

Decision Maker: EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**For pre-decision scrutiny by the Education Policy
Development and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Tuesday 27th January 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: DRAFT 2015 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO PLAN SET AGAINST
EDUCATION COMMITMENTS

Contact Officer: Jane Bailey, Assistant Director (Education)
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Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report presents the Education PDS Committee with the draft portfolio priorities and aims for 2015. The seven priority outcomes for the Education Portfolio set out the direction of travel for education in the borough, strongly reflect the policies of the Secretary of State for Education, and support the Education Covenant and Commitments established in 2013.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **The Education PDS Committee is requested to comment on the draft Education Portfolio Plan for 2015.**
- 2.2 **The Education Portfolio Holder is requested to agree the draft Education Portfolio Plan for 2015.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: £13.45m
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue Budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 291 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All Bromley School and Academies together with 7,873 BAEC users.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 On 3rd April 2013, Executive approved the recommendation of the Commissioning Team Programme Budget report (DRR13/043) to implement the Commissioning Programme of service reviews to consider future delivery models for the service. Subsequent approval to market testing all relevant Education Services was received from Executive on 16th October 2013. The work of the Commissioning Programme has been reflected in the Education Portfolio Plan aims, underpinning the draft Priority Outcomes, and anticipated timescales for development of the Education Commissioning Programme have been reflected in the milestones.

3.2 Key achievements against the 2014 plan include:-

- 545 new reception places added for September 2014
- Expansion of educational provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by one form of entry at the Glebe School, with a further form of entry planned for September 2015
- The Academies and Free Schools programme continues with 95% of Bromley schools now either converted to Academy status, in a formal process of conversion to Academy status, or actively exploring conversion
- 245 students took part in Next Steps Employability Conferences between September and November 2014 as part of the Bromley Youth Employment Project. These conferences were supported by local employers and included sessions on researching current work opportunities, skills analysis, CV and interview support, and included the opportunity to network with business representatives from a range of employment sectors
- 98.6% of Year 11 students attending Bromley schools and 88.5% of young people in Year 12 and resident in the borough secured the offer of a place in Education, Employment or Training (EET) in 2013/14. These are increases of 0.8% and 0.2% respectively on the figures for 2012/13
- Training delivered to:-
 - 130 front line professionals (including approx. 90 Special Education Needs Coordinators) on the new Education, Health and Care Plan process
 - 105 front line professionals on defining long term outcomes for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- As part of the South London Boroughs' Joint SEN Commissioning Project, successfully bid for £800k transformational grant to develop the integrated commissioning solution for SEN Educational placements

3.3 The priority outcomes within the Education Portfolio Plan for 2015 (Appendix 1) retain focus on seven key activities in support of the Education Covenant and Commitments.

- Promote educational opportunity in the borough ensuring all families have a choice of good and outstanding schools and early years providers
- Work with governing bodies, the Department for Education and others to expand popular and successful schools
- Use the academy and free school programme to promote and develop further that choice

- Support all maintained schools to enter into the academy programme to allow them to benefit from the opportunities it presents
- Encourage parents, faith groups, and others to work with the borough to increase the range and diversity of the outstanding schools on offer
- Ensure those pupils with special educational needs have good outcomes
- Ensure high quality provision continues for vulnerable groups, those leaving school and others over the school leaving age whether through preparation for employment, apprenticeships or higher education

3.4 These priority outcomes will be underpinned by supporting aims, and key areas for the 2015 Portfolio include:-

Creation of an additional 400 places for two year olds within early years' provision; delivery will be through partnership working with the independent and voluntary sector.

Strengthening the quality of governance (setting strategic direction and promoting school improvement) through the role of Local Authority Governors, and widening the pool of Governors with relevant skills to support good governance.

The Basic Need Programme is responding to the significant increase in pupil numbers in Bromley with expansion works currently under way at a number of schools and due to complete by the end of 2015. Feasibility studies were commissioned during 2014 to identify the best options for future expansion at both primary and secondary level. Support continues to enable all financially viable schools to convert to academy status and to ensure that all remaining primary schools are in discussions with the Local Authority on federations/sponsors.

Significant changes to the government's approach to children with special educational needs (SEN) have been regularly reported to the Education Portfolio Holder and PDS Committee. High quality provision for the increasing numbers of children with SEN entering education remains a priority.

Phase 2 of the Bromley Youth Employment Project seeks to develop employability skills in residents of the borough aged 17-24, enhancing opportunities for employment.

Education for those over the school leaving age, delivered through the Bromley Adult Education College, provides lifelong learning and training for employment and career development, and learning for personal development. Working in partnership with the voluntary and third sector, BAEC will continue to focus on delivering a programme of educational activities to hard to reach groups within the local community.

3.5 Progress against the Portfolio priorities will be reported to Education PDS throughout 2015..

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Portfolio Plan for 2015 reflects the Building a Better Bromley 2020 vision and reflects both the local and national priority direction for Education Services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Four Year Financial Strategy provides an overview of the key service and financial pressures facing the Council and identifies in detail the cost pressures facing the Education,

Care and Health Services department. The draft Portfolio Plan for 2015 is aligned to the Education Budget Sub Committee Report ED 15031 (6th January 2015)

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. Any legal implications arising from the implementation of the various actions contained within the plan will be reported to the PDS Committee separately.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A