

Report to: The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Focus: Education Standards 2008-09 and actions to address weaknesses

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This report is in response to a request by the panel for updated information about school performance in 2008-9. It identifies strengths to celebrate and areas of priority that are targeted for improvement during this academic year. **Annex A** gives an overview on how Plymouth's results compare to the changes in national results since 2008. The green highlights improvements as good or better than the national changes – and the red indicates a slipping in performance compared to the national results. Overall the picture is reasonably positive.

Strengths

- 5 x A*-C (including English and maths) GCSE improvement especially within 'national challenge schools'.
- Overall Improvement this year especially at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), KS1 and KS4.
- Best ever EYFS and KS4 results.
- Boys outcomes improved well at KS1 (reading 4th and writing 3rd best improvements nationally) and in EYFS.
- Improvement in performance outcomes for Children in Care.
- Evidence of narrowing gaps from early years to KS4.
- The DCSF judges that Children's Services in Plymouth is at least good with outstanding features in its work with early years, primary, secondary and 14-19.

Areas of focus and challenge (taken from the 'standards meeting' with DCSF and GOSW)

- Improve Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED) outcomes on the EYFS Profile to match those nationally.
- Improve the proportion of pupils attaining level 3 at the end of Key Stage 1 in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Further improve outcomes for children in care and other identified under-performing groups.
- Restore an upward trajectory in combined English and mathematics at level 4+ and so reduce the number of primary schools below the floor target of 55%.
- Further increase the proportion of pupils attaining 5A*-C including English and mathematics while maintaining and extending the richness of the KS4 curriculum and 14-18 pathways.
- Secure the ambitious transformation agenda in the city for all the secondary estate, including ensuring all schools are on a trajectory to be well above the floor target by 2011.

Early Years Foundation Stage

1. The improvement in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes in 2009 was among the best nationally with a 6ppt rise in the 'threshold' attainment accompanied by a 2ppt narrowing of the gap. The LA is now at or above national levels in Communication Language and Literacy Development, though not in PSED.
2. Very good progress has been made in PSED outcomes, reversing the previous downward trend, though these remain below the national level. Significant progress has been made on all communication, language and literacy (CLLD) scales, with boys making particularly good gains. However girls are outperforming boys in all areas of CLLD, particularly writing, and boys achievement in this area continues to be a priority for future work.
3. Good moderation and quality assurance processes have resulted in fewer data anomalies and a reduction in the number of schools with very low percentages of children scoring 6+. Priority schools and settings have already been identified to participate in targeted projects linked to CLLD, particularly writing, with a focus on boys' achievement.
4. This was a priority within Corporate Improvement Priority 8 (Raising Standards in Education and

Skills) and was a target for improvement for Plymouth by the DCSF. The City exceeded its overall target but just fell short of the narrowing the gap target (still narrower than the national gap by 2.4%).

Key Stage 1

5. Writing at level 2+ at Key Stage 1, especially by boys, improved well (3rd best nationally), as did reading (4th best nationally). Maths outcomes were unchanged and remain just below national standards. The proportions attaining level 3 remain low.
6. There was a good increase in the number of boys attaining L2b+ in writing, a priority for the LA last year but boys' attainment in writing is still below national by 4ppts and is the lowest in the region.
7. Again this was a priority for improvement set by the DCSF through the National Strategies for 2008-9.

Key Stage 2

8. The proportion of pupils attaining level 4+ on English and maths combined fell by 4ppts to 69%, one of the biggest falls nationally. This was mainly owing to falls in English, predominantly boys' performance and results often fell where there was major institutional change. However, the proportion of pupils attaining level 5 rose in both subjects.
9. Improving the results for more able pupils was a priority within CIP 8 and was considered to be a priority by the DCSF too.
10. The number of schools that fell below the primary floor target of 55% of pupils gaining a L4+ in both English and maths rose from 7 to 9. School amalgamations had an impact here but more focus must be given to this group of schools in the coming months.

Key Stage 4

11. At GCSE there was a 5ppt rise in the 5+A*-C in any subjects measure. When English and mathematics are included the rise was 2.4ppts to 48.7%, just below the national figure. Most of the National Challenge schools improved well and transformational plans exist for these schools. However, there are still schools where the gap between the 2 GCSE measures remains wide.
12. 'The LA support and challenge of priority schools is very good' (National Strategies judgement). Of the 5 schools which were below 30% in 5A*-C with maths and English at GCSE in 2008, four have gained 30% and above. The biggest improvement was made at John Kitto (+13%).
13. Tamarside improved a little but was a significant distance off the school target of 27% and remains the only school below the floor target. **See Annex D.**
14. Persistent Absence rates (pupils with less than 80% attendance) dropped to 5% and the LA has already hit the 2011 PSA target.
15. Improvements at KS4 have been a strong feature within CIP 8 and were also a high priority for the DCSF.

Performance against Statistical Neighbours

16. **Annex B** contains a summary of the key attainment performance measures for our statistical neighbours. Statistical neighbour models provide one method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected.

17. When ranked against similar local authorities Plymouth's educational outcomes are in the top half in all but one measure – maths at L2+ for 7 year olds.

Narrowing the gaps

18. **Annex C** shows a summary of some of the gap narrowing performance indicators that are currently available. Unfortunately these comparisons are for 2008 only. The 2009 results will show continued improvements in a number of areas. Plymouth is developing a national reputation for narrowing gaps across a broad range of indicators. The EYFS gap is one of the narrowest in the region.

Children in Care

19. Since the establishment of the Virtual School in September 2008, student tracking, data analysis and the range of intervention strategies to counter underachievement have all improved. Provisional results for 2009 show significant improvement on all measures and we are very proud of our children and young people who have achieved so much.
20. The 2009 KS2 SATs provisional result in English is 55%, compared to 41% in 2008. This is the highest score ever recorded by Plymouth's children in care. The result of 55% is very high compared to the national average which was 46% in 2008.
21. The 2009 KS2 SATs provisional result in Mathematics is 50% compared to 32% in 2008. This is the second highest score ever recorded by Plymouth's children in care. The result of 50% is well above the national average, which was 44% in 2008.
22. In Key Stage 4, provisional results show that the number of young people achieving 5A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent has risen to 28%, from 13% in 2008. This is the highest score ever recorded by Plymouth's children in care.
23. Although the number of young people achieving 5A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics, at 11% is low, results are above FFTD estimates for this cohort. (Fischer Family Trust data estimates performance of pupils with similar socio-economic factors – and FFT D estimates show the levels of achievement that the top 25% of pupils in similar schools nationally should achieve).
24. The number of young people achieving 5A*-G grades, which at 46% in 2008 was above the national average, has risen to 60% in 2009.
25. The number of young people achieving qualifications (1 or more A*-G grades) has improved from 50% last year to a record 89% in 2009.

Our focus on enjoyment as well as achievement

26. Young Motion Plymouth Movie Competition (see youngmotionplymouth.com) promotes film making and culminates in a glittering awards ceremony at Vue cinema where Oscar/Bafta winners mingle with our young film makers who win their very own Plymouth Frankie award. The evening is full of red carpet moments and exciting entertainment. This is an annual event sponsored and supported by many city businesses. This was nominated for a Media Innovation Award in 2009.
27. Plymouth anthology of young writers continues into a second year promoting our budding authors through our very own anthology...publishing their writing. Sponsorship was secured from Europe Direct. The anthology is shared in every school and library throughout Plymouth and regionally through education links. Each published author is presented with a copy of the anthology at a special launch event with the Lord Mayor. They are also entertained, with their families and friends, by a famous author. They also receive book token prizes. The United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) acknowledged this event as very good practice nationally.

28. British Armed Forces Week has seen over 2000 children and young people visiting the Dockyard heritage site to have fun exploring the exhibits, having 'hands on' sessions with the Museum in Transit and sharing their thoughts with Veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces. Visits have also taken place twice daily to ships and submarines and, this year, we extended the opportunity to the Citadel and HMS Raleigh. The weekend saw children and young people enjoying entertaining the public in the city centre and on the Hoe with music, dance and competitions, such as the junior field gun run and dance groups. Catering in the Veterans Centre was provided by NEETs students who mingled with the public to share conversations on the theme of the week. A large display of pupils work linked to peacekeeping across the world was a focal point of the Centre. A choir supported our church service and young musicians performed alongside professional musicians at an evening concert in the Guildhall. There were even children on board frigates in Plymouth Sound for a sail past and gun salute to the Lord Mayor on the Sunday.
29. Stories in the City (SITC) is now an annual event when primary school children have the opportunity to listen to a story in an unusual venue, followed by a fun activity. We have over 30 venues including: the ice rink (with skating), pool (with swimming) Smeaton's Tower (trip to the top), restaurants like Tanners and Lorenzo's, the Lord Mayors Parlour (with tea and cake) and the aquarium (with pirate capers). Again this was celebrated at the UKLA conference in July.
30. A Night in the Library – Asylum Seeker and Refugee youngsters enjoyed a sleep over in the library following a Bear Hunt with lots of treats and their own personalised bear from the Bear Factory. This is being extended into work with the museum and the art gallery to develop a Night in the Museum and towards creating interesting and exciting schemes of work to develop vocabulary with BME/EAL pupils and those struggling with literacy in KS1/2.
31. Drake's Island Virtual World. Students at SDCC are exploring learning through a virtual world within Teen Second Life, created by Plymouth Lifelong Learning Team in partnership with SDCC and Two Four Productions. This virtual world is like those used by young people in leisure time and has proved to make learning fun and have an impact on standards. Also nominated for a Media Innovation Award this year also celebrated at the UKLA national conference in July. The project won a Media Innovation Award and an international serious games award this year.

Assistant Director of Services for Children & Young People (Lifelong Learning)
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ANNEX A



CHILDREN'S SERVICES - LIFELONG LEARNING

2009 NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Provisional changes in Local Authority results compared to national changes

(Based on the latest available data as at 30/11/09)

	Prov. change from 2008		% diff. from national
	Plymouth	National	
Early Years			
NI 72 Achievement of 78+ and 6+ in PSE and CLL	+6	+3	-1
NI 92 Achievement gap between lowest 20% & rest	-2	-2	-2
Key Stage 1			
Reading 2+	+2	=	-1
Reading 3+	-1	+1	-3
Writing 2+	+5	+1	-1
Writing 3+	=	=	-1
Mathematics 2+	=	-1	-1
Mathematics 3+	=	=	-4
Key Stage 2			
English L4+	-3	-1	-3
English L5+	+2	=	-1
Mathematics L4+	-1	=	-1
Mathematics L5+	+4	+4	-2
Science L4+	=	=	+1
Science L5+	+3	-1	+3
NI 73 English and maths L4+	-3	-1	-2
NI 93 Expected progress in English from KS1 ****	-1	=	=
NI 94 Expected progress in maths from KS1 ****	+1	+3	-1
NI 102a FSM / non-FSM achievement gap (L4+EM)	-2		
Key Stage 3			
No update, awaiting new indicators			
Key Stage 4			
Five or more GCSE A* to C (or equivalent)	+5	+4	+3
NI 75 % 5 A*-C (inc. En/Ma)	+3	+2	-1
NI ?? Expected progress in English from KS2 ****	+3	+3	-3
NI ?? Expected progress in maths from KS2 ****	+4	+4	-5
NI 84 Two or more A* to C in Science	+5	+4	+7
NI 102b FSM/non-FSM achievement gap (5ACEM)	+2	=	=
Key Stage 5			
Average Point Score (APS) per student (schools)	+4.5	=	-5.4
APS per entry (A level grade C = 210 points)	+3.5	+2.5	-2
NI 80 Achievement of Level 3 threshold by 19			

Key	
	Equal or better than national change 2008-2009
	Worse than national change 2008-2009
****	New measures, view with caution

Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking

INDICATORS									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
KS1 % L2 Reading (2009 Prov)	KS1 % L2 Writing (2009 Prov)	KS1 % L2 Maths (2009 Prov)	KS2 % L4 Eng (2009 Prov)	KS2 % L4 Maths (2009 Prov)	KS2 % L4 Sci (2009 Prov)	KS3 % L5 Eng Teacher Assesment (2009 Prov)	KS3 % L5 Maths Teacher Assessment (2009 Prov)	KS3 % L5 Science Teacher Assessment (2009 Prov)	NI75 - 5+ A* - C incl Eng & Maths end of KS4 (2009 Prov)
83.00	80.00	88.00	77.00	78.00	89.00	NA	NA	NA	48.70
83.50	80.60	89.80	75.90	75.60	86.10	NA	NA	NA	46.20
5th	5th	8th	4th	1st	2nd	NA	NA	NA	4th
6th	9th	6th	2nd	1st	1st	2nd	4th	4th	4th
6th	8th	3rd	5th	3rd	1st	4th	5th	5th	4th
5th	5th	5th	7th	2nd	4th	5th	2nd	4th	4th

Rank	Name	"Closeness"	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Portsmouth	Extremely close	84.00	80.00	91.00	76.00	74.00	84.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.60
2	Torbay	Very close	83.00	82.00	90.00	79.00	77.00	87.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	53.60
3	Southampton	Very close	82.00	78.00	89.00	72.00	74.00	85.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	42.60
4	Telford & Wrekin	Very close	83.00	81.00	88.00	77.00	75.00	86.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	46.90
5	Peterborough	Very close	82.00	78.00	89.00	74.00	76.00	84.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	40.20
6	Southend-on-sea	Very close	84.00	80.00	89.00	78.00	78.00	88.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	57.70
7	Bournemouth	Very close	85.00	82.00	92.00	79.00	76.00	87.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	50.90
8	Rotherham	Very close	80.00	79.00	87.00	75.00	75.00	84.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	46.50
9	Sheffield	Very close	82.00	79.00	87.00	75.00	75.00	85.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	44.00
10	Isle of Wight	Very close	90.00	87.00	96.00	74.00	76.00	91.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	41.00

ANNEX C

NI	Short Indicator Definition	05/06	06/07	07/08	SN Av.
73	Achievement at level 4+ EM at KS2	67.00	69.00	73.00	+6
75	Achievement of 5+ GCSEs grade A* - C (inc EM)	42.50	44.10	46.30	+2
81	Inequality gap in achievement of Level 3 threshold by age 19 (FSM/non-FSM at 15)	26.80	26.20	20.60	-6
82	Inequality gap in achievement of Level 2 threshold by age 19 (FSM/non-FSM)	28.2	24.8	24.0	+1
102 a	FSM / non-FSM achievement gap at KS2 (L4+EM)	24.00	24.00	23.10	-2
102b	FSM / non-FSM achievement gap at KS4 (5+A*-C inc. EM)	30.50	27.80	26.50	0
104	The SEN / non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 (L4+EM)	51.00	49.00	44.00	-8
105	The SEN / non-SEN achievement gap at KS4 (5+A*-C inc. EM)	41.50	42.60	41.70	-3

ANNEX D

Revised 2009 GCSE indicators				as at	15/01/2010 15:41		
(reflecting the AAT publication - 13 Jan 2010)							
		%5+A* to C (inc EM)			%5+A* to C		
		2008	2009 (target)	2009 (rev)	2008	2009 (rev)	
4152	DHSG	99	100	98	99	99	
4155	PHSG	91	100	90	97	96	
4172	Sir John Hunt CC	28	30	31	56	68	
4178	Ridgeway	56	49	42	68	66	
4179	Hele's	68	70	64	78	77	
4180	Plymstock	65	62	62	78	73	
4181	Coombe Dean	45	40	46	88	92	
4185	Eggbuckland	39	50	32	52	56	
4186	Estover CC	30	35	32	57	70	
4187	Lipson CC	27	31	31	50	61	
4188	John Kitto CC	23	28	36	70	74	
4189	Tamarside CC	21	27	23	35	43	
4190	Stoke Damerel CC	30	45	44	85	93	
4605	Notre Dame	40	64	60	54	72	
5403	St Boniface	53	59	58	61	75	
5406	DHSB	95	98	98	99	99	
	Plymouth	46.3	51	49.1	67.3	72.6	
	National (maintained)	48.3		50.7	64.5	69.8	