

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 27 FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE & FINANCIAL MONITORING

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICERS PRESENTING: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STRATEGY,
COMMISSIONING AND PERFORMANCE

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

Note the financial and performance information presented in the report and to comment on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel requested regular performance and financial management monitoring reports to help members evaluate the extent to which the Council and its partners are achieving key plans and objectives for children and young people's services and to provide appropriate challenge, praise and suggestions to improve performance.

The Council's Performance Management Framework includes a requirement for regular (at least quarterly) formal monitoring of our financial and performance position so that appropriate remedial action can be taken if needed.

The Panel's June 2014 meeting agreed the content of subsequent 2014/15 monitoring reports and this report presents information on the attainment of vulnerable children at North Somerset schools.

2. INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

Yatton Church of England Primary School was inspected in January 2015 and received a grade of Requires Improvement. The sub-areas of Leadership/Management and Behaviour/Safety of pupils were judged to be good and the sub-areas Quality of teaching and Achievement of pupils were judged as requires improvement. Key findings stated in the report included:

- 'The headteacher exhibits drive, determination, and high expectations for the school. She has developed a committed and cohesive staff team which is working together effectively and securing essential improvements quickly.
- Pupils' achievement and the quality of teaching are improving as a result of determined leadership and management.
- The pupils benefit greatly in spiritual, moral, social and cultural development from the highly inclusive nature of the school. They also benefit from good involvement in the local community.
- Governors are increasingly effective. They are now rigorous in their approach, providing both support and challenge to hold the school to account for its performance.'

Reasons the inspection did not find the school to be good included:

- 'In the most-recent national tests, pupils made less progress than they should in relation to their starting points.
- Teaching has not been consistently good enough to ensure that all pupils made the progress they were capable of. The legacy of underachievement has not been fully eradicated and gaps in attainment between different groups of pupils have not closed.
- Expectations of how pupils should present their work are not high enough.
- The work provided for pupils, particularly for the most able, does not always take enough account of their prior learning. As a result, their rate of learning is slower than it should be.'

Avalon children's home was inspected during November 2014 and was judged to be Outstanding. Two elements were judged to be Outstanding and two Good. Avalon is run by Action for Children through a service level agreement with North Somerset Council and provides a residential short breaks service for a small number of disabled children. The report stated that:

- 'Young people benefit from outstanding care and support when accessing this short break service. The staff team are professional, well trained and put the needs of the young people at the centre of their practice.
- A strength of this service is the leadership and management of the home. Leaders and managers have devised a number of management tools to monitor the activities of the home. These include how outcomes are measured based on individual goal setting and how successful the team have been in promoting young people's learning and independence skills. Data is collected, analysed and reviewed. These outcomes are shared at reviews.
- Staff are extremely well motivated and receive high quality support and supervision. Leaders and managers ensure that staff receive the training in order to provide high quality care. This includes specific training in meeting the complex health needs of some young people.
- As a result of this inspection two recommendations are made. These relate to reviewing the activities that are offered and updating of the home's fire risk assessment.'

3. KEY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

For 2014/15 the Council revised its basket of Key Performance Indicators which are monitored quarterly by the Corporate Management Team and reported to members. There are now five key indicators for children's services and the quarter 3 performance against these key indicators is shown at Appendix 2.

4. NUMBERS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

When a child becomes 'Looked After' the Council takes on a parenting role, either with the agreement of the parents or through a court order which gives the local authority a share of parental responsibility for that child. Children Looked After cease to be Looked After on reaching their 18th birthday, if they have not ceased previously. The trend in the number Children Looked After is shown in Appendix 1.

Members are aware from previous reports that numbers of Children Looked After increased sharply in 2012, rising from 231 on 31 March 2012 to 279 on 31 December 2012, an increase of 21%. This was partly due to a number of large sibling groups starting to be Looked After and also due to increases in the numbers of 0-4 year olds and 16 or 17 year olds starting to be Looked After. During the 3 years from June 2009 to June 2012 the number of Children Looked After had generally ranged from 220 to 240.

During 2013 there was a steady decrease in the number of Children Looked After to 204 on 31 December 2013, with relatively few children having started to be Looked After. The first half of 2014 showed an increase again in the number of Children Looked After to around 230, where it has remained since. The total at the end of January 2015 was 239. The target for March 2015 is for there to be 210 Children Looked After. The reasons for increases and decreases in numbers of Children Looked After are complex. The Assistant Director and Service Leaders are tightly monitoring all requests for a child to be Looked After. Every Child Looked After is being reviewed to ensure that care plans are being progressed and plans to return children home wherever possible are being actioned.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING

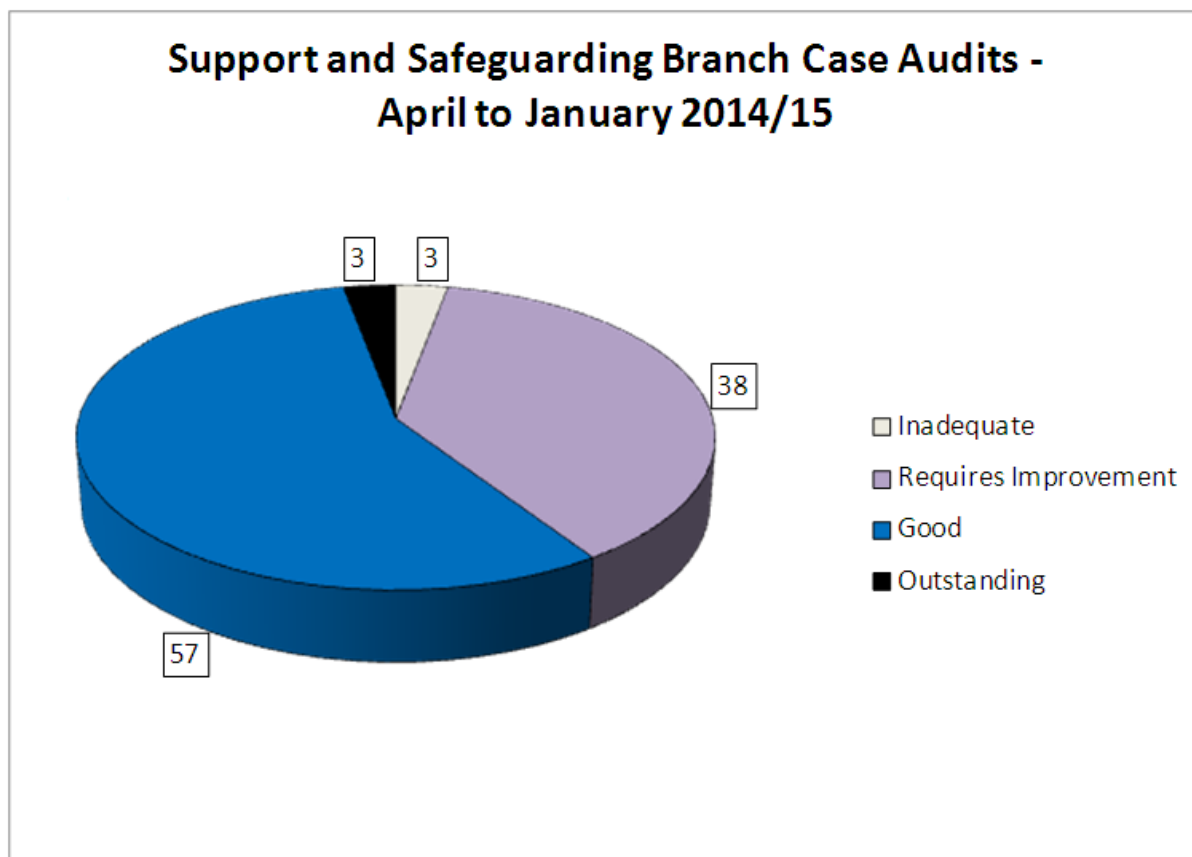
The CYPS Financial Monitoring Commentary up to 31 December 2014 is attached at Appendix 3. The Directorate is projecting to overspend its budget in 2014/15 by £1,871K (7.0%), due to the increase in Children Looked After costs and some Medium Term Financial Plan savings not being delivered at the pace previously anticipated. It should be noted that the Children Looked After 'placements budget' includes some costs for supporting children after they have left care, such as adoption allowances, special guardianship allowances and Care Leavers' support.

6. CASE AUDITS

Case audit is an important tool to ensure quality and consistency and promote a culture of learning and improvement. There is a programme of regular case audit undertaken by managers in the Support and Safeguarding Branch, which was attached to a previous report and members of the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) audit a case, chosen at random, monthly as a routine part of the Leadership Team meeting. In addition, the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board undertakes a programme of multi-agency audits.

The audit process within the Support and Safeguarding Branch involves grading the cases sampled and a summary of the gradings for 101 cases is shown in the chart below. Overall, 59% of these case audits resulted in a good or outstanding grading.

The findings from these case audits are fed back to teams and individual workers as appropriate.



7. HOW WELL DO VULNERABLE GROUPS, SUCH AS CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER, CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND PUPILS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS, ACHIEVE AT SCHOOL?

Schools are being given 'Pupil Premium' funds to support the attainment of some groups of vulnerable children. The intention is for the impact of this funding to feed through in future years and show as improved results. It is widely recognised that good educational attainment is associated with increased earnings, health and wellbeing later in life.

Early Years Foundation Stage

A new framework was introduced for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for 2012/13. The DfE has calculated an indicator showing the Achievement Gap between the lowest attaining 20% of pupils and the median score (middle value) of all local pupils, as a percentage of the median score.

The average score of the 20% lowest attaining pupils in North Somerset, at 25.6, was 3.1 points higher than the average of the lowest 20% attaining pupils in England, although in 2013 North Somerset had been 4.6 points higher than England.

The achievement gap in North Somerset was 24.8% in 2014, which was better than the England average achievement gap of 33.9%.

Standard Score and 'Percentage Inequality Gap'

	All pupils Median Score in LA		Lowest 20% achievers Mean score		Achievement Gap %	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
England	34	34	21.6	22.5	36.6%	33.9%
North Somerset Council	34	34	26.2	25.6	23.0%	24.8%

Note: The percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20 per cent of achieving children in a local authority (mean score), and the score of the median. The gap is calculated from unrounded percentages and is expressed as a percentage of the median.

Source: DfE EYFS Profile 2013

Overall attainment at EYFS in North Somerset is much better than in England as a whole. Pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) by the January School Census had slightly better EYFS scores in North Somerset than the England average: 1% more achieved a 'good level of development'. However, the percentage of pupils not eligible for FSM who achieved a 'good level of development' was 9% higher in North Somerset than the England average and so the gap between FSM pupils and other pupils was higher in North Somerset (27%), than in England as a whole (19%).

Pupils achieving a 'Good Level of Development' at Early Years Foundation Stage

	FSM		Other Pupils		Overall		Gap between FSM and Other Pupils	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
England	36%	45%	55%	64%	52%	60%	19%	19%
North Somerset Council	39%	46%	67%	73%	64%	70%	28%	27%

Note: A pupil achieving at least the expected level in the Early Learning Goals within the three prime areas of learning and within literacy and numeracy is classed as having "a good level of development".

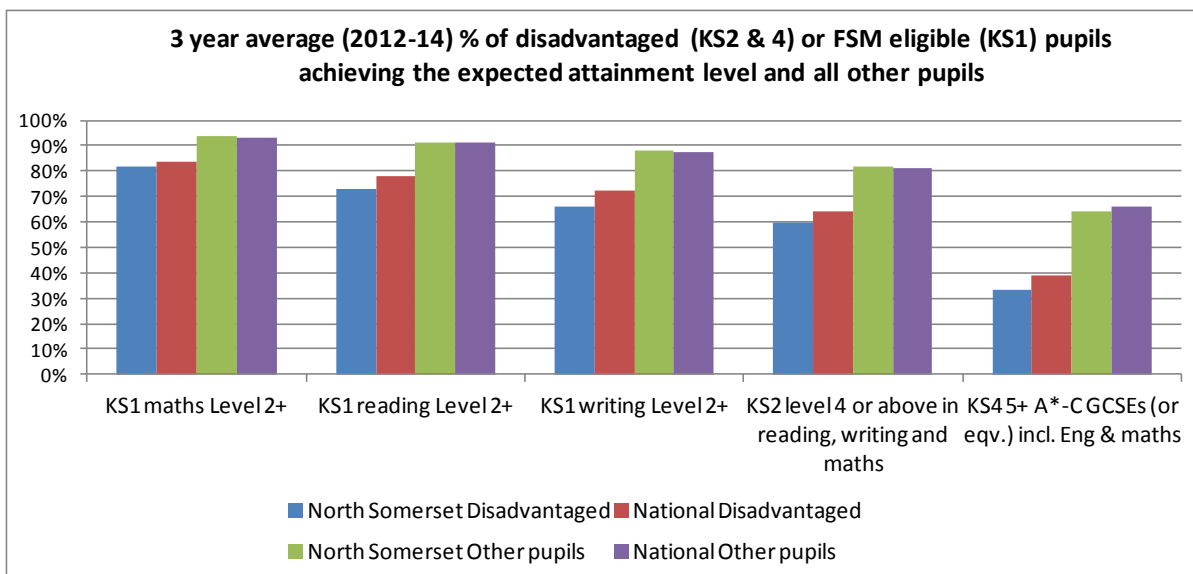
Gap in attainment between 'Disadvantaged' and 'Non-disadvantaged' pupils

For Key Stages 2 and 4 (GCSE) the DfE definition of a 'disadvantaged pupil' is any pupil who has been eligible for Free School Meals at any time during the last 6 years or has been a Looked After child for 6 months or more. For Key Stage 1 the figures presented here are based on pupils eligible for Free School Meals at the time of the School Census in January each year. At all Key Stages the proportion of pupils who are disadvantaged is lower in North Somerset than the England average.

North Somerset and National attainment levels and gaps between the percentage of disadvantaged* pupils achieving the expected KS1,2 and 4 levels and all other pupils (three year average 2012-2014)	% achieving expected level				Gap		
	North Somerset Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged	North Somerset Other pupils	National Other pupils	Previous 3 year gap for NSC (2011-2013)	North Somerset	National
Measure							
KS1 maths Level 2+	82%	84%	94%	93%	15%	12%	10%
KS1 reading Level 2+	73%	78%	91%	91%	20%	18%	13%
KS1 writing Level 2+	66%	73%	88%	88%	24%	22%	15%
KS2 level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths	60%	64%	82%	81%	22%	22%	17%
KS4 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or eqv.) incl. Eng & maths	34%	39%	64%	66%	33%	31%	27%

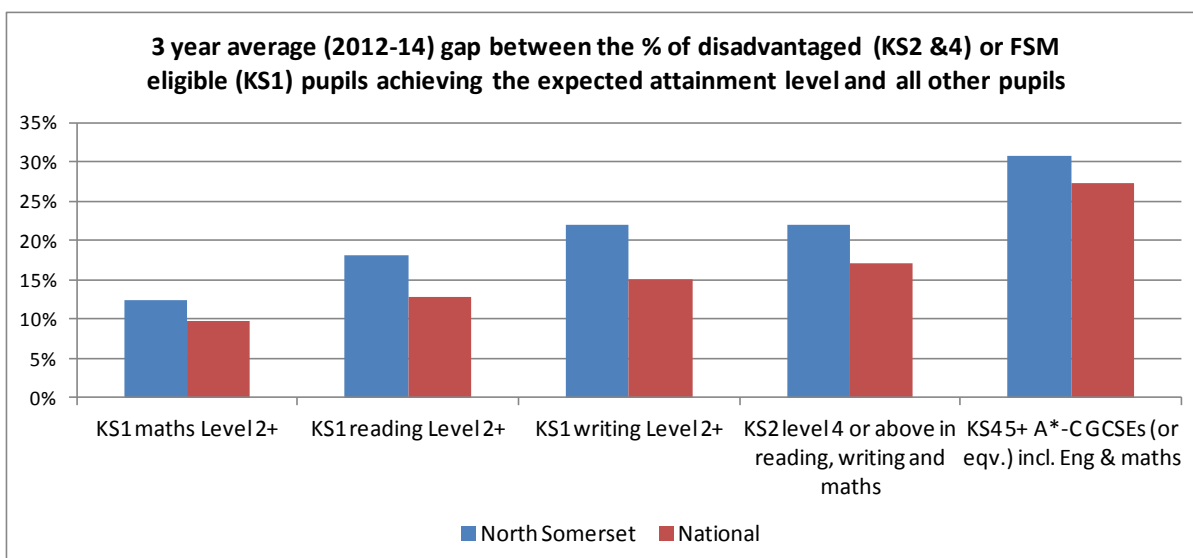
Sources: KS1 - DfE Statistical First Release – 'Phonics Screening Check and National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England,' with 3 year averages calculated. There is no overall KS1 level reported by the DfE, which is why reading, writing and maths are shown.

KS2 & 4 - DfE school performance tables.



The attainment of non-disadvantaged (non-FSM eligible for KS1) pupils in North Somerset was very close to the average attainment across England for this category of pupil at every Key Stage (1, 2 and 4). The attainment of disadvantaged (FSM eligible for KS1) pupils is worse in North Somerset than for disadvantaged pupils in England at each Key Stage (1, 2 and 4).

In 2014 the attainment gap for North Somerset was greater than that for England across all Key Stages, as it was in 2013 also. The chart below highlights the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and the attainment of other pupils. It compares North Somerset to the England average and the figures used are an average over 3 years.



Children with Special Educational Needs

Up to 2014 there were three main tiers of support provided for children who had special educational needs (SEN): School Action, School Action+ and Statemented. The educational attainment for Statemented children and children with SEN, but without statements, is shown in the next table. Comparative attainment over time

and against England averages should be interpreted with caution, because the thresholds for each tier of SEN support might vary over time and between councils.

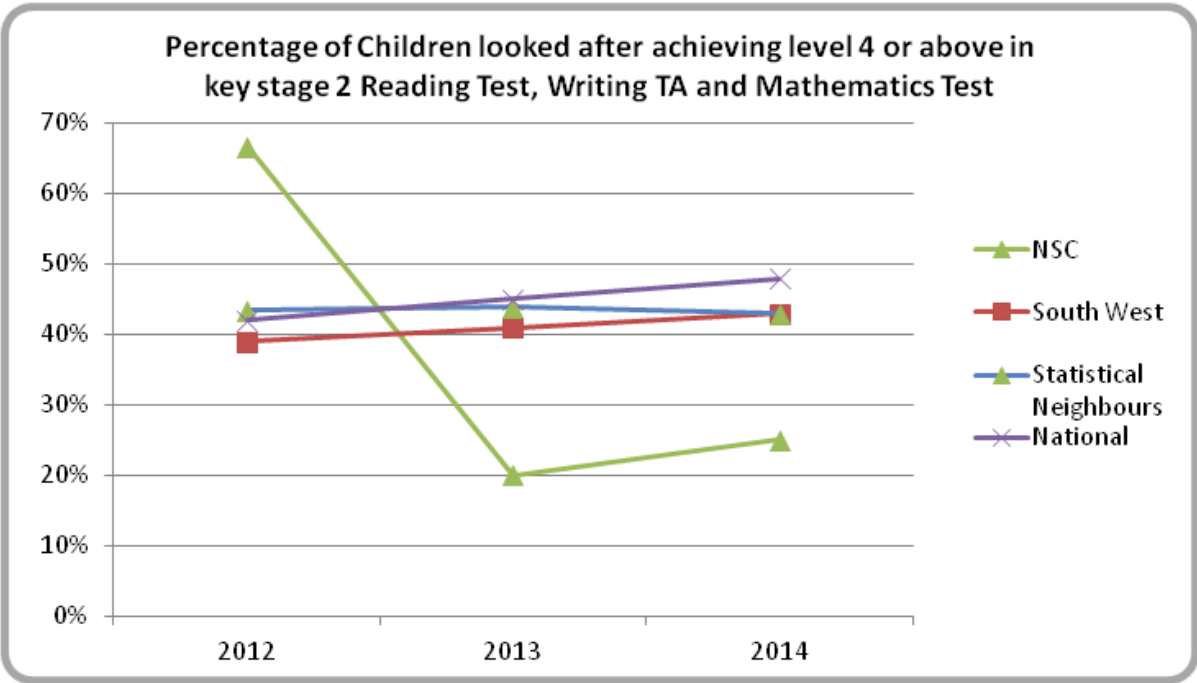
Children with Special Educational Needs	North Somerset			2014
	Result 2012	Result 2013	Result 2014	England Average
Key Stage 2 Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths: % of pupils achieving				
With SEN, but Without Statements	35%	35%	35%	42%
with Statements of SEN	N/A	8%	19%	15%
GCSE 5+ A*-C inc Eng & Maths: % of pupils achieving				
With SEN, but Without Statements	28%	27%	23%	23%
with Statements of SEN	7.5%	9.4%	7.8%	8.0%

Children Looked After

Children Looked After by councils (CLA) do not, in general, achieve well at school. Despite a far greater emphasis on improving educational outcomes for CLA over the past decade, low levels of expectation for CLA in education still persist across the country. These children will typically have experienced a range of issues which are likely to have a detrimental effect on attainment, such as disruption of education, e.g. changing schools, abuse and neglect. A high proportion of CLA have special educational needs when compared to the general pupil population.

Numbers of CLA in each school year are relatively small and so the average attainment of North Somerset's CLA can vary considerably between years. The proportion of the cohort who attend special schools influences the percentages significantly and at Key Stage 2 (KS2) in 2014 half of the cohort (4 out of 8 children) attended a special school and did not take the tests/teacher assessment.

At KS4 (GCSE) level in 2014, North Somerset CLA again attained slightly better at the measure of 5+ GCSEs including English and maths GCSE than did CLA on average across England. However, the percentage of CLA attaining this measure was considerably lower than for all pupils in North Somerset. In 2014 the percentage of CLA making 3 levels of progress between KS2 and KS4 (38%) was considerably lower than for all pupils in North Somerset (71%).

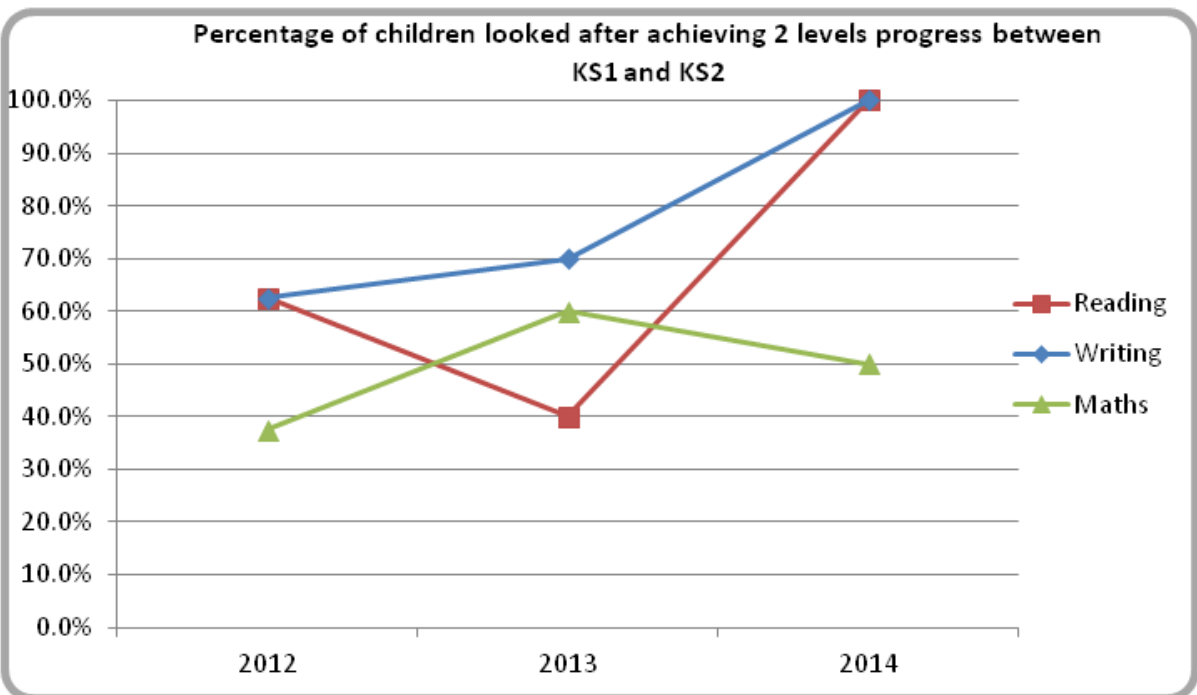


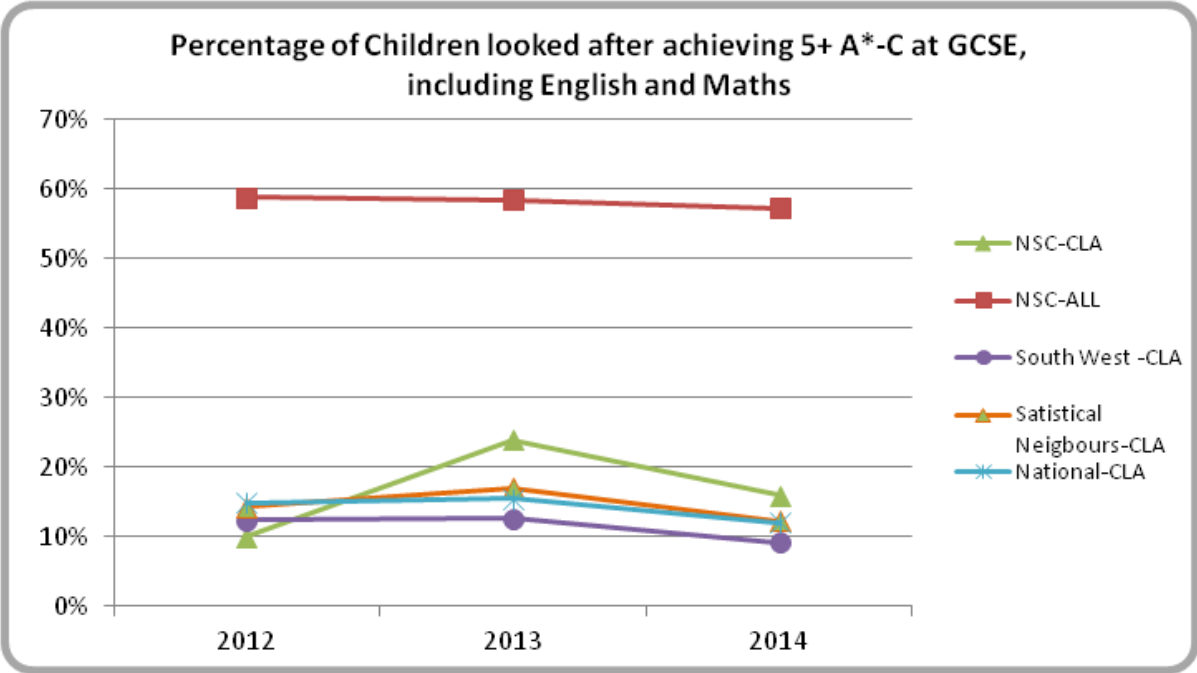
Cohort Size :

2013-14: 8 pupils - 5 pupils did not take KS2 test (4 of which are in special school)

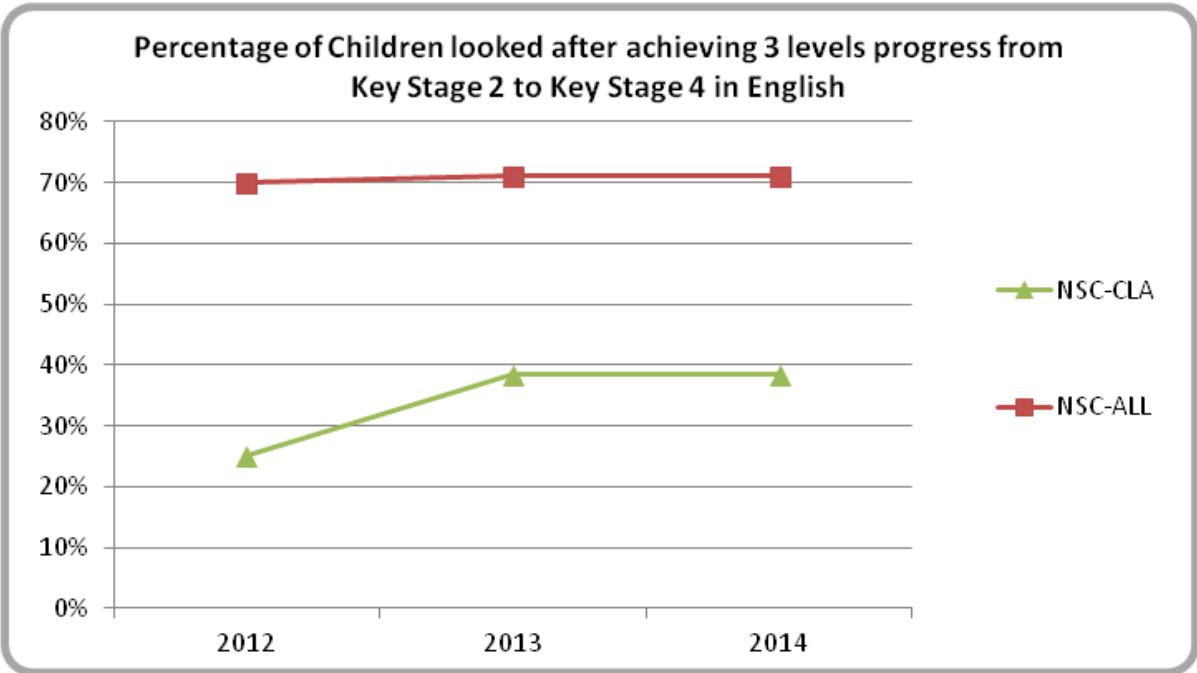
2012-13 : 10 pupils

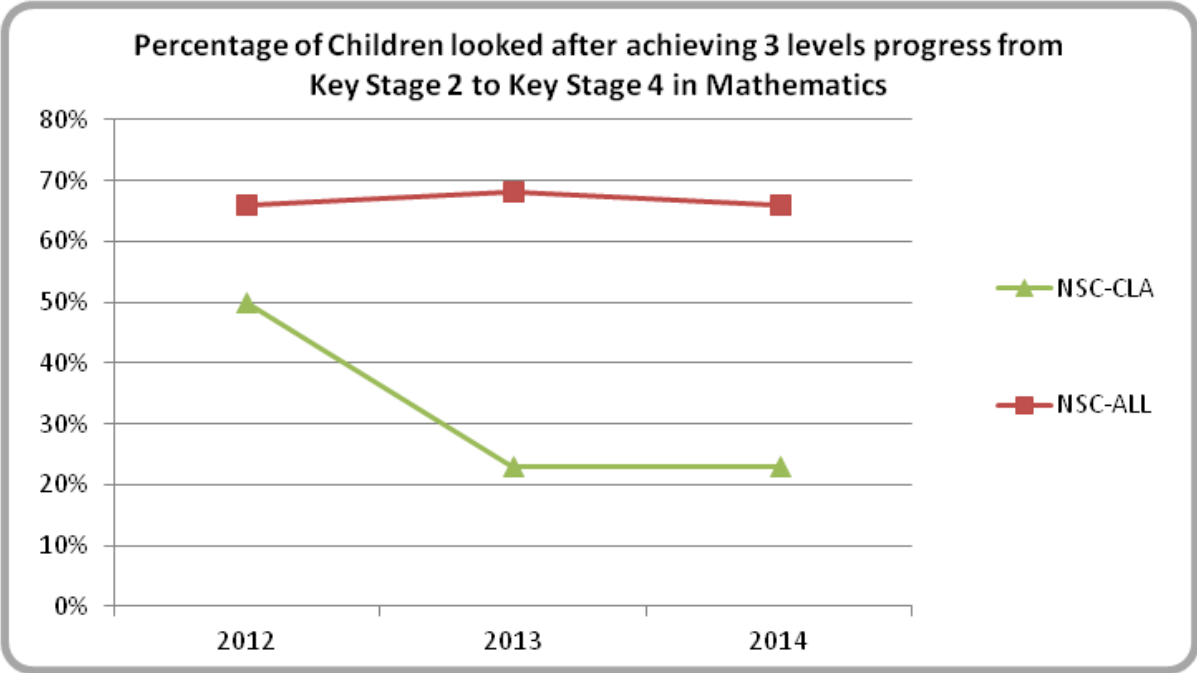
2011-12: 9 pupils





Note: New 2014 methodology applied to 2013/14 data. Two major reforms have been implemented which affect the calculation of key stage 4 (KS4) performance measures data. Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education recommendations which restrict the qualifications counted, prevent any qualification from counting as larger than one GCSE and cap the number of non-GCSEs included in performance measures at two per pupil. There is also an early entry policy to only count a pupil's first attempt at a qualification. More details can be found in the statistical release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2013-to-2014>



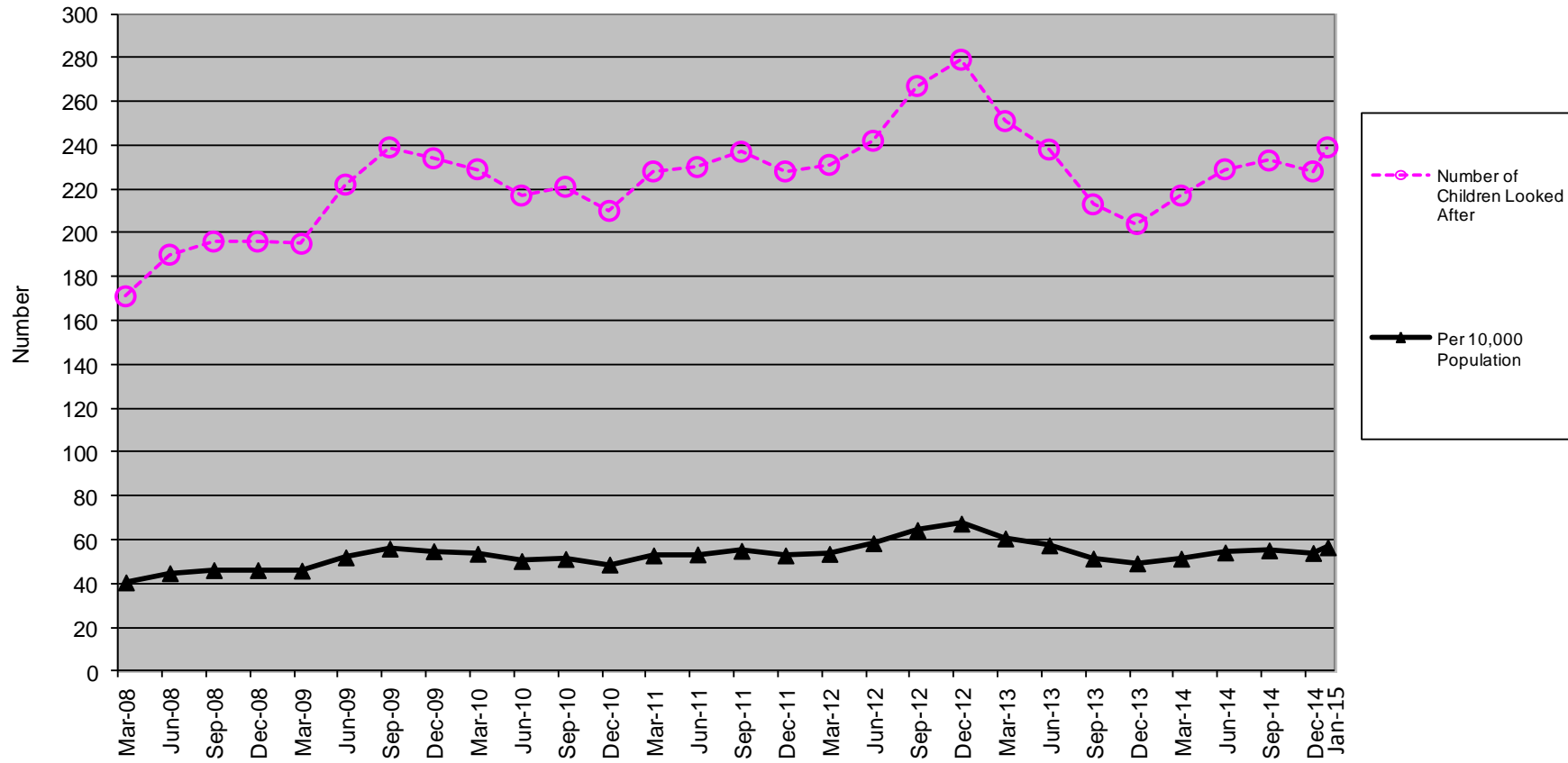


Authors

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Appendix 1

Numbers of Children Looked After at the end of each quarter or month

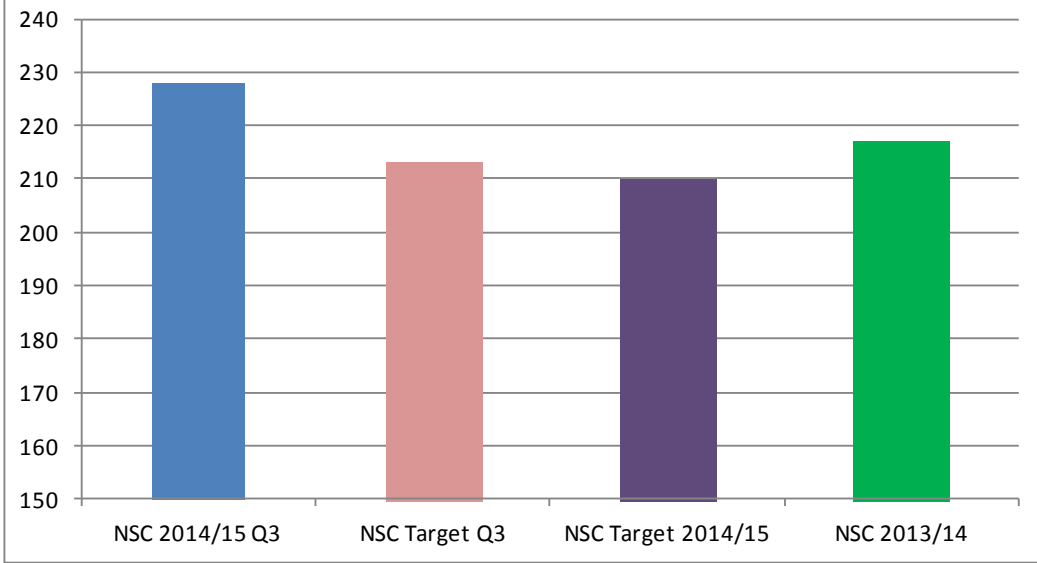


APPENDIX 2 - Performance summary for Key Corporate Performance Indicators

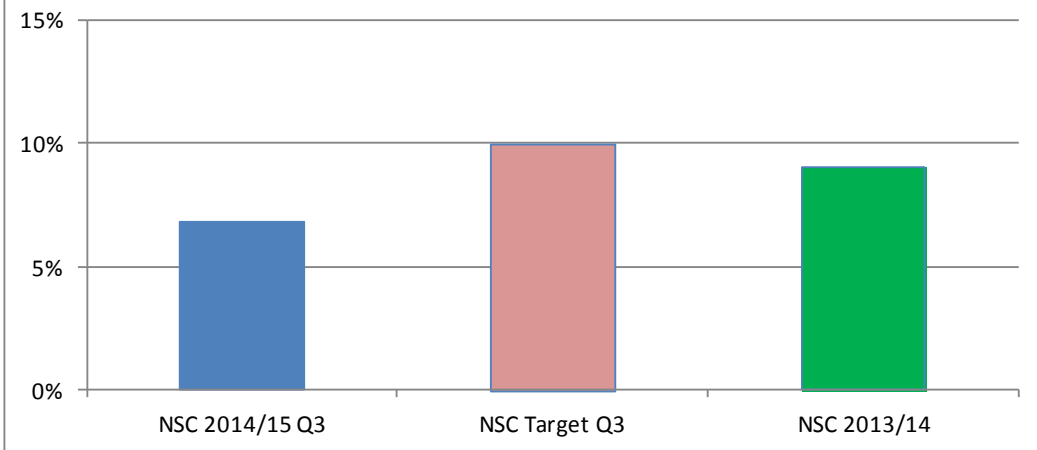
	NSC 2014/15 Q3	NSC Target Q3	NSC Target 2014/15	NSC 2013/14	Statistical Neighbour LAs average 2013/14	England 2013/14	Met target?
Number of Children Looked After	228	213	210	217			N
The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time, within 2 years of the first plan end date.	6.8%	10.0%	<= 10%	9.0%	N/A	N/A	Y
The percentage of child protection referrals of children made within 12 months of a previous child protection referral	6.4%	9.0%	<= 9%	11.3%	local indicator	local indicator	Y
The percentage of 17 year olds who are participating in education (including part-time) or work-based learning.	91.9%	95.0%	>= 96%	94.6%	84.1%	85%	Within tolerance

	NSC 2013/14	NSC Target 2013/14	NSC 2012/13	SN 2013/14	England 2013/14	Met target?
Percentage of children who achieve five or more A*-C grade GCSEs, including English and Maths	57.8%	60.5%	New methodology	56.8%	53.4%	New methodology

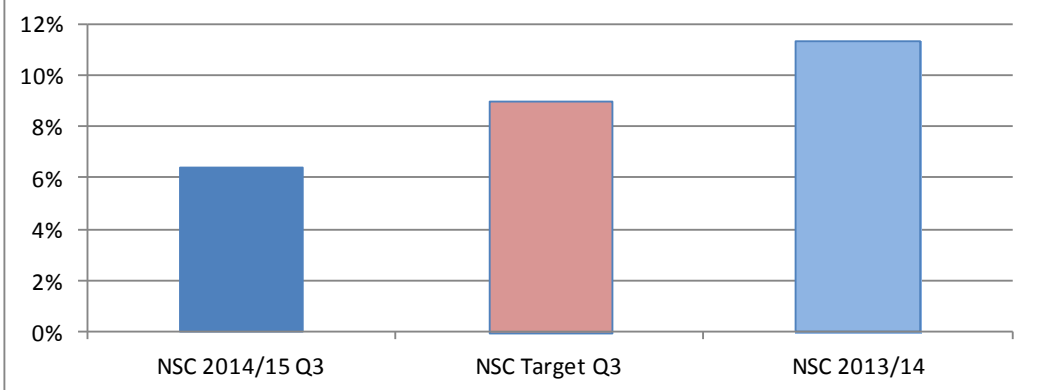
Number of Children Looked After



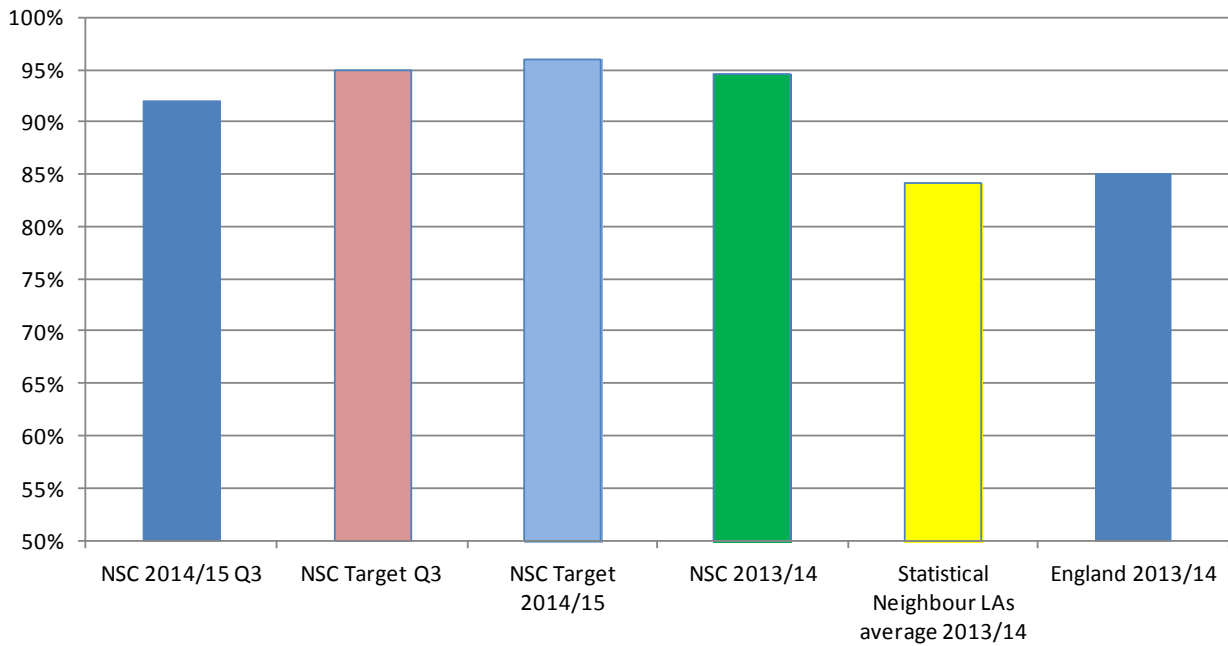
The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time, within 2 years of the first plan end date.



The percentage of child protection referrals of children made within 12 months of a previous child protection referral



**The percentage of 17 year olds who are participating in education
(including part-time) or work-based learning.**



**Percentage of children who achieve five or more A*-C grade
GCSEs, including English and Maths**

