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## **EXAM RESULTS 2017/18**

**Report by Service Director, Children and Young People**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2 October 2018**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Committee of the progress schools are making in the Broad General Education for P1 to S3 and Senior Phase S4–6 Scottish Qualifications Examinations for session 2017/18.**
- 1.2 In 2017/18 all areas of Literacy and Numeracy in the Broad General Education in P1, P4, P7 and S3, apart from Second Level Numeracy, were above 75% and in particular Listening and Reading were above 80%. Most staff in schools are gaining in confidence in teacher judgement levels due to increased moderation activities in and across schools. For session 2018/19, all schools will be set new targets in Literacy and Numeracy to ensure that Scottish Borders meets the Scottish Government's stretch aim of 85% for 2020.
- 1.3 The Senior Phase SQA exam results are part of the attainment journey in the Scottish Borders for young people in S4–6. These results do not include the wider achievement awards, which are on the qualifications framework at the same level and were attained by young people last session. We are committed to looking at both attainment and achievement and exam results tables are only a small part of the work carried out in schools. The Education Service will give a further update to the Executive Committee on attainment and achievement in March 2019 when all the data is available.
- 1.4 Our ambition is that young people in the Senior Phase have the greatest opportunity to attain the highest level of qualification and, as a consequence, we encourage a positive presentation policy rather than a narrowing of opportunity. The number of presentations across the Scottish Borders was consistent with 2017 with approximately 6,000 at National 5, approximately 4,000 at Higher and a small increase at Advanced Higher. There has also been a positive shift in the number of pupils being accredited in a broader range of subjects at the more challenging National 5/SCQF Level 5 award. It should be noted that this is the first year of the new assessment arrangements for Higher.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee note the trends and progress that schools are making, in the Broad General Education and Senior Phase in terms of attainment and the identified areas for improvement.**

### 3 ATTAINMENT

#### 3.1 Attainment in the Broad General Education

- (a) The Broad General Education is from 3–15 years of age. There are National Benchmark levels that most pupils in this phase of their education have to meet in Literacy and Numeracy. The achievement of these levels is based on teacher judgements, which are quality assured through moderation activities around teacher planning and pupil work. The National Stretch Aim is that by 2020 85% of all pupils will attain their relevant benchmarks.
- (b) The National Benchmark Levels are set out below:

Level	Achieved by most pupils by the end of
Early Level	Primary 1
First Level	Primary 4
Second Level	Primary 7
Third Level	Secondary 3
Fourth Level	some pupils by end of S3

#### 3.2 Primary

The tables below show the percentage of children who have achieved the national benchmark in Literacy and Numeracy for a particular level. The evidence is based on the judgement of the teacher and the standard is moderated by other staff in the school and with other schools within the cluster. Through these procedures, staff in schools are more confident in applying the standard. National Standardised Assessments were implemented in session 2017/18 for P1, P4 and P7 children, though data from these assessments are purely for diagnostic purposes only so that schools are able to identify areas for improvement.

Year	P1 Achieved Early Level			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	85.10%	81.10%	76.00%	81.10%
2017/18	86.90%	80.90%	77.70%	80.50%
Difference 2017 and 2018	1.90%	-0.20%	1.70%	-0.60%

Year	P4 Achieved First Level			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	86.7%	81.0%	77.2%	78.5%
2017/18	88.0%	80.6%	76.1%	79.5%
Difference 2017 and 2018	1.3%	-0.4%	-1.1%	1.0%

Year	P7 Achieved Second Level			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	84.50%	79.20%	73.60%	70.20%
2017/18	85.50%	80.00%	75.10%	73.80%
Difference 2017 and 2018	1.00%	0.80%	1.50%	3.60%

### 3.3 Secondary Broad General Education

In 2017/18 the percentage of young people who have achieved Level 3 in Literacy and Numeracy by the end of S3 were above 94%. All secondary schools are above the Scottish Government's Stretch Aims for 2020 for Third Level of 85%, though there is still room for improvement in moderation of Third Level.

Year	S3 Achieved Third Level or Better			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	95.80%	95.00%	94.50%	88.70%
2017/18	96.10%	95.50%	94.30%	94.70%
Difference 2017 and 2018	0.30%	0.50%	-0.20%	6.00%

### 3.4 Achievement in Senior Phase S4–6 Qualifications

#### (a) Overall Attainment

The tables below show the gradings awarded at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in 2018 compared to 2017. The overall pass awards evidence an improving trend.

Total attainment	2018					2017				
	A	B	C	D	Overall	A	B	C	D	Overall
Nat 5	2,186 36.8%	1,265 21.3%	1,084 18.3%	718 12.1%	<b>88.4%</b>	2,230 35.6%	1,445 23.1%	1,228 19.6%	411 6.6%	<b>84.8%</b>
Higher	1,090 26.9%	996 24.6%	940 23.2%	412 10.2%	<b>84.8%</b>	1,232 29.4%	1,066 25.5%	936 22.4%	331 7.9%	<b>85.2%</b>
Adv. Higher	155 29.1%	151 28.3%	119 22.3%	46 8.6%	<b>88.4%</b>	177 33.8%	139 26.5%	116 22.1%	27 5.2%	<b>87.6%</b>

#### (b) Literacy and Numeracy

There has been a particularly positive trend in Literacy and Numeracy, with more young people in S4 than ever attaining success:

- (i) 98% of S4 achieved a Literacy award, an increase of 3% from 2017;
- (ii) 97% of S4 achieved a National 5 English award, an increase of 4%

from 2017;

- (iii) 92% of S4 achieved a Numeracy award, an increase of 4.5% from 2017;
- (iv) 86.3% of S4 achieved a National 5 award in Maths, an increase of 9% from 2017.

There was 'standout' progress at National 5 for Physical Education, Music and Spanish compared to 2017 and there is room for improvement in National 5 Media and Design & Manufacture.

(c) Higher

This year's Higher results demonstrate a consistently positive trend with the percentage of young people gaining an award at Higher remaining at 85%. It should be noted that this is the first year of the new assessment arrangements for Higher.

There was significantly positive progress evidenced in Chemistry, Business Management, History and Physical Education compared to 2017 data and there is room for improvement in Biology, Graphic Communication and Design & Manufacture.

(d) Advanced Higher

The percentage of young people gaining an award at Advanced Higher has risen very slightly at 89%, compared to 2017. In addition, there has been an increase of 1.5% in the number of S6 pupils leaving with five Highers or more and a small increase in presentation levels. Attainment in Music and Geography has shown positive improvement from 2017 levels, but there is room for improvement in Graphic Communication and Modern Studies.

Nationally, results in the Technology subjects have shown a reduction in attainment levels for 2017/18 and Education Scotland will be supporting the Council in working with staff in these subjects to raise attainment next session.

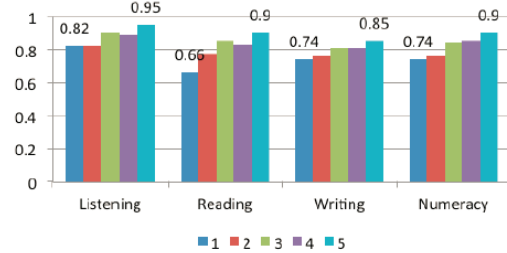
(e) Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap – Broad General Education

The data tables below show the Poverty related attainment gap has been narrowed in P1 and P4 in both Literacy and Numeracy. The Pupil Equity Fund has been effectively used in all allocated schools to support targeted interventions in Literacy and Numeracy for identified groups of children and young people

SIMD is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, which is used as a measure in closing the attainment gap. SIMD Quintile 1 is the most deprived areas and SIMD Quintile 5 is the least deprived areas. In rural areas SIMD is calculated using postcodes so there may be small variations in accuracy.

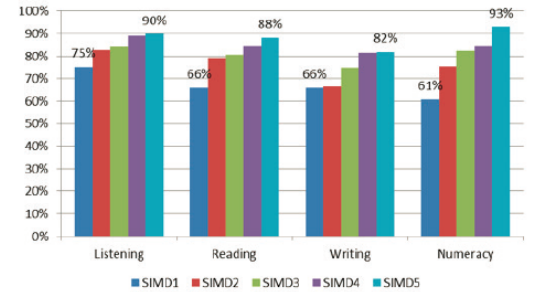
## 2018 CFE DATA

PERCENTGE OF ALL P1 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE EARLY LEVEL, BY QUINTILE

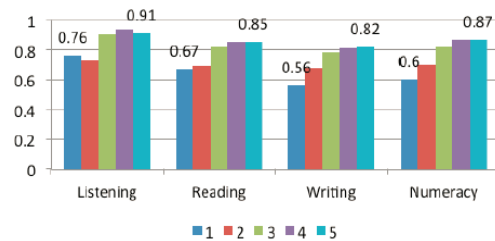


## 2017 CFE DATA

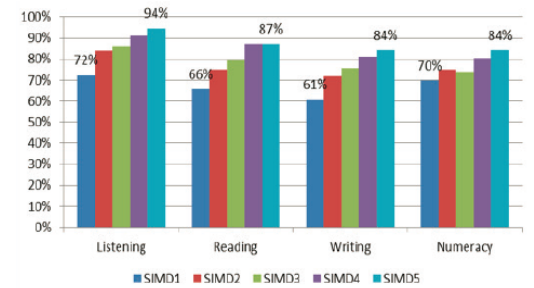
PERCENTGE OF P1 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE EARLY LEVEL, BY SIMD QUINTILE



PERCENTGE OF ALL P4 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 1 OR HIGHER, BY QUINTILE

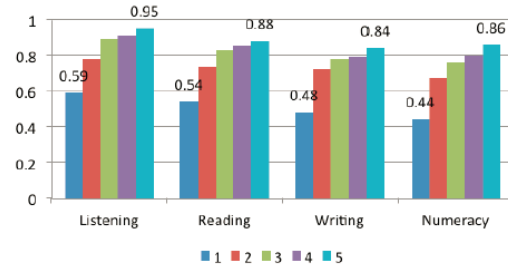


PERCENTGE OF P4 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 1 OR HIGHER, BY SIMD QUINTILE



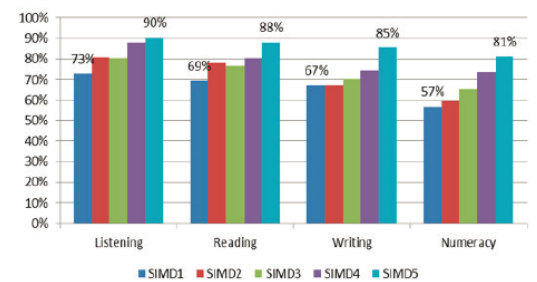
## 2018 CFE DATA

PERCENTGE OF ALL P7 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 2 OR HIGHER, BY QUINTILE

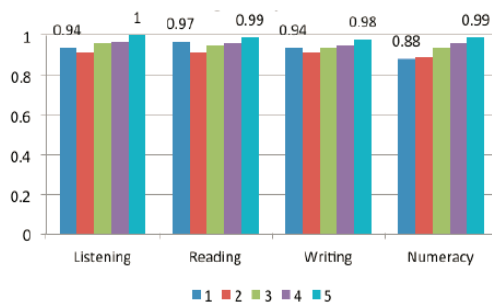


## 2017 CFE DATA

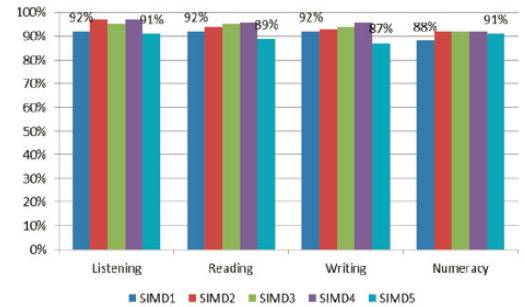
PERCENTGE OF P7 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 2 OR HIGHER, BY SIMD QUINTILE



PERCENTGE OF ALL S3 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 3 OR HIGHER, BY QUINTILE



PERCENTGE OF S3 CHILDREN ACHIEVING THE CFE LEVEL 3 OR HIGHER, BY SIMD QUINTILE



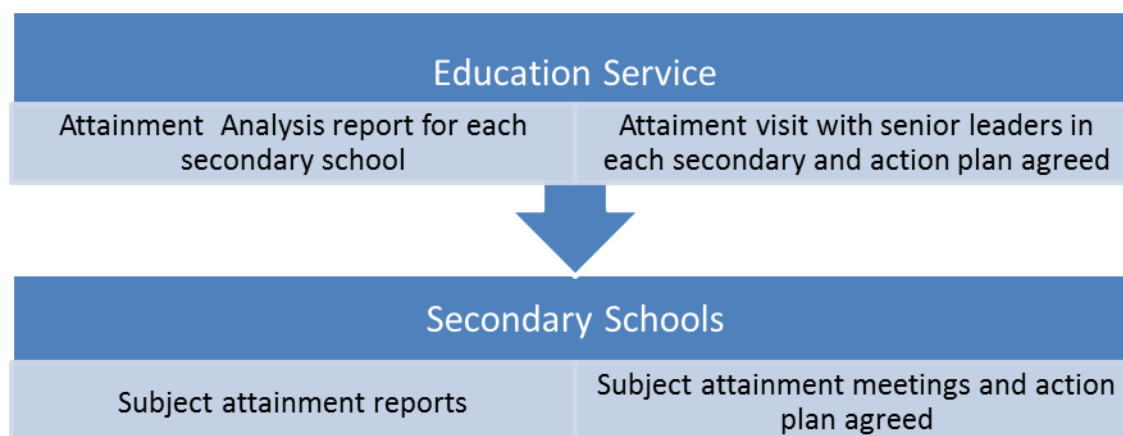
(f) Senior Phase Closing the Gap Performance

The table below shows that overall attainment for young people living in SIMD Quintile 1 compared to 2017. The trends below reflect the overall trend for all young people in Scottish Borders where there is progress being made at National 5 and Advanced Higher and room for improvement at Higher. This data will change when the qualifications update comes through in February. This update encompasses exam awards that were appealed as part of the post-results service, retrospective accreditation and wider achievement awards.

Row Labels	Diet	Presentation	A-C%	A-D%
Nat 5	2018	270	62.22%	79.62
	2017	240	66.66%	74.58
Higher	2018	123	61.92	81.3
	2017	146	71.92	84.24
Adv. Higher	2018	15	73.33	73.33
	2017	0	0	0

(g) Next Steps

A thorough data analysis of SQA exam results is now underway in preparation for the release of the Scottish Government Insight benchmarking tool in the month of September. This tool will be used by senior officers to analyse each secondary schools attainment data and to identify success and areas for improvement. Schools will then do their own detailed analysis.



The same process will happen again in March with the updated release of Insight data. This meeting will focus on the attainment of school leavers and wider achievement and vocational attainment.

For primary schools, senior education staff will meet with Headteachers on a termly basis to monitor attainment levels in literacy and numeracy. Primary Headteachers also hold attainment meetings with class teachers at each stage.

## 4 IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

### 4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks associated with this Report.

### 4.3 Equalities

It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

### 4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

### 4.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.



4.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

**5 CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Donna Manson**

**Service Director, Children & Young People      Signature .....**

Author(s)

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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Catherine Thomson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.