



Blackpool Opportunity Area

An overview of projects and contacts

Priority 1: Raise attainment and progress

KS4 English [Lisa Fathers](#)

Support to improve the teaching of English in years 10 and 11. A final event will take place in December 2019 for all secondary schools' English Heads of Department.

KS3 Literacy [Stephen Tierney](#)

To train literacy/evidence-based leads in all secondary schools to improve Key Stage 3 students' reading abilities using funded whole school approaches from the [Education Endowment Foundation \(EEF\) toolkit](#)

Primary-secondary transition

Schools placed in 'family groups' to facilitate sharing of good practice and to promote smooth pupil transition and performance between primary and secondary phases. **Completed**

GL assessments [Mark Rayner](#)

A "whole town approach" to testing years 4 – 5 and years 7 – 9 in reading and attitudes to self and school. For those at secondary schools, additional tests are being undertaken including progress tests in English, maths, science, dyslexia and dyscalculia. A pilot is also taking place in one school family group to include testing at Years 3 and 6.

Targeted school improvement fund [Mark Rayner](#)

Bespoke school improvement support for 8 schools that need it most is underway. This includes improving leadership of English and maths teaching and trialling new approaches to managing behaviour. An evaluation report will be shared to aid best practice.

Teach Blackpool [Mark Rayner](#)

A comprehensive package of targeted support for teachers to aid their retention within the town (early career support for the newest teachers, quality-driven coaching and training for other teachers, and a programme of coaching and leadership for middle and senior leaders).

Evidence Based Innovation Fund [Mark Rayner](#)

School funding to pilot new evidence-based resource and CPD approaches to support improvement plan ambitions; 13 projects within primary and secondary schools are being delivered this academic year.

Community Literacy Campaign [Mark Rayner](#)

A town-wide campaign complemented by community and family support activities to "*Get Blackpool Reading*" will be implemented this academic year to facilitate increased literacy.

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

Team around the school [Janet Carroll](#)

This project is designed to help those children moving into the area with complex needs, those on the verge of permanent exclusion or home education, or those on a managed move that is failing to better engage with their mainstream secondary education. School Home Support, our delivery partner, has 7 Family Support Workers and 3 Parental Engagement Workers working with these young people and their families. We are also funding School Inclusion Leads and a dedicated Commissioning Manager, Janet Carroll.

Continuum of Provision
Greg Boone

A collaborative project between Academy Trust Chief Executives, the OA Programme, and the Local Authority to support a reduction in exclusions and managed moves across the town. Behaviour reviews and interventions will take place across all secondary schools during this academic year.

Emotional and mental health
Nicki Turner

This new project will focus on prevention by supporting and addressing the emotional and mental wellbeing issues that are a barrier to education and transitioning into work/college. This includes working with secondary schools to identify Mental Health Leads as set out in the Government's [Green Paper](#) and OA funding will support this role.

Speech Language and Communication
Colette Gollcher

Two speech, language and communication (SLC) projects will provide training and access to specialist support for primary and secondary mainstream schools to identify SLC needs early and deliver high quality teaching that meets their needs. ELKLAN training and a small amount of backfill funding is available for up to 4 practitioners from each school. If you are interested in ELKLAN training for your school please contact: elklantraining@blackpool.gov.uk

SEND project
Colette Gollcher

The OA has commissioned the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN) to support whole school SEND reviews across Blackpool Schools through a peer support model. Further detail on training and support will be shared with schools.

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

Start Blackpool
Andy Iredale

This project delivers a bespoke careers platform to connect all young people in schools and colleges with local career opportunities and career pathways. It includes e-learning activities and a local business directory.

Piloting Behavioural Interventions
Rachael Thornloe

Sheffield Hallam is piloting low cost interventions, co-designed with young people, with year 9 - 11 students to help them maximise the benefit of Start Blackpool.

Post 16 Transition
Jill Gray

Blackpool Sixth Form College and Blackpool and The Fylde College are providing an aspirational careers programme for young people, parents and staff alongside GSCE skills workshops for moderate achievers who have greater potential than currently being realised.

NEET Project
Vanda Defreitas

Blackpool Council Employment Service (Positive Steps) is piloting targeted work experience placements and paid internships for vulnerable 16-17-year-olds who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). This project will also provide training and coaching for council front line workers in *Individual Placement and Support* (IPS), which is an evidenced based supported employment model.

NEET Prevention Project
Paul O'Neil

Educational Diversity, alongside Right to Succeed, is working with 3 secondary schools and both local colleges to develop a NEET prevention model. The project will track young people who are at risk of NEET to identify lessons learned and will pilot support from engagement coaches.