AMBITIOUS SCRUTINY

Narrowing the Gap Free School Meals versus Non- Free School Meals (based on 2012 data)

05/09/ 2013



Introduction

The Ambitious Scrutiny Panel has requested supplementary information following their meeting in August. This includes statistical and regional comparisons school by school analyses of key outcomes to help them identify good practice. Again the only nationally comparative data available for this summary paper relates to 2012 and we have included all the data sets that give an outcome for pupils entitled to FSM.

Analysis of performance

Plymouth LA compared to statistical neighbours (Annex A)

In reaching national expectations (level 4) at KS 2, the gaps in attainment for pupils entitled to free school meals show that Plymouth has the smallest gap in all areas where there is data available. This is the most significant analysis in that the other authorities face similar challenges in terms of social and economic deprivation. At KS4 the gap in FSM attainment for the percentage of pupils who achieve five good GCSE passes is also the smallest. When English and maths are added Plymouth's gap is the third smallest. Interestingly 34.1% of pupils entitled to FSM achieved this national expectation which is the second highest percentage amongst our statistical neighbours and the two LAs with smaller gaps had lower attainment levels.

Regional statistics

Comparisons with LAs across the region are a little more mixed as the characteristics of these areas vary considerably. However Plymouth's gaps still compare very favourably. The percentage of FSM pupils who meet the national expectation of achieving a Level 4 in both English and maths is still the smallest. In English the gap is the joint 3rd smallest and in maths it is the second smallest. At KS4 Plymouth's gap remains the smallest in comparison with SW LAs for the percentage of pupils getting five good GCSE passes. When English and maths are included Plymouth's gap is the 5th smallest out of 15 LAs.

Looked After Children 2012 outcomes

It has been more difficult to find LAC attainment but we can provide the following information in table format:

KS2	Cohort	% En	% Ma	% En &		
	Size	Level 4+	Level 4+	Ma Level 4+		
England LAC	2020	60	56	50		
South West LAC	140	60	56	51		
Portsmouth LAC	10	67	50	50		
Plymouth LAC	19	53	47	42		

Cohorts vary considerably and the number of pupils with complex and special educational needs impacts on outcomes year on year.



KS4 2012	Cohort size	% 5 A*-C	% 5 A*-C(EM)
England LAC	4850	36.8	14.6
SouthWest LAC	450	29.8	12.1
Portsmouth LAC	20	31.8	Х
Plymouth LAC	28	39.3	14.3

The data shows that in 2012 outcomes at KS2 were below averages and at KS4 they were in-line or above averages. Cohorts are so small that it is hard to draw reliable conclusions from the available data at cohort level.

School level data

A separate report will be available at the meeting as it contains sensitive information that is not available publically. The school data confirms that FSM pupils outperformed non FSM pupils in some schools, whilst in others there were significant gaps. The range at KS2 is from a gap of 87% to a positive gap of 23%. Again there is a need for caution as the school with a gap of 87% only had one pupil entitled to FSM in Y6. Cohort size is an important factor that must be considered.

Conclusion

The picture with further analysis continues to look extremely positive even though we would want all pupils entitled to FSM to achieve as well as every other pupil. It does appear that pupils entitled to FSM achieve better results in Plymouth than they might in just about any other LA in the SW and better than any other of the city's statistical neighbours. The school level data will point to the potential of further research with school's that have removed the attainment gap and to identify how they believe that they have achieved this. It is also important to remember that this report relates to just one academic year and cohorts change year on year.

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Date: 05/09/ 2013

	KS2 2012 %							KS4 2012									
	L4+ E	nglish		L4+ N	∕laths		L4+ in Math	s and English			5 A*-C (Inc E/M)		5 A*-C (Inc E/M)		5 A*-C		
	FSM	Non FSM	Gap	FSM	Non FSM	Gap	FSM	Non FSM	Gap		FSM	Non FSM	Gap	FSM	Non FSM	Gap	
PLYMOUTH	72	87	15	75	87	12	65	82	17		34.1	61.3	27.2	73.9	86.5	12.6	
Statistical Neighbours																	
Portsmouth	65	85	20	64	85	21	55	79	24		28.1	56.6	28.5	53.7	77.9	24.2	
Torbay	70	х		74	х		64	х			32.3	64.8	32.5	63	85.3	22.3	
Southampton	71	87	16	70	87	17	62	82	20		32.4	58.8	26.4	70.7	84.4	13.7	
Telford & Wrekin	68	90	22	67	86	19	60	83	23		37.3	66.1	28.8	70.8	89.6	18.8	
Peterborough	67	84	17	66	83	17	58	78	20		18.6	54.3	35.7	64.3	86.3	22	
South-end on sea	70	87	17	69	85	16	61	81	20		24.5	66.7	42.2	52.1	86.3	34.2	
Bournemouth	65	87	22	70	85	15	61	81	20		31.1	65.1	34	58	82.8	24.8	
Rotherham	64	85	21	65	85	20	56	80	24		33.4	64.6	31.2	63.9	87.3	23.4	
Sheffield	68	86	18	71	86	15	63	81	18		30.3	60.3	30	57.5	80.6	23.1	
Isle of Wight	69	86	17	64	82	18	58	78	20		23.2	47.7	24.5	46.3	75.6	29.3	
Regional Neighbours																	
Bath and North East Somerset	70	90	20	71	88	17	61	84	23		30.5	59.6	29.1	52.6	78.4	25.8	
Bournemouth	65	87	22	70	85	15	61	81	20		31.1	65.1	34	58	82.8	24.8	
Bristol	69	88	19	69	87	18	62	83	21		26.6	58.1	31.5	66.2	85.5	19.3	
Cornwall	73	87	14	70	86	16	63	81	18		34.2	57.8	23.6	58.6	81.7	23.1	
Devon	74	89	15	72	88	16	65	84	19		34.4	61	26.6	56.1	80.1	24	
Dorset	69	88	19	69	87	18	59	82	23		25.2	56.6	31.4	50.4	78.5	28.1	
Gloucestershire	73	91	18	72	88	16	64	85	21		32	64.6	32.6	56.5	83.9	27.4	
North Somerset	71	88	17	76	87	11	64	82	18		30.5	61.6	31.1	56.7	83.5	26.8	
Poole	66	86	20	68	85	17	59	81	22		39.8	60.5	20.7	66.2	81.7	15.5	
Somerset	76	88	12	73	86	13	65	82	17		28.9	59.6	30.7	56.3	83	26.7	
South Gloucestershire	68	88	20	71	88	17	60	83	23		32.7	58.2	25.5	59.2	83.3	24.1	
Swindon	69	87	18	72	86	14	63	81	18		24	56.6	32.6	55.7	79.6	23.9	
Torbay	70	Х		74	Х		64	Х			32.3	64.8	32.5	63	85.3	22.3	
Wiltshire	69	88	19	65	84	19	60	80	20		30	61.1	31.1	50.9	80.5	29.6	