

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: October 18th 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Eryl Williams / Karen Evans

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School Effectiveness Performance Officers**

Title: Teacher Assessments and Provisional Examination Results

1. What is the report about?

The performance of schools at all key stages and provisional external examinations results at Key Stage 4 and post 16. A detailed analysis of results will be provided for committee members when verified and benchmarked information is available in December.

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.

4. Report details: Teacher Assessment Results

4.1 Foundation Phase

To ensure accuracy and consistency across schools a more rigorous moderation process by a team of Denbighshire teachers moderated Foundation Phase Outcomes across all schools. This process ensured that procedures are robust and reliable. Currently there is no national verification process for Foundation Phase Outcomes.

It is important to note that this is a different method of assessing the progress of children. Subsequently comparisons between Foundation Phase Outcomes and the previous KS1 Assessments can only be indicative and not absolute.

However, in terms of Denbighshire ranked position in 2012 we have seen an improvement on the previous year. Denbighshire is now ranked 11th Authority in Wales compared to a ranked position in 18th in the previous year this compares favourably with our ranked free school meal position. Detailed results are in Appendix 1.

4.2 Key Stage 2 (KS2) Teacher Assessment Results

At the end of KS2 / Primary Phase Education (year 6) pupils are expected to achieve a Teacher Assessment Level of 4.

Denbighshire was ranked 12th in Wales for the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) in 2012 for KS2, a drop of 6 places compared with 2011 and equal to the ranking in 2010. Although this compares favourably with our free school meal ranked position this is disappointing as it is the LA's aspiration for all key indicators to be within the top 10 performing Authorities in Wales. However, as with the approach to assessment in the Foundation Phase there is no National verification of the Teacher Assessment at KS2. Detailed results are in Appendix 2.

4.3 Key Stage 3 (KS3) Teacher Assessment Results

Performance at KS3 has improved for the fifth consecutive year, all core subjects have made significant improvements this year. However the rate of improvement is below many other local authorities. This has moved Denbighshire from 13th to 17th in Wales and is 0.66% below the Welsh average of 72.53%. Detailed results are in Appendix 3.

4.4 Key Stage 4 External Examinations

All secondary schools have improved in the Level 1 and Level 2 thresholds. The Level 2 including English/Welsh has improved by 2.5% however two schools dipped in performance. The national trend in attainment in English and Mathematics has declined. Results at Post 16 have largely remained static.

All results at key stage 4 are provisional, verified results will be available from in November and benchmarked data in December. The Welsh Government will provide local authorities and schools with detailed valued added data in the Core Data Sets.

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 incl. Eng/Welsh & Maths is 55.0% in 2012 which is 2.5% higher than 2011. Early indications indicate that the rate of increase is above other Welsh LA's.

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold is 81.2%, which is 9.8% higher than last year. This is the fourth year that the Level 2 indicator has increased in Denbighshire high schools. Detailed results are in Appendix 3.

4.5 Level 3 threshold results (A Level and vocational equivalent)

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 has improved to 98% in 2012 from 97% in 2011. Detailed results are in Appendix 3.

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

Modernising the education service to achieve a high level of performance across the county is one of the corporate priorities. The raising of attainment at all key stages particularly key stage 4 is a key objective.

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

N/A

7. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment Screening been undertaken?

N/A

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

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

The support for schools in Literacy and Numeracy will be provided regionally from April 2013.

Challenge and support for Headteachers and management in schools will be provided on a regional basis from April 2013 by System Leaders. The recruitment of the System Leaders is taking place October 2012.

To reduce any risks to school support and challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority will need to monitor and assess the quality of the regional support when these new systems and structures are in place April 2013.

There is an opportunity for officers working for the region to strengthen the moderation process for KS3 Teacher Assessments. This should improve the quality of external moderation ensure continuity and parity of Teacher Assessments across North Wales.

Sustaining the improvement in teacher assessments and external examination results.

Uncertainty of continued 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and ESF 'Potential' funding after 2014 that has successfully supported improvements at KS4.

Addressed by closely monitoring underperforming and high risk schools. Providing support and training for targeted schools. Regularly review school progress and intervening if insufficient progress is made.

10. Power to make the Decision

N/A