

1. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update

Schools Outcomes

The first 1000 days of a child's life are the most important in terms of development. We are seeing the result of all the work on aligning and integrating services starting to pay off with the introduction of school nurses and Mosaic portal where agencies share information on children's services.

The outcome of national tests and exams are being published for the second time since the pandemic paused assessments. This includes the most recent performance outcomes 2023. Caution is urged on direct comparisons due to the impact of the pandemic on children and its after-effects.

Performance outcomes in the early years show positive increases from 2022 in achieving the expected standard in all 17 early learning goals. Data released in November (reported to next meeting) looks to be positive in the national comparison.

81.9 per cent of children in Yr 1 passed their phonics screening which is an increase on the previous year and pre-pandemic achievements, and compared well nationally.

Key Stage 1 reading, writing and maths has improved since 2022 but has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, the number of pupils in Cornwall meeting the expected levels in reading and maths was higher than the national average.

Key Stage 2 children meeting the expected standard in the three subjects combined was low at 57.6 per cent but still a positive increase on 2022 - lower however than the national average of 59 per cent.

The gap however, between non-disadvantaged and disadvantaged children remains stubbornly wide throughout the county at 24.5 percentage points.

Pupils in Cornwall perform better than the national average particularly in reading at Key Stage 2 and make better progress than children nationally; this is the only subject in which children have performed better than in pre-pandemic times. They also performed better this year than the national average in writing with better progress too than children nationally.

Maths is weakest in Cornwall at 70.0 percent at Key Stage 2. There is evidence of the gap to national attainment narrowing over time. We need to bear in mind that local and national outcomes in maths have not recovered to pre-pandemic rates.

Maths is being prioritised with the use of Maths Hubs to join up maths teaching and learning.

There's no testing at Key Stage 3; Key Stage 4 attainment levels are lower than previous years but this is probably due to changes in grading approaches, rather than a drop in standards.

The impact of Covid can be seen in the GCSE results. Across the 8 government approved subjects, attainment was 44.1 per cent compared to the national average of 46.3 percent.

The EBacc (a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people) subjects of English, Maths, Science and Humanities is strong exceeding national levels, however EBacc entry percentages are impacted by a low take up of languages as a GCSE option. Just 27.9 per cent choose to study a language at GCSE against a national percentage of 44.7.

Access to Languages is being prioritised with the use of Language Hubs.

Budget Overspend

Overspend of £14.9m for Home to School Transport; Housing Temp/Emergency accommodation and Housing Benefits all impacting on council budgets.

2. Taxi Forum Update

The Taxi Forum meeting reviews the licence relationship with Cornwall's taxi drivers. Taxi companies reported back issues with recruiting drivers for the school SEND and School Transport service.

4. Licensing Act Committee: Police Drink Driving Campaign Update - *Lift Legend*

A letter was sent to all licensed premises in Cornwall by the Police who report a fantastic response from the trade again this year. The campaign is called *Lift Legend* is to help ensure that everyone gets home safely this winter by looking to reduce the number of people drinking and drug driving on our roads. The scheme sets to encourage groups to nominate a designated driver when going for a night out. Premises that sign up can offer the driver a free soft drink from the bar when they identify themselves as the *Lift Legend* - with a voucher for a second drink. Last year 90 licensed premises took part in the campaign.

5. Safer Saltash

No report due to the meeting being cancelled and rescheduled for 18th December.