



Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Children Services Scrutiny Committee	10 July 2017	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
-----------------------	-------------------	------------

SUBJECT: Children's Services Performance 2016/17: Quarter 4 Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This Quarter Four (Q4) performance report provides an update on progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across Children's Services.
- 1.2 A Data Dashboard, showing performance against the KPIs, is included in a separate attachment. This report should be read alongside the dashboard for a full, rounded understanding of performance in each area.
- 1.3 Only those KPIs where new data is available at the time of writing are discussed in this report, to avoid repetition from previous performance updates.
- 1.4 Corporate Indicators are highlighted – these have profiled targets for each quarter.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider Children's Services performance in Quarter 4 2016/17;
- 2.2 To note the following proposed changes to Children's Services Corporate Performance Indicators:
 - Removal of CI9 Number of active childminders. This measure was introduced when the number and Ofsted outcomes for childminders was less strong, it is now much improved and compares well.
 - Removal of CI11 Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington. However, this measure will continue to be monitored through Children's Services Scrutiny Committee each quarter;
 - Amend CI12 Number of children missing to over 24 hours only;
 - Replace CI15 Level 2 at KS4, 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics, with Progress 8;
 - Amend CI16 Percentage of Islington school leavers in Year 11 who move into sustained education or training to match the DfE measure, based on pupil destinations as at the start of November

2.3 Also to note the following new Equalities indicators for Children's Services:

- Improving uptake of funded early education among Turkish/Kurdish families
- Narrow the gap in attainment between Black Caribbean pupils and the LA average for all pupils at Key Stage 2 (expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths) – to be reported once 2017 results available
- Narrow the gap in attainment between Black Caribbean pupils and the LA average for all pupils at Key Stage 4 (Progress 8) – to be reported once 2017 results available

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 1: Through strong universal services, children, young people and adults are enabled to achieve good education and employability outcomes

1.3 - Equalities: Improving uptake of funded early education among Turkish/Kurdish families

As part of our overall drive to improve the uptake of funded early education places for 2 year olds, an equalities measure has been agreed to focus on the uptake of these places by children from Turkish and Kurdish families. A target of ensuring there are 50 or more Turkish and Kurdish children taking up 2 year old places by January 2018 has been agreed.

Between January 2016 and January 2017, the number of Turkish and Kurdish 2 year old children taking up early years places increased from 30 to 42.

Uptake has increased as families in general become more aware of the 2 year old offer and more local provision becomes available. Proportionately uptake from Turkish and Kurdish families has increased more as more resource has been focused on the bilingual outreach service commissioned from Minik Kardes. While this area of work has been ongoing additional funding has recently been made available to enable more time to be devoted to supporting eligible families to access and take up a funded place.

1.5 - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent

At the time of the Q3 report, we knew there had been a reduction in the persistent absence rates in Islington primary schools from 9.9% in 2014/15 to 9.2% in 2015/16. Published data for our comparators is now available, which shows that persistent absence in other parts of the country also fell, year on year.

Nationally, persistent absence levels for primary school pupils fell from 8.4% in 2014/15 to 8.2% in 2016/17. In London, persistent absence levels for primary school pupils fell from 8.9% in 2014/15 to 8.6% in 2016/17. Persistent absence levels in Inner London boroughs tend to be higher than other areas and in both 2014/15 and 2015/16 the Inner London average was 8.9%. The gap between Islington and our comparators therefore narrowed.

The proposed target for this academic year is to be at or lower than the Inner London average.

Data for the Autumn term 2016/17 is now available. This shows that across the country, absence levels increased compared to the previous year. The Islington persistent absence rate for primary school pupils rose to 10.5%, which is slightly above the Inner London and London averages of 10.2%. Absence levels tend to be highest in the Autumn term, so we expect the persistent absence rate to fall during the Spring and Summer terms.

Persistent Absence (PA) is moving in the right direction since resources previously held centrally were delegated to schools from 2015-16. But it still remains too high when compared to other LAs, particularly at primary. Interventions are targeted on schools with the highest levels of PA. An emphasis is placed on the consistent use of systems and procedures (e.g. first day calling) and a range of in-schools factors (e.g. encouraging extra-curricular participation). Recognising that some of the factors associated with chronic absence are beyond the school's direct control, we are also supporting improved links between schools and the Early Help Service, with children who are PA and their families targeted for support.

1.8 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

There were 117 Islington pupils in Alternative Provision at the end of March 2017, which is higher than the 112 at the end of December 2016, but lower than the 127 at the end of March 2016.

For 2017/18, Islington schools will have responsibility for managing their own arrangements for pupils in Alternative Provision. This means that the Alternative Provision team will only be managing cases where schools purchase this as a service from the local authority. Therefore, it will be up to schools to choose what is appropriate for each pupil, and reduce the influence of the Local Authority. The message remains, however, that the best place for the vast majority of pupils is in a school.

We continue to work with Secondary Schools encouraging them to think carefully about referring pupils to Alternative Provision. This academic year the current numbers of Year 10 pupils are down by 45%, however, the current Year 11 have increased by 20%.

The Action Plan for 2016-17 is in place. This has identified a piece of work with Islington Schools and Local Authority to transfer responsibility for Alternative Provision to New River College. The process for this with schools will be in place for the summer term.

1.13 - Corporate Indicator: Percentage of Islington school leavers in Year 11 who move into sustained education or training

1.13 – Proposed revision to Corporate Indicator: Percentage of Islington school leavers in Year 11 who move into education or training

There was a slight increase in the proportion of Islington school leavers who move into sustained education or training (i.e. for two terms), from 96.7% for those who left in 2015 to 96.9% for those who left in 2016.

It is proposed that the Corporate Indicator on this measure is amended to match the measure published by the DfE, based on pupils' destinations as at the start of November each year. On this measure there was also a slight increase, from 96.8% for those who left in 2015 to 97.3% for those who left in 2016.

1.14 - Percentage of 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Revision to 1.14 - Percentage of 16 & 17 Year old Residents NEET or Not Known

The proportion of Islington's 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has fallen in recent years, from 5.2% in 2014/15, to 2.2% in 2015/16 and 1.7% in 2016/17.

However, the DfE are revising this measure to look only at 16 and 17 year olds, but including those young people whose status is not known to the local authority in the figures. 4.6% of Islington's resident 16 and 17 year olds were NEET or Not Known in 2016/17, which is better than the London and England average (6.7%).

The improvement in performance in both the 'in learning' measures reflects continued work with schools to identify early those learners who are assessed as being at risk of not progressing to post 16 learning and ensuring that the appropriate support is provided to them. A specialist progress adviser has been in place since September 2015 whose role is to work with young people who wish to pursue a vocational pathway post 16. This role working with schools has contributed to the numbers of young people remaining in learning, as has sustained follow up of school leavers and work carried out by progress advisers in the GCSE results period.

The continued reduction in the numbers of young people 16 to 18 who are NEET or whose activity in learning is not known to the local authority is pleasing, given the high figures that had been sustained in Islington over a number of previous years. The performance in this area is delivered through a caseload-based approach, careful data management and skilled engagement with individual young people in order to support them back into learning, in often complex and challenging circumstances.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 2: The resilience of children, young people and families is strengthened by accessing effective early intervention approaches

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

This is based on the number of children in funded places compared to the size of the list of eligible parents received from the DWP. There were 728 2 year olds in funded places, a slight fall of 14 compared to the previous term. However, the size of the cohort of eligible children also fell, so 70% of eligible children were taking up a funded place in each of the last two terms.

Our refreshed communications strategy has helped to promote the offer maintaining the percentage of funded 2 year olds taking up a place alongside reminders about the offer and its impact on outcomes with colleagues and partners. The development of the family engagement worker role as part of the wider transformation of early childhood (to be implemented September 2017) will have a keener focus on ensuring all families access their early education and childcare entitlements.

In terms of numbers of places, we currently have sufficiency in line with take-up but are continuing to develop more places, particularly in schools and children's centres where levels of staffing qualifications are higher and the impact on children's outcomes better.

2.4 - Number of families in Stronger Families programme with successful outcomes as measured by payment by results

Claims for a further 56 families were made in January 2017 and then a further 74 families in March 2017, on top of the 87 families for which there was a claim in September 2016, making a total of 217 in 16/17, which exceeds our target of 200 for 2016/17.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 3: Children and young people are kept safe through effective safeguarding and child protection arrangements which respond to risk, early identification and reduce escalation of concerns

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

The proportion of re-referrals fell in Q4, although the provisional year-end figure remains above the 2015/16 figure. However, the proportion of re-referrals for Islington in 2016/17 remains consistent with the 2015/16 national average.

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

In 2015/16, Islington had the 28th highest proportion of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time in the country. However, the provisional year-end figure for 2016/17 has almost halved compared to 2015/16. The 2016/17 year-end figure for Islington is lower than the London and England averages for 2015/16, and is equivalent to top quartile performance based on the 2015/16 figures across the country.

This reduction is a result of the intensive work being performance to ensure children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan are not removed from the plan until their needs are met.

3.3 - Percentage of children who were seen in accordance with a Children in Need Plan

This is a local measure. A change in the cohort covered by this measure during Q2 of 2016/17 means only trend data and no comparator data is currently available for this indicator. The measure is included for information only.

3.4 and 3.5 - Number of children missing from care; and home

The number of missing episodes has significantly decreased in the last few months. The numbers of children who have been missing in the last quarter has remained relatively similar. The missing from care data evidences the same number of looked after children going missing. However there is significant decrease in the amount of times those children went missing in comparison to the previous quarter. There has been a marked decrease in individual children missing from home on a subsequent occasion; this has been due to improved safety planning within the Social Work teams alongside partner agency contribution. The fewer number of times a child goes missing the less potential risk there is to that child.

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

In the last quarter, 4 out of 21 young people Triaged went on to receive a substantive disposal – so 81% were diverted away from the criminal justice system, an increase on the 76% the previous quarter. Over the whole year, 26 out of 131 young people Triaged went on to receive a substantive disposal, so overall 80% were diverted away from the criminal justice system.

This is a very positive performance, demonstrating that the Triage service offered by the Targeted Youth Service is successful in moving young people away from criminality. As a result, we are examining whether there are further groups of young people who could be managed through out of court means, and are currently trialling a Restorative Disposal to be used with the small numbers of complex young women who offend in a prolific but low level manner, and for whom the statutory justice system may not be the best means of meeting their needs or reducing the risks of recidivism. This work is in a nascent stage and outcomes will be examined when there are sufficient numbers receiving the disposal.

3.7 - Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System

Provisional year-end data suggests there were 79 first time entrants into the Youth Justice System in 2016/17, a significant reduction from 2015/16, when there were 102 first time entrants.

This is very positive, and reflects the good performance of the Triage service as above. We are on track to achieve and indeed exceed what was once felt to be an over demanding target. Initiatives such as the Youth Restorative Disposal aim to continue to divert young people where possible, so that the statutory system concentrates on young people whose offending is serious enough to warrant this.

3.8 - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)

Provisional year-end data suggests 45% of the 2016/17 cohort re-offended during the year. This is a reduction from a revised figure of 56% for the previous year. This provisional data also shows that the frequency rate of re-offending, which tracks the re-offending rate of the most prolific individuals within the cohort, is also set to reduce.

We attribute this in part to improved case management within the YOS, and also to our work in tracking the cohort through use of the 'live tracker' tool, which enables more accurate targeting of the groups most likely to re-offend in Islington. The key themes arising from tracker data include the need to tackle the very high rates of breach of CBO; the need to continue to focus on school engagement, and targeted work to promote positive black masculinity.

3.9 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

Provisional year-end data suggests custodial sentences have reduced substantially in the year, and the YOS is again on track to exceed our ambitious target.

The establishment of a specialist Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme, which enables rigorous management of high risk young people in the community, has contributed to this positive reduction. However improvements in the quality of the service across a range of aspects – the service delivered to the courts and the consequent confidence of sentencers; the standard and consistency of pre-sentence reports; the confidence of and resources available to staff to work with higher risk groups and the positive, child centred ethos of the YOS team have all led to this achievement.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 4: Children, young people and families thrive through good local area health, care and education provision

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

Comparator data for 2015/16 has not yet been published on this measure. In 2014/15, Islington was in the bottom quartile on this measure. However, the Islington figures improved in 2015/16 and the provisional year-end figures for 2016/17 show a similar figure to 2015/16.

There are various reasons why some children have not been in the same placement for 2 years. There have been positive moves for children from their placements particularly children returning home, children moving from therapeutic residential care to foster care or supported accommodation, placed for adoption or who have moved to permanent families. There has been a trajectory for improvement for children placed for adoption with some children being placed swiftly. Some young people placed in supported accommodation have been moved to improve their safety.

4.6 - Placement stability - long term - Percentage of children who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years who have been looked after in the same placement for at least 2 years or placed for adoption

As above, the comparator data relates to 2014/15, and the long term stability of placements for Islington's looked after children has since improved. Provisional data for 2016/17 suggests that 66.2% of the cohort for this measure were in a stable placement, the same proportion as in 2015/16.

The majority of changes in long term placements involve children over the age of 14, and in short term moves young people over the age of 17. The themes are late entry to care, difficulty in meeting behavioural needs and the shortage of placements available for these children and young people. Some of these young people have benefitted from placements out of the area, where specialist help is available for them and they can make a new start away from negative influences.

A policy is already in place whereby all second moves and above are scrutinised at senior management level. There are also processes in place to scrutinise the placements of children in long term fostering arrangements. Permanency Planning Meetings are held by the adoption Service for children up to and including 13 year olds. Our Adoption and Permanency panel approves fostering matches for children under the age of 10 and our Long Term Fostering panel scrutinises and decide whether to approve all prospective long term foster placements for children over the age of 10. A Care Planning Panel is also being established to ensure greater senior management oversight of these cases.

4.7 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

The proportion of early years settings judged to be good or better in their most recent inspection has increased throughout 2016/17. The latest published data (as at the end of December 2016) shows 90.4% of Islington's early years settings are good or better, which is in line with the London average, although slightly below the England average.

While the direction of travel continues to improve although the figures appear disappointing in comparison with national averages, all nursery settings bar one in the borough across the

private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors now have a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome.

This indicator also gives equal weighting to individual childminder inspections. The number of childminders with a less than good outcome is 15. However, some of these inspection outcomes are very old and the childminders themselves may not be minding any more but choose to remain on the early years register. Local data shows that only six active childminders currently have a “Requires Improvement” outcome. Childminding co-ordinators are working with them to support them to improve provision.

Four other non-domestic settings with “Requires Improvement” outcomes are after school clubs on the Early Years Register which rarely take children under five. Two of the four have received an inspection judgement of good since January. The childcare monitoring officer is working with the third voluntary sector setting. The fourth setting is an independent company commissioned by a local school to deliver an after school service.

4.8 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (primary, secondary and special)

The proportion of schools judged good or better fell slightly in Q4. Published data shows that across the country, fewer schools are receiving good or outstanding inspection outcomes in recent inspections. Only 44% of schools across England that were inspected in Q4 2016/17 were judged good or better, compared to 7 out of the 8 Islington schools inspected during the same period.

Subsequent to these figures and recent published reports the current figure of good or better schools across Islington is 93%. This includes the following:

- 93% good or better primary (Maintained)
- 75% good or better secondary (non-academy)
- 100% good or better special school
- 100% good or better primary/secondary (Academy/Free School)

Currently this would indicate that Ofsted outcomes for Islington schools are in line with London figures and are above national figures.

The local authority is anticipating a further inspection of a primary school currently judged as requiring improvement. All indicators suggest that this school will be judged “Good” and therefore the primary figure will rise to 95% good or better.

Children's Services Plan 2016/19 - Aim 5: A high quality strategic and business support infrastructure stimulates the development and delivery of efficient and effective services

5.1 - Number of active childminders

There has been little change in the overall number of childminders during the year, with the number at the end of 2017/18 standing at 188, an increase of one over the previous year. However, the quality of provision continues to improve, with the latest published data showing that 88% of Islington's childminders judged good or better by Ofsted, in line with the London average (as at the end of December 2016).

The delays in the DBS checking remain with subsequent negative impact on the recruitment of childminders. iWork continues to work closely with childminder recruitment, supporting childminders with the cost of initial training and DBS checks.

A revised childcare business grant has now been made available from the DfE for new childminders if they are planning to offer the 30 hours and are registered with their Local Authority to do so. This has been incorporated into the Islington childminder recruitment and development pathway.

5.4 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington

11 new foster families were approved in 2016/7, with 8 more applicants at different stages. Without continuous advertising, enquiries slow down. There is currently a shared Consortium internet recruitment campaign followed by a Consortium Recruitment event in May. Islington is also launching a Google Adwords campaign to raise our own internet profile, plus we are planning a microsite to give better information to the public about fostering.

Appendices: Appendix A – Data Dashboard

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date:

Report Authors:	Lauren Pang	and	Adam White
Tel:	020 7527 5683		020 7527 2657
Email:	Lauren.Pang@islington.gov.uk		adam.white@islington.gov.uk