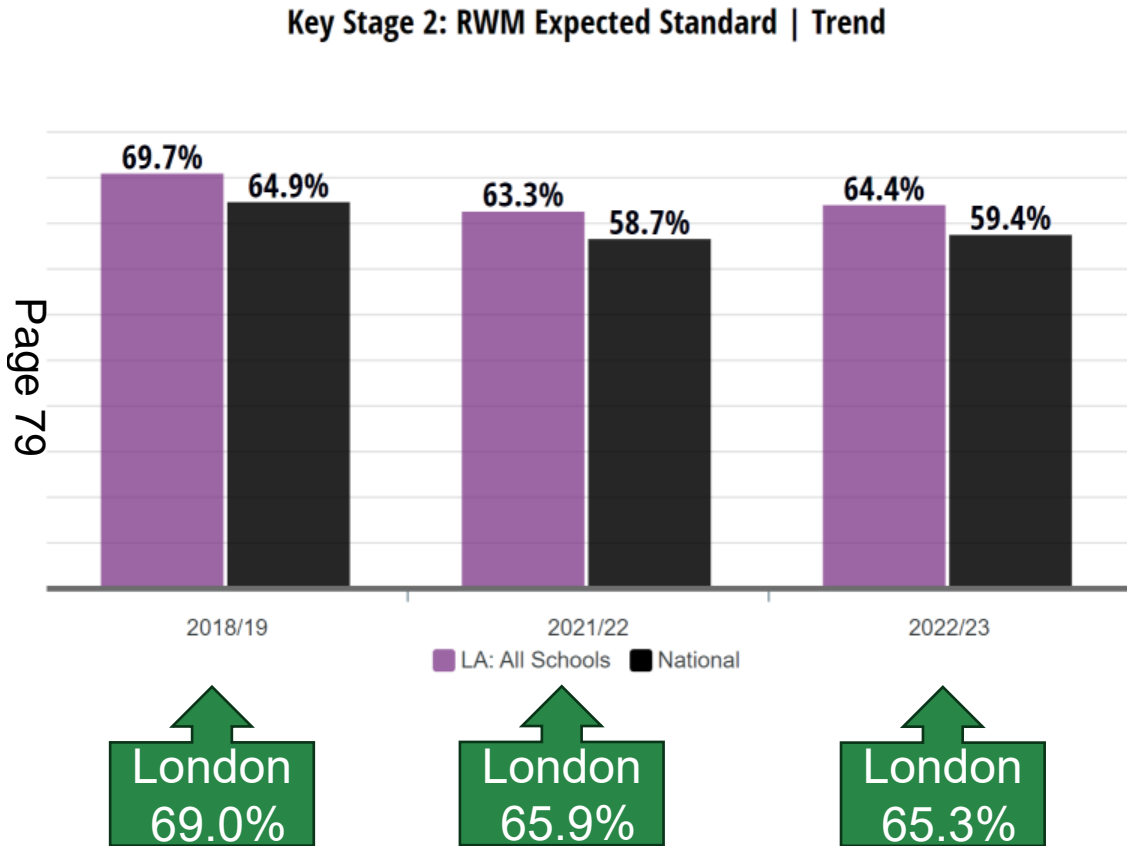
- **75.0%** met the expected standard in Writing. This remains above national (71.5% ▲) and above Islington in 2022 (72.4 ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (81.8%) in Islington is -6.8% compared to national -7%.
- Islington was above London in 2019

Maths at the Expected Standard (End of Year 6):



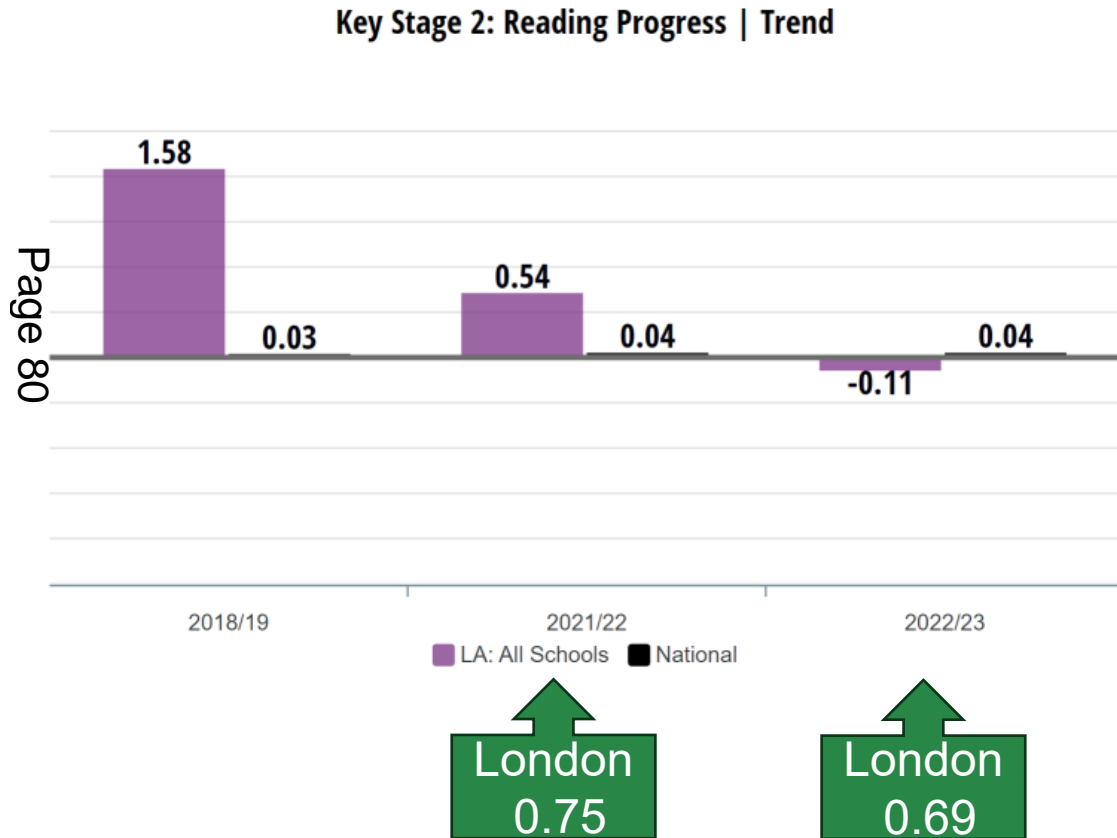
- **76.1%** met the expected standard in Maths. This remains above national (72.9 ▲) and above Islington (72.2% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (80.4%) in Islington is -4.3% compared to national -5.8%.
- Islington has been below London for three years

Combined RWM at the Excepted Standard (End of Year 6):



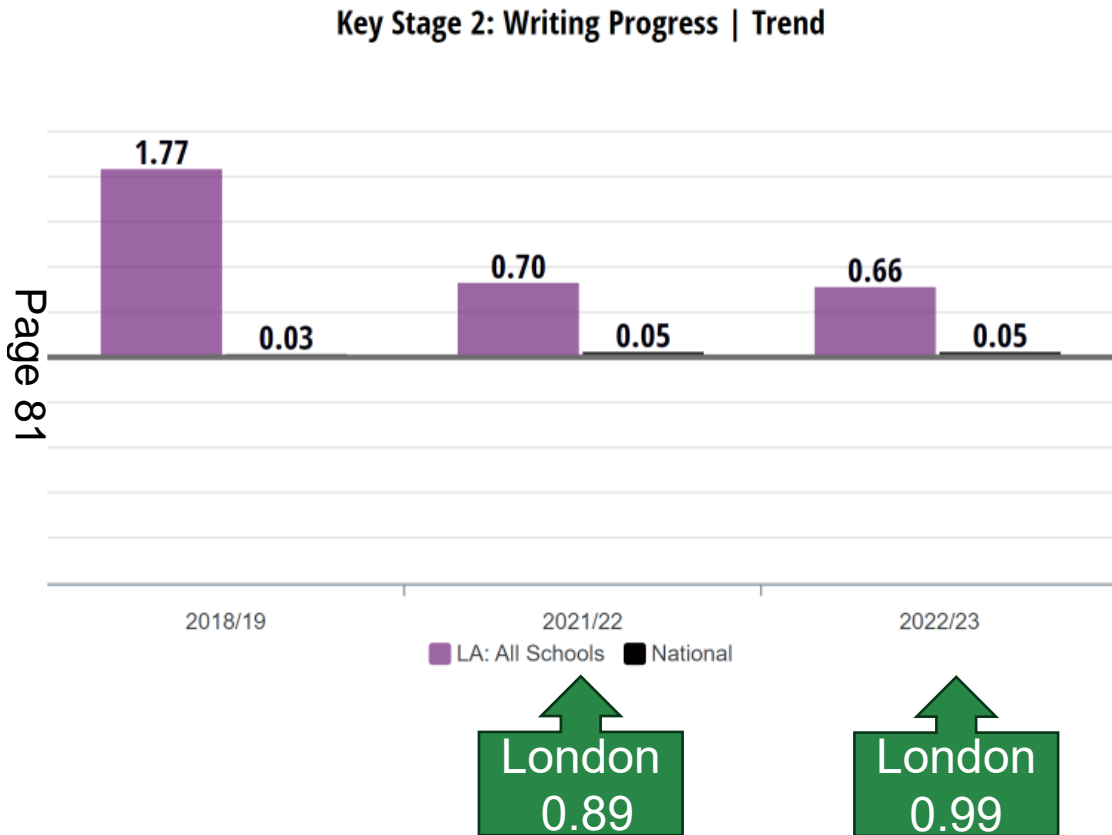
- **64.4%** met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. This remains above national (59.4% ▲) and above Islington 2022 (63.3% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (69.7%) in Islington is -5.3% compared to national -5.5%.
- Islington was above London in 2019

Reading Progress (End of Year 2 to End of Year 6):



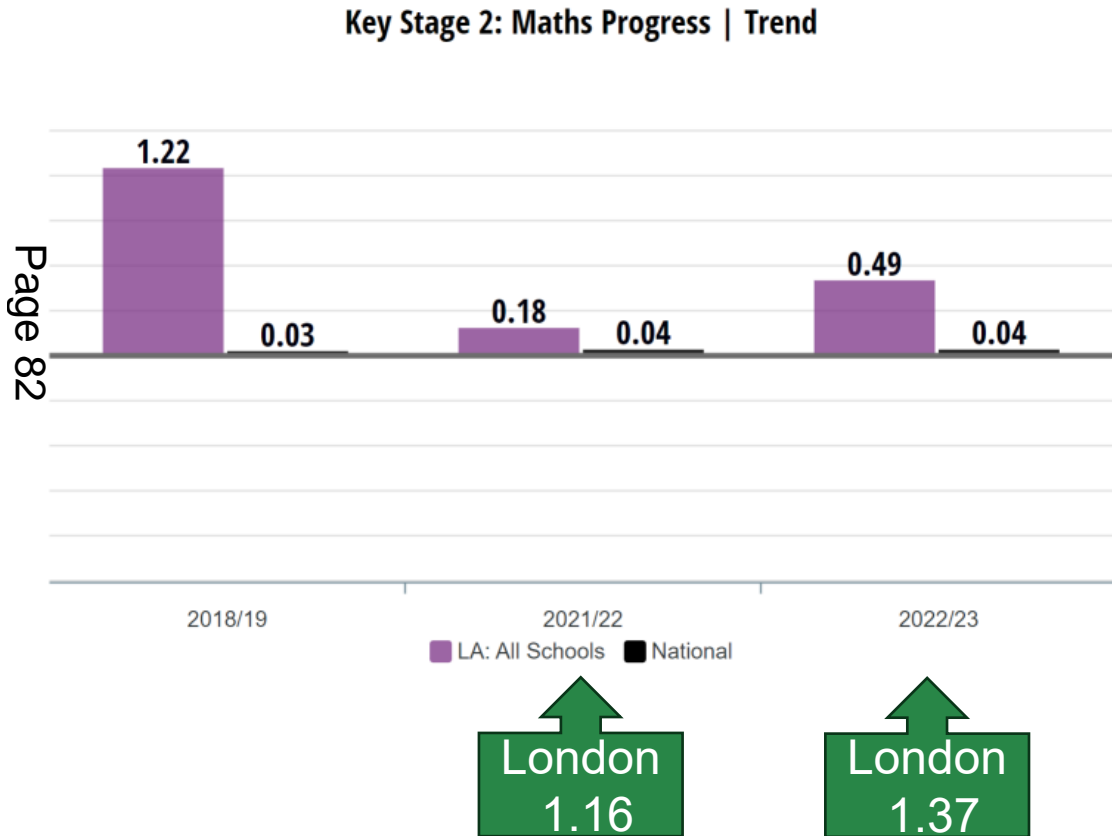
- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **-0.11** in reading. This is below national (0.04 ▼) and below Islington in 2022 (0.54 ▼).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.56) in Islington is -1.45 compared to national (+0.01) – **this is a key focus in supporting schools**
- Progress remains below London

Writing Progress (End of Year 2 to End of Year 6):



- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **+0.66** in Writing. This is above national (0.05 ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (0.70 ▼).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.77) in Islington is -1.11 compared to national (+0.02).
- Progress remains below London

Maths Progress (End of Year 2 to End of Year 6):



- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **+0.49** in Maths. This is above national (0.04 ▲) and above Islington in 2022 (0.18 ▲).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.22) in Islington is -0.73 compared to national (+0.01).
- Progress remains below London

Secondary – Provisional GCSE: update data

- **65.1%** of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths in 2023. This is **seven percentage points higher** than the 2019 results day figure.
- **46.8%** of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths in 2023. This is **seven 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 **26.8%** in 2023.

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	Islington 2019	Islington 2023	
Grade 4+ English and Maths	63.1%	65.1%	↑
Grade 5+ English and Maths	39.3%	46.8%	↑
Attainment 8	45.7%	46.0%	↑
7+ in 3 or more GCSEs	25.0%	26.8%	↑

Please note there are no comparators at the time of this report

Provisional A Levels:

	2019 (published)	2022 (published)	2023 (provisional)	2023 – 2022 Difference	2023 – 2019 Difference
A* - A	16.3%	30.9%	22.4%	-8.5%	+6.1%
A* - B	43.8%	59.0%	52.1%	-6.9%	+8.3%
A* - C	73.7%	82.1%	76.2%	-6.0%	+2.5%
A* - E	98.9%	99.4%	98.7%	-2.7%	-2.2%
APS	32.8	37.3	34.4	-3.0	+1.6
Entries	828	829	1100	271	272

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- The table opposite illustrates a decrease in the Average Point Score from 37.3 in 2022 to 34.4 in 2023, based on the provisional results. **This is an increase from 32.8 in 2019.**
- **Please note:** comparison to LONDON is not currently available with the exception of A* - A grades. This will be updated in November.
- The overall LA figures show:
 - 22.4% of entries received A*-A grades, down from 30.9% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (16.3%). This is has **narrowed the gap** to England (26.5%) and London (30.0%) compared to 2022.
 - 52.1% of entries received A*-B grades, down from 59.0% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (43.8%). This is has **narrowed the gap** to England (52.7%).
 - 76.2% of entries received A*-C grades, down from 82.1% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (73.7%). This is **above** England (75.4%).

Children's Services
222 Upper Street, LONDON N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Childrens Services

Meeting of: Children's Services Scrutiny

Date: September 2023

Ward(s): All

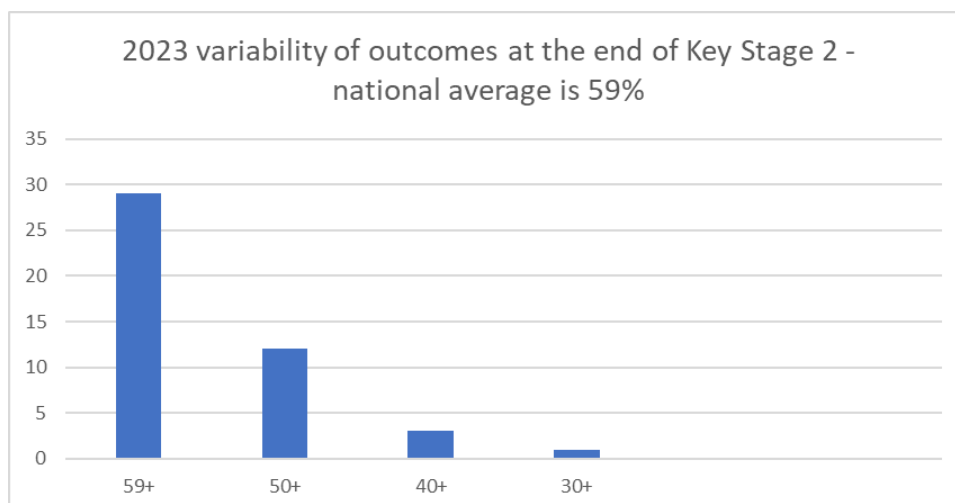
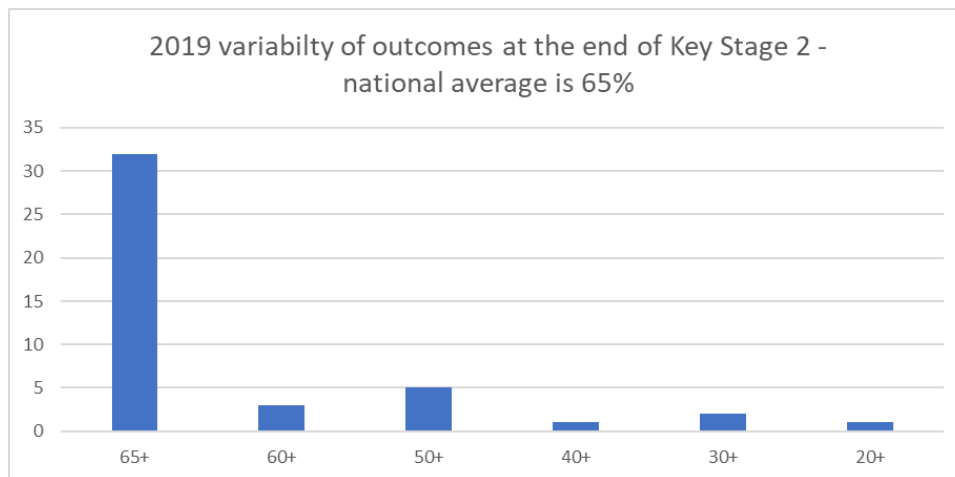
Subject: Provisional Education Outcomes 2023

1. Synopsis

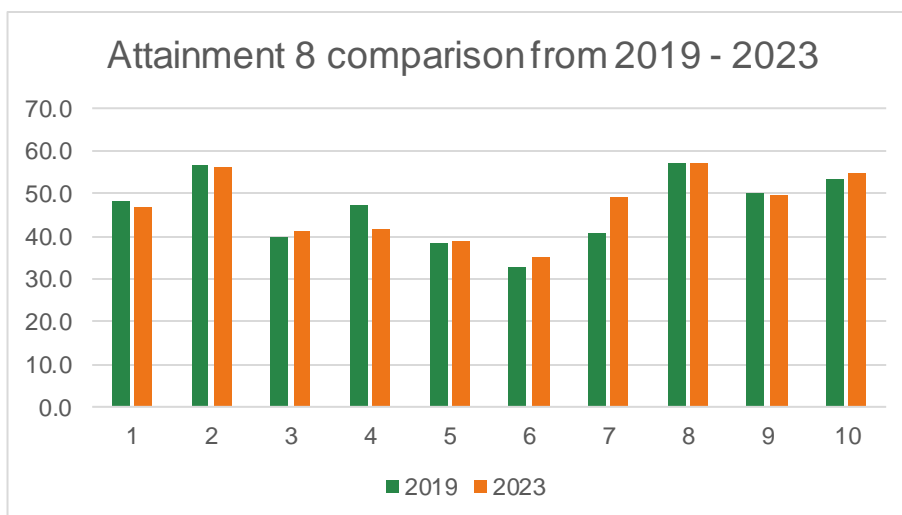
- 1.1. The Islington Education Plan outlines an ambitious plan that will reduce educational inequality.
- 1.2. All statutory assessments will be published in 2023/24.
- 1.3. 2023 provisional data (primary) is comparable to 2019 published data, however 2022 data remains unpublished and should be used with caution.
- 1.4. Early Years outcomes are not comparable to 2019 due to assessment changes introduced in 2022
- 1.5. This report includes headline data only. It does not include a breakdown of **national level figures by pupil and school characteristics**: gender, ethnicity, month of birth, free school meal eligibility, special educational needs provision, disadvantage and the disadvantage gap index. This data will be provided later in the Autumn Term 2023. This will be included in the report to Children Scrutiny in February 2024.
- 1.6. **Regional, local authority and local authority district level figures** will be provided later in the Autumn Term 2023. This will be included in the report to Children Scrutiny in February 2024.
- 1.7. Outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 will be published nationally as in line with previous years and a detailed analysis by pupil characteristics will be published in January 2024 and will be included in the report to Childrens Scrutiny in February 2024.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **To note:** The Education Plan, SEND Strategy and School Organisation Plan will be the vehicle to drive education outcomes and reduce the gap between vulnerable groups and all Islington pupils.
- 2.2. **To note:** all primary phases of statutory assessment remain above national. At the time of writing this report, national figures for KS4 and KS5 had not been confirmed.
- 2.3. **To note:** the provisional 2023 outcomes vary from 39% combined at KS2 for Reading, Writing and Maths to 97% for the same measure. In 2019 published outcomes varied from 20% to 94% for the same measure. This is summarised in the table below:




To Note: the provisional outcomes for Attainment 8 in 2023 compared to pre pandemic levels in 2019. While there remains variability, Islington schools have returned in general to pre pandemic levels with some schools making an improvement.






- 2.4. Schools to ensure that the gap between pre pandemic levels for pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics improves to above Inner London by 2024 (which provisionally is 80.8% in 2023)
- 2.5. Schools to ensure that outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 improve to be in line with Inner London by 2024 (which provisionally is 65.3% in 2023)
- 2.6. Continue to support secondary schools so that the 14 – 19 strategy secures further improvements with outcomes at both key stages, including the reduction of suspensions and persistent absence.
- 2.7. Reduce the variability across the secondary school provision by sharing effective practice through the Secondary Deputy Head network and the newly established Secondary Curriculum network.
- 2.8. 21 schools have been identified for additional support from the local authority. This support will focus on:
 - Ofsted preparation – supporting schools with allocated professional partners.
 - Improving outcomes and supporting schools in financially challenging circumstances.
 - Targeted support for schools will remain the focus of the education team to ensure that the quality of education demonstrates impact through improved outcomes to meet the milestones of the Education Plan.

2.9. To note the progress towards the ambitious targets set out in the Islington Education Plan as set out below:

Priority four – Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups

Please note 2019 – pre pandemic figures	2019	2023	2024	Direction of Travel returning to pre pandemic
Increase the percentage of children reading at age 7	84%	79%	75%	

Priority six – Attainment (KS2 and KS4)

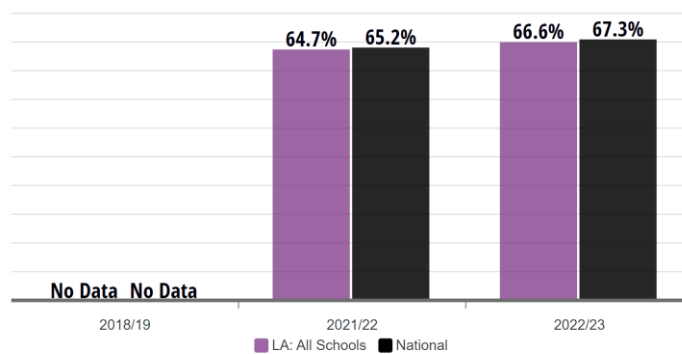
Increase the percentage of mainstream children who achieve combined, reading, writing and maths outcome at the end of Year 6	70%	64.5%	72%	
Increase the percentage of mainstream children who achieve a Level 5+ in English and Maths	39.3%	46.8%	55%	
Increase the percentage of mainstream school children who achieve an Average Point Score (APS) above 4.0 (2019)	4.09	NA	4.50	
Increase the Attainment 8 (A8) score for all children (2019)	45.7	46.0	47.5	

3. Background

- 3.1. The full suite of Early Years, Primary and Secondary assessments were undertaken by schools and settings in the Summer Term of 2023.
- 3.2. Pupils who do not achieve the expected standard in phonics at the end of Year 1 are required to retake the assessment at Year 2.
- 3.3. KS1 assessments are a combination of teacher assessment and a test for reading and maths. Writing is a teacher assessment. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to moderate 25% of all school's teacher assessments for KS1. Science is not moderated by the local authority.
- 3.4. KS2 writing is teacher assessment. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to moderate 25% of all school's teacher assessment of writing.

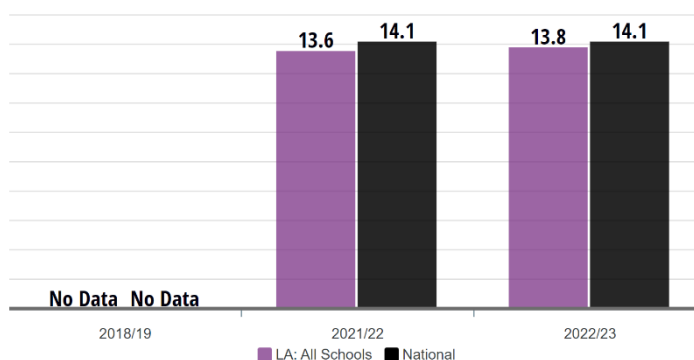
- 3.5. Key Stage 2 reading paper receive national attention due to complexity. The threshold for the expected standard was lowered in response to the media attention. This is an area of challenge for schools moving forward.
- 3.6. The Early Years assessments, now contain two years of comparable data, however they cannot be compared to pre pandemic data due to the significant changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage profile that was implemented in 2022.
- 3.7. National outcomes for KS4 and KS5 should be noted as provisional. At the time of writing the report, comparisons to national and London were limited. A further update will follow.
- 3.8. Outcome data for Children in Need (CIN) and Looked After including previously looked after are not yet available.
- 3.9. **Assessment of Early Years – Good Level of Development (GLD):**

EYFSP: Good Level of Development | Trend



- **66.6%** of Islington children achieved a good level of development at the end of their Reception year. Islington is below National 67.3 ▼; however, it is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (64.7% ▲)

EYFSP: Average no. ELGs at expected level | Trend



- On average, Islington pupils were at the expected level in **13.8** out of the 17 early learning goals (new measure). This remains below national 14.1 ▼, however it is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (13.6 ▲)
- **64.9%** of Islington children were at the expected levels across all early learning goals. There is no comparable data to national at the time of writing this report, however this is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (63.6% ▲)
- **74.2%** of Islington children were at expected level across all prime areas. The prime areas of learning include communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. There is no comparable data to national at the time of writing this report, however this is an improvement on Islington in 2022 (71.4% ▲)

3.10. Phonics at Key Stage 1

Phonics: Expected Standard (Year 1) | Trend



Year 1:

- **78.9%** of Islington children met the expected standard in phonics in Year 1. This is in line with national (78.9%) and an improvement from Islington in 2022 (76.6% ▲)
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard at Year 1 since 2019 (84.4%) in Islington is -5.5% compared to national -3.6%
- Islington outcomes have been below London for two years.

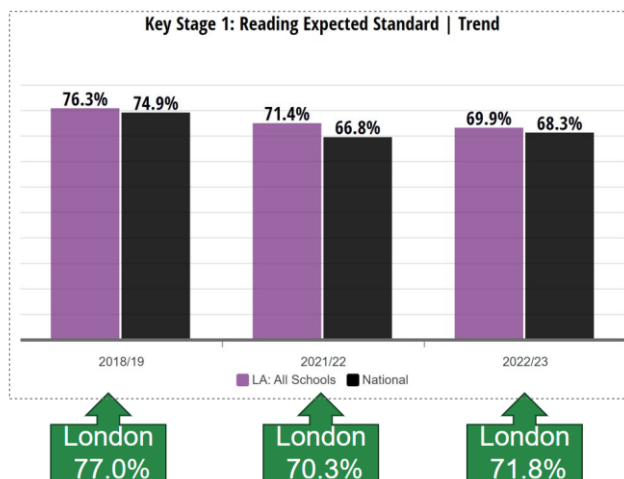
Phonics: Expected Standard (End of Key Stage 1) | Trend



At the end of KS1:

- **88.2%** of Islington children met the expected standard in phonics by the end of Key Stage 1. This is below national (88.6% ▼); and it represents a decline from Islington in 2022 (88.7% ▼)
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 1 since 2019 (91.4%) in Islington is -3.2% compared to national -2.8%
- 2023 outcomes are below London for the first time

3.11. Summary Outcomes at Key Stage 1 (Year 2): Reading Writing, Maths



Reading:

- **69.9%** met the expected standard in Reading. This remains above national (68.3% ▲); however, it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (71.4% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (76.3%) in Islington is -6.2% compared to national -6.6%

- Islington was above London in 2022

Key Stage 1: Writing Expected Standard | Trend



Writing:

- **63.3%** met the expected standard in Writing. This remains above national (60.1% ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (65.3% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (74.4%) in Islington is -8% compared to national -9%.
- Islington was above London in 2022

Key Stage 1: Maths Expected Standard | Trend



Maths:

- **72.7%** met the expected standard in Maths. This remains above national (70.4% ▲) and represents an increase compared to Islington in 2022 (71.0% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (77.7%) in Islington is -5% compared to national -5.2%.
- Islington was in line with London in 2022

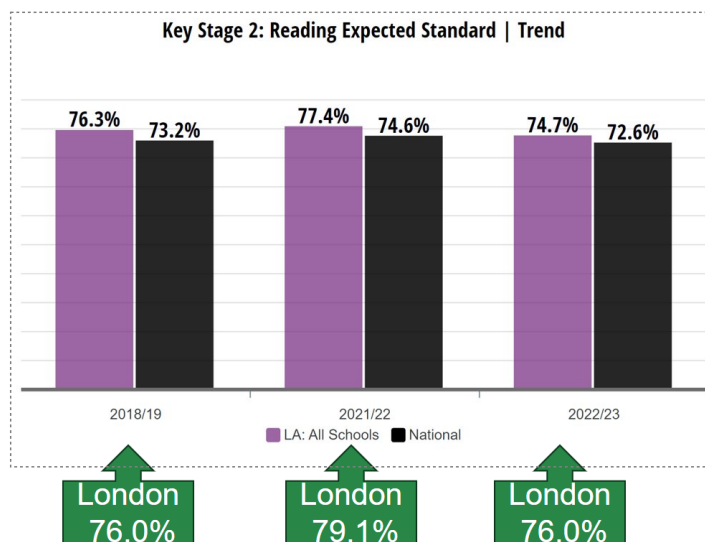
Key Stage 1: RWM Expected Standard | Trend



Combined Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM):

- **59.6%** met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. This remains above national (56.0 ▲); however, it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (60.5% ▼).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (67.9%) in Islington is -8.3% compared to national -8.9%.
- Islington was above London in 2022

3.12. Summary Outcomes at Key Stage 2 (Year 6): Reading Writing, Maths (RWM)



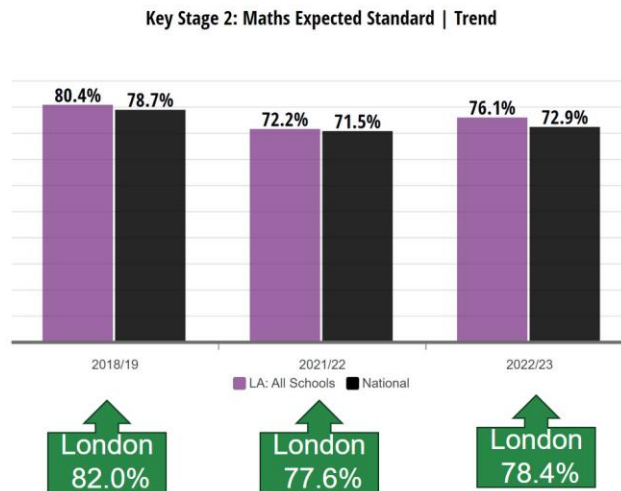
Reading:

- **74.7%** met the expected standard in Reading. This remains above national (72.6% ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (77.4% ▼).
- Outcomes for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (76.3%) in Islington is -1.6% compared to national -0.6%.
- Islington was above London in 2019.



Writing:

- **75.0%** met the expected standard in Writing. This remains above national (71.5% ▲) and above Islington in 2022 (72.4% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (81.8%) in Islington is -6.8% compared to national -7%.
- Islington was above London in 2019.



Maths:

- **76.1%** met the expected standard in Maths. This remains above national (72.9% ▲) and above Islington (72.2% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (80.4%) in Islington is -4.3% compared to national -5.8%.
- Islington has been below London for three years.

Key Stage 2: RWM Expected Standard | Trend



Combined Reading Writing and Maths RWM:

- **64.4%** met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. This remains above national (59.4% ▲) and above Islington 2022 (63.3% ▲).
- The gap for pupils meeting the expected standard since 2019 (69.7%) in Islington is -5.3% compared to national -5.5%.
- Islington was above London in 2019.

Provisional Progress Scores for Key Stage 2

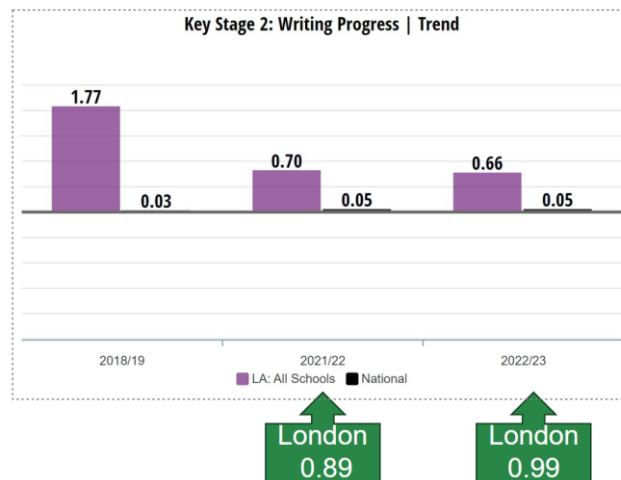
- A score of zero is the national benchmark. A score **above zero** indicates that pupils have made better than expected progress from their starting point. A score **less than zero** indicates that pupils have made less progress from their starting point.
- The progress score is a measure overtime from the end of Key Stage 1 (year 2) to the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).

Key Stage 2: Reading Progress | Trend



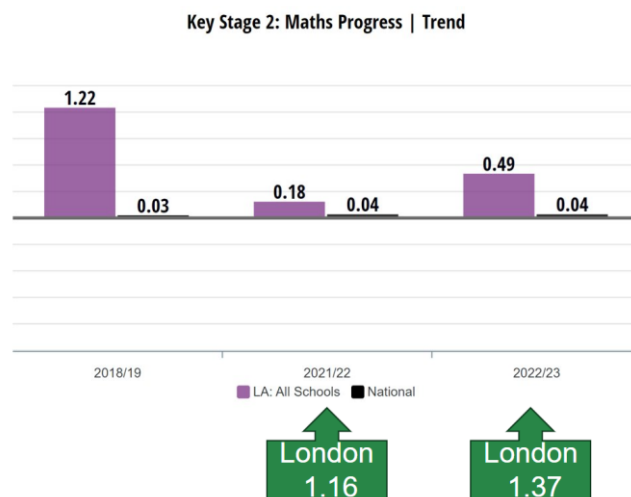
Reading:

- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **-0.11** in Reading. This is below national (0.04 ▼) and below Islington in 2022 (0.54 ▼).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.56) in Islington is -1.45 compared to national (+0.01).
- Progress remains below London.



Writing:

- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **+0.66** in Writing. This is above national (0.05 ▲); and it represents a decline compared to Islington in 2022 (0.70 ▼).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.77) in Islington is -1.11 compared to national (+.02).
- Progress remains below London.



Maths:

- Islington pupils achieved an average progress score of **+0.49** in Maths. This is above national (0.04 ▲) and above Islington in 2022 (0.18 ▲).
- The gap in average progress since 2019 (+1.22) in Islington is -0.73 compared to national (+0.02).
- Progress remains below London.

3.13. Summary Outcomes: KS4 GCSE

Attainment 8

- Attainment 8 is based on the achievement of a pupil across 8 approved qualifications, with English and Maths being double-weighted.
- Islington school pupils achieved an average Attainment 8 score of 46.0 in 2023, based on the provisional figures from results day. This is **an increase of 0.3 points** compared to 2019 provisional results.


English and Maths Attainment

- 65.1% of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths in 2023. This is **two percentage points higher** than the 2019- results day figure.
- 46.8% of Islington school pupils achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths in 2023. This is **seven percentage points higher** than the 2019- results day figure.

Highest Grades (7+)

- The proportion of Islington school pupils who achieved three or more GCSEs at the highest grades (7+) increased from 25.0% in 2019 to 26.8% in 2023.

Please note that all results are based on the provisional results received on results day itself. All figures are subject to change, as a result of issues like appeals and remarks. By the time the GCSE results are published by the DfE in October, the figures are likely to be higher than they appeared on results day.

	Islington 2019	Islington 2023	Direction of Travel
Grade 4+ English and Maths	63.1%	65.1%	
Grade 5+ English and Maths	39.3%	46.8%	
Attainment 8	45.7%	46.0%	
7+ in 3 or more GCSEs	25.0%	26.8%	

3.14. Summary Outcomes: KS5 A Levels

- In 2023, students sat externally marked examinations for the second time since 2019 due to the pandemic. The Department for Education confirmed a return to pre-pandemic grading in 2023, with some protection against the impact of COVID-19 disruption.
- **Therefore 2019 outcomes are more comparable to 2023.** As a result, overall national results are lower than in 2022 and closer to 2019 levels, making grades not directly comparable with recent years.

	2019 (published)	2022 (published)	2023 (provisional)	2023 – 2022 Difference	2023 – 2019 Difference
A* - A	16.3%	30.9%	22.4%	-8.5%	+6.1%
A* - B	43.8%	59.0%	52.1%	-6.9%	+8.3%
A* - C	73.7%	82.1%	76.2%	-6.0%	+2.5%
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APS	32.8	37.3	34.4	-3.0	+1.6
Entries	828	829	1100	271	272

- The table above illustrates a decrease in the Average Point Score from 37.3 in 2022 to 34.4 in 2023, based on the provisional results. **This is an increase from 32.8 in 2019.**
- **Please note** comparison to LONDON is not currently available with the exception of A* - A grades. This will be updated in November.

The overall LA figures show:

- 22.4% of entries received A*-A grades, down from 30.9% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (16.3%). This has **narrowed the gap** to England (26.5%) and London (30.0%) compared to 2022.
- 52.1% of entries received A*-B grades, down from 59.0% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (43.8%). This has **narrowed the gap** to England (52.7%).
- 76.2% of entries received A*-C grades, down from 82.1% in 2022, **but above** 2019 (73.7%). This is **above** England (75.4%).

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

4.2. There are no direct financial implications to this report. By way of background, schools currently receive the following government funding targeted at improving educational outcomes. This funding is on top-of their main source of funding, the Dedicated Schools Grant.

- The Pupil Premium has been in place for several years and is provided for pupils that are disadvantaged (determined by free school meal eligibility at any point in the last 6 years), looked after children / previously looked after children, and service children (pupils who have been recorded as having a parent in the regular armed forces in the last 6 years).
- School-led tutoring programme for the 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 academic years for State-funded schools are provided with a ring-fenced grant to source their own tutoring provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils who have missed the most education due to the pandemic. 2023/24 is the last year of this funded programme.
- Recovery premium for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years to provide additional funding for targeted at pupil premium eligible pupils. This funding is intended to build on the pupil premium, by helping schools to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting disadvantaged pupils. 2023/24 is the last year of funding arrangement.

Pupil Premium Allocations in Islington are as follows:

Pupil Premium	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Actual £k	2023/24 Actual £k
Primary Pupils	7,689	8,057	8,189
Secondary Pupils	4,479	4,010	4,335
Service children	2	2	3
Previously Looked After Children	284	328	367
Looked After Children	542	559	587
Total	12,996	12,956	13,481

The following Covid recovery grants have been received:

Grant	2021/22 £k	2022/23 £k	2023/24 Estimate £k
Catch-up funding	755	-	-
National Tutoring Programme - Academic Mentors	83	501	715
School-Led Tutoring Grant	765	453	-
Recovery Premium	814	1,747	568
Total	2,417	2,701	1,283

4.3. **Legal Implications**

4.3.1. There are no direct legal implications for this report

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

4.4.1. There are no environmental implications for this report

4.5. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.5.1. 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.

4.5.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

5.1. This report details the LA Level Data that is available for the Children's Scrutiny Committee to consider and to note the recommendations in Section 2.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Summary power point summary of education outcomes

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Jon Abbey

Corporate Director of Children and Young People

Date: 9 August 2023

Report Author: Sarah Callaghan

Email: Sarah.Callaghan@islington.gov.uk

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY TOPICS AND WORK PROGRAMME

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

12 June 2023

1. Membership, Terms of Reference
2. Scrutiny Response Tracker
3. Scrutiny Topic and Draft Work Programme
4. Scrutiny Report

19 July 2023

1. Scrutiny Initiation Document (SID) & Introductory presentation.
2. School Reorganisation
3. Quarter 4 Performance Report

14 September 2023

1. Quarter 1 Performance Report
2. Child Protection Annual Report
3. Headline/Provisional School Results

31 October 2023

1. Executive Member Report
2. Scrutiny Review Witness Evidence

28 November 2023

1. Quarter 2 Performance Report

15 January 2024

1. Scrutiny Review of SEN & Disabilities Transitions – 12-month update.

26 February 2024

1. Scrutiny Review – Draft Recommendations
2. Quarter 3 Performance Report
3. School Results 2023
4. ISCB Report Annual

29 April 2024

1. Scrutiny Review – Report
2. SACRE Annual Report
3. Update on Baseline Report for Supported Internships