

EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Thursday 1 st February 2018 |
| Report Subject | Learner Outcomes |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Education |
| Report Author | Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth) |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide members with a summary of the final verified pupil attainment for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 for the school year 2016-17. This updates the provisional figures reported on for the Scrutiny meeting of 5th October 2017. The pupil attainment information is derived from public examinations during the school year 2016-17.

The report also provides a summary of data in relation to attendance and exclusions.

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.

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.

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

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| 1 | That members receive the report and note the verified attainment of Flintshire children and young people at Key Stages 4 and 5 for the year 2016-17. |
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REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE LEARNER OUTCOMES REPORT |
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| 1.01 | Assessments at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 are carried out through examination in individual curriculum subjects. |
| 1.02 | Pupils are assessed at the end of each key stage at the following ages: Key Stage 4 – 16 year olds (National Curriculum Year 11) Key Stage 5 – 18 year olds (National Curriculum Year 13) |
| 1.03 | Attached to this report are individual annexes which provide the detailed analysis of the performance of both key stage 4 and 5 for 2017. |
| 1.04 | An additional appendix is attached which outlines attendance data (2016/17) and exclusion data (2015/16) for Flintshire primary and secondary schools. |
| 1.05 | At KS4's main indicator, Level 2+ (5A*-C GCSEs including English/Welsh & Mathematics or Mathematics- Numeracy), performance was 57%. The outcomes at this L2+ indicator placed it 9 th across Wales and 2 nd in the GwE region. It is important to note that Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Government have clearly reported that changes in the content, structure and assessment methodology of some GCSE examinations, including English, Welsh and mathematics, which are being reported for the first time this year, have impacted on the overall results across Wales for 2017. These changes make it difficult to make meaningful comparisons to the results from 2016. |
| 1.06 | In post 16 education, comparisons of performance are much more difficult to make. The Level 3 threshold indicator for Flintshire in 2017 was just lower than the All Wales figure by 0.1% and lower than Flintshire's 2016 performance by 1.5%. The % of students achieving 3A*/ A grades has increased from 4.1% in 2015 to 8.3% in 2017 reducing the gap with national performance. |

| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
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| 2.01 | The Council commissions its school improvement services through GwE via an Inter-Authority Agreement with the other North Wales councils. This sets the value of the financial contribution from Flintshire which can be reviewed every three years. |

| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
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| 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. |

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| 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 Supporting Improvement Advisers of how schools use their Pupil Development Grant (PDG) to support those pupils at risk of potential underachievement. Schools are also required to publish their plans for the use of PDG annually. |
| 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. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 - Key Stage 4 Outcomes Appendix 2 - Key Stage 5 Outcomes Appendix 3 - Attendance & Exclusion Outcomes |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None. Contact Officer: Vicky Barlow (Interim Senior Manager- School Improvement) Telephone: 01352 704019 E-mail: vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | LAESCYP – Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People GwE – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for North Wales e-FSM – pupils entitled to Free School Meals |

n-FSM – pupils not entitled to Free School Meals

Level 1 – A volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSE's at grade A*- G

Level 2 – A volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSE's at grade A*- C

Level 3 – A volume of qualifications at Level 3 equivalent to the volume of 2 A Levels at grade A*- E

Capped 9 Score – calculated using the best 9 results for each pupil, with subject specific requirements in English/Welsh, Mathematics, Mathematics – Numeracy and Science

Average Wider Point Score – this includes all qualifications approved for 16-18 year olds in Wales

Skills Challenge Certificate – The revised Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate, which is graded, and supporting qualifications. The National/Foundation Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate is equivalent to one GCSE. The qualification counts as a non-GCSE in the different measures used.