

**Councillor Amer Agha, Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment and Skills
Regeneration and Environment Department
Key Achievements / Headlines 2018 - 2019
14 January 2020**

Employment and Skills

- Morland Gardens Redevelopment progressing to Cabinet, 14th January 2020, to deliver 65 council homes (32% 3&4 beds), a new adult education centre, affordable workspace and a public facing café.
- The Living Room and Brent Works are on track to supporting over 200 people into employment and 60 apprenticeship outcomes in 2018-19 financial year. Apprenticeship opportunities have included construction, finance, digital design, cake decorating, theatre assistants and more.
- Brent Business Board launched a new apprenticeship pilot in 2019, with Network Homes providing HR support, and the council using transfer of the Apprenticeship levy to small businesses and VCS organisations. The pilot will support 12 organisations in its first year to recruit apprentices.
- Brent Start performance continued its year on year increase, reaching 93.3% Achievement Rate, now significantly above national and comparator averages.
- Brent Start were runners up at the national Better Connected awards in 2019 for their Digital Skills offer. The Brent Start offer now supports 350 residents per annum and is growing further in 2020. It includes the Virtual Hub that launched in November 2018, with virtual and augmented reality embedded in lessons across the service such as ESOL and for residents with learning disabilities.
- Launch of Bright Futures in October, a new programme to support ex-offenders into quality employment, delivered by the Forward Trust. Co-commissioned with community safety and probation colleagues, funded by the DWP. A cohort of 40 ex-offenders are to be supported, with 5 already entering employment.
- The Moving on Up project to support young black men into quality employment has commissioned delivery partners Making the Leap, Action West London, Access UK, and Plias, to deliver employment pathways and a new mentor network. The programme is now live and a formal launch will take place in March 2020 alongside an aspirational event for young black men. The delivery partners are funded by Trust for London and City Bridge Trust and the programme is designed in partnership with the Black Training and Employment Group (BTEG).

- The Work and Health Programme launched in 2018, delivered in Brent and across West London by the Shaw Trust, a social enterprise providing holistic support to the long-term employed and with specialism to support a wide range of health issues, physical and mental. Over 200 Brent residents have secured employment through the programme to date.
- Twinings are also delivering support to residents with common mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression, the Mental Health Trailblazer project. Referrals are received directly from IAPT (Talking Therapies) in Primary Health settings.
- The Shaw Trust are also working with the council to support adults with learning disabilities to access employment, including new roles being recruited to in adult social care.
- A Supported Internship Programme launched in 2018, a partnership between Children and Young People, Employment, Skills and Enterprise, the College of North West London, and the West London Alliance. A cohort of 12 young people were supported at Charing Cross hospital in a pilot with over 90% entering employment, and a second cohort will be starting in September 2020 with placements in the council and with local businesses.
- A new employment programme for residents with substance misuse issues launched in Brent and West London in 2019, delivered by the Westminster Drugs Project, with 11 Brent residents entering work in its first 6 months of operation.
- The Greater London Authority (GLA) launched the Local Enterprise Advisor Network (LEAN) in 2019, which is now working with 8 secondary schools in Brent to support their employability framework including careers advice and work experience.
- As part of the Digital Programme, Digital Career Camps were run in 2019, supporting over 80 Brent residents from a cross-section of school 6th forms, the College of North West London, and Jobcentre Plus claimants. 81% of jobseekers progressed into employment.

Schools Capital Programme

- Completion of Primary School expansions at Byron Court Primary School, Elsley Primary School and The Stonebridge School. These projects have provided an additional 1,050 primary school places.
- Completion of a classroom block at Malorees Junior School.
- Completion of temporary accommodation at Woodfield School to provide 19 new Special Education Needs places.

- Completion of 40 school condition improvement projects meaning that Community and Foundation schools are kept warm, watertight and safe for pupils, staff and visitors. Examples of these projects include electrical distribution system upgrades, boiler and heating system replacements, new roofs, windows and doors as well as enhanced fire safety and site security measures.
- Completion of a new accommodation block at the Gordon Brown Outdoor Education Centre allowing the Council to provide outdoor education opportunities to schoolchildren.
- Completion of new units at Ealing Road Library as part of the High Street improvement project.