

Health and Wellbeing Board Thursday 8th March 2018

CHILDREN'S TRUST BRIEFING TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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1.0 Summary

This regular update briefing commissioned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB) from the Shropshire Children's Trust will focus on Educational Achievement in Shropshire - 'Diminishing the Difference'. This briefing provides assurance to the H&WBB on the work of the Trust and highlights areas for closer consideration by the H&WBB.

2.0 Recommendations

The H&WBB is recommended to note the information in this report and encourage partners to consider how they might raise awareness with families they come into contact with on claiming Free School Meals.

REPORT

3.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

The Children's Trust through its associated health and wellbeing outcomes supports the reduction of inequalities across Shropshire

4.0 Financial Implications

No financial decisions are explicitly required with this report, there may be associated resource implications to be considered for some actions.

5.0 Background

This update briefing provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with regular assurance from the Children's Trust concerning the partnership approach to promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families in Shropshire.

6.0 Educational achievement in Shropshire – Diminishing the Difference

6.1 Background

There are 150 schools across the local authority (LA):

- 127 primary phase schools comprising of 5 infant schools, 5 Junior schools and 117 primary schools
- 19 secondary schools of which 12 are 11-16 schools and the remaining 7 are 11- 18 schools.
- 1 All-through school (3 – 16)
- 2 special schools of which 1 is 3 – 19 and the other 11 – 16
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit

Shropshire has a high proportion of small and very small schools: 10 percent of schools have 50 pupils or less and 23 percent of schools have between 51 and 100 pupils.

Funding for Shropshire schools over time has been very low compared to other local authorities in England. Shropshire is currently (2016 / 2017) ranked 90th of 150 LAs

Shropshire has a small but increasing proportion of academies. 73.2 percent of all schools remain LA maintained (1st November 2017).

93% of schools in Shropshire are good or outstanding compared to the national average of 89% (Data View). Shropshire monitoring (using consistent measures across all schools) confirms that currently 92% of all Shropshire primary (LA maintained and academy) schools are good or outstanding and 83% of all Shropshire (LA maintained and academy) secondary schools are good or outstanding compared to 55% of primary academies and free schools, and 77% of secondary academies.

6.2 Diminishing the Difference

Despite the positive picture painted in the previous paragraph there remains an identified need to diminish the difference (close the gaps) between the achievement of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) and other disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)¹: 2017 attainment data confirms that the proportion of children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) achieving the Good Level of Development (GLD) increased by 4% and that the gap between the proportion of FSM and Non FSM children achieving the GLD reduced by 3% - this remains greater than the gap at national level.

Phonics: 2017 attainment data confirms that the gap between the proportion of disadvantaged children who met the phonics standard at the end of Year 1 and their peers widened (FSM v national other).

Key Stage 1: 2017 attainment data confirms that the gaps between the proportion of FSM pupils who met expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics, and their peers have increased. They are each greater than the national gaps.

Key Stage 2: 2016 attainment data confirms that the gaps between the proportion of disadvantaged pupils who met expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics, and their peers remain greater than the national gaps but they have narrowed marginally from 2016.

KS4-attainment gaps: 2016 data confirms the gaps in the overall attainment (A8) and attainment in English and mathematics between disadvantaged pupils and their peers are greater than the national gaps. 2017 gap data has yet to be released.

KS1-2: 2016 progress data for reading, writing and mathematics confirms that the gaps between the proportion of disadvantaged pupils who made expected progress and their peers are larger than the national gaps. **2017 progress data** confirms that these gaps have diminished marginally.

KS2-4 2016 progress data for overall progress (P8) confirms the gap between the progress of disadvantaged pupils and their peers is broadly equivalent to just over half a grade below the progress of other pupils nationally. The gap in English is just over half a grade below other pupils nationally and the gap for mathematics is just less than half a grade below other pupils nationally.

The Local Authority continues to work with schools to identify priorities for improvement and establish action plans as appropriate to ensure that all Shropshire children and young people receive a good or better education so that they are successful, confident and responsible learners who can make a positive contribution to their local community and to wider society.

Actions include:

- Annual monitoring of outcomes to identify leading practice and weaker practice
- Support and challenge for LA maintained schools to reduce gaps by attached advisers to all schools and especially those with the largest gaps

¹ The [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

- Identification of schools to participate in the 1st round of the strategic school improvement initiative with focus on raising the achievement of disadvantaged pupils which will narrow the gap. The bid was successful and schools are currently engaged in the initiative.

In addition to the actions above the Children's Trust has also set up a time limited task group to improve 'school readiness' of the children of Shropshire. Within their work the group is looking to develop a branded message that will clearly communicate to parents and professionals what school readiness looks like and what simple actions they can take to encourage and develop the skills of children.

6.3 Pupil Premium Funding is available to assist schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers. In order to access this additional funding (£1,320 for pupils in reception to year 6 and £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11, £1900 for looked after children per pupil for 2016/17) each pupil must have been registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years.

However, many schools may be missing out on the pupil premium as families do not take up their entitlement to Free School Meals. This might be due to a lack of knowledge or often due to a perceived stigma associated with claiming FSM.

In taking a whole system approach the partners of the Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider how they might raise awareness with the families they come into contact with, who may be eligible for Free School Meals.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-link-between-pupil-health-and-wellbeing-and-attainment>

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Nick Bardsley

Local Member

Appendices