

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday 13 December 2023

Review of Schools Performance

Recommendation

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. considers the progress of Educational Achievement in Staffordshire for the period September 2022 – July 2023

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Cllr Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)

Summary

What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

1. Considers the progress of Educational Achievement in Staffordshire for the period September 2022 – July 2023.

Report

Background

2. The number of schools that are academies across Staffordshire continues to increase. As at November 2023, 69.6% (282) of schools have academy status with 123 schools continuing to be maintained. Within the secondary sector there is a larger proportion of academy schools (62 schools, 87.3%) than maintained schools (9 schools, 12.7%).
3. Staffordshire's headteachers and school governors and academy trusts are responsible for the performance of their schools and academies.
4. The vast majority of schools in Staffordshire are judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. The local authority continues to monitor the performance of all schools and academies and continues to work with the Regional Director where a school may be causing concern.

5. The latest Ofsted monthly performance information indicates that of the 405 Staffordshire schools, 6 are awaiting an inspection since opening as a new school.
6. As at 31 October 2023, the proportion of good and outstanding schools and academies is in line with the national average, with 354 (89%) of schools and academies currently judged as good or outstanding, 40 (10%) judged as requiring improvement and 4 (1%) judged as inadequate. The table below indicates the comparisons of the different phases compared to the national averages.

	Overall effectiveness at their most recent Ofsted inspection											
	Outstanding			Good			Requiring Improvement			Inadequate		
	Sch	%	Nat	Sch	%	Nat	Sch	%	Nat	Sch	%	Nat
All Schools	46	12%	16%	308	77%	73%	40	10%	8%	4	1%	2%
Nursery	1	50%	62%	1	50%	35%	-	-	2%	-	-	1%
Primary	38	13%	14%	230	77%	76%	28	9%	8%	1	0%	2%
Secondary	2	3%	16%	56	80%	66%	11	16%	13%	1	3%	5%
Special	5	22%	35%	17	74%	54%	0	-	6%	1	4%	5%
PRU	-	-	18%	4	67%	68%	1	17%	9%	1	17%	6%

Strategic Overview of Educational Achievement Staffordshire 2023

7. This report summarises high-level performance for educational attainment and progress across Staffordshire. The performance information is unvalidated until the validated information is published in January 2024.
8. This performance shows that pupils generally start well, with high levels of attainment recorded at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) compared with national averages. Although outcomes are still below those seen prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
9. Staffordshire is showing improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the EYFS and at a higher rate than that recorded nationally.
10. In Staffordshire 69% of pupils at the end of EYFS achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) compared to 67% nationally. The DfE is yet to publish national rankings and quartile bandings for GLD.
11. At the end of Year 1 (Y1) 81% of pupils achieved the expected level in phonics decoding compared to 79% nationally. This means that

Staffordshire is ranked 25th and in quartile B when compared to all local authorities in England.

12. This will be the final year where reporting at the end of KS1 is possible as the DfE has confirmed that from 2024, assessments at the end of KS1 will be no longer statutory.
13. Staffordshire performs above the national average in reading, writing and mathematics at KS1. Outcomes in 2023 increased from 2022 but in all three areas still remain below outcomes in 2019.

2023	KS1 (expected standard)			
	R	W	M	RWM Combined
National	68.30%	60.10%	70.40%	56.00%
Staffordshire	71.10%	63.00%	72.60%	59.00%
GAP	2.80%	2.90%	2.20%	3.00%

14. Staffordshire is ranked 21st and quartile A for reading, 33rd and quartile B for writing and 24th and quartile B for mathematics at the expected standard when compared to all local authorities nationally.
15. 2023 Key Stage 2 (KS2) results indicate that Staffordshire pupils remain above the national averages for reading, writing, mathematics and combined reading, writing and mathematics at the expected standard.

2023	KS2 (expected standard)			
	R	W	M	RWM Combined
National	72.60%	71.50%	72.90%	59.50%
SCC	73.70%	71.80%	74.10%	59.80%
GAP	1.10%	0.30%	1.20%	0.30%

16. The expected standard in reading is in line with 2019 outcomes, however writing and mathematics remain below the pre-pandemic levels.
17. The table below indicates the latest national ranking and quartile banding for attainment at the end of KS2.

2023	KS2 (expected standard)			
	R	W	M	RWM Combined
Ranking	50	57	57	61
Quartile Banding	B	B	B	B

18. Progress results from KS1 to KS2 continue to indicate that pupils in Staffordshire make less progress than that seen nationally. National

rankings and quartile bandings have not been published as at the time of drafting this report.

2023	KS1-KS2 Progress		
	R	W	M
National	0.04	0.05	0.04
SCC	-0.24	-0.18	-0.28

19. Staffordshire's outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) GCSE remain inconsistent. The proportion of students achieving grade 9 – 4 in English and mathematics is marginally the England all schools average but below the state-funded average. Staffordshire results in both English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measures and the grade 5 or above passes in English and mathematics are below both sets of national results.

2023	KS4 (provisional results)				
	Att 8	Prog 8	% 9-5 E&M	% 9-4 E&M	EBACC APS
National	46.4	-0.03	45.4	65.2	4.06
SCC	44.4	-0.14	39.8	61.9	3.77
GAP	2.0	-0.11	5.6	3.3	0.29

20. KS4 outcomes in 2023 are in line or above those in 2019.

21. The table below indicates the latest national ranking and quartile banding for attainment at the end of KS4.

2023	KS4 (provisional results)				
	Att 8	Prog 8	% 9-5 E&M	% 9-4 E&M	EBACC APS
National Ranking	102	103	115	104	116
Quartile Banding	C	C	D	C	D

22. DFE statutory guidance on 'Schools Causing Concern' sets out expectations that the local authority will work in partnership with the Regional Director (RD) and we will continue to:

- a. Analyse the performance of Staffordshire schools and, through the school categorisation process, use this information to identify maintained schools where we have concerns;
- b. Work with the RD, to ensure swift and effective action is taken when
- c. underperformance occurs in a maintained school, using intervention powers available to improve leadership and outcomes;
- d. Liaise with the RD where we have concerns about an academy school.

Link to Strategic Plan

23. N/A

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

24. N/A

Community Impact

25. N/A

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

None

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