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# **North East Lincolnshire Council Education Strategy**

**A strategic vision and policy for learning and  
education in North East Lincolnshire**

**2015 - 2017**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION				
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Author	Roz Danks			
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	High	Medium	Low	None
All people in North East Lincolnshire benefit from a strong economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All children, young people and adults learn and are ready for work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All people in north East Lincolnshire enjoy good health and wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All people benefit from an efficient and effective council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## **Foreword**

This education strategy is our vision for the future of education in North East Lincolnshire. It is fundamental to improving educational attainment and skills across the borough and raising the aspirations of all our children and young people.

We will ensure that all of our children and young people achieve their potential by attending good or outstanding local schools, academies, colleges and other educational establishments. In order to do this we need to work collaboratively and in partnership with all of our education providers. This will ensure that we develop our children and young people into confident citizens who will be able to benefit from local opportunities; have opportunity to access lifelong learning opportunities; and play an active role in the local economy and our local communities.

It is essential that all of us (parents/carers, educationalists, our partners and the wider community) work together to make this vision a reality and to ensure that every child and young person in North East Lincolnshire receives the outstanding education they deserve.

Councillor Ros James  
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

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## **1 INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT AND AIMS**

North East Lincolnshire Council's wants all of its residents to benefit from a stronger economy and live within strong communities. Our approach is to do everything we can to support our children and young people to achieve a better quality of life, to be ready for school, college and work, be able to live long and healthy lives, to have good jobs that people aspire to work in and engage in life-long learning.

In doing this we want to ensure that all of our children and young people achieve their best educational potential by accessing and attending good or outstanding local schools, academies, colleges and other education establishments. This will ensure that we develop our children and young people into confident citizens who will be able to benefit from local opportunities; have opportunity to access lifelong learning opportunities; and be ready to play an active role in the local economy and the community.

This document sets out North East Lincolnshire Council's strategic vision for learning and education in the context of a changing educational landscape. In this area we have been at the forefront of change with the increased autonomy of schools, academies and colleges and their new roles in education. We will continue to develop partnerships with schools in order to achieve positive outcomes for our children.

North East Lincolnshire Council is committed to working in ways that encourages all schools, academies and colleges to make best use of their autonomy to lead their own improvement. The Council and its strategic partner for school improvement exercise a range of roles and responsibilities with a growing mix of education providers and want all schools, academies and colleges to exercise their choices and freedoms to the benefit of all children, young people, their families and the wider community, collaborating and creating networks and partnerships that are mutually supportive.

## **2 PRIORITIES AND CORE RESPONSIBILITIES**

This strategy supports the overall aims of the Council Plan to achieve a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities in North East Lincolnshire. North East Lincolnshire Council has three core statutory educational responsibilities, which we will meet as detailed below each responsibility:

- **To support vulnerable children**
  - Expect all schools, academies and colleges to provide access and inclusion to vulnerable children and young people so that they achieve their potential.
  - Provide a strategic focus on the most vulnerable children and young people.
  - Promote good practice in respect of safeguarding all of our children and young people.
  - In partnership with a range of stakeholders including health and social care to implement the new special educational needs and disability

(SEND) reforms and raise achievement for children and young people with SEND.

- **To ensure sufficient supply of school places**
  - Employ a robust and fair system to ensure a sufficient supply of school places. Where additional places are needed, new providers will be brought-in to increase choice.
  - Determine the strategic planning of school places in North East Lincolnshire.
  - Promote shared accountability and provide the opportunity for solution focussed discussions on school place planning related issues (including advice, support, direction etc. from internal / external parties as and when required).
  - Ensure that all settings are clear about their accountability for North East Lincolnshire's learners and equity of access to a good education.
  - Consider all requests from individual schools and academies.
  - Review priorities in response to changes to legislation, national / local policies and guidance.
- **To tackle underperformance in maintained schools and settings and ensure high standards**
  - Provide strategic leadership based on commissioning, brokerage and championing children and families.
  - Engage with schools, academies and colleges in the development of local education policy.
  - Encourage a range of collaborative educational partnerships to work collectively to improve outcomes for all children and young people.
  - Promote system-wide resources such as National Leaders of Education, Local Leaders of Education and Teaching Schools.
  - Encourage development between schools, academies and colleges with local businesses.
  - Be transparent about the statutory powers and other mechanisms that we will use to ensure that underperformance or inequity is addressed.
  - Provide a range of high quality competitively priced services.
  - Support the UK Youth Parliament national campaign to have a 'curriculum that prepares young people for life.'

In an autonomous education system the local authority's core responsibilities are heavily dependent upon and in turn impact upon the work of all schools, academies and colleges. As either officers or elected members we are all proud of our diverse educational landscape where schools, academies and colleges are progressively more autonomous. This also means to achieve good outcomes we need shared responsibility and it is essential that the Council works collaboratively with all of our schools, academies and colleges to achieve this.

We are confident of the benefits of a more diverse educational offer and are committed to enabling all providers to work together for the benefit of all of our children and young people.

Our vision is of collective responsibility for the benefit of all of North East Lincolnshire's learners. In this respect we recognise that the emergence of new provisions such as free schools challenge our existing providers whilst offering more choice to families.

For North East Lincolnshire's maintained schools, we will also:

- Create links to innovative practice across the borough;
- Facilitate educational dialogue with head teachers, governors, teachers and support staff of maintained schools;
- Support the recruitment and retention of high quality staff in maintained schools;
- Promote career development through collaboration and system leadership;
- Manage the collective resources of maintained schools and de-delegated funds, fairly and transparently on behalf of schools.

### **3 CHAMPIONING VULNERABLE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to support children and young people and enable them to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes and engage in the decisions that affect them.

#### **Our Champion Role will:**

- Ensure that vulnerable children and young people can access and be fully included in achieving their full potential by attending good or outstanding local schools, academies and educational establishments of their choice. We will do this by:
  - Maintaining a strategic overview of inclusion, admissions and educational progress of all children and young people especially the most vulnerable, whatever state-funded school or setting they attend.
  - Providing and continually reviewing a [local offer](#) which details information for families in a single place to assist them in understanding the services available for children with SEN aged 0-25.
  - Working with all educational providers to provide access to high quality educational provision and support that meets the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people.
  - Improving inter-agency and preventative working so that the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people are identified and addressed as quickly as possible.
  - Ensuring our elected members are provided with high quality information and data to enable effective and coherent monitoring, scrutiny and challenge to ensure that positive outcomes are achieved by all of our children and young people.
- Create the necessary conditions and environment for success and educational excellence and celebrating the achievement of children and young people in education and that of their schools, academies and colleges. We will do this by:



- Providing support, challenge and early intervention to maintained schools to ensure they continually improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Working together to gain a collective commitment with all schools, academies and colleges in respect of school improvement that encourages school to school support; enables open dialogue; constructive challenge and tackles all forms of underperformance.
- Fostering strategic partnerships with academies in an influencing role that respects their autonomy and expertise, whilst acknowledging the local authority's legal responsibility under the 1996 Education Act for educational performance in the area. In that if the local authority has concerns about an academy it will take initial steps to informally / formally raise these with the leadership and governance / sponsor of the academy and if they are not addressed escalate the concerns to the Secretary of State.

#### **4 A PROVIDER AND COMMISSIONER OF SERVICES**

In addition to our statutory responsibilities the local authority provides a range of services to schools and commissions a range of school improvement, special educational needs and inclusion services through its strategic partner.

##### **In undertaking our Provider and Commissioner Role we will:**

- Commission school places and specialist provision from schools and other educational providers using robust accountability frameworks.
- Encourage successful schools / academies and school leaders to provide school improvement services to one another and foster a culture of self-help and partnership across all settings.
- Deliver high quality, cost effective services to ensure statutory responsibilities for individual learners are met regardless of their educational setting.
- Raise concerns in an honest and transparent way directly with maintained schools, academies, colleges and other providers and provide brokerage for partnership working and where underperformance is identified.
- Where the local authority has concerns about the performance of an academy this may result in an escalating four level response which could involve:
  - The academy (and Trust where appropriate) informed of current local authority designation;
  - Bespoke communication to academy leadership and governance;
  - Formal meeting with academy leadership and governance including offer of exploration of academy improvement priorities and plans;
  - Concerns expressed to Department for Education (DfE) Academies Division and Ofsted.
- Secure a local and sustainable school improvement and SEN and inclusion service offer for all schools and academies to access / purchase and commission specialist provision and expertise for children with SEN.

## **5 PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

We will continue to challenge schools, academies and colleges about how they can narrow the gap between the highest and lowest attaining learners. However, there is a need to recognise the wider social factors that impact on educational performance. In this respect it is important that the active support of partner agencies and the communities themselves is recognised as an essential element of in the delivery of the Education Strategy. In order to deliver a truly excellent service schools, academies and colleges need to engage with parents/carers, elected members, local communities and the society as a whole to work with and alongside them.

We are committed to building capacity and moving decision making to collaborative partnerships to build a framework for continuous educational improvement

To engage children and young people, parent / carer and community support for education, with schools, academies and colleges, we will:

- Help children and young people and their parents / carers to understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to education and provide guidance about complaint procedures.
- Provide children and young people and their parents / carers with access to a range of information such as school admission arrangements, performance tables and Ofsted reports.

### **Equality and Diversity Statement**

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, national, ethnic or social origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, age, religion, political or other personal beliefs.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

North East Lincolnshire Council is committed to improving education for all children and young people. We believe that this is an achievable vision through our strategic partnership with Serco and by building collaborative partnerships with maintained schools, academies and colleges.

We are committed to our role as champion for children and young people and families and aim to discharge our statutory responsibilities to the highest standard.

We see education as being a high priority as the success of all of our children and young people which will directly impact on the future employability and wellbeing of North East Lincolnshire's citizens.

### **Relationship with other Strategies**

This Education Strategy is the overarching strategic vision for learning and education within North East Lincolnshire. In addition to this strategy North East Lincolnshire Council's strategic partner has developed on behalf of the Council a School Improvement Strategy, a Special Educational Needs Strategy and a 14-

19 Strategy which provide more detail on how this strategic vision will be delivered.

To ensure sufficiency of school places the Council has a Strategic Pupil Place Planning Group and operates a Fair Access Protocol to ensure the promotion of equity of access for school places for the most vulnerable children and young people.

As a foundation to support communities and families in preparation for formal education the core purpose of our family hubs is to improve and narrow gaps in child development, school readiness, parenting aspirations self-esteem and skills and child and family health and life chances. We support the DfE's Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance that all children who meet the prescribed criteria are able to take up high quality early education, regardless of their parents' ability to pay, to benefit their social, physical and mental development and help to prepare them for school.

The concept of lifelong learning is also supported in partnership with further and higher education colleges; the authority's Community Learning Service; and local employers and businesses.

#### **Related North East Lincolnshire Documents**

- The Council Plan
- Economic Strategy Framework
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy
- Fair Access Protocol
- School Improvement Strategy
- 14-19 Strategy
- Special Educational Needs Strategy
- The Local Offer