

**Proposed Priority Areas
for 2023-2026 Education & Participation Strategic Plan**

1. A place in a good or outstanding school or early years setting

- Working with BDSIP, our School Improvement partner, to ensure the right support is available, either commissioned or traded. In 2022-23, reviewing use of the School Improvement Brokerage Grant (SIBG) with Headteachers for maximum impact to include an annual School Improvement visit to each community school.
- Maintaining strong dialogue and communications between Education Directorate staff and schools and Headteachers through one to one meetings, a programme of Headteacher meetings, an annual conference and Working Parties to address priorities. For 2023 and beyond, priorities will include High Needs, Alternative Provision, the Fair Access Panel and responding to the Education White Paper and SEND Green Paper.
- Supporting highly inclusive schools, including through good quality Additional Resources Provisions (ARPs) (37 at present), with annual external reviews for each ARP and commissioned support from BDSIP.
- Supporting schools to develop Internal School Provisions (ISPs) as part of their SEND arrangements, through secured agreed funding, agreed principles and training.
- Expansion of Mayesbrook Park School, commissioning two new schools plus a new special school in planning, with the vast majority of children and young people offered a place at a school local to them.

2. Supporting achievement for all, including exceeding National and then London standards

- Commissioning BDSIP to provide schools with support and training in agreed priority areas e.g. Primary Reading and Writing and to broker school to school support.
- Working in close partnership with all schools, preparing for elements of the government's Education White Paper, including academisation, the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) agenda and support for attendance.
- Commissioning BDSIP to provide support where this is required in response to the outcomes for national tests and examinations in 2022, including early years.
- Maintaining a sharp focus in the early years on communication and language, with an emphasis on vocabulary.
- Commissioning support for curriculum development for children and young people with high levels of need. This will include for pre formal, semi formal and formal learners.
- Further development of the Race & Social Justice (RSJ) programme and embedding actions and learning into core School Improvement work so that: schools' curriculum, staffing and resources reflect the diversity of the community with strong cultural awareness; and we can continue to work together as a community so that our children's, young people's, families' and staff's life chances and experiences are not adversely impacted by inequality, discrimination and racism.

3. Improving opportunities for young people at post 16 and reducing those not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)

- Supporting the renewed Post 16 partnership which will lead on A level and the level 3 curriculum offer and improvement programmes. This includes providing seed funding to support new work in this area.
- Using the 'Young People's Covenant' to maximise the benefits for young people of education, training and employment opportunities in and around the borough, including in newer industries, through delivery of partnership activities and programmes such as with UCL PEARL.
- Supporting the development and opening of the Barking & Dagenham Further Education (FE) Food College, with a dedicated Officer, to support strong local uptake.
- Putting in place better support so that more young people with SEND move into employment before the age of 25, including development of a Supported Employment Pathway for vulnerable young adults (including those with SEND) in collaboration with Inclusive Growth.
- Continuing to develop and support a strong Provider Forum Network so that Barking and Dagenham's NEET performance remains in the top quintile (in comparison to the borough being in the lowest quintile 6 years ago).
- Continuing to fund and deliver the Colin Pond Scholarship Awards, incentivising our highest attaining pupils to stay in borough when studying A levels.

4. Strengthening outcomes, support and opportunities for vulnerable children and young people, including those with SEND (*new priority*)

- Working with the DfE to provide Oxlow Bridge, a new special school, which will open in September 2024 in Dagenham. The expansion of Riverside Bridge on the City Farm site will provide an additional 90 places, commencing in September 2022, with 30 places which will grow each year by 30 pupils. We have confirmed interest in the recently announced bidding wave for new special schools. Subject to their bidding criteria, we intend to apply. If approved, this will be delivered by the DfE, working alongside the LA, and, under the proposals, it will be a Free School.
- Preparing for the Local Area Partnership SEND inspection in 2023.
- Increasing the capacity of the Education Inclusion Team to provide strategic attendance advice, tracking and support.
- Driving forward improvements in the Council's remodelled Education, Health and Care (EHC) team to improve the timeliness of Education, Health and Care plans and placements, and engagement and responsiveness with parents and schools.
- Continuing to review and adjust the allocation of High Needs funding to make best use of the resources available. Priorities for 2022-23 include: a review of Top Up funding and support for ISPs plus deployment of exceptional non-recurring funding, in partnership with the High Needs Working Party.
- Working with schools, partners and community organisations to identify vulnerable children earlier, placing resources, and developing Early Help support, around the borough's three new 'Best Chance' Hubs.
- Continuing work with Health partners to make best use of resources. Priorities include supporting sufficient Occupational Therapy, developing Speech and Language (SALT) expertise within schools and SALT support in the early years.
- Increasing support for post 16 for young people who are Looked after, extended duties around Children in Need with a Social Worker and out of borough placements.

- Developing improved facilities for young people at our Alternative Provision (AP), Mayesbrook Park. Alongside this, reviewing and strengthening the AP offer to reflect growth in the borough's population and meet the different needs of our diverse young people.
- Further strengthening outcomes for vulnerable children and young people through expansion of a shared case management and information system. This will enable better joining up of intelligence in the Education Directorate.

5. Supporting the wellbeing and resilience of children and young people

- Further developing the outcomes, activities and reach of the Cultural Education Partnership (CEP).
- Supporting wider achievement and engagement through the 'ArtsMark' and 'Healthy Schools' programmes and support from Physical School Games Coordinators.
- In the early years, promoting cultural experiences and opportunities for young children including in Music, Dance and Art through the Cultural Education Partnership.
- Developing greater opportunities for children and young people's learning and career pathways through the Food Education Partnership with schools.
- Building on the success of the Holiday and Food Programme (HAF) into subsequent years, particularly for the most vulnerable families.
- Promoting 'Thrive' and trauma-informed programmes which work with schools to support pupils' mental health and wellbeing, highlighting and sharing best practice across schools.
- Continuing partnership work with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), for example, on regular Hot Clinics with schools to support vulnerable children and young people.

6. Maximising the Council's influence and levers and collaborating to continuously improve how we work together

- Council commissioning of BDSIP – gathering evidence from BDSIP, schools and Council colleagues on successes and impact, what is working well and less well, and whether there are any important gaps.
- Developing the next stage of the 'Step Up, Stay Safe' multiagency partnership programme to help keep children and young people safe from exploitation, including a September 2022 launch of the 'Lost Hours' campaign.
- Maximising educational careers opportunities through the sectors (Construction, Green, Cultural Creative, Digital and Food and Hospitality industries) from the 'Young People's Employment Covenant', in partnership with Inclusive Growth, including dedicated Council posts supporting Food and Cultural Creative initiatives.
- Responding with Health to meet capacity for therapies, including in relation to SALT in all phases and in early years, Occupational Therapy and Health Visiting.