



NHS North Central London

<b>Meeting:</b> <b>CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>27 June 2013</b>	<b>Agenda Item No: 4</b>
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<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b> <b>EDUCATION STRATEGY</b>
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**SUMMARY OF PAPER:**  
This report and the Education Strategy will go forward for approval by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013. It is a partnership document developed by education partners for the provision of education in the borough. The quality of education in Barnet, from early years through to secondary schooling and beyond plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place to live. Children's achievements at all key stages are among the best in the country and a high proportion of Barnet's young people progress on to high education. Maintaining and building on this success is critical to the council's ambitions for the future growth and prosperity of the borough.

The strategy has been developed at a time of significant change within the education sector. The national policy direction is leading to an increasingly diverse range of education providers and further autonomy for schools, provoking much debate about changes to roles and responsibilities within local education partnerships. The Council discerned a need across the education community in Barnet for greater clarity and certainty about the borough's education strategy, not least the role that was expected of the local authority, and this document is designed to address that need and ensure that we all remain focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people

Alongside this diversification of the market, additional responsibilities and duties are unfolding for Local Authorities, for example, the raising of the participation age requiring all young people to remain in education, employment and/or training for longer.

The Mayor of London has also recently published the outcome of his enquiry into education in the capital along with a list of recommendations and actions, including 'to strengthen and improve' the quality of teaching and learning across the capital. This enquiry has informed the development of Barnet's strategy together with national research published by the Department for Education looking into the future role for local authorities in education. Ofsted

is also proposing an inspection schedule for Local Authorities in those areas where there is insufficient good or outstanding provision for children and young people.

Developing this strategy has provided an opportunity to review and refresh our educational partnership in Barnet in the light of the national and regional developments. It provides a local policy framework for how partners will maintain and build on the success of Barnet's current educational offer and ensure that all of Barnet's children benefit in this new and emerging landscape. The partnership of the council, schools, Barnet and Southgate College and Middlesex University have developed this strategy through a process of consultation with a range of stakeholders including schools, governors, elected members and young people. Its development has been overseen by an Education Strategy Board with representatives from council services and partner organisations.

Through the consultation programme of workshops, conferences and individual interviews, the partnership has developed this framework to identify and clarify the roles and responsibilities across the partnership and where we need to strengthen our efforts to ensure the high quality offer is available to all Barnet's children and young people. It provides a firm foundation from which to respond together to the opportunities and challenges both nationally and locally.

A Member Task and Finish group also heard evidence from schools and governors to develop recommendations for how elected members can best play their part to champion the interests of residents. These recommendations have been taken forward in the strategy. The proposed approach to streamlining the nomination of Local Authority Governors is to be referred to the General Functions Committee for consideration and approval.

The Education Strategy sets out a range of overarching policies and principles for our partnership, articulating the way partners work together and it identifies a number of key 'deliverables' that will be put in place going forward. The document sets out how the Council will:

- Work in partnership as champions of children and young people
- Strive for excellence and challenge under performance
- Champion the attainment of vulnerable children and young people and those at risk of underachievement
- Secure sufficient high quality local provision and widen opportunities

Having set out a framework within the strategy for working together in partnership, the way is paved for each partner organisation to move forward to deliver the shared ambition for children and young people. The council will be exploring opportunities to develop the most effective delivery models for the education functions that fall to the local authority and other services that are provided to schools, settings and partners. In the first instance, the council is working with head teachers to develop an options appraisal to provide a long term sustainable future for the Barnet Partnership for School Improvement that since its launch in 2011, now attracts the business of 97 schools that purchase school improvement services.

Appendix B contains a template Barnet Academy Accord that will be used to set out the relationship between the local authority and an Academy Trust that provides education in the borough. The agreement with each Academy Trust may vary depending on local circumstances or on the complexion of a particular Academy Trust. Academy Trusts are not obliged to enter into this accord but it offers the opportunity to set out expectations of each party, providing a firm foundation for future partnership working. In particular, sharing data and intelligence is essential to monitor the progress of Barnet's children and young people and for the Local Authority to carry out its role to monitor, challenging and champion the performance of all schools effectively.

The Education Strategy for Barnet will be supported by a range of other policies and plans that are either complete or are in development through a process of consultation:

- Commissioning school and learner places (see 10.1)
- Local authority monitoring, challenge and support (see 10.1)
- Early years Commissioning Plan (due Autumn 2013)
- Alternative Provision Commissioning Plan (due Autumn 2013)
- Inclusion Strategy and Commissioning Plan (due Autumn 2013)
- Participation, progression and employability strategy (due Autumn 2013)

**ACTION REQUIRED BY BOARD:**

**To note and comment on the Education Strategy**

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