

REPORT TO: Education & Children' Services Committee

MEETING DATE: 18 June 2024

BY: Executive Director, Education & Children's Services

SUBJECT: Raising Attainment

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress towards raising attainment for all learners and closing the gap for the most disadvantaged children and young people.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i. Note the progress and next steps identified towards raising attainment for all learners and closing the poverty related attainment gap and the data summary of key measures provided in Appendix 1.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Consistent with the National Improvement Framework (NIF), East Lothian Council prioritises improving attainment for all, particularly in literacy and numeracy and closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.
- 3.2 To provide strategic direction and measurable outcomes, stretch aims have been set. These are detailed in *Excellence & Equity: Raising Attainment for All – Strategy 2023/24 – 2025-26* and were approved by the Committee in March 2024.
- 3.3 The post of Principal Teacher of Equity has been created in each secondary school with a senior phase. Through a data informed approach, these postholders track, monitor and identify interventions for young people impacted by poverty who are at risk of under-attaining.

- 3.4 Our approaches to tracking and monitoring learners are rigorous with comprehensive data sets provided to schools monthly. This allows school staff to direct their time and resource to supporting identified learners. The support and challenge of officers in the central team also underpins this work.
- 3.5 The post of School and Family Support Worker was created in four primary schools with the highest incidence of children living in poverty (quintile 1, Q1).
- 3.6 An evaluation of this post and its potential for wider impact has informed the creation of The Equity & Inclusion Education Outreach Service.
- 3.7 This new service will commence in August 2024. It will comprise of the newly created posts of: Depute Head Teacher, Equity & Inclusion; Teacher of Equity & Inclusion and 8 Education Outreach Officers.
- 3.8 Funded as a 'test of change' concept for 23 months, the service will support identified children and young people at risk of underachieving. There will be a particular focus on children and young people impacted by poverty, care experience and those with additional support needs.
- 3.9 Referrals to the service will come through our newly created Child Planning Framework – Locality Teams (CPF-LTs).
- 3.10 CPF-LTs provide a multi-disciplinary and solutions-orientated forum for schools to refer identified children and young people who require additional supports. They have now been established across all localities in East Lothian.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 3.11 Data provided in relation to stretch aim measures in Appendix 1 highlight progress in overall attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap (Q1 – Q5) in the following measures:
- 3.12 Curriculum for Excellence literacy and numeracy attainment has improved for all learners and learners in quintile 1. The poverty related attainment gap in literacy has closed by 6.3%.
- 3.13 At Level 5 or above, literacy levels have also increased slightly for all, but most noticeably for learners in quintile 1, which is the highest level of attainment achieved in this measure. The poverty related attainment gap also closed by 8.7%.
- 3.14 There was a slight decline in the overall percentage of young people leaving school with 5 or more awards at level 1 or above. However, the percentage of learners in quintile 1 leaving with 5 qualifications increased by 10.2% and the poverty related gap closed by 11.7%.
- 3.15 For learners leaving school with 1 or more awards at level 6 (A-C) or above, there was a slight decline in the overall figures. However, there

was an increase in the percentage of learners in Q1 achieving this measure by 2.3% and a slight reduction in the poverty related attainment gap.

- 3.16 There are specific measures for learners with care experience. The percentage of care experienced school leavers to obtain 5 or more awards at level 1 or above increased by 21% and the gap for learners with care experience decreased by 23.9%, almost eradicating the gap in this measure.
- 3.17 This robust approach to use of data allows the identification of learners at risk of under attaining and promotes early intervention to ensure East Lothian learners are appropriately supported to reach their potential.
- 3.18 East Lothian Council reports on its progress towards stretch aims through the Education Progress and Improvement Plan. This is published annually and shared with the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and East Lothian Council Education & Children's Services Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications in this report.

5 EQUALITIES 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 Raising Attainment Data (Appendix 1)

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Appendix 1

Raising Attainment Data

P1,4 & 7, Literacy (Combined)		
Cohort Quintile	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
All	62.8	66.3
Q1	42.6	50.3
Q2	50.9	56
Q3	67.7	68.5
Q4	68.9	74.2
Q5	72.7	73.5
Q1 – Q5 Gap	30.1	23.2
Q2 – Q5 Gap	21.8	17.5

P1,4 & 7, Numeracy (Combined)		
Cohort Quintile	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
All	72.4	73.8
Q1	56.1	56.3
Q2	65.4	64.8
Q3	75.3	77
Q4	76.8	80.6
Q5	78.3	79.9
Q1 – Q5 Gap	22.2	23.6
Q2 – Q5 Gap	12.9	15.1

School Leavers, Level 5 Literacy (Or Above)		
Cohort Quintile	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
All	78.3	78.5
Q1	53.6	60.3
Q2	65.1	68.2
Q3	81.7	77.3
Q4	85	87.8
Q5	90	87.9
Q1 – Q5 Gap	36.4	27.7
Q2 – Q5 Gap	24.9	19.7

School Leavers, 5 or More Awards at Level 1 (Or Above)		
Cohort Quintile	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
All	89.4	87
Q1	67.9	78.1
Q2	86.6	82.7
Q3	89.9	83.3
Q4	91.5	91.6
Q5	95.4	94
Q1 – Q5 Gap	27.6	15.9
Q2 – Q5 Gap	8.9	11.2

School Leavers, 1 or More Awards at Level 6 (A-C)		
Cohort Quintile	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
All	55.7	55.4
Q1	19.6	21.9
Q2	37.3	38.9
Q3	58.3	55
Q4	64.6	67.6
Q5	75.3	74.1
Q1 – Q5 Gap	55.7	55.2
Q2 – Q5 Gap	38.1	35.2

Care Experienced School Leavers, 5 or More Awards at Level 1 (Or Above)		
Cohort	% Achieving in 2021-22	% Achieving in 2022-23
Care Experienced	65.2	86.2
No Care Experience	89.9	87
Gap	24.7	0.8