

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2ND MARCH 2023

PERFORMANCE & FINANCE REPORT (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

Report of Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, Lead Member for Children's Services

Audrey Kingham, Executive Director of Children, Young People and Education

1. Purpose of report

To consider current performance and the budgetary position as at December 2022 for services within the Committee's terms of reference.

2. <u>Recommendations</u>

It is recommended that the Committee notes the current performance, how it compares to benchmarks, and identifies any areas for further scrutiny.

3. Link to Corporate Plan

This report relates to the Living, Learning and Tackling Inequalities elements of the Corporate Plan.

4. Key Issues

1. External scrutiny of Children's Services shows that performance continues to be strong. Evidence of this can be seen in: the Annual Report for Education and Skills; the much-improved Ofsted ratings of our schools; the Children's Social Care self assessment; and July's positive Ofsted focused visit. To fully understand the overall performance of Children's Services, the above areas need to be taken into consideration alongside the content of this report which focuses on how Children's Services benchmarks against the national average on the performance indicators in the service statements. Appendices A and B show that, compared to the national average, Northumberland was better on 15 indicators, the same on 3, and poorer on 11, at the end of December, 2022.

- 2. Increasing levels of demand at the higher levels of intervention within children's social care along with the associated pressures on the workforce are reflected in the current performance figures in appendix A. However, it should be noted that whilst these indicators have been identified as being the key ones for the service statement, they alone do not provide the full picture of performance of the children's social care service. The comprehensive programme of quality assurance work as well as external scrutiny undertaken by Ofsted provide an overall positive picture of how service's impact on the lives and experiences of vulnerable children, young people and families.
- 3. Headline education data shows that more and more Northumberland pupils are learning in schools that Ofsted judge to be Good or Outstanding. This report marks the first time since 2019 that validated results on education achievement outcomes have been shared with elected members. Northumberland continues to perform well in the first years of primary school and at post 16, but there are some areas for those aged 11 and 16 that have dipped as a result of covid legacy and this is also being seen nationally. The School Improvement Team continues to support schools to improve performance, and whilst each school is responsible for its own performance, the Education Strategy Board which is chaired by the local authority, will review actions with school representatives.
- 4. Given the impact of the pandemic on education services in particular, benchmarking data against previous years is provided not only for the 2020/2021 school year, but also against 2018/19, which was the most recent "normal" academic year prior to 2021/22 in terms of how services and education providers were operating.
- 5. There is a clear understanding of the underlying data for those indicators in need of improvement, and appropriate actions have been identified and communicated to the relevant parties.
- 6. The budgetary position continues to be challenging. The report provides the end of December data. The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Children's Social Care shows that the position at the end of December is £0.656 million forecast underspend. The underspend significantly increased from the November position largely due to the Family Hub and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) grant income. Savings of £1.332m were proposed for 2022-23, £0.829 million is expected to be achieved with a shortfall of £0.503 million primarily due to delay in the building of the children's home and an increase in out of county placement spend. The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Education and Skills shows that the position at the end of December is a £2.107 million forecast

overspend. The key factor is the rising cost of commissioning SEN home to school transport along with further growth in pupils accessing the service. Savings of £0.150m relating to transfer of funds to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and reduction in enhanced pensions are expected to be achieved in full. In addition, 5% of budget has contributed to savings in year which assist with the cost of SEN Transport and wider NCC budget pressures in year.

7. This committee is receiving another benchmarking data report, but that relates specifically to activity levels within children's safeguarding whereas this report focuses on performance across the whole of Children's Services' key performance indicators that are in the service statements.

This report is for discussion.

5. <u>Background</u>

The Service Statements across the Council set out priorities for delivering the Corporate Plan together with a performance framework covering past performance levels and future targets. The performance measures are captured on a web-enabled system and current performance is updated regularly so that the most recent information is available.

This report uses the performance data for the quarter ending December 2022 for Children's Social Care (CSC) and Education & Skills (E&S). The suite of indicators in both services were reviewed during 2021 and were rationalised to reflect priorities. In May 2022, the targets and amber tolerances were reviewed for each indicator taking into account our knowledge of the recent trends and demand levels in Northumberland, the latest national averages and where we most want to improve in light of corporate priorities.

This report provides analysis of performance on those indicators that can be benchmarked against the national average where available, as well as providing the direction of travel against previous years, and against the targets set. Where there is no national average, i.e., if the indicator is a local one, the December 2022 figures are benchmarked against the position for the previous year in the case of CSC and against the position for the previous year and 3 years ago in the case of E&S (i.e., prior to the impact of the pandemic). The report also provides the budgetary update for the period up to December 2022.

For details on how Children's Services performs against its targets within the context of the whole Council, please refer to the quarterly reports produced by the Business and Intelligence team. Members should note that in addition to this report, the Corporate Parenting Advisory Group receives bi-monthly performance reports on data relating to children looked after children (CLA) and care leavers, and the Audit Committee receives

a 6 monthly update on external inspection scrutiny that has taken place in Children's Services and Adult Social Care. Those reports are available on request.

5.1 Children's Social Care:

It remains the case that effective and creative early help and preventative work has ensured that statutory services have not been overwhelmed by the Covid legacy, This has positively led to low rates of early help cases being subsequently escalated to the social work teams, low rates of first time entrants into the youth offending system, social worker caseloads that are broadly equal to the latest national average, and almost all older care leavers being deemed to be living in "suitable" accommodation.

With reference to Appendix A, of the 16 CSC indicators where there is a national average, the department is currently performing better on 8, similar on 2, and poorer on 6. (The national averages are not contemporaneous with the local authority's more current data and in general are 9 months old.)

The context behind this is that an increase in demand levels was seen in early 2022 and by the year end we were seeing more children and young people subject to higher levels of intervention, namely child protection plans and being looked after in the care system. This, combined with continued challenges with recruitment and retention of social workers, has led to an increase in caseload pressures for some workers in some teams, and senior management oversight of these instances has been swiftly provided. The issue of increased case complexity continues to be reported by managers and a workforce report has recently been received by this committee. Children's Social Care continues to actively recruit to the academy and senior managers are looking at a range of options to fully utilise staff appropriately who are not social work qualified. This will also link into preparation for the plans to implement the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

Comments and actions being taken for measures that are poorer than the national average are as follows:

Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders

Unusually for Northumberland, the latest percentage figure has increased considerably and is now poorer than the national average. However, as the number of first time entrants into the youth offending system is very low in Northumberland, the cohort each quarter is small and therefore subject to considerable fluctuation. This is the case in the latest cohort, where out of a cohort of 8 young people, 3 re-offended. The figure of 37% is similar to the latest regional average. It is expected that the long term trend of low and therefore better than national average rates of re-offending will continue to be seen in Northumberland in the future. The latest figure should be viewed within the context of Northumberland having consistently lower re-offending and first time offending rates than the national average in each of the last 3 years.

% of 19-21 yr old care leavers in education, employment or training

The headline result for this indicator is taken at March each year from the national return on children looked after and Northumberland was better than the national average at that point, having previously been similar to it. Internally, we undertake quarterly monitoring during the year and the latest figure at the end of December had reduced. A range of actions have been identified in the plans of the Adolescent Service and the Virtual School, namely: The Virtual School is part of a national pilot of Pupil Premium Plus for post 16 care leavers, with strategies focussing on retention in further education; New electronic Post 16 Personal Education Plan is being developed; Recruiting for a post 16 PEP education intervention worker; Employment, education and training clinics have been reviewed and strengthened with more meaningful data; Part of a working group for Post 16, with the first meeting being in March; Collaborating with Northumberland Skills regarding English language courses for unaccompanied asylum seekers wanting college access; Developing a monitoring framework (with the Performance team); Participating in a national Virtual Schools' working group to share good practice.

Rate of children and young people subject to child protection (CP) plans per 10,000 population

The figure for quarter 3 of 77 per 10,000 is an increase on the position previously reported for quarter 1. The figure of 77 is similar to the regional average, but higher than the national average of 42. Application of thresholds, decision-making, and case planning are all reviewed during practice days and audit activity that take place in Children's Social Care. Whilst ideally we would like to see fewer children and young people being subject to child protection plans, the key test of how effective service provision is relates to the decisions that are taken on a multi-agency basis on each individual case, and our quality of practice intelligence demonstrates that such decision making is overall sound and in the best interests of the child.

Rate of Children Looked After (CLA) per 10,000 population

The number of children in our care has increased each quarter in the last year, significantly so between January and March 2022, but then very slightly each quarter thereafter. Analysis showed that the number of children entering care had remained fairly constant since the last report to this meeting, but the number exiting care had reduced significantly, in particular via the adoption and special guardianship order route. Positively, Northumberland's figure at the end of December of 76 per 10,000 remains the lowest in the region, but is above the national average of 70. The legal gateway panel ensures that all safe and relevant options are considered and if care is needed, that clear

plans are in place to proceed for the child. Tracking and review meetings oversee the timely progression of plans.

% of Children Looked After who have been in care for 2.5 years or more, and who have been in the same placement for 2 years or more

From our data analysis, we understand why the figure remains lower than it traditionally has been and that is due to just one of the children or young people who are in adoptive placements having been in care for over 2.5 years. Typically there have been between 9 and 12, adding between 6-10% to the figure. Placement orders have reduced in quantity during the peak of the pandemic, but are now increasing so we expect that to result in more children coming into the cohort who have been in care for 2.5 years or more and are on placement orders, and that will positively impact on the figure. The latest figure for Northumberland remains below and therefore poorer than the national average of 71%. Over the last 3 quarters it has ranged from 63% to 65% and at the end of December was 64%.

Although this figure is poorer than the national average of 71%, an audit of the reasons for the most recent placement move had shown that almost two-thirds of the children had moved for positive reasons – with most either returning home or moving into a long-term placement. We have further developed our monitoring to support timely achievement of long-term placements where this is the plan for our Children Looked After, and Ofsted's focused visit in the summer provided positive feedback about how permanency is planned for and achieved.

% of Children Looked After who have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months

An audit of the reasons behind the placement moves revealed that around 40% of children had moved due to a disruption in their previous placements. More positively, however, half the children had moved (according to their plan) into a long-term placement. Whilst the latest figure for the end of December is higher than we would wish, more integrated working between the Family Placement service, Virtual School and foster carers has been a significant factor in bringing about better school placement stability. The implementation of the sufficiency strategy is continuing and there are a range of actions in place to increase sufficiency and further develop resilience and support for carers, which in turn is expected to positively impact on placement stability.

The good work around placement stability and progressing plans for children who are looked after has manifested itself in the positive Ofsted focused visit that took place in July relating to the local authority's arrangements for planning and achieving permanence. The report can be found <u>here</u>. The headline findings include the statement: *"Social workers identify permanence plans for children at the earliest opportunity. This helps most children to achieve permanence in a timely way. Social workers know their children well.*

They use personalised and sensitive tools to communicate effectively with children and prepare them for permanence. An established quality assurance framework assists senior leaders and managers in monitoring the progression of children's plans and the quality of social work practice."

5.2 Education and Skills (E&S):

Headline education data shows that more and more Northumberland pupils are learning in schools that Ofsted judge to be Good or Outstanding. 89% of Northumberland schools are now judged to be Good or better compared to 76% in 2017 and a national average of 86%.

With reference to the Education and Skills data in Appendix B, this is the first report since 2019 when we have been able to share the latest validated education achievement outcomes. The context being that the impact of the pandemic on children and their families has proved to be significant. Whilst many children are enjoying their journey and progress very well, the extent of the work to close gaps is still a challenge, especially for disadvantaged pupils who continue to attain below their peers. The work of the School Improvement Team across Northumberland schools will continue to target specific areas in each school, and disadvantaged pupils specifically. They will work with headteachers, all staff in school, and governors to achieve this and raise the levels of attainment and progress at each key stage even further. The detail behind the figures in Appendix B is provided below; those areas that were poorer than the national average and improvement actions are stated were: Key Stage 2; Attainment 8; Progress 8; Education Health and Care Plans in time scale and pupils in good or outstanding secondary schools.

Primary school outcomes

Outcomes for children in primary school are good overall with attainment at Early Years Foundation Stage, Phonics and Key Stage 1 being better than the national average, although, as was the case nationally, results at Key Stage 2 dipped. The School Improvement Team continue to support schools to improve performance in reading and writing. They also continue to encourage schools to access the support of the local English Hub. Whilst each school is responsible for its own individual performance, the local authority-chaired Education Strategy Board will review actions with school representatives.

Secondary school outcomes

External examinations at Key Stage 4 returned in 2022 for the first time since 2019. Teacher and centre assessed grades were used during the pandemic. Nationally, it was determined that grades would, overall, fall roughly halfway between 2019 and 2021. Given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students and schools, this

data should be treated with caution. Attainment 8 scores continued to improve, but at a slower rate than pre pandemic, and progress 8 scores, like those for all regions other than London, showed a need for improvement. A small number of schools (academies) disproportionately affected the Progress 8 score. Conversations have taken place with those schools and the School Improvement Team continue to monitor the performance of those schools where possible. The Education Strategy Board will review actions with school representatives.

The context described above for Key Stage 4 also applied to Key Stage 5. Outcomes were positive with improvements on 2019 being seen in the number of pupils sitting A levels achieving an average grade of B, those sitting Applied General Qualifications achieving an average grade of a Distinction, and those securing a place at their first-choice university and going to Russell Group universities.

With reference to Appendix B, there is outstanding performance on: meeting parental choice of primary and secondary school; the take up of entitlement to free education for 2 year olds where Northumberland is in the top 5 nationally; and all schools that are judged to be Requires Improvement deemed to be Taking Effective Action and therefore are well-placed to move to Good at their next full inspection.

There are 13 indicators for which there are national averages (NA), and Appendix B shows that of the updated measures, 7 are better than the NA, 1 is similar and 5 are poorer.

Permanent exclusions (PEX) from school

A higher number of pupils have been permanently excluded from secondary schools than was the case last year, and the figure at the end of December was the same as the corresponding period in 2018/19 (prior to the pandemic). This is a major challenge for the local authority and its partners and the Exclusions Strategy Group meets regularly to discuss alternatives to permanent exclusion. More positively, from September 2022 the multi-agency Inclusion Panel has been set up to review admission into the Pupil Referral Unit, primary support bases as well as providing support to schools and pupils at risk of PEX. The panel meets monthly and includes colleagues from schools (on a rota basis) and other agencies e.g health, social care, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to ensure decision making is holistic, transparent and robust.

Since September 2022, the panel has considered 48 referrals for children at risk of permanent exclusion, none of which been excluded to date. In the current year we have facilitated 40 managed moves 18 of these have been already successful with 11 on going and 11 being unsuccessful.

Meeting the time scale to place pupils quickly back into another form of education following a permanent exclusion has proved a challenge so far in the current school year, having held up relatively well last year. Receipt of the relevant paperwork from schools and securing appropriate places remain challenges. Communications are regularly sent to the schools concerned regarding their responsibilities to submit the relevant paperwork to the local authority within time scale.

For the 2 other Service Statement performance indicators where Northumberland figures were poorer than the national averages, the explanatory comments and actions are as follows:

% of Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP) finalised within 20 weeks

Those who need an Education, Health and Care Plan used to receive one quicker than is the case nationally, although that has not been the case in Northumberland in the last 6 months. Whilst the timeliness does fluctuate during the year, the overall picture is lower than the previous 6 month period and 7% poorer than the national average. The percentage in timescale from Oct - December 2022 was 51% whereas between July -September 2022 it was 58%, and in April - June 2022 it was 76.1%. The national average is 58%. The quality of those plans is subject to audit and has improved in the last 2 years. Achievement of the 20 weeks' time scale has become increasingly challenging as demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) increases, a phenomenon also seen nationally. Significant pressures on the Education Psychology team due to high demand are impacting on timeliness as has the challenge of completing those plans whose request came in just prior to the summer break. A further recruitment drive is being undertaken and there is a continued review of internal processes within the Educational Psychology team. We are making the request for an Education Health Care Needs Assessment clearer to schools in Northumberland and we are increasing support in schools for learners without EHCPs through targeted use of SEND Advisors, the Inclusive Education Service (NIES) training offer and Ordinarily Available Provision Guidance.

% of pupils who are in good or outstanding secondary schools

The figures in the last 4 quarters have improved considerably and the latest figure of 78.2% is now just below the national average of 82%. The actual proportion of secondary schools judged as Good or Outstanding was 83% at the end of December 2022, which equates to 25 / 30 schools, and this is above the national average of 78%. Where there are concerns that schools may drop below Good, an appropriate level of support is provided by the LA's improvement partners. Of the inspections where reports have been published in the current school year, 5 were graded good and just 1 was graded Requires Improvement.

This improving picture for secondary school pupils is also seen for post 16 year olds. The proportion of young people in years 12 and 13 who are either Not in employment, education or training (NEET) or whose destination is unknown has held up well and is better than the latest national average due to Northumberland being able to track the destinations of these young people more quickly than is the case nationally, and this is reflected in the relatively low unknown figures in the county. We know that those with SEND are disproportionately more likely to be NEET and tackling it continues to be a key focus for the Council and its partners. The action plan referred to in September's report continues to be rolled out and there has been a review of internal structures resulting in the staff formerly in the careers team moving into the SEN 14-25 team to ensure their work is better aligned.

6. Children's Services Forecast Outturn 2022-23 Position

6.1 Children's Social Care

The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Children's Social Care shows that the position at the end of December is £0.656 million forecast underspend. There is a detailed report that provides information on where within the service the projected under and overspends are. The underspend significantly increased from the November position largely due to the Family Hub and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) grant income. Savings of £1.332m were proposed for 2022-23, £0.829 million is expected to be achieved with a shortfall of £0.503 million primarily due to delay in the building of the children's home and an increase in out of county placement spend.

6.2 Education and Skills Service

The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Education and Skills shows that the position at the end of December is a £2.107 million forecast overspend. The key factor is the rising cost of commissioning SEN home to school transport along with further growth in pupils accessing the service. Providers have incurred escalating fuel costs and driver shortages, which has led to some operators being unable to fulfil contracts, and the need to re-tender has resulted in overall increased costs. The forecast position regarding the Capital programme in Education and Skills is shown below.

	Current 2022-23 Budget £m	2022-23 Actual Exp. £m	Forecast Exp. £m	Net Variance £m	Over / (Under) spend £m	Forecast Reprofiling £m
Total	19.676	9.651	17.428	(2.248)	(0.507)	(1.741)

The Director is provided with details of the position on each scheme, actions being taken within the year and plans for re-profiling the budget.

Savings of £0.150m relating to transfer of funds to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and reduction in enhanced pensions are expected to be achieved in full. Education and Skills have contributed 5% of budget to savings in year in addition which will contribute to the cost of SEN Transport and wider NCC budget pressures in year.

7. Implications

Policy	Indicators in this report relate to the Living, Learning and Tackling Inequalities elements of the Corporate Plan.			
Finance and value for money	Many of the measures included in the framework have a value for money component. The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Children's Social Care shows that the position at the end of December is £0.656 million forecast underspend. The underspend significantly increased from the November position largely due to the Family Hub and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) grant income. Savings of £1.332m were proposed for 2022-23, £0.829 million is expected to be achieved with a shortfall of £0.503 million primarily due to delay in the building of the children's home and an increase in out of county placement spend. The Projected Revenue Outturn 2022-23 for Education and Skills shows that the position at the end of December is a £2.107 million forecast overspend. The key factor is the rising cost of commissioning SEN home to school transport along with further growth in pupils accessing the service. Savings of £0.150m relating to transfer of funds to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and reduction in enhanced pensions are expected to be achieved in full. In addition, 5% of budget has contributed to savings in year which assist with the cost of SEN Transport and			
Legal	The report refers to children and young people in the care system and to re-offending rates.			
Procurement	n/a			
Human Resources	Having enough experienced social workers is essential for a high performing Children's Social Care service.			
Property	n/a			
Equalities	n/a			
(Impact Assessment attached)				

Yes □ No x N/A □	
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	The performance framework includes measures on offending.
Customer Consideration	The framework includes a number of measures relevant to providing services to customers
Carbon reduction	n/a
Health and Wellbeing	Indicators referenced in the report impact on the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.
Wards	All

8. Background papers:

Details of the County Council's performance management arrangements including access to the Northumberland web-enabled performance system can be found at:

http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Policy/Performance.aspx#corporateperformance.aspx#corpora

9. Report sign off

Monitoring Officer	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer	Jan Willis
Joint Interim Directors of Children's Services	Graham Reiter & Audrey Kingham
Interim Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
Portfolio Holder(s)	Guy Renner-Thompson

10. Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Audrey Kingham, Audrey Kingham, Executive Director of Children, Young People and Education

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	Indicator	Current performance Dec 22 vs Dec 21	Current Performance vs target	Current Performance vs National Average
1	% of EHFW cases closed because desired outcomes have been met *	68 vs 76	68 vs 75	Not applicable
2a	% Staff turnover within the social work workforce (annual DFE return)	15.9 vs 15.8	15.9 vs 15.4	15.9 vs 15.4
2b	% absence rate of the social work workforce	1.9 vs 3.6	N.A.	1.9 vs 3.0
2C	% of the social work workforce who are from agencies	6.2 vs 10.0	N.A.	6.2 vs 15.5
2d	% social work vacancy rate	8.1 vs 11.6	N.A.	8.1 vs 17.0
2e	Average social work caseload	17.1 vs 15	N.A.	17.1 vs 16
2f	% of social workers where caseload weighting is within desired points level *	62 vs 78	62 vs 76	Not applicable
3	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	37.5 vs 19.0	37.5 vs 25.0	37.5 vs 29.2
4a	Rate of children and young people subject to child protection plans per 10,000 popn	77 vs 65	77 vs 67	77 vs 42
4b	% of s47 child protection enquiries resulting in an Initial Child Protection Conference	55 vs 56	N.A.	55 vs 34
5a	Rate of Children Looked After (CLA) per 10,000 popn	76 vs 65	76 vs 73	76 vs 70
5b	% of CLA who returned home to their families after leaving care	35 vs 29	N.A.	35 vs 28
5C	% of CLA who were adopted when they left care or left care via a special guardianship order	32 vs 42	N.A.	32 vs 23
5d	% of CLA who have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	14 vs 9	14 vs 9	14 vs 10
5e	% long term CLA in same placement for past 2 years	64 vs 68	64 vs 69	64 vs 71
6a	% of 19-21 yr old care leavers in touch with the local authority	100 vs 97	100 vs 95	100 vs 92
6b	% of 19-21 yr old care leavers living in suitable accommodation	98 vs 96	98 vs 95	98 vs 88
6c	% of 19-21 yr old care leavers in education, employment or training	49.4 vs 56.3	49.4 vs 61	49.4 vs 55

Appendix A – Children's Social Care benchmarking against national averages / previous year *

	Indicator	Current performance Dec 22 vs 18/19	Current performance Dec 22 vs Dec 21	Current Performance Dec 2022 vs target	Comparison with national average
1	% children taking up the Statutory entitlement to early education for all eligible 2 year olds	96 vs 90	96 vs 94	96 vs 85	96 vs 72
2	% getting their 1 st choice of primary school	97.3 vs 98.2	97.3 vs 98.1	97.3 vs 95	97.3 vs 92.2
3	% of pupils in primary schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding	87.8 vs 86.0	87.8 vs 87.4	87.8 vs 89.0	87.8 vs 89
4	Early years foundation stage - % of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development	67.5 vs 74.9	N.A.	67.5 vs 72	67.5 vs 65.2
5	Phonics - % of year 1 pupils working at the expected standard	78.5 vs 85.0	N.A.	78.5 vs 82	78.5 vs 75.5
6	Key stage 1 - % achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined	N.Av	N.A.	54.6 vs 66	54.6 vs 53.4
7	KS2 - % of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths	56.1 vs 60.5	N.A.	56.1 vs 65	56.1 vs 58.9
8	Number of permanent exclusions from primary schools in academic year *	0 vs 1	0 VS 0	0 vs 0	Not Applicable
9	% getting their 1st choice of secondary school	97.2 vs 98.4	97.2 vs 97.6	97.2 vs 95.0	97.2 vs 83.3
10	Number of permanent exclusions from secondary schools in academic year *	39 vs 39	39 vs 27	39 vs 29	Not Applicable
11	% permanently excluded pupils receiving full-time education by 6th day following PEX *	66.7 vs 77.5	66.7 vs 92.6	66.7 vs 95.0	Not Applicable
12	KS4 - average Attainment 8 score	46.6 vs 44.4	N.A.	46.6 vs 44.7	46.6 vs 48.8
13	KS4 - average Progress 8 score	-0.23 vs -0.17	N.A.	-0.23 vs -0.15	-0.23 vs -0.03
14	% of 16-17 year olds NEET and Not Known	5.5 VS 5.4	5.5 vs 6.0	5.5 VS 5.9	5.5 vs 6.0
15	% of pupils in secondary schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding	78.2 vs 66.5	78.2 vs 69.0	78.2 vs 75	78.2 vs 82
16	% of new Education Health and Care Plans completed within time scale	51 vs 50	51 vs 47	51 vs 70	51 vs 58
17	% of Schools taking effective actions following a less than good Ofsted judgement *	N.A.	N.A.	100 vs 100	Not Applicable

Appendix B - Education & Skills benchmarking against national averages / previous years *