

Report of: Corporate Director of People Services

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	28 th September 2020	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 1 2020/21 Performance Report

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The council has in place a suite of corporate performance indicators to help monitor progress in delivering the outcomes set out in the council's Corporate Plan. Progress on key performance measures are reported through the council's Scrutiny Committees on a quarterly basis to ensure accountability to residents and to enable challenge where necessary.
- 1.2 This report sets out Q1 2020/21 progress against targets for those performance indicators that fall within the Children and Young People outcome area, for which the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note performance against targets in Q1 2020/21 for measures relating to Children and Young People.
- 2.2 To note responses to queries raised by the Committee when it discussed the Q3 & Q4 2020/21 reports
- 2.3 To note 3 measures have been moved to Outcome 3, as indicated.

3. Background

- 3.1 A suite of corporate performance indicators has been agreed for 2018-22, which help track progress in delivering the seven priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. Targets are set on an annual basis and performance is monitored internally, through Departmental Management Teams, Corporate Management Board and externally through the Scrutiny Committees.

3.2 The Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee is responsible for monitoring and challenging performance for the following key outcome area: Children and Young People. The Committee also reviews performance related to children and young people under the Safety outcome area, i.e. key measures for the Youth Offending Service.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q3 & Q4 2019/20 Performance Reports

4.1 The Committee discussed the Q3 & Q4 2019/20 performance reports at its meeting on 29th June 2020. There were a number of outstanding issues and queries raised by the Committee.

4.2 Queries were raised by a member of the public about whether any demographics were affected more than others by school exclusions. A report on exclusions with more up to date information was presented to the meeting on the 20th July 2020. This Q1 2020/21 complements this report with the latest published information for the academic year 2018/19, which includes the latest exclusion averages for the borough’s comparators.

5. Quarter 1 performance update – Outcome: Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all

5.1 Key performance indicators relating to ‘Creating a safe and cohesive borough for all’

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q1 2020/21	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
1.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	83%	80%	n/a	87.5%	n/a	84%	Yes
1.2	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	58	61	60	4	Yes	15	Yes
1.3	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	45%	37%	37%	45%	No	37%	No
1.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	26	7	10	0	Yes	1	Yes

See outcome 3 for Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours (previously 1.5)

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

- 5.2 No target has been set for this measure, as it is no longer a corporate indicator. Performance has stabilised around 80-85% over the last few years. Meanwhile, the cohort of young people has shrank significantly, in line with the similar reductions in the number of offenders in the borough. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to continue to monitor this at a service level only.

14 out of 16 young people triaged in Q1 of 2020/21 were diverted away from the criminal justice system, resulting in an overall percentage of 87.5%. This is the highest quarterly figure since the measure was initially added as a Corporate Indicator several years ago, although it is based on a relatively small cohort compared to the size of the cohorts in the past.

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, and specialist support to improve education, employment and training outcomes from the council's Youth Employability and Progress teams. 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

- 5.3 There were only four First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice System in the first quarter of the year. This compares to 15 in the same quarter last year. The target for the year is for a reduction in FTEs compared to last year, so the target is split equally into 15 each quarter.

The latest available comparator data from the Youth Justice Board is for the period Oct 2018 – Sept 2019. Islington had 56 FTEs reported for this period, which when compared to the population is 339 FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds. This is another record lowest rate for Islington, continuing the substantial reductions in the FTE rate Islington has achieved over recent years. Despite this, Islington remains above the London (271 per 100,000), YOT Family (286) and England (219) average rates, although as the London rate rose since the last reported data, Islington has narrowed the gap on London. (Note – the YOT Family are the same as the borough's Statistical Neighbours)

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)

- 5.4 17 of the 38 young offenders from 12 months ago had reoffended by the end of Q1, so performance for this period was 45%. Although this is above the target of 37%, which is based on performance during the 12 months of the 2019/20 financial year, it is in line with performance in Q2 and Q3 during 2019/20.

This measure is now 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), so is looking at a different cohort each quarter.

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. The YJB allow a significant time lag in their reporting, to allow for potential delays in the recording of outcomes, nationally. The latest published data shows 44.4% of the Islington cohort for the 2018 calendar year re-offended during that period. This is a reduction from the previous reported quarter (58.1%), but slightly above the London (42.5%), YOT Family (41.6%) and England (39.3%) reoffending rates. In terms of the number of re-offences per person, the Islington rate was 1.74 per offender, down from 1.90 the previous quarter, but above the London (1.48), YOT Family (1.56) and England (1.58) rates.

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

5.5 There were no custodial sentences of Islington young people in the first quarter of 2020/21. The target for the year is to have fewer than 10 custodial sentences, so this is on target. During the same period in 2019/20, there was one custodial sentence and in 2018/19, there were 9 custodials in quarter one, so performance has improved on that period.

The YJB publish custodial figures as rates per 1,000 10-17 year olds, to allow comparisons to be made between different areas. The published Islington rate for 2019/20 was 0.36, the lowest rate ever for Islington. Despite this record low, Islington is just in line with London (0.35) and remains above England (0.23), although Islington is now below the YOT Family average (0.39).

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.

6. Quarter 1 performance update – Outcome: Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living

6.1 Key performance indicators relating to 'Delivering an inclusive economy, supporting people into work and financial independence and helping them with the cost of living'

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q1 2020/21	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
2.5	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	New indicator in 2019/20	25	40	20	Yes	12	Yes
New	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	1,170	690	Yes	n/a	n/a

2.5 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme

6.2 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 work underway from the recommendations of the Employment Commission in 2014 to develop a high quality careers offer that is industry led, in order to inspire and equip the next generation.

Q1 has coincided with the widespread closure of schools and many of our partner employers. This has led to changes in the 100hrs WoW programme to reflect the fact that students were being home schooled, including the cancellation of all 100hrs WoW activities booked in for Q1. Targets for the programme have been adapted to reflect the changes in how the programme has been delivered.

Q1 update

School engagement is measured through 100hrs activity menu bookings, School Liaison activity bookings and attendance at the termly careers network meeting (Secondary schools only). As we had to stop taking new bookings due to schools closing at the end of Q4, these figures are lower than our initial targets. 12 schools (6 primary and 6 secondary) had activities planned for Q1 which had to be cancelled. Initial discussions had also taken place with 23 primary schools in Q4 to plan for new World of Work activities that tie directly into school's curriculums. Unfortunately, conversations with employers about these activities had to be put on hold in Q1, we hope to pick these up again once lockdown is eased further.

Engagement in the careers network meeting was high despite the move to online meetings. 10 out of a possible 13 schools attended in Q1. Due to the success of the meeting an additional careers network meeting took place in Q2. At both careers network meetings CPD was offered around embedding careers into recovery curriculums and how best to make use of online careers resources. City and Islington College also presented and updated the network on their post 16 offer and guidance for enrolment and virtual learning.

Targeting vulnerable groups

The WoW team engaged with the Virtual School, sharing online resources around employability, CV building and job profiles. Early discussions took place around offering a bespoke online workshop focussed on career choices, however it was felt this was unnecessary at the time as the students were already engaging well with the online resources already shared. The workshop content was adapted in to a 'Coronavirus & Career Choices' session to be piloted as part of Islington's Summersiversity programme in Q2. Working with the youth service, further out of school World of Work activity targeted at vulnerable young people is planned.

The Courtyard School has been supported by WoW to improve online careers resources available for their students to access from home. This has included sharing presentations around interview skills and case studies of career journeys.

Digital Engagement

New employers have been brought on to the 100hrs WoW programme and existing partners have been encouraged to provide digital opportunities for young people to get involved in while learning from home. Through the home learning webpage the WoW team created, virtual work experiences work experience, employability and skills festivals, careers fairs, and employer partner activity packs have been produced. One activity pack from BDP was adapted into a week of virtual work experience for Elizabeth Garrett Anderson with the inclusion of an online careers talk from an Architect.

WoW employer partners have contributed to our new online careers video and case study library. Our first careers video went live in June – a structural engineer career profile (female stem ambassador), and we have several in the pipeline including council colleagues and business volunteers with the aim to cover a range of sectors and job profiles. We are developing the resource to suit both primary and secondary ages.

Weekly careers-focussed primary activity packs were created throughout Q1. Due to the issue of some young people not having access to technology, all of the packs were printable. These activity packs tied in with school improvement home learning themes and aimed to introduce younger students to jobs they may not have come across before. All of these activity packs will continue to be available for download in the future

New indicator - Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work

- 6.3 This is a new PI put in place in response to the shift towards online provision following Covid-19 related closures.

690 page views / 489 unique page views

We continue to contribute to and promote home learning resources over the summer period with an anticipated drop off over the school summer holidays. We are building our online careers video resource, aiming for 1 new video per week. Working alongside School Improvement and Cultural Enrichment, we developed online resources released weekly on dedicated home learning pages aimed at families.

7 Quarter 1 performance update – Outcome: Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential

7.1 Key performance indicators relating to 'Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up – where children and families can thrive and reach their potential'

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q1 2020/21	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
3.2	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	63%	70%	n/a	n/a	n/a	61% Summer term 18/19 AY	n/a
New	New Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending	4,839 2-4 year olds, Jan 2019	4,919 2-4 year olds, Jan 2020	n/a	1,828	n/a	n/a	n/a
New	Percentage of 3 & 4 year olds uptake of entitlement	83%	83%	n/a	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.7	Percentage rate of fixed period exclusions - primary	1.67%	n/a	Below Inner London	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.8	Percentage rate of fixed period exclusions - secondary	19.19%	n/a	Below Inner London	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.9	Percentage rate of permanent exclusions - secondary	0.23%	n/a	Below Inner London	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.18	Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings - 5 to 12 year olds	60.6%	62.4%	n/a	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.19	Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings - 13 and older	52.2%	52.7%	n/a	n/a – annual measure	n/a	n/a	n/a
New	New Corporate Indicator – Children's social care contacts in the past month	976 (March 2019)	998 (March 2020)	n/a	799 (July 2020)	n/a	904 (June 2019)	Lower
3.20	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care	16.3%	16.7%	18.0%	21.2%	No	16.1%	No

	within the previous 12 months							
3.21	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	20.7%	18.3%	18.0%	13.2%	Yes	8.5%	No
3.22	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	11.8%	10.6%	11.0%	3.3%	n/a (year-end only)	1.6%	No
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	68.9%	73.4%	70%	64.7%	No	64.0%	Yes
3.24	Number of Looked After Children	313	367	n/a	366	n/a	307	Higher
Moved	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours (previously 1.5)	11 (Mar 19)	15 (Mar 20)	n/a	15	n/a	13 (Jun 19)	No
New	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	New indicator	New indicator	n/a	2,658	n/a	1,021	Higher
Moved	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme (previously 2.4)	New indicator in 2019/20	65	30	22	Yes	49	No
New	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	4,200	1,314	Yes	n/a	n/a

3.2 - 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

7.2 This indicator is only reported termly, and there is no Q1 update due to many early settings being closed due to the pandemic. However, the Spring term data had not been reported to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, so is mentioned in this quarter's update.

No target has been set for 2020/21 performance, as this measure will be severely affected by the pandemic and has temporarily been suspended from the Corporate Indicator set. We should be able to start reporting this measure again for the Autumn term, so this will be available for the Q3 report.

We have managed to improve the proportion of eligible two year olds in funded early education places since last Summer. For the two years prior to this, performance had been bouncing around the 61-64% range. In June 2020, the DfE published comparator data for January 2020. They had used a slightly different methodology to calculate the figures, so had Islington's figure a touch lower at 67%. However, Islington was above the Inner London (57%) and Statistical Neighbour (61%) averages.

It was positive to see the results of a significant increase in 2 year old take up, following the development and implementation of a strategic approach in which a range of actions, including the introduction of the golden ticket, were put in place. The golden ticket allows families to skip the online eligibility check which has been found to be a barrier to some families who do not take up the offer, although not all. There is a constant turnover of families eligible for the 2 year old offer which requires ongoing, sustained and consistent activity. The concern is that these families, who at the best of times can be reluctant to take up the offer, will as a result of Covid-19, be even more difficult to engage. To try to avert a reduced level of take-up, letters have been sent to 650 families on the June DWP list and 569 families on the August list. This has already resulted in more queries to the Family Information Service about place availability. Bright Start is also involved in following up with these families and parent champions have been updated with key messages via Zoom. The benefits of taking up an early education place is also being promoted through the Bright Start picnics, running throughout August.

New Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending

7.3 A new Corporate Indicator has been added for 2020/21, to look at the number of children attending early years settings. During the pandemic, many settings have been closed or only partially open. We have been regularly collecting information from early years settings to monitor how many children are attending, both for our own awareness and also for a new DfE survey during the pandemic.

No target has been set for this measure as it will vary depending on how many settings are open and the gradual easing of the lockdown. Ultimately, we want to see numbers at least return to previous 'normal' levels (around 5,000). We are also particularly monitoring 2 year old take-up in indicator 7.2 and hope to see us maintain our high level of take-up for 2 year olds in the Autumn term data, to be reported on Q3. Once we have more information on take-up and further consult with providers on the challenges they are facing, we may be able to set a target for this measure for the remainder of the year.

The number reported each month relates to the highest number of children recorded as attending during the month, based on what had been a twice-weekly collection, which is now moving to a weekly collection, in line with DfE requirements. To put the June figure of 1,828 into context, the

highest number of early years children attending in April was 303, and the figure for May was 361, so there was a considerable increase as more settings opened in June.

Attendance at good quality early years provision has been shown to positively impact on educational outcomes throughout a child's career and beyond into adulthood. Further, the provision of good quality childcare supports parents and especially mothers to enter or re-enter the workforce with all the resulting impacts on children's outcomes that growing up in a working household brings.

There are concerns nationally that early years provision will be hard hit by the impact of Covid-19 and the Early Years Alliance reported following a recent survey that 26% of early years providers have indicated that they will cease to be able to operate within 12 months. Early years providers have low margins and rely on the balance of income received through Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant from the DFE for funded early education entitlements and parental fees for additional childcare hours. (Some Islington settings also receive subsidy from the council).

It is therefore crucial that all early years children return to provision, as has been recommended since 1st June, as soon as possible in order that DSG can be drawn down from central government for entitlement hours and parental fees are collected for additional childcare hours.

To enable this to happen, providers need to be operational and parents need to be confident that provision is safe for their children. Nurseries in receipt of childcare subsidy from the council remained open throughout lockdown and have continued to take growing numbers of children since early June. Much of the private, voluntary and independent sector closed down during lockdown but has re-opened quite quickly so that by the end term, 87% of nurseries were open. School nurseries while largely remaining open during lockdown for a very small number of children, have nevertheless been slow to welcome more early years children back and it is within this sector that fewest children relatively have returned. At the end of term, 21% of their usual numbers of early years children had returned to school-based provision compared with 43% of the usual number of children who had returned to non-school early years provision (excluding childminders). Given this, the service is working closely with all providers including schools to support them to be ready in September to welcome back children as soon as possible. This has included providing guidance, support and feedback with risk assessments; regular updates on government guidance and funding; all types of provider have been regularly communicated with through the Bright Start circular, online meetings and where needed one to one conversations.

Key messages for parents about how settings and schools are safe for children to return to have been developed and disseminated as outlined in the Back to School/ Back to Nursery communications plan. Parent champions, family engagement and support workers and health visitors in Bright Start, community groups as well as early years providers are all essential in getting messages to families with young children.

7.4 **New - Percentage of 3 & 4 year olds uptake of entitlement**

This measure has been added to reflect the wider take-up of early years places in comparison to other areas. The data is published by the DfE and is based on the take up of places in January each year compared to the number of 3 and 4 year old residents. Like many of the education measures, we aim to be at or better than the Inner London average.

The January 2020 figures, published in June 2020, show that 83% of Islington's 3 and 4 year olds were taking up education places. This is above the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages (both 79%).

3.7 - Percentage rate of fixed period exclusions - primary

7.5 The DfE published the official exclusion rates for the 2018/19 academic year at the end of July 2020. The rates are based on the number of exclusions divided by the number of pupils in schools in each borough. The Islington rate of fixed period exclusions for primary schools reduced from 2.08% in 2017/18 to 1.67% in 2018/19.

The target for our education measures is to be at the Inner London average. For 2018/19, the Inner London average for this measure was 0.82%. Although Islington remains above the Inner London average, the Islington rate fell at a faster rate than the Inner London rate, so Islington is narrowing the gap. Although Islington remained in the bottom quartile, nationally, we did rise up by 17 places in the rankings, and were only a couple of places away from moving out of the bottom quartile.

3.8 - Percentage rate of fixed period exclusions - secondary

7.6 The fixed period exclusion rate for Islington secondary schools rose from 16.46% to 19.19% in 2018/19. Islington remained above the target based on the Inner London average (9.44%). It should be noted that the rate of fixed period exclusions varies considerably from school to school, and for half the secondary schools in the borough the rates are below the national average (10.75%). However, the rates are particularly high for a few of the schools, and this pulls the overall borough average up. Excluding the schools whose rates were particularly high (above 25%), Islington would have been in the top quartile on this measure.

3.9 - Percentage rate of permanent exclusions - secondary

7.7 The Islington rate of permanent exclusions from secondary schools remained stable at 0.23% in 2017/18 and 2018/19, down from 0.30% in 2015/16 and 0.28% in 2016/17. The Inner London average fell to 0.17%, however, so Islington remained above the target. Across the country as a whole, rates were stable at 0.20%, and Islington remains in the third quartile on this measure.

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'.

Locally, around a third of permanent exclusion from secondary school was for serious weapon related reasons. However, constant low-level disruption continues to account for another third - although this reflects the national picture, more work is needed here, targeted to schools with particularly high rates. Additionally, Black Caribbean and White British children continue to be over-represented among those excluded from Islington schools, although this reduced by 29% for Black Caribbean children and 15% for White British children receiving a fixed period exclusion from 2019 to 2020.

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 considered a response to these recommendations in July 2020, confirming that fixed period exclusion had reduced, while permanent exclusion from secondary school has also reduced and remained at the same level (i.e. 4 permanent exclusions) for primary schools over the previous 12 months. The report outlined action taken to date, also further action planned which includes:

- An Equalities action plan involving a wide programme of work
- Ensuring support for disadvantaged pupils transitioning to new provision in September, including progression post-16 and EET opportunities
- Reviewing processes within the Education system that may lead to unequal outcomes (e.g. UCL's Inclusive Curriculum Health-check tool)
- Supporting schools to undertake self-audit using Culturally Competent Curriculum tool and ensure social justice is threaded through
- Recruiting more Black and minority ethnic governors (detailed action plan)
- Encouraging schools to adopt behaviour policies that are underpinned by fairness, kindness, consistency and positivity
- Encouraging schools to strengthen engagement with local community groups as a way of building consensus on how to 'close the gap'
- Promoting mentoring opportunities for families from within their communities
- Ensuring pupil voice includes a range, including those who do not engage or are disillusioned (i.e. opportunities to discuss lived experiences).

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

7.8 There has been an improvement in the participant rate of 5 to 12 year olds attending Islington Youth and Play settings, from 60.6% in 2018/19 to 62.4% in 2019/20. That means 62.4% of those that attended a setting went on to become 'participants' –i.e. they went to attend the same project five or more times during the year.

3.19 - Participant rate for Islington Youth and Play settings – 13 and older

7.9 There has been a slight improvement in the participant rate of young people aged 12 and older attending Islington Youth and Play settings, from 52.2% in 2018/19 to 52.7% in 2019/20.

No targets have been set for these measures as they are no longer within the Corporate Indicator set. They have been removed for 2020/21 due to the impact that the pandemic will have on attendance. Nevertheless, they are included in this report to show the positive outcome for the end of 2019/20.

It is pleasing that improvements have been made in the participation rates for both the play and youth age ranges. This suggests that children and young people value the offers as the majority of those contacted go on to attend regularly. Work has been undertaken to develop the youth curriculum offer in term time to improve the participation rate for this age range, eg offering more opportunities that support regular attendance and hence the development of relationships between youth workers and young people. The summer programmes, Summerversity and Launchpad are key components of the offer for young people over the holiday period and are well attended and popular with young people. Consideration must always be made of the different nature of the summer period and a range of engagement opportunities offered to young people to respond to this, however, this means that some shorter programmes may contribute to the numbers reached but not the numbers of participants. Significant work took place at the end of the year to mobilise

on line youth offers through Zoom, Instagram and Whatsapp. These have delivered additional value and consideration will be made moving forward to retaining some of these elements as the lockdown eases.

New Corporate Indicator – Children's social care contacts in the past month

7.10 A new Corporate Indicator looking at the number of children's social care contacts has been introduced as a result of the pandemic. In the initial weeks of lockdown, there was a considerable drop off in contacts. Whilst some fall may be understandable, as most contacts come from partner organisations that were not fully open during lockdown, there were concerns that there was unmet need amongst the local population of children and young people.

Most months, prior to the pandemic, we would expect to see 900 to 1,000 contacts each month (although generally there are slightly fewer around the Summer holidays and Christmas). In the first few weeks of the lockdown, there was a noticeable fall in the number of contacts. Despite a slight recovery in the following weeks, there were only 702 contacts in April as a whole. Number recovered to 891 in May, which is closer to what we might expect without the lockdown, but fell again to 792 in June.

No target set - safeguarding numbers are not suitable for targets. A high number could mean that partners are feeling confident about making appropriate contacts, but it could mean they are making unsuitable contacts or that there are more safeguarding concerns in the community.

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

7.11 Historically, our re-referral rate had been 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 in recent years, and was below 17% for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. We had been meeting the long term targets set as part of the Children and Families Outcomes Framework, as agreed with the MHCLG. There has been a slight increase so far in 2020/21 and the latest figure is 21.1%. However, this is only for the initial quarter, so is based on a smaller number of referrals than the annual figures, and therefore the proportions can be more volatile early in the financial year.

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 previous 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. It may well be that the slight increase relates to Covid and families struggling with isolation and lockdown in relation to Children's behaviours and domestic abuse. In context, as explained, the numbers are also of a smaller cohort of referrals, so we expect the performance to return to the target as the cohort increases over the following quarters. We plan to undertake a review of the recent re- referrals to assist our understanding and develop a plan to address if needed.

3.21 - Corporate Indicator: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

7.12 5 of the 38 Child Protection Plans starting in Q1 of 2020/21 involved children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time. At the same point in 2019/20, the equivalent figures were 4 out of 47 plans. Although the proportion is higher than at the same point last year, the percentages tend to be quite volatile in the first part of the year, as the data restarts each April and so the figures are based on relatively low numbers. By the second half of the financial year, this volatility should have reduced and we will have a better understanding of performance for the 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 quality assurance of the child's file and book in a CP consultation where required.

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

7.13 This measure restarts in April each year, with the number of children with 3 or more placements growing over the course of the year. At the end of June, 12 of Islington's 366 Looked After Children had had 3 or more placements in the year, which equates to 3.3%. The figure for Q1 last year was 1.6%.

To put these figures in perspective, on average, the number of children with three or more placements during the year has tended to increase by 3 or 4 on an average month over the last year and a half. For Q1 2020/21, the average increase has been 4 per month, so although we are above the same point last year, with the low numbers involved in the early part of the year, the performance is not significantly higher than other quarters.

We are monitoring closely children who at risk of placement instability to ensure robust support is in place, this includes a weekly placement stability meeting chaired by senior managers. Only a year-end target has been set for this measure. As the data starts again each year, and the data is based on relatively low numbers with 3 or more placements, it is only towards the end of the year we can get a real sense of performance.

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

7.14 After peaking at the end of 2019, there has been a slight fall in the proportion of children in a long term stable placement, based on the definition used in this measure. At the end of June 2020, 66 of the 102 Islington Looked After Children who had been looked after for 2.5 years or more had been in the same placement for at least 2 years, or were placed for adoption. Although the proportion has fallen since the end of 2019/20, it is still above the same point in 2019/20, the analysis we have done is indicating that this will rise to around 72%.

3.24 - Number of Looked After Children

7.15 There has generally been an incremental rise in the number of children looked after at the end of each month over the last year or so, peaking at the end of April 2020 at 373. The rate of increase

peaked in Autumn 2019 partly due to those become looked after by Islington as part of the Dubs scheme. We also have a high number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who are looked after, and despite being double our quota, we continued to look after new UASC due to lockdown. The rate of children leaving care is lower than it would have otherwise been, due to delays in care proceedings during the pandemic, although the most common reason for young people leaving care is that they turn 18.

No target is set for this safeguarding measure, as decisions around whether a child should become looked after should be based purely on safeguarding needs, and there should not be any influence on the decision by an overall need to hit a performance target.

3.25 - Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours (moved - previously 1.5)

7.16 15 Looked After Children were missing from care for 24 hours or more in June 2020. This is the same number as at the end of 2019/20, but slightly above the number in June 2019 (13) and the end of 2018/19 (11). There was a peak in the Autumn of 2019 when numbers per month briefly rose above 20, but now it appears the figures are back down around the long term average.

No target has been set for this measure as it is not a Corporate Indicator, but it is reported to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee as it remains an area of focus for Safeguarding and Family Support, to ensure there is no sustained increase in numbers.

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, the training offer has had to reduce due to Covid-19 however, over the next quarter the plan is increase the available training and to make more online resources available to services across the borough. 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 have recruited two permanent members of staff who complete the return home interviews for any child who has returned from a missing episode. Their responsibilities 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.

New – Applications for Free School Meals

7.17 Applications for Free School Meals (FSM) have been added to the measures included in this report as there has been a substantial increase in the number of applications since the Covid-19

lockdown. This reflects both the impact on demand for services and also the economic well-being of local families.

No target has been set for this measure, as it is not a corporate indicator. Free School Meals applications are seasonal where the majority of applications are received in quarter 1 and 2. This period meets the requirements for the Islington School Uniform Grant, which is processed during the summer term and the new September cohort starters. Schools work with their parents to ensure their parents have either registered or applied for Free Schools Meals ahead of the October census which forms a part of their following years budgets.

2.4 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme (moved)

7.18 Target is met. 22 schools were engaged with in Q1, ahead of the target set of 8 schools

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.

School engagement with the 11 by 11 programme has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, and the 20/21 targets have been revised from last year to reflect this.

With the majority of students home schooling from March, and all cultural organisations closed, face to face activity during lockdown and engagement has been through online CPD sessions and Cultural Lead network sessions.

Q1 Update:

22 schools engaged with 11 by 11 from April-June 2020. Currently, the 20/21 annual target is 32 schools. This is a revised target for the year as the programme responds to both governmental health recommendations, and the difficult financial and capacity circumstances of the cultural sector.

67 schools engaged with the 11 by 11 Programme in 2019/20, above the expected target of 60 schools. This high level of commitment to the initiative provides a strong base to rebuild from for upcoming blended offers, and when distancing measures are further relaxed.

Targeting areas of low engagement

At the launch of 11 by 11, the Cultural Enrichment Team 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 had engaged with at least one window by the close of 2019/20.

Cultural Lead Teachers and CPD

Since the launch of 11 by 11, 55 teachers have taken on the role of 11 by 11 Cultural Lead for their schools. When the 20/21 school year commences, the team will be in touch to re-establish contact with Cultural Leads in all schools, and to encourage those without a Cultural Lead to nominate one. During lockdown, while visit activity was paused, CPD and Cultural leads activity continued online and was well received, with a number of teachers remarking that it allowed them to attend sessions they would not have been available for in person. 7 online CPD sessions attracted teachers from 22 schools, including 40% of our target schools.

Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11

Engagement by secondary schools with 11 by 11 has been less than that of primary. However Secondary and SEND online CPD sessions were held during lockdown, which attracted teachers who had not previously engaged, such as St Aloysius.

Targeting vulnerable groups

Through joint working across Children, Employment and Skills, a tailored approach to engaging vulnerable children and young people is underway.

The Take a Step event for Children Looked After (CLA), their foster families and key workers was hosted at Museum of London on 21 February. The event was opened by the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, and included a speech from LBI Executive Member for Children and Young People, Kaya Comer-Schwartz.

46 attendees enjoyed the taster event, which featured activities from 20 organisations and LBI services. Feedback from the event was positive. Future events and workshops will be planned in due course.

Youth Voice

Islington young people's theatre group, Company Three co-designed and delivered series of sessions with a group of 20 young people nominated by schools across the borough to develop a stronger Youth Voice to shape 11 by 11. Due to Covid-19, the project was adapted and Company Three worked with Islington's Children's Active Involvement Service for looked after young people in the borough to deliver The Coronavirus Time Capsule project. They worked with 15 young people across two groups; one of young people aged 16-21 who spoke English as their first language; and one of newly arrived young people from Eritrea. Everyone took part by creatively documenting their lives during lock down. Two time capsule videos were produced using content generated by participants.

Music Education Islington - in partnership with the Islington Youth Council and youth led arts organisation Small Green Shoots - presented an Instagram Live Lockdown Session in July featuring music submitted by 12 Islington young people in an online event hosted by Jermain Jackman and **Islington** Youth Councillor Kacper. The streamed Facebook event was watched by over 400 viewers.

New indicator - Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages

7.19 Target is met.

Q1 Unique page views (Apr-Jun 2020):

Creative Activities (11 by 11): 636

Music Activities (MEI): 735

Total unique page views: 1371

This is a new PI put in place in response to the shift towards online provision following Covid-19 related closures.

To support families and school provision for children and young people, cultural enrichment resources were released weekly on dedicated home learning pages. These activities are designed to encourage creative expression and exploration by children and young people to complement the wider school curriculum.

From April through the summer holidays, 11 by 11 partner organisations and Music Education Islington jointly devised weekly enrichment packs of printable activities available online and advertised to schools and families via newsletters and social media. This will continue to be updated in the coming academic year.

8. Quarter 1 performance update – Outcome: Continuing to be a well-run council, making a difference despite reduced resources

8.1 Key performance indicators relating to 'Continuing to be a well-run council, making a difference despite reduced resources'

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q1 2020/21	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
6.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	94.7%	96.3%	Inner London average (TBC)	n/a - termly data	Yes (IL = 94.6%)	n/a – termly data	n/a
6.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	91.0%	91.2%	n/a	91.2%	n/a	91.0%	Yes
6.3	Percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks	75.9% (exc. exceptions) 69.7% (inc. exceptions) (2018)	81.8% (exc. exceptions) 75.8% (inc. exceptions) (2019)	Inner London average (TBC)	n/a – based on calendar years	n/a	n/a	n/a

6.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

8.2 The proportion of Islington early years settings judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted continues to increase. The latest published data came out at the end of Q1 2020/21 and relates to inspection up to the end of the 2019/20 financial year. 158 of the 164 Islington settings were judged to be good or outstanding (96.3%). This is higher than London (95.2%) and England (96.2%). It is also higher than the Inner London average (94.6%), which is used as the target for this measure, as it is for most of our education measures. No Islington settings are judged to be inadequate. A quarter of Islington's early years settings are judged to be outstanding, one of the highest proportions in the country.

Provision classed as non-domestic (i.e. not childminders or group childcare in people's homes) is particularly good with 39.3% judged as outstanding compared with 21.9% across London and 22.0% across England.

The quality of early years provision across all provider types in the borough continues to improve to ensure that children get the best start in life. Within the borough, Ofsted outcomes are better for council-subsidised provision compared with other provider types. This provision has a high proportion of places for children with complex social, emotional or special educational needs (558 places) and provides affordable childcare for a further 669 working families. 50% of (8) LBI-run nurseries are Ofsted-rated outstanding, the remainder are good; three school-based nurseries are good, two are outstanding, two LA maintained nursery schools are good, one is outstanding and one of the three voluntary sector providers is rated good and the others are awaiting inspection.

The six providers in the borough who received requires improvement judgements are childminders who are being supported by the childminding co-ordinators. These providers will be followed up by Ofsted during the Autumn term before their full inspection cycle resumes in 2021.

6.2 - Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)

8.3 Inspections were paused during lockdown, so there has been no change from the end of 2019/20 figures. Islington remains above the England average (86.2%) in terms of inspection outcomes, but is slightly below the London (92.9%) average and Inner London (94.6%) averages.

In the last quarter of 2019/20, only one Islington school had a Section 8 inspection, with Moreland remaining judged as Good.

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)

Ofsted have indicated that they will not be returning to routine inspections before January 2021 and will instead undertake a series of ungraded 'visits' to education and care providers in the autumn term 2020. It is very important they take this proportionate approach, so that providers have the support they need to get back up and running as quickly and as effectively as possible and can provide every child and learner with the quality education and care they need and deserve. From January 2021, **2 nursery schools, 12 primary schools and 4 secondary schools** have been identified for a potential inspection.

6.3 - Percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks -

8.4 Excluding exceptional cases, Islington issued 81.8% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2019 (calendar year). This was an improvement on the previous year, when 75.9% of new plans were completed within timescales. The Islington figure remains well above the London (64.6%) and England (60.4%) averages, and was well above the target, based on the Inner London average, of 59.2%..

Including all cases, Islington issued 75.8% of new EHC Plans within the target timescale of 20 weeks in 2019. Again, this was an improvement and Islington remains above the London (60.2%) and England (58.7%) averages, as well as the target of 55.0%, based on the Inner London average for the year.

Islington has moved into the top quartile on these measures, ranked 11th in the country on both measures (not counting City of London, who only issued two plans).

Performance has improved as a result of a multi-agency plan, for example turn-around time for health advice to EHC assessments has reduced on average from 20 weeks to 6 weeks. We have also retained a focus on the quality of the plans through rigorous quality assurance process so that this has not been compromised in order to complete assessments more quickly. Our aim remains to exceed the inner London average.

9. Implications

Financial implications:

9.1 The cost of providing resources to monitor performance is met within each service's core budget.

Legal Implications:

9.2 There are no legal duties upon local authorities to set targets or monitor performance. However, these enable us to strive for continuous improvement.

Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

9.3 There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

Resident Impact Assessment:

9.4 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).

9.5 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.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The Council's Corporate Plan sets out a clear set of priorities, underpinned by a set of firm commitments and actions that we will take over the next four years to work towards our vision of a Fairer Islington. The corporate performance indicators are one of a number of tools that enable us to ensure that we are making progress in delivering key priorities whilst maintaining good quality services.

Signed by:

[Corporate Director and Exec Member]

Date: [add date]

Report Author: [name]
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Email: [email]