

EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

Date of Meeting	Thursday 2 nd February, 2017
Report Subject	Learner Outcomes
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education & Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide members with a summary of pupil attainment in statutory assessments across primary and secondary school phases for the school year 2015-16. It also provides a summary of data in relation to attendance and exclusions.

The Welsh Government produces its annual set of results by Local Authority area, reporting pupil attainment at the end of each key stage within schools.

Pupil attainment information is derived from statutory assessments administered by schools and from public examinations during the school year 2015-16.

The Local Authority, in partnership with the Regional School Improvement and Effectiveness Service (GwE), endeavours to secure high quality outcomes for its learners.

All Flintshire schools benefit from the regional Challenge and Support programme according to their support category and needs. Schools which are identified in the national model of categorisation as 'Green' and strong 'Yellow' receive a programme that is based on the principle of schools leaders working together and taking the lead responsibility for their standards and improvement programme, with 'light touch' intervention from Challenge Advisers. Schools which are identified in the national model of categorisation as 'Amber' or 'Red' receive bespoke packages of support to enable them to secure improvements in learner outcomes.

The School Performance Monitoring Group of Senior Officers and Members hold regular meetings to challenge schools where there is concern about pupil outcomes and monitors the impact of agreed action plans in securing improvements for learners. This includes schools categorised as 'Red' or 'Amber'.

The learner outcomes data in this report refers to the performance of all pupils in Flintshire, including those in specialist schools, pupil referral units and those educated 'other than at school'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members receive the report and note the attainment of Flintshire children and young people for the year 2015-16.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LEARNER OUTCOMES REPORT
1.01	The booklet 'Statutory Assessment and Reporting Arrangements' for the school year 2015-16 published by Welsh Government contains all the information required by schools and Local Authorities (LAs) about statutory teacher assessment at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.
1.02	Assessments at KS4 are carried out through examination, usually by General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSE) in individual curriculum subjects. There is also a range of specialist and vocational qualifications available for pupils at the end of compulsory education.
1.03	Pupils are assessed at the end of each key stage at the following ages: Foundation Phase - 7 year olds (National Curriculum Year 2) Key Stage 2 – 11 year olds (National Curriculum Year 6) Key Stage 3 – 14 year olds (National Curriculum Year 9) Key Stage 4 – 16 year olds (National Curriculum Year 11) Key Stage 5 – 18 year olds (National Curriculum Year 13)
1.04	Attached to this report are individual annexes which provide the detailed analysis of the performance of each key stage for 2016 including comparisons to the previous year and to the current Welsh averages.
1.05	An additional appendix is attached which outlines attendance and exclusion data for Flintshire primary and secondary schools for 2015.
1.06	Outcomes in Foundation Phase made limited progress in 2016 whilst in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 there is a sustained trend of improved performance resulting in outcomes at or above the expected level based upon Flintshire's Free School Meal profile.
1.07	At KS4's main indicator, Level 2+ (5A*-C GCSEs including English/Welsh & Maths), Flintshire's performance improved slightly by 0.9% in 2016 to 61.5% (2015 – 60.6%). This compared to an aggregated schools' target of 68.1% set at the beginning of the 15-16 year and a final projection in April 2016 of 66.3%. This discrepancy between targets/projections and then

	final outcomes is a key area of focus. The outcomes at this L2+ indicator placed it 10 th across Wales but 2 nd in the GwE region.
1.08	GwE continues to work closely with the Local Authority to ensure that all schools, but particularly secondary schools, are accurately tracking pupil progress towards published targets to ensure a better match between predicted and actual outcomes.
1.09	When benchmarked against its Free School Meal profile (FSM), Flintshire is expected to perform at least 6 th best in Wales. This is the first time that the Key Stage 2 outcome has been above the expected ranking.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Learner outcome data is a core element of the annual self-evaluation procedures undertaken by the Education & Youth Portfolio and this is consulted upon with all key education stakeholders.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Anti-poverty Impact – The Local Authority seeks to mitigate the impact of poverty through its partnership work programme and through the careful monitoring by GwE Challenge Advisers of how schools use their Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to support those pupils at risk of potential underachievement. Schools are required to publish their plans for the use of PDG.
4.02	Equalities Impact – The 2011 LAESCYP inspection undertaken by Estyn recognised good practice in provision for pupils' wellbeing and additional learning needs. This continues to be reflected in Flintshire's values, strategy, provision and outcomes.
4.03	Environmental Impact – None.
4.04	'Schools do not make best of use of the support from the Regional Improvement Service (GwE) or the Council to ensure the best outcomes for their learners' is the key risk identified in the Council Improvement Plan. This is mitigated against by the Challenge and Support Programme, the regular interaction between senior LA and GwE officers and through the School Performance Monitoring Group.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1a - Foundation Phase Outcomes Appendix 1b - Key Stage 2 Outcomes Appendix 1c - Key Stage 3 Outcomes Appendix 1d - Key Stage 4 Outcomes Appendix 1e - Key Stage 5 Outcomes Appendix 1f - Attendance & Exclusion Outcomes

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. Contact Officer: Claire Homard (Senior Manager- School Improvement) Telephone: 01352 704019 E-mail: claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	LAESCYP – Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People
7.02	GwE – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for North Wales
7.03	e-FSM – pupils entitled to Free School Meals n-FSM – pupils not entitled to Free School Meals
7.04	Higher than Expected Level – achieving one outcome/level higher than the expected average performance for a child in the end of phase assessment appropriate for its age