

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Summary of Standards Provisional Outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Standards 2018 report provides an executive summary followed by a more in depth analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 16 (GCSEs) as well as a brief summary of GCE outcomes.

Comparisons have been made with the results nationally wherever possible. However many of the national results have not been published yet. When the statistical first releases are published the report will be amended.

There have been ongoing changes to the content and grading system of GCSEs, making the subject content and exams far more challenging. In 2018 grading of outcomes in all curriculum subjects moved to a 9-1 scale, with grade nine being roughly equivalent to a top A* grade and a grade four equivalent to a low to mid grade C.

In Wirral the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English continues to improve and is above the national average. Outcomes in English continue to be higher than in mathematics. In Wirral more disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English so the gap narrowed by 1.1%.

Nationally there was a decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in mathematics. In contrast in Wirral continued to improve and is above the national average. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in mathematics so the gap narrowed by 1.6%.

The percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a Grade 4+ in English **and** Mathematics is well above the national average and shows an improvement from last year.

Attainment of both boys and girls nationally has increased. It is a similar picture for Wirral pupils. Nationally the gender gap has decreased, however the gender gap in Wirral has widened because more girls achieved higher grades than the boys.

Overall the Progress 8 measure for Wirral increased slightly to 0.04 and is above the national average of -0.02 and the North West average of -0.16. Wirral ranks 2nd in the North West.

This report provides a detailed analysis of pupil outcomes which can be used to measure the impact of work undertaken in the following pledges:

1. Children are ready for school

The Wirral plan indicator scrutinises the percentage of children attaining a good level of development. A supporting measure is the narrowing of the gap between the attainment of children in receipt of free schools meals and those children who are not. Another supporting measure looks at the percentage of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development.

2. Young people are ready for work and adulthood

The supporting measures in this pledge are: - to reduce the gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2; to narrow the gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at the end of Key Stage 2 and to increase the percentage of children looked after who attained the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

3. Vulnerable children reach their full potential

One of the supporting measures in this pledge is the same as the one in Children are ready for school pledge e.g. at the end of the Foundation Stage the percentage of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development increases.

This report provides the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a very detailed analysis of outcomes for all pupil groups at the end of Key Stage 4 and some very provisional key headlines for Key Stage 5 in the secondary phase of education.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is therefore a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the Standards 2018 report which is appended to this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Key Stage 4 & 5 Standards 2018 report has been produced to evaluate some of the Wirral Plan pledges, in particular Children are Ready for School; Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood and Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential. The report will be shared with headteachers and used as an essential tool to challenge underperformance as well as celebrate successes/improvements in Wirral schools.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The pupil outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 & 5 are scrutinised by school improvement officers when the data is initially received in August and September each year. At this point the data is provisional with very national averages confirmed. The provisional data is used to determine where there have been improvements and where standards have declined. The data is analysed at a local authority level, then further scrutiny takes place using pupil characteristics such as gender, disadvantage, SEN, children looked after (as and when the data becomes available) to determine underachievement and key areas for development.

Further scrutiny has taken place this year to benchmark attainment (Attainment 8) and progress (Progress 8) with similar schools nationally. For example, the Department for Education published recently the national averages for Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measures for selective schools and non selective schools in selective areas. These comparisons are detailed in the report.

A more detailed scrutiny is undertaken by each of the four localities to determine which schools have underperformed in particular subjects. Conversely school faculties/departments are identified where performance is good so that best practice can be shared.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The Key Stage 4 Standards 2017 report will be a key document used to implement the Wirral Schools strategy. The necessary challenge to underperforming schools will be co-ordinated in partnership by existing staff resource. However the ESG funding of this staff resource ceases in March 2018.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Corporate Risk Register will be refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan developments to ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The report has been shared with all secondary headteachers in December 2018. The School to School Partnership Board will hold the locality boards to account for any work commissioned to improve standards in schools identified as underperforming. The locality boards will scrutinise the data and determine key areas for development. Improvement work will be commissioned and evaluated on a regular basis.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

(a) Yes and impact can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-1>

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APPENDICES Key Stage 4 & 5 Standards 2018 Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date