

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Committee** 2 February 2011

**Report Title** Report on School Performance 2010

**Summary** This paper is a summary of the attainment of pupils in Warwickshire in 2010 public examinations. It highlights differences in performance across the county. It also draws on Ofsted inspection data and compares Ofsted judgements on Warwickshire schools with those seen nationally.

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]** No

**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:** Details to be specified

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  .....

Other Elected Members  CYP&F O&S Chair & Vice Chair  
Cllr June Tandy  
Cllr John Ross

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons  
Cllr Peter Balaam – *Comments incorporated*  
Cllr Carolyn Robbins

Cabinet Member  For information:  
Cllr Heather Timms – CYP&F Portfolio Holder

- Other Cabinet Members consulted  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Fay Ford - *No comments*
- Finance  David Clarke, Strategic Director – Resources
- Other Strategic Directors  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

**FINAL DECISION** **NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 February 2011

### Report on School Performance 2010

### Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- note the improvements in attainment achieved by pupils in Warwickshire schools,
- note that Warwickshire schools are generally found to be performing better than schools elsewhere in England,
- note that there remains significant variance in performance across the county with North Warwickshire performing less well than other areas,
- endorse the continuing priority focus to narrow the gaps in attainment across the County.

#### **1. Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 This report gives information on pupil performance in 2010 public examinations in Warwickshire schools. It also compares the performance of pupils in different parts of the County. The report highlights the gaps in attainment between different localities. It also provides aggregated Ofsted judgements on Warwickshire schools and compares outcomes in Warwickshire with that found nationally.

#### **2. Ofsted Findings for Warwickshire Schools**

- 2.1 The majority of Warwickshire children attend good schools. Ofsted judge that 62% of all Warwickshire schools are good or outstanding. The number of schools in categories of concern (1%) is well below that found in other Authorities (9%). 26% of secondary schools have been judged as outstanding including all the grammar schools.
- 2.2 The number of Warwickshire schools in Ofsted categories of concern has declined steadily in recent years. In 2004 there were 10 schools causing concern. In September 2010 there were only 2.

### **3. Overall Attainment**

- 3.1 Attainment in Warwickshire is above the national average for almost all performance indicators. In the Early Years the main Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) indicator has Warwickshire six percentage points (ppt) above the national figure. This trend continues through the primary phase where performance in Key Stage 2 tests shows that 77% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in English and maths compared to a national figure of 74%.
- 3.2 At age 16 Warwickshire pupils continue to perform generally above the national average although results have not been as consistently above the national average in previous years. The 2010 results showed a positive trend with no schools performing below the National Challenge floor target of 30% five or more GCSE grades A\*-C or equivalent (5+ A\*-C) including English and maths at GCSE, and 2010 results being a marked improvement over 2009 results.
- 3.3 The recent Government White Paper “The Importance of Teaching” informs us that the Department for Education (DfE) wishes to introduce the English Baccalaureate. This is not of itself a qualification but a measure which includes GCSE grades A\*-C in two sciences, geography or history, and a language as well as English and maths. 17% of Warwickshire pupils achieved this in 2010. This is again above the national average. However there was a very wide range of performance from 87% to zero. Schools were unaware two years ago when planning their curriculum that this performance measure would be introduced and that, for example, GCSE equivalent qualifications in science would not be counted.
- 3.4 The White Paper also sets out an enhanced “floor standard” that no school should have fewer than 35% of its pupils gaining 5+ A\*-C including English and maths at GCSE. Two schools were below this level in 2010, but these have now been closed.
- 3.5 Despite the overall positive picture there remain some groups of pupils whose performance gives some concern. There are also wide variations in performance across different areas of the County.
- 3.6 An analysis of value added and pupil progress data indicates that most pupils perform in line with expectations but that there are some who might reasonably be expected to do better. In primary schools pupil progress has traditionally been good although in 2010 this seems to have slowed. In secondary schools the rate of pupil progress is improving although not yet as strong as we might hope for.

### **4. Attainment of Pupils who Receive Free School Meals**

- 4.1 There remains a significant gap between the attainment of pupils who receive Free School Meals (FSMs) and their peers. However this follows the national picture and the Warwickshire position is very similar to that seen elsewhere. At the end of the primary phase the gap is 23 percentage points (ppt). The

attainment of pupils on FSMs in Key Stage 2 SATs has not changed in the last three years while the results of their peers has risen slightly. By age sixteen the gap in performance is over 30ppt. There are a number of pupils, particularly boys, who do not perform as well in their secondary education as might have been expected given their attainment at primary school.

## **5. Attainment of Pupils with Special Needs**

5.1 In recent years we have had a slight improvement in the performance of pupils included on the SEN register. In 2010 this was no longer the situation for pupils with statements and on School Action Plus. In 2010 only 5% of pupils with statements achieved 5+ A-C including English and maths at GCSE. However there are a number of factors which influence this figure including the comparatively low numbers of pupils involved.

5.2 An examination of value added data suggests that there are pupils with statements and at School Action Plus who did not make as much progress at secondary school as other pupils with the same Key Stage 2 results.

## **6. Attainment by Area and Locality**

6.1 The presentation highlights the close alignment between the level of deprivation experienced by school pupils and their level of attainment. In Warwickshire there is one of the most important factor in determining pupil attainment is the context of their family income and home background. Schools serving areas of relative economic advantage do significantly better than those in more deprived areas. This is noticeable even within towns. For example in Nuneaton pupils in Weddington and St Nicolas achieve significantly higher results than their peers who live elsewhere in the town.

6.2 The analysis of performance by locality does highlight the variance in attainment. It also indicates the progress made in improving performance. For example in 2007 there were six localities where attainment was below 35% 5+ A-C inc English and maths while in 2009 this had fallen to just three. In 2007 there were three localities where pupils achieved 65% or less in their Key Stage 2 SATs, while in 2009 there were none.

## **7. Schools Judged Inadequate**

7.1 Of the 248 schools in Warwickshire only two, (Wood End Primary School and the Warwickshire Pupil Referral Unit, PRU) have been judged as failing to provide at least satisfactory education in their last inspection. Although the number of pupils attending schools judged to be providing less than satisfactory education is very small it is our aspiration that no pupil should be disadvantaged in this way in future.

7.2 Members have asked why schools fail. In the past this was because weaknesses may have remained undetected until an Ofsted inspection

revealed the problem. Today all schools have an LA appointed School Improvement Partner (SIP) working with them who alert the LA to any problems at an early stage. Consequently action can be taken swiftly to address problems and so prevent failure. With the ending of the SIP programme and the disbanding of the National Strategies advisory teams there is an increased risk of more schools failing in future.

- 7.3 There are a variety of causes of school failure. Common amongst these are weaknesses in leadership and management in a particular school. In almost all failing schools governors have failed to recognise the school's weaknesses and have not fulfilled their monitoring and challenge functions effectively. In the past, pupils in some schools may have underperformed because parents, pupils and staff had low aspirations and consequently accepted low educational standards. It now very uncommon for schools to be complacent about low standards, and there have been a number of initiatives such as "Aim Higher" that have attempted to raise aspirations for pupils. However, it remains true at a national level that there are more schools causing concern in areas of social disadvantage.
- 7.4 In future it is anticipated that successful schools will work alongside (or federate with) low performing schools. Successful headteachers will be asked to share their expertise and help promote high quality provision across a number of schools.
- 7.5 The responsibility of Local Authorities to prevent failure in academies and free schools is, as yet, unclear. The White Paper anticipates that the Local Authority will alert the Secretary of State for concerns about academies.

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