

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Learner Outcomes 2018 (Provisional)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	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 2017-18.

The pupil attainment information is derived from statutory assessments administered by schools and from public examinations during the school year 2017-2018. 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 2018. A final report will be presented to Scrutiny in Spring 2019 with all finalised data and will include Key Stage 5 outcomes.

The content of this report is different to previous years due to 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.

As a result of these changes announced by WG in the reporting of data, Chief Officers for Education in North Wales have agreed that a standard scrutiny report shall be produced by GwE to ensure compliance with these changes and a consistent approach across the region covering all data sets. The detailed overview of Flintshire's performance is therefore contained within the appendix to this report.

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 current 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 current process of national categorisation will cease from September 2019.

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'.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members receive the report and note the attainment of Flintshire children and young people for the year 2017-18 in FP, KS2 and KS3 and the provisional data for Key Stage 4.
---	---

## 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 2017-18 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 receiving statutory education 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)
1.04	Overall, Flintshire outcomes across all key stages remain strong and performance compares well to national and regional averages. The appendix to this report provides a more detailed overview.
1.06	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

	<p>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.</p>
1.07	<p>GCSEs at Key Stage 4 are currently being reformed and 15 updated subjects were sat this summer for the first time. 2018 saw the introduction of the new GCSE suite of qualifications in Science and coincides with the changes to the performance indications at KS4, to include only GCSE results for Science, as two measures in the capped 9 indicator. As a result, comparison with historical data is not applicable.</p>
1.08	<p>There has been significant change to grade boundaries since the Summer of 2017 and November 2017 compared to the Summer of 2018, particularly at C grade in English and mathematics. This has made it difficult for schools to ensure accurate projections and target setting. Initial analysis suggests that Flintshire schools' data in English has been significantly influenced by registration decisions i.e. whether to use an early entry strategy and pupils sit examinations at the end of year 10. This pattern of achievement is also reflected across the region so this issue is currently the subject of ongoing official communication with Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales.</p>

<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 last inspection undertaken by Estyn of Local Government Education Services in 2011 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.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - GwE Report on Flintshire Outcomes

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Claire Homard, Chief Officer Education & Youth <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704190 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk">claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>GwE</b> – Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for North Wales (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham)  <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