



**Meeting:** *Children and Community Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Date:** *9 February 2015*  
**Title:** *Better City Better Lives, Children and Young People Progress Report*  
**Report of:** *Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People*

**1 Better City, Better Lives Priorities**

**1.1 We will ensure that at least 80% of resident children in the borough are granted at least one of their top three preferences for schools.**

In March 2014, 94.9% of Reception Class and 83.6% of Secondary transfer resident children were granted at least one of their three preferences. This compares to 95.7% (national) and 92.5% (London) for Primary Schools and 95.5% (national) and 90.7% (London) for Secondary school.

**1.2 We will provide 240 extra primary school places and 60 extra secondary school places in 2014/15, ensuring we keep pace with projected demand.**

In 2013-14 the Primary capacity was 11,751 places and Secondary capacity was 10,002 places. For 2014-15, ARK Atwood has opened with the full complement of 420 Primary pupil places. No new Secondary places have been provided as yet but a working party has visited a number of sites to assess future options as part of a programme to deliver 435 new places by 2017.

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

In 2013-14, 83% of young people requiring foster care were placed with Tri-borough foster carers. Since April 2014, 68% (47 of the 69) children or young people requiring foster placements have been placed with Tri-B foster carers. Seven referrals are ongoing which may improve the current performance rate.

**1.4 We will ensure that all children, in new proceedings starting 1 April 2013, with a plan for adoption, will be placed with their adopters within 12 months of coming into care.**

Since 1st April 2013, thirteen children have had placement orders starting. Of these, nine have been placed with adopters four within 12 months of the placement order. Of the remaining four children waiting to be placed with adopters, three have currently exceeded the 12 month timescale and are yet to be placed. One has yet to be placed and is currently within the 12 month timescale so the performance rate may improve.

**1.5 We will provide 801 free day care opportunities for two year olds.**

The DfE termly data release includes all families who meet either the 20% or 40% entitlement from the expanded eligibility criteria. 801 families in Westminster have been identified, an increase of 19% from the initial termly release of 675 target. 61% (491) meet the 20% criteria and 39% (310) meet the 40% criteria. At present there are sufficient places to meet demand. Capacity building, especially with schools and other early years provision, is focused on creating additional places for the Spring 2015 term onwards. Next data release from DfE is due in January 2015 and will be reported in the February Cabinet Member update. At the end of October 2014, 332 (81%) of the 411 places available were taken up by 2 year olds.

**1.6 We will ensure that at least 50% of families on the Troubled Families programme will have resolved their offending, anti-social behaviour and poor school attendance.**

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published performance (22/12/14) shows WCC is now at 51% PBR turnaround against target of 640 families. There are two more payment by results windows until the end of Phase 1 of the Troubled Families programme February 2015 and May 2015. Westminster is on track for 75-80% PbR turn round by that time.

**1.7 We will ensure that there is a place in education, employment and training for every young person after they complete their GCSEs.**

In September 2014, 99% of school year 11 leavers had an offer of a place (subject to entry requirements) this provisional figure is comparable with the final figure of 99.6% for the 2013 year. Indicative figures from the 2014 activity survey show that 97% of these young people made successful transition post 16 (this is the highest performance across central London) 1.9% are NEET (29 young people) and 1.1% not known (16). Further updates are expected which may improve the rate. Opportunities for January starts at post 16 provision are available and localities teams will be working with these vulnerable learners.

**1.8 Working with the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, Network Rail and the University of Westminster, we will start on the building of the University Technical College to ensure that Westminster has a skills ready workforce which matches the needs of the employment market.**

The latest programme plan for the development from Property shows completion of the UTC by Dec 2016 which is best case scenario. This follows a risk appraisal of enabling works which are no longer viable due to cost and risks of undertaking prior to the determination of the main planning application. UTC Member organisations will be consulted on options to open in 2016 in temporary accommodation, to defer opening until 2017 or pursue another option aligning to sponsors' objectives.

**1.9 We will ensure that 75% of Westminster's pupils will achieve 5 grade A\*-C at GCSE, including English and Mathematics, in 2014.**

In 2013-14 (academic year) DfE latest published results showed that 67% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A\*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared with 70% the previous year. This result maintains Westminster's position well above the national rate of 53% (which is down from 59% in 2013). The decline, both locally and nationally is, at least partly, attributable to revised methodology.

**1.10 We will promote school readiness, testing new approaches through the Neighbourhood Community Budget Pilot in Queens Park.**

An integrated (health and education) 2 year assessment is being piloted in Queens Park Ward between Sept 2014 – Dec 2014. Year to date, 80% (24 of 30) 2 year old children have had a 2 year old assessment in their setting. Ten parents have attended parenting skills training in the 1st year of their child's life which is on track to achieve the target of 14. Employability data for the number of parents who access employability skills classes in QP ward is proving difficult to collect and we are working with Paddington Development Trust to develop reporting on this in a meaningful way. Six community champions have been recruited since April 2014.

**1.11 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] to 80%.**

The 2014 Primary school Key Stage 2 L4+ results for 2014 are 85% (up from 79% in 2013). This is well above this year's national average of 79%.

**1.12 We will hold more perpetrators of domestic violence to account for their actions through prosecution and effective programmes which address their behaviour.**

In Westminster City Council, every woman will now be asked whether they have experienced domestic abuse during the course of any social work assessment. In children's social care each assessment contains a prompt for the assessing worker to ensure that there are persistent attempts to engage the male carer or perpetrator of domestic abuse in the assessment and if this is not possible to say why.

**1.13 We will ensure that 75% of 2 year olds in Westminster will receive a developmental review, targeting 2 year olds in the city's most deprived wards.**

Public health has recently received access to 0-5 CHIS (Child Health Information System) data but performance is currently reported by CCG rather than LA. Quarter two data shows good uptake of the 2 year review for both CLCCG & WLCCG, above 75%. There is a performance and contract review meeting with CLCH on 29th January 2015 and an update will be provided in the February Cabinet Member update report

**1.14 We will reduce the numbers of adolescents needing to come into care to 45.**

Since April 2014, 46 (62%) of the 74 admissions to care were young people aged 14 to 17 years. These numbers reflect an increase in the number of European Nationals who are 17 years old who arrive in the UK or were abandoned who have sought accommodation under the Children Act (1989) Section 20 status as young people with no person who has parental responsibility for them in the UK.

**1.15 We will reduce the number of 16-18 year olds [years 12 and 13] Not in Education, Employment and Training [NEET] to 37.**

The annual activity survey [completed in November/December 2014] provides information on the current activity of year 11s who left Westminster education establishments this summer. The deadline for submission of this information to the Department for Education (DfE) is January 2015 after which national performance will be published. Indicative NEET figures for January school year 12 to 14 indicate that 69 young people are NEET. 94% of the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) cohort are participating in education or training until their 18th birthday (one of best in Central London).

**1.16 We will increase the number of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training [EET]**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, 71% of care leavers were EET, an improvement from 68.6% as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

**1.17 We will improve our approach to joint safeguarding with the Police in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation [CSE].**

Westminster Children's Services and the Metropolitan Police are subject to Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocols. All new cases are assessed by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH]. Police are invited to all Strategy Meetings regarding CSE cases as part of Joint Investigation Protocols. The new Police Pan London Missing Persons Team will link with Tri- Borough MASH. At end of quarter three, 100% (9 of 9) of CSE cases in last quarter all have been jointly dealt with by Children Social Care and Met Police in Westminster.

**1.18 We will work with more than 30 families in 2014/15 to ensure their children, who are disabled or have special educational needs, have the support of a joined-up Education, Health and Care Plan.**

Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act in September 2014 we have started the process for assessing young people for a joined-up Education, Health and Care plan. The 20 week assessment process has been started with eleven young people and their families from Westminster. The first assessments are expected to be completed during January 2015. This means we are on target to work with 30 families by the end of the academic year.

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

Travel trainers have worked with ten WCC children over the last year, to enable them to travel to and from school independently. More young people will be identified for this support during the 2014/15 academic year, starting from September 2014. Next update is due in January 2015 and will be incorporated in the February Cabinet Member update.

**1.20 We will provide ten young people who have learning difficulties with local specialist further education provision to support them in gaining independence and employment.**

From September 2014, the Kennet West Skills centre partnership between QEII/Westminster Kingsway College has eighteen learners enrolled (ten from WCC). The number of places will increase to thirty places from 2015.

**1.21 We will increase the number of mentors who work specifically with young people involved in crime to reduce their re-offending to 80%.**

Since April 2014, six young people were released from custody and all were offered a mentor, the take up was four (66.6%). We offer mentoring to all young people leaving custody providing they are below 18. We are in the process of training seven new mentors and these will be available to work with young people at the end of February. Given the low number of active mentors (three) we have prioritised those leaving custody. Westminster has four young people who will be released in the next quarter and all four will be offered a mentor and will be subject to the YOT Whole Family process.

**1.22 We will provide more support for young carers.**

Spurgeons now have an established venue (Ebury Bridge Centre) in Westminster which has become a popular spot for many young carers attending ongoing group sessions that are delivered at the centre. Youth carers attendance has steadily increased since the July 2014 engagement event. As at 31st December 2014 Spurgeons have provided support to 80 cases, received 28 referrals and completed 25 initial assessments.

**1.23 We will support more vulnerable children [e.g. Looked after Children, children in need of Education, Health and Care Plan] to transfer successfully from primary to secondary school.**

There are a total of 71 children at level one (highest level of need). All these children have now been made an 'offer' of support based on the available interventions and progress followed up on a one to one basis between September and December 2014.

**1.24 We will improve the health of children and young people by encouraging families to use primary care services more effectively and reducing attendance at A&E by 10%.**

As part of the overall North West London out of Hospital Strategy, the three Inner London CCGs (Hammersmith & Fulham, West London and Central London CCG) are all developing local 'Connected Care for Children' clinics based in GP surgeries. The Connected Care for Children model brings paediatricians into GP surgeries to provide clinics for children with long term conditions and/or health needs that may trigger an A&E visit. West London CCG already has several clinics operating through 'paediatric hubs' (surgeries collaborating together). Central London CCG implemented its first hub in August 2014 and now has five hubs operational, with a further two hubs to commence before April 2015. As at December 2014, 52 paediatric patients had been seen in the 10 clinics at that date. It is too early to confirm how many A&E appointments have been prevented to date, but it is a clear indication of the number of outpatients appointments saved enabling patients more convenient and faster access to services closer to home.

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

We are working with Health to agree a protocol whereby all women who have suffered FGM are referred to Social Care for a social assessment of circumstances and have developed written materials for families from affected communities. Workshops for staff have been held to ensure that all staff are trained in being able to identify and prevent FGM. As at 31st December 2014 there had been 29 referrals. There have been increased referrals from schools as well as data gathered through the pilot project running at St Mary's hospital. Some of these mothers have gone on to give birth to boys. A LSCB protocol to improve information sharing and referral rates in relation to FGM is now under consideration. The Pilot Project at St Marys has been successful and nominated for a British Midwifery Journal Award, and the approach will be rolled out across the three Boroughs this year.

**1.26 We will reduce the numbers of young people offending by 20% [to 69 young people from 87].**

The MOJ have recently published the quarterly information which indicates there were 17 First Time Entrants (FTE) in the Westminster during April to June 2014. Whilst the most recent quarter published information is higher when compared to each of the quarters reported last year, the annual data still shows a downward trend as a result of very low numbers last year. Between 2012-13 and 2013-14 we have seen a 60% reduction in FTE's in WCC.