

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Performance Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>September 19<sup>th</sup> 2013</b>
<b>Lead Member/Officer:</b>	<b>Lead Member for Education/ Head of Education</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>School Effectiveness Performance Officer - Secondary</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Review the performance of schools and that of looked after children</b>

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**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 the performance of schools against previous performance and the external benchmarks that are currently available and comment accordingly.

**4. Report details: Teacher Assessment Results**

**4.1 Foundation Phase**

The current assessment model has been in operation since 2012 for pupils aged 7 years, they are assessed in literacy and mathematical development as well as personal and social development. The teacher assessments have risen from 11<sup>th</sup> in Wales in 2012 to 8<sup>th</sup> in 2013. This has increased from 81.9% in 2012 to 84.9% in 2013 for the Foundation Phase Indicator.

All assessments and Welsh ranking have improved this year, except for Language Literacy & Communication ranking in English and Welsh which has dropped from 10<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in 2012 to 11<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> this year. (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 4.

The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) has risen from 12<sup>th</sup> in 2012 to 9<sup>th</sup> in Wales in 2013, an improvement from 83.5% in 2012 to 86% in 2013. All assessments, except for Cymraeg, have risen from last year, with Cymraeg slipping from 90% and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wales to 88% to a ranking of 14<sup>th</sup>. Welsh Second Language has the largest increase in 2013, improving by 3.5% from 66.2% in 2012 to 69.7% in 2013, it has dropped 3 positions to 11<sup>th</sup> in Wales in 2013. (Appendix 1)

## **4.3 Key Stage 3 (KS3) Teacher Assessment Results**

At the end of KS3 (Year 9) pupils are expected to achieve a Teacher Assessment Level 5.

All key assessments improved at Key Stage 3 for a sixth consecutive year, however Denbighshire's ranking has dropped for all assessments except for English in 2013. The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) has risen from 72.5% in 2012 to 75% in 2013; the ranking has declined from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in Wales in 2013. (Appendix 1)

The highest positions for Key Stage 3 assessments are for English, Maths and Science at 14<sup>th</sup> in Wales and the lowest for Cymraeg which is ranked 17<sup>th</sup>. Welsh Second Language has had the highest increase 68.2% in 2012 to 72.6% in 2013, however dropped from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **4.4 Key Stage 4 External Examinations (GCSE & vocational equivalent)**

The Level 1 and 2 thresholds continue to improve for a sixth successive year. The Level 2 Threshold (5 \*A-C or equivalent) has provisionally improved from 82.69% in 2012 to 84.4% in 2013, in 2012 Denbighshire was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Wales. The Level 1 Threshold has improved marginally from 93.1% in 2012 to 93.7% in 2013.

The Level 2 including English/Welsh dipped slightly from 54.3% in 2012 to 53.23% in 2013, with re-marks it is likely that we will match or succeed 2012 performance.

The national trend in attainment in English 62% (-.4%) and Mathematics 52.8% (-2.7%) have declined. In Denbighshire English remains static at 64.2% and mathematics has declined to 61.1% from 63.7%, this is less than the national trend. (Appendix 2)

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.

#### **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 from 98% in 2012 to 99% in 2013. More detailed results are in Appendix 3.

Provisionally A Level results have improved this year in Denbighshire's secondary schools. More students achieved A\*-C grades improving to 77.7% this year, this is 1.0% higher than 2012.

There has been an improvement in pupils achieving the top A and A\* grades, up to 22.1% which is nearly 2% higher than the 2012, however this is below the Wales average of 22.9%. The number of pupils gaining the Welsh Baccalaureate declined slightly from 172 in 2012 to 170 in 2013.

The number of students in Denbighshire entered for post 16 qualifications in 2013 increased to 463 compared to 439 in 2012. Improved results at KS4 and post 16 partnership working has contributed to this increase.

The performance of students in the Rhyl 6<sup>th</sup> has improved this year with 33 students gaining the Level 3 Threshold, two of which gained A\*'s at A level.

At this time it is too early for detailed analysis of teacher assessments and examination results for Looked After Children (LAC). However early indications show that out of the 9 students in year 11 in high schools 1 achieved Level 2 inc, E/W&M and 3 the L2 Threshold, All gained at least one GCSE or vocational qualification.

#### **5. National Reading and Numeracy Tests**

In 2013 for the first time all eligible learners in maintained schools sat the National Reading and Numeracy Tests for all learners in Years 2 to 9 (7 -13 year olds). This year, learners were required to take the National Reading Test and the procedural element of the National Numeracy Test.

In the English reading test Denbighshire is ranked 11th in Wales for pupils achieving the percentage gaining a standardised score of 85+. Denbighshire achieved 85.9% which is just above Welsh average of 85.4%. The LA has the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest number of pupils with scores less than 85%.

The LA is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for the Cymraeg at 93.4% which is above the Welsh average of 90.7%. Denbighshire has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest number of pupils with scores under 85% in the Cymraeg test at 5.3% below the Welsh average of 7.2%.

In the National Regional Numeracy Test the LA was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> at 85.4% and is above the Welsh average of 83.9%. Denbighshire has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest number of pupils with scores under 85% in the numeracy test at 11.1% below the Welsh average of 13%. There is currently no school level data available. Appendix 4.

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

Improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings is one of the corporate priorities. The raising of attainment at all key stages particularly key stage 4 is a key objective.

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

Analysis of the difference between boys and girls performance and minority groups will take place once the All Wales Core Data sets are published.

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

N/A

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

To reduce any risks to school support and challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority are monitoring and assessing the quality of the regional support from GwE (The regional school effectiveness and improvement service).

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 across North Wales.

Detailed analysis for reasons for underachievement and targeting support for underperforming schools from local authority (LA) and GwE. Closely monitoring underperforming and high risk schools.

Continued uncertainty of continued 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and European Social Fund (ESF) 'Potential' funding after 2014 that has successfully supported improvements at KS4.

**10. Power to make the Decision**

Articles 6.1 and 6.3.4(b) of the Council's Constitution

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