

Education and Skills Director's Report to Governors

SUMMER 2019

CONTENTS

Pages

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Educational Standards in Barnet 2017-18 | 2 |
| 2. Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) | 3 |
| 3. New Governance Handbook | 5 |
| 4. SEND – frequently asked questions | 6 |
| 5. Governance self-evaluation audit tool | 7 |
| 6. Early Help 0 – 19 Hubs | 8 |
| 7. Governor Services: Governance Advice Officer (GAO) support in the summer term | 10 |

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

**For more information
please contact Sarah
Beaumont, Governor
Services Manager
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Tel: 020 8359 7622**

Educational Standards in Barnet

Summary

Barnet is well known for the quality of its schools and the diversity of its educational offer.

The quality of Barnet's schools is a significant contributory factor to making the borough a popular and desirable place to live and supports our strategic drive to be the most family friendly borough in London.

Attached is a report that was presented to the Council's Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 13th March 2019. The report highlights the headline results for 2017/18 assessments and national examinations and key areas for development. Attached are the Committee Report and Appendix containing validated results.

Well done and thank you to all our schools for helping to make Barnet one of the top performing local authority areas in the country in relation to the achievement of children and young people and the quality of our schools. This strong performance is not only in relation to attainment but also in relation to progress of pupils and the attainment and progress of disadvantaged children and young people.

Governors' Role For information

To note the above information.

All Governors

Contact

Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director
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Summary

In April 2017, in Barnet, Ofsted completed their 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'. The outcome of this inspection was that services for children in Barnet were graded as Inadequate.

Since this inspection we have been on a journey of improvement and have had quarterly monitoring visits from Ofsted to ensure that improvement activity has had a positive impact. We are now going to undergo a full inspection similar to the one in April 2017 but under a slightly different framework called ILACS. The new ILACS framework was introduced by Ofsted in January 2018. The framework evaluation criteria and guidance can be found online [here](#).

The new framework has a broader focus than the previous inspection. It includes assessing the effectiveness of arrangements to help and protect children and the experience and progress of children in care. Thus the Virtual School has a key role and the quality of Personal Education Plans for looked after children will be an area of interest.

During their visit, inspectors will be sitting with social workers in all parts of Family Services and talking to them about the children and families they are working with. These discussions will include practitioners articulating how collaborative working helps and protects children and young people in Barnet. ***Inspectors may then seek feedback from partners about working arrangements with reference to specific cases, and this could include a phone call to any professional involved in the case.*** Neil Marlow (Assistant Director – Head of School Improvement) will act as the Education and Skills link between Ofsted and schools and will contact schools as soon as we know which individual schools will need to be spoken to.

Advice to school staff who speak with Ofsted:

- Be confident, proud and passionate about the work you are doing and evidence progress you are making; show your strengths and be positive
- Stay calm and take your time to respond to questions if you're unsure
- Please resolve differences of opinion between professionals or unresolved issues prior to the inspection, using the Escalation/Resolution Policy.
- Don't be afraid of inspectors! They understand the pressures of the job and are only interested in whether children and families are receiving the best service possible.
- Praise where it's good and in line with the 'Continuum of Support'.
- Refer to the Early Help Panel, especially if you have used it. Feedback has been very positive.
- Stress any improvements in MASH that you have noticed – have any of your staff visited?

Remember, the ILACS Framework is an inspection of every organisation in Barnet, including schools, and not just Social Care.

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Summary

An updated version of the Governance Handbook was published on 22 March 2019 by the Department for Education (DfE).

Introduced by Lord Theodore Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, the handbook sets out the government's vision and priorities for effective governance by outlining the core role and functions of the governing board, summarising and providing a first point of reference on all the legal duties on boards, signposting to more detailed information, guidance and resources, and providing information on the support available to boards to be effective.

Revisions include changes to recent policy and legislation, updates on acronyms, and clarification on previously published guidance. The core purpose and key features of governance remain unchanged.

The Handbook should be read alongside the department's '*Competency Framework for Governance*' and the '*Clerking Competency Framework*', which describe the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for effective governance and professional clerking.

Governors' Role

To access the handbook via the link: ['Governance handbook'](#)

For information

All Governors

Contact

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SEND - Frequently Asked Questions

Summary

The council's SEN Service has created a "SEND Frequently Asked Questions" document about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services that can answer many queries and signpost to relevant information and links. It includes details of support for SENCOs, the Complex Needs Panel, SEN Support, how to access specialist services and funding.

The SEND FAQs can be found on Barnet's Local Offer: www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk under 'Information and Advice'.

Governors' Role

To note the above information

For action by

All Governors

Contact

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Governance Self-Evaluation Audit Tool

Summary

Thank you to those Governing Bodies that submitted their annual Governance Self-evaluation Audit. Schools that submitted their audit by the deadline of 31 January 2019 should, by now, have received feedback. If your school subscribes to the Governance Advice Officer (GAO) Service, you may ask your GAO for more detailed feedback, help in action-planning and advice with regard to training and support required.

Many Governing Boards in Barnet now conduct an annual self-evaluation of their own effectiveness, which they use to drive improvement in the quality and impact of governance. The Barnet Governance Self-Evaluation Audit is also used by the local authority to gather data, which has helped build up a picture of the effectiveness of governance, and also identify themes, trends and training requirements.

Look out for information on the next cycle of governance self-evaluation auditing in the Autumn Term edition of the Director's Report.

Governors' Role

To note the above information

For action by

All Governors

Contact

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Summary

The council's vision is to make Barnet the most Family Friendly Borough by 2020. Barnet's Early Help strategy provides a framework to organise our early help services, to monitor their success, and to drive improvement. This enables Barnet to tackle problems experienced by children and families as early as possible to improve outcomes, and to lower costs.

The strategy therefore has three guiding principles:

- i) Intervene as early as possible;
- ii) Take a whole family approach; and
- iii) Use evidence based monitoring systems.

On 1 October, we launched three Child and Family Early Help 0-19 hubs. South (based at Parkfield CC), West (based at Barnet and Southgate College – Colindale) and East Central (Based at Newstead CC) as well as various satellites across the hub areas.

The integrated council services are now known as 0- 19 Early Help and include:

Early Help Assessments (formerly CAF) An identified lead practitioner undertakes the Early Help Assessment and brings together a Team Around the Child/ Family from key partner agencies to deliver the Early Help Plan. All work is with family consent.

Family Resilience Workers - work intensively with families with multiple needs, providing a range of evidenced based interventions in the home and group settings.

Children's Centres - provide a variety of advice and support for parents and carers. Their services are available to support families with children under 5 (from pregnancy to when the child goes into reception class at primary school).

Childcare: All children aged three and four are entitled to 15 hours per week of Free Early Education (FEE). Some eligible children can access a further 15 hours (30 hours free childcare). Some two year olds are eligible to access up to 15 hours per week. The Early Years Vulnerable Families (EYVF) funding provides vulnerable children aged 6 months to five years with a funded place within a childcare setting where a short term placement can support with a family intervention.

The Targeted Youth Service - provides positive activities and targeted youth workers.

The Safer Families project - is an early help project which aims to identify children and families where domestic abuse and conflict are a feature of family life, but does not reach the threshold for social care intervention.

Child Wellbeing Team and CAMHS in schools – providing support for children and young people with low level mental health needs.

Each Hub holds a weekly multi-agency panel to share information on cases that have come from MASH for an Early Help Assessment. The hubs also take ‘step down cases’ from CSC – where work completed now means further support can be below the level of need for statutory intervention. All Early Help work requires consent from families.

Governors’ Role To note the information above

For action by Contact **All Governors**
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Governor Services: Governance Advice Officer (GAO) support in the summer term

Summary

GAO Briefing for Governors

The next termly GAO briefing for all Governors of subscribing schools will take place on **Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7 – 9pm** and, as always, will contain regular standard items on themes including policies, school website compliance, shared experiences from Governor colleagues on recent OfSTED inspections, an overview of the termly Governor Support and Development programme, items for additional focus and useful supporting documentation.

You may access more information via the following link:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900114&p_style_id=120

GAO Briefing for Clerks

The next termly GAO Briefing for Clerks of subscribing schools is on **Thursday 9 May at 12 – 2pm** at Watling Park School.

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900107&p_style_id=120

GAO Termly newsletter

The GAO termly newsletter, exclusively for Governors of schools subscribing to the GAO service, contains articles on a variety of governance matters with a local Barnet flavour.

The Summer Term edition includes articles on:

- Agenda items for the spring term
- Ongoing support for your Clerk
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: New Governance Handbook
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: Ways to reduce workload in your school
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: OfSTED requirements
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: Headteachers and Governors working together
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: Relationships and Sex Education
- Strategic Leadership and Governance: Panel Hearings and Appeals
- Safeguarding: Safeguarding and pupil welfare
- Safeguarding: Sharing good practice with schools and Governors
- Safeguarding: Sharing good practice with schools and Governors

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- Safeguarding: Parents/Carers, staff and social media
 - GAO briefing agenda
 - Online training offer
 - Sources of support

**Governors’
Role**

Don’t miss out! If your school subscribes to the GAO service, please ensure that your Governors are gaining the benefit from the features on offer. If your school would like to subscribe to the GAO service, please contact Sarah Beaumont.

**For action by
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