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**Learning and Culture Policy & Scrutiny  
Committee**

**14 November 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director Children, Education & Communities

**School Improvement Update**

**Summary**

1. This report provides information about school performance in the academic year 2016- 2017.<sup>1</sup>
2. This report provides information about the position of schools according to Ofsted inspection judgements as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

**Primary and secondary school performance 2016- 2017**

3. **Early Years Foundation Stage.**

Outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage show 74% of pupils achieving a good level of development in 2017. This is 4 percentage points above the national average and maintains the city's good outcomes in the early years.

4. **Key Stage 1.**

Outcomes at KS1 have continued a trend of improvement from 2016. 84% of pupils achieved the expected standard in phonics in Year 1 in 2017. This was an improvement of 2 percentage points from 2016 and was 3 percentage points above the national average. The percentage achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths was above the national average in 2017, as was the percentage of pupils achieving the good standard at the end of Key Stage 1. Of particular note has been

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<sup>1</sup> Data used in this report is currently provisional prior to the publication of the validated national data in the Department for Education Performance tables in January 2018.

the improvement in outcomes in writing, which saw a 7 percentage point improvement for pupils achieving at the expected standard in between 2016 and 2017. This has moved York's position from being below the national average for writing in 2016, to 1 percentage point above national in 2017.

5. **Key Stage 2.**

2017 Key Stage 2 outcomes in attainment and progress have seen improvement from 2016. The unvalidated Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 progress data shows that progress was above national in reading and maths and in line with national for writing in 2017. This represents a significant improvement from 2016, where both attainment and progress was broadly in line with national.

6. Improving outcomes in writing was the focus of a school led project in 2016-17. This small scale project, involving six schools demonstrated improvements in outcomes and had a notable impact on improving the outcomes of children eligible for the pupil premium. The schools involved in the project collectively narrowed their pupil premium gap in writing from -34.4% to -12.8%. The positive impact of the project was used to inform a successful York partnership bid to the Department for Education Strategic School Improvement Fund which is allowing the work on writing to be extended and expanded over the next two years.

7. Priorities for improvement in primary school performance in 2017-18 are to continue to build on the improvements in attainment and progress in both KS1 and KS2 so that York's outcomes are consistently above national averages by improving the attainment and progress of disadvantaged and lower attaining pupils across all key stages.

8. **Key Stage 4**

New national performance indicators were introduced to KS4 in 2017. The introduction of reformed GCSEs in English and mathematics has seen the introduction of a numerical 9-1 grading system, with grade 5 being seen as a good pass and grade 4 as a standard pass. In 2017 all other subjects have continued to be graded using the A\*-G grading system, meaning that pupils have results with both numerical and alphabetical grades. Over the

next two years there will be a phased roll out of the reformed GCSEs and the move to the new numerical grading structures across all subjects. However, as in 2016 it does mean that 2017 outcomes are not directly comparable to previous years.

9. Provisional outcomes for KS4 reported by the Department for Education in the Statistical First Release indicate that attainment and progress outcomes in York have remained above national averages. In 2017 York achieved an Attainment 8 average of 49 points which was 3 percentage points above the national average.
10. Performance in the new reformed GCSEs was very strong; the percentage of pupils achieving grade 5 and above in English and mathematics combined was 47.7%. This was 5 percentage points above national.
11. The percentage achieving grade 5/ C and above in the Ebacc subjects was also significantly above the national average. 21.1% of pupils nationally achieved this measure in 2017 against 31.3% in York.
12. The Progress 8 measure indicates that York's performance improved in 2017 and was above average at 0.11. This places York in the top quartile of LA performance nationally.

13. **Key Stage 5.**

Outcomes in KS5 continued to be strong in relation to performance nationally with all the school sixth forms performing strongly against value added benchmarks. Collectively sixth form provision in York is amongst the strongest of any local authority area nationally.

14. **Narrowing the Gap**

Provisional data indicates that gaps have narrowed in the primary phase. Gaps data is currently unavailable for Key Stage 4.

15. **Key Stage 1**

The gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 1 within the LA has narrowed by 4

percentage points from last year, and early indications show the gap between disadvantaged and national non disadvantaged has narrowed by 6 percentage points.

## 16. **Key Stage 2**

The gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged of pupils achieving the expected standard at reading, writing and mathematics within the LA has narrowed by 6 percentage points from 2016, and early indications show the gap between our disadvantaged and national non disadvantaged has also narrowed by 6 percentage points.

## **Ofsted Judgements - update**

17. Our ambition in York is that every child and young person attends a school that is judged as good or better. As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 87.5% of our secondary schools are good or outstanding, and 97.9%% of our primaries are good or outstanding, with 100% of our special schools good or outstanding. This means that overall, 96.4%% of schools in York are good or outstanding<sup>2</sup>.
18. This currently places York above the national average for the percentage of good and better schools, with nationally 89.1% of all schools being judged good or better, 90.7% of primary schools judged good or better and 80.4% of secondary schools judged good or better.
19. Overall York's schools continue to perform well in relation to national performance indicators. The key priority is to work with schools to address variations in performance between schools through continuing to facilitate effective school to school support and commissioning effective school improvement interventions to prevent school failure. This is a focus of the work of the York Schools and Academies Board which is working to ensure that variations in school performance are addressed through effective targeting of collaborative school improvement resources so that both maintained schools and academies are able to continuously improve.

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<sup>2</sup> Data taken from Watchsted – [www.watchsted.com](http://www.watchsted.com). This calculation is based on schools with a current Ofsted inspection judgement, schools that have recently converted to academy status do not have an Ofsted judgement until they have their first inspection as an academy.

## Recommendations

As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason:

To provide the committee with an update on school performance in the academic year 2016/17.

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