



Meeting:	<i>Children Sport & Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee</i>
Date:	<i>Prepared in September 2015 based on information as at 31st August 2015.</i>
Title:	<i>City for All, Children and Young People Progress Report</i>
Report of:	<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 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 national average figures are awaited to enable Westminster's relative position to be assessed. The overall results will contain improvements and dips in the results for individual schools. In schools where results have gone down targeted intervention work from the School Standards Service is planned.

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 Maths, compared with 68% the previous year. We are awaiting national average figures to assess Westminster's relative position.

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 Tri-borough foster carers living in Westminster to have their Council Tax refunded. We will be reimbursing all carers in arrears every six months, with the first reimbursement taking place in September / October 2015.

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. Since April 2015, twenty-six referrals had been received of which twelve were on-going at the end of August. Of the completed referrals, nine (64%) were placed with Tri-borough foster carers (this rate may improve once the remaining referrals are concluded) and five (36%) with Independent Foster care Agency. In August 2015 three children were placed with Tri-borough foster carers locally.

Fewer Westminster children are being placed with in-house carers than in Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. The fostering and placements service is Tri-Borough, and this discrepancy has been picked up and action is being taken to remedy this. The Commissioning Service is also entering a partnership arrangement with a third sector organisation called Cornerstone to undertake the recruitment and marketing for foster carers, aiming to increase our foster carer numbers.

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. Since April 2015, of the three children with placement orders two (67%) have been placed with permanent carers within 12 months of the placement order.

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 exploration of developing regional adoption agencies as set out 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 by the end of 2015-16.

In 2014-15, ten Practice Champions were recruited from the community. The Early help teams are now attending three Connecting Care Community Hub meetings in three practices.

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. To reduce any negative impact on service delivery, nominations for the first cohorts was at a local level in order to give managers the ability to plan for which of their team members should attend 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 will be reporting on the systemic training completion rates in January 2016 for the first 10 cohorts. 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 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, 126 young people were known to Young Carers service. Since April 2015, seventeen young carers (12% of known young carers) engaged in young carer group activity sessions (term-time or holiday) in Westminster. Five young carers, assessed as having a higher threshold of need, have engaged in 12-week programmes of one-to-one support. Fifteen emotional counselling sessions have been provided to Westminster young carers. We are awaiting confirmation of the number of young carers who attended these sessions. It is unlikely that performance is yet at the 75% target and discussions are taking place regarding how best to improve both identification and the delivery of timely and appropriate support.

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.

In 2014-15, there were 28 Westminster resident adolescents (excluding UASC status or remand) aged 14 to 17 years needing to come into care. Since April 2015, there have been 21 young people aged 14 to 17 years (excluding UASC status or remand) entering care, of these 10 (48%) were Westminster resident adolescents.

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 summer 2015, the national average take-up of two year old places was 63% and the London region average take-up was 51%. In Westminster take-up was 45%, placing Westminster 28th out of the 33 London boroughs. The low take up this term is mainly due to the increasing number of targeted children who had turned three but still occupied the same place. These children will move to maintained nursery provision from September 2015 and newly eligible children will move into these vacated places, hence the 2 year old take up rate will rise. In addition, the places developed through children's centres will be available from September 2015 onwards.

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

Since April 2015, 84% (16 of 19) of all children with a free 2 year old placement in Queens Park had a 2 year assessment by their setting.

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. Since April 2015, fifteen parents who have a child under the age of one accessed parenting skills training. There are currently ten Maternity Champions and eighteen Community Champions with a waiting list of five for Community Champions. All the Maternity Champions recently completed a six week Level 2 OCN accredited training course delivered by the NCT (National Childbirth Trust) called Birth and Beyond Community Supporter Training.

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. Between April and June 2015, 52.2% of eligible 2 year olds in Westminster had received a developmental review. We are awaiting confirmation of plans to improve the completion of developmental reviews. Responsibility for health visiting commissioning officially transfers to the local authority from October. Public Health have a meeting scheduled for 13th October 2015 which will include a review of contract performance and necessary actions.

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 September 2015 once the take up of place offers has been confirmed.

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'. Reporting will vary during the autumn term while the activity survey information is finalised and submitted to the DfE at the end of October 2015. DfE will publish activity status information and national comparison in January 2016.

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. 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.

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. Since April 2015, 13 referrals have been received in relation to potential FGM. This is a similar rate of referrals to last year. 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. Further activity is underway to ensure that the level of referrals accurately reflects the scale of the issue locally.

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 is 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 is 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.

The school meal service is currently in the final stages of the procurement process for a new three borough contract in which it is anticipated to achieve the target savings within each borough.

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. Additional Primary school places are to be 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). All additional places are being delivered according to target.

1.19 We will train 15 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. During the summer term, nine young people were enabled to travel to and from school independently.

1.20 We will continue to convert SEN statements to EHC plans in line with our published transfer plan.

All Year 11 and Year 13 transfers from a statement of SEN to an EHC Plan taking place in the academic year 2014-15 are due to be completed by September 2015. The current number of EHC plans finalised is currently being validated and will be provided in October 2015. An update report is also being prepared for December 2015 committee.

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. Between April and June 2015, five young people were released from custody and all (100%) were offered a mentor, two (40%) engaged with the support offered.