

Children's Services

222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Ward(s): All

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## Subject: Children's Services Quarter 4 2022-23 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 is 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 Quarter 4 2022-23 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 review the performance data for Q4 2022/23 for measures relating to Children's Services.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The performance measures covered by this report are largely based on the Corporate Performance Indicator set, which is refreshed annually. Additional measures that were not available during the pandemic have been brought back into the basket of indicators for 2022/23. For example, many of the measures relating to pupil attainment were not available for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, as Teacher Assessed Grades and Centred Assessed Grades

replaced exams. The 2022/23 Corporate Indicators for Children's Services have been selected so that they are aligned with the key objectives in the Service Plans developed for 2022/23.

- 3.2. Some additional measures which are not Corporate Indicators are also reported to provide an overall context to the quality of provision in Islington, such as the proportion of schools judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- 3.3. Note that not every measure is available or updated every single quarter. Therefore, there will be some gaps in the numbering used in this report. Where applicable, performance is reported once comparator data becomes available, to give context to the performance. In some cases, there are time lags in this data becoming available (e.g., pupil suspensions and exclusions, which are reported to the local authority up to two terms in arrears and comparator data is not available until the end of the following academic year – i.e. July 2022 for 2020/21 data).
- 3.4. This report is currently structured using the outcome areas from the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. Although the 2021 Strategic Plan has been published, the priorities do not cover every area of Children's Services. Therefore, we are continuing to use the objectives from the previous plan to help structure these performance reports.

## 4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q3 2022/23 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q3 2022/23 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. There were no outstanding formal actions from the Q3 report.

## 5. Quarter 4 2022-23 performance update - Make sure young children get the best start

### 5.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Make sure young children get the best start':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q4 2022/23	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
1.1	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement	61% (Spring term 2020/21 AY)	70% (Spring term 2021/22 AY revised)	> same term previous year	75% (Spring term 2022/23 AY)	Yes	70% (Spring term 2021/22 AY)	Yes
1.2	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of families achieving a good outcome in the Supporting Families Programme	Not comparable	Not comparable	292	249 adjusted to 292	Yes	502	-
1.3	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Total number of children and young people supported by Islington services	-	-	n/a	2,060	n/a	n/a	-
1.4	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % of eligible children & young people aged 4-15 taking part in the holiday activity and food programme	-	-	> same term previous year	20% (Easter 2023 offer)	n/a	18% (Easter 2022 offer)	n/a
1.5	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 5–12-year-olds	1,030	2,047	>2,047	2,134	Yes	2,047	Stable
1.6	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds	1,062	2,089	>2,089	2,261	Yes	2,089	Yes
1.7	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 5–12-year-olds	1,583	3,185	>3,185	3,151	No	3,185	Stable

1.8	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds	1,972	3,875	>3,875	3,961	Yes	3,875	Stable
1.12	Number of children being supported through our Bright Start & Bright Futures family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000	(not comparable to 2022-23)	(not comparable to 2022-23)	n/a	359	n/a	Not comparable	Not comparable

### 1.1 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement

- 5.2. The 2022/23 Spring Term saw a 5%-point increase in take up of Free Early Education Places for eligible two-year-olds, in comparison to 70% in the same period in 2021/22. Therefore, this measure is above the target. Islington's Spring Term figure was also above the Inner London average of 67%.

Islington's approach to increasing take up continues to deliver encouraging improvements. In March 2023, the Early Years and Childcare service started work with early help and social care colleagues to identify and support eligible families who are already known to services. We will build on this work in the coming months. We are also planning to utilise visual mapping of areas with low take up to enable targeted outreach within these areas.

### 1.2 - Corporate Indicator - Number of families achieving a good outcome in the Supporting Families Programme

- 5.3. There were 19 families that achieved the full range of outcomes in Q4, taking the total up to 249 families at the end of Q4 in 2022/23. Including the 43 outcomes carried over from 2021/22, we have achieved over 100% of our year-end target of 292 families. While this is lower in comparison to the 502 families at the end of Q4 in 2021/22, the figures are not directly comparable.

### 1.3 - Corporate Indicator - Total number of children and young people supported by Islington services

- 5.4. This new measure replaces the "Number of families supported by Supporting Families Programme" indicator. The previous measure was added as a Corporate Indicator to provide further context to the measure above but was only reporting on new families that we had not previously worked with. This new measure shows how many children and young people aged 0-19 Islington services are working with and includes those supported by Early Help and Children Social Care. A total of 2,060 children and young people were supported at the end of Q4.

This number is total of 1,332 children and young people in CIN, CLA and CP caseloads, and 728 children and young people in families with an open Early Help episode.

#### **1.4 - Corporate Indicator - % of eligible children & young people aged 4-15 taking part in the holiday activity and food programme**

- 5.5. Figures for the Easter holiday 2023 show that 20% eligible children attended the programme. Although data shows a 2% increase compared to the same period last year, the data is not directly comparable due to some process changes. This year 32 providers delivered the programme over Easter compared to 27 last year. A new booking system has been introduced and will be rolled out fully for the Summer allowing for greater efficiency and more accurate recording of eligible children. Processes are being developed to better understand the needs of children with SEND interested in joining the programme to increase accessibility, ensure appropriate support is in place and increase take up for this group.

#### **1.5 - Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 5-12-year-olds**

- 5.6. Quarter 4 figures show 2,134 participants aged 5-12 at Youth & Play provision in 2022/23 financial year. Participants are those that have five or more contacts at the same provision within a year. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a participant at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of participants during the same period of the previous year. Previous year figure is 2,047, so performance is in line with and slightly up on last.

This performance is particularly pleasing as two of the twelve adventure playgrounds were closed throughout the 2022/23 year for major capital projects. This performance confirms that despite the number of contacts being marginally down on last year, proportionally more children are attending adventure playgrounds regularly. This in turn means that they are more likely to be benefiting from the support of consistent relationships with skilled play workers.

#### **1.6 - Corporate Indicator - Number of participants at Youth and Play provision - 13 to 25-year-olds**

- 5.7. Quarter 4 figures show 2,261 participants aged 13-25 at Youth & Play provision in 2022/23 financial year. Participants are those that have five or more contacts at the same provision within a year. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a participant at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of participants during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q4 figure is 2,089, so performance is up on last year.

This performance is positive as it suggests that more young people are benefiting from the protective factors afforded by quality youth work relationships that are consistent and sustained. Extending access to quality youth work relationships and experiences to young people in Islington is a key part of our approach to prevention and early help.

#### **1.7 - Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 5-12-year-olds**

- 5.8. Quarter 4 figures show 3,151 contacts aged 5-13 at Youth & Play provision in 2022/23 financial year. Contacts are children and young people who attend at least one session

at a provider. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a contact at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of contacts during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q4 figure is 3,185, so the figures are in line with but slightly down on last year.

This slightly reduced figure is expected, as two adventure playgrounds have been closed for the full year, undergoing rebuilds. Cornwallis and MLK Adventure Playgrounds will both reopen in time for a full 2023 summer programme. Another factor which may be driving this slight reduction is a lower number of children in the primary age cohort as a whole, particularly in the south of the borough, which is where some playgrounds have experienced reduced numbers of contacts this year.

### **1.8 - Corporate Indicator - Number of contacts at Youth and Play provision - 13- to 25-year-olds**

- 5.9. Quarter 4 figures show 3,961 contacts aged 13-25 at Youth & Play provision in 2022/23 financial year. Contacts are children and young people who attend at least one session at a provider. Figures relate to unique individuals, so if someone is a contact at two different provisions, they are counted once. Target is based on the number of contacts during the same period of the previous year. Previous year Q4 figure is 3,875, so the figures are in line with and slightly up on last year.

### **1.12 - Number of children being supported through our Bright Start & Bright Futures family support offer – rate of assessments per 10,000**

- 5.10. This indicator 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. The methodology of this measure has been reviewed, as the Islington figures were always the highest in London in previous quarters. A change to the methodology has been made for 2022/23. Rather than reporting on all open cases during a quarter where there has been an assessment at some point since the case started, this measure is now only reporting on those open cases where there was an assessment completed in the quarter in question. Therefore, previous figures are not presented here as they are not directly comparable.

The Islington figure for Q4 is 359 children, based on 328 assessments and calculated as annualised rate of the 0–17-year-old population of 36,529.

## 6. Quarter 4 2022-23 performance update - Always keep children and young people safe and secure and reduce the number of children growing up in poverty

6.1. Key performance Indicators relating to Always keep children and young people safe and secure and reduce the number of children growing up in poverty':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q4 2022/23	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
2.1	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Number of Looked After Children	342 (March 2021)	385 (March 2022)	<b>No target</b>	<b>324 (March 2023)</b>	n/a	385 (March 2022)	<b>Yes</b>
2.2	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> % of repeat CLA	5.9%	5.0%	<b>&lt;=5.0%</b>	<b>8.7% (Q4 2022/23)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	5% (Q4 2021/22)	<b>No</b>
2.3	Attendance of CIN	87.6%	84.0%	<b>No target</b>	<b>84% (2021/22)</b>	n/a	87.6%	<b>No</b>
2.4	Attainment of Children in Need (CIN) - KS2 (% of CIN achieving expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)	Not available due to covid	31% (2021/22)	<b>No target</b>	<b>31% (2021/22)</b>	n/a	Not available due to covid	<b>n/a</b>
2.5	Attainment of Children in Need (CIN) - KS4 (Attainment 8)	21.3	22.4	<b>No target</b>	<b>22.4 (2021/22)</b>	n/a	21.3 (2020/21)	<b>Yes</b>
2.6	Number of children and young people referred to the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Central Point of Access	1,484	2,162	<b>&gt;2,162</b>	<b>2,371 (2022-23 FY)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	2,162 (2021-22 FY)	<b>Yes</b>
2.7	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,126 (March 2021)	1,011 (March 2022)	n/a	<b>1,303 (March 2023)</b>	n/a	1,011 (March 2022)	<b>Higher</b>

2.8	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.5%	17.6%	n/a	<b>17.2% (2022-23)</b>	n/a	17.6% (2021/22)	<b>Yes</b>
2.9	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	194	160	n/a	<b>169 (end of 2022-23)</b>	n/a	160 (end of 2021/22)	<b>Higher</b>
2.10	Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	10.5%	23.8%	n/a	<b>24% (2022-23)</b>	n/a	23.8% (2021/22)	<b>No</b>
2.11	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	15.0%	10.9%	n/a	<b>11.1% (2022-23 FY)</b>	n/a	10.9% (2021/22 FY)	<b>No</b>
2.12	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	69.1%	65.1%	n/a	<b>63% (2022-23 FY)</b>	n/a	66.3% (2021/22 FY)	<b>Yes</b>
2.14	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	13 (Mar 21)	8 (Mar 22)	n/a	<b>9 (March 2023)</b>	n/a	8 (Mar 22)	<b>Stable</b>
2.15	Percentage of primary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals	37.9% (Spring 2021 term)	40.2% (Spring 2022 term)	n/a	<b>41.5% (Spring term 2023)</b>	n/a	40.2% (Spring 2022 term)	<b>Higher</b>
2.16	Percentage of secondary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals	37.6% (Spring 2021 term)	41.6% (Spring term 2022)	n/a	<b>44.4% (Spring term 2023)</b>	n/a	41.6% (Spring term 2022)	<b>Higher</b>

## 2.1 - Corporate Indicator - Number of Looked After Children

6.2. The number of Children Looked After continues to go down and at the end of March 2023, was 324.



There were more children ceasing to be looked after (42) than becoming looked after (21). Short term increases in the number of Children Looked After relating to older Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) have occurred frequently in recent years. As many recent UASC are aged 17, they are ceasing to be looked after in this financial year. There were 35 UASC CLA in the cohort at the end of March 2023. Focused work has taken place on reducing the number of children becoming Looked After by:

Initiating pre proceedings PLO before court action is taken wherever safe to do so  
Adolescent Support Intervention Project  
Utilising all Family and Friends

## **2.2 - Corporate Indicator - % of repeat CLA**

- 6.3. This indicator is based on number of children who started to be looked-after in the reported quarter who had previously been looked-after in the last 12 months.

There were 23 children started to be looked after in Q4 of 2022/23. Two of these children were previously looked after in the last 12 months, equating to 8.7%. The target for this new measure is to be at or below 5%; It should be noted that this measure is based on relatively small numbers and as such, performance can be rather volatile. In recent years this measure has tended to be at or just above 5% and as at the end of Q4, the cumulative figure was 7.2 % for 2022/23.

We have analysed the reasons for the 7 children and young people who re-entered care. The reasons include unaccompanied and separated children who re-entered care following legal challenge of the outcome of his age assessment, a change in court order or adolescents who choose to go home and their families want them home only to then go into crisis and come back into care. Challenges in placements sufficiency and identifying adequate placements for children also feature in this analysis, especially with the most complex and emotionally dysregulated children for whom settling in a placement is a significant challenge.

There continues to be robust senior management oversight of all children that return home.

## **2.3 – Attendance of CIN**

- 6.4. DfE published 2021/22 attendance figure for CIN at 31st March 2022 shows the attendance of CIN at 84%, lower than the previous year's attendance.

The Virtual School are offering targeted consultation and intervention with a monthly panel set up to improve the attendance of children in school. Work is underway with schools including piloting Team Around the Child Meetings in schools. Lots of enrichment activities are taking place and there was a very successful Easter Programme. The Virtual Head teacher is working to deliver the expectations of the Department for Education which includes raising the attendance of children with a Social Worker.

## **2.4 – Attainment of Children in Need (CIN) - KS2 (% of CIN achieving expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths)**

- 6.5. DfE published Key Stage 2 attainment figure for CIN at 31st March 2022 shows the % of CIN achieving expected level in Reading, Writing & Maths as 31% in 2021/22.

Previous year's data is not available due to Covid.

In September 2021 the local authority extended the role of the Virtual School to Children with a Social Worker, this was in line with the duty on all local authorities to promote the education of children with a social worker. Since September 2021 there has been a dedicated post within the Virtual School to carry out this role. While outcomes for children in KS2 are roughly comparable with other CIN, it remains significantly below that of other children. Our aim is to level up children's outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. Since September 2021 the Virtual School has put in place the following:

- Through training, resources and consultation with schools and Children's Social Care, the Virtual School has made visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker experience and enhanced partnerships between education settings and local authorities. The work of the Virtual School has assisted all agencies hold higher aspirations for these children and assisted with planning to improve attendance.
- The Virtual School has promoted best practice, though its direct work with schools and Children's Social Care that supports children's engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm.

## **2.5 – Attainment of Children in Need (CIN) - KS4 (Attainment 8)**

6.6. DfE published Key stage 4 Attainment 8 score for CIN at 31st March 2022 is 22.4. The A8 has been increasing steadily for this cohort.

It is positive that Attainment 8 is steadily improving, and this reflects the increased focus on improving outcomes for CIN. In addition to what is mentioned above the Virtual School has put in place specific interventions to support pupils at KS4. These include:

- Advising schools on the most effective strategies and interventions to support pupils at KS4, including the most effective use of Pupil Premium.
- Supporting pupils to access interventions outside of school, this has included advising parents and carers on how to access support and positive activities in community.
- Packages of support, including tuition, mentoring and careers advice for pupils at risk of not achieving their expected grades.

## **2.6 - Number of children and young people referred to the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Central Point of Access**

6.7. This measure has been added to reflect the work of the Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Central Point of Access (CPA), which started in late September 2019. The target is for an increase in the number of referrals compared to the previous year, to reflect the intended increased awareness of the services available and the NHS targets to increase access to SEMH support. The total number of referrals at the end of

quarter 4 was 2,371, a higher number in comparison to last year's 2,162. The service has achieved its target.

To ensure that the CPA is able to continue to get referrals to the right team as quickly as possible in the light of rising referral numbers, we have secured additional investment from the Integrated Care Board for additional clinical and administrative time. Recruitment is underway for this new capacity in Q1.

### **2.7 - Children's social care contacts in the past month**

- 6.8. There were 1,303 children's social care contacts in March 2023. This was higher than the 1,011 contacts received in March 2022. Across 2022/23, there have been 12,455 contacts, an increase on 12,214 in 2021/22.

There were 990 children's social care contacts in June 2022. This was significantly lower than the 1,254 contacts received in June 2021. This appeared to be part of an ongoing trend – the numbers of contacts had been lowering each month during the first half of 2022. In September 22, these rose, – we thought that it might be a one-off increase as reports from the CSCT was that families were experiencing hardship from recent inflation. However, this seems to have remained. This may be due to the ongoing impact of covid and the recession that has impacted on families. The view of the Service remains in that contacts made from the partnership are appropriate. Following the National Panel Review into the deaths of Star and Arthur there was an audit of contacts by family members and/or friends as this was a theme raised by those Reviews. The outcome of the audit was that these referrals are being responded to appropriately with correct levels of threshold /intervention.

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

- 6.9. 420 out of the 2447 referrals in 2022/23 were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 17.2% of referrals. This is in line compared to performance for the whole of 2021/22 (17.5%).

We continue to see a reduction in re-referral rates; previous audits of re-referrals did not highlight any areas of concern. Examples of re-referral reasons were families who did want a social care service post assessment or where the referral was unrelated to the previous referral, such as exploitation. Due to this, re-referrals were not a specific focus of our quality assurance activity in the last quarter, however re-referral rates are continuously monitored, and action will be taken should re-referral rates increase.

### **2.9 - Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan**

- 6.10. 169 children were supported by a Child Protection Plan at the end of March 2023. This is slightly higher than the same point in 2021/22, when there were 160 children supported by a Child Protection Plan.

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

- 6.11. 40 of the 167 children who became newly supported by a Child Protection Plan in 2022/23 did so for a second or subsequent time, equating to 24%. This is higher than the same period in 2021/22 as a whole. An annual report on this indicator will be completed including all children's cases audited by a senior manager independent of the case to further

understand the themes of why children need to be supported for a subsequent time by a Child Protection Plan.

Over the last two years, we have seen an overall reduction in children needing to be newly supported by child protection plans. Consequently, while the actual number of children needing repeat child protection plans is low, the overall percentage is high. This suggests a concentrated group of children with chronic problems. The measures introduced to reduce the number of repeat plans includes (1) the CP Coordinator and their Service Manager being alerted to any potential repeat plan to ensure sound decision making, and (2) prior to social work teams recommending for a CP plan to end, a consultation is sought to ensure any positive change for children's outcomes can be sustained to reduce the risk of a repeat plan.

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

- 6.12. As at the end of March 2023, 36 of the 324 Children Looked After had had three or more placements during the year. This equates to 11.1%. which is higher than the same point in 2021/22 (10.9%). This measure is cumulative, and the figures reset at the start of each financial year.

An analysis of the reasons for short term placement instability for the full year is currently being completed and can be reported on in the next Quarter's report.

### **2.12 - 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**

- 6.13. At the end of March 2023, 58 of the 92 looked after children who had been looked after long-term were in stable placements, which equates to 63%. This is a lower percentage than at the end of March 2022.

An analysis of the reasons for long term placement instability for the full year is currently being completed and can be reported on in the next Quarter's report.

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

- 6.14. 9 children went missing from care for 24+ hours in March 2023 (10 incidents between them) in comparison to 8 children in March 2022. Whilst this is not a significant increase, the Exploitation and Missing team continue to prioritise quality assuring the services response to young people who are missing or away from placement without authorisation. This work includes professional training, daily reviewing of missing episodes, collating missing briefings for senior managers and chairing the strategy meetings when a young person is missing.

### **2.15 - Percentage of primary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals**

- 6.15. Based on January 2023 school census, 41.5% of primary school pupils at Islington schools were free school meal eligible. This was an increase of 1.3% compared to previous year's Spring term. However, as in previous year, the figure also includes pupils who are eligible because of the Universal Credit transition period.

### **2.16 - Percentage of secondary school pupils eligible for Free School Meals**

- 6.16. Based on January 2023 school census, 44.4% of secondary school pupils at Islington schools were free school meal eligible. This was an increase of 2.8% compared to previous year's Spring term. However, as in previous year, the figure also includes pupils who are eligible because of the Universal Credit transition period.

## 7. Quarter 4 2022-23 performance update - Ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive

- 7.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q4 2022/23	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
3.1	<b>Corporate indicator</b> - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	9.6% (20/21 AY)"	<b>18.4% (21/22 AY)</b>	<b>&lt; 23.3% Inner London</b>	<b>24.5% (Aut 2022/23 term)</b>	<b>No</b>	18.0% (Aut 2021/2 2)	<b>No</b>
3.2	<b>Corporate indicator</b> - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)	18.6% (20/21 AY)"	<b>26.5% (21/22 AY)</b>	<b>&lt; 23.6% Inner London</b>	<b>28.0% (Aut 2022/23 term)</b>	<b>No</b>	23.8% (Aut 2021/2 2)	<b>No</b>
3.3	Percentage rate of suspensions - primary	1.46% (2020/21 AY)	TBC – July 2023	<b>&lt; 0.25 Inner London</b>	<b>0.58% (2021/22 Spring term)</b>	<b>No</b>	0.28% (2020/1 2 Spring Term)	<b>No</b>
3.4	Percentage rate of suspensions - secondary	14.95% (2020/21 AY)	TBC – July 2023	<b>&lt; 3.35 Inner London</b>	<b>8.11% (2021/22 Spring term)</b>	<b>No</b>	1.74% (2020/2 1 Spring Term)	<b>Yes</b>
3.8	Progress 8 (between Key Stage 2 and 4)	n/a	0.07 (2021/22)	<b>&gt;0.2 (Inner London)</b>	<b>0.07 (2021/22)</b>	<b>No</b>	n/a	<b>n/a</b>

3.10	% of 16 & 17 year old residents NEET or in not known activity	4.8%	4.6%	=< 4.0%	4.5%	No	4.6%	Yes
3.17	Percentage rate of suspensions - Black-Caribbean secondary school pupils	27.76% (2020/21 Academic year)	TBC	< 7.72% (Inner London 2021/22)	18.6% (2021/22 Spring Term)	No	3.74% (2020/21 Spring Term)	Yes
3.18	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	247	258	n/a	294	n/a	237	No
3.21	Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme	66	64	60	60	yes	64	No
3.22	Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages	20,192	15,815	12,000	15,939	Yes	15,815	In line
3.23	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	91.2%	92.5%	>94.8% (based on Inner London average)	97.1% (March 2023)	Yes	92.5%	Yes

### 3.1 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of primary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)

7.2. The 2022/23 Autumn term figure shows 24.5% of primary school children having had been persistently absent. The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average which was 23.3%. Therefore, this target was not achieved.

Islington ranked 137 out of 151 local authorities, nationally.

Absence attributed to ill-health was higher than for this time last year, and we are drilling further into the reasons for this to see if there are any common factors.

Overall, our approach to reducing persistent absence focuses on the following four priorities:

Priority	What will success look like?
All parents meet their responsibilities to ensure their child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents understand the need for their child to be 'school ready' and how this prepares them for school, college, work and life</li> <li>Parents know who they can talk to if they have concern about their child's attendance</li> </ul>

attends school regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents understand the need to have high aspirations and expectations for their child</li> </ul>
All schools have effective leadership and management of attendance in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All schools (including Governors) know what they need to do to improve attendance</li> <li>• Where improvements are not sustained, schools are challenged in line with the LAs support and intervention framework</li> <li>• All schools make good use of attendance data</li> <li>• All schools make effective use of legal processes</li> </ul>
All partners provide needs-based support to improve attendance at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools identify children and young people at risk of becoming persistently absent at an early stage</li> <li>• Schools and partners put in place effective approaches, assessments and plans for children and young people where attendance is a concern</li> </ul>
The Local Authority continues to challenge and support schools to ensure measures taken to improve attendance are effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High profile key attendance messages are maintained in the community</li> <li>• Everyone in the community understands what they can do to support improvements in school attendance.</li> <li>• A School Attendance Support Team is established and operational with termly meetings in every school by September 2023 (see below)</li> </ul>

'[Working Together to Improve Attendance](#)' (DfE Guidance) requires all local authorities to have in place a School Attendance Support Team that works with all schools in its area by September 2023 to provide the following core functions free of charge to all schools:

*Communication and advice:* including clear guidance on how schools, the School Attendance Support Team and other partners should work together to provide support for individual pupils and families and providing each school with a named point of contact in the School Attendance Support Team.

*Targeting Support Meetings:* including termly meetings with each school to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so.

*Muti-Disciplinary Support:* building on the existing early help offer and in line with early help principles, with support from the team or service best placed to support the family and their needs, which may be the school, a local authority team or service or another statutory partner such as a health professional.

*Legal intervention:* where all voluntary support options are unsuccessful or are not appropriate the LA should liaise with school and lead practitioner to take forward attendance legal intervention.

Plans for implementation of the above are in place for a September 2023 launch as required. These have been ratified and signed off by the DfE, with positive feedback on detail and readiness. Support will be prioritised for schools where attendance is most impacted. All schools have been categorised according to levels of absence, and

intervention will be proportionate to absence levels, with four primary schools identified as requiring intensive support because of high levels of persistent absence.

Children in Need are also a priority group for improved attendance and there will be a multi-agency approach to this. See section 6.4 for more information of CIN attendance.

### **3.2 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of secondary school children who are persistently absent (below 90% attendance)**

- 7.3. The 2022/23 Autumn term figure shows 28.0% of secondary school children having had been persistently absent. The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average which was 23.6%. Therefore, this target did not achieve the target.

Islington ranked 89<sup>th</sup> out of 151 local authorities nationally.

See 7.2 above for information about our overall approach to addressing poor attendance and School Attendance Support Teams. All schools have been categorised according to levels of absence and intervention will be proportionate to absence levels, with four secondary schools identified as requiring intensive support because of high levels of persistent absence.

### **3.3 - Percentage rate of suspensions – Primary schools**

- 7.4. DfE's permanent exclusions and suspensions data was previously only available on an annual basis. This has changed with the 2021/22 academic year releases and the data for this academic year will be available on termly basis.

2021/22 Spring term published figure showed Islington primary schools to have 0.58 suspension rate. This is an increase on last Spring term's percentage. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 0.25 so the target for this term is not met.

While the gap between inner-London and Islington figures has widened, local data for the subsequent academic year 2022/23 indicates that the suspension rate has reduced across the majority of primary schools, with two schools accounting for 40% of all primary suspensions. One of these schools is in a Project Group due to a range of concerns (leadership and financial), while the other is part of the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme which focuses on reducing suspensions through whole school strategies addressing inclusion and healthy relationships.

### **3.4 – Percentage rate of suspensions – Secondary schools**

- 7.5. 2021/22 Spring term published figure showed Islington secondary schools to have 8.11 suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 3.35 so the target for this term is not met

While the gap between inner-London and Islington has widened, local data for the subsequent academic year 2022/23 indicates a significant reduction in the combined figure of the two schools with the highest number of suspensions, falling by 336 (66%) when comparing data from Autumn Term 2022 to Spring Term 2023. Islington's suspension rate remains a key focus of discussion and collaborative problem-solving for the Islington Secondary School and College Leadership (ISSCL) group



In addition, two other academy schools have joined the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme as outlined above which aims to reduce suspensions and exclusions through whole school initiatives

### **3.10 - % of 16 & 17 year old residents NEET or in not known activity**

- 7.6. The performance measure for NEET & Not Known looks at December to February 3-month average figure of young people NEET and in not known activities. The 2022/23 provisional average for Islington was 4.5% (154 young people). 1.9% (64) of these are NEET young people with the remaining 2.6% (90) accounting for Not Unknown activity.

Islington's rate went down slightly from 4.6% in the year 2021/22. The data also compares favourably with the national average of 5.2% but is higher than the London average of 3.4%.

Improved internal data sharing agreements and additional collaboration across services have been put in place to ensure a more coordinated approach to tracking unknown activity and meeting the support needs of those that are NEET. Early identification using RONI indicators and continued work with at risk cohorts in school will lead to further improvements in this area.

### **3.17 - Percentage rate of suspensions – Black Caribbean secondary school pupils**

- 7.7. The published Spring 2021/22 term figures show the suspension rate for Black Caribbean secondary school pupils as 18.6%. This figure is above the inner London and national comparators.

As part of the council's early intervention and prevention offer, the 'Becoming a Man (BAM)' strand of the 'Young Black Men and Mental Health Programme' is being delivered across three Islington Secondary Schools: Central Foundation Boys School, Arts and Media School Islington and Beacon High. The programme started in November 2022 and is funded to run for 24 months.

The aim of the programme is to reduce exclusion and offending among pupils of Black and Mixed Heritage, as well as addressing issues relating to their over-representation in these figures.

Each school has an allocated BAM counsellor who works full-time on site to deliver up to five groups of ten pupils each, over the period of their engagement. BAM counsellors are supported through monthly clinical supervision. There are currently 173 BAM scholars enrolled on the programme across the three schools.

There has been excellent engagement in embedding the programme across the three schools involved, with half-termly meetings in place to ensure the objectives of the programme are kept under regular review. While the above figures remain disappointing, local data for 2022/23 is showing a reduction in the suspension rate for all groups as fewer suspensions are issued.

### **3.18 - Number of Electively Home Educated pupils**

- 7.8. There were 309 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q4 was higher than the same time last year.

Although the DfE have not previously collected or published data on the numbers of children EHE, they are doing so for the first time this year, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has surveyed local authorities in England for the past six years with an 88% response rate. Their most recent survey (published in Nov 2021) suggested a 34% increase nationally since the 2019/20 academic year. Further, it is estimated that almost half (49.8%) of this cohort became EHE during the 2020/21 academic year, suggesting that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the number of children and young people that are currently electively home educated.

The Schools Bill which includes proposals for legislation to establish a register for children not in school, is currently on hold by Government.

Locally we have increased Elective Home Education Adviser time to reflect increased numbers. We have in place an agreed local protocol with our schools whereby any child home educating can return to the same school if within 20 school days if they decide (or the LA believe) that home education is not suitable.

Other actions include:

- Expanding on existing work with partner agencies such as CAMHS, CSCT, Bright Futures to offer a more targeted support to home educating families
- A dedicated School Nurse providing targeted support to families facing health related challenges.
- Expanding on the work with schools and partner agencies to ensure elective home education is not promoted to avoid exclusion, poor attendance or challenging behaviour
- Supporting schools to have potentially difficult conversations with parents where it appears elective home education is not in the best interest of the child

We will continue support parents and children where there are no concerns about the home education provision, including careers information, detail of support services available, signposting to exam centres and other relevant support.

### **3.21 - Number of schools engaged in the 11 by 11 Cultural Enrichment Programme**

- 7.9. Target is met. 60 schools have been engaged up to end Q4, meeting the target through our 11 by 11 summer term activity menu which opened for applications in February 2023, and our Culture Bank CPD for teachers. 32 Schools applied for summer term activity through the menu (28 primary and 4 secondary), with 2248 pupil experiences offered.

In the coming year, the 11 by 11 universal offer is evolving, offering the Activity Menu twice yearly with schools and teachers, with extended windows for activity to take place so that the full academic year continues to be covered. This decision has been taken to reduce internal admin load which will free up team capacity to focus on targeted work with other services, particularly the Children in Need service.

### **Children in Need (CiN)**

Cubitt Artists hosted a successful workshop series over Spring with a selection of 15 Children in Need service users, at Arts and Media College Islington (AMSI).

The workshops covered printmaking, film, photography, drawing and writing with resident artists from Cubitt currently embedded in AMSI.

CET further paired with the CiN service and the Crafts Council to deliver over 400 "Let's Craft" packs, which have been distributed via events, local community centres such as Brickworks and Lift Youth Hub, and direct to the cohort. A further pack and resource for the summer holidays is being created at time of writing and will be delivered in Q2 of 2023/24.

### **3.22 - Number of unique page views - Creative & Music pages**

7.10. Target is met. Total YTD unique page views at the end of quarter 4 was 15,939. This indicator is ahead of target. The figure also significantly represents levels of Music Education Islington (MEI) website interaction. In the last quarter, they had 2,678 page views.

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

7.11. The percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases) at the end of Q4 was 97.1% The breakdown of Islington schools' inspection outcomes by phase is:

- Nursery – 100% good or outstanding (3 out of 3)
- Primary – 98% (44/45)
- Secondary - 90% (9/10)
- Special – 100% (6/6)
- PRU/Alternative Provision – 100% (4/4)

The target for this measure is to be at or above the Inner London figure for good or outstanding inspection outcomes. The Inner London figure at the end of Q4 2022/23 was 94.8% (95.9% of inspected schools), so Islington was above this target.

## 8. Quarter 4 2022-23 performance update - Make sure fewer young people are victims or perpetrators of crime

### 8.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Make sure fewer young people are victims or perpetrators of crime':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q4 2022/23	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
4.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	89%	91%	85%	96%	Yes	91%	Yes
4.2	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	38	45	<45	37 (Q1-Q4)	Yes	45	Yes
4.3	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	27%	20%	Reduction from same period last year	22% (Q4 2022/23)	No	20%	No
4.3a	Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure	26.3% (Jan-Mar 20)	21.1% (Jan-Mar 21)	n/a	31.6% (Apr - Jun 21)	N/A	66.7% (Apr-Jun 20)	Yes
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	2	4	<4	5 (Q1-Q4)	No	4	No
4.5	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,542	2,756	Increase on 2021/22	2,783 (Q1-Q4)	Yes	2,756	In line
4.6	Reduction in over-representation of Black young people in under-18 offending population	+22%	+23%	Reduction on 2021/22	+18%	Yes	+23%	Yes

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

- 8.2. Youth Support and the partnership continue to focus on early intervention and diversion through targeted and effective Triage delivery. Such interventions are significant to ensure that relevant young people receive an appropriate, well-balanced and suitable tailored level of support that prevents any further escalation in their needs, circumstances and behaviours. The service has had considerable success in recent times, achieving high success rates with two consecutive quarters of a 100% success. We had previously reported this measure at 100%. However, one of the young people who were triaged in Q1 had an offence confirmed after the Q1 figures were reported. Therefore, the Q1 figures has subsequently been revised down. 24 of the 25 young people triaged in the first three quarters of the year were diverted from the criminal justice system, so this revised performance remains above target. Quarter 4 also had a 100% success and therefore, the 2022/23 figure is 96%. This is an improvement on the 2021/22 as a whole (91%).

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

- 8.3. The early intervention and prevention offer that exists in the borough, led by Young Islington, but also shared with key stakeholders has continued to make significant inroads in relation to our First Time Entrant (FTE) performance. The early identification of children and young people who are vulnerable and who are in need of interventions has become stronger and more effective to include revision of the Early Intervention and Diversion remit. These systems and methods continue to evolve and reach the appropriate cohorts of young people.
- There were 15 new FTE's in the first quarter of 2022/23, 7 in Q2 2022/23, 5 in Q3 and in quarter there were a further 10 first-time entrants. The 37 FTE's to Youth Justice System at the end of 2022/23 is an improvement on 2021/22 (45). The target for this measure is to improve on last year's performance, so this measure is on target for the first three quarters of the year.

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

##### **4.3a - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s) - YJB measure**

- 8.4. The service (and the partnership) has a range of interventions available to young people who are assessed as presenting a medium to high risk of reoffending following assessment. This has helped to reduce the figures in relation to young people who pose a higher risk of further offending. A reoffending tracker is also used to identify the young people who are most at risk of this. Five of the 23 young people who offended in Q4 2022/23 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate for was 22%, above the Q4 2021/22 re-offending rate of 20%. Although the reduction in re-offending did not meet the target, this was only by 2%. In comparison to 2021/22, the number of re-offenders in Q4 remained the same at 5 young people and the increase in the percentage was due to fewer children offending in Q4 2022/23 compared to Q4 2021/22.

The cohort of young people involved reoffending are low in number and this still represents a significant increase considering where the YJS was in relation to this measure in previous years. In addition, the cohort of children being worked with are presenting with more complexities due to the effects of the pandemic and the cost of

living crisis. These young people are being provided with more intensive support from the network due to their needs.

The average of 4 quarters in 2022/23 shows re-offending figure at 15%, below previous year's 23%.

The Youth Justice Board also publishes information on re-offending rates. However, there is a time lag in their reporting to allow for data to be confirmed on the Police National Computer. The data released is for the re-offending of the April to June 2021 cohort. Six of the 19 Islington young people in this cohort re-offended, so the Islington rate was 31.6%. This is lower than the London (34.6%) and in line with England (31.7%) re-offending rates for this period. It is lower from the same period the year before (62.5%) but the previous period coincides with Covid restrictions and the number in the offending cohort was very small in comparison. The rate of re-offences for the cohort of offenders for this period was 0.79 for Islington – 15 re-offences amongst the cohort of 19 offenders. This was lower than the London and England rates for the same period (1.11 and 1.22 respectively).

#### **4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders**

- 8.5. Having a range of effective interventions to manage risk in the community and a strong working relationship and reputation with various courts has helped with the improvement of this measure. There are some offences, however, where only a custodial sentence is justified. There were five custodial sentences for Islington young people at the end of 2022/23. This is higher than the year-end total for 2021/22. Therefore, this measure did not reach the annual target. It should be noted that the long-term trend for this measure remains positive, especially considering where Islington had performed in the past in relation to this indicator. The number of custodial sentences so far this year remains lower than the totals seen prior to the pandemic – 30 in 2017/18, 26 in 2018/19 and 7 in 2019/20.

The comparator data on this measure looks at the rates per 1,000 residents aged 10-17, to allow comparisons between areas of different sizes. There is a time lag on the comparator data, and so for the latest period reported there were no custodial sentences reported for Islington. This puts the Islington rate at 0.0, below the London (0.08) and England (0.05) rates for the same period.

#### **4.5 – Corporate Indicator – Number of Domestic abuse offences**

- 8.6. There were 623 domestic abuse offences reported in Islington in Q4 2022/23, a decrease on the 779 in the previous quarter. The target for this measure is to see an increase in the number of offences, as it is known that domestic abuse offences are under-reported. The total for the 2022/23 financial year is 2,783, which is slightly higher than the same period in 2021/22, when there were 2,756. Therefore, this measure met the year-end target.

Local VAWG services received 460 referrals in quarter 4, with 334 survivors and families provided specialist support through an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, 96% feeling safer because of the support they receive.

Islington's Domestic Abuse counselling service continued to be very busy and impactful. Supporting 150 survivors in 2022/23, with 100% feeling more able to keep themselves safe and less at risk and 90% reporting an increase in their self-esteem after receiving counselling.

#### **4.6 Reduction in over-representation of Black young people in under-18 offending population**

- 8.7. The latest information available from YJB shows the offending population by ethnicity for the period of April 2022 – March 2023. While this is not the finalised version, the provisional figures show 43% of offending population was from Black ethnic groups. The percentage point difference from the 10 to 17 year old population of this ethnic group in Islington is +18%. This is a decrease compared to 2021/22 (+23%) therefore the target is met.

## 9. Quarter 4 2022-23 performance update - Help residents get the skills they need to secure a good job

9.1. Key performance Indicators relating to 'Help residents get the skills they need to secure a good job':

PI No.	Indicator	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Q4 2022/23	On target?	Q4 last year	Better than Q4 last year?
5.4	100 hours of the world of work - Number of new businesses offering world of work activities	New indicator	39	40	40	Yes	-	-
5.5	100 hours of the world of work - Number of pupil experiences delivered	New indicator	5,314	5,000	8,250	Yes	-	-

### 5.4 - 100 hours of the world of work - Number of new businesses offering world of work activities

9.2. 10 new businesses offered world of work activities across primary, secondary and FE settings this quarter, which means the target of 40 new businesses this year has been achieved. Organisations represented a broad range of sectors including, educational institutions, and small and micro businesses via our affordable workspaces, STEM organisations, creative businesses, and construction companies. We are making good progress in maximising social value outcomes through our supply chain partners with Marlborough Highways and Matrix joining the World of Work menu

### 5.5- 100 hours of the world of work - Number of pupil experiences delivered

9.3. In Q4 the world of work programme worked with 163 business volunteers to deliver 4,233 pupil experiences across primary and secondary schools. This was a very busy quarter with all secondary schools engaging with the programme. Most activity was geared towards Y10 – Y13, the majority being career talks and progression fairs but also included apprenticeship events (during national apprenticeship week), workplace visits and employability workshops.

3 Islington secondary schools (AMSI, Beacon High and LSA) also participated in the Shade UK Shade Islington competition, improving awareness of green skills, jobs, and careers. Student groups from each school attended green skills workshops reflecting on the climate crisis, its impact locally and generating ideas about how these can be addressed through innovation.



## 10. Implications

### 10.1. Financial Implications

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

### 10.2. Legal Implications

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

### 10.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 10.3.1. There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

### 10.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 10.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 10.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because this report is looking at historical performance information and does not relate to a new policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision. Where a new policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision is mentioned in the commentary within this report, there should be a separate Equalities Impact Assessment for that specific development, rather than attached to the reporting on performance for any measures that this would affect.

## 11. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 11.1. This report has presented a detailed narrative describing the performance of Children's Services in Quarter 4 2022-23 and the outcomes achieved by Islington's children and young people. This reports how Children's Services have contributed to this performance, and any external factors that have affected these measures. Where performance is off target, a summary of the actions being undertaken to improve performance has been included.

**Appendices:**

- None

**Background papers:**

- None

**Final report clearance:**

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. White', written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

**Corporate Director of Children's Services**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Report Author: Various – co-ordinated by Adam White, Head of Data & Performance, Children's Services and Burak Cingi, Business Intelligence Project Manager, Children's Services

Tel: x2657 and x4116

Email: [adam.white@islington.gov.uk](mailto:adam.white@islington.gov.uk) and [burak.cingi@islington.gov.uk](mailto:burak.cingi@islington.gov.uk)