

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 28 January 2020

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 2019 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 and GCEs, making the subject content and exams far more challenging.

For Wirral pupils in GCSEs there was a decrease in attainment in English, Mathematics and English **and** Mathematics. In contrast nationally there was an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in Mathematics, English and English **and** Mathematics. However, the proportion of Wirral pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and English **and** Mathematics continues to be above the national average; by 0.7% in English and 0.5% in English **and** Mathematics.

The attainment of Wirral girls continues to be above the national average. The attainment of boys in Wirral is in line with national average. Wirral boys' and girls' attainment has decreased. In contrast the National average for both boys and girls increased. Nationally the gender gap has narrowed slightly. The Wirral gender gap has also narrowed by a greater margin, but the gap remains wider the national average.

Progress 8 measure for Wirral decreased slightly to +0.01 but remains above the national average. Progress 8 for girls in Wirral improved and is above the National average for girls. Progress 8 for Wirral boys decreased but is in line with national boys' average.

The report covers national provisional outcomes at GCE to determine how Wirral performance against national measures. The data is provisional with validated data published in March 2020.

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. 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.

2. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the Standards 2019 report which is appended to this report and agree that the report should be shared with headteachers and used as an essential tool to challenge underperformance as well as celebrate successes/improvements in Wirral schools.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 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

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 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

- 7.1 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

- 8.1 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

- 9.1 Yes and impact review can be viewed via the following link:

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report will have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

REPORT AUTHOR: Sue Talbot
(Lead School Commissioner)
telephone: (0151 666 4335)
email: suetalbot@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES Key Stage 4 & 5 Standards 2018 Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date