

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: 10 June 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Children's Services Quarter 3 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 3 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 Q3 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 Q2 2023/24 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q2 2023/24 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2023. There were two actions from the Q2 report:

Officers to find time on the work programme for an update of the last three to four months of attendance. Attendance was discussed at the April Scrutiny as part of the wider Performance report and the June report is being prepared.

Officers to provide data for white working class boys, black Caribbean boys and boys with pupil premium funding. This information was embedded to the Attainment 8 demographics table.

MISSION: CHILD-FRIENDLY ISLINGTON

5. Resilient Children and Families

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q3 2023/24	On target?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 last year?
1.1	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,012 (March 2022)	1,316 (March 2023)	n/a	1,043 (Dec 2023)	n/a	890 (Dec 2022)	n/a
1.2	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	17.5%	16.5% (2022-23)	n/a	16.0% (Q1-Q3 2023/24)	n/a	17.4% (Q1-Q3 2022/23)	Yes
1.3	Inequalities measure - % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people	19.2%	21.5%	Less than 4.9 % pts above LBI average	21.6% (5.6% pts above LBI average)	No	19.8% (2.4% pts above LBI average)	No
1.8	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	160	169	n/a	190 (Q3 2023/24)	n/a	152 (Q3 2022/23)	No
1.9	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	23.8%	24.0%	20%	30.5% (Q3 2023/24)	No	24.6% (Q3 2022/23)	No
1.10	Corporate Indicator – Number of Looked After Children (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)	320	290	281	252 (end of Dec 2023)	Yes	295 (end of Dec 2022)	Yes
1.11	Rate of Looked After Children	105	90	n/a	90 (2022/23)	n/a	105 (2021/22)	n/a
1.12	% of children supported by pre proceedings PLO that remain with their parents/ families without entering proceedings	n/a	50%	Higher than 50%	86% (Q3 – 2023/24)	Yes	50% (2022/23)	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%	9.5% (2022/23 FY – DfE)	11% at end of year	9.5% (Q3 2023/24 - provisional)	n/a	7.4% (Q3 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%	66.3% (2022/23 FY - DfE)	70%	70.3% (Q3 2023/24 - provisional)	n/a	67.4% (Q3 2022/23)	No
1.15	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	8 (March 2022)	9 (March 2023)	n/a	9 (Dec 2023)	n/a	5 (Dec 2022)	No
1.16	Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Adventure Playgrounds	59.3%	60.3%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 58.6%	57.4% (Apr – Dec 2023)	n/a	60.2% (Apr – Dec 2022)	n/a
1.17	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Adventure Playgrounds	3,452	3,559	~5,128 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	3,383 (Apr – Dec 2023)	n/a	3,116 (Apr – Dec 2022)	n/a
1.18	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Adventure Playgrounds	2,048	2,146	~3,003 – similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,943 Apr – Dec 2023)	n/a	1,877 (Apr – Dec 2022)	n/a
1.19	Corporate Indicator – Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres	41.6%	49.6%	+10% on 2019/20 figure 43.6%	42.9% (Apr – Dec 2023)	No	45.1% (Apr – Dec 2022)	Stable
1.20	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres	5,282	5,097	~6,706 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	4,509 (Apr – Dec 2023))	Yes	4,226 (Apr – Dec 2022)	Yes
1.21	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres	2,196	2,528	~2,927 similar to pre-Covid levels (whole FY)	1,934 (Apr – Dec 2023)	Yes	1,905 (Apr – Dec 2022)	Yes

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

- 5.1. There were 1,043 children's social care contacts in December 2023. This was slightly higher than the 890 contacts received in December 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 1,138 contacts each month.

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

- 5.2. 257 out of the 1,610 referrals at the Q3 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 16.0% of referrals. This is lower than in the same period in 2022/23 (17.4%).

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

- 5.3. Twenty-two of the 102 referrals that involved Black-Caribbean children and young people by the end of Q3 2023/24 were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 21.6%, which is 5.6 percentage points above the overall Islington average, so the gap has widened again.

The target is to be below a 4.9%-point gap, so this measure is currently not on target.

Re-referrals were audited by Senior Managers during Practice Week and a theme of neglect relating to parental mental ill-health was found. There is a lot of research that demonstrates the link between parental mental ill health and experiences of discrimination (e.g. racism). There is also a connection between deprivation and discrimination, as those from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to be discriminated against. FSM data shows that that black families have high rates of eligibility and higher rates of deprivation. They also experience higher rates of discrimination.

We have shared this data with our managers within the CIN service to request that they are happy when closing cases and particularly for families in this cohort that they are satisfied that issues are resolved, or consideration given to step down to community support. In addition, CSCT to be aware of this in relation to referrals for this cohort of young people to ensure referral is in fact needed.

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. By the end of Q3, 43 of the 141 plans that started in 2023/24 involved a child who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

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. While the number of CP plans continued to increase in the months of Q3, there were only 2 children who became subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time between October and December. The reduction in children becoming Looked After means we are more likely to see an increase in Child Protection Plans.

The percentage of repeats has reduced since Q2, with Q3 seeing a low number of repeats. Most repeats are after two years from the previous plan which would indicate some sustained change for families. Teams know to seek a consultation with a specialist child protection co-ordinator prior to repeat initial child protection conferences so that thought is given before escalating back to CP. The following actions are in place: Managers to continue to ensure oversight is documented in terms of rationale to (a) recommend ending a CP plan (b) rationale to seek a repeat CP plan (c) what consideration has been given to other ways to manage risk. Teams continue to seek a CP consultation prior to recommending to end a plan to consider whether change is sustainable to avoid a repeat plan in the future. There is continued quarterly reporting on repeat plans to the Senior Leadership team where every family is audited by a Senior Child Protection Manager.

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

- 5.6. At the end of Q3, there were 294 CLA, 42 of whom were UASC so there were 252 children who were non-UASC.

The CLA population has fallen significantly over the last 3 years from 319 in December 2001 to 252 as of 31 December 2023 with these children remaining supported at home or with family members. Our ASIP team provides intensive wrap around support to adolescents with complex needs, at risk of exploitation and this has impacted positively in reducing the number of children coming into care. Our return home framework works with families whose children are in longer term care to support them returning home to their birth family where this is appropriate. Of the 5 families that are currently open to the Return Home Project all of the children remain at home with their parent(s) and of the 5 families who have closed to the Return Home Project this year all 10 children of those children continue to remain at home with their parent(s). We have also this year worked hard to ensure that family and friends carers are supported to care for children permanently by applying for Special Guardianship Orders rather than the Local Authority holding Parental Responsibility for them. This has contributed to the increase of children leaving our care.

1.11 - Rate of looked after children

- 5.7. The published rate of looked after children per population of 10,000 in 2022/23 was 90 children. This was based on the 325 children looked after at the end of March 2023 and the population estimate of 36,222 children for Islington.

The 2022/23 rate is lower than the 2021/22 rate based on 385 children looked after at 31 March 2022 and a similar population estimate of 36,604.

1.12 - Percentage of children supported by pre proceedings PLO that remain with their parents/ families without entering proceedings

- 5.8. The number of children subject to PLO was 51 in 2023/4. Out of these, 14% went on to Care Proceedings and 86% resulted in no further action. This is an improvement on the previous year's outcomes whereby 50% went on to Care Proceedings and 50% resulted in no further action. This indicator is showing the strength of our pre-proceedings intervention.

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

- 5.9. Provisionally as at the end of December 2023, 28 of the 294 looked after children had three or more placements during the year, equating to 9.5%. 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 Q3 in 2022/23, 26 of the 351 looked after children (7.4%) 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

- 5.10. At the end of December 2023, provisional figures showed there were 101 children looked after for more than 2.5 years, 71 of whom had been in the same placement for at least 2 years or were placed for adoption. This makes a total of 70.3% of looked after children in long term stable placements provisionally. 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 71.7%, above the target.

We are currently in the process of analysing our short- and long-term stability data and the reasons for children moving placement and will provide a full update in the end of quarter 4 report.

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

- 5.11. There were 9 different children missing from care for 24+ hours in December 2023. This is four higher than the same point in 2022 and two higher than the last reported figure in September 2023 and same as 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

- 5.12. 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 Q3 2023/24 was 57.4%. The target was to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures which in 2019/20 was 58.6%. However, due to a number of playgrounds being closed due to renovations during the year, it is not possible to make a direct comparison.

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

- 5.13. Quarter 3 figure shows 3,383 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. While the target was to have increased number of contacts in line with pre-covid levels, which in 2019/20, pre-covid year figure was 5,128. However, due to a number of playgrounds being closed due to renovations during the year, it is not possible to make a direct comparison.

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

- 5.14. Quarter 3 figure shows 1,943 participants 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. Target is to have increased numbers in line with pre-covid levels which in 2019/20, the pre-covid year, was 3,003 so the figures at the end of Q2 are on track to meet the target. However, due to a number of playgrounds being closed due to renovations during the year, it is not possible to make a direct comparison.

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

- 5.15. 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 Q3 2023/24 was 42.9%. 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 45.1%.

The target is to have 10% increase in rates compared to pre-covid figures. 2019/20 full year engagement figure was 43.6% so Q3 figure is below the target.

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

- 5.16. Quarter 3 figure shows 4,509 contacts aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl.

This quarter's figure was 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 this measure's end of year figure will likely to be below target.

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

- 5.17. Quarter 3 figure shows 1,934 participants aged 5-25 at Youth providers and aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl.

This quarter's figure was 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 this measure's end of year figure will likely to be below target.

6. Lifelong learning, skills and enrichment

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q3 2023/24	On target?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 last year?
2.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings	95.6% (March 2022)	95.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 95.4% (Dec 2023)	96.3% (Dec 2023)	Yes	94.0% (Dec 2022)	Yes
2.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	92.5%	97.1% (March 2023)	>Inner London 96.3% (Dec 2023)	95.5% Dec 2023)	No	97.1% (Dec 2022)	No

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	70% (Spring 2022)	75% (Spring 2023)	>75%	74% (Spring 2024)	Stable	75% (Spring 2023)	Stable
2.5	Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools	1.81	TBC	< 0.28% (Inner London figure)	0.48% (Spr 2022/23)	No	0.58% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.6	Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools	21.84	TBC	< 3.55% (Inner London figure)	4.88% (Spr 2022/23)	No	8.11% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.7	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools	7.28	TBC	< 1.18 (Inner London figure)	1.73% (Spr 2022/23)	No	2.43% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.8	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools	45.49	TBC	< 7.72% (Inner London figure)	11.35% (Spr 2022/23)	No	15.70% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.9	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools	3.95	TBC	< 0.73% (Inner London figure)	1.24% (Spr 2022/23)	No	1.81% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.10	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools	65.35	TBC	< 8.74% (Inner London figure)	15.70% (Spr 2022/23)	No	25.46% (Spr 2021/22)	Yes
2.11	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools	18.4% (21/22 AY)	21.6% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or below Inner London 19.4%	21.6% (2022/23 Academic year)	No	18.4% (21/22 AY)	Higher

2.12	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools	26.5% (21/22 AY)	29.2% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or below Inner London 24.4%	29.2% (2022/23 Academic year)	No	26.5% (21/22 AY)	Higher
2.17	Corporate Indicator - KS4 – Attainment 8 (A8)	49.9	46.7 (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 49.7	46.7 (2022/23)	No	49.9	No
2.18	Corporate Indicator – % of 16 & 17 year old residents NEET or in not known activity	4.6%	4.5%	<4.5%	4.2% (provisional)	Yes	4.5%	Yes
2.20	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	258 (March 22)	294 (March 23)	n/a	287 (Dec 2023)	n/a	294 (Dec 2022)	Lower
2.21	Attendance of Children in Need	84.1%	83.0%	90% or above	83.0% (2022/23)	No	84.1% (2021/22)	Stable

2.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early years settings

6.1. As at the end of December 2023, 157 of Islington’s 163 (96.3%) 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.

Currently, there are two group early years providers with children on roll that are judged below good; one Inadequate and one Requires Improvement. We have worked with both providers to improve and follow up inspections are due before the summer. 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 Q3 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 – 7 outstanding, 35 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 Q3 2022/23 was 96.3% (of inspected schools), so Islington was below this target.

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

6.3. 2023/24 Spring term published figures showed (74%) and indicates a stable position compared to the same period last year. This is a significant improvement in take-up figures since the Autumn term. Despite high levels of deprivation in Islington, we continue to perform well above the London and Inner London averages and are likely to be close to the national average which was 74% in 2023 (national figures not yet published for 2024). While London has historically seen take up figures at 10% lower than the national average, Islington is in the top five performing boroughs within inner London.

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

6.4. 2022/23 Spring term published figure showed Islington primary schools to have 0.48% suspension rate based on 65 suspensions during this term. 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 below the national average (0.58%) and ranked 78th out of 150 local authorities for the lowest rate of suspensions. Islington’s suspension rate is an improvement on 2021/22 Spring term figure of 0.58% (82 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:

Group	Islington – Spring 2022/23	Inner London – Spring 2022/23	England - Spring 2022/23
FSM eligible	0.88%	0.54%	1.35%
SEN Support	1.62%	0.94%	2.40%
Education, Health & Care Plans	2.10%	2.02%	5.15%
Black Caribbean	0.53%	0.93%	1.15%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	1.24%	0.73%	1.18%

Local provisional data for Spring 2024 indicates there has been a decrease in the number of primary suspensions - 59 compared to 65 for the comparative period in Spring 2023, marking a drop of 9%.

While it is disappointing that the target has not been met, it is encouraging to note that the gap with inner-London is closing and that primary permanent exclusions have continued to remain consistently low.

Primary schools have told us that there has been a significant rise in the level of need among the post-Covid generation of children who have missed out on socialisation opportunities while at home. This experience has impacted on their behavioural responses to other children and adults in school and will take some time to ameliorate despite support from the LA's outreach services to schools and individuals.

Whole school initiatives focused on building emotional resilience among children and staff continue to make an impact on the development of inclusive and nurturing environments as evidenced through lower suspension rates and collaborations between schools in sharing good practice on managing children with challenging behaviour. Schools with the highest rates of suspensions receive targeted support through LA and external interventions such as Project Groups and the London Mayor's Inclusive and Nurturing Schools Programme which focuses on reducing suspensions through whole school strategies that address inclusion and healthy relationships.

2.6- % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools

- 6.5. 2022/23 Spring term published figure showed Islington secondary schools to have 4.89% suspension rate based on 456 suspensions during this term. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 3.55%, so the target for this year was not met. Islington was below the national average (6.40%) and had the 99th lowest rate of suspensions out of 151 local authorities. Islington's suspension rate is an improvement on 2021/22 Spring term figure of 8.11% (743 suspensions)

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:

Group	Islington – Spring 2022/23	Inner London – Spring 2022/23	England - Spring 2022/23
FSM eligible	7.86%	5.72%	15.33%
SEN Support	11.23%	7.60%	15.94%
Education, Health & Care Plans	11.99%	8.16%	15.55%
Black Caribbean	10.04%	7.52%	7.76%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	15.70%	8.74%	11.95%

Local provisional data for Spring 2024 indicates there were 633 secondary suspensions compared to 456 suspensions for the comparative period in Spring 2023. This is

disappointing news as the downward trajectory appears to have reversed quite abruptly with a sharp rise in secondary suspensions (up 39%).

It is worth noting however that almost 80% of secondary suspensions for Spring 2024 are accounted for by four schools. We will continue to focus on these schools through the deployment of targeted interventions from New River College Outreach and the use of external agencies. For example, the London Mayor's 'Inclusive and Nurturing Schools' programme is running in two of the four schools and focusses on whole school strategies to address high exclusion rates. While this has had an impact on each school's individual suspension rate, this has not been sufficient in reducing the overall number of secondary suspensions. There is evidence that the 'Becoming a Man' initiative which focuses on reducing suspensions of over-represented male groups through individual mentoring and targeted group work is beginning to have an impact in some schools but not all, and so there is still a long way to go.

Collaboration across Islington secondary schools continues to be a positive development enabling the sharing of good practice for managing increasingly challenging behaviour through the development of inclusive school communities. Peer scrutiny of individual school suspensions through the Islington Secondary School and College Leadership (ISSCL) network and Senior Leaders Group has also been helpful in underlining the importance of shared initiatives and consistent practice across the borough's secondary schools.

2.7 - Percentage rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools

- 6.6. The suspensions rate of SEND pupils (pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans or have SEN support) in Islington primary schools in 2022/23 Spring term was 1.73%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 1.18% so the target is not met. However, Islington's suspension rate for this group of pupils was better than the national rate of 2.83%.

There are a number of possible reasons why suspensions of children with SEND from primary school have not reduced to the level we wish, although there has been improvement. This is as a result of:

- Better understanding from schools of the complexity of need of some children which can result in activity that present risks to the student themselves or others.
- Work with and by schools to understand adjustments and adaptations that can be made, including to the physical environment, targeted early intervention programmes that focus on providing additional support to SEND pupils before situations escalate.
- Collaboration with services and agencies such as Educational Psychologists and social workers to develop personalised strategies for each student.
- New River College Outreach Service working in all of our primary schools to deliver additional advice, support, strategies, and interventions.

The above will continue alongside more focused work to support engagement of parents to support consistent approaches at home and school, and working more closely with the local authority through support networks, e.g., Inclusion Hubs Officers will continue to monitor and analyse data so that support can be targeted, and potential triggers identified. Officers will also be evaluating existing policies related to behaviour management and suspension, including arrangements for children with SEND, to ensure they align with best practices and promote inclusivity.

Achieving the target suspension rate for children with SEND will require sustained efforts over time, but with proactive measures, improvements will continue to be seen.

2.8 - Percentage rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools

- 6.7. The suspensions rate of SEND pupils in Islington secondary schools in 2022/23 Spring term was 11.35%. The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 7.72% so the target was not met. However, Islington's suspension rate for this group of pupils was better than the national rate of 15.88%.

As above, we will continue to adopt a multi-faceted approach that combines early intervention, training, parental involvement, and data-driven decision-making to reduce suspension rates for SEND pupils. In addition, we will encourage Secondary schools to consider approaches that focus on restorative justice and skill-building rather than exclusion, and the potential for developing Peer Support and Mentoring to help reduce feelings of belonging.

By fostering an inclusive and supportive environment in school, we believe suspension rates will improve.

2.9 - Percentage rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools

- 6.8. The suspensions rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnic groups in Islington primary schools in 2022/23 Spring term was 1.24%, higher than the inner London rate of 0.73% and slightly above the national rate of 1.18%. The target is to be below the inner London rate so the target was 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 - Percentage rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools

6.9. The suspensions rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnic groups in Islington secondary schools in 2022/23 Spring term was 15.70%, higher than inner London figure of 8.74% and national figure of 11.95%. The target is to be below the inner London rate so the target was not met.

See item 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

6.10. The published 2022/23 full year figure shows 21.6% of Islington primary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 143rd in England in terms of lowest percentage of persistent absence. The range of persistent absence was 8.2% (lowest) to 24.1% (highest).

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 19.4% so the target was not met. Islington’s figure was also above the national percentage rate of 16.2%. While both Islington’s and inner London’s rates of persistent absence increased compared to 2021/22 academic year, there was a slight reduction in national rates compared to 21/22 figure.

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:

Group	Islington 2022/23 full year	Inner London 2022/23 full year	England 2022/23 full year
FSM eligible	29.9	27.3	29.4
SEN Support	29.7	25.9	24.8
Education, Health & Care Plans	34.4	31.6	31.0
Black Caribbean	27.9	24.8	22.0
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	32.5	29.0	24.3

Severe absence rate for 2022/23 academic year was 1.0%, an increase on 0.3% point during same period last year. This figure is very slightly above the inner London average of 0.9%.

We know that several factors have contributed to national decline in attendance, including:

- **Pandemic Impact:** The pandemic disrupted regular school attendance patterns and many students have struggled to return to consistent attendance after prolonged closures. Increased anxiety, lack of mental health support, and changes in parental working schedules have all played a role.
- **Deprivation Factors:** Research indicates that young people from lower occupational status backgrounds are more likely to miss school. State school pupils have fallen behind their independent school counterparts.

However, this does not explain why these factors are impacting more in Islington than in other areas.

Actions so far have not had impact, and so need to be stepped up as all levels.

Proposals include:

- **Support Networks:** Develop strong family and parent networks.
- **Mental Health Support:** Prioritising mental health services for students that address anxiety and providing necessary support
- **Flexi-schooling:** which allows students to split their time between attending school and learning at home. It can provide a more adaptable schedule, accommodating individual needs and is a better alternative than Elective Home Education
- **Collaboration with Community Services:** including community organisations to address underlying issues affecting attendance, such as housing instability or financial stress.

We are also looking to introduce Attendance Mentors in locality areas, subject to being able to identify funding. Evidence shows that Attendance Mentors who actively engage with students, families, and school staff to promote regular attendance can play a crucial role in reducing absence. Attendance mentors would:

- Closely monitor students' attendance records, track patterns of absence and persistent absenteeism in an area
- Intervene early i.e., when a student's attendance starts to become irregular to identify potential barriers such as health issues, family circumstances, or disengagement.
- Work one-on-one with students, build relationships, understand their unique situations, and provide personalised support
- Collaborates with parents, discuss attendance challenges, explore solutions, and encourage family involvement in improving attendance.
- Attendance Mentors can advocate for students' well-being, provide support and develop customised individual plans that may include incentives, rewards, or targeted interventions to boost attendance.
- They would also collaborate with teachers, counsellors, and administrators to share insights, coordinate efforts, and align attendance initiatives.

We are also looking to develop a suggestion from one of our schools to develop an Attendance Awareness course, designed for parents to emphasise the importance of regular school attendance and highlight the consequences of absenteeism. Much like

the speed awareness courses offered by the DVLA, this programme would aim to educate parents and encourage positive behaviour change as an alternative to fines and penalty notices for first offences.

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

- 6.11. The published 2022/23 whole year figure shows 29.2% of Islington secondary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 120th out of 151 local authorities in England. The range of persistent absence was 18.1% (lowest) to 36.3% (highest).

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 24.4% so the target was not met. Islington's rate is also above the national percentage rate of 26.5%. While both Islington's and inner London's rates of persistent absence increased compared to 2021/22 academic year, there was a slight reduction in national rates compared to 21/22 figure.

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:

Group	Islington 2022/23 full year	Inner London 2022/23 full year	England 2022/23 full year
FSM eligible	38.5	32.6	45.0
SEN Support	40.5	34.3	39.0
Education, Health & Care Plans	40.3	32.5	39.1
Black Caribbean	35.4	31.0	28.9
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	46.2	40.2	38.4

Severe absence rate for 2022/23 academic year was 2.7%, an increase on 0.4% point during same period last year. This figure is above the inner London average of 2.1%.

See 6.10 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.

2.17 - Corporate Indicator - Key Stage 4 - Attainment 8

- 6.12. The published revised DfE data shows Islington's Attainment 8 score as 46.7. This score is below the inner London figure of 49.7 and slightly above the provisional national score of 46.4.

The target is to be in line with or above Inner London figure so the 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	40.8	43.2	34.9
SEN Support	36.2	39.4	33.3
Education, Health & Care Plans	11.8	16.8	14.0
Black Caribbean	39.8	39.3	40.0
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	36.5	40.3	39.1
White UK FSM eligible boys	29.0	30.3 (London) No inner London figure available	28.8
Black Caribbean boys	37.4	36.3 (London) No inner London figure available	36.0
Boys with pupil premium funding*	39.1	39.4 (London) No inner London figure available	32.8

*FSM ever 6 only

Attainment 8 scores of Islington's FSM, SEND and Mixed White & Black Caribbean cohorts were below Inner London scores. However, FSM pupils and SEN support pupils were above national figures.

Attainment 8 of Children Social Care cohorts:

Group	Islington 2022/23	Inner London 2022/23	England 2022/23
Children Looked After** (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	20.9	21.5	19.4
Children In Need*** (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	23.4	21.6	18.3
Children Protection Plan*** (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	22.7	20.5	17.8

** OC2: looked after for 12 months as at 31 March 2023

***as at 31 March 2023.

It is positive to note that for average attainment for CIN and children with a CCP is above inner London and national, and while average attainment 8 for CLA is below inner London, it is above national. This reflects the intensive and positive work undertaken in

secondary schools and by the Virtual School to put in place interventions that support children to achieve. For CLA the Virtual School works with schools to ensure that the Pupil Premium Grant is used effectively to provide the additional interventions, such as 1-1 tuition, that many CLA need. The Virtual School uses pupil data rigorously to ensure the right interventions are put in place and they show impact. The Virtual School also ensures all CLA has an up to date and effective Personal Education Plan. Changes to the format of the Children and Families assessment to make them more educationally focussed, and the practice of Social Workers have also ensured that children are given the best opportunity to achieve.

Further action to be taken to continue to ensure children can achieve the highest possible outcomes by the end of KS4 include the Virtual School setting up out of school programmes for children in year 11 that focus on improving attainment in English and particularly Maths; putting in place systems of support and training for carers and parents so they can support their children in KS4; and ensuring all children have an effective education plan that addresses their areas of need and identifies areas of support.

2.18 - Corporate Indicator – % of 16 & 17 year old residents NEET or in not known activity

- 6.13. The provisional young people NEET and in not known activity figure looking at the 3-month average figures between December 2023 to February 2024 was 4.2% for Islington. This is a 0.3% point decrease from the previous year. The target is to improve on previous by means of reduction in % so this measure has met the target.

Islington's figure is above the London (3.4%) and Central London (3.7%) figures but below the national (5.4%) figure. Islington ranks 63rd best out of 153 local authorities for combined NEET & Unknown for the reporting period.

The higher than London and Central London average reflects a higher starting point in December 2023 based on school census returns. This is an area of development with schools to ensure the local authority receives complete and accurate information from as early as possible. By the end of the tracking period in Feb 2023, LBI had a NEET figure of 2.1% against the Central London 2.2% and an Unknown figure of 1.2% against central London 0.9%.

2.20 - Number of Electively Home Educated pupils

- 6.14. There were 287 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 31st December 2023. The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q3 was lower than the 294 pupils in the same period last year.

2.21 - Attendance of Children in Need

- 6.15. Attendance of Children in Need as at March 2022/23 in the 2022/23 academic year was 83.0%. This was below the attendance percentage of 84.1% for the previous CIN cohort and 2021/22 academic year. However, due to covid related changes made to the attendance collection and calculations in 2021/22, the two figures are not directly comparable.

Attendance for all pupils at Islington schools was 92.1% for the same period.

Overall absence for children social care cohorts as at 31 March 2023 for the 2022/23 academic year:

Group	Islington 2022/23	Inner London 2022/23	England 2022/23
Children Looked After* (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	10.7	8.7	8.3
Children In Need** (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	17.0	15.6	17.6
Children Protection Plan** (inc. children attending out of borough schools)	23.6	20.2	21.7

* OC2: looked after for 12 months as at 31 March 2023

**as at 31 March 2023.

Persistent Absence for children social care cohorts as at 31 March 2023 for the 2022/23 academic year:

Group	Islington 2022/23	Inner London 2022/23	England 2022/23
Children Looked After* (incl children attending out of borough schools)	21.7	23.5	20.0
Children In Need** (incl children attending out of borough schools)	51.2	47.4	48.8
Children Protection Plan** (incl children attending out of borough schools)	69.4	58.5	57.5

* OC2: looked after for 12 months as at 31 March 2023

**as at 31 March 2023.

While showing some improvement, the level of persistent and severe absence of CLA, CIN and children with a CPP remains a concern and addressing the level of persistent and severe absent remains a priority for Islington. Addressing the underlying causes of persistent and severe absence is key to improving performance. For these groups of children contextual factors around their home and family life are major factors in influencing children's level of attendance. Working in partnership with schools, intensive work by children's social care teams is undertaken to address these factors, and Social Workers, supported by the Virtual School, continue to develop their practice in supporting children's education. For CIN and children with a CPP the Virtual School leads at a strategic level to make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnership between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children. The Virtual School also promotes practice that support children's engagement in education, for

example promoting practice that addresses issues of Emotionally Based School Avoidance and recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm. The Virtual School offers advice and support to key professionals to help children make progress using evidenced based interventions.

For CLA three inter linked factors stand out when analysing the factors leading to persistent or severe absence. These are the complexity of the cohort at KS3 and KS4, placement and school instability, and the rise in school anxiety and mental health issues among our children as with all children post COVID. As the data highlights, most persistent absence occurs in late KS3 and KS4, and low attendance is usually a symptom of deeper social, emotional, and mental health difficulties experienced by children and tends to increase as children get older. There is also a clear link between placement stability and persistent absence – children who must change school on average miss 2 weeks of education and in some cases where it is not a straightforward, admission to a new school can be longer. Where there are attendance concerns the Virtual School will work intensively with Social Workers, schools, and carers to develop an individual and tailored action plan which address the issues and supports the child to improve their attendance. Key elements of the action plan include working with the carer and school to improve well-being and engagement, for example identifying key adults and mentors to work with children.

MISSION: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

7. 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%	89% (Q1-Q3 2023/24)	Yes	96% (Q1-Q3 2022/23)	Lower
4.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	45	46 (Q1-Q4)	46 < 2022/23	30 (Q1-Q3 2023/24 provisional)	Yes	35 (Q1-Q3 2022/23)	Yes
4.3	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	20%	14% (Average of Q1 to Q4 2022/23)	Reduction from same period average last year	14% (Q1-Q3 Average 2023/24)	No	12% (Q1-Q3 Average 2022/23)	No
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	4	5 (Q1-Q4)	<5	3 (Q1-Q3 2023/24 - provisional)	Yes	5 (Q1-Q3 2022/23)	Yes
4.5	Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,756	2,783 (Q1-Q4)	Increase on 2022/23	1,892 (Q1-Q3 2023/24)	No	2,146 (Q1-Q3 2022/23)	Lower

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

- 7.1. At the end of quarter 3, 89% 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.

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

- 7.2. Provisionally, there were 12 first time entrants into Youth Justice System in quarter 3 taking the total figure at the end of Q3 for the year to 30. 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 considerable 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)

- 7.3. Two of the 12 young people who offended in Q3 2022/23 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate was 16.7%, higher than the Q3 2021/22 re-offending rate of 8%. The two re-offenders had only offended once more in the period.

The target is to improve on the average of same period previous year, so this measure has not met the target for this quarter. The average re-offending rate over the 3 quarters this financial year was 14%, slightly higher than the 12% average over the first three quarters in 2022/23 FY.

Due to the impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, the needs that young people being worked with have are more complex than in recent times. The numbers of young people who re-offend remain low. This is a local measure and when Islington local performance indicator is compared against our comparators, we are one of the highest performing and significantly below the London published rate.

Latest published YJB (Apr-Dec 23) proven reoffending figures show Islington percentage for January - March 22 as 17.6%. This figure is below the National (34.3%) and London (32.4%) percentages.

4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 7.4. There were three custodial sentences for Islington young people at the end of quarter 3 in 2023/24. This is lower than the 5 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 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 three custodial sentences imposed where the offences were so serious that only a custodial sentence was commensurate. Islington's progress in relation to the reduction of custodial sentences remains positive.

4.5 - Number of Domestic abuse offences

7.5. There were a total of 1,892 domestic abuse (DA) crime offences reported to Islington police at the end of Q3, down compared to 2,146 at the end of Q3 last year.

There were 142 domestic abuse sanction detections achieved by the police during this period, a rate of 7.5%, which is lower than last year's rate of 8.3% for the same period.

Due to the continued low police sanction detection rates and prosecutions for domestic abuse offences in Islington and across London / the UK, victims/survivors are increasingly telling services that they are less likely to report domestic abuse to the police. Islington's VAWG partnership are working with police and other partners through the Daily Safeguarding Meeting multi-agency approach to improve criminal justice outcomes for survivors. This is via a coordinated approach and partnership support including VAWG workforce development team training to improve communication between DA advocacy services supporting survivors and the police. This includes offering Claire's Law right to know through the police and increasing the civil orders against perpetrators e.g. non-molestation orders etc. We are also working with the council's comms team to increase awareness of the VAWG services and support available to survivors in the borough.

Outputs:

- 196 survivors (407 referrals received) supported by VAWG advocacy services
- 135 professionals supported with advice around working with survivors
- 10 women supported following experiencing harmful and abusive practices including FGM and forced marriage
- 95% refuge occupancy
- 197 sessions were delivered by the refuge family support teams

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

- 71% felt safer
- 91% increased their confidence and self esteem
- 82% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours
- 74% felt less isolated

While there was a slight decrease in the number of DA offences reported to the police in quarter 3 Islington's commissioned VAWG services continue to be very busy receiving 407 referrals in quarter 3, with 196 survivors and families receiving support through an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate. The Daily Safeguarding Meeting is also very busy and there is an increase in the risk level of cases heard meaning more survivors with high risk are receiving a timely multi-agency response. The sanction and detection rate has declined slightly, and local police colleagues have acknowledged that the rate is too low. The Metropolitan Police VAWG Action Plan sets out their mission which is: More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards. The police have committed to transforming how we protect the public from harm and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). To address this and other areas of performance local police are in the process of establishing a number of focus group meetings to support a partnership approach to improving performance in line with the overall MPS. Turn Around plan 2023-2025. This will include specific sessions on VAWG involving colleagues from Islington's VAWG Strategy Board and are due to start this spring.

8. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q3 2023/24	On target?	Q3 last year	Better than Q3 last year?
5.1	Corporate Indicator - IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services	New indicator	12	Increase on 2022/23	22 (Q1 - Q3 2023/24)	Yes	9 (Q1 - Q3 2022/23)	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	83 (Q1 - Q3 2023/24)	Yes	53 (Q1 - Q3 2022/23)	Yes

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

- 8.1. 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 10 referrals made by the end of Q3, higher than the 2 referrals during the same period last year.

There has been a significant increase in referrals for Tier 3 interventions this quarter, most likely due to a targeted promotion of services to local GP's, additional staff training and an increased take up of the IYPDAS offer by schools after recent substance misuse concerns about vaping and concerns about the increasing availability of synthetic cannabinoids to young people. IYPDAS has also been reviewing treatment assessment processes with Public Health and Commissioners to improve the accessibility and appeal of the tier 3 offer to young people.

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

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

There were 22 referrals at the end of Q3, higher than the 16 referrals made during the same period last year.

There has also been a significant increase in referrals for tier 2 support most likely due to the same improvements listed above for tier 3 referrals, but also most likely due to closer working partnerships being developed with local Police Custody referral pathways (ADAT), more young people accessing the weekly drop-in sessions at Elwood for LAC/CLA young people and staff and the updating of various information health and voluntary sector platforms.

9. Implications

9.1. Financial Implications

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

9.2. **Legal Implications**

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

9.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

9.3.1. There is no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

9.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

9.4.1. 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.

9.4.2. 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.

10. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

10.1. This report has presented a detailed narrative describing the performance of Children's Services in Quarter 3 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 'JAW' followed by a wavy line.

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date: 30th May 2024

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

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