



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 12th February 2008

Report from the Director of Children and Families

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: 14-19 Development Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gave local authorities (LAs) a new strategic role. Brent now has a duty to promote choice, diversity, high standards and the fulfilment of potential for every child. Central to meeting this duty is a 14-19 partnership that ensures the successful implementation of the government's 14-19 reforms. Actions to implement these reforms are part of the 14-19 plan.
- 1.2 The Act requires LAs to introduce for all 14-19 learners a new entitlement to study specialised diploma by 2013. There are 17 diplomas planned, 14 offering lines of learning that match the main industrial sectors within the UK economy. No provider acting alone can deliver all 17 diplomas. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) requires diplomas to be offered and delivered in partnerships between education providers and with employers and universities. The 14-19 partnership has a strategic role in ensuring that partners work together to improve the choice offered to young people.
- 1.3 A Brent 14-19 partnership was established in 2002 to implement a three year plan that addressed the issues identified in an inspection of Brent-wide post-16 provision. The partnership includes all Brent secondary schools, special schools, pupil referral units, city learning centres, work-based learning providers and alternative education providers, the College of North West

London, Brent and Harrow Education Business Service, the Learning and Skills Council, Brent Connexions, Brent Alternative Education Service and Brent School Improvement Services.

- 1.4 A Strategic Plan for 14-19 Education and Training 2005-2010 was written after an extensive evaluation of the impact of the 2002 plan. The priorities identified for the plan were: the curriculum; progression; leadership and management; self-evaluation; data. The development of this plan was led by the Strategic Co-ordinator for 14-19 Education and Training. The plan was endorsed by all key stakeholders. It includes a shared vision (refer to appendix A). The implementation of the 14-19 plan supports Brent' delivery of the Every Child Matters' Achieve Economic Well-being outcome.
- 1.5 The partnership has a strategic structure. The 14-19 Strategic Steering Group oversees the implementation of the plan. The steering group is accountable to the Children and Young People's Partnership. There are sub-groups: 14-19 senior leaders; careers education and guidance; vocational and work-related learning; diploma delivery and diploma development. The Strategic Co-ordinator is a member of: Brent and Harrow Education Business Service Steering Group; Brent Connexions Operational Group; Brent NEET Strategy Group; Brent Integrated Youth Support Services 13-19 Steering Group.
- 1.6 The DCSF requires all 14-19 partnerships to produce a web-based local area prospectus. The 32 London LAs agreed to work together to produce a pan-London prospectus. The prospectus includes a Brent section and is locally managed to ensure information is accurate and up-to-date.
- 1.7 The government is preparing legislation to transfer 16-19 funding from the Learning and Skills Council to the LAs in 2010. This will place further duties on the 14-19 partnership.

2 Detail

- 2.1 There are approximately 14,500 Brent residents within the 14-19 age group. Pre-16, approximately 75% of learners study at Brent secondary schools and at 16 approximately 50% continue their studies in Brent. There is a significant inflow of learners from neighbouring boroughs both pre-16 and post-16.
- 2.2 In 2007 the proportion of learners achieving 5 GCSE A*-C grades including English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 was 51%. This is 4.3% above the national average. The DCSF's target is 53% by 2011. 92.2% achieved 5 GCSE A*-G grades including English and Mathematics compared to the national average of 87.9%. However, 1.7% of young people (44) finished Key Stage 4 without achieving any qualifications compared to the national average of 1.1%.
- 2.3 Post-16, learners' average point score per Level 3 subject was 209.4 (A Level grade C) compared to the national average of 207.5. Value-added was in the top 10% of LAs.

- 2.4 In 2006 the proportion of young people achieving Level 2 (5+ GCSEs A*-C) by age 19 was 79% compared to the national average of 71%. This put Brent 5th of the 150 LAs. Level 3 (2+ A levels) achievement by age 19 was 60% compared to the national average of 47%, putting Brent as the 6th highest LA.
- 2.5 In 2006, 125 young people completed apprenticeships. Whilst the number as a proportion of the whole cohort is low, it is a significant increase (68.9%) on 2005.
- 2.6 The participation rate of 17 year olds in education and training was 81.2% in 2006 above the national average of 76.1% but below the DCSF 2015 target of 90%.
- 2.7 The government is introducing diplomas to increase achievement, participation and progression. In Brent there are additional initiatives to tackle local priorities. These include: progression and participation of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; developing alternative provision that re-engages disaffected learners.

Diplomas delivery

- 2.8 The 14-19 partnership has applied to the DCSF to deliver diplomas in Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Engineering and Hospitality and Catering from 2009. Construction and Hospitality and Catering are being led by the College of North West London, Creative and Media is being led by Claremont High School and Engineering is being led by John Kelly Boys' Technology College. Other partners have volunteered to lead the planning for diploma delivery in other disciplines from 2010.

Collaborative arrangements

- 2.9 Diplomas will be offered to young people through the 14-19 partnership or where demand is high through Brent's three smaller consortia: the Catholic Consortium; The North Brent Consortium; the South Brent Education Improvement Partnership.

Specialised centres

- 2.10 There are no specialised centres for the delivery of diplomas in Brent. The partnership's facilities range from barely adequate to state of the art. Capital funding pre-16 is the responsibility of the LA and capital funding for 16-19 learners will transfer from the learning and skills council (LSC) to the LA in 2010. To assess Brent's readiness to deliver the 14 industry related diplomas, the partnership is currently surveying its premises against the diploma requirements. If the survey identifies gaps, a proposal for additional facilities will be made to the LA and LSC. This may include specialised centres.

New schools

2.11 All new secondary schools will be required to offer the diplomas to their 14-19 learners. It is anticipated that new schools will join Brent's 14-19 partnership and will develop facilities to complement the Brent-wide offer.

Funding

2.12 DCSF funding for the LA's 14-19 strategy is £69,311. The co-ordinator successfully bid for additional funding for specific projects: £50,000 from the LSC; £10,000 from the Quality Improvement Agency. This £129,311 total does not match the full cost which is supplemented by Brent School Improvement Services.

Appendix A

Brent 14-19 Shared Vision for 14-19 Education and Training

Aspiration, Access and Choice

We want young people from all Brent's communities to be engaged in high quality education and training that:

- is tailored to meet their needs, abilities and aspirations
- develops their skills for employment, lifelong-learning and active participation in the local community and wider society
- celebrates the diversity, vibrancy and uniqueness of this borough.

We will work in partnership, taking collective responsibility to provide exceptional opportunities for all our young people to follow academic, vocational and work-based routes that ensure:

- participation of all 14-19 year olds in education and training
- improved attainment including high value-added and retention
- breadth of choice at each transition stage
- clear progression pathways and increased participation at Level 4
- impartial advice and guidance for young people and their parents
- targeted support to raise the achievement of under-performing groups
- enhanced support for young people with learning difficulties and learning disabilities
- early identification and intervention for young people at risk before and during the 14-19 phase
- the needs of local communities and the local economy are met.