

Report of: Corporate Director of People Services

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	22nd June 2021	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
------------------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 4 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 Q4 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 Q4 2020/21 for measures relating to Children and Young People.

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 Joint Board, and externally through the Scrutiny Committees.

- 3.2 Due to the impact of the restrictions brought into force at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, a revised set of Corporate Indicators were put in place for 2020/21. Some measures are not reportable at the current time, such as many of the schools-related measures, due to the partial closure of schools during parts of the last year and the cancellation of examinations. New measures were introduced, such as the number of children's social care contacts received and the number of children attending early years settings, to monitor the impact of and recovery from the pandemic.
- 3.3 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, e.g. key measures for the Youth Offending Service.
- 4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q3 2020/21 Performance Reports**
- 4.1 The Committee discussed the Q3 2020/21 performance reports at its meeting on 9th March 2021. There are no outstanding queries to be resolved.

5. Quarter 4 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	Q4 2020/21	On target ?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 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	89%	N/A	80%	Yes
1.2	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	58	61	60	38	Yes	61	Yes
1.3	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	45%	37%	37%	27%	Yes	37%	Yes
1.4	Corporate Indicator: Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	26	7	10	2	Yes	7	Yes
1.4a	Corporate Sub-Measure: Custody rate per 1,000 10-17 year old residents – Black ethnic group	11.3 (Apr 14 – Mar 18)	12.4 (Apr 15 – Mar 19)	Lower than 12.4	11.3 (Apr 16 – Mar 20)	Yes	12.4 (Apr 15 – Mar 19)	Yes
1.5	Corporate Indicator: Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,640	2,501	2,641	2,537	In line	2,501	In line

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

5.2 Performance on this measure has been higher in 2020/21 than in recent years. 55 of the 62 young people who have been triaged were diverted away from the criminal justice system, equating to 89% of the cohort. This is the highest annual percentage for this measure since it has been reported to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) continues to improve outcomes in relation to the percentage of young people diverted from the criminal justice system with a significant improvement in the cumulative measure for all three quarters. High quality assessments with these young people, ensure the delivery of the interventions including targeted interventions to address risk of further

offending and to promote desistance. This has included the prioritisation of continued face to face contact with young people throughout the pandemic prioritising children's complex needs including those at risk of offending and/or being excluded from school.

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

5.3 There have only been 38 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice System in 2020/21, compared to 61 during the previous year, a 38% reduction. The target for 2020/21 was for a reduction in FTEs compared to 2019/20, so this target has been met.

No new comparator data has published by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) since the Q3 Children's Services Scrutiny Report. The Ministry of Justice have announced that the next update is due to be available in time for the Q1 2021/22 Children's Services Scrutiny Report.

Reducing the number of first-time entrants remains an important priority and as such we are continuing to prioritise early intervention to reduce the numbers. Early intervention and identification of young people at risk of offending has been a key priority during the pandemic in recognition of young people being adversely impacted by the pandemic and the predicted increase in youth offending. The service recognises that there may have been some delay in young people with low level offences within the court and police processes due to operational delays due to the pandemic and this is being tracked to expediate. We continue to prioritise and respond to the needs of those at risk of offending with the continued support of commissioned services and other parts of the partnership.

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

5.4 Nine of the 33 young offenders from 12 months ago had reoffended by the end of Q4 2020/21, so performance for this period was 27%. This is better than the target of 37%, which is based on performance during the 12 months of the 2019/20 financial year.

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.

Across the cohort of 33 young offenders, there were 27 re-offences, making an average of 0.82 re-offences per offender. This is a fall from last year, when there was an average 1.57 re-offences per offender.

As with the FTE data, there are no further updates on the comparator data released by the YJB. An update is due to be available for the Q1 2021/22 Performance Report.

Indicators in relation to re-offending continue to move in a positive trajectory with the rate now below the re-offending rates of comparable YOTs. There has been a focus, within the service, to identify and respond to this cohort to ensure robust intervention and enforcement where appropriate. Interventions have been strengthened and targeted by way of a dedicated interventions lead and enforcement overseen by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Multi Agency Risk Panel and the Islington Group Offending Partnership Panel. We also continue to ensure that there are robust multi agency responses to young people risk of re-offending. We continue to work closely with police colleagues to ensure that enforcement is commensurate to each case whilst providing targeted intervention. However, there are still young people with significant and

multiple vulnerabilities that remain entrenched in their offending which presents challenges in relation to reducing re-offending rates for this cohort.

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

5.5 There have been two custodial sentences of Islington young people in 2020/21. The target for the year was to have fewer than 10 custodial sentences, so this target has been met.

The YJB publish custodial figures as rates per 1,000 10-17 year olds, to allow comparisons to be made between different areas. The latest published Islington rate for the 2020 calendar year was 0.06, which was yet again a new lowest ever rate for Islington, surpassing the previous quarter's then-record low rate. The Islington rate is now lower than the England rates (0.14) for the first time, and is also lower than the London rate (0.21) and the YOT Family average (0.25).

The number of young people receiving custodial sentences has fallen and this is reflected in a year-on-year decline from 2018 to date. This has in part been achieved by improved court practice and targeted interventions to reduce both the likelihood and seriousness of offending. Whilst significant progress has been made in reducing the number of young people who receive custodial sentences there remains an entrenched but reducing cohort of young people who will inevitably receive custodial sentences in the future. The pandemic has also led to the perpetration of some very serious offences by young people.

1.4a - Corporate Sub-Measure: Custody rate per 1,000 10-17 year old residents - Black ethnic group

5.6 This sub-measure is taken from the YJB's Disproportionality Tool. As there are relatively few custodial sentences, the data has been grouped across four years in the tool. The latest update of the tool shows that the rate of custodial sentences for Black young people in Islington was 11.3 per 1,000 10-17 year old residents for the period April 2016 to March 2020, compared to an overall rate of 5.4 for all Islington young people. Despite the comparison to the overall average rate still showing a disproportionately higher rate for young people from a Black ethnic group, the custody rate had reduced from 12.4 per 1,000 in the previous 2015-2019 period.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Islington has made significant progress in reducing the use of custody in recent years, there remain concerns in relation to disproportionality and the use of custody. Reducing disproportionality in sentencing is a key objective in the YOS disproportionality action plan and this is being addressed with sentencers and in promoting anti discriminatory practice. Subsequently, the service has a clear set of recommendations to address the issue of disproportionality. Islington continues to be committed to ensuring that this cohort of young people receive high quality youth justice services that provide tailored and targeted intervention that recognise diversity, discrimination and difference.

1.5 - Number of domestic abuse offences

5.7 There have been 2,537 Domestic Abuse (DA) offences in 2020/21. This is in line (i.e. within 10%) with the target of 2,641 and also in line with the number of offences during 2019/20 (2,501). The aim of the target was to have a high number of offences reported to the Police, as the number of offences is an under-representation of the true number of incidents.

While Islington did not see the significant increase in DA offences that was widely anticipated at the start of the pandemic, police and other statutory services have noticed an increase in the complexity and severity / risk levels of cases that were reported. Local DA services meanwhile saw a large increase in the numbers of survivors reaching out for help and support especially around mental health and well-being. In April 2020, the council embarked on its ambitious programme to transform Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) services in Islington, and the additional investment meant the borough was more able to respond to the increased demand for specialist DA services. The main commissioned DA services worked with an incredible 1,400 survivors and families in Islington in 2020-21, Solace and Samira Advocacy and Support service caseloads increased by 61% (989 survivors supported) and 48% (322 survivors supported) respectively, and the DA counselling service worked with 96 survivors. We are very proud of the strong local partnership response to DA in the past year which has contributed to the development of two new and innovative DA services / initiatives in quarter 4. The multi-agency **DA Daily Safeguarding Meeting** (DSM) launched in January and has supported 231 survivors (January-March) with 885 outcomes achieved including 57 children safeguarding notifications. The **Journey to Change** (Intimate Partner Violence) service commenced in March and is working alongside the DSM, supporting the intervention and prevention work with perpetrators of abuse. Finally, it is very positive to note that Islington police have achieved the best performance on DA Sanctions and Detections in the MET, and Islington now has the highest use of Domestic Violence Protections Notices in London. All of this work has contributed to our local partnership effort to increase the safety of DA survivors and their families in Islington in the past year.

6. Quarter 4 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	Q4 2020/21	On target ?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
2.2	Percentage of 16 & 17 Year old Residents NEET or Not Known	5.5%	4.1%	N/A	4.8%	N/A	4.1%	No
2.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	New indicator in 2019/20	25	40	22	No	25	No
2.5	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	1,170	4,504	Yes	n/a	N/A

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

6.2 4.8% of Islington 16 & 17 year olds were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or their activity was unknown in the months December 2020 to February 2021 (based on an overall cohort of 3,157). This is higher than in 2019-20 (4.1%), and higher than the London average (4.0%), but it is better than the Central London (5.2%) and England (5.5%) averages.

Breaking down the overall figure for Islington, 1.7% of 16 & 17 year olds were NEET and 3.1% had unknown activity. Islington's NEET percentage was below the Central London (1.9%), London (1.8%) and England (2.8%) averages. The proportion of Islington's 16 & 17 year olds whose activity was unknown was higher than the London (2.2%) and England (2.7%) averages, but better than the Central London (3.3%) average.

Whilst this was an increase it should be noted this was a particularly difficult year to track our unknown cohort. The Progress team sent mailshots, survey and completed telephone follow up. However, there was significant number of young people who remained unknown. In previous years a home visit would take place with young people with an unknown status after repeated attempts to contact them. Due to COVID restrictions this activity could not take place.

It should also be noted the annual NEET figure remained low at 1.7% in comparison with 1.75 in Camden and 2.07% in Hackney.

As part of planning for the next reporting period, a detailed analysis of this year's data has been undertaken. There is continued concern that young people in the current cohort have had significant periods of lockdown and this may impact on their motivation, mental health and engagement.

The measures underway to strengthen future performance include:

- A link adviser for Capital City Group of colleges.
- On-going liaison with Islington schools to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET.
- Increased collaboration with teams working with vulnerable groups for early identification of young people's support needs and an early help offer.
- Comms support to ensure young people know where to access help and IAG support.
- Return of home visits to unknowns with ease in COVID restrictions.

2.4 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme

6.3 The closure of schools in January in line with the third lockdown and reopening of schools in March led to lower engagement from schools than in Q4. Despite this the 100hours team supported schools by brokering careers activities for target groups, such as the careers week at New River College PRU, and continued to shape the enrichment offer Beacon High wellbeing centre – pathways project for at risk of exclusion students in Yr10/11. In March the team successfully supported Highgate Hill with National Careers Week by brokering 20 business volunteers to take part in delivering virtual careers activities. Employers such as Berkeley Homes, London Screen Academy and Big Creative took part. Plans for the SEND creative vocational pathways project are underway and through this project we engaged a new SEN school, Richard Cloudesley.

With the easing of lockdown and school recovery beginning to settle and take effect, an increase in schools requesting careers activities, which are not only bespoke but through our world of work menu offer is starting to take place.

Reengaging employers – while being respectful of hardships some employers are going through; the aim is to offer a full menu of in-person activities supported by a large variety of employers by September 21 alongside current virtual offers. The team continue to work collaboratively with colleagues in the YEPS service, community wealth building and cross council to identify suitable opportunities.

100hours Careers Videos are being produced with the help of Media students from City and Islington College editing the videos as part of their accredited course work. New videos will be added to our World of Work YouTube playlist and to the 100hours careers video menu page.

Beacon High Year 10 work experience- the team are linking Beacon High with a number of employers to run a week-long community work experience project in place of virtual work experience this summer. Employers already linked to the careers lead include Film Fixer, Kings Cross Recruit, Halo Lighting, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London Screen Academy and Arsenal.

SEND Creative Vocational Pathways - in partnership with Cultural Enrichment the 100hours Team are working alongside SEND schools and cultural sector employers in the borough with the end goal of helping SEND young people engage successfully with the world of work. The project will take place across two years.

'Your Next Steps' Islington progression event - the team led a virtual event showcasing further education, higher education and apprenticeship post 16 and 18 progression routes. The event took place via Zoom webinar with, introductions from Islington's Young Mayor and the 2020 London Councils Apprentice of the Year. A total of 64 participants attended the event and the youth

employment team are offering follow up support to all. A video of the event is currently being edited and will be available online late May. This was run in partnership with the London Enterprise Adviser Network and Capital City College Group, we aim to deliver another event in the Autumn term.

Saint Mary Magdalene Academy has achieved their Quality in Careers Standard, becoming the first of the cohort of schools taking part in the Richard Reeves funded CIAG project to achieve this. We will continue working with Beacon High, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, New River College and COLA Islington to achieve the standard by the end of the project (July 21).

2.5 - Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work

- 6.4 The website has been continually refreshed throughout Q4 with new videos, resources and activities. Menu pages have seen a steady increase in unique visitors, particularly our primary and secondary resource pages which have been added this year to compensate for the lack of bookable activities. Schools closing in January led to a large increase in the amount of unique visitors to our webpages that month. Though this has dropped slightly now schools have reopened, the online menu pages are still attracting visits. The team continue to add new resources to support schools with career planning and post 16 options. Our menu of careers activities and resources continues to grow, with almost 500 unique visitors across all of the pages in March.

Quarter 4 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

PI No.	Indicator	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	Q4 2020/21	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 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	63% (Spring 2020/21 Academic Year)	n/a	70%	No
3.5	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	3,906	n/a	Not comparable	n/a
3.15	Number of children in Alternative Provision	90	n/a	n/a	39	n/a	N/A	n/a
3.22	Corporate Indicator – Children's social care contacts in the past month	976 (March 2019)	971 (March 2020)	n/a	1,128 (March 2021)	n/a	971 (March 2020)	Higher
3.22a	Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population	+5.1%	+3.5%	Lower than +3.5%	+2.8%	Yes	+3.5%	Yes
3.22b	Corporate Indicator: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population	+11.0%	+6.9%	Lower than +6.9%	+7.2%	No	+6.9%	No
3.22c	Corporate Indicator: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population	+3.6%	+6.0%	Lower than +6.0%	+8.7%	No	+6.0%	No
3.23	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	16.3%	17.5%	18.0%	17.5%	Yes	17.5%	In line

3.24	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%	10.5%	Yes	18.3%	Yes
3.25	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	11.8%	9.8%	11.0%	15.0%	No	9.8%	No
3.26	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%	73.1%	70%	69.1%	In line	73.1%	No
3.27	Number of Looked After Children	313	366	362	344	Yes	366	Lower
3.29	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	11 (Mar 19)	15 (Mar 20)	n/a	13 (March 2021)	n/a	15 (Mar 20)	Yes
3.30	Applications for free school meals (FSM)	New indicator	2,207	n/a	1,219	n/a	783	Higher
3.31	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	New indicator in 2019/20	65	30	66	Yes	65	Yes
3.32	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	New indicator in 2020/21	New indicator in 2020/21	4,200 by end of year	20,192	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

7.1

No target has been set for 2020/21 performance, as this measure was severely affected by the pandemic and was temporarily suspended from the Corporate Indicator set.

In Spring 2020/21, 542 2 year olds were taking up funded places, out of 867 eligible children on the DWP list from the previous term, meaning 63% of places were being taken up. The number of children taking up places has fallen, but the number of eligible children is also falling.

Although the proportion taking up places is lower than the previous term, it is in line with the proportion in 2018/19.

Take up in January is disappointing following the increase back up to 70% in Autumn 2020. However, this will undoubtedly have been affected by the lockdown and the fact that schools were closed to most children. Despite the government keeping early years provision open, we know that many schools either closed their early years provision or parents chose not to send their children. This is particularly the case for the cohort of 2 year olds whose eligibility is dependent on a very low family income who are therefore likely not to be working. A similar strategic approach which saw the increase in uptake for the Autumn term will be used again to encourage greater take up in the summer term. The aim is to move swiftly back to the level of take up seen last Autumn and to develop a focused approach to encourage better take up from any groups who are disproportionately not taking up the offer at the moment.

3.5 - Corporate Indicator – Early Years Number of children attending

7.2

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 Department for Education (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).

The number reported each month relates to the highest number of children recorded as attending during the month, based on what had originally been a weekly collection. The collection is not mandatory and although most providers do make a return, there are a very small number which do not. Numbers will therefore be slightly higher than recorded.

With the introduction of lockdown restrictions in January 2021, initially the number of children attending early years settings was lower in January 2021 than during the Autumn term. However, by the time schools reopened in March 2021, attendance levels had increased and by the end of March 2021 there were more attending early years settings than there had been in the Autumn term.

Attendance at early years settings is moving in the right direction. It is still not clear if and when occupancy will return to pre-Covid levels but work is being undertaken to update the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and assess vacancy levels. Local authorities have a duty to ensure sufficient childcare and early education places to meet the needs of working and studying parents. Ensuring that there is sufficient and affordable childcare aligns with Islington's corporate strategic priorities around employment and Islington's Fairer Together agenda that all children should 'start well'. A lack of childcare always impacts primarily on women and retaining sufficient affordable childcare is therefore an equality issue.

During the Covid period, childminder numbers have remained relatively stable, with 10 resigning their registration, and 9 new childminders registering. One nursery has closed but this particular nursery was provided alongside workspace for self-employed parents; demand shrank drastically as more parents began to work from home.

The council has provided financial support to early years providers to enable them to stay open. Over £700K has been awarded to private, voluntary and independent providers including childminders through the Additional Restrictions grant and children's centre nurseries have been supported with their loss of income to the tune of £1.5m through the Covid local government income compensation scheme. Further work is being carried out with Inclusive Economy Team to

provide business support to providers to ensure they have sustainable business models going forward.

3.15 - Number of children in Alternative Provision

- 7.3 The number of pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) at the end of Q4 2020/21 was 39 pupils. In March 2020 prior to lockdown, 55 pupils were enrolled on AP. Current figures mark a reduction of 29% on last year's figures, in line with year on year decreases in the AP cohort from a baseline of 130 in 2015/16. Although no target is set for this measure, the general principle is that the best place for pupils is in schools, so we are looking to see as few students in AP as possible.

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

3.22 – Children's social care contacts in the past month

- 7.4 A new Corporate Indicator looking at the number of children's social care contacts was 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.
- However, in the second half of 2020, each month's number of contacts has been higher than the number in the corresponding month of 2019. With the further lockdown restrictions brought in during early 2021, there was a reduction in the number of contacts in January and February 2021 compared to the same months in 2020. The numbers in Jan & Feb 2021 were about 15% lower than in 2020, but the March figure showed an increase and was 16% higher than in March 2020.
- To note- 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.
- The view of the contact team is that contacts made are appropriate and could indicate increasing need due to the pandemic.

3.22a – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population

- 7.5 Following a request by Corporate Management Board to add sub-measures to the Corporate Indicators on protected characteristics, where appropriate, analysis was performed on the social care contacts received in recent years. This found that Black ethnic groups are over-represented in the ethnic breakdown of social care contacts compared to the Islington under-18 year old

population, especially the Black Caribbean group. Young people from Mixed Ethnic groups are also over-represented. These differences were found to be statistically significant.

An estimated 4.5% of the Islington under-18 population are Black Caribbean. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 7.3% of contacts in 2020/21 involved young people from the Black Caribbean ethnic group. Although this is an over-representation, it is less of an over-representation than previous years. The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black Caribbean young people from 2019/20 levels.

3.22b – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population

7.6 An estimated 22.1% of the Islington under-18 population are from a Black ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 29.3% of contacts in 2020/21 involved young people from a Black ethnic group. This is a slightly higher over-representation than last year, but less than in 2018/19 or 2017/18. The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black children from 2019/20 levels.

The service is having in depth discussions to try and understand this data. This Disproportionality data is being presented to the Quality Assurance subgroup of the Islington Safeguarding Children Partnership to raise awareness and seek views from our partner agencies about why there may be higher contact rates for certain communities, thinking together about what the issues are and any alternative ways to address need.

3.22c – Corporate Sub-measure: % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population

7.7 An estimated 13.5% of the Islington under-18 population are from a Mixed ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 22.2% of contacts in 2020/21 involved young people from a Mixed ethnic group. This is a higher over-representation than last year. The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of young people from a Mixed ethnic group from 2019/20 levels.

Please see comments above in previous section 7.6.

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

7.8 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, indicating that the change needed for the child and family has not been sustained. Our previous auditing of these cases suggests that the majority of these 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, only to find that the concern has escalated or re-manifested. Historically, our re-referral rate had been 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 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local

Government (MHCLG). The rate has been above the target for most of 2020/21, but the three lowest monthly re-referral rates in the year all took place in Q4 2020/21, and this lowered the annual overall rate to 17.5%, better than the target of 18.0%.

Latest data for London up to Q3 indicates that the Islington rate was in line with the London overall rate in Q2 and Q3.

A deep dive into this issue by the Director of Safeguarding was undertaken and reported to the Safeguarding Accountability Meeting chaired by the Leader of the Council. The report was commended and concluded the following themes were present for many of the re-referrals:

- Information sharing
- Refusal of service
- Adolescents at risk
- Domestic violence and abuse

The recommendations were:

- Review the step-down protocol to ensure families are engaged with a service at the point of CSC role ending.
- Workforce Development Team to roll out training around consent and information sharing to raise the confidence of staff to challenge parents who refuse to allow information to be shared.
- Explore in detail through themed audits on the impact of COVID and limits in carrying out face to face visits and direct work with children, particularly the adolescence cohort.

These have all been implemented.

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

7.9

22 of the 209 Child Protection Plans starting in 2020/21 involved children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time, which equates to 10.5%. This is much lower than the 2019/20 figure of 18.3%, and it is better than the target of 18.0%. To put the 2020/21 rate in perspective, out of every local authority in the country, only the Isles of Scilly had a lower proportion reported in 2019/20.

The following has contributed to this target being met:

- Alerts raised of potential repeat plans before a conference is booked to understand why a child might be suffering significant harm again
- Enhanced quality assurance of the child's file
- Ensuring child protection plans end only once positive change for the child has been sustained.

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

7.10

We have completed some preliminary analysis of the reasons for the increase in the numbers of children who have had 3 or more placements. 21 of the 52 children in this cohort came into care at age 15 or above and a further 19 were aged between 12 and 14 years old. Finding the right placement first time for adolescents, often whom have a variety of complex needs e.g. mental health, exploitation risks, is difficult given the sufficiency of placement issue across the country. A detailed report is being presented to Corporate Parenting Board in July 2021. Work is underway

to improve the sufficiency of placements (which in turn will improve the placement stability) for children locally, sub regionally and regionally in the following areas:

-We are seeking to increase capacity within our in-house Fostering Service and support our foster carers to enhance their skills to offer care to children and young people who present with complex needs. This will reduce our overreliance on external placement providers and ensure that more children can be supported in or as close to Islington as possible. We will continue to raise awareness of fostering for Islington, increasing numbers of assessments and increase support to foster carers once approved. We are driving innovation to ensure that permanent families are available to our children as early as possible. Monthly trauma informed fostering forums are held with providers and foster carers which have resulted in placements secured for several sibling groups. Going forward the forums will be focused on Black and Minority Ethnic Children BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic), children with disabilities and children who are ready to move from residential care outside of the authority and at some distance to more local foster care arrangements.

-Regionally, The PAN London Regional Commissioning Group has partnered with the Rees Centre to engage in research that will help inform both intelligent and collaborative regional commissioning. This project will improve understanding of current and forecast levels of need and provision as a basis for determining the cohorts of children and young people where pan-London collaborative commissioning offers the greatest benefits, with a particular focus on high cost and low incidence provision.

-Resettlement and alternative to youth custody. Pan-London or sub-regional collaboration to address challenges in securing provision for young people on the edge of custody and those being resettled from custody.

-Complex adolescents. Pan-London or sub-regional collaboration to address challenges in securing provision for complex adolescents requiring high cost low incidence provision.

-Mother and baby residential. Pan-London or sub-regional collaboration to address the need for residential provision for mothers and babies.

-ASD, behaviour and/or mental health issues. Pan-London or sub-regional collaboration to address shortfalls in provision for children and young people with ASD, behaviour and/or mental health issues.

-Sexually harmful behaviour. Pan-London or sub-regional collaboration to address shortfalls in provision for children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour.

3.26 - 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

7.11 After peaking at the end of 2019, there has been a fall in the proportion of children in long-term stable placements in 2020 to around 65% during the year. The proportion in stable placements rose in Q4 2020/21, reaching 69.1%. Whilst this is higher than the previous quarter, it is below the 2019/20 figure. It is marginally below the target of 70%, but the numbers involved are relatively low, so it is being listed as in line, as it is within 5% of the target.

We have completed a preliminary analysis of this data. 26% of the children recorded as not being in long term placements relate to three siblings groups who are now in long term placements or reunified with their families. 73% that were not in long term placements at the end of March 2021 are now. The 6 children that are still not in long term placement are tracked regularly with regular family finding for them taking place within the Permanency Service.

3.27 - Number of Looked After Children

7.12 There has been an incremental rise in the number of children looked after at the end of each month over 2019/20, peaking at the end of April 2020 at 373. Numbers of looked after children had been gradually falling in 2020/21 and were at 344 by the end of the year.

We have long term targets for a gradual reduction in the number of Looked After Children over time, as part of the Children and Families Outcomes Framework. The target set for the end of 2020/21 was to have 362 or fewer children looked after, so this target has been met.

The rate of increase was partly due to the 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 and the collapse of the National Transfer Scheme. The numbers of UASC presenting to the Local Authority has reduced, however may increase again as lockdown restrictions are lifted. The rate of children leaving care is lower than it would have otherwise been, due to delays in care proceedings being completed during the pandemic, the most common reason in the year, for young people leaving care is that they turn 18. We have also seen a decrease in non-UASC coming into care due to the transformation work taking place to support families care for their own children. Further transformation work is currently underway with a specialist team being set up to prevent adolescents at risk of exploitation from coming into care as the research undertaken demonstrated that care often does not improve their outcomes.

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

7.14 13 different Children Looked After were missing from care for 24 hours or more in March 2021. This is a slight reduction from the number at the end of 2019/20 (15). There was a peak in the Autumn of 2019 when numbers per month briefly rose above 20, but now it appears the figures are stable and back down to 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.

Children that are identified as missing from care and 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 Partnership which explores the link between children that go missing and risk of exploitation. In 2021 the training has been developed in conjunction with the police to reflect the changes to the police's reporting system for 13 – 17-year-olds in semi-independent or residential placements in London who are missing. There is continuous scrutiny at senior management oversight of children who do go missing with briefings provided weekly to senior leaders.

3.30 – Applications for Free School Meals

7.15 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. The 1,219 applications received in Q4 represents an increase of 436 on the same period last year, or a 56% increase.

No target has been set for this measure, as it is not a corporate indicator.

Going forward, we are likely to focus on the actual levels of Free School Meal eligibility reported in each term's School Census. Whilst the data is indicating an increase to the applications received, this does not directly correlate to an increase in the number of pupils who are new to eligibility. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Not all applications find the young person is eligible.
- One individual can make multiple applications where their eligibility status has not changed and, therefore, the subsequent application was not required.

Therefore, the actual level of eligibility will be a better indication of need in the borough. We were unable to report on this at the start of 2019/20 as there was no School Census collection when schools were largely closed during the first lockdown.

The DfE have now published comparator data showing how Free School Meal eligibility has increased across the country between the last two Autumn term School Censuses. The following tables show that the rate in Islington primary schools was already above our comparators and increased at a faster rate in the year up to the Autumn term 2020. The eligibility rate in Islington secondary schools was also higher than our comparators in Autumn 2019 and then experienced an increase in line with the increases seen across London and England, although this was a smaller rise than across Inner London or our Statistical Neighbours (most of whom are Inner London boroughs).

Primary Schools	2019/20 Autumn term	2020/21 Autumn term	Change from Autumn 2019 - Autumn 2020
Islington	29.6%	35.8%	6.2%
Statistical Neighbours	23.8%	28.1%	4.3%
Inner London	22.7%	27.1%	4.5%
London	17.0%	20.5%	3.5%
England	16.8%	20.2%	3.4%

Secondary Schools	2019/20 Autumn term	2020/21 Autumn term	Change from Autumn 2019 - Autumn 2020
Islington	33.3%	36.1%	2.7%
Statistical Neighbours	24.8%	27.9%	3.2%
Inner London	25.6%	29.3%	3.7%
London	18.3%	21.2%	2.8%
England	15.5%	18.2%	2.7%

3.31 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme

7.16 **Target is met.** 66 schools have engaged up to end of Q4, ahead of the target set of 30 schools.

11 by 11 has rebuilt engagement from borough schools, and at end of Q4 has regained level of schools achieved pre-pandemic, through teacher engagement and/or school, class & pupil activity.

While capacity gradually rebuilds and restrictions impacting school's ability to access in-person enrichment activity are still in the process of easing, we continue to offer a range of options for engagement, from resource and activity menus, training and discussion opportunities, and 1:1 support for Cultural Leads or headteachers on utilising partner offers for their children and young people.

11 by 11 has had noted success with digital engagement from schools and our cultural partners. Moving into the 2021-22 reporting year, blended options for engagement are expected to continue being offered as ways to re-engage. For instance, the July 2021 11 by 11 Festival currently in development, titled *Celebrating Our Creative Community*, will be a mix of small-scale partnerships which can include face to face activity within guidelines, while a digitally based menu of activity will allow all schools to partake in a variety of creative offers made available on a large scale, such as performances and virtual assemblies.

Cultural Lead Teachers and Culture Bank CPD

The team reengaged Cultural Lead Teachers across 20/21 through meetings, training sessions and regular contact since school resumed in September. The programme of support for Cultural Leads moved online during lockdown, and this continues to be well received, increasing accessibility for many. A key change in delivery during 2020-21 for the Culture Bank CPD sessions is that these have also been opened up (where relevant) to welcome interested cultural partner staff, supporting reciprocal training for each sector and increased communication between these key stakeholders for 11 by 11. In 2020-21 academic year to the end of Q4, 100 teachers and cultural staff participated in a CPD programme that included:

1. Partnership working for Schools and Cultural Organisations
2. Diversifying the curriculum
3. Approaches to blended delivery
4. Artform specific explorations of enrichment linked to the curriculum

Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11

Secondary engagement over 2020-21 has been built across staff CPD attendance, digital offers for students, and targeted interventions in a selection of settings. 7 secondary settings took part in activities for their students in 2021, while the development of targeted work is underway across the enrichment workstream with Beacon High's Inclusion Unit, New River College Secondary, and a new project focused on creative vocational pathways for young people with SEND across the various special settings in the borough.

Children in Need

The 11 by 11 partnership with Islington Council Children in Need services began in March 2021. This work is a collaboration on Islington Covid-19 response work for Children in Need (CIN) and

Children in Need of Protection (CP) to improve educational achievement, prevent further marginalisation and divert from care.

Primary, Family and Secondary enrichment activity is being delivered by four local organisations; [Little Angel Theatre](#), [Estorick Collection of Modern Art](#), [Soapbox](#) (Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust), and the National Youth Theatre.

The first project, [Print and Stitch](#) delivered by Estorick Collection, ran across the Easter Holidays with 34 families taking part, with a total of 46 children. The Primary age area of the programme aims to focus on the family around the child, providing activity for adults and children to experience together. We hope to raise awareness of the benefits of engaging in cultural activities and increase CiN family's confidence and connection to engage in more activity. One participant's feedback included: *'My son and I enjoyed the session very much. It was a great opportunity for us to have a quality time together in this difficult time of our life... Now, my son and I are trying to have creative time together as much as we can. Please let us know, when any other projects that you organise in the future.'* [Anonymous, Print and Stitch participating parent/carer]

Youth Voice

As part of 11 by 11's Youth Voice work, the three Enrichment programmes (MEI, 11 by 11 and World of Work), are developing a trio of podcasts which follow the theme of each of programmes - Careers, Music and Culture. The project will begin in May 2021 and will be delivered alongside a small group of young people who will steer the direction of the podcasts and assist in its planning. Three podcasts will be recorded in person at Lift and will look to gain insight into young people's thoughts, needs and current challenges, contributing to future guidance for the programmes. We hope the podcasts will be released as part of the 11 by 11 Festival in July 2021.

Company Three theatre company begun their targeted intervention youth voice work with twelve KS3 and KS4 students from Beacon High's Wellbeing Centre and Inclusion Unit. The project will explore 'What it's like to be a teenager growing up in Holloway' and will run until the end of Summer 1. The outcome of this project will be included in the next report.

Pupil Referral Units (PRU)

Teams are currently planning music therapy, instrumental learning and careers support in terms of directly delivered enrichment at New River College settings, while both the Primary and Secondary sites also have Cultural Leads active in 11 by 11 CPD.

Targeting areas of low engagement

By the close of the 2019/20 academic year, 77% of our identified target schools had engaged with 11 by 11, equal to our reach pre-pandemic.

We continue to offer blended options for engagement for training and activity to schools. This helps us in both providing a higher level of accessibility, as well as working with in and respecting our cultural partners more limited capacity this year.

As we move into the next year of delivery, the team will be reviewing our list of target schools alongside the January 2021 school data on FSM and Ethnicity and in consultation with School

Improvement, ensuring those designated still correspond to the settings most in need of support. Any changes will be reflected in future reporting for Q1.

3.32 - Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages

7.17

Target is **met**.

20,192 UPVs were registered in Q1-4, greatly ahead of the target set of 4,000 views.

As per Q2 & Q3, the unique page views increase is mostly attributed to the inclusion of Music Education Islington webpage engagement. The target will be reviewed for the 2021-22 reporting year.

Total YTD unique page views: 20,192

The online page views performance tracking is an outcome of the pivot in programme delivery during the pandemic and was added as a performance indicator following Q1. There continues to be interest from schools in accessing a range of enrichment resources digitally to support learning while in person activity is limited.

Engagement with Music Education Islington webpage engagement remains high. Schools are signposted to content regularly, and feedback suggests that online resources are helpful to teachers. We expected a drop-in activity with the return to in-school delivery and will monitor the best ways to provide online support for next year. We are gathering feedback from teachers on the user experience of our online presence and hope to work with the relevant teams over the coming year to improve our pages.

8. Implications

Financial implications:

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

Legal Implications:

8.2 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:

8.3 There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

Resident Impact Assessment:

8.4 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).

8.5 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.

9. Conclusion

9.1 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: Various – co-ordinated by Adam White, Business Intelligence Project Manager
Tel: x2657
Email: adam.white@islington.gov.uk