

Transfer of the Education and Skills service from Cambridge Education to Barnet Education and Learning Service

Ian Harrison, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning

Force Majeure arising from the Covid19 pandemic

In April 2020, Mott MacDonald, trading as Cambridge Education, notified the council of a '**Force Majeure**' event as a result of the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the light of this, the council and Mott MacDonald agreed that the termination of the Education and Skills contract between the council and Cambridge Education may be the most appropriate course of action.

The council's consultation on options

The council consulted on two options for the future of the service:

- Bring the service back in house or
- Transfer all services into a Local Authority Controlled Company

Following the consultation, the council decided the service should transfer to a **company that would be wholly owned by the council** and so established a new company called **Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)**.

Transfer of services and staff on 1st September

The Education and Skills service transferred from Cambridge Education to BELS on 1st September.

Discussions focussed on ensuring there was no interruption in service.

All Education and Skills staff transferred under 'TUPE' from Cambridge Education to BELS on 1st September.

The same management team remains in place.

Schools should have noticed no differences in the service offered, or the people they have to deal with.

Business as Usual – including contracts and traded services

All services will continue as usual, or at least as usual as possible in covid19 conditions.

All Cambridge Education contracts with external parties, including traded services to schools, transferred to BELS.

Except the school meals contract between Cambridge Education and ISS, which transferred directly to the Council, but BELS will manage the contract.

BELS Board of Directors

- Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee and Lead Member for Children's Services)
- Chris Munday (Executive Director, Children's Services, London Borough of Barnet)
- Ben Thomas (Assistant Director, Education, Strategy and Partnerships, London Borough of Barnet)
- Sarah Sands, Chair of Barnet Nursery and Primary Headteachers' Forum
- Samson Olusanya, Chair of Barnet Secondary Headteachers' Forum
- Lisa Coffman, Barnet Parent-Carer Forum
- Ian Harrison, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service
- An elected staff representative will be appointed following election by BELS staff.

Conclusion

In the light of covid19 and the pressures on schools, we aimed:

- to minimise concerns to schools
- to avoid any disruption in services

The same teams from the education service and from council services will continue to provide schools with as much support as possible through the covid19 pandemic and beyond.

...any questions?