

Cabinet Committee for Performance Improvement

Meeting to be held on 10 March 2015

Electoral Division affected All

Key Stage 4 Achievement in Lancashire

(Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report provides information on the achievement of pupils in Lancashire at the end of Key Stage 4. It sets out the proportion of pupils gaining 5 good GCSEs and those gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and mathematics. The report also outlines the progress of pupils in English and mathematics from the end of Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

Lancashire's performance for all pupils is generally in line with or above the national average and compares favourably with the North West average.

The report also highlights the performance of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals and the performance of this group of pupils is below the national and North West average.

The attainment of Free School Meals Pupils is a key priority and a recovery plan is being implemented to help raise standards of achievement for this group of pupils in the secondary phase and particularly at the end of Key Stage 4.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement is asked to note and comment upon the report and the recovery plan set out at Appendix 'B'.

Background and Advice

The Department for Education (DfE) has changed the reporting arrangements for Key Stage 4 results in 2014 and this means they are not comparable with results published in previous years. Firstly, a number of qualifications which were previously included in the basic standard of 5 good GCSEs no longer count towards this standard. This has adversely affected some schools more than others, depending

upon the curriculum they have offered. Secondly, the performance tables published in January 2015 only include the qualifications gained by pupils in their first examination entry. This has also lowered the proportion of pupils who are reported as gaining 5 or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics. The headline figures for Key Stage 4 achievement are set out in Appendix 'A'.

Key Stage 4 performance

The key features of the Key Stage 4 results in Lancashire are as follows:

- The overall attainment in Lancashire was in line with the national average with 56.8% of pupils gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and mathematics. Attainment in Lancashire was 1% above the North West average.
- The proportion of pupils gaining 5 good GCSEs in Lancashire was above the national and North West average with 67.3% of pupils reaching this level of achievement.
- The proportion of pupils eligible for Free School Meals in Lancashire gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and mathematics was below the national average and is a priority for action.
- The proportion of pupils eligible for Free School Meals gaining 5 good GCSEs was below the North West and National averages.
- Just under two thirds of pupils made the progress expected of them from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4 in mathematics in 2014. This figure was above the North West average but below the national average.
- Almost 73% of pupils made the progress expected of them from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4 in English. This figure was above the North West average and very close to the national average.
- The proportion of secondary schools judged by OfSTED to be good or better is well above the national average and has risen to around 79%.
- Detailed action plans are in place for all schools where there were low levels of performance.
- An action plan is in place to raise attainment for pupils eligible for Free School Meals (see Appendix 'B') and a self-review tool is attached at Appendix 'C'.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained in this report.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Revised GCSE and equivalent results 2013/2014	29 January 2015	Jonathan Hewitt, Directorate for Children and Young People,(01772) 531663
GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics ; 2014	10 February 2015	Jonathan Hewitt, Directorate for Children and Young People, (01772) 531663