



# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING**

## **SCRUTINY & PERFORMANCE PANEL**

### **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Report of:	Elaine Simpson Managing Director	Date:	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2004
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	<p><b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES &amp; LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY &amp; PERFORMANCE PANEL</b></p> <p><b>DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda Item No.</b></p>
<p><b>Educational Attainment of looked After Children</b></p> <p><b>Ward(s)</b>                      All</p>		
<p><b>Portfolios:</b>    Cllr E Hughes</p> <p><b>Summary of report:</b></p> <p>The report outlines educational outcomes and targets for Looked After Children and identifies the strategies and initiatives in place to further support the educational achievement of these children and young people.</p>		
<p><b>Background papers:</b></p> <p>Promoting Inclusion and Addressing Equal Opportunities for All Learners Inclusion in Education – The Vision for Walsall Looked After Children - The Policy Framework and Delivery Plan Summary 2004-2006</p>		
<p><b>Reason for scrutiny:</b></p> <p>This paragraph should include, for example:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested by members of Scrutiny and Performance Panel</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Signed:</b> </p> <p><b>Elaine Simpson</b> <b>Managing Director – Education Walsall</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b>                      24<sup>th</sup> November 2004</p>		
<p><b>Resource and legal considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to changes in Education legislation which strengthen the legal duty of Local Authorities to support inclusion in education and raise the educational attainment of looked after children.</li> </ul>		

**Citizen impact:**

- To address and enhance the life chances of Walsall's looked after children and young people both inside and outside of the Borough with a view to increasing their educational, social, emotional and behavioural well being.

**Environmental impact:**

- None

**Performance management:**

- Greater scrutiny of Walsall's impact on the educational attainment o looked after children

**Equality Implications:**

- Supports the achievement of equal opportunities by planning to remove the barriers to Presence, Participation and Achievement for looked after children

**Consultation:**

- Education Services

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## Summary - Attainment of Looked After Children:

Educational Attainment of Looked after Children is reported in a number of different ways according to whether the report is to the DfES or DoH.

In measuring the cohort of looked after children who have achieved at least 1 A\* to G GCSE the number of young persons reported on will vary according to the definition used:

PAF A2 reported by Social Care and Supported Housing to the DoH includes any young person aged 16 or over who leaves care in the financial year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

OC2 which is reported by both Social Care and Supported Housing to the DoH and LEAs to the DfES (Form 4) includes only those pupils in Year 11 who have been looked after for at least 12 months on 30<sup>th</sup> September following the sitting of GCSE exams in the previous summer term.

The variation in outrun, which does occur between PAF A2 and OC2 indicators, derives from the different definitions and timescales which results in some young persons' attainment being included in both indicators and others only included in one indicator.

## How are we doing?

- In 2002-2003 Walsall Looked After Children gaining 1 A\*-G was higher than the national average of 52.4 %. (figures for 2003/04 not yet available)
- Benchmarking with 14 West Midlands LEAs show that in 2002-2003 Walsall were 4th highest for 1 pass at A\* to G and were 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for 5 passes A\* to C (figures for 2003/04 not yet available)
- Benchmarking exercise also showed Walsall looked after children to be outperforming their counterparts in our immediate neighbours for both 1 pass and 5 passes.(Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley)

## 2003-2004 Outcomes

*(All cohorts reflect Social Care and Supported Housing OC2 figures)*

	At least 1 pass at A* to G	At least 5 passes A* to C
2002/03 (cohort 22)	59%	14%
2003/04 (cohort 14) Walsall Schools	64%	14%
2003/04 (cohort 11) Out of Borough Schools	37%	0%

- The achievement of Looked After Children in Key Stage 2 SATS has shown improvement in Maths, English and Science

Key Stage Two Level 4 or above	English	Maths	Science
<b>2002/2003 (cohort 24)</b>	21%	29%	37%
<b>2003/04 (cohort 25)</b>	28%	32%	44%

## ATTAINMENT TARGETS

Targets are set at individual pupil for attainment as part of the annual target setting process in partnership with schools and School Improvement Advisers.

Data collected on a termly basis from schools to analyse progress against targets

<b>EDP TARGETS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN WHO WILL HAVE BEEN IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR AS AT SEPTEMBER 2005</b>	<b>Anticipated numbers of eligible pupils</b>	<b>Anticipated percentage of pupils</b>
Children achieving level 4 and above at Key Stage 2 in both English and Maths	22	29
Children aged 15 as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2004 who have not achieved a graded result at GCSE or equivalent	17	35
Percentage of children (in Year 11 of academic year 2004/05 who have achieved qualifications equivalent to at least 5 GCSEs at A* - C	17	15

## Attendance and Exclusions

- The number of LAC who missed more than 25 days of education has been almost halved from 12% to 7% which shows that 93% of Looked After Children attend school on more than 165 occasions per year out of a total of 190 open days for schools throughout the year.
- Only 1 LAC was permanently excluded during the whole of the 2003/2004 academic year (This figure is lower than both the National average and that of Statistical Neighbours: source Form 4 2003)

To reduce the number of children in care who miss more than 25 days of schooling (2003-2004 Target 9.2%)

	<b>(a) Attendance (% missing 25 days )</b>
2002/03	12%
2003/04	7%

## **Current initiatives in supporting the achievement of Looked After Children**

- Corporate Parenting Strategy developed and adopted with the support of Elected Members
- Multi-Agency, Education Support Team for Looked After Children now well established.
- Additional appointments of Learning Support Assistants who now work in schools with targeted Looked After Children
- 96% of Looked After Children have completed Personal Education Plans.
- 63% Personal Education Plans have been reviewed
- Walsall PEP process included on DFES Best Practice Web Site which is accessible by all LEAs nationally
- New handbook for Designated Teachers to be developed along with pro-forma to collect data regarding achievement and targets to date starting from baseline.
- Homework Support Workers are working with KS4 Looked After Children on-site after school, in the home and within Children's' Residential units
- Programmes established with primary and secondary schools to support Standard Assessment Tests and GCSE course work targeted at Looked After Children
- E-Learning Project supporting Looked After Children in Residential and Foster placements
- The 'Right to Read' Project is now well established and is incorporated into the Personal Education Plan of every Looked After Child
- Walsall is about to embark on a national pilot project 'Time to read' which will give Looked After Children additional support to raise their literacy skills. The project is being coordinated by the 'Who Cares' Trust
- Celebration of achievements through the 'Excellent Initiatives' including 'The Excellent Night Out' held at the Council House on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November at which 125 Looked After Children were nominated for achievement awards. The event was well attended by Elected Members and colleagues from Education Walsall, Social Care and Housing, Health and other partner agencies.