



Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	12 April 2016	B1	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: EDUCATION IN ISLINGTON 2015: ANNUAL REPORT

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 There is high quality provision for children and families in Islington. All secondary schools, nurseries, pupil referral units and maintained special schools in Islington were judged as good or better in their most recent inspection. Private, voluntary and independent nursery provision has much improved. The proportion of primary schools judged good or better remains above national average, despite the new Inspection Framework, which is making it more challenging for schools to retain these judgements.
- 1.2 Outcomes at the end of the Early Years' Foundation stage are improving, progress must be accelerated in order to close the gap with the national average. Performance at the end of primary school remains better than national, with children making above national progress in every subject.
- 1.3 Final GCSE results in 2015 place Islington (57.9%) above national (53.8%) in the headline measure of 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths. There was another strong performance in the English Baccalaureate at 27.3%. Variation in attainment between schools and departments needs to be addressed.
- 1.4 There has been a strong drive on primary and secondary attendance, which is beginning to show impact. Primary absence and fixed term exclusions, although much improved, remain above national rates.
- 1.5 Positively, more young people are staying in education for longer and far fewer residents aged 16 to 18 years are becoming NEET i.e. not in education, employment or training, the rate halved to 2.2% this year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the upcoming changes to curriculum, examination and assessment arrangements across all Key Stages.

- 2.2 To note that the further development of the Islington Community of Schools and the 'school led self-improving system' is a key strategic priority and supported through Schools Forum and the Education Improvement Strategy group.

3. Background

- 3.1 This is the fifth annual report on education performance in Islington. The 2014 report is available online: <http://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s3631/2015-02-11-Annual-Report-on-Education-2014.pdf>

4. Implications

- 4.1 **Financial implications:** Not applicable
- 4.2 **Legal Implications:** Not applicable
- 4.3 **Environmental Implications:** Not applicable
- 4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

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. This report is for information only and no specific resident impact assessment is required.

Islington schools are among the best in the country for helping disadvantaged pupils achieve good results. The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in Islington schools achieving the national benchmark of 5 or more A*-C including English and Maths is the 6th highest in the country; and 9th best in the country for outcomes at the end of primary school.

Islington children looked after (CLA) have achieved their best ever recorded outcomes this year; performing above national levels for children looked after.

The progress and attainment of Black Caribbean pupils remains an area of concern at Key Stage 2 and GCSE, while there has been some improvement in the attainment of White UK pupils – this is the lowest performing group at GCSE. A full report on BME attainment is available.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 This report provides an overview of educational performance against the key areas of responsibility for the Council. It is clear that good progress continues to be made and that the Islington Community of Schools are in a strong position to build on the improvements seen in the last few years. Where further improvement is needed, there will continue to be robust arrangements in place to support and challenge schools.

Appendices: Education in Islington Annual Report 2015.

Background papers: None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

1 April 2016

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date

Received by:

1 April 2016

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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