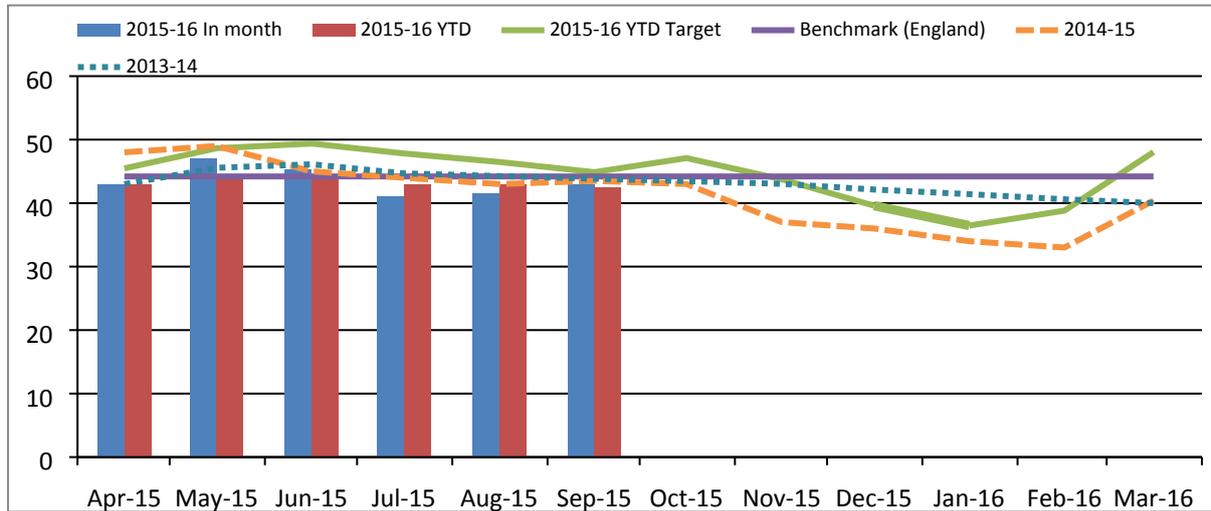


Mid Year Corporate Progress and Performance Report 2015/16
Appendix 2: Focus on RED Key Performance Indicators

RAG	DOT from last year	Measure	Data	
RED	Worse	% Household Waste reused, recycled and composted	Sept Actual/YTD	42.99%/ 42.5%
			Sept Target	44.88%
			Year End Target	48%



The indicator measures percentage of household waste, which has been sent by the Authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion. This is a key measure of local authorities' progress in moving management of household waste up the hierarchy, consistent with the Government's national strategy for waste management.

The recycling performance this year continues to lag behind target with the current projected outturn being circa 39%. Nationally, recycling levels have been falling in many areas of the country. In Thurrock, the levels of recycling are lower than in many areas due to the high proportion of flats (30% of all properties) with communal bins.

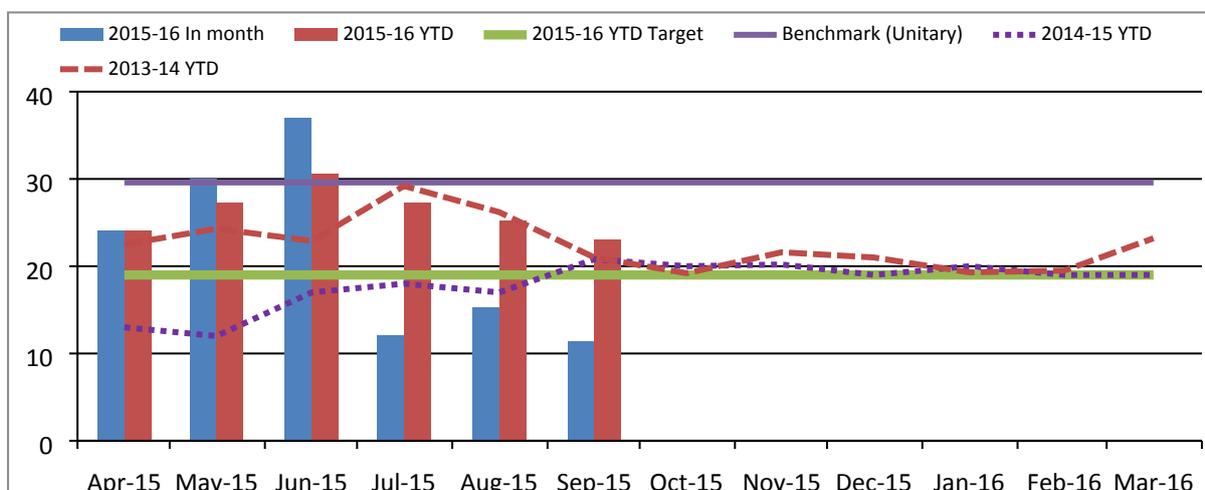
In addition a small but significant number of residents are using their blue bins to dispose of general waste rather than recyclable materials. This has led to an increase in the contamination level of our recycling and as a result many loads have been rejected from the recycling processing plant and have had to be disposed of as residual waste.

A communication and engagement project is underway within the department to tackle the levels of contamination with detailed information of the materials that can be recycled provided to every household. In recent months, the information on the council's website (thurrock.gov.uk/bins) has been improved and bin stickers are clear about what can go in each bin. The team are also soon to launch a pre-Christmas recycling campaign, followed by targeted campaigns in specific areas, including flats.

A new process is in place whereby the recycling bins are checked before being loaded into the waste trucks and tagged if they are contaminated. Residents with tagged bins are contacted directly and the recycling process and implications of contamination further explained. As a last resort we are now removing recycling bins from persistent offenders.

A further consequence of a contaminated recycling stream is that disposal costs increase from £55 per tonne to £95 per tonne. We collect and dispose of 13,000 tonnes of recyclable material per year and as contamination levels rise, so do the costs.

RAG	DOT from last year	Measure	Data	
RED	Worse	Percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill	Sept Actual/YTD	11% / 23%
			Sept Target	19%
			Year End Target	19%



This indicator refers to the volume of municipal waste that is sent to landfill. This includes the waste collected from households as well as that from the Civic Amenity site, bulky waste collections and street cleansing and grounds maintenance.

Since the beginning of September 2015 the Council has been working under a renewed disposal contract. The impact of this is that all waste collected from households will now be diverted to energy recovery and therefore not landfilled.

The level of waste still being landfilled has fallen to 11% in September and is likely to continue at that rate for the foreseeable future, which should mean that this indicator is well within target by the end of the year.

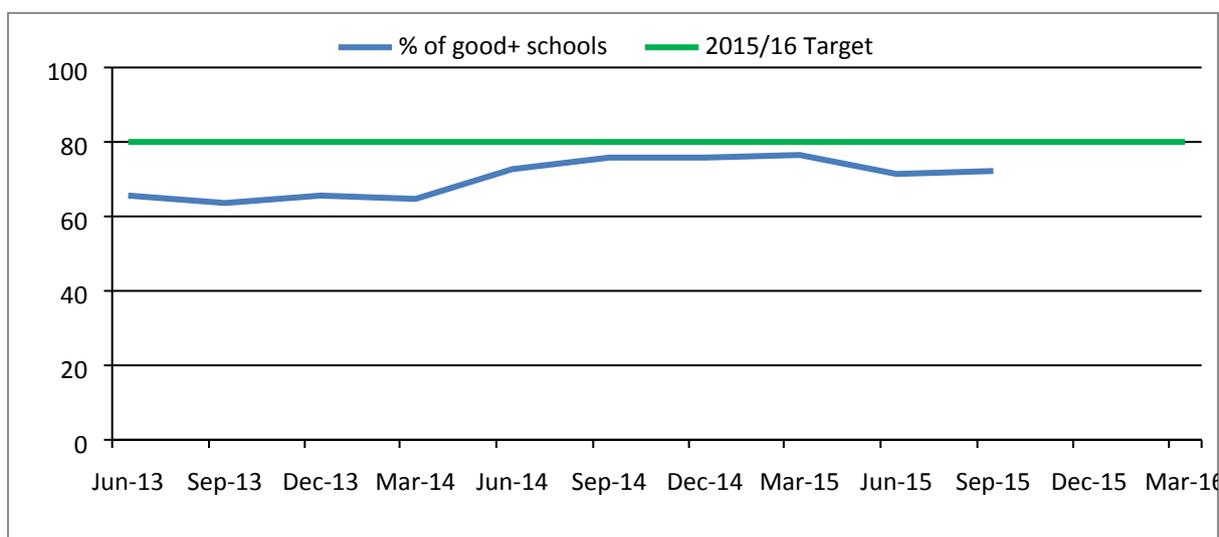
This indicator is shown as RED because although in-month performance is much better than target, the cumulative position as at the end of September is 23% due to high levels at the beginning of the year and looks therefore worse than the target of 19%.

This is a significant improvement on previous performance of this indicator (19% in 2014-15) and will mean that Thurrock continues to be amongst the best performers in the Eastern region.

RAG	DOT from last year	Measure	Data	
RED	Worse	% of primary schools judged "good" or better	Sept Actual	72%
			Sept Target	80%
			Year End Target	80%

The percentage has risen minimally, largely due to the low number of primary inspections over the past year. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) has requested that two schools be re-inspected early due to significant improvements back in the spring term. These have not yet taken place.

Two primary inspections that did take place in the summer term with 'requires improvement' outcomes were unexpected and, due to the timing, the schools' most recent SATS data was not taken into consideration. A senior HMI has since visited both schools at the request of the DCS and has agreed that on reflection the judgements were rather harsh.

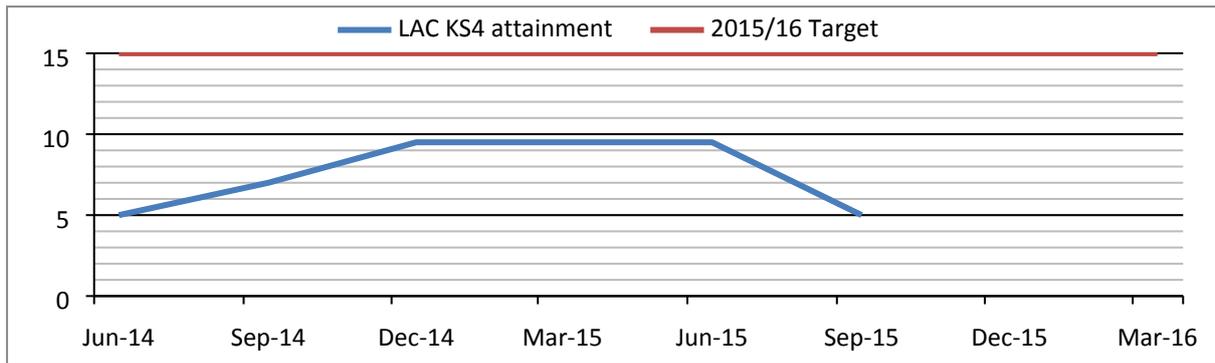


RAG	DOT from last year	Measure	Data	
RED	Worse	LAC KS4 Attainment – 5+ A*-C (including English and Maths GCSEs)	Sept Actual/YTD	5%
			Sept Target	15%
			Year End Target	15%

28 pupils were entered for GCSEs from the Looked After Children (LAC) cohort of 42 with 13 attending a local Thurrock school. All 28 were entered for examinations (including vocational options) and all achieved a qualification in a range of subjects.

Every mainstream school/academy in Thurrock included at least one looked after child in their Year 11 cohort and of the five predicted to gain 5 or more GCSEs, two students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and maths.

In discussion with Thurrock secondary schools' senior teams it has been agreed that the focus on "narrowing the gap" for disadvantaged groups, including those in the care of the local authority are prioritised in the new 2015/16 School Development Plans (SDPs). A number of LAC were unaccompanied asylum seekers, at an early stage of learning English, and therefore not yet able to take GCSEs.



RAG	DOT from last year	Measure	Data	
RED	Better	% of 19-21 yr old Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	Sept Actual/YTD	47.7%
			Sept Target	70%
			Year End Target	70%

A deliberately high target of 70% was set to enable Thurrock young care leavers to outperform the rest of the country. Across Children’s Services and the wider Council we continue to focus on NEET reduction and promoting contact with our care leavers.

Since this data was submitted, updates have been made which has increased the level of EET to 54.5% by the end of September 2015. This is above the national average for 2014/15 (47.8%) and would therefore be re-graded as “Amber” due to the significant improvements made by the social workers helping 19-21yr olds access employment, education or training. Improvements have also been made to the reporting of this data and teams have been assigned to manage these young people and update the system according to the new rules set out by the DfE this year. Data as at the end of November shows a further increase to 56.5% of care leavers aged 19-21 recorded as being in employment, education or training around their birthday.

The Council continues to support care leavers via the Diversity in Apprenticeship programme which works to secure work placements and employment opportunities. The proportion of care leavers in employment, education or training is improving and this remained a key focus in the Autumn term with two special events involving care leavers in October as part of National Care Leavers week.

