

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: 25 November 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Children's Services Quarter 1 2024-25 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 1 2024/25 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.
- 1.3. This report also sets out Quarter 1 2024/25 progress with the Child-Friendly Islington mission delivery plan deliverables.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To review the performance data for Q1 2024/25 for measures relating to Children's Services.
- 2.2. To review the progress of Child-Friendly Islington mission delivery plan deliverables provided in the appendices.

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 2024/25, the Corporate Indicators for the Children and Young People directorate have been selected from a wider set of measures within the service plans for 2024/25. 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.
- 3.5. An update on the progress of Child-Friendly Islington mission delivery plan deliverables is also provided as an appendix (Appendix B) to this report.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q4 2023/24 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q4 2023/24 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2024. There were two outstanding actions at the meeting:

- Officers to provide the Committee with comparative data on electively home educated children that could be benchmarked with statistical neighbour:

The DfE published information on the number of children in elective home education (EHE) in England is presented for both the number of children at a point in time on the Autumn term 2024 census day, and the number of children who were EHE at any point during the 2023 to 2024 academic year will be made available in December 2024 and will be included in the respective quarter's report. However, please note the data for some local authorities' part of Islington's statistical neighbours' group may be suppressed and in which case it may not be possible to calculate the Statistical Neighbours figure. If this happens to be the case, inner London figures can be provided.

- Officers to provide the Committee with the evaluation report that had been completed by London Metropolitan University capturing the work of the VRU funded Parental Support Project. This is provided as an appendix (Appendix C).
- As response to a query from the members around reporting and inclusion of Child Health measures, officers have been working with Public Health to identify the most appropriate indicators that fit within the committee's remit. Many indicators are found to be published annually rather than quarterly with no recent information available at this time. Officers in both directorates are also collaboratively reviewing the timelines with a view to align the reporting of child health indicators with the reporting of the annual Public Health performance report to the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee.

MISSION: CHILD-FRIENDLY ISLINGTON

5. Resilient Children and Families

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q1 2024/25	On target ?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
1.1	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,316 (March 2023)	1,297 (March 2024)	n/a	1,244 (June 2024)	n/a	1,237 (June 2023)	In line
1.2	Percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within the previous 12 months	16.5% (2022-23 - DfE)	16.0% (2023/24 – local data)	n/a	17.9% (Q1 2024/25)	n/a	15.2% (Q1 2023/24)	Higher
1.3	Inequalities measure – Difference in % of re-referrals to children's social care for Black-Caribbean children and young people to all re-referrals	4.9% pts above LBI average	5.2% pts above LBI average	Less than 5.2% point	(-1.9% point (Q1 2024/25)	Yes	(-3.3% point (Q1 2023/24)	No
1.5	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	169	181 (Q4 2023/24 – local data)	n/a	179 (June 2024/25)	n/a	189 (June 2023/24)	Lower
1.6	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	24.0%	26.7% (2023/24 – local data)	Less than 22%	20.7% (Q1 2024/25)	Yes	40.7% (Q1 2023/24)	Lower
1.7	Corporate Indicator – Number of Looked After Children (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)	290	255 (end of March 2024 – local data)	n/a	257 (end of June 2024)	n/a	290 (end of June 2023)	Lower
1.9	% of children supported by pre proceedings PLO that remain with their parents/ families without entering proceedings	50%	82% (2023/24)	50% or more	44% (Q1 2024/25)	No	Not available	n/a
1.10	Placement stability - short term - Proportion of looked after children with 3 or more placements over the course of the year	9.5% (2022/23 FY – DfE)	12.1% (2023/24 - FY)	11% (2024/25)	14.5% (Q1 2024/25)	No	1.5% (Q1 2023/24)	No
1.11	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	66.3% (2022/23 FY - DfE)	71.7% (2023/24 FY)	70% (2024/25)	67.0% (Q1 2024/25)	No	61.1% (Q1 2023/24)	Yes

	for adoption							
1.12	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	9 (March 2023)	5 (March 2024)	n/a	5 (June 2024)	n/a	10 (June 2023)	Yes
1.13a	Corporate Indicator – Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres	49.6%	47.3% (2023/24 FY)	n/a	38.7%	n/a	36.6%	Yes
1.13b	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres	5,097	5,345 (2023/24 FY)	n/a	1,727	n/a	1,633	Yes
1.13c	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres	2,528	2,529 (2023/24 FY)	n/a	669	n/a	598	Yes

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

- 5.1. There were 1,244 children's social care contacts in June 2024. This was slightly higher than the 1,237 contacts received in June 2023.

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

- 5.2. 117 of the 652 referrals in quarter one of 2024/25 financial year were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 17.9% of referrals. This was higher than figure of 15.2% for the same period previous year.

Auditing activity has commenced to assure ourselves of previous closure decisions, however it is noted in previous audits these outcomes are often aligned with refusal to accept the officer of assessment and support.

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

- 5.3. 8 of the 50 referrals that involved Black-Caribbean children and young people in quarter one of 2024/25 financial year were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 16.0%. The re-referral rate for Black Caribbean children and young people were 1.9% point lower than the overall re-referral rate of 17.9%. Therefore, this indicator is currently on target.

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

- 5.4. 179 children were supported by a Child Protection Plan at the end of June 2024. This is lower than the same point in 2023/24, when there were 189 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. 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. The number children supported by a Child Protection Plan fluctuated between a low of 174 and a high of 189 in 2023/24 financial year. This is relatively stable, suggesting services are preventing children from being at serious risk of harm.

1.6 - 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 Q1, 6 of the 29 plans that started in 2024/25 involved a child who became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time. This equates to 20.7% of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, below the target of 22%.

The percentage of repeat child protection plans has reduced, with most being after two years from the previous plan which would indicate some sustained change for families. Teams 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 ending a plan to consider whether change is sustainable to avoid a repeat plan in the future. There is continued reporting on repeat plans to the senior leadership team where every family is audited by a senior child protection manager. This has had an impact on reducing the percentage of repeat child protection plans.

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

- 5.6. At the end of June 2024, there were 298 CLA, 40 of whom were UASC so there were 258 children who were non-UASC.

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

- 5.7. The number of children subject to PLO was 9 in quarter one of 2024/24. Out of these, 56% went on to Care Proceedings and 44% resulted in no further action.

There are no targets on Pre-proceedings work given the particular functions of this part of PLO is to both prepare cases for care proceedings so as to reduce time in court, along with divert children from proceedings. The large number diverted from care proceedings is considered a strength of this intervention.

It is noted that these numbers are aligned with the 11 authorities in North Central London Central London Family Court, whereby Q1 data across this sector identified 62% entered proceedings and 38% resulted in no further action. *We will therefore review our targets at the end of the year to be in line with North Central London Cohort.*

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

- 5.8. As at the end of March 2024, 43 of the 298 looked after children had three or more placements during the year, equating to 14.4%. 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.

The target for this measure was to be at or lower than 11% so this indicator is currently not on target.

1.11 - 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

- 5.9. At the end of June 2024, there were 106 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 67.0% of looked after children in long term stable placements provisionally.

The long-term target is to increase long term placement stability to 70% so this measure is currently not on target.

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

- 5.10. There were 5 different children missing from care for 24+ hours in June 2024. This is fewer than the same point in June 2023 during which there were 10 children missing from care for more than 24 hours.

This data presents a positive picture and several young people who were frequently going missing in 2023 are now more settled in their placements. However, missing data must be interpreted with caution as it can be affected, significantly, by what is happening in individual children's lives and by numerous other factors such as weather conditions and events occurring within and around the borough, leading to potential fluctuations from month to month.

The Exploitation and Missing team quality assure every missing episode and the service's response to young people who are missing or away from placement without authorisation. This work includes professional training, identifying and responding to any changes in patterns of missing, collating missing briefings for senior managers and chairing the strategy meetings when a young person is missing.

1.13a - Corporate Indicator - Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.11. This indicator measures the participant to contact rate of those who attended Youth Provision including 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 Q1 of 2024/25 was 38.7%. The engagement figure for this quarter was higher than the same period previous year, when the rate was 36.6%.

There has been a lot of activity to promote the universal youth work offer and highlight its benefits for children and young people across the borough. There has been an increase in the offer available to them with new youth centres being opened in 2022 and 2023 and the enhanced detached youth work delivered in the key priority areas. This is ensuring that children and young people have access to a broader offer that is more suitable for their needs.

1.13b - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.12. 2024/25 Quarter one figure shows 1,727 contacts at Youth providers including those aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl, higher than the same period last year's figure of 1,633.

We are continuously working with providers across the offer to increase the number of young people who access the offer in particular, new young people and those who are at risk of poorer outcomes and /or live in more deprived households or neighbourhoods. There is also more promotion taking place about our offer in order to ensure that more residents are aware of this rich offer.

1.13c - Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres

- 5.13. 2024/25 Quarter one figure shows 669 participants at Youth providers including those aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl, higher than the same period last year's figure of 598.

We are continuously working with providers across the offer to increase the number of participants (young people who engage a minimum five times or more) in our youth services. There is also more targeted work taking place to encourage young people who have attended once or twice to become more regular attendees and benefit from positive youth work relationships.

6. Lifelong learning, skills and enrichment

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q1 2024/25	On target ?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
2.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early year settings	95.1% (March 2023)	96.2% (March 2024)	>Inner London – 96.0%	97.5% (June 2024)	Yes	96.3% (June 2023)	Yes
2.2	Percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases)	97.1% (March 2023)	95.5% (March 2024)	>Inner London – 97.1%	95.5% (June 2024)	No	97.1% (June 2023)	No
2.11	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington primary schools	21.6% (2022/23 Academic year)	NYA	in line or below Inner London – 15.9%	17.7% (Aut & Spr 23/24)	No	21.0% (Aut-Spr terms 2022/23 provisional)	Yes
2.12	Corporate Indicator - % rate of persistent absence from Islington secondary schools	29.2% (2022/23 Academic year)	NYA	in line or below Inner London – 20.2%	24.5% (Aut & Spr 23/24)	No	27.2% (Aut-Spr terms 2022/23 provisional)	Yes
2.13	% of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1	79.0% (2022/23)	78.4% (2023/24 provisional)	in line or above Inner London – 81.6%	78.4% (2023/24 provisional)	No	79.0% (2022/23)	In line
2.14	% of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2	88.5% (2022/23)	88.5% (2023/24 provisional)	in line or above Inner London – 89.1%	88.5% (2023/24 provisional)	In line	88.5% (2022/23)	In line
2.15	Key Stage 2 - Expected standard in RWM	65.0% (2022/23)	67.1% (2023/24 provisional)	in line or above Inner London – 68.3%	67.1% (2023/24 provisional)	No	65.0% (2022/23)	Yes
2.20	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	309 (March 23)	312	n/a	345 (June 2024)	n/a	318 (June 2023)	No

2.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early year settings

- 6.1. As at the end of June, 156 of Islington's 160 (97.5%) 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 96.0% at the same point.

The 4 providers – 3 childminders and one group provider - who did not receive a good or outstanding, received a judgement of 'met'. This judgement is given where there are no early year's children present at the time of inspection so there is no reliable evidence on which to assess the impact of the quality of education. It is just an indication that the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

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. As of September 2024, single headline grades for schools will be scrapped to boost school standards. For inspections this academic year, four grades across the existing sub-categories: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership & management will be reported. This reform paves the way for the introduction of School Report Cards from September 2025, which will provide a full and comprehensive assessment of how schools are performing and ensure that inspections are more effective in driving improvement.

This will be the last time this indicator will be reported in performance scrutiny due to the noted changes.

Already published OFSTED single grading for the end of June 2024 shows the percentage of good and outstanding Islington schools (all phases) at the end of Q1 was 95.5% The breakdown of Islington schools' inspection outcomes by phase is:

- Nursery 100% (3/3 – 1 outstanding and 2 good)
- Primary 95% (43/43 – 8 outstanding, 33 good, 1 requires improvement, 1 inadequate)
- Secondary 100% (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 Q1 2023/24 was 97.1% (of inspected schools), so Islington was below this figure.

The secondary school that was graded 'Requires improvement' was inspected by OFSTED in May 2024 and the grading was changed to Good. Islington now has all its

secondary schools graded as good or outstanding. This change in grading increased the overall percentage of Islington good and outstanding schools to 97%.

One of the two primary schools not yet judged good is in the process of being brokered into an academy trust with a proposed conversion date of 1st November 2024. The other primary school continues to be supported by the school improvement team and an assigned Islington Professional Partner.

The approach to school improvement continues to be strengthened through the implementation of the Islington Professional Partnership model where all schools have a dedicated partner to support the school with both accurate self-evaluation and delivering on development plan objectives ensuring the right priorities are addressed at pace.

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

6.3. The published Autumn & Spring 2023/24 figure shows 17.7% (1,899 enrolments) of Islington primary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 143rd out of 152 local authorities in England in terms of lowest percentage of persistent absence. The range of persistent absence nationally was 10.0% (lowest) to 21.6% (highest). This is an improvement on Autumn & Spring Term 2022/23 when 21.0% (2,300 enrolments) of Islington primary school children having had been persistently absent.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 15.9% so the target was not met. Islington’s figure was also above the national percentage rate of 14.7%.

The following % persistence absence table from the DfE published data shows how Islington’s primary schools performed against the inner London and national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan.

Group	Islington Aut & Spr 2023/24	Inner London Aut & Spr 2023/24	England Aut & Spr 2023/24
FSM eligible	24.6% (1201 enrolments)	22.2%	26.1%
SEN Support	25.4% (480 enrolments)	21.5%	22.5%
Education, Health & Care Plans	33.5% (197 enrolments)	27.9%	29.9%
Black-Caribbean	26.3% (119 enrolments)	22.3%	20.0%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	28.8% (130 enrolments)	25.5%	22.2%

Severe absence rate for Autumn & Spring 2023/24 terms combined was 0.7% (76 enrolments). This figure is below the inner London average of 1.0% and below the national rate of 0.8%.

We are actively addressing the challenging issue of improving school attendance through a multifaceted approach, recognising that our current attendance rates are not where we want them to be. We are implementing four main strategies to drive improvement as follows:

- Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is focusing on persistent absence at secondary schools to identify root causes and good practice that support students in maintaining regular attendance.
- We have launched a 'Call to Arms' initiative, rallying partners and the community to pledge their support for improving school attendance. This collective effort aims to create a supportive environment where everyone is committed to ensuring that children attend school regularly.
- We are in the process of recruiting Attendance Mentors. These mentors will work closely with identified families and young people who are persistently absent, providing tailored support to address the specific challenges they face. By offering personalised guidance and encouragement, we hope to make a significant impact on their attendance patterns.
- We are conducting Targeted Support Meetings for each school, in line with the 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' model. By the end of this term, every school will have been visited to thoroughly understand their unique context and strategies. These visits will help us identify priority areas for support and ensure that each school receives the necessary resources and assistance to improve attendance.

Through these concerted efforts, we are committed to creating a positive change in school attendance rates, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to benefit from consistent and meaningful education.

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

- 6.4. The published Autumn & Spring 2023/24 combined terms figure shows 24.5% (1,884 enrolments) of Islington secondary school children having had been persistently absent. Islington ranked 86th out of 152 local authorities in England. The range of persistent absence nationally was 15.2% (lowest) to 34.4% (highest).

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 20.2% so the target was not met. Islington's rate was also above the national percentage rate of 23.9%.

An improvement could be seen in the persistent absence in Islington secondary schools in Autumn & Spring 2023/24 compared to the same period previous year (Autumn & Spring term 2022/23), when the persistent absence rate was 27.2% (2,159 enrolments).

The following % persistence absence table from the DfE published data shows how Islington’s primary schools performed against the inner London and national averages for the breakdowns used to monitor the Education Plan.

Group	Islington Aut & Spr 2023/24	Inner London Aut & Spr 2023/24	England Aut & Spr 2023/24
FSM eligible	32.5% (1,217 enrolments)	27.0%	40.6%
SEN Support	34.9% (463 enrolments)	29.8%	36.7%
Education, Health & Care Plans	37.2% (109 enrolments)	29.6%	38.7%
Black-Caribbean	32.7% (132 enrolments)	27.3%	26.3%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	44.0% (157 enrolments)	36.4%	36.0%

Severe absence rate for Autumn & Spring 2023/24 terms combined was 3.3% (256 enrolments). This figure is above the inner London average of 2.1%. but below the national rate of 3.5%.

For further information on action see commentary under 6.3, above.

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

- 6.5. The published provisional DfE data shows figures show 78% (78.4%) of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1, below the inner London figure of 81.6% and the national figure of 80%.

2024 provisional figure is in line with 2023 percentage (79.0%)

Although Islington’s overall rankings fell, it is important to remember that Islington has a higher % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and with SEN than the national average. As a lower % of these pupils tend to achieve the expected standard, this has an impact on Islington’s overall performance.

Islington’s FSM eligible pupils were above the Statistical Neighbour and England averages for Year 1 and were top quartile for both Year 1 & 2.

The same is true for Islington pupils on SEN Support, whilst Islington’s pupils with EHCPs were in the second quartile, nationally, for both Year 1 & 2.

The Islington Education Plan sets an ambitious target that by 2024 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1 will be 85%.

The table below shows provisional percentages of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 1 within each specific cohort:

Group	Islington 2023/24	Inner London 2023/24	England 2023/24
FSM-eligible	525 pupils (72%)	75%	68%
SEND Support	152 pupils (59%)	60%	52%
Education, Health & Care Plans	28 pupils (22%)	23%	20%
Black-Caribbean	53 pupils (75%)	75%	76%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	58 pupils (74%)	77%	77%
Boys with pupil premium funding*	Not available		
Black Caribbean boys	21 pupils (62%)	67%	70%

*Disadvantaged cohort

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

6.6. The published provisional DfE data shows 89% (88.5%) of Islington pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check in year 2, in line with the inner London and national figure (89%).

2024 provisional figure is the same as 2023 percentage (88.5%).

The Islington Education Plan sets an ambitious target that by 2024 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2 will be 94%.

The table below shows provisional percentages of pupils meeting the expected standard in in the phonics screening check by the end of year 2 within each specific cohort:

Group	Islington 2023/24	Inner London 2023/24	England 2023/24
FSM-eligible	667 pupils (85%)	85%	82%
SEND Support	243 pupils (78%)	76%	70%
Education, Health & Care Plans	45 pupils (34%)	36%	31%
Black-Caribbean	60 pupils (80%)	83%	86%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	57 pupils (80%)	84%	87%
Boys with pupil premium funding*	Not available		
Black Caribbean boys	26 pupils (68%)	79%	82%

*Disadvantaged cohort

To meet the ambitious targets set out in the Education Plan for Phonics outcomes at the end of Year 1 and Year 2, the focus across the 2024/25 academic year will be to ensure:

- All Islington Professional Partner (IPP) visits to all schools will have Phonics as a main area of focus for schools.

- Termly tracking of progress for Year 1 and Year 2
- Schools with good outcomes to share best practice with the Primary Senior Leader Network with a focus on those schools below National figures.

2.15 – Corporate Indicator: % of pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing & Maths

6.7. The published provisional DfE data shows 67.1% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths. This percentage is below the provisional London figure of 68.3% but above the national percentage of 60.4%

2024 provisional figure of 67.1% is better than 2023 percentage (65.0%).

The table below shows provisional percentages of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths within each specific cohort:

Group	Islington 2023/24	Inner London 2023/24	England 2023/24
FSM-eligible	510 pupils (58%)	60%	45%
SEND Support	137 pupils (40%)	40%	26%
Education, Health & Care Plans	22 pupils (16%)	14%	9%
Black-Caribbean	38 pupils (49%)	54%	53%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	44 pupils (59%)	55%	52%
Boys with pupil premium funding*	246 pupils (54%)	57%	42%
Black Caribbean boys	17 pupils (41%)	49%	48%

*Disadvantaged cohort

The Islington Education Plan sets an ambitious target that by 2024 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will be 72%.

We are progressing a targeted programme of engagement and CPD with schools and leadership through the work of our dedicated One Stop + framework of activity in response to local needs in this regard.

2.16 – Corporate Indicator: Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 (A8)

6.8. The DfE provisional figures were due to be released 24 October 2024. However, due to data quality issues the DfE have postponed the publication of the provisional Key Stage 4 results. At the time of writing, they have not said when the results will be published, only a broad statement that ‘a new publication date will be announced as soon as possible’ and this is expected to be in November or December. The provisional results will be included in the next Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee Performance Report after they are published.

2.20 – Number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils

6.9. There were 345 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 30th June 2024. The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q1 was higher than the 312 pupils in the same period last year.

The number of electively home educated pupils shows all children electively home educated in the borough. While some will include children be known to social care services, the increase or decrease in the number of electively home educated children is not correlated to children social care cases.

The latest published data by the DfE on the number of children EHE was voluntary so reliable national data is not available. However, for Autumn 2023/24, the average rate for inner London was 0.83%. For Islington the rate was 1.2% and the highest of all inner London LAs who submitted a return.

The next published data will be available in December.

7. Care, support and safeguarding

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q1 2024/25	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
4.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	96%	91% (2023/24)	> 91%	100% (Q1 2024/25)	Yes	83% (Q1 2023/24)	Yes
4.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	46 (Q1-Q4)	37 (2023/24 provisional)	< 37	9 (Q1 2024/25)	Yes	6 (Q1 2023/24)	No
4.3	Corporate Indicator - Percentage of repeat young offenders (under 18s)	14% (Average of Q1 to Q4 2022/23)	12% (Q1-Q4 Average 2023/24)	Reduction from the average of quarters same period last year	18% (Q1 2024/25)	No	10% (Q1 2023/24)	No
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	5 (Q1-Q4)	3 (2023/24 - provisional)	< 3	1 (Q1 2024/25)	Yes	1 (Q1 2023/24)	In line
4.5	Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,771 (Q1-Q4)	2,450 (2023/24)	n/a	563 (Q1 2024/25)	n/a	620 (Q1 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 1 2024/25, 100% 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 so this measure is on track to meet the target.

Performance in this area has had considerable success in recent times, achieving high success rates in recent previous quarters and is an improvement on Q1 for the previous year. In this quarter, the Youth Justice Service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and received the highest score in London and the 3rd highest in the country. 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.

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

- 7.2. Provisionally, there were 9 first time entrants (FTEs) into Youth Justice System in quarter 1 of 2024/25. This figure is higher than Q1 last year (6 young people).

The previous years data were variable for each quarter, and it is likely that this will be replicated for the current year. Due to the low numbers of first-time entrants, it is probable that the annual target will be met. This means we would meet the target for 2024/25 which is to be below 37 FTEs.

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 rate per 100,00 remains above the London and national average and continued focus on early intervention and diversion offer is a priority for Young Islington.

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. One of the 11 young people who offended in Q1 2023/24, 2 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate was 18%, higher than the Q1 2022/23 re-offending rate of 10%.

The target is to improve on the average of same period previous year.

While the percentage is higher than the 10% re-offending rate for same period last year, the number of children in the cohort was noticeably smaller (11) in comparison to 20 last year. The number of reoffenders remains the same in comparison (2 children) and the number of reoffences committed (6) is fewer than the reported figure same period last year (15). Despite the data showing an increase in reoffences as a percentage there were fewer number of reoffences committed in Q1 2024/25 than in the same quarter for the previous year.

Latest published draft YJB (Apr 23-March 24) 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.

The numbers of children 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.

4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 7.4. There was one custodial sentence for Q1 2023/24 and one custodial sentence for Q1 2024/25 meaning the measure is met but not lowered.

The number of custodial sentences remain low. The service has a range of effective interventions to manage the risk of high-risk children 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, 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. Provisionally, there were a total of 563 domestic abuse (DA) crime offences reported to Islington police in quarter 1 2024/25. Due to reported data issues with the police database, it was advised by MET not to compare the data with previous periods directly.

There is a downward trend in the reporting of Domestic Abuse across the Metropolitan Police in area and it is likely that the continued lack of trust in the police and the confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole has been a significant factor in the lack of reporting.

While reporting to the police has reduced in Islington our services and the Daily Safeguarding Meeting (MARAC) continue to be very busy. Central North Borough Command Unit have a comprehensive plan in place as part of the MPS Improvement plan on VAWG including:

- Addressing non-fatal strangulation

- Increasing VAWG training to all officers (VAWG service commenced a new programme of training for police in July to train 650 response officers across Central North)
- Reducing sexual harassment in public spaces
- Improved response to reports of sexual offending including reducing the delays in forensic evidence
- Setting up a new screening panel to review case work with partners

Outputs for quarter 1:

- 605 survivors (452 referrals received) were supported by Islington's VAWG advocacy services
- 25 professionals supported with advice around working with survivors
- 9 women supported following experiencing harmful and abusive practices including FGM and forced marriage
- 95% refuge occupancy
- 289 sessions were delivered by the refuge family support teams

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

- 66% felt safer
- 79% increased their confidence and self esteem
- 76% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours
- 76% felt less isolated

During quarter 1 the VAWG Work force development team spent a week co-located with Whittington A&E department and Maternity department from 8th July for DA Awareness Week. The aim was to support doctors and nurses with Domestic Abuse, increase awareness and confidence through training and workshops, and support with understanding around processes and engaged 100+ health professionals. We also launched the unique clinical health pathway which has been established for survivors who have experienced non-fatal strangulation and choking via a partnership comprising LBI VAWG service, the ICB and UCH with priority referrals from the Daily Safeguarding meeting and sexual health services.

8. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q1 2024/25	On target?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
5.1	Corporate Indicator - IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services	12	26 (2023/24)	No target	3 (Q1 2023/24)	N/A	6 (Q1 2023/24)	Lower
5.2	IYPDAS - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service	85	103 (2023/24)	No target	13 (Q1 2023/24)	N/A	48 (Q1 2023/24)	Lower

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 an 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 3 Tier 3 interventions completed by the end of Q1 2024/25, lower than the 6 referrals during the same period last year. It is unclear why Tier 3 cases have dropped, and the service is working closely with referrers to ensure that the service continues to be promoted and to support colleagues in re-framing conversations that they are having with young people about drugs and alcohol, to try and remove stigma. The new YCSMAS Coordinator has developed a new Assessment tool to help simplify the transition from a Tier 2 intervention to a Tier 3 intervention, which will also improve the process and make the structured journey more young people friendly and transparent, whilst also adhering to the strict confidentiality requirements of the Public Health NDTMS data recording system.

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

There were 13 referrals at the end of Q1 2023/24, noticeably lower than the 48 referrals made during the same period last year.

As with the decrease in Tier 2 referrals above, it is unclear why referrals have dropped so much, and the service is working closely with referrers to ensure that the service is promoted with local Police Custody referral pathways (ADAT), and the updating of various information health and voluntary sector platforms. YCSMAS is also exploring closer working partnerships with the Family Hubs and with the Bright Lives Alliance.

IYPDAS is working with their new SMU Commissioning Strategist to develop and create strategies for increasing Tier 2 referrals and general awareness of the IYPDAS offer throughout the Borough. This includes planning a roll out of corporate staff training, linking in with supported housing, improving transition partnership work with Better Lives and attending the CSCT front door meetings to promote the service.

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 1 2024-25 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:

- Appendix A – Q1 2024/25 Basket of Indicators
- Appendix B - 2024/25 Quarter 1 Child Friendly Islington Delivery Plan – Deliverables progress report

- Appendix C - London Metropolitan University report capturing the work of the VRU funded Parental Support Project

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: 14th November 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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