

QUARTER 1 – 2017/18 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT

19th July 2017

Education & Lifelong Learning

Update on progress towards the Strategic Priorities identified in the Directorate Delivery Plan

1. Improve educational outcomes for children and young people – Academic year 2016/2017 results

1.1 Provisional results for the academic year 2016/17, received from the Consortium, provide an early analysis of outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase (age 7), Key Stage 2 (age 11) and Key Stage 3 (age 14). The first official data release from Welsh Government is due in August 2017.

Provisional data highlights a slight dip in performance in the above measures as follows:

- 88.5% in 2016/17 in the Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator, compared to 88.9% in 2015/16
- 89.4% in 2016/17 in the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2, compared to 89.5% in 2015/16
- 86.2% in 2016/17 in the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 3, compared to 86.6% in 2015/16

1.2 Key Stage 4 results will be released to pupils on the 24th August 2017. This year has seen the introduction of a new set of GCSE qualifications in Wales ((Mathematics, Mathematics–Numeracy, English Language, Welsh Language, English Literature and Welsh Literature). At the same time, new rules have been introduced for reporting school performance measures at Key Stage 4. Consequently, much less importance can be given to comparing performance in particular subject or indicator from last year to this.

Secondary school leaders are still providing the best data they can about the currently secure performance of their Year 11 pupils during this year. Early indications are that performance at Key Stage 4 will appear lower this year for the reasons stated. A particular feature of the changes is the removal of certain BTEC qualifications as qualifying exams at Key Stage 4 Level 2. This may adversely affect schools that offer a wide vocational curriculum for learners.

2. Closing the attainment gap

2.1 Overall, good progress is being made to deliver actions to improve educational outcomes for a number of key groups. However, this area remains a key challenge across the region. Provisional 2016-17 results for each of the targeted groups will be available in quarter 3.

2.2 Pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM)

Year 11 expected outcomes indicate a decrease in the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM) in the level 2+ threshold, similarly across the region, partially attributable to changes in the qualifications included in the measures. Challenge advisers are continuing to focus on this group and best practice is being shared through school-to-school working.

2.3 Pupils educated other than at school (EOTAS)

The EOTAS Management Board has been established and is overseeing the delivery of the EOTAS Improvement Plan. Procurement procedures are underway to develop more appropriate provision for EOTAS learners, and a secondary school has been selected to deliver the PRU commission, from September 2017.

2.4 Looked After Children

The number of children looked after by Cardiff Council continues to increase each year (currently over 750). The needs of this specific group of learners are increasingly complex, with around 50% of this year's year 11 cohort having a statement of special educational needs. Welsh Government have recently introduced a new performance framework for measuring outcomes for looked after children, which we will be piloting this year. Improving the educational attainment of this group of learners remains a priority.

3. Improve provision for children and young people with additional learning needs

3.1 The local authority, with other partners, is continuing to prepare for the implementation of ALN reform. A draft action plan is on schedule to be complete by the end of July 2017, which will set the direction for significant changes in the years ahead.

3.2 An analysis of Out of County placements will inform Band B 21st Century Schools programme option appraisals, to seek to extend the availability of places for pupils with additional learning needs in the city. Managing the demand for and the resourcing of out of county placements continues to be a challenge.

3.3 Exclusions data indicates an increase in the number of exclusions this year to date, largely attributable to one Secondary School, which contributes almost half of the total number of fixed term exclusions this year. The pattern for 2016-17 compared to 2015-16 in other secondary schools is as follows:

- Downward trend- 7 schools
- Maintaining same levels- 5 schools
- Increasing- 6 schools

Work is ongoing to extend provision for children and young people at risk of exclusion.

4. Ensure there are sufficient and high quality school places to meet the population growth in the city

4.1 Work is ongoing on the 21st Century Schools Band B proposals. The stakeholder reference groups have met six times between March & June 2017 to inform these proposals.

4.2 The Asset Renewal board is established and working through priorities and budgets for this year to address condition and suitability issues of the school estate. Affordability remains a key challenge.

5. Recruit, retain and develop the best people to lead and work in our schools and education settings

5.1 The local authority, in partnership with the Central South Consortium, are developing refined support for Federations and leadership programmes.

5.2 A special school federation proposal has been supported by all the Governing Bodies involved. Two more primary school federation consultations are about to commence.

5.3 Teach First has been commissioned in the Central South Region to ensure high quality teachers are secured, particularly in subjects such as Maths, English and Science. Recruitment is in place for September 2017.

6. Work with the Central South Consortium to further develop the capacity of the school system to be self-improving.

6.1 Improving the performance of a minority of schools remains a priority. As at June 2017, there are 13 schools in an Estyn category: 6 in Estyn Monitoring, 2 in Significant Improvement, and 5 in Special Measures, 2 of which are federated. Estyn has now introduced a new inspection and reporting framework and KPI's will need to change for the new academic year.

6.2 There has been a slight increase in the overall number of governor vacancies to 8.64% (178 positions). LA governor vacancies have increased to 7.59% (30 positions). The increase in LA governor vacancies arose following the Council elections in May where a number of resignations were received from outgoing councillors. Recruitment to these vacancies will continue over the summer months.

7. Build effective partnerships between schools, business, the voluntary sector and wider public services and communities to enrich the school curriculum and strengthen school governance.

7.1 There has been strong progress in engaging employers to support the Cardiff Commitment to youth engagement and progression over the last 6 months. We have engaged with 129 employers to date: 68 employers are committed, 13 of the 68 employers have returned a complete 'Cardiff Commitment Employer Pledge'. Cardiff Council has also made a clear commitment to increasing the number of traineeships and apprenticeships in the workforce and has appointed a new Co-ordinator to lead this work.

7.2 The Youth Service is maintaining a focus on young people at risk of becoming NEET this autumn and on those 16 -18 year olds currently NEET in Cardiff (342 as at June 2017). 413 year 11 leavers are being supported to find suitable destinations at present.

7.3 The emerging Foundation Phase Baseline assessments, completed in the Reception year at school, give a broad picture of children's age related development against four key Areas of Learning. This information should usefully inform partnership working in relation to early intervention and pre-school activity at a community level. Further analysis and interpretation of data is ongoing.

8. Improve the range and quality of services provided to schools by the Education directorate

8.1 Positive progress has been made to initiate new arrangements to trade central services with schools, including the introduction of an online portal to provide easy access for schools. Work is ongoing to ensure the revised costing base for all Education Directorate traded services include the £500,000 savings target for the 2017/18 financial year.