

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 27th June 2019.

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Subject:

UPDATE ON BRADFORD'S OPPORTUNITY AREA DELIVERY ACROSS BRADFORD SOUTH

Summary statement:

In January 2018, the Secretary of State for Education published our delivery plan for the Bradford Opportunity Area. The plan was developed by our local partnership board. The board brings together local education providers, voluntary sector education and community organisations, employers, Department for Education (DfE) and Bradford Council. The board is led by our independent chair, Anne-Marie Canning MBE, Director of Social Mobility and Student Success at Kings College, London.

Our delivery plan set out four priorities, backed by over £11m of DfE funding. This funding is being used to deliver a range of activity across the district. This report focuses on the activity being delivered in wards across Bradford South.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Bradford plan identified four priorities for action over the next two years and subsequent targets for improvement.
- 1.2 Bradford's Opportunity Area plan was published in January 2018. It confirms the OA's priorities as: strengthening school leadership and the quality of teaching, improving literacy and oracy (spoken English), helping young people access rewarding careers, removing health-related barriers to learning. This report is focused on activity being delivered across Bradford South as the House of Commons have produced a briefing on social mobility by constituency of which Bradford South is identified in the lowest ranked constituency in the country for social mobility in the school life stage.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Bradford is one of the Department for Education's 12 Opportunity Areas (OAs) identified as 'cold spots' for social mobility because they were – at the time of the programme's launch – in both the bottom sextile of the Social Mobility Commission's 'Social Mobility Index for 2016 and DfE's Achieving Excellence Areas. The 12 areas were selected from that group to provide a mix of urban, rural, coastal and other contexts.
- 2.2 Each OA is receiving a share of £72 million to improve social mobility, using education as a key driver. Bradford's Opportunity Area plan was published in January 2018. It confirms the OA's priorities as: strengthening school leadership and the quality of teaching, improving literacy and oracy (spoken English), helping young people access rewarding careers, removing health-related barriers to learning.
- 2.3 In October 2018 The House of Commons Library's published a Social Mobility Index by Constituency (SMIC) which provides an indication of how likely a person from a disadvantaged background in each constituency is to progress to a higher social status later in life. The SMIC compares constituencies in England using 14 variables which represent four life stages: early years, school age, youth, and adulthood.
- 2.4 The index addresses the question: "What are the differences between different local areas in the chances that a child from a disadvantaged socioeconomic background has of doing well as an adult?"
- 2.5 Each index: "measures social mobility indicators in each major life stage from early years through to working lives. It examines what happens in the early years where significant gaps open up between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more fortunate peers".
- 2.6 The Commission has suggested that for these indexes: "This approach has a number of limitations and it cannot provide a definitive assessment of differences in social mobility by geography. However, it offers a good guide to which areas provide young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the best opportunity to do well as adults and it can be used to identify differences between local areas in the extent to which disadvantaged young people are likely to be able to fulfil their potential".

2.7 The index identifies Bradford South (See Appendix 1) as being in the lowest ranked constituency in the country for social mobility in the school life stage.

3. Opportunity Area Priorities: Summary of Activity

3.1 The OA plan set out four priorities. These are summarised below with reference to activity taking place in Bradford South.

3.2 Priority 1 - Strengthening school leadership and the quality of teaching

3.3 School to School Support

3.4 C£1.5m to improve the quality of school leadership in at least 25 schools rated RI or inadequate at publication of the OA plan. Support provided by 'system leaders' (National Leaders of Education or those with equivalent experience) from the district or surrounding region. System leaders matched to schools through a brokerage process including the Local Authority and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

3.5 Each school will be supported by a National Leader of Education, able to draw on c£60k of resource to deliver an improvement plan. Every NLE and school leader on the programme receives 3.5 days training from the Bradford Research School (at Dixons Trust) on effective implementation.

3.6 The OA is providing school-to-school support to 4 of the secondary schools in Bradford South: Grange, Queensbury, Buttershaw, and Tong (the latter due to start later this term). The only Bradford South secondary not to receive additional support is Dixons Kings, which is judged outstanding

3.7 The OA is providing school-to-school support to 7 of the primary schools in Bradford South: Carrwood, Knowleswood, Reevy Hill, Ryecroft, Shirley Manor, Southmere and Woodside.

3.8 The OA is providing school-to-school support to Appleton Academy, the all-through school in Bradford South.

3.9 Improving Literacy in Bradford's primary schools

3.10 The OA is targeting improvements at KS2 literacy by supporting 31 primary schools. The programme includes an independent audit of literacy activity in each school, and then support for implementing evidence-based literacy programmes. This is backed by £17,500 of funding per school.

3.11 Primary schools in Bradford South are receiving additional funded support for literacy

3.12 Raising Achievement Programme - Additional support for year 11 pupils on KS4 Maths and English Language

3.13 A short term investment of Opportunity Area funding 5 secondary schools to deliver additional tuition on KS4 English Language and maths, with the aim of increasing the number of pupils achieving a level 4 (an old 'C' grade). Last year some 2300 pupils in

Bradford failed to achieve in level 4 in English and maths.

3.14 In Bradford South, Grange Technology College is receiving a grant of £13,100 to support 360 hours of extra tuition for targeted pupils in Year 11. Queensbury Academy is receiving a grant of £22,120 to support 632 hours of extra tuition.

3.15 As an Opportunity Area, Bradford's schools have also been eligible for support through the DfE's (national) Strategic School Improvement Programme and Teaching, Leadership and Innovation Fund.

3.16 10 schools in Bradford South have benefitted from the Strategic School Improvement fund programmes (5 complete, 5 ongoing).

3.17 Schools are receiving support from the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund.

3.18 In total, 58% of Bradford South's schools are receiving support through the Department's national programmes and/or Bradford OA.

3.19 Priority 2 – Parents and Place: Literacy and Learning

3.20 £500K to test community based approaches to reaching disengaged parents in three of Bradford's most disadvantaged wards, to improve their relationship with school, and their confidence and skills in supporting their children's learning. We are targeting improvements in pupil attendance and literacy, in particular reading. The three wards are:

3.21 Tong & Bowling (with a focus on Holme Wood)– National Literacy Trust

3.22 Keighley Central – National Literacy Trust

3.23 Eccleshill and Idle – Ravenscliffe Community Association

3.24 We are also aiming to increase by a quarter (c 40 schools) the number of primary schools adopting EEF best practice guidance on parental engagement, by summer 2020. This is expected to be supported by resources equating to c£10k per primary school.

3.25 Priority 3 – Improving access to rewarding careers

3.26 Essential Life Skills delivery in Bradford Opportunity Area

3.27 Bradford was allocated £5.5m from the total £22m made available from the DfE to Opportunity Areas. Every Bradford school (207 schools) has received ELS funding, equating to £4.4million, having submitted plans to the OA team. ELS funding draws to a close (in all OAs) summer 2019.

3.28 Over £800,000 of the £4.4m is being spent in Bradford South (See Appendix 2: Breakdown of ELS grants to schools and activity)

3.29 Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) support

3.30 Every secondary school and post-16 provider in Bradford is receiving support and resources through the Careers and Enterprise Company, including the option to buy-in tailored support from the CEC 'rate card' providers, to improve Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance, and employer engagement.

3.31 Primary Careers

3.32 The OA is investing in networking events for primary school leaders and employers and an "aspiration fund" to support employer contacts and careers education in primary schools in the most disadvantaged wards. The latter includes access to consultancy support for embedding employer contacts in curricula, through the organisation 'Education and Employers'.

3.33 Primary schools in Great Horton, Royds and Tong are eligible to claim funding and consultancy support to develop careers awareness activities and curriculum content under our Primary Careers programme.

3.34 Quality in Careers Standard funding and Careers Leader training

3.35 All secondary schools in Bradford are eligible for funding to cover the cost of taking the Quality in Careers Standard, along with a fully funded training place for their Careers Leader through the Careers and Enterprise Company.

3.36 These measures will support schools to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks – the government backed standards of quality careers education.

3.37 To date, 2 schools in Bradford South have applied for and been awarded Quality in Careers Standard funding. These are Dixons Kings Academy and Buttershaw Business and Enterprise Academy.

3.38 Youth Grants

3.39 Grants of up to £1000 (total budget c£100k) are available to enable young people to run projects to improve essential life skills and social mobility in Bradford. Applications are assessed by panels of young people in each of the constituencies in the Opportunity Area. This is ELS funded activity so cannot run beyond summer 2019.

3.40 £20,000 worth of grants are ring fenced for young people in Bradford South.

3.41 Priority 4 – Using evidence and research to remove barriers to learning

3.42 The OA has invested to create a Centre of Applied Educational Research (CAER) in Bradford. CAER will draw on the Born in Bradford cohort study to enable world-leading research on children's cognitive and physical development, including by partners from the Turing Institute, represented on our partnership board. We will be working with CAER and our Research School to help every school in Bradford get better at working with evidence and offering the opportunity to participate in new research.

4. LINKS BETWEEN THE OPPORTUNITY AREA AND THE INTEGRATION AREA WORK

4.1 The OA programme and the Integration Area Programme are linking where there is common cause particularly around smarter place based working. The Opportunity Area, Integration Area and Born in Bradford are interested and working towards developing and testing a model of using data to drive place-based working and initially focusing on Holme Wood.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF OUR PLAN

5.1 In our delivery plan we made a series of commitments to young people:

- to listen and maintain a dialogue with young people (and their parents)
- to understand better the barriers to success as young people experience them, and what works in helping young people to overcome them
- to provide opportunities for co-production between young people and with the OA and its partners, to design and lead our work
- to empower young people to influence and lead change in their lives

5.2 To date, our activities and investments in 'youth voice' comprise:

5.3 £280K for Bradford Youth Service to create, develop and deploy:

- a group of Young Ambassadors, to engage their peers in discussions about social mobility in Bradford, and ways to improve it
- a group of Young Inspectors to talk to pupils and schools about the implementation and impact of the OA's investment in Essential Life Skills.
- £108K for Bradford Youth Service to disburse £100K Essential Life Skills funding to young people across the district, in the form of small grants to improve social mobility; projects designed and delivered by young people, for young people.
- Held 2 'Listening Days' in January and March 2019 at Beckfoot School to give local decision makers and partners better understand the lives of young people and their priorities for action. This included employers and CEIAG organisations represented who have committed to support young people to take action to improve the CEIAG/employer offer. They have responded enthusiastically to the idea.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

6.1 The Opportunity Area funding and other associated funding streams have totalled around £11.5m and is a grant from the Department for Education. This includes in excess of £6m for the main Opportunity Area grant, in excess of £5.5m for Essential Life skills funding with the remainder made up of support from national partners and prioritised funding for other government initiatives. This investment will be across the entire Education sector in Bradford with most of the funding passing through the Council.

6.2 Investments that have been made have been in line with the Delivery Plan. It is currently expected that all Opportunity Area related expenditure will be met from the

grant available and there has been no call on Council's funding.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

7.1 None.

8. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 8.1 Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides that a Minister of the Crown may pay a grant to a local authority in England towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it. The amount of a grant under this section and the manner of its payment are determined by the Minister but may include conditions such as provision as to the use of the grant and provision as to circumstances in which the whole or part of the grant must be repaid. In the case of a grant to a local authority in England, the powers under this section are exercisable with the consent of the Treasury.
- 8.2 Section 31 is a wide-ranging power to enable any minister to make a grant for any purpose, capital or revenue, to any local authority. The power is designed to allow authorities more flexibility in the use of such resources.
- 8.3 Any procurement activity must be undertaken in accordance with Council's Contract Standing Orders and in line with internal governance requirements.
- 8.4 The Local Authority must also have regard to its public sector equality duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when exercising its functions and making any decisions. A local authority must carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment to enable intelligent consideration of any equality and diversity implications when commissioning services
- 8.5 The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The Act applies to the pre - procurement stage of contracts for services. Commissioners should consider social value before the procurement starts because this can inform the whole shape of the procurement approach and the design of the services required.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

10.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

11. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

12. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

12.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

13. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

14.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

15. TRADE UNION

15.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

16. WARD IMPLICATIONS

16.1 All wards affected.

17. IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

17.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only.

18. ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

18.1 There may be a need for partner agencies to share data however this would only be with the express permission of the service user in the full knowledge of why and what it would used for. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) principles relating to any individuals data and rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 will be respected

19. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

19.1 None.

20. OPTIONS

20.1 There are no options as the programme of delivery is underway and being overseen by the Opportunity Area Partnership Board.

21. RECOMMENDATIONS

21.1 It is recommended that the programme progress be noted for information and to suggest how better join up can be achieved between other policy areas (e.g education, health, economy and place) to ensure improving social mobility is a shared responsibility.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Social Mobility Index by Constituency Area

Appendix 2: Breakdown of ELS grants to schools and activity

23. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Bradford Opportunity Area Delivery Plan.