



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b><i>Children Sport &amp; Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee</i></b>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>Prepared in February 2016 based on information as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.</i>
<b>Title:</b>	<i>City for All, Children and Young People Progress Report</i>
<b>Report of:</b>	<i>Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</i>

## **1 City for All Priorities**

### **1.1 We will increase the proportion of children in Westminster Primary Schools who 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+ final results for 2015 were 84% (down from 86% in 2014).
- 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 results for GCSE pass rates showed that 68% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A\*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics. Westminster's results place it as the tenth highest performing local authority nationally 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. 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 the Fostering Service.

### **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, 83% of completed referrals to the Tri-borough Fostering Service have resulted in a placement 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 of and marketing for foster carers, aiming to increase 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, performance remains broadly consistent, with 52% of 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.**

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, 71% 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 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 timelines 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. Since April 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.**

- 244 members of staff are in scope to attend training. Since April 2015, 187 members of staff in Westminster have been engaged on the programme (133 practitioners and 46 managers).
- We will be ensuring that all eligible staff (permanent staff, working 0.5 WTE or more) will have attended training by April 2016. We are beginning to see the 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 in care entrants.

**1.8 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.

**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 18 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 61% 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. An additional 24 places at Micky Star Children's centre are now available. Three new nursery providers will also be delivering places from Spring 2016. 71 newly eligible children have been allocated a place for Spring 2016.
- Capacity building is still ongoing; the places pending at Bayswater Children's Centre are expected to be available by the end of Spring 2016 once the remaining capital works have been completed. As part of the further repurposing of children's centres, the Early Help Service are exploring options for 2 year old delivery at Maida Vale, Westbourne and Queensway Children's Centres. Opportunities with schools are still being explored. A comprehensive marketing campaign is now fully embedded with targeted outreach 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, 15 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.

**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 68% 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 was 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%.**

- Comparing the three months of November, December and January for the rate of young people whose education status was 'not known' there has been a reduction of -6% between the three month average for the two years. Overall numbers have reduced by 66 comparing January 2015 and January 2016. The most recent published national rates indicate that Westminster continues to be above the London and England rates although the gap reduced in December 2015 by -4%.

	2014-15			2015-16		
	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16
Not known						
Westminster	20.5%	17.0%	13.5%	19.4%	13.7%	11.7%
Number of young people	752	619	498	707	506	432
LONDON	13.2%	10.1%	8.0%	13.0%	10.0%	Awaiting publication
ENGLAND	11.0%	8.8%	7.2%	10.6%	8.3%	Awaiting publication

- Further work is being commissioned to tackle and reduce the number of 16-18 year old 'not knowns'. Once tracked, it is likely that over half of them will turn out to be NEET, thus increasing the NEET figure shown in the table below.
- Comparing the rates of NEET at January 2015 (3%) and January 2016 (1.73%) both are below the London and England rates. There has been a reduction of 38 young people.

	2014-15			2015-16		
	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16
NEET						
Westminster	1.8%	2.3%	3.0%	1.3%	1.9%	1.73%
Number of young people	55	62	95	39	60	57
LONDON	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	2.9%	3.1%	Awaiting publication
ENGLAND	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	4.2%	4.2%	Awaiting publication

**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, 49 referrals have been received in relation to potential FGM which indicates that the numbers are likely to exceed the 34 referrals during 2014-15. The project has produced a substantial increase in the number of families where FGM has been identified to be an issue, enabling a proportionate response at an early help stage or through CIN or CP services. These cases are enabling front-line practitioners, with the guidance of the lead worker, to build up more skill and experience in assessing risk in a way that will prevent FGM rather than just responding to it.
- A MOPAC conference was being held in February 2016. Debbie Raymond made a presentation about the evolution of the pilot in Westminster. This is now being adopted by Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The work of the team was also showcased at this event.

**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 Autumn Term this was 78% compared to a target of 88%. (This figure currently only relates to nursery and KS2 pupils).
- **Overall take up of the school meals** - Performance is at 72%, demonstrating good progress against 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 85%. This figure is lower than the 2014-15 baselines of 94% and 2015-16 targets of 95%. This figure has been affected by the new intake in September in several schools being staggered and Reception children not staying for lunch until the latter part of September. Religious celebrations have an impact of the take up and attendance within this period. In line with previous years' performance this figure will increase in the subsequent terms.
- 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. The additional Primary school places are being provided at ARK Atwood (60, Year 4), Minerva Academy (56, Year 4) and Pimlico (60, Year 2). An additional 120 Year 8 secondary school places to be provided at Marylebone Boys' School.

**1.19 We will train 15 young people with special educational needs to enable them to travel to and from school independently.**

- Year to date, 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 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. A small number of year 11 and year 13 statements were ceased following the annual review when it became clear that these pupils had made progress to an extent that they are achieving within the average educational range or that needs could be met within the local offer below the level of a statement or plan.
- 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 Department for Education, and this is reflected in their recent amendments to the review process. In response to Department for Education 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.**

- 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 and further training sessions are being planned. Work is continuing with the young people to encourage engagement with the mentors.