

[Life Chances Action Plan 2020-2024](#)

Summary Highlight Report: Sep/Oct 2021

Priority 1: Strengthening families and early years

- *The continued expansion of eligibility for all free entitlement offers has been further extended to include those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). Publicity continues to be developed through various routes including social media and events. More under 5's have been able to get their free education entitlement and 30 hours funding which has supported parents to access training and employment and for children to be ready for school.*
- *All Children's centres now distribute food bank vouchers. Four centres (Fairway, Silkstream, Parkfield and The Hyde) have small food banks in house and links have been made with voluntary organisations that provide food for different cultures (Kosher and Halal). Families are able to access food from food banks and also from local venues at short notice*
- *The launch for the digital scheme for Healthy Start is planned for November 2021 and public communications will be circulated around this time and a toolkit for boroughs launched. It will help to combat food poverty experienced by some families through increasing the uptake in those eligible to access healthy start.*
- *There are ongoing parenting programmes taking place across the hubs including SFSC and AVA groups. More staff have been trained in parenting programmes. The EYs parenting hub is live and will deliver specialist parenting for parents of under 5's with higher level needs within the CSC framework and targeted work for parents with needs beyond those that can be met in universal groups. Staff delivered a range of parenting programmes that has prevented escalation of need requiring statutory services intervention.*
- *The childhood immunisation action plan is currently being implemented and lays down our vision for Barnet to improve coverage of childhood and school aged immunisations. The Healthy Intent dataset will be used to monitor immunisation coverage across PCNs, wards and GP practices in Barnet.*
- *The Perinatal Mental Health pathway guidance has been finalised, shared and published. It is a live document and updated bi-annually to ensure all partners are represented and their details of the services they offer is current and accurate. Professionals are now more aware of the pathway and understand the importance of good perinatal mental health.*

Priority 2: Developing resilience and improving education

- *To strengthen further the percentage of good or outstanding schools in Barnet, Monitoring, Challenge and Support processes have been updated as part of revised School and Settings Improvement Strategy. 96.5% of schools are currently Good or Outstanding with Barnet the 8th best local authority out of 151.*
- *Attendance rates were being monitored daily in September, moving to weekly from October using the DfE Education Settings Status Form which is completed by the schools. Individual schools followed up by the Learning Network Inspector if attendance is a concern. Sharing best practice is part of attendance discussions at key meetings e.g HT, DHT, SENCO etc. The school attendance rate was around 93% at the start of the Autumn Term '21 but dropped to 91% by mid-September due to increasing numbers of Covid cases in schools.*
- *Package of support for schools began in Summer Term 2021 and continues throughout this academic year regarding impact on mental health and well-being as a result of the pandemic. This involves training and support from the EP Service and Inclusion and Advisory Team on pupil and staff wellbeing/mental health. There has been good attendance at events and engagement in projects to support Recovery, Reset and Renaissance.*
- *Continuing to run training through Barnet Partnership for School Improvement (BPSI) to support schools in blended learning approaches. Learning Network Inspectors giving advice (and challenge where necessary) on school approaches. The monitoring of schools demonstrates strong blended learning approaches are in place.*
- *The Risk of NEET (RON) programme has been devised to minimise the number of young people who become NEET aged 16-19 years. Schools and colleges already have in place interventions to support learners who are vulnerable or likely to disengage. However, there is a hard to reach cohort of young people who, after these interventions, are still at high risk of being NEET by the age of 19 and therefore are likely to become dependent on state benefits. The post-16 team will continue to work with local secondary schools to develop and refine data system for early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET at the end of Year 11 and to create programmes for students from Year 10 upwards aimed at ensuring those at risk progressing to a sustainable destination of employment, education or training (particularly learners with SEND and young men from black heritage backgrounds and white British backgrounds). In the Spring term will also work closely with the Youth Offending Service to identify those at risk with suitable programmes. Over 250 young people have received support since April 2021, with 133 sustaining or moving into EET.*

- *Work continues to develop and produce the Barnet Vocational Prospectus so that young people are aware of the opportunities within Barnet. This should lead to more young people embarking on vocational qualifications nearer to home without feeling the need to travel to other boroughs to access vocational pathways. The prospectus has been accessed by over 4,000 young people in Barnet. A daily careers line is available in Barnet to young people and parents. Careers events and the Apprenticeship Roadshow has been offered to schools. The last Apprenticeship Roadshow organised with Middlesex University was accessed by over 3000 young people.*
- *The Virtual School continues to work with schools to ensure looked after children receive excellent provision and improve achievement. Barnet is just above the national average in the Attainment 8 measure. The rank in Attainment 8 between 2019 and 2020 improved from 99th in 2019 to 74th in 2020. NEET figure was 10.8% in March '21 (well below target of 20%). Attendance of LAC remains a concern and therefore a priority.*
- *During the pandemic a range of libraries online events were developed including STEM and Lego clubs, Arts and author events as part of extra-curricular activities developed for children. As restrictions have eased the service has delivered Wild World Heros, the annual Summer Reading Challenge, encouraging children to keep reading over the summer holidays. As libraries reopen fully, face to face events and activities are being reinstated starting with half-term events in October 2021. 1198 child attendances at library events between April and September 2021. 1,577 children participated in the Summer Reading Challenge. 131,000 items for children and young people were borrowed from libraries between April and September 2021.*
- *Barnet has maintained above average engagement for London within our schools and early year settings for the Healthy Schools London (HSL) and Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) award programmes respectively. Through HSL and HEYL, settings have improved their student health and wellbeing through creating health promoting environments and developing healthy behaviours tackling health inequalities at the earliest opportunity. For HSL in Barnet as of July 21: 118 registered;73 Bronze awards; 52 Silver awards;27 Gold awards. For HEYL in Barnet as of July 21: 88 First steps awards;38 Bronze awards; 11 Silver. Barnet is among the top boroughs for awards.*
- *Health Education Partnership (HEP) have introduced Primary and Secondary frameworks to support schools delivering PSHE and the RSE components including a Secondary school PSHE leads network. Sexual health education and healthy relationship support is provided through Brook which operates a number of sexual health and wellbeing services across the UK. HEP have supported in depth 13 Secondary schools with their RSHE curriculum delivery and provided all secondary school PSHE leads with ongoing support through the network. Brook have supported over 2000 young people through delivery of RSE workshops and support services. Brook have also delivered training and support to 13 schools, 3PRUs and 2 colleges over this year.*
- *Expansion continued of the Schools Resilience Programme through communications, invites and presentations at Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers, Senco and Parent*

Carer Meetings. Resilience Schools expanded during Covid and further expansion for September 21 to a total of 76 schools. Schools having a better understanding and recognition of poor wellbeing and the confidence to access support for themselves and others. It is creating environments for more Mental Health conversations and reducing stigma, allowing early intervention in a young person's support.

- *Targeted projects support schools in their recovery, reset and renaissance (RRR). £0.65m of funding from Barnet Council and BELS is enabling RRR projects to make a significant difference to the work in schools. Over £230,000 of this funding has been allocated to fund or part-fund projects identified by schools, or partnerships, which will have significant impact on the recovery of their school community. More than 80 schools bid for a share of that funding. 20 bids were successful, reaching 54 primary, secondary and special schools. An additional £50,000 was also allocated to fund speech and language therapists across 8 schools.*
- *Barnet Public Health are working with Middlesex University to undertake research into the physical literacy impact of the Mayors' Golden Kilometre Golden Kilometre. Schools play a pivotal role in helping to develop positive physical activity habits in children and young people. Currently 77 Schools are part of the Resilient schools programme and as part of this implement an additional 20 minutes of extra daily activity. As of January 2021, 11 Barnet schools have signed up to MGKM and a further 27 schools are listed as supporting other similar physical activity schemes. In Barnet currently 118 schools are signed up to the Healthy Schools London Award Programme and national evaluation shows this results in increased participation of children in physical activity in and out of school.*

Priority 3: Delivering equal access to opportunities

- *Healthy start vouchers and vitamins are distributed from the centres (though there is a shortage of these currently). The infant feeding strategy has been launched. Through the Covid Winter Fund Scheme (CWFS) we provided support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. From the youngest age children have access to vitamins as well as parents having these antenatally. Through the CWFS it was possible to deliver support to 9,965 children in the December/ January payment, 9,938 in February and 13,866 in March.*
- *Work is underway with four different Supported Internship Providers to offer supported internships to learners with Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP's). The aim is to prepare young people aged 16-24 with complex needs for paid employment by: supporting them to develop the skills valued by employers. 25% of the last cohort moved into employment with the majority of the remaining cohort moved into education training. 1 learner will remain NEET due to mental health difficulties. We have increased the numbers of young people entering Supported Internships. In September 2021, the cohort has 30 young people registered across four supported internship providers.*

- *A dedicated careers and information telephone line has been developed to provide support to young people. Specialised 'pathways' have been established leading to employment for long-term NEET young people, taking into account the impact of COVID on the employment prospects for young people aged 18-24 years. Tracking has been extended of young people to those aged 18. The impact of this intervention has resulted in a reduction of NEET's currently at just over 1%. Careers team are working in 15 schools in Barnet providing personalised careers sessions.*
- *'Open Spaces' has been well evaluated, with families of children with special learning needs using it reporting a high level of satisfaction. 247 sessions have been used by 81 families. This includes 33 swimming sessions (60-minute duration). Outdoor play sessions continue to run every Sunday at Greentops.*
- *Children and young people with complex special educational needs who require an EHCP have their needs accurately represented in the EHC Plans, along with their views, the views of their parents and carers, and the support and provision they need to access a suitable social and learning curriculum and make progress. Timeliness of EHCPs has been maintained. Barnet ranks in the top 10% nationally for completing EHCPs within the statutory 20-week timescale. For 2021/22, 98% of EHCPs have been completed within 20 weeks. There is an established EHCP auditing process to assess the quality of Plans undertaken on quarterly. For 2021/22, 60% of all new EHCPs have been audited. 60% of audited plans have been graded "good" or "outstanding".*

Priority 4: Targeting support

- *A food security resource hub webpage has also been created that contains information for the public on food banks and other related services available to them. Further resources such as healthy eating videos has been published on our website.*
- *The council have worked with the Young Barnet Foundation to provide the Barnet Active, Creative Engaging (BACE) holidaying scheme which is DfE funded for all free school meal children and vulnerable children to access fun activities with a hot meal, activities include learning about healthy eating and exercise. The summer scheme was accessed by over 3,000 children who undertook a wide range of fun and learning activities that promoted healthy eating and exercise and all children attending had a hot meal and health snacks plus fruit bags to take away. Planning for the Christmas holidays is now underway.*
- *Working with the council's Regeneration team (S106), the post-16 team has established and has been delivering the Routes into Construction programme since 2019. The project is designed to align with employers' needs and is designed predominantly to support young people who are NEET at Post-16. Over 70 young people have joined the programme. To date, in terms of outcomes there has been 16 young people entering Apprenticeships, 18 people gaining job starts and 9 young people returning to education or university for further training.*

- *Close cooperation with S106 Officers has helped to identify apprenticeships generated by S106 obligations and targeted to the hardest to reach young people supporting them into sustainable employment. To date 14 young people have benefited from apprenticeship opportunities generated by s106 obligations.*
- *The Care Leavers Participation Project was designed with the aim of increasing Education, Employment and Training (EET) levels amongst care leavers aged 16-25 in line with Barnet's Corporate Parenting priorities. To date 22 care leavers have moved into employment or apprenticeships with a further 20 moving into education either higher education for further education.*
- *Barnet Homes provides a tenancy sustainment service and BOOST who deliver employment and benefit support services have been working to help those households facing difficulties which will aim to reduce homeless demand. Homeless Prevention Outcomes achieved by the Housing Options Service and BOOST- 1264 achieved in 2020/21 against target of 1250 and April 21-August 2021 achieved 533 against target of 550*
- *Barnet Homes has a joint protocol with Family Services to ensure that 16- and 17-year-olds at risk of homelessness are supported with joint assessments of their needs. During the pandemic these assessments have been conducted remotely but this has not hindered the provision of assessments and accommodation when needed. In 2020/21 only 2, 16/17-year-olds approached as homeless one of who had settled accommodation and the other was not eligible for housing support. In 2020/21, 213 young people aged 16-24 approached as homeless of which 92 were rehoused and only 4 were rough sleeping. Barnet Homes has not evicted any secure or flexible tenants during the pandemic.*
- *Let2barnet procure private sector properties for homeless households and despite the challenges of the pandemic have continued to outperform targets set. Open Door Homes (ODH) the registered housing provider within The Barnet Group completed new build properties on site despite challenges with construction sites being closed during the pandemic. Let2Barnet procured 647 properties in 2020/21 against a target of 610. 141 ODH new build properties were let and 62 new acquisitions were purchased and let. Numbers of households in temporary accommodation (TA) have reduced from 2471 in April 2020 to 2245 at the end of August 2021. The number of families in TA have reduced from 1302 in February 2021 - 1161 in August 2021. The average number of weeks families spend in TA has reduced from 74 weeks at April 2021 to 66 weeks in August 2021.*
- *The embedding of Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) and voluntary sector projects within Barnet has progressed for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health needs. Rollout to further 21 education settings in two more localities have been completed. A £40k grant has been made available to VCSE and taken up by five projects, 12-month period started in December 2020. MHSTs are fully implemented and practitioners now present in 56 education settings (primary, secondary, college, all-through) across the three localities in the borough.*

- *Work has continued to embed the Barnet Integrated Clinical Service offering mental health support to children, young people and their families. Integration within community through dialogue and partnership with schools, GPs, libraries, youth centres, child centres, and the RAF Museum to establish bases for BICS practitioners to be even more accessible to families. BICS being established as a household name with increasingly referrals from self/carer and GPs. Family Therapy Clinic established in community centres for equitable and accessible service. Groups, workshops accessed by Barnet CYP, families and professionals online pathways reaching the whole community*
- *The Moving Forward Project has enabled care experienced young people to live independently with targeted support to enable them to develop the necessary independent skills and confidence to transition into their own property and manage a tenancy. So far, 7 care experienced young adults have been supported; 3 of whom have moved into their own tenancy and a further 3 remain in the property. The young adults continue to access support through their Personal Advisors and targeted floating support to develop the necessary skills to enable them to live independently.*
- *Every young person with an EHCP has a SEN caseworker - this person is the 'link' contact for families in relation to the EHCP. For children and young people in receipt of SEN Support, the link person is in school - usually the SENCo. As result of the 'link' person for CYP with EHCPs, and for those at SEN support, children and young people with SEND and those supporting them, including parent carers and professionals, are better informed about appropriate provision in Barnet.*