

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION OUTCOMES TO SUMMER 2015

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report highlights the strengths in improving the quality of education outcomes over time and up to the 2015 results.
- 1.2 A letter from OFSTED to the Chief Executive regarding the improvement in 5A*-C including English and mathematics is appended.
- 1.3 It is recommended that Cabinet recognise the improvements in education outcomes that have culminated in the 2015 results.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Local authorities retain a legal responsibility for educational performance in the area as a whole under the 1996 Education Act. North Lincolnshire Council's ambition for further improving school age education is set out in the North Lincolnshire Education Strategy for Schools entitled 'All our children'. Approved in October 2013 following extensive consultation, this document set two overarching improvement targets for North Lincolnshire based on the historical education performance of the area:
 - Exceed national average outcomes by all measures within two years
 - Achieve top quartile performance within four years
- 2.2 North Lincolnshire Council has confidently taken its place in providing leadership, resources and expertise for increasing the pace of improvement in outcomes for school age children and young people. In the February 2014 budget setting process, the Council allocated an additional £150,000 a year investment in schools to promote improvement in governance, outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities, literacy, numeracy, Early Years and the development of stronger leadership through peer challenge and an outstanding schools project. In keeping with the ethos of 'all our children', this resource has been targeted across all schools regardless of designation.
- 2.3 As a Local Authority, North Lincolnshire has led the way in reinventing local accountability for ensuring that all children achieve their potential through high quality education. The Education Standards Board has proved a powerful partnership approach to raising expectations and driving up the standard of

education provision experienced by our children and young people. Consequently, there have been strong and sustained rates of improvement over time.

2.4 Early Years:

The large majority (70%) of children aged five achieved a good level of development in 2015. This places North Lincolnshire in the top quartile of all Local Authorities in England and first out of eleven when compared to statistical neighbours. The 2015 outcome was also top quartile for children eligible for free school meals, with North Lincolnshire in the top quartile of all local authorities for the three year improvement in narrowing the inequality gap at age 5.

2.5 Primary age education:

The 2015 outcomes were the strongest ever, with more children achieving the expected outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics at every age.

The large majority (78%) of children met the expected standard of phonic decoding by the end of year 1 and most children (91%) met the expected standard by the end of year 2 – these are better than national outcomes. The attainment gap for children eligible for free school meals narrowed and is in the top quartile nationally.

North Lincolnshire is in the top quartile for three-year improvement in reading and writing at age 7 and first amongst statistical neighbours. As a result, children in 2015 achieved above national outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics at the expected level 2 and the 'higher than expected' level 3. Attainment gaps for children eligible for free school meals were narrower than national in all three subjects.

Key Stage 2 outcomes at age 11 have improved substantially over the last three years, meaning that North Lincolnshire is now in the top quartile for improvement by each of the key measures for:

- The headline measure of attainment in reading, writing and mathematics combined
- The expected standard of writing
- Expected progress in reading across key stage 2
- Expected progress in writing across key stage 2
- Expected progress in maths across key stage 2

Demonstrating that the pace of improvement is being sustained, North Lincolnshire was amongst the best in the country for year-on-year improvement in the proportion of children reaching the expected standard in science at age 11 and in the proportion achieving the expected standard in each of reading, writing and mathematics. For the first time, a majority of schools met or exceeded their top quartile forecast for similar pupils in similar schools, meaning that North Lincolnshire came above the regional outcome for the first time. In 2015, 78% of children achieved the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics combined, compared to 71% in 2015 – this rate of improvement is almost double the national.

The attainment gap for children eligible for free school meals narrowed in 2015.

In summary, children in North Lincolnshire are more ready for their secondary education than ever before.

2.6 Secondary Age Education:

2015 outcomes meant that North Lincolnshire was in the top quartile for year-on-year improvement for the proportion of children achieving the key measures of:

- 5A*-G at GCSE
- 5A*-G including English and mathematics
- 5A*-C including GCSE English and mathematics
- A*-C including English and mathematics
- expected progress in English between key stage 2 and key stage 4

This means that North Lincolnshire is also in the top quartile for three year improvement in 5A*-C including GCSE English and mathematics.

Additionally, North Lincolnshire is ranked first in England for 3 year improvement in A*-C in English and mathematics and for expected progress in English between key stage 2 and key stage 4.

Consequently, the provisional 2015 outcome of 56.3% of 16 year olds achieving 5A*-C including GCSE English and mathematics was above the national outturn of 53%. The appendix includes a letter from Ofsted acknowledging this achievement.

2.7 Post-16 outcome:

Taken over three years, North Lincolnshire is top quartile for improvement in:

- average point score per entry at A-level/Level 3 qualifications
- narrowing the free school meals gap at Level 2 at age 19
- narrowing the free school meals gap at Level 3 at age 19

And the year-on-year improvement is top quartile for:

- average point score at A-level/Level 3 qualifications
- Level 2 qualification in English and mathematics at age 19 for those that had not achieved this level at age 16
- narrowing the free school meals gap at Level 3 at age 19

Almost all A-level examination entries in North Lincolnshire resulted in A*-E grades, placing the Local Authority first amongst the eleven statistical neighbours.

2.8 All data remains provisional and un-validated at this time. However, it is not anticipated that validation will alter the quartile ranking of North Lincolnshire against other Local Authority areas.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Cabinet may wish to recognise the improvements in education outcomes that have culminated in the 2015 results.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Recognising the improvement in education outcomes provides an opportunity to reflect on the strength of the Council's education strategy, the impact of additional resources that the Council has invested in education and the commitment of education providers to improving outcomes for our children and young people.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no new resource implications from the recommendation.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The current education strategy was arrived at following considerable consultation with stakeholders which was detailed in a previous report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet recognises the improvements in education outcomes that have culminated in the 2015 results.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: 2015 Statistical First Releases

Appendix: Letter from Ofsted regarding provisional 2015 outcomes

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Nick Hudson
Regional Director,
North East, Yorkshire
and Humber

Dear Simon,

The provisional 2015 outcomes for pupils in North Lincolnshire

Following the recent publication by the Department for Education of the provisional outcomes for pupils in 2015. I am writing to offer my congratulations regarding the figures for pupils in North Lincolnshire at Key Stage 4.

In Key Stage 4, the percentage of pupils achieving 5A*-C at GCSE, including English and mathematics, is above the national figure and shows much improvement on the 2014 outcome.

I am copying this letter to the Director of Children's Services and the Member(s) of Parliament for North Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Hudson', written in a cursive style.

Nick Hudson
Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire and Humber