

DIRECTORS' REPORT AUTUMN 2018	ITEM NO 2	FOR INFORMATION	ATTENTION OF: All governors
TITLE	Ealing Learning Partnership (ELP) update July 2018		
SUMMARY	A progress report on the establishment of ELP and its priorities for the next two years. Further updates on www.egfl.org.uk/ELP		
KEY ACTION POINTS	For discussion at autumn governing body (GB) meetings		
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Ealing Learning Partnership “No Learner Left Behind: No School Left Behind”

Background

Ealing Learning Partnership (ELP) is a partnership between schools and the council to promote educational excellence and well-being for all learners through collaboration and innovation. Driving greater collective responsibility for outcomes through new structures will make the best use of expertise across the sector and the best use of resources for the benefit of Ealing's children and young people.

The following statements of intent capture the ethos of the partnership:

- High challenge: Low threat – promoting growth and innovation
- Responsive to the needs of schools so they can make the greatest difference to children and young people
- Working together to ensure value for money across all services for children and young people.

The Ealing Learning Partnership was formally agreed in February 2018 following the subscription investment of 86 out of 90 Ealing schools for one year. This matches a one-year contribution by the council for 2018-2019. Preparatory work and consultation with stakeholders began in September 2016 and concluded September 2017 with the establishment of an interim governance structure; Ealing Learning Partnership board.

The Interim ELP board successfully achieved its remit in establishing the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the partnership with schools. Its vision for sustainability is captured in the five aims:

- **Community of schools:** from collaboration to shared responsibility
- **Successful schools:** great outcomes for young people – choice for residents
- **Strong partnerships:** better use of collective resources especially for our most vulnerable children
- **Creative solutions:** reduce risk of financial vulnerability
- **Recruitment and retention:** an attractive place to work - opportunities and support.

In addition to playing its central role of **improving educational outcomes** for all our learners and securing high quality educational provision and pathways to adulthood and employment, ELP also contributes directly to the **council's transformation goals** to make a significance difference for children and young people's lives:

- A growing economy creates jobs and opportunities for residents
- Children and young people fulfil their potential
- Children and young people grow up safe from harm
- Residents are physically and mentally healthy
- Crime is down and residents feel safe
- Ealing is a strong community that promotes diversity and equality.

What has been achieved so far?

The Interim ELP board, working with schools and council teams, has achieved significant momentum and established the architecture and professional will to deliver on its core aims.

ELP committees 2018 - 2021

Six committees have now been established to cement new ways of working between the council and partnership schools to deliver on six areas and overarching objectives:

- 1. Learning and achievement**
Securing consistently high standards of teaching and learning to achieve outcomes amongst the best in London through skilful and sustainable collaboration.
- 2. SEND and inclusion**
Improving educational attainment and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people including those with special educational needs and disability (SEND).
- 3. Financial sustainability – schools**
Supporting schools to spend well for less – efficiency through creative solutions.
- 4. Safeguarding and wellbeing**
Anticipating and responding intelligently to safeguarding needs through strong collaboration between schools and services.
- 5. Progression pathways and employment**
Ensuring that every young person is on a pathway to sustainable employment.
- 6. Business growth and communications**
A visible, agile partnership that attracts investment and talent through its core purpose and success.

From September 2018, each committee will comprise council officers working alongside education leaders to give shape to the activities driving ELP ambitions and priorities for children and young people. Committee membership and draft priorities can be found at www.eqfl.org.uk/ELP although several new developments including the formation of ELP primary school clusters; peer review and learning communities are already underway. Details of these developments can be found on www.eqfl.org.uk/ELP

The ELP strategic plan for 2018 – 2021 will be published in autumn 2018.

Sustainability of ELP

The current one-year funding agreement with the council and schools must now be extended for the partnership to fulfil its aims and deliver on its key priorities. Work is in progress to agree a two-year funding commitment from 2019 – 2021 to secure its future.

Previous consultation papers have set out possible alternative legal and structural arrangements for the partnership. However, an overview of research to date on 23 established education partnerships across the country, suggests that such arrangements may not now be deemed appropriate or necessary providing that the council can work with its partner schools to manage the following risks:

- **Ensure the partnership delivers** and can be seen to be good value for money
- **Define the decision-making powers** of the ELP board to give schools/college confidence in the governance arrangements
- **Secure two-year funding agreements** as one-year funding agreements place considerable strain on business planning, staffing and recruitment
- Achieve a **scaled and manageable reduction in costs** as the partnership matures to secure stability and drive efficiencies
- Develop a longer-term **strategy for school sustainability** to reduce pressures on school/council budgets and rising deficits (impact of National Funding Formula and falling rolls).

Two committees have been established to look at more creative ways of using the partnership to achieve better economies of scale whilst retaining school autonomy. We welcome the direct input of leaders within and beyond the world of education to help us think creatively about future ways of working. The commitment of so many schools to ELP makes it possible to develop a longer-term strategy for school sustainability and avoid the risks of fragmentation within the sector. We also have a unique opportunity to drive fairness and equity through shared expectations and peer challenge so that we have an ELP standard for inclusive education.

Finance

An overview of income and expenditure against all ELP activities has been shared with schools. The board will play a crucial role in interrogating spend against outcomes. A significant proportion of income has been diverted to school-led activities on behalf of partnership schools. This should be viewed as a significant and welcome change, placing greater responsibility with those leaders equipped to drive improvement across the system.



Communications

A new ELP website www.egfl.org.uk/ELP and logo (above) has been launched in July 2018. Our aim is to streamline and modernise communications so that there is a one-stop portal for communications at all levels, keeping partners up to date with opportunities to be actively involved in shaping change.

Next steps

In discussing how your school might reap long-term benefits from being part of Ealing Learning Partnership, please consider the following questions:

- Does your school want to play a part in shaping the future of the ELP? How can you contribute directly to the work of the six committees? www.egfl.org.uk/ELP
- How can an ongoing commitment to ELP support your school with building professional capital through focused collaboration – sharing success and working together on common challenges?
- What opportunities can the partnership offer your school in doing more with less in the context of the budget pressures we all face?
- What value do you place on being part of a partnership dedicated to the communities we serve in Ealing?

Timescales for decision-making

Autumn 2018

- The ELP strategic plan will be published for stakeholders alongside the “offer” for schools
- Council commitment to ELP as part of budget-strategy known
- Cost of school subscriptions for 2019 – 2021 agreed by board.

Spring 2019

- School orders for 2019 – 2021 (January/February)
- ELP delivery model announced March.