

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS OF  
CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008**

**MIKE CARR - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES &  
LEARNING**

**GILL ROLLINGS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

---

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to members on the educational outcomes of looked after children, as measured against the key performance indicators linked to educational attainment.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The local authority has a duty under Section 22(3) of The Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people who are in the care of the local authority. One critical dimension of the welfare of 'looked after' children is their education, education being the key to determining success in later life.
3. Under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004, the Government has made a good education for every child in care a priority. This statutory guidance places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of every looked after child they are responsible for. It is designed to ensure that local authorities take particular account of the educational implications of any decisions they take about the welfare of looked after children.
4. The statistics about the attainment of children in care are now familiar but are no less stark. In 2007, just 13% of children in care achieved five A\*-C GCSE (or equivalent) passes compared to 62% of all children. 36% of children in care did not achieve any

GCSE passes, compared to 1% of all children. Unsurprisingly given this background, care leavers are more than twice as likely not to be in education, employment or training (NEET) at age nineteen.

- While the cause of this difference in attainment levels can be partly attributed to the emotional trauma and disruption suffered by the children's life experiences, the current level of performance is not a true reflection of the ability of these children. Quite simply, they can do better. Children in care are less likely to fall behind at school if every professional associated with their care and education attaches the same primacy to their education as any 'good parent' would do and do all that a good parent would, to enhance their life chances.

### **ANALYSIS OF KEY STAGE SATs & GCSE (or GNVQ equivalent) RESULTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008**

#### **Analysis of Key Stage 1 SATs results academic year 2007-08 National attainment level is Level 2+**

- 9 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. 2 of these children are educated in Middlesbrough schools with the remaining 7 children being educated out of area.

<b>Key Stage 1</b>				
	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>
Number (9)	2	7	2	7
<b>Tests</b>				
L2+ English Reading	0	6	0%	85.8%
L2+ English Writing	0	4	0%	57.1%
L2+ Maths	0	6	0%	85.8%

**Out of Area: CLA educated outside Middlesbrough**

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

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CLA (05-06)=11</b>	<b>CLA (06-07)=5</b>	<b>CLA (07-08)=9</b>
English Reading	45.5% (5)	50% (2)	66.7%(6)
English Writing	36.4% (4)	50% (2)	44.4%(4)
Maths	72.2% (8)	50% (2)	66.7% (6)

**Analysis of Key Stage 2 SATs results academic year 2007-08**  
**National attainment level is Level 4+**

7. 12 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. Only 1 of these children is educated in a Middlesbrough school, with the remaining eleven being educated out of area.

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

<b>Key Stage 2</b>				
	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>
Number	1	11	1	11
<b>Tests</b>				
L4+ English	0	4	0%	36.4%
L4+ Maths	0	4	0%	36.4%
L4+ Science	0	6	0%	54.5%

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CLA (05-06)=12</b>	<b>CLA (06-07)=17</b>	<b>CLA (07-08)=12</b>
English	50% (6)	71% (12)	33.3% (4)
Maths	41.7% (5)	53% (9)	33.3% (4)
Science	66.7% (9)	82% (14)	50.0% (6)

**Analysis of Key Stage 3 SATs results academic year 2007-08**  
**National attainment level is Level 5+**

8. 27 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. 8 of these young people are educated in Middlesbrough schools with the remaining 19 being educated out of area.

<b>Key Stage 3</b>				
	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>
Number	8	19	8	19
<b>Tests</b>				
L5+ English	2	8	25.0%	42.1%
L5+ Maths	3	5	37.5%	26.3%
L5+ Science	1	4	12.5%	21.0%

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

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CLA (05-06)=13</b>	<b>CLA (06-07)=9</b>	<b>CLA (07-08)=27</b>
English	30.8% (4)	0%	37%(10)
Maths	30.8% (4)	11% (1)	29.6% (8)
Science	23% (3)	0%	18.5% (5)

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

9. 14 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. 7 of these young people are educated in Middlesbrough schools, with 7 being educated out of the area.
10. Of the 6 young people who did not sit GCSE or GNVQ equivalent exams, one was successful in achieving accreditation at entry level and is currently attending college.

<b>Key Stage 4</b>				
	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>	<b>In M'Bro</b>	<b>Out of Area</b>
Number	7	7	7	7
<b>Test results</b>				
Did not sit/ Not entered	2	4	28.6%	57.1%
Achieved 5+ A*-C	1	1	14.3%	14.3%
Achieved 5+ A*-G	4	2	57.1%	28.6%
Achieved 1+ A*-G	5	3	71.4%	42.9%

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

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2005-06 n=15</b>	<b>2006-07 n=23</b>	<b>2007-08 n=14</b>
Achieved 5+ A*-C	13.3% (2)	13% (3)	14.3% (2)
Achieved 5+ A*-G	46.7% (7)	35% (8)	42.9%(6)
Achieved 1+ A*-G	66.7% (10)	61% (14)	57.1%(8)
Did not sit/not entered	33.3% (5)	39% (9)	42.9% (6)

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

11. Some under achievement can be explained by the particularly complex needs of the young people, with 30.5% being identified as having a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), compared to approx. 3% of all children. This shows a slight decrease of 1.3% on the 2006-07 reporting data.

**Children Looked After reported as missing 25 days plus education**

12. Poor performance may also be attributable to other factors such as problems in the child's home, family circumstances or poor school attendance. 18 young people have been identified as 'missing 25 days plus education' which

equates to 12.8%, this figure showing an improvement of 4.7% from 17.5% reported in academic year 2006-07. The number of young people who received a permanent exclusion also decreased from 5 in 2006-7 to 3.

### **Current Position**

13. Within Middlesbrough we know that, in general terms, outcomes for some of our looked after children are improving and there are many success stories. For others, outcomes have not kept pace with those for other children. Although this reflects the national trend, the gap is unacceptable, particularly given our corporate parenting responsibilities.
14. 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.
15. The 'Care Matters:Time for Change' agenda goes some way to addressing the complex issues which need to be faced. Legislation alone though will have little impact, without the commitment of all the individuals involved in these children's lives.

### **OPTIONAL APPRAISAL**

16. Not applicable to this piece of work.

### **FINANCIAL LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS**

17. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. This report will be of interest to all elected Members.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

18. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to ask that the Lead Member for Children's Services reports to the full Council on actions taken to improve educational outcomes for looked after children.

### **REASONS**

19. 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.
20. Getting it right for children in care is a test of the effectiveness of policy and practice in the local authority, requiring effective and demonstrable collaboration between education, social care, school and other partners. The educational achievement of children in care is, therefore, a good test of corporate working within the Council and partnership working with other agencies.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) Report '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' 2005.

Children Act 2004

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

**AUTHOR:** Caroline Kendrick  
Team Manager  
Education Children Looked After

**TEL:** 201870

---

**ADDRESS:** Middlesbrough Teaching & Learning Centre, Tranmere Avenue, Town Farm, Middlesbrough, TS3 8PB

**WEBSITE:** *<http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>*