

# Hastings Opportunity Area

**Emily Williams, Head of Delivery**

# What is social mobility?

Social mobility is the breaking of the link between a child's family background and where they get to in life, with their background and destination often measured by social class (which usually looks at their profession) or by income.'

**Opportunity Areas** will see local partnerships formed with early years providers, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, charities and local authorities to ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



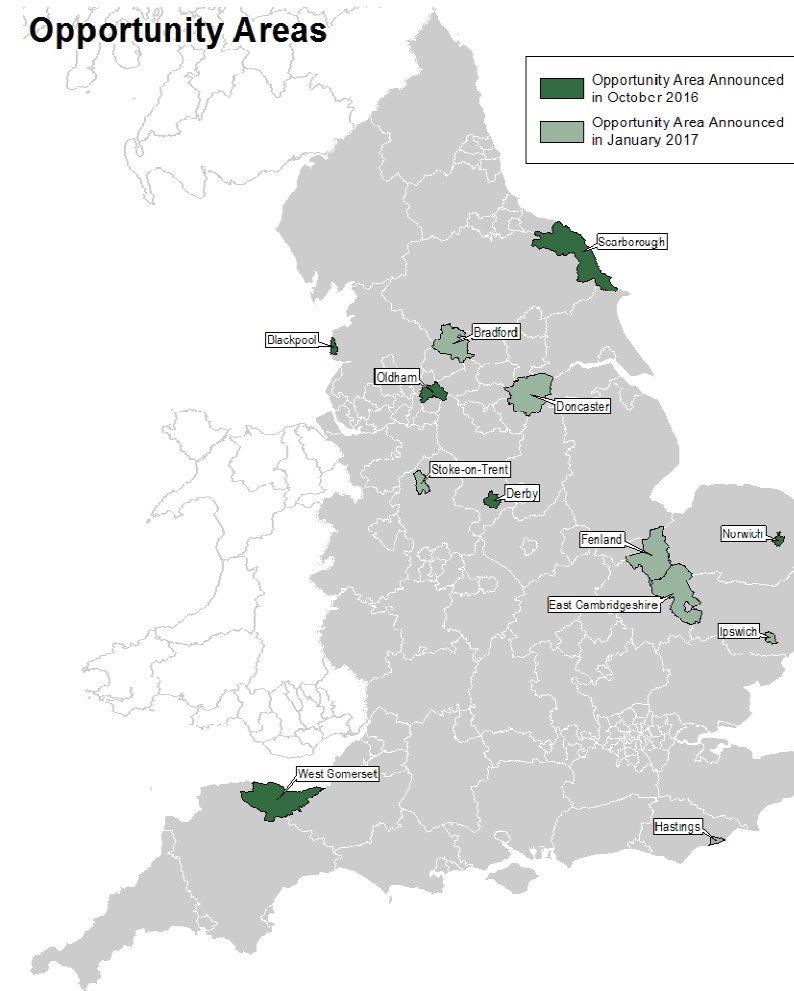
# The Opportunity Areas

areas were  
announced 4  
October 2016:

Blackpool  
Scarborough  
Oldham  
Derby  
Norwich  
West Somerset

A further six areas were  
announced 18 January  
2017:

- Doncaster
- Bradford
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Ipswich
- Hastings
- Fenland and East Cambridgeshire



# Why these 12 Opportunity Areas?

Based on the Social Mobility Commission's social mobility index and DfE's education data, areas were identified as facing challenges to social mobility.

Other factors were also taken into account in selecting these 12 Opportunity Areas, including:

- **Regional spread**
- **Type of area**
- **Local support**

The primary purpose of Opportunity Areas is to focus local and national resources on a common goal – to increase social mobility. We want to learn from what works in these initial 12 areas, capturing which challenges all areas share and what is unique to a particular place.

Hastings ranks 282 of 324 on the Social Mobility Commission's index. It is the only Opportunity Area in the South East.

# Our approach to driving social mobility in OAs

**Delivery plans will be structured around the 6 broad barriers to social mobility.**

## Early years provision

- Lower income families are less likely to access high quality early years provision that meets their needs and there are large gaps in development for these children at the start of school.

## Home learning environment (including parental engagement)

- Children from lower income families are less likely to experience an optimal home learning environment (e.g. language development). This leads to worse child development outcomes from an early age.

## Educational outcomes

- Having started school behind, children from lower income families make less progress and have lower attainment. Lower income children are less likely to access high quality schools and so are less likely to experience high quality teaching.

## Aspirations, Advice and Experiences

- Lower income children are less likely to have access to the advice, information and wider experiences that will help them to make optimal choices that will enable them to succeed in the labour market.

## 16-19 years

- Lower income students make sub-optimal choices, are less likely to access the highest quality provision and have weaker outcomes, are more likely to be NEET and less likely to fulfil their potential.

## Post -19 years

- In adulthood, lower attainment creates divides in labour market outcomes; with young people from lower income families less likely to enter top universities and professions and more likely to enter low paid work and be unemployed.

# OA Governance: partnership boards

The partnership board will work with us in assessing key actions needed in Hastings to improve social mobility, bringing local and regional intelligence and experience to bear in the process

The board (of around 10 – 12 members) will be a range of local representatives from school providers, FE or HE sector representatives, local enterprises, the local authority or the voluntary sector.

The board will have an independent chair, appointed by DfE in consultation with local partners

The board will focus on:

- Problem diagnosis and prioritising the challenges to focus on;
- Specific local success measures for the Hastings delivery plan;
- Interventions in response to the problems – the delivery plan;
- Monitoring and revising the delivery plan as necessary.

# What support will Opportunity Areas access?

£72 million of new funding to support targeted, local work in a small number of Opportunity Areas to address the biggest challenges each of these areas face.

An innovation fund to improve teaching and leadership, worth £75 million, for the most challenging areas of the country, including Opportunity Areas.

A Strategic School Improvement Fund will prioritise school improvement support in schools and areas of most need, including Opportunity Areas

Investing in improving careers and enterprise provision in Opportunity Areas through the Careers and Enterprise Company. Each secondary school will have a dedicated enterprise advisor, leading at least four different work experiences.

Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Research Schools – £3.5m available to establish hubs of expertise across schools, encouraging research and innovation through interventions proven by EEF to advance social mobility. Ark Blacklands is the Hastings research school.

A range of other DfE funded programmes

## **What we have learnt so far...**

- The proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development in early years is above the national average – there is much to build on
- There are some great examples of partnership working delivering results
- There is a thriving arts and culture scene – and organisations are keen to do more to support schools
- While teacher recruitment is challenging, there is a growing Teach First cohort
- There is a group of local employers that work closely with schools to support careers advice and work experience.



## **But there are some stubborn issues to address**

- Only 25% of pupils eligible for free school meals reach expected standards at end of KS2 and KS4
- There are fewer pupils in good and outstanding schools in Hastings than there are nationally
- Attendance is poor, particularly in primary schools and there is high mobility between schools
- Recruiting high quality professionals across all sectors and at all levels, but particularly middle and senior leadership, is difficult.
- Professionals have observed a rise in the numbers of children and young people presenting mental health issues.
- Attainment at age 19 is low, particularly for pupils eligible for free school meals

# ontact Details

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