



ISLINGTON

# Rebuilding back with children and young people at the centre

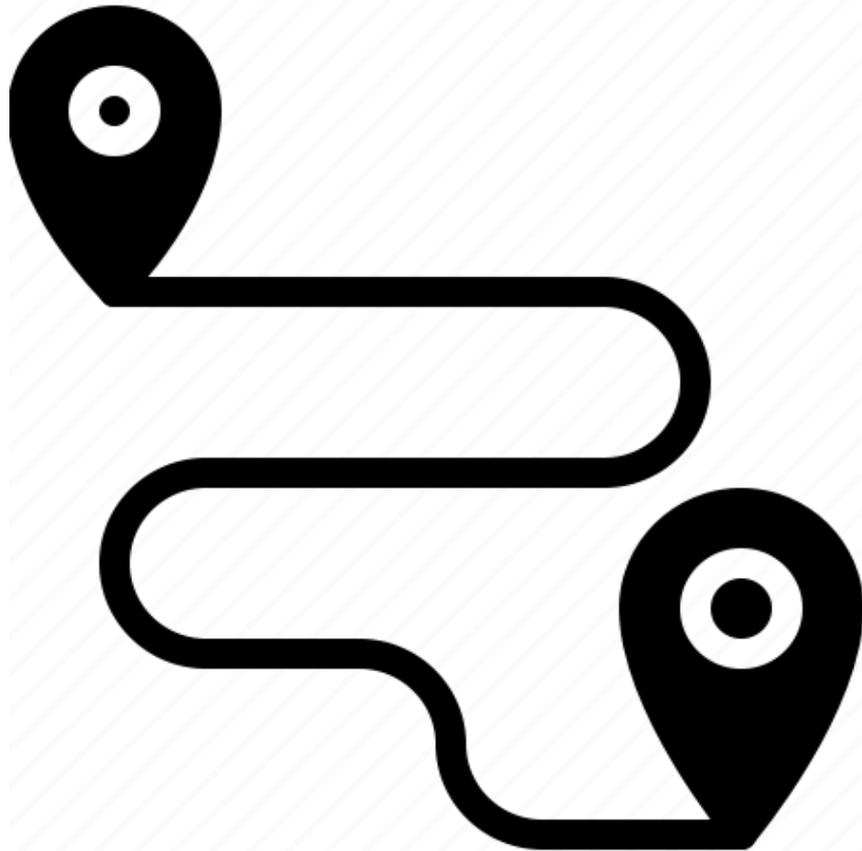
## Executive Member Annual Report

Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young  
People and Families

September 2020



# Improving and enriching the lives of children and their families



- Children's social care services rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted – the highest grade on a scale of four.
- Investment in Targeted Youth Service to reduce youth violence
- Investment in domestic abuse and better detection rates
- Islington, along with the rest of London, led the country in terms of positive outcomes for many pupils in our schools and the positive destinations of school leavers into education, employment and training.
- Launch of 100 hours' experience of the World of Work and 11 x 11
- Good progress made against all the recommendations to reduce exclusions from school
- Implemented over half of the Fair Futures recommendations to begin our journey for fairer futures for children and young people

# Covid19: Key moments of change for council services supporting children and young people

- Support for children of critical workers, vulnerable children with a social worker and those with an EHCP during the lockdown period including our close support to secure their attendance.
- Food parcel deliveries for **1,192 vulnerable families** in partnership with voluntary sector partners;
- Approx **3,000 devices** will have been organised and allocated by the second half of the autumn term to support children with their learning
- Closure of other key services for children and young people including early years and childcare settings, adventure playgrounds, youth centres and hubs and libraries
- Other ways of continuing to deliver services and maintaining engagement: Virtual face to face support e.g. family support and safeguarding, stay & play, parenting programmes, family support surgeries, contact with children in need, looked after children and foster carers
- Worked closely with and guided early years providers and schools in preparation for both phased for particular year group prior to Summer holidays and full return to school in September 2020

- Direct engagement between parents, community partners and Public Health about returning to school, how schools will be Covid-safe and support within schools – **140** participants engaged through meeting and webinars
- Working with community partners such as the Mother Tongue Supplementary Schools to shape what will help parents, children and young people in the most supportive way for them
- Risk assessments on buildings including schools for a safe return to all key services
- Early Help, Children's Social Care and Pupil Services supporting families with the return to school through 'structured conversations'
- Direct work with children such as sharing stories to start discussions about how children are feeling about the return.
- Offering children who are transitioning to secondary school a referral to the Chance UK transition mentor programme.

# Covid19: using our collective creativity to support the return to school



## Summer activities programme: intended outcomes for children and young people

Before a return to early years, school or post-16 settings in September

1. Resetting good social, emotional and physical health and wellbeing by:
  - restoring confidence and self-esteem
  - developing skills such as risk taking, exploration and relationship making
2. Stimulating re-engagement with learning and skills by:
  - learning new skills and experiencing unique opportunities
  - developing work-related skills

- 7 holiday playschemes for children aged 4-11 over the summer, together providing 179 places; 56 places reserved for vulnerable children
- At its height, take up was at 83% of places (146 children), with 100% of places for vulnerable children taken up (56 children).
- 14,944 lunches were distributed over the summer holidays providing a free, healthy lunch to children attending holiday playschemes, adventure playgrounds and Launchpad activities
- Bright Start picnics for children under 5 and their families (with a free Lunch Bunch lunch provided) ran in community green spaces over the summer holidays and will continue into the Autumn term
- A maximum of 450 places at adventure playgrounds offered across the whole summer. Usually there would be 100+ children playing each day on some playgrounds.
- Over 50 courses were available to young people via Summerversity and Launchpad

## Covid19: Supporting young people following their GCSE and A Level results

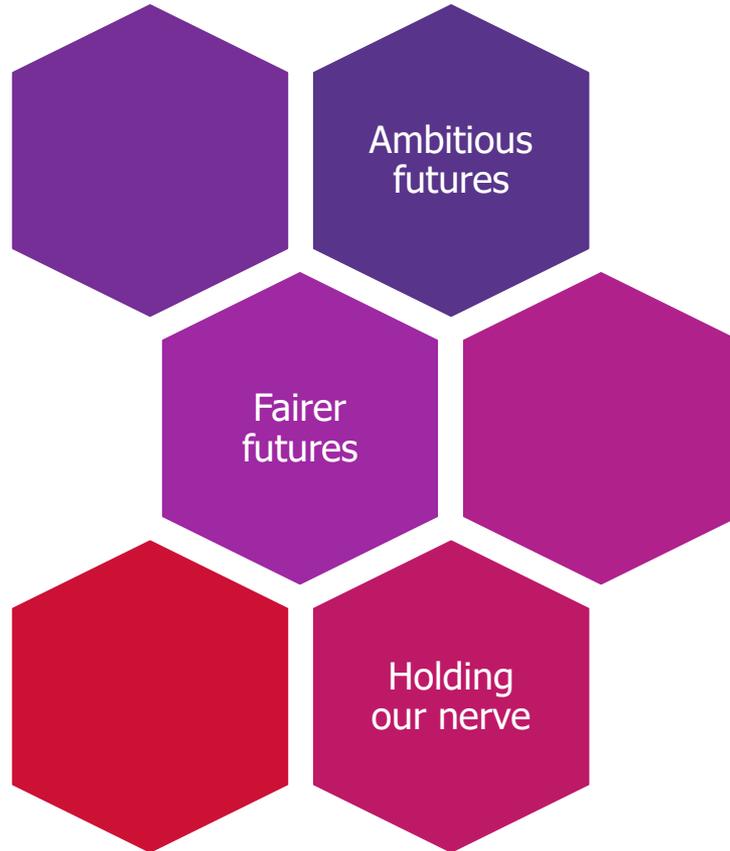
- All New River College students were supported to make face to face enrolment.
- Youth Offending students aged 16/17 were supported throughout the lockdown to make applications and online enrolment.
- 93 students were seen on GCSE results day (booked appts. in schools).
- 278 across schools, NRC and enquiries to the helpline have been supported this includes students who have received on-going support as they were at risk of becoming NEET. Parents have also been appreciative of support being provided both by follow up and through the helpline.



ISLINGTON

Resetting the  
foundations to  
ensure children are  
safe, cared for,  
succeed in learning  
and thrive post  
Covid19

# Children and young people at the centre: approach in a post-lockdown world



- A 'new normal' means rebuilding back better:
  - Lockdown and social distancing measures - exposed and heightened the impact of disparities between disadvantaged children and their peers
  - Continuing and emerging needs include:
    - poverty / low income
    - poor-quality housing
    - physical and mental ill-health of children or their parents or carers
    - insecure work
    - children's access to technology and learning at home
    - safe spaces for play
  - The importance of public health and the value of prevention and early intervention have been underlined during Covid19.

## Priority 1: Adjusting to the new normal

Gradual resumption of face to face contact with children, young people and their parents/carers

A testing regime for children in accordance with PH advice and local arrangements

Planning blended or 'hybrid' learning options and a 'Recovery Curriculum' to support a catch-up approach

## Priority 2: Getting the basics back in place and challenging inequalities

Taking forward actions from our joint study with the Youth Justice Board to address the disproportionality of Black, Asian and other minority ethnic young people in the youth justice system

Programmes of work to ensure that groups such as Black Caribbean pupils make good progress and attain as well as their peers

Supporting the mental health and well-being of children through a range of programmes such as our Mental Health Support Teams trailblazer and trauma-informed programmes such as ITiPs

## Priority 3: Turbocharging a supportive progression to adulthood

An EET offer for our young people to equip them for the transition from school to further/higher education, training or employment and responds to the social and economic impact of Covid19

Securing stability for our looked after children and a strengthened focus on adolescents at risk of poor outcomes

Responding to community safety issues for young people

Expanding our integrated social, emotional and mental health approach for children and young people with health and the third sector

Advancing an integrated approach to progression to adulthood with all key services and community partners so that all children and young people can access the support and intervention they need