

	<h2>Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.</h2>
Title	Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2024-2027 Update
Date of meeting	6 th June 2024
Report of	Chris Munday - Executive Director Children’s and Family Services
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A: Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2024-2027
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Summary	
<p>This report provides an update of the Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy for Barnet for the period 2024 to 2027. The original Strategy, approved by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in June 2021, set out the challenges facing young people in Barnet in accessing appropriate education, training and employment and the council’s plans for extending the opportunities available to young people, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, and for keeping the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) to a minimum. This Report is an update to this original Strategy, covering the next three years.</p>	
Recommendations	
<p>1. That the committee scrutinise and comment on the updated Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2024-2027.</p>	

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1.1 The Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy provides a clear vision and clear strategic objectives and priorities for the education service in Barnet between 2024 and 2027. The Strategy links to and supports the Barnet Education Strategy 2024 to 2027, which was approved by Barnet Cabinet on 14th May 2024
- 1.2 This updated document highlights continued priorities for the Post 16 landscape in Barnet as well as new areas of work to be undertaken to ensure that young people have greater opportunities to access learning, employment, and training. This document outlines the key priorities that will be undertaken by the Post 16 team and its partners until 2027. Reflecting on the last three years, there has been increased collaboration and partnerships with a wide range of internal and external partners. The Post 16 team have contributed to a range of wider agendas to include Children and Young People 2023-27 plan and the Education Strategy 2024 -2027. We have aligned our priorities with the borough's priorities in key areas to include the Early Help Strategy 2023-27, the Youth Justice Strategy, 2023-25 as well as the council's wider economic and growth 'Work, Skills and Productivity Action Plan' 2021-2025.
- 1.3 Our approach is underpinned by the following strategic objectives of the Post-16 education and skills strategy:
- Strategic Objective 1: ***Extend the opportunities for young people to access vocational and technical programmes*** by developing vocational pathways and the curriculum through partnerships and collaborative approaches with Post-16 providers.
 - Strategic Objective 2: ***Minimise the number of young people who are NEET***, by developing the employability skills and resilience of young people and by ensuring excellent transition support and interventions for all young people, especially those at risk of becoming NEET or who are already NEET.
 - Strategic Objective 3: ***Increase the opportunities for disadvantaged young people to progress to suitable education, training and employment***, including care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.4 This report provides an update on the strategy to date in meeting the above objectives.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 2.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement to have in place a Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy, having a published strategy ensures the Council sets out its strategic aims and how it is going to achieve these, alongside clear measures and action plans. Whilst the Council could choose not to update its strategies, this is not recommended when there is evidence to demonstrate that a change of focus is required. In addition it is good practice to regularly report to elected members on progress against published strategies to ensure effective member oversight.

3. Post Decision Implementation

- 3.1 Action to deliver the strategic priorities will be overseen by the governance arrangements set out in the strategy.
- 3.2 Priorities will be shared with schools and settings.
- 3.3 Barnet Council's strategy for continuing to deliver high standards in Barnet schools is set out in the Education Strategy 2024-2027, which was approved by the Barnet Cabinet in May 2024. Barnet

Education and Learning Service (BELS) will continue to work with schools and settings to address the priorities included in the Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2024-2027

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

4.1 Corporate Plan

[Barnet's Corporate Plan](#)

Family Friendly is a key driver of our corporate planning with the vision of “Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best”. 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 and settings. The London Borough of Barnet’s Education Strategy 2024-2027 sets out that good leadership and governance is a key driver to the achievement of the improvement of schools/settings and educational outcomes. The reputation and quality of Barnet’s schools and settings makes Barnet an attractive place to live and is key to the satisfaction of many residents in the borough.

Family Friendly Barnet

- Family and Belonging - Families and children can be together and be part of a community that encourages resilience.
- Safe and Secure – Children and young people are safe protected from harm.
- Education and learning – Children and young people can learn about the world around them.
- Life Chances – Children and young people are able to succeed.
- Health and wellbeing – Children are supported to achieve a healthy start in life, enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to build resilience.

4.2 Corporate Parenting

- We know that children and young people across all care groups are much more likely to experience multiple disadvantages. *“Support our children in care and care experienced young people to live their lives successfully”* and *“addressing inequality and driving forward better outcomes for groups that include ethnic minority communities, young people with a learning disability, young carers, looked after children/care leavers and those who come into contact with the justice system”* are key themes in our [children and young people’s plan 2023-2027](#)
- Our Post 16 Strategy supports the aim for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers to remain in education, employment and training and not be NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training)
- As corporate parents it is essential that we understand the challenges and barriers in place to promote equity and improve outcomes for all vulnerable groups including those in social care. As part of our pledge we will ensure that children in our care receive the services they need to flourish and achieve their best.

4.3 Risk Management

4.3.1 The Risk Register for the education service includes a risk that “Insufficient support mechanisms for young people could lead to a failure to promote participation in education or training of young people resulting in a growth in numbers who are Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET).” The Strategy aims to minimise this risk.

4.4 Insight

None

4.5 Social Value

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

5.1 The work to drive the delivery of Barnet Council's contribution to the Education Strategy is delivered from within existing resources paid to Barnet Education and Learning Service Ltd.

6. Legal Implications and Constitution References

6.1 Section 13A of the Education Act 1996 places 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. 6.2 In relation to academies, local authorities should raise any concerns directly with the DfE Regional Director.

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6.3 The remit of The Children & Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee includes performing the overview and scrutiny role and function in relation to all matters which relate to services pertaining to the education and well-being of children and young people, including youth services.

7. Consultation

7.1 The Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy was presented to and discussed at the meeting of the School Standards and Settings Partnership Board in June 2021. The Parent-Carer Forum was also consulted along with a focus group of young people. The focus group of young people comprised young people aged 16 to 22, who were undertaking training and support on a range of post-16 projects.

7.2 The key updates from the original Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy were discussed and agreed at the Schools Review Group, consisting of BELS and wider Barnet council officers and the School and Settings Standards Partnership Board (consisting of BELS and wider Barnet Council officers and headteachers). In addition there will be presentations at the Children's Partnership Board, Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board, SEND and AP Strategic Partnership Board,

Youth Justice Board, Early Help Board, Growth and Employment Board and the Corporate Parenting Board.

8. Equalities and Diversity

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

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

8.2 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). Barnet's Children and Young People Plan, the Education Strategy 2024-2027 and the Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2024 to 2027 all have a strong focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

9. Background Papers

9.1 Key education strategies, including the Schools and Settings Education Strategy 2024 to 2027 were considered and approved by the Barnet Cabinet at its meeting on 14th May 2024. These have been published on Barnet Council's website and can be seen here:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 14th May, 2024, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/2024/05/14/)

9.2 The original Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2021-2024 was presented to the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee in June 2021:

[Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Monday 7th June, 2021, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/2021/06/07/)

9.3 Updates to the the Post 16 Education and Skills Strategy 2021-2024 were reported to the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee in October 2022:

[Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Thursday 20th October, 2022, 7.00 pm](#)
[\(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)