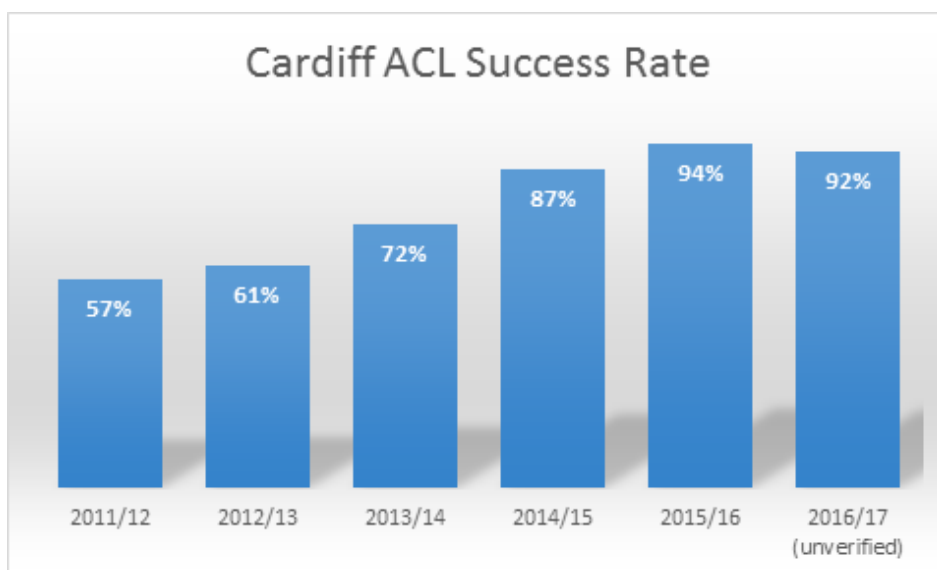

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Adult Community Learning

The Adult Community Learning Team is currently inputting the results of grant funded accredited courses for the 2016/17 academic year for submission to the Welsh Government via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record. The final freeze date for all results is in December 2017, at which point the Welsh Government will reconcile and publish the verified results in early 2018. Cardiff's current unverified result reflects a steady position, holding above 90%, and this will be fed into the overall Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership (Vale of Glamorgan Council, Adult Learning Wales, Cardiff and Vale College) result.



School Test and Examination Results

This year has seen the introduction of a new set of GCSE qualifications in Wales and new rules for reporting school performance measures. These changes have made a significant difference to the results across Wales, particularly in the Level 2+ (5 GCSEs A*-C including English or Welsh and Mathematics) and Level 2 (5 GCSEs A*-C) thresholds. As a result of these changes, caution needs to be exercised when comparing the 2017 results with previous years. At Key Stage 4, provisional results show that 57.7% of pupils achieved the Level 2+ threshold. 69.8% of pupils achieved the Level 2 threshold (5 GCSEs A*-C) and 93.2% achieved the Level 1 threshold (5 GCSEs A*-G). Early indications suggest that Cardiff is the second highest in the Central South Consortium for the Level 2+ and Level 2 threshold, but one of the lowest for the Level 1 threshold.

In the Foundation Phase, the rate of improvement over the last four years in Cardiff is greater than across the Central South region and Wales as a whole. Performance at the expected level is 88.5%, above the Welsh average of 87.3%.

At Key Stage 2, the rate of improvement over the last four years in Cardiff is slightly greater than across Wales as a whole. Performance at the expected level is 89.4%, marginally (0.1ppt) below the Welsh average.

Indicative figures show that the gap in attainment of Free School Meals and Non Free School Meals pupils is smaller in Cardiff than across Wales in the Foundation Phase and at Key Stage 2. In the Level 2+ threshold at Key Stage 4, indicative figures show that Cardiff's Free School Meals pupils are the highest performing in the Central South region and the gap in attainment is slightly smaller.

Cardiff Seren Network

Cardiff's Seren project has built on and connected with policies of other organisations, selective universities and widening access groups such as the Sutton Trust, LEDLET and the Widening Access to Medicine Regional group. Students have been supported with super-curricular opportunities, applications and interview preparation. The success rate for student applications to Oxford and Cambridge is 40%, compared to the all-Wales success rate of 20%.

School Organisation

Work is continuing on existing 21st Century Schools Band A projects. Cardiff West Community High School opened on 1st September 2017. The new building has received planning approval and construction work started on site on 4th September 2017. Work at Howardian, Ysgol Glan Morfa, Gabalfa and Glan Ceubal has also now started and due to start on site at Ysgol Hamadryad this month. Work on the new Eastern High School continues to progress well and is on track for completion by 22nd December 2017. A report is expected to be considered by the Cabinet in October 2017, which will set out the needs underpinning these priorities and outline the need for investment in the existing school estate and for adaptations to schools to increase Additional Learning Needs provision.

School Holiday Enrichment Programme

The School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) has had a very busy and successful summer, with the programme operating at 13 Cardiff school sites and involving children from 21 Cardiff schools. Cardiff's recent success winning both the Health and Nutrition Award at the 'Cateys' and the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA) Change4Life Award has generated significant media interest in both local and national media, including BBC Wales News, Channel 4 News and the BBC2 Victoria Derbyshire Programme. SHEP was also covered in the Guardian newspaper: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/30/wales-takes-bite-out-of-childrens-holiday-hunger>

Healthy Schools

I am delighted that Severn Primary and Radnor Primary Schools have recently achieved the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes' (WNHSS) 'National Quality Award'. They join Herbert Thompson Primary School (2011); Moorland Primary School (2015); Ysgol Pwll Coch (2015) and Adamsdown Primary School (2016) in all having been successful in achieving the award.

All schools in Cardiff are part of the Healthy Schools scheme, including nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools and the pupil referral unit. The scheme works to encourage schools to take a whole school approach to improving health and well-being, which means looking at everything from the policies adopted by the school, the school environment, the curriculum and the involvement of the whole school and wider community. In order to achieve the National Quality Award, schools are assessed against criteria, including food & fitness; mental and emotional health & well-being; personal development & relationships; substance use & misuse; safety & hygiene, and environment.

School Visits

I was delighted to visit Roath Park Primary School recently along with Cllr Lynda Thorne and the Chair of Governors, Cllr Sue Lent, and see at first hand some of their innovative practice, part building on their involvement with the recent Erasmus+ Key Action 1 visit to Finland. They also are running a food co-op and it was good to see the school's involvement with the wider community.

Councillor Sarah Merry

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills

27 September 2017