



Meeting: *Children Sport & Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee*
Date: *Prepared in November 2015 based on information as at 31st October 2015.*
Title: *City for All, Children and Young People Progress Report*
Report of: *Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People*

1 City for All Priorities

1.1 We will increase the proportion of children in Westminster Primary Schools in 2015 that achieve or exceed Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Standard Attainment Tests [SATs] and sustain the rate of 86%.

- The Primary school Key Stage 2 L4+ provisional results for 2015 were 84% (down from 86% in 2014). The latest provisional figure published by the Department for Education is 82%. However, local data indicates that this is likely to increase once the data is finalised in December 2015. Once finalised figures are published by Department for Education in December 2015 this will enable Westminster's relative position to be assessed.
- The overall results will contain improvements and dips in the results for individual schools. The Education service has taken prompt action to target, support and challenge the schools seeing the most significant drop in results and to provide professional development in identified areas of weakness.

1.2 We will work with and challenge the City's schools to exceed GCSE pass rates of 2014 to 70%.

- The 2015 provisional results for GCSE pass rates showed that 69% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A*-C GCSEs, including English and Mathematics. This is one percentage point higher than last year's result (68%). The latest figure published by the Department for Education is 67%. However, local data indicates that this might increase once the data is finalised in January 2016. Westminster's results would currently place it as the 8th highest performing local authority nationally, the fifth highest in London and the highest in inner London.
- We will continue funding the Education Excellence Programme which includes an allocation of funding to schools (£5k) and workshops. We will provide targeted support to those schools that buy into the Council's School Improvement Service Level Agreement.

1.3 We will reward our valued Tri-borough foster carers living in Westminster by helping them ease their financial pressures through a refund of their Council Tax.

- During 2015-16, the target is for twenty-two eligible Tri-borough foster carers living in Westminster to have their Council Tax refunded by March 2016. Current placement records indicate that local carers are responding to the request to provide proof of eligibility for a Council Tax reimbursement. Foster carers responses are being monitored by the Head of Fostering Service who will contact all carers at the end of November to provide more clarity in relation to the rebate scheme.

1.4 We will ensure that at least 80% of children in foster care are placed through the Tri-borough Fostering and Adoption Service.

- Since April 2015, 80% of children or young people were placed with Tri-borough foster carers. This represents improved performance when compared to the overall percentage for 2014-15 (71%).
- The Commissioning Service has entered into a partnership arrangement with Cornerstone (a third sector organisation) to undertake the recruitment and marketing for foster carers, aiming to increase our foster carer numbers by September 2016. Cornerstone are now actively working with the Fostering Service to develop different approaches to recruitment.

We will ensure that the majority (55%) of Westminster children in foster care are placed locally

- At 31st March 2015, 53% of Westminster young people in foster carer placements were placed in one of the three boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea or Hammersmith & Fulham or one borough outside of the three boroughs' boundaries. At the 31st October 2015, performance remains consistent, with 54% young people placed in one of the three boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea or Hammersmith & Fulham or one borough outside of the three boroughs' boundaries.
- The Tri-borough Fostering service continues to work towards placing all children within one hour travel to their schools. There will sometimes be circumstances where a young person may need to move further away. The placements service will continue to monitor performance against this target to establish the scope for improvement.

1.5 We will ensure that at least 75% of children with placement orders, where possible, will be placed with their adopters within 12 months of the court order.

- Since April 2015, 67% of relevant young people have been placed with permanent carers within 12 months of the placement order. Whilst the current performance is marginally below the target, the current rate represents an improvement from 65% at 2014-15 year end.
- We have identified that earlier and more effective permanency planning is required to improve the rate of children placed within 12 months. We are also part of a London wide activity exploring the potential of developing regional adoption agencies as proposed by the Department for Education, with the aim of improving overall quality and timeliness of adoption work.

1.6 We will improve the health of children and young people by actively promoting Practice Champions in the new primary care services provided through the Connecting Care for Children model and double the number to 20 Practice Champions by the end of 2015-16.

- In 2014-15, ten Practice Champions were recruited from the community. At 30th September 2015, 13 Practice Champions had been recruited.
- A recruitment drive continues, advertising the potential opportunities to a wider variety of people.

1.7 We will improve the quality of social work practice through the innovative Focus on Practice programme, so that the City's social workers are able to effect sustainable improvements with families, children and young people.

- 220 members of staff are in scope to attend training. Since April 2015, 187 members of staff in Westminster have been engaged on the programme.
- We will be ensuring that all eligible staff will have attended training. Any practitioners and managers (who are permanent staff, working 0.5 WTE or more) who are not yet on a cohort will be starting one between October 2015 and April 2016. We are beginning to see impact of the Focus on Practice work through the improved quality of intervention and case work, and a slight reduction in cases requiring care applications to court, and care entrants.

1.8 A) We will identify more young carers and ensure more of those who need help engage with the support available for them. We will increase to 139 the number of young carers identified by support services.

- Since April 2015, 154 young people have been known to the Young Carers service, representing 28 more carers than last year's outturn.

B) We will increase to 54 the number of young carers engaging with group activities.

- Since April 2015, seventeen young carers (12% of known young carers) engaged in young carer group activity sessions (term-time or holiday) in Westminster. Based on this performance, the projection is for 34 Westminster young carers to have engaged with group activities which mean the target of 54 is unlikely to be met. A service review is being undertaken in light of this poor performance.

1.9 We will reduce the number of Westminster resident adolescents (excluding young people accommodated as a result of LASPO Act 2012 or UASC status) aged 14 to 17 years entering into care to 23.

- Since April 2015, there have been 12 Westminster resident adolescents (excluding UASC status or remand) aged 14 to 17 years needing to come into care. This represents an improvement from 28 at year end in 2014-15.
- The range of actions implemented to reduce this indicator, include examining alternatives to remand for young offenders, the development of a range of interventions linked to the 'Focus On Practice' change initiative to support families and the development of robust rehabilitation home support packages.

1.10 We will ensure there are sufficient and flexible two year old places to meet demand from eligible families. We will actively market the targeted 2 year offer to increase take up to 80%.

- Take up has increased to 58% this term as targeted 3 year olds have moved into maintained nursery provision and thereby created vacancies for newly eligible 2 year olds. 32 places have opened at Essendine and Paddington Green Children's Centre, of which 28 had been filled by the end of September 2015.
- Capacity building is still ongoing, with 24 places opening at Micky Star Children's Centre during October 2015. New places will also be opened at Bayswater Children's Centre by next term and there is scope to deliver places at Queensway Children's centre and to expand places at Essendine. There are two schools who have also expressed interest and feasibility studies are being progressed. A comprehensive marketing campaign is now in place and targeted outreach is being delivered through Family Lives in conjunction with children's centres.

1.11 We will promote school readiness, testing new approaches through the Neighbourhood Community Budget Pilot in Queen's Park. Our intention is for 95% of all children with a free 2 year old placement to have a 2 year developmental review by their setting so that early support plans can be developed.

- Since April 2015, 97% of all children with a free 2 year old placement in Queens Park had a 2 year assessment by their setting. The Integrated Review is now being rolled out across Westminster. This combines the Education Progress Check and the Health Developmental review.

Our intention is to ensure 20 parents attend parenting skills training in the 1st year of their child's life.

- Since April 2015, fifteen parents who have a child under the age of one accessed parenting skills training. This represents an improvement from 2014-15 when 10 attended.

Our intention is to increase the number of specially trained community champions to support access to antenatal, postnatal and primary care in Queens Park.

- Since April 2015, the number of Maternity Champions has increased to 9 and is on track to achieve the target of 12. 20 Community Champions have been recruited and there is a waiting list of 5 for Community Champions.

1.12 We will ensure that 75% of 2 year olds in Westminster will receive a developmental review.

- Since April 2015, 52.2% of eligible 2 year olds in Westminster have received a developmental review. This compares unfavourably to the 2014/15 outturn when 73.8% of 2 year olds in Westminster received a developmental review.
- Responsibility for Health Visiting officially transferred to the Westminster's Public Health Department in October 2015 and the first contract monitoring meeting took place in October. It is understood that problems with the recording and reporting system employed by the Health Visiting provider (Central London Community Healthcare) means that current performance figures may not be reliable. This issue is expected to be resolved before the end of the calendar year.

1.13 We will increase the percentage of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training [EET] to 75%.

- Provisional rates indicate that of 67% of the extended care leavers cohort (aged 17 to 21) are currently engaged in Education, Employment or Training . This currently represents a dip from 2014-15, when 71% of care leavers were in Education, Employment and Training (EET). Work is continuing to confirm the take up of offers since the start of Autumn term so there is some scope for performance to improve.
- Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), are tracked and monitored through a monthly Transitions Panel. Young people are referred to an EET Personal Adviser who works intensively with them and each of these young people has an EET Action Plan. The Virtual School organises a number of specific EET programmes for NEET care leavers e.g. weekly EET support session at Crompton Street. A Tri-borough work experience programme is being launched in January 2016 –this has been developed by the Virtual School and Education Business Partnership.

1.14 Reduce the numbers and percentage of young people resident in Westminster in school years 12, 13 and 14 whose education status is 'not known' to 10%.

- In 2014-15, 577 (15.7%) of young people in school years 12 to 14 had an education status of 'not known'. We do not yet have a reliable figure for this year - reporting varies during the autumn term while the activity survey information is finalised. DfE will publish activity status information and national comparisons in January 2016.
- Provisional information for the Year 11 and 12 'September Offer' indicates that 98% of 16 and 17 year olds (Years 11 and 12) have received suitable offers. This represents an improvement from 96.4% in October 2014. While this does not necessarily translate into a known status going forward, it does indicate a good understanding of the potential status for a high proportion of Westminster's 16 and 17 year olds. Work is continuing to confirm offers.

1.15 We will improve our approach to joint safeguarding with the Police in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation [CSE] ensuring 100% of CSE referrals are jointly investigated by Westminster and Police.

- Since April 2015, there have been 9 referrals to Westminster in relation to potential CSE of which 9 (100%) have had a joint investigation with police.
- The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel has revised terms of reference to improve case monitoring and focus on perpetrators.

1.16 We will improve safeguarding actions by Children's Services, Health and Police in relation to FGM.

- Since April 2015, 26 referrals have been received in relation to potential FGM. This is a similar rate of referrals as experienced in 2014-15 when 34 were recorded over the course of the year.
- The Serious Crime Act 2015 has introduced a new duty on social workers, teachers and healthcare professionals to report to the police known cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) involving victims aged under 18 and came into force on 31 October 2015. However, a significant increase in the number of referrals is not anticipated as this act relies on confirmation that FGM has taken place. The service reports that the quality of the referrals is improving thanks to closer work and greater understanding on the part of partner organisations of the issues and the risks.

1.17 We will ensure that children continue to have a choice of nutritious school meals and we will get a better deal, allowing us to put more money back in the classroom.

There are five performance measures for this pledge:

- **Take up of free school meals by those eligible** - for the Summer Term this was 84% compared to a target of 86%. (This figure currently only relates to nursery and KS2 pupils).
- **Overall take up of the school meals** - Performance is at 71%, demonstrating good progress towards the 72% target.
- **Westminster schools with centrally held contracts who meet the silver standard Food for Life criteria** - The current menus offered meet the silver standard Food for Life criteria, offering organic, seasonal, locally sourced and free range products. All menus have been nutritionally analysed and meet all government and nutritional standards.
- **The take up of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) for reception and KS1** – Performance is at 86%. This figure is lower than the 2014-15 baselines of 94% and 2015-16 targets of 95%. This is as a result of lower pupil numbers due to extended holidays at Easter and summer periods, School trips when lunches are not required and sports days were held. It is expected that this figure will increase in the subsequent term.
- Currently 100% of **Westminster schools meet the 1st January 2015 School Food Standards.**

1.18 We will provide an extra 176 primary school and 120 secondary school places in 2015/16, ensuring we keep pace with projected demand.

- All additional places are being delivered according to target. With additional Primary school places provided at ARK Atwood = + 60 (Yr4), Minerva Academy = + 56 (Yr4) and Pimlico = + 60 (Yr2). Additional secondary school places are to be provided at Marylebone Boys' = + 120 (Yr8).

1.19 We will train 15 young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) to enable them to travel to and from school independently.

- During the summer term, nine young people were enabled to travel to and from school independently. This performance means that the service is on track to meet this target and exceed last years' performance (10).

1.20 We will continue to convert SEN statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in line with our published transfer plan.

- Our initial target was to ensure that all Year 11 and Year 13 transfers from a statement of SEN to an EHC Plan taking place in the academic year 2014/15 were completed by end of September 2015. 53 (34%) of the total number of transfers that needed to be undertaken were completed by September 2015.

- During the first year of delivery under the new legislation, all local authorities have reported difficulties in delivering the transfer review programme. These difficulties have been recognised by the DfE, and this is reflected in their recent amendments to the review process. In response to DfE amendments, a revised transfer review plan is to be delivered by August 2018. By January 2016 our target is to ensure that 65% of EHC Assessments are completed within the 20 week timescale, rising to 85% by July 2016, when we want to ensure that the SEN Service consistently comply with statutory deadlines and are at least matching national averages in this performance measure.

1.21 We will build on the successful approaches tried and tested through our Family Recovery Programme to help families with vulnerable children address problems that they may face which stop them getting work.

- Due to when Westminster entered Troubled Families Phase 2, by the end of Q4 2014-15 we will have begun to identify the families who qualify for the programme against its expanded criteria. At subsequent claim windows throughout 2016/17 we will be in a position to evidence how many of these families have achieved significant and sustained improvement against their qualifying criteria.

1.22 We will provide more support to address criminal activity by young people by giving those leaving custody and those at risk of custody (by the gravity or persistent nature of their offending/associations) the opportunity of working with a mentor for up to 12 months. We will actively increase our pool of volunteer mentors by recruiting throughout the year.

- Between April and September 2015, 9 young people were released from custody and 100% were offered a mentor, 2 (22%) engaged with the support offered. This is comparable to last year's performance.
- Mentoring is offered to all young people leaving custody providing they are below 18 years old. One training session has been delivered so far and a second is planned for November. Further training sessions are being planned and work is continuing with the young people to encourage engagement with the mentors.