

Children and Young People

222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Children and Young People

Meeting of: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 February 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Children and Young People Quarter 2 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 2 2024/25 progress against targets for those performance indicators that fall within the Children and Young People outcome area, for which the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has responsibility.
- 1.3. This report also sets out Quarter 2 2024/25 progress with the Child-Friendly Islington mission delivery plan deliverables.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To review the performance data for Q2 2024/25 for measures relating to Children and Young People.
- 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.
- 3.6. A set of annual Children's Health indicators, jointly agreed with Public Health, are included in this report as a result of committee's remit expanding to this area.

4. Outstanding issues and queries from Q1 2024/25 Performance Report

- 4.1. The Q1 2024/25 Performance report was discussed at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2024. There were TBC outstanding actions at the meeting:
 - Number of library visits from schools: This was provided from the Libraries Service and added as an appendix to this report. Please see Appendix C.
 - Officers to provide the Committee with characteristics data on electively home educated children. This information was added to section 2.20 – The number of electively home educated pupils, item 6.15 of this report.
 - Officers to provide number of children educated otherwise than at a school (EOTAS). There were 14 children who had education, health and care plans and

educated other than at a school, funded by the local authority. This is the cohort identified as EOTAS on a snapshot list dated 27 November 2024, used for ILACS inspection.

- 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. Officers in both directorates are also collaboratively reviewed 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. A set of indicators agreed with Public Health are presented as a new section – Section 9: Children's Health, in this quarter's report.

MISSION: CHILD-FRIENDLY ISLINGTON

5. Resilient Children and Families

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q2 2024/25	On target?	Q2 last year	Compared to Q2 last year?
1.1	Children's social care contacts in the past month	1,316 (March 2023)	1,360 (March 2024)	n/a	1,097 (September 2024)	n/a	1,100 (September 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	18.7% (Q2 2024/25)	n/a	14.7% (Q2 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	(-)0.8% point	Yes	(+2.2)% point (Q2 2023/24)	Lower
1.5	Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan	169	181 (Q4 2023/24 – local data)	n/a	147 (Q2 2024/25)	n/a	183 (Q2 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%	13.5% (Q2 2024/25)	Yes	41.9% (Q2 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	250 (end of September 2024)	n/a	267 (end of September 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	33% (Q2 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)	2.3% (Q2 2024/25)	No	6.4% (Q2 2023/24)	Lower
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	66.3% (2022/23 FY - DfE)	71.7% (2023/24 FY)	70% (2024/25)	67.7% (Q2 2024/25)	No	63.9% (Q2 2023/24)	Higher

	least 2 years or placed for adoption							
1.12	Number of children missing from care for 24+ hours	9 (March 2023)	5 (March 2024)	n/a	11 (September 2024)	n/a	7 (September 2023)	Higher
1.13a	Corporate Indicator – Increase in engagement rates at Youth Clubs and Centres	49.6%	47.3% (2023/24 FY)	n/a	44% (Q1-Q2 2024/25)	n/a	40% (Q1-Q2 2023/4)	Higher
1.13b	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres	5,097	5,345 (2023/24 FY)	n/a	3,826	n/a	3,760 (Q1-Q2 2023/4)	Higher
1.13c	Corporate Indicator - Increase in total number of participants at Youth Clubs and Centres	2,528	2,529 (2023/24 FY)	n/a	1,682	n/a	1,504 (Q1-Q2 2023/4)	Higher

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

- 5.1. There were 1,097 children's social care contacts in September 2024. This was in line with the 1,100 contacts received in September 2023.

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

- 5.2. 224 of the 1,200 referrals at the end of quarter two of 2024/25 financial year were re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 18.7% of referrals. This was higher than figure of 14.7% for the same period previous year.

Peer auditing activity is being undertaken to assure ourselves of previous closure decisions, however it is noted in previous audits these outcomes are often aligned with refusal to accept the offer of assessment and support. This auditing activity is currently underway and will be reported to the practice and performance board in February.

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

- 5.3. 17 of the 95 referrals that involved Black-Caribbean children and young people in quarter two of 2024/25 financial year were re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral. This equates to 17.9%. The re-referral rate for Black Caribbean children and young people were 0.8% point lower than the overall re-referral rate of 18.7%. Therefore, this indicator is currently on target.

The difference in the re-referral rate of Black-Caribbean children and young people were better than the same period last year when it was 2.2% point higher than the overall re-referral rate.

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

- 5.4. 147 children were supported by a Child Protection Plan at the end of September 2024. This is lower than the same point in 2023/24, when there were 183 children supported by a Child Protection Plan.

The number of children supported by child protection plans in Islington has fluctuated, with an overall downward trend over the last 6 years. This is in the context of Q2 benchmarking data which stated the rate of London's children in need decreased from a rate of 313 per 10,000 on 30 June 2019 to 267 per 10,000 on 30 September 2024. At the end of March 2024, Islington's rate of CP Plans was above the London, Inner London and England rates, so the recent reductions are bringing us more in line with our comparators (all were between 40 and 42 CP Plans per 10,000). Nevertheless, Islington Safeguarding and Family Support will continue to ensure that any drop in CP numbers is proportionate to children's needs.

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 Q2, 7 of the 52 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 13.5% 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 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 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 303 CLA, 53 of whom were UASC so there were 250 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 12 in quarter 2 of 2024/25, with another 6 due to commence.

6 children concluded in Q2 with an outcome of issuing care proceedings in 4 out of 6 children. Care proceedings outcomes for Q2. Alongside all cases in Q1 with a decision of NFA in 100%, there are no issues regarding pre-proceeding outcomes over the year to date.

71% of care proceedings applications in Q2 came after Pre-proceedings processes which is aligned with court expectations to have as many cases progress through pre-proceedings before issuing.

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.

It is noted that these numbers are aligned with the 11 authorities in North Central London Central London Family Court, whereby Q1 and Q2 data across this sector identified 57.5% entered proceedings and 42% 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, 7 of the 303 looked after children had three or more placements during the year, equating to 2.3%. 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 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 September 2024, there were 99 children looked after for more than 2.5 years, 67 of whom had been in the same placement for at least 2 years or were placed for adoption. This makes a total of 67.7% of looked after children in long term stable placements provisionally. We are currently assessing the reasons for this drop in performance and will be in a position to feedback at the next quarter

The long-term target is to increase long term placement stability to 70% so this measure is close to the target.

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

- 5.10. There were 11 different children missing from care for 24+ hours in September 2024. This is higher than the same point in September 2023 during which there were 7 children missing from care for more than 24 hours.

Missing data 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. A sibling group of 3 became Looked After, in the Summer of 2024 and their missing episodes are frequent and often longer than 24 hours due to their parents allowing them to stay in their homes but not informing the network. Work is being undertaken to try and establish a trusting relationship with the children, with the aim of reducing the missing episodes and ensure their safety.

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 and also those aged 13-25 who attended Rose Bowl. Contacts are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider at least once during the reporting period. Participants are defined as unique individuals who attended a single provider 5 or more times during the reporting period.

The rate of engagement in Q2 of 2024/25 was 44%. The engagement figure for this quarter was higher than the same period previous year, when the rate was 40%.

The work continues to promote the universal youth work offer and highlight its benefits for children and young people across the borough. This includes the ongoing work to engage more young people in the new provision on Elthorne and Andover estates opened in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The enhanced detached youth work continues to engage young people who are not attending the centre-based provision and supports them to access services and opportunities that meet their needs and interests. 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 two figure shows 3,826 contacts at Youth providers and also at Rose Bowl (aged 13 to 25), higher than the same period last year's figure of 3,760.

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 two figure shows 1,682 participants at Youth providers and also those aged 13-25 at Rose Bowl, higher than the same period last year's figure of 1,504.

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	Q2 2024/25	On target ?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
2.1	Percentage of good and outstanding early year settings	95.1% (March 2023)	96.2% (March 2024)	>Inner London – 96.3%	98.1% (August 2024)	Yes	96.4% (August 2023)	Yes
2.3	% of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	66.6% (2022/23)	65.1% (2023/24)	in line or above Inner London – 70.2%	65.1% (2023/24)	No	66.6% (2022/23)	No
2.4	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%	75% (Spr-24)	Better than same period the previous year	87% (Aut-24)	Yes	66% (Aut-23)	Yes
2.5	% rate of suspensions at Islington primary schools	1.81	1.75% (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 0.41%	0.68% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	0.59% (Aut 2022/23 term)	No
2.6	% rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools	21.84	16.83% (2022/23)	in line or above Inner London – 4.32%	6.61% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	7.71% (Aut 2022/23 term)	Yes
2.7	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington primary schools	7.28	6.08% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or above Inner London – 1.80%	2.44% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	2.02% (Aut 2022/23 term)	No
2.8	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for pupils with SEND at Islington secondary schools	45.49	37.88% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or above Inner London – 10.28%	16.02% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	17.64% (Aut 2022/23 term)	Yes

2.9	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington primary schools	3.95	4.78% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or above Inner London – 1.14%	1.99% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	1.48% (Aut 2022/23 term)	No
2.9	Inequalities measure - % rate of suspensions for Mixed - White & Black-Caribbean pupils at Islington secondary schools	65.35	48.61% (2022/23 Academic year)	in line or above Inner London – 11.19%	20.00% (Aut 2023/24 term)	No	21.78% (Aut 2022/23 term)	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
2.16	Key Stage 4 - Attainment 8 (A8)	46.7 (2022/23)	48.0 (2023/24 - provisional)	in line or above Inner London –	48.0 (2023/24 provisional)		46.7 (2022/23)	Yes
2.19	16 and 17-year-olds (Year 11 & 12 September Guarantee cohorts) have a confirmed and suitable offer of employment, education and training.	96.7% (2022)	97.1% (2023)	97.5%	97.2% (2024)	No	97.1% (2023)	Yes
2.20	Number of Electively Home Educated pupils	309 (March 23)	312 (March 24)	n/a	297 (September 2024)	n/a	314 (September 2023)	Yes

2.1 - Percentage of good and outstanding early year settings

- 6.1. As at the end of August 2024, 158 of Islington’s 161 (98.1%) 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 96.3% at the same point.

The 3 providers – 2 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.

2.3 - Percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

- 6.2. The revised DfE figures show 65.1% of Islington pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). Islington’s figure is below the national average (67.7%) and below the inner London (70.2%) average.

The target is to be in line with or above the Inner London average, so the target was not met for this measure. The ‘Plan for Change’ has a specific target on the EYFSP which to have 75% of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development by 2028.

The proportion of Islington pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception year decreased compared to 2023 (66.6%). However, compared with 2022 (64.7%), the proportion increased by 0.4 percentage points. For context on pupil numbers: 1,672 pupils were assessed in 2024, this compares with 1,792 in 2023 and 1,910 in 2021 – a 6% reduction of numbers assessed each year.

Percentage of pupils at the expected level across all early learning goals (this includes the 2 areas of learning not included in the GLD measure) is 64.4 (England = 66.2), down from 64.8 last year.

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

Group	Islington - 2023/24	Inner London – 2023/24	England - 2023/24
FSM eligible	57.1% (312 pupils)	61.4%	51.5%
SEN Support	34.5% (87 pupils)	29.0%	24.9%
Education, Health & Care Plans	4.8% (6 pupils)	5.7%	3.8%
Black Caribbean	55.8%	63.8%	62.3%

	(48 pupils)		
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	69.7% (46 pupils)	68.1%	65.2%

Historically, the LBI figure has always been slightly lower than inner London and for the last 3 years, Islington has been the only borough to have continued its rigorous moderation programme, so while the comparison with inner London is not completely like-for-like, we are confident that teacher assessments are accurate.

It's encouraging that LBI scores for children with SEND support are higher than those of inner London and nearly 10% higher than national which is positive given the rising number of children with emerging or identified needs in Islington reception classes and the fact that Islington has a significantly higher proportion of children with SEND than Inner London.

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

2.4 - Percentage 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. The initial autumn 2024 term calculation showed 82% take up of 2-year-old FEEE places. Subsequent analysis of the data showed the Autumn 2024/25 term take up was 87%. This figure is based on 614 funded 2-year-olds taking up places, out of a potential 708 who were listed on the September 2024 list provided by the DWP.

We see seasonal variation in performance, so take up figures are compared to the same point in the previous year. In Autumn 2023, 66% of eligible 2-year-olds were taking up a place so this measure has met the target. However, the Autumn 2023 figure was affected with data issues. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare this Autumn 2024 take up with Autumn 2023.

It is encouraging to see the working parent entitlements are not pushing out the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlements and there's a significant increase since last term, summer 2024 (75%).

It is also notable how many childminders are now taking funded children – 60; this is 53% of childminders, compared with 16% at the same time last year.

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

- 6.4. The published suspensions rate at Islington primary schools in Autumn 2023/24 term was 0.68% (89 suspensions). Islington ranked 72nd out of 151 local authorities in England in terms of lowest rate of suspensions.

The Autumn 23/24 figure is higher than the Autumn term 2022/23 when the suspensions rate at Islington primary schools was 0.59% (79 suspensions).

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 0.41% so the target was not met. Islington's figure was below the national percentage rate of 0.83%.

The following % suspensions 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 Autumn 2023/24	Inner London Aut 2023/24	England Aut 2023/24
FSM eligible	1.34% (74 suspensions)	0.77%	2.06%
SEN Support	2.85% (62 suspensions)	1.51%	3.61%
Education, Health & Care Plans	1.06% (7 suspensions)	2.77%	7.31%
Black-Caribbean	1.42% (8 suspensions)	1.17%	1.64%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	1.99% (11 suspensions)	1.14%	1.81%

Provisional local data indicates that there were 90 suspensions in the Autumn Term 2024/25, equivalent to a rate of 0.77% based on 11,738 primary pupils (Years R-6, Autumn Term 2024 school census), suggesting a continuing increase in Autumn term this year compared to last. While this is disappointing, the suspensions relate to 60 individual pupils at 22 different schools, half of whom (30) had more than one suspension. On a positive note, this means that there were no suspensions from 21 of 43 primary schools – equivalent to almost 50% of all Islington primary schools.

Schools with the highest number of suspensions will continue to work with the Inclusive and Nurturing Schools programme. We will work closely with Early Help and preventative services to reduce the number of pupils with multiple suspensions.

This is an ongoing challenge that needs close monitoring. We anticipate that Ofsted's proposal to introduce inclusion criteria in school report cards will support our commitment to embed inclusive practice across all schools through the sharing of expertise and good practice in our low excluding schools.

2.12 - Corporate Indicator - % rate of suspensions at Islington secondary schools

6.5. The published suspensions rate at Islington primary schools in Autumn 2023/24 term was 6.61% (615 suspensions). Islington ranked 62nd out of 151 local authorities in England for the lowest rate of suspensions.

The target for this indicator is to be below the Inner London average, which was 4.32% so the target was not met. Islington's rate was below the national percentage rate of 8.19%.

An improvement could be seen in the rate of suspensions in Islington secondary schools in Autumn 2023/24 compared to the same period previous year (Autumn 2022/23), when the rate was 7.71% (725 suspensions).

The following % suspensions 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 Autumn 2023/24	Inner London Aut 2023/24	England Aut 2023/24
FSM eligible	10.81% (445 suspensions)	7.00%	19.96%
SEN Support	16.31% (245 suspensions)	9.81%	21.31%
Education, Health & Care Plans	14.64% (47 suspensions)	11.89%	21.50%
Black-Caribbean	15.62% (72 suspensions)	9.75%	9.22%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	20% (76 suspensions)	11.19%	15.20%

Provisional local data indicates that there were 803 suspensions in the Autumn Term 2024.25, equivalent to a rate of 11.23% based on 7,148 secondary pupils (Years 7-11, Autumn Term 2024 school census), suggesting an increase in suspensions this Autumn term compared to published figures of Autumn 2023/24. These figures are particularly disappointing in view of our continuing focus on reducing exclusions through our Inclusion and Belonging strategy. The 803 suspensions relate to 404 individual pupils across all 10 secondary schools, with almost 50% having more than one suspension. Approximately 75% of all secondary suspensions were from the COLAMAT schools (599/803). While we had made some headway last year, the number of exclusions has risen once again across the MAT, peaking in November at 183 suspensions in that month alone.

Strategies for reducing exclusion are explored at the Senior Leaders Network meetings, with suspension data being shared to promote good practice and peer challenge in a safe space.

We have been invited to submit a bid to the Violence Reduction Unit and are drafting a proposal to develop a borough-wide approach to restorative practice in secondary schools with the aim of building and repairing positive relationships within the school community.

We anticipate that Ofsted's proposal to introduce inclusion criteria in school report cards will support our commitment to embed inclusive practice across all schools, particularly COLAMAT schools through the sharing of expertise and good practice in our low excluding schools.

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

- 6.6. 2023/24 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington primary schools was 2.44% (69 suspensions). The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 1.80% so the target for this year is not met.

We have seen a rise in the number of complex needs across the primary school age population many of which include Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs which may give rise to challenging behaviours. More children are being diagnosed with autism at an earlier age and finite resources are being stretched to their limit.

We are working with SENCOs and Senior Leaders to develop trauma-informed approaches to managing challenging behaviours including:

- Focusing on understanding the reasons behind challenging behaviours and equipping children with skills to help them self-regulate
- Using inclusive teaching methods that cater to diverse learning styles
- Providing ongoing training for teachers and staff on SEND, including strategies for managing behaviour and creating an inclusive classroom environment.
- Sharing good practice on how to create flexible learning spaces that can be adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. This might include quiet areas for those who need a break from sensory stimulation.

We are increasing the provision of resource bases in primary schools to build capacity and expertise within the mainstream sector. Our aim is to be back on track next academic year when this additional capacity is up and running.

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

- 6.7. 2023/24 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans or receiving SEN Support in Islington secondary schools was 16.02% (292 suspensions). The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 10.28% so the target for this year is not met.

There are several reasons why children with SEND might experience above-average suspension rates:

- One of the most common reasons recorded for suspensions among pupils with SEND is 'Persistent Disruptive Behaviour'. Pupils with SEND may exhibit behaviours that are perceived as disruptive due to their specific needs not being adequately met.
- Teachers and staff may not have sufficient training to support pupils with SEND effectively. This can lead to misunderstandings and inappropriate responses to behaviour.
- Schools often cite a lack of resources to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. This can result in behaviours escalating to the point where suspension is seen as the only option.

Through our Inclusion and Belonging strategy, we are working with schools to support them in:

- Understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by pupils with SEND, including reviewing individual support plans and provision to meet the pupil's needs.
- Promoting a more inclusive school culture that values diversity and inclusion which can help to reduce instances of behaviour that could lead to suspension.
- Developing an audit tool to help schools self-evaluate existing practice in a range of areas including SEND and exclusion from school.
- Training staff in de-escalation techniques and positive behaviour management.
- Encouraging schools to think creatively around reasonable adjustments to the school environment and curriculum to accommodate the needs of pupils with SEND.

We anticipate that Ofsted's proposal to introduce inclusion criteria in school report cards will support our commitment to embed inclusive practice across all secondary schools which will tie in with the expansion of secondary Additional Resource Provision (ARP).

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

- 6.8. 2023/24 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group across Islington primary schools was 1.99% (11 suspensions). The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 1.14% so the target for this year is not met.

It is hard to unpack the reasons for why this measure continues to pose a challenge in the primary phase given the focus on inequalities over several years. As the number of suspensions are small (11) fluctuations in the number of exclusions for these groups can have a significant impact on the overall suspension rate.

Reducing suspensions for over-represented ethnic groups involves implementing strategies that address the root causes of disparities and promote equity. Actions taken include:

- Cultural Competency Training: Providing ongoing training for teachers and staff to increase their understanding of cultural differences and reduce implicit biases.
- Restorative Practices: Implementing restorative justice practices that focus on repairing harm and restoring relationships rather than punitive measures.
- Data Monitoring and Analysis: Developing tools to support schools with analysing suspension data to identify patterns and disparities amongst groups which can then be used to inform policy changes and targeted interventions.

We continue to keep a close eye on these figures and work with schools through our 12-month plan to promote inclusion and belonging.

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

6.9. 2023/24 Autumn term published figure for suspension rate of pupils from Mixed White and Black ethnic group across Islington secondary schools was 20% (76 suspensions). The target is to be below the inner London rate which was 11.19% so the target for this year is not met.

There are several factors contributing to the high suspension rates of secondary pupils from Black and Mixed ethnic groups, for example:

- Implicit Bias and Stereotyping: Teachers and staff may unconsciously hold biases or stereotypes that influence their perceptions and responses to behaviour. This can lead to harsher disciplinary actions for pupils from these ethnic groups.
- Cultural Misunderstandings: Differences in cultural norms and communication styles can sometimes be misinterpreted as defiance or disrespect, resulting in suspensions.
- Lack of Representation: A lack of diversity among school staff can contribute to misunderstandings and a lack of culturally responsive teaching and discipline practices.

Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach, including training for staff on cultural competency, implementing restorative practices, and ensuring that discipline policies are applied fairly and consistently.

- Cultural Competency Training: Providing ongoing training for teachers and staff to increase their understanding of cultural differences and reduce implicit biases.
- Restorative Practices: Implementing restorative justice practices that focus on repairing harm and restoring relationships rather than punitive measures. We have been invited to submit a bid to the Violence Reduction Unit and are drafting a proposal to develop a borough-wide approach to restorative practice in secondary schools with the aim of building and repairing relationships within the school community.
- Data Monitoring and Analysis: Developing tools to support schools with analysing suspension data to identify patterns and disparities amongst groups which can then be used to inform policy changes and targeted interventions.

- School Ethos: The overall school environment, including the presence of supportive relationships and a sense of belonging, can significantly impact behaviour. Pupils who feel marginalised or unsupported are more likely to exhibit behaviours that lead to suspensions.

We continue to keep a close eye on these figures and work with schools through our 12-month plan to promote inclusion and belonging. If our bid is successful, the aim will be to have the programme up and running for the start of the summer term. It may take up to three terms to see an impact on exclusion rates of over-represented groups.

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

6.10. The published 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 figure is in line with 2023 percentage (79.0%)

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%
White British & FSM boys	No longer published		
Boys with pupil premium funding**	Not Available		
Black Caribbean boys	21 pupils (62%)	67%	70%

**Disadvantaged cohort

A survey has been sent out to all schools to establish both successes and challenges following the 2024 Year 1 and Year 2 phonics results. The results of the survey will inform both the support and sharing of best practice across our schools moving forward.

The five worst performing schools for this measure include three of the borough’s academies and along with the two maintained schools, these five settings will be targeted to address the following issues:

- Speech and language development delays meaning pupils not accessing the programmes in place at schools with the required support.
- In many cases, phonic leads are class based and not out at least once a week modelling phonics or picking up issues with targeted pupils across all classes.

- Phonic leads not always doing timely assessments due to being in class
- The quality and number of catch-up and extra targeted sessions are a challenge to deliver on a regular basis in many schools.
- The sharing of best practice, particularly with more disadvantaged pupil cohorts is not embedded across many of the borough's schools.

To address the issues outlined above across all our schools, the Primary English Network and the Senior Leader Network (Primary Deputy and Assistant Heads) have delivered sessions on phonics and been working collectively to problem solve the issues. The sharing of best practice is now an on-going commitment across these networks and school to school visits are being facilitated by the school improvement team.

The Islington Professional Partners (IPPs) are prioritising Phonics in Year 1 and Year 2 across the maintained schools and tracking termly assessment outcomes with a focus on those cohorts currently below National figures (Black Caribbean and Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean)

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

- 6.11. 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%
White British & FSM boys	Not available		
Boys with pupil premium funding*	Not available		
Black Caribbean boys	26 pupils (68%)	79%	82%

*Disadvantaged cohort

Year 2 phonics outcomes for Black-Caribbean, Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean and in particular Black Caribbean boys are below both Inner London and National figures and perform less well than other cohorts as outlined above.

As with Year 1 phonic outcomes, the actions to support improvement will be a focus on putting in place the following improvements which will be monitored by the Islington Professional Partners (IPPs) assigned to the borough's-maintained schools:

- Where speech and language development delays are identified, additional support to be provided to improve the access and impact of programmes in place at schools.
- Review the deployment of phonic leads, particularly those that are entirely class based are class based to better model phonics and pick up issues with targeted pupils across all classes.
- Ensure all phonic leads are doing timely assessments and that this monitoring of progress impacts on the quality and number of catch-up and extra targeted sessions delivered on a regular basis across schools.
- Ensure the sharing of best practice, particularly with more disadvantaged pupil cohorts is more embedded across schools.

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

- 6.12. The published revised DfE data shows 67.5% pupils meeting the expected standard in Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths. This percentage is below the inner London figure of 69.5% but above the national percentage of 61.1%

2024 figure of 67.5% 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 (59%)	61%	46%
SEN Support	137 pupils (40%)	41%	26%
Education, Health & Care Plans	22 pupils (16%)	15%	9%
Black-Caribbean	38 pupils (49%)	54%	53%
Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean	44 pupils (59%)	55%	52%
White British & FSM boys	No longer published		
Boys with pupil premium funding**	247 pupils (54%)	57%	42%
Black Caribbean boys	17 pupils (41%)	49%	49%

**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%.

Despite this key performance indicator outperforming the national figure by 6.4% and an improvement of 2.5% on 2023 outcomes, the 2024 combined outcome figure was 4.5% below the 72% Education Plan target and 2% below the Inner London figure.

The 10 lowest performing schools included three academies, and the seven maintained schools are a cohort that are being prioritised by the Islington Professional Partner (IPP) team. Each visit includes an update on the assessment of progress across all Key Stage measures.

The senior leaders of those schools all attend the Senior Leader Network where the sharing of best practice is a priority moving forward. The main area of focus has been the early identification of pupils requiring targeted support and the delivery of interventions that impact on progress, in particular black-Caribbean pupils.

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

- 6.13. The published provisional DfE data shows Islington's Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 (A8) figure as 48.0. This score is below the provisional inner London figure of 50.0 and above the provisional national score of 46.1.

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

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

Group	Islington 2023/24	Inner London 2023/24	England 2023/24
FSM eligible	41.0 (for 707 students)	44.0	34.7
SEN Support	38.6 (for 255 students)	39.2	33.1
Education, Health & Care Plans	13.2 (for 97 students)	17.4	14.2
Black Caribbean	39.8 (for 92 students)	39.5	39.7
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	37.8 (for 62 students)	38.9	38.8
White British & FSM boys	Not available		
Boys with pupil premium funding*	40.3 (397 students)	41.3	32.4

Black Caribbean boys	40.1 (for 48 students)	36.2	35.7
----------------------	------------------------	------	------

The Senior Leader Network for Curriculum Deputy Headteachers which is attended by all schools has this key performance indicator as a priority including the sharing of best practice.

Six of the borough's ten secondary schools outperformed National, Regional and Inner London Attainment 8 figures in 2024. Four schools were below National figures with three of them within 1%. One school was significantly below across all measures, and as a Tier 2 school will have additional Professional Partner support to improve outcomes in 2025.

The Senior Leader Network is also reviewing the work done in 2023 to improve outcomes for Black Caribbean students and share the findings across all schools. This cohort outperformed both national and inner London figures with Black-Caribbean boys improving significantly. There still remains a significant gap between this cohort and national figures for all students.

With an Attainment 8 figure of 48 in 2024, up from 46.7 in 2023 where Islington was ranked 57th out of 152 local authorities, 2024 saw Islington improve to 39th out of 152.

2.19 – Corporate Indicator: Percentage of 16 and 17-year-olds (Year 11 & 12 September Guarantee cohorts) with a suitable offer of employment, education and training in the new academic year.

- 6.14. The provisional percentage of children and young people with an offer of education, training or employment by January 2024 was 97.2%. This is an improvement on last year's 97.1%.

Islington ranks 56th out of 153 LAs nationally for highest percentage of offers made and is placed in the second quartile (from top). The London figure is 97.5% and England 94.6%. It is important to note that Islington had the highest percentage of young people recorded as "Offer not appropriate" among local authorities in London. This represented 1.1% of the cohort with about half of these known to be working and the rest having personal circumstances prevent them from continuing in learning.

The target for this measure was 97.5% and the provisional figure suggests this target was not met. However, the council continues to make good year on year progress towards this target.

2.20 – Number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils

- 6.15. There were 297 electively home educated pupils for the period ending 30th September 2024. The number of electively home educated pupils at the end of Q2 was lower than the 313 pupils in the same period last year.

As response to the query from the committee on the characteristics of EHE children in Islington, the cohort that was submitted as part of ILACS inspection was looked at. This is a snapshot of EHE children as of 27th November 2024 and includes 297 children.

Looking at primary and secondary schools age breakdown, 113 children were primary school aged and 184 were secondary school age. The highest number of children were in Key Stage 4 with 47 children in year 10 and 43 in year 11.

There were more girls (158) than boys (139).

The cohort was primarily made up of White British children (83) followed by children from Mixed Other ethnic group (40) and Somali children (32). Just over 16% of the cohort's ethnicity was unknown.

Within the cohort, 19 children had Education Health and Care Plans and a further 67 were previously identified as having SEN. The remaining 211 children did not have an identified special educational need.

Forty percent (119 children) of the cohort have a start date of EHE in 2024. 28 children were found to be EHE for 5 years or more (i.e. since before 2020).

Children who are educated at home came from many different schools. However, no previous school could be identified for over a fifth of the cohort (62 children), suggesting they either came to Islington and started being educated at home or were never attending a maintained school. Four of the five schools with the highest number of pupils being EHE on the report date were academies.

Nine children were CIN and another two had child protection plans. None of the children were open to Youth Justice Service.

Some children in the cohort would not have their Key Stage 2 results due to their age or not being at school for these key stages. However, the available Key Stage 2 data based on the last 3 academic years show, 17 of the 47 children in the EHE cohort had achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.

7. Care, support and safeguarding

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q2 2024/25	On target?	Q2 last year	Compared to Q2 last year?
4.1	Percentage of young people (aged 10-17) triaged that are diverted away from the criminal justice system	96% (2022/23)	91% (2023/24)	> 85%	100% (Q2 YTD 2024/25)	Yes	85% (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	Higher
4.2	Corporate Indicator - Number of first-time entrants into Youth Justice System	46 (2022/23)	37 (2023/24)	< 37	17 (Q2 YTD 2024/25)	Yes	17 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	In line
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% (average of Q1 & Q2 2024/25)	No	13% (average of Q1 & Q2 2023/24)	Higher
4.4	Number of custodial sentences for young offenders	5 (2022/23)	3 (2023/24)	< 3	1 (Q2 YTD 2024/25)	Yes	2 (Q2 YTD 23/24)	Lower
4.5	Number of Domestic abuse offences	2,771 (2022/23)	2,450 (2023/24)	n/a	1,124 (Q2 YTD 2024/25)	n/a	1,315 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	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 2 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 consistently high success rates and 100 % diversion rate in this quarter. 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 children 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 17 first time entrants (FTEs) into Youth Justice System in quarter 2 of 2024/25. This figure is in line with the same period last year (17 children).

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 figures. The YJB published figures therefore include a comparison to the previous 12 months using the new methodology. The rate of FTE per 100,000 (248 YP) covering the latest published YJB dataset (Apr – Sep 24) covering the Oct 23 – Sept 24 period remains above the London (177) and national average (160).

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 relatively 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.

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. However, the rate of FTE per 100,000 is above the London average and as such continued focus on early intervention and diversion offer is a priority for Young Islington.

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

- 7.3. Of the 16 young people who offended in Q2 2023/24, 3 went on to re-offend, so the local re-offending rate was 19%, higher than the Q2 2022/23 re-offending rate of 17%.

Q1 & Q2 average of re-offending rates the year is 18%. The target is to improve on the average of same period previous year which was 13% so this measure is not on target

The average of two quarters are affected by the higher percentage in Q1 (18%) in comparison to 10% re-offending rate for Q1 last year, due to the number of children in the cohort was noticeably smaller (11) in comparison to 20 in Q1 2023/24 and, the number of reoffenders remaining the same in comparison (2 children).

The comparison between Q2 figures this year and last shows the same number of re-offenders (3) and a slightly lower of offenders in the cohort in Q2 2024/25 (16) in comparisons to Q2 2023/24 (18). Re-offences reported for Q2 2024/25 are slightly higher at 15 compared to 14 reported for Q2 2023/24.

The numbers of children who re-offend remain low and 1% higher than reported for Q2 2023/24. 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 and national published rate.

Latest published YJB (Apr 24-Sep 24) proven reoffending figures show Islington annual percentage for January - Dec 22 as 22.4%. This figure is below the National (32.8%) and London (30.4%) percentages.

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. Young Islington continues to be proactive in reducing re-offending of children by ensuring effective intervention is in place alongside robust supervision and multi-agency partnerships. Whilst the data is positive and reflects the positive work undertaken with children, reducing re-offending remains a key priority for the service.

4.4 - Number of custodial sentences for young offenders

- 7.4. There were no custodial sentences in Q2 2024/25, and the total remained at 1 custodial sentence. There was one custodial sentence for Q2 2023/24 taking the total to 2 in the same period last year.

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 1,124 domestic abuse (DA) crime offences reported to Islington police in quarter two 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 of Domestic Abuse offences to police has reduced Islington's Domestic Abuse Daily Safeguarding Meeting (DSM Islington's MARAC) and our commissioned services continue to be very busy. The VAWG team has increased the number of urgent professionals' meetings outside of the DSM for complex case management and increased the length of IDVA support for survivors who have complex needs. This is resulting in a reduction in the number of repeat referrals of 8% which indicates a reduction in incidents of violence and abuse among the survivors we are working with, and we hope that this is contributing to the reduction in incidents reporting to the police. VAWG training for Central North police commenced in September with a focus on supporting survivors, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children and raising awareness of non-fatal strangulation. The aim is to train up to 650 Emergency Response police officers working across Central North Basic Command Unit as these officers are usually the first on the scene when domestic abuse incidents are reported to the police.

During quarter 2 the Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation medical referral pathway was formally launched between Islington Daily Safeguarding Meeting and University College London Hospital. The pathway is testing a direct and quick referral process for survivors who have been strangled or suffocated by violent perpetrators so they can access specialist medical checks. It is one of only 4 similar NFS health pathways in the UK.

Outputs for quarter 2:

- 605 survivors (419 referrals received) were supported by Islington's VAWG advocacy services
- 257 professionals supported with advice around working with survivors
- 14 women supported following experiencing harmful and abusive practices including FGM and forced marriage
- 98% refuge occupancy
- 267 engagement sessions were delivered by the refuge family support teams

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

- 76% felt safer
- 71% increased their confidence and self esteem
- 83% felt better able to recognise abusive behaviours
- 65% felt less isolated

While reporting to the police has reduced in Islington our services and the Daily Safeguarding Meeting (MARAC) continue to be very busy as can be seen in the quarter 2 performance information provided above.

8. Progressing well to adulthood, independent and fulfilled lives

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Q2 2024/25	On target?	Q2 last year	Better than Q2 last year?
3.1	Corporate Indicator - % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (19-21 year olds)	55.4% (2022/23)	60.7% (2023/24)	=>70%	60.7% (2023/24)	No	55.4% (2022/23)	Higher
5.1	Corporate Indicator - IYPDAS - Increase in referrals of young people requiring tier 3 services	12 (2022/23)	26 (2023/24)	No target	8 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	N/A	12 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	Lower
5.2	IYPDAS - Increase in the number of referrals for young people accessing a tier 2 service	85 (2022/23)	103 (2023/24)	No target	31 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	N/A	61 (Q2 YTD 2023/24)	Lower

3.1 – % of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (19-21 year olds)

- 8.1. The published data from the 2023/24 statutory returns shows that 60.7% of 19 to 21-year-old care experienced young people were in Education, Employment or Training. This is higher than the previous year, and higher than in any other year since 2016/17. However, this is below the 70% target set for 2023/24 we set locally.

The extension of the Leaving Care Service to 25 has resulted in a significant increase in the overall number of care-experienced young people requiring a service to the age of 25, and the number of young people not in education, employment or training. Before the extension of the service many of these young people would have been closed to the Leaving Care Service as it was only a requirement to keep a case open beyond 21 if the young person required support with education, employment or training, however many of these young people now remain open until they are 25. Many of these young people have complex needs, often associated with their mental health, housing and difficulties sustaining work, training or education. It has been identified that a more intensive and bespoke support is required to enable these young people to successfully sustain work, training or education.

The Virtual School plans to recruit a specialist Education, Employment and Training Adviser in early 2025. This role would have a specific focus on supporting young people aged 22-25. A deep dive analysis of the needs, support and provision will be undertaken by the Virtual School in December 2025.

The Family Business Model will be further developed in 2025 to include:

- A formal launch with local services and businesses in early 2025
- An expansion of the council work experience and employment scheme, including the development of a ring-fenced apprenticeship and internship scheme

An improvement in the completion, quality and effectiveness of Pathway Plans is also included in the service's plan to improve the ETE rates.

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

- 8.2. 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 5 Tier 3 interventions completed by the end of Q2 2024/25, in line with the 6 referrals during the same period last year. The total number of referrals at the end of Q2 was 8, below the 12 referrals made in 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

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

There were 16 referrals in Q2 2024/25, slightly higher than the 13 referrals made in Q2 2023/24. The total number of referrals made at the end of Q2 2024/25 was 31, noticeably lower than the 61 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. Children's Health Measures

PI No.	Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Better than previous figure?
6.1	% of mothers smoking at the time of delivery for North Central London	5.2%	4.3%	N/A	Better

6.2	% children who have had two doses MMR vaccination by age five.	68%	67%	70%	Similar
6.3	% of children and young people aged four to five years classified as overweight or obese.	21.6%	21.2%	N/A	Similar
6.4	% of babies receiving a health and developmental review at age six to eight weeks.	70.4%	78.7%	85%	Better
6.5	Dental decay in children aged 5 (Survey is conducted every 3-4 years and has a very small sample size)	17.0% (2018/19)	24.7% (2021/22)	N/A	Worse (but small sample size and old data)
6.6	Percentage of children and young people who report meeting nationally recommended physical active levels (60 minutes a day)	39%	54.8%	N/A	Better

6.1 – % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery

9.1. The best data we have to monitor smoking rates at delivery is the SATOD data (Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery: England - NHS England Digital). However, the data only provides an average across North Central London (NCL), rather than Islington specific.

Q2 2024/25 SATOD data, shows that the rate is 4.4% This is a reduction from 5.5% in Q1 2022/23. This highlights that NCL/Islington's work on tackling smokefree pregnancies through implementing BabyClear, an evidence-based programme, which focuses on improving the referral pathway and training for midwives on Very Brief Advice is having an impact.

- Since 2022, NCL has also been implementing the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan and has set up in-house tobacco dependence services within maternity Trusts. Previously pregnant smokers were referred to community stop smoking services, a pathway that had achieved particularly successful outcomes for Islington residents.
- UCLH has been running its in-house tobacco dependence service since November 2023 and Whittington Health set up their service in June 2024. Evidence suggests that in-house services increase engagement with pregnant smokers and therefore they are more likely to quit.
- In January 2025, local Trusts have started to implement the National Financial Incentive Scheme, which aims to reduce smoking in pregnancy through evidence-based financial incentives/vouchers.

- NCL and Islington Public Health are engaging with health visitors to reduce relapse in the period after giving birth and promote smokefree homes. This includes increasing health visitors' knowledge of smoking cessation and vaping and improving the referral pathway between health visiting and Islington's community-based stop smoking service, Breathe.

6.2 -% children who have had two doses Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccination by age five.

- 9.2. MMR vaccine is given as two doses, one at 1 year, and the second at 3 years 4 months. Uptake of the first dose is measured at 2 years, and uptake of the second dose at 5 years. The indicator reported here is uptake of the second MMR dose. For context, uptake of the first dose of MMR in Islington for Q2 24/25 was 78%, which is higher than uptake of the second dose. Uptake of the first dose in Islington for Q2 24/25 was slightly lower than NCL uptake for the same period (80%).

Uptake of two doses of MMR vaccination by age 5 in Islington was 67% for 2023/24, slightly lower than uptake in North Central London (71%), and below that national target (95%). Uptake of MMR vaccination in Islington has fallen by 1% since pre-COVID (February 2020), however this is a small change representing approximately 20 fewer vaccinated children. A small decline in uptake has also been seen across London and England between pre-COVID (2019/20) and 22/23. There are a variety of factors behind low uptake in pre-school vaccinations such as MMR ([NHS England, 2019](#); [National Audit Office, 2019](#); [Royal Society of Public Health, 2019](#)). These include vaccine hesitancy amongst certain groups, fragmentation of vaccine responsibility and difficulty in accessing vaccines. In Islington and London as a whole, particularly inner London, uptake of MMR vaccination is lower in more deprived groups, and in certain ethnic groups (including those of Black ethnicity and those who are Mixed White and Black Caribbean in Islington). Lower uptake amongst these groups is thought to be due to a combination of increased difficulty accessing the vaccine (for example due to language barriers, population mobility), and increased vaccine hesitancy due to factors such as lack of trust in government, misinformation and religious or cultural concerns. Low uptake of MMR vaccination in Islington may be explained by the high levels of population churn, high ethnic diversity and the high levels of deprivation in Islington compared to London and England as a whole.

The organisation, commissioning and delivery of vaccinations is the responsibility of the NHS. Local public health responsibilities are for assurance of immunisation plans and delivery but increasingly have focused on complementary work to enhance local access and address inequalities.

In response to a sharp increase in measles cases and outbreaks elsewhere in London in early 2024, Islington Public Health sent information about increased measles cases and importance of MMR vaccine to school and EY settings, primary schools and parents. To support non-clinical staff working in children's centres and early years setting to amplify positive messaging around vaccination, a number information/training sessions have been held. The sessions focused on understanding why immunisations are important; feeling more confident having conversations with parents and carers and

knowing where to go for more information. The sessions have been positively received and have been delivered to approximately 60 frontline staff. Public Health collaborated with Whittington Hospital, Healthwatch and Learning and Achievement colleagues to deliver pop-up MMR information and vaccination clinics in Islington Children's Centres throughout August 2024. 25 visits to 6 centres were completed plus one street party event and one church. 310 parents were engaged with, however only 12 young children were identified who were not up to date with their immunisation schedule. In collaboration with partners, the Public Health team have also provided health talks on the MMR vaccination at a range of targeted community events, for example with the Somali community. During the year, these efforts to increase uptake and awareness of the need for MMR helped to shore up local rates, and there was a small increase in first doses of MMR. There were localised outbreaks of measles in parts of London, mainly concentrated in northwest and parts of south London. Islington saw sporadic and occasional linked cases during 2024, but did not have any local outbreaks.

Islington Public Health conducted an evidence review on MMR uptake, and identified the most effective intervention to "Increase MMR uptake in schools and children's centres in Islington". This review identified inequalities in MMR uptake by ethnicity, main language spoken, deprivation quintile and location in the borough. It identified specific groups who have low uptake for MMR, and therefore would benefit from targeted interventions. This insight is being used to inform targeted community work to increase MMR uptake in Islington, and tackle inequalities.

A new London vaccination campaign '*Why We Get Vaccinated*' was launched in October 2024 to increase vaccination rates across London. The campaign was developed alongside communities with low vaccination numbers, encouraging people to have open conversations about the importance of vaccines.

There are potential national changes on the horizon that may also help increase MMR uptake. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are the expert scientific advisory committee that advises the UK government on vaccination and immunisation matters. In 2022, the JCVI advised the government that the second dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine should be brought forward from 3 years 4 months to 18 months of age, in order to improve vaccination coverage. We are still awaiting the final Department of Health and Social Care policy decision on this, however changes to the schedule in 2025 are possible.

6.3 - % of children and young people aged four to five years classified as overweight or very overweight.

- 9.3. The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) measures the height and weight of reception and year 6 children every year. The most recent data available is from 2023/24 and published annually. In 2023/24, 21.2 % of Islington reception and 36.5% of year 6 children were recorded as overweight or very overweight. (These figures are based on children who attend school in Islington.) For Reception children this is slightly below the national percentage of 22.1% and similar to the 20.9% figure in London. For

year 6 children, the rate is in line with the national percentage of 35.8% and slightly below the 37.7% figure in London.

With these figures remaining stable, recent UCL research shows Islington is emerging as a local authority that has a different trajectory than other similar Local Authorities. For example, the year 6 trends for NCMP although high, remain stable whereas statistical neighbours have seen increases in Year 6 children having an unhealthy weight. We are supporting their study to help to identify and understand any shared modifiable factors, which may have contributed to this positive trend.

In Islington we commission a range of services to support families to adopt healthy behaviours. These include the school nursing team, who provide 1-1 support to children identified within NCMP as overweight. Those children with more complex needs are seen within the Multi-Disciplinary Team and offered a six-week parenting course called 'Families, food and feelings' delivered by psychologists at the Brandon centre. The effectiveness of this programme has recently been published in the Journal of Family and Child Health where significant improvements in several parental feeding practices were observed.

The healthy eating team within the health and wellbeing team in School Improvement supports schools and EY settings and provides education and advice on healthy food and food policy that encourages children and families to cook and eat healthily. This includes extensive work on devising the school meal contract, monitoring school meal provision and work with schools on their dining room environments (including a funded pilot Healthy Zones project working with three schools to engage their whole school community). The Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years awards include criteria for healthy eating. Training is provided for a range of partners (Early Years, Bright Start, Bright Futures, parent champions) which helps to extend key healthy eating messages more widely.

Families for Life (healthy lifestyle programme to support families with children aged 2 – 11 years to be active and have a healthy lifestyle) deliver 30+ programmes per year: Family Kitchen, where parents cook and eat healthy meals alongside their children, and Taste Education where children explore fruit and vegetables with all their five senses, making them more likely to ultimately eat them. The latter programme has shown promise in addressing selective eating in children with autistic traits.

6.4 - % of babies receiving a health and developmental review at age six to eight weeks.

- 9.4. The indicator looks at the percentage of babies and their families seen by a health visitor for a health review when the baby is between 6-8 weeks of age.

Five mandated health and development reviews are offered to every family in Islington with a child under the age of 5 by the Islington Health Visiting service (Whittington Health). These nationally mandated reviews take place at specified ages:

- Antenatal (from 28 weeks of pregnancy)

- New Birth Visit (within 10-14 days of birth)
- 6-8 week review
- One year review
- 2 – 2½ year review

The reviews provide an opportunity to assess various aspects of baby health and development and parental health and wellbeing, delivering a comprehensive and holistic assessment of the baby, mother and father's needs. The new birth visits and 6-8 week review in particular is an important opportunity to assess and identify a child or family's needs, and to introduce families to the Bright Start community services available to all families in the borough.

All new birth visits and some 6–8-week reviews are carried out in the child's home (others are seen in clinic at a children's centre or health centre), ideally with both parents present, and by a health visitor (a specialist community public health nurse). This gives an important opportunity to assess the home environment, contributing to the safeguarding of children, and a crucial opportunity to identify needs early and to provide or signpost to support.

79% of all babies (1692/2149) were seen within the specified time constraints (within 42-56 days of birth) in 2023-24, and a further 228 babies were seen after 8 weeks (the reporting deadline), reaching 89% of babies. An attempt to rebook the appointment is made with all mothers who do not attend the initial date, which results in the additional number of reviews taking place after 8 weeks. For those who decline this contact, health visitors ensure that families know how they can access the service should they change their minds.

All babies on targeted and specialist caseloads (with identified additional needs) who are not brought to the review are followed up robustly through liaison with the GP, safeguarding, Early Help or Early Years teams. Many of these families are already being seen regularly by the health visiting service, which can make it difficult to schedule an additional appointment to complete the review. So, whilst parents may decline the review appointment, safeguarding contacts are in place.

Delivery of the 6–8-week review is recovering, after a dip in performance following the Covid period. This was partly due to a period of re-establishing home visiting and community arrangements after Covid but was also impacted by staff shortages within the service. The service has made considerable improvements over the last year, through staff training to ensure complete data collection and emphasise the time constraints on the visit, booking review dates early with reminders to parents through a sticker on their 'red book' (parent-held child health record), and working with GPs to ensure parents understand the need for a 6 week postnatal check with both GP and with Health Visitor. Performance improved through the year with 83% of babies seen by 8 weeks in Q4, compared with an average of 79% for the year.

Performance in Islington (79%) in 2023-24 was better than for London where 74% babies received a 6–8-week review within the specified time constraints, but less good than for England (81%).

6.5 - Dental decay in children aged 5

- 9.5. The national 2021/22 Oral Health Survey led by the National Dental Epidemiology Programme (NDEP) and published by the OHID Dental Public Health team found that 144 (24.7%) of children aged 5 in Islington had signs of dental decay.

The sample size is small, with only 6% of the 5-year-old population in Islington surveyed, so the results should be considered with caution. However, the Islington rates (24.7%) were similar to the national average of 23.7% and the London rate of 25.8%. Islington has the least number of children with dental caries in North Central London. The percentage of sampled children who had one or more obvious untreated dentinally decayed teeth was 22.3%, which again was similar to the national (21.8%) and London (23.2%) rates.

Islington Public Health continue to commission Whittington Health to deliver a comprehensive programme of targeted oral health promotion activities across Primary Schools and Early Years settings, which includes supervised toothbrushing, distribution of Brushing for Life (toothbrushing packs), fluoride varnish, and annual staff training for staff working with children under the age of 5.

Islington is part of the 12-month NCL 'Teeth for Life' programme for 3–4 year-olds running from August 2024 to July 2025. Funding in Islington will be used to expand the existing local programme, by establishing the programme in a number of other, smaller settings, including nurseries attached to schools, pre-schools, day nurseries, maintained nurseries and independent nurseries. This is being targeted within the borough's five most deprived wards (Finsbury Park, Tufnell Park, Laycock, Caledonian and Holloway) and supported by the council's health and wellbeing team, who also act as a link between Early Years and schools to ensure high uptake of the oral health programme.

Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) and Healthy Schools awards delivered by the health and wellbeing team have a number of criteria around oral health and some settings have chosen to address oral health through silver/gold HEYL awards.

6.6 - Percentage of children and young people who meet nationally recommended physical activity levels (60 minutes a day)

- 9.6. The most recent Active Lives Survey, which surveys 5–16-year-olds about their activity levels, found that the active rate (average of 60 minutes or more physical activity a day) in Islington was 54.8% in 2023/24, compared with 39% in 2022/23. The less active rate (less than 30 minutes per day) dropped by 20%, from 40.2% to 19.8% for children and young people aged 5-16 years. According to the survey, Islington was one of the most active and least inactive boroughs in London in 2023/24. It should be noted that the sample size is small (209), which means individual survey results need to be treated with care. Averaging recent surveys would suggest activity levels are broadly similar to London, and as per London and national averages, there is a significant proportion of children and young people who are less active than recommended levels for healthy development.

The Health and Wellbeing Team supports schools and Early Years settings to increase physical activity, with a focus on the least active. This is a criterion in the Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years awards – and uptake of these awards is increasing annually since the pandemic. Schools are encouraged to take part in the Daily Mile; they have been trained to offer a more diverse range of sports including dance and gymnastics and also disability-inclusive sports like Boccia and New Age Kurling. The competitions programme that most primary schools participate in provides 30+ inter-school competitions and festivals per year, with a focus on inclusivity. Through additional funding, all the secondary schools with young women, and six targeted primary schools have been supported to run Girls Active clubs. Partnerships with GLL and Access to Sports have been fundamental to this work, including delivery of an innovative and highly successful Family Swim project targeted to families from black, Asian and other ethnic group.

6.7 - Islington Mental Health and Resilience in Schools (iMHARS) framework

9.7. There is a wide range of support for the mental health and wellbeing (MHWB) of children and young people with a variety of needs, from promotional and preventative work for those who are ‘thriving’ to all aspects of ‘getting advice, help, more help and getting risk support’ (as described in the iTHRIVE model):

- The iMHARS (Islington mental health and resilience in schools) framework describes the seven domains of what a school does to support and promote children’s MHWB, and supports schools to research what is working well and areas for development. iMHARS continues to be taken up by schools, improving their ability to prevent poor mental health and support wellbeing. 100% of senior leaders involved would recommend it to other schools
- iTIPS (Islington trauma-informed practices for schools) supports schools to understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children’s development and behaviour and respond to them in a way that supports them to regulate their emotions and be more ready to learn. A total of 35 schools, 17 early years setting and 15 community organisations have been supported to embed trauma informed practices (14 new settings in 2023/24).
- School Wellbeing Service (SWS) is a national programme funded by NHS England and is a school-based service providing early intervention and prevention work (including psychological therapies) with children and their families with mild to moderate mental health difficulties in all mainstream schools (and academies) in Islington. Increased capacity within the SWS, thanks to a successful bid for additional funding, means that all schools in the borough now have increased access to the service, enabling schools to better support children with mild to moderate mental health needs. The service has been extended to work with sixth forms. The team have adapted manuals to be able to support young people with autism as part of the 1:1 guided self-help offer. In 2023/34, 1,057 children and young people were supported by the SWS.
- The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) provide ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistance) training for staff in schools (teaching assistants, family support workers, etc) to provide emotional interventions for children.

- The EPS, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the council's Health and Wellbeing Team (HWBT) jointly delivered DfE-accredited training for senior mental health leads (SMHLs) in schools and continue to offer ongoing support alongside the SWS.
- New River College Outreach provides targeted support and advice for schools for all areas of SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) and behaviour, including anxiety and EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance), including recently coordinating multi-disciplinary clinics for teachers to discuss issues in their classes.
- The HWBT coordinate a regular meeting of professionals working with schools around SEMH to ensure the work is joined up and avoid duplication. Alongside this direct support, the HWBT maintain a directory of SEMH training and staff support and a staff wellbeing page on the Islington Children's Services Sharepoint which schools can access.
- Minds Matter Islington is a mental health promotion service which works directly with groups of young people, parents and other carers in informal and creative ways to improve awareness and understanding of mental health, increase early identification and access to mental health services and to tackle the associated stigma and discrimination. The service delivers targeted health promotion workshops as well as participation at large scale events such as local community events and/or through training key partners to deliver key messages.

Islington trauma-informed practices programme was introduced to schools in 2017 (iTIPS). The programme was rolled out to Early Years settings in 2019 (Tiny Tips) and to VCS organisations in 2020 (Community TIPs, or CiTIPs). In all three programmes, the whole organisation's staff are trained and supported over two years by a highly skilled clinician (CAMHS or Educational Psychologist) to understand the impact of complex developmental trauma and how it affects children's development and behaviour, and to adapt their practices to better respond to children who have been affected, with positive impacts for all children. Although the intervention is designed to have impact on children who have experienced trauma, there have been positive impacts on the whole school community for schools involved in the programme, for example, an increased feeling of belonging, better levels of attendance and reductions in exclusions.

10. Implications

10.1. Financial Implications

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

10.2. Legal Implications

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

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

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

10.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

11.1. This report has presented a detailed narrative describing the performance of Children's Services in Quarter 2 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 – CYP Scrutiny - Q2 2024/25 Basket of Indicators
- Appendix B - 2024/25 Quarter 2 Child Friendly Islington Delivery Plan – Deliverables progress report
- Appendix C – School Library Visits Report – 2023/24 Academic Year

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: 13th February 2025

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

Tel: x4116 and x2657

Email: adam.white@islington.gov.uk and burak.cingi@islington.gov.uk

