

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: 15 January 2024

Ward(s): All

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## Subject: Children's Services Quarter 2 2023-24 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 2 2023/24 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 Q2 2023/24 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. For 2023/24, the Corporate Indicators for the Children and Young People directorate have been selected from a wider set of measures within the service plans for 2023/24. The

service plans are aligned with the Islington Together 2030 Plan, and this Performance Report is now structured using the missions within the 2030 Plan, along with the directorate's objectives from our service plans.

- 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. Other additional measures remain included in these reports where it was felt they provide context to specific services, e.g. the number of Child Protection Plans for Safeguarding and Family Support.
- 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.
- 3.4. We are now providing additional breakdowns by pupil characteristics for education outcomes, in alignment with the breakdowns used in the Education Plan.

## 4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q1 2023/24 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q1 2023/24 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There were two actions from the Q1 report:
  - Officers to provide the Committee with comparative data on electively home educated children that could be benchmarked with statistical neighbours. This is included in the Q2 report – see 6.18.
  - Officers to provide the Committee with the evaluation report that had been completed by London Metropolitan University capturing the work of the Parent Champions Network. This is available as an attachment.

# MISSION: CHILD-FRIENDLY ISLINGTON

## 5. Resilient Children and Families

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q2 2023/24	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
1.1	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,011 (March 2022)	1,303 (March 2023)	n/a	1,099 (Sept 2023)	n/a	1,027 (Sept 2022)	n/a
1.2	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.5%	16.1% (2022-23)	n/a	14.7% (Q2 2023/24)	n/a	18.8% (Q2 2022/23)	Yes
1.3	<b>Inequalities measure</b> - % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people	21.4%	22.1%	Less than 4.9 % pts above LBI average	16.9% (2.2% pts above LBI average)	Yes	17.5% (1.3% pts below LBI average)	No
1.8	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	160	169	n/a	181 (Q2 2023/24)	n/a	146 (Q2 2022/23)	No
1.9	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	23.8%	24.0%	20%	41.9%	No	27.9%	No
1.10	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> – Number of Looked After Children (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)	320	290	281	267 (end of Sept 2023)	Yes	314 (end of Sept 2022)	Yes
1.13	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	10.9%	11.1%	11% at end of year	6.4% (Q2 2023/24)	n/a	4.2% (Q2 2022/23)	No
1.14	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	65.1%	63% (2022-23 FY)	70%	63.9% (Q2 2023/24)	n/a	68.5% (Q2 2022/23)	No

1.15	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	8 (March 2022)	9 (March 2023)	n/a	7 (Sept 2023)	n/a	8 (Sept 2022)	Yes
1.16	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Increase in engagement rates at Adventure Playgrounds	59.3%	60.3%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 58.6%	56.2% (Apr – Sep 2023)	No	60.0% (Apr – Sep 2022)	No
1.17	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Increase in total number of contacts at Adventure Playgrounds	3,452	3,559	~5,128 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	3,008 (Apr – Sep 2023)	Yes	2,727 (Apr – Sep 2022)	Yes
1.18	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Increase in total number of participants at Adventure Playgrounds	2,048	2,146	~3,003 – similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,691 (Apr – Sep 2023)	Yes	1,637 (Apr – Sep 2022)	Yes
1.19	<b>Corporate Indicator –</b> Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres	41.6%	49.6%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 43.6%	40.0% (Apr – Sep 2023)	No	41.1% (Apr – Sep 2022)	Stable
1.20	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres	5,282	5,097	~6,706 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	3,760 (Apr – Sep 2023)	Yes	3,581 (Apr – Sep 2022)	Yes
1.21	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres	2,196	2,528	~2,927 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,504 (Apr – Sep 2023)	Yes	1,471 (Apr – Sep 2022)	Yes

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

- 5.1. There were 1,099 children's social care contacts in September 2023. This was slightly higher than the 1,027 contacts received in September 2022. For every month in 2023 so far, the number of contacts received has been higher than the equivalent month the preceding year. Since the start of the 2023/24 financial year, there has been an average of 1,110 contacts each month.

The view of the Service is that the rise this year reflects the impact of the pandemic and the current economic crisis that result in increased stress factors family experience, we remain of the view that contacts made are appropriate and families receive early help services or social care services where needed.

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

- 5.2. 154 out of the 1,049 referrals at the Q2 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 14.7% of referrals. This is lower than in the same period in 2022/23 (17.5%).

The recent DfE published figures show the % referrals which were within 12 months of a previous referral in the year ending 31 March 2023 to be 16.1% in Islington, in line with our statistical neighbours and below the inner London and national percentages.

The service is of the view that the decrease is a result of the Practice Model being further embedded evidencing that the first period of intervention ensures more families are able to sustain changes and more children remain safeguarded. Therefore, less families are in need of another period of social care intervention.

### **1.3 - Inequalities measure - % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people**

- 5.3. Eleven of the 65 referrals that involved Black-Caribbean children and young people by the end of Q2 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 16.9%, which is 2.2 percentage points above the overall Islington average.

The target is to be below a 4.4%-point gap, so this measure is currently on target.

Compared to the same period last year, the % point gap with the overall re-referrals % shows an increase. However, the previous year's end of quarter 2 figure for re-referrals for children from Black Caribbean ethnic group was reported as 21% at the time of Q2 reporting last year, 3.5% point above the overall average. However, at the end of 2022/23, the re-referrals % for Black Caribbean children was revised to 17.5%, 1.3% point below the overall average. This was due to retrospective updates on the "unknown" and "not obtained" ethnicities which resulted in the identification of more Black Caribbean children with referrals to children social care, while the number of those previously referred remained stable. This could potentially happen again this year, so the current gap could narrow as more ethnicities of children are recorded (ethnicities might not be recorded straight after a referral is made as the referrer may not know this but as the social worker works with the family this is explored and therefore records are updated).

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

- 5.4. 181 children were supported by a Child Protection Plan at the end of September 2023. This is higher than the same point in 2022/23, when there were 146 children supported by a Child Protection Plan.

2022/23 saw a significant drop in child protection plans, going as low as 146 at the end of Q2. This was unusually low for Islington. At the end of Q4 of that period, numbers had risen to 169 and have continued to rise to a level more in line with the last three years. This number now appears broadly in line with the needs of children in Islington. Care proceedings and children needing to be looked after has also reduced, leading to more emphasis on supporting children at risk of significant harm at home with their family, wherever safe to do so.

### **1.9 - Corporate Indicator - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time**

- 5.5. On average over the last few years, around four children a month become subject to a Child Protection Plan. This was the case for 4 of the 6 months in Q1 and Q2, but in

June there was a larger than normal number of plans where the child had previously been the subject of a plan and while the number decreased in July, it was still higher than the average.

32 children (from 21 families) were newly supported by a child protection plan. 14 of these were repeat child protection plans, 44% of the total number of new CP plans in Q2. These 14 repeat plans concern children from 5 families. By the end of Q2, 36 of the 86 plans that started in 23/24 involved a child who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

Most plans so far this year have been repeated after a gap of 3 to 4 years. The main concern in terms of measuring the quality of intervention to reduce risk to children are plans that repeat within a two-year period of which five families are so far represented. The majority of families already had CIN plans or Early Help so there was support provided between CP plans.

The measures introduced to reduce the number of repeat plans include (1) the CP Coordinator and their Service Manager being alerted to any potential repeat plan to ensure sound decision making, (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, (3) quarterly reporting to senior management around repeat plans.

#### **1.10 - Corporate Indicator - Number of Children Looked After (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)**

- 5.6. At the end of Q2, there were 311 CLA, 44 of whom were UASC so there were 267 children who were non-UASC. Currently, the service is overachieving the target of reduction of 9 CLAs. Overall CLA numbers have reduced by 16% which is a success, these children remain supported at home or with family members and all cases will be audited in Q3 to check the decision not to look after some children was correct and safe. In the next phase of the work the Director and Assistant Director are overseeing all children placed with Family of Friends carers to ensure that only children who need the state to have Parental Responsibility for them remain Looked After.

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

- 5.7. As at the end of September 2023, 20 of the 311 looked after children had three or more placements during the year, equating to 6.4%. It should be noted that this measure resets at the start of each financial year, so the percentage tends to be low early in the new year, with larger increases towards the end of the financial year.

As a comparison, at the end of Q2 in 2022/23, 16 of the 379 looked after children (4.2%) had three or more placements during the year to date.

#### **1.14 - 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**

- 5.8. At the end of September 2023, there were 97 children looked after for more than 2.5 years, 62 of whom had been in the same placement for at least 2 years or were placed for adoption. This makes a total of 63.9% of looked after children in long term stable

placements. The long-term target is to increase long term placement stability to 70%. Normally performance fluctuates between 60% and 70%, so the current performance is in line with recent trends.

We now look at what the end of year figure could be, given the current ages of the looked after children, who would be looked after for at least 2.5 years and who is in a stable placement. If there are no further changes (e.g. a child ceasing to be looked after or ending a previously stable placement), the end of year figure is on course to be 71.8%, above the target.

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

- 5.9. There were 7 different children missing from care for 24+ hours in September 2023. This is one fewer than the same point in 2022 and two fewer than in March 2023,

The Exploitation and Missing team continue to prioritise quality assuring the service's 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.

#### **1.16 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Adventure Playgrounds**

- 5.10. This indicator measures the participant to contact rate of those age 5 to 25 who attended Adventure Playgrounds and those aged 5-12 who attended Rose Bowl. Contacts are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider at least once during the reporting period. Participants are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider 5 or more times during the reporting period.

The rate of engagement in Q2 2023/24 was 56.2%. This figure is down from the same period last year when the rate was 60%. The target is to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures. 2019/20 full year engagement figure was 58.6% so Q2 figure is below the target.

In order to deliver high levels of participation, it is important to have consistent and stable staff and service delivery in order to develop positive and strong relationships with children. During this year, there have been gaps in staff in a number of playgrounds, as key staff have moved on. Subsequently, the participation rate was affected. Cornwallis Adventure Playground remained closed for the whole year and even though an alternative Play offer was delivered in green spaces, this did not compensate for the closure and deliver the stable service that is required for high participation rates. All playgrounds now have permanent and stable management in place and Cornwallis reopened in Q3. This should lead to increased numbers of children participating overall.

#### **1.17 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Adventure Playgrounds**

- 5.11. Quarter 2 figures show 3,008 contacts aged 5-25 at Adventure Playgrounds and aged 5-12 at Rose Bowl. This quarter's figures were higher than the same period last year.

The target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 5,128 so the figures at the end of Q2 are on track to meet the target.

The increase in contacts is likely to be due to participants being taken to these services more frequently than in the previous year. Whilst the number of participants is lower than we would like, the increase in contact is likely down to parents utilising the offer more in order to socialise and nurture their children. Families have been under increased pressure in recent times – due to the pandemic and the cost and living crisis – and so those who are more vulnerable are making fuller use of services. In addition, some parents may take their children to different adventure playgrounds which increases the contact level.

### **1.18 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Adventure Playgrounds**

- 5.12. Quarter 2 figures show 1,691 participants aged 5-25 at Adventure Playgrounds and aged 5-12 at Rose Bowl. This quarter's figures were slightly higher than the same period last year.

Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 3,003 so the figures at the end of Q2 are on track to meet the target.

There has been increased promotion of our offer in Adventure playgrounds across the borough in recent times in order to make sure that more parents are aware of how they can ensure that their children access this service. It is a priority of the service to ensure that this promotion continues, as the adventure playgrounds have the capacity and there is an increased level of need of children in the borough due to a variety of social factors.

### **1.19 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres**

- 5.13. This indicator measures the participant to contact rate of those age 5 to 25 who attended Youth Provision and those aged 13-25 who attended Rose Bowl. Contacts are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider at least once during the reporting period. Participants are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider 5 or more times during the reporting period.

The rate of engagement in Q2 2023/24 was 40.0%. While there was an increase in both the number of contacts and participation compared to same period last year, the engagement figure is slightly down from the same period last year, when the rate was 41.1%.

The target is to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures. 2019/20 full year engagement figure was 43.6% so Q2 figure is below the target.



The participation rate can be affected by programming decisions within our youth clubs, For example, youth provisions putting on performance showcases may result in a larger number of one-off attendances. This can be difficult for provisions that focus on music, dance etc. as it is important that young people have the opportunity to perform and celebrate the skills that they have developed. Commissioners are working with providers to use reporting tools available to identify young people who have attended a provision between one and four times so that they can be contacted and provided with an invitation to return.

### **1.20 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres**

- 5.14. Quarter 2 figures show 3,760 contacts aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl. This quarter's figures were higher than the same period last year.

Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 6,706 so if there are similar number of contacts in the following quarters, this indicator will meet or exceed the target at the of the financial year.

The networks that come together and which are aligned under Young Islington have been much more proactive in promoting and highlighting the offer that is available for young people in the borough. The networks meet bi-monthly and have established a variety of ways of ensuring that young people are aware of the universal services including through an expanded and broader detached and outreach offer (which means that young people engaged with on the streets and on estates can be signposted) and through making more schools aware. The Youth Council has also been instrumental here and have also helped in this regard. Such promotional activity will continue and may result in increased numbers of contacts in due course. In addition, many of the young people who have been engaging with youth hubs have increased their usage.

### **1.21 - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres**

- 5.15. Quarter 2 figures show 1,504 participants aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl. This quarter's figures were higher than the same period last year.

Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels. The full 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 2,927 so if there are similar number of participants in the following quarters, this indicator will meet the target of the pre- covid financial year.

Some of the young people have taken some time to fully reengage with the youth spaces since the pandemic commenced. As these young people become more comfortable in living with Covid as a common condition/virus, more of them have returned to the youth clubs. In addition, some of the young people using the youth clubs have 'aged out' and have been replaced by a newer and younger cohort. Promotion of the youth hubs will also continue in order to ensure that the number of participants continues to increase steadily.

## 6.Lifelong learning, skills and enrichment

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q2 2023/24	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
2.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	95.6% (March 2022)	95.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 95.4% (August 2023)	96.4% (August 2023)	Yes	95.1% (August 2022)	Yes
2.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	92.5%	97.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 96.0% (Sept 2023)	95.5% Sept 2023)	No	94.1% (Sept 2022)	Yes
2.3	% of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	64.7%	66.6%	>Inner London 69.1%	66.6% (2022/23)	No	64.7% (2021/22)	n/a – new framework
2.4	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Take up of 2-year-old FEEE places by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and children who are looked after	70% (Spring term 2021/22 AY)	75% (Spring 2023)	>same period previous year	66% (Autumn 2023)	No	76% (Aut-2022)	No
2.5	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools	1.81	TBC	<0.28 (Inner London figure)	0.59 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	0.69 (Aut 2021/22)	Yes
2.6	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools	21.84	TBC	<3.37 (Inner London figure)	7.71 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	6.00 (Aut 2021/22)	No
2.7	<b>Inequalities measure</b> - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools	7.28	TBC	<1.28 (Inner London figure)	2.02 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	2.78 (Aut 2021/22)	Yes

2.8	<b>Inequalities measure</b> - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools	45.49	TBC	<7.97 (Inner London figure)	17.64 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	13.79 (Aut 2021/22)	No
2.9	<b>Inequalities measure</b> - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools	3.95	TBC	<0.75 (Inner London figure)	1.48 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	1.64 (Aut 2021/22)	Yes
2.10	<b>Inequalities measure</b> - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools	65.35	TBC	<8.76 (Inner London figure)	21.78 (Autumn 2022/23)	No	20.00 (Aut 2021/22)	No
2.11	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools	18.4% (21/22 AY)	TBC – Q4	in line or below Inner London 20.2%	21.0% (Aut-Spr terms 2022/23)	No	16.6% (Aut-Spr terms 2021/22)	Higher
2.12	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools	26.5% (21/22 AY)	TBC – Q4	in line or below Inner London 22.6%	27.2% (Aut-Spr terms 2022/23)	No	24.8% (Aut-Spr terms 2021/22)	Higher
2.13	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1	76.6%	79.0% (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 80.6%	79.0% (2022/23)	No (but within 5% margin)	76.6%	Yes
2.14	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2	88.7%	88.5% (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 88.3%	88.5% (2022/23)	Yes	88.7%	Stable
2.15	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Key Stage 1 - Reading at expected standard	71.4%	70.0% (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 71.3%	70.0% (2022/23)	No (but within 5% margin)	71.4%	No
2.16	<b>Corporate Indicator</b> - Key Stage 2 - Expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths	63.3%	65.0%	in line or above Inner	65.0%	No	63.3%	Yes

				<b>London – 67.5%</b>				
2.17	KS4 – Attainment 8 (A8)	49.9	46.6 (2022/23 provisional)	<b>in line or above Inner London – 49.6 (provisional)</b>	<b>46.6 (2022/23 provisional)</b>	No	49.9	<b>No</b>
2.19	16 and 17-year-olds (Year 11 & 12 September Guarantee cohorts) have a confirmed and suitable offer of employment, education and training.	96.7%	97.1% (Provisional)	<b>=&gt;97.5%</b>	<b>97.1% (provisional)</b>	No	96.7%	<b>Yes</b>
2.20	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	258 (March 22)	294 (March 23)	<b>n/a</b>	<b>314 (Sept 2023)</b>	n/a	251 (Sept 2022)	<b>Higher</b>

## 2.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

6.1. As at the end of August 2023, 160 of Islington's 166 (96.4%) registered early years settings that had been inspected by Ofsted had received a good or outstanding inspection outcome. This puts Islington above the target, based on Inner London's overall performance, which was 95.4% at the same point.

Islington was level with the overall national average (96.5%), whereas generally inspection outcomes for London boroughs have tended to be just below the national average in recent years.

Four of the six providers judged as below good are childminders who have not had children on roll for some time and did not have children at the point of inspection. One group provider with RI has now resigned their registration. Currently, there is only one Islington early years provider with children on roll that is judged as RI. We have discussed our concerns about this provider, directly with Ofsted.

It remains the case that 100% of LBI managed nurseries have a good or better outcome, with 5 out of the 9 judged to be outstanding.

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

6.2. The percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases) at the end of Q2 was 95.5% The breakdown of Islington schools' inspection outcomes by phase is:

- Nursery 100% (3/3 – 1 outstanding and 2 good)

- Primary 95% (44/44 – 9 outstanding, 33 good, 1 requires improvement, 1 inadequate)
- Secondary 90% (10/10 – 5 outstanding, 4 good, 1 requires improvement)
- Special 100% (6/6 – 4 outstanding and 2 good)
- PRU 100% (4/4 – 2 outstanding and 2 good)

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 Q2 2022/23 was 96.0% (of inspected schools), so Islington was below this target.

With 67 settings across Islington, one school represents 1.5%, so currently the borough is one school below the Inner London Target of 96.0%.

Fifteen schools within the current OFSTED inspection window have been allocated an Islington Professional Partner (IPP) who have been providing external advice and support in preparation for their next Ofsted Inspection.

There were inspections across the Autumn Term in **seven** of our nursery, primary and special school settings. Four have retained good or outstanding judgements with three reports expected to be published early in the Spring Term 2024.

A programme of School Improvement Groups (SIG) also supplements the work of the Islington Professional Partners and provides the strategic oversight of the school improvement work being provided to the schools so that all strands of support are aligned and focused on the priorities required to secure good judgements at each setting's next Ofsted inspection.

### **2.3 – % of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**

- 6.3. The revised DfE figures show 66.6% of Islington pupils achieved a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Islington's figure is below the provisional national average (67.2%) and below the inner London (69.1%) average.

The target is to be in line with or above the Inner London average, so the target was not met for this measure.

The following figures shows how Islington performed against inner London and the national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington - 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London – 2022/23</b>	<b>England - 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	57.1%	59.7%	51.6%
SEN Support	32.9%	27.9%	24.3%
Education, Health & Care Plans	5.2%	5.2%	3.8%
Black Caribbean	60.6%	61.4%	61.5%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	65.8%	63.8%	64.2%

The percentage of children in Islington reaching the Good Level of Development in Islington has risen 2% since the new assessment framework was introduced last year

and gaps have narrowed. Historically, the LBI figure has always been slightly lower than inner London and for the last 2 years, Islington has been the only borough to have continued its rigorous moderation programme, so we are confident that teacher assessments are accurate. The 2.5% gap between LBI and Inner London is the equivalent of 46 fewer children in Islington reaching the good level of development. LBI scores for children with SEND support are higher than those of inner London and over 8% higher than national which is positive given the rising number of children with emerging or identified needs in Islington reception classes and the fact that Islington has a significantly higher proportion of children with SEND than Inner London. Out of a total of 1792 children who were assessed for the EYFS Profile at the end of reception, 306 (17%) were identified with SEND (5.4% of these with an EHCP).

The DfE and Ofsted continue to stress that the EYFSP is a low stakes attainment measure with the sole purpose of providing accurate information for the Yr. 1 teacher and parents.

#### **2.4 – Corporate Indicator - Take up of 2-year-old FEEE places by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and children who are looked after**

- 6.4. The Autumn 2023/24 term take up was 66%. This is based on 486 funded 2-year-olds taking up places, out of a potential 741 who were listed on the September 2023 list provided by the DWP.

We see seasonal variation in performance, so take up figures are compared to the same point in the previous year. In Autumn 2022, 76% of eligible 2-year-olds were taking up places so this measure has not met the target.

The significant drop in take up is unexpected considering the continued intensive engagement with families, professionals and providers, there has been no change in our approach to suggest this change. However, the June DWP list of eligible families was not made available to local authorities until mid-July, leaving very little time for outreach activity and for families to respond to direct communications encouraging them to check their eligibility, visit nurseries, sign up etc. There are also some smaller variances which, taken collectively, have impacted the overall picture. For example, the National early years staffing crisis has impacted some settings ability to offer the full range of places where they are having difficulties covering staff shortages. PVI settings have seen a small drop in take up of places although the biggest drop has been in some of our school settings. The reduction in number of children eligible also means higher levels of variance.

We will be carrying out a deep dive into data to evaluate patterns and trends to inform our outreach plan and reviewing other data sources to identify potentially eligible families and remove our reliance on the DWP data. We are also reviewing our engagement strategy to work more closely with providers where take up is lowest.

We expect to be back on target by Summer 2024. However, there is careful messaging regarding the childcare expansion launching early next year to ensure that all families are aware of their entitlement and know how to access the broad offer.

## **2.5 – Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools**

- 6.5. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure showed Islington primary schools to have 0.59% suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 0.28%, so the target for this year was not met. Islington was in line with the national average (0.58%) and ranked 91 out of 150 local authorities for the lowest rate of suspensions.

The following % rate of suspensions table shows how Islington's primary schools performed against inner London and the national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington - Autumn 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London – Autumn 2022/23</b>	<b>England - Autumn 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	0.96	0.51	1.45
SEN Support	1.57	1.12	2.68
Education, Health & Care Plans	3.72	1.89	5.81
Black Caribbean	1.37	0.72	1.14
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	1.48	0.75	1.19

Local provisional data for Autumn 2023 indicates there were 37 suspensions from 13 primary schools compared to 79 suspensions from 21 primary schools for the same comparative period last year in Autumn 2022. These figures suggest a drop of over 50% in primary suspensions across the borough.

8 fewer primary schools issued any suspension during the Autumn Term 2023 when compared to Autumn 2022. This means that 32 primary schools (equivalent to 71% of all primary schools in the borough) had no suspensions at all during the Autumn Term 2023 compared to 24 schools (equivalent to 53%) in the Autumn Term 2022.

These significant reductions have been achieved through targeted interventions for those schools with the highest rates of suspensions. For example, Project Group support, roll-out across 10 primary schools of the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme which focuses on reducing suspensions through whole school strategies addressing inclusion and healthy relationships, and outreach from New River College Primary.

## **2.6 - % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools**

- 6.6. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure showed Islington secondary schools to have 7.71% suspension rate. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 3.37%, so the target for this year was not met. Islington was also above the national average (5.90%) and had the 129th lowest rate of suspensions out of 150 local authorities.

The following % rate of suspensions table shows how Islington's secondary schools performed against inner London and the national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington – Autumn 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London – Autumn 2022/23</b>	<b>England - Autumn 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	12.06	5.52	14.47
SEN Support	17.26	7.65	15.41
Education, Health & Care Plans	19.60	9.16	16.45
Black Caribbean	17.20	7.48	7.09
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	21.78	8.76	11.21

Local provisional data for Autumn 2023 indicates there were 514 secondary suspensions compared to 689 suspensions for the same comparative period last year in Autumn 2022. These figures suggest a 25% reduction in secondary suspensions across the borough.

These significant reductions have been achieved through targeted interventions for those schools with the highest rates of suspensions, and over-represented cohorts. Outreach support from New River College and continuing participation of identified schools in the London Mayor's 'Inclusive and Nurturing Schools' Programme - which aims to reduce suspensions and exclusions through whole school initiatives – have also supported this improving picture.

In addition, encouraging secondary schools to work collaboratively to reduce the overall secondary suspension rate across the borough's schools has had positive impact. This is by maintaining a focus on suspensions and engaging head teachers and senior leaders in data-sharing and problem-solving issues through the Islington Secondary School and College Leadership (ISSCL) network and Senior Leaders Group.

### **2.7 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools**

- 6.7. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington primary schools was 2.02%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 1.28% so the target for this year is not met.

The published figures provide data for the borough as a whole and do not reflect any disproportionality of suspensions of the SEND cohort (both SEND Support and those with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)) in individual school. Data has been scrutinised locally at school level, but also by age, area of need, free school meal and care status to identify any patterns of disproportionality. Work is also being undertaken by looking at the reasons and length of suspensions for pupils with SEND to consider trends and strategies for support relating to specific types of need in line with our SEND Strategy. We are also developing peer challenge and support by sharing and considering suspension data through locality inclusion hubs.

### **2.8 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools**



- 6.8. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington secondary schools was 17.64%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 7.97% so the target for this year is not met.

See 6.7 above.

**2.9 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools**

- 6.9. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group across Islington primary schools was 1.48%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 0.75% so the target for this year is not met.

The published figures provide data for the borough as a whole and do not reflect any disproportionality of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils in individual schools. Data has been scrutinised locally at school level, but also by age, area of need, free school meal and care status to identify any patterns of disproportionality.

Work is also being undertaken by looking at the reasons and length of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils to consider trends and strategies for support relating to specific types of need in line with our Equality Strategy. We are also developing peer challenge and support by sharing and considering suspension data through locality inclusion hubs.

**2.10 - Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools**

- 6.10. 2022/23 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group in Islington secondary schools was 21.78%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 8.76% so the target for this year is not met.

See 6.9 above. Targeted work is being undertaken by looking at the reasons and length of suspensions for pupils from different ethnic groups to consider trends and strategies for support relating to specific groups. For example, 'Becoming a Man' programme running in three secondary schools that is targeted at boys from Black ethnic groups.

**2.11 - Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools**

- 6.11. The published 2022/23 Autumn and Spring term figure shows 21.0% of Islington primary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 136th in England in terms of lowest persistent absence.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 20.2% so the target was not met.

The following % persistence absence table shows how Islington's primary schools performed against inner London and the national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>	<b>England Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	28.8%	27.4%	29.9%
SEN Support	28.4%	26.7%	25.7%
Education, Health & Care Plans	34.3%	33.0%	32.2%
Black Caribbean	27.6%	26.8%	23.9%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	31.3%	29.9%	25.5%

Severe absence rate for Autumn 2022-Spring 2023 term is 0.98%, similar to the inner London figure of 0.95%. Islington's figure is an increase from 0.45% point during the same period last year.

We know that there is a strong link between deprivation and persistent absence from school. LSE research found that in 2017/18, the rate of PA was 24% greater in the most deprived areas. More recent research by COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities study (COSMO) suggested the following:

- Young people from lower occupational status backgrounds were more likely to miss school, with 21% of those from working class backgrounds missing more than 20 days, compared to 17% from higher managerial/professional backgrounds.
- 37% of pupils at state schools said they had fallen behind their classmates – more than double the figure for independent school students.
- Young people from ethnic minorities were more likely to be concerned they had fallen behind their classmates due to pandemic disruption.
- In terms of catch-up, 27% of children took up the National Tutoring Programme. 9% of parents reported they had paid for their child to have private tuition. 52% of students in independent schools were offered tuition by their school.

This means that we have to work harder in Islington, with high levels of deprivation, to make sure that we target those:

- at risk of poor attendance: using data rigorously to support pupils with increasing levels of absence before it becomes a regular pattern
- with poor attendance: intervening as early as possible and agreeing with schools an action plan for those with high levels of absence
- persistently (more than 10%) and severely (more than 50%) absent pupils: put additional targeted support in place, working with partners and agree a joint approach

'Working Together to Improve Attendance' (DfE Guidance) requires all local authorities to have in place a School Attendance Support Team that work with all schools in its

area to improve attendance from September 2023. A key element of delivery is Targeting Support Meetings - at least termly meetings with every school to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so. The first of these meetings has taken place with every school this term to identify specific groups for targeted support.

Support has been 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.

Plans for implementation are in place and these have been ratified and signed off by the DfE, with positive feedback on detail and readiness.

## **2.12 - Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools**

- 6.12. The published 2022/23 Autumn and Spring term figure shows 27.2% of Islington secondary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington had the 114th lowest persistent absence out of 151 local authorities in England.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 22.6% so the target was not met.

The following % persistence absence table shows how Islington's secondary schools performed against inner London and the national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>	<b>England Autumn/Spring 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	36.1%	30.0%	42.4%
SEN Support	39.3%	32.2%	37.3%
Education, Health & Care Plans	36.2%	31.6%	37.6%
Black Caribbean	36.6%	29.8%	28.0%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	45.6%	38.5%	36.8%

Severe absence rate for Autumn 2022-Spring 2023 terms combined is 2.5%, an increase on 2.2% during same period last year. This figure is above the inner London average of 1.9%.

See 6.11 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.

**2.13 - Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1**

- 6.13. The DfE published figures show 79.0% of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1 below the inner London figure of 80.6% and in line with the national figure of 78.9%.

The following table of DfE figures shows how Islington performed against the inner London and national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London 2022/23</b>	<b>England 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	72%	74%	66%
SEN Support	62%	57%	48%
Education, Health & Care Plans	24%	25%	20%
Black Caribbean	73%	72%	74%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	68%	74%	75%

Narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups is an ambitious priority of the Islington Education Plan. FSM and SEND cohorts across Islington remain above national figures with Black Caribbean pupils broadly in line but Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils significantly below national figures.

Comparisons with Inner London figures saw SEN Support pupils and Black Caribbean pupils above Inner London and pupils with an EHCP plan broadly in line. FSM pupils and Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils were both below Inner London figures.

It should be noted that several schools have changed phonics programmes in both Year 1 and Year 2 since the validation occurred from DfE. Schools had been used to using Letters and Sounds. Schools are now being supported by the Primary School Improvement team with re-training in new programmes. In addition, pupils on entry have been reported as much lower than pre-2019 levels.

**2.14 - Corporate Indicator - % of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2**

- 6.14. The DfE published figures show 88.5% of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 2, in line with the inner London figure of 88.3% and the national figure of 88.5%.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure, so this target was met.

The following table of DfE figures shows how Islington performed against the inner London and national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London 2022/23</b>	<b>England 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	83%	84%	81%
SEN Support	77%	72%	66%
Education, Health & Care Plans	44%	35%	30%

Black Caribbean	86%	84%	86%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	83%	85%	87%

FSM and SEND pupils were above national figures with Black Caribbean pupils in line for this indicator. Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils were below national figures (-4% pt.)

Comparisons with Inner London figures saw SEND and Black Caribbean pupils above Inner London figures. FSM pupils and Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils were both below Inner London figures.

As with the Year 1 programmes several schools have changed phonics programmes in Year 2 since the validation occurred from DfE. Schools had been used to using Letters and Sounds. Schools are now being supported by the Primary School Improvement team with re-training in new programmes.

### 2.15- Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 1 - Reading at expected standard

- 6.15. The DfE published figures show 70.0% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 1 Reading. This percentage is below the inner London figure of 71.3% but above the national percentage of 68.2%.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure, so this target was not met.

The following table of DfE figures shows how Islington performed against the inner London and national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington 2022/23	Inner London 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM eligible	61%	63%	54%
SEN Support	44%	40%	32%
Education, Health & Care Plans	23%	15%	12%
Black Caribbean	65%	61%	64%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	55%	63%	63%

Most cohorts were above national figures apart from Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils who were noticeably below National figures by 8%.

Comparisons with Inner London figures saw SEND pupils and Black Caribbean pupils above Inner London figures with FSM pupils 2% below. Mixed White & Black Caribbean pupils were significantly below Inner London figures by 5%.

The primary team have been working closely with schools to address in some cases issues caused by leaders more focused on KS2 outcomes with KS1 teachers given less meeting and CPD opportunities to look at pupil progress and set up the necessary interventions

Too few pupils in Phonics re-takes are passing because programmes and interventions across a small number of schools have not been robust enough. In those schools,

teachers are moving to whole class reading too quickly when many pupils in those classes cannot yet read and put text together.

The primary education team will be working with schools to highlight and develop pedagogical strategies specific to reading to support schools address this challenge and improve outcomes.

**2.16 - Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 2 - Expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths**

6.16. The published revised DfE data shows 65.0% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths. This percentage is below the inner London figure of 67.5% but above the national percentage of 59.8%.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure, so this target was not met.

The following table of provisional DfE figures shows how Islington performed against the inner London and national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Islington 2022/23</b>	<b>Inner London 2022/23</b>	<b>England 2022/23</b>
FSM eligible	55.8%	57.9%	43.6%
SEN Support	36.4%	36.9%	23.6%
Education, Health & Care Plans	17.7%	12.2%	8.2%
Black Caribbean	47.4%	50.6%	49.8%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	48.8%	54.7%	50.5%

Most cohorts were above national figures apart from Black Caribbean (-2.4%) and Mixed White & Black Caribbean (-1.7%) pupils.

Comparisons with Inner London saw only pupils with EHCP plans exceed Inner London figures. All other cohorts were below with Mixed White & Black Caribbean a considerable 5.9% below.

In January the Year 6 network meeting will be continuing to develop good quality provision with a targeted focus on five schools who are bringing the LA figures down.

**2.17 - Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 4 - Attainment 8**

6.17. The published provisional DfE data shows 46.6% This score is below the provisional inner London figure of 49.6 and slightly above the provisional national score of 46.3.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure so the provisional figures suggest the target was not met. The revised DfE figures will be available in February.

The following table of provisional DfE figures shows how Islington performed against the inner London and national average for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan:

Group	Islington 2022/23	Inner London 2022/23	England 2022/23
FSM eligible	40.7	43.1	34.8
SEN Support	35.9	39.3	33.2
Education, Health & Care Plans	11.8	16.7	14.0
Black Caribbean	Not yet available	Not yet available	39.9
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	Not yet available	Not yet available	39.0

FSM pupils and SEN support pupils were above national figures. Pupils with an EHCP plan were 2.2% below national figures. When compared with Inner London figures, FSM and SEND cohorts were below.

Total number of secondary schools (A8 46.6%)	Number of schools Attainment 8 figure <b>ABOVE</b> National (A8 46.3%)	Number of schools Attainment 8 figure <b>ABOVE</b> Inner London (A8 49.6%)
<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

School analysis shows that when compared nationally, four of Islington's secondary schools have an A8 figure lower than national figures (46.3%). When compared with Inner London, five schools have an A8 figure below 49.6%.

January 2024 will see the first meeting of the Curriculum Deputy Headteachers from all secondary schools to look at which cohorts within the schools are underperforming and share best practice to improve attainment.

Analysis of the **five** schools below both Inner and National figures, shows that progress in English and Maths in two schools has had a significant impact on their overall Attainment 8 figure. Similarly, disadvantaged pupils from all five schools have all made significantly less progress than expected. This will be the main focus for the new network.

**2.19- 16 and 17-year-olds (Year 11 & 12 September Guarantee cohorts) have a confirmed and suitable offer of employment, education and training**

- 6.18. The provisional percentage of children and young people with an offer of education, training or employment by January 2024 was 97.1%. This is an improvement on last year's 96.7%.

Islington ranks 56th out of 153 LAs nationally for highest percentage of offers made and is placed in the second quartile (from top). The London figure is 97.2% and England 94.6%. It is important to note that Islington had a higher number of young people than other London LAs recorded as 'offer not appropriate'. This represented 1.2% of the

cohort with half off these known to be working and the other half too unwell to participate in education.

The target for this measure was 97.5% and the provisional figure suggests this target was not met. However, the number of young people known to be working may reflect the challenges households face in terms of cost of living. Should this group have stayed in education, the target would have been achieved.

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

- 6.19. There were 314 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 30th September 2023. The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q2 was higher than 251 pupils in the same period last year.

Electively Home Educated pupils information is collected by the DfE and published at LA and national level. An analysis done on the rate of EHE pupils using the Autumn 2022 census date figures from the published data and the population estimates for ages 4 to 15 (equivalent to Reception to Year 11), showed, Islington to have highest rate per head in London and among its statistical neighbours (note: there was no data provided by Hackney).

Across the country, Islington was just inside the top quartile for the EHE rate – ranking the 33rd highest out of 141 LAs with a published EHE figure.

This is the first year that the DfE have collected and published data on the numbers of children EHE, they did so for the first time this academic year.

The Government are proposing to establish a register for children not in school, to include Electively Home Educated children.

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
- Developing a local flexi-schooling offer as a positive means of re-engaging or preventing further fall out from full-time school attendance

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





## 7. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q2 2023/24	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
3.1	<b>Corporate indicator - % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training</b>	61.7%	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>55.4% (2022/23)</b>	<b>No</b>	61.7% (2021/22)	<b>No</b>

### 3.1 - Corporate Indicator - % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training

- 7.1. The published data from the 2022/23 statutory returns shows that 55.4% of 19 to 21-year-old care experienced young people were in Education, Employment or Training. This is lower than the previous year, but higher than in any other year since 2016/17. This is below the target set for 2023/24 of 70%.

There has been an improvement in EET figures which were at 72% at the end of quarter 2.

# MISSION: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

## 8. Care, support and safeguarding

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q2 2023/24	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
4.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	91%	96%	>85%	85% (Q1-Q2 2023/24)	Stable	95% (Q1-Q2 2022/23)	Lower
4.2	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	45	37 (Q1-Q4)	<37	15 (Q1-Q2 2023/24)	Yes	23 (Q1-Q2 2022/23)	Yes
4.3	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	20%	22% (Q4 2022/23)	Reduction from same period last year	17% (Q2)	No	9% (Q2)	No
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	4	5 (Q1-Q4)	<5	2 (Q1-Q2 2023/24)	Yes	4 (Q1-Q2 2022/23)	Yes
4.5	<b>Corporate Indicator -</b> Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,756	2,783 (Q1-Q4)	Increase on 2022/23	1,315 (Q1-Q2 2023/24)	Stable	1,372 (Q1-Q2 2022/23)	Stable

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

8.1. At the end of quarter two, 85% of young people aged 10-17 triaged were diverted away from the criminal justice system. The target is to have more than 85% of young people (aged 10-17) triaged, diverted away from the criminal justice system at the end of the financial year.

Two young people in the cohort could not be diverted away from the criminal justice system due to the complexity of their needs and this combined with smaller cohort has made the % lower compared to the same time previous year.

Although the percentage of young people triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system is below target, in relative terms (due to the reduced number within the cohort) it is on a similar trajectory as per the previous year with two young

people in the quarter re-offending. Targeted Youth Support and the partnership continue to focus on early intervention and diversion through 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 addresses their needs. The aim is to prevent any further escalation in their circumstances and behaviours. The service has had considerable success in recent times, achieving high success rates in recent previous quarters.

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

- 8.2. There were 7 first time entrants into Youth Justice System in quarter 2 taking the total figure at the end of Q2 for the year to 15. This figure is noticeably lower than the FTEs in the same period last year (23). The target for this measure is to improve on last year's performance, so this measure is on target.

From Q1 2023/24 (year ending June 23), the FTE data has moved from the PNC via MoJ to the quarterly case level data YJS submissions, as MoJ are no longer publishing quarterly. The YJB published figures therefore include a comparison to the previous 12 months using the new methodology. The latest published YJB provisional figures for Q2 2023/24 show the rate of FTE per 100,000 children and young people as 208 based on the population estimate of 15,405 10-17 year olds, compared to the rate of 136 for London and 129 for national for the Oct 22 – Sept 23 period.

The effective early intervention and prevention offer that exists in the borough, led by Young Islington and other key stakeholders has enabled us to make significant progress in relation to our First Time Entrant (FTE) performance. The early identification of children and young people who are vulnerable and in need of support has become stronger and evidence-based. This has included enhancing the Early Intervention and Diversion portfolio of services including those such as Turnaround, Engage and Divert. These systems and methods continue to evolve and reach the appropriate cohorts of young people.

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

- 8.3. Three of the 18 young people who offended in Q2 2022/23 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate was 17%, higher than the Q2 2021/22 re-offending rate of 9%. The target is to improve on the same period previous year, so this measure has not met the target for this quarter.

The latest published YJB provisional figures for Q2 2023/24 show the re-offending percentage for Islington at 14.3% for the Oct-Dec 21 period. This is noticeably below the London (34.7%) and National (32.6%) figures.

The service (and the partnership) has a range of effective interventions available to young people who are assessed as presenting a medium to high risk of reoffending following assessment. This has helped to consistently reduce the figures in relation to young people who pose a higher risk of further offending. Police intelligence and data analysis is also used to identify the young people who are most at risk of this and this helps to put the relevant interventions in place for them.

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.

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

- 8.4. There were two custodial sentences for Islington young people at the end of quarter 2 in 2023/24. This is lower than the 4 custodial sentences for the same period last year.

The target is to have a lower number of custodial sentences than in 2022/23 so this measure is currently on target.

The latest published YJB draft figures for Q2 2023/24 show one custodial sentence during the reporting period, although this will be challenged as it should report 2. The rate of custody per 1,000 children and young people aged 10 to 17 is 0.06 based on the population estimate of 15,405 10-17 year olds. This is below the London rate of 0.09 and in line with National for the reporting period.

The service has a range of effective interventions to manage the risk of high-risk young people in the community. In addition, a strong working relationship and reputation with various courts has helped with the improvement of this measure as courts have more confidence in the YJS's interventions. There are some offences, however, where only a custodial sentence is justified, and this was the case for the two custodial sentences imposed where the offences were so serious that only a custodial sentence was commensurate. One of these cases was a high gravity sexual assault. Islington's progress in relation to the reduction of custodial sentences remains positive.

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

- 8.5. There was a total of 1,315 domestic abuse (DA) crime offences reported to Islington police at the end of Q2, slightly down compared to 1,372 at the end of Q2 last year. There were 101 domestic abuse sanction detections achieved by the police during this period a rate of 8% which is in line with last year's rate but still much lower than we would like to see.

The MPS held a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) meeting at the Town Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> October to provide partnership opportunity to discuss the Met Police Turn Around Plan and how they will improve their response to survivors and hold more perpetrators to account through the CJ System.

While there was a slight decrease in the number of DA offences reported commissioned services continue to be very busy receiving 402 referrals in quarter 2, with 234 survivors and families provided specialist support through an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, and 71% feeling safer because of the support they receive. During quarter 2, we saw a decrease in the number of police referrals to VAWG services. This is a positive development as it is due to police not sending referrals to Solace duty without

the consent from the survivor, and thus avoids the safeguarding risk of Solace contacting survivors where it's not safe to do so.

Referrals to the DA Daily Safeguarding meeting were up 32% in September compared to August and there was also an increase in the risk level of cases heard meaning more survivors with high risk are receiving a timely multi-agency response.

Outputs:

- 234 survivors (402 referrals received) supported by VAWG advocacy services
- 77 professionals supported with advice around working with survivors
- 15 women supported following experiencing harmful and abusive practices including FGM and forced marriage
- 92% refuge occupancy
- 206 sessions were delivered by the refuge family support teams

Outcomes (for survivors who exited the service following completion of the intervention):

- 71% felt safer
- 64% increased their confidence and self esteem
- 71% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours
- 65% felt less isolated

## 9. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q2 2023/24	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
5.1	IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services	New indicator	12	Increase on 2022/23	12	Yes	7	Yes
5.2	IYPDAS - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service	New indicator	85	Increase on 2022/23	61	Yes	37	Yes

### 5.1 – Corporate Indicator - Islington Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (IYPDAS) - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services

9.1. This is a new indicator reporting on the referrals to Tier 3 (structured and specialised interventions with care plans). This is in relation to children and young people who need support with alcohol and/or substance misuse.

There were 12 referrals made by the end of Q2, higher than the 7 referrals during the same period last year. The overhaul the new HALO Data system has been completed and will more accurately capture all Tier 3 intervention work with YP. Assessment processes and procedures have been reviewed and will support more of the complex Substance Misuse (SMU) interventions into care plans which will increase data recording for Tier 3 work.

Tier 3 referrals have increased in recent times. This could be linked to IYPDAS being fully staffed in 2023/24, which was not the case in the previous financial year. IYPDAS has promoted the service throughout Islington and delivered various SMU awareness and information workshops to young people, parents, schools and colleagues. This may also have helped to generate more referrals. There has also been an increase in polydrug use in young people and in the number of complex cases being referred.

Tier 3 cases can only be recorded as such if a young person agrees to a structured care plan and if they do not consent or are unable to engage for various reasons (e.g. chaotic home life, unable to attend on a regular basis, unable to engage with a structured care plan, etc), then they will have to be recorded as a Tier 2 intervention. This is not negotiable or flexible and is in accordance with national guidance.

### 5.2 – Islington Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (IYPDAS) - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service

9.2. This is a new indicator reporting on the referrals to Tier 2 services, which is indicative of a higher level of need.

There were 61 referrals at the end of Q2, higher than the 37 referrals made during the same period last year. This could be due to an increase in Substance Misuse (SMU) awareness training for professionals, foster carers/parents and with young people in schools and the delivery of SMU workshops within underrepresented groups within the local community. There has also been a noticeable increase in polydrug use amongst young people in the Borough and we now have a clear referral pathway with Whittington A&E. YPDAS/YCSMAS has also streamlined its referral process using QR codes to make referring into the service easier. The specialist SMU/Youth Counselling YJS Lead post has also increased referrals for young people in the Youth justice Service as all YJS Young people are now screened for SMU and offered SMU awareness or harm reduction sessions.

There is an increased level of need amongst young people in the borough due to factors such as Covid and the cost-of-living crisis. This has adversely impacted on the emotional wellbeing of young people and has likely led to increases in substance and alcohol use as a coping mechanism. This, in conjunction with the service being better promoted, is likely to explain why there have been increases in the number of tier 2 interventions in Q2.



## 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 2 2023-24 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 'J.A.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Corporate Director of Children's Services**

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

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