

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
8th November 2007

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE
CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

**BRENDA THOMPSON - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES & LEARNING**

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to keep Members informed of the progress of Middlesbrough Children Looked After (CLA), with specific reference to the performance indicators linked to educational attainment.

BACKGROUND

2. Children in the care of the local authority have a right to expect the universal ambitions we all want for every child and young person, whatever their background and circumstances, i.e. that they should be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being. These outcomes are mutually reinforcing.
3. To achieve these outcomes for children in care, Local Authorities as their “Corporate Parents” should demonstrate the strongest commitment to helping every child they look after achieve to their full potential. This includes their aspirations to achieve in further and higher education.
4. The “Care Matters: Time for Change” White Paper sets out a vision for ensuring that children and young people in care have the educational opportunities they deserve and need if they are to reach their full potential and lead enjoyable and fulfilling lives.

5. Alongside the duty placed on Local Authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004, the Government has made a good education for every child in care a priority. After all, high quality education provides the foundation for transforming lives.

ANALYSIS OF KEY STAGE SATs & GCSE (or GNVQ equivalent) RESULTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-07

Analysis of Key Stage 1 SATs results academic year 2006-07 National attainment level is Level 2+

6. 5 Middlesbrough Children Looked After (CLA) are eligible to be included in the DCFS returns at Key Stage 1, each child having been looked after continuously for a period of 12 months plus.
7. 4 of these children are educated in Middlesbrough schools, one is educated out of area. We are still awaiting confirmation of the SATs results for the child educated out of authority.

Key Stage 1				
	In M'Bro	Out of Area	In M'Bro	Out of Area
Number (5)	4	1	4	1
Tests				
L2+ English Reading	2		50%	
L2+ English Writing	2		50%	
L2+ Maths	2		50%	
L2+ Science	2		50%	

Out of Area: CLA educated outside Middlesbrough

Overall analysis of CLA who achieved the national attainment level at KS1 on information currently available

SUBJECT	CLA (05-06)	CLA (06-07)
English Reading	45.5% (5)	50% (2)
English Writing	36.4% (4)	50% (2)
Maths	72.2% (8)	50% (2)
Science	81.8% (9)	50% (2)

Analysis of Key Stage 2 SATs results academic year 2006-07
National attainment level is Level 4+

8. 17 Middlesbrough Children Looked After (CLA) are eligible to be included in the DCFS returns at Key Stage 2, each child having been looked after continuously for a period of 12 months plus. 5 of these children are educated in Middlesbrough schools, twelve are educated out of area.

Overall analysis of CLA who achieved the national attainment level at KS2

Key Stage 2				
	In M'Bro	Out of Area	In M'Bro	Out of Area
Number	5	12	5	12
Tests				
L4+ English	3	9	60%	75%
L4+ Maths	3	6	60%	50%
L4+ Science	4	10	80%	83%

SUBJECT	CLA (05-06)	CLA (06-07)
English	50% (6)	71% (12)
Maths	41.7% (5)	53% (9)
Science	66.7% (9)	82% (14)

Analysis of Key Stage 3 SATs results academic year 2006-07
National attainment level is Level 5+

9. 9 Middlesbrough Children Looked After (CLA) are eligible to be included in the DCFS returns at Key Stage 3, each child having been looked after continuously for a period of 12 months plus.
10. 2 of these young people are educated out of area, with one of them living in the Scottish Borders region where they do not sit Key Stage 3 or equivalent tests. For the reason stated this young person has been excluded from the overall analysis noted below.

Key Stage 3				
	In M'Bro	Out of Area	In M'Bro	Out of Area
Number	8	1	8	1
Tests				
L5+ English	0	0	0%	0%
L5+ Maths	1	0	12.5%	0%
L5+ Science	0	0	0%	0%

Overall analysis of CLA who achieved the national attainment level at KS3

SUBJECT	CLA (05-06)	CLA (06-07)
English	30.8% (4)	0%
Maths	30.8% (4)	11% (1)
Science	23% (3)	0%

GCSE (or GNVQ equivalent) results for Children Looked After in Year 11 who have been continuously looked after for 12 months plus.

11. 23 Middlesbrough Children Looked After (CLA) are eligible to be included in the DCFS returns at Key Stage 4, each young person having been looked after continuously for a period of 12 months plus. 9 of these young people are educated out of area.

Key Stage 4				
	In M'Bro	Out of Area	In M'Bro	Out of Area
Number	14	9	14	9
Test results				
Did not sit/ Not entered	5	4	36%	44%
Achieved 5+ A*-C	1	2	7%	22%
Achieved 5+ A*-G	4	4	29%	44%
Achieved 1+ A*-G	8	6	57%	67%

Overall analysis of GCSE (or GNVQ equivalent) outcomes for Middlesbrough Children Looked After

Academic Year	2004-05 n=17	2005-06 n=15	2006-07 n=23
Achieved 5+ A*-C	6% (1)	13.3% (2)	13% (3)
Achieved 5+ A*-G	29.5% (5)	46.7% (7)	35% (8)
Achieved 1+ A*-G	47% (8)	66.7% (10)	61% (14)
Did not sit/not entered	53% (9)	33.3% (5)	39% (9)

Number of Children Looked After with a Statement of Special Education Needs

12. Some under achievement can be explained by the particularly complex needs of the young people, with 31.8% being identified as having a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), compared to approx. 3% of all children. This shows an increase of 8.5% on the 2005-06 reporting data.

Children Looked After reported as missing 25 days plus education

13. Poor performance may also be attributable to other factors such as problems in the child's home, family circumstances or poor school attendance. 27 young people have been identified as 'missing 25 days plus education' which equates to 17.5%, this figure showing an increase of 2.0% on 2005-06 data, with the number of young people who received a permanent exclusion rising from 3 to 5.
14. A detailed analysis as to the reasons for the increase in children missing 25 days plus education has recently been completed, in an attempt to identify learning points to inform future practice.

Current Position

15. Despite some improvements in outcomes, the educational attainment of our children in care remains low, with increasing numbers of young people disengaging from the education system particularly at Key Stage 4.
16. The gap between those in care and other children will continue to widen unless all the practitioners involved, including schools, work more cohesively and effectively to overcome the barriers that children in care face.
17. The 'Care Matters:Time for Change' agenda goes some way to addressing the complex issues which need to be faced, however legislation alone will have little impact, without the commitment of all the individuals involved in these children's lives.

OPTIONAL APPRAISAL

18. Not applicable to this piece of work.

FINANCIAL LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no financial, legal or ward implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Corporate Parenting Board are asked to advise the Executive to note the information on the Enjoy & Achieve outcome for children looked after by Middlesbrough Council.

REASONS

21. The effectiveness of the Local Authority as a Corporate Parent, the priorities it sets, and the attitudes of those working within it, all affect the educational attainment of children in care. Local Authorities have a duty under the Children Act 2004, to monitor and promote the educational achievements of looked after children to enable each and every one of them to achieve to their full potential, wherever they are placed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Social Exclusion Unit Report (SEU) 'A Better Education for Children in Care September 2003.'

DfES Statutory Guidance 'Duty of Local Authorities to Promote the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children'.

Children Act 2004

Care Matters :Time for Change – DfES Publication 21 June 2007

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