

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 October 2015	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Southwark School Standards Report 2015	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	

FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

We believe in giving all our young people the best start in life. We know that what we learn and discover at school can profoundly influence what we are able to achieve later in life and that a great education is a key to unlock each and every child's full potential. Making sure that all Southwark's schools support but also challenge our young people is at the very heart of all that we do. We are proud of our schools. They are above the national average in all external examination areas and 91% are judged as being good or outstanding by Ofsted.

This report sets out information on school standards and other related areas in Southwark. It includes school results in external assessments, attendance and exclusions from school, admissions, the attainment of Looked After Children, and the attainment of children from different pupil groups in Southwark.

Our ambition is to continue to improve standards in our schools and discussions are underway with secondary schools as to how we can, in partnership, support every Southwark school to reach the ambitious target of 70% of pupils attaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C. Our children and young people deserve the very best and that's what we will always aim for.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cabinet note the 'Best start in life - Southwark school standards report 2015' attached at Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Members requested a report on school standards in Southwark be produced that would set out information covering attainment across the borough. The attached report at Appendix 1 contains information on educational achievement ranging from Early Years Foundation Stage (5 years old), through to A-levels. The report also contains data on post-16 not in education, employment or training (NEET) performance; the achievement of different groups, including Looked After Children; information on attendance and exclusion and school admissions.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The key issues for consideration are included in the report at Appendix 1 - 'Best start in life – Southwark school standards report 2015'.

4. The 2015 data contained within this report is provisional. The Department for Education will provide validated results in December for primary phase and January for secondary phase.
5. We will update the report as required as soon as the validated results are published.

Policy implications

6. The report at Appendix 1 is fully aligned to local planning and policy frameworks including the Council Plan, and Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16. These outline the council's continued commitment to meeting the demand for primary and secondary school places and supporting schools to be outstanding, with children and young people able to achieve their full potential with at least 70% of students at every secondary school achieving at least five good GCSEs, and parents able to exercise real choice in a high performing local schools system.

Community impact statement

7. The impact on communities of the issues and recommendation within the school standards report has been considered in line with Southwark's Approach to Equality. Generally the recommendations will have a positive impact on communities through the commitment to meeting the demand for primary and secondary school places and continuing to drive up standards across our schools so at least 70% of students at every secondary school get at least five good GCSEs.
8. The school standards report at Appendix 1 includes detailed information on the attainment of different pupil groups by race and ethnicity, disability, gender, age and disadvantage identified through pupil premium funding and/or eligibility for free school meals (including deprivation, adopted from care and children looked after). The report also includes information on what Southwark council intends to improve.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. The continued delivery of universal education services and statutory functions, including early years, school improvement, school admissions and youth services, specialist education and special educational needs services will continue to be provided via the existing education budget as set out in the council's Policy and Resources Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

10. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to cabinet on Southwark school standards in 2015.
11. The council is the relevant authority tasked with carrying out functions in relation to education and childcare in Southwark.

12. The council has a number of general duties in relation to the provision of education, including a duty to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community, by securing that efficient primary, secondary and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of the area. Cabinet will note that the council itself maintains the significant majority of the schools discussed in the report; however the council's ability to develop new school proposals is now significantly restricted, and legislation enables existing maintained schools to convert to academy status which are outside of the council's ownership and control.
13. In respect of people aged under 20 (or over 20 if the council maintains an Education, Health and Care Plan for them), the council must also exercise its education and training functions with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunities for education and training, and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom this duty applies.
14. More generally, in respect of the well-being of children, the council is under a duty to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the council and relevant partners to promote the well-being of children in the authority's area. The council is also under a duty to improve the well-being of young children and reduce inequalities between them. "Well-being" in the context relates to education and training, amongst other things.
15. As such, the preparation of a school standards report is something that can be said to be incidental to the council's functions in these areas.
16. The inspection of schools is a function of the Chief Inspector of Schools. The assessment data for Key Stages 1 and 2, referred to in the report, arises from tests that schools are under a duty to administer; they must also report the results of those tests. Besides these more general duties, the council has a number of more specific functions in relation to education. Of particular relevance to the subject matter of the report are: the duty to exercise council functions with a view to promoting the effective participation by young people aged 16-18 in education or training; a duty to promote the educational achievement of children looked after by the council; a duty to make arrangements (so far as it is possible) to identify children in Southwark who are of compulsory school age but are not registered with a school and are not receiving suitable alternative education; and powers to instigate legal proceedings for non-school attendance.
17. When making its decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that Cabinet have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other prohibited conduct and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. Information about the consideration given to equalities issues is set out in the Community Impact Statement.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

18. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the recommendations in this report which sets out information on school standards including school results in external assessments, attendance and exclusions from school, admissions, the attainment of Looked After Children, and the attainment of children from different pupil groups in Southwark.

19. The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report and highlight that funding is identified via existing education budget as set out in the council's Policy and Resources Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Performance tables for school level and national 2014 KS2; GCSE and A Level attainment	Department for Education (DfE) website	
Link: http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/		
School level and national pre 2014 KS2; GCSE and A level attainment	DfE website	
Link: http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/archive/index.shtml		
Local authority level and national KS1 and phonics attainments 2015	DfE website	
Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/phonics-screening-check-and-key-stage-1-assessments-england-2015		
Local authority level and national KS2 data	DfE website	
Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-curriculum-assesments-at-key-stage-2-2015-provisional		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Best start in life – Southwark school standards report 2015

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	
Lead Officer	Merril Haeusler, Director of Education	
Report Author	Rachel Flagg, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	9 October 2015	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	9 October 2015	