



A great start and good schools for all our children

Ambition

Securing a successful future for the district depends on securing a successful future for our children. We want to make sure every child can reach their full potential regardless of where they live, cultural background or financial circumstance. This means offering the right help at the right time to ensure they are happy, healthy and achieving throughout their lives.

A good education is central to this. While we have seen improvement in educational attainment, this hasn't gone far enough. Things have to change and we want all our schools to be 'good' or 'outstanding' by 2020.

Progress on our success measures for 2020

District Plan 2020 target	Short name	Latest value	Trajectory to 2020 target
3a) Every child to attend a school rated good or better	Percentage of pupils attending a Primary School judged good or outstanding	67.0%	
3a) Every child to attend a school rated good or better	Percentage of pupils attending a Secondary School judged good or outstanding	45.0%	
3b) Children's attainment at the age of 11 to be as good as, or better, than the England average	Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths combined (Key Stage 2)	76.0%	
3c) GCSE attainment to be as good as, or better, than the England average	Percentage of pupils gaining 5 A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (key stage 4)	45.50%	
3d) Keep our rates of young people not in employment, education or training significantly lower than the England average	NEET (not in education, employment or training) rate for academic age 16 to 18	3.5%	
3e) Reduce child poverty levels in line with Yorkshire & Humber levels, and in all parts of the district	Children in poverty	23.6%	

- On track to meet target by 2020
- Some concerns/possible delays
- Not expected to be achieved

Whilst the proportion of children taught in good or outstanding primary schools is still well below the 2020 target and the national average, there has been an improving trend with 102/161 primary schools being graded good or better in Sep 2015, rising to 119/161 in June 2016. This means that the most recent figures show 68.3% (20 Jun 16) of Bradford's primary school pupils attend good or better schools compared to 86.2% (30 Apr 16) nationally.

The secondary figures do cause more concern, and whilst there has been a slight improvement with Bradford rising to 46.4% (20 Jun 16) against a national figure of 78.9% (30 Apr 16), there are still just

12/29 schools graded good or better and three secondary academies have recently been judged as inadequate.

From 2016 TARGET 3a will no longer be reported. The new assessment methodology means that the nationally expected standard will be a scale score of 100. It has been reported by the Secretary of State for Education that this will signify a realignment of standards with far fewer children expected to achieve the national standard. It is recommended that this target is reset using the new measure.

The most recent national child poverty data for 2013 (Published October 2015) reported a child poverty rate of 23.6% for Bradford District compared to 18.0% for England – with 33,500 children and young people aged 0-19, living in households with less than 60% of average (median) household income. The proportion of Bradford's children living in poverty has dropped almost 8 percentage points - from 31.4% in 2007. Over the same period there has been only a 3.6% percentage point decline in the England rate.

From March 2014 onwards the number of young people not in education or training (NEETs) has been low and consistently below that for the same month in the previous year. The July 2016 figure was 686; 213 below the figure for July 2015. The adjusted NEET rate for July 2016 was low at 3.7%; 1.8 percentage points below the figure for July 2015.

Good things are happening here

17 additional primary schools have achieved a good judgement in their Ofsted inspections during 2015/16 and four schools received an outstanding judgement. This shows that the quality of provision and the outcomes achieved by children are improving.

Schools are being proactive in making decisions about their future governance arrangements in the light of the Government's recent White Paper. In July 2015 there were 33 academies and seven free schools. This has increased to 44 academies and seven free schools in July 2016, leaving 162 local authority maintained schools.

Our achievements over the last 12 months

Over the last 12 months we have:

- All of Bradford's seven nursery schools are now judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.
- Bradford schools continue to be below the national average for permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions
- Over 85% of newly qualified teachers are retained in Bradford schools beyond their induction year.
- The Education Covenant has received significant publicity during its development (over 100 responses to the consultation) and implementation (116 delegates from schools, business and communities at a recent Public Forum for Education event). The pledges from the Council, parents, children and young people, schools, business and employers, and communities are beginning to have a positive impact on attitudes to education
- The school-to-school partnerships are continuing to organise diagnostic reviews of schools' provision and performance and they contribute to school improvement strategies by facilitating peer support from high achieving schools.
- The newly reconstituted Education Improvement Strategy Board (EISB) and the Bradford Education Improvement Commissioning Board (BEICB) are now playing a key role in monitoring the performance of schools in Bradford and in allocating additional funding where needs arise.
- The timely identification of children, who are underachieving in the Early Years, or at risk of underachieving, has been improved.
- Governing Body School Improvement Committees of schools causing concern have proved to be effective in evaluating the impact of school improvements and holding school leaders to account.

The challenges facing us over the next 12 months

- Maintaining strong and effective school-to-school partnership working in a context where increasing numbers of schools are forming and joining Multi-Academy Trusts
- Accelerating the improvement in schools' standards and progress so that all pupils achieve their potential
- The implementation of the new curriculum and testing arrangements in schools to ensure standards and progress can improve.
- Ensuring that early years' children are ready for school
- Ensuring that all students completing their statutory education are well prepared for work and future challenges they will face
- Accelerating the improvement in outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils so that they close the gaps on their peers.
- Restructuring of the Council's Children's Services to meet its new responsibilities.

Our focus for the next 12 months

All the previous challenges will continue at least for 24 months. In addition there will be one further challenge

- To ensure that Bradford's school community maintains itself as a self-improving system in the context that increasing numbers of schools are becoming academies and the role of the Council is becoming focused on ensuring every child has a school place, the needs of vulnerable children are met, acting as a 'champion' for families and children.