

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
<b>1 MARCH 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn - Executive Director, People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres - Lead Cabinet Member - Education	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Perkins - Assistant Director (Education)	07920 160285

**EXAMINATION (GCSE) OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AGED 16 YEARS IN 2017**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Gary Perkins, Assistant Director (Education)	<b>Deadline date:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the contents of the report and</li> <li>2. Engage positively with and advise other Elected Members and Officers in their work to support and challenge schools to improve standards of attainment and rates of progress for children in Peterborough Secondary Schools and Academies.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is offered by the Assistant Director (Education) at the request of the Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is offered to Committee Members to update them on standards of attainment and rates of progress made by young people in Peterborough Secondary Schools and Academies in the 2017 public examinations (GCSE).

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No 2.1 Functions determined by the Council

Education, including :

1. University and Higher Education
2. Youth Service
3. Careers, and
4. Special Needs and Inclusion

2.3 This report links to the Corporate Priority: Improve educational attainment and skills

2.4 This report links to the Children in Care Pledge: Support Children in Care to have a good education.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
---	-----------	----------------------------------	------------

### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 In January 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) published validated 2017 outcomes for pupils who were aged 16 years (Year 11 – Key Stage 4).
- 4.2 For the first time this year students in Peterborough have received their results after new, and much harder, GCSE exams in the summer 2017. These new exams in English and mathematics are graded from 9 (top) to 1 (bottom) with a grade 4 accepted as a standard pass equivalent to the former grade C, and grade 5 accepted as a good pass.
- 4.3 The expected rate of progress between the end of KS2 (age 11) and the end of KS4 (age 16) is judged by the DfE to be 0. Any outcome above zero is positive and any outcome below zero is negative.
- 4.4 Note: Of the 12 mainstream secondary schools in Peterborough for whom results were recorded, 9 (75%) are academy schools. One further school will become an academy school on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
- 4.5 Almost 2200 students sat the exams this year. As there is a new grading system, a change to the examination system and much harder exams it is not possible to compare this set of results with last year's, but it is encouraging that approximately similar proportions of students have achieved a pass to those last year.
- 4.6 Outcomes are compared to the national average (National) and also compared to Statistical Neighbour LAs (Stat Nbrs) and Local Comparator LAs (Local Comps). The most important comparison is with the national average. The National Ranking is out of 152 local authorities. The Statistical Neighbour ranking is out of 11 local authorities and the Local Comparator ranking is out of 6 local authorities.

The gap between performance in Peterborough (Pb) and our comparators is shown as "Gap" for ease of reference.

Our statistical neighbour LAs are:

- Bolton
- Derby
- Medway
- Plymouth
- Portsmouth
- Rotherham
- Sheffield
- Southampton
- Telford and Wrekin
- Walsall

Our local comparator LAs are:

- Bedford
- Derby
- Leicester
- Luton
- Nottingham

Outcomes data for groups are not yet available and can be reported if requested during the latter part of the spring term 2018.

4.7 Outcomes 2017: Key Stage 4:

Please see Appendix 1 – KS4 Outcomes Summary 2017

4.8 Although results in 2016 and 2017 are not directly comparable, it is disappointing to note that the position of the local authority in the national rankings has declined in the measures of Attainment 8, the “Basics” measure (GCSE in both English and maths), and Progress 8.

4.9 Rankings in comparison to statistical neighbours and local comparators in these measures have also declined.

4.10 There has been a closing of the gap to the national average and statistical neighbour outcomes in mathematics. This is pleasing to see because it has been an area of comparative weakness and some concern for a number of years. Actions taken by schools are beginning to have an effect upon outcomes.

4.11 A comment made by the Chair of the Peterborough Partnership of Secondary Schools in response to the publication of outcomes was “Peterborough is blessed with an incredibly strong team of leaders in education who share a common commitment to supporting each other in improving Key Stage 4 results. We are confident that, with the appropriate funding and resources that the education sector desperately needs, we will see further improvements in the future.”

4.12 Actions Taken to date in 2017/18:

1. We have worked in partnership with Vivacity, City College and the National Literacy Trust to develop a “Vision for Reading” in Peterborough, launched 29th January 2018, which will culminate in a city-wide Year of Reading from September 2019 to August 2020;
2. An Education Conference has been held with actions following (see separate report at previous meeting);
3. A shared Strategic Service Director (Education) has been appointed to work across both Peterborough and Cambs (commenced 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018);
4. The School Standards and Effectiveness Team has been restructured;
5. The Assistant Director (Education) attends all meetings of the Peterborough Partnership of Secondary Schools (PPSS) to report on any local authority issues affecting education and facilitate headteachers/principals in raising school issues with the local authority;
6. Secondary schools in the city are continuing to operate the Self-Improving Schools Network (school-led school improvement which is independent of the local authority) and working as Triads. This is the main and preferred system of school improvement operated by secondary schools in the city;
7. The School Readiness project has gained further momentum and is having positive impact (see separate report at previous meeting);
8. Further schools are being supported to achieve academy status;
9. There are stronger links between the LA and our Teaching Schools, leading to more focused provision of CPD for school staff, and increasing numbers of specialist leaders in schools; More bids are being made to access national grant funding;
10. We continue to provide good support and act as significant partners to Teach East, in our mutual desire to see greater numbers of high quality teachers trained in Peterborough and working in Peterborough; We also provide support to these new teachers through acting as the Appropriate Authority for them during the NQT year, where schools opt for us to act in this way;
11. We have continued to support schools through OfSTED inspection where requested, and the proportion of schools judged Good or better by OfSTED is currently 91.7%, with 92.3% of young people attending a secondary school which is judged to be Good or better.
12. We continue to hold meetings on a regular basis with the RSC and her officers, discussing both maintained and academy schools which are causing concern as well as discussing future

Multi Academy Trust arrangements. Meetings are also held with OfSTED to discuss what they can do to support schools further in their improvement journey.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 All secondary and special schools are aware of the outcomes for 2017 and commentary has been released for the media. Relevant Officers are aware of the outcomes for 2017 as is the Lead Cabinet Member for Education.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 Committee Members have a greater understanding of the actions being taken to address the outcomes issues in Peterborough secondary schools.  
Committee Members support Officers in the actions that they take.  
Committee Members gain further understanding of the changed role and function of the Local Authority in relation to School Improvement.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 Raise awareness amongst Committee Members and ask for their support for future actions to be taken as appropriate.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 None

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 None.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 None

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 None

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 None

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Statistical First Release data from the Department for Education.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – KS4 Outcomes Summary 2017