

**REPORT TO:** Education Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 31 May 2016

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Reporting on Senior Phase Attainment (National Benchmarking Measures) to 2015

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the trends in attainment and achievement in the Senior Phase in East Lothian, including Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) performance, for academic session 2014/2015, using the “National Benchmarking Measures” and breadth and depth data from Insight.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i. Note that the data contained within the report is based on the four “National Benchmarking Measures” and Breadth and Depth measures, focusing on the performance of Leavers cohorts over the last five years to 2015.
  - ii. Note that the four National Benchmarking Measures reported by the Scottish Government Insight tool in February 2016 show that attainment and post school participation in East Lothian has improved overall over the five-year period to 2015.
  - iii. Note that further improvements still need to be made at SCQF Levels 5 and SCQF Levels 6 or better for the Literacy and Numeracy measures and overall in the Middle 60% attaining grouping to bring East Lothian’s performance more in line with the Virtual Comparator.
  - iv. Note the examination results continue to inform and guide actions in each of the six secondary schools’ School Improvement Plans.

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each year young people in secondary schools are presented for National Courses and Units certificated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).
- 3.2 The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is used as the basis for reporting attainment and achievement and allows comparison of the wide range of Scottish qualifications and covers achievements from school, college, university and many work-based qualifications.
- 3.3 There are 12 SCQF Levels. SCQF Level 1 is the least demanding and SCQF Level 12 the most demanding. In schools, students work towards qualifications from SCQF Level 1 to 7 through a range of SQA courses.
- 3.4 **Table 1** below shows where the different SQA awards that our school pupils work towards, including the new National Qualifications, sit within the SCQF framework and in relation to previous or existing qualifications that they have or will replace.

**Table 1: Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)**

SCQF Level	New Qualification	Previous/ existing qualification
SCQF 1	National 1	Access 1
SCQF 2	National 2	Access 2
SCQF 3	National 3	Access 3, Standard Grade Foundation Level (Grades 5 and 6)
SCQF 4	National 4	Standard Grade General Level (Grades 3 and 4) Intermediate 1
SCQF 5	National 5	Standard Grade Credit Level (Grades 1 and 2) Intermediate 2
SCQF 6	Higher (new)	Higher
SCQF 7	Advanced Higher (new)	Advanced Higher

- 3.5 The new National Courses have been introduced on a phased basis. 2014/15 saw the second year of certification of the new National Qualifications (National 1 to 5) introduced under Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) with young people in secondary schools across Scotland being presented for the first time for the new Higher.
- 3.6 Session 2014/15 was also the final year that existing Access, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications were available.
- 3.7 Curriculum for Excellence provides schools with flexibility to develop curriculum models tailored to individual pupils and local circumstances, allowing young people to achieve a range of awards and qualifications at the most appropriate time for them. As such, the qualifications undertaken by pupils both in 2013/14 and 2014/15 vary significantly, with some taking a mix of existing and new, and following different progression pathways.

- 3.8 The dual presentation of existing and new qualifications over the last two academic sessions and different approaches to presentation and delivery across the SCQF Levels makes direct comparisons of attainment between 2015 and previous years extremely complex both nationally and locally.
- 3.9 In East Lothian, young people achieve qualifications at different stages throughout the senior phase (S4 to S6). In almost all our secondary schools, young people at S4 achieved a range of qualifications at National 3, 4 and 5. One secondary school, with the agreement of parents, opted to by-pass National 5 qualifications in some subjects at the end of S4 in 2014 and 2015 with those young people sitting a two-year Higher course for examination in May of S5, 2015 and 2016. Presentation approaches also differed between schools and from previous years.
- 3.10 **Analysing SQA attainment & other achievement data through “Insight”**
- 3.11 “Insight” focuses on performance in the senior phase across four nationally agreed “National Benchmarking Measures”:
- Increasing post-school participation (shown as the percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination)
  - Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy (shown as the percentage of School Leavers attaining Literacy and Numeracy)
  - Improving attainment for all (shown as the Average Total Tariff Score of School Leavers)
  - Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers (shown as the Average Total Tariff Score versus Deprivation)
- 3.12 These four national measures focus on the total achievements recorded at the point at which the young person leaves school instead of at the end of S4, S5 and S6. The leavers' cohort is the most important since it is the most consistent point of comparison given the various routes and pathways available to schools for using with their young people as they progress through the senior phase.
- 3.13 Course breadth and depth data for school leavers is also provided in this report. Breadth and depth measures are heavily influenced by a school's curricular model therefore the 2014 and 2015 results may not be fully comparable with previous years. In particular, differences between the assessment arrangements for the new National Qualifications at SCQFs Level 3 to 5, compared with the previous Standard Grade qualification means that the 2014 and 2015 and earlier years' data is not directly comparable. Similarly, the mix of existing and new Higher qualifications in 2015 and the variety of progression pathways that candidates would

have undertaken for the Higher qualifications, the 2015 Higher results may also not be fully comparable with previous years.

- 3.14 Breadth and depth measures used in this report relate to the percentage of school leavers attaining SQA accredited awards at grades A-C at SCQF Levels 5, SCQF Level 6 and SCQF Level 7 or better at the point of leaving school. Percentages are based on cumulative awards, calculated as a proportion of the relevant school leavers cohort.
- 3.15 The leavers' cohort will include a mixture of pupils from S4, S5 and S6.
- 3.16 The data in this report is taken from the February 2016 release of Insight and reflects the most up to date position on school leaver's attainment.
- 3.17 The attainment figures in this report are based on the 'Latest and Best' achievement of School Leavers in the Senior Phase and do not include attainment gained prior to S4. The figures only include attainment in SCQF credit-rated qualifications that have been matched to an individual pupil via their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN).
- 3.18 For each measure, three year averages and a 'Trend' are presented along with the annual performance to provide an indication of an overall declining or improving trend by East Lothian schools in relation to the Virtual Comparator and/or the National Establishment.
- 3.19 The 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the number of years given. A positive value indicates an improving trend on average over the period and a negative value indicates a declining trend.
- 3.20 When the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 as a rule of thumb provided by the Scottish Government), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant.
- 3.21 As per the Insight protocol, data is suppressed publicly where it relates to a cohort or part of a cohort of fewer than ten to prevent the identification of individuals.
- 3.22 Where there is a statistical significance between the school and the Virtual Comparator's performance, the figure has a bold border around it in the table it's presented in.
- 3.23 In East Lothian we operate inclusive schools and there are some pupils who pass examinations at SCQF levels 1 and 2, which are not included in the analysis though as key benchmark measures.
- 3.24 Education Authorities are no longer benchmarked against a set of comparator schools or authorities. Instead, Insight creates a Virtual Comparator for each school and Education Authority made up of pupils from schools in other local authorities around Scotland who have similar background characteristics to the pupils in the school or Education Authority in question offering a fairer comparison.

3.25 The Virtual comparator is, therefore, considered to be the key benchmark rather than the National Establishment (i.e. national average) for helping schools and Education Authorities to understand their strengths and areas for improvement.

3.26 General information on Insight is available online at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/seniorphasebenchmarking>

### 3.27 **EAST LOTHIAN PERFORMANCE TO 2014/15**

3.28 This report focuses on the four “National Benchmarking Measures” and the breadth and depth course measures based on the cumulative achievements of all young people who have left school in the five years to 2015 and will explore how the Education Authority has performed over this five-year period.

### 3.29 **Highlights**

3.30 Overall, the four National Benchmarking Measures (NBMs) reported by the Scottish Government Insight tool in the February 2016 update indicate that attainment and post school participation in East Lothian has improved overall over the five-year period to 2014/15.

3.31 Further improvements still need to be made in post-school participation and Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Levels 5 and 6 or better and overall in the Middle 60% attaining grouping to bring East Lothian’s performance more in line with the Virtual Comparator.

3.32 East Lothian’s performance in 2015 is typically higher than the national trend with the exception of the percentage of school leavers in positive destinations and Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Levels 5 and 6.

3.33 East Lothian’s performance in 2015 across the four measures in relation to the Virtual Comparator is typically in line with or lower than its comparator with the exception of the total average tariff scores of the Lowest attaining 20% and Highest attaining 20% groups and the percentage of school leavers attaining Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 3 and 4 or better which is higher.

3.34 The following charts (Figures 1 to 5), tables (2 to 12) and commentary detail the progress made by East Lothian schools against our Virtual Comparator and National Establishment in relation to each National Benchmarking Measure and reported Breadth & Depth measure by school leavers over the last 5 years.

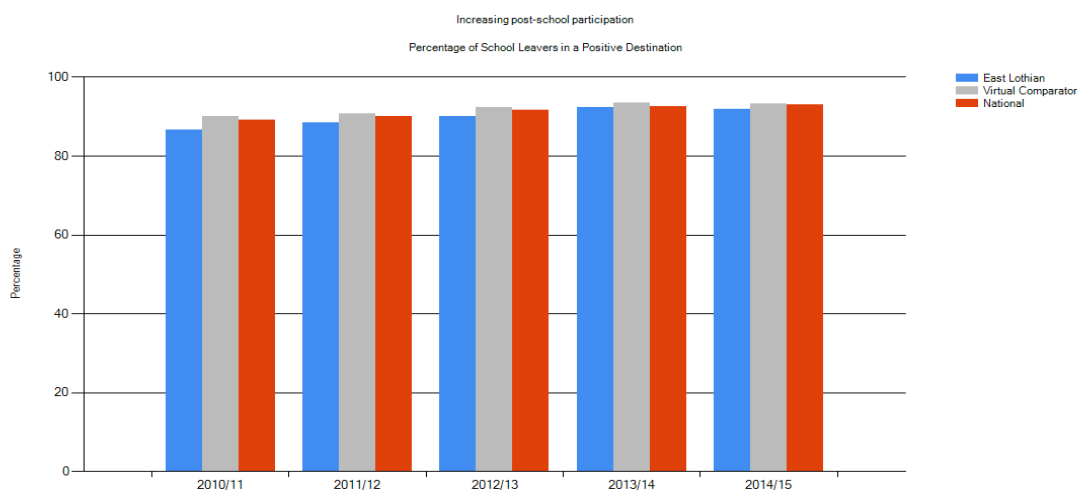
### 3.35 **National Benchmarking Measure: Increasing Post-School Participation**

3.36 East Lothian’s percentage performance shows an overall improved trend over the last five years with a slight drop in performance of 0.5% in 2015 on the previous year.

- 3.37 Despite improving its percentage performance and closing the gap, East Lothian remains lower than both the Virtual Comparator and National Average over the five years.
- 3.38 The following chart and tables detail the progress made by East Lothian against our Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment in relation to the percentage of school leavers in an initial positive destination (i.e. approximately three months after leaving school).
- 3.39 The 'Increasing Post-School Participation' measure features as one of the Strategic long-term outcome indicators in Outcome 4 of our Single Outcome Agreement, with a focus on all school leavers and looked after (LAC) young people. It also features as an indicator in Contributory Outcome 4.1 with a focus on school leavers with additional support needs (ASN). As such, this section includes additional analyses of school leavers in a positive destination for LAC and ASN pupils.
- 3.40 **Figure 1** and **Table 2** overleaf show the percentage of all the pupils who left East Lothian schools in each year who went on to a positive destination. **Tables 3 to 5** show the percentage of pupils who were looked after or had additional support needs who left East Lothian schools and went on to a positive destination.
- 3.41 The data relating to looked after school leavers in East Lothian is based on small cohorts on average of only 10 or 11 school leavers on average. As stated previously in paragraph 3.18, when the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 pupils), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant. Therefore, care must be taken when drawing any conclusions about performance over time in relation to looked after pupils.
- 3.42 Positive Destinations include Higher Education, Further Education, Training, Voluntary Work, Employment and Activity Agreements. Higher Education includes degree courses, HNDs, HNCs, teacher training or any programme above SCQF level 7, including those with a deferred unconditional place; Further Education is any full-time education that is not Higher Education (e.g. National Certificates or National Qualifications) and where the pupil is not on a school roll; Training is where the leaver receives a grant or allowance (e.g. national training programme, Get Ready for Work, Local Authority or 3rd sector programmes); and Employment includes pupils in training while in employment such as Modern Apprenticeships.

Figure 1.../

**Figure 1: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations) since 2010/11**



**Table 2: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations)**

	% school leavers in a positive destination						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	3 yr ave	5 yr trend <sup>1</sup>
<b>East Lothian</b>	86.5	88.4	90.0	92.4	91.9	91.4	1.3
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	90.1	90.7	92.3	93.5	93.3	93.0	0.8
<b>National</b>	89.1	90.1	91.7	92.5	93.0	92.4	1.0

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the stated number of years.

3.43 In 2014/15, East Lothian's performance shows a 0.5% decrease on the previous year and is 1.6% and 1.0% below the Virtual Comparator and national average respectively.

3.44 The percentage of leavers in a positive destination is lower than both the Virtual Comparator and the National Average over the five years but shows an improved trend over the same period, and is not considered to be significantly lower than the Virtual Comparator or National Average in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

3.45 Since 2010/11 the percentage gap between East Lothian and its Virtual Comparator has reduced by 2.2 percentage points and the gap with the National average has reduced by 1.5 percentage points.

**Table 3: Percentage of LAC At Home school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations)**

	% LAC at home leavers in a positive destination						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	3 yr ave	Trend <sup>1</sup>
<b>East Lothian</b>	50.0		44.4		83.3	59.3	16.7
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	77.5		82.2		81.7	80.5	2.1
<b>National</b>	58.1	61.5	64.0	70.7	72.1	68.9	3.5

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the stated number of years that data is available for.

- 3.46 In 2014/15, East Lothian leavers who were looked after at home show a 38.9% increase on the previous reported year and are 1.7 and 11.2 percentage points above the Virtual Comparator and national average respectively (**see Table 3 above**).
- 3.47 East Lothian shows an overall positive trend over the last 5 years, in contrast to the Virtual Comparator and National Average, which show a positive five-year trend. Leavers who were looked after at home account for less than 1.0% of the total leavers' cohort on average in East Lothian.
- 3.48 The data in **Table 3** for East Lothian is based on an average cohort of 10 school leavers a year over the five-year period. As stated previously in paragraph 3.18, when the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 pupils), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant.

**Table 4: Percentage of LAC Away from Home school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations)**

	% LAC away from home leavers in a positive destination						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	3 yr ave	5 yr trend <sup>1</sup>
East Lothian	40.0	85.7	64.3	63.6	36.4	54.8	-0.9
Virtual Comparator	76.0	77.1	82.1	92.7	88.2	87.7	3.0
National	69.3	72.4	78.0	76.0	76.7	76.9	1.9

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the stated number of years.

- 3.49 In 2014/15, East Lothian leavers who were looked after away from home show a 27.3% decrease on the previous year and are 52 and 40 percentage points below the Virtual Comparator and national average respectively (**see Table 4 above**).
- 3.50 East Lothian shows an overall negative trend over the last 5 years, in contrast to the Virtual Comparator and National Average, which both show a positive five-year trend. Leavers who were looked after away from home account for less than 1.0% of the total leavers' cohort on average in East Lothian.
- 3.51 The data in Table 4 for East Lothian is based on an average cohort of 10 school leavers a year over the five-year period. Again, as stated previously in paragraph 3.18, when the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 pupils), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant.

**Table 5: Percentage of ASN school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations)**

	% ASN leavers in a positive destination						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	3 yr ave	4 yr trend <sup>1</sup>
East Lothian	78.7	82.2	79.7	85.9	81.1	82.2	-0.4
Virtual Comparator	79.9	83.8	88.1	88.3	89.0	88.5	1.7
National	81.6	84.5	87.2	87.4	88.2	87.6	1.2

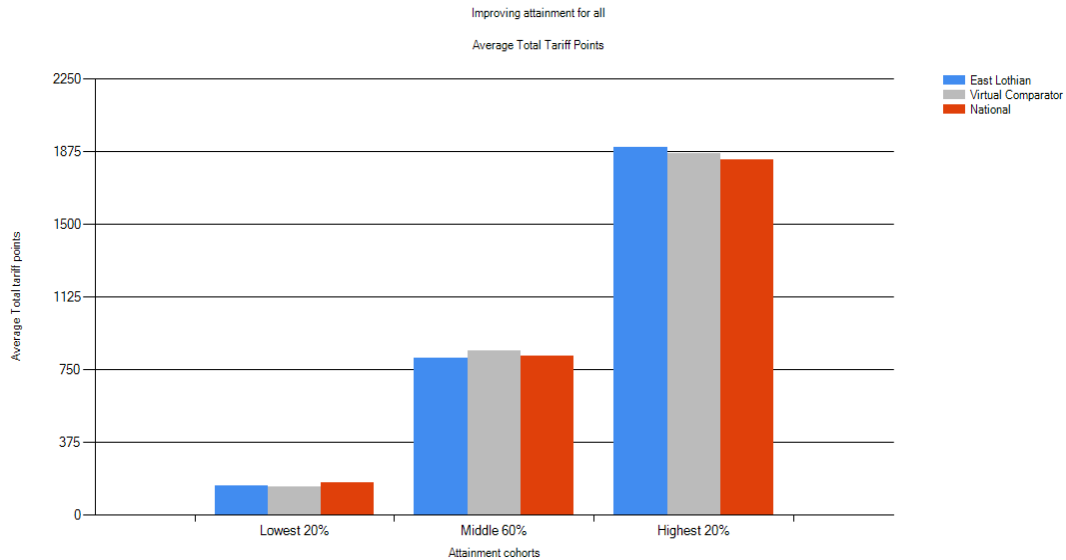
<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the stated number of years.



- 3.52 In 2014/15, East Lothian leavers with an additional support need show a 4.8% decrease on the previous year and are 7.9 and 7.1 percentage points below the Virtual Comparator and national average respectively (see Table 5 above).
- 3.53 The four-year trend indicates a slight drop in trend with the National average and Virtual Comparator both showing an improved trend over the same period. Leavers with an additional support need account for 21% of the total leavers' cohort on average in East Lothian over the last four years.
- 3.54 *Note: In 2010, the Scottish Government started to collect information on additional support needs in a different way. Information on reasons for support and nature of support was collected separately for each type of additional support need. There was also inclusion of a new category, 'other' which include child plans (separate category for child plans introduced in 2011), short term or temporary support and any other support not covered under IEP and CSP. The inclusion of 'other' category contributed to a rise in additional support needs pupil numbers. As a result, we have used a four-year trend for ASN in this measure instead of a five-year trend.*
- 3.55 **National Benchmarking Measure: Improving Attainment for All**
- 3.56 East Lothian's performance shows an overall improved trend over the last five years within each of the three attainment groups with the Highest 20% group improving its score in 2015 on the previous year and the Lowest 20% and Middle 40% dropping slightly in 2015.
- 3.57 The 'Improving Attainment for All' measure features as one of the Strategic long-term outcome indicators in Outcome 4 of our Single Outcome Agreement, with a focus on all school leavers. It also features as an indicator in Contributory Outcome 4.1 with a focus on school leavers who were looked after (LAC). As such, this section includes additional analyses of LAC school leavers.
- 3.58 This measure groups school leavers according to their whole-school attainment as measured by their total tariff points into three attainment groups. The three groups are the lowest-scoring 20 per cent of pupils, the highest-scoring 20 per cent and the middle 60 per cent. For each pupil the tariff score is the total of the tariff points associated with each of the eligible latest and best awards they have achieved at the point of leaving school. Awards that have been superseded by the pupil progressing to a higher-level award in the same subject are excluded, as are awards achieved when the pupil was in S1–S3. For example if a pupil has National 5 English and Higher English then only the points for the Higher are included. These tariff scores are then averaged over all the pupils in the particular attainment group.
- 3.59 **Figure 2** below and **Table 6** overleaf detail the progress made by East Lothian against our Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment in relation to the average total tariff scores of all school leavers within each

attainment group. **Figure 3** and **Table 7** detail the progress made by East Lothian school leavers who were looked after away from home by the local authority against our Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment. Note there is no data for LAC leavers at home in East to report on in this benchmarking measure in 2014/15.

**Figure 2: the average total tariff score of all school leavers within each attainment group in 2014/15.**



3.60 Figure 2 shows the tariff scores for the performance of the highest performing 20%, the middle performing 60% and the lowest performing 20% in 2014/15. East Lothian's performance is roughly in line with its Virtual Comparator and the national average across all three attainment groups.

**Table 6: Average Total Tariff Scores of each Attainment Group by Year of Leaving (All School Leavers)**

Establishment	Year of Leaving	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%	Number in Cohort
East Lothian	2010/11	126	<b>696</b>	1712	1092
	2011/12	132	<b>769</b>	1810	953
	2012/13	139	775	1818	1036
	2013/14	181	853	1868	1045
	2014/15	154	813	1899	1013
	3yr ave	158	814	1862	1031
	5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	7	29	47	
Virtual Comparator	2010/11	139	761	1772	10920
	2011/12	141	816	1818	9530
	2012/13	139	793	1825	10360
	2013/14	174	875	1851	10450
	2014/15	146	849	1866	10130
	3yr ave	153	839	1847	10313
	5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	2	22	24	

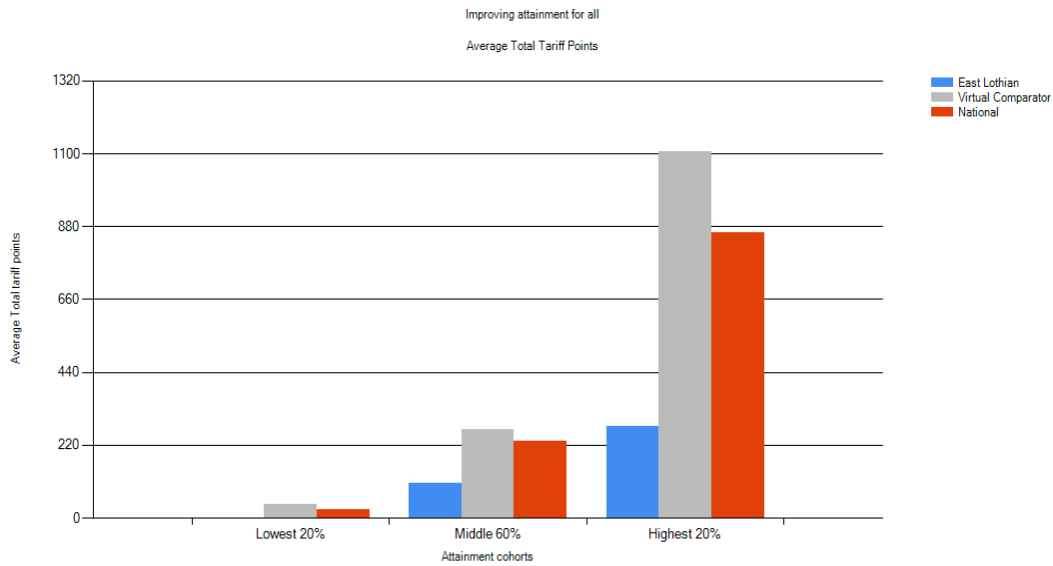
Establishment	Year of Leaving	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%	Number in Cohort
National	2010/11	127	702	1736	53209
	2011/12	141	756	1780	49744
	2012/13	151	755	1785	51632
	2013/14	162	793	1809	51335
	2014/15	168	820	1832	52433
	3yr ave	160	789	1809	51800
	5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	10	30	24	

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual score point change over the stated number of years

- 3.61 **Lowest 20% Attaining Group** - While the performance in 2015 does show a drop on the previous year, East Lothian shows an overall improved trend over the five years with a three-year average just above and below the Virtual Comparator and National Average respectively. Where the East Lothian score is above or below the Virtual Comparator and the National Average it is not considered to be significantly so in any of the reported years.
- 3.62 **Middle 60% Attaining Group** - East Lothian shows a fluctuating but overall improved trend since 2011 similar to the Virtual Comparator. The three-year average is below the Virtual Comparator but above the National Average. Again, where the East Lothian score is above or below the Virtual Comparator and the National Average it is only considered to be significantly lower than the Virtual Comparator in 2011 and 2012.
- 3.63 **Highest 20% Attaining Group** - East Lothian shows a continually improving trend year on year over the five years at a higher rate than both the Virtual Comparator & National Average with the three-year average just above both the Virtual Comparator and National Average. Where the East Lothian score is above or below either the Virtual Comparator or National Average it is not considered to be significantly so in any of the reported years.
- 3.64 **Reducing the Attainment Gap** – While the Lowest attaining 20% group in East Lothian shows a slight improvement over the last five years, the between the Lowest 20% and the Middle 60% and Highest 20% has increased slightly by 22 points and 40 points respectively over the same period as the other groups have improved at a slightly higher rate.

Figure 3.../

**Figure 3: The average total tariff score of all school leavers who were looked after away from home within each attainment group in 2014/15.**



3.65 Figure 3 above shows the 2014/15 tariff scores for the performance of the highest performing 20%, the middle performing 60% and the lowest performing 20% groups of school leavers who were looked after away from home. East Lothian’s performance in 2014/15 is lower than both the Virtual Comparator and the National Average across all three attainment groups.

3.66 The data above for East Lothian is based on a cohort of only 11 school leavers. As stated previously in paragraph 3.18, when the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 pupils), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant. Table 7 overleaf explores the performance of the Looked After Away from Home Leavers’ Cohorts since 2010/11.

**Table 7: Average Total Tariff Scores of each Attainment Group by Year of Leaving (Looked after away from home)**

Establishment	Year of Leaving	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%	Number in Cohort
East Lothian	2010/11				5
	2011/12				7
	2012/13	47	134	481	14
	2013/14	134	236	664	11
	2014/15	0	104	276	11
	3yr ave	60	158	474	12
	3yr Trend <sup>1</sup>	-24	-15	-103	
Virtual Comparator	2010/11				50
	2011/12				70
	2012/13	32	164	546	140
	2013/14	132	422	1215	110
	2014/15	42	268	1107	110
	3yr ave	69	285	956	120
	3yr Trend <sup>1</sup>	5	52	281	

Establishment	Year of Leaving	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%	Number in Cohort
National	2010/11	11	138	606	381
	2011/12	15	172	619	399
	2012/13	27	176	701	445
	2013/14	24	225	837	459
	2014/15	25	233	861	494
	3yr ave	25	211	800	466
	5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	4	24	64	

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual score point change over the stated number of years

3.67 **Table 7** above shows the performance of the Looked After Away From Home School Leavers' Cohort over the five-year period. Data for years 2010/11 and 2011/12 is suppressed in Insight due to the size of the cohorts. It is therefore not possible to get a full picture of progress over the five-year period. However, the data available for the remaining years would suggest a drop overall across the three attainment groups between 2012/13 and 2014/15.

### 3.68 National Benchmarking Measure: Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

3.69 East Lothian's performance shows an improving trend over the last five years at SCQF Levels 3 and 4 with its highest performance to date in 2015. At SCQF Levels 5 and SCQF Levels 6 or better the trend has fluctuated more but shows a slight improvement over the five-year period.

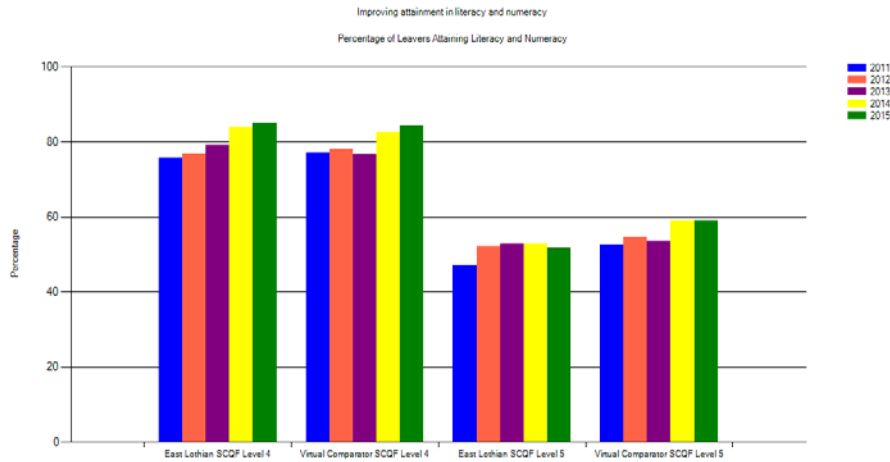
3.70 While the performance has improved across the SCQF levels, the performance at SCQF Levels 5 and 6 or better remains lower than the Virtual Comparator.

3.71 **Figure 4** overleaf details the progress made by East Lothian against our Virtual Comparator in relation to the percentage of the pupils who left in each year who had achieved both literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 4 or better or SCQF level 5 or better (as being the agreed national benchmarks). **Table 8** further breaks the data down to those who achieved Literacy and/or numeracy over the same five-year period to at least SCQF Levels 3 to Level 6.

3.72 To achieve the given level of literacy a pupil needs to achieve the literacy unit at that level, or English or Gaidhlig course at that level. For numeracy the pupil needs to achieve the numeracy unit at that level or a Mathematics or Lifeskills Maths at that level.

Figure 4.../

**Figure 4: Percentage of all school leavers attaining both Literacy and Numeracy to at least SCQF Level 4 or SCQF Level 5 since 2010/11**



3.73

Figure 4 above shows the percentage of school leavers achieving literacy and numeracy levels. East Lothian's performance at SCQF Level 4 or better shows an improving trend over the five-year period with the performance each year typically in line with the Virtual Comparator.

3.74 At SCQF Level 5 or better, East Lothian's performance prior to 2013 is typically in line with the Virtual Comparator but is significantly lower than its Virtual Comparator in 2014 and 2015.

3.75 **Table 8** below shows the percentage of school leavers achieving literacy and numeracy cumulatively or separately since 2010/11 at each SCQF Level or better. Figures are provided for both the Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment.

**Table 8: Literacy and Numeracy achievement for all pupils that left<sup>2</sup> the school in each year from 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Year	Literacy & Numeracy <sup>3</sup>				Literacy <sup>3</sup>				Numeracy <sup>3</sup>			
	3+	4+	5+	6+	3+	4+	5+	6+	3+	4+	5+	6+
<b>East Lothian</b>												
2010/11	87.73	75.64	47.16	18.50	90.84	87.64	64.47	<b>41.12</b>	92.12	79.58	<b>49.63</b>	<b>23.63</b>
2011/12	91.19	76.81	52.05	<b>24.03</b>	93.49	89.30	<b>66.00</b>	46.27	93.60	79.22	<b>54.88</b>	<b>28.12</b>
2012/13	89.58	79.05	52.90	<b>22.97</b>	93.15	90.93	68.15	44.69	93.92	<b>81.37</b>	55.02	<b>26.93</b>
2013/14	93.88	83.92	<b>52.73</b>	<b>23.54</b>	96.56	94.07	<b>70.91</b>	<b>44.98</b>	94.74	84.98	<b>55.98</b>	<b>29.86</b>
2014/15	<b>94.47</b>	85.00	<b>51.73</b>	<b>23.89</b>	<b>96.64</b>	93.88	<b>69.89</b>	48.37	<b>95.95</b>	86.28	<b>55.68</b>	<b>27.34</b>
3yr ave	92.64	82.66	52.45	23.47	95.45	92.96	69.65	46.01	94.87	84.21	55.56	28.04
5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	1.69	2.34	1.14	1.35	1.45	1.56	1.36	1.81	0.96	1.68	1.51	0.93
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>												
2010/11	89.79	77.10	52.59	26.58	93.62	90.31	65.41	43.96	92.36	78.86	56.67	31.80
2011/12	90.07	77.91	54.69	28.04	93.60	90.51	68.50	47.56	92.62	79.60	58.33	32.82
2012/13	90.42	76.64	53.39	27.09	93.95	90.47	67.08	46.45	92.78	78.25	56.88	31.75
2013/14	92.19	82.50	58.99	29.92	95.38	92.79	73.62	51.27	93.88	83.85	62.42	34.99
2014/15	92.46	84.43	59.00	28.68	95.16	92.25	73.60	50.14	94.11	86.52	62.55	33.47
3yr ave	91.69	81.19	57.13	28.56	94.83	91.84	71.43	49.29	93.59	82.87	60.62	33.40

Year	Literacy & Numeracy <sup>3</sup>				Literacy <sup>3</sup>				Numeracy <sup>3</sup>			
	3+	4+	5+	6+	3+	4+	5+	6+	3+	4+	5+	6+
5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	0.67	1.83	1.60	0.53	0.38	0.48	2.05	1.55	0.44	1.92	1.47	0.42
<b>National</b>												
2010/11	89.45	74.88	49.31	24.29	93.27	89.47	62.60	41.21	92.09	76.73	53.37	29.19
2011/12	90.75	76.69	52.23	26.14	94.32	90.75	66.09	44.19	93.17	78.30	56.06	31.04
2012/13	91.62	77.92	52.47	25.39	94.96	91.70	66.90	44.29	93.76	79.39	56.13	29.95
2013/14	92.35	81.24	55.29	26.74	95.54	92.33	70.06	46.49	94.09	82.80	59.11	31.65
2014/15	93.47	85.76	58.62	27.14	95.98	93.51	74.58	49.10	95.00	87.45	62.45	31.69
3yr ave	92.48	81.64	55.46	26.42	95.49	92.51	70.51	46.63	94.28	83.21	59.23	31.10
5yr trend <sup>1</sup>	1.01	2.72	2.33	0.71	0.68	1.01	3.00	1.97	0.73	2.68	2.27	0.63

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual percentage point change over the number of years given.

<sup>2</sup> In each year there will be leavers from different stages and so each year will contain leavers from a range of cohorts.

<sup>3</sup> Literacy and/or numeracy by SCQF level achieved. Thus the literacy 3+ column shows the percentage of the cohort that have achieved literacy at SCQF level 3 or above.

3.76 **Literacy & Numeracy Combined** – As an aggregated measure Table 8 above shows a fluctuating but overall improved trend in East Lothian across the four SCQF levels over the five-year period. In relation to its Virtual Comparator, East Lothian's performance has moved from being slightly below to above at SCQF Levels 3 and 4 or better and in 2015 East Lothian's performance at SCQF Level 3 or better is 2% higher than the Virtual Comparator and considered to be statistically significant by Insight.

3.77 At SCQF Levels 5 and 6 or better while the East Lothian performance shows an overall improved trend over the five-year period, the performance is on average 4% to 5% below the Virtual Comparator and considered to be statistically significant by Insight in 2014 and 2015 for SCQF Level 5 and between 2012 and 2015 for SCQF Level 6.

3.78 Separately, the trend for Literacy and for Numeracy in East Lothian is similar to the aggregate trend, showing a typically fluctuating but overall improved trend over the five years with the performance at SCQF Level 3 or better considered as being statistically greater than the Virtual Comparator in 2015 for Literacy and for Numeracy. In addition, Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or better in 2013 is also considered to be statistically greater than the Virtual Comparator by Insight.

3.79 Again, similar to the aggregate measure, Literacy and Numeracy performance separately in East Lothian, while it has improved across the SCQF levels, the performance at SCQF Levels 5 and 6 or better is typically lower than the Virtual Comparator.

3.80 Literacy at SCQF Level 5 and 6 or better in East Lothian is on average 2% to 3% lower than the Virtual Comparator and is considered to be statistically significant by Insight in 2012, 2014 and 2015 for SCQF Level 5 and in 2011 and 2014 for SCQF Level 6.

3.81 In Numeracy at SCQF Level 5 and 6 or better, East Lothian's performance is on average 5% to 6% lower than the Virtual Comparator and is considered to be statistically significant by Insight across the years for both SCQF Level 5 and SCQF Level 6 with the exception of SCQF Level 5 in 2013.

3.82 **National Benchmarking Measure: Attainment versus Deprivation**

3.83 East Lothian's performance in this measure shows a fluctuating but overall slightly improved trend across the ten deciles over the last five years.

3.84 The 'Attainment versus Deprivation' measure features as an indicator in Contributory Outcome 4.1 of our Single Outcome Agreement with a focus on all school leavers.

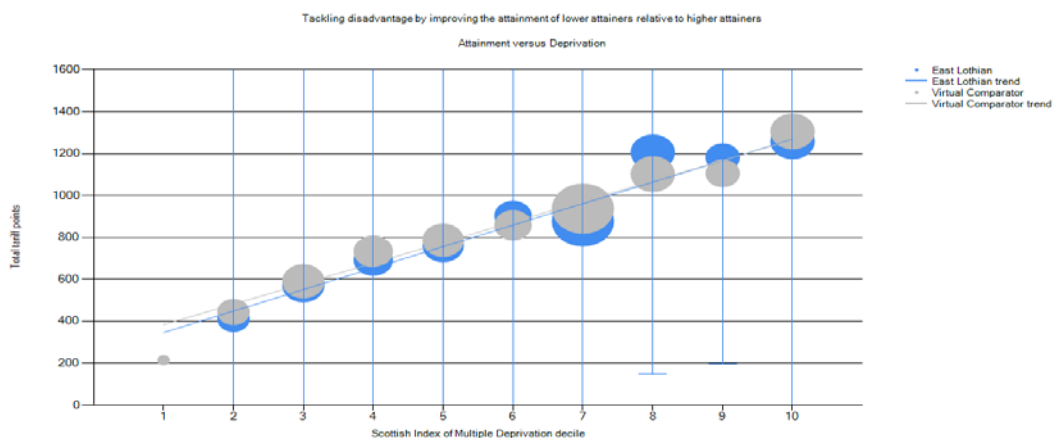
3.85 This measure considers attainment of school leavers broken down into ten deciles according to the 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Decile 1 refers to the attainment of school leavers whose postcodes are in the 10% most deprived datazones in Scotland, while decile 10 refers to school leavers with post codes in the top 10% of the least deprived (most affluent) datazones according to SIMD.

3.86 **Figure 5** and **Table 10** detail the progress made by East Lothian against our Virtual Comparator in relation to the average total tariff scores within each SIMD decile band for all school leavers.

3.87 The grey circles in Figure 5 below represent the Virtual Comparator and the blue circles represent East Lothian. The circles change in size and broadly represent the proportion of young people from the total cohort appearing in each of the circles.

3.88 The whiskers represent the range of scores (maximum and minimum) of the school's pupils within each decile.

**Figure 5: Average tariff scores for all school leavers within each SIMD Band in 2013/14 compared with the Virtual Comparator**



3.89 The position of East Lothian's circles in Figure 5 above compared to the virtual comparator circles along the trend line would suggest that East



Lothian's performance in 2014/15 is roughly in line with its Virtual Comparator across the ten SIMD deciles.

3.90 It is important to be aware of the numbers of young people appearing in each of these deciles. This is represented proportionately in the graph by the area of the circles. The circles in decile 2 is relatively small, reflecting the fact that it represents only 5% of the leavers' cohort in East Lothian. Table 9 below shows the full breakdown of school leavers living within each of the ten SIMD deciles in East Lothian over the last five years.

**Table 9: Percentage of School Leavers' cohort in East Lothian within each SIMD Decile Band since 2010/11**

Establishment	Year of leaving	% of Total Cohort within each SIMD Decile Band										
		Total No. in Cohort	Most Deprived 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Least Deprived 10
East Lothian	2010/11	1092	0.0	4.3	10.5	10.4	9.9	8.8	27.2	9.8	6.6	12.5
	2011/12	953	0.1	4.6	11.0	9.8	11.4	9.0	25.3	10.4	6.2	12.2
	2012/13	1036	0.1	5.2	10.7	9.9	10.5	7.5	27.8	8.8	7.2	12.3
	2013/14	1045	0.0	4.5	11.3	7.4	10.9	7.9	27.5	9.7	7.2	13.8
	2014/15	1013	0.0	4.8	10.9	8.6	9.9	7.6	28.3	11.9	5.8	12.2
	3 Yr Ave	1031	0.0	4.8	11.0	8.6	10.4	7.7	27.9	10.1	6.7	12.8
	5 Yr Ave	1028	0.0	4.7	10.9	9.2	10.5	8.2	27.2	10.1	6.6	12.6

3.91 **Table 9** above shows that only 16% of the leavers' cohort on average lies within deciles 1-3 (30% most deprived areas in Scotland according to SIMD), 29% within deciles 8-10 (30% least deprived areas in Scotland) and 55% within deciles 4-7 (the remaining middle 40% of SIMD areas).

**Table 10: Percentage of School Leavers' cohort in East Lothian within each SIMD Decile Band since 2010/11**

Establishment	Year of leaving	SIMD Decile Band										
		Total No. in Cohort	Most Deprived 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Least Deprived 10
East Lothian	2010/11	1092		393	559	563	613	800	784	1008	968	1161
	2011/12	953	122	549	497	614	734	871	900	1060	<b>896</b>	1271
	2012/13	1036	414	475	572	556	757	735	894	1145	1031	1283
	2013/14	1045		514	723	680	833	802	922	1093	1056	1292
	2014/15	1013		412	572	692	761	903	877	1206	1181	1257
	3 Yr Ave		268	467	622	643	784	813	898	1148	1089	1277
	5 Yr Trend <sup>1</sup>			292	5	3	32	37	26	23	50	53
Virtual Comparator	2010/11	10920		434	542	646	660	842	855	1042	1030	1236
	2011/12	9530	285	494	540	665	727	900	957	1034	1019	1288
	2012/13	10360	618	466	582	565	738	782	922	1042	1119	1308
	2013/14	10450		570	684	693	881	857	945	1022	1031	1309
	2014/15	10130	215	444	591	733	787	858	937	1102	1105	1305
	3 Yr Ave		373	493	619	664	802	832	935	1055	1085	1307
	5 Yr Trend <sup>1</sup>		-35	3	12	22	32	4	21	15	19	17

<sup>1</sup> 'Trend' is the average annual score point change over the stated number of years

- 3.92 **Table 10** above shows a fluctuating but overall slightly improved trend across the ten deciles in the average total tariff scores for school leavers' within East Lothian. East Lothian's scores are roughly in line with its Virtual Comparator across the reported, sitting typically just below the Virtual Comparator across the ten SIMD deciles over the five-year period with the exception of decile 8 which has been just above the Virtual Comparator over the last four years.
- 3.93 Where the East Lothian score is above or below the Virtual Comparator it is not considered to be significantly so with the exception of decile 9 in 2011/12 which was significantly lower than the Virtual Comparator.
- 3.94 **Course Measure: Breadth & Depth Data**
- 3.95 This section of the report reviews the performance of attainment at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 or better using breadth and depth measures for school leavers.
- 3.96 As stated previously in paragraph 3.13, the breadth and depth measures are heavily influenced by a school's curricular model. In particular, differences between the assessment arrangements for the new National Qualifications at SCQFs Level 3 to 5, compared with the previous Standard Grade qualification means that the 2014 and 2015 and earlier years' data is not directly comparable. Similarly, the mix of existing and new Higher qualifications in 2015 and the variety of progression pathways that candidates would have undertaken for the Higher qualifications, the 2015 Higher results may also not be fully comparable with previous years.
- 3.97 **Tables 11 and 12** that follow show the latest and best attainment at the point of leaving school for the following breadth and depth measures:
- 1 or more, 3 or more, and 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 (National 5) or better;
  - 1 or more, 3 or more, and 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better; and
  - 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 7 (Advanced Higher) or better
- 3.98 The percentages are based on cumulative awards and reflect the number of school leavers achieving at least the given number of SQA national courses at at least the given SCQF level/grade since 2010/11. The percentages are calculated as a proportion of the relevant leavers cohort.
- 3.99 Overall, East Lothian shows a fluctuating but overall improved trend in the percentage of leavers gaining awards at SCQF Level 5 (National 5) or better, SCQF Level 6 (Higher) and at SCQF Level 7 (Advanced Higher).
- 3.100 Tables 11 and 12 overleaf shows the performance by school leavers broken down for each breadth & depth measure for East Lothian and the Virtual Comparator respectively.

**Table 11: East Lothian Breadth and Depth Data to 2015**

Measure	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	+/- on 2014	3 Yr Ave	5yr Trend <sup>1</sup>
1 or more Level 5	78.30%	80.59%	80.98%	83.83%	83.81%	-0.02%	82.87%	1.38%
3 or more Level 5	63.83%	66.00%	66.80%	70.05%	67.23%	-2.82%	68.03%	0.85%
5 or more Level 5	52.56%	54.88%	54.92%	56.94%	51.73%	-5.21%	54.53%	-0.21%
1 or more Level 6	52.93%	55.51%	56.47%	59.71%	59.82%	0.11%	58.67%	1.72%
3 or more Level 6	37.09%	41.45%	40.35%	42.58%	41.26%	-1.32%	41.40%	1.04%
5 or more Level 6	23.90%	28.44%	28.57%	29.09%	26.55%	-2.54%	28.07%	0.66%
1 or more Level 7	16.12%	18.36%	18.73%	21.53%	19.55%	-1.98%	19.94%	0.86%

**Table 12: Virtual Comparator Breadth and Depth Data to 2015**

Measure	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	+/- on 2014	3 Yr Ave	5yr Trend <sup>1</sup>
1 or more Level 5	81.37%	82.11%	81.65%	85.99%	83.29%	-2.70%	83.64%	0.48%
3 or more Level 5	66.36%	68.98%	67.65%	73.35%	69.90%	-3.45%	70.30%	0.89%
5 or more Level 5	54.76%	57.48%	55.83%	61.24%	57.18%	-4.06%	58.08%	0.61%
1 or more Level 6	55.37%	58.98%	57.37%	62.63%	60.48%	-2.15%	60.16%	1.28%
3 or more Level 6	40.00%	42.94%	41.94%	46.43%	44.34%	-2.09%	44.24%	1.09%
5 or more Level 6	25.72%	29.08%	28.47%	31.62%	30.88%	-0.74%	30.32%	1.29%
1 or more Level 7	18.28%	19.50%	19.38%	20.62%	20.56%	-0.06%	20.19%	0.57%

3.101 **Tables 11 and 12** show that East Lothian's performance in 2015 across the reported breadth and depth measures shows a slight drop on the previous year with the exception of the '1 or more awards at Higher' measure which increased to East Lothian's highest performance to date and shows an improved trend over the five-year period. This drop in performance in 2015 on the previous year is also mirrored in the Virtual Comparator's performance in 2015.

3.102 Despite this drop in performance in 2015, East Lothian shows an overall improved trend over the five-year period with the exception of the '5 or more awards at Level 5' measure.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

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