

Report of: Corporate Director, People

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	9 th July 2019	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 4 2018/19 Performance Report**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This Quarter 4 performance report provides an update on progress against the relevant Corporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the relevant services within the People Directorate.
- 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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider Children's Services performance in Quarter 4 2018/19.

3. Background

- 3.1 The main body of this report is set out under the outcomes within the Corporate Plan for 2018-22. 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 Note that some of the numbers identifying particular indicators have been changed from previous reports, as a result of slight changes made to the basket of KPIs.

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

83% of young people triaged in 2018/19 were diverted away from the criminal justice system. This is better than performance during 2017/18. The improvement was down to a high proportion of young people triaged in the second half of the year being diverted away from the criminal justice system, particularly in Q3.

The provision of robust and effective early intervention and prevention to children, young people and adolescents within the borough who are in need of support, help and protection has continued to be a significant focal point for the service. The remit of TYS has broadened and diversified in recent years so that a wider pool of vulnerable children and young people can be prioritised. Indeed, although young people can be referred via the duty system with Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT) which often leads to TYS being the lead agency supporting a young person, TYS are also co-working more cases which are held within Social Care. This helps to strengthen the quality of the wrap-around support that the young person is receiving. The quality of the relationship between the allocated TYS worker and the young person has also been an area of focus of late and we have continued to build upon the impressive rapport that many of the service users have with their worker through the embedding of the Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice models. These approaches are also used when staff take part in the detached youth work duty system, where staff engage with young people who may be loitering in borough 'hotspots'. The objective here is to keep young people off the streets by signposting them to services which can help them achieve long-term positive outcomes. The use of the TYS truck has been important in engaging young people in this regard.

A TYS lead has been allocated to be a conduit for most secondary schools in the borough to ensure that needs can be responded to more swiftly and that an offer of support can be provided when young people are in need. There has been continued prioritisation of schools whereby, through recommendations following the SPARK review of the top 25 most prolific YOS offenders, we have identified a group of young people for targeted support via the transitions project. This project is focussing on the transition of a cohort of young people from year 6 to year 7.

Based upon intelligence from the Police and the wider network, TYS has continued to deliver interventions to areas which have increased levels of need and where there have been serious incidents. For instance, there was an increased focus on providing support to young people (and the community) in the Cally area in Q4 due to the fatal stabbing of a young person. Staff are also delivering more group work sessions.

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

There were 58 first time entrants in 2018/19, which is fewer than the number of first time entrants in 2017/18. This continues the ongoing trend of a decreasing number of first time entrants each year since 2015/16.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) report on the rate of first time entrants for each local authority, to allow comparisons to be made between different areas. Islington's latest reported rate was 376 per 100,000 10 to 17 year olds, for October 2017 to September 2018. This is a 7% drop compared to the same period during the previous year, although the Islington rate remains above the London and England rates.

Islington has seen year on year reductions in the number of first time entrants and this is to be welcomed in the context of increased Serious Youth Violence across London and the prevalence of other social issues which are impacting on children and families locally and London wide. The number of first time entrants in a local area is seen by many commentators as a measure of how effective that area's early intervention and prevention and youth crime reduction strategies are. The commentary for 1.1 is also applicable to this indicator in terms of the work that is being carried out to divert young people from entering the criminal justice system in the first instance. In addition, the quality of the interventions which exist for young people

who are offered a Triage in respect of low-level offences has ensured that young people are assessed, screened and supported early on in their journey. Indeed, the intention is for there to be no further progression and for any problems to be resolved in union with the young person, their family and key professionals within the system. Some of these professionals include the Liaison and Diversion Nurse, who will screen young people for health conditions so that they can be referred to relevant workers where need be; IYPDAS the substance misuse team, who will provide education and awareness about the dangers of substance and alcohol use and support will also be offered in relation to education. In addition, the Integrated Gangs Team (IGT) also provide early help to young people who are at risk of offending and gang affiliation. We also continue to make use of the Youth Counselling Service for young people who require emotional support and of our commissioned organisations such as Safer London and Chance UK, who provide mentoring to young people who need support. The aforementioned has contributed to a good level of performance in relation to young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

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

Provisional data shows out of the 44 young people in the cohort for 2018/19, 20 had reoffended during the year (45%). This is a lower percentage than what was reported at the end of 2017/18.

The YJB report on two different measures of reoffending, based on a rolling cohort of young offenders in one quarter, and their levels of reoffending over the following 12 months. This means that the figures are eighteen months behind. The Corporate Indicator is based on a fixed cohort of young offenders in one quarter of the year, with their reoffending being reported cumulatively during the following year. Additionally, the YJB allow a significant time lag in their reporting, to allow for potential delays in the recording of outcomes, nationally. The latest data for the YJB reoffending 'binary' measure is for the January – March 2017 cohort of offenders, 59.4% of whom reoffended in the following 12 months. This compares to 42.5% reoffending across London and 39.9% across England as a whole. The Islington figure represents an increase compared to the previous quarter. In relation to the YJB 'frequency' measure, Islington still ranks highly out of our comparators.

Our re-offending rates – whether using the Youth Justice Board or local formulae – remain higher than we would like due to the fact that we continue to have a small, but significant cohort of young men who ultimately continue to offend whilst subject to YOS supervision and monitoring. These are young people with significant and multiple vulnerabilities in line with the findings of the SPARK review of the 25 most prolific offenders – domestic abuse; broken attachments to carers; parental substance and/or alcohol misuse; chaotic school histories; speech and language difficulties and special educational needs, some of which are undiagnosed. In relation to the latter, the work of the Educational Psychologist is identifying various vulnerabilities with the cohort. Subsequently, because of the complex needs of the cohort and due to how entrenched their offending actually is, it has been more difficult to make a significant impact with the curtailment of this indicator. There is a lot of work and action taking place, however, to ensure that this cohort (and any potential newcomers) are provided with appropriate interventions via tailored support packages alongside enforcement. Indeed, the embedding of Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice is helping to strengthen the quality of the assessment, planning and interventions to all of our young people, but particularly to this group of young people who reoffend (almost all of whom have experienced significant traumatic events). We have also continued with our monthly joint supervision clinic with social care, which was cited as good practice in the Joint Area Targeted Inspection and have continued with our Clinical Specialist Panel, so that specialist staff can collectively decide on the best specialist intervention for young people. We also continue to work closely with police colleagues to ensure that enforcement is commensurate to each case

We are also continuing to use the Youth Justice Board's 'live tracker' tool to identify, track and monitor the cohort. This also helps us to identify who the next group of reoffenders may be. As we know that engagement in education, training and employment (ETE) is essential to keeping young people on the right path, we have recruited a permanent I-Work Employment Advisor into the YOS. Work is also taking place with colleagues from the Employment, Skills and Culture department to improve the overall ETE offer to the YOS cohort and other vulnerable adolescents within the borough.

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 sometime after the data is reported (as the outcomes of offences are confirmed throughout the year).

It is recognised that with a low First Time Entrants rate and over 50% reduction in the YOS cohort that those young people known to the YOS are likely to be entrenched in offending and have a multitude of complexities.

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

After a large drop in the number of custodial sentences between 2016/17 and 2017/18, there was an increase in Q1 of 2018/19, compared to the same period of 2017/18, with 11 young people sentenced to custody in the quarter receiving 12 custodial sentences. However, there have been fewer young people sentenced to custody in the subsequent quarters, so the annual total for 2018/19 is 26 custodial sentences. This is above the number last year, although discounting Q1, the figures are broadly in line with each other each year.

The YJB report on custodial sentences based on rates per 1,000 10-17 year olds during a rolling 12-month period, to allow comparisons to be made between different local authorities. The latest data, for the 2018 calendar year, reports Islington's rate as 1.50 custodial sentences per 1,000 population, which is the same as the previous quarter. Islington's rate remains higher than the London (0.58) and England (0.32) averages.

The YOS continues to dissuade courts from imposing custodial sentences on young people unless necessary. Indeed, in many cases the risk that young people pose to the public can be managed in the community and the YOS has the resources available to it to facilitate this. This does not subsequently mean that the courts will always follow the YOS's recommendations, however. In the main, this is due to the fact that we have a group of persistent offenders (as demonstrated by our reoffending rates) who are more likely to receive custodial sentences and because those young people who are sent to custody have perpetrated serious offences. In such circumstances, courts (particularly Crown Courts) will often sentence young people to custodial sentences. It is positive to note, however, that the significant work on this area has continued, despite the blip in Q1. Indeed, in recent times, a number of young people have been sentenced to community penalties when custody was seriously being considered by the courts. Due to the high quality of the Pre-Sentence Reports and the advocacy skills of the caseworker/s on behalf of the young person, custody has been avoided for a number of cases. In addition, the offer of the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme has also helped to prevent further custodial sentences. We are also benefiting from the embedding of Trauma Informed Practice in the YOS and across the partnership and this shared ethos is contributing more towards the court's understanding of the level of trauma that many of the YOS cohort has experienced.

BAME young people are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the secure estate and we continue to work to tackle the disproportionality issues that exist. We are using a sentencing tracker to help us monitor sentencing patterns on the basis of race. We also have a presence at a multi-agency, cross-borough YOS steering disproportionality group and we were successful in securing funding from the Youth Justice Board to facilitate a project which will focus on tackling and curtailing disproportionality in our borough and in Haringey (as the project is a joint one).

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

There were 11 children missing from care for more than 24 hours during March 2019. This is slightly higher than the number during March 2018 (9), but slightly lower than the number during December 2018 (13). However, this measure was first set when, historically, the number of children missing from care was higher at around 20 children each month, so these are relatively small changes compared to the fall that has occurred over the longer term.

The data evidences that there has been a slight increase in the number of children missing from care for more than 24 hours when compared with the previous quarter. Work has been completed with placements and supported accommodation providers and we are of the view that this has increased provider's knowledge of the missing process and likely impacted on the timeliness of children being reported missing from care.

Islington's demographic profile remains similar – in terms of the boys (67%) more likely to go missing than girls (33%), and children aged 16 and 17yrs going missing from care more frequently.

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 4, 12 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. The council and its partners have developed the 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 child sexual exploitation (CSE), gang affiliation, serious youth crime or criminal exploitation. This ensures that risks are assessed at the earliest opportunity and safety plans are developed which are multi-agency. In Q1 and Q2, the data identified that 21% of missing episodes were for children identified at risk of CSE and 40% of episodes were children identified as gangs at risk or gang nominal. In Q4, it remains the same with 21% of children missing from care being identified as at risk of CSE. However, 58% of children missing from care in Q4 have been identified as gangs at risk or gang nominal which is a significant increase from Q1 and Q2. This data demonstrates that a large number of children who go missing from care are 16 or 17-year-old males who are affected by gangs. The Exploitation and Missing Team identify that further analysis in relation to this cohort of young people is required, in order to build on the intervention and support available to young males, and prevent them from being groomed into exploitation.

In November 2018 the child's database system launched a flagging system for those young people who are involved in 'County Lines'. This was to enable further analysis and cross referencing between children who go missing from care and children who are identified as at risk of exploitation through County Lines. In Q4, the data shows that 6% of children reported missing from care were identified as at risk of County Lines, this equates to 42 missing episodes. However, as this data is representative of the year to date and the County Lines hazard has only been active since November 2018, it is likely that this percentage will grow. Further analysis of this data in the next quarter will provide a clearer picture in terms of the correlation between children who go missing from care and those at risk of County Lines and any patterns or trends.

As supported by the data outlined above, there is significant correlation between children who go missing from care and children who are at risk of exploitation. The Exploitation and Missing Team provide consultations to the social work teams and support with risk assessment and safety planning. The team also chair gangs, CSE and exploitation strategy meetings where required.

Most children and young people stay in touch with a professional whilst being missing and once they return they are offered a 'Return Home Interview' by an independent person who explores why they went missing and what harm they may have come to whilst missing.

The Exploitation and Missing Team continue to provide training across the council and through the Islington Safeguarding Children Board which explores the link between children that go missing and risk of exploitation. There is continuous scrutiny and senior management oversight of children who do go missing with briefings provided every Friday to senior leaders and council members.

Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and helping them with the cost of living

Corporate Indicators and associated targets relating to Employment, Skills and Culture are generally reported to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. However, any of these measures that relate particularly to children and young people will also be reported to Children's Services Scrutiny.

2.2 - Percentage of 16 & 17 Year old Residents NEET or Not Known

Islington Council has a statutory duty to track and report on all 16-17 year olds and to have an up to date destination for this cohort, ensuring they are engaged in education, employment and training (EET).

For those young people unable to access EET due to social & emotional health issues and other significant barriers, there is support provided through the Islington Council Progress Team. There is a re-engagement offer that provides 1-1 support and a stepping stone approach for the most vulnerable young people in Islington.

The Progress team works on an annual cycle of reporting that includes:

- Early identification in year 11 of young people who are 'at risk' of becoming NEET. This enables the Progress Team to work with schools to plan early interventions and provide year 11 transition support and engagement during the summer period to ensure young people have an offer of education, employment and training.
- Intended destination data to ensure young people in Year 11/12 have a Post 16 pathway plan.
- September Guarantee information which enables the Progress Team to identify young people who do not have a pathway plan and to engage with them during the summer and at GCSE results day to plan and access EET opportunities.
- Annual Activity Survey and Post 16 Destinations. The Activity Survey collects the learning activities of the previous academic year's Year 11 Islington school leavers. Post 16 Destinations collects information on the destinations of previous academic year's Year 12 and 13 leavers.
- NEET/Unknown reporting between December and February, this is used to provide an average NEET/Unknown figure.

Good working relationships with schools across Islington has provided an opportunity to further extend support to young people 'at risk' by providing a link adviser who can caseload and engage with young people when schools break up ensuring transition support is in place. The link adviser attends on GCSE results day. In August 2018 a total of 105 young people were seen on results day and provided with support to apply and access EET activities.

97.9% of all year 11 Islington school leavers were reported to have moved into an EET destination at the Annual Activity Survey 2018. This information includes re-engagement activities and employment without training.

Based on the data collecting exercise carried out from December to February to arrive at an average NEET /Unknown figure ,the proportion of Islington 16 & 17 year old residents who were NEET or whose status was not known, increased from 3.5% in the previous year to 5.5% (based on an overall cohort of 3,157).

There was a marked improvement toward the end of the short reporting window (from 7.3% in December to 3.7% in February), and Islington had better overall figures than other Central London Boroughs.

It should also be noted the annual NEET figure remained low at 1.8% in comparison with 2.6% in Camden and 2.2% in Hackney.

Reasons for the short term dip in performance during the first half of the reporting window were, a reduced team due to sickness absence and a higher than anticipated number of unknowns being identified for follow-up on their current destination.

As part of planning for the next reporting period, a detailed analysis of this year's data has been undertaken. It has highlighted a need for better information on the destinations of Islington residents attending Capital City College group of colleges and those who are not with education providers, but are in employment or training.

The measures underway to strengthen future performance include:

- A link adviser for Capital City Group of colleges.
- An additional resource within Islington Youth Offending Service.
- Increased collaboration with teams working with vulnerable groups for early identification of those young people's support needs.
- Appropriate cover arrangements to maintain team capacity during key reporting windows
- Mapped home visits to unknowns.

2.4 – Corporate Indicator: Number of schools that have expressed an interest in the Cultural Enrichment Programme (11 by 11) by March 19

11 By 11 is a commitment to providing all children and young people in Islington with 11 outstanding cultural experiences by Year 11 in school. It is a programme which aims to ensure equality of access to enrichment activities, particularly targeting those who are disadvantaged. This new corporate plan priority and recommendation of the Fair Futures Commission is an evidence-based response to enhancing life skills through engagement with cultural activity. We have met the target to have 30 schools express an interest in the programme by the end of March 2019.

Developments to date include:

- 59/67 (88%) schools have engaged with 11 by 11 since Autumn 2018. 50 schools were represented at the 11 by 11 launch by a school leader or governor; 25 schools have applied for cultural activities from the 11 by 11 Activity Menu; 34 schools have nominated a Cultural Lead teacher; 31 schools have had a 121 meeting about the initiative
- 43 cultural organisations have submitted offers on the primary, secondary or both 11 by 11 Activity Menus for the summer term. In total, the 11 by 11 Activity Menus had enough opportunities for 408 classes to be offered an activity. 11 new cultural organisations will be contributing an offer to the activity menu for the new academic year.
- 2,553 primary school pupil experiences have been offered for the summer term; 195 for EYFS (8%), 676 for KS1 (26%) and 1,682 for KS2 (66%).
- Using the census data and FSM/Pupil premium data from September 2018, 694 of the 2,553 primary pupils offered an 11 by 11 activity are FSM. This means that 27% of the 11 by 11 opportunities that were offered to primary aged students will reach pupil premium students.
- 483 secondary school pupil experiences have been offered for the summer term. 95% of these experiences were for Y8 or Y9 pupils.
- The Cultural Enrichment Team has used the November 2018 Cultural Enrichment schools survey, individual meetings with secondary schools and liaison with Schools Improvement Service to identify 24 target schools. Of the 24 target schools, 2 are secondary, 13 are primary, 3 are alternative provision/PRU and 3 are special. 17 of the target schools have had at least one engagement with 11 by 11. 3 target schools have had no engagement with 11 by 11- St Joan of Arc, The Family School and Blessed Sacrament RC Primary
- The most engaged wards are Clerkenwell, St Georges, Bunhill and Junction (with between 80-100% of schools in each of these wards fully engaged.) The least engaged wards are Caledonian, Finsbury Park,

Holloway, St Mary's and Highbury East (with between 40-60% of schools in each of these wards full engaged). See below table for ward engagement:

Ward	No. schools	No. schools engaged	% schools engaged
Clerkenwell	2	2	100.0%
St George's	2	2	100.0%
Bunhill	7	6	85.7%
Junction	5	4	80.0%
Tollington	4	3	75.0%
Barnsbury	6	4	66.7%
Highbury West	3	2	66.7%
Hillrise	3	2	66.7%
Mildmay	3	2	66.7%
St Peter's	6	4	66.7%
Caledonian	5	3	60.0%
Finsbury Park	5	3	60.0%
Holloway	4	2	50.0%
St Mary's	6	3	50.0%
Highbury East	5	2	40.0%

- In consultation with School Improvement Data Team, a monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed to track engagement of schools.
- A New Direction and the Dame Alice Owen Foundation have each committed £25,000 of funding to Culture Bank, a series of teacher development opportunities and a youth voice framework and programme that will support 11 by 11. The 11 by 11 Culture Bank will provide youth leadership and teacher development opportunities, including a network of Cultural Leads across Islington Schools. Culture Bank will help widen the impact of the 11 by 11 Pledge to ensure that all children and young people in Islington schools and education settings have a great cultural education and 11 inspiring cultural enrichment experiences by Year 11.

2.5 – Corporate Indicator: 100 hours of the world of work - Number of secondary schools committed to an outline plan for implementation by March 2019 and

2.6 – Corporate Indicator: Sectors with a local business leader committed to supporting the 100 hours initiative by March 2019

The council has committed to ensuring that all young people in Islington benefit from 100 hours' experience of the World of Work by age 16. This builds upon the work that has been in action since the recommendations of the Employment Commission in 2014 to develop a high quality careers offer in schools that is industry led, in order to create change for the next generation. The 100 hours World of Work programme will engage children and young people from the early stages of primary school through to secondary school, to prepare for their future careers and gain an understanding of the breadth of career options that are available locally.

Islington schools have been consulted on the approach and we have initiated an overall programme design in collaboration with head teachers through the Islington Community of Schools and with businesses we currently work with. Key developments over the last year include:

- Development a web-based menu, which offers a simple way for schools to book employer led career activities that are brokered and collated by the council.
- Delivery of employer led career activities across all secondary schools, brokered by iWork, including employability days, workplace visits and assembly talks.

School	Number of activities	Pupil experiences
Arts & Media Islington	5	840
Central Foundation Boys School	7	600
COLA Highgate Hill	7	387
COLA Highbury Grove	1	120
COLA-I	1	140
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	4	350
Highbury Fields School	12	1100
Holloway School	7	691
New River College	5	108
Samuel Rhodes School	10	74
St Aloysius	15	965
St Mary Magdalene Academy	5	1160
The Courtyard	1	20
Total	80	6555

- Planning for activities with primary schools in the Summer term, including Careers Carousels, visits and classroom talks. These will inform a wider programme of activity with primary schools in 2019/20 academic year.
- 30 businesses have signed up to offer activities through the 100 hours World of Work online menu, across the following sectors:

Sector	No. businesses
Apprenticeship support	1
Construction & Engineering	4
Creative Production	4
Financial and Professional	3
Health & Social Care	3
Higher Education	1
Hospitality	1
Media and journalism	1

Public Services	2
Retail	2
Sports, leisure, travel	3
STEM	2
Tech/Digital	3

- A further 14 businesses have supported career related activities in schools over the last year, and we will continue conversations to establish a standing offer from these businesses through the 100 hours World of Work menu.
- Collaboration with the Richard Reeves Foundation to support schools in accessing grant funding. This will build capacity within schools to deliver careers education and experiences of work. iWork has also secured a direct grant, to provide additional consultancy for schools to develop programmes of employer led activities that support the 100 hours World of Work alongside a plan for achieving the Quality in Careers Standard.
- Secondary school Careers Leaders are engaged through a council-convened network that meets on a termly basis to share practice and deliver relevant CPD.

Bespoke offers for priority groups are being developed, and a schedule of activities has been agreed with the Virtual College, with the first activity to commence in July 2019 during school summer holidays.

A new relationship has been established between Ted Baker and New River College PRU. A programme of activity began in March 2019 with T-shirt production workshops and follow up sessions have been held with a visit to Ted Baker head offices scheduled for June 2019. Ted Baker have committed to supporting NRC next year including further workshops and donations of equipment.

Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up

Performance across many of these indicators should be considered in the context of the current priorities set out in the refreshed service plan for Learning and Schools. In line with the school led self-improving system, these have been shared with headteachers, leaders and governors in schools. Current provisional data indicates that these are the correct priorities and action across the priorities is now being taken.

- 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 SEND self-evaluation
- 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

Many of the educational outcome measures are reported under this Corporate Plan outcome. However, as many of these measures are reported based on the academic year, rather than the financial year, only a limited number of these are included within the Q4 Performance Report. Provisional academic results will be reported again in future Quarterly Performance Reports in the Autumn and Spring terms.

3.5 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent and

3.6 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent

Locally, we have collected the Autumn term attendance data for 2018/19. This shows that the persistent absence rate in Islington primary schools was 9.5%, which was lower than the rate during the Autumn term of the previous year. It was also lower than the national average for 2017/18, and in line with the London average for that year. The persistent absence rate in the Autumn term was lower than the persistent absence rate for the borough across 2017/18 as a whole.

The persistent absence rate for Islington secondary schools in the Autumn term was 13.1%, which is marginally above the rate for the same term the previous year. However, it is lower than the overall rate for 2017/18 as a whole, and lower than the England average for the Autumn term of 2017/18.

Work with partner agencies is in progress to agree a joint working approach around the role of key practitioners working with children/young people and families where poor attendance is an issue, including how best they can support them and provide appropriate challenge.

School attendance audits are being carried out with schools with the highest persistent absence levels. This is being followed up with further analysis of the effectiveness of school's processes and procedures, recognising the significance of whole school approach.

Improving attendance is a key priority. An Attendance Strategy 2018-2020 is in place. Attendance has been a focus in briefings for headteachers and governors in the spring and summer term. There is a targeted programme work being delivered with 10 Primary schools. It is proposed (for discussion at the next headteacher briefing in June) that performance in relation to attendance will be a key evaluation point in the Autumn 2019 categorisation of schools delivered through the Work in Support of Schools document WISS. The Attendance Strategy has 4 key deliverables:

- 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.

3.13 – Number of children in Alternative Provision

The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q4 2018/19 was 76 pupils. This is the same number as at the end of Q3. This KPI has been amended for 2018/19 to now look at all pupils in Alternative Provision, including AP directly commissioned by schools. 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). At the end of Q4 in 2017/18, there were 48 pupils in Alternative Provision managed by New River College. The equivalent figure for the same schools 2018/19 is 44 pupils, so there has been a slight fall. Based on trends for the previous measure, we would expect a gradual increase in the numbers of pupils in Alternative Provision throughout each academic year, before a drop as pupils leave at the end of Year 11.

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. AP provision and processes around it continues to be a focus in the secondary headteacher briefings. Headteachers support the premise that only in exceptional circumstances should children and young people not be provided for in a mainstream setting.

Local and national data confirms that mainstream schooling offers the best outcomes and life chances for most students. Islington schools are therefore committed to only placing students on AP in exceptional circumstances. To this end, the Secondary Securing Education Board will continue to monitor the number of students attending AP. All of our Secondary schools have identified a contact person to facilitate the sharing of data in relation to students attending AP. This information is collected on a monthly basis prior to the Securing Education Board meetings and the LA pupil database updated accordingly in line with GDPR requirements.

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

And

3.19 - Corporate Indicator: Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings - 13 and older

60.6% of young people aged 5 to 12 years old who attended Islington Youth and Play settings in 2018/19 when on to become 'participants' – that is they went to attend the same project five or more times during the year. This compares to 65.3% in 2017/18. The 2018/19 represents 4,596 5-12 year olds who attended settings, 2,784 of whom attended the same project five or more times.

52.2% of young people aged 13 to 25 years old who attended Islington Youth and Play settings in 2018/19 when on to become 'participants'. This is a larger proportion than the 44.7% in 2017/18, and is also above the target of 50% set for the year. The number of participants in 2018/19 was 2,763, compared to 2,486 the previous year.

The 2 participant rates for Islington Youth & Play settings are new measures, based on the proportion of children and young people who have attended Youth & Adventure Play settings and who go on to become 'participants', i.e. have at least 5 attendances at any particular setting throughout the year. It is pleasing that the KPI for the 13+ participant rate has been exceeded as the 50% target was considered to be stretching. This represents a significantly higher figure than those achieved historically for the 13-19 age range, which was more typically nearer to 30%. It suggests that the youth offer in Islington is of a high quality in that the majority of young people whom it contacts go on to attend multiple times. The figure for 5 to 12 year olds has been significantly affected this year by challenges in maintaining the safety of 2 adventure play sites, MLK and Crumbles Castle. Both of these sites have been closed most of the year due to their buildings being unsafe and beyond repair. This has impacted on the participant rate in this age range. Crumbles Castle re-opened at Easter and plans are in place to provide a temporary building at MLK in the near future and we are confident that the participant rate for this age range will improve in 2019-20.

3.20 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months

This indicator relates to children who have had a social care assessment and intervention which has resulted in their case being closed and who have then been referred again within 12 months of the case closure. Our auditing of these cases suggests that the majority of these children relate to children living with domestic abuse and where either the level of risk has apparently diminished or where the family no longer wants social work intervention and the needs are not so great as to warrant statutory child protection processes being instigated. Audit of the cases when they are referred is indicative of new incidents of domestic abuse or an escalation of the original concerns.

For the last few years our re-referral rate has remained fairly constant at about 20%, which has been similar to the national average. However, the proportion of re-referrals within the last 12 months has reduced from

16.8% at the end of 2017/18 to 16.3% at the end of 2018/19. The reduction in the re-referral rate is an early indication that the Motivational Practice approach is now having a sustainable and longer term impact on the wellbeing of children and their families, as improvements in this indicator have been sustained for two years.

3.21 – 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 15.7% in 2017/18 to 21.3% at the end of 2018/19. However, this is less than the proportion reported at the end of quarters 2 and 3 during the year, as the monthly proportions for January to March 2019 have shown a reduction.

The figure for 2018/19 as a whole is based on 47 out of 227 children becoming the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time. The number of children becoming subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time in 2018/19 is only slightly higher the number during the previous year. However, the total number of plans starting has fallen significantly, which has meant the overall percentage for this measure has increased. The number of repeat plans in 2018/19 includes a significant number of young people in family groups, which have a disproportionate effect on the headline percentage.

A preliminary audit had been undertaken of repeat plans part way through the financial year. Domestic violence and abuse remains by far the most common reason for repeat plans. A continuing theme is the difficulty in engaging fathers with the child protection process in a meaningful way. 19 plans had a gap of over 3 years between plans. 6 of the repeat plans concerned children who had previously experienced trauma from domestic abuse and were now at risk due to contextual abuse such as serious youth violence.

This audit is being revisited now that the full-year data is available.

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

Provisional data shows that 37 out of Islington's 313 looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year 2018/19, which is 11.8% of the total. This is a reduction on 2017/18, when 12.7% of Islington's looked after children had 3 or more placements during the year, but above the London and England averages for 2017/18.

The improvement in performance on this measure is encouraging. The improved stability for children recently entering care indicates we are making improvements in matching children to the right placement and reflects our robust planning.

3.23 - 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 2018/19, 59.5% of Islington's looked after children who had been looked after long term were in stable placements. This is above the proportion at the end of the previous quarter (57.7%), but below the proportion for 2017/18 (62.8%).

The long-term stability of placements continues to remain a challenge, despite the increase in the proportion in stable placements shown in Q4. We hope that the further embedding of our practice model will promote greater stability for our looked after children, leading to improvements on this measure in the coming years.

3.24 – Number of looked after children

At the end of 2018/19 there were 313 children looked after by Islington. This represents a reduction of 8% across the year, from 339 at the end of 2017/18. The reduction in the numbers of children looked after is very positive and an indication of the impact of our motivational Practice model.

Outcome: Continuing to be a well-run council, making a difference despite reduced resources
6.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

The latest published data (as at the end of 2018) shows the proportion of Islington's settings on the Early Years Register judged good or better has increased again to 94.3%, up from 93.7% at the end of August 2018. This is above the London average, but below the England average. Islington remains in the third quartile, nationally, although this is better than previous performance - historically Islington had tended to be in the bottom quartile for this measure. To show how tightly grouped together the figures are for each local authority, if just 7 more of Islington's 192 settings improved their inspection judgement, Islington would be in the top quartile of local authorities, nationally.

There continues to be an overall increase in the percentage of providers judged as good or outstanding in their early years Ofsted inspection. As at the end of December 2018, there was one inadequate setting and ten settings with a requires improvement judgement. The inadequate setting has since resigned its Ofsted registration. The ten settings with a requires improvement judgement were comprised of an out of school club, a playgroup, a private nursery and seven childminders.

Islington's rate of outstanding provision is well above both England and London averages at 28.1% compared with 19.6% and 17.5% respectively. Provision classed as non-domestic (i.e. not childminders or group childcare in people's homes) is particularly good with 44.6% judged as outstanding compared with 22.1% across London and 23.5% in England. 93.0% of private, voluntary and independent nurseries were judged to be good or outstanding.

6.2 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools

The proportion of schools judged good or better stood at 91.0% at the end of March 2019, a slight reduction from the 92.5% at the end of 2018. This change was due to the result of Prior Weston's inspection in January 2019. Islington remains above the England average (85.3%) in terms of inspection outcomes, but is slightly below the London average (92.0%). Despite this slight fall, Islington remains in the top quartile, nationally.

Three secondary and one primary school are currently requiring improvement. These schools are receiving robust support and challenge to secure rapid improvement leading to a good or better judgement at the next inspection.

The breakdowns by school phase (good or better) are:

- 100% of nursery schools (3/3)
- 93.3% of primary schools (42/45)
 - 97.5% of local authority maintained primary schools (39/40)
 - 60% of academies and free schools (3/5)
- 70% of secondary schools (7/10)
 - 66.6% of local authority maintained secondary schools (4/6)
 - 75% of academies and free schools (3/4)
- 100% of special schools (5/5)
- 100% of Pupil Referral Units (4/4)

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

Not applicable.

4.2 Legal Implications:

Not applicable.

4.3 Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

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, although there are some equalities data-monitoring measures within this report, this is part of a regular set of reporting and no major changes to service provision have been recommended. A Resident Impact Assessment would be completed if there was a recommendation or decision to make a substantial change to an existing service, or to launch a new service, in light of the findings of this report. The information contained within this report may, however, form part of the evidence base for future Resident Impact Assessments as required.

5. Reason for recommendations

5.1 In accordance with its remit:

Scrutiny Committee is asked to discuss the progress set out in the report.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Data Dashboard for Q4 2018/19

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Carmel Littleton, Corporate Director for People Date

Report Author: Heads of Service, People Directorate
Tel: 020 7527 2657
Email: c/o adam.white@islington.gov.uk