

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	Learner Outcomes 2017
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide members with a summary of pupil attainment in statutory assessments across primary and secondary school phases for the school year 2016-17.

Welsh Government produces its annual set of results by Local Authority area, reporting pupil attainment at the end of each key stage within schools.

The pupil attainment information is derived from statutory assessments administered by schools and from public examinations during the school year 2016-2017. At this stage of the year, the data for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 is provisional only and is likely to change. Verified data will be available by December 2017.

The Local Authority, in partnership with the Regional School Improvement and Effectiveness Service (GwE), endeavours to secure high quality outcomes for its learners.

All Flintshire schools benefit from the regional Challenge and Support programme according to their support category and needs. Schools which are identified in the national model of categorisation as 'Green' and strong 'Yellow' receive a programme that is based on the principle of schools' leaders working together and taking the lead responsibility for their standards and improvement programme, with 'light touch' intervention from Challenge Advisers. Schools which are identified in the national model of categorisation as 'Amber' or 'Red' receive bespoke packages of support to enable them to secure improvements in learner outcomes.

The School Performance Monitoring Group of Senior Officers and Members hold regular meetings to challenge schools where there is concern about pupil outcomes and monitors the impact of agreed action plans in securing improvements for learners. This includes schools categorised as 'Red' or 'Amber'.

The learner outcomes data in this report refers to the performance of all pupils in Flintshire, including those in specialist schools, pupil referral units and those educated 'other than at school'.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members receive the report and note the attainment of Flintshire children and young people for the year 2016-2017 in FP, KS2 and KS3 and the provisional data for Key Stages 4 and 5.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE LEARNER OUTCOMES REPORT</b>
1.01	The booklet 'Statutory Assessment and Reporting Arrangements' for the school year 2016-17 published by Welsh Government contains all the information required by schools and Local Authorities (LAs) about statutory teacher assessment at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.
1.02	Assessments at KS4 are carried out through examination, usually by General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSE) in individual curriculum subjects. There is also a range of specialist and vocational qualifications available for pupils at the end of compulsory education.
1.03	Pupils are assessed at the end of each key stage at the following ages: Foundation Phase - 7 year olds (National Curriculum Year 2) Key Stage 2 – 11 year olds (National Curriculum Year 6) Key Stage 3 – 14 year olds (National Curriculum Year 9) Key Stage 4 – 16 year olds (National Curriculum Year 11) Key Stage 5 – 18 year olds (National Curriculum Year 13)
1.04	Attached to this report are individual annexes which provide the detailed analysis of the performance of each key stage for 2017 including comparisons to the previous year and to the current Welsh averages.
1.05	Outcomes in the Foundation Phase made very good progress in 2017 in all indicators at the expected level. Performance improved in nearly all indicators for above expected performance. In Key Stages 2 and 3 there was a continued trend of improvement at both the expected and higher than expected levels. Areas for continued targeted support in 2017-2018 will include performance of boys at Key Stage 2, performance of pupils entitled to free school meals at Key Stage 3 and the low ranking for Welsh first language at Level 4+ and Level 5+ at Key Stage 2.
1.06	At KS4's main indicator, Level 2+ (5A*-C GCSEs including English/Welsh & Maths), Flintshire's provisional performance is 56.1%. However this data is provisional and not yet validated and therefore likely to change. It is also important to note that Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Government have clearly reported that changes in the content, structure and

	assessment methodology of some GCSE examinations, including English, Welsh and mathematics, which are being reported for the first time this year, have impacted on the overall results across Wales for 2017. These changes make it difficult to make meaningful comparisons to the results from 2016. A detailed report will be presented to the Committee in the new year when all the data is verified and national benchmarks are available.
1.07	The overall percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Inclusive Threshold (L2+) has reduced on both a regional and national level. Provisional data suggests that the GwE performance this year at 53.2% is 6.4% lower than that achieved in 2015-16. Each of the other regions have seen a reduction in performance e.g. ERW -7.6%; CSC -7.3% and EAS -3.4%. In 2017, the gap between the performance of GwE and the 2 consortia performing higher in the L2+ has closed e.g. by 1.2% in relation to ERW and 0.9% in relation to CSC.
1.08	GwE continues to work closely with the Local Authority to ensure that all schools, but particularly secondary schools, are accurately tracking pupil progress towards published targets to ensure a better match between predicted and actual outcomes.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Learner outcome data is a core element of the annual self-evaluation procedures undertaken by the Education & Youth Portfolio and this is consulted upon with all key education stakeholders.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Anti-poverty Impact – The Local Authority seeks to mitigate the impact of poverty through its partnership work programme and through the careful monitoring by GwE Challenge Advisers of how schools use their Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to support those pupils at risk of potential underachievement. Schools are required to publish their plans for the use of PDG.
4.02	Equalities Impact – The 2011 LAESCYP inspection undertaken by Estyn recognised good practice in provision for pupils' wellbeing and additional learning needs. This continues to be reflected in Flintshire's values, strategy, provision and outcomes.
4.03	Environmental Impact – None.

4.04	'Schools do not make best of use of the support from the Regional Improvement Service (GwE) or the Council to ensure the best outcomes for their learners' is the key risk identified in the Council Improvement Plan. This is mitigated against by the Challenge and Support Programme, the regular interaction between senior LA and GwE officers and through the School Performance Monitoring Group.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Foundation Phase Outcomes Appendix 2 - Key Stage 2 Outcomes Appendix 3 - Key Stage 3 Outcomes Appendix 4 - Key Stage 4 Outcomes Appendix 5 - Key Stage 5 Outcomes

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Vicky Barlow (Interim Senior Manager - School Improvement) <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704019 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk">vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>LAESCYP</b> – Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People  <b>GwE</b> – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for North Wales (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham)  <b>ERW</b> – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for South West Wales (Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire & Powys)  <b>CSC</b> – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for Central South (Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf & Vale of Glamorgan)  <b>EAS</b> – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for South East Wales (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport & Torfaen)  <b>e-FSM</b> – pupils entitled to Free School Meals  <b>n-FSM</b> – pupils not entitled to Free School Meals  <b>Higher than Expected Level</b> – achieving one outcome/level higher than

	the expected average performance for a child in the end of phase assessment appropriate for its age
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