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Child Poverty and the role of Early Years

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Why Early Years so important?

“Advantages accumulate; so do disadvantages”

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Child Poverty: Data

- Islington is home to 37,961 children
- 30% (11,101) are of pre-school age
- 33% (12,371) are of primary school age
- 37% (14,140) are of secondary school age

- Islington children live in 20,387 households
- Over a third (6,859) are headed by a lone parent
- Over 46% of households with children have no parent in work or are living on a low income

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Child Poverty: Risk Factors of living in poverty

The HBAI[1] survey shows that children are much more likely to live in poverty if they are in a family:

- headed by a lone parent
- with three or more children
- with a disabled family member
- headed by a black or minority ethnic parent, especially someone of Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Black non-Caribbean origin
- living in overcrowded accommodation

1 Households Below Average Income survey

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What is the UK "poverty line"?

- Children in families below 60% of average income – (BHC)
  - Single parent, two children (5 & 14 years) **£293 a week**
  - Couple, two children (5 & 14 years) **£374 a week**

- Children in families below 60% of average income – (AHC)
  - Single parent, two children (5 & 14 years) **£247 a week**
  - Couple, two children (5 & 14 years) **£333 a week**

– **Source: Households Below Average Income: 2008/9**

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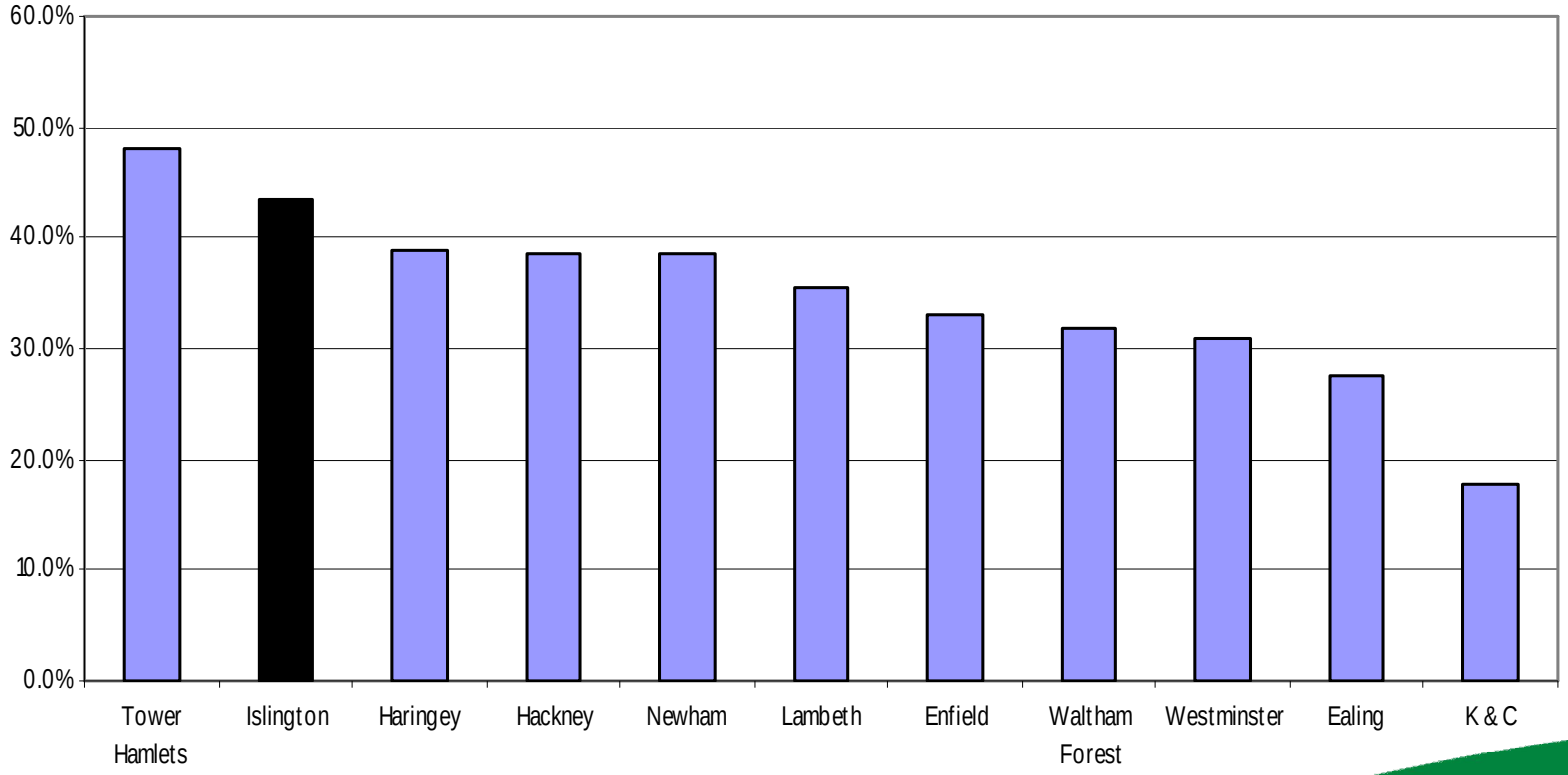
Child poverty: How big is Islington's problem?



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CP Innovation Pilot – what are we doing?

Use of data

- ✓ Housing Benefit/Council tax data together with child dataset
- ✓ Intelligent use of data through casework and outreach

Islington Working for Parents

- ✓ Working through universal settings – Children's Centres first
- ✓ Focus on early intervention, and encouraging parents to engage
- ✓ Soft outcomes assessment – improving employability
- ✓ Economic needs (benefits and employment) in CAF

Sustainability

- ✓ Sustainable improvement by embedding child poverty outcomes in mainstream services – it's everybody's business
- ✓ Strengthened referral pathways across front line services
- ✓ BPR and workforce development

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Use of data

- Started with concept of ‘whole child’ – 2006
- Now concept of ‘whole family’
- Built from a number of sources (10)
- Sharing agreements required
- Use for a large number of projects and ongoing needs assessment & commissioning work
  - CPIP is one of these projects

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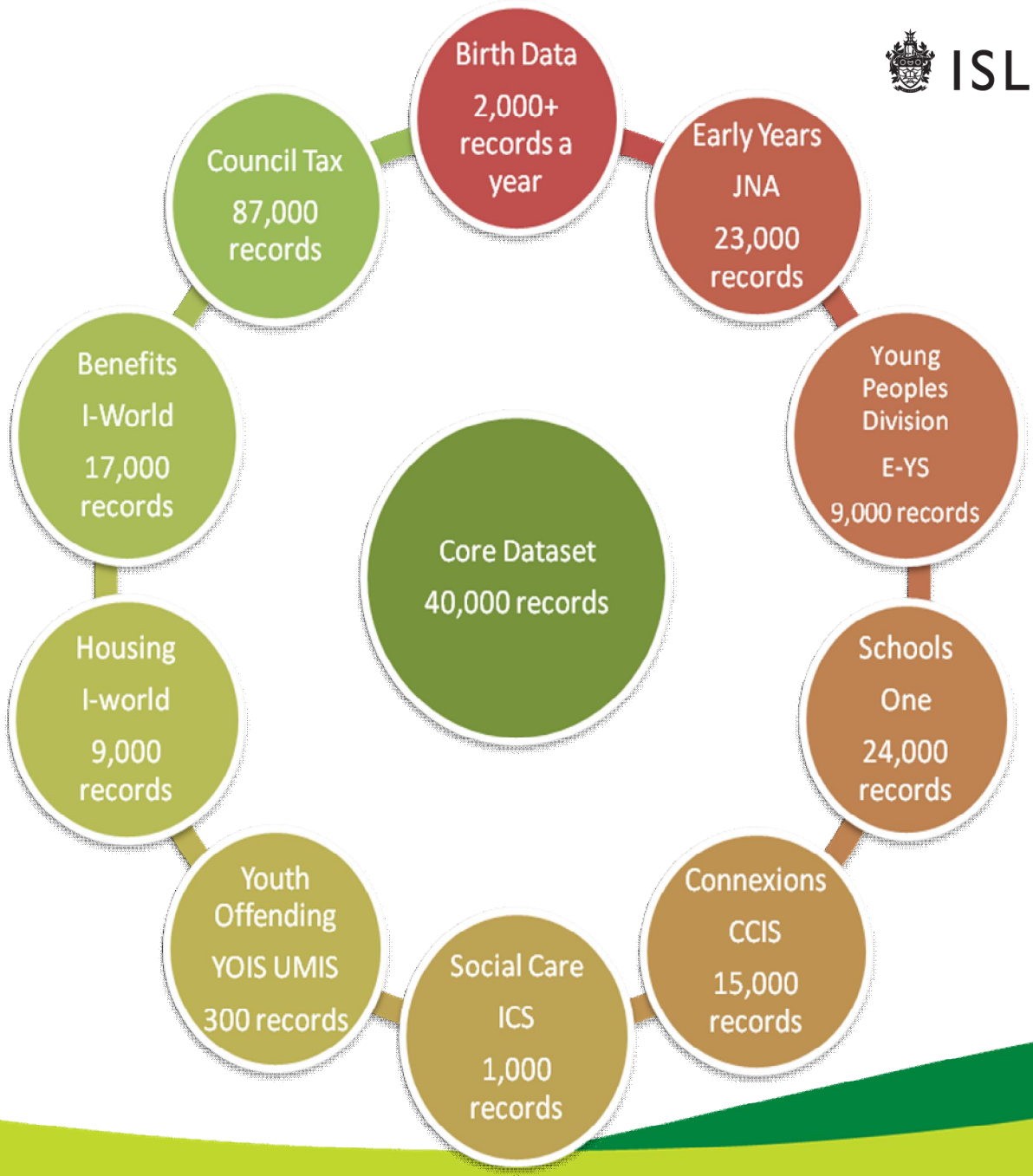
Birth Data
2,000+ records a year
Early Years
JNA
23,000 records
Young Peoples Division
E-YS
9,000 records
Schools
One
24,000 records
Connexions
CCIS
15,000 records
Social Care
ICS
1,000 records
Youth Offending
YOIS UMIS
300 records
Housing
I-world
9,000 records
Benefits
I-World
17,000 records
Council Tax
87,000 records
Core Dataset
40,000 records

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How we use this data

- Children Centre action plan to address their reach
- Track how they are doing
- Children's Centre work with Islington Working for Parents (IWP) team to decide how to work with specific groups in detail
- Data forms basis of case management system used by IWP and other IW practitioners and income maximisation team

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Islington Working for Parents

- Working out of all 16 Children's Centres
- Part of multi-agency team
- Provide one-to-one IAG
- 70% Lone Parents
- 51% BME
- 10% fathers
- Only 2% Teenage Parents

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School Gates Initiative

- 6 Parent Champions employed until March 2011
- Targeting parents of school-aged children
- Aims to help parents overcome barriers to employment, signposting and referrals
- Based in 6 primary schools;

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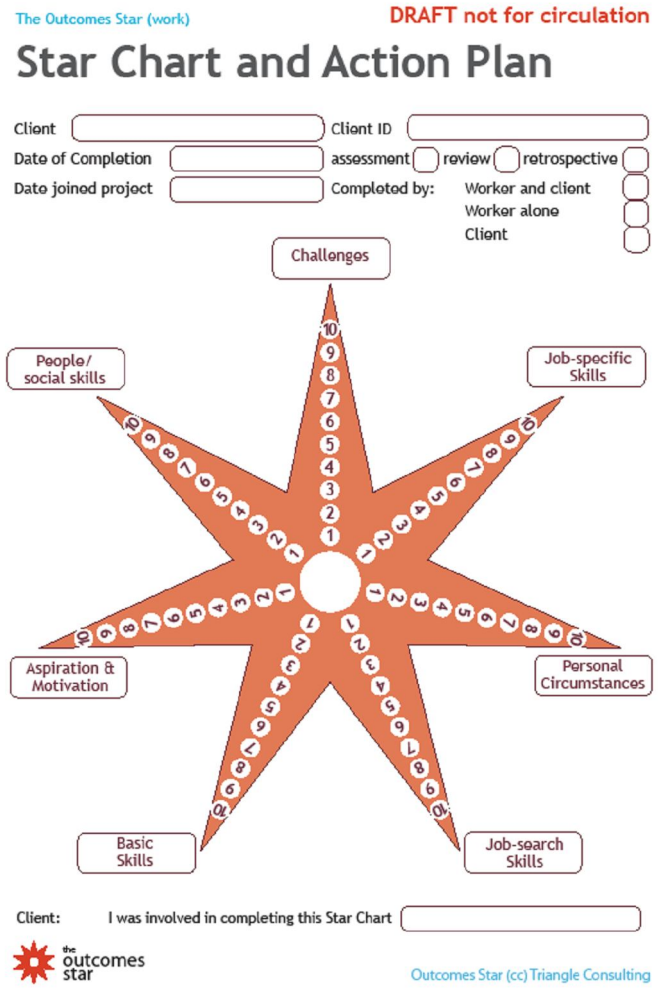
Is it working?

- 34% increase in parents satisfaction

(source: CC parents satisfaction survey 10/11)

- 895 parents engaged on the programme
- 455 started employability pathway (workstars)
- 203 gone into training
- 42 parents started work
- 227 referrals to income maximisation
- Average increase in all areas of star



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Mainstreaming

- To impact child poverty after the pilot we need to embed the way we do interventions in frontline services across agencies:
  - Housing
  - Health
  - Children's Services
  - Regeneration
  - Employers / Business
  - VCF Sector
- Trained 350+ people
- 1 day courses running from now until March 2011
- Helps frontline services understand issues around child poverty
- About taking personal responsibility and signpost correctly

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Jobcentre Plus

- A new Service Level Agreement with Children's Centres – a two way partnership
- Parent Officers attending JCP Parent Team meetings
- Promoting Children Centre activities in Jobcentres
- A named Jobcentre advisor in each Jobcentre
- Focus on Fathers supporting their children, NEETs programme

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What else works?

- Nurse Family Partnership
- Early childhood education for low income 3 / 4 year olds
- Allen report
- Focus on child development

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Critical success factors

- High quality environments and level of staff training
- Clear targeting to at risk groups
- Programmes delivered with fidelity