

**Report of: Corporate Director of People Services**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	29 June 2020	All

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**SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 3 2019/20 Performance Report****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This Quarter 3 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 3 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 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**

80% of young people triaged in the first three quarters of 2019/20 were diverted away from the criminal justice system (35 out of 44). Although this is lower than it was in 2018/19, it is an improvement on the Q1-2 figure. It should be noted that as this measure is based on a relatively small cohort, it is highly volatile to changes in the outcomes of just one or two young people. For example, if just two more of the cohort had been diverted away from the criminal justice system, the overall proportion for the year would have been higher than the 2018/19 figure.

Targeted Youth Support continues to provide early and targeted help to vulnerable children, young people and their families. The overall objective is to ameliorate their circumstances and divert young people from the criminal justice system. Staff within the service have been trained in the Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice models and these are becoming more embedded within the teams. These increase the likelihood of the overall intervention being successful. Use of the multi-agency system, in work with these young people, continues to assist with the delivery of the interventions. These may include the provision of support from Youth Counselling or CAMHS, Police, sexual health and/or other health orientated staff, education and employment support staff such as the I-Work coach. Whole-family working arrangements are also being strengthened due to the availability of an Islington Families Intensive Team (IFIT) worker within the team. Staff can now receive consultations, which helps the worker to assess and plan interventions from a systemic and family orientated perspective. In addition, young people being worked with by the service can also benefit from a new mentoring service arrangement..

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

There were 42 first time entrants in the first three quarters of 2019/20, which is a reduction in the number of first time entrants compared to the same period in 2018/19. As the overall target is to have fewer first time entrants than last year, we are on course to meet this aim.

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. There has been no update published since the last quarterly report, when Islington's rate was 355 per 100,000 10 to 17 year olds, for April 2018 to March 2019 - the lowest reported rate for Islington since the introduction of this measure over a decade ago.

Important reductions continue to be made in relation to the number of first time entrants in the youth justice system. The current figures and those within the past year have represented Islington's best levels of performance in relation to this indicator. This achievement has been made all the more impressive despite Serious Youth Violence and knife crime being at record levels in London. Larger numbers of vulnerable young people are now being supported at an earlier stage in their journey and this is preventing the onset and escalation of more concerning and serious behaviours in numerous young people. The Youth Counselling Service is available for young people who require emotional support and there are high quality commissioned organisations available such as Wipers and Chance UK, who provide mentoring. Support is also available for young people from health staff such as the Sexual Health worker, the Liaison and Diversion Nurse and IYPDAS, (the substance misuse team), amongst other services.

Detached youth work sessions continue via planned and co-ordinated interventions in local areas and in 'hotspots'. The service also continues to support schools, particularly those who require more support with more complex cohorts of young people.

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

Provisional data shows that out of the 36 young people in the cohort for Q3 2018/19, 16 had re-offended during the following year (44%). This is in line with 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 quarter immediately prior to this 12-month period (i.e. those who offended between 15 and 12 months ago).

The Youth Justice Board (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, there has been no further update to the data since the figures presented in the Q2 report (60.7% re-offending for the July-September 2017 cohort, with 4.18 offences per offenders). YJB allow a significant time lag in their reporting, to allow for potential delays in the recording of outcomes, nationally, and their figures are a year behind our own local recording.

Our local analysis shows the cohort of young people who reoffend are predominately young people with very complex needs and vulnerabilities. Subsequently, this makes it more difficult to reduce their risk factors and to turn them around. The YOS continues to use the 'child first, offender second' ethos in working with these young people which looks at them as vulnerable children who are need of support and protection, as opposed to labelling them as offenders. These young people subsequently receive specialist and multi-agency packages of support that can improve their lives. The Trauma Informed and Motivational Practice models are further embedded within the service and have improved the quality of the work that has been delivered to our young people.

Note – the comparison shown above is a snapshot at the end of the last 12 months. The figures are listed as provisional, as the number of re-offences can be subject to change, as the outcomes of offences are confirmed.

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 have been eight custodial sentences involving Islington young people in the first three quarters of 2019/20. This is less than half of the number there were during the equivalent period in 2018/19 (19 custodial sentences).

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. This data has been updated in the latest publication, for October 2018 to September 2019. Islington's latest published rate is 0.66 custodial sentences per 1,000 population, which is marginally above the previous figure reported. However, the previous quarter's data was the lowest ever rate that has been reported for Islington, so the borough's rate is still much lower than it has tended to be over the last few years. Islington's rate remains higher than the London (0.30) and England (0.19) custody rates.

This has been a significant area of focus due to the very large numbers of Islington young people that were being sentenced to custodial sentences in previous and recent years. The YOS continues to make sure that Pre-Sentence Reports are both trauma informed and strengths based. They also capture the full needs of the young person and are now able to more effectively advise the courts of how the young person's risks can be managed in the community. Consequently, Magistrate and Crown courts are now much more confident in Islington's alternatives to custody and are more likely to sentence young people to these as opposed to custodial sentences.

At a local and national level, BAME young people are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the secure estate. We are prioritising this area from a strategic and operational perspective. Our disproportionality project, in conjunction with Haringey, with funding from the YJB, is being evaluated by City University and will make recommendations about how this area can be tackled. The findings will also be used to help other local areas address and tackle issues in relation to the over-representation of BAME young people within the youth and criminal justice system.

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

There were 13 different children missing from care for more than 24 hours during December 2019. This is higher than the number during March 2019 (11), but it was the same number as were missing for 24+ hours in December 2018 (13) and a reduction on the number who went missing for 24+ hours in September 2019 (21). It therefore appears that the peak of 21 children missing in September was an outlier, as the totals for the surrounding months have all been lower.

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. CCE, SYV and 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 who chair the initial strategy meetings for children missing from care. 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. During this quarter a training focussing on exploitation and missing was developed specifically for staff working with 16 and 17 year olds living in semi-independent accommodation. There is continuous scrutiny and senior management oversight of children who do go missing with briefings provided every Friday to senior leaders.

The Exploitation and Missing team are currently recruiting for 2 permanent Exploitation and Missing Engagement Worker posts. Their responsibilities will include completing RHIs with children who go missing, and providing on-going, additional key work to a cohort of young people who go missing and where there are exploitation concerns, in order to minimise instances of repeat missing episodes and to address exploitation concerns.

## **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 who are unable to access EET due to social, emotional and health issues and other significant barriers, support is provided through the council's Progress Team. A re-engagement offer provides 1-1 support and a stepping stone approach for the most vulnerable young people in Islington.

96.6% of Islington school leavers had a September Guarantee offer of EET. This figure is comparable to the previous year.

The Annual Activity survey will be complete on the 31st January 2020 and analysis of this will be available at the next reporting period.

During the months of September to November there is a period of 'churn' as enrolment data from schools and colleges is returned, and a range of follow up activities is targeted at young people for whom a destination is not known. To date 3 mailshots have gone out to young people and a targeted letter went to parents in December 2019. We have received over 250 responses both by letter and phone calls from young people and parents. This helped reduce the unknowns in November.

Activity is well underway in preparation for the annual reporting period for 16-17 year old NEET performance; figures for December show that Islington is making good progress, and in a much better position in regards to the overall unknown and NEET figure in comparison to this time the previous year. This is due to earlier identification of activity of those young people who were Unknowns. While this had a positive effect on reducing the Unknown numbers, due to some young people being identified as NEET, it also inevitably slightly increased the NEET numbers.

Despite the slight increase to NEET numbers, this is preferable to young people remaining unknown. Early identification of young people becoming NEET enables the Progress Team to offer support and to refer young people to a range of providers who have January starts. Key local providers include SPEAR and Arsenal in the Community, and the Princes Trust, while the council are recruiting young people for a construction pre-apprenticeship programme to commence in February 2020.

The Employment Pathways programme offers young people on a Youth Justice order the opportunity to engage with work experience activities, and receive a bursary for doing so. This has made a difference in helping young people to stay on track with their EET activities. Recent examples include a young person with an EHCP who did well on his reparation order in retail, and has now progressed to a community based learning provision where he will learn carpentry skills and work with school students. This will help increase his confidence and communication skills and it is hoped he will progress onto a supported internship.

A closer working relationship with City and Islington College has enabled the council to identify shared priorities, including the identification of young people at risk of not completing their courses, and more effective data sharing to provide the right support for this group.

Partnership work with the Princes Trust, and a 'whole family approach' to engaging with parents, has also enabled a young person facing significant barriers to take up a one week work experience in catering, and subsequently progress into a hospitality apprenticeship.

## **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

### **Q3 Update:**

65 schools have engaged with the 11 by 11 Programme, as at the end of December 2019. This is above the profiled target of 60 schools by the end of 2019/20.

### **Highlights include:**

- 65/72 (90%) schools have now engaged with 11 by 11; 59 schools have applied for cultural activities from the 11 by 11 Activity Menu; 55 schools have nominated a Cultural Lead teacher; 41 schools have had a 121 meeting about the initiative.
- 58 cultural organisations submitted offers on the primary, secondary or both 11 by 11 Activity Menus for the Spring term.
- 45 schools applied for cultural activities for Spring 2020, a significant increase from 29 schools applying for activity in the previous term.
  - 15 of these schools did not apply for activities in the previous window(s); i.e. this is the first time that they have engaged with the activity menu.
- In total, 318 activity applications were offered places for Spring 2020, equating to 5614 pupil experiences: 5404 at primary level, and 210 at secondary.
- The breakdown of schools that engaged this time was: 36 early years/primary and 9 secondaries. Of the primary, 3 schools are an SEN setting and 1 is a Pupil Referral Unit. Of the secondary, 4 schools are SEN settings and 2 are Pupil Referral Units.
- Using the census data and FSM data from September 2018, 1,690 of the 5,404 primary pupils offered an 11 by 11 activity are FSM, equating to 31% of the 11 by 11 Spring term opportunities that were offered to primary aged students.
- A monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed to track engagement of schools, jointly with 100 Hours World of Work.
- 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

77% of our identified target schools applied for activities for Spring 2020, or 17 of the 22 target schools.

### **Cultural Lead Teachers and CPD**

- 55 Cultural Lead teachers have now been nominated
- At time of writing, 4 CPD sessions have taken place through Culture Bank and, in total, 77 teachers have engaged with these.

## **Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11**

- Engagement by secondary schools with 11 by 11 has been proportionally less than that of primary. We presented to the English Coordinators network last quarter at the advice of the SI Secondary Consultant, and look forward to seeing if this targeting has any effect on increasing numbers in the coming booking window. We are also looking closely at how 11 by 11 activity can help schools connect and transition to the 100 Hours World of Work initiative. It is notable that the 3 City of London academies and St Mary Magdalene Academy have engaged very little, which, for the CoLAT schools, could be due to cultural enrichment being sourced from the Culture Mile.

## **11 by 11 and Vulnerable Groups**

We are piloting ways of working with the most vulnerable children and young people through partnerships with other LBI services and partners. With the Virtual School, we are planning a taster event for Looked After Children and their Carers on 21st February 2020. We are also planning an event with Young Carers for August 2020 working with Family Action and Isledon Arts. We have met with and are developing ways of working with Pupil Services and Children's Emotional Wellbeing Service.

## **2.5 – Corporate Indicator: 100 hours of the World of Work - Number of schools engaged with the programme**

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 for Quarter 3 include:

- 15 schools engaged with the programme, including 11 secondary and 4 primary.
- 21 activities delivered, including STEM workshops, careers talks and enterprise challenges.
- 2069 pupil experiences delivered through these World of Work activities.
- 37 businesses currently signed up to offer activities through the 100 hours World of Work online menu.

A successful event to celebrate 100 hours World of Work was held in January 2020 at the Institute of Physics, with 150 guests attending including primary and secondary school heads, and employers. Hosted by Cllr Shaikh, the event featured a Q&A session with an expert panel, as well as active demonstrations of World of Work activities by primary school children. Feedback was excellent, with immediate interest from new schools and employers in participating in activities which is being followed up, and local press coverage.

Consequently, an increased amount of activity with schools is planned for Q4. This includes a careers week with New River College PRU, bookings from 16 activities across six new primary schools who had not previously engaged, and a bespoke event for children looked after.

Building further relationships with primary schools remains a priority, and the team attended the Deputy Heads' conference in January 2020 as well as working closely with the Cultural Enrichment Team to maximise opportunities to link the programme with the 11 by 11 offer.

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

**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 Summer term 2018/19 absence data has been collected from Islington schools within the Autumn term School Census. Analysis shows that the local provisional persistent absence figures for Islington primary schools was 9.8%. This is a reduction compared to last year. The provisional persistent absence figure for Islington secondary schools is 14.2%, which is marginally higher than the 2017/18 figure.

Comparator data for the full 2018/19 academic year will be published later in the year and will be included in the Q4 Performance Report.

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 five occasions to develop their respective action plans and responses. All but one of these schools has seen a positive improvement, and the programme will be repeated this term with a new group of 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 was a key evaluation point in the Autumn 2019 categorisation of schools delivered through the Work in Support of Schools framework.

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

The revised data for 2018/19 shows that the proportion of Islington pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 was 70% in 2018/19, up from 69% in 2017/18. This is marginally lower than the Inner London and London averages (both 71%), but above the England average of 65%. Islington's ranking compared to other authorities on this outcome measure improved compared to 2017/18:

- Nationally, Islington ranking improved from 32<sup>nd</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 151 Local Authorities and Islington is in the top quartile of local authorities in the country
- Islington's ranking in London improved from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>
- Within Inner London, Islington's ranking rose from 11<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
- Islington's ranking amongst the borough's Statistical Neighbours improved from 8<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

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 12<sup>th</sup> in the country on this measure.

Reading outcomes at KS2 have remained consistent and are above national, which 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 which are consistently underperforming against one or both measures despite incremental improvements each year. Through the annual categorisation process, these schools are challenged to provide an effective strategy of improvement that will secure future outcomes.

### **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 revised results for 2019 show that the proportion of Black Caribbean pupils achieving the expected standard increased by around 7 percentage points in 2019, up to 56%. With the smaller change in the overall Islington figure, the gap has narrowed to 13 percentage points, from 19 percentage points last year.

To give these differences some context, if 15 more Black Caribbean pupils achieved the expected standard in 2019, the group's results would have matched the Islington average.

Nationally, 56% of Black-Caribbean pupils achieved the expected level, the same as in Islington. However, as the national figure for all pupils achieving the expected standard was lower than the Islington figure at 65%, the gap nationally is narrower than the gap in Islington at 9 percentage points.

The DfE have started to publish more detailed breakdowns of Key Stage 2 results at a local authority and regional level, so we can now compare our local performance on this measure to other areas. Across London as a whole, 59% of Black-Caribbean pupils achieved the expected standard, compared to 71% of all pupils, meaning the gap across London as a whole was 12%.

### **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)**

The revised results for 2019 show that the proportion of White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals that achieved the expected standard increased from 50% in 2018 to 55% in 2019, narrowing the gap with the overall Islington figure from 19 percentage points in 2018 to 15 percentage points in 2019.

The latest available comparator data for this breakdown of pupil characteristics for the 2018 revised results is at a national level only. 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 both the 2018 and 2019 results. If the DfE repeat their publications of these breakdowns, an update for 2019 results should be available during the Summer of 2020.

The Equalities Reference Group continue to meet on a regular basis. The outcomes of this work were recently shared at the Islington Deputy and Assistant Head Teacher Conference (30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> January 2020). These initiatives aim to increase engagement of both groups:

- Free Unconscious bias training – staff working in schools and settings
- Equality teach workshops offer – free training in all schools
- Best Practice Charter – aimed at supporting pupils, parents and communities
- Transition project aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in their transition to secondary school

- Suite of inclusive assemblies that raise aspirations and develop a sense of belonging to the community

Work has also continued to inform Childrens Scrutiny about both groups. Childrens Scrutiny made 14 recommendations following their review of both groups' provision across the borough. These were presented on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. These recommendations with the full report will be presented to the Council Executive in due course.

### **3.13 – Number of children in Alternative Provision**

The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q3 2019/20 was 58 pupils compared to 59 last year. This equates to a decrease in comparable 2018 figures and includes all pupils attending Alternative Provision whether commissioned through New River College (NRC) or directly by schools.

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.

### **3.14 – Corporate Indicator - Average Attainment 8 Score**

The revised average Attainment 8 figure for Islington schools for 2018/19 is 45.8, a marginal improvement compared to the provisional figure, but a slight decrease on the 2017/18 average (46.3). Islington's average is below the comparator averages.

Attainment 8 measures achievement across 8 qualifications.

### **3.15 – Corporate Indicator - Average Progress 8 Score**

The revised Progress 8 figure for Islington schools for 2018/19 is 0.03, a marginal improvement compared to the provisional figure, but below the average for the previous year (0.15). Islington is below the Inner London average (0.18), but above the national average (-0.03).

Progress 8 captures the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. It compares pupils' Attainment 8 scores with the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), based on their assessment results from the end of primary school.

This drop is mainly linked to a decline in outcomes at three schools. We are working robustly to support and challenge maintained school leaders using processes outlined in the Work in Support of Schools (WiSS) document to focus them on bringing about sustained improvements in progress and outcomes for their pupils. We are also meeting with leaders of Multi Academy Trusts to discuss their approaches to bringing about improvements in academies over which they have control. Many Islington secondary pupils have continued to performed very well in relation to Attainment 8 and Progress 8 and have performed strongly in other measures.

### **3.16 –Corporate Equalities Indicator - Narrowing the gap in attainment between Black-Caribbean (BCRB) pupils and the LBI average at KS4 (gap in Progress 8 between BCRB pupil and LBI average)**

and

### **3.17 –Corporate Equalities Indicator - Narrowing the gap in attainment between White British pupils eligible for Free School Meals and the LBI average at KS4 (gap in Progress 8 between White-British FSM pupils and LBI average)**

The average Progress 8 score for Islington's Black-Caribbean pupils in the revised 2018/19 results was -0.35, a fall from -0.28 in the 2017/18 results. However, as the overall Islington average Progress 8 score has fallen by a larger amount, this means the gap between Islington's Black-Caribbean pupils and the borough average has narrowed from 0.43 points in 2017/18 to 0.38 points in 2018/19. Nationally, the average Progress 8 score for Black-Caribbean pupils was -0.31, so this was similar to the Islington figure. However, the overall national average Progress 8 score is lower than the Islington average at -0.03, and therefore the gap is narrower across England as a whole than it is for Islington.

The average Progress 8 score for Islington's White-British pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals in the revised 2018/19 results was -1.14, a fall from -0.65 in the 2017/18 results. The overall Islington average also fell, but not by as much as the average score for this group of pupils. The gap between the two averages therefore widened, from 0.80 points in the 2017/18 results to 1.17 in the 2018/19 provisional results. Nationally, the average Progress 8 score for White-British pupils eligible for Free School Meals was -0.78, and the gap between this and the overall national average Progress 8 score was 0.75.

Whilst the narrowing of the progress gap for Black Caribbean pupils is promising, its context within the fall in overall progress makes the achievement of these pupils a continuing priority. The widening gap for White British Disadvantaged students can be largely accounted for by underachievement in three schools which have a high proportion of these pupils. Since September, all meetings between the Heads of Primary and Secondary School Improvement and headteachers have had the need to improve the achievement for these target groups as a key point for action. It has also been a key focus of the meetings held in the autumn term with headteachers to identify areas for specific support to individual schools. Council officers have also met with leaders from the Academy Trusts in meetings of mutual interest and again have raised the need for improvement in the achievement of the target groups as an explicit agenda item. These meetings of mutual interest are a particularly important strategic step in tackling the issue at borough level.

Below is an outline of some of the work which has been happening since the last report.

This year the Childrens scrutiny committee's focus is on the achievement of these two groups of pupils. This has provided an effective and sustained framework through which to interrogate current approaches and explore issues to bring about improvement. After an initial session on setting the scene, the committee have had an opportunity to question a panel of headteachers, hear about current borough approaches, gain insight into a national research project into the impact of grouping practices on disadvantaged pupils, and visit various Islington settings to talk to pupils, parents and staff. This process will culminate in a series of recommendations which will inform future actions for both council officers and school staff. The headteacher termly briefings have been used to feedback on this work and continue the focus on this critical issue.

Since the last report, the Equalities Reference Group have continued to meet on a half termly basis. The focus on the second priority (engaging parents, pupils and communities) has led to an Islington Best Practice Charter which was launched at the Deputy Heads conference at the end of January. The aim is to encourage as many schools as possible to sign up to the charter and thereby to adopt and adapt the best practice which is present in schools which buck the trend in relation to these two groups.

The Equalities Reference Group has also been working on the third priority (engaging pupils in school and society) which has led to a transition project due to be piloted in 3 primary and 3 secondary schools from January. The aim is to support 4-5 pupils from the target groups in each school to develop their sense of safety and belonging, express their ideas and opinions and embrace leadership opportunities.

Both of the above initiatives featured at the Deputy Heads Conference at the end of January, together with further input from the cultural competency trainer who had such an impact last year. The focus of the conference was again equalities. As such, it provided an opportunity to launch a suite of inclusive assemblies which have been written specifically for Islington schools. These feature notable people from local history and include representatives from both the target groups.

Islington Council is in the process of securing unconscious bias training to be rolled out to all council employees. A basic unconscious bias training course, delivered by a council officer, has also been made available to any Islington school which wishes to have it.

Academic research into the lived experience of White British disadvantaged pupils has continued to progress. The data collection period is almost at an end. Results will be shared with participating schools during the Spring term and senior leaders will engage in dialogue to decide on recommendations for their setting. A borough report will be published in the summer term.

### **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 16.4% at the end of 2018/19. There has been a slight increase so far in 2019/20 and the latest figure is 17.3%, but this is still below the long term average of 20%. Comparator data for 2018/19 shows that the Islington rate is just above the Inner London rate (16.0%) but well below the England rate (21.4%). Islington is in the second quartile, nationally, although Islington was only one place outside the top quartile.

The reduction in the re-referral rate 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 figure for repeat child protection (CP) plans for the end of Q3 is currently 21.2%: of the 146 new CP plans made, 31 were repeat plans (relating to 18 family groups). This is above Islington's target, although in line with the 21.3% reported for the end of Q3 in 2018/19. At the same point last year, 169 new child protection plans had been made, 36 of which were repeat plans.

There has been a 14% decrease in new CP plans being made at the end of Q3 compared to the same quarter the previous year. There has also been a 14% decrease in the number of repeat child protection plans from the previous year. Repeat CP plans need to be seen in the context of fewer children subject to such plans but with more complex and chronic needs. Domestic abuse remains a significant factor in such plans. We have in place a system where an alert is raised of any potential repeat plan before a conference is booked and therefore highlights the need for advance overview of the child's file. Prior to any potential repeat Initial Child Protection Conference being booked we request that a CP consultation is booked in.

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

As at the end of December 2019, 8.4% of Islington's looked after children had been in 3 or more placements over the course of the year. This is a cumulative measure that increases throughout the year and resets each April. A comparison to the same point in 2018/19 shows that the proportion of children with 3 or more placements is slightly higher than it was at the equivalent point during the previous year, although it was in line with performance for the year before this.

Comparator data for 2018/19 has now been published. This shows that the proportion of Islington's looked after children who had 3 or more placements over the year was higher than national average of 10.4% and the London average of 10.6%. However, Islington's ranking improved from 120<sup>th</sup> in the country to 102<sup>nd</sup>, and Islington has moved out of the bottom quartile on this measure.

### **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**

The proportion of children in long-term stable placements has increased each month since May 2019 and has now risen to 79.1%, so we are expecting the year-end figure to show a significant increase on the previous year.

The published data on this measure shows that the Islington performance on this measure in 2018/19 was better than we had provisionally thought. More detailed checks are now being made on the underlying data each month to ensure we are not counting additional placement changes as moves (e.g. where a child moves placement location but remains with the same carer), in line with the methodology being used by the DfE.

The 2018/19 data shows that 68.9% of Islington's looked after children who had been looked after for 2.5 or more years were in stable placements. This was marginally higher than the London and England rates of 68.7%. Islington was in the second from top quartile on this measure, nationally.

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 a revised permanency protocol, increased monitoring by senior managers has begun to make a positive difference to our performance. Long term placement stability has improved in-year and is better than London and national annual 2018/19 outturns.

### **3.24 – Number of looked after children**

At the end of Q3 2019/20 there were 335 children looked after by Islington. This is above the 313 at the end of 2018/19, the 318 at the end of Q2 and the 327 at the same point during 2018/19. The increase is largely due to increases in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, including those who have recently become looked after by Islington as part of the Dubs scheme. However, this figure is still lower than levels seen across the medium term, as the numbers of looked after children have tended to be around 340 to 350 in recent years.

The reduction in the numbers of children looked after is very positive and an indication of the impact of our Motivational Practice model.

### **3.25 – Rate of looked after children**

The DfE have now published their rates of looked after children for each local authority, as at the end of 2018/19. Islington's rate fell to its lowest reported level of 74 per 10,000 under 18s, compared to 81 the previous year. Islington has bucked the national trend, as the number and rate of looked after children across England as a whole has continued to increase.

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

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

The proportion of Islington schools judged good or better rose slightly from 91.0% at the end of September 2019 to 91.2% at the end of December 2019. Islington remains above the England average (86.2%) in terms of inspection outcomes, but is slightly below the London average (92.4%). However, the gap between Islington and the London average has narrowed by half a percentage point in Q3. Islington remains in the second highest quartile nationally.

There were three section 8 inspections of Islington schools in Q3 2018/19. All three schools maintained their good or outstanding inspection statuses. There was also a first inspection for City of London Primary Academy, Islington, which was judged to be outstanding.

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 (of good or better inspection outcomes) are:

- 100% of nursery schools (3/3)
- 93.5% of primary schools (43/46)
  - 97.5% of local authority maintained primary schools (39/40)
  - 66.7% of academies and free schools (4/6)
- 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 Q3 2019/20
- Appendix B: Q4 performance data

**Background papers:** None

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**

18 June 2020

Carmel Littleton, Corporate Director, People

Date

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