



**Children and Families Scrutiny Committee**  
13th June 2012

**Report from the Director of Children and Families**

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Key Stage 5 Attainment and Key Stage 5 Destinations**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report comments on education standards achieved by young people in Brent at Key Stage 5 at the end of the academic year 2010/11 and gives details of the students' destinations at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2011.
- 1.2 The overall attainment of Brent young people at Key Stage 5 has continued to improve and Brent remained above the London and national averages for all key indicators. The attainment gap between young people eligible for free schools meals and those not eligible continued to narrow.
- 1.3 Participation of Brent young people in education after the end of Key Stage 4 in 2011 continued to be high.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the continuing improvements in education standards at Key Stage 5 and the contribution made by Brent providers, Brent 14-19 Partnership, Services to Schools and Brent Connexions.

### 3. Key Stage 5 Attainment and Key Stage 5 Destinations

#### 3.1 Attainment of Level 2 by age 19

KS5 - % of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			% Difference		
	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Brent 2011 vs London 2011	Brent 2011 vs National 2011
Level 2 (ALL)	77.0	72.0	71.0	81.0	76.0	74.0	81.0	78.0	76.0	82.0	81.0	79.0	87.0	83.0	82.0	↑ 5	4	5
Non FSM	81.0	76.0	75.0	83.0	79.0	77.0	84.0	81.0	79.0	85.0	83.0	81.0	88.0	85.0	84.0	↑ 3	3	4
FSM	64.0	60.0	49.0	72.0	65.0	54.0	73.0	69.0	57.0	74.0	73.0	61.0	82.0	76.0	65.0	↑ 8	6	17
Attainment gap (ppts) by FSM	17.0	17.0	26.0	11.0	14.0	24.0	11.0	13.0	22.0	11.0	11.0	20.0	6.0	9.0	19.0	-5	-3	-13

3.1.1 The proportion of young people in Brent attaining Level 2 (five or more GCSE equivalent qualifications at grades A\*-C) by age 19 increased in 2011 by five percentage points to 87%. The Brent average continued to be above the London and national averages. The 2011 results put Brent 8<sup>th</sup> highest out of 151\* local authorities (LAs).

3.1.2 In 2011, the proportion of Brent young people eligible for FSM attaining Level 2 by age 19 increased by eight percentage points to 82%. This is six percentage points above the London average and 17 percentage points above the national average. The attainment gap with young people not eligible for FSM fell by five percentage points to 6%. The attainment of Level 2 by Brent young people eligible for FSM is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest out of 150\* LAs.

\* Some LAs are not included because their cohort sizes are too small.

#### 3.2 Attainment of Level 2 including English and mathematics by age 19

KS5 - % of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher with Eng and Ma by FSM	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			% Difference		
	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Brent 2011 vs London 2011	Brent 2011 vs National 2011
Level 2 +	51.0	48.0	48.0	56.0	51.0	50.0	57.0	54.0	53.0	60.0	57.0	57.0	64.0	61.0	60.0	↑ 4	3	4
Non FSM	57.0	54.0	52.0	61.0	56.0	54.0	63.0	59.0	57.0	65.0	62.0	60.0	67.0	65.0	63.0	↑ 2	2	4
FSM	33.0	31.0	23.0	37.0	34.0	25.0	40.0	37.0	29.0	44.0	42.0	32.0	54.0	46.0	36.0	↑ 10	8	18
Attainment gap (ppts) by FSM	24.0	23.0	29.0	24.0	22.0	29.0	23.0	22.0	29.0	21.0	20.0	28.0	13.0	19.0	27.0	-8	-6	-14

3.2.1 The proportion of young people in Brent attaining Level 2 including English and mathematics by age 19 increased in 2011 by four percentage points to 64%. The Brent average continued to be above the London and national averages. The 2011 results put Brent 30<sup>th</sup> highest out of 151\* LAs.

3.2.2 In 2011, the proportion of Brent young people eligible for free schools meals (FSM) attaining Level 2 including English and mathematics by age 19 increased by 10 percentage points to 54%. This is eight percentage points above the London average and 18 percentage points above the national average. The attainment gap with young people not eligible for FSM fell by eight percentage points to 13%. The attainment of Level 2 by Brent young people eligible for FSM is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest out of 150\* LAs.

\* Some LAs are not included because their cohort sizes are too small.

### 3.3 Attainment of Level 3 by age 19

KS5 - % of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			% Difference		
	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	% Brent	% London	% National	Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Brent 2011 vs London 2011	Brent 2011 vs National 2011
Level 3 (ALL)	55.0	49.0	45.0	58.0	50.0	46.0	58.0	53.0	48.0	58.0	56.0	51.0	64.0	59.0	53.0	↑ 6	5	11
Non FSM	60.0	53.0	48.0	62.0	54.0	50.0	64.0	57.0	51.0	62.0	59.0	54.0	67.0	62.0	57.0	↑ 5	5	10
FSM	38.0	34.0	23.0	43.0	36.0	25.0	40.0	40.0	27.0	44.0	44.0	30.0	52.0	47.0	32.0	↑ 8	5	20
Attainment gap (ppts) by FSM	21.0	19.0	26.0	19.0	18.0	25.0	23.0	17.0	25.0	18.0	16.0	24.0	15.0	16.0	25.0	-3	-1	-10

3.3.1 The proportion of young people in Brent attaining Level 3 (two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications) by age 19 increased in 2011 by six percentage points to 64%. The Brent average continued to be above the London and national averages. The 2011 results put Brent 10<sup>th</sup> highest out of 151\* LAs.

3.3.2 In 2011, the proportion of Brent young people eligible for FSM attaining Level 3 by age 19 increased by eight percentage points to 52%. This is five percentage points above the London average and 20 percentage points above the national average. The attainment gap with young people not eligible for FSM fell by three percentage points to 15%. The attainment of Level 3 by Brent young people eligible for FSM is 6<sup>th</sup> highest out of 150\* LAs.

\* Some LAs are not included because their cohort sizes are too small.

### 3.4 A Level point score per student

KS5 - APS by students achieving all Level 3 qualifications per candidate	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		Difference	
	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Brent 2011 vs National 2011
All pupils	665.2	711.2	663.4	721.1	675.0	721.1	706.3	726.5	738.0	728.2	↑ 32	10
Girls	689.9	665.2	683.6	741.8	685.7	740.0	717.1	743.1	745.1	743.4	↑ 28	2
Boys	640.3	689.5	642.6	696.9	664.4	699.3	693.5	707.3	730.0	710.8	↑ 37	19

3.4.1 In 2011, Brent's average A Level (and equivalent qualifications) point score per student rose by 32 points (just over one A Level grade) to 738 points (equivalent to just over three A Level grade Cs plus an AS Level grade C). The Brent point score has risen steadily since 2008. The Brent score rose above the national average for the first time in 2011 and has been above the London average since 2010.

3.4.2 The attainment of boys rose faster than girls in 2011 and the gap between their attainment levels fell to half a grade.

### 3.5 A Level point score per entry

KS5 - APS by students achieving all Level 3 qualifications per entry	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		Difference	
	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent	Nat	Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Brent 2011 vs National 2011
All pupils	209.4	203.6	206.5	205.8	209.3	208.3	216.7	211.4	219.6	213.1	↑ 3	7
Girls	213.0	207.6	209.7	209.7	211.7	211.9	216.4	214.7	219.4	209.2	↑ 3	10
Boys	205.6	198.6	203.1	201.1	206.8	204.0	217.1	207.0	219.9	216.5	↑ 3	3

3.5.1 In 2011, Brent's average A Level (and equivalent qualifications) point score per entry rose by three points to 219.6 points (equivalent to just over a grade C at A Level). The Brent point score has risen steadily since 2007. It has been above the national average for the last five years and rose above the London average in 2010.

3.5.2 The average points scores per entry of boys rose above girls for the first time on 2010. In 2011 both boys' and girls' attainment rose with both equal at 219 points.

### 3.6 Key Stage 5 destinations at age 16

Destinations at age 16	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%	2011	%
Continuing in education	2717	94	2856	94	2882	94	2892	94
Full-time training	20	0.7	14	0.4	7	0.2	14	0.5
Employment with training (including apprenticeships)	15	0.5	12	0.4	14	0.5	8	0.2
Employment without training	10	0.3	7	0.2	7	0.2	6	0.2
Part-time learning and employment	5	0.2	5	0.2	6	0.2	0	0.0
Unemployed (including personal development and voluntary activities)	40	1.4	42	1.3	47	1.5	67	2.2
Not active/not available	10	0.3	12	0.4	26	0.9	13	0.4
Moved out of contact	11	0.4	25	0.8	30	1	30	1.0
No response/refused to participate	70	2.4	58	1.9	52	1.7	52	1.7
<b>Survey total</b>	<b>2898</b>		<b>3031</b>		<b>3071</b>		<b>3082</b>	

3.6.1 Brent Connexions conducts an activity survey every autumn to ascertain the destinations of all Brent 16 year olds following their final year of compulsory education. In 2011, a very high proportion (94%) of Brent residents continued in education at Key Stage 5. A very small proportion (1%) of Year 11 students left education to start training programmes and enter employment. The take up of apprenticeships continues to be very low. However, following the National Apprenticeship Service's recent initiatives to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities available to young people, there may be a rise in the numbers of Year 11 starting this route in 2012.

### 3.7 Type of course started at age 16

	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%	2011	
Level 3 of which:	2042	79%	2034	72%	1840	65%	1761	61%
GCE A Level	1903	74%	1870	66%	1621	57%	1525	53%
Other Level 3	139	5%	164	6%	219	8%	236	8%
Level 2 of which:	386	15%	546	19%	485	17%	429	15%
GCSE	45	2%	106	4%	95	3%	79	3%
Level 1 Foundation	42	2%	111	4%	413	15%	131	5%
Other courses including Entry Level Foundation	119	5%	163	6%	144	5%	571	20%
<b>Education total</b>	<b>2589</b>		<b>2854</b>		<b>2882</b>		<b>2892</b>	

3.7.1 The percentage of young people studying Level 3 courses fell to 61% in 2011 compared to 79% in 2008. The take up of courses at Level 1 and Level 2 rose to 20% in 2011 compared to 17% in 2008. The figure for other courses may have been skewed by a higher than average number of families not identifying the course when the survey was conducted.

### 3.8 Type of education provider chosen by young people at Key Stage 5

Provider type	2011	
School sixth form	1686	58%
Further education college	967	33%
Sixth form college	178	6%
Other post-16 providers	61	2%

3.8.1 In 2011, most Brent residents chose to continue their education at a school sixth form.

### 3.9 Activities by providers, the Brent 14-19 Partnership, Services to Schools and Brent Connexions to improve attainment

3.9.1 The Strategic Lead for 14-19 Education and Training analyses performance data at both LA and individual provider level. This data is presented annually for discussion at Brent 14-19 Partnership meetings. The lead briefs the Services to Schools' link advisers on each school's performance prior to their meetings with headteachers for the annual review of standards in the autumn term. The link advisers play an important role in challenging school performance and supporting headteachers to plan for improvement at Key Stage 5.

3.9.2 In April 2010, local authorities took over the statutory responsibility for 16-19 education and training provision from the Learning and Skills Council. This included the responsibility for monitoring Key Stage 5 performance and quality. In 2009, in preparation for this new duty, Services to Schools introduced a challenge and support programme. The strategic lead analysed the Brent providers' Key Stage 5 data and identified schools that were significantly under-performing against national standards. The lead met with the headteachers and their senior leaders to discuss the issues and the actions that were required to improve outcomes. The schools were then required to produce a sixth form improvement plan that addressed the issues. The performance of students at these schools has steadily improved over the last three years.

3.9.3 The key issues identified as having the biggest impact on student under-performance at Key Stage 5 for some providers were:

- Retention: the drop-out rate from A Level and equivalent qualifications at the end of Year 12 was too high.
- The size of programme: students were on very small programmes and often dropped down to two equivalent qualifications at the end of Year 12 causing the average point score by the providers to be well below national averages.
- Information, advice and guidance: some students were starting courses without the appropriate prior attainment and were not able to cope with the level of study.
- The quality of teaching and learning: some poor subject teaching was leading to high failure rates and low value-added.

3.9.4 These issues were discussed at the 14-19 Partnership and all providers agreed that information, advice and guidance, and success rates at Year 12 and retention into Year 13

should be included in the partnership's statement of priorities. As a consequence there has been a strong focus on these issues which has led to the increased attainment at 19.

- 3.9.5 Services to Schools has supported school sixth forms with their improvement by conducting sixth form reviews of teaching and learning. 11 of the 13 Brent sixth forms have had a least one review. The reviews include: lesson observations; work scrutiny; interviews with students, teachers, support staff and sixth form leaders. The review reports summarise the findings, identify the strengths and areas for development and make recommendations for the school's sixth form improvement plan. To help providers with high performing subjects to disseminate their expertise, the 14-19 Partnership compiles an annual register of subjects delivered at Key Stage 5. This register lists the providers where attainment and value-added are high. All providers that are listed have agreed to support subject leaders in other institutions where results are low.
- 3.9.6 Providers have worked with Brent Connexions and Brent 14-19 Partnership's Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Network to improve the quality of information, advice and guidance given to young people. There has been a stronger focus on ensuring that young people progress on to programmes of study only if they have reached the level of prior attainment necessary to achieve success. This has led to fewer young people starting A Level programmes and an increase in the retention rate, and more young people starting other courses which are stepping stones to success at Level 3.
- 3.9.7 A further priority of the 14-19 Partnership has been to narrow the gap between: young people eligible for free school meals and young people not eligible; boys and girls; Black Caribbean and Somali students and the Brent average. The white British group has been added because it has a higher proportion of young people becoming unemployed at age 16 and is over-represented in the NEET (not in education, employment or training) group.

KS5 - APS by students achieving all Level 3 qualifications per candidate by ethnicity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference	
						Brent 2011 vs Brent 2010	Ethnic 2011 group vs Brent Avg 2011
Black Caribbean	592.4	633.1	608.4	658.1	662.4	↑ 4.3	-75.6
Somali	470.9	596.2	598.1	645.5	600.2	↓ -45.3	-137.8
White British	667.8	645.1	660.1	725.6	718.9	↓ -6.7	-19.1
Brent Average	665.2	663.4	675.0	706.3	738.0		

- 3.9.8 The table above shows the attainment of these ethnic groups at A Level. The average point score of Black Caribbean students has increased since 2007 but remains over two grades below the Brent average. The point score of Somali students increased significantly between 2007 and 2010 but fell in 2011 and is over four grades below the Brent average. The points score for white British students fell in 2011.
- 3.9.9 The Strategic Lead for 14-19 Education and Training analyses the data for individual schools and challenges their leaders where there are significant variations on the performance of different groups. To support school senior leaders and sixth form leaders to narrow the gap, Services to Schools has recently introduced data analysis sessions to identify the key areas in need of improvement. The sessions are forensic, looking in detail at: the performance of specific groups of students including by ethnicity, free school meals, gender and prior attainment; how representative the sixth form cohort is of the whole school community. To date, five Brent sixth forms have had one of these sessions.



3.9.10 The table below shows the destinations of the black Caribbean, black African and white British groups. Data on the Somali group is unavailable. The proportion of the black Caribbean and white British groups continuing in education is lower than the Brent average, and the proportion unemployed is higher than the average.

Destination	Black Caribbean		Black African		White British		Brent average
Continuing in education	255	91%	172	88%	379	96%	94%
Full-time training	2	1%	3	2%	2	1%	0.5%
Employment	1	0%	3	2%	0	0%	0.4%
Unemployed (including personal development and voluntary activities)	11	4%	7	4%	8	2%	2%
Not active/not available	3	1%	1	1%	1	0%	0.4%
Moved out of contact	2	1%	5	3%	1	0%	1%
No response/refused to participate	6	2%	5	3%	3	1%	1.7%
<b>Group total</b>	<b>280</b>		<b>196</b>		<b>394</b>		<b>3082</b>

### 3.10 14-19 priorities for the current year

3.10.1 Based upon the data, Brent 14-19 Partnership has agreed to keep the following priorities for the coming year:

- Increasing the participation, progression and outcomes of:
  - Young people entitled to Free School Meals
  - Black Caribbean, Somali and white British young people
  - Looked after children and care leavers
  - Youth offenders
  - Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
  - New arrivals and young people with English as an additional language.
- Developing curriculum breadth and choice to meet the needs of all young people
- Increasing the availability of apprenticeship programmes
- Improving success rates and progression at age 17
- Ensuring access to high quality impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG).

3.10.2 The partnership agreed that its work on narrowing the gap needs to be far more forensic, identifying groups that are underperforming at individual provider level and the multiple risk factors that affect young people.

3.10.3 A key challenge for the partnership will be to put in place the necessary support and provision that will engage all young people in education and employment with training until the age of 17 by September 2013 and age 18 by 2015.

## 4. Financial Implications

None

## 5. Legal Implications

None

**6. Diversity Implications**

The report is concerned with diversity and identifies differential performance of specific ethnic groups in Brent and the performance of young people by eligibility for free school meals.

**7. Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

None

**8. Background Papers**

None

**9. Contact Officers**

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