

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item No. 7a

TO: Scrutiny Panel
DATE: 30 October 2012

RE: Provisional headline data 2012

Purpose

To update the Scrutiny Panel on performance data made available since the summer term. All data is currently provisional and subject to change. A full Standards Report (which will identify trends in performance in comparison with statistical neighbours and the national picture and highlights where support and challenges needs to be focused to further their outcomes), will be presented to Scrutiny in the spring term.

1. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The provisional EYFS results for the percentage of pupils achieving at least 78 points or more and 6+ in all PSE and CLL is 58.3%. This shows a significant improvement of 7.3 percentage points over the 2011 outcome of 51%. Provisional out-turn is just below the 2012 educational target of 59%.

2. Phonics (Year 1)

A new screening test was introduced for 2012 for phonics for Year 1 pupils. The provisional results show that 61.3% of pupils reached the required standard of a score of 32 or more out of 40. The national average for 2012 is 58%, which places Walsall 3% above this outcome.

3. Key Stage 1

The provisional KS1 results for Level 2b+ for reading, writing and mathematics show an improvement on the 2011 out-turn. Reading for Level 2b+ is now 77% an improvement of 3% compared to the 2011 out-turn. Writing for Level 2b+ is now 61% an improvement of 2% compared to 2011 and maths for Level 2b+ is now 76% an improvement of 3% compared to the 2011 out-turn.

4. Key Stage 2

We have still not received a complete set of provisional results from the DfE as assessments for two schools have yet to be processed by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA). There are 52 local authorities who are missing results for their schools. The provisional results for Level 4+ for English and maths combined has improved to 76% an improvement of 1% on the 2011 out-turn. National results have risen for this measure to 79%, a 4% improvement on the 2011 out-turn. The provisional results for Level 5+ including English and maths has improved to 22% an increase of 3% on the 2011 out-turn. These results should be viewed as a baseline and will improve further when a complete set of results are released, as 3% of the cohort's results are still outstanding.

5. Key Stage 4

The provisional GCSE results for KS4 indicate that the percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A* - C has risen to 87%, an increase of 3% on the 2011 out-turn. The average point score per candidate has also risen by 7 points compared with the 2011 out-turn to 499. The number of students achieving A* - C in mathematics increased by 6% when compared to 2011, rising to 69%. English results for A* - C have declined by 7% to 68% when compared to the 2011 out-turn. There has been a 0.8% decline in the number of students achieving 5+ A* -C including English and mathematics. The national problem relating to grade boundaries for GCSE English has had an impact on Walsall young people, with head teachers reporting lower than expected percentages achieving 5+ A*-C in English which has impacted also on the percentage achieving 5+ A*-C in English and maths combined.

6. Key Stage 5

Based upon provisional results the data shows that schools have improved compared to the 2011 out-turn. The average point score per candidate (PpC) for schools in Walsall has risen by 16 points when compared to the 2011 out-turn, rising to 758 PpC. Walsall College is excluded from these results as their outcomes are unknown at this time.

7. Recommendations

Scrutiny members are asked to note the contents of this Briefing. Further gap analysis to be provided when validated data available. Focus particularly on:

- Boys underperformance compared to girls at most key stages, with the exception being Key Stage 2 maths and English and maths combined;
- Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals do not perform as well as those who are not eligible particularly at Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 maths.

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