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An Education Strategy for Portsmouth 2017-2020:

pulling together: achieving more

Refresh January 2019

1. Context

Portsmouth is a densely populated city with a growing economy and high aspirations. The city has a proud history of industrial and technological innovation, linked particularly to its docks and its deep continuing ties to the Royal Navy. Regeneration over the last 10 years has brought significant physical development, enhanced tourism and a raft of new enterprises. Over the next ten years thousands of new jobs are expected to be created in the city, concentrated in a number of key sectors including advanced manufacturing and engineering, marine technology and tourism.

The challenges for education in the city are clear. Nearly a quarter of the city's children live in poverty, with the figure even higher in some areas. There is long standing under achievement particularly by White British boys. One fifth of pupils are from black or minority ethnic groups with most of these speaking English as an additional language; over 100 languages are spoken by pupils attending Portsmouth's schools. Expectations of what many young people can achieve - their own, their parents' and those of their community - are often too low.

Whilst the challenges are significant, the city benefits greatly from a dedicated, talented and diverse workforce within education and children's services who are passionate about improving life chances for children in the city. Children are expertly supported by skilled professionals including teachers, school and college leaders, specialist NHS staff, and many others, who go the extra mile on a regular basis to give them the best possible foundation for success in their lives. The result is that despite the challenges, many Portsmouth children leave education well placed to take advantage of the increasing opportunities created by the recent investment in, and strong economic development of, the area. This also extends to continuing their education at the University of Portsmouth or at other higher education institutions.

Data on achievement levels shows clearly that many young people are much less well placed, and significant improvement is still required to match the levels of performance achieved in other parts of the country with similar challenges. In recent years, however, strong leadership has begun to make a real difference to achievement levels across a number of city schools, academies and colleges. While progress is not yet consistent across the city, there is growing confidence that a relentless focus on the quality of teaching, setting higher expectations and building the resilience of children and young people and their families can change more lives and increasingly build the strong culture and expectation of success which the city needs.

Together with this confidence there is also widespread recognition that the biggest gains will be made by developing a strong collective schools led **improvement system** for the city in which:

- All schools receive regular constructive challenge and support from highly skilled education professionals, so that they are helped to match the best anywhere in the country
- All schools can exploit to the full, the advantages of their proximity to each other, for rapid and easy access to appropriate local expertise and moral support
- All schools can help to shape effective city-wide policies and services designed to provide targeted support where required for individual children, including those with special educational needs, and to build resilience and commitment to education across their shared community.

There are two important vehicles through which education leaders in the city are collaborating to create this new improvement system. These are:

- a) The Portsmouth Education Partnership
- b) Strong and effective Multi Academy Trusts

The Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP)

The Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) has been set up to bring together Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), individual schools and academies, colleges, early years settings, the Local Authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, the University, the Dioceses, Shaping Portsmouth and EBP South to drive improved attainment and opportunity for all children and young people across the city. The development of the PEP was supported by significant engagement with schools over the spring and summer of 2016 and a review of models in other areas of the country. It was launched in November 2016 and its initial operation was debated further at a workshop for all schools in the city in February 2017. Development of the PEP will continue to be informed by practice elsewhere and all ideas and suggestions are very welcome. To contribute ideas please get in touch with the PEP by emailing: pep@portsmouthcc.gov.uk. Further information about the PEP can be found at: www.portsmoutheducationpartnershp.co.uk



This new education strategy has been drawn up through the PEP. It explains the actions that are being taken to address together key priorities for the city. Our detailed plans are continually being updated so this strategy sets out a **high level summary of strategic objectives and key priorities** with cross references and links to other documents and action plans.

The PEP is linked to the overarching Children's Trust arrangements for Portsmouth which bring together all agencies whose work affects the lives of children, young people and families, including: social care; health; the Police; Jobcentre Plus; the voluntary sector; Solent Local Enterprise Partnership; and others. As a key priority for the city, all Children's Trust partners are determined to work together to achieve a step change in educational achievement and life chances for all young people. The contributions of partners are reflected in the detail of this strategy.

Multi Academy Trusts (MATs)

In Portsmouth, all schools are encouraged over time to become part of a strong Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Through MATs schools are able to receive stronger support and challenge, and closer collective development with other schools, than has been possible through the local authority alone, particularly as funding for the school improvement role of local authorities has reduced. The best MATs, working not in isolation but within a strong, wider partnership and accountability framework, provide a robust and resilient operating framework for individual schools.

National advocacy of the academy model has not always represented accurately the position of local authority maintained schools or recognised the positive relationships between those schools and their local authority over many years. Evaluation of the model has been complicated by the starting points of many individual academies and the evolution of MATs in recent years. MATs have also

on occasions been in competition with each other, and have not always worked closely together. These factors have inevitably affected perceptions of the potential value of the model. In Portsmouth, however, there is an increasingly widely shared consensus that, especially when operating as part of an effective city wide education partnership, the MAT model - both in principle and on the basis of local evidence of impact to date - offers the best prospect of achieving the step change in success for children and young people. The PEP recognises that all schools, whatever their status, have a vital contribution to make and that decisions about joining MATs are for individual schools to make unless there are grounds for intervention.

The City Council and the Regional Schools Commissioner are currently working together on the development of MATs for Portsmouth with the aim that all MATs operating in the city:

- Act as strong engines for school improvement, bringing in support and challenge from outside the city as well as from within
- Promote the smoothest possible transition for children and young people between different stages of education
- Provide a resilient and sustainable structure for schools due to the economies of scale MATs can bring - supporting rigorous financial management, recruitment and retention of staff and continuous professional development
- Commit to inclusive practice and working together with all schools and other MATs across the city.

2. Vision

Our vision is that through working together we can ensure:

- Educational attainment and progress improve significantly year on year so that children and young people are prepared for the widest possible career opportunities
- All children and young people, whatever their background and circumstances, should be confident, resilient, enthusiastic, happy, healthy and well prepared for adulthood and involvement in their communities
- Portsmouth is seen as a place of choice for the very best senior leaders, teachers and other education staff, where professional development is fostered, career ambitions met and workloads kept manageable.

3. Shared values and commitment

As members of the Portsmouth Education Partnership - schools, academies, Multi Academy Trusts, colleges and post-16 providers, early years settings, the University, Teaching Schools, the Education Business Partnership, the Local Authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner and Dioceses are all committed to:

- Shared accountability for improving standards and the educational outcomes and life chances of all children and young people

- Promoting a culture of openness, trust and collaboration
- Putting the interests of children and young people first at all times
- Ensuring no child should fail to reach their educational potential because of disadvantage or vulnerability
- Ensuring no schools, colleges or settings are left isolated
- Ensuring all our joint actions add value, are evidence based and as far as possible are preventative rather than a response to crisis.

4. Strategic objectives and key priorities

As already stated, our detailed plans are continually being updated so this strategy sets out a high level summary of strategic objectives and key priorities with cross references and links to other documents and action plans. The strategy comprises ten strategic objectives:

- SO1: Prepare children and young people for life, study and work beyond school**
- SO2: Ensure that all children get the best possible start through effective early nurture at home and high quality early years education**
- SO3: Raise school standards through collaboration, challenge and support**
- SO4: Recruit, retain and grow the best teachers and leaders**
- SO5: Strengthen the curriculum across all key stages through a sustained investment in continuous professional development**
- SO6: Promote emotional health, wellbeing and resilience in education**
- SO7: Collectively work together to ensure all pupils regularly attend school so they can realise their potential**
- SO8: Meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities**
- SO9: Ensure young people have the best possible opportunities for post-16 education and higher education, including apprenticeships**
- SO10: Invest in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children**

Our key priorities on each of these objectives are set out in the rest of this strategy. These priorities will be **updated on an annual basis** to reflect progress and any changes that may be required. Progress on all our priorities will be monitored through a combination of Key Performance Indicators and action tracking.

5. What will success look like?

The success of the Portsmouth Education Partnership and the implementation of the Portsmouth Education Strategy will ultimately be judged on a number of measures and outputs. The Strategic Board of the PEP has set itself the following targets for 2020:

- All settings, schools and post-16 providers in Portsmouth will be **judged by Ofsted to be good or better**
- At **Early Years Foundation Stage** we will maintain and improve on our high ranking nationally and improve results for SEN pupils, boys and FSM pupils
- At **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2**, expected standards in writing, reading and maths will be in line or better than our statistical neighbours and the gap between Portsmouth and national will be closed by half. Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, boys and SEN pupils will see a halving of the gaps to their comparators
- At **Key Stage 4** we will ensure there is sustained improvement against all key indicators including Progress 8, Attainment 8 and EBacc achievement. For Progress 8 we will ensure that the gap between Portsmouth and national will be closed by half.
- **Participation in education and training at ages 16 and 17** will improve further by halving the gap to national
- The number of **Initial Teacher Training (ITT)** trainees will increase by 15% and we will ensure that over 75% find permanent appointments in Portsmouth's schools
- At **Key Stage 5** we will increase the proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19, by halving the gap to national.

Strategic objectives

SO1: Prepare children and young people for work and life beyond school

Preparing children and young people for life after school, particularly for work, is not simply about helping them pass examinations. Formal academic qualifications are a gateway for young people to increased opportunities. They matter. But the message from employers is increasingly clear: more important than qualifications are attitudes, behaviours, social skills and mental flexibility. Schools already devote significant energy to promoting in children the attitudes they need to be happy and succeed in life, including self belief, confidence, persistence, courage to overcome adversity when they experience it, team work, flexibility and respect and regard for other people and other ways of life. However, to understand and be inspired by the key importance of these attitudes and beliefs, particularly in their working lives, it is important for children and young people to hear first hand from, and experience where they can, a range of contemporary workers and work contexts, and further study opportunities.

National research undertaken by the Education Employers Task Force revealed that young people who can recall four or more meaningful encounters with employers whilst at school, have on average 18% increased earnings and are less likely to become NEET. Disadvantaged pupils have better life outcomes through increased opportunities to engage with a wider range of employers. 60% of businesses told the CBI that young people lack the skills to succeed, but only 40% of schools manage one encounter with an employer each year. In the Solent region 33% of employers report 16 year olds as being poorly prepared for work and 24% said the same of 17 and 18 year olds.

It is important that children and young people are aware of what the future jobs will be. The economy of Portsmouth and the Solent region is growing. Taking into account replacement demand and expansion, job growth in the next decade is expected to exceed the growth in the working age population. The pipeline of skills in the labour market is a cause for concern, particularly with regard to high level and technical occupations and in meeting the demands of growth sectors such as advance manufacturing, defence, aerospace, marine, visitor economy/tourism, construction, real estate, distribution and transport.

The removal of the statutory duty for schools to provide work related learning (work experience) has led to a reduction in the work experience placements that were previously offered in Year 10 but there is an increasing emphasis on experience of the workplace, both pre and post 16. The national decline in young people at school having Saturday jobs has contributed to a reduction in work experience and employer contacts. However, today more schools are recognising the benefits of engaging with business and the importance of good careers education. Alongside this businesses need ways to address their corporate social responsibility agendas and benefit enormously from engagement with schools in terms of the professional development of their staff and informing young people of the job opportunities in their

sector. The University also has an instrumental role to play both as a local employer, but also in helping young people to aspire to further study or training.

In response to the challenges above there is already a lot happening in Portsmouth, but far more needs to be done including increasing the opportunities for children in primary schools to have meaningful insights into the world of work.

EBP South and Portsmouth City Council offer a careers information, advice and guidance service to schools which supports schools to meet their responsibilities and requirements of the national careers strategy and the Gatsby Benchmarks. Portsmouth has an active **Careers Education Information and Advice Network (CEIAG)**. Which supports schools and carers advisers in working towards the GATSBY benchmarks and accessing a range of opportunities that support preparation for education and training beyond school.

Shaping Portsmouth is working with secondary schools, colleges and partners on an initiative called **Roadmap to a Career** to look at what is currently being done to prepare young people for future careers, what gaps exist and how partners can collectively work together to address them and share good practice.

The government funded **Careers and Enterprise Company** has a national remit to identify what works in careers and enterprise education and to promote and support this work, particularly in geographic areas that are identified as 'cold spots'. Their initial initiative, the **Enterprise Adviser Network** is being rolled out nationally. Volunteers from businesses (Enterprise Advisers) are working closely with senior leadership teams in local schools to support them in developing their careers and enterprise strategies and employer engagement plans. In Portsmouth, supported by Solent LEP, the majority of secondary schools in the City have already been matched with an Enterprise Advisor.

In July the Solent LEP established the **Solent Careers Hub** (one of 20 around the country) which will have access to support and funding to help meet the eight [Gatsby Benchmarks](#) of excellent careers education. This includes: a 'Hub Lead' to help coordinate activity and build networks; access to bursaries for individual schools and colleges to train 'careers leaders'; a Central Hub Fund equivalent to around £1k per school or college; and access to funding for schools to support employer encounters

EBP South's **Activate Mentoring Programme** has been providing 1:1 business mentor support for pupils in Years 10 and 11 who are not achieving their potential. The programme has shown to improve a young person's confidence, self-esteem and attendance at school which in turn has had a positive impact on progress and attainment. There are other examples of successful mentoring schemes in Portsmouth including the **Girls Network** which seeks to inspire and empower girls from disadvantaged communities by connecting them with a mentor and a network of professional female role models.

EBP South's **Learn Excel Aspire Programme (LEAP)** is another example of businesses working with schools which aims to build the self-esteem, confidence, motivation and employability of young people through employer led workshops. Up to 15 students take part in a series of 6 workshops on the employers' premises

during which they will develop transferable skills and then showcase in an end activity task set by the employer.

EBP South provide a fully managed **work experience programme for schools** working with 1000's of employers to provide a range of opportunities over 1 or 2 weeks. EBP South's **extended work experience** provides highly supported, 1 to 3 days a week work placements for young people on an alternative curriculum. EBP South run a series of **employer led interactions** that can be adapted to meet the needs of schools and young people and include speed networking, preparation of interviews and mock interviews.

EBP South works closely with the Portsmouth business initiative '**Shaping Portsmouth**' which is strongly promoting links between education and business. As a result of this work, Portsmouth has successfully run an annual '**Get Inspired**' event, showcasing the wide range of future employment and career opportunities to young people. The partnership has also developed a '**Guess my Job**' programme with many of the city's primary schools providing opportunities at a young age to experience the world of work and to meet employers. EBP South's other opportunities to inspire primary aged children to learn about the world of work include the **Maths Challenge Day** at the Mary Rose Museum, Future Choices Day and the **3-day STEM fair**.

Portsmouth College has been running a **volunteer work placement programme in primary schools** where students have provided support to pupils in terms of curriculum assistance and pastoral help and advice. This builds on their extensive work experience, enterprise and volunteering programme. Working in partnership the University of Portsmouth, the College plans to extend this work to develop a **Portsmouth Scholars Scheme** and roll out student to student mentoring across Year 7 to Year 13, to include University undergraduates working with Level 3 college students.

Highbury College has an established STEM education programme, working with primary and secondary schools on a range of projects. The college has a specialist centre in the heart of the city offering provision which aims to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET.

The University runs a variety of initiatives including **student ambassadors** who work directly in schools with young people. This includes for example the Reading programme, Science and Code clubs, etc.

The promotion of social action by young people will be developed further, building on the success locally of the **National Citizenship Scheme** run by Pompey in the Community (PiTC) and promoting the **#Iwill** campaign led by 'Step up to Serve'.

Key priorities:

- a) Share good practice in ways of promoting attitudes, behaviours and flexibility which will serve children best in their future lives
- b) Provide a range of cultural experiences and opportunities to develop life skills in all settings, schools and colleges

- c) Provide multiple and extended opportunities for pupils throughout their primary and secondary schooling and college life to engage with the 'world of work' through career inspiration activities (talks, visits to employers, hands on activities), real experiences of the workplace, and enterprise activities
- d) Through Shaping Portsmouth and EBP South develop a city wide work experience programme for 16 to 19 year olds and an experience of work programme for Key Stage 4 pupils
- e) Provide greater opportunities to develop employability skills through mock interviews, CV writing, social media, team work and presentation & communication skills
- f) Expand the programme of 1:1 mentoring in the city to increase the confidence and motivation of pupils and improve their awareness of the world of work
- g) Expand the volunteer work placement programme that is currently run by local colleges and the University across both primary and secondary schools
- h) Support children and young people to make a contribution to local communities through local community projects, the National Citizenship Service (NCS), #Iwill campaign and local volunteering
- i) Support projects, such as the Heartstone Odyssey project, which promote curiosity and understanding, and reduce hate crime
- j) Expand University initiatives such as ambassador schemes, where students work with young people in schools and colleges

SO2: Ensure that all children get the best possible start through effective early nurture at home and high quality early years education

Every child in Portsmouth deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

As a city we have high expectations for children at the end of their foundation stage and high expectations of **early years settings** who deliver provision across the city. All settings will be encouraged to take a strongly directive approach to ensuring that vulnerable children, in particular, experience a varied programme of activities, to give a high priority to ensuring regular one to one communication with children who need it most. Settings provide as much support and encouragement as possible to help parents nurture their children's well-being and development at home and support their learning

Portsmouth is fortunate in having a wide range of high quality early years provision. There are approximately 90 childcare providers on non-domestic premises (e.g. nurseries and pre-schools), over 100 registered childminders and 10 school nursery classes. 94% of the registered provision has been judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.

However, there are increasing demands being placed on providers to secure **sufficient childcare for working parents** and secure early years provision to meet the entitlements for 2 year olds (free of charge for some 2 year olds) and 3 and 4 year olds provision (free of charge for all up to 30 hours a week). We want to ensure that parents have the opportunity to access employment, volunteering and training as a result of the childcare provision that is available, which in turn will help to address economic disadvantage and lead to positive outcomes for children. It is therefore vital that we maintain and maximise the potential of the existing high quality early years provision and establish new high quality provision to meet future demand.

We want to ensure that the outcomes at the end of the foundation stage as measured by the **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)** improve. The latest figures for 2018 show that Portsmouth is slightly below the national average for the proportion of children achieving a good level of development (GLD) (70% compared to national average of 71%) and the same as national for average total point score 34.6 Children on FSM (57 % v 54%) and SEN Support (30% v 26%) do better in Portsmouth than nationally.

The quality of early years settings is important but equally the support of **health visitors** can have a profound impact on outcomes and we will be strengthening this support to the most vulnerable families by providing extra support at home around attachment, emotional wellbeing and communication development. This forms part of our work in terms of the implementation of the **Prevention and Early Help Strategy** ([Link](#)) to ensure the right support is provided for the right families at the right time.

Portsmouth's **Family Hubs** deliver a range of support and services for families with children aged pre-birth to 19. Services are delivered across a range of partners which include volunteers and local community organisations. Through the **'Portsmouth Together' programme** and partnership working with local voluntary organisations, we significantly step up the recruitment and support of volunteers building on the resource of dedicated volunteers that already exist across the city. Our strategy is in place with more focus on targeted support for vulnerable families. There has been a positive impact of working with volunteers and moving towards more on-line support for wider provision; this will be kept under review.

Key priorities:

- a) Provide continued challenge and support for early years settings and schools (teachers and teaching assistants) including a range of continuing professional development opportunities
- b) Maximise the potential of existing high quality early years provision and establishing new high quality provision to meet future demand
- c) Through the remodelled Health Visiting and Early Help Service provide strong parenting support for vulnerable families
- d) Increase access to high quality, evidence based on-line support for parents of young children
- e) Embed activities across the workforce which seek to improve young children's language and literacy development

- f) Recruit, train and provide supervision for more volunteers to help run activities at Family Hubs, with a focus on communication skills and emotional and social development

SO3: Raise school standards through collaboration, challenge and support

In Portsmouth, 86% (55) of inspected schools are now either Good or Outstanding and 87% (22,827) of pupils are taught in inspected schools that are Good or Outstanding (Jan 2019). This is now on par with the national average and is a dramatic improvement from the position back in 2013 when it was 68%. However, whilst Ofsted judgements continue to improve, the standard of education as measured by end of key stage attainment and progress continues well below national and that of many of our statistical neighbours.

To make the step change that is needed to improve standards and accelerate the progress of our pupils, will require a collaborative approach that is based on a future model of the majority of our schools being part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), but whereby all MATs and academies within MATs continue to work together under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) to maximise the resources available, draw on system leadership capacity across the city, and share best practice and pool expertise.

To this end, the PEP has embarked on a **collaborative programme of school improvement** led by the PEP School Improvement Board and supported by Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance that embeds shared values and builds on the historically strong relationships between the Local Authority and the education sector in Portsmouth, supplementing, without duplicating, work within MATs and Teaching Schools. The PEP is establishing clear and accountable arrangements to support sector-led school improvement and capitalise on potential economies of scale. It is providing a structure to support the transition from Local Authority to sector-led school improvement arrangements. The Local Authority will continue to deliver its statutory duties in relation to school improvement for LA maintained schools so long as they continue to exist but in the context of a move to a schools led self-improving system supported by effective system leaders and curriculum/subject networks and continuing professional development (CPD) (refer to SO5) which encourages school to school support and local and external peer review.

Teaching Schools, and in particular, Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, is taking a strong lead in the co-ordination and delivery of school improvement. This includes further expansion of the **Challenge Partners (CP) Hub** in Portsmouth which supports in-depth reviews of schools through this nationally recognised programme of peer challenge and support. Through CP, the **Challenge the Gap** programme is also being delivered providing a whole school approach to improving the academic performance of disadvantaged pupils. In 2017/18 the programme was expanded to include an additional 18 schools as a result of a successful bid to the Strategic School Improvement Fund.

The School Improvement Board has led on the development of a **PEP Performance Dashboard** underpinned by a set of data based criteria which schools can use, alongside other tools, to help assess where their strengths and areas of development might be compared to national benchmarks for academic outcomes. The dashboard is also being used to inform the prioritisation of support from the Local Authority in terms of LA Maintained schools, the delivery of which has been outsourced to the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance. Key priorities for all Portsmouth's schools include : improving outcomes for pupils on SEN support in mainstream schools; narrowing the gap between disadvantaged pupils in Portsmouth compared to non-disadvantaged national; improving outcomes for White British boys across all key stages; and realising the potential of our most able pupils.

A collaborative PEP bid secured funding from the national **Strategic School Improvement Fund** was developed by members of the School Improvement Board as part of the first round of bidding. One of the three bids submitted was successful (Challenge the Gap). Further details of this work can be found [here](#).

A bid was also successful under R2 focusing on improving the outcomes for pupils in mainstream schools who are on SEN Support. This is a focused programme through which National and local Specialist Leaders of Education (NLEs and SLEs) are with 22 schools in the city to raise standards through a bespoke package of support of training using a evidence based, quality assured, collaborative approach. Further details of this work can be found [here](#).

A **School Support Directory** is produced which gives details of local system leaders (e.g. National, Specialist and Local Leaders of Excellence (NLEs, SLEs, LLEs) and National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)). A copy of the directory and case studies giving details of the work of system leaders can be found [here](#).

The focus on improving outcomes for pupils in our schools also extends to the work of the **Virtual School** and improving outcomes for children who are looked after whether they be in Portsmouth's schools or in schools outside of the area ([Link to Action Plan](#) [Link to Annual Report](#)). The Virtual School takes a lead role in ensuring that all children who are looked after, have educational provision that meets their needs and that they receive the support they need to fulfil their potential, removing any barriers and ensuring every child has a Personal Education Plan which is reviewed at least once a term.

Portsmouth has nationally some of the best results in terms of outcomes for pupils with English as a second language (EAL). In part, this is due to the work of the Council's **Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS)** which offers both school and pupil level support, working closely with senior leaders to identify the needs of black and ethnic minority (BME) pupils and those with EAL in their schools. EMAS employs 35 Bilingual Learning Assistants (BLAs) and covering 27 languages of pupils most in need. Focusing strongly on improving outcomes for these pupils, EMAS' offers support and CPD to increase the capacity for school improvement and, through integrated work with other teams such as the Virtual School, supports the most vulnerable BME and EAL pupils in the city. Over 500 pupils are supported each week across the city in schools and nurseries.

The Local Authority is working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to oversee a **smooth and co-ordinated transition towards academisation** and will look to capitalise on the opportunity to increase the capacity for sector-led school improvement through Multi Academy Trusts and the establishment of a second and third teaching school in the City, as well as addressing long standing structural issues in terms of transition dips (infant, junior, primary, secondary and post-16) through vertical alignment wherever appropriate.

Key priorities:

- a) Work with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to develop Multi Academy Trust (MAT) arrangements in Portsmouth which are best suited to achieving rapid improvement in educational attainment in the city
- b) Work with the RSC, system leaders, Teaching Schools, schools and MATs in the city to create arrangements through which all schools experience on a regular basis both high challenge and high support that is well targeted to meet their needs
- c) Ensure that the school improvement support available to schools across the city is effectively prioritised and co-ordinated, based on a sound collective analysis of strengths and weaknesses
- d) Further development of the PEP School Support Directory as the collaborative school improvement model in the city expands
- e) Improve outcomes for underperforming cohorts of children and young people with a particular focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils, white British boys, children who are looked after and pupils on SEN Support
- f) Implement successful Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) bids and ensure they can be sustained beyond the life of the initial programme
- g) Build on existing strengths making effective use of available school performance data, information and predictions and systematically analysing data in order to identify priorities and ensure that appropriate challenge and support can be given to school leaders and governors
- h) Where necessary make effective use of the LA's and RSC's statutory powers of intervention in order to bring about a significant improvement in school performance.

SO4: Recruit, retain and grow the best teachers and leaders

The shortage of teachers is a continuing challenge for the education sector in England particularly in certain subject areas and in certain regions, including the South East and Portsmouth. The dramatic rise in pupil numbers (refer to SO10) means that more teachers are needed than ever before, but at a time when fewer graduates are entering the profession. The PEP has established a Teacher Recruitment & Retention Group to address this issue.

In the primary sector, teachers teach across each area of the curriculum so need a wide range of subject knowledge, but primary schools in Portsmouth often lack science and maths expertise. In the secondary sector there are shortages in maths,

design & technology, physics and modern foreign languages, despite the availability of government funded bursaries to support specific subject areas.

Work is already underway to **recruit more teachers**. A designated strategic lead has been appointed to drive the teacher recruitment and retention agenda forwards.

Through the redesign of the Teach Portsmouth brand and redevelopment of the Teach Portsmouth website, a new and improved focus will be in place during 2019 which focuses on the ethos of a teaching city and provides clarity on pathways into teaching. This platform will enable high profile recruitment campaigns and activities to highlight positive messages about teaching in Portsmouth and to attract prospective teachers to come to Portsmouth, either to train or as a career move. It is hoped that the marketing strategy for teacher recruitment will deliver results, and this will be tracked and evaluated.

Through the PEP, an annual recruitment fair is held in January. There is also representation at teacher recruitment events in the region. The list of events where Portsmouth can effectively have a presence is being extended, and will include a focus on attracting potential teachers from London.

The recent "outstanding" inspections of the Portsmouth SCITT and the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance ITT are examples of the high quality that is on offer here.

The University of Portsmouth is developing new routes into teaching including graduate teacher training whereby students can train to teach alongside their undergraduate studies in, for example, computing or modern foreign languages.

Whilst recruiting new teachers must be a priority, greater emphasis needs to be placed on **retaining our teachers**. One third of teachers in Portsmouth do not stay beyond the fifth year and many leave the profession altogether. There is recognition by the Government that unmanageable workloads are a key factor in teachers considering leaving the profession. Some staff do not want to take on additional responsibilities and others are requesting to work part-time. Supporting more flexible working and helping staff to maintain a work-life balance may increase retention rates. Work is underway to review how we can reduce teaching workload including the time spent on marking and planning for lessons. **Fair Workload Charters** have been adopted in a number of cities such as Nottingham, Coventry and Barnsley, and there are plans to develop one for Portsmouth.

The Teacher Recruitment and Retention Group has a working group with a specific focus on retention.

In October 2018 the PEP held the first Teach Portsmouth week. This recognised and celebrated the work of teachers and support staff in our schools and culminated in an awards ceremony which coincided with World Teachers Day. Awards were presented in seven categories. This was a highly successful event, raising the profile of Portsmouth as a teaching city. Details can be found [here](#)

Opportunities to bid for funding to support initiatives or developments which can support the teacher recruitment and retention aims are being actively sought.

Research is being undertaken with teachers in our schools at different stages in their career, and with those leaving teaching in Portsmouth, to better understand what actions would make a difference and support teacher retention.

In order to raise the status of the teaching profession and to improve retention, teachers must be entitled to high quality, relevant **continuing professional development** (refer to SO5) including a focus on subject specific knowledge and skills to allow teachers to continually develop their practice and to create future leaders.

Emphasis needs to be placed on '**growing our own**' in terms of the development of existing teachers but also the promotion of teaching as a career, raising the profile of teaching in our primary, secondary and special schools.

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) is also being reviewed. Currently ITT is undertaken either via a higher education institute led route or a school-led route. School-led routes include salaried options (School Direct or Teach First) or fee based options (School Direct or School Centred ITT). The proportion of teachers entering the profession via the school-led route has increased to 55%. The Partnership wants to build on the supply of ITT routes and reach out to other audiences including the armed forces and uniformed services.

We know also that improvements will only be achieved where there is **strong leadership and governance** in our schools. Nationally, around 10,000 heads, deputies and assistant heads are aged 55 and over and many will be retiring over the next few years. Filling headship vacancies is already a challenge in Portsmouth, particularly in the primary sector.

The city needs to develop great leaders at all levels through blended coaching, face to face training and online learning. This will need to include: aspiring leadership programmes for groups of teachers preparing for their first leadership role; middle and senior leaders ready for whole school responsibility; development of high potential senior leaders who have the talent and commitment to become headteachers within 2-3 years; and programmes for aspiring or existing Executive Headteachers and CEOs of Multi Academy Trusts.

There are a range of senior leadership programmes available in Portsmouth which are delivered through the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, University of Chichester and Ambition School Leadership. A summary of these can be found [here](#)

The role of governance is going through some changes as schools convert to academy status and the Local Authority steps away from the provision of universal support for governor services as part of a shift to a self-service model. However, priority will be given to the development and deployment of **National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)** and to strengthening the link between governance and school improvement including access to robust data and analysis. A copy of the Governance Directory can be found [here](#).

Key priorities:

- a) Continue to run the annual teacher recruitment fairs in Portsmouth in January
- b) Develop Teach Portsmouth brand and increase Teach Portsmouth brand visibility - focus on the ethos of a teaching city and revamp Teach Portsmouth website, including provide clarity on pathways into teaching
- c) Deliver a multi-faceted teacher recruitment campaign raising the profile of teaching in Portsmouth
- d) Focus on key shortage areas that require a more focussed and innovative approach (e.g. specific subject areas and senior/middle leadership), including the recruitment of overseas teachers, teacher returners and those seeking a change in their career
- e) Review how we can support teachers to manage their work-life balance, reduce teacher workload and publish a Fair Workload Charter for Portsmouth
- f) Develop high quality CPD that will encourage teachers to stay in Portsmouth and develop as future leaders (refer to SO5)
- g) Develop a package of support for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Recently Qualified Teachers (RQTs)
- h) Raise the profile of teaching in the city and promote the benefits of taking up a career in teaching, with an emphasis on 'growing our own'. This will include an annual Teach Portsmouth Week - a dedicated week that celebrates teaching in the city and the opportunities it can bring and a Teach Portsmouth awards ceremony
- i) Improve the co-ordination/coherence and impact of ITT in Portsmouth and seek to increase the supply of places at Portsmouth's schools for ITT
- j) Working with the Teaching Schools and MATs develop great leaders at all levels from aspiring leadership programmes to prepare teachers for their first leadership role to programmes for aspiring or existing Executive Headteachers and CEOs of MATs working across several schools
- k) Identify and bid for funding opportunities to support time-limited initiatives related to teacher recruitment and retention which have a lasting positive impact in Portsmouth.
- l) Facilitate access to high quality sources of governance support for schools, academies and MATs, including local business leaders and NLGs delivering targeted work to improve governance arrangements in schools.

SO5: Strengthen the curriculum across all key stages through a sustained investment in continuous professional development

There have been significant changes to curriculum and assessment in primary and secondary education alongside new accountability measures; all of which have been implemented at a bewildering pace, not to mention the changes in post-16 education and the proposed shift to academic and technical options and a continued rise in apprenticeships (refer to SO9).

This level of change requires schools to make a huge and sustained investment in teacher development particularly as it can take four or five years for teachers to fully embed curriculum change in the classroom. Support is required for teachers at all stages of their career from NQT (newly qualified teachers) to leadership positions.

This needs to extend to Teaching Assistants and Governors / Trustees. An investment in continuous professional development also encourages teachers to remain with schools and become part of a pipeline of future senior leaders (refer to SO4). Collective planning of CPD (continuing professional development) opportunities led by Teaching Schools and Multi Academy Trusts working under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) will support collective curriculum planning, reduce the need for staff to travel out of the city for CPD and maximise the resources that are available.

The PEP identified **English, Maths, Science and Modern Foreign Languages** as key priorities for 2016/17 and networks for subject leads have been established for all these areas.

Led by the Solent Maths Hub there has been a significant investment and focus on **maths** CPD in Portsmouth in 2016/17 including work in Early Years, SEND, Primary, Secondary and Post-16 (Level 2 and Level 3). The number of **maths SLEs** has been increased providing support across our schools, particularly with respect to primary schools due to the number of inexperienced maths teachers that exist. A Lead Teachers Group in Primary involving 18 teachers from Portsmouth's schools will create a number of 'lead experts' who can be deployed to improve subject knowledge.

Two maths work groups have been established for **Early Years** led by an experienced practitioner and there are opportunities for staff to complete the NCETM Professional Development Lead Support Programme - Early Years.

3 schools in Portsmouth have an NCETM trained Primary Mastery Specialist teacher. These teachers have been trained in the 5 principles of teaching for mastery and are working with other schools in the local area to develop and embed these. The teaching for mastery programme has extended in to Secondary schools with 2 teachers in Portsmouth trained by the NCETM as Secondary Mastery Specialist teachers. These teachers are also working with other schools across the region.

A mastery readiness programme is being run by the Solent Maths Hub supporting 7 schools who have been identified by the LA as needing extra support to improve attainment and progress at KS1 and/or KS2.

For **post-16** one of the most challenging issues in maths is at level 2 and the issue around GCSE retakes. Two work groups have been established focusing on Developing Reasoning and the NCETM PD Lead programme for FE.

Led by the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, there has been a strong focus on **English**. The **Portsmouth English Network (PEN)** is gathering pace from its inception in October 2016 and plans are now being implemented to provide a range of training and network opportunities for English leads and teachers across the City. Additional SLEs from Primary and Secondary settings have been appointed to work with existing SLEs in the city on developing our English provision. . The PEN networks run separately for Primary and Secondary English leads and are now developing CPD such as spelling and EAL strategies as well as running projects across the city such as the GCSE English lecture series at the University of

Portsmouth. The TSA has also brokered support through the regional English Hub in Southampton, with several schools taking part in funded phonics and early reading CPD.

A Primary **Modern Foreign Languages Hub** has been established by the University of Portsmouth with expertise from Cottage Grove Primary School. Secondary CPD is also being made available through the University and language upskilling is available through TSST (teacher subject specialist training) which is being run by the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance in conjunction with the University of Southampton.

The **Science Hub**, working in alliance with PASTA, is established, building on the successful STEM project led by a science SLE from Castle View Academy, The University Technical College, which opened in September 2017, has the potential to stimulate and strengthen **science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)** education across the city. The UTC is also the location for a **Lego Innovation Studio** which opened its doors to all schools from January 2018. A **Primary Engineers Programme** is running in 2017/18 working with 20 schools across the city.

The TSA has established further subject networks including Arts and More Able develop these specific areas in schools and there is a thriving Women Leading in Education regional Hub running out from Portsmouth TSA.

As well as the statutory training for external moderators to support **KS1 and KS2 assessment and moderation** in the city, a range of CPD opportunities are available and can be found on the PEP calendar.

<http://www.portsmoutheducationpartnership.co.uk/pep-calendar-of-training-and-events/>

The city already has a very successful **NQT programme** with over 100 NQTs in the city having regular training sessions. 97% of NQTs in 2017/18 successfully completed the NQT induction period. In addition there are a series of well-attended twilight workshops specifically targeting **recently qualified teachers (RQTs)** who also enjoy the networking opportunities.

Through the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance support is being provided to Teaching Assistants through the **Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants programme (MITA)**, a national programme which is supported by the Education Endowment Foundation. . The TSA runs a TA skills programme which builds on an supports this work.

The SSIF-funded SEND in Mainstream project has now completed and has been extremely successful. Year 2 of the programme is currently being finalised and we are awaiting the outcome of a bid to scale up the programme through an EEF investment. The SSIF-funded Challenge the Gap programme is also coming to a close and schools are now working with the TSA to develop a Year 2 programme of support.

Finally, a partnership is being developed with the British Council and other partners to harness the benefits of **Global Learning** across Portsmouth's schools. Engaging in international activities within the curriculum can motivate pupils by helping children and young people of all ages to develop an appreciation of cultural diversity, reinforcing the value of learning a language and allowing learners to enjoy a better understanding of the world. Admiral Lord Nelson School will be taking a lead role (Global Learning Expert Centre) in driving forward this city wide approach.

Key priorities:

- CPD in the city will focus on identified needs including:
 - Support for teachers of pupils with SEND in mainstream schools through PSENSP
 - Support to close gaps for key groups of pupils including disadvantaged, white British boys, most able pupils
 - Support for transition, particularly KS1-2 and KS2-3, and particularly in terms of maths and literacy
- Continue to develop a wide range of CPD to reduce gaps in performance of key groups e.g. Challenge the Gap programme
- Develop further the collaborative network meetings and CPD for English, maths and MFL leads
- Expand the CPD programme for English specialists for all phases, especially focusing on KS1-2 and KS2-3; and support with the new GCSEs
- Expand the CPD programme for maths specialists for all phases, especially focusing on: teaching for mastery in primary and secondary; deepening understanding in primary maths; pedagogical and subject knowledge; and mathematical reasoning at KS3; support with the new GCSE; and extensive professional development in Early Years
- Extend the subject networks to include other areas, including humanities and arts
- Expand the support for Teacher Assistants through the MITA programme
- Work with the data team to offer training for governors in data analysis and SEF preparation
- Develop a city-wide partnership with the British Council and other partners to harness the benefits of global learning across Portsmouth's settings, schools and colleges.

SO6: Promote emotional health, wellbeing and resilience in education

Meeting the emotional and wellbeing needs of children and young people is crucial, not least in order for them to be able to learn effectively. We believe that wellbeing, both for children and young people, and for our teachers and leaders, needs to be at the heart of all that schools and other education settings do.

Improving the mental health of our children and young people is a priority nationally and locally. The national "Future in Mind" report in 2014 highlighted the need for a fundamental shift in culture to focus on the prevention of mental ill health, early intervention and recovery. In Future in Mind the government set out its vision to

promote, protect and improve our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

A review of recent evidence into children and young people's mental health, *Missed Opportunities*, highlighted a gap between children's needs and their access to help and support. There is also good evidence that a very real difference can be made to the life chances of children by intervention at the very first sign of symptoms. Promoting wellbeing and building resilience have unequivocal benefits to the long term outcomes for children and young people; this gives universal settings a moral duty to make this a priority. Schools are also judged by Ofsted on how effectively they provide for the personal development, behaviour and welfare of their pupils.

Our local transformation plan outlines how we will deliver the Future in Mind outcomes in our City. The way that local services are delivered is being reviewed and additional funding has been secured to transform service provision. As part of this key partners have been working on a whole school approach to promoting good mental health. ***A Strategy for Improving Wellbeing and Resilience in Education*** ([Link](#)) has been published, building on the strong work already being done in many schools and colleges across the city. The implementation of the strategy is a key element of the Portsmouth Education Strategy and will be led and overseen by the PEP Inclusion Group. The key strands in the strategy are as follows:

- **Whole school approach** - developing a culture of positive emotional health and wellbeing which is owned by the school community recognising that everyone in an education setting has a role in supporting wellbeing. This includes the development of a joined up approach within schools and across schools to ensure opportunities are not missed, duplication is avoided and information can be shared.
- **Restorative schools** - building on an existing strategy led by the Multi Agency Teams to adopt a Restorative Practice model of working based on strong evidence that restorative practice in schools can make a real impact on behaviour, attendance and bullying. A number of schools in Portsmouth are acting as trailblazers for this approach.
- **Anti-bullying** - bullying remains one of the top concerns that parents have about their children's safety and wellbeing; preventing and tackling bullying is fundamental to promoting wellbeing. ***Portsmouth's Anti-Bullying Guidance and Resource Pack*** ([Link](#)) provides a comprehensive range of information, resources and contacts to help schools develop effective anti-bullying practices.
- **Building resilience and reducing stigma** - misconceptions about mental health and the fear of stigma prevent many young people from seeking help early. The strategy reinforces the need for a shared language and culture around mental health; and the delivery of high quality PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) across all schools.
- **Staff training and supervision** - in order for staff to effectively support pupils in their learning and development, they need to feel they are themselves supported and are given training to support emotional health and wellbeing, planned as part of a whole school approach.
- **Self-help and peer support** - good access to effective self-help strategies and resources can help to promote wellbeing, prevent mental ill health and provide early support. The strategy highlights the importance of online resources and

friends which young people will often turn to first. Many schools offer structured peer support providing training and high quality supervision to enable young people to support one another and let adults know when they have concerns about a peer.

- **Working with parents** - parents regularly turn to schools as a source of advice and information when they are worried about their children. In addition to the support that a school might provide, signposting parents to reliable sources of information can support self-help, early identification and intervention.
- **Additional and specialist support** - most schools in Portsmouth have trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) who provide additional support for pupils. Many ELSAs work with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) to providing ongoing support in schools following or pending a CAMHS referral. Schools have identified a gap between what an ELSA can routinely offer and the threshold for CAMHS intervention. The priorities below will aim to narrow this gap and the new Wellbeing Service, U Matter, will provide an additional layer of support in secondary schools and colleges.

Meeting the emotional needs of children and young people is the shared responsibility of families, schools and a range of key partners. The role of parents and carers, in particular, is of course central. Portsmouth settings and schools value highly their partnership with parents and carers and there is excellent work by schools in the city to support families which are struggling to support their children effectively. The PEP and the Children's Trust recognise that this work by schools is essential in order to remove barriers to achievement for children and young people, as well as to safeguard them and promote their health and wellbeing. Support and guidance for schools in this work, including peer supervision for pastoral staff, is available through the three Multi Agency Teams operating in the city. Multi Agency Team members also work directly with some young people individually and with families, either as targeted "early help" or within the statutory child protection framework. The Children's Trust Prevention and Early Help strategy ([Link](#)) sets out the approach taken to supporting families in the city.

The Strategy for Improving Wellbeing and Resilience in Education highlights the fact that in many schools and settings a lot of good practice is already in place. An increased level of awareness of the resources available and a co-ordinated approach across the city will enable other schools and post-16 providers to rapidly build on and develop their own practice to improve outcomes for children and young people. The priorities set out below reflect this ambition.

Key priorities:

- a) Improve access to specialist services including direct work with young people and advice and consultation for professionals
- b) Provide a central source of up-to-date information for professionals working in education and better information and advice for young people and parents and carers
- c) Improve the communication between different agencies and schools, between schools and within school communities

- d) Make training available and accessible to schools and post-16 providers including basic awareness training for all staff and targeted training for pastoral and case holding staff
- e) Develop curriculum approaches including PSHE to develop wellbeing and promote resilience
- f) Promote self-help and peer support for children, young people and parents and carers
- g) Ensure the contribution of all Children's Trust partner agencies to promoting emotional wellbeing and school attendance is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis

SO7: Collectively working together to ensure pupils regularly attend school so they can realise their potential

In recent years the city has seen improvements in school attendance rates, achieved through hard work by schools, parents, communities and partner agencies. A **School Attendance Strategy** is already in place, this will be refreshed but retain the same key strands ([Link](#)). The implementation of the strategy is monitored by the work of the Behaviour and Attendance Group (BAG) which now sits under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP).

However, the fact is that Portsmouth's pupils do not attend school as regularly as their peers nationally and there is therefore still considerably more work to do. In 2016/17 there were 23603 pupils (12.8% compared to a national average of 10.8%) who were persistently absent (below 90%) and 305¹ (1.29%) who were chronic absentees (i.e. are absent more than 50% of the possible sessions).

By not attending school regularly children and young people are leaving themselves vulnerable to risks which can reduce their life chances. For example those who do not attend school regularly are more likely to leave school without any qualifications and will leave themselves at risk of other poor outcomes including poverty, long term unemployment, criminal involvement, alcohol and substance misuse and social isolation and mental health problems. Furthermore, poor attendance affects the ability of schools to set high standards and an appropriate pace of work for other pupils.

The cumulative impact of absence on attainment can be stark. For example, by being away for a two week holiday every year and having an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time a child leaves school at 16, they will have missed a year of school. If a child is 15 minutes late each day, that will mean they lose just over 10 teaching days in a year.

For those children and young people who are the most vulnerable, regular attendance at school can be a challenge, yet school may be the only safe and consistent part of their lives. Away from the safety and security of school, young

¹ Using DfE's statistical first release methodology. 2017/18 data will be available in this way in March. Census indication is that this figure is 374 for 2017/18

people are more at risk of abuse and exploitation, taking part in criminal activity and missing out on support for special educational needs and mental health problems.

Ultimately parents and carers are responsible for making sure children attend school regularly, but schools clearly have a responsibility to motivate and support pupils so that they do not miss out on education. Those responsibilities extend to other partner agencies in the city who are working to support families and who take very seriously the need to ensure that children and young people engage fully in education and training. In this regard it is important that schools know how to access support from the three Multi Agency Teams in the city, particularly with respect to pupils who have chronic non-attendance where a plan should be in place to help them return to school.

Close working with Health partners will also be important. 45% of all absences from Portsmouth schools in 2017/18² were due to health related issues, by far the largest single reason for absence. Work has started on the development of school nurse traded service for schools with a focus on reducing school absence due to health related issues.

The medical needs of children and young people, including those with a chronic medical condition must be met and reasonable adjustments should be made where necessary to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

The **Virtual School** has introduced **Welfare Call** in order to improve attendance of children who are looked after. Welfare Call provides a comprehensive attendance reporting system via daily communications between schools and the Virtual School ensuring that issues can be addressed quickly.

Ensuring good attendance at school is a key priority, against which the work of all agencies will be assessed, and all agencies undertake to support parents to ensure that children's learning is given top priority so that their life chances can be maximised.

A high profile attendance campaign was launched in October. Further details of this and the resources available to schools can be found [here](#).

Key priorities:

- a) Support parents so they can meet their responsibilities to ensure their child(ren) attend school regularly
- b) Work with schools to ensure there is effective management of school attendance in place as part of a whole school approach in which sustained improvements can be made
- c) Ensure all key partners are involved in identifying children who are at risk of becoming persistently absent at the earliest possible stage, and putting in place effective approaches, assessments and plans for pupils
- d) Develop a new approach to reducing health related absence, through a school nurse service for schools

² Census data used ahead of DfE's release in March

- e) Maintain the high profile of key attendance messages in the community that encourage pupils to regularly attend and do well at school; and help parents to understand the impact that being absent from school has on the life chances of their children and when their child should be well enough to return to school after an illness
- f) Ensure that a model of high challenge, high support is embedded in this area of work with a consistent framework being used in conjunction with restorative practice

SO8: Meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities

The Children and Families Act 2004 introduced significant changes to the way services are provided for children and young people with special education needs and / or disabilities (SEND) and their families. This included:

- Joint commissioning of services across education, health and social care
- Publication of a 'local offer' of services available
- Implementation of a new multi-agency co-ordinated statutory needs assessment process to identify the education, health and social care needs of children and young people with the most complex special educational needs and disabilities to be set out in a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- A new duty on health to deliver the health element of the plan
- And for those who have an EHCP to have the option to request a personal budget.

In Portsmouth, partners are working hard to successfully **implement the reforms in compliance with the new SEN Code of Practice**; this includes planning for a complete transfer from the current system to the new system by April 2018.

Alongside the introduction of the new system there are **existing pressures on SEN provision** including demand for school places to meet some areas of need (refer to S10), as well as the pressures on the budget that is available to resource provision through the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

A detailed city wide **SEND strategy** ([Link](#)) is in place and has been agreed by the Portsmouth Children's Trust Board and Health and Wellbeing Board. The strategy seeks to implement the reforms, promote inclusion and improve the outcomes for Portsmouth children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND and support their families. Effective implementation of this strategy, including a strong partnership with parents and carers, is a priority for all agencies. There are six strands to the strategy:

1. Promote good inclusive practice across all education settings to improve outcomes
2. Successful implementation of the SEND reforms
3. Effective joint commissioning to improve outcomes
4. Co-production, embedded as a way of working with children, young people and their parents and carers

5. Early identification and early support for children with SEND and their families
6. Effective preparation for adulthood and smooth transitions to adult services

The Portsmouth Education Strategy will be focussing on the first strand of the SEND strategy '**promoting good inclusive practice**' within universal services for 0-25s, including schools, colleges and early years settings, and will be overseen by the PEP's **Inclusion Group**.

Portsmouth currently has a higher proportion of children with an EHCP (3.1% compared to the national average of 2.8%), although the proportion of children receiving SEN support is in line with the national average. Added to this, the following is increasing:

- Requests for statutory assessment
- Requests for element 3 funding as a result of annual reviews and assessments
- Requests to place pupils in specialist provision
- First tier tribunals as a result of managing the above pressures
- Pupils being placed in independent special schools outside of Portsmouth.

The most common primary area of need in primary schools is communication and interaction difficulties (including speech, language and communication needs and Autism). In secondary schools, the most common primary area of need is social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

Portsmouth mainstream schools are now better resourced to deliver inclusive practice and make provision for SEND. Underpinning pedagogical approaches such as quality first teaching and the waves of SEN interventions are now well embedded and since 2009 all SENCOs have been required to achieve accreditation at MA level and be recognised as senior leaders within their schools. Portsmouth's SEN funding formula makes resources available to schools in order to make up to the first £6,000 of additional and different provision, the Local Authority commissions specialist teaching advice and support for training to mainstream schools.

Pupils with SEN achieve better outcomes, in general, when educated in mainstream. The converse is only true for pupils who require highly specialist provision because they have such significant or complex needs. However, more than half of Portsmouth's pupils with statements or EHCPs are educated in special schools or specialist inclusion centres attached to mainstream schools, which is more than the national average.

Improving the educational attainment of pupils in mainstream schools who are on SEN Support has been identified as a school improvement priority across the partnership as these pupils currently significantly underperform in KS2 and KS4 compared to national.

We will work with commissioners to promote inclusive practice and ensure that the eligibility criteria for services promotes inclusion. We will work with all partners to ensure that all services contribute to the shared outcomes of increased school attendance and reduced fixed period exclusions from school for children with SEND, by ensuring that there are clear pathways in place to resolve issues of managing

inclusion particularly in relation to social emotional and mental health difficulties, alongside the Future in Mind work that is progressing (refer to SO6).

We will build capacity within universal services through the provision of outreach, support and workforce development to increase the confidence and competence of practitioners in meeting the needs of children with SEND. We will celebrate and further promote good inclusive practice in the city through the annual Portsmouth Inclusion Conference.

A SEND Strategic Review was completed in and includes 40 recommendations, these are being taken forward as part of the SEND Strategy.

In line with the national picture there is increasing pressure on the high needs funding block. A review of high needs funding has taken place in consultation with schools with the recommendations presented to schools' forum.

We have successful bid for to the Innovation Fund for Alternative Provision, one of only six areas in the country to be successful. All of our secondary schools have backed this project which aims to successfully reintegrate pupils into mainstream education.

Key priorities:

- a) Develop a shared ethos of inclusion across the city and promote and celebrate good inclusive practice
- b) Effective delivery on a consistent basis of the agreed "ordinarily available provision" within mainstream schools for children and young people with SEND and extend this work to cover pre-school, post-16 and health
- c) Improve outcomes for pupils in mainstream schools on SEN support (refer to SO3) and develop a shared understanding of how the PEP will judge good progress for pupils with SEND
- d) Develop an offer of workforce development and support to promote good inclusive practice across all education settings and build confidence, competence and capacity
- e) Remodel local special school provision in order to meet the needs of the most complex cohorts of SEND (refer to SO10)
- f) Effective partnership based commissioning of Alternative Provision, consistent with the agreed pathway for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs
- g) Ensure strong communication and partnership working at all times between schools and parents of children and young people with SEND, strengthening the capacity of families, as well as schools, to meet their children's needs.

SO9: Ensure young people have the best possible opportunities for post-16 education and higher education, including apprenticeships

Like schools, the post-16 education landscape has been undergoing significant change. Post-16 students will in future have to choose between an 'academic option' comprising A Levels leading to an undergraduate degree and the new technical option (T-levels) leading to higher technical education programmes, degree apprenticeships or higher apprenticeships.

Reforms have already taken place to A-Levels including the decoupling of AS and A Level qualifications, a reduction in coursework and a ratification process to ensure all A Levels are deemed to be key subjects to ensure academic rigour. Post-16 providers are currently in the process of developing T-Levels which is the next major part of the reforms

Following the completion of the The Solent Area Based Review of post-16 education there continues to be changes within the sector. Havant and South Downs Colleges have now merged to form Havant and South Down College and are in the process of extending this to Alton College. Whilst there are no current mergers within Portsmouth it is a feature of further education in the Solent.

For post-16 students in Portsmouth, the majority of the provision is provided by FE Colleges including Portsmouth, Highbury, and Havant and South Downs, together with a mix of private training providers offering a range of vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

UTC Portsmouth opened in September 2017 and offers a range of exciting opportunities for young people aged 14-18 interested in pursuing a STEM based curriculum and a future career in engineering and advanced manufacturing. The post-16 sector in Portsmouth is currently facing a number of challenges not least in terms of funding and competition for students due to the fact that we are at the end of a 16-19 demographic trough.

The main challenge, however, is one of achievement and improving the outcomes of young people when they leave post-16 education. Portsmouth is ranked in the bottom 25% of all Local Authority areas for achievement by the age of 19.

A **Post-16 Forum** exists across the Portsmouth travel-to-learn area and this will continue to operate providing an essential forum for post-16 providers, representatives from secondary schools, Solent LEP, University of Portsmouth, EBP South and UTC Portsmouth. The Forum has been instrumental in addressing the previously high proportions of young people not in education, training and employment (NEET) through the successful **Youth NEET Prevention Programme** underpinned by improved data sharing, tracking of young people and targeted **careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)**. The requirement of the Local Authority to support and track 16 and 17 year olds and to deliver the September Guarantee will continue. For young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan this extends to their 25th birthday. The Post-16 Participation Strategy will be updated to continue to support this work.

The Forum regularly **maps the curriculum** across the travel to learn area and seeks to address any weaknesses in the post-16 offer. This has led to **additional level 1 provision** for young people with SEND, including Highbury College's Arundel Centre

for SEMH, Portsmouth College's provision for SLD and PD and the increase in supported internships. Current work focuses on the need to increase the availability of roll-on roll-off provision for young people who are NEET.

The Forum has overseen the development of an **Apprenticeship Strategy for Portsmouth** ([Link](#)). The reforms to Apprenticeships and the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy from April 2017 is having a major impact on the status and availability of apprenticeships which are now available from Level 2 to Level 7 and a new funding system made up of 15 bands ranging from £1,500 to £27,000.

The Southern Universities Network has been a significant opportunity for Portsmouth to support the delivery of a **National Collaborative Outreach Programme** which aims to increase the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds entering higher education. A joint local authority approach with Southampton under the banner of **City Ambitions** has allowed for a range of activities including the delivery of school and post-16 events, careers programmes and CPD for teachers and careers advisers. The work with the Southern Universities Network is due to continue until July 2021. This builds on the programme of work the University of Portsmouth already offers primary and secondary schools through its outreach programme.

The University of Portsmouth works closely with both primary and secondary schools, and with FE colleges across the city to raise aspiration to higher education, break down perceived barriers to university and help students understand the range of courses and pathways available to them. Parental engagement is also a priority.

Key priorities:

- a) Implementation of the Post-16 Participation Strategy that supports participation, progression and achievement for young people aged 16-18 and up to 25 for SEND and Looked After Children
- b) Continue to track the destination of all 16-18 year olds and up to 25 for SEND with a focus on reducing even further the number of young people who are NEET or destination unknown, underpinned by high quality data collection and analysis
- c) Provide effective support and challenge and improved collaborative working across 14-19 provision
- d) Promote participation of all 16-19 year olds in education or training through high quality careers education, information, advice and guidance
- e) Support schools to meet the requirements of the Careers Strategy and achievement of the GATSBY benchmarks.
- f) Work with the Solent LEP and other partners to support the development of the Careers Hub.
- g) Secure sufficient and suitable provision for all 16-19 year olds and up to 25 for those with SEND
- h) Work to improve employment outcomes for young people with SEND.
- i) Work with Hampshire County Council and other partners to deliver the ESF funded STEP programme that supports those young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET to re-engage with education, employment and training.

- j) Widen access to and participation in higher level study including higher education and degree apprenticeships
- k) Implement the Portsmouth Apprenticeship Strategy and realise the opportunities from the Apprenticeship Levy
- l) Improve and enhance the effectiveness of targeted support, engagement programmes and employment, education and training (EET) opportunities for young people who are at risk of becoming NEET or who are NEET
- m) Work proactively with the University of Portsmouth to raise students' aspirations to Higher education and enable students to understand the range of options available to them.
- n) Work with the Southern Universities Network to support the delivery of the National Collaborative Outreach Programmes to increase the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds entering higher education.

SO10: Invest in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children

Significant investment continues to be needed in Portsmouth to address the demand for school places and a legacy of condition and suitability issues associated with an ageing accommodation stock. But any investment in school buildings must be able to relate to, and anticipate, the changing future pedagogy, curriculum and learning expectations. School buildings do not exist in a vacuum. The way that teachers are developed professionally, the school curriculum, assessment and testing systems, parental engagement, all intermesh with the design of schools. There is a body of research that confirms that buildings support behaviour, which in turn supports teachers. Lighting, acoustics, circulation, individuality and colour can all affect pupils' progress.

The **condition** of many of our schools remains a concern. The Local Authority will continue to use capital maintenance funding to address the most urgent condition works in LA maintained schools and academies will do the same either through their allocation from the DfE, depending on the size of the Trust, or through a direct bid to the Education and Skills Funding Agency for capital funding through the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). Major rebuilds under the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) Round 2 scheme at Mayfield School, Beacon View Primary Academy and Arundel Court School will all be completed over the next few years. The PSBP Round 1 rebuild of King Richard School was completed in October 2017.

The unprecedented increase in **demand for school places** in Portsmouth has been fuelled by rising birth rates (increase of 27% since 2001), inward migration, reductions in the number of children accessing education outside of Portsmouth or accessing independent education; and the impact of regeneration schemes and housing developments.

In order to meet the demand for school places and ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duty of providing every resident child with a school place within a two mile radius of their home, an additional 1,600 **primary school places** have been created

in Portsmouth since 2012 through two phases of primary expansion. This has been achieved by working with both LA maintained schools and academies, expanding existing primary schools and establishing an all through 4-16 school at Mayfield School. Despite this investment, a surplus of just 2% at Year R and Year 3 entry points has been achieved. Whilst the birth rate has now stabilised, the pressure on primary places continues to be a challenge due to the limited surplus that is available in some areas of the city.

Detailed analysis and forecasting has confirmed that the number of pupils requiring primary school places will exceed capacity by the academic year 2023/24. Longer term forecasts (national and local) indicate that having an additional 1 to 2 forms of entry capacity in the city would ensure sufficient capacity in Year R for the foreseeable future. Pressure in Year 3 is forecast from 2025.

Pressure on capacity is driven by potential housing developments and the schemes should be closely monitored to assess whether progress is delayed or the scheme has failed to proceed.

Potential primary school expansion solutions have been identified in discussions with the relevant schools. Each solution could provide additional primary school places to meet basic need school place pressures.

Feasibility studies will be carried out to clarify what an expansion project would entail and to allow accurate assessment of potential costs.

The Primary School Place Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis, alongside the annual pupil forecasting return to the DfE and refreshed pupil forecasts.

In the Secondary School Place Strategy – September 2017 – 2023, detailed analysis and forecasting confirmed that the Council would not be able to meet its statutory duty by September 2020, as the number of students requiring secondary school places will exceed available capacity. Remedial action was required to ensure that additional secondary school places are available by September 2020.

Four capital building projects were identified which could address the projected deficit in secondary school places. It should be noted that there is a long lead-in time for school expansion projects due to the time required for capital building works.

Four projects are progressing, with implementation scheduled for September 2020. The projects have been presented in alphabetical order.

- Admiral Lord Nelson School – increase capacity by 250 places
- Charter Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- Portsmouth Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- Trafalgar – increase capacity by 60 places (Y7, Y8, Y9 only)

The forecasts have been refreshed in July 2018. This confirms that the number of pupils requiring secondary school places will exceed capacity by the academic year

2023/24. Longer term forecasts (national and local) indicate that pressure on secondary school places will continue for the foreseeable future.

Pressure on capacity is partly driven by potential housing developments and the schemes should be closely monitored to assess whether progress is delayed or the scheme has failed to proceed.

Taking account of the long term forecasts up to 2034, a new secondary school is not recommended. The additional numbers of pupils are not sufficient to enable a new secondary school to be financially viable.

Secondary school expansion solutions will be identified in discussions with the relevant schools. Each solution could provide additional secondary school places to meet basic need school place pressures and would require a capital build project.

The Secondary School Place Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis, alongside the annual pupil forecasting return to the DfE and the refreshed pupil forecasts.

Schools, the Local Authority, Health and Social Care Services are working closely to support the delivery of the SEN reforms which will enable schools and colleges to better deliver inclusive practice (refer to SO8). Taking into account the forecast rise in pupil numbers, we are committed to maintaining the current capacity of **special school places** but remodelling the schools to take on more complex needs (prioritising Cliffdale Primary and Redwood Park Academies) and supporting the growth of more inclusive practice in mainstream schools.

The Council is working with Redwood Park Academy and Cliffdale Primary Academy (Solent Academies Trust) to ensure that the two schools can take more complex cohorts of pupils whilst at the same time the Council works with mainstream schools to develop a more inclusive mainstream education. A smaller project is also underway at the Willows Centre for Children. These projects require remodelling of the accommodation.

A new school building for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs opened in October 2018, at the former Vanguard Centre in Sundridge Close, Cosham. The Harbour School educates children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Refurbishment of the former Vanguard Centre will provide appropriate, specialist accommodation for a wide range of vocational subjects and will be specifically tailored to meet the needs of Key Stage 4 pupils. This can have a positive effect in preparing the pupils for further education and employment.

The scheme will provide vocational teaching spaces for the following subjects: Mechanics; Hair & Beauty; Catering; Construction; Animal Care, and general teaching spaces for English, maths, art etc.

The Council has also made a successful bid for government funding to build a new special free school on the site of the former Wymering Community Centre. The new special school academy will help meet the needs of our growing school population and specifically cater for children with autism/social communication difficulties and

associated challenging behaviour and sensory needs. These children need more specialist support and interventions than mainstream schools provide and there is a need for this type of specialist provision in the city. Scheduled to open in September 2021, it will offer 40 places; 8 places for junior school aged pupils and 32 places for secondary pupils.

Specialist resourced provision places within mainstream schools (both primary and secondary) has been a priority and provision is now in place for: autism; communication and interaction needs; speech, language and communication difficulties; and sensory impairment. These bases provide specialist support for pupils with specific special needs. Pupils entering this type of provision are integrated into every aspect of mainstream school life, but will spend a proportion of the school week receiving specialist teaching in the resource base. The number of places in Inclusion Centres is being revisited following the SEND strategic review.

In the **post-16 sector** the local FE colleges provide a broad range of provision for SEND. Recent developments to increase this provision and address local needs have included Highbury College's Arundel Centre for SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) and Portsmouth College's new centre for learners with severe learning difficulties and physical difficulties.

Key priorities:

- a) Work with LA maintained schools and Multi Academy Trusts, ensure there are sufficient primary & secondary school places in Portsmouth in order to achieve a minimum surplus of 2%, through a strategy of expansion of existing schools
- b) Secure capital funding to address sufficiency, condition and suitability issues through the allocation of basic need funding for the DfE, ESFA Priority School Building Programmes and Free School applications where appropriate
- c) Review the sufficiency of special school places in special and mainstream schools and develop a strategic SEND accommodation masterplan for the city. Complete the remodelling of Cliffdale Primary & Redwood Park Academies and the Willows Centre for Children.
- d) Take forward the development of a Special Free School for children with autism or social communication needs, with associated challenging behaviour and/or sensory integration difficulties, but who do not necessarily have significant learning needs
- e) Pro-actively bid for other opportunities to gain investment in SEND provision.