

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6 February 2019

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Children Looked After Attainment

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides details on the attainment of all looked after children (CLA) which is collated at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 for primary pupils, and the end of Key Stage 4 for secondary pupils.

Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the information on the attainment outcomes for 2017/18 and review the work undertaken to address any issues and sustain improvement.
- ii. Discuss ways to further support the attainment of looked after children.

Background and Advice

Children looked after are assessed for attainment at the end of each Key Stage along with all children. This is at the end of the Foundation Stage (age 5) year 2 (age 7), the end of year 6 (age 11) and the end of year 11 (age 16). Those looked after children who have been in care for at least 12 months prior to the end of the key stage assessments are part of a group known as OC2 - this is the group for which attainment is compared to other looked after children nationally, and to those pupils who are not looked after.

In Key Stage 1 and 2 the focus of assessment is Reading, Writing and Maths.

In Key Stage 4 the attainment measures are based on Attainment 8 scores related to grades achieved in 8 GCSE examinations. The majority of GCSE examinations are now graded on a scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the higher grade. Generally a level 4 is regarded as a pass. The level of pass in English and Maths remains a key indicator of expected achievement.

There have been significant changes in the ways attainment is measured over recent years which has impacted on the appropriateness of comparing data over time and identifying trends. The National validated data, published by the Department for Education, for looked after children nationally, is not published until late March. This means we do not have validated data for our own children or comparable data for other LA's until this national data is published. However, Lancashire does participate in a national data system managed by NCER (National College for Educational Research) called NEXUS, which produced attainment data for CLA in December 2018. The data relates to those children in the 2017-18 academic year but does not include access to data for other LA's.

Headlines for our 2017-18 results (not fully validated until national statistics published)

Early Years:

The percentage of Lancashire early years looked after children achieving a good level of development is 50%. This was an increase of 2.2% from 2016-17 (47.8%)

Key Stage 1:

A reduction in the percentage of children achieving expected standards in reading, writing and Maths. We believe this will be closer to the national average for CLA than in 2016-17 when Lancashire CLA were above national averages in all subjects. Most significant decrease in writing.

Key Stage 2:

There was an increase in the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading and writing separately, and reading, writing and maths combined.

An increase of 3.4% of pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing, and Maths combined. We believe this will be above the national average.

Key Stage 4:

There was an increase in the average Attainment 8 score from 14.88 (2016-17) to 23.4 (2017-18), above the national average.

There was an increase in the percentage achieving Level 4 and above in English and Maths, and in addition, an improvement in progress for this cohort.

Year	English 4+	Maths 4+	Eng/Maths combined 4+
2018	33.3%	23.4%	15.3%
2017	20.6%	16.8%	9.9%

The Education Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the information included as part of this report, review the work undertaken to address any issues and sustain improvement and discuss ways to further support the attainment of looked after children.

Consultations

N/A

Implications

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Failure to support looked after children to achieve their potential in school, impacts on their life changes and increases risk of not being in education, employment or training post 16 and subsequently their vulnerabilities to a range of risk factors such as crime, drug use, mental health, dependency on benefits.

The attainment, progress and outcomes for our looked after children impacts on a range of inspections of the local authority's children's services.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
NA		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A