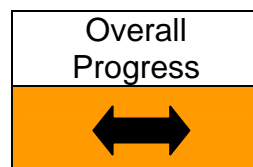


Improvement Priority – LN-1c. Improve learning outcomes and skill levels for all 19 year olds.

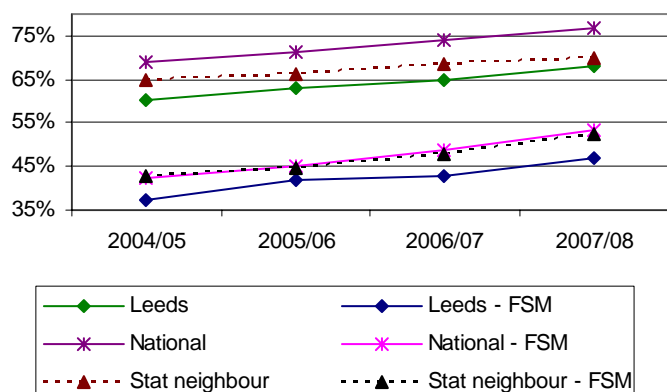
Accountable Officer – Chris Edwards



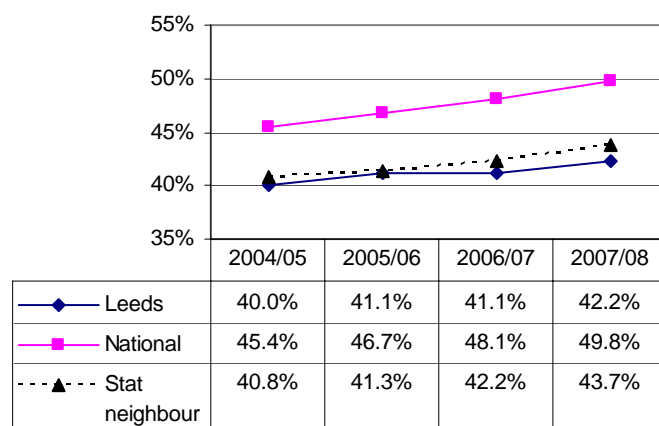
Why is this a priority

Learning outcomes at 19 reflect the extent to which young people are making progress in formal learning and as a consequence their preparedness for the workforce and to a significant extent the likelihood of positive outcomes in adult life. While results at 16 have become closer to national averages, they have yet to do so at 19, especially around Level 3 qualifications. We must make sure aspirations are raised and that young people are aiming high, in terms of both higher education and career options, especially for young people where such references may not be so strongly evident in their lives. We must respond effectively as we move towards a rise in the age of compulsory participation in learning and the advice and guidance young people receive on their future learning and career choices must be accessible and the best possible. Young people must have ownership of their learning and of their learning choices, with understanding of how their learning can provide a pathway into employment.

Achievement of a Level 2 qualification at age 19 by all pupils (NI 79) and by FSM pupils (NI 82)



Attainment of a Level 3 qualification at 19 (NI 80)



Overall progress to date and outcomes achieved 1st April – 30th September

Overall summary

No new data is available since the 2007/08 academic year outcomes were reported in the quarter 4 action tracker, so we are not yet in a position to make a judgement about outcomes for the 2008/09 academic year. This data will be available in spring 2010. Our recent Government Office progress check for outcomes at 14-19 indicated that we were likely to be graded 'Amber/Red' on a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators, but this is provisional and subject to moderation. There have been steady improvements in the proportion of young people achieving level 2 qualifications by the age of 19. The percentage of 19 year olds achieving Level 3 is also increasing, but at a slower rate and the gap to national performance is widening. The recent increases in achievement of Level 2 at 16 should start to improve performance against this indicator, as fewer young people will need to follow a Level 2 curriculum post-16 and can instead aim towards Level 3 qualifications at 19. Progress to deliver key activities and ongoing changes in 14-19 provision are progressing well but are yet to result in a step change in terms of a sustained narrowing of the gap with national performance on both indicators, and for this reason the overall progress judgement is amber. Complex changes to the structure of 14-19 provision designed to transform outcomes are currently being implemented across the city, along with increased personalisation of learning pathways and new learning options such as Diplomas. Improvements in Level 2 at 16 including a closing of the gap with national performance provide confidence for future improvement in outcomes at 19. This is reinforced by additional programmes targeted to support young people to continue in learning for whom level 2 at 16 is or was not achievable.

Achievements since the last report

- In September 2009 five new diploma lines were launched: business administration and finance; engineering; hair and beauty; information technology; and society, health and development. A major strength of the programme has been the good employer engagement. Participation in Diplomas has grown from 127 in two curriculum areas in 2008/09 to 448 in seven curriculum areas in 2009/10 and is forecast to be around 900 in 13 curriculum areas 2010/11.
- A recent Ofsted inspection that covered employability and preparation for work graded all 14-19 aspects as 'Good.' Feedback from the inspectors was extremely positive on the Key Stage 4 engagement

Improvement Priority – LN-1c. Improve learning outcomes and skill levels for all 19 year olds.

Accountable Officer – Chris Edwards

programme, young parents programme and European Social Fund NEET programme.

- Provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 from 2009 indicate that 66.3% of young people achieved Level 2 at 16. This means that current provisional rate at 16 is only two percentage points below last year's rate for Level 2 at 19, with the implications that the proportion with Level 2 at 19 should continue to rise and that more young people now stand a better chance of being able to achieve Level 3 qualifications by 19.
- Partnership working has been significantly strengthened during the past year through the development of the five area-based confederations. Confederations are groups of partners – schools, colleges, SILCs, employers, training providers, the voluntary and higher education sectors – who agree to work together in a formal way to plan and deliver aspects of 14+ provision within clear city-wide strategic protocols across the city. Confederations have already undertaken audits of provision for 14 to 16 year old learners, including off-site provision. They will ensure that post-16 provision that is delivered is viable and will develop a collaborative approach to curriculum planning.
- A 14-19 curriculum co-ordinator took up post in the summer term with specific responsibility for supporting the development and implementation of Foundation Learning (FL) across Leeds. FL is the development of programmes that meet the needs of individual young people who are aged 14-19 and who are currently operating at Level 1 (5 A*-G GCSEs or equivalent) or below. Funding has been secured from the Learning and Skills Council to support development activity for FL across Leeds and projects will engage a wide range of cross-sector partners,
- A Diploma Lead Assessor took up post in November with responsibility for developing a quality assurance process, including policies and procedures for the assessment and standardisation of the Diplomas. Strategies will be developed and in place for supporting Diploma delivery by September 2010. These will be developed collaboratively and in line with existing quality assurance systems in place across Leeds.

Challenges/Risks

The following risk which relates to outcomes at 19 has already been identified and is monitored on a quarterly basis in the Education Leeds risk register:

- Inadequate capital secured through BSF, 14-19 capital funding and basic need to deliver outcomes specified in the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS), 14+ review, National Challenge programme and wider secondary / further education estate.

Other challenges include:

- Level 2 and 3 achievement at age 19 for learners who were eligible for free school meals at academic age 15 is lower in Leeds than equivalent performance nationally. Some of these learners will have been pupils who became disengaged from learning at or before 16, and the provision of a broader curriculum, more diplomas and apprenticeships, addressing NEET and persistent absence and Foundation Learning opportunities are all designed to maximise participation in learning for all young people post-16.
- There are a range of issues affecting successful and viable post-16 provision.
 - Post 16 provision should be financially self-supporting without significant cross-subsidy from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. In Leeds 21 out of the 33 schools with sixth forms are currently funded above the national rate.
 - There are issues around the viability of post-16 groups sizes in some schools, although a positive development is that the number of schools with sixth forms of fewer than 150 learners has decreased from 13 to 9 between 2007/08 and 2008/09.
 - Post-16 success rates (percentage successfully completing learning programmes) are also an issue in a number of schools. For example, eight schools had a success rate of less than 75% in 2008 (2009 data for this measure not yet available), as are post-16 retention rates.

The work of confederations will help to address these issues by working collaboratively to quality assure partnership provision and to ensure procedures are in place to report on student attendance, performance and achievement, as well as adherence to impartial information advice and guidance (IAG) standards at key transition points.

- A longer-term challenge over the coming years will be the change in the 14-19 cohort size; falling by 9.9% between 2009 and 2013.

Council / Partnership Groups	14-19 Strategy Group		
Approved by (Accountable Officer)	Chris Edwards	Date	4 November 2009
Approved by (Accountable Director)	Rosemary Archer	Date	11/11/09

Improvement Priority – LN-1c. Improve learning outcomes and skill levels for all 19 year olds.

Accountable Officer – Chris Edwards

Key actions for the next 6 months

	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
1	Support the development of 14-19 confederations to deliver the 14-19 reform programme.	Consultant Headteacher	Structure of support established with key confederation partners and agreement reached on confederations priorities.	Ongoing through the 2009/10 academic year
2	Co-ordinate the implementation of the 14-19 curriculum, e.g., diplomas, apprenticeships, Foundation Learning.	Head of 14 – 19 Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherent plan for the phased implementation of new diploma lines/ functional skills/ foundation learning tier produced. • Successful implementation of 5 new Diploma lines in September 09. 500 learners starting Diplomas in September 2009. • Four gateway 4 diploma applications developed and submitted by Nov 09. • Training/awareness raising programme for FL providers and other partners developed. • Develop Apprenticeships within schools as employment routes. 	As above
3	Contribute to the development of a 14-19 strategy for Information, Advice and Guidance. Improve access to IAG and progression routes for learners completing L2 courses post 16.	Head of 14 – 19 Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships developed with IYSS, Connexions delivery organisations and Education Leeds' school improvement services. • Models of IAG delivery developed and support offered to consortia 	As above
4	Secure greater employer engagement in the delivery of 14-19 curriculum resources.	Head of 14 – 19 Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer ambassadors gained for the 5 new Diploma lines. • 120 new employers signed up to support the Diploma across 5 new Diploma lines. • Employer Engagement Event delivered to enable education to work closely with employers to influence and shape the Diploma curriculum. • Five employers participating in continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers. Employer ambassadors attend all parents evenings. 	As above

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Performance Indicators										
Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority										
Reference	Title	Owner	Frequency & Measure	Rise or Fall	Baseline	2008/09 Result	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Quarter 2	Current Predicted Full Year Result	Data Quality
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	64.8% (2006/07 academic year)	68.3% (2007/08 academic year)	71.8% (2008/09 academic year)	Data available spring 2010	Data available spring 2010	No concerns
NI 80	Achievement of Level 3 qualifications by the age of 19	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	41.0% (2006/07 academic year)	42.2% (2007/08 academic year)	47.0% (2008/09 academic year)	Data available spring 2010	Data available spring 2010	No concerns