

Item 4a

Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
on 1st December 2015

Provisional Education Outcomes for Children and Young People in Barnsley 2015 – Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Summary

- 1.1 The attached report 'Item 4b' outlines the education outcomes for children and young people in Barnsley from assessments taken in 2015. The report provides an overview from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (age 4/5) to Key Stage (KS) 4 (GCSE-General Certificate in Education) (ages 15/16) and highlights some of the actions in place to improve outcomes. 'Item 4c' (attached) provides a specific analysis of the attainment of Barnsley Children in Care (CiC). (Please note that the data provided in the reports is provisional until it is validated in January 2016, therefore could be subject to change).

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (age 4/5)

- 1.2 In the EYFS, children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) has improved by 7% which is at a greater rate than both the national and Yorkshire and Humber rates (6%). However, the percentage of children in Barnsley with a GLD is 63% which is lower than both the Yorkshire and Humber (65%) and national (66%) rates; therefore there is still a gap to close.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) (age 6/7)

- 1.3 At KS 1, there has been a 4 year trend of improvement in results; however the standards remain below both the Yorkshire and Humber and national averages.

Key Stage 2 (KS2) (age 10/11)

- 1.4 Results at Key Stage 2 regarding the key attainment at this level which is to achieve Level 4 in reading, writing and maths (RWM) combined, demonstrate that Barnsley has improved faster than the national rate and the gap is now only 1%. However, the percentage of pupils achieving above average progress in RWM combined (Level 5) in Barnsley has reduced by 1% which has also resulted in the gap increasing between Barnsley and the national average.

Key Stage 4 (KS4) (age 15/16)

- 1.5 This year, 49.5% of Barnsley students achieved 5A*-C GCSEs including English and maths which is an improvement on last year's results. This has narrowed the gap between Barnsley and national results; however this indicates that less than half of Barnsley pupils achieved 5A*-C GCSEs

including English and maths, which has implications for future career and employment prospects.

- 1.6 A significant issue for the Borough is the range between individual schools' performance from 32% to 72% of pupils achieving 5A*-C GCSEs including English and maths. Attainment and expected progress in maths is of particular concern as Barnsley is behind the national performance by 5% and 13.8% respectively.

Looked After Children (LAC)

- 1.7 With regards to LAC, due to the small size of the cohorts, each pupil is worth a large percentage of the figures. In the EYFS, 40% achieved a GLD; however this is below the proportion of pupils both in Barnsley and nationally. At KS1 and KS4, attainment in Barnsley is in line with 2014 national averages, however at KS2 is below national averages. In Year 13, all of the 5 young people engaged in education achieved passes in their studies. Overall, attainment of Barnsley LAC is considerably below the attainment of all pupils nationally and in Barnsley.

Barnsley Schools' Alliance

- 1.8 The Barnsley Alliance has been established to lead and deliver school improvement. The Alliance Board is made up of headteacher, governor and local authority representatives. It is chaired jointly by Nick Bowen, Principal of Horizon Community College and Yvonne Gray, Headteacher of Cudworth Churchfield Primary school. The Board brings together representatives from maintained schools and academies across the Borough. As part of this, 5 specific working groups have been established to address performance in terms of student engagement, progress and attainment.

Challenges

- 1.9 Recent changes have been made to the national curriculum reporting frameworks, with removal of national curriculum levels and primary schools able to adopt their own systems of assessment from 2015. Performance measures for secondary schools are also changing.
- 1.10 There are also national reports of shortages of teachers as well as sickness absence due to stress.
- 1.11 Funding for schools in Barnsley is in the bottom quartile nationally, with the basic allocation per secondary pupil being particularly low in comparison with other authorities. This is a continuing challenge for secondary schools working to raise standards.

2.0 Invited Witnesses

- 2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting:

- Nick Bowen, Principal of Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board
- Yvonne Gray, Headteacher of Cudworth Churchfield Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director, People Directorate
- Margaret Libreri, Service Director, Education, Early Start and Prevention, People Directorate
- Catherine Kelly, Head of Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate
- Councillor Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Member, People (Achieving Potential)

3.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What action is proposed to address the poor performance at each of the Key Stages, in particular to narrow the gap between national performance and Barnsley's results?
- What are the key future challenges for our primary and secondary schools to improve educational attainment?
- What impact are the changes to the national curriculum and reporting mechanisms likely to have on 2016 results?
- What support is being given to teachers to help them to improve educational attainment?
- What is in place to ensure effective transition from primary to secondary schools both pastorally and academically?
- What are the main barriers which prevent LAC from making progress?
- What officer capacity is currently available to support LAC? Is this sufficient and if not how is this being addressed?
- What plans are in place in relation to the use of Pupil Premium Grants and what changes are being made against how these are used currently?
- What is in place to ensure schools operate effectively within the local community, such as engagement with local Councillors and adult learning provision?
- Are there any actions which could be taken by Members or partner agencies to address some of these issues, particularly in terms of LAC?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Item 4b – Barnsley Provisional Education Outcomes 2015.
- Item 4c – Barnsley Children in Care (CiC) Provisional Education Outcomes 2015.
- National Curriculum:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>
- Workload Challenge: Analysis of Teach Responses 2015:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workload-challenge-analysis-of-teacher-responses>

5.0 Glossary

BMBC - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

CiC - Children in Care

EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage

GCSE - General Certificate in Education

GLD – Good Level of Development

KS - Key Stage

LAC - Looked After Children

RWM - Reading, Writing and Maths combined

6.0 Officer Contact

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23rd November 2015