

B&NES Council whole systems action plan to address education attainment inequalities: summary of actions

1. Strengthen Prevention, Early Intervention & Family Support

- Prioritise prevention and early-help budgets.
- Refresh Early Help pathways and integrate learning from Sure Start into Family Hubs.
- Strengthen system-wide social and emotional wellbeing approaches, including trauma-informed practice.
- Implement revised Public Health Nursing specification (named health visitors and school nurses).
- Expand Community Wellbeing Hub (CWH) as family front door; improve referral pathways and digital/AI access.
- Support NEET prevention via WECA bids; use exclusion panel insights.
- Coordinate social value actions for care leavers.
- Minimise use of temporary/B&B accommodation for families.
- Enable trusted professionals to support readiness, attendance and engagement.

2. Improve Access to Sporting, Social and Cultural Capital

- Embed attainment-gap priorities in Cultural Development Plan and leisure/physical activity planning.
- Build cultural social-prescribing pathways; enhance targeted cultural outreach.
- Expand work experience and volunteering in culture/heritage for FSM+.
- Develop Fashion Museum outreach post (subject to funding).
- Map and improve leisure offer for FSM+; embed inequalities focus in Physical Activity Plan.
- Create leisure-sector training and placements for FSM+; gather insight and co-design improvements.
- Encourage social responsibility in external leisure/sports providers.
- Improve HAF access; share digital wellbeing/screen-time resources.

3. Support Parental/Carer and Schools Engagement & Improve Attendance

- Map trusted professionals supporting families; strengthen multidisciplinary support.
- Use exclusion-panel learning to identify determinants of absence/exclusion.

To note: Other actions such as those focused on transport also support attendance

4. Create Inclusive, Healthy & Supportive Communities

- Embed FSM+ outcome expectations into project management.

- Enhance socio-economic lens of Sustainable Economies decision wheel.
- Ensure Local Plan prioritises thriving communities.
- Update S106/CIL approaches to fund community/youth infrastructure.
- Improve parks in deprived areas; deliver GI Framework actions.
- Deliver community events and regeneration to enhance cohesion and opportunity.

5. Improve Access to Services & the Home Learning Environment

- Expand Community Wellbeing Hub & Live Well, including AI navigation and multi-family referral systems.
- Improve professional awareness of CWH/Live Well.
- Strengthen library offer: reading, school readiness, digital access, quiet study spaces.
- Promote high-quality housing and social broadband tariffs; embed child-friendly design in planning.
- Expand automatic FSM enrolment, breakfast club access, and oral-health programmes.

6. Advance Social Mobility, Aspirations & Pathways into Work

- Use procurement/social value to encourage opportunities for FSM+/care-experienced young people.
- Strengthen apprenticeships, work experience, and 14–18 pathways with partners.
- Quantify missed economic potential associated with attainment gap.
- Ensure Employment & Skills leadership sits on Bath College Board.
- Bid for WECA Careers Hub funding; expand widening participation work with universities.
- Work with Future Ambitions Board on determinants of the attainment gap.

7. Make Transport Work for Children & Learning

- Review after-school club access and transport alignment.
- Explore resource-sharing with private schools (e.g., minibuses).
- Map community transport assets for shared-booking model.
- Make the case to WECA to align timetabling, routes and concessions with school patterns.
- Use The Hub for transport communications to education settings.
- Develop active-travel behaviour-change programmes for families.