



Department
for Education

Social Mobility

Blackpool



Opportunity Area 2017-20

A local plan to deliver opportunities for children and young people in Blackpool



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OUR VISION



A message from the Secretary of State for Education and the Chair of the partnership board



Raising sights and broadening horizons for Blackpool's children and young people.

I want to level up opportunity across this country so that all children

and young people get every chance to go as far as their talents and drive will take them. Education is at the heart of that ambition, and is central to breaking down the barriers to social mobility that too many face in our country today.

Blackpool has a proud history and huge strengths to build on, but not all young people get the life chances they deserve.

I saw first hand during my visit to Blackpool the excellent work already underway to improve the life chances of the town's children and young people. We will make sure that our efforts complement other programmes and do not duplicate. By working together, in schools and colleges and in the community, we can make sure no child in Blackpool is left behind.

Finally, my thanks to Graham Cowley, to the partnership board and to all the local partners and people who are behind this delivery plan, and whose contributions will be the deciding factor in our success.

Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP

Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities



I am delighted to have been asked to chair the Blackpool Opportunity Area partnership board. Our vision is to create a system where **no child in Blackpool is left behind.**

We know that by working together with local and national stakeholders we can make a difference over the next three years. Our plan, endorsed by the Secretary of State, will deliver a significant and lasting impact **across our three priorities** between now and 2020.

Whether you are a **young person, parent or education professional in Blackpool**, please do **get in touch** and tell us your thoughts about this plan and ideas about how we can increase opportunity through education for young people in Blackpool.

Graham Cowley

Independent Chair of Blackpool Opportunity Area partnership board

GET IN TOUCH



opportunityareas.blackpool@education.gov.uk



[@BlackpoolOA](https://twitter.com/BlackpoolOA)

Our vision and priorities for Blackpool

Our vision is that no Blackpool child is left behind. To achieve this we have brought together local schools, colleges, businesses and community organisations. Together we will focus on those areas where improvement will help children and young people to overcome the barriers that might hold them back. We want to challenge expectations about Blackpool, and raise the aspirations of children, young people and families, and of the professionals who work to educate and support them.

We have reviewed how well children and young people in Blackpool do in education and employment, and compared this to others across the country. The scale of the challenge in Blackpool is considerable. Young people in Blackpool are much less likely than their peers elsewhere in England to leave school with a good level of attainment, and to continue with education or employment from age nineteen.

We have also spent time understanding which programmes are already underway in Blackpool – funded by central government, the voluntary and community sector, and local government – and what gaps remain.

By examining all of the data and talking to local people and organisations, we have agreed three priorities for the first year of the programme:

Priority 1: Raise attainment and progress in Blackpool's schools.

Priority 2: Support for vulnerable children and families to improve attendance and outcomes, and to reduce exclusions from school.

Priority 3: Improve advice and support for young people when moving between schools/colleges and into work.

We will revisit this plan regularly and may revise our priorities as we review progress, and evaluate impact.

We are determined to build capacity in the local community to continue this work after the programme has ended. We will also continue to bring people together to improve coordination between programmes and to foster collective responsibility for outcomes, so that the children and young people of Blackpool get the best possible support available achieve their full potential.

The following pages outline our plan of action to achieve our goals and describe how we will measure progress. We are determined to make a difference for Blackpool and welcome your thoughts and ideas about how we can make it better together.

“The Blackpool Opportunity Area plan, supported wholeheartedly by leaders from all parts of the Blackpool community, provides a real opportunity to change the landscape in Blackpool. It provides hope, aspiration, ambition and a brighter future for the young people of the town. It is a significant moment in time for our town!”

Andy Mellor – Blackpool Headteacher, National Leader of Education and National Association of Headteachers Vice President, and partnership board member

DELIVERING OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACKPOOL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Building on strong foundations

Strengths and opportunities

- **Blackpool has two outstanding further education colleges:** Blackpool Sixth Form, and Blackpool and the Fylde College. Blackpool and the Fylde College was awarded “gold” in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework; the highest possible rating. It also offers degrees which are accredited by the University of Lancaster.
- Blackpool has a higher proportion of sixteen to nineteen year olds going on to **apprenticeships**, or **higher education** than the national average (based on pupils who completed key stage 4 in 2013/14).
- **Primary schools** in Blackpool achieve higher than average rates of progress, including for disadvantaged pupils. Headteachers in the primary phase have strong collegial working relationships within the Primary Heads Group, which also includes headteachers of the three special schools in Blackpool, two of which are judged outstanding by Ofsted. Provisional 2017 data suggests the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in Blackpool local authority at key stage 2 is close to or exceeding the national average across each subject.
- Four **teaching schools** are active in Blackpool: Fylde Coast Teaching School Alliance, Alliance for Learning, Tauheedul Teaching School Alliance, and the newly designated Blackpool Teaching School Alliance.
- **Employers work together well.** Business groups such as the Blackpool Business Leaders Group, Business in the Community, and the Federation of Small Businesses, which is headquartered in Blackpool, are committed to making sure local young people benefit from opportunities. Initiatives such as **Primary Futures** and **Changing Horizons** have brought Blackpool children into contact with volunteers from many of these employers.
- **The Big Lottery** is funding two flagship investments in Blackpool:
 - **The Better Start partnership** which works with the zero to four age group and aims to break intergenerational cycles of poor outcomes.
 - **HeadStart** which seeks to increase the resilience of young people aged ten to sixteen years with the aim of reducing the number of young people who develop mental health conditions.

We will build on this success, working with local organisations to ensure we make the most of upcoming opportunities.

Work already underway

Over the last twelve months, we have built a strong local partnership and started work in key areas. We are planning further bespoke activity which will deliver real change in Blackpool.

- We have used the Opportunity Area to bring together the many government and charitable initiatives underway in Blackpool. This has allowed us to build a comprehensive overview of what each programme is doing, to identify areas for collaboration, and to pinpoint gaps to be plugged. By setting up a small **local project team**, we have been able to forge links in Blackpool, and to get under the skin of the data.
- Since September 2016 **Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB)** has brought together all local schools with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the local authority to improve academic progress in schools. The Opportunity Area partnership board is working closely with BSIB.
- BSIB submitted collaborative bids to the Department for Education's **Strategic School Improvement Fund**. Two bids were approved: one to improve outcomes in maths by focusing on transition and working across primary and secondary phases; and a second to improve leadership and governance in all Blackpool schools.
- Blackpool's newly designated **Research School***, St Mary's Catholic Academy, will support all schools across Blackpool to use the best available evidence and research. **Right to Succeed**, a charity working to address educational inequality has already worked in Blackpool schools to embed a culture of evidence based school improvement. It has also conducted Mental Toughness Questionnaires to evaluate the mind-set of Blackpool pupils.
- Blackpool Council and the Department for Education are setting up a new Special Free School which will provide much needed places for special educational needs and disabled (SEND) pupils.
- We are putting in place training for a designated local reviewer of **SEND provision** in Blackpool, along with support to increase **employment for pupils with SEND**.
- Work is underway to improve the quality of teaching in Blackpool. Fourteen local primary schools attended a **phonics roadshow** in July. It showcased some of the best evidence based ways of teaching phonics. **Teach First** is active in Blackpool where it currently has nineteen trainee teachers. **The Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund** is about to start providing training for teachers in phonics, science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), and physics as well as developing leadership, and the management of continuing professional development.

*Research Schools Network is a collaboration between the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Institute for Effective Education (IEE) to fund a network of schools which will support the use of evidence to improve teaching practice.
www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/our-work/research-schools.

Work already underway (continued)

- **The Careers and Enterprise Company** and the **Local Enterprise Partnership** are actively supporting schools to secure the best possible careers advice and guidance for their pupils; enterprise advisers are in place in all seven secondary schools, and in both of the colleges.
- The **National Collaborative Outreach Programme** (through **Future U**, a consortium which includes University of Central Lancashire, Edge Hill, Lancaster University, University of Cumbria and

Further Education Colleges) is supporting young people from Bloomfield ward in Blackpool to access higher education and apprenticeship opportunities. Future U is developing evidence based practice to address perceived barriers of young people attaining but choosing not to progress to higher education pathways.

Why Blackpool?



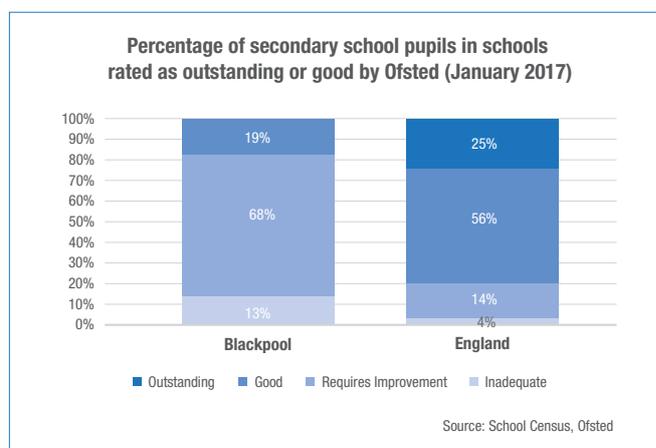
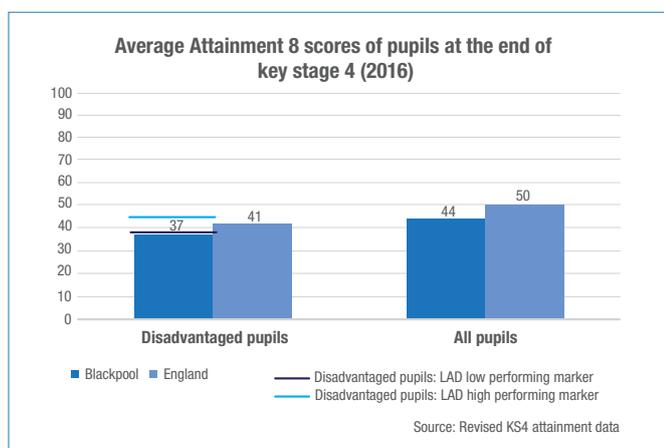
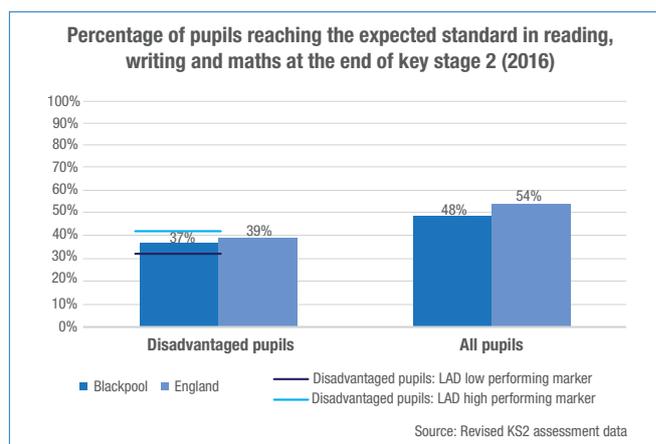
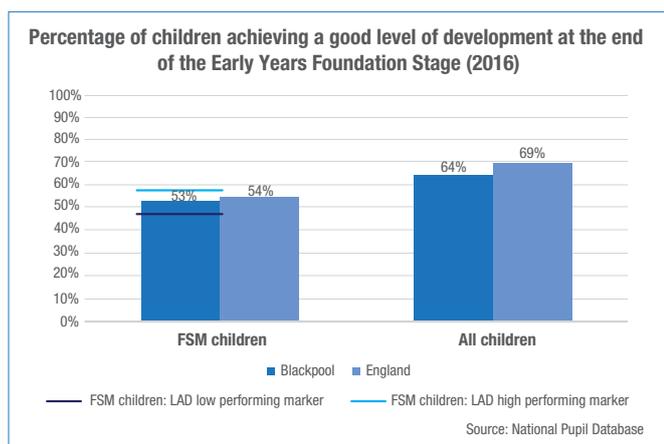
316th
out of 324 districts

– Blackpool's ranking in the Social Mobility Index*. The Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job in areas across the country.

Blackpool was also in the lowest group of local authority districts in the index used for understanding educational performance and capacity to improve in the 2016 Department for Education White Paper.

Blackpool is the most deprived local authority in England, and it is estimated that 7,700 Blackpool children live in low income families. Blackpool has a greater proportion of children in

need than any other local authority in England. Young people in Blackpool are much more likely than their peers elsewhere in England to suffer from poor health and be affected by issues such as teenage pregnancy and alcohol and substance abuse. This impacts on education at all stages and creates pressures within the school system. In 2016, GCSE results in Blackpool's schools were among the lowest in England.



For this analysis, we have grouped local authority districts into six groups (sextiles). The markers on the graphs described as 'high performing' and 'low performing' relate to the top and bottom local authority district sextile.

Within this plan, the 'disadvantaged' group varies depending on the DfE data source. However, they all include the number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals at any point in the previous six years. For further details about the specific definition of 'disadvantage' for each DfE data source, see the "Education statistics by local authority, district and pupil disadvantage" release found on the [DfE Statistics page](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-index).

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-index>



STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

“The Blackpool Opportunity Area approach provides a fantastic opportunity to engage businesses with young people to raise aspiration and ambition, whilst also building a pipeline of talent which will benefit our business community and contribute to raising the future economic well-being of the area.”

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of Lancashire Skills Hub and partnership board member

Blackpool partnership board – driving success in Blackpool

The Blackpool partnership board brings together senior leaders from local schools and further education colleges, community organisations with experience tackling entrenched deprivation, experts from the careers and employment sector and key individuals from the local authority. They will use their experience, local insight and commitment to Blackpool's children and young people to make this plan a success.

Board members have analysed data and consulted with professionals working with children and young people across Blackpool to understand the issues they face. The board has agreed the priorities and actions set out in this plan. The board will now meet monthly to oversee progress in putting the plan into operation, working alongside the Department for Education and other national organisations to ensure that the programme is coherent, effective and represents good value for money.

Blackpool Opportunity Area partnership board membership

Graham Cowley – Independent Chair

Graham has a strong track record in regeneration and economic development. As an Executive Director within Capita, Graham developed Capita's major property and infrastructure partnerships with local government. Since leaving Capita, Graham continues to be actively involved in regeneration and development and is the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Management Board which oversees Lancashire's Growth Deal.

Partnership board members

- **Alan Cavill:** Director of Place, Blackpool Council
- **Andy Mellor:** Headteacher, St Nicholas C of E Primary and Blackpool Teaching School Alliance, Vice President of NAHT
- **Bev Robinson:** CEO Blackpool and Fylde College
- **Deborah Terras:** Director, URPotential, a Blackpool based community interest company that specialises in training, volunteering and youth work
- **Diane Booth:** Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council
- **Dr Michele Lawty-Jones:** Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub
- **Jill Gray:** Principal, Blackpool Sixth Form College
- **Maxine Froggatt:** Independent Chair of Blackpool School Improvement Board
- **Merle Davies:** Director for the Blackpool Centre for Early Child Development
- **Stephen Tierney:** Executive Director at Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust (which includes Blackpool's Research School)
- **Tristram Hooley:** Director of Evidence, Careers and Enterprise Company

The meetings are also attended by the Regional Schools Commissioner and by the Department for Education's Head of Delivery and Area Lead for the Blackpool Opportunity Area, who provide advice and support to the partnership board.

Our partnership with national organisations

Our national partner organisations provide and will continue to develop a range of positive experiences for our young people:

The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) is a national network that connects schools, colleges, employers and career programme providers to create career opportunities. CEC is working with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in Lancashire who have established a Local Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN) and appointed volunteers from business to connect schools and colleges to employers. As part of its Employer Commitment the CEC are developing a network of local and national 'Cornerstone' employers who will drive the call to action to employers of all sizes and sectors to work with schools and colleges in Blackpool. This will give all eleven to eighteen year olds in Blackpool at least four meaningful experiences of the world of work, to develop the critical soft skills, attitude and motivation to support them to gain employment, further education, or training. The Cornerstone employers supporting Blackpool offer a wide variety of experience in different sectors:



- **Adecco** (recruitment and employment sector)
- **Civil Service North West** (public sector)
- **Federation of Small Businesses**
- **Hilton** (hospitality sector)
- **Westinghouse** (nuclear industry)
- **Willmott Dixon** (construction and property services)

The National Citizen Service is a programme designed to build confidence and prepare young people for their journey into adulthood. It is open to all sixteen and seventeen year olds in Blackpool. After three weeks of full-time challenges and activities, participants spend between 30 and 60 hours committed to a social action project that benefits both young people and the communities in Blackpool. After completing this project, participants become members of the National Citizen Service movement and are given on-going opportunities, support and rewards for making social action a habit for life. Through its regional provider, Inspira, and its local delivery partners, Blackpool Football Club Community Trust and the Challenge, National Citizen Service is working to ensure more young people from Blackpool complete the programme and continue to contribute positively to Blackpool and its wider communities.



The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement. The EEF will support the partnership board and Blackpool schools to make the best use of evidence about what works in educational improvement. They have designated St Mary's Catholic Academy as the area's dedicated Research School. The EEF will work with them to help share the most effective practice and accelerate improvement across Blackpool's classrooms. St Mary's Catholic Academy's ability to undertake and use research will be harnessed for the benefit of schools across the area.



How we will ensure children and young people are at the heart of our work

<p>Listening to views</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have met young people in Blackpool and the organisations which represent them to seek their ideas for overcoming the barriers to social mobility, to find out what makes them engage positively in education, and to gauge how aware they are of the opportunities available to them.
<p>Influencing change</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many local partners such as Blackpool Youth Council, known as Blackpool Youth Voice, UR Potential, Better Start Partnership and Headstart already have children and young people helping to shape their programmes. We will draw on the expertise they have developed locally so that young people continue to be influencers of change in Blackpool and have real input to our programme.
<p>Co-production</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on this established best practice in Blackpool, we will ensure children and young people are the co-designers and planners for the work we deliver in Blackpool. This will ensure the views of young people in Blackpool are part of our decision-making throughout the programme. • We will attend Blackpool Youth Council to put this into practice. We will also consider how we can support Blackpool Youth Voice with its work for children and young people across Blackpool.
<p>Research and Evaluation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will commission new qualitative research as part of our Blackpool 'Community Wide Assessment' to understand children and young people's views on the barriers preventing them from getting ahead. We will also ask for their ideas about how to remove these barriers. The results will help us to design our programme. We also want to stay in touch with children and young people to see if they feel our programme has made a difference.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY TO COORDINATE AND MANAGE INITIATIVES



Why this is an issue

There are many initiatives and schemes for Blackpool's young people and their families from a variety of providers, including central and local government, the European Social Fund, and voluntary and third sector organisations (including the Big Lottery Fund). Their commitment to Blackpool is very welcome. However, the sheer number of programmes has the potential to create confusion if we do not co-ordinate. By working together we can get maximum impact from these programmes. We have spent time understanding what is going on already so we have an overview of all of these initiatives.

It is not always clear which of these activities is working, and where there are gaps in provision. The data from the many initiatives has not yet been brought together for analysis, but it seems likely that not all of the initiatives underway are making sustainable impact.

The challenging backdrop which children and young people face when growing up in Blackpool impacts on education at all stages; poor speech, language and communications skills, high levels of mental health problems, low levels of resilience and aspiration are all evident and extend to adulthood. Unless these issues are tackled at a system level, activities and interventions designed to improve the standard of education in Blackpool will have limited impact.

People in Blackpool tell us they are not always consulted about what their community needs. We will ask young people, parents and carers what they see as the barriers to social mobility, and what they think would help to remove those barriers.

What we have done and will do to address this issue

1. We have already brought together many people working in Blackpool, and will continue to do this so that programmes are co-ordinated, and we share data and lessons learned. We will work through Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB) so that all activity to improve schools is coherent.
2. We will use our overview of programmes and activities in Blackpool to avoid overlap. For instance, whilst we know that outcomes for Blackpool children in the early years are below average, the Big Lottery-funded Better Start programme is already working at scale to improve outcomes for very young children. We have therefore decided not to make early years a priority for this plan, although we will work closely with Better Start."
3. We will conduct a Blackpool 'Community Wide Assessment': new qualitative research which asks young people, parents and carers in Blackpool for their views on what the barriers are to social mobility and how we should address them. As part of this project, we will also bring together and link data from the many on-going programmes in Blackpool, so it can be analysed and used in the future to evaluate the impact of projects and programmes.
4. We will revisit this plan each year and revise our priorities as we review progress, evaluate impact and draw upon updated data to inform our thinking.

OUR PRIORITIES





Priority 1: Raise attainment and progress in Blackpool's schools

Why this is an issue

Whilst the majority of Blackpool's primary schools are judged by Ofsted to be good (and one outstanding), only one of the seven secondary schools has been judged as good. This means that only 19% of secondary pupils (fewer than 1,200 pupils) attend a school which is rated good. In comparison, nationally 82% of pupils attend a school judged to be good or outstanding.

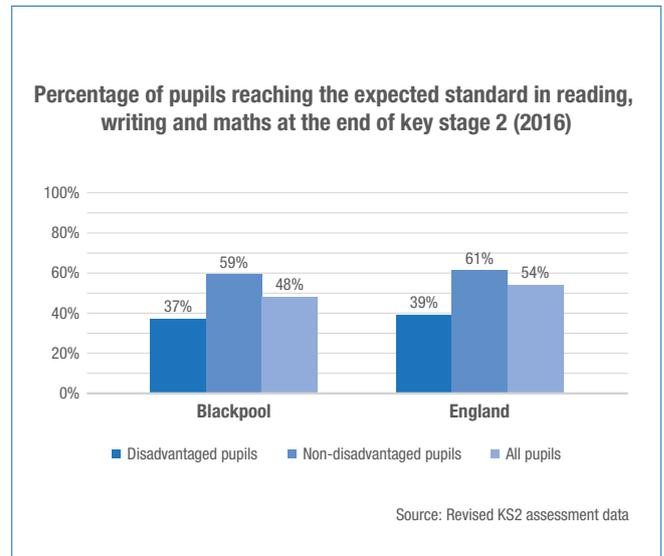
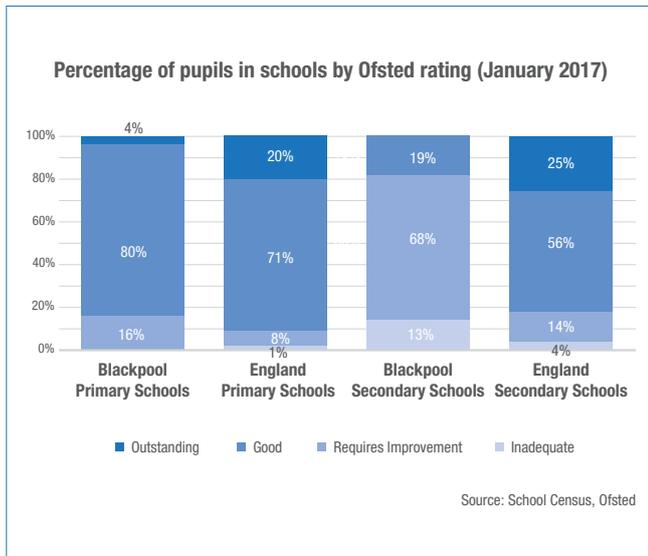
Blackpool's primary schools achieve good attainment in key stage 1, and good progress is made at key stage 2. However, the proportion reaching the expected standard in 2016 was much lower than the

national average. Provisional data for 2017 shows that the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard at key stage 2 in Blackpool local authority is slightly higher than the national average.

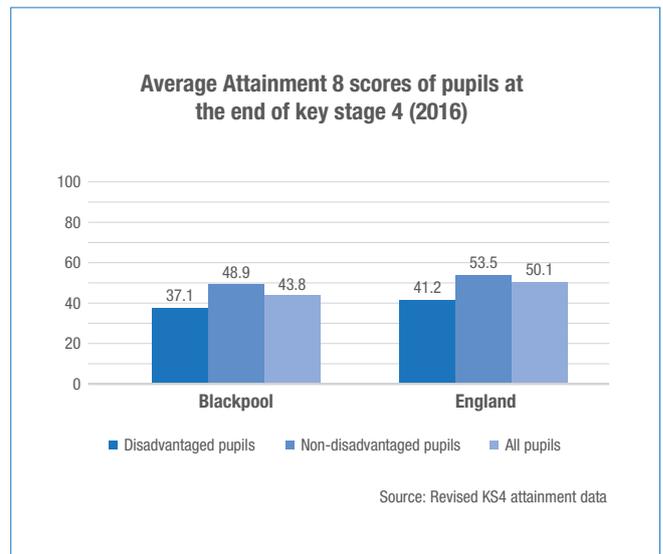
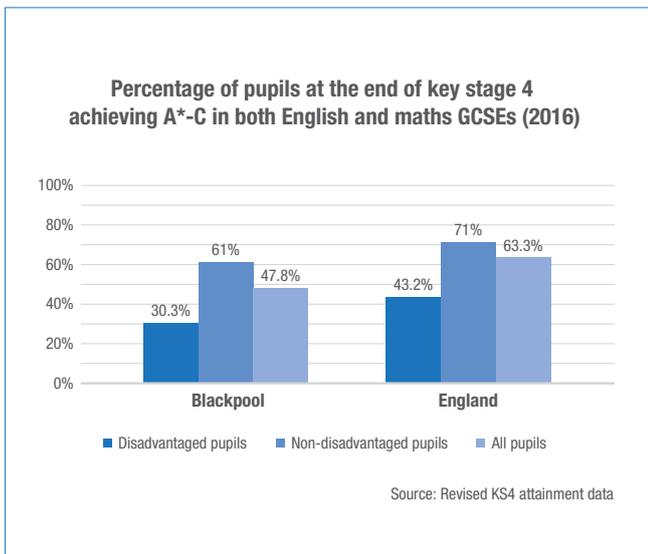
In Blackpool secondary schools attainment (measured by Attainment 8) falls behind the national average significantly and the rate of progress made by pupils (measured by Progress 8) was the second lowest in England. Only 48% of pupils achieved C or above in both English and maths at GCSE compared with 63% nationally.

Priority 1: Raise attainment and progress in Blackpool's schools

2016 and 2017 position



Note: In Blackpool, 6% of pupils in primary schools are in schools that have no Ofsted rating compared to 4% nationally. In secondary schools, 15% of pupils are in schools that have no Ofsted rating compared to 5% nationally.



What we will do

Since September 2016, school leaders have come together with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the local authority in Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB) to drive up standards. The school leaders provide mutual support and challenge, and have agreed joint priorities and submitted collective bids for funding. We will build on this positive collaboration and deliver our school improvement activity through BSIB, which will provide local expertise to help us target our support where it will deliver most impact.

This will include:

1. Every school in Blackpool will benefit from the Department for Education's programmes to improve the **leadership and governance** of Blackpool schools including the Strategic School Improvement Fund project led by Tauheedul Teaching School Alliance, fully-funded National Professional Qualifications, and the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund (TLIF).
2. The North/North West Maths Hub and the Strategic School Improvement Fund maths transition project will work to improve **maths** teaching in all Blackpool schools. We will consider extending this support so that post-16 providers are also included.
3. We will focus on improving outcomes in **English**, through a comprehensive programme to improve the teaching of phonics and reading in up to six schools provided by Ruth Miskin Training through TLIF. We will develop further interventions to improve the teaching of English in later key stages.
4. The Department's TLIF is being prioritised in Blackpool to fund projects from STEM Learning, and the Institute of Physics, to improve the quality of teaching of science, technology, engineering and maths. We will also improve the teaching of modern foreign languages by working with the British Council.
5. Blackpool's new **Research School**, St Mary's Catholic Academy, will support schools across Blackpool to use the best available evidence and research to improve teaching and attainment.
6. Creation of a **Secondary Heads Group** to strengthen collegial working across Blackpool's seven secondary schools.
7. We will develop proposals to improve **transitions** between phases of education, focusing initially on primary to secondary.

Our activity in 2017/18 will include:

- From October 2017, the North/North West Maths Hub and the Strategic School Improvement Fund project will deliver a co-ordinated programme to improve teaching of maths in all Blackpool mainstream schools.
- From September 2017, we will use the Strategic School Improvement Fund, the National Professional Qualification funding and other programmes to improve the leadership and governance in Blackpool schools. We will target at least twenty schools in this academic year.
- By October 2017, we will agree with St Mary's Research School a plan to embed evidence based practice in Blackpool schools, which aligns with this plan and BSIB priorities.
- By end of December 2017, we will create a Blackpool Secondary Heads Group to bring Blackpool's secondary school leaders together to achieve success.
- All successful TLIF providers will commence activity in schools by December 2017. All Blackpool schools rated requires improvement or lower will take part in at least one TLIF programme in this academic year.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- All Blackpool primary and secondary schools will have received interventions to enhance their teaching of English and maths.
- Senior leaders in all Blackpool schools will have had access to effective continuing professional development.
- The percentage of children achieving expected levels in reading, writing and maths at the end of primary school will put Blackpool in the top half of the country.
- Progress 8 scores across Blackpool will be in the top half of those for the region, and two thirds of children will achieve a pass in both English and maths GCSE.





Priority 2: Support for vulnerable children and families to improve attendance and outcomes and reduce exclusions from school

Why this is an issue

Although there has been improvement this year, the proportion of pupils excluded for fixed periods and permanently from school remains too high, even when compared with statistical neighbours*. The Pupil Referral Unit is over capacity.

Absences from Blackpool's schools are also high, and disadvantaged pupils are particularly likely to be absent from school. We know this has a negative impact on attainment. There is a rise in the number of Blackpool children who are being educated at home. School leaders have expressed concern about the reasons for parents making this choice and the standard of education they may be receiving at home.

All of these trends are most evident in secondary schools.

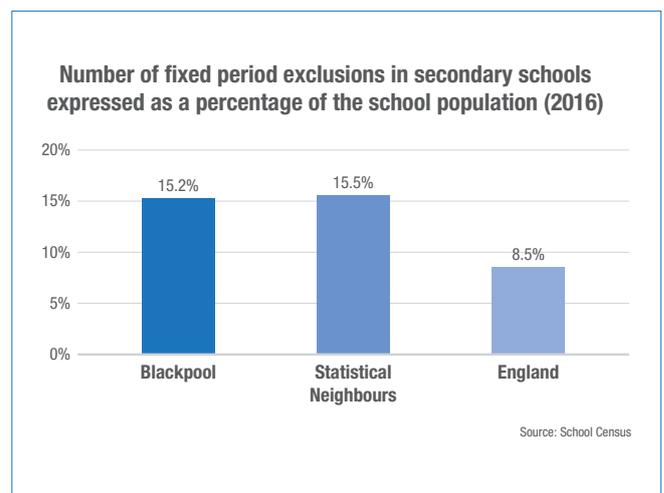
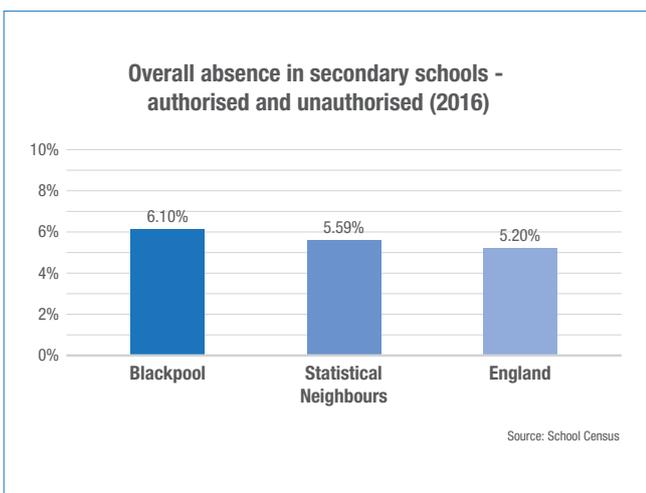
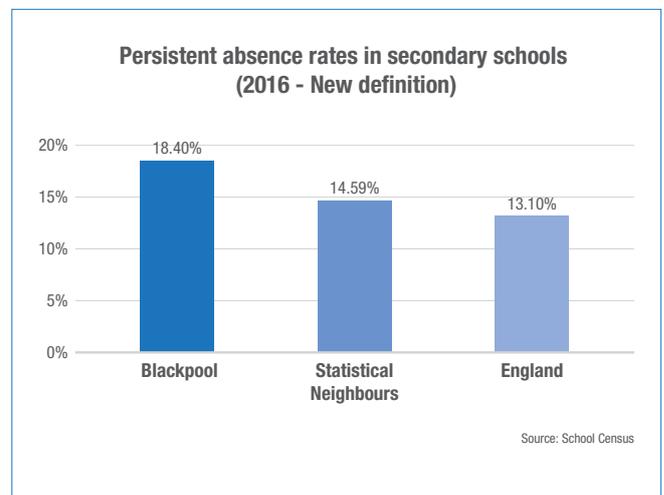
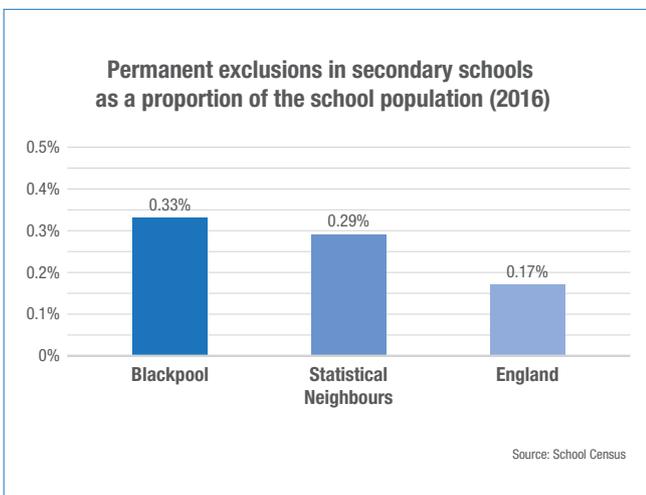
Blackpool has high levels of deprivation, and the highest proportion of children in need and looked after children (children in care) in England. These numbers of vulnerable children create challenges for schools which have to balance academic progress with their pastoral role.

Families, parents and young carers are equally affected by this challenging backdrop. Work is needed to better engage this community and support them in providing a home learning environment for children and young people that is conducive to learning, development and growth.

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait> "Statistical neighbours" are local authorities with similar characteristics.

Priority 2: Support for vulnerable children and families to improve attendance and outcomes and reduce exclusions from school

2016 position



What we will do

1. We will support Blackpool Council and Blackpool School Improvement Board to put their new inclusion strategy into practice to ensure that no child is excluded unnecessarily.
2. To understand better why high numbers of pupils are being permanently excluded from school in both Blackpool and Norwich, we will conduct new research, in collaboration with the Norwich Opportunity Area into the underlying causes. We will also investigate the reasons for the rise in elective home education, talking to young people, their parents and schools. The outcomes of the research will inform decisions about interventions later in the programme.
3. We will test provision of school-based social care services with the aim of keeping more children in school by improving the pastoral support available to them so that they are better able to learn.
4. We will provide behaviour support to secondary schools to reduce challenging behaviour and enable more pupils to remain in mainstream education.
5. We will review alternative provision across Blackpool.
6. We will agree with Blackpool School Improvement Board the scale and timing for the roll out of Department for Education programmes and pilots designed primarily to improve mental health and well-being amongst children and young people, making sure to co-ordinate our work with Headstart.
7. We will build capacity locally to improve Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision by training an experienced practitioner to become a SEND reviewer, and nominating a SEND regional leader in Blackpool.
8. We will commission research, the Blackpool 'Community Wide Assessment', which will allow us to identify which groups of children will benefit most from a range of interventions. As part of this work we will seek views from families, parents and carers as to why children are missing school or being excluded. We will use this research to assess which interventions are most appropriate and whether we should target more activities at families and in the home learning environment.

Our activity in 2017/18 will include:

- By January 2018, we will start delivering targeted appropriate interventions to those groups of children and families who will benefit most, including those children at risk of not attending or being excluded from school. These interventions will draw on the 'Community Wide Assessment' (September 2017) and the joint research project with Norwich Opportunity Area on high exclusion rates (October 2017).
- By January 2018, we will commence delivery of training in schools to support behaviour management. Blackpool School Improvement Board will agree which schools we will target in the Autumn term.
- By March 2018, we will commence testing of new school-based social services support in at least four secondary and three primary schools.
- By April 2018, we will complete a review of Special Educational Needs and Disability and alternative provision in Blackpool. We will take action, where relevant, in response to the findings including training for mainstream schools in SEND starting after Easter 2017.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- Rates of fixed-term and permanent exclusions in Blackpool's secondary schools will be halved.
- Rates of persistent absence in Blackpool's secondary schools will have reduced to below the national average.
- Year on year improvement in resilience of children (using measures such as **Mental Toughness Questionnaire or Headstart's resilience surveys**).





Priority 3: Improve advice and support for young people when moving between schools/colleges and into work

Why this is an issue

The proportion of all pupils in sustained education, employment or training after key stage 4 is lower than the national average, for all pupils and for disadvantaged pupils. The Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate amongst sixteen to eighteen year olds is high, despite work targeted at those of risk of becoming NEET.

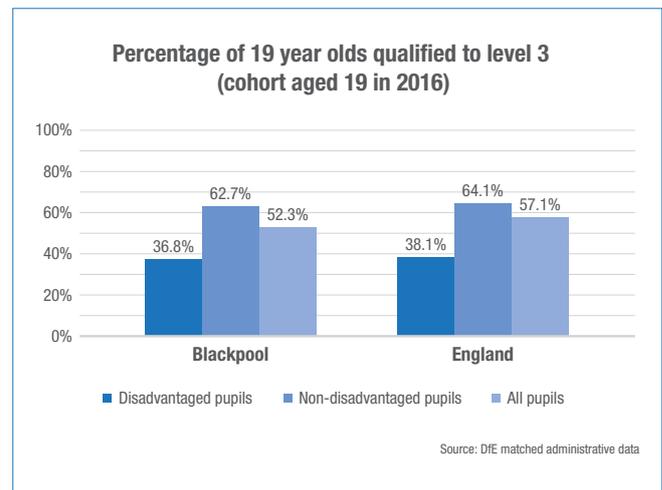
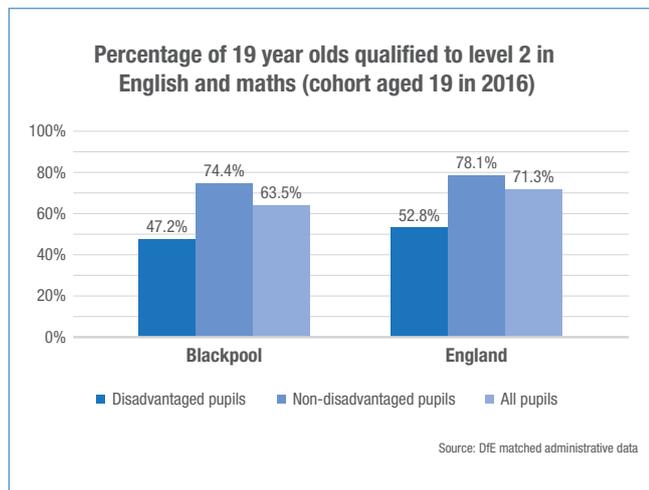
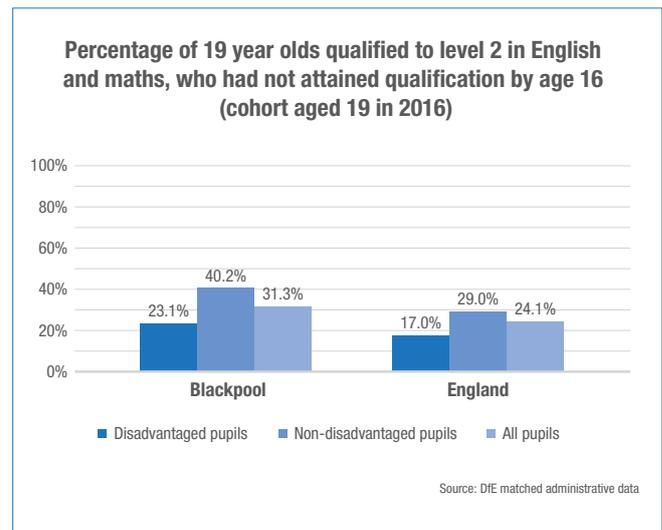
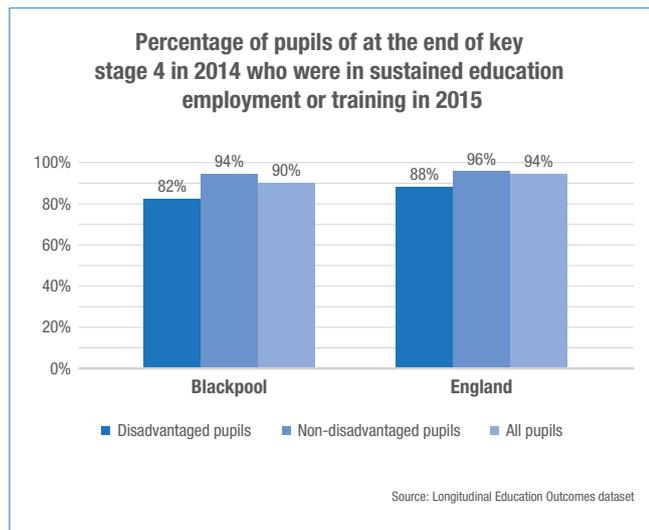
Too many pupils leave school without English and maths GCSEs. The further education providers do excellent work to address this (with greater than average numbers achieving their GCSEs between the ages of sixteen and nineteen). However, by the age of nineteen the proportion of young people who are qualified to level two (GCSE or equivalent) in English and maths remains much lower than the national average.

Despite the strength of Blackpool Sixth Form and Blackpool and the Fylde College, and the diverse academic and vocational offer they provide, the proportion of nineteen year olds qualified to level three remains lower than the national average. For disadvantaged nineteen years olds, the proportion is close to national average.

A recent employer survey undertaken by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) found that many youngsters, particularly those leaving school at sixteen, are ill-prepared for the world of work and more needs to be done to equip them with the skills and confidence to succeed.

Priority 3: Improve advice and support for young people when moving between schools/colleges and into work

2015 and 2016 position



What we will do

We will help to coordinate national and local initiatives so that work to support young people in making decisions about their futures is coherent and achieves maximum impact. We will:

- Work with the Careers & Enterprise Company, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and the Skills Hub to ensure that the Enterprise Adviser Network in Blackpool improves the quality and breadth of careers and enterprise activity and delivers meaningful employer encounters for young people aged eleven to eighteen. This will contribute to reduced levels of unemployment and improved career outcomes.
- Extend the successful work of Primary Futures, which raises aspirations by helping children understand the link between learning in school and the world of work to motivate them to improve their academic performance. We will identify a local secondary head to work with Inspiring the Future, the sister programme for secondary schools and colleges.
- Improve employment opportunities for young people with SEND. The Department for Education has funded the National Development Team for Inclusion to bring together strategic partners in Blackpool to look at how careers advice and employer engagement can be improved for this group of young people.
- Work with Blackpool Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Department for Work and Pensions to provide additional and effective support for those most at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment or training).
- The National Collaborative Outreach Programme (Future U) will support gifted youngsters from the Bloomfield ward to aspire to university or undertake Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. We will explore how to increase participation in higher education and apprenticeships in other wards in Blackpool.
- Partner with the National Citizen Service to help Blackpool's young people to develop skills for work and life beyond school through volunteering and social action projects. This will include a focus on sustained participation in volunteering projects.

Our activity in 2017/18 includes:

- By September 2017, careers and enterprise provision, funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company on behalf of each school and college, will commence activity and an Enterprise Adviser will be appointed for each school; by December 2017, Cornerstone employers will begin support in Blackpool schools and colleges as part of the Employer Commitment.
- The Opportunity Area partnership board is currently assessing proposals to reduce NEET levels in Blackpool. By December 2017, drawing on the experience of local partners who already work with the most vulnerable people in the area, evidence based, effective interventions will be taken forward.
- By November 2017, National Citizen Service will identify one member of staff within each of the Blackpool secondary schools to participate in its School Coordinator Programme.
- By July 2018, young people in Blackpool aged eleven to eighteen will have had over 14,000 meaningful encounters with employers.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- The proportion of young people who are in education, employment or training six months after leaving secondary school will place Blackpool in the top half of the country.
- The proportion of disadvantaged pupils undertaking a Higher and Degree Apprenticeship or going to university will put Blackpool in the top half of the country.
- Young people in Blackpool aged eleven to eighteen will have had over 46,000 meaningful encounters with employers.
- 540 young people will have participated in the National Citizen Service.







Blackpool

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opportunityareas.blackpool@education.gov.uk



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