

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 October 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Provisional Learner Outcomes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an initial summary of pupil outcomes across all key stages from the Summer 2016 assessments for the Cabinet and Elected Members. At this stage, it should be noted that the data at Key Stage 4 is based on external examinations and at this stage is only provisional. Local authorities expect to receive the verified data on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 and this may result in some minor changes to the data profile. Data at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 is based on teacher assessment which has been verified. A more detailed overview of learner outcomes will be presented in the Quarter 3 report in line with the usual reporting cycle.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Cabinet note the outcomes of pupil assessments across all key stages.
2	That the Cabinet acknowledges the improvements in learner outcomes where they have been achieved.
3	That Cabinet members are aware of the aspects of learner outcomes that still require a clear focus from the Local Authority and GwE to secure further improvements and are aware of how schools will be targeted, challenged and supported to secure higher outcomes in 2017 and bring Flintshire closer in line with its expected position in comparison to the other 22 Local Authorities based on its Free School Meals profile.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLAINING THE PROVISIONAL LEARNER OUTCOMES</b>
1.01	<p><b><u>Foundation Phase</u></b>  Pupils are assessed at the age of seven, at the end of Year 2, by their teachers against the Areas of Learning in the Foundation Phase curriculum.</p> <p>Core assessments are made in the following areas:  -Language, Literacy &amp; Communication (LCE English or LCW Welsh)  -Mathematical Development (MD)  -Personal &amp; Social Development, Well-being &amp; Cultural Diversity (PSD)</p> <p>The expected level for a 7 year old is that they attain Outcome 5. If a pupil achieves Outcome 6 then they are operating above the expected level for their age. If they achieve less than Outcome 5 then they are not yet achieving the expected level and this will not be counted towards the national benchmarks.</p> <p>The Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI) is achieved when a pupil achieves Outcome 5 or above in the three core assessments listed above. This is the main indicator used for measuring performance in Foundation Phase.</p>
1.02	<p>In 2016 the overall performance at the Foundation Phase Indicator in Flintshire was <b>86.9%</b>. Compared to the 2015 results, this was a drop of <b>0.1%</b>. However, since 2014, the FPI in Flintshire has increased by <b>2.4%</b>. The improvement trend is generally positive but the aim is to ensure that outcomes next year increase and this dip reversed.</p>
1.03	<p>In 2016, Flintshire's performance in the FPI was above the GwE average of <b>86.2%</b> but just below the Wales average of <b>87.0%</b>. Across the GwE region, Flintshire's performance at the FPI was <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> out of the 6 LAs (behind Denbighshire).</p>
1.04	<p>Analysis of the core assessed areas shows the following:</p> <p>Language, Literacy &amp; Communication (English medium) – dip of 0.6%  Language, Literacy &amp; Communication (Welsh medium) – dip of 3.1% *  Mathematical Development – maintained steady position  Personal &amp; Social Development – dip of 1.1%</p>
1.05	<p>It needs to be noted that Flintshire has only 5 Welsh medium schools so the cohort is much smaller than the English medium sector and the data profile can be more variable. Also, a high percentage of pupils in Welsh medium schools come from English speaking homes but have to be assessed in Welsh and by 7 years old, have not fully developed their Welsh language skills to a level of fluency. However, the drop in performance in this area is being further analysed by the Welsh and</p>

	Foundation Phase Advisory Teams and an action plan will be put in place.																								
1.06	<p>Based on its Free School Meal profile, Flintshire is expected to be ranked 6<sup>th</sup> or better compared with the other local authorities in Wales. Compared to the 2015 data, Flintshire's ranked position has decreased in 2016 across all indicators which is not the desired outcome.</p> <p>Improving Flintshire's ranked position is a key priority in the current improvement/business plan.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>2016 ranked</th> <th>2015 ranked</th> <th>+ / -</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FPI</td> <td>13</td> <td>9</td> <td>-4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LCE</td> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> <td>-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LCW</td> <td>20</td> <td>15</td> <td>-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MD</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSD</td> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> <td>-5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicator	2016 ranked	2015 ranked	+ / -	FPI	13	9	-4	LCE	11	9	-2	LCW	20	15	-5	MD	12	10	-2	PSD	9	14	-5
Indicator	2016 ranked	2015 ranked	+ / -																						
FPI	13	9	-4																						
LCE	11	9	-2																						
LCW	20	15	-5																						
MD	12	10	-2																						
PSD	9	14	-5																						
1.07	<p><b>Key Stage 2</b> Pupils are assessed at the age of eleven, at the end of Year 6, by their teachers against the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2.</p>																								
1.08	<p>Core assessments are made in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English or Welsh (language of the school)</li> <li>- Mathematics</li> <li>- Science</li> </ul>																								
1.09	<p>The expected level for an 11 year old is that they attain at least Level 4. If a pupil achieves Level 5 or 6 then they are operating above the expected level for their age. If they achieve less than Level 4 then they are not yet achieving the expected level and this will not be counted towards the national benchmarks.</p>																								
1.10	<p>The Core Subject Indicator is achieved when a pupil achieves Level 4 or above in the three core assessments listed above. This is the main indicator used for measuring performance in Key Stage 2.</p>																								
1.11	<p>In 2016 the overall performance at the Core Subject Indicator in Flintshire was <b>90.1%</b>. Compared to the 2015 results, this was an improvement of <b>2.2%</b>. Positively, since 2014 the CSI in Flintshire has increased by <b>4.0%</b> which reflects well on the work being undertaken in our primary schools to improve pupil outcomes.</p>																								
1.12	<p>In 2016, Flintshire's performance in the CSI was above the GwE average of <b>88.8%</b> and also above the Wales average of <b>88.6%</b>. Across the GwE region, Flintshire's performance at the CSI was <b>1st</b> out of the 6 Las.</p>																								
1.13	<p>Analysis of the core assessed areas shows the following:</p> <p>English – <b>up by 1.1% to 91.2%</b>  Welsh – <b>dip of 2.1% to 84.3% *</b>  Mathematics – <b>up by 1.4% to 92.3%</b></p>																								

Science – **up by 0.7% to 92.8%**

As with Foundation Phase it needs to be noted that Flintshire has only 5 Welsh medium schools so the cohort is much smaller than the English medium sector and the data profile can be more variable. However, the drop in performance in this area since 2014 is being further analysed by the Welsh Advisory Team and GwE, and an action plan will be put in place to improve learner outcomes in this area.

1.14 Based on its Free School Meal profile, Flintshire is expected to be ranked 6<sup>th</sup> or better compared with the other local authorities in Wales. Compared to the 2015 data, Flintshire’s ranked position has increased in 2016 across all indicators, except for Welsh first language, which is very positive.

Maintaining and further improving Flintshire’s ranked position is a key priority in the current business plan.

Indicator	2016 ranked	2015 ranked	+ / -
CSI	5	11	+6
English	6	9	+3
Welsh	21/21	19	-2
Mathematics	3	9	+6
Science	9	10	+1

1.15 **Key Stage 3**

Pupils are assessed at the age of fourteen, at the end of Year 9, by their teachers against the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3.

Core assessments are made in the following areas:

- English or Welsh (language of the school)
- Mathematics
- Science

The expected level for a 14 year old is that they attain at least Level 5. If a pupil achieves Level 6 or 7 then they are operating above the expected level for their age. If they achieve less than Level 5 then they are not yet achieving the expected level and this will not be counted towards the national benchmarks.

The Core Subject Indicator is achieved when a pupil achieves Level 5 or above in the three core assessments listed above. This is the main indicator used for measuring performance in Key Stage 3.

1.16 In 2016 the overall performance at the Core Subject Indicator in Flintshire was **88.4%**. Compared to the 2015 results, this was an improvement of **1.3%**. Positively, since 2014 the CSI in Flintshire has increased by **4.1%** which reflects well on the work being undertaken in our secondary schools to improve pupil outcomes.

1.17	In 2016, Flintshire's performance in the CSI was above the GwE average of <b>87.8%</b> and also above the Wales average of <b>85.9%</b> . Across the GwE region, Flintshire's performance at the CSI was <b>2nd</b> out of the 6 LAs, behind Gwynedd.																								
1.18	<p>Analysis of the core assessed areas shows the following:</p> <p>English – <b>dip of 0.3%</b> to <b>91.1%</b>          Welsh – <b>up by 16.8%</b> to <b>96.8% *</b>          Mathematics – <b>up by 0.7%</b> to <b>92.7%</b>          Science – <b>up by 0.5%</b> to <b>94.8 %</b></p> <p>*Flintshire has only 1 Welsh medium secondary school where pupils will be assessed in Welsh as their first language so the cohort is smaller than pupils assessed in English and the data profile can be more variable. However, this is a significant improvement and reflects a very strong upward trend over the last two years of 40.8% at Key Stage 3 in this school.</p>																								
1.19	<p>Based on its Free School Meal profile, Flintshire is expected to be ranked 6<sup>th</sup> or better compared with the other local authorities in Wales. Compared to the 2015 data, Flintshire's ranked position has been variable in 2016 across all indicators, increasing in 2 subjects but decreasing in 3. Although pupil outcomes increased the CSI and in all subjects except English, the rate of progress in Flintshire has not been as great as other Local Authorities in Wales.</p> <p>Maintaining and further improving Flintshire's ranked position of 6<sup>th</sup> or better is a key priority in the current business plan.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1227 1027 1491"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>2016 ranked</th> <th>2015 ranked</th> <th>+ / -</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CSI</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welsh</td> <td>4</td> <td>18/18</td> <td>+14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicator	2016 ranked	2015 ranked	+ / -	CSI	6	7	+1	English	6	5	-1	Welsh	4	18/18	+14	Mathematics	5	3	-2				
Indicator	2016 ranked	2015 ranked	+ / -																						
CSI	6	7	+1																						
English	6	5	-1																						
Welsh	4	18/18	+14																						
Mathematics	5	3	-2																						
1.20	<p><b><u>Key Stage 4</u></b></p> <p>Pupils are assessed at the age of sixteen at the end of Year 11 by external examinations at GCSE (or BTEC equivalents).</p> <p>The main indicator used to judge performance at all levels is the <b>Level 2+ Indicator</b> which means that a pupil has achieved <b>5 GCSE grades A*-C, including English and Maths.</b></p>																								
1.21	In 2016, Flintshire's performance in this key indicator <b>improved by 0.7%</b> on 2015 to <b>61.3%</b> . This was <b>above</b> the GwE average of <b>60.1%</b> . The Wales average is not yet known. Flintshire's performance is <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> in the region behind Gwynedd.																								
1.22	While the 2016 data represents an improvement on 2015, the overall position of Flintshire on this indicator has reduced overall by <b>0.6%</b> since 2014. The priority for the LA and GwE is to increase the performance of																								

	Flintshire in this key measure, regain the ground lost since 2014 and make further improvements to secure a better ranked position in the region and Wales overall.
1.23	The actual performance of Flintshire schools in 2016 is below challenging and aspirational targets set at the beginning of the academic year. The last set of projections collected by GwE in April 2016, indicated a likely outcome of <b>66.3%</b> . The provisional final outcomes at <b>61.3%</b> reflect a difference of -5.0% against projections.
1.24	Of the 12 mainstream secondary schools, 5 schools were within 1% of their final predications for this indicator but 7 were below. A continued focus of the LA and GwE will be to continue to support schools to refine their target setting processes and pupil tracking systems to close the gap between projected and final performance.
1.25	Based on its Free School Meal profile, Flintshire is expected to be ranked 6 <sup>th</sup> or better compared with the other local authorities in Wales. Ranked positions for the main performance indicators for Wales will not be available until December when all the data is verified.
1.26	<b><u>Level 2 Threshold (5A*-C)</u></b> In 2016, Flintshire achieved <b>80.8%</b> , a <b>drop of 2.4%</b> on the 2015 data. This is <b>below</b> the GwE average of <b>81.6%</b> and places Flintshire <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> out of the 6 Local Authorities in the region.
1.27	<b><u>Level 1 Threshold (5A*-G)</u></b> In 2016, Flintshire achieved <b>95.3%</b> , an <b>increase of 0.8%</b> on the 2015 data. This is <b>just above</b> the GwE average of <b>95.2%</b> and places Flintshire <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> out of the 6 Local Authorities in the region.
1.28	<b><u>A* - A Performance at GCSE</u></b> In 2016, <b>14.5%</b> of Flintshire pupils achieved at the highest grade levels of A*-A. This represents an improvement of <b>0.4%</b> on 2015 and an overall improvement of <b>0.8%</b> since 2014. This is above the GwE average of <b>14.3%</b> . The Wales average is not yet known. This data places Flintshire <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> in the region in this indicator, behind Gwynedd and Anglesey. The focus of the LA/GwE business plan is to improve outcomes in this area.
1.29	<b><u>Key Stage 5</u></b> The model of delivery for Key Stage 5 varies within Flintshire with provision in some schools, through local consortia arrangements and by Coleg Cambria. Therefore it is difficult to provide a detailed overview of performance.  Based on the provisional performance of the schools/consortia delivering A levels, Flintshire's performance at the Level 3 threshold of 2 A levels <b>increased by 1.0% to 98.1%</b> .  Provisional data for A*-E grades is <b>97.2%</b> , a <b>drop of 0.4%</b> from 2015. Provisional data for A*-C grades is <b>73.0%</b> , a <b>drop of 4.3%</b> from 2015 Provisional data for A*-A grades is <b>14.7%</b> , a <b>drop of 4.4%</b> from 2015.  The focus of the LA/GwE business plan is to increase the percentage of

	higher A level grades (C and above) and particularly A*-A.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Officer time  Resources funded by GwE as part of the Service Level Agreement  Resources within the Education & Youth Portfolio

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	N/A

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p>Poor learner outcomes places an individual school at risk in a number of ways e.g. it develops a poor reputation within the local community; it is more likely to have a poor Estyn inspection outcome; there is a potential for a drop in pupil numbers which then impacts on funding levels. These issues can all have a major outcome on the long term sustainability of a school.</p> <p>Having a number of schools performing badly with low pupil outcomes and poor Estyn judgements, also places the Council and GwE at risk as poor school performance is one of the main criteria used by Estyn and the Welsh Audit Office to make judgements about the quality of these organisations and their ability to effectively deliver core educational services.</p> <p>A key risk is that schools might not make best use of the support available to them from the Local Authority and GwE to secure improved learner outcomes. This risk is mitigated by the regular monitoring of schools by the Local Authority, through its School Performance Monitoring Group and by the regular reviews undertaken by the Senior Manager for School Improvement within the LA and the Senior Challenge Adviser for the Flintshire/Wrexham hub. These meetings ensure that schools are challenged effectively to improve their learner outcomes and that the appropriate levels of support are in place to support the school on its improvement journey.</p>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	N/A

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Claire Homard–Senior Manager for School Improvement  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704019  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk">claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Estyn</b> – Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector for Education &amp; Training in Wales</p> <p><b>GwE</b> – Regional School Improvement Service for North Wales</p>