

**REPORT TO SCRUTINY****Update on the Council's Aspiration Strategy**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>26 June 2019.</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader</b>
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**PURPOSE**

1. To update members on the borough's Aspiration Strategy (2017-2020).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That members note this report.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. Members of requested an update on the strategy's progress.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

4. Educational attainment, participation in extra-curricular activities and work experience all help to prepare young adults for the future world of work.
5. Burnley Council's strategy for raising aspirations recognises the importance of interventions throughout a person's life from early years to transition to adulthood, and the need for support outside of the classroom. The council's strategy is to provide co-ordination in support of these objectives, in addition to funding for associated project work.

**Coordination:**

6. We have established a group of professionals able to drive the strategy forward from the council, primary and secondary schools, Burnley College, UCLan, AMS Neve (Burnley bondholders), Burnley Fc in the Community, Inspira and other providers including Children's University and Primary engineers.

**Preparing younger generation – the early years**

7. The development of skills begins very early in life, so early years education has an important role to play.

8. We therefore need Burnley children to receive high quality early years education. There are 62 providers in Burnley including child minders, day nurseries and nursery schools. Their OFSTED ratings are as follows:

Awaiting Inspection	Inadequate	Requires improvement	Good	Outstanding
3	0	3	40	16

9. Free early years education is available to all 2 years olds from disadvantaged backgrounds. Whilst take up was previously patchy, the continuous drive to promote and encourage take up has been successful with latest figures showing take up at 89%.
10. Every child is eligible for up to 15 hours Free Early Education (FEE) provision from the start of the term following the child's 3rd birthday, until they start school. Take up rates for early years education for 3 and 4 year olds is also very good at 98%.
11. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework 2017, sets out standards for learning and development for children from birth to 5 years including communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Unfortunately, achievement varies and whilst on average 69% of children in England and Lancashire achieve the expected standard, only 60% of children in Burnley met all of the 17 learning goals.
12. Whilst formal childcare is important the home learning environment is of considerable importance in the early years, however what works in terms of home learning interventions is not evidenced.
13. The Council continues to work with Lancashire Adult Learning, who now deliver a range of family learning programmes in Burnley primary schools and community settings such as Ready Steady school, and practical parenting programmes. Lancashire libraries also deliver family-based activities including story times and baby bounce and rhymes.

#### **Extra-curricular activities**

14. The strategy recognises the importance of children having access to extra-curricular activities to help support their development and gain life skills.

#### **Children's University:**

15. The Council is now in the second year of supporting the Children's University programme with 16 primary schools and 1330 pupils engaging in the scheme, completing 31,262 hours of learning. There are over 70 learning destinations in Burnley and surrounding areas and additional learning events have been delivered including stargazing at Towneley Hall, Chinese culture days delivered through the Confucius Institute at UCLan, "spooky science" workshops through the young scientist centre at UCLan, and a British Science week pop-up event was held at Turf Moor in March, hosted by Burnley FC in the Community.
16. At the end of year 1 in June 2018, 285 students graduated at a ceremony at Burnley Mechanics. There is an increase in uptake this year, with 572 children graduating in 2019.

### **Primary and secondary engineers:**

17. The Council continues to support primary and secondary engineers to support schools with STEM. All Burnley primary schools have been engaged over the years with 10 schools engaging with a variety of courses this year including Structures and Mechanisms with Basic Electrics, Gears, Pulleys and Lifting devices and Game Coding for Game design. The Celebration event will take place on 8th July at Burnley College and is open to all Primary schools in Burnley that have completed the activity in 2018/2019. Four of the secondary schools have taken part in the Secondary Engineer Bicycle Club this year. Ten primary schools and two secondary schools have registered to take part in the Leaders Award competition for 2018/2019. The Awards event for the competition will be held at Burnley College on the 8th July 2019 with the public exhibition on the 9th July 2019.

### **Resilient learners**

18. Some children need more support to help them achieve, a place where they are “okay not to be okay”, where they can feel safe to learn and grow. Burnley FC in the Community delivers a whole range of programmes such as:
- ‘It’s Your Turf’ a dedicated youth crime reduction programme which offers a package of long-term mentoring and one to one support for young people aged 8–19.
  - Premier League Kicks is one of the Premier League’s flagship community programmes. Its objectives are to promote participation in sport in areas of high need whilst provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and confidence and to progress into positive pathways. 19 sessions per week are delivered in Burnley and the surrounding boroughs, 3 of which are being delivered in the Daneshouse and Stoneyholme areas of Burnley.
  - Moor Mentoring. This is a 1-2-1 intervention for pupils that have shown disruptive behaviour, poor attendance, low confidence, poor self-esteem, limited aspirations and/or undeveloped ‘soft skills’. During the last academic year *Achieving Moor* and *Moor Mentoring* worked in 8 educational settings in Burnley.
  - The Secondary Schools Mental Wellbeing Project places a mental health worker in each of the secondary schools to support a child’s learning and development needs. The Council is a funding partner for this project, and feedback from the schools has been positive.

### **19. Engagement with businesses**

20. Good career guidance is critical if young people are to raise their aspirations and capitalise on the opportunities available to them. Every young person needs high-quality career guidance to make informed decisions about their future.
21. The Council is supporting the careers hub in Burnley, which is developed by The Careers & Enterprise Company, and overseen by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s skills and employment hub. All secondary schools are engaged, working with colleges, universities, employers to improve careers education. All schools now, on average, meet four of the Gatsby benchmarks; a set of eight benchmarks that schools can use as a framework for improving their careers provision.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

22. There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

23. The Lancashire County Council Education summit in June 2019 will give some further guidance on the direction of the Aspirations Strategy beyond 2020.

## **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

24. Not applicable

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<https://burnley.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s6164/Aspiration%20Strategy%202017.pdf>

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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