

	Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee 30 November 2020
Title	Education Strategies
Report of	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	<p>Annex 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment</p> <p>Appendix A - Education Strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Appendix B – Draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Appendix C – School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Appendix D – Planning for new school places 2018/19 to 2022/23 – update</p>
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Summary

This report seeks approval for the Education Strategy for Barnet for the period 2021 to 2024. The strategy sets out the priorities for ensuring that children and young people continue to benefit from an excellent, high quality education offer. This strategy for 2021-24 now replaces the previous strategy which was for 2017-20.

The report also seeks approval for the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy and for consultation on the draft strategy. The draft strategy sets out the priorities for ensuring that

children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities continue to benefit from an excellent, high quality education offer. The strategy for 2021-24 will replace the previous strategy which was for 2017-20.

The School and Settings Improvement Strategy sets out the priorities for ensuring that children and young people continue to benefit from an excellent, high quality education offer. This strategy for 2021-24 now replaces the previous strategy which was for 2017-20.

The report on 'Planning for new school places' provides an update on the school places plan and compares the five-year forecast projected in September 2017 with the actual demand that has emerged. It sets out the revised projections of pupil places for the next few years and the plan to meet the need for additional places.

Recommendation

- 1. That the Committee approve the Education Strategy 2021-24.**
- 2. That the Committee approve the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021-24 as a basis for consultation and authorises the Executive Director for Children's Services to approve the final strategy taking account of consultation responses.**
- 3. That the Committee approve the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-24.**
- 4. That the Committee note the update report on the planning of school places.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 We are committed to ensuring that Barnet is the most family friendly borough in London. To assist us in achieving this we are focussed on building resilience in children, families and schools. The global pandemic of COVID19 has had a profound impact on schools and learning. We need to ensure that any lessons learnt are embedded into our strategies.
- 1.2 For some years, Barnet has been among the top performing local authority areas in the country in relation to the achievement of children and young people and the quality of our schools. Barnet's aspiration is to be among the top 10% of local authorities in relation to the quality of provision in its schools.
- 1.3 In 2017, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approved the Education Strategy 2017–2020 and the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and School Improvement Strategy for the same period. It is now time to review these strategies and set clear aims for the next three years.
- 1.4 In 2017 the committee also approved a School Places Plan for the period 2018 to 2023. This report provides an update on the implementation of that plan and on the pupil number projections and sets out projections and plans for future years.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee's approval is required for the education strategies shown in the appendices in order to provide a clear vision and clear strategic goals and priorities for the education service in Barnet over the next three years.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement to publish strategies on education and school improvement, by doing so, the Council is clearly setting out its plans to fulfil its education duties in a transparent way. Therefore the alternative option of not preparing and publishing such strategies is not recommended.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Action to deliver the strategic priorities will be overseen by the governance arrangements set out in each strategy.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet 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 a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.
- 5.2 Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to delivering the Council's strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

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

- 5.3 The work to drive the delivery of the council's contribution to the strategies is delivered from within existing resources of the Education and Learning service, which is delivered in partnership with Barnet Education and Learning Service Ltd.

Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Article 7 - Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships of the council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and safeguarding.

- 5.4.2 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. The Education Strategy, the School and Settings Improvement Strategy and the report on school place planning set out how the Council intends to meet these duties.
- 5.4.3 State funded schools are split into maintained schools, which are funded via the local authority and academy schools which are funded directly by the Department for Education. The Council has powers of intervention for maintained schools and whilst it does not have these powers for academy schools, it still has a role to work with its community of schools and raise any issues about performance with the Regional Schools Commissioner. The Schools and Settings Improvement Strategy sets out how the Council will comply with its responsibilities around school improvement.
- 5.4.4 The Council has duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It also has duties under that Act to consult parents, young people and other stakeholders on strategies and policies setting out how it will fulfil its duties.

5.5 Risk Management

None.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;

- sexual orientation.

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 needs and disabilities and disadvantaged children (those in receipt of free school meals and children looked after).

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to the strategies and is attached as Annex 1.

5.7 Corporate Parenting Principles

The School and Settings Improvement Strategy includes details of progress in respect of the achievement of looked after children and includes this as a priority for the future.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

A summary of the key changes from the previous Education Strategy was presented to all headteachers at the Director's Meeting in October. This draft of the strategy has been shared with all schools, for comment.

Key priorities for the SEND and Inclusion strategy were considered by the SEND Partnership Board in September and presented to all headteachers at the Director's Meeting in October. The draft strategy has also been shared with the Parent-Carer Forum, health and social care services and with all schools, for comment. Subject to this committee's approval, there will be consultation with stakeholders during December on the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the strategy will be finalised and published in January 2021. The list of stakeholder groups and consultation methodology for each group is set out in the following table. All the consultation listed will take place in December.

Stakeholder Group	Method of consultation
Children and young people with SEN and disabilities	Focus groups (including BING – Barnet Inclusion Next Generation) Survey
Parent-carers of children with SEN and disabilities	Survey Virtual meetings
Governing Bodies of all schools	Survey Virtual meeting
Academy Trusts	Survey
Early Years providers, including Children's Centres	Survey Virtual meeting
Chief Executive/Principals of local colleges	Survey Virtual meeting
Youth Offending Team	Survey

A draft of the Schools and Settings Improvement Strategy was considered by the Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board in September. A summary of the key changes from the previous strategy was presented to all headteachers at the Director's Meeting in October and suggested revisions were agreed and the strategy updated.

Schools are engaged with the strategic approach to planning school places through the School Organisation and Place Planning Board (SOPPB), which last convened on 7 October 2020. The SOPPB is attended by the Council, Barnet Education and Learning Service and headteacher representatives. In addition, briefings are provided through the termly Director's meetings with headteachers and chairs of governors. For individual projects that involve the expansion of an existing school or the establishment of a new school or a reduction to a school's published admission number, there is a statutory requirement for a wider, formal consultation.

All three strategies were considered and approved by the Children's Partnership Board at its meeting on 9th November 2020 for referral to this committee, the SEND Strategy being approved as a draft for consultation subject to approval of this committee. The update on the school places plan was also reported to the Children's Partnership Board and was noted.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Education Strategy 2017-20 - Agenda item
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=697&MIId=8692&Ver=4>
2. SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2017-20 – Agenda item 12:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=697&MIId=8694&Ver=4>
3. Planning for new school places 2018/19 to 2022/23 - Agenda Item
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=697&MIId=8693&Ver=4>
4. School Improvement Strategy 2017-20 - Under Education plans and strategies:
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-support-information>