

	<p align="center">Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p align="center">23 June 2014</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Recommendation Tracking</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>School, Skills and Learning Lead Commissioner</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A - Summary of proposed change to the local authority governor appointment process</p>
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Summary

This report provides a 12 month progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel which was convened in 2012 to assist in the development of Barnet's Education Strategy. The Panel made 6 recommendations which were considered by Barnet's Cabinet and were incorporated within the Education Strategy approved on 24th June 2013.

An initial progress report on implementing the recommendations was considered by the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2014. This report provides a final update.

Recommendation 2 within this report relates to amending the process for the appointment of local authority appointed school governors which was endorsed by Cabinet and referred to the General Functions Committee on the 14th October 2013 for consideration and approval. The General Functions Committee deferred approval pending consultation with political parties. This report seeks the views of the members of the Children's Education, Safeguarding and Libraries Committee to inform the further consideration of the recommendation by the General Functions Committee.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**
- 2. That the Committee consider Recommendation 2 of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel 'to adopt a streamlined approach to nominating local authority governors' and report its views to the General Functions Committee to inform the further consideration of this recommendation as set out in 1.3.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, a panel that was convened to assist in the development of an education strategy for Barnet. The recommendations were considered by Cabinet and were used to inform the education strategy that was approved on 24th June 2013. Progress on implementing recommendations for scrutiny panels have been made at regular intervals. The first progress report was presented on 23rd January 2014. This report provides a further, final update for each of the recommendations of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.2 Recommendation 1 The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend that, pursuant to the role of championing high educational standards and the needs of vulnerable children, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with responsibility for education matters receive a six-monthly update detailing the educational outcomes and Ofsted outcomes for all publicly funded schools (maintained, Academy and free schools) in the borough.
- Progress:
- At its meeting on 16th October 2013 the Education and Overview Scrutiny Committee received a report on the results of the national tests taken by pupils at the end the primary phase.
 - At the meeting on 23rd January 2014, the Education and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the results of pupils Barnet's Key Stage 4 results including attainment results for pupils at the end of key stage 4, Key stage 2 to 4 progress measures and comparative performance of how deprived pupils compare against other pupils.
 - At its meeting on 19th March 2014, the Education and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the progress in implementing the Education Strategy overall, including the impact on performance data and the Ofsted rating of schools.

Key Performance data in relation to the performance of the Council's Education and Skills service will be considered by the Performance and

Contracts Management Committee going forward. Detailed school attainment and Ofsted outcomes as they relate to the strategy for school improvement will inform reports received by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. The first report will be considered on the 15th September 2014.

- 1.3 Recommendation 2 The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend that the Cabinet endorse the proposal to adopt a streamlined approach to nominating Local Authority Governors.

Progress: A proposal was submitted to General Functions Committee on 14 October 2013 for approval. The General Functions Committee resolved to defer the decision pending feedback from Political Secretaries and requested that a further report be brought back to the General Functions Committee detailing comments made. No further progress has been made.

Through this report, the Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is asked for its views in order to inform the further consideration of this recommendation by the General Functions Committee. Appendix A sets out the current process for the appointment process of local authority nominated governors and the proposed changes to the nomination process.

- 1.4 Recommendation 3 The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend a review of the training schedule for governors offered through the Council's traded service is undertaken, to ensure that it meets the needs of governors in fulfilling their responsibilities within the increasingly autonomous school system.

Progress: As reported in the first progress report (23rd January 2014) a review of training has been undertaken in consultation with chairs and vice-chairs of governing bodies, training link governors, and local authority nominated governors. As a result of the review, new courses were introduced and materials for governors revised to take account of free schools and Academies.

- 1.5 Recommendation 4 The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend that the Council pilot, initially for one year, the production of an annual report to parents on educational provision in Barnet to be published on the internet.

Progress: The annual report was published on the Council's website in March 2014 and all schools were asked to advise parents of the publication through school newsletters. Schools have welcomed the report and to date, approximately 100 people have accessed it on-line. Any feedback will inform whether this publication will be produced again next year.

- 1.6 Recommendation 5 The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend that the Council develop best practice guidance for governing bodies to ensure the delivery of good governance and share best practice across the borough.

Progress: Further to the activities set out in the first progress report (23rd January 2014) the Council has now developed a new service for schools to commission an external review of the quality of its governing body, utilising local expertise through deploying school governors that have been recognised

as National Leaders of Governance. This service is being offered by the Barnet Partnership for School Improvement which offers a range of traded services for schools to subscribe to or spot purchase. So far, 6 schools have commissioned this new service and each school is using the findings to develop and strengthen its governance.

- 1.7 **Recommendation 6** The Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel recognises that the Learning Network Inspector service is well regarded and valued by schools. It recommends that the Council maintain the provision of a dedicated, appropriately qualified education professional link for all schools going forward.

Progress: The Council has retained the role of Learning Network Inspectors as a named professional to link with each school. The Council is now recruiting to a new post of Head of School Improvement to lead and shape this service to ensure that it is best placed to respond to the changing nature of education provision in the borough.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendations are to note the progress in implementing the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendation and to inform the further consideration of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendation to streamline the process for nominating local authority school governors.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 With regard to recommendation 2, a report will be considered by the General Functions Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

The reputation and quality of Barnet's schools makes Barnet an attractive place to live and is key to the satisfaction of many residents in the borough. The Education Strategy for Barnet sets out how the Barnet partnership of schools, settings and other education providers, together, support the delivery of the Council's priority outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan 2013–16:

- Support families and individuals that need it through promoting independence, learning and well-being: through high quality early years provision to give children the best start in life, ensuring support for children with additional needs and identifying and meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils.

- Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study: through ensuring that Barnet's schools are high performing and that every child can access a school that good or outstanding.
- Create the right environment to promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough: through ensuring that young people are equipped with the learning and skills to progress into adulthood and that schools work in partnership to identify and meet the needs of Barnet's current and future economy

5.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 None arising from this report

5.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The Council has a duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 – see equalities and diversity section below

5.3.2 The Education Act 1996 section 13 - 15 gives local authorities a general responsibility for education together with a number of statutory duties including securing sufficient primary and secondary provision and promoting high standards for all.

5.3.3 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 apply to maintained schools where their instrument of governance was made or varied after 1 September 2012. The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 continue to apply to maintained schools in other cases. Under the new regulations, the local authority can nominate a local authority governor, but that person will not be appointed until the governing body is satisfied that they have met its eligibility criteria. This gives governing bodies additional powers to ensure that its governors have the skills and ability to support the particular needs of the school. Whilst the 2007 Regulations do not require the governing body to agree an appointment, the Council can still follow the same principles of matching the skill set of proposed governors to the needs of particular schools.

5.4 **Risk Management**

5.4.1 There is a risk that if the recommendations are not fully implemented, the quality of school governing bodies may not be as good as they could be. The local authority has recently introduced a new traded service whereby schools can commission an independent review of the quality of its governing body. All schools are being encouraged to undertake an independent review so that the strengths and weaknesses of governing bodies are identified and where appropriate, an improvement plan can be prepared and actioned by the school.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.3.1 The recommendations of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel support the wider ambition of an excellent educational offer for all Barnet's children and in particular, the championing of the needs of vulnerable children and young people. The report sets out progress in implementing the particular recommendations of the panel that contribute to this ambition through member scrutiny of the attainment of groups of pupils and through providing clear and transparent information for parents on the educational offer in Barnet.

5.4 Consultation and Engagement

5.4.1 The recommendations made by the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel were based on a programme of consultation and engagement with schools and parents. No further consultation has been involved in the preparation of this update.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 18 April 2012, Decision Item 14 (Task and Finish Groups Appointments) –the Committee resolved that a politically proportioned Overview and Scrutiny Panel be convened to consider an Education Strategy for Barnet

6.2 Council, 16 March 2013, Item 4.3, Report of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee (28 March and 10 April 2013) – Council agreed revised Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules which included the establishment of an Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.3 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 May 2013, Decision Item 10 (Task and Finish Groups / Scrutiny Panels – Recommendation Tracking) – the Committee agreed that consultation with Committee Members on the draft report of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel should take place via e-mail to enable the report to be considered by Cabinet on 24 June 2013.

6.4 Cabinet, 24 June 2013, An Education Strategy for Barnet 2013/14 – 2015/16 – Cabinet approved the Education Strategy for Barnet

6.5 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1 July 2013, Education Strategy for Barnet – the Committee considered: i) the Education Strategy for Barnet considered by Cabinet on 24 June 2013; and ii) the final report of the Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

6.6 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23rd January 2014 received the first progress report in detailing progress in implementing the recommendations of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.7 The General Functions Committee, 14th October 2103, considered the recommendation to adopt changes to the local authority governor appointments process. The Committee deferred the decision to enable group secretaries to consult their groups on the proposal.

6.6 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 16th October 2013, 23rd January 2014 and 19th March 2014 received reports setting out results of school tests and examinations. The meeting on the 23rd January received a report on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Education Strategy Scrutiny Panel.