

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	6 th December 2021	All

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SUBJECT: Children's Services Quarter 2 2021/22 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 Q2 2021/22 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 Q2 2021/22 for measures relating to Children and Young People.

3. Background

- 3.1 A suite of corporate performance indicators had 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 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.
- 3.3 The Corporate Indicator set were reviewed at the end of 2020/21 and a revised set of measures have been put in place for 2021/22. The changes took into account measures that were not reportable under some of the lockdown restrictions in 2020/21, but that will be reportable for at least part of 2021/22 (e.g. school attendance), as well as performance during the previous year. The set of measures used for quarterly Children's Services Scrutiny performance reporting has been updated to reflect these changes. Full details of all the changes were provided in the Q1 2021/22 Performance Report.
- 3.4 This report is currently structured using the outcome areas from the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. The 2021 Strategic Plan has now been published. However, for Q2 performance reporting, we have been asked to continue to use the objectives from the previous plan. Corporate Management Board will make a decision on the structure used for corporate performance reporting, and by extension the reporting format for performance reports to scrutiny committees, in due course.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q1 2021/22 Performance Reports

- 4.1 The Committee discussed the Q1 2021/22 performance reports at its meeting on 20th September 2021. There are no outstanding queries to be resolved.

5. Quarter 2 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	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	Q2 2021/22	On target ?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
1.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	80%	89%	n/a	85%	N/A	94%	No
1.2	Corporate Indicator: Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System	61	38	60	25	Yes	15	No
1.3	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	37%	27%	37%	20%	Yes	55%	Yes
1.3a	Corporate Indicator sub-measure: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure	30.8%	Not yet available	40%	56.5% (Q3 2019/20 - Q2 2020/21)	No	45.0% (Q3 2018/19 - Q2 19/20)	No
1.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	7	2	10	4	Yes	1	No
1.5	Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,501	2,537	2,664	1355	Yes	1378	In line

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

5.2 The diversion rate for Q2 2021/22 was 85%, compared to 89% in Q1, which relates to 17 out of 20 young people triaged not going on to receive a substantive outcome. This performance relates to a small cohort of young people, there is no significant difference between performance this quarter and the previous couple of years and numbers remain relatively low. 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. The completion of high quality assessments with these young people, ensures 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 25 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice System by the end of Quarter 2 2021/22, compared to the target of 30 by this point in the year. Although this was higher than at the same point in 2020/21, offending levels dropped significantly around the coronavirus restrictions, and so are not directly comparable to the same period in 2021/22. Therefore, the targets for 2021/22 have been set in line with the targets for 2019/20.

There were no updates to the comparator data on First Time Entrants published by the Youth Justice Board for a significant period around the pandemic. We have now started to receive new updates. The data is published in rates per 100,000 10-17 year olds in each area to allow comparisons to be made. Islington's rate for the 2020 calendar year was 252 per 100,000, a fall from 367 per 100,000 in 2019. Whilst Islington remains above the England (172) and London (227) rates, we are now in line with the YOT Family (250). Islington has narrowed the gap with comparators, as the Islington rate fell by over 30%, whereas the comparators fell by around 15% each.

Reducing the number of first-time entrants remains an important priority and as such we are continuing to prioritise targeted 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. We continue to prioritise and respond to the needs of those at risk of offending with the continued support of commissioned services, interventions and other parts of the partnership. Triage interventions continue to be prioritised by way of improved assessment frameworks, quality assurance and tailored interventions.

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

1.3a - Corporate Indicator sub-measure: Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure

- 5.4 Only six of the 30 young offenders from 12 months ago had reoffended by the end of Q2 2021/22, so performance for this period was 20%. This is much better than the target of 37%, which is based on performance during the 12 months of the 2019/20 financial year. As with the First Time Entrants measure, as the coronavirus social restrictions have had an impact on the levels of offending in 2020/21, targets for the youth offending measures for 2021/22 have been based on 2019/20 targets.

This measure is 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 30 young offenders, there were 12 re-offences, making an average of 0.40 re-offences per offender. This is a big fall from last year, when there was an average 1.30 re-offences per offender.

As with the FTE data, the YJB have just started to release new data again, after a pause during the pandemic restrictions. The data released is for the re-offending of the July-September 2019 cohort of the following 12 months. In effect, this is twelve months behind our local measure, but

it does include revised data from the Police National Computer. The latest data is for a period where Islington re-offending rate peaked, and is in line with the figure reported for our main measure under the 'Q2 last year' heading. Islington is above the re-offending rate for our comparators. However, as we know re-offending fell after this point in our local data, we will track how this compares to other areas in future updates from the YJB. It is also worth noting that although the proportion of Islington young offenders who went on to re-offend was relatively high for this period, they only committed a relatively low number of offences. Each re-offender committed an average of 2.38 re-offences, which is one of the lowest 20% of rates in the country.

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. However, re-offending rates remain challenging post increase in the number of offences following periods of lockdown and the impact of the pandemic on outcomes for vulnerable children. There has been a focus, within the service, to identify and respond to this cohort to ensure robust intervention and enforcement where appropriate. Re-offending tracker data is reviewed to identify those young people who pose a high risk of further offending and to ensure appropriate oversight and allocation of resources to reduce risk of further offending. 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 four custodial sentences of Islington young people in the first two quarters of 2021/22. The target for the year was to have fewer than ten custodial sentences (in line with the target for 2019/20), so this measure is on target. The number for Q1-2 2020/21 is higher than the same period in 2020/21, when there was a particularly low number of custodial sentences, likely related to the impact of coronavirus.

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 is for July 2020 – June 2021, when the Islington rate was just 0.11 per 1,000. The Islington rate remains lower than the England (0.14), London (0.19) and the YOT Family (0.20) rates.

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.

1.5 - Number of domestic abuse offences

5.7 There have been 1,355 domestic abuse offences recorded in the first half of 2021/22. This is above the target for Q2 (1,332 – half of the year-end target of 2,664). Although this is marginally lower than the same period in 2020/21, it is within the 2% of last year's figure, and so is reported as 'in line' with previous performance. Domestic abuse has historically been under-reported, so the target for this measure is an increase in offences being reported to the police.

While the number of domestic abuses offences in Islington remains stable, we are continuing to see elevated referrals to our VAWG (Violence against women and girls) services in the borough, who supported 919 survivors and families during April – September this year an increase of 23% on the same period in 2020. The Domestic Abuse Daily Safeguarding Meeting (DSM) replaced the DA MARAC in January 2021, the DSM is a multi-agency fully integrated approach to needs management for survivors of DA, embedding the MARAC process into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The DSM is extremely busy and has seen a 188% increase in referrals in January – June 2021 compared to the same period in 2020-21 under the old MARAC system. The DSM is having a positive impact with responses to medium to high-risk referrals heard within 2-3 days at DSM compared to up to 45 days under the MARAC. The DSM has also achieved a 10% decrease in repeat referrals and a 305% increase in requests for civil and legal protections orders to protect survivors from the perpetrator.

The council is launching the new Islington VAWG strategy 2021- 2026 in November to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women and the 16 days of action. It is a comprehensive and partnership-focussed strategy that sets out a commitment to keep as many of our women and girls and their families as safe as possible, to make perpetrators accountable for their actions and to have a first-class system in place to achieve this.

6. Quarter 2 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	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	Q2 2021/22	On target ?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
2.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of schools engaged with the programme	25	22	40	12	No	21	No
2.5	Number of page views for 100 hours of the world of work	New indicator in 2020/21	4,504	2,000	1,522	Yes	1625	No

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

6.2 **Target not met.** 12 schools engaged with 100 hours of World of Work programme in Q1 & Q2, below the profiled target of 20 for this period.

Q2 has seen the relaunch of our 100 hours World of Work activity menu with a hybrid of online and in-person careers activities. We have seen strong engagement from secondary schools this quarter and continue our bespoke work with Beacon High, New River College, Samuel Rhodes and Richard Cloudesley Schools, with more activities scheduled for Q3 & Q4.

At present, primary school engagement is proving more challenging. In response to this, we are promoting our offer through the 11 by 11 menu (which has strong primary take up) and will follow up with all primary schools who request support in Q3. We are also working with primary Head Teachers through Islington Community of Schools (ICoS) Workstream 4 to build on their best practise in embedding careers in the primary curriculum.

Meetings with 6 primary school teachers have been set up to discuss careers planning, with activities planned to start after half term. Early feedback suggests that it would be easier for primaries to engage if careers activities were aligned with the curriculum and so we shall be scoping proposals to run a range of activities across National Careers Week in March 2022.

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

6.3 **Target met.** 1,522 page views in Q1&2, ahead of the target set of 1,000 page views for this period.

The number of page views dropped off during the summer holidays but have since increased with the reopening of schools in September and renewed interest in our activity menu. We will continue to add new resources, offers and partner activities to our menu pages and highlight these to schools via our weekly careers bulletin. Our home learning pages remain live and although not required while schools remain operating as normal, they are in place should any new Covid restrictions resulting in a return to hybrid learning being introduced.

7 Quarter 2 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	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	Q2 2021/22	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
3.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of children being supported through our Bright Islington family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000	1,035	985	n/a	984	n/a	993	In line
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%	57%	67% (Summer 2020/21 Academic Year)	Yes	Not available	n/a
3.6	Corporate Indicator: Percentage of mainstream school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	Not available due to Covid	TBC Published March 2022	At or below Inner London (9.9% in Aut & Spr 20/21)	10.4% (Autumn & Spring terms 20-21)	No	Not available due to Covid	n/a
3.6a	Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	Not available due to Covid	TBC Published March 2022	At or below Inner London (9.2% in Aut & Spr 20/21)	7.9% (Autumn & Spring terms 20-21)	Yes	Not available due to Covid	n/a
3.6b	Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	Not available due to Covid	TBC Published March 2022	At or below Inner London (10.9% in Aut & Spr 20/21)	14.1% (Autumn & Spring terms 20-21)	No	Not available due to Covid	n/a
3.8	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	182	247	253	234	Yes	242	Yes
3.18	Children's social care contacts in the past month	976 (March 2019)	971 (March 2020)	n/a	1,026 (Sept 2021)	n/a	1056 (Sept 2021)	Lower

3.18a	Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population	+3.5%	+2.8%	Lower than +2.8%	+3.0%	In line	+2.8%	In line
3.18b	Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population	+6.9%	+7.2%	Lower than +7.2%	+6.9%	Yes	+8.1%	Yes
3.18c	Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population	+6.0%	+8.7%	Lower than +8.7%	+3.9%	Yes	+7.1%	Yes
3.19	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.5%	17.5%	16.5%	21.3%	No	21.1%	In line
3.19a	Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months - Black-Caribbean ethnic group	18.2%	22.1%	Less than 22.1%	21.0%	Yes	30.8%	Yes
3.19b	Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months – White-British ethnic group	18.8%	19.8%	Less than 19.8%	23.8%	No	25.0%	Yes
3.20	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	199	194	200 or fewer	160	Yes	174	Yes
3.21	Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	18.3%	10.5%	16.5%	34.2%	No	13.6%	No
3.22	Percentage of children's social care assessments completed within time	91.0%	87.0%	89.0%	82.2%	No	89.1%	No

3.23	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	9.8%	15.0%	11.0%	3.6%	N/A	6.2%	Yes
3.24	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	73.1%	69.1%	70%	64.8%	No	62.4%	Yes
3.25	Number of Looked After Children	366	342	357	354	Yes	357	Lower / in line
3.27	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	15 (Mar 20)	13 (Mar 21)	n/a	11 (Sept 2021)	n/a	11 (Sept 20)	In line
3.28a	Percentage of primary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals	30.3% (Jan 20)	37.9% (Jan 21)	n/a	38.8% (Summer 21)	n/a	Not available due to Covid	N/A
3.28b	Percentage of secondary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals	34.3% (Jan 20)	37.5% (Jan 21)	n/a	38.7% (Summer 21)	n/a	Not available due to Covid	N/A
3.29	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	65	66	60	59	Yes (30 for Q2)	28	Yes
3.30	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	New indicator in 2020/21	20,192	10,000	9,211	Yes	4,622	Yes

3.2 - Corporate Indicator - Number of children being supported through our Bright Islington family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000

7.2 This Corporate Indicator has been added to show the number of children and young people accessing early help services. The rate of assessments per 10,000 under 18s has been used as the measure to allow us to make comparisons with other areas. This information is collected quarterly as part of the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance quarterly collections, so comparator data is available with a time lag of one quarter.

No targets are set for this measure, as an increase could be a positive move, if more families are willing to work with our services, or a negative move, if this is reflecting an increase in levels of need below social care thresholds.

The latest local data shows that the rate of early help assessments per 10,000 under 17s was 984 in Q2 2021/22, which is in line than 2020/21 as a whole and within 1% of the rate for Q2 in 2020/21.

The latest comparator data is for Q1 2021/22. In Q1, the Islington rate of early help assessments was 1,090 per 10,000, which was the highest in London by a considerable margin, and above the London average of 217 per 10,000. Note that some of the differences between local authority rates may reflect differences in the ways early help services are set up in different areas, and some changes in figures may reflect changes in reporting. Nevertheless, this comparison suggests that Islington has a strong early help offer, reaching a considerable proportion of the community.

Complexity of need has remained relatively high. However despite this, the majority of families who accessed family support made good progress and had improved circumstances at the end of their interventions based on the family outcomes star scores across a range of areas relating for family life.

On average, the three areas where the greatest improvement can be seen is education and learning, parental wellbeing and boundaries and behaviour. Parental wellbeing is the top area of need for parents accessing family support, so it is really positive that despite this being an area families feel most stuck this is one of the areas in which there is most impact.

91% of families remained free of any re referral to early help in the 12 months following the end of their intervention (at year end 20/21), suggesting that impact is sustained over the longer term.

3.3 - 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

7.3 As performance on this measure can be affected by changes in restrictions around coronavirus, a new target has been set to be at or above the Inner London average, rather than set a specific figure.

In Summer 2020/21 academic year, 565 2 year olds were taking up funded places, out of 839 eligible children on the DWP list from the previous term, meaning 67% of places were being taken up. The number of children taking up funded places increased on the previous term, whilst the actual number who were eligible had fallen.

Comparator data has now been provided for the Summer term by the DfE. This was using the January 2021 DWP list as a denominator, instead of the more recent list, and so reported the Islington take-up slightly lower at 64%. However, the Inner London average (excluding City of London) was 57%, so Islington was above the target.

While Islington's target of take up above the Inner London average has been met, we are aiming much higher. The Free Early Education Strategy 21-22 outlines approaches to increasing take up to at least where it was in autumn 2021 (70%). The strategy focusses on three areas: maximising the use of the DWP list of eligible 2 year olds, communication and data analysis. We are hopeful that with Bright Start services resuming more widely face to face, the regular touch points with eligible families will enable more consistent communication of the benefits of free early education. Working with colleagues across Bright Start, Fairer Together and social care we will also be developing a

much more targeted approach to supporting families with EAL and children known to social care services.

3.6 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of mainstream school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)

3.6a - Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)

3.6b - Corporate Sub-measure - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)

- 7.4 A lower proportion of primary school children were persistently absent across the Autumn and Spring terms 2020/21 than the Inner London target (7.9% in Islington compared to 9.2% across Inner London). However, 14.1% of Islington's secondary school pupils were persistently absent, compared to only 10.9% across Inner London. This means that Islington is above the Inner London target, looking at the overall headline measure for all mainstream shows.

The Islington Persistent Absenteeism Programme commenced in 2018/19 by identifying 12 primary schools with high rates of persistent absenteeism. The twelve primary schools met with the LA through a series of focussed meetings that developed strategies built around the themes outlined below:

- Management and leadership of the school's attendance strategy
- Ensuring parents met their responsibilities
- Effective support from partner agencies – Health, Families First, Early Intervention and Prevention
- Support and challenge from the local authority

In between these strategic meetings the LA worked with individual schools through a dedicated bespoke programme of support, based on local challenges.

As a result, persistent absence in these schools improved the overall persistence absence for the LA by 7%.

The programme was rolled out in 2019/20 but significantly interrupted by the pandemic.

In 2020/21 the programme has been relaunched. This year, the LA has identified and invited a further 12 primary schools and 7 secondary schools to participate in the programme. A meeting with secondary schools was held on the 1 November 2021. Following this meeting, the LA received positive feedback from secondary schools regarding how the programme can add value to their daily work. The programme this year will involve monthly meetings and followed up by bespoke support for schools that focus on local context and challenges.

3.8 - Number of Electively Home Educated pupils

- 7.6 During the pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of pupils being electively home educated. This is not a local phenomenon – we have reports of significant increases being reported in other local authorities via professional networks. This is now being monitored more closely, with an initial target set relating to the level seen during April 2021.

Whilst numbers rose during the Summer term of the 2020/21 academic year, some Year 11s have now 'aged out' of this cohort. Whilst this does happen at the end of every academic year, the

number of pupils electively home educated as at the end of September 2021 was below the number at the end of September 2020, and this was also below the target.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child, if he or she is of compulsory school age, is properly educated, the Education Act 1996 explicitly states that this does not have to be at school, and so parents have a right to educate their child at home. The act also states that "If your child has never been enrolled at a school, you are under no legal obligation to inform the local authority that he or she is being home educated, or gain consent for this".

As of 7 October 2021, the local authority was aware of 232 pupils being electively home educated. Less than 5% of these pupils have an education, health and care plan.

The main reasons parents give us for choosing to electively home educated are that they or their child is unhappy at school or that they want to educate their child in line with their culture/religion. In the last year around a third of parents have given risks around COVID as a reason.

At the point of notification from parents a safeguarding and education assessment is undertaken by the LA. The process is outlined below:

- Initial contact within 5 days via home visit where the family is agreeable (Access and Engagement Officer)
- Parallel checks with Children's Social Care, previous school, SEND team, health etc.
- Risk assessment completed on both safeguarding and education to determine next steps (e.g. Escalation procedures if there is any cause of concern, frequency of visits/contact)

The local authority does have a responsibility/duty to proactively monitor the suitability of arrangements and ensure at least an annual follow-up with families. A dedicated officer is responsible for arranging annual visits to meet with the parents and the child (ren) being home educated. This visit is not statutory. Due to the impact of the pandemic these visits were scheduled to either a virtual meeting or by telephone. Following the visit, a report is written. This is approved by the Head of School Improvement and shared with the parents.

The local authority continues to work with schools to ensure that any parents/carers considering elective home education are fully aware of the responsibilities they will be taking on and the implications for securing a school place in the future should they wish to.

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

7.7 A new Corporate Indicator looking at the number of children's social care contacts was introduced in 2020/21 as a result of the pandemic. In the initial weeks of lockdown, there was a considerable drop off in contacts. However, by the end of the year, the overall number of contacts in the year was in line with the number in 2019/20. Therefore, this measure is no longer a Corporate Indicator, but it continues to be monitored, after an increase in March 2021 as restrictions started to ease.

The number of contacts appear to have peaked in June 2021. The number of contacts in August and September 2021 have been slightly lower than the same months in 2020. However, the total for the entire quarter was quite large at 2,912, due to the still relatively high number of contacts in July. This was the highest number in Quarter 2 of any year since 2016/17.

No target set - safeguarding numbers are not suitable for targets.

The view of the Service is that contacts made are appropriate and indicate increasing need due to the pandemic.

Equalities sub-measures to the contacts measure were added in 2020/21, focussing on those ethnic groups who make up a significantly higher proportion of children's social care contacts than would be expected, based on our best estimates of the proportion of under-18s in Islington from these ethnic groups.

3.18a – Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group compared to overall population

- 7.8 An estimated 4.4% of the Islington under-18 population in 2021 are Black-Caribbean. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 7.4% of contacts made by the end of Q2 2021/22 involved young people from the Black-Caribbean ethnic group, an over-representation of 3.0%. This is a slightly higher over-representation than by the end of Q2 2020/21 or 2020/21 as a whole, although it is less of an over-representation than during 2019/20.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black-Caribbean young people from 2020/21 levels.

3.18b – Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from any Black ethnic group compared to overall population

- 7.9 An estimated 22.6% of the Islington under-18 population in 2021 are from a Black ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 29.5% of contacts made by the end of Q2 2021/22 involved young people from a Black ethnic group, an over-representation of 6.9%. This is a lower over-representation than by the end of Q2 last year, and less of an over-representation than during 2020/21 as a whole.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of Black young people from 2020/21 levels.

3.18c – Equalities Sub-measure - % of Children's Social Care contacts for YP from a Mixed ethnic group compared to overall population

- 7.10 An estimated 17.6% of the Islington under-18 population in 2021 are from a Mixed ethnic group. Excluding those cases where ethnicity hasn't been recorded, 21.5% of contacts made by the end of Q2 2021/22 involved young people from a Mixed ethnic group, an over-representation of 3.9%. This is a much lower over-representation than by the end of Q2 last year, and a much lower over-representation than during 2020/21 as a whole.

The target for this measure is based on a reduction in the over-representation of young people from a Mixed ethnic group from 2020/21 levels.

CSCT accept contacts from professionals and service users. Currently work is taking place regarding greater awareness of cultural context of need and unconscious bias within organisations. This may in the longer term result in a reduction in the over representation of service users from these ethnic groups being referred and greater culturally appropriate interventions in place early on to negate onward referral. The Islington Safeguarding Children partnership have recently set addressing inequality and disproportionality as one of its priorities.

3.19 – Corporate Indicator - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months

- 7.11 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. Families not being re-referred to social care would indicate sustained change and that their problems do not require statutory intervention. 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.

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 12 months has reduced in recent years and was 17.5% in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. We have 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 had 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%. The target for 2021/22 is more challenging at 16.5%.

239 out of 1,121 referrals in the first half of 2021/22 were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 21.3%, which is above the target. However, it is lower than the Q1 figure, and in line with the same period in 2020/21.

Comparator data for 2020/21 was published by the DfE at the end of October. This showed that across the country as a whole, the re-referral rate went up by 0.1% to 22.7%, and across London, the re-referral rate went up from 18.8% to 19.3%. This means Islington re-referral rate is lower than these comparators. Islington has now moved into the top quartile, nationally, on this measure (i.e. Islington is one of the 25% of local authorities with the lowest re-referral rates).

Recently one of the CIN teams that had a higher number of re-referrals has audited the cases – there were no concerns about cases being closed prematurely. Re-referrals had a number of cases that featured Domestic Violence & Abuse and contextual safeguarding as reason for referral.

3.19a – Corporate Sub-Measure - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months – Black-Caribbean ethnic group

and

3.19b – Corporate Sub-Measure - Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months – White-British ethnic group

7.12 As part of work looking at disproportionality around children's social care, it was found that re-referral rates for children and young people from the Black-Caribbean and White-British ethnic groups have been significantly above the Islington average over the last few years. Therefore, equalities sub-measures have been added to this Corporate Indicator to monitor this more frequently.

It should be noted that the percentages involved can relate to very low numbers of children and young people in the early part of the year, so performance can be volatile in quarters one and two. 17 out of 81 referrals involving Black-Caribbean young people were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. Currently, the re-referral rate for this ethnic group is below the Islington average. 64 out of 269 referrals involving White-British young people were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. Whilst this is above the target and above the Islington average, the gap between the rate for White-British young people and the Islington average is actually narrower than it was at the end of 2020/21.

Please see commentary for paragraphs 7.8 - 7.10

3.20 - Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan

7.13 Long term targets have been set as part of the Children and Families Outcomes Framework, agreed with the MHCLG, for the number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan to remain below selected levels each year. In 2021/22, the aim is for the number of plans at any one time to remain below 200. At the end of Q2 2021/22, this target was being met, as there were 160 children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan at the end of September 2021. This was particularly low figure.

Despite an increase in contacts to the service, the number of children who are the subject of child protection plans remains stable. This shows that while there has been a build-up of demand during the pandemic, service response has prevented such need leading to significant harm to children.

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

7.14 26 of the 76 children who became subject of Child Protection Plans in the first half of 2021/22 did so for the second or subsequent time. Although this equates to 34.2%, a relatively high percentage, the numbers involved are relatively low at the start of the year, and so the percentage can be very volatile to small changes in the numbers. Almost half of the children with repeat plans come from just four families. Overall, 20% of the 160 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Q2 2021/22 had previously had a plan.

The DfE published comparator data for 2020/21 at the end of October. This showed that Islington's performance on this measure was one of the best in the country. Islington had the sixth lowest proportion of children becoming subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time. However, the top three, all at 0%, were the small local authorities of City of London, the Isles of Scilly and Rutland. If we only consider authorities of a significant size, Islington had the third lowest percentage in 2020/21.

A smaller number of children on child protection plans may result in a higher concentration of families with chronic needs. Nevertheless, the following actions remain in place:

- Alerts raised of potential repeat plans before a conference is booked
- Child protection consultation to divert children who may not require a plan or if they do, ensure parallel plans are in place to ensure that the risk of drift is reduced
- Ensuring child protection plans end only once positive change for the child has been sustained.

3.22 - Percentage of children's social care assessments completed within time

7.15 By the end of Q2 2021/22, 82.2% of assessments completed in the year had been completed on time (982 out of 1,194). This is lower than the target of 89%. Assessment timeliness has historically been very strong in Islington, with the latest comparators for 2019/20 showing Islington being above the London and England rates for that year. However, the proportion completed on time dropped during 2020/21. Performance was strong in the first couple of months of this financial year, but dropped in June, and is now gradually recovering.

The DfE comparator data uses a slightly different measure on assessments, which includes review assessments. Islington tends to complete these reviews quickly, and so our performance reported for 2020/21 was 94.8%, better than the figure reported for our local measure. This puts Islington above the London and England comparators and in the top quartile, nationally.

The service believes that the pandemic has had some impact on performance on this indicator, in that sometimes difficult to meet with families due to isolation. Performance is expected to continue to improve in the next quarter.

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

- 7.16 13 of the 360 looked after children have experienced three or more placements in the year, at the end of Q2 2021/22. This is just over half the number at the same point in 2020/21. This measure is cumulative and the figures reset at the start of each financial year. Whilst it appears we are on course to meet the year-end target, the percentage with three or more placements tends to increase more quickly later in the year, as more time has elapsed in which individual children may have multiple moves.

Across the CLA Service there continues to be a focus on trying to improve placement stability for all children, making sure that we identify the right placements for our children as early as possible and that when carers start to struggle we offer early robust, multi-agency packages of support to the carer and the child.

There is a monthly Placement Stability Panel in place chaired by Senior Managers, as only they can agree a move for a child unless in an emergency.

3.24 - 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

- 7.17 The proportion of looked after children in long term stable placements was 64.8% at the end of Q2 2021/22. Although this has dropped since the end of 2020/21 and is below the 70% target, it is above the proportion in stable placements at the same point in 2020/21.

The majority of our children who have been in our care for more than two and a half years are in stable placements. A number of placement moves take place to support siblings to be reunited or to remain together and this is positive, given the research evidence about the benefits of siblings being placed together when they are in care. Where we have not yet been able to identify the right placement for our children, they are carefully reviewed by our Head of Service.

3.25 - Number of Looked After Children

- 7.18 After peaking in early 2020/21, the number of looked after children has reduced, and over the last twelve months has been fairly stable at around 350. There were 354 children looked after at the end of Q2 2021/22. 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 2021/22 was to have 357 or fewer children looked after, so this target is currently being met.

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

- 7.19 11 different Looked After Children were missing from care for 24 hours or more in September 2021. This is the same number as in September 2020, but a reduction on the number in the last month of 2020/21 (13).

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. Numbers have been relatively stable in recent quarters.

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 Board 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 every Friday to senior leaders.

3.28a – Percentage of primary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals

3.28b – Percentage of secondary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals

7.20 Applications for Free School Meals (FSM) were being reported in 2020/21 as there has been a substantial increase in the number of applications since the Covid-19 lockdown. However, now the collection of the School Census has resumed, we are focussing in on eligibility levels, as not all applications necessarily result in someone being found to be eligible.

No target has been set for these measures as they are not something our Pupil Services can directly affect, but generally we would want the figures to be low as they reflect the economic status of local families.

The proportion of Islington primary school pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals in Summer 2021 was 38.8%. We cannot make a comparison with the same point last year as the Summer School Census collection was cancelled, due to the school closures in the first national lockdown. However, we know that eligibility rates increased over 2020 to reach 37.9% in January 2021, so the Summer figure shows a further increase of 0.9%. Comparators are only published based on the January Census, but we know that Islington had the second highest proportion of eligible primary school pupils in the country at that point.

The proportion of Islington secondary school pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals in Summer 2021 was 38.7%, an increase of 1.2% on the January 2021 figure. Based on the January figures, Islington had the fifth highest proportion of secondary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals in the country, down from the fourth highest in 2020.

It is worth noting that eligibility rates may look artificially high up to March 2022, due to transitional protections related to the rollout of Universal Credit. Pupils eligible on or after 1 April 2018 retain their free school meals eligibility even if their circumstances change.

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

7.21 **Target is met.** 59 unique schools engaged in Q2, ahead of the target set of 30 schools for this period: 39 Primary, 3 Special Primary, 1 PRU Primary and 1 PRU Secondary, 6 Secondary, 4 Special Secondary and 5 children's centres/nursery.

As predicted in the Q1 report, 11 by 11 benefitted from excellent schools engagement following the Celebrating Our Creative Community Festival, 5-9 July 2021, and the reopening of the 11 by 11 Activity Menu, in addition to ongoing CPD offers. We have had engagement from 59 unique settings, and a total of 64 settings engaged (including repeat engagement over quarters).

The Cultural Enrichment Team expect to maintain this level of engagement over the coming quarter. The forthcoming Activity Menu will cover the Autumn and Spring terms and features a range of options, both in person and online. Additionally, the Culture Bank Challenging Inequalities CPD programme begins in Q3 during October 2021, and these attendees will further contribute to overall engagement figures in the coming quarter.

Secondary Engagement in 11 by 11 & Targeting vulnerable groups

Joint working across the Enrichment Workstream continues to focus on engaging children and young people in more challenging circumstances via a tailored approach. Priority groups which were identified by the Enrichment Workstream in 2020-21 have continued into this reporting year, and these were set as the Children in Need (CIN) service, Beacon High's Pathways and Wellness and Inclusion Unit (focused on young people most at risk of exclusion), and the PRUs.

Across Q2, 11 by 11 linked with 8 Islington secondary schools, predominantly via the Celebrating Our Creative Community Festival and more recently via the Autumn/Spring term Activity Menu. Much of Q2 covered the summer holiday break for schools and thus limited chances for interaction with the programme by young people.

Moving forward into the academic year, there will be more teacher CPD development, offers for students, and targeted interventions particularly aimed at young people in more challenging circumstances across in a selection of settings.

Priority work in 2021-22 with secondary aged students is being defined by the team and 11 by 11's wider governance at present, and further progress will be reported from Q3. Work with the CIN service is set to continue, while Beacon High and the PRUs may also have some activity take place as part of legacy embedding.

Targeting areas of low engagement

At the outset 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. Across the programme's run, the team has made an effort of prioritise expressions of interest in the Activity Menu for these settings, and to engage them on a regular basis with training opportunities where possible.

Through continued offers of blended options for engagement for training and activity to schools, we have maintained the level of engagement with our target schools for 11 by 11 in this academic year, with an overall 77% engagement rate.

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

7.22 Target is **met** – 9,211 unique page views compared to target of 5,000.

This indicator is significantly ahead of target. The number is reflective of the high level of engagement from schools with 11 by 11's Activity Menu, and MEI's online engagement via their Lockdown, Seasons Change events, and general website interaction.

Total YTD unique page views: 9,211

8. Quarter 2 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	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	Q2 2021/22	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
6.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	91.2%	91.2%	94% (New target based on Inner London average)	92.5%	n/a	91.2%	Yes

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

8.2 School inspections were on hold during the coronavirus restrictions. There have been no new inspection reports published, as at the end of September 2021, from the last time this was reported to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. However, Islington's percentage of good and outstanding schools has improved, due to the closure of Clerkenwell Parochial CofE Primary School. By removing their 'inadequate' inspection judgement, the Islington figure has increased to 92.5% of schools judged to be good or outstanding. This has meant Islington's ranking, nationally, has moved up from 41st to 33rd and Islington is once more in the top quartile on this measure.

3 schools are requiring improvement and at awaiting inspection. 2 of these schools have received positive monitoring visits from Ofsted. 3 schools were converted to academy status and 1 school has recently opened, as a result 4 schools are awaiting an inspection. Requiring Improvement and schools converted or newly open are all subject to a Section 5 inspection from Ofsted. This is grade change inspection.

Phase	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Converted to academy and waiting inspection
Primary	9 (20%)	35 (76%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Secondary	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)
Special (including New River College)	5 (57%)	3 (34%)	0 (0%)	1 (11%)

It is proposed that we set a target for this measure, in line with other education-related measures, we should aim for Islington to be at or better than the Inner London average. This is a stretch target as we are already well above the national average. Islington would meet this target with one improvement in an inspection outcome for a school currently judged to be 'requires improvement'.

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]

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