

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 18th January
Report of: Mark Bayley : Quality Assurance Manager
Subject/Title: **Summary of School Performance 2008-9**

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline a summary of the performance of Schools across all phases for 2008-9. The report provides additional information to the earlier paper presented to Scrutiny Committee which gave an initial analysis of performance based upon provisional data from schools. The current position on performance data is that a significant amount of data on schools performance over the summer term 2008-9 is now validated; there are some Key Stage 4 indicators which are still to be confirmed nationally to allow some comparisons to be made. It is also important to stress that the outcomes of school appeals at Key Stage 4 are not necessarily reflected within the validated data and therefore there may well be further adjustments to results prior to the publication of the national league tables for secondary schools.
- 1.2 It should be noted that whilst the information provided does make reference to comparisons to last year for Cheshire East schools, this level of analysis has only been undertaken for statistical purposes and does not accurately reflect the work undertaken to support Cheshire East schools by old Cheshire CC service teams. The data provided in the appendix to this paper should be seen as a clear benchmark for Cheshire East as it establishes new levels of challenge and support to all of its schools and settings to improve the outcomes for young people.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The summary of performance as shown within Appendix A is taken from the overall report prepared for the DCSF/National Strategies as part of the Standards Meeting process. This process involves detailed analysis of all performance within each phase and the agreement of key actions which are targeted at improving performance to enable the Local Authority to achieve its challenging LA targets for 2009-10. Whilst there is a more detailed action plan to address the agreed priorities, it is suggested that the Committee endorses the priorities as shown as the key actions needed to further raise standards and to reduce underperformance.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The reason for presenting this information is to give an accurate analysis of schools' performance across Cheshire East based upon validated data and to identify the key priority areas which are being addressed by C&F service teams to improve overall standards of attainment.

Wards Affected

4.1 All localities will be affected by these results and analysis. Ultimately, locality information can be presented for all phases which will allow clear comparative information to be available which will highlight areas of high performance/outcomes as well as potential areas of need which require intensive support and intervention. Appendix C shows the localised Key Stage 4 results across Cheshire East.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 None identified

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

6.1 Within the Children & Families Business Plan, the elements of the key priority 'improving educational attainment' are addressed within this report.

6.2 This detailed analysis of performance data for 2008-9 may well result in revised priorities in term of service policies and this will be captured as part of the annual Performance Reporting processes through the quarterly returns.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 These results will help to identify priority schools for 2009-10 to address areas of underperformance and improving the outcomes for learners. Funding streams to schools for 2009-10 will be reviewed and amended based upon these performance results. This funding primarily relates to DCSF Standards Fund Grants as well as direct support and challenge to schools via Service Teams.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The key risk is that every Local Authority is required to undertake a detailed analysis of performance data and agree with national and regional organisations the actions needed to achieve agreed DCSF targets. The key issue is to minimise the risk of not achieving these targets by providing increased challenge & support to all schools particularly those where underperformance is identified.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 During last term, a series of meetings took place with DCSF/National Strategy Regional Advisers to discuss the performance of our schools/settings and to agree priority actions. These phase specific meetings are collated into one single standards report which is captured within Appendix A. The autumn term has also seen a series of national releases of validated data which allows the analysis of data to be secure and allows the formation of school league tables at a national level.
- 11.2 The data shown within this report is part of the wider performance report card for Children & Families which is a system of reporting on progress of schools/settings throughout the year. This Corporate process is currently collecting data to show Quarter 2 returns. The issue for many of the school indicators is that they tend to be an annual return based upon the summer term examination results so it becomes difficult to report on accurate within year trends.
- 11.3 Appendix B shows a summary table of recent Key Stage 2 results as extracted from the recently published School League tables for KS2

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 The following milestones are be expected:
- Further analysis of Key Stage 4 performance through the publication of School League tables – expected early February.
 - Analysis of Cheshire East performance at KS4 compared to Statistical neighbours – expected late January.
 - Ongoing analysis of within year performance data as part of the performance reporting process on a quarterly basis.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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