



Meeting: *Children Sport & Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee*
Date: *Prepared in April 2016 based on information as at 31st March 2016.*
Title: *City for All, Children and Young People Progress Report*
Report of: *Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People*

City for All Priorities

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% (*slightly lower than the 86% in 2014*). This is above the national average of 80%.

	2013	2014	2015
Westminster LA	79%	86%	84%
National	76%	79%	80%

- The Education service has taken prompt action to target, support and challenge the schools seeing the most significant drop in results.

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 is the tenth highest performing local authority nationally and the highest within inner London.

	2013	2014	2015
Westminster LA	70%	68%	68%
National	59%	53%	54%
Inner London	63%	60%	60%

- Funding will continue in the Education Excellence Programme, which includes an allocation of funding to schools (£5k) and workshops. Targeted support will be provided to schools that buy into the Council's School Improvement Service Level Agreement.

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, twenty-two eligible Tri-borough foster carers living in Westminster were targeted. At the end of March 2016, five foster carers had responded to our request and provided proof of eligibility for a Council Tax reimbursement. A further three carers will be applying for rebates in 2016-17. The Head of the Fostering Service continues to monitor carer’s responses and will continue to identify any carers who are eligible for a rebate.

- 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, 84% of completed referrals to the Tri-borough Fostering Service have resulted in a placement with Tri-borough foster carers. This is up from the overall percentage for 2014-15 (71%).
 - The Commissioning Service has partnered with Cornerstone (*a social enterprise organisation*) to undertake targeted marketing and recruitment for foster carers. This will aim to increase foster carer numbers by September 2016.
- 5 We will ensure that the majority (55%) of Westminster children in foster care are placed locally**
- At 31st March 2016, 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. This performance remains consistent at 53% of young people.
 - The Tri-borough Fostering service continues to work towards placing all children within one hour travel to their schools. The placements service will continue to monitor performance against this target to establish the scope for improvement.
- 6 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, 71% of relevant young people have been placed with permanent carers, within 12 months of the placement order. Whilst the performance is marginally below the target, the current rate is an improvement from 65% at 2014-15 year end.
 - Earlier and more effective permanency planning is required to improve the rate of children placed within 12 months. We are involved with a London-wide activity that is exploring the potential of developing regional adoption agencies, as proposed by the Department for Education.
- 7 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.**
- Since April 2015, 29 Practice Champions have been recruited which achieves the target number for 2015-16.
- 8 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.**
- Since April 2015, 187 members of staff in Westminster have been engaged on the programme (*133 practitioners and 46 managers*). A further 100 managers and practitioners are enrolled on the programme and will complete their qualification in 2016.
 - We will be ensuring that all eligible staff (*permanent staff, working 0.5 WTE or more*) will have attended training by April 2016. As a result, there has been a slight reduction in cases requiring care applications to court and in care entrants.
- 9 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.

- 10 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.
 - Information regarding known Westminster young carers was transferred to the Early Help team during January 2016. From 1st February 2016, all newly identified young carers are referred to the Assessment Service for an assessment. The Early Help team are working through the existing case load to identify how they might support, particularly higher need young carers, or signpost them to alternative support services.
- 11 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 20 Westminster resident adolescents, aged 14 to 17 years, needing to come into care. This represents an improvement from 28 at year end in 2014-15.
 - Actions implemented to reduce this indicator include: examining alternatives to remand for young offenders, developing a range of interventions linked to the 'Focus On Practice' initiative and the development of robust rehabilitation home support packages.
- 12 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 66% this term, as targeted 3 year olds have moved into maintained nursery provision. 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 on-going; the places pending at Bayswater Children's Centre are expected to be available by the end of Spring 2016, once remaining capital works have been completed. The Early Help Service is also exploring options for 2 year old delivery at Maida Vale, Westbourne and Queensway Children's Centres.
- 13 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.**
 - Since April 2015, 97% of all children, with a free 2 year old placement in Queens Park, had a 2 year assessment. 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, seventeen 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 also a waiting list of 5 Community Champions.

- 14 We will ensure that 75% of 2 year olds in Westminster will receive a developmental review.**
- Since April 2015, 70% of eligible 2 year olds in Westminster have received a developmental review. This is below the target for the year and this is slightly lower than the 2014/15 outturn of 73.8%.
 - 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 used by the provider (*Central London Community Healthcare*) means that performance figures in earlier quarters may not be reliable. Work is continuing with the provider to speed up the process and refine the data.
- 15 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 is a slight dip from 2014-15, when 71% of care leavers (*aged 19 to 21*) were in Education, Employment and Training (*EET*). Work is continuing to confirm take up of offers and 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 and they are given an EET Action Plan. The Virtual School also organises a number of specific EET programmes for NEET care leavers. A Tri-borough work experience programme, developed by the Virtual School and Education Business Partnership, was launched in January 2016.
- 16 We will 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 January, February and March there has been a reduction of 2.8% between the three month averages for the two years. Overall numbers have reduced by 104 (*comparing March 2015 and March 2016*). Recently published national rates indicate that Westminster continues to be above the London and England rates.

Not known	2014-15			2015-16		
	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Westminster	13.5%	13.5%	13.1%	11.7%	11%	10.3%
Number of young people	498	498	484	432	407	380
LONDON	8.0%	7.4%	6.9%	8.1%	7.4%	Awaiting publication
ENGLAND	7.2%	6.9%	6.5%	6.4%	6%	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.

- When comparing the rates of NEET at March 2015 (2.89%) and March 2016 (1.93%), both are below the London and England rates. There has been a reduction of 29 young people.

NEET	2014-15			2015-16		
	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Westminster	3.00%	2.95%	2.89%	1.73%	1.87%	1.93%
Number of young people	95	95	93	57	62	64
LONDON	3.4%	1.6%	1.7%	3.2%	3.2%	Awaiting publication
ENGLAND	4.7%	2.5%	2.6%	4.2%	4.3%	Awaiting publication

17 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. All 9 cases have had a joint investigation with police.
- The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel has revised the terms of reference to improve case monitoring and focus on perpetrators.

18 We will improve safeguarding actions by Children's Services, Health and Police in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

- Since April 2015, 64 referrals have been received in relation to potential FGM, exceeding the 34 referrals during 2014-15.
- Since the start of the pilot, the partnerships between social care, maternity and the community have strengthened considerably. Effective referral pathways have been established between health and social care. Community links have also been established to ensure that the service is culturally appropriate.
- At a conference organised by MOPAC on 1 February 2016, Debbie Raymond made a well-received presentation on the 'Evolution of the Pilot in Westminster'. Feedback from participants has indicated that other Local Authorities are keen to use a similar approach. Deputy Mayor, Stephen Greenhalgh, visited St Marylebone Boys School. Mr Greenhalgh was impressed by the insight showed in relation to FGM and stated that such work with schools needs to be promoted more widely.
- The project has received a further six months funding from the Department of Education (DfE).

19 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.

- **Take up of free school meals by those eligible.**
 - For the Autumn Term 2015, this was 83% compared to a target of 88%. (*Reporting currently only relates to nursery and KS2 pupils*).
 - The higher take up in 2014 was during the commencement of the free meal initiative in 2014, which also included older year groups in the primary school setting.
 - The figures are reported as a total of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) take up, only in KS2 and nursery year groups are the figures recorded as paid and free. A more uniformed way of reporting the paid and free figures is to be developed, in order to report FSM take up against eligibility figures for the whole school.

- **Overall take up of the school meals** - Performance is at 72%, demonstrating good progress against the 72% target.
- **100% of Westminster schools, with centrally held contracts, who meet the silver standard Food for Life criteria** - The current menus offered, achieve the silver standard Food for Life criteria. All menus meet all government and nutritional standards.
- **The take up of 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, which has been staggered in several schools. Religious celebrations have also had an impact of the take up and attendance within this period. In line with previous years' performance, this figure is expected to increase in the subsequent terms.

20 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 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). There is an additional 120 Year 8 secondary school places being provided at Marylebone Boys'.

21 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).

22 We will continue to convert SEN statements to Educational & Health Care (EHC) plans in line with our published transfer plan.

- Our target 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 were completed by September 2015.
- A small number of transfers were ceased, as it became clear that the pupils were achieving within the average educational range, or that their needs could be met within the local offer below the statement or plan.
- In response to DfE amendments, a revised transfer review plan is to be delivered between now and 2018. In addition, the SEN Service continues to develop its practice and processes in order to achieve improved performance.

23 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.

- Phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme has identified and commenced work with 1535 families (68% of the 5 year cohort). A one year target of 385 families has been set. The first opportunity to claim Payments by results will close in October 2016. The first claim will be low as this will be the first of a new and complex process.

- 24 **We will provide more support to address criminal activity from 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 March 2016, eleven young people were released from custody and 100% were offered a mentor. Two (18%) engaged with the support offered.
 - Two training sessions has been delivered during the year, with a third planned for June 2016. Work is continuing to recruit, train and support volunteers.