EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

S5 and S6 SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE)

A.   PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Education Executive of the SQA awards in the Scottish Curriculum and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 6 (Higher or equivalent) attained by S5 students and at SCQF Level 7 (Advanced Higher or equivalent) attained by S6 students in 2016.

B.   RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Notes the continued improvement in performance of S5 students in 1+, 3+ and 5+ examinations at SCQF Level 6 (Higher or equivalent).
2. Notes that SCQF examination performance of S6 students in 1+ examination at Level 7 (HNC, Advanced Higher or equivalent) is up over the five year period and that this year's figure does not at this stage include all college based HNC candidate results.
3. Notes that the challenging examination performance targets contained in the Raising Attainment Strategy have been achieved one year ahead of schedule.

C.   SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	Raising attainment is a key strategic objective for West Lothian Council, as set out in the Attainment Strategy.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	SQA results are reflected in the key performance indicators of Education Services.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	SQA examination results form indicators within the SOA.

	VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	Examination results are delivered within agreed central Education Services and devolved school budgets.
	VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None.
	VIII	**Other consultations**	None.

D.   TERMS OF REPORT

Over the 5 year period 2012 to 2016, the percentage of students attaining 1+, 3+ and 5+ at Level 6 (Higher A-C grade or equivalent) has continued to improve. The 2016 examination results for Level 6 (Higher or equivalent) are the highest ever attainment at this level achieved by West Lothian Council students.

Schools have access to the Results Service (no longer an appeals service). Where students have not achieved their expected grades, schools can request a remarking. This may result in an increase in attainment in each measure.

S5 SCQF Attainment

5 Awards at Level 6 (Higher or equivalent)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
West Lothian	13	15	15	20	22
National	13	14	14	15	Not yet available
Family Average	10	11	14	16	Not yet available

3 Awards at Level 6 (Higher or equivalent)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
West Lothian	26	29	30	38	40
National	27	29	30	33	Not yet available
Family Average	25	26	29	34	Not yet available

1 Award at Level 6 (Higher or equivalent)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
West Lothian	45	50	52	61	62
National	47	49	50	55	Not yet available
Family Average	45	46	50	57	Not yet available

S6 SCQF Attainment

1 at Level 7 (Higher or equivalent)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
West Lothian	16	18	18	18	17*
National	16	17	17	18	Not yet available
Family Average	14	15	18	20	Not yet available

*The percentage of students attaining 1+ at Level 7 (Advanced Higher or equivalent) of 17% does not yet include all college based HNC courses.

The SCQF Framework

National reporting in 2016 will be undertaken in terms of the Scottish Curriculum and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). National reporting will also include SQA band D results. SQA band D results have been excluded from the figures in this report, in order to make the performance in this report directly comparable to previous years' reported attainment.

The SCQF level 7 results when published in September will include HNC awards in Engineering and Computing obtained at West Lothian College working in partnership with West Lothian Council as part of the senior phase 'campus' arrangements. Additional HNCs in Hospitality, Accounting and Creative Industries are now being offered with a planned expansion to the range of courses offered in future years. Offering an extended and enhanced range of opportunities in the senior phase is in line with the principles of Developing the Young Workforce.

The Raising Attainment Strategy

The Raising Attainment Strategy sets out the Council's key strategic plan to improve the examination performance of young people in West Lothian. The raising attainment strategy sets out the following targets for raising attainment:

Performance Indicator Name	2014 Baseline	2017 Target	Responsible Officer
Percentage Pupils in S5 Achieving 3+ Qualifications at Level 6 (Higher Grade or equivalent) by end of S5	30%	39%	Head of Education (Quality Assurance)
Percentage of Pupils in S5 Achieving 5+ Qualifications at Level 6 (Higher Grade or equivalent) by end of S5	15%	22%	Head of Education (Quality Assurance)

The challenging examination performance targets contained in the Raising Attainment Strategy have been achieved one year ahead of schedule.

E. CONCLUSION

The SQA results for S5 students in 2016 show a continuation in the overall trend of improvement across key indicators with record success in the percentage of pupils attaining 1, 3 and 5 or more passes at Level 6. The Level 7 figures do not include the results of students who have successfully completed the first year of the HNC courses in Computing and Engineering.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Head of Education (Quality Assurance)

Date of meeting: 30 August 2016.