

Barking & Dagenham Partnership

NI 80 – Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19

Responsible Owner

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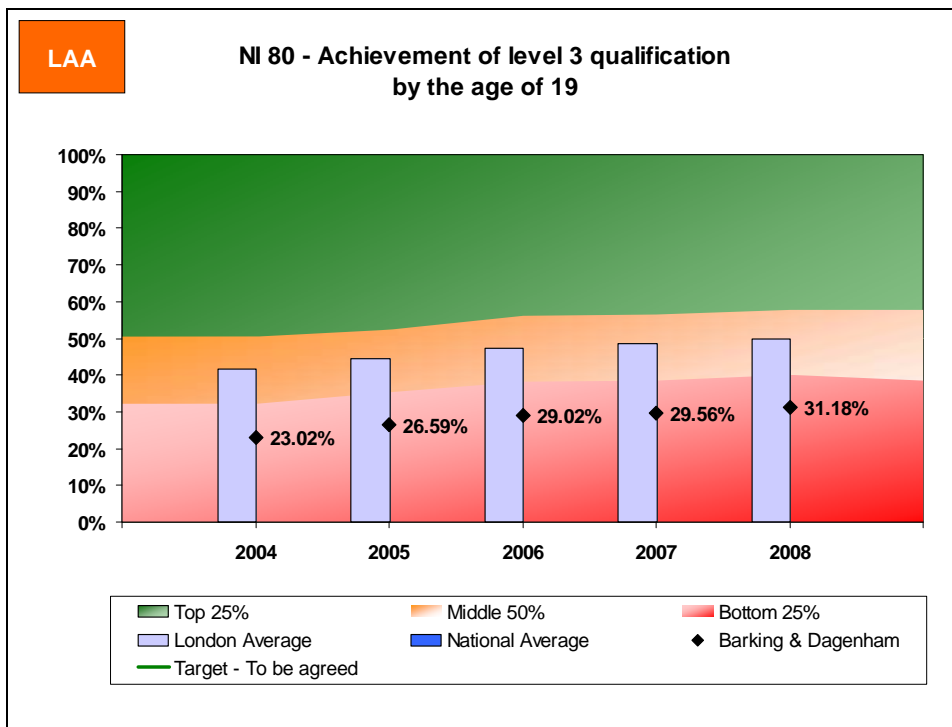
National Indicator Rationale

This indicator reports the percentages of young people attaining Level 3 (National Vocational qualification equivalent to 2 or more A/AS levels) by age 19 in a Local Authority Area. Achieving Level 3 by the age of 19 increases the skills levels of the economy and allows participation into Higher Education and higher skilled employment.

Current Performance

Performance against Target

Target to be set following data release



Key Issues:

Specific reasons for underperformance, including equalities / area issues where relevant

- Most data available relates to Local Authority schools. Access to College data is limited. 47% of post-16 residents study out-borough. 19% of 6th form residents study out-borough
- Historical focus in secondary schools on KS4 and KS3 data – post-16 relatively neglected (also by DCSF and Ofsted).
- Over-emphasis (in schools) on A level provision rather than L3 vocational alternatives – though this is changing rapidly

Undemanding entry criteria for A level course enrolment. High fail rates for AS level courses

Key Issues continued...

4. Inadequate advice and guidance to students re post-16 progression routes

5. The current level of provision for Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance (including choice of study routes) is inadequate. It is not a service universally available to all students; Capacity in this area needs to be strengthened considerably.

Key Projects:

Areas of current /planned projects should focus on reasons for underperformance and link to the Key Issues listed above

Key Issue No.	Project Title	Key Milestones / Date	Project Lead	Project Details
2 & 3	<i>Widespread engagement with schools re post-16 data picture</i>		Steve Rowe	LA post-16 network created. Termly meetings have been well attended and an annual conference held. Plans in place for second conference in March 2010. Post-16 performance is now a standing item on SIP agendas.
1-5	<i>LA commissioning of 16-19 provision – transition year</i>	Sept 2010	Alan Lazell	Prepare for the 2010/11, commissioning round to secure learning provision appropriate to meet the needs of all 16-19 year olds in the Borough and that fulfils the Local Authority's September Guarantee responsibilities to provide a learning offer for all 16 and 17 year olds leaving school
3	<i>A level Improvement Project</i>		Steve Rowe	The most significant changes in L3 attainment will arise from increased participation in vocational courses. Nevertheless A level performance in the LA is weak and needs to improve. The A level improvement project is led by the LA Adviser for secondary English. The main strands of the strategy are: A level pedagogy; A level course management; student support, advice and guidance. The main delivery vehicle is via the LA Post-16 Network (see above). No change
3 & 4	<i>Apprenticeship Scheme</i>	2011	Alan Lazell	Barking and Dagenham's Apprenticeship Development Unit is tasked with achieving the following targets in the period of 2008-2011: providing 100 apprenticeship

				opportunities in the Council's own workforce over the next 3 years (2008-2011), and 400 in total across the public sector and achieving 750 apprenticeship opportunities overall.
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Key Risks:

Risks may relate to specific projects or to performance in general

- Inadequate advice and guidance to students re post-16 progression routes
- Over-emphasis (in schools) on A level provision rather than L3 vocational alternatives. This risk is reducing. There is strong evidence of a shifting balance between A level and vocational courses.
- Given the increasing number of vocational courses with little corresponding improvement in APS per student, poor quality of teaching on vocational programmes must be added as a risk.

Key Risks continued...

- Undemanding entry criteria for A level course enrolment. High fail rates for AS level courses
- Fewer job and apprenticeship offers for young people, as a result of the recession.
- Historical focus in secondary schools on KS4 and KS3 data – post-16 relatively neglected (also by DCSF and Ofsted).
Low aspirations and educational attainment of parents

Actions for Improvement (To be used for Quarterly Reporting):

Plans for further interventions must be robust and show clear prospects for improving performance

- Post-16 Commissioning will provide a key lever to effect change but is a new role for the LA and replaces a national body (LSC) with national support structures. It is vital that resources are directed, early, towards the creation of our local post-16 Commissioning capability. No change
- In this context, the capacity for collecting, collating and analysing post-16 performance and provider data also needs to be strengthened – not least to cater for the problems involved in dealing with the resident / non-resident issue No change
- Given the impact of the economic downturn on the business profile in the borough (which are overwhelmingly small and medium enterprise with an average workforce of 14 employees) the services of the Apprenticeship Development Unit (in the forms of recruitment, brokerage to training provider and mentoring support) will be provided free of charge.
- The tendering process has begun for the Connexions contract which will be re-tendered by January 2010.
- A post-16 data group is to be set up (December) comprising representatives from the LA, schools and the College. Its purpose is to agree the creation of a dataset that will support effective commissioning and to ensure that schools and the College contribute reliably towards it.

