

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families PPB

DATE: 5 January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's 2014 Annual Report

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To share the Headlines from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) annual report which was published recently.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Members take note of Halton's performance compared to the North West region and national averages
- ii) Members endorse and support our work with our schools as detailed in Halton's Learning and Achievement Strategy

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 HMCI report is published annually in December. The report looks at the performance of schools nationally and across the nine regions in England.

3.2 The report uses key performance indicators in order to assess how well local authorities are performing in their regions and nationally.

3.3 The evidence to judge the performance of local authorities is drawn from some of the following areas:

- (i) Outcomes from Ofsted school inspection reports across a local authority area compared to regional and national averages;
- (ii) The proportion of pupils attending good or better schools in a local authority;
- (iii) The proportion of students achieving 5+A*-C including English and Maths at GCSE broken down by Free Schools Meals and non-Free Schools.

- 3.4 In this year's report Halton was singled out for its improved performance in several areas.
- 3.5 On page 3 of the report, Halton's work with its system leaders is identified and the signs of improvement acknowledged. System leadership in Halton is underpinned by school to school support as outlined in our Learning and Achievement Strategy. Halton's work with its teaching schools, National Leaders in Education and Specialist Leaders in Education is making a 'tangible' difference in improving some of our under-performing schools.
- 3.6 The percentage of primary and secondary school pupils attending a good or outstanding school in Halton has gone up by 6 percentage points in the primary phase and by 20 percentage points in the secondary phase.
- 3.7 86% of pupils attend a good or outstanding primary school in Halton. Halton is ranked 45th out of 151 local authorities in England. In the secondary phase, 72% of pupils attend a good or outstanding school in Halton. Halton is ranked 67th out of 151 local authorities in England.
- 3.8 Closing the gap: Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils
The attainment of disadvantaged students in Halton is very good compared to other North West local authorities. "The attainment of disadvantaged students in secondary schools is particularly weak in Blackpool, Cumbria and Knowsley. It is strongest in Halton."
- 3.9 Halton is ranked first against 23 North West local authorities. Nationally, Halton is ranked in the top 10 out of 151 local authorities in England. All the other local authorities in the top 10 are in the South.

SUMMARY

Our work with system leaders (school to school support) is effective and improving;

The percentage of primary school pupils attending good or outstanding schools at 86% is above the national average;

The percentage of secondary aged pupils attending good or outstanding schools has gone up by 20 percentage points;

The proportion of disadvantaged pupils (pupils on FSM) achieving 5+A*-C including English and mathematics at GCSE is the highest in the North West and in the top 10 nationally.

- 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS - N/A**
- 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – N/A**
- 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES – N/A**
- 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS – N/A**
- 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**
- 8.1 Members to note the strong performance of pupils on Free School Meals at Key Stage 4.
- 9.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION – N/A**
- 10.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – N/A**
- 11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE – N/A**
- 12.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The report of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills	www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140186	Gill Bennett