

**Report to:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 29 September 2016

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Education  
Head of Education and Children's Services

**Report Author:** Principal Education Manager & GwE Senior Challenge  
Advisor

**Title:** Teacher assessments and provisional examination results

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**1. What is the report about?**

The final teacher assessments and provisional external examinations results at Key Stage 4 and post 16. The report also provides analysis of results against benchmarked information and performance against other local authorities for teacher assessments.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To provide information regarding the performance of Denbighshire schools teacher assessments and external examinations.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That members review and comment on the performance of schools against previous performance and the external benchmarks that are currently available, and identify any potential areas for improvement.

How does the Authority's performance compare with other authorities in Wales? In this context, it is important to compare performance in Denbighshire with other authorities where entitlement to free school meals is similar. Based on this measure, Denbighshire should be performing consistently in 14<sup>th</sup> position.

**4. Foundation Phase teacher assessments**

In 2016 Foundation Phase performance has improved to 87.5% compared to 86.4% in 2015, this indicator has improved by 1.1%. Denbighshire's rank position has improved from 13<sup>th</sup> in 2015 to 10<sup>th</sup> in 2016 compared with Welsh LAs and is the highest across the GwE region, English Literacy and Communication (+0.4%), Mathematical Development (+0.9%) improved in 2016. However Literacy and Communication Welsh Language (-2.3%) and Physical Development (-0.8%) declined in 2016. All indicators except Communication Welsh Language performed above the LA's FSM rank position.

All other Foundation Phase measures except Literacy and Communication in both languages are ranked in the top 10 LAs in Wales. English Literacy and Communication (+2.1%) and Physical Development (+9.3%) improved at the higher outcomes while Welsh Literacy and Communication (-0.3%) and Mathematical development (-0.5%) showed a slight decrease.

The gap between girls and boys performance increased slightly in 2016 to 1.8% while the performance of FSM pupils in Foundation Phase improved by 1.2% in the main indicator.

In terms of percentage of pupils achieving Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI), this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of improvement. Mathematical Development which was a focus in 2015 has improved by 0.9% in 2016. - Appendix 1

### **Key Stage 2 teacher assessments**

The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) continues to improve year on year, moving from 87.9% in 2015 to 88.6% in 2016, however the rate improvement continues to be below other Welsh LA's. The local authority is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in Wales which is line with the LA's FSM position and 4<sup>th</sup> in the region.

All the core subjects at Level 4+ improved slightly in 2016 except Cymraeg (-0.1%) ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in Wales, English (+0.5%) ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, Mathematics (+1.0%) ranked 14<sup>th</sup> and Science (+1.5%) ranked 14<sup>th</sup>.

The percentage of pupils achieving the higher outcome of level 5 and above at key stage 2 has improved for the third consecutive year in all core subjects but are still below the Welsh average and all are ranked below Denbighshire's expected FSM position.

The gap in performance between boys and girls increased by 3.3% in 2016 while the performance of FSM learners at KS2 remained static in the main indicator.

In 2015 only 4 pupils in KS2 did not achieve the CSI and were not identified as having an additional learning need. In 2016, this number has dropped to 2 pupils.

### **Key Stage 3 teacher assessments**

In 2016 the Core Subject indicator (CSI) performance improved to 86.4% from 84.3% in 2015, an increase of 2.1%. This is the eighth year of improvement and this year ranks the LA 12<sup>th</sup> when compared to other LA's in Wales. English (+1.7%) and Maths (+1.2%) improved at the expected Level 5+ in 2016 while Science and Welsh remained static.

The percentage of pupils achieving grades at level 6+ and above at key stage 3 improved in English (+5.9%), Mathematics (+1.4%) and Science (+2.8%) and are all largely ranked in line with the LA's FSM position. Cymraeg has declined from 58.2% in 2015 to 47.3% in 2016 which ranks the LA 16<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of KS3, in 2015 the number of pupils who did not achieve the CSI and were not identified as having an additional learning need was 27, this has dropping to 11 pupils in 2016.

## Unverified external examination results

### Level 2 / GCSE

The Level 2 Threshold including English / Cymraeg and Mathematics has increased this year by 4.4% to 60.5% from 56.1% in 2015, 0.3% below the LA target. This places the LA third in North Wales behind Gwynedd and Flintshire, it is likely to place the LA just above its benchmarked position subject to verification.

	2015	2016				School's Target	+/-
	%	Cohort	Passes	%	+/-15-16		
Rhyl High School	38.8	140	75	53.6	+14.8	53.9	-0.3
Prestatyn High School	57.7	260	137	52.7	-5.0	64.7	-12.0
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	66.1	142	99	69.7	+3.6	70.8	-1.1
Denbigh High School	58.4	86	47	54.7	-3.7	65.2	-10.5
Ysgol Dinas Bran	69.1	132	92	69.7	+0.6	69.9	-0.2
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	69.5	156	122	78.2	+8.7	73.4	-4.8
Blessed Edward Jones	34	76	32	42.1	+8.1	59	-16.9
St Brigid's School	69.8	54	46	85.2	+15.4	89.3	-4.1
Special/PRU	0	29	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Total	56.1	1,075	650	60.5	+4.4%	60.8	-0.3

This year the Level 2 thresholds increased slightly to 86.2% from 86.0% in 2015 after a dip in 2015 but has not returned to the 2014 level, this places the LA second in the region. The Level 1 threshold has also increased to 95.9% from 94.9% in 2015 and also places the LA second in the region. The Core Subject Indicator increased by 5.9% during 2016 and looks likely to place the LA third in the region.

The results for the Level 2+ increased in six schools this year with the greatest improvement in St.Brigid's (+15.4%), Rhyl High (14.8%) and Ysgol Brynhyfryd (8.7%) these schools are likely to be in the top quartile in 2016. Prestatyn High School (-5%) and Denbigh High School (-3.7%) both declined in 2016 and both schools are likely to be in the bottom quartile.

The number of pupils gaining 5A\*-A is 13.5% which places the LA 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6 in North Wales. This is a decrease of 3.9%. National rankings are not yet available.

Although the Local Authority L2+ outcome was closely aligned to the LA target, individual schools performances against their targets were variable. Five schools were within 5% of their target while three schools (Prestatyn High, Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High and Denbigh High schools) were all over 10% below the original

target set. Continued work will take place this year to ensure schools are accurately able to predict their end of year outcomes. The LA will be worked with GwE to ensure that their target setting and tracking processes lead to more accurate school targets and mid-year predictions.

The performance of pupils who are in receipt of free school meals (FSM) is closely monitored by the LA, GwE and the Welsh Government. Secondary schools have a base target of 32%, failure to reach the target automatically classifies a school as a Standards Group 3 as part of the national schools classification. All schools in Denbighshire except Blessed Edward Jones High School (20%) have exceeded the target. Ysgol Brynhyfryd (87.5%), Denbigh High School (50.0%) and Ysgol Dinas Bran (50.0%) were significantly above the target. 37% of Denbighshire's FSM cohort succeeded in gaining the L2+ which ranked the LA 2nd in North Wales for this indicator. The national ranking is not available yet.

Pupils from Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn sit examinations when they are ready, which means few pupils gain a GCSE qualification at the age of 15 so miss the Welsh Government performance indicator. This year 2 pupils achieved a grade B and C GCSE in English, 2 pupils gained mathematics grade C and 2 pupils science grade D. 7 Pupils gained Entry Level qualifications at level 2 and 3 in English and Mathematics.

Ysgol Tir Morfa pupils have successfully gained a recognised accreditation at Entry Level this year. One pupil achieved an Entry1 vocational qualification, 21 achieved Entry 2 and 9 gained an Entry 3 qualification.

Provisional results indicate that 12 out of 13 LAC pupils gained at least a Level 1 qualification. One pupil gained the Level 2 Threshold and 6 pupils the Level 1 threshold. 13 pupils in Ysgol Plas Cefndy (PRU) gained at least 1 Level 2 qualification and one pupil achieved the Level 2+ Threshold

All results at Key Stage 4 are provisional, verified results will be available in November and benchmarked data in December.

### **Unverified Level 3 threshold results (A level)**

The performance indicator for post 16 is the Level 3 threshold which equates to 2 A levels or vocational equivalents. The percentage of candidates achieving the Level 3 threshold decreased for the second year running declining from 97.7% in 2015 to 96.9% this year. The results improved significantly in Ysgol Brynhyfryd (88.9%) with 9.2% increase for A\*-C, Prestatyn High (54.4%) declined by 10.7% for A\*-C. The number of students gaining A\*-A has increase from 17.9% in 2015 to 18.6%, this is significantly below the Welsh average of 22.7% - Appendix 2

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

This report contributes to the Corporate Priority of improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings. Members need to be aware of the performance of schools and the LA against national benchmarks.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

N/A

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?**

Boys and girls perform slightly below the Welsh average for the Level 2 inc. E/W&M, however the gap between boys and girls performance is in line with the Welsh average. Pupils on free school meals achieved 37.0% for the Level 2 inc, an increase of 7.11% in 2015. See Appendix 3 attached.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

N/A

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

N/A

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The LA and GwE will continue to challenge Headteachers and managers in schools to ensure that schools are taking appropriate action to improve standards.

To reduce any risks to school support and challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority continually challenge and assess the quality of the regional education service (GwE). Ensuring improvement in external examination results.

Ensure continued improvement against the reduction in 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and TRAC European project.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Scrutiny's powers with respect to reviewing performance and policy objectives are outlined in Section 7 of the Council's Constitution.

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