

1 November 2012	ITEM 6
Corporate Parenting Committee	
Education of Looked After Children	
Report of: Natalie White, Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non key
Accountable Head of Service: Barbara Foster Head of Service, Care and Targeted Outcomes	
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson, Director Peoples Services	
This report is public.	
<i>If the report, or a part of this, has been classified as being either confidential or exempt by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, it is hereby marked as being not for publication. The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any confidential or exempt items of business to which the report relates.</i>	
Date of notice given of exempt or confidential report: Not Applicable	
Purpose of Report: To provide members of the Corporate Parenting Committee with an update on the educational outcomes of Looked After Children.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines educational outcomes for Thurrock Looked After Children in 2011/12 and an analysis of the results.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 The members of the Corporate Parenting Committee are asked to note the educational outcomes for LAC in Key Stage 2 and 4 in 2011/12 and the additional provision in place to further support the education of LAC.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1** Department for Education figures published last year showed only 13 per cent of looked-after children achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including

Mathematics and English, compared with 58 per cent nationally. The virtual schools system works by providing additional educational support to children, foster carers and schools. In January 2012 Thurrock appointed a virtual school head teacher in order to develop and co-ordinate the provision and support for LAC. Thurrock's Virtual School for LAC was commended by the recent Ofsted inspection.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

2011/12 Results – End of Key Stages 2 and 4

3.1 End of Key Stage 2 Results

Key Stage 2

Children in Key Stage 2 are aged 7-11 and are in year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Key Stage Two tests are taken at the end of year 6 before children leave to join a secondary school.

ENGLISH	2010/11	2011/12
Cohort numbers	7	9
No. Thurrock LAC achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ English	5	5
% Thurrock LAC achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ English	71.4%	55%
% all Thurrock children who achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ English	X	82.6%
National Data LAC at Key Stage 2 Level 4+ English	53%	X
MATHS	2010/11	2011/12
No. Thurrock LAC achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ Maths	5	5
% Thurrock LAC achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ Maths	71.4%	55%
% all Thurrock children who achieved Key Stage 2 Level 4+ Maths	X	82.9%
National Data LAC Key Stage 2 Level 4+ Maths	52%	X

Level 4

This is the target level of attainment expected for a pupil at the end of Key Stage 2.

3.1.1 Key Stage 2 Level 4+ English LAC - Description of Indicator

The number of looked after children who have been in care for at least one year who were in year 6 (Key Stage 2) and who achieved at least level 4 in English, as a percentage of the total number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in year 6 (Key Stage 2).

Analysis of Results and Cohort

- Whilst the percentage of children in Thurrock who achieved level 4 in English was 82.6% in 2011/12, for LAC the outcome was 55%.
- This outcome is above the national average for LAC.
- The dip in score compared to the previous year is due to an increase in the number of children who have a statement of Special Educational Need in the 2011/12 cohort (25% in 2010/11 increasing to 55.5% in 2011/12 cohort).

3.1.2 Key Stage 2 Level 4+ Maths LAC - Description of Indicator

The number of looked after children who have been in care for at least one year who were in year 6 (Key Stage 2) and who achieved at least level 4 in mathematics, as a percentage of the total number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in year 6 (Key Stage 2).

Analysis of Results and Cohort

- Whilst the percentage of children in Thurrock who achieved level 4 in Maths was 82.9% in 2011/12, for LAC the outcome was 55%.
- This outcome is above the national average for LAC.
- The dip in score compared to the previous year is due to an increase in the number of children who have a statement of Special Educational Need in the 2011/12 cohort (25% in 2010/11 increasing to 55.5% in 2011/12 cohort).

3.2 End of Key Stage 4 Results

Key Stage 4

Children complete Key Stage 4 in year 11 at the end of their secondary schooling. They are 16 years of age at this point.

Thurrock LAC GCSE 2010/11		Thurrock LAC GCSE 2011/12		National Data LAC 2010/11	
Cohort	24	Cohort	22		
GCSE 5 A* – C (inc. E)	44%	GCSE 5 A* – C (inc. E)	5%	GCSE 5 A* – C	12.8%

and M)		Eng. and Maths)		(inc. Eng. and Maths)	
GCSE 5 A* - C	X	GCSE 5 A* - C	32%	GCSE 5 A* - C	31.2%
GCSE 5 A* - G	X	GCSE 5 A* - G	55%	X	X
Special school or Residential care	5	Special school / Residential care	9	X	X
UAS	3	UAS	5	X	X
Attended local schools	15	Attended local schools	7	X	X

5A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics

This is the target level of attainment for a pupil at the end of Key Stage 4. From April 2009 local authorities report on the percentage of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics.

5 A* - C or equivalent (including English and Maths) LAC - Description of Indicator

The number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in year 11 and achieved the equivalent of at least 5 A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics (or equivalent) as a percentage of the total number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in Year 11.

Analysis of Results and Cohort

- Whilst the percentage of LAC nationally who achieved 5 A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including Maths and English in 2010/11 was 12%, the percentage of Thurrock LAC who achieved 5 A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including Maths and English in 2011/12 was 5%.
- Thurrock's significant dip in year on year LAC performance reflects:
 - An increase in the number of LAC who attended special school or residential care in 2011/12 – 41% of this cohort attended a Special School, PRU or specialist residential care unit with an educational facility.
 - An increase in the number of LAC who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UAS) in 2011/12 – 22% are UAS.
 - A significant decrease in the number of LAC who attended local Thurrock schools in 2011/12. This may be a factor in lower grades and is worthy of further investigation.
 - Very small cohorts – it is important to recognise that any change, no matter how small will result in dramatic statistical changes.
- Most LAC achieved or improved on their predicted grades and schools have acknowledged that individual LAC's personal success was in part due to additional tuition provided by the Virtual School.
- 82% of Thurrock LAC who completed Year 11 last year are now attending college or some educational facility.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 This information is required to update members in their role as Corporate Parents.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Not Applicable.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

6.1 In order to improve the future academic outcomes of Thurrock LAC, the Virtual School are putting in place a number of additional support services:

- Year 6 and Year 11 students will be provided with high levels of tuition.
- All Year 6, Year 10 and Year 11 students will be mentored either by their school or Virtual School.
- Carers of students in Year 10 and 11 will be offered training re. study skills and supporting a student taking exams.
- Intensive student tracking from the beginning of Year 9 to ensure that all LAC are actively encouraged to develop high level career aspirations and the skills and grades to support these aspirations.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Michael Jones
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There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Lindsey Marks
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There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Samson DeAlyn
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There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

DfE: Outcomes for children looked by local authorities in England, as of 31st March 2011.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- None

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