

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

Summary Highlight Report: Sep/Oct 2022

Priority 1: Strengthening families and early years

- *Universal sessions within Children's Centres and Early Help Hubs are all now face to face. Solutions 4 Health have also positively reintroduced face to face sessions. There are strong links with partners such as BOOST - signposting, referrals, Household Support Fund and exploring new ways of working collaboratively. Supporting the impact of Covid, families with young children are benefiting from having face to face social experiences within Children's Centres. The sessions provide the opportunity for practitioners to support families at the earliest opportunity.*
Issue - Building suitability and space availability - Considering viable community building options as outreach venues
- *The Early Years Team have implemented the early years action plan. The 'live' tool prioritises the uptake of the Free Early Years Education schemes. Since the outset of the pandemic, the uptake for the Free Early Years Education scheme for 2-year-olds has steadily increased. The Summer Term 2022 saw 69% eligible children accessed FEE2. Barnet ranks 7/11 compared to our statistical neighbours. The increased level of promotion has ensured numbers have remained consistent. Children are greatly benefiting from attending early years provision, parents are being supported back into further education/ employment.*
Issues - Ongoing work in relation to raising awareness of all Early Years schemes and ensuring sufficiency across localised areas within Barnet.
- *Solutions4Health who deliver the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) via health visitors have had the contract since April 2022. They continue to deliver the mandated reviews as received on handover. Performance for the mandated reviews is extremely low. LBB are assured that the contacts are taking place especially for NBV but not in a timely way due to capacity of Health Visitors.*
Issues - Challenges include a backlog of health reviews during the transition period (March and April) which are going to be receiving a letter regarding any health concerns and then seen at the next qualifying review. The capacity and vacancy levels in HV remain an operational issue and S4H are actively and innovatively recruiting.

Priority 2: Developing resilience and improving education

- *School and Settings Improvement Strategy has been updated and includes updated information about how we monitor, challenge and support schools in 2022/23. Only two schools (out of 128 schools in Barnet) are not Good or Outstanding. Over 98% now Good or Outstanding (3rd highest LA in the country - out of 152 LAs)*
- *Continuing to work with schools to maximise attendance. Attendance Rate for Autumn '21 and Spring '22 terms was 93.8% which was above National (92.7%) and ranked us 14th best LA in the country (out of 152 LAs). However not back to the Barnet 3-year average of 95.2% or the 2018/19 figure of 96%. Persistent Absence (Autumn and Spring) increased by 8.5% from 8.3% in 2018/19 to 19.2% in 2021/22. However, this is still 4.3% lower than national and ranks our LA 16th best in the country on this measure.
Issue: Covid still having an impact on attendance*
- *Schools have been open fully since September 2021 but we continue to support families and schools. Numbers of children Electively Home Educated rose significantly during Covid but is now reducing i.e. 461 in Feb '22, 378 in Sept '22.
Issue: Still a reluctance by some parents to return their child to a school*
- *The risk of NEET programme is well established and has mentors and specialist workers in 11 schools in Barnet. Young people receive weekly mentoring and are supported to plan for transition into Post 16. The impact of the programme has resulted in a significant reduction of young people who are NEET at 16/17. Current NEET's are below 1%, this is very low. We are currently delivering mentoring support to young people in eleven schools (including sixth form college), from year 10 upwards, enabling the students to sustain their education placements.
Issue: The concern this year is that the provision has been growing. We are prioritising young people at risk of exclusion of school attendance.*
- *Continuing to monitor, challenge and support schools on their SEND provision. Positive SEND Local Area Inspection in January 2022.
Issues: Significant rises in numbers of pupils with SEND.*
- *Currently at 60% with 80 schools signed up with the Resilient Schools programme. More schools have been supported to build resilience and emotional wellbeing across the whole school. Staff have been able to access resources and training to improve their health and wellness and that of the families they support.
Issues: School staff sickness and the knock-on effect of COVID-19 for e.g. burnout.*
- *Active promotion of physical activity campaigns and opportunities to schools and young people for e.g. the TCS London mini marathon, 10 minute shake ups, BACE holidays.*

Encouraged school engagement with the Golden Kilometre (GKM) which provides primary schools with support to offer 20 mins of extra daily physical activity.

Issues: Limited space within the school. Staffing levels to support additional activity can be challenging.

- *Engagement of Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years programmes continues to be strong with Barnet being one of the top Borough for awards current status: Healthy Schools London (HSL): 120 registered; 74 Bronze; 61 Silver; 29 Gold Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) 93 first steps 48 Bronze; 13 Silver; 1 Gold.*

Whole school approach to health and wellbeing supports increased opportunity for healthy balance food, physical activity, play and mental health and emotional resilience.

Issue: Schools challenged through competing programmes. HSL and HEYL not always seen as a priority and onerous paperwork prevents some schools and settings applying. GLA framework to be streamlined for implementation 23/24 which will help release administrative burden of scheme on schools.

Priority 3: Delivering equal access to opportunities

- *Continued promotion of BACE and access to free school meals. Healthy Start has now become digitalised and promotion of the card version has been well publicised and promoted. Helping to combat food poverty experienced by some families through increasing the uptake in those eligible to free school meals and to access healthy start.*
Issue: Await release of take up data for the digitised system for healthy start to identify gaps and target groups.
- *Continued roll out and promote programmes for work experience, apprenticeships, training, volunteering, and paid employment including supported opportunities for people with SEND. Established good partnerships with three main supported internships providers; Royal Mencap, Harrington Scheme and Health Education England, who have ringfenced twenty-five places on their programmes for Barnet young people. Thirty-three young people completed the programme in July 2022 and to date twenty have already secured employment, one accepted into university and two into further training. Examples of employment secured include: - Chef – Royal Free Hospital and Nursing Assistant – Royal Free Hospital.*
Issues: Main barriers that exists is to ensure that young people have access to work experience and meaningful job outcomes. We will continue to work with local or regional businesses to source and secure employment opportunities for learners with SEN.

Priority 4: Targeting support

- *The food security plan has been reviewed and a needs assessment conducted. The findings were included into the new Food security plan. The draft is currently undergoing*

public consultation and has been presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board. The new Plan is covering a wider area than just food security and aims to ensure good quality and sustainable food for all Barnet residents. There is a strong emphasis on tackling cost of living crisis and contribute towards Barnet's sustainability agenda.

Issue: The cost-of-living crisis meant that we had to update the draft plan several times to reflect the changes and add actions to address the emerging challenges. This has caused a delay in the planned timeline

- The Routes into Construction Project was established in 2019, collaborating with the Council's Regeneration team (S106), The project is designed to align with construction partners/ employers' needs and is designed to support young people who are NEET at Post-16. During Phase 2 of the programme from January 2021 to August 2022, we have placed over seventy unemployed young people aged 16 to 24 in jobs or training within construction and allied trades in Barnet.
Issue: Main issues relate to sustainment of employment outcomes. We are looking at systems and ways of working so that we can continue to support young people to sustain employment.
- In line with the Barnet's 'Work, Skills and Productivity Strategy' we encourage young residents into jobs and learning opportunities that have good prospects for progression within the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Work closely with colleagues across the council to analyse trends in employability and skills to identify 'growth' employment areas such as health, care, construction & trades, and the creative industries sectors that forecast the fastest growing numbers of new entry level jobs. We are working with 5 Construction sites to place young people into employment. This work is ongoing.
Issue: Due to problems with the economy, some employers are reluctant to offer apprenticeships/jobs until things improved or stabilise on sites.
- 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 2021/22 only 2, 16/17-year-olds approached as homeless one due to domestic violence and one being asked to leave the family home. In 2021/22, 214 young people aged 16-24 approached as homeless of which 54 had their homelessness prevented or relieved. 6 young people were assisted via the rough sleeper team. Barnet Homes has not evicted any secure or flexible tenants during the pandemic.
- Further development of targeted work to promote all prevention and Early Help services and expand access routes for our local services to enable more self-referral. The Council website has been updated and made easier to navigate. Early Help and partner agencies are utilising network meetings. Locality Advisory Boards have been re-established - supporting local networks and service awareness. We have 850 open cases within the 0-19 Early Help Hubs. Footfall of CC and registration data is consistently increasing. The BACE programme was well attended with new providers joining us this summer. All positive comments/ compliments are recorded and logged.

Issue: IT & Data sharing presents challenges across the Early Help System and Partnership. Partners recognising that there is a robust Early Help system in place and that not all Universal Plus needs to come via the MASH route - continued briefing of partners is in place.