

Director of Children's Service Report to Governors

SPRING 2013

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***DEVELOPING THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF
YOUR GOVERNING BODY***

For more information
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Beaumont, Governor
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Tel: 020 8359 7622

Summary

The development of an Education Strategy for Barnet is well underway. Through a programme of consultation, we are shaping our response here in Barnet to the changing national educational landscape - one that is characterised by the increasing autonomy and diversity of schools, a new funding regime with increased delegation of funds to schools, together with new responsibilities for the partnership such as Raising the Participation Age.

The development of the strategy is being overseen and steered by an Education Strategy Board, chaired by Kate Kennally (Director of Adult Social Care and Interim Director of Children's Services) with headteacher, further education provider, health, regeneration and local authority representatives. The Board has met twice to date and all briefing notes, presentations and documents related to this project are available on line and can be found at:
www.barnet.gov.uk/WorkingWithChildrenInBarnet/info/20045/education_strategy.

Our programme of consultation was launched at a headteacher conference on the 20th November with two further, theme specific workshops held so far, focusing on the 14-19 agenda and raising attainment. Further workshops for schools and other stakeholders are being held in January 2013 (on Alternative Provision and Early Intervention and Prevention) and shaping the strategy will continue to be a main item for discussion at partnership forums over the coming few months.

As part of the programme, we would like to invite Governors to a conference on 6 February 2013, between 9am and 1 pm to be held at North London Business Park. This conference will provide you with an opportunity to explore the issues shaping the strategy and hear about how other local authorities are responding to the challenges.

We will be joined by [Natalie Parish](#) from ISOS Partnership who is the author of the Department for Education's published research into the evolving role of the local authority and the relationship with schools. Natalie will be presenting her work and assisting us to consider what it means for Barnet. More details will be available in the Governor Services Support and Development programme, but please put the date in your diary if you would like to attend. **If you would like to register your interest in attending please contact Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager, at: sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk.**

Meanwhile, we are continuing to consult a range of stakeholders including young people through the Barnet Youth Board, as well as supporting elected members, to consider their role as local education champions of parents, children and families through a member Scrutiny Panel.

Overall, the consultation so far is expressing a strong desire to support and develop the local partnership of schools, the local authority and further education and other providers through championing the things that work well locally and clearly articulating what it means to be part of this Barnet partnership.

**Governors’
Role**

For Governors to note the information above

**For
information
by**

All Governors

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Summary

Workplace pension legislation changes mean that all employers will be required to automatically enrol **eligible employees** working for them into a workplace pension scheme and make employer pension contributions to the scheme on the employee's behalf.

Auto enrolment is being introduced gradually across the UK, over a period of 4 years, starting from October 2012. The staging date or go-live date for London Borough of Barnet (LBB) will be **1 June 2013**. The staging date is determined by the number of workers in the employers' PAYE scheme. The Council's PAYE scheme is comprised LBB workers, workers in Community Schools and workers in Voluntary Aided, Trust and Foundation Schools that buy into the Council's HR and Payroll services. The staging date for LBB and these groups has been set at **1 June 2013**.

From 1 June 2013, this means:

- Auto enrolment into Local Government Pension Scheme for qualifying support staff
- Auto enrolment into Teachers' Pension Scheme for teaching staff.

Auto enrolment will be mandatory and eligible workers will be enrolled into the appropriate pension scheme even though they may have previously elected to opt out. Employees can still elect to opt out but auto enrolment means that employees have to be enrolled before they can opt out – they cannot opt out in advance.

Auto enrolment of workers will be repeated every three years from the staging date.

In the case of Academies and Free Schools, the staging date will differ in each establishment and will be determined by their individual PAYE reference number.

These establishments can check their staging date with The Pensions Regulator.

The statutory changes will place a legal obligation on employers to routinely assess, monitor, record and report information in respect of their employees. In addition employers are required to provide specific and written information to workers within prescribed time limits.

Where schools buy into the Council's HR traded service, the Council will undertake the employer's responsibilities for Community Schools and can provide guidance, advice and template letters to Heads and Governing Bodies of VA, Trust and Foundation Schools, Academies and Free Schools.

Further information will be issued to schools early in 2013 Spring term but in the meantime additional advice can be obtained from either myself or the Pensions Regulator website:

www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers

**Governors’
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For Governors to note the information above

**For
information
by**

All Governors

Contact

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3.

Youth Support Service Programmes Team

Summary

The Youth Support Service provides schools, academies, colleges and voluntary organisations with a broad choice of programmes, activities, information, advice and guidance, which challenge, support and develop young people's social, personal and emotional development. Target age ranges between 8 and 19 years old [up to 25 years with learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD)], depending on area of activity.

Targeted Youth Work

Targeted Youth Workers can support a young person in a number of areas including issues at school, careers advice, crime prevention, pregnancy/teenage parenting support, family/relationship problems, sexual health advice, drug & alcohol issues and housing issues.

Support for educational establishments include:

1. **Improving School Attendance** - preventative support including advice on attendance policy; organising Court Assessment Meetings and facilitating court prosecutions
2. **Information and Guidance Support** - impartial information, advice and guidance on career, training and employment opportunities for young people.
3. **Preventative work** - engagement in positive activities and targeted youth support, topical group work sessions and 1-to-1 support.

The Youth Support Service continues to offer a drop-in service Mondays–Fridays at three locations across the Borough (including a drop-in job club) where young people can simply drop in without an appointment and talk to a youth worker about any issues they may have.

Drop-In Service

Canada Villa Youth Centre	Woodhouse Road Youth Centre	Finchley Youth Centre
Pursley Road Mill Hill NW7 2BU Mondays / Wednesdays 11.30am – 7pm	34-36 Woodhouse road North Finchley N12 ORG Tuesdays / Thursdays 11.30am – 7pm Fridays 11.30am – 5pm	142 High Road East Finchley N2 9ED Friday 1pm – 5pm

Accredited Alternative Learning Programmes

Bespoke programmes, accredited by national governing bodies including Open College Network (OCN), Asdan and the Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE), are available for students at risk of exclusion/ disengagement and are delivered to small groups in order to re-engage, inspire, and achieve learning outcomes as a progression route back into education, apprenticeships or employment.

Current programmes include: horticulture, creative media, motorcycle

mechanics, and catering. Direct referrals are accepted from educational establishments and through the pupil placement panel.

Outdoor Education And Duke of Edinburgh Programme

There are also a range of accredited bespoke alternative learning programmes including orientation, water-based learning, residential experiences and classroom-based learning, supporting core curriculum studies and a health & wellbeing agenda.

The Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Award is an inclusive accredited programme for young people aged 14 – 25. It is estimated that 100 students apply per school year, for around 30-35 places. All School Award Leaders are supported within all aspects of delivery throughout the year. Canada Villa Open Award Youth Centre is available to all young people offering all levels of the award.

Further information on the D of E Programme is available through the Traded Service booklet.

Positive Activities, Holiday Programmes & Resource Hub

Over 2000 young people attended Barnet's Positive Activities programme last year. Many of these programmes offer accredited learning opportunities in specialist areas such as music technology, mechanics, sport and fashion design. We work closely with some educational establishments that recognise having these programmes based in their venues increases the opportunities to its students and wider community.

Wider programme information is currently found on the Futureversity website: www.futureversity.org.

Sports Offer – offers a broad selection of physical activities, training and volunteering options, including boxing & circuit training, football, and access to sporting events and competitions including the **London Youth Games** (Europe's largest youth sport event) and the **Mini London Marathon** (final 3 miles of the London Marathon route).

Arts Offer - offers creative arts provision for young people aged 8 – 19 (up to 25 for young people with LDD) including access to Canada Villa Youth Centre's state-of-the-art music and recording studio for courses in composition and recording, and a vocal workshop, and Finchley Youth Centre's theatre and dance studio for courses in drama, dance, circus, music and film activities.

Recent bespoke creative learning programme projects include conflict management and sessions on Identity and Discrimination for Young Refugees and Looked After young people.

Play Offer – offers an after-school club as well as working in partnership with voluntary and private out-of-school providers.

During the summer holidays the team work in partnership with voluntary and private out-of-school providers to purchase places on their schemes which are allocated to 'Children In Need' who are referred by a professional for a funded place.

Should you require any further information please contact the Barnet Youth Support Service on 020 8359 3530.

**Governors’
Role
For
information
by
Contact**

For Governors to note the information above

All Governors

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