

Responses provided to queries raised at the previous Committee meeting:

- **The number of Looked After Children who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh awards.**
- **More detail about the reasons why so many young people did not achieve the DofE award who participated.**

The number of Looked After Children who have participated in the Award (under Blackpool Council's Licence) within the last 18 months is nine. Please note that the National Statistics show that out of all the young people who register onto the Award only 47% actually complete.

There are a number of reasons why young people in Blackpool have not yet completed their Award:

- Some young people require a lot more support and it can take up to 18 months to complete a Bronze Award
 - It can take between two to three years to complete the Silver and Gold Awards
 - Some young people give up due to changes in personal circumstances
 - Many young people start the award and realise after some of the expedition training elements that it isn't for them
 - There is a small window of six months to deliver expeditions. If an expedition is not successfully completed then a group may have to wait up to six months before they can complete that section and get their Award signed off.
 - There are a number of young people within our centres that have completed most of their award and who are waiting to go out on expeditions this March/April. Once they have successfully achieved this, their Award will be completed.
- **A comparison of attainment at GCSE before and after academies to see if any impact has been made.**

2012 English % A*-C = 61%

2012 Maths % A* - C = 55.8%

2017 English % 4-9 = 57.9%

2017 Maths % 4-9 = 57.9%

Outcomes are roughly comparable before and after Academisation.

- **Is there any data to demonstrate what improvements have been made at the lower level of attainment i.e. have the lowest attainers improved rather than looking at the high attainers. Also, any data to demonstrate any improvements made with children with SEND.**

The data suggests that there are issues across all cohorts and that historical leadership in some secondary schools has failed to develop a strategy for not only our vulnerable children and young people but those that could achieve have not been stretched. In respect of SEND there appears to be a low level of aspiration previously about what they might achieve with more than national numbers of SEND in special schools.

The school improvement plan and inclusion plan can be circulated if Members require. There are some early predictions of some expected small improvements in GCSE results this year but outcome of mock exam results not yet available.

- **Description of how the targets for the performance indicators are set.**

Aspirational targets are set by measuring ourselves against other authorities and statistical neighbours, whilst developing and understanding of the challenges facing Blackpool and the historical impact of previous leaders and managing a change programme safely. The targets set in the score card presented to the last scrutiny committee are not the end target. They are short term targets that we feel are aspirational and send clear messages to the workforce of the challenges ahead and are used to engage with the workforce to break down barriers to not only meeting targets but improving quality.