

**Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment & Skills**

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	18 October 2018	All
<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt

## **SUBJECT: Quarterly Review of Children's Services Performance (Q1 2018/19)**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This Quarter 1 performance report provides an update on progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across Children Employment & Skills.
- 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 This report has been substantially restructured compared to previous reports, to reflect the agreed outcomes for the local authority under the Outcomes Based Budgetting (OBB) approach, as well as the new Corporate Indicators for 2018/19.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To consider Children's Services performance in Quarter 1 2018/19;
- 2.2 To agree that the set of measures contained in these reports should be refreshed, to ensure the indicators reported are relevant and aligned with current service priorities.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The main body of this report is set out using selected KPIs under each of the outcomes within the Corporate Plan for 2018-22. Corporate Indicators, including Equalities Indicators, are highlighted. 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.
- 3.2 Other than the revised Corporate Indicators, most of the KPIs in this report have remained as part of the set being reported for the last two years. At the time, some of these were set as they were areas of work which were a focus for improvement. Many of these areas of work are now not in need of the same level of scrutiny as they once did. Therefore, it is suggested that the set of indicators reported to Children's Services Scrutiny are reviewed during the next quarter, and amended where appropriate.

# **CES OBB Outcome: Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all**

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

80% of young people triaged in Q1 2018/19 were diverted away from the criminal justice system. This is in line with performance during 2017/18, although it was an improvement on performance in the first quarter of last year alone.

The offer from the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) team continues to be robust in ensuring that young people who are in need of effective early intervention and prevention work are supported at the earliest possible opportunity. This is particularly applicable to the cohorts of young people who are displaying behavioural difficulties and low-level offending and anti-social behaviour. TYS continue to offer eligible young people a robust, multi-agency package which aims to deter any further progression or escalation of their needs. The duty system, in conjunction with CSCT, enables professionals, agencies (such as schools) and self referrals to be made to assist in this regard. Work has also taken place to strengthen the TYS detached youth work programme, where workers focus on working with young people in areas in the borough which have been identified as being 'hotspots'. This has included repromoting the use of the truck and helps workers to signpost young people to the appropriate services and/or interventions.

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

There were 16 first time entrants in the first quarter of the year, which is one below the number reported during the same period in 2017/18.

This level of performance shows significant improvements when compared to the Q1 performance of the previous two years. Some of the reasons for this improvement were covered in the commentary for 1.1 and are also applicable to this indicator. In addition, the Triage service which is offered through Targeted Youth Support being part of the duty service via CSCT, has helped ensure that young people are effectively screened and supported early on. This is leading to a more robust package of support for young people who are being diverted from offending via the Triage process and also to those young people who need more comprehensive support via Youth Cautions, Youth Conditional Cautions and Referral Orders. We are also being proactive in ensuring that young people who have had cases dropped by the Police via a 'No Further Action' are contacted and offered support. This process started via the Pre-Court Panel earlier in the year and we may be seeing the impact of this work now.

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

Provisional data suggests out of the 44 young people in the cohort for 2018/19, 15 had reoffended as at the end of Q1 2018/19 (34%). This is a higher percentage than what was reported at the same time of 2017/18.

There has been a lot of effort at a casework, operational and strategic level to deal with the issue of a small, but significant group of young people who are responsible for a number of offences. We recognise that there is more to do despite these efforts. We are continuing to use the Youth Justice Board's 'live tracker' tool to identify, track and monitor the cohort (and any newcomers). In addition, this cohort of young people are being offered intensive support and resource to reduce the likelihood of them offending. Due to the multiple needs that these young people have, we have made efforts to enhance the health offer via CAMHS and the speech and language worker and we have secured funding to support 10 of our highest risk offenders into employment or training. The offer of the Integrated Gangs Team (IGT), is also being used for the cohort and these young people are also offered a mentor from St Giles Trust or Safer London.

Note – the comparison shown above is a snapshot at the end of the year. This measure actually gets refreshed during the year and is not totally reliable until some time after the data is reported (as the outcomes of offences are confirmed throughout the year).

## **1.4 - Corporate Indicator - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders**

After a large drop in the number of custodial sentences in 2017/18, there was an increase in Q1 of 2018/19, compared to the same period of 2017/18, with 12 young people sentenced to custody in the quarter.

It is recognised that this is a large number of young people to be sentenced to custodial sentences within one quarter and this is the highest number within a quarter for a considerable period of time. In order to contextualise this, however, Q1 always seems to be the period in Islington where we see larger numbers of young people sentenced to custody.. Despite the gravity of some of the offences involved, the custodial sentences at the time of writing, so far in Q1 have been minimal. This means that the significant achievements in relation to the imposition of custodial sentences for our young people remain and we are no longer the poorest performing Youth Offending Service in London for this indicator. Magistrates and the courts are more confident in the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and are now more likely to agree with our proposals. For serious offences, however, the only option much of the time is custody. In Q1, we held another open evening for magistrates and District Judges that was very well attended and we were given a 10/10 rating by most attendees.

Work is also underway to look at the disproportionality issues that exist when it comes to the sentencing of young BME people who are more likely to receive custodial sentences and we have now created a tracking tool to help us monitor this.

## **1.5 - Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours**

### **1.6 - Number of children missing from home**

There has been an increase in the number of children missing from care for more than 24 hours each month during the first quarter of 2018/19, rising from 8 in March to 14 in June 2018. However, the June total is in line with the same month in 2017.

The number of children who went missing from home in June was 22, an increase from the 12 in March 2018. However, the number in March was the lowest total in any single month in 2017/18. The June 2018 figure of 22 children missing from home is in line with most other recent months, and lower than the same period in 2017 (31 children).

Protection from harm whilst children are missing from care or from home, starts with a multi-agency response using Strategy meetings to ensure there is a robust safety plan in place. During quarter 1, 14 missing strategy meetings were chaired independently by the Exploitation and Missing Team. The process regarding safeguarding missing children has continued to be embedded within Social Work teams, meaning strategy meetings do not always require an independent chair. We have developed our missing person notifications and alerts system to support the child being found as quickly as possible.

All missing children are cross referenced to see if there are links to CSE, gang affiliation, serious youth crime or exploitation. This ensures that risks are assessed at the earliest opportunity and safety plans are developed which are multi-agency. The Exploitation and Missing Team continue to provide training across the council and through the ISCB which explores the link between children that go missing and risk of exploitation.

The data evidences that there has been an increase in the number of children missing from care for more than 24 hours during the first quarter of 2018/2019. However when compared with June 2017, the figures are similar. This demonstrates that there has been limited change in terms of the number of children remaining missing for over 24 hours when comparing year on year. The Exploitation and Missing Team continue to provide new starter briefings in which the missing process is outlined to ensure new members of staff are clear about the steps they should take to safeguard a missing child. In addition there is continuous scrutiny and senior management oversight of children who do go missing, in order to support the child being found without delay.

Islington's demographic profile remains similar – in terms of the boys more likely to go missing than girls, and children aged 16 and 17yrs going missing more frequently.

## **CES OBB Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living**

*No new data is available for any of the KPIs relating to children and young people under this outcome area*

# **CES OBB Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential**

Performance in relation to Learning & Schools should be considered within the context of the current strategic priorities for Learning & Schools, as set out in the refreshed service plan:

- Narrowing the gap in attainment between Black-Caribbean pupils and the LBI average at KS2 and KS4 (KS2 gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths. KS4 gap in Progress 8)
- Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for FSM and the LBI average at KS2 and KS4. (KS2 gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths. KS4 gap in Progress 8)
- Improving attainment and progress measures at every stage so that they are closer to, at, or above the inner London average (particularly for SEND pupils at KS4)
- Ensuring that all schools are good or outstanding
- Reducing the number of primary school children who are persistently absent and increasing attendance to be at or above the inner London average
- Reducing exclusions so that they are at or below statistical neighbours
- Continuing to secure high quality provision for children and young people with SEND – evidenced in the pending SEND inspection
- Increasing the percentage of 2year old places taken up by low income families, children with SEND or who are looked after
- Effectively supporting the Islington Community of Schools, so that it continues to develop as a school led self-improving system

## **3.1 – Percentage of families with under-5s registered at a Children's Centre**

Data for 2017/18 shows that 82% of Islington families with children under 5 were registered with a Bright Start Children's Centre. This is lower than the 90% reported in 2016/17. Looking at the proportion of individual children shows a slightly higher percentage registered at 85%. There was no significant difference in 'reach' between the different Bright Start Areas, with the highest level of registrations in Bright Start West (the smallest area) at 85%.

The proportions of each of the key target groups registered in 2017/18 were:

- 81% of social housing families
- 84% of Black & Minority Ethnic families
- 81% of lone parent families; and
- 85% of families living in overcrowded households

The co-ordination and responsibility for Bright Start Islington early childhood services transferred from individual children's centres to three area teams in September 2017. The transformation process has continued throughout 2017/18, and a more consistent offer with less duplication of services to make best use of the available resource is now in place across the borough. Data solutions included installing a new management information system and a move from paper-based to electronic registration and attendance. There has been some slippage but the new system became active in June 18, resulting already in better management information available for Bright Start integrated teams, although some aspects of the new system (online registration) have yet to be implemented. The new system will provide reports which give a clear indication of which families in terms of location do not access Bright Start services.

A drop in reach throughout the transition was expected, but there is now a clear focus to address the fall and particularly to improve the engagement of target groups and families with most to gain from early childhood services. Outreach plans have been developed for each Bright Start area, further supported through the deployment of the new parent champion volunteer programme and strengthened by improved collaboration and integrated working across partners and services. An increasing number of Bright Start services are located in the community aligned to the priority to take services to where families are. Planned changes to the child health development record (the red book) through the inclusion of Bright Start registration and co-location with health visitors across a range of children's centres and health centres will help to ensure high reach overall and enable better and earlier identification of families in greater need of services.

### **3.2 - 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 measure is based on the number of children in funded early education places compared to the number of eligible parents received from the DWP. There were 641 2 year olds in funded places in the Summer Term 2017/18. This is lower than the 675 in funded places during the previous term. However, the number of eligible parents is falling at a similar rate, so the overall proportion of places taken up is fairly similar to the previous term at 63%.

Comparator data is published in June each year, based on the take-up in the previous January. In January 2018, the published data shows that 64% of funded places in Islington were taken up, which was higher than the London (61%) and Inner London (60%) averages, but lower than the national average (72%). Islington was ranked 112<sup>th</sup> in the country, just above the bottom quartile. However, there are clearly regional differences in the level of take-up, as most authorities in the bottom quartile are from London and the South East.

While Islington's uptake of funded 2YO places continues to be high for inner London, uptake regionally is significantly lower than the national picture. While some focus has been diverted to ensure strong take up of the 30 hour entitlement for some children, this does not completely account for the small decline experienced in Islington. With eligible numbers in the borough declining, more work needs to be done to look at whether the demographic profile of those who remain eligible is also changing. A recently commissioned DFE report on the relatively low take up of entitlements across the country, identifies lower take up as being an overlapping mix of parental choice and perceived constraints. The national report found ongoing misunderstanding of who is entitled to what, a cultural reluctance from particular groups of parents to hand over the care of such young children to others, perceived parental concern about quality, flexibility and sufficiency.

Reversing the drop in take-up is a key priority for the service, given the benefits to children of early learning opportunities. Communications, outreach and accessibility are under review. Two year old provision in Islington is almost exclusively rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted and there is sufficiency at the moment with plans in place to expand further when there is demand.

### **3.4 – Corporate Indicator: Percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**

Provisional local data suggests that 71.1% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). Comparator data has not yet been published. However, a provisional estimate of the England average for 2017/18 suggests that it should be around 71.6%. This would mean Islington has continued to narrow the gap to the national average. Full comparator data will be published later in the Autumn term.

The areas of learning where the highest proportions of Islington pupils achieved the expected levels in 2018 were Physical Development (86.4%) and Expressive Arts and Design (84.2%). The same was true in 2017, and this matches national trends.

The GLD is the proxy indicator used to measure children's development and learning at age 5. Children are assessed in their personal, social and emotional development, physical development, communication and language (known as the three "prime areas") and in their attainment in literacy and mathematics (two of the "specific areas"). Islington's GLD continues to edge yet closer to the national and inner London averages, rising by over 27% in seven years. While nationally the rate has also improved, the rate in Islington has improved faster although it is now slowing.

79% of children achieved the expected level or above in all the three prime areas, in line with the national figure. 73.3% of children achieved the expected level in literacy (reading and writing) and 78.5% in mathematics, above the corresponding 2017 national figures of 72.8% and 77.9% respectively. A combination of factors are likely to have brought about this difference over time, including improved quality of provision with a growing number of schools and early years providers judged as good or better by Ofsted (see 4.7 and 4.8 below), as well as increased uptake of integrated early childhood services.

EYFSP scores are analysed to show the relative performance of different groups of children (eg. 77.8% of girls achieved the GLD compared with 64.4% of boys). Analysis at borough and school level is used to identify priorities which are then communicated across all early childhood services including in primary schools.

### **3.5 – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Percentage of Free School Meals / non-Free School Meals pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**

Provisional local data for 2017/18 suggests that 60.6% of FSM-eligible pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). However, 75.5% of other pupils achieved a GLD, meaning the gap was 14 percentage points.

In 2016/17, 61% of Islington pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals achieved a GLD in the EYFSP, compared to 73% of all other pupils, making a 12 percentage point gap. Therefore, the gap is wider in 2017/18 than it was in 2016/17, due to improvements in the results of non-FSM eligible pupils.

In 2016/17, the attainment gap in Islington was much narrower than across the country as a whole, where only 56% of FSM pupils achieved a GLD, whilst 73% of other pupils achieved the GLD, matching Islington. Overall the national attainment gap was 17 percentage points. In London, however, the gap was narrower, at 11 percentage points (64% FSM pupils, 75% of other pupils). Islington was in the top quartile for the proportion of FSM pupils achieving a GLD in 2017, and the gap was also in the top quartile in terms of local authorities with the smallest gaps in attainment between FSM and other pupils.

Comparator data for 2017/18 has not yet been published.

Analysis and action will be undertaken to ascertain if there are particular schools where the gap between FSM and NFSM attainment is significantly wider than in the LA or if there are particular FSM groups for whom attainment is lower.

The latest Study of Early Education and Development (SEED) research report (DFE, September 2018) confirms the link between cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes at age four, with the number of hours per week children spend in early education settings, between the age of 2 and 4. Therefore, to improve outcomes for FSM children faster, it is essential to address the decline in take up rates of funded early education for disadvantaged 2 year olds (see 3.2) and for 3 and 4 year olds with regards the universal entitlement. This will be particularly important as children from the lowest income families in Islington have had their access to early education reduced from 30 to 15 hours following the introduction of the government's national policy in September 2017 to give 30 hours only to children from working families.

In Islington, 200 of the most disadvantaged children do receive 30 hours of early education at age 3 and 4 through the borough's Early Years Priority Referral scheme. Most of these children will be in the FSM cohort but with a cohort of just under 600, there will remain a significant number of children who attend for 15 hours only, if at all.

### **3.6 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent**

Provisional data for the Autumn and Spring terms of 2017/18 shows that the persistent absence rate for Islington primary schools was 11.4%. This compares to a rate of 9.6% in the same period during 2016/17.

Absence data is collected during the School Census following the end of each term, so there is always a time lag in the reporting of absence.

Published data shows that persistent absence levels amongst Islington primary schools were 9.4% for the 2016/17 academic year, a marginal rise on the 9.2% reported in 2015/16. However, persistent absence has significantly reduced in the longer term. The target for this measure is to reduce persistent absence levels to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 8.6% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average.

The latest published data is for the Autumn term of 2017/18 only. This indicated that the Islington primary persistent absence rate had increased, as had the national rate. Local data suggests that absence levels were higher in the Spring term than the Autumn term, so we will need to see if this pattern is repeated across other areas. This data should be published by the DfE in time for the Q2 Performance Report.

### **3.7 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent**

Provisional data for the Autumn and Spring terms of 2017/18 shows that the persistent absence rate for Islington secondary schools was 13.6%. This is the same rate as in the same period during 2016/17.

Published data shows that persistent absence levels amongst Islington secondary schools were 14.6% for the 2016/17 academic year, a rise on the 12.2% reported in 2015/16. The Islington rate had been steady over the previous few years, but the rise in 2016/17 took the rate to its highest level since 2012/13, when it stood at 14.7%. The target for this measure is to reduce persistent absence levels to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 11.7% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average.

Local data suggests that the secondary school persistent absence level increased over the Spring term, as it had done amongst Islington's primary schools. Published data for the Autumn term 2017/18 had indicated an improvement in the absence level compared to the same term the previous year.

PA still remains high compared with other LAs, particularly at primary level. Illness remains the highest reason for absence in our primary schools. We are working closely with Islington Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, and School Nurse Team to develop strategies to help support schools tackle illness related absence.

The Minor illness and School Attendance, Guide for Parents/Carers booklet will be reviewed and updated with Health colleagues. Updated Attendance Matters Guidance was distributed to all schools in May which includes practical advice and guidance in tackling health related absence.

We are also working with targeted schools (i.e. those with highest persistent absence) to develop action plans, and encouraging all schools via the Attendance Network (for School Attendance Leads that meet termly) to consider legal action where other interventions have failed to secure improved attendance.

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, and with colleagues in health, to target children with PAs and their families.

*Note – for the 3 exclusions Corporate Indicators below, there is a time lag in the collection of exclusions data, to allow for appeals. Locally, more timely data is available for schools linked in the local authority's pupil database, but the figures would not be comparable with the published data for other years. All rates are based on the number of exclusions compared to the size of the school roll at the time of the January Census in each year.*

### **3.8 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of fixed term exclusions - primary**

The published rate of fixed term exclusions for Islington primary schools was 1.95% in 2016/17. This was an increase on the previous year (1.41%), but lower than in 2014/15 (2.04%). The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 0.92% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average.

Provisional data for most Islington primary schools suggests there were slightly more fixed term exclusions in 2017/18 than there were in 2016/17, so we are anticipating a slight increase in the published Islington rate for 2017/18.

### **3.9 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of fixed term exclusions - secondary**

The published rate of fixed term exclusions for Islington secondary schools was 10.73% in 2016/17. This was a decrease compared to the rate of 11.38% in 2015/16. The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 8.27% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average.

Provisional data for most Islington secondary schools suggests there was another significant increase in the number of fixed term exclusions in 2017/18.

### **3.10 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of permanent exclusions - secondary**

The published rate of permanent exclusions for Islington secondary schools was 0.28% in 2016/17. This was a decrease compared to 2015/16 (0.30%). The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 0.20% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average.

Provisional data for Islington secondary schools suggests a reduction in the number of permanent exclusions in 2017/18.

It is well established that school exclusion remains closely linked to deprivation factors and social vulnerability; and that once exclusion occurs, outcomes - both academic and social – are poor.

Department for Education (DfE) guidance on exclusions states:

“Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The Government supports head teachers in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted. However, permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school”.

We know that nationally:

- Exclusion (fixed period and permanent) escalates with age, and affects boys three times more than girls.
- There is over-representation of pupils with certain ethnic groups and those from lower socio-economic groups.
- Persistent disruptive behaviour is the most commonly recorded reason for exclusion.

Analysis of local exclusion vulnerability factors largely reflects these national trends, although with some interesting differences.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee have identified exclusion from school as their main area of focus for 2018-19. They have already considered a detailed analysis of permanent and fixed period exclusion from Islington primary and secondary schools, and to support a more in depth examination, will hear expert witness evidence over the next few months and make recommendations by March 2019.

Children's, Employment and Skills' Services Equalities Reference Group will also consider factors relation to the over-representation of ethnic groups in exclusions from Islington schools. Further analysis on the link between exclusion, exploitation and offending is also being undertaken.

### **3.11 – Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2**

Provisional local data suggests the proportion of Islington pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 rose from 66% in 2016/17 to 68% in 2017/18. Provisional national data shows that across England the proportion of pupils achieving the expected level in all three subjects rose from 61% to 64%, so Islington has stayed above the national average.

The underlying data shows that most of the increase, locally, was due to an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, with 77.2% of pupils achieving the expected level, according to the provisional data, compared to 74.4% the previous year. The proportion of pupils achieving the expected level in Writing was in line with the performance last year, which itself was the same as the year before. The proportion of Islington pupils achieving the expected level in Maths fell slightly, from 79.5% in 2016/17 to 76.8% in 2017/18, although this is still above the provisional England average of 75% for state-funded schools.

Another encouraging outcome from the provisional local data for 2017/18 is that 15.3% of pupils achieved a higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 (a higher standard is a scaled score of 110 or more). This is an increase on 2016/17 results, when Islington was already ranked joint 6<sup>th</sup> in the country on this measure. Provisional data from the DfE suggests we have maintained our ranking in 2017/18

Reading outcomes at KS2 have demonstrated the greatest improvement over the past 3 years as a result of the demanding expectations of the tests that pupils now undertake. Reading has improved by 10% over the past three years compared to national where the rise has been 9%. Reading remains a focus across the borough and support for schools, particularly those below the national figure (75%) have been identified and targeted support will be provided for them. Writing has remained consistent over the past three years and this in part is due to the nature of teacher assessment but also reflects the consistent training and support schools have received from School Improvement. Maths has remained relatively consistent however there has been a slight dip on last year. Despite this schools have focussed on developing mathematical fluency, particularly in arithmetic to support pupils to be successful. More emphasis needs to be given to securing pupils' reasoning skills. More able pupils across all three subjects do particularly well and are consistently above national outcomes. Schools are meeting the needs of more able pupils and using data effectively to ensure progress is maximised for all pupils so that they are ready for the next stage of their learning.

Combined outcomes for reading, writing and maths have increased by 11% over the past three years. This is in line with national. Analysis of this trend over time has identified a number of schools who are consistently underperforming despite incremental improvements each year. Through the annual categorisation process, these schools will be challenged to provide an effective strategy of improvement that will secure outcomes in line with national figures.

Compared to Inner London, Islington ranks 10/13, which is the same position as last year, however the gap between Islington and inner London has slightly widened. In 2018 Islington combined was 68% and Inner London 70%. In 2017 these figures were 65%/66%.

### **3.12 – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between the Black Caribbean pupils and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)**

Provisional results for 2018 show that the proportion of Black Caribbean pupils achieving the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths fell slightly, from 50% in 2017 to 48% in 2018. However, as the results for all Islington pupils improved from 66% in 2017 to 68% in 2018, the gap between Black Caribbean pupils and the Islington average widened, from 16 percentage points in 2017 to 20 percentage points in 2018. In previous years, we have tended to see a slightly narrowing of the gap between the initial provisional results and the revised results later each year.

Since the introduction of new assessments at KS2, schools now have access to data spanning 3 years. Black Caribbean pupils compared to Islington pupils over that time consistently underperform. Over 3 years, reading outcomes have been 8% below, writing 10% below and maths 15% below LBI figures. At the combined outcome for RWM, Black Caribbean pupils perform 17% below LBI peers over 3 years. The biggest gap in underperformance is in maths and this has a direct effect on the combined outcome. Progress for these pupils remains a challenge.

School Improvement will focus on this group through their work in schools. Practice in all schools is being reviewed and a working group has been established to support schools who consistently struggle with this issue. Achievement for these pupils will be the focus of the annual Deputy Headteacher conference and a strategic partnership of schools is being developed to support other schools. Work with Subject Leaders for maths and reading will also highlight this issue in schools and Y6 teachers will receive additional support.

### **3.13 – Corporate Equalities Indicator: Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS2 (gap in percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)**

The proportion of White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals who achieved the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths improved, from 46% in 2017 to 49% in the provisional results for 2018. As the results for all Islington pupils improved by two percentage points, the gap between White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals and the Islington average narrowed slightly, from 20 percentage points in 2017 to 19 points in 2018.

White British pupils consistently achieve better than the LBI average over the past three years. In reading these pupils outperform LBI pupils by 3%, are in line in writing and 1% better in maths. At the combined outcome White British perform 4% better than LBI peers. This is a consistent picture in 2018. At the combined outcome for RWM White British pupils performed 11% better than their LBI peers. Progress for this group of pupils is consistently good, particularly in reading.

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

*This KPI has been amended to now look at all pupils in Alternative Provision. Previously, the figure was based on those pupils in Alternative Provision that was managed and commissioned through the Alternative Provision Team based at New River College (NRC).*

The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q1 2018/19 was 83 pupils. At the end of Q1 2017/18, the number of pupils in just the Alternative Provision managed and commissioned via New River College was 122 pupils, so despite the change in the measurement of this KPI, we still know that numbers are falling.

From September 2018, schools are responsible for monitoring the attendance, progress and outcomes for any student placed on AP. Schools still have the option to purchase the services of NRC to broker placements, including the undertaking of a risk assessment, but can choose to do this themselves.

Local and national data confirms that mainstream schooling offers the best life chances for the vast majority of students. Islington schools are therefore committed to only placing students on AP in exceptional circumstances. To this end, the Secondary Securing Education Board will continue to monitor the number of students on AP, while NRC will continue to offer advice to schools on the quality of AP provision. Headteachers have been asked to identify a contact person to facilitate the sharing of data in relation to students attending AP. This information will be collected on a monthly basis prior to the Securing Education Board meetings and the LA pupil database will be updated accordingly in line with GDPR requirements.

### **3.15 – Corporate Indicator: Average Attainment 8 Score**

The provisional Attainment 8 figure for Islington schools for 2018 is 46.0. No comparator data is yet available.

Attainment 8 measures achievement across 8 qualifications.

Attainment 8 scores are not directly comparable between 2018 and 2017, following the continued introduction of 9-1 reformed GCSEs.

### **3.17 – English Baccalaureate Average Point Score**

The Average Point Score for the English Baccalaureate in the provisional 2017/18 results is 4.04. No comparator data is yet available.

Previously, the relevant measure in this area was the percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate. However, as we are now looking at the Average Point Score (due to the following the continued introduction of reformed GCSEs with marks 1-9), the measure used in 2018 is not comparable with previous years.

Turbulence continues in GCSE assessments, with significant changes in curriculum and in assessment and accountability measures. Challenges for schools will continue over the next year or so. GCSE is gradually moving from the familiar A\*-G to a scale that measures from 9-1 with associated new grade boundaries. Most subjects changed this year and we are now seeing schools coming to terms with the new GCSE specifications. This makes year on year comparison impossible this year and for the next two years. In spite of this, Islington secondary pupils have continued to performed very well in relation to the Attainment 8 measure and have performed strongly in other measures.

### **3.20 – Percentage of schools that meet or exceed the floor standard - Key Stage 2**

If there is no change in the definition of the floor standard in 2017/18, 100% of Islington primary schools met or exceeded the floor standard in 2017/18, based on the provisional results. This is the same as last year.

The Department for Education sets a floor standard for schools, to achieve a minimum level of attainment and expected progress. At primary for the 2017 results year this was:

- at least 65% of pupils meet the expected standard in English reading, English writing and mathematics; or
- the school achieves sufficient progress scores in all three subjects. At least -5 in English reading, -5 in mathematics and -7 in English writing.

To be above the floor, a primary school needs to meet either the attainment or all of the progress elements.

The 2017/18 floor standards will be confirmed later in the Autumn term, but we are not expecting there to be any change in the definition.

### **3.22 - Corporate Indicator: Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings - 5 to 12 year olds**

Data for 2017/18 shows that 65.3% of 5 to 12 year olds who attended an Islington Youth and Play setting went on to have at least 5 attendances throughout the year.

### **3.23 - Corporate Indicator: Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings - 13 and older**

Data for 2017/18 shows that 44.7% of 13 to 25 year olds who attended an Islington Youth and Play setting went on to have at least 5 attendances throughout the year.

The 2 participant rates for Islington Youth & Play settings are new measures, based on the proportion of young who have attended Youth & Play settings who go on to become 'participants', i.e. have at least 5 attendances at settings throughout the year. We can calculate historical figures for the 5-12 age range using data previously available to Youth and Play. However, the age range for indicator 3.23 has been expanded from 13-19 year olds to include young people up to the age of 25, so no directly comparable data is reported here.

The participant rate provides some information about the quality of the offers as it can be assumed that in most cases, children and young people are taking part voluntarily and that if they continue to attend, they are happy with what is on offer and, particularly in the case of youth work, are getting the support and opportunities that they feel are of benefit to them.

In a similar way, the participant rate also tells us something about the quality of relationships between CYP and play and youth work staff. Quality relationships lead to children and young people achieving the desired outcomes from their participation and are the basis for effective prevention and 'early' early intervention.

The participant rate for 5 to 12 year olds is likely to be consistently higher than that for those aged 13 and up as, amongst other factors, the play offer is often used on a daily basis by working families as informal childcare. Older young people have far more agency over their free time and are likely to be juggling a range of priorities in their lives which may mitigate against consistent attendance at one particular youth provision.

### **3.24 – Corporate Indicator: Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months**

The proportion of re-referrals within 12 months has reduced from 16.7% at the end of 2017/18 to 15.4% at the end of Q1 2018/19. Comparator data has now been published for 2016/17 and this shows that Islington had a lower proportion of re-referrals in 2016/17 than the national average. The reduction in the re-referral rate may be an early indication that the Motivational Social Worker approach is having some sustainable and longer term effects for families.

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

The proportion of children who became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time increased from 15.6% in 2017/18 to 20.9% in Q1 2018/19. This was due to a particularly high proportion of new plans in April involving children who had previously been the subject of a plan (25%). The cumulative total for the year has fallen since April.

A study has been undertaken of all repeat plans in 2017/18 which was presented to the September Safeguarding Children Board. The study found that in the vast majority of cases there was sufficient reason to make a subsequent child protection plan. This is supported by the fact over half of children subject to repeat plans were also escalated to legal proceedings or alternative care or living situations sought. Domestic violence and abuse is the main reason repeat plans are made. Previous plans often show evidence of safety planning, advocacy and educational work with women and their children. The most common vulnerability in such interventions is the inability to engage with male perpetrators as well as engaging women and children in services to help them recover from the abuse. This tallies up with data we were already aware of in terms of repeat DVA referrals to Children's Social Care which in turn has led to the development of an innovative new service to help families affected by domestic violence and abuse: The Keel Project. It will be important that the child protection conference process links in with this new initiative.

### **3.26 - Percentage of children who were seen in accordance with a Children in Need Plan**

There is no statutory obligation to report on this measure and therefore no comparator data is available for this indicator. There is no statutory timescale setting out how frequently children subject to Child in Need plans are seen though the DFE/Ofsted expectation is generally that children on Child in Need plans are seen approximately every 6 weeks. In Islington, we set high expectations regarding the frequency of visits to children and this report measures against a 4 weekly visiting timescale.

The proportion of Children in Need seen in accordance with their plans fell from 66% the end of Q4 2017/18 to 57% at the end of Q1 2018/19.

This quarter has seen a decline but has included the summer holidays – many families this year have been out or on holiday so a greater number of visits have been unsuccessful. We feel confident that this figure will improve.

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

Provisional data shows that very few of Islington's looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year 2018/19, as at the end of the first quarter. The proportion of all looked after children who have had 3 or more placements is only 0.6%, which is lower than at the same point in 2017/18.

### **3.28 - 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**

Provisional data shows that at the end of Q1 2018/19, 69.4% of Islington's looked after children who had been looked after long term were in stable placements. This is better than performance as at the end of 2017/18, and in line with performance at the same point during the last year.

A robust programme of work is being developed to train and support carers to better manage the challenges and complexities of adolescents in their care. There are also a number of measures now in place to pick up concerns about placement stability at an earlier stage, with the aim of avoiding break down.

## **CES OBB Outcome: Ensuring our residents can lead healthy and independent lives**

*No new data is available for any of the KPIs relating to children and young people under this outcome area*

## **CES OBB Outcome: Making Islington a welcoming and attractive borough and creating a healthy environment for all**

No measures under this outcome are reported to Children's Services Scrutiny, to avoid duplication with reporting for other Scrutiny Committees

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

### **6.2 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings**

The latest published data (as at the end of March 2018) shows the proportion of Islington's settings on the Early Years register judged good or better has increased again to 92.7%. This is above the London average, but below the England average. With this increase, Islington has moved out of the bottom quartile, nationally.

There continues to be an overall increase in the percentage of providers judged as good or outstanding in their early years Ofsted inspection. There are no inadequate settings and only four settings with a requires improvement judgement. Of these, there is one after-school provision, one private nursery, one sessional playgroup and one adventure playground. All settings have an action plan to address the weaknesses. Islington's rate of outstanding provision is well above both England and London averages at 25.5% compared with 15.9% and 13.7% respectively. Provision classed as non-domestic (ie. not childminders or group childcare in people's homes) is particularly good with 41.1% judged as outstanding compared with 21% across London and 22.2% in England. 50% of council-run nurseries are judged outstanding.

### **6.3 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools**

Ofsted have made a change to the way they report inspection outcomes at a local authority level. They are now including, for schools that have converted to academies or free schools, the last inspection outcome under the school's previous registration. For Islington, this has meant the 'inadequate' inspection outcomes for three schools have re-entered the dataset used by Ofsted.

The proportion of schools judged good or better stood at 92.5% at the end of June 2018. Islington is now ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the country in terms of school inspection results, above the London and England averages. Islington's ranking is slightly down on the position under Ofsted's previous way of reporting, but the difference is small and Islington remains in the top quartile, nationally.

The breakdowns by school phase are:

- 100% of nursery schools (3/3)
- 95.6% of primary schools (43/45)
- 80% of secondary schools (8/10)
- 100% of special schools (6/6)
- 75% of Pupil Referral Units (3/4)

### **6.4 - Percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks**

Excluding exceptional cases, Islington issued 51.6% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2017 (calendar year). This was an improvement on the previous year, but remains below the London and England averages.

Including all cases, Islington issued 41.5% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2017. Again, although this was an improvement, Islington remained below the London and England averages.

Islington is in the third quartile, nationally, for the timescales excluding exceptional cases, ranked 109<sup>th</sup> out of 150. However, if we include the exceptional cases, Islington would be just inside the bottom quartile.

Performance towards meeting timescales is improving as a result of an Improvement Plan. Turn-around time for health advice to EHC assessments has reduced on average from 20 weeks to 6 weeks. We have progressed from 50% of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks in 2016/17 to 60% issued within 20 weeks in 2017/18, and our current performance is running at 80%, demonstrating that effective steps are being taken to meet the timescales required. Although current performance is better than inner London (48.9%), it is still not where we would like it to be, and remains an area for further development.

## **6.5 - Number of new mainstream foster carers recruited in Islington**

One new foster carer has been approved, however there are 8 assessments ongoing and 5 new prospective foster families have started pre approval training. A new foster carer recruitment strategy is being presented to Corporate Parenting Board on 19<sup>th</sup> September. There are a number of foster carer vacancies and the service is focussed on only recruiting foster carers who can accept Islington children who need care.

### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial implications:**

No implications

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

No implications

#### **4.3 Environmental Implications**

No implications

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

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.

A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because this report is reporting on performance only - no recommendations for actions or decisions are made.

### **5. Reason for recommendations**

5.1 Not applicable

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Data Dashboard

Final report clearance:

### **Signed by:**

Carmel Littleton  
Corporate Director of Children's Services

9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Date:

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With contributions from various managers within Children, Employment and Skills