



Meeting: *Children, Sport & Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee*
Date: *Prepared in May 2015 based on information as at 30th April 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+ results for 2014 were 86% (up from 79% in 2013) which is well above the national average of 79%. Sustaining or exceeding 86% in 2015 would be a good achievement.

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

The 2014 GCSE pass rates showed that 68% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared with 70% the previous year. New GCSE arrangements have been introduced and this had a negative impact last year on national and local results. A return to 70% would mark an improvement on 2014 and maintain Westminster's position at well above the national average (53%).

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 22 (100%) of Tri-borough foster carers living in Westminster to have their Council Tax refunded.

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

In 2014-15, sixty (71%) of the eighty-four children or young people requiring foster care were placed with Tri-borough foster carers. At the end of April 2015, 8 referrals had been received of which 3 children placed and 5 cases on-going.

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

In 2014-15, of the 17 children with placement orders, 11 (65%) were placed with permanent carers within 12 months of the order.

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 by the end of 2015-16.

In 2014-15, 10 Practice Champions were recruited from the community. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.

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. Currently it is only systemic training that has started (Feb 2015). To date, 142 staff are enrolled and taking part in the training currently which equates to 64% of the workforce.

1.8 We will identify more young carers and ensure 75% of those who need help engage with the support available for them.

Between April 2014 and March 2015, 59 young people engaged by Spurgeons. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.

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 needing to come into care.

In 2014-15, there were 26 Westminster resident adolescents (excluding UASC status or remand) aged 14 to 17 years needing to come into care. *(2014-15 data is currently being validated as part of year end reporting)*. In April 2015, three entries to care related to young people aged 14 to 17 years of which two were Westminster residents.

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%.

For spring 2015, the national average take-up of two year old places was 62% and London was the region with the lowest overall take-up (50%). In Westminster take-up was 45% (ranked 24th in London). The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end summer term.

1.11 We will promote school readiness, testing new approaches through the Neighbourhood Community Budget Pilot in Queens Park. Of all children with a free 2 year old placement our intention is for 95% to have a 2 year assessment by their setting so that early supports plan can be developed. The first update for 2015-16 will be for the summer cohort in August 2015. Our intention is to double the number of parents attending parenting skills training in the 1st year of their child's life and increase the number of specially trained community champions to support access to antenatal, postnatal and primary care in Queens Park. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.

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

In 2014-15, 73.8% of 2 year olds in Westminster received a developmental review. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.

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

In 2014-15, 71% of care leavers were in Education, Employment and Training (EET). The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.

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'. In April 2015, 462 (12.6%) of young people in school years 12 to 14 had an education status of 'not known'.

- 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.**
In 2014-15, 9 of 9 (100%) of CSE referrals were jointly investigated by Westminster and Police.
- 1.16 We will improve safeguarding actions by Children's Services, Health and Police in relation to FGM.**
In 2014-15, 34 referrals were received in relation to potential FGM. In April 2015, 3 referrals were received in relation to potential FGM.
- 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.**
The first update for 2015-16 is due in September 2015.
- 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.**
In 2014-15, 420 Primary pupil places were provided and no Secondary school places. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.
- 1.19 We will train a target number of young people with special educational needs to enable them to travel to and from school independently.**
In 2014-15, travel trainers worked with ten Westminster children, to enable them to travel to and from school independently. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.
- 1.20 We will continue to convert SEN statements to EHC plans in line with our published transfer plan.**
During 2015-16, young people in school years 11, 13 and 14 with special educational needs will have SEN statements converted to EHC plans.
- 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.**
In 2014-15, 7.3% (47 of the 3 year cohort of 640 families) of Westminster residents sustained jobs. The first update for 2015-16 is due in October 2015.
- 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.**
In 2014-15, six young people were released from custody and all were offered a mentor, the take up was four (66.6%). Mentoring is offered to all young people leaving custody providing they are below 18 years old. The first update for 2015-16 is due at the end of quarter one.