

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 3 January 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Outcome of Peer Challenge on Narrowing the Gap

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the outcomes of the Peer Challenge Process on Narrowing the Gap. (Slides will be shown at the meeting).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy Performance Board consider the recommendations from the Peer Challenge presentation

3.0 BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 Central Government has provided funding for all local authorities to develop a framework within the principles of sector led improvement to facilitate peer challenge and support on a regional basis.
- 3.2 A National Children's Improvement Board was set up. At a regional level, the North West Children's Improvement Board (NWCIB) is responsible for leading and coordinating activities and reporting back to the National Children's Improvement Board (CIB).
- 3.3 All the North West local authorities were divided into 5 Best Practice Networks. There are 4 or 5 local authorities in each Best Practice Network (BPN).
- 3.4 There are four local authorities in the Best Practice Network which includes Halton. The local authorities in this BPN are:

Warrington
Wirral
Oldham

The lead local authority for our BPN is Warrington. The lead authority is responsible for co-ordinating and organising 'Peer Challenges' to a prescribed time scale.

4.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION –HALTON'S PERFORMANCE

Free school meals (FSM) is a proxy measure to identify poverty and given deprivation levels in Halton. The attainment gap between those in receipt of free school meals and their non FSM peers is a measure used to monitor progress of this deprived cohort and ensure that the attainment gap is narrowing.

4.2 The Halton Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) has targets to narrow this attainment gap, which is reported at the end of Key Stage 2 (year 6) and at the end of Key Stage 4 (year 11).

4.3 Key Stage 2 Performance

In 2012, at Key Stage 2 the gap between the attainment of FSM and non-FSM pupils at Level 4 and above in English and Maths combined was 13%. This is a significant reduction compared to 2011 when the gap in this indicator was 21%.

2011	FSM	Non-FSM	Difference
Halton English and maths level 4+	63	84	21
National	58	78	20

There has been an increase in the attainment of FSM pupils in Halton and they continue to outperform FSM pupils nationally.

2012 FSM 6	FSM	Non-FSM	Difference
Halton English and maths level 4+	74	87	13
National	66	83	17

4.4 Key Stage Performance

The performance of Key Stage 4 pupils eligible for FSM at 5+ A*-C including English and Maths has increased by 5.1% in 2012. As a result the gap between free school meals pupils (39.3%) and non-free school meals pupils (66.1%) has narrowed by 1.5% from a gap of 28.3% to 26.8%.

2011	FSM	Non-FSM	Difference
Halton 5 A* - C GCSE including English and maths	34.2	63.5	28.3
National	34.6	62	27.4

2012	FSM	Non-FSM	Difference
Halton 5 A* - C GCSE including English and maths	39.3	66.1	26.8
National	NA	NA	NA

4.5 The objective is to eliminate the gap completely by raising the performance of the FSM cohort to that of their non FSM peers. Progress has made during

the 2011/12 academic year and the Narrowing the Gap seeks to ensure that gains made are sustained.

- 4.6** Implementing the recommendations of the Peer Challenge will help improve the proportion of young people in education and training. The effective use of additional resources such as the Pupil Premium will ensure that pupils' learning and well-being needs are addressed. This should in turn improve young pupils' prospects in further and higher Education and open up wider employment opportunities.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES:

Educational attainment is the key to the future life chances of children and young people in Halton.

This work on narrowing the attainment gap with schools will ensure that vulnerable children in the borough make good progress and achieve as well as their peers.

Educational attainment of children and young people will have a significant impact on future employment, learning and skills of Halton's population.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS:

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES:

Effective implementation will reduce inequalities in achievement for vulnerable groups thus giving these children and young people knowledge and qualifications to access education and training.

8.00 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None under the meaning of the Act

ANNEXE 1

PEER CHALLENGE – Action Plan 2012-13

• Addendum to Narrowing the Gap Priority in Business Plan

Area: School Improvement Strategy			
Suggestion/recommendation	Action	Due Date	Lead Officers
1.0 Develop a school improvement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and invite a small group of Headteachers to work collaboratively with LA Officers on strategy development. Outline LA role and responsibility to schools Share draft School Improvement Strategy with primary Headteachers. Organise workshop sessions/briefings with HAPH/HASH 	<p>October 2012</p> <p>Primary Heads meeting 08/11/12</p> <p>11-19 Strategy Partnership 29/11/12</p>	<p>SN, GB, SSEOs</p> <p>SN, GB</p> <p>SN, GB, AH</p>
2.0 Narrow the Gap – state your ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop a ‘Narrowing the Gap’ Strategy ambition – reduce gap year on year over next 3 years. * Share/state ambition at all Heads meeting * Set LA narrowing the gap targets and schools to sign up to setting narrowing the gap targets for 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 <p>* (Cross reference with ‘Narrowing the Gap’ Strategic Plan <i>Page 5,7</i>)</p>	<p>First draft for discussion completed</p> <p>18 October 2012</p> <p>November 2012</p>	<p>GB, MH, AH, JJ</p> <p>SN, GM</p> <p>SSEOs</p>
3.0 Use data available to inform schools of where they should be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse data and conduct a trend analysis. Set a trajectory for improvement with schools. Self- evaluation guidance provided to schools(RAG rating system) 	<p>September 2012</p> <p>October 2012</p>	<p>SSEOs, GB, JJ</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a group of primary schools to support and challenge in 'Narrowing the Gap'. Disseminate emerging best practice widely Use successful schools to support/mentor schools with wide gaps 	January 2013	SSEOs, SSIOs GB, JJ
4.0	<p>Clarify and formalise school to school support and promote good practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Cross reference with 'Narrowing the Gap' strategic plan <i>Page 5,7</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and recruit Headteachers of successful schools to enrol as NLEs or LLEs Contact National College for school leadership to clarify criteria and confirm dates for next cohort of LLEs Include 'Narrowing the Gap' local criteria for LLE recruitment Facilitated session for all Primary head teachers on school –school support Set up a Strategic School Improvement Group to coordinate and facilitate school to school support 	<p>September 2012</p> <p>August 2012</p> <p>September 2012</p> <p>November 2012</p> <p>January 2013</p>	<p>SN,GB</p> <p>SN</p> <p>School representatives, LA Officers</p> <p>SN, Rosemary Campbell-Stephens</p> <p>HBC Officers, school representatives</p>
5.0	Quality assure the work of Aspire and ensure the work to our ambitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and agree QA procedures at Aspire Strategic and Operational Boards. Evaluate all Aspire activities on a quarterly basis to ensure minimum standards are met/exceeded 	February 2013	<p>SN, GB</p> <p>Aspire Partnership Director</p> <p>Aspire Strategic Board</p>

SSEO - Senior Schools and Settings Effectiveness Officers
SSIO – Schools and Settings Improvement Officers
HBC - Halton Borough Council