

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 8 July 2015

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO PLAN UPDATE - SPRING TERM

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This information briefing provides the Education Portfolio Holder and Education PDS Committee with an update on the 2015 Education Portfolio Plan priorities as agreed at the Education PDS Committee on 27th January 2015.

2 THE BRIEFING

- 2.1 The 2015 plan focuses on seven key priorities, covering both the changing environment and the statutory duties of the local authority (ensuring an adequate supply of school places, determining the special educational needs of qualifying pupils), 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 and create additional early years capacity.
- 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.

Spring Term Update 2015

- 2.2 Progress can be reported against all priorities as at the end of Spring Term 2015, and a full update is attached as **Appendix 1**

2.3 Key notable successes include:-

- 11 primary schools converted to Academy status since October 2014, bringing the total number of primary school conversions to 46.
- A record number of primary school pupils received their first choice of school. Of the 3,989 agreed on-time applications for September 2015, 3,304 (83%) pupils gained their first choice, an increase of 5% on the previous year.
- Two Preparation for Employment courses were delivered in partnership with Carers Bromley supporting one person into employment. A further two courses in Business Skills for Creative Performance led to the setting up of Bromley Community Radio.
- A 30% improvement on identifying students with no offer of education, training or employment (September guarantee) from last year, with only 48 young people at the end of year 11 without a confirmed EET (Education, Employment or Training) destination.
- Facilities have been secured to establish eight specialist primary school places as a result of the review of special educational needs requirements.

2.4 The table below shows the summary progress for each priority

Priority	Spring Term 2015 Update (RAG)
Promote educational opportunity in the borough ensuring all families have a choice of good and outstanding schools and early years providers	All four actions on track (Green)
Work with governing bodies, the Department for Education and others to expand popular and successful schools and create additional early years capacity	All three actions on track (Green)
Use the academy and free school programme to promote and develop further that choice	Both actions on track (Green)
Support all maintained schools to enter into the academy programme to allow them to benefit from the opportunities it presents	Both actions on track (Green)
Encourage parents, faith groups, and others to work with the borough to increase the range and diversity of the outstanding schools on offer	All three actions on track (Green)
Ensure those pupils with special educational needs have good outcomes.	All three actions on track (Green)
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	All five actions on track (Green)

2.5 Key challenges remain across all areas with particular focus continuing on:-

- Increasing the supply of primary school places to respond to the significant escalation in pupil numbers in Bromley driven by increases in the dwelling stock, the birth rate and migration.
- Supporting primary schools in the process of conversion, or exploring conversion, to Academy status.