

School Improvement in Central South

Briefing paper for Select Committee 16th September 2015

In 2015 pupils in schools across the Central South region again improved their outcomes significantly, setting a three year consistent upward trend of improvement at rates faster than the national rates of improvement.

The region, previously amongst the worst performing in Wales, now sits at or above the national average at every indicator.

Key stage results:

- At foundation phase the percentage of pupils who achieved the expected level (Outcome 5 or above) has increased by 3.5 percentage points from 84.1% to 87.6%. This compares to an increase of 1.6 percentage points nationally.
- At key stage 2, the number of pupils achieving at least their expected level (Level 4 or above) has increased by 2 percentage points from 85.8% to 87.8% in 2015. This compares to a national increase of 1.6 percentage points.
- At key stage 3 the proportion of pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 5 or above) have seen a significant rise of 3.3 percentage points in 2015 from 80.3% in 2014 to 83.6%. This is against a national increase of 2.9 percentage points.
- Finally provisional data indicates that the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE passes at grades A* - C including English/Welsh and mathematics (L2+) has improved by at least 3.9% points to 58%, up from 54.1% in 2014 and 47.8% in 2012.
- Very early figures also indicate that the gap between children claiming free school meals and their peers has narrowed at every key stage.
- Primary and secondary attendance data has shown three year trends of improvement bringing the region to above the national average at both measures.

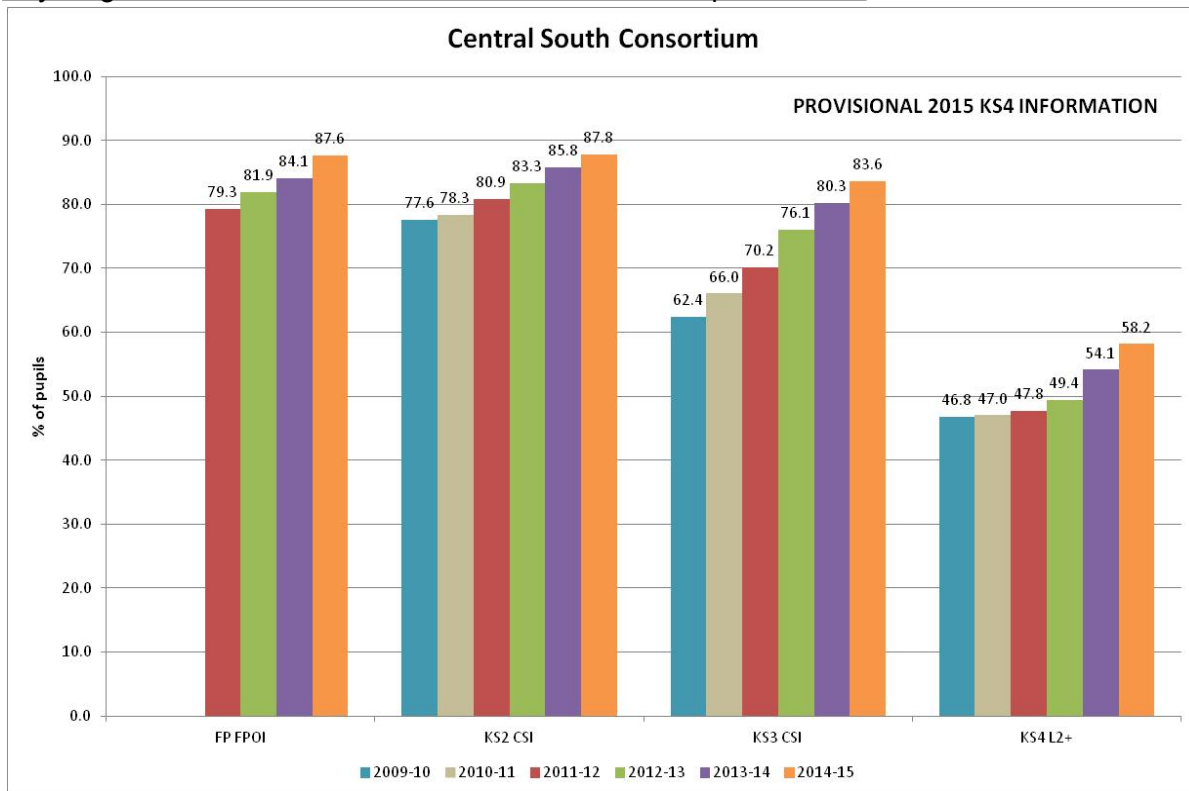
Local authority monitoring inspections across all five authorities in the past year have shown improvement in the service received by authorities from the Consortia and in RCT and Bridgend both authorities were removed from monitoring in 2014/15.

Areas for further work

There is a need for further significant improvement. In particular in the following areas:

- Faster progress to close the gap for children claiming free school meals, particularly in the valleys communities and in more affluent areas of the region.
- Learning from what is working well to shift improvement with vulnerable red and amber support category schools.
- A need to focus on sustaining good schools to excellence.
- Focus on Level 1 at key stage four with a focus on provision for young people at risk of not engaging in further work, training or education post 16.

Key stage results in Central South show a consistent upward trend



Performance against the Level 2+ threshold has been particularly strong again in 2015

