

**Children and Young People's
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

10 March 2023

**Schools Ofsted Update and
Educational Attainment**



**Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young
People's Services**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of with an update of recent Ofsted inspections of County Durham's maintained schools and educational outcomes in County Durham in 2022.

Executive summary

- 2 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously received information relating to the educational achievements of children and young people in County Durham and performance of its schools in relation to Ofsted inspections.
- 3 Included in the committee's work programme is an update on the performance of the county's maintained schools and a summary of educational outcomes.

Recommendations

- 4 That Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the information contained in the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background

- 5 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for 2022/2023 at its meeting on 7 July 2022. Included in the work programme was an item that would provide

members with information on Ofsted inspections of County Durham’s maintained schools and an overview of the educational attainment outcomes achieved by children and young people in the county.

6 In accordance with that decision arrangements have been made for the Head of Education and Skills to attend a meeting of Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 March 2023 to provide a presentation that will focus on the following areas:

- Ofsted Inspections from September 2022
- Ofsted Inspection Outcomes for different School Categories
- Summary Outcome data for children in Durham Schools by Key Stage (Not comparable to previous Years)

Summary school Inspection Outcomes

7 The following three tables show the Ofsted inspection outcomes for Durham compared to national and regional outcomes as at 31 January 2023.

Nursery and Primary	Durham (All 222 - schools)	National	Regional
Outstanding	15%	16%	16%
Good	76%	74%	77%
Requires Improvement	7%	8%	6%
Inadequate	2%	2%	1%

Secondary	Durham (All 29 - schools)	National	Regional
Outstanding	23%	17%	15%
Good	47%	64%	60%
Requires Improvement	23%	13%	16%
Inadequate	7%	6%	9%

Special	Durham (All 9 - schools)	National	Regional
Outstanding	11%	37%	28%
Good	78%	53%	61%
Requires Improvement	11%	6%	8%
Inadequate	0%	4%	3%

- 8 The following table shows the published school inspection outcomes taken place since September 2022.

	Primary	Secondary	Special
Outstanding	1	0	0
Good	15	2	1
Requires Improvement	2	1	0
Inadequate	1	0	0

Summary school Outcomes Data

Key Stage 2

	Expected		Higher/Greater Depth	
	Durham	National	Durham	National
Reading	73.3	75.0	25.0	28.2
Maths	70.9	71.7	18.8	22.6
Writing	69.5	69.7	12.5	12.9
RWM	57.5	59.0	6.1	7.3

- 9 The headline results in Durham are all below national. The gaps to national are narrowest in Writing, for both Expected and Greater Depth

standards. They are largest in Reading. The gap at Higher standard in Maths is markedly larger than the gap at Expected standard.

Key Stage 4

	Durham	National	NE
Average A8	47.2	48.8	46.8
4+ in EBacc English component	76.6	78.9	76.7
4+ in EBacc Maths component	68.9	72.8	69.5
E&M 4+	65.0	68.8	65.6
5+ in EBacc English component	61.6	65.5	63.1
5+ in EBacc Maths component	49.7	54.7	50.3
E&M 5+	44.9	49.8	45.8
Progress 8	-0.22	-0.03	NA

- 10 Durham results are below national on all measures. They are in-line with or slightly behind regional rates for percentages attaining grades 4 and 5 but above the regional result for average A8 score.

	Durham	National
Average A8	37.6	37.7
E&M 4+	45.6	48.6
E&M 5+	26.0	29.8
Progress 8	-0.62	-0.54

Key Stage 5

- 11 A-level results – state-funded schools only

	Durham	National
APS	39.7	38.2
APS per best 3	41.3	38.8
AAB+ in 2+ facilitating subjects	24.4	22.3

- 12 Durham's Average points score remained above national. The APS across best 3 results moved above the national having been below in 2021.

Applied general

	Durham	National
APS per entry	38.0	33.3

- 13 Nationally this outcome is lower than for 2021. Durham's is also lower, but it did not fall as much and remains above national.

Tech Level

	Durham	National
APS per entry	39.2	34.9

- 14 Having been below national in 2021, Durham's pupils' out-performed their peers on this measure in 2022.

Conclusion

- 15 Children and young people have over the last two years suffered disruption to their education on a scale not seen before and therefore it is important that members are aware of the children and young people's achievements and how our schools are performing.

Background papers

- [KS4 local authority data from Key stage 4 performance](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The actions described in this report are intended to comply with the Council's duty to exercise its education functions with a view to promoting high standards and the fulfilment of each pupil's learning potential in accordance with S 13 A of the Education Act 1996.

Schools deemed to be inadequate by Ofsted are now given an Academy Order by the DfE meaning that they will be directed to join a strong Multi-Academy Trust.

From September 2022, Schools who have not achieved a 'Good' or better grade for overall effectiveness in the last two inspections, may also be directed in this way.

Finance

Schools achieving a less than 'Good' inspection outcome, often experience a change in first choice applications which can affect their pupil related income factors. Similarly, DCC will provide additional leadership support for maintained schools in this category. This is supported through de-delegation agreed at schools Forum. This fund has reduced as more schools choose to academise. The maintained monitoring, Improvement and brokering grant has been removed by the DfE removing 800k, annually of DCC funding for school improvement work.

Consultation

School Improvement delegated funds are requested annually, consultation through Schools forum in the Autumn Term

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Any change in the quality of educational provision in an area has the potential to adversely impact on protected characteristics, both in terms of pupils, their families, local communities, and employees working in the schools. The direct impact of negative Ofsted inspections could involve pupils being required to attend different schools or not being able to access a local school and being required to travel further.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

School outcomes with Ofsted have a direct correlation on first choice applications for school places. The vulnerability of some schools may have financial viability considerations which would adversely affect the ability of many children, to walk to their local school.

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

Schools identified as 'Requiring Improvement' or 'Inadequate', can struggle to attract applicants for key positions, particularly around shortage subjects or leadership positions. The financial implications of falling rolls could lead to staffing adjustment and restructuring to address deficit budgets.

Accommodation

Transfer of maintained schools to become academies may have implications in terms of accommodation where school premises are used by the community under arrangements set up with a maintained school.

Risk

A key risk is that, because of actions taken by the County Council (including the failure to make timely interventions), pupils and students do not receive an adequate education. There is an additional risk of reputational damage if the Council does not appear to be able resolve the problem of schools operating with significant and sometimes increasing budgetary difficulties and allows some schools to continue to set deficit budgets whilst requiring other schools to balance their budgets.

The s.151 officer must sign-off the budget for schools with a deficit budget plan and needs to be able to justify doing so in terms of each school having a robust plan to recover from its deficit. The scheme of delegation allows for deficit budgets, but only for three years, and no more than 20% of the school's budget share, up to a maximum of £750,000. There is a risk of legal challenge from the Department for Education if this statutory function is neglected. There is a risk of external auditors calling into question the actions of the s.151 officer if no credible plans are agreed to resolve the issues described in this report.

Procurement

Not applicable