

Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

20 June 2012

Performance of Warwickshire Children and Young People in 2011 National Tests and Examinations

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the performance of Warwickshire's young people in the 2011 national tests and examinations, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

1.2 In summary, the key messages are as follows:

- Children make a good start in the early years of their education in Warwickshire, and standards of attainment for children and young people at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and post-16 are generally above the national average.
- In terms of value added, progress in secondary schools is in line with the national average, but in Key Stage 2 it may be starting to fall a little below the national average.
- Some more vulnerable pupils reach standards that are well below their peers. These lower-attaining groups include children with special educational needs (SEN), looked-after children (LAC) and those with free school meals (FSM). Generally, the outcomes for these groups are comparable to those of similar pupils nationally, but the average for Warwickshire pupils on FSM is slightly below similar pupils nationally at Key Stage 4.
- The proportion of young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is below the national average, and is falling, but remains an important concern.
- Standards vary between districts and localities, and socio-economic status appears to have a very important influence on pupil attainment. Differences in attainment become greater during the secondary years, and follow through into considerable differences in NEET rates.
- A number of changes in national policy have implications for data analysis, for Ofsted judgements of institutions and for the ability of the Local Authority (LA) to respond where improvements are needed.

2.0 Attainment

- 2.1 In 2011, 66% of children aged five showed a good standard of development on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. At Key Stage 2, 77% of eleven year olds reached the national expectation of Level 4 in the national tests in both English and mathematics. At Key Stage 4, 61% of sixteen year olds gained five or more GCSEs or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics (5+A*-C EM). All these headline results are around three or more percentage points (ppts) above the national averages, and in comparison with statistical neighbours, Warwickshire is consistently second or third highest in the group.
- 2.2 The proportion of Warwickshire children reaching the nationally expected standards has continued to rise in the early years and at Key Stage 4. At Key Stage 2, they have remained relatively stable for some years. The proportion of Key Stage 2 children reaching Level 5, which is approximately two years above the nationally expected level, has also remained more or less the same for some years.
- 2.3 18% of pupils in Year 11 gained the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This was the same proportion as 2010, and there is unlikely to be any marked change before 2013 because this will be the first year group that chose its GCSE courses knowing the requirements of the EBacc.
- 2.4 As there is legislation to raise the participation age, it is important to note the proportion of pupils aged 16 to 18 years who are in education or work-based learning, as well as the proportion who reach the national expectation. Because data has to be collated nationally from many sources, which are not available to the LA, the latest available data we have is from 2009 for participation and from 2010 for attainment.
- 2.5 In 2010, 95% of Warwickshire 16 year olds and 85% of 17 year olds were in education or work-based training. These figures, however, are one or two ppts lower than the national average. In 2010, 55% of Warwickshire 19 year olds gained Level 3, which is two A Levels or equivalent. This figure is three ppts higher than the national average.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The national expectations are that pupils will make two national curriculum levels of progress in English and mathematics during Key Stage 2. Then, from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 they will progress from Level 3 to GCSE grade D, and from Level 4 to GCSE grade C, and so on. In the past, progress at Key Stage 2 in both English and mathematics has been around two ppts above the national average. However, in the last two years, progress has remained steady and is now only the same as progress nationally. Progress in English and mathematics in secondary schools has improved steadily over the last few years, and remains above the national averages.

4.0 Vulnerable Groups

- 4.1 In Year 11 in 2011, there were 71 children in the care of Warwickshire LA; 44 in Warwickshire schools and 27 in schools out of county. Of these 71 children, 8 reached the national expectation of 5+A*-C EM, and 49 gained five or more GCSE passes or their equivalent.
- 4.2 In January 2011, 661 children in Year 6 were registered as entitled to free school meals (FSM). 54% of these children gained Level 4 or above in English and mathematics. This was slightly above the national average for this vulnerable group, but 26 pts lower than the 80% of pupils in Warwickshire not registered for FSM. This gap has changed little over the last few years, but is smaller (better) than the national gap.
- 4.3 In Year 11, there were 443 pupils registered for FSM. 31% of these pupils reached the national expectation. This was slightly below the national average for this group, and 32 pts lower than the 63% of pupils in Warwickshire not registered for FSM. This gap is slightly larger (worse) than the national gap, and has changed little over the last five years.
- 4.4 The comparable Department for Education (DfE) impact indicator for young people post-16 relates to those who were registered for FSM when they were in Year 11. The latest data available is for 2010, when 22% of this group gained Level 3, compared with the national average of 29%. There was a gap of 33 pts to the 55% of young people who were not registered for FSM. This gap has fluctuated over the last few years, but is wider than the previous year.
- 4.5 As could be expected, an analysis of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 results for pupils with SEN show that the higher the stage of pupils' SEN, the smaller the proportion who reach the national expectation.
- 4.6 Minority ethnic groups in Warwickshire typically have Key Stage 4 performance above the Warwickshire average.
- 4.7 Considerably fewer boys than girls reach the national expectation at Key Stage 2, and the gap between boys and girls is even wider at Key Stage 4. This is a national issue, and relates particularly to performance in English.
- 4.8 For young people aged 16 to 18, a group of considerable concern is those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). In January 2012, there were around 700 young people of academic age 16 to 18 known to be NEET. However, this figure is only an indication of the size of the group, as there is a large seasonal variation in numbers. Also, there has been a recent issue with the database compiled by the LA's contractor containing a large proportion of young people whose work and training status was unknown.
- 4.9 In fact, Warwickshire's 2011/12 return to the DfE included 17.4% unknowns which compared unfavourably with the Warwickshire rates for 2004-2009 which reached a maximum of only 4.8%, and with the national average for 2011/12 of 9.4%. On investigation two factors were critical: there was a change in the

reporting requirements to include all young people up to the end of the academic year that they reached 19, and the LA's contractor had not at that time updated the database. However, following discussions with the contractor, the percentage of unknowns has been reduced, and the figure for March 2012 was 6.9%.

- 4.10 Over the last three years, the number of young people who are NEET has reduced, with the estimated "end of year" average for November, December and January falling from 5.2% in 2010 to 4.5% in 2011. However, this masks considerable differences between the three year groups involved. For example, at the end of 2011, 3.0% of those of academic age 16 were NEET, while it was 4.3% of those aged 17 and 7.3% of those aged 18 – rather more than double the proportion of 16 year olds.
- 4.11 In addition to the data collected locally about NEETs, there are also two national sets of statistics. These three data sets collect data at different times using different sources and definitions and so cannot be compared directly. Nevertheless, as the national figure from the labour force survey for the last quarter of 2011 was 9.6%, it is likely that a distinctly smaller proportion of young people in Warwickshire are NEET than in the country as a whole.

5.0 Districts/Boroughs and Localities

- 5.1 Performance differs across Warwickshire's five districts and boroughs. In the early years, the proportion of pupils reaching a good level of development in 2011 was 66% for Warwickshire, but ranged from 72% in Stratford on Avon, through 70% in Warwick and 68% in Rugby, to 58% in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire. The figures for Nuneaton & Bedworth and for North Warwickshire were below the national average of 59%. Results for all districts/boroughs have risen considerably over the last five years.
- 5.2 At the end of the primary phase, the proportion of 11-year-old pupils reaching the national expectation of Level 4 in both English and mathematics was 77% for Warwickshire, but ranged from 80% in Stratford on Avon, through 79% in Warwick and Rugby and 73% in North Warwickshire, to 70% in Nuneaton & Bedworth. The figures for both North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth were below the national average of 74%. There has been little improvement in results in the last five years for any district/borough.
- 5.3 At the end of Key Stage 4, the proportion of 16 year olds reaching the national expectation of 5+ A*-C EM was 61% for Warwickshire, but ranged from 70% in Stratford on Avon, through 64% in Rugby, 61% in Warwick and 52% in Nuneaton & Bedworth, to 50% in North Warwickshire. The figures for both North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth were below the national average of 58%. Results for all districts/boroughs have improved considerably over the last five years.
- 5.4 The proportion of young people who are NEET also differs between the districts. For example, in January 2012, it ranged from 3.3% in Stratford on

Avon, through 3.9% in Rugby, 4.0% in Warwick and 4.6% in Nuneaton & Bedworth, to 5.2% in North Warwickshire.

- 5.5 Looking at performance across the key stages, and at a range of measures including the headline ones listed above, there appears to be a relatively consistent pattern for the five districts/boroughs. Generally, the performances of pupils in Stratford on Avon, Rugby and Warwick are the highest, with performances in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire not only being the lowest, but below the national average. These differences are greatest at Key Stage 4.
- 5.6 The LA recognises 30 localities and, in 2011, results at the end of Key Stage 4 for these localities ranged from 78% to 43%. Six localities, including one in Nuneaton & Bedworth, had over 70% of their 16 year olds gaining 5+ A*-C EM, but there were ten localities where under 50% of the pupils reached this standard. While one of these low-performing localities was in Warwick district and one in Rugby, the others were all in Nuneaton & Bedworth or North Warwickshire.
- 5.7 The LA is now starting experimentally to analyse results for different socio-economic groups. There is considerable variation between the results for different groups, and it seems likely that much of the variation between districts/boroughs and localities arises from the different socio-economic contexts of these areas.

6.0 Individual Institutions

- 6.1 The Department for Education (DfE) floor standards have been redefined, and now take account of pupils' progress as well as their attainment. On this new definition, there were twelve primary schools below the floor standards in 2011. However, only four of these schools were also below the floor standard in the previous year. Structural solutions are proposed for three of these four schools.
- 6.2 No mainstream state-funded secondary schools in Warwickshire had Key Stage 4 results below 35% 5+ AC EM, the measure for this year's floor standard. One school was below the 40% figure that will relate to the floor standard set by the Department for Education (DfE) for 2013.
- 6.3 Ofsted inspections judge the overall effectiveness of schools. At their latest inspection up to July 2011, 65% of state-funded primary schools within the LA boundaries and 61% of secondary schools were graded good or better. One primary school and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) were in an Ofsted category as their overall effectiveness had been judged inadequate.

7.0 Current context and future developments

- 7.1 There are several structural changes that are limiting the LA's ability to evaluate progress in different institutions and to intervene where pupils' progress and standards could be improved. For example, the National Strategies and SIP programme ended in March 2011, there have been

considerable reductions in the learning improvement team and many secondary schools have now become academies.

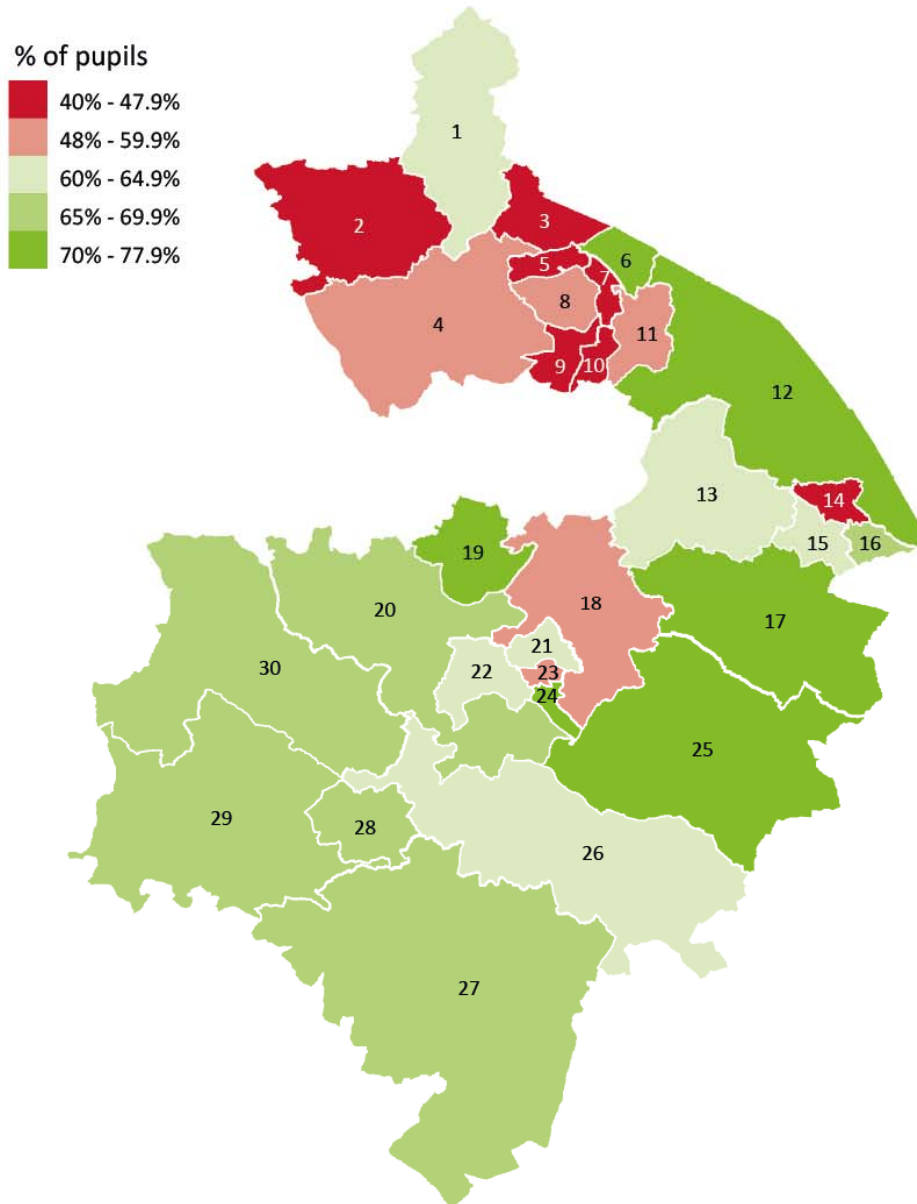
- 7.2 A number of national policy changes have changed the nature of the data on which this report is based. For example, value-added data no longer takes direct account of contextual factors, and there is a greater emphasis on academic qualifications. In the future, modular examinations will be discontinued, the opportunities for resits will be limited and there will be considerable changes to the point scores allocated to different qualifications. One effect of these changes could be that standards may appear to decline in future.
- 7.3 Some changes to the Ofsted framework came into effect in January 2012, and these may result in schools being judged more critically. Further, more radical changes to the inspection regime are being proposed for September 2013, and these could result in many more schools being defined as “requiring improvement”.

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2011 Validated Key Stage 4 Results
Published on Department for Education Performance Tables Website

	No of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs				achieving English Baccalaureate 2011
		2008	2009	2010	2011	
<i>England - all schools</i>		47.6%	49.8%	53.5%	58.9%	17.6%
<i>England - state funded schools only</i>		48.2%	50.7%	55.2%	58.2%	15.4%
<i>Local Authority</i>	6022	51.4%	53.8%	58.9%	60.7%	18.0%
Alcester Grammar School	91	100%	99%	100%	98%	69%
Alcester High School Technology College	175	47%	46%	55%	59%	17%
Ash Green School and Arts College	96	30%	47%	67%	65%	3%
Ashlawn School	258	60%	63%	73%	67%	23%
The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts	217	44%	33%	43%	40%	2%
Aylesford School, A Specialist Language and	156	47%	53%	64%	58%	10%
Bilton School - A Maths and Computing College	229	52%	45%	58%	58%	9%
Campion School	97	31%	34%	40%	52%	4%
The Coleshill School	166	42%	41%	43%	48%	4%
Etone College	154	60%	57%	55%	55%	8%
The George Eliot School	124	NA	NA	40%	40%	6%
Harris School	161	40%	45%	57%	58%	22%
Hartshill School	172	29%	44%	46%	45%	3%
Henley in Arden High School	121	47%	62%	52%	64%	25%
Higham Lane School, A Business & Enterprise	240	66%	63%	70%	74%	19%
Kenilworth School and Sports College	254	75%	75%	78%	78%	31%
Kineton High School	174	47%	56%	64%	56%	20%
King Edward VI School	76	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%
Kingsbury School, A Specialist Science College	117	35%	30%	42%	48%	0%
Lawrence Sheriff School	111	100%	98%	100%	100%	77%
Myton School	267	67%	65%	68%	70%	23%
Nicholas Chamberlaine Technology College	285	35%	35%	42%	39%	6%
North Leamington School	177	44%	52%	60%	60%	19%
The Nuneaton Academy	341	NA	NA	NA	42%	2%
The Polesworth School	234	51%	56%	62%	63%	34%
Queen Elizabeth School	106	34%	42%	40%	42%	3%
Rugby High School	92	100%	98%	98%	99%	36%
St Benedict's Catholic High School	109	67%	76%	78%	81%	22%
St Thomas More Catholic School and Technology	166	66%	59%	62%	72%	21%
Shipston High School - A Specialist Technology	74	42%	48%	68%	62%	7%
Southam College	210	66%	65%	68%	76%	13%
Stratford upon Avon High School	236	60%	50%	59%	63%	13%
Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for	78	99%	99%	100%	99%	85%
Studley High School - A Humanities and	150	53%	62%	73%	67%	14%
Trinity Catholic School	202	54%	48%	56%	58%	17%

PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS GAINING 5 OR MORE GCSEs AT GRADES A*-C, INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS, IN 2011 BY LOCALITY



1	North Warwickshire - North	61.6%
2	North Warwickshire - West	48.0%
3	North Warwickshire - East	48.0%
4	North Warwickshire - South	48.8%
5	Camp Hill & Galley Common	44.3%
6	Weddington & St. Nicolas	75.2%
7	Abbey & Wembrook	43.2%
8	Arbury & Stockingford	48.0%
9	Bedworth North & West	44.6%
10	Bede & Poplar	42.5%
11	Whitestone & Bulkington	57.5%
12	Fosse	71.2%
13	Earl Craven	63.5%
14	Brownsover, Benn & Newbold	46.0%
15	Rugby Town West	62.1%
16	Eastlands & Hillmorton	67.2%
17	Dunchurch Division	74.6%
18	Warwick Rural East	56.1%
19	Kenilworth	77.7%
20	Warwick Rural West	68.9%
21	North Leamington	63.3%
22	Warwick	64.4%
23	South Leamington	49.5%
24	Whitnash	70.5%
25	Southam & Feldon	71.3%
26	Wellesbourne & Kineton	61.1%
27	Shipston	69.4%
28	Stratford-upon-Avon	69.5%
29	Alcester & Bidford	67.8%
30	Studley & Henley	67.4%

Source: Commissioning Support Service, Warwickshire Observatory (both WCC).
 Based on residence, not school location.
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