



LEARNING

Supporting Learning & Education



Our Aim

A city that actively promotes learning and training opportunities for people of all ages, ensuring that our current and future residents have the skills, knowledge and experiences that will help them to be successful and happy so that they can actively contribute to the future growth of the city. The City Employment and Skills Plan 2016-2020 has been launched and will support the overall aim and has at the heart three priorities – learn to earn, no one left behind and business growth.

Issues of concern

It is important to note that overall standards and achievement are increasing in the city. We are above national and statistical neighbours in all phases of education and there has been ongoing improvement for a number of years now. However, there is still work to be done.

There have been significant changes in the curriculum and assessment arrangements for 2016 and with ongoing changes there is a rapidly changing educational landscape.

Despite improved performance overall, there are still areas for improvement. These include our disadvantaged children and young people who do not achieve as well as non-disadvantaged nationally.

Persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils is higher than for national average.

The number of secondary school age students in the city has increased and work is ongoing to secure a location for the University of Brighton Academy Trust's new school. Work continues to ensure all children get offered a school place in the city and there are high and increasing percentages of being offered a school of preference.

What has happened over the last three years

The new Learning, Skills and Employment Partnership has been formed out of previous arrangements creating a group that can explore and address issues affecting all of these areas strategically.

We have a strong family of schools and education providers working together in the city – the Brighton & Hove Education Partnership. All schools in the city are members of cluster partnerships, the chairs of which meet regularly to discuss ongoing work and vision. There are also Secondary, Primary and Special School Partnerships, with a vision for improving attainment through support and challenge and a commitment to working together for all the city's school students. These partnerships are driving forward in collaboration with the Local Authority on a self-improving system.

The third iteration of the City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) has been published, providing a coherent and coordinated approach to employment and skills for the residents of Brighton & Hove and a vision for how to strengthen the city's economy.

There is a well-developed network of alternative education providers for post-16 who are well placed to meet the needs of those young people who are seeking next steps. The Council engages with these providers and there is close collaboration between these alternative education providers and the YES team, to ensure needs are met.

Alternative education providers have also been supported through the development of the ON2 brand to encompass the learning previously delivered under the e2e (entry to employment) banner. ON2 providers are now those delivering Entry Level and Level 1 Study Programmes.

A Vulnerability Index (Risk of Not in Employment, Education and Training NEET Indicator) has been developed to support schools with the early identification of young people at risk of NEET enabling them to put in place interventions to support them. This Index is also used to flag up to post-16 providers those who will require additional support to remain in learning.

In May 2015 the city's provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities was inspected. Several schools were involved in the inspection including hosting visits from inspectors and arranging for them to meet with groups of staff, governors, children and parents. The inspectors praised services for their unwavering focus on the overall needs of children and young people who have a special educational need or disability. They also found that pupils in both special and mainstream schools are overwhelmingly positive about how they are supported to make progress.

Current position

In 2016 Brighton & Hove was in the top quartile of authorities nationally for key stage 2 outcomes and figures for progress 8 and attainment 8 at key stage 4 are above the national average.

83.3% of pupils achieved a full level 2 qualification by age 19 in the 2014/15 academic year which is slightly short of the national average result of 86%.

From 2016 onwards data around those who are NEET has been collected in a new way, taking in to account those whose status is not known. At December 2016 the Brighton & Hove combined figure for academic age 16 and 17 year olds who are NEET and for those whose status is not known is 4.9%, which is a continued improvement on previous performance. We compare very favourably to South East (8.9%) and England (9.5%) and continue to perform better than our statistical neighbours (9.9%).

The Youth Employability Service continues to develop well and has recently gained the Matrix Standard for high quality provision of information, advice and guidance in relation to careers.

Success rates in the city's colleges continue to improve and are consistently above or very close to national benchmarks for sixth form colleges and general further education colleges.

As at March 2017 94% of primary and 80% of secondary schools are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted

Work continues to ensure those educated not at school receive an appropriate education.

We have a strong early years offer in the city with a very high take up of 2year old places and high Ofsted judgements in our early years provision across the city.

What we plan to do

Raise achievement of disadvantaged pupils across the city.

We are in the process of establishing an overarching strategic board to capture and inform educational development across the city.

Increase the proportion of young people achieving good grades in 8 or more qualifications which will improve outcomes in progress 8 and attainment 8.

Implement the reducing the difference strategy.

Work will continue with the University of Brighton's Academy Trust to ensure the new secondary free school finds appropriate accommodation and is open for September 2018 and the city council will implement the new school organisation framework to ensure appropriate provision is provided in the city

Work continues to ensure post 16 provision is sustainable.

A consultation document has been released in relation to reconfiguring the Social, Emotional and Mental Health offer across Homewood College and the Pupil Referral Units, and realigning special schools to integrate expertise across education, social care and health.

Continue to increase the proportion of young people achieving Level 2 or Level 3 at 19.

Continue to support through work with schools to increase the numbers of 16-18 year olds participating in apprenticeships and ensure that effective links exist with the new branded digital service (replacing the National Apprenticeship Service). As part of the 16-19 study programmes (part of Ofsted framework) schools are expected to give young people a non-qualification activity to experience the world of work.

Continue to work to develop apprenticeship, traineeship, internships, volunteer and work placement opportunities for key sectors of the Brighton & Hove economy in partnership with employers and ensure that these

employers receive the support and guidance that they need to offer such opportunities.

The BEACH website (Brighton Employability Advice and Careers Hub) has been identified as needing updating and we are working with the local enterprise partnerships to identify additional funding via the Local Economic Partnership (LEP). This site improves the employability and skills of young people in the city.