



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, 1st February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	SUMMARY OF STANDARDS – OUTCOMES FOR EARLY YEARS, PHONICS, KEY STAGE 1, KEY STAGE 2 AND KEY STAGE 4
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The Standards 2023 report gives information about the provisional pupil outcomes. There is an executive summary followed by a detailed analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 5 (Good level of development), age of 6 (Phonics assessment) the age of 7 (Key Stage 1 SATs), the age of 11 (Key Stage 2 SATs) and at the of 16 years old (Key Stage 4 qualifications).

Comparisons have been made with the results nationally wherever possible. For key stage 4 the final statistical release will be at the end of January, any significant changes will be amended and shared with the committee. This report provides a detailed analysis of pupil outcomes and gives a clearer picture a further year on from the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time since 2019 both primary and secondary outcomes will be published nationally.

It is important that we do not compare this year's results to previous years, as those outcomes will be pre-pandemic and for primary schools this is the first year data is being published nationally since 2019. That said, national comparisons will be able to be used to identify the areas Wirral must prioritise over the next 12 months. The standards report and educational outcomes will be linked to the refresh of the priorities in relation to the school improvement strategy and the re-banding of schools across Wirral to identify needing support.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and the actions taken link to the Wirral plan 2023-2027 – Early Help for Children and Families

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) support the service priorities to support the school improvement strategy based on the outcomes outlined.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Standards 2023 report has been produced to evaluate the impact of the education system to support young people. The outcomes will be linked to the next steps in relation to school improvement over the next 12 to 18 months. 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 We could do nothing but in response to outcomes it is appropriate to reassess and refresh the school improvement strategy to reflect this.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The provisional data is scrutinised to determine where there have been improvements and where standards have deteriorated. The data is analysed at a local authority level, then further scrutiny takes place using pupil characteristics, to determine underachievement and key areas for development.
- 3.2 For many of the cohorts included within these national data sets this will be the first time they have completed a formal external assessment as this cohort was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, pupils who have complete Key stage 1 assessments will have had a significantly disrupted early years experience.
- 3.3 In addition, it is important to consider the educational experiences for young people across Wirral prior to the last academic year, many children will have experienced significant periods of home learning and others have anxiety as they returned to the school environment over the last academic year. In addition, young people completing the Good Level of Development Early Years assessment have been impacted significantly in relation to development of speech, language, and communication skills.
- 3.4 Over the last academic year a significant impact on pupil experience has been a significant increase in the number of pupils that have been persistently absent from school, this has significantly increased on pre-COVID-19 levels and is having a significant impact on the progress of pupils at school.

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: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Standards 2023 reports are key documents used to implement the Wirral Schools strategy 2021-2024. The necessary challenge to underperforming schools is coordinated in partnership by the Head of School Effectiveness and two Senior School Advisors combined with support from external School Assurance Professionals.
- 6.2 School can access additional resource from the local authority if specific areas of improvement are identified and they do not have the financial capacity to support the relevant activity.
- 6.3 A refresh of the Wirral Schools strategy will be brought to Committee during the next academic year.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register will be refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan 2023-2027 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 reports will be shared with all headteachers in September 2022. The local authority engages with Multi-Academy Trusts with responsibility for Wirral schools to make sure key areas raised from the standards report are shared to allow joint working on key priorities.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. An EIA will be completed in line with the refresh of the school improvement strategy.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental or climate implications from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is important the educational outcomes are analysed to support the local authority to prioritise its resources in the relevant areas. This will support improving outcomes for young people, allowing them to be more successful and links to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 – Bright futures for all young people.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1. Wirral Standards Report KS4(Provisional) 2023
- Appendix 2. Wirral Standards Report KS2 (provisional) 2023
- Appendix 3. Wirral Standards Report KS1 (provisional) 2023
- Appendix 4. Wirral Standards Report Phonics (provisional) 2023
- Appendix 5. Wirral Standards Report GLD (provisional) 2023
- Appendix 6. Glossary of terminology

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Wirral Schools Strategy 2021-2024
- Good Level of Development Early Years assessment

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with Section A of its Terms of Reference; “exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council”.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	12th October 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	24th January 2023
Children’s and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25th September 2019