

Report of: Director of Youth and Community & Acting Director of Safeguarding and Family Support

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	29 th October 2019	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance Report

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This Quarter 1 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 1 2019/20.

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

84% of young people triaged in the first quarter of 2019/20 were diverted away from the criminal justice system. This is better than performance during 2018/19, and also better than performance during the same quarter in 2018/19.

The service has continued to ensure that children and young people who need support are reached at the earliest opportunity. The youth workers within the service continue to use the Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision (APIS) framework in order to provide a robust and effective early intervention package of support to the young person to help them address the difficulties that they are enduring and divert them from the criminal justice system. Much effort and focus has been given to the quality of the relationship between the allocated Youth worker and the young person. The utilising of the Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice models has assisted with this regard and helps when tailoring interventions. Optimum use is also being made of the multi-agency network in order to ensure that the expertise that is available from other parts of the system can be used to support the young person who is subject to the triage. This may include the provision of support from Police, sexual health and/or other health orientated staff and education support staff such as the I-Work coach. This is particularly applicable to young people who may be offered an extended Triage due to the nature of the incident/offence that they have been referred to Targeted Youth Service (TYS) for and because of the complexity of their needs.

Young people who are subject to Triage interventions are now also able to benefit from whole-family working arrangements due to the re-introduction of an IFIT worker within the team on a part-time basis. The worker is able to offer consultations (and accept referrals in some cases) which helps the worker to assess and plan from a systemic and family orientated perspective.

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

There were 16 first time entrants in the first quarter of 2019/20, which is just below the number of first time entrants in the same quarter in 2018/19.

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 357 per 100,000 10 to 17 year olds, for January to December 2018. This is the lowest reported rate for Islington since the introduction of this measure over a decade ago, although the Islington rate remains above the London and England rates.

Islington continues to see reductions in relation to the number of first time entrants in the youth justice system and the latest figures represent Islington's best levels of performance. This achievement is all the more significant given the current climate of increased Serious Youth Violence and knife crime in London and in cities across the country. There is now a strong argument to suggest that Islington's early intervention and prevention offer is having the desired effect in terms of supporting more vulnerable young people at an early stage for example young people receiving a triage intervention, thus preventing the onset of further and more concerning behaviour and issues and the entrance to the Criminal Justice System.

TYS has continued to deliver targeted interventions to local areas which have increased levels of need and where there have been serious incidents. For instance, there has been an increased focus on providing support to young people (and the community) in the Caledonian Road area due to the fatal stabbing of a young person earlier in the year and in the New Orleans area, due to the concerning activity of a number of young people and adults within the vicinity. Staff are also delivering more group work sessions including female only groups.

There has been continued prioritisation of work with schools, particularly those who require more support with complex issues. Through strategic developments following the review of the top 25 high risk young people

who committed the most offences, the transitions project has now been implemented with funding from MHCLG and two TYS workers have been seconded into the roles. An identified group of young people who have recently moved from Year 6 to Year 7 are subsequently being worked with from hot spots areas. The early feedback from children and families in relation to the project has been positive.

Efforts have been made to ensure that young people being worked with have access to a menu of interventions that should be sequenced and tailored to meet their needs. The Youth Counselling Service is used for young people who require emotional support and there are commissioned organisations available such as Safer London and Chance UK, who provide mentoring. Young people also have access to health staff such as the Sexual Health worker, the Liaison and Diversion Nurse and IYPDAS, (the substance misuse team), amongst other services.

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

Provisional data shows that out of the 38 young people in the cohort for Q1 2018/19, 14 had re-offended during the following year (37%). This is a lower percentage than the level reported at the end of 2018/19.

The definition for this measure has been changed this year. Each quarter's performance will be based on the re-offending over the previous 12 months for the cohort of offenders from the year previously.

The YJB report on two different measures of re-offending, also based on a rolling cohort of young offenders in one quarter, and their levels of re-offending over the following 12 months. However, the YJB allow a significant time lag in their reporting, to allow for potential delays in the recording of outcomes, nationally, and their figures are eighteen months behind our own local recording. The latest data for the YJB re-offending 'binary' measure is for the April – June 2017 cohort of offenders, and 28.6% of these young people re-offended in the following year (10 out of 64), which is less than half the rate reported in the previous quarter. This is the lowest level of re-offending reported for Islington since the YJB moved to a quarterly re-offending measure in 2014. This is lower than the 41.0% re-offending rate across London and 38.4% across England as a whole for the same period. In relation to the YJB 'frequency' measure, Islington still ranks highly out of our comparators, as many of those that do re-offend commit multiple offences.

Reducing the reoffending rate of young people who are prolific offenders and service users of the Youth Offending Service has proved a significant challenge in recent years with our performance being higher than most of London and our statistical neighbours. However, the recent performance data shows that there have been improvements which is positive. The figures for the 'binary' measure are more impressive, whilst there is still further work to do to reduce the 'frequency' rate. We have recognised through our internal auditing and local research processes that the group of young people involved are those with significant and multiple vulnerabilities– domestic abuse; broken attachments to carers; parental substance and/or alcohol misuse; chaotic school histories; speech and language difficulties and special educational needs – meaning that it is difficult to solve the issues of such young people swiftly. We have seen reductions in the reoffending rates because we continue to use the 'child first, offender second' ethos in working with these young people. Subsequently, we have been focussing on strengthening the specialist packages of support that can improve the lives of these young people. Our health workers have been co-ordinating their offer via our Clinical Specialist Panel; we have been working with local providers and businesses to identify more Education, Cultural (through 11by11), Training and Employment opportunities for the cohort, we are strengthening our victim and restorative justice processes (as this has an evidence-base in reducing reoffending) and we are enhancing our mentoring offer for such young people so that they have a positive role models to confide in and look up to. The embedding of Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice has strengthened the quality of the assessment, planning and interventions to all of our young people.

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

There were 2 custodial sentences involving Islington young people in the first quarter of 2019/20. This is lower than the profiled target of 6 during these months, and much lower than the 12 custodial sentences that were received by Islington young people during the first quarter of 2018/19.

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 2018/19, reports Islington's rate as 1.19 custodial sentences per 1,000 population, which is the lowest end of financial year total that has been reported for Islington. Despite this decrease, Islington's rate remains higher than the London (0.49) and England (0.30) custody rates.

The YOS has placed a lot of effort into this area because we recognise that the secure and custodial estate is not suitable for young people and that it should only be used as a very last resort. It is for this reason that we continue to dissuade courts from imposing custodial sentences on young people because we argue that the risk that (most of) our young people pose to the public can be managed in the community. Caseworkers and managers have worked tirelessly to ensure that the assessments and the subsequent Pre-Sentence Reports that the courts are furnished with are trauma informed and strengths based, with a clear rationale and outline of risk and protective factors. The courts continue to be complimentary about the YOS's Pre-Sentence Reports, even for those cases where young people are at risk of custody, and 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 as courts are confident that the YOS has the ability and resources to manage the young person's risk in the community.

Due to the fact that BAME young people are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the secure estate, we are one of the few areas that are focusing intensively on this from a strategic and operational perspective. We are part of the multi-agency, cross-borough YOS steering disproportionality group which recently presented to officials at MOPAC. Our disproportionality project, in conjunction with Haringey, with funding from the Youth Justice Board, has commenced and will involve providing unconscious bias training to staff. It will involve consulting young people and their parents on their experiences whilst identifying ways of how to tackle such discrimination.

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

There were 13 children missing from care for more than 24 hours during June 2019. This is slightly higher than the number during March 2019 (11), but slightly lower than the number during June 2018 (14). 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.

Islington's demographics profile for children missing from care remains consistent, with more boys than girls, and those children aged 16 and 17 years old going missing from care more frequently than younger ages. Our profile of children missing from care, who are also at risk of exploitation (i.e. gangs and SYV, CSE etc.) also remains consistent – with a higher number of children missing from care and at risk of exploitation identified, than those that go missing from home.

Children that are identified as missing from care and also at risk of exploitation continue to be overseen by the Specialist Social Workers in the Exploitation and Missing Team. This allows for risks to be independently monitored, greater oversight of contextual risks and profile, and ensures a specialist lens through which interventions are delivered.

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.

Of the children who went missing from care in quarter 1, 56% accepted and completed a Return Home Interview. This is an improvement of the proportion who have accepted and completed a Return Home Interview in previous quarters. This evidences a positive take-up of the return safe offer from children in care. Our Return Safe Team are supported to build consistent relationships with our looked after children that go missing from care, through children always being allocated the same Return Safe Worker, and the working being facilitated to visit the child regardless of their location.

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

Although this measure is only reported annually in quarter 4 of each year, the following provides an update on the progress made since the 2018/19 data was reported.

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 are 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.

Since the last reporting period, the Progress Team has taken measures to strengthen performance in improving EET outcomes for young people.

- A link adviser been identified to work Capital City Group and there is developing plans to ensure we work collaboratively to support young people who are at risk of becoming NEET.
- A weekly report is produced identifying those young people with no September Guarantee offer of learning, who are unknown to us. Weekly late night follow-up sessions have helped officers to speak with a larger number of young people, out of office hours.
- Young people at the Pupil Referral Unit and on YOS orders are offered on-going support to attend college interviews and successfully enrol on courses.
- Improved join-up with teams across the People Directorate working with vulnerable young people, including IFIT, SEN, Children in Need and Targeted Youth Support, to ensure that young people are being provided with Information, Advice and Guidance on options and pathways. Crucial support is provided for young people in care and those who do not have a high level of parental support.
- To ensure resources are utilised and planned to maximise on impact mapped home visits will only take place when all other follow up activities are exhausted.
- A mailshot to 1,500 young people asking them to respond with information about their next steps. 165 responses have been received so far.
- There will be an on-going planned and targeted approach to ensure the Annual activity survey and NEET/Unknown follow up targets are achieved.
- Officers from People Directorate have commenced an analysis of employment support for vulnerable young people aged 16-25. We want to understand the effectiveness of the current support available and identify gaps in provision, so that we can have greater impact through joint working. Analysis of available data has helped to identify particular areas in the borough with higher levels of youth unemployment; this will be supplemented by further qualitative research into the lived experience of unemployed young people, to inform a place based approach that more effectively reaches those young people who are not already engaged in council services.

2.4 – Corporate Indicator: Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme

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.

A school is defined as engaged in 11 by 11 if, in the last 2 quarters, it has a) applied for an 11 by 11 activity, b) has a Cultural Lead teacher who has attended a Cultural Lead Network meeting or had a 1:1 with CET, or c) a teacher at their school has attended a Culture Bank CPD opportunity

- As at the end of June 2019, 49 schools have engaged with the 11 by 11 Programme over the Q4 18-19 and Q1 19-20. This is above the profiled target of 40 schools by the end of Q1 2019/20.
- Since Autumn 2018, 39 schools have had a member of the senior leadership team meet with the Cultural Enrichment Team about 11 by 11.
- Since the launch event in March 2019, 47 schools have nominated a Cultural Lead teacher.

During Q1 19-20:

- 43/67 (64%) schools engaged with 11 by 11:
 - 37 schools applied for cultural activities from the 11 by 11 Activity Menu;
 - 31 schools have a nominated Cultural Lead teacher who is actively engaging with CPD or has met with the Cultural Enrichment team)
- 43 cultural organisations submitted offers on the primary, secondary or both 11 by 11 Activity Menus for the summer term. In total, the 11 by 11 Activity Menu had enough opportunities for 408 classes to be offered an activity. 11 new cultural organisations contributed an offer to the activity menu for the new academic year.
- 2,553 primary school pupil experiences were offered for the Summer term 2019:
 - 195 for EYFS (8%)
 - 676 for KS1 (26%)
 - 1,682 for KS2 (66%).
- 483 secondary school pupil experiences have been offered for the Summer term. 95% of these experiences were for Y8 or Y9 pupils.
- Using the census data and FSM data from September 2018, 694 of the 2,553 primary pupils (27%) offered an 11 by 11 activity are on FSM. This is slightly below the FSM average of 31% for Islington primary settings. However, this average includes the PRUs and primary special schools. PRU engagement is being targeted in the current window.
- The Cultural Enrichment Team has identified 22 target schools for 11 by 11 engagement, using as evidence of low cultural engagement the following sources: the November 2018 Cultural Enrichment schools survey, individual meetings with secondary schools and liaison with Schools Improvement Service. Of the above 22 target schools
 - 2 are secondary
 - 12 are primary
 - 3 are alternative provision/PRU
 - 5 are special
 - 17 of the target schools have had at least one engagement with 11 by 11
 - 17 attended the 11 by 11 launch
 - 16 have had a 121 meeting with the Cultural Enrichment Team
 - 13 have signed up for activities.
- 3 target schools have had no engagement with 11 by 11:
 - St Joan of Arc Primary
 - Blessed Sacrament Primary
 - The Family School

- In consultation with School Improvement Data Team, a monitoring and evaluation framework for 11 by 11 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 schools engaged with the programme

12 schools have engaged with the programme, as at the end of June 2019. This is above the profiled target of 8 schools by the end of Q1 2019/20. 10 secondary schools and 2 primary schools have engaged with the programme, as at the end of Q1 2019/20.

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.

Key developments over the last quarter have included:

- Introduction of a web-based menu that schools are using to book employer led career activities that are brokered and collated by the council.
- Delivery of 16 activities brokered by iWork for 8 schools, which reached 420 young people.
- New activities were introduced for primary schools across key stages 1 and 2, with a variety of sectors including Construction (working with Mears), Tech (Three Discovery Centre) and Health and Social Care (NHS and London Air Ambulance). These will inform a wider programme of activity with primary schools in 2019/20 academic year.
- In June students and teachers from 11 primary schools and 2 secondary schools took part in the City of London Careers Festival 2019 in June. Activities and workshops delivered by Microsoft, London Met, Barbican, Google, PWC, Mace and others.
- 30 businesses are currently signed up to offer activities through the 100 hours World of Work online 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 is delivering additional consultancy for schools funded by the foundation 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. 5 out of 6 schools have received a stage 1 certificate for the quality award.
- A 100 hours World of Work Breakfast Event is scheduled to take place in November 2019 at the Institute of Physics. The aim of the event is to recruit schools not already involved, recruit more employers from priority sectors, to celebrate the good work already happening to highlight the benefits of the programme to all parties involved.

Bespoke offers for priority groups continue to be developed and a schedule of activities has been agreed with the Virtual College for looked after children, with the first activity to commence in Autumn term 2019.

A range of employers have committed to offering work experience placements to year 10 New River College Students for early July. Employers offering placements include Outlandish, Soapbox, Museum of London, Inmarsat, King Square Nursery, K&M, Freightliners Farm.

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, with follow up sessions and a visit to Ted Baker head office taking place in June. 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

Many of the educational outcome measures are reported under this Corporate Plan outcome. However, at the time of writing this report, the results are still being collated, so 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.

3.2 – 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. Provisional data for the Summer term suggests there were 626 2 year olds in funded places in the Summer Term 2018/19, an increase on the 600 in funded places for the Spring term. However, the number of eligible parents increased as well, and the overall proportion of places taken up fell slightly to 61%.

Low awareness of and confusion about the national offer continues to be the main barrier to take up, together with cultural barriers within certain groups. Ensuring that all local practitioners working in any capacity with young children and their families are aware of the offer and equipped to sell the benefits of taking up free early education is a priority. Following a successful information sharing session supported by Childcare Works, we will be launching sessions on a monthly basis for partners and professionals.

We also know that word of mouth and peer-to-peer recommendations are the most effective way to spread the message about the 2-year-old offer. There are 18 parent champion volunteers active across Bright Start Islington, speaking a range of community languages and focusing on promoting early learning entitlements and other Bright Start services. A new cohort of parent champions was trained in the summer term 2019 – there are now 10 additional champions including 2 dads. There will be new cohort beginning training in November. We are also making much greater use of social media, particularly Facebook, to spread clear and simple messages about the offer. Research indicates that our target group, women aged 25-44 from social groups C1DE use Facebook more than any other social media.

Research carried out last year and published by the DfE indicated that it is beneficial to differentiate the message depending on the target group. Therefore, our marketing materials have been refreshed with messages appropriate for parents of 2 year olds alongside updated branding.

A golden ticket approach has been agreed and is now being implemented. A place will be given to all children who appear on the eligible list which we receive from the DWP. This significantly simplifies the process of accessing a place, and has been highly successful in increasing take up where it has been implemented in other boroughs.

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

Provisional data for 2018/19 suggest that 71.1% of Islington pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP), the same proportion as last year. Comparator data is not yet published, but early estimates suggest the England average will be around 71.8%.

The GLD is the proxy indicator used to measure children's development and learning at age 5. The rate of improvement has flat lined. Further analysis is needed on why this has happened. However, this is the first year of children who were affected by the 30 hours entitlement, so fewer children would have benefited from full time nursery education.

3.4 – 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

The gap between the results for Free School Meal (FSM) eligible children and their peers has narrowed in 2018/19 due to improvement in results for FSM-eligible pupils.

In Islington provisional results show that 64% of FSM-eligible pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in 2018/19, an increase from 61% the previous year. 75% of non-eligible pupils achieved a GLD in 2018/19, the same proportion as the previous year. This means the attainment gap has narrowed from 14 percentage points in 2017/18 to 11 percentage points in 2018/19. National results are not yet available, but in 2017/18 only 57% of FSM pupils across England achieved a GLD, whilst 74% of other pupils achieved a GLD, so Islington is above last year's national averages for both groups.

Further analysis and comparisons with national data, when available, will be carried out, including an evaluation of the impact of actions outlined in previous reports.

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

The DfE have now published comparator data on absence for the Autumn term 2018/19. This confirms 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 (10.8%). The Islington persistent absence rate remains above the London (8.8%) and England (9.2%) averages, although the gap between Islington and each comparator has narrowed. The persistent absence rate for Islington 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 2018 was 13.1%, which is marginally above the rate for the same term the previous year. This is lower than the overall rate for Islington for 2017/18 as a whole. However, it remains above the London (10.9%) and England (12.7%) averages.

Work has been undertaken with partner agencies 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 have been carried out with those schools with the highest persistent absence levels. This has been followed up with a targeted focus group of twelve schools, who have met on 6 occasions to develop their respective action plans and responses. There is evidence that this targeted work undertaken jointly by School Improvement and Pupil Services has had a significant impact. All but one of the 12 schools has seen an improvement in attendance, and the programme is being repeated in the Autumn term 2019 with a new group of schools including secondary schools.

Improving and sustaining attendance remains a key priority. An Attendance Strategy 2018-2020 is in place with four 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.

There have been briefings for all headteachers and governors. Performance in relation to attendance is a key evaluation point in the Autumn 2019 categorisation of schools delivered through the Work in Support of Schools framework.

3.7 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of fixed term exclusions - primary

The published rate of fixed term exclusions for Islington primary schools was 2.08% in 2017/18. This was an increase on the previous year (1.95%). The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 0.94% for 2017/18, so Islington remained above the Inner London average. Islington would have had to have 176 fewer fixed term exclusions from primary school to be in line with the Inner London average, as opposed to 321 exclusions during the year. Local data for the current academic year is encouraging.

3.8 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of fixed term exclusions - secondary

The published rate of fixed term exclusions for Islington secondary schools was 16.46% in 2017/18. This is an increase compared to the rate of 10.73% in 2016/17. The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 9.31% for 2017/18, so Islington remained above the Inner London average. Islington would have had to have 617 fewer fixed term exclusions from secondary school to be in line with the Inner London average, as opposed to 1,420 exclusions during the year.

3.9 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage rate of permanent exclusions - secondary

The published rate of permanent exclusions for Islington secondary schools was 0.23% in 2017/18. This was a decrease compared to 2016/17 (0.28%). The target for this measure is to be in line or below the Inner London average, which has been confirmed as 0.21% for 2016/17, so Islington remained above the Inner London average, although the gap has narrowed. Islington would have had to have 2 fewer permanent exclusions from secondary school to be in line with the Inner London average (i.e. 18 permanent exclusions rather than the 20 that did occur). Again, local data for the current Academic year is encouraging.

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 weakened.

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 identified exclusion from school as their main area of focus for 2018-19. In their final report (June 2019) they made 14 recommendations. At about the same time, the national Timpson Review of Exclusion from School reported with 30 recommendations, with good synchronicity across

the two sets of recommendations. The Council Executive will consider a response to the recommendations in November 2019.

Please note that there is no Corporate Indicator on permanent exclusions at primary school, as the numbers of exclusions are very low (usually in single figures). The latest published rate for permanent exclusions from Islington primary schools was 0.04% for the 2017/18 academic year, based on 6 permanent exclusions. This is marginally above the national average of 0.03%.

The Director of Youth and Communities chairs a partnership task and finish group which reports in to the Safeguarding Children Board. The purpose has been to explore the link between exclusions and offending and/or exploitation for Islington children and to enhance the practice of schools and partner agencies before and after an exclusion.

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

The provisional data for 2018/19 confirms that the proportion of Islington pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 was 69% in 2018/19, the same as in the 2017/18 revised results, but above the 68% reported in the provisional results last year. Islington aims to be at or above the Inner London average at each Key Stage, and we have achieved this in these provisional results, as the Inner London figure has fallen to 69%.

Another encouraging outcome is that 15% 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), above our comparators. Islington is ranked joint 8th in the country on this measure.

Reading outcomes at KS2 have remained consistent and are above national and this reflects the focussed work undertaken by schools and their determination that pupils are reading across the curriculum in order to build their cultural capital and therefore meet the demands of KS2 reading tests. Writing has remained consistent 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 consistent against national outcomes. Schools continue to focus 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 pupils so that they are ready for the next stage of their learning.

Combined outcomes for reading, writing and maths continue to improve. Islington's outcomes at the end of KS2 remain above national and are now in line with Inner London. Analysis of school outcomes over time has identified a number of schools who are consistently underperforming against one or both measures 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 future outcomes.

Compared to Inner London, Islington ranks 7/13, which represents a significant improvement on previous years, and Islington is now in line with the Inner London average.

3.11 – 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)

The provisional results for 2019 show that the proportion of Black Caribbean pupils achieving the expected standard increased by around 7 percentage points in 2019. With slight changes in the overall Islington average, the gap has narrowed to just under 13 percentage points, from 19 percentage points last year.

Nationally, 56% of Black-Caribbean pupils achieved the expected level, but Islington has overtaken this in the provisional results, with 56.6% of Black-Caribbean pupils achieving the expected level.

To give these differences some context, if 14 more Black Caribbean pupils achieved the expected standard in 2019, the group's results would have matched the Islington average (as there are around a hundred Black Caribbean pupils in the cohort).

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. This is one of the work streams for the Islington Community of Schools. Work with Subject Leaders for maths and reading will also highlight this issue in schools and Y6 teachers will receive additional support.

The impact and learning from this work to improve outcomes for underperforming groups is fed back to head teachers at the termly briefings and is explicitly referenced as a key priority.

3.12 – 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)

Provisional results for 2019 show that the proportion of White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals that achieving the expected standard increased from 50% in 2018 to 54% in 2019, narrowing the gap with the overall Islington figure from 19 percentage points in 2018 to 15 percentage points in 2019.

White British pupils (i.e. including those not eligible for Free School Meals), as a group, consistently achieve better than the LBI average over the past three years. In reading these pupils outperform LBI pupils by 4%, by 0.5% in writing and 0.6% in maths. At the combined outcome White British perform 2.8% better than LBI peers. Progress for this group of pupils is consistently good, particularly in reading.

The latest available comparator data is for the 2018 revised results. Nationally, 43% of White-British FSM-eligible pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, so there was a gap of 22 percentage points with the national average for all pupils (65%). The gap in Islington has been narrower than this in 2018 and the provisional 2019 results.

3.13 – Number of children in Alternative Provision

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 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.

There were 86 pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q4 2018/19. This represents a slight increase of 10 pupils compared with the end of Q3, and a smaller increase of 3 compared to the same period in the previous year, when there were 83 pupils in AP (although this covered a cohort with a narrower definition – see below). This is still a significant decrease in the number of AP students from the June 2016 baseline however, when there were 130 students in AP.

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 commissioned by New River College (NRC) on behalf of those schools buying in to a Service Level Agreement to source and quality assure suitable provision. At the end of Q4 in 2017/18, there were 48 pupils in Alternative Provision commissioned by New River College on behalf of schools. 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, referring schools are directly responsible for monitoring the attendance, progress and outcomes for any student they have placed in 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. Headteachers support the premise that only in exceptional circumstances should children and young people not be provided for in a mainstream setting.

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 where either the level of risk had apparently diminished or where the family no longer wanted social work intervention and the needs were not so great as to warrant statutory child protection processes being instigated. Audits of the cases when they are referred is indicative of new incidents of domestic abuse or an escalation of the original concerns.

Historically, 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, and down again to 16.1% at the end of Q1 2019/20. The reduction in the re-referral rate from 20% to 16.8% is an indication that the Motivational Practice model 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 is 8.5% at the end of Q1 2019/20. This is lower than the 20.7% at the end of 2018/19, and the 20.9% during the first quarter of the previous year.

The figure for this quarter is based on only 4 out of 47 children becoming the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time. The equivalent figures for the first quarter of 2018/19 were 14 out of 68 children, so both figures that make up this percentage have fallen.

An audit was undertaken of all repeat plans in 2018/2019. Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is the main contributing factor for repeat plans. Early experiences of DVA is also a factor contributing to plans being made for children at risk of contextual harm such as serious youth violence.

A comparative audit was also undertaken on cases of DVA where there was a repeat plan and cases where there was no repeat. This audit concluded that support and intervention offered to families where DVA is a feature is varied and that children affected by DVA feature highly in re-referrals, repeat CIN and CP plans.

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 5 out of Islington's 307 looked after children had had 3 or more placements during the year 2019/20 so far, which is 1.6% of the total. This is slightly higher than the same quarter in 2018/19, when 0.9% of Islington's looked after children had 3 or more placements during the year, although the numbers involved are very low at this point in the year.

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 the first quarter of 2019/20, 64.0% 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 (59.5%), but below the proportion for the same point in 2018/19 (69.4%).

A certain number of placement moves are expected and positive, as some children move from short to long term and permanent placements. However, we still have a significant cohort of older young people entering care and other young people who came into care aged between 9 and 12 who by the age of 14 are experiencing multiple placement moves.

The recent reorganisation in CLA aims to embed our practice model further. In particular, it will enable more intensive work with foster carers and children to promote placement stability. Alongside this we are launching a revised permanency protocol this month which aims to improve practice and increase monitoring by senior managers. Work is also being undertaken to increase the number of high quality foster carers with the capacity to sustain relationships and help children and young people come to terms with their experiences.

In addition, there are factors beyond the control of the Local Authority that are significantly impacting upon placement stability. Foster care and residential providers are in short supply and so have a choice about which children and young people they are willing to offer placements to. This means that our children and young people with the most complex needs, are often the hardest to find an appropriate placement for, particularly if their previous placement has broken down in a crisis. In addition, the Ofsted regulatory framework for residential providers and foster carers means that they are unwilling to offer placements to children and young people with particularly complex and volatile presentations, or those who frequently run away, as this can negatively impact on their Ofsted ratings. Work at a strategic level, is being undertaken with other Local Authorities and with Ofsted to try and address this.

3.24 – Number of looked after children

At the end of Q1 2019/20 there were 307 children looked after by Islington. This is lower than the 321 at the same point last year, and lower than the 313 at the end of 2018/19. 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 the 2018/19 financial year) shows the proportion of Islington's settings on the Early Years Register judged good or better has increased again to 94.7%, up from 94.3% at the end of 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 5 more of Islington's 189 settings improved their inspection judgement, Islington would be in the top quartile of local authorities, nationally.

At the end of 2018/19, there were no Islington early years settings judged to be inadequate.

Islington's rate of outstanding provision is well above both England and London averages at 29.1% compared with 19.9% and 17.8% respectively. Provision classed as non-domestic (i.e. not childminders or group childcare in people's homes) is particularly good with 45.8% judged as outstanding (including five out eight council-run settings) compared with 22.4% across London and 23.9% in England. 94.1% 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 Islington schools judged good or better stood at 91.0% at the end of June 2019, the same proportion as at the end of 2018/19. There were two full inspections (Robert Blair and Beacon High) and one short inspection (Ashmount) in the first quarter of 2019/20, but none resulted in a change in overall inspection outcomes. Islington remains above the England average (85.6%) in terms of inspection outcomes, but is slightly below the London average (92.4%). Islington remains in the top quartile, nationally.

Three secondary and three primary schools are currently requiring improvement or inadequate, half of these being academies. These schools are receiving robust support and challenge to secure rapid improvement leading to a good or better judgement at the next inspection.

Alongside the Categorisation meetings for local authority schools which are undertaken with school leaders in the first half of the Autumn term, meetings of Mutual Interest have been arranged with Academy Trusts or 'stand-alone' Academy Boards.

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)

6.3 - Percentage of new EHC Plans issued within 20 weeks

Excluding exceptional cases, Islington issued 75.9% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2018 (calendar year). This was a significant improvement on the previous year, when 51.6% of new plans were completed within timescales. The Islington figure has moved above the London and England averages.

Including all cases, Islington issued 69.7% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2018. Again, this was an improvement and Islington moved above the London and England averages.

This improvement in issuing EHC Plans within timescales has seen Islington move into the second quartile, nationally. If Islington had completed 27 more of the 185 plans issued within the timescales, including the exceptional cases, Islington would have moved into the top 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 around 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.

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

Appendices

- Appendix A: Data Dashboard for Q1 2019/20

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Laura Eden, Director of Youth and Community
and Acting Director of Safeguarding and Family
Support

Date 18/10/2019

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