

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee
15 May 2019
Education and Skills Annual Report
Report by the Director of Education and Skills

Summary

Each year the Education and Skills Service publishes an Annual Report which summarises the main outcomes achieved by West Sussex learners highlighting strengths and indicating areas for improvement. The annual report shows the progress being made and the work that is being undertaken with schools and colleges to raise standards. Most indicators and targets set that are owned by Education and Skills are either on track or close to being met.

The focus for scrutiny

Scrutiny of the summary of this report provides members of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee insight into the performance of the Service. The Committee is asked to consider the changes in standards being produced in schools and colleges in attainment, progress, exclusions and retention, as well as the rationale for the next year's focus in refining how to improve standards.

Proposal**1. Background and Context**

- 1.1. In 2016, the new assessments of the modified primary curriculum started. The standards at Key Stages 1 and 2 significantly declined. Since then a concerted programme of training, support and challenge has resulted in improvement.
- 1.2. In 2018 20 new subjects joined English and mathematics at GCSE to be assessed using the new grade criteria of 9 to 1 with grade 4 being roughly equivalent to a grade C. This has meant that new harder GCSEs were undertaken this year.
- 1.3. The new format of the annual plan reflects the need to more concisely report directorate achievement without losing quality of information.
- 1.4. At Key stages 1 and 2 improvement has been greater than national, but attainment remains below the national average.
- 1.5. Progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 is better than that made nationally and West Sussex has retained its national rank.
- 1.6. The report indicates the revised priorities that will mean further progress is made towards the targets set for 2022.
- 1.7. Performance for disadvantaged pupils and students is not as strong as that achieved by similar children nationally. However, at Key Stage 2 pupils in Crawley do better.

- 1.8. Pupils with SEND do not achieve as well as similar pupils nationally. However, pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan do better.
- 1.9. The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training post-16 in West Sussex is lower than that achieved nationally.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 That the shift in emphasis to raising standards for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND will be an important step to improving further.

3. Resources

- 3.1 It is not anticipated that the recommendations contained within this report would incur any additional direct costs or resource implications.

Factors taken into account

4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 4.1 That the new school effectiveness strategy and the developing SEND and inclusion strategy are important tools for further raising standards and form the priorities for 2019-2020. Scrutiny of the summary of this report provides members of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee insight into the performance of the Service. The Committee is asked to consider the changes in standards being produced in schools and colleges in attainment, progress, exclusions and retention, as well as the rationale for the next year's focus in refining how to improve standards.
- 4.2 The rise in pupil exclusions is a concern locally and nationally.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 N/A

6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 None specifically arising from this report.

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 N/A

8. Equality Duty

- 8.1 To continue to ensure that the standards of those who are disadvantaged improve so they match the other pupils.

9. Social Value

- 9.1 NA

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 NA

11. Human Rights Implications

11.1 N/A

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Appendix A: Education and Skills Annual Report 2019