

## 5. PROGRESS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Education Executive noted a presentation by The Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) providing details of the progress in educational attainment, highlighting the impact of the Raising Attainment Strategy in making progress towards achieving the outcomes and targets that it contained.

The Education Executive was advised that national reporting was now carried out at point of exit, rather than in relation to the performance of a specific year group. The end point of a young person's schooling was considered to be the most relevant for comparison by Insight, the national performance tool, as it allowed comparison of all attainment and achievement throughout the young person's schooling and contributed to the destination that the young person progressed to. The Local Government Benchmarking Framework uses SCQF Awards at level 6 at point of exit as its benchmark measurement of local authority education performance.

Details of the performance of individual secondary schools in West Lothian were provided covering the five year period from 2012 to 2016. This showed a general upward trend of the pupils achieving 3+ and 5+ passes at SCQF Level 6. The performance of each secondary school highlighted details of the correlation between performance and the mean score achieved by each cohort in cognitive ability tests. West Lothian pupils were leaving school with more qualifications than the council's Virtual Comparators and more than the National average.

The Education Executive acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of raising attainment and commended all teaching staff for their dedication and commitment. The Executive also acknowledged the support from parents, carers and the wider community for supporting the schools in West Lothian.

Following conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance). West Lothian Council was committed to delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people, in line with the Single Outcome Agreement outcome that children would make the best possible start in life.

It was proposed to adopt 5+ and 3+ Level 6 SCQF Awards at point of exit as the key measure of attainment reported to members, parents and the public with effect from the 2017 exam diet. A further report on the progress in the implementation of the Raising Attainment Strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

The Head of Education then responded to questions from the Education Executive confirming that although it was proposed to adopt 5+ and 3+ Level 6 SCQF Awards at point of exit as the key measure of attainment reporting, information would also be available on the wide range of

awards and qualifications achieved in schools in West Lothian.

The Education Executive was asked to:

1. Note the key features of attainment set out in the report and presentation, which demonstrated the impact of the Raising Attainment Strategy in making progress towards achieving the outcomes and targets that it contained;
2. Note that a further report on progress in the implementation of the Raising Attainment Strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; and
3. To adopt 5+ and 3+ Level 6 SCQF Awards at point of exit as the key measure of attainment reported to members, parents and the public with effect from the 2017 exam diet.

### Decision

Approved the terms of the report.