



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3
NOVEMBER 2014

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES IN KEY STAGE
TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the performance of schools, including inspection outcomes, statutory tests and examinations.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Local Authority has previously agreed targets each year with the Department for Education (DfE) to support improvements in Key Stage assessments and GCSE results. There is no longer a requirement to do this. However, the local authority continues to have a duty to monitor these results and report upon them. Final results by school and by local authority are made public during the autumn term through the DfE website.

Background

3. Appendix 1 provides additional information about key stage tests and examinations including year on year trends compared with national and statistical neighbour trends where these are available. Appendix 2 provides a glossary of terms.
4. Statistical neighbours are the group of authorities identified by the DfE as most comparable socio-economically with Leicestershire. Therefore it is helpful to compare performance to this group of local authorities as well as to national outcomes. The statistical neighbours are Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hampshire, Dorset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Sussex and Worcestershire. There are 152 local authorities nationally.
5. It should be noted that some of these results remain provisional until they are formally confirmed by the DfE. Whilst there is not usually any significant change in the results, there is a chance that the final percentages may change slightly.

Overall performance and evaluation

Foundation Stage (age 5)

6. Leicestershire has shown significant improvements from last year and in 2014 the percentage of children in Leicestershire achieving a Good Level of Development has increased by 11.9% to 58.3%. This is 2% below the provisional national figure of 60.3%, a smaller gap than in 2013 when the gap was 5.3%. Girls are outperforming boys and there is a gap of 17 percentage points. Quartile data is not yet available.
7. The percentage of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium achieving a Good Level of Development has increased by 10 percentage points to 35.2%. This means that the gap has widened since 2013.
8. The average point score across all Early Learning Goals for Leicestershire is 33.9 which is in line with national and an improvement from 2013. Evaluation of the current data indicates that there has been an increase in all Early Learning Goals. The biggest gains have been made in number and writing, although writing still lags behind other Early Learning Goals and remains a priority.

Key Stage One (age 7)

8. The percentage of children in Leicestershire achieving the Phonics benchmark at Year 1 was 76%. This was a 2% increase on last year's top quartile performance and remains above the national average.
9. Leicestershire continues to perform above the national average in reading, writing, mathematics and science at all levels of assessment and standards have improved in all areas. Overall, Leicestershire was equal or above national levels in 10 of the possible 11 Key Stage 1 measures according to the DfE statistical release.
10. Leicestershire compares well with statistical neighbours with the majority of Key Stage One measures around the middle or top half of the eleven comparators.

Key Stage Two (age 11)

11. Leicestershire showed a much improved Key Stage Two performance in 2014. First release DfE data places Leicestershire equal to national levels of 78% for the headline measure of Level 4 Reading, Writing and Mathematics attainment compared to 1.8% below last year. Leicestershire is level or above national levels for 7 of the 10 Key Stage Two attainment measures using the DfE's statistical first release. Leicestershire has improved its position against statistical neighbours compared to 2013 and is ranked mid-table for most comparators.

12. The percentage of pupils making progress by two levels between Key Stage One and Two has improved in all the key areas – Reading, Writing and Maths, although progress remained behind national levels as reported in quarter 2 performance report. This remains a priority.
13. The percentage of children achieving three levels of progress in Leicestershire increased in all subject areas, with increases ranging from 4.5% to 5.2%. There is no DfE national data release for this measure.

Key Stage Three (aged14)

14. There is no national collection of Key Stage Three attainment. However, the majority of Leicestershire schools still submit data to the performance team on a voluntary basis for analysis and comparison. Schools who did not submit data for 2014 are excluded from the 2013 figures to ensure year on year comparison is consistent. Current information is based on 90% of schools.
15. The percentage of children reaching Level 5+ in Maths and English at Key Stage Three rose to 90.7% in 2014 compared to 88.7% in 2013.
16. Each individual subject area – English, Maths, Science, Reading and Writing – improved on average by 1.5%.
17. Leicestershire performance is significantly above the latest national figures available, with Leicestershire 2014 English, Maths and Science attainment an average of 9% above national 2013 figures.

Key Stage Four (age 16)

18. The figures for GCSE results are recently released and provisional. The pass rate has fallen across England due to changes in the way the DfE calculate the figure. The two main changes are: 1) only the ‘first entry’ for a pupil is counted whereas ‘best entry’ was previously counted i.e. if the same student re-took the exam and passed. 2) Vocational courses now count for less in calculating GCSE equivalents. There is no available statistical neighbour information for this key stage.
19. The percentage of pupils achieving the benchmark 5 GCSEs A*- C was 55.9% using the ‘first entry’ of the pupil. This was 0.4 percentage points above the national average.
20. When ‘best entry’ was considered, the Leicestershire percentage rose to 58.2% against a national average of 58.5%. This is not directly comparable with 2013 as it does not take into account changes to the weighting of vocational courses.
21. The percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate has risen to 16.7%. The national figure last year was 18%.

Key Stage Five (age 18)

22. Key Stage Five data includes only state funded provision and currently excludes Further Education Colleges. Key Stage Five performance improved overall with the main sub-categories of A level and vocational qualifications showing small increases in average point scores.
23. A Level points per entry increased by 0.5 to 208.8 although remained behind the national average. Vocational points per entry increased by 4.1 which is above the national average. Points per entry overall in Leicestershire rose by 1 and remained behind the national average.

Children in Care

24. Results for Children in Care are still awaiting validation. Early provisional data suggests that performance for the headline Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 measures will be similar to 2013.
25. This indicates that approximately half of children in care achieve Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage Two; and less than 10% of children in care achieve 5 A*-C GCSEs (including Maths and English). It should be noted that GCSE performance at all levels has fallen nationally.

Not in Employment Education and Training (NEET)

26. The NEET level in Leicestershire was 3.0% at the end of August 2014. This represents 633 Year 12-14 young people. Leicestershire is first among statistical neighbours for NEET.

Ofsted outcomes (schools)

27. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently 84.6% (September 2014). This is above the latest national figure available of 80% (June 2014) and is an improving picture. The average for statistical neighbours is 79.6%
28. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school is currently 79.1%. This is 1.2% above the latest national figure available. The average for statistical neighbours is 77.6%.
29. The percentage of Leicestershire primary schools rated as Good or Outstanding is higher than the percentage of Secondary schools. The same pattern is repeated for the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools.
30. The number of Special Schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently 83.3%. However, it should be noted that 5 out of 6 are rated as Good or Outstanding and each school represents 16.7% of the total.

Conclusion

31. The available performance information and most recent analysis indicates that more children in Leicestershire are achieving positive outcomes which ensures that they are developing the skills and knowledge at each stage of their learning in readiness for the next stage of their education. Further analysis is needed to establish an accurate picture of the performance of different groups, for example, those with special educational needs. The emerging priorities which have been shared with schools are:

- Writing in the early years;
- Improving rates of progress between key stages;
- Narrowing the gap between pupils eligible for pupil premium, including Children in care and their peers in all subjects and in all phases;
- Maths at Key Stage Four and Five.

Background Papers

33. None. Figures are derived from the DfE Research and Statistics department which collates data on behalf of all local authorities.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

34. None.

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Equality and Human Rights Implications

32. These are the results achieved by all Leicestershire children and young people in the summer of 2014. The analysis of groups will inform any further targeted intervention where underperformance is identified.

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