

**Report to:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 29 November 2018

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

**Report Authors:** Principal Education Manager and GwE Secondary Lead

**Title:** Teacher Assessments and Provisional KS4 Examination Results

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

The verified Teacher Assessments from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 3 and the provisional KS4 examination performance of Denbighshire secondary schools.

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

To provide information regarding the performance of Denbighshire schools in the 2018 external examinations and teacher assessments.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That members review and comment on the performance of schools against previous performance and agree areas for improvement.

**4. Comparative data**

This report (Appendix 1) is different to previous years to take account of Welsh Government introducing significant changes to how performance measures are reported. Following Welsh Government consultation on future publication of teacher assessments, Welsh Government no longer publish comparative Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 data at school, local authority and consortia level and therefore beyond a comparison with national averages, there is no comparative nor benchmarking information available.

**Changes to Areas of Learning in the Foundation Phase**

In October 2014, the Foundation Phase Areas of Learning (AoL) for Language, Literacy and Communication Skills and Mathematical Development were revised to align them with the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) as well as make them more demanding. In line with this, the Foundation Phase outcomes were recalibrated to align with the increased expectations of the revised Areas of Learning.

The revised AoL were introduced on a statutory basis from September 2015. This means that the cohort of children that started Reception in September 2015 were the first children to be formally assessed against the revised outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase in the summer of 2018. Comparisons of Foundation Phase

outcomes with previous years at school level should, therefore, be avoided as they are not measured on a comparable basis.

### **Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5**

It must be stressed that the initial information regarding KS4 results will be shared but there is no access thus far to comparative and benchmarking data.

Therefore, care is needed when considering the information as neither the analyses nor the comparisons will be completed on a national level until the beginning of next year. Verified data will be provided in the February report to members, including value added comparative data.

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

This report contributes to the corporate priority of Young People: A place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so.

See that every child achieving the expected standard at the end of primary school (Level 4, Key Stage 2) will achieve 5 GCSEs A\*-C (Level 2 Key Stage 4), including English or Welsh (1<sup>st</sup> language) and Maths, by the end of secondary school

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

**N/A**

#### **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

*A prosperous Denbighshire  
A resilient Denbighshire  
A healthier Denbighshire  
A more equal Denbighshire  
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities  
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language  
A globally responsible Denbighshire*

#### **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 Local Authority 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 Managers within the Authority monitor 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 ESF TRAC funding.

## **11. Power to make the Decision**

Scrutiny's powers with respect to reviewing performance and policy objectives is outlined in Section 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution.

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