



West Lothian  
Council

## **EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**

### **MONITORING AND TRACKING ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS WITHIN EACH OF THE DECILES OF THE SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION**

#### **REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Education Executive of the use that Education Services and Schools are making of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) information in order to close the attainment gap between the most deprived and least deprived pupils in West Lothian.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Note the progress made by pupils in each of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles over the past 4 years as measured by SQA at SCQF Level 6.
2. Notes the importance of the suite of courses offered in partnership with West Lothian College, as part of Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW).
3. Notes the progress being made in the monitoring and tracking of pupils in the Broad General Education (BGE) taking account of their SIMD decile.
4. Notes that monitoring and tracking systems are now in place and being utilised within West Lothian Primary Schools which also measure progress taking account of individual pupil's SIMD decile.
5. Notes that the Performance Team within Education Services are now providing all Primary Schools with analysis of the Centre for Educational Management (CEM) test results for all pupils in P2-P7 which includes analysis by SMID decile for individual pupils and for all pupils within a decile group.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

###### **I Council Values**

Focusing on our customers' needs;  
Being honest, open and accountable;  
Providing equality of opportunities;  
Making best use of our resources;  
Working in partnership

###### **II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk**

Raising attainment and closing the gap between attainment for the lowest 20% by deprivation and the highest 20% is a critical policy objective for West Lothian Council, in line with the

|             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
|             | <b>Assessment)</b>  | Attainment Strategy.   |
| <b>III</b>  | <b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b> | None   |
| <b>IV</b>   | <b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>   | Attainment statistics and performance is recorded and scrutinised in the key performance indicators of Education Services. |
| <b>V</b>    | <b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>              | SQA examination results form indicators within the SOA.  |
| <b>VI</b>   | <b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>     | None   |
| <b>VII</b>  | <b>Consideration at PDSP</b>                              | Not considered.  |
| <b>VIII</b> | <b>Other consultations</b>                                | None   |

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

- D.1** Following a request at West Lothian Council by Councillor Borrowman, this report outlines the progress that has been made by both secondary and primary schools, along with Education Services, to tackle disadvantage by improving attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers as measured by deprivation.

The report covers the following areas:

- Progress in the Senior Phase (S5 and S6) as measured by attainment as recorded on INSIGHT.
- Progress in Post School Participation – the percentage of school leavers into a positive destination.
- The monitoring and tracking of progress by pupils in the Broad General Education (S1-S3).
- The monitoring and tracking of progress by pupils in Primary Schools within the 3-18 Curriculum.
- The use of CEM test data as provided by the University of Durham to schools and analysis of this by the Performance Team within Education Services.

## D.2 Progress in the Senior Phase

In Session 2014-2015 the SIMD profile of pupils in S4-S6 (Senior Phase) was:

### S4

| Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1.1%     | 13.8%    | 17.3%    | 13.2%    | 8.8%     | 13.4%    | 6.6%     | 7.1%     | 6.9%     | 11.8%     |

### S5 (as a percentage of their S4 roll)

| Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 0.9%     | 13.4%    | 19.2%    | 12.2%    | 7.7%     | 14.4%    | 7.2%     | 6.9%     | 6.7%     | 11.3%     |

### S6 (as a percentage of their S4 roll)

| Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1.4%     | 15.3%    | 17.3%    | 12.1%    | 10.0%    | 12.9%    | 6.2%     | 8.7%     | 6.5%     | 9.6%      |

Decile 1 is the most deprived and Decile 10 the least deprived.

The National figures would be approximately 10% per decile group.

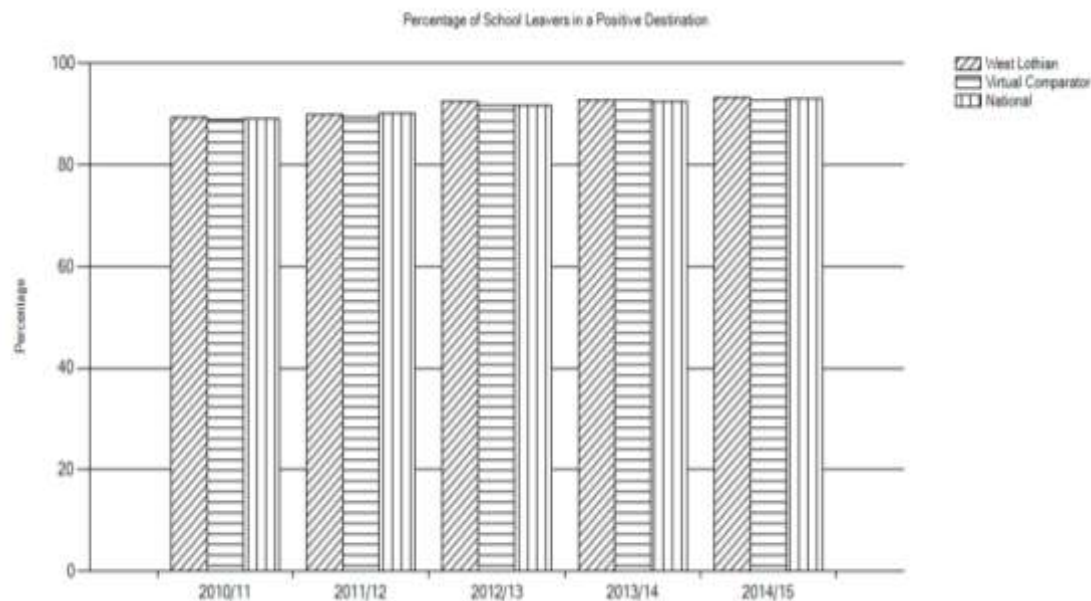
So that each set of figures are measured against a similar SIMD profile, the 'Virtual Comparator' school is used. In this way, the Decile 1 pupils' results are compared to 10 times the number of candidates of a similar profile who took the same group of subjects.

Appendix 1 gives diagrammatic representations of the results obtained by S6 pupils from each of the decile groupings compared to the Virtual Comparator. The trend over time is upwards for all decile groupings and with fewer variations between the West Lothian figures and the Virtual Comparators.

Appendix 2 gives diagrammatic representations of the results obtained by S5 pupils from each of the decile groupings compared to the Virtual Comparator. The trend over time is upwards for all decile groupings and it is particularly notable that in 2014/15 the Total Tariff points gained by pupils in Deciles 1-3 was higher than the Virtual Comparator and that the points gained by West Lothian pupils was higher against all decile groups other than Decile 6, where it was equal.

## Post School Positive Destinations

As previously reported to the Education Executive, the number of young people leaving a West Lothian Council secondary school and entering a positive destination now stands at 93.4%, the highest figure ever obtained, as shown on the diagram below:



Source: INSIGHT

Skills Development Scotland (SDS), in their publication of these figures, provided information on the SIMD profile of each of the destinations and this table and associated graph are shown in Appendix 3 and the percentage totals for positive destinations, Higher Education and unemployed but seeking employment in the associated graph.

It should be noted that the statistical group is not exactly the same size in that the leavers in the SDS analysis include young people who reside within West Lothian who have left secondary education, whether from a West Lothian school or not.

The variations in destinations between decile groups can be seen from the table in Appendix 3. SDS, our own keyworkers, the More Choices More Chances Team and the Developing the Young Workforce Steering Board (chaired by the Head of Service (Quality Assurance)) are aware of these figures and particularly in respect of the 13% of leavers in Decile 2 who were unemployed and seeking employment and also, working with the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS), those in Deciles 1-3 who are capable, with support, to obtain a place in University or College. MCMC keyworkers and schools have been alerted to the situation with Decile 2 pupils and aim to address this situation.

### **S5 Pupils attaining 1+, 3+ or 5+ Qualifications at SCQF Level 6**

Appendix 4 details the percentage of candidates who have achieved 1 or more, 3 or more and 5 or more qualifications at SCQF Level 6 from 2011/12 to 2014/15 in three categories, the most deprived 30% of pupils (those in Deciles 1-3), the middle 40% (Deciles 4-7) and the least deprived 30% (Deciles 8-10).

From the table in Appendix 4 it can be seen that in 2014/2015 the percentage of pupils gaining 1+, 3+ and 5+ Level 6 qualifications was greater than the Virtual Comparator at all levels of deprivation compared to the previous years and the increase the number of pupils obtaining 1+, 3+ or 5+ qualifications has increased at a greater rate from the most deprived 30%.

## **SQA Higher Qualifications**

West Lothian has, as previously reported, been a pilot area and (in partnership with West Lothian College) a pathfinder authority for a number of vocational courses at Level 6 and 7. West Lothian is well advanced at implementing the Developing the Young Workforce policy and this is already having a positive impact on attainment and destinations post 16. These qualifications are accredited at the same level as Higher and Advanced Higher respectively and the first group of pupils gained certification for these courses in 2014/2015. This, along with the fact that all secondary schools have also introduced vocational courses within their establishments, accounts for some of the 'variation' between the figures for SQA Highers being completed in West Lothian compared to the rest of Scotland.

In addition, the number of pupils being presented for National 5 (the level required to be presented for Higher the following session) is low in a number of our schools and has restricted the presentation numbers for Higher. Comparator information has been provided to schools to highlight this issue and schools have made some progress this session in addressing this issue.

## **Monitoring and Tracking in the Broad General Education (BGE) (S1-S3) and within Primary Schools**

All secondary schools now monitor and track progress of pupils within the BGE. As part of this tracking, information on the SIMD Decile for each pupil is now visible to all teaching staff and Senior Management Teams in all schools are fully cognisant of the importance of closing the attainment gap of the lowest 20% by deprivation and the lowest 20% by attainment. Collaborative work is continuing to ensure fit for purpose moderation of standards to ensure concordance across the authority and information submitted by schools will be analysed by the Performance Team within Education Services to monitor and report on the attainment levels being attained by pupils within each SIMD Decile.

CEM test data provided by Education Services was trialled in a number of schools, including SMID data in the analysis of the results. This has proven to be useful to Head Teachers and staff in their review of the CEM data and the actions to be taken as a result of this analysis.

This analysis will, therefore be undertaken for all Primary Schools once this session's data is available – in early June – and will be analysed and circulated to all schools before schools return in August.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

This report has documented the progress made in raising attainment for pupils in the lowest SIMD deciles over the past four years in SQA and associated courses, as shown by the Scottish Government's tracking tool, INSIGHT.

The report has also indicated progress that has been made in young people in West Lothian gaining a positive destination after leaving school and the percentages from each Decile going into the various categories of positive destination.

Finally, the report notes how SIMD information is being used in a more explicit manner to monitor and track the progress of each pupil, and that this is now being analysed to check on progress being made to close the gap between those in Deciles 1 and 2 compared to those in Deciles 9 and 10, and for the lowest achieving 20% of pupils no

matter what decile they are categorised in.

Appendices/Attachments:    Presentation Slides (Appendix1 to Appendix 4)  
   Black and White handout (Appendix 1 to Appendix 4)

Contact Person: Kenneth Boal, Development Officer, Education Services, West Lothian Civic Centre,  
Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF

Telephone: 05106 282735

E-Mail: [kenneth.boal@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:kenneth.boal@westlothian.gov.uk)

Dr Elaine Cook

Depute Chief Executive

Date of meeting: 26 April 2016