

# **The Brooke House Sixth Form College (BSix)**

## **Accountability Agreement**

**September 2023**

### **Statement of Purpose**

*“The college is an asset to potential learners, providing educational opportunity for many learners who have previously experienced disappointment. It engages learners with a wide variety of experience and needs and from a wide area.”*

FE Commissioner Intervention Closure Report - October 2021

As the above statement confirms, BSix has come to occupy a very particular place in the educational firmament, catering for the needs of several student groups in ways not necessarily replicated elsewhere.

The mission of BSix is to develop in its students, and to demonstrate through its staff, the characteristic of being always “open to learning”. It seeks to achieve this by means of a carefully tailored and suitably challenging individual programme, underpinned by consistently strong teaching, comprehensive support services and a wide range of enrichment opportunities, set within a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Promotion of an openness to learning is at the heart of the College ethos and is a key factor in students acquiring the qualifications, and developing the skills and personal qualities, essential for their continuing success.

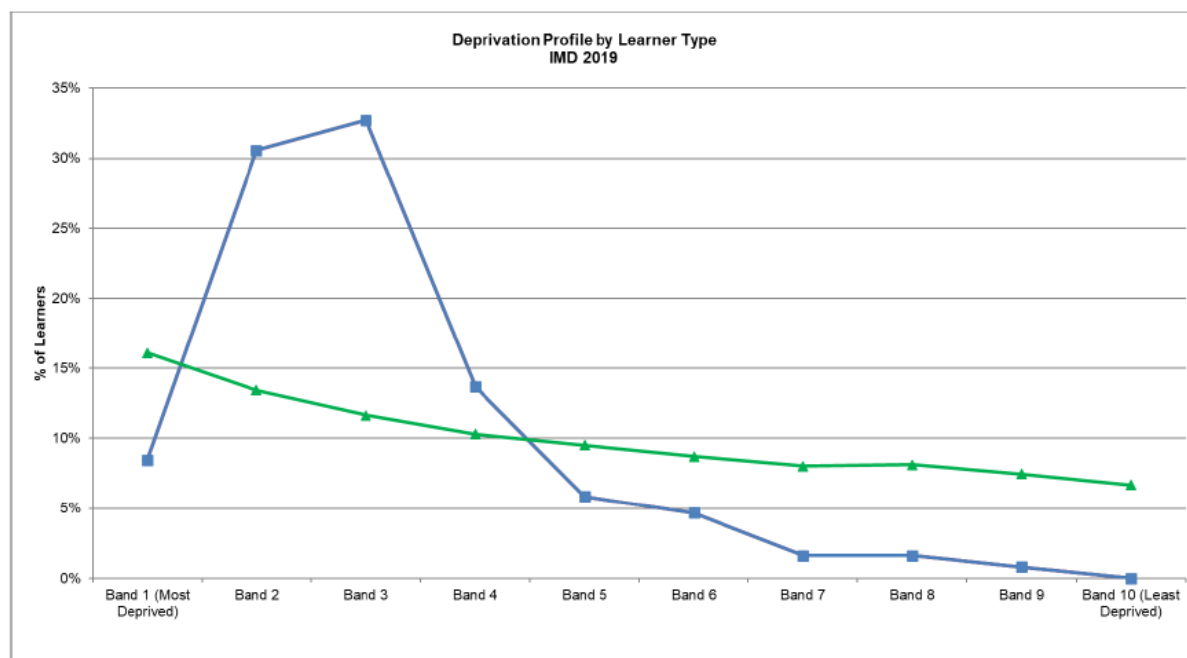
### **Context and Place**

BSix is a single site Sixth Form College in Hackney serving c. 1,150 16–19-year-old students and has c. 100 staff. It is one of two mainstream Further Educational providers located in Hackney surrounded by 12 local secondary school academies. All but one of the secondary schools have sixth forms. Entry criteria for Level 3 programmes are lower at BSix than those of almost all the schools and sixth form colleges situated in Hackney and neighbouring boroughs. The current student body is drawn from over 250 schools and colleges – a mean of a little over four per institution. A large proportion of our students do not select BSix as their first-choice destination, and we have no major feeder schools. The single largest ‘previous provider’ is ‘overseas’ and more students come to BSix after experiencing unsuccessful spells at other colleges/school sixth forms. BSix offers a broad curriculum with programmes ranging from level 1 to level 3. As part of its curriculum offer, BSix has a rich special educational needs provision and caters for commissioned 14-16 alternative provision placements from the boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets. 68 per cent of BSix students are on Level 3 programmes of study, with a 55-45 split between vocational and A Levels.

BSix runs a range of ESOL programmes, more recently for adults as well as for 14–19-year-olds. BSix is one of very few colleges in London to run a GCSE resit programme. In consequence, both the Science and Humanities pathways attract students from near and far keen to secure a platform of general qualifications before progressing to a level 3 vocational course or A levels. Amongst the more innovative courses available at BSix is a ‘back on track’ programme designed to allow students

to enrol between September and January rather than wait until the start of the next academic year before resuming their education. Whilst some are new arrivals from overseas, most of these students are transfers from other schools and colleges who have, for a multitude of reasons, failed to settle at their initial place of study.

BSix reflects its home borough in that it is in the top quartile of most deprived colleges nationwide.



The chart show above shows the College student demographic (in blue) compared to the national average (in green). This deprived demographic means that students come to BSix with additional support needs, that in turn means that the College has to tackle a variety of non-educational issues. The College's safeguarding, welfare and bursary teams have a high workload and are necessarily larger in relative terms than the size of college alone would appear to justify. The majority of students identify as non-white and the majority of those identifying as white further identify themselves as being of eastern European origin. Only 30% of BSix's students come from Hackney. The College has a very wide catchment with students coming from almost all of the London Boroughs.

Hackney is a relatively young borough with a quarter of its population under the age of 20. Hackney is the 6<sup>th</sup> most ethnically diverse brough in London Hackney with significant 'Other White', Black and Turkish/Kurdish communities. A large Charedi Jewish community is concentrated in the North East of the Borough and is growing. People from Australia, the US and Western European countries like Spain, France and Italy make up the largest groups who have recently come to live in Hackney from abroad. Hackney has significantly more people of Jewish and Muslim faiths and a higher proportion of people with no religion. Over a third of Hackney residents were born outside the UK. Hackney is the 22<sup>nd</sup> most deprived local authority overall in England. Hackney is relatively more deprived in relation to barriers to housing and services, and significantly less deprived for education. The performance of Hackney pupils at GCSE has improved over the years. The proportion of Hackney students who achieved a standard 9-4 pass including English and Maths in 2019 was 69.4%, compared with 68.7% in London and 64.9% in England.

Hackney is the third most densely populated borough in London, but it also one of the greenest in inner London as has been awarded the green flag quality mark. Hackney has experienced rapid

economic growth over the last decade. The greatest number of businesses in Hackney are found in the Professional, Scientific, Technical, Information and Communication sectors. Despite its proximity to the City, only 2.5% of Hackney-based workers are employed in Finance and Insurance. Hackney has a slightly larger qualified workforce than London where 54.2% of working aged adults have a degree-level qualification or above.

## Approach to Developing the Plan

BSix is in constant dialogue with a range of local and national stakeholders so that we can give our students the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for future employment. The College is committed to its civic responsibilities, working closely with **Hackney Education** to meet local needs. This comprises a **Post-16 Network**, **Head Teachers** forum and a **Careers Collaborative** group. We work closely with the local authority to ensure every 16-year-old in Hackney has a college place should they chose one.

### Our Key External Stakeholders are:

- Hackney Education
- Hackney Council
- Homerton Hospital University Trust
- Education and Skills Funding Agency
- West Ham United Foundation
- Employers (Health and Social Care, and Childcare)
- The Shaw Trust

### Engagement with Other Providers in the Area (and beyond):

- Sixth Form Colleges Association
- Association of Colleges
- New City College Hackney
- Leaders Unlocked
- University of Sussex
- Russell Group Universities
- Stormont House School
- New Regents College
- Hackney Shed
- Rise International
- University of the Arts London

Recent engagement with employers and charities regarding curriculum offer and design includes:

- East London Business Alliance (ELBA)
- The Wickers Charity
- Envision UK
- National Citizen Service (NCS)
- Central London Careers Hub (Reed in Partnership)
- Hackney Employment and Skills Board

Our work within the fields of childcare and education, and health and social care, involves significant interaction with local employers. The College has developed a broad pool of local employers in these sectors to deliver substantial industry work placement. Employers contribute to the learning and

training undertaken by young people, often resulting in students securing paid employment after the completion of their study programmes. There is strong employer engagement with **Homerton University Hospital** and **Hackney Council** on the Supported Internship Programme, which is specific for students with an Education Health and Care Plan. We will work with our local skills improvement plan, driven by **Central London Forward**, to develop relevant T-level provision in the industry areas of Creative Arts and Digital Technologies. Immediate local employers in discussion are **Dice Production Entertainment**, **Founder Forum Group** (formally Tech Nation) and employers of the **HWFI Creative Enterprise Zone**. We are working with the **Hackney Employment and Skills Board** to ensure that our curriculum provision for Adult ESOL programmes align to meeting local needs. We are in a direct partnership with the **West Ham United Foundation**, which is part funded by the Premier League Football Association. We use this partnership to drive improvements in student behaviour within our 14-16 alternative provision programme to reduce the amount of young people becoming NEET in the local borough. We have an effective careers education programme which includes service from the **Shaw Trust** (Prospects). Our commitment in ensuring that all young people have access to education has resulted in the college being an active member of the Prospects Boost Plus Mentoring programme.

### Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities

Strategic Aims/Objectives	Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills
1. Use the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) to help shape the vocational curriculum offer in those areas identified as priority industry sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All curriculum areas with vocational qualifications will establish a local employer advisory board, specifically, the departments of Creative Arts; Business and Information Technology; Health and Social Care.</li> <li>BSix will have formal representation on Hackney's Employment and Advisory Board to shape Adult ESOL employability skills</li> </ul>
2. Introduce T levels where appropriate and to strengthen relationships with employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The College will roll out T-levels for 2024-25 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Production, Design and Development</li> <li>Media, Broadcast and Production</li> <li>Education and Early Years</li> <li>Health</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Continue to provide appropriate advice and guidance on skills and pathways for ESOL and EHCP students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of ESOL students progress into education or employment with improved employability skills</li> <li>100% of EHCP students progress into education or employment with improved employability skills</li> </ul>
4. Ensure that over 90% of Level 3 students achieve a positive HE destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All curriculum areas with academic qualifications will establish strong progression agreements with local universities, namely the University of Westminster and the University of Greenwich.</li> <li>Strengthen the AIM programme with the University of Oxford and Queen Mary University</li> </ul>

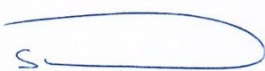
	to ensure 15% of all leavers move on to Russell Group Universities
5. Ensure that 16-19 study programmes embed provision for learners to develop digital and transferable skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver high-quality Enrichment and Careers Education as mandatory elements of the study programme</li> <li>• Revamp the 'Study Programme Award' to ensure students can evidence skills</li> <li>• Utilise the START platform to deliver the teaching of skills</li> <li>• Ensure all learners have opportunities to participate in the Turing Scheme and National Competitions.</li> </ul>
6. Work as a partner with New City College in delivering the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver high-quality pedagogical projects in Digital Skills for long-term curriculum design and development</li> <li>• Implement a capital project in digital skills from start to end ensuring resources are sustainable and embedded for future curriculum use</li> </ul>

### Corporation Statement

On behalf of The Brooke House Sixth Form College, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at their meeting in September 2023.

The plan will be published on the college's website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link:

**Chair of Governors**



**Stephen Blackshaw**

**Principal and Accounting Officer**



**Kevin Watson**

### Relevant Supporting Documentation

[Strategic Plan 2023](#)

[Strategic Objectives 2023](#)

[Ofsted Report 2021](#)