

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Diane Booth, Director of Childrens Services
Date of Meeting	19 October 2017

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT UPDATE REPORT

1.1 To update the Committee on educational attainment in Blackpool in 2016/2017.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1
- To note the contents of the report and to ensure that current work continues to meet statutory obligations and that work to prepare for external inspections continues.
 - To continue to meet statutory monitoring, challenge and support obligations.
 - To work with schools to support improvement and preparation for external scrutiny in order to improve the progress and attainment of Blackpool Children especially at KS3 and KS4.
 - To identify any further information and actions required.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Council retains a statutory responsibility to monitor all schools in order to support improvement and raise the attainment and progress for all children in the Local Authority Area.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

Other alternative options considered:

3.3 Services are subject to national and statutory frameworks.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.'

5.0 Background Information

5.1 School and High Needs Funding

5.1.1 Since March 2016, the Government has been consulting about the introduction of a national funding formula for schools and on a national formula for High Needs education. In September 2017, the Department for Education published the outcome of its consultations alongside details of the formulae that will be in place from April 2018. While individual school budgets will be calculated using the national formula, these will be aggregated at local authority level in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, with local formulae continuing to allocate funding under a so-called “soft” formula. The “hard” formula, whereby schools’ final budgets are determined by the national formula, will be introduced at a future date.

5.1.2 Under the illustrative budgets published, Blackpool schools would stand to gain by 5.8 per cent if the schools formula was fully implemented, with provisional gains of 2.5 per cent in 2018/2019 after caps and floors have been calculated. Final allocations will be published in December 2017 to take into account pupil numbers from the October schools’ census.

5.1.3 The High Needs budget allocated funding for pupils with additional needs, for example in special schools, the Pupil Referral Unit, and specialist out-of-area provision. The national formula will redistribute funding between local authorities, and includes a minimum increase of 0.5 per cent for each Council area for each of the next two years. Blackpool’s provisional allocation for 2018/2019 shows an increase of 1.5 per cent, which will help to offset some of the cost pressures in this area.

5.2 Academic standards at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

5.2.1 The percentage of children attaining the key measure of Good Level of Development (GLD) has increased year on year, and the gap between Blackpool and national has reduced by 0.9%, to a 4% gap.

- The percentage of children attaining the key measure of “at least expected” in all Early Years Goals (ELGs) has increased year on year, and the gap between Blackpool and national has reduced.
- In specific ELGs of reading, writing and numbers, the percentage attaining at least expected has increased year on year, and gains from 2015 – 2016 were significantly higher for Blackpool than those seen nationally.
- Average Point Scores decreased by 0.2%, increasing the gap between Blackpool and national by the same percentage.
- Year 1 Phonics improved by 0.2%, but is still below national by 0.6%.

5.3 Academic standards at Primary School level.

5.3.1 At Key Stage 1 (KS1) Blackpool schools improved from last academic year across all aspects with the exception of Science, however overall performance is below national, increasing the gap between Blackpool and national in all subjects.

- End of KS2 outcomes rose in Blackpool from 2016 to 2017 significantly in Reading, Maths, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) and Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) combined.
- Maths and GPS are above average, with just over 8% improvement from last academic year, reducing the gap between Blackpool and national by 3.6%.
- While Reading is below national with 0.3%, it shows an improvement of 10.2% against last academic year, reducing the gap between Blackpool and national by 4.7%, impacting RWM which is just above national with 0.4%.

6.0 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) Academic Standards at Secondary School Level

Appendix 6(b) EYFS and KS1

Appendix 6(c) KS2

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None

14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

14.1 None

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None