

Education and Lifelong Learning

Quarter 3 2017/18

Key Areas of Progress

2016-17 Final Key Stage 4 School Performance data

The results for the 2016–2017 academic year build on a clear pattern of continuing improvement in recent years. Final 2016-17 Key Stage 4 performance data, released in December 2017, shows that Cardiff's performance in the Level 2+ threshold (5 GCSEs A*-C including English/Welsh and Maths) is above modelled expectations. Modelled expectations are based on free school meal eligibility and include mainstream and maintained schools. The difference in Cardiff is 7.5 percentage points, (Cardiff Actual 60.6%/ Cardiff Modelled 53.1%), which is the greatest difference across Wales.

A Cabinet report on the performance of Cardiff schools in 2016-17 across the key stages, and in relation to exclusions, attendance, and transition into education, employment or training, was published in January.

Improved Estyn Inspections

In November 2017, three schools were removed from an Estyn follow-up category. Riverbank Special School was removed from Estyn Monitoring, and Eastern High and Trelai Primary School were removed from Special Measures:

- Eastern High: Estyn noted the trend of improving results at all key stages, with Mathematics and English improving significantly. The school moved into the new Eastern Learning Campus in December, in partnership with Cardiff and the Vale College.
- Trelai Primary School: Estyn noted the strong progress that the school has made in improving the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals and of boys in the Foundation Phase.

2016-17 Provisional Destinations data for year 11 leavers

There has been good progress in reducing the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). 3% of young people (100 young people) were identified as NEET in 2016, compared with over 8% in 2010. This represents a 5.8 percentage point decrease in 6 years. Provisional 2016-17 data indicates that the Cardiff NEET figure has further reduced to 1.7% (54 young people). National data is not yet available.

Directorate Challenges

2016-17 Final Key Stage 4 School Performance data

Outcomes at Key Stage 4 indicate that Cardiff secondary schools exhibited a higher degree of resilience to manage the changes to qualifications and key performance indicators than schools elsewhere in Wales. However, there are a number of key areas for improvement:

- Performance in the Level 1 threshold is 93.2% (5 GCSEs A*-G), which is below the Welsh average of 94%.
- Improving outcomes for groups such as EOTAS (Educated Other Than At School) pupils and Looked After Children. .
- Reducing the gap in attainment between pupils eligible and not eligible for free school meals.

Further detail can be found in the 2016-17 Annual Performance Report.

Sufficiency and Suitability of the School Estate

In November 2017, Welsh Government confirmed approval in principle of the Band B 21st Century School sum proposed by the Local Authority. A significant amount of work was undertaken to compile the Strategic Outline Business Case for £284 million, half of which will be funded by Welsh Government and half by the Council. This funding will seek to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff.

The December 2017 Cabinet Report, '21st Century Schools- Cardiff Council's Band B priorities', outlines the proposed schemes in Cardiff under this programme. It may be necessary to put interim measures in place where sufficiency issues arise before new schools with increased capacity can be delivered.

Funding for the management and maintenance of the education estate will remain a challenge.

Improving provision and support for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the ALN Working Group to identify the strategic priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people with ALN. The strategy will be considered by the Cabinet in January.

The key challenges facing Cardiff are:

- The introduction of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act (ALNET); and
- The growing number of learners requiring special school or specialist resource base places in order to fully access education and fulfil their potential.

The December 2017 Cabinet Report, '21st Century Schools- Cardiff Council's Band B priorities', identifies four capital schemes to re-shape Cardiff special school provision. A further Cabinet report, detailing steps to extend provision to meet demand before the completion of any schemes under Band B (2018-22), was published in January 2018.