

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>18th July 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Education Strategy 2017 - 2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Strategic Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Education Strategy 2017 – 2020</p>
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Summary

This report seeks approval for the Education Strategy for Barnet for the period 2017 to 2020 (Appendix A). The Education Strategy sets out the shared ambition of the strategic partnership between the council, schools and Cambridge Education to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in Barnet.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approve the Education Strategy 2017 – 2020 as set out in Appendix A.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 This report sets out the Education Strategy for Barnet for the period 2017 to 2020. The strategy reflects the changes that have taken place both locally and nationally during the period since our previous strategy was developed. These include:

- The strategic partnership with Cambridge Education that commenced in April 2016 to deliver statutory education services as well as offering a range of traded services for schools to purchase.
- The development of school improvement partnerships across the borough through which schools challenge and support each other to continuously improve outcomes for their pupils.
- An increasingly diverse range of education providers operating in the borough as a result of new free schools opening and schools becoming sponsored Academies.
- An increasing school population as a result of demographic growth.
- Developments in services for children with special educational needs and disabilities as a result of legislative changes
- Increasing focus on the financial sustainability of schools as a result of inflationary pressures.
- A move towards a national funding formula for schools that may potentially impact the balance of funding between local authorities.

1.2 The strategic partnership is governed by a number of boards with representatives from the council, Cambridge Education and schools. Through these partnership boards as well as through regular meetings with headteachers and chairs of governors, the opportunities and challenges in delivering education services are regularly shared and discussed with schools. The Education Strategy is a vehicle to articulate clearly our shared ambition for what we want to achieve through working together to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in Barnet.

1.3 The vision within the strategy has been developed through this partnership approach and it reflects the ambition for Barnet to be a family friendly borough. It builds on the council's commitment to put resilience at the heart of improving outcomes for children and young people. It recognises that schools provide a unique opportunity to promote and embed resilience in the day to day life of children and their families. The shared partnership vision is:

Resilient schools – resilient communities: We want Barnet to be the most successful place for high quality education where excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.

1.4 In order to deliver this, the strategy proposes that we work in partnership so that:

- Every child attends a good or outstanding school, as judged by Ofsted
- The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is within the top 10% nationally
- There is accelerating progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils in order to close the gap between them and their peers.

1.5 To achieve this, our strategic partnership aims to

- ensure **sufficient school places** in the right place at the right time, including high quality **local specialist places** for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- ensure that school organisation and governance arrangements are **financially sustainable**
- secure a **high quality educational** offer through a **pro-active approach** to school improvement that includes:
 - School partnerships and school to school support
 - Choice and diversity over governance models
 - A Learning Network Inspectorate team offering differentiated support to maintained schools and academies
- achieve high levels of attainment and progress in all phases
- maintain a relentless focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND), children looked after, children in need and children eligible for free school meals.

1.6 The governance boards of the strategic partnership will drive and oversee the delivery of the Education Strategy and monitor the key performance measures set out within the strategy. Information on educational performance, school places and school funding/finance issues are shared with the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee through its work programme.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education Strategy articulates and drives the shared ambition of the council, schools, and Cambridge Education to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in Barnet.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Education Strategy will form the work programme for the strategic partnership's governance boards on strategic planning, school improvement, SEND services and school organisation.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The quality of the education offer is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet family friendly, with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools. Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to deliver the Council's vision set out in its Corporate Plan 2015-20 for:

- Barnet's schools to be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all, and with all children achieving the best they can
- Barnet's children and young people to receive a great start in life and
- For there to be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

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

The work to respond to, and drive the delivery of the council's contribution to the Education Strategy is led from within existing resources of the Education and Skills Service, delivered in partnership with Cambridge Education.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 As set out in the responsibility for functions (Annex A) of the Council Constitution (Section 15a), the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility for services within Children's Services, including education and schools and is responsible for considering for approval of any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the

Committee, subject to this not being reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources.

5.3.2 Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 place a duty on local authorities to secure efficient primary, secondary and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 13A requires local authorities to ensure that their functions are exercised with a view of promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training and promoting fulfilment of learning potential for children and young people in its area. Section 14 requires local authorities to secure sufficient schools and sufficient is defined by reference to number, character and equipment to provide appropriate education based on age, ability and aptitude, as well as ensuring diversity of provision. These duties are overarching duties and apply regardless of whether schools are maintained by the local authority or independent of local authority support.

5.3.3 Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 contains powers and duties in relation to schools causing concern. The powers of intervention apply in relation to maintained schools only. For Academy schools, local authorities should raise any concerns with the Department for Education. Section 72 of this Act requires local authorities to have regard to Government guidance when exercising its functions under Part 4. The latest guidance, Schools Causing Concern, published in March 2016, confirms that school improvement should be led by schools. The local authority role should be to champion excellent education, including monitoring performance, taking swift and effective action in maintained schools, intervening early, encouraging good and outstanding schools to support others and securing strong leadership and governance. This revised guidance also sets out the role and powers of Regional Schools Commissioners in relation to both Academies and underperforming maintained schools, in particular those that meet the Department for Education's definition of 'coasting' and those judged by Ofsted to be inadequate.

5.4 **Risk Management**

None

5.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; foster good relations between people from different groups.

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

School improvement monitoring, supporting and challenging arrangements

ensure that the quality of education in Barnet is maintained and improved. Outcomes for all groups of children and young people are monitored including children with special educational need, children in receipt of free school meals and children looked after. Barnet's Children and Young People Plan and the Education Strategy, both have a strong focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

The strategic partnership's shared ambition at the core of the Education Strategy was developed in consultation with headteacher representatives. Together with the proposed aims to deliver the ambition, it has been subject to consultation with all headteachers and chairs of governors.

5.7 Insight

A range of data sources including national assessment results, school census returns, pupil premium data and demographic projections are used in the development of priorities and in monitoring outcomes

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 15th September 2014 (Item 9) *School Improvement in Barnet – an update and a new approach.*

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 21st September 2016 *School Performance in Barnet, 2016 (provisional)*

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 21st September 2016 *Planning for new school places 2017/18 to 2019/20*

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 21st February 2017 *Annual report on School funding in Barnet for 2017/18*

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 21st February 2017 *School Admission arrangements for 2018/19*