



Summary of 2017-18 Ofsted inspection results

Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director Children and Young People’s Services

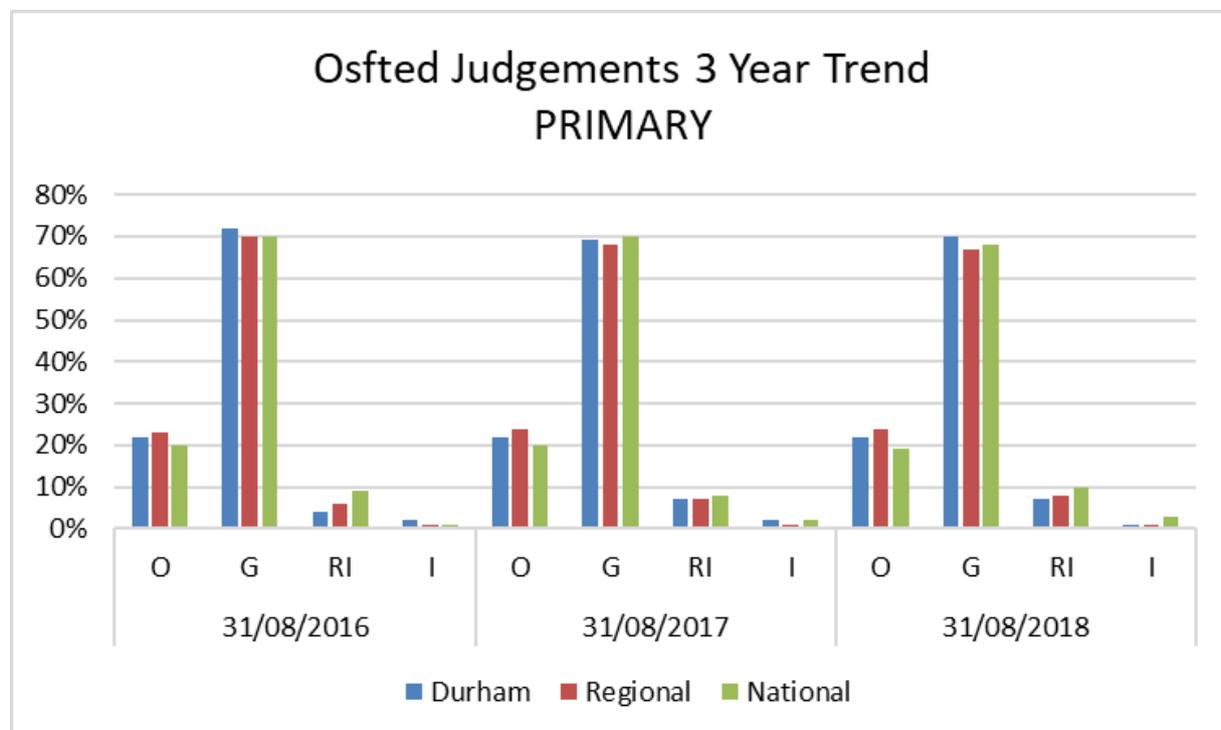
Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee by providing a summary of Ofsted inspection results over the previous academic year.
2. This report responds to a request from members of the OSC for regular updates, and follows a report in September 2017 on this area of review.

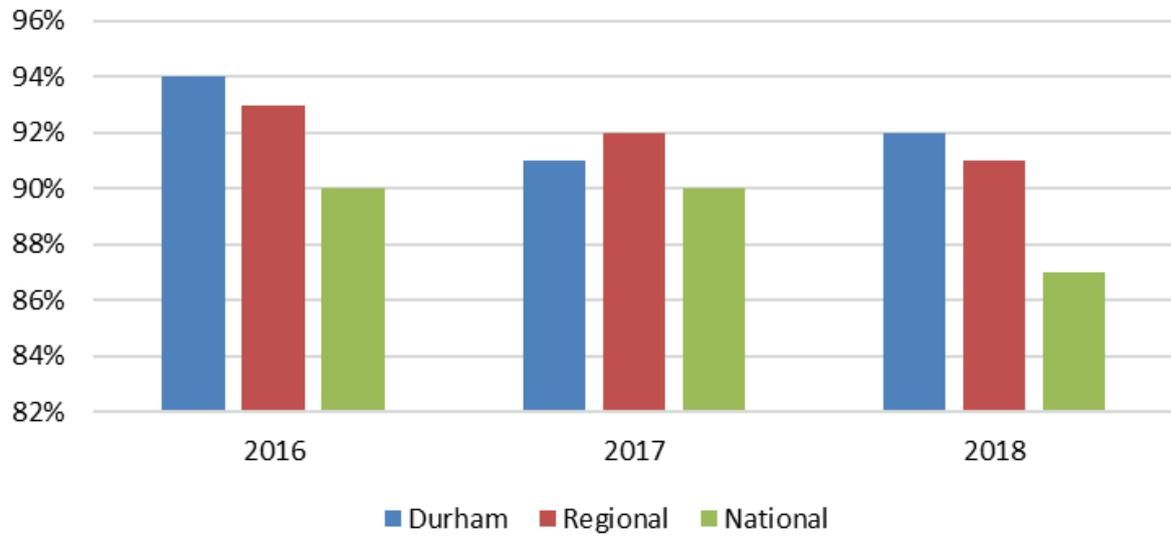
Ofsted data as at 31 August 2018

3. The graphs below show Durham’s position against regional and national data on inspection judgements over the last 3 years. For each phase – Primary, Secondary and Special – the second graph shows the percentage of children attending ‘Good’ or better schools, which is a preferred Ofsted and Department for Education measure when evaluating the effectiveness of regions.

Primary

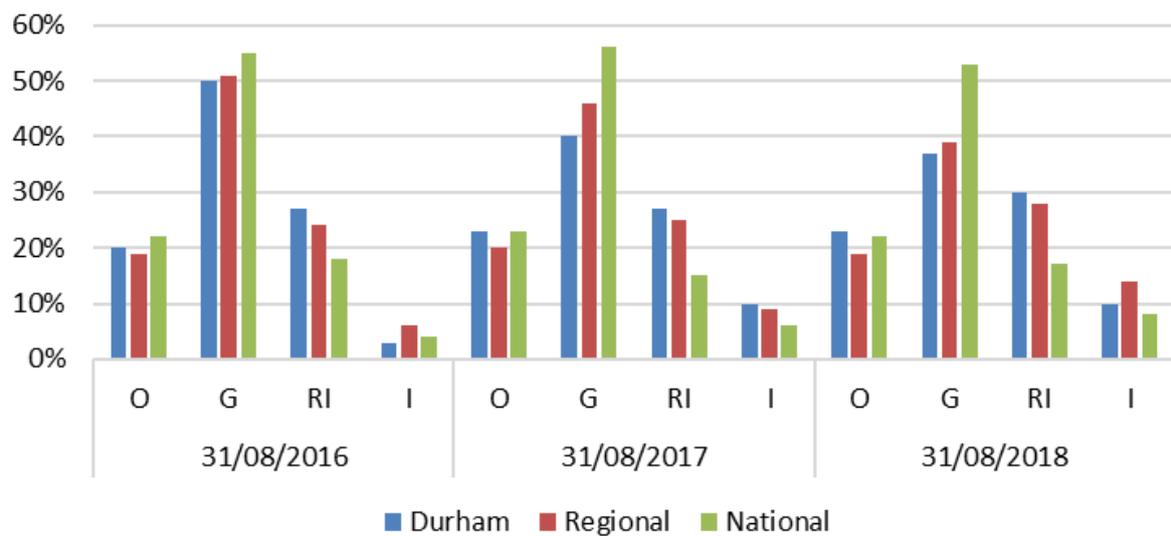


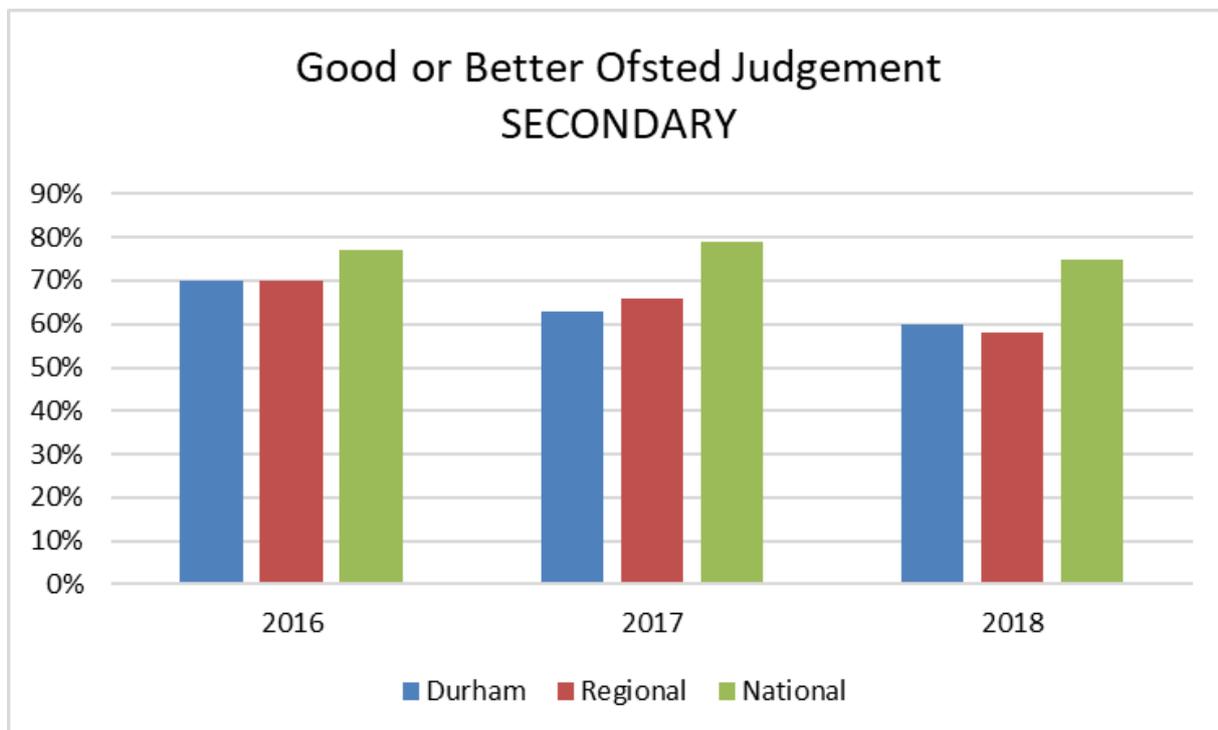
Good or Better Ofsted Judgement PRIMARY



Secondary

Ofsted Judgements 3 Year Trend SECONDARY





4. The table below provides a more detailed analysis of the 2017-18 year. It highlights that under the current Ofsted Framework it is harder to get an 'Outstanding' grade in current inspections; this is borne out in national data. However, it also indicates that all phases are showing marginal gains on the previous year in terms of improved grades, and the fact that no schools were deemed inadequate throughout the year is a positive measure (3 schools were judged to be inadequate in 2016-17)

2017-2018 Academic Year County Durham outcomes

Phase	Grade	70 schools inspected	
Primary (includes nursery, infant and junior)	Outstanding	3 schools	4% (last year - 12%)
	Good	60 schools	86% (last year - 61%)
	RI	7 schools	10% (last year - 16%)
	Inadequate	0 schools	0% (last year - 2%)
	Unpublished reports	0 schools	0% (last year - 9%)
Secondary	Grade	6 schools inspected	
	Outstanding	0 schools	0% (last year - 18%)
	Good	3 schools	50% (last year - 28%)
	RI	3 schools	50% (last year - 36%)
	Inadequate	0 schools	0% (last year - 18%)
Special	Grade	3 schools inspected	
	Outstanding	1 school	25% (last year - 0%)
	Good	2 schools	50% (last year - 0%)
	RI	1 school	25% (last year - 100%)
	Inadequate	0 schools	0% (last year - 0%)

Changes to Ofsted

5. The Ofsted inspection schedule has changed since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny, particularly in relation to Section 8 inspections. The main changes are summarised below.

6. **Schools with marked improvements.** Where the school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now, the school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection. This will typically take place within one to two years after the publication of the section 8 short inspection report.
7. **Schools that may no longer be good.** Where the lead inspector is not satisfied that the school would receive at least its current grade if a section 5 inspection were carried out now, the school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection within the statutory timeframe, and will typically take place within one to two years after the publication of the section 8 short inspection report
8. The local authority continues to provide advice and support throughout the OfSTED inspection process, in line with the Ofsted Inspection Evaluation Schedule. This will include presenting the LA's view of the School to the Lead Inspector and being present during the formal feedback from the inspection team. This support is generally from the school's Education Development Partner (EDP), or from another qualified professional. The protocols for further LA support will be shared within two days of the formal feedback, and differ according to the judgement of the inspection team.
9. Where a school is judged to be 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' a range of support is automatically made available to schools, ranging from Education Durham personnel (Education Development Advisers (EDAs); Education Development Partners (EDPs); Subject Specialist Inspectors; School Governor support staff) to support brokered from experienced head teachers, successful mid leaders, expert teachers, National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) and appropriately qualified independent specialists.
10. Additionally, a review meeting takes place within 4 weeks of the inspection, attended by the HT, CoG, vice CoG and EDP. Additional officers may also attend, depending upon the context of the school. At this meeting the head teacher will share a plan of action to address the recommendations made. A second review meeting is held one term after the inspection, when the head teacher provides evidence to demonstrate the impact of action taken. Support as described above (paragraph 8), varied to meet the specific needs of the school, continues throughout the process.
11. If the school is taking effective action, a 3rd review meeting may be held within 2 terms of the anticipated next visit of Ofsted to re-inspect. If limited progress is evident, the school's monitoring and improvement level will be reviewed and a School Scrutiny Group (SSG) will be established, to hold more frequent meetings with the school leaders and governors.
12. Where a school requires significant improvement, special measures, or where a performance standards and safety warning notice has been given (Section 60) with which the school has failed to comply, the LA may give the governing body notice that they propose to exercise one or more of their powers under Part 4 of the 2006 Education Act, which includes adding governors or applying to the Department for Education to replace the governing body with an Interim

Executive Board. The issuing of these letters is infrequent as, in most cases, the procedure described above (paragraphs 8 to 10) is sufficiently effective to drive rapid improvement.

13. Although performance information indicates that secondary schools are performing less well than primaries in terms of inspection outcomes, specific work being done with this group includes:
- Strategic subject reviews in English, Maths, Science, MFL, Geography and History by LA Improvement advisers (desktop study informing operational planning and leading to wholesale revision of network content. Refocus of subject leader network meetings to address subject outcome deficiencies and including awarding body training where appropriate (not limited to EBacc subjects).
 - LA Subject specific improvement plans for each Ebacc subject incorporating actions to be taken by LA and actions to be taken by schools.
 - Targeted support of schools where outcomes are weak in Ebacc subjects through Education Development Partner engagement with school leaders and use of SLA contract hours (new SLA information to be circulated after February half term to facilitate this).
 - Key priorities, including achievement of boys, higher attaining pupils and subject specific literacy, are covered by a new network for 2018-19; further standards-related priorities are addressed through existing senior leader networks.
 - Developed approach to working with attendance team and Inclusion personnel to improve attendance.

Other circumstances where the local authority may intervene with additional support

14. Schools are closely monitored by education Durham officers and intervention may take place in a range of circumstances unrelated to Ofsted outcomes: these would include where -
- pupils are vulnerable to under-achievement, where there is a decline in standards or where there are weak progress measures;
 - there is weak leadership capacity as a result of unforeseen circumstances e.g. ill-health, suspension etc;
 - there are poor relationships internally or influences from the community causing instability and threatening school effectiveness;
 - governors do not have an accurate view of the strengths and weaknesses in order to hold leaders to account for improvements;
 - there are concerns regarding safeguarding;
 - structural changes are on-going;
 - there have been tragic circumstances involving pupils or staff.

15. Action to secure schools in these situations will be immediate and co-ordinated (involving as appropriate estates, School and Governor Support Service, Safeguarding team, Finance, Education Psychologists, Education Durham). The support is available to all Durham maintained schools. The focus of action will be predominantly on securing provision and outcomes for the pupils. Initially support will be intensive and sustained in order to build capacity within the school. An appropriate exit strategy will be determined in order to ensure the school is well-placed to address remaining priorities.
16. The work of the local authority to support schools preparing for their next inspection is not confined to maintained schools but extends to academies.

Conclusion

17. Durham continues to rank above the national average in terms of the percentage of good or better primary schools, and although the most recent regional and national information is not available, local information indicates that Durham will continue to fare well against that measure as an outcome of a series of mainly positive inspections in 2017-18.
18. While the percentage of good or better secondary schools is below the national average, it is broadly in line with secondary schools regionally. Details given above (paragraph 13) indicate the full response that the local authority is making quickly to drive up the standards in its schools

Recommendation

19. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to read and note the content of the report

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The review report takes into consideration Equality and Diversity; schools failing to comply with local and national statutory guidance will be in breach of equality and diversity legislation.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None