



Report to Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Monday 2nd March 2020

Report of: Chief Executive – Learn Sheffield

Subject: School Improvement Strategy Impact Report

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Summary:

This report follows on from the initial reporting of school performance on 4th November 2019. The background papers (listed below) have all been updated now that both Sheffield and national data has been validated. The committee requested that this report provide a short narrative summary of Sheffield’s performance to identify which aspects are going well and not going well, with further detail provided in the appendices. A specific focus was requested on the comparison with core cities.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to consider the report and provide views and comments.

Background Papers:

This meeting has the following papers (appendices):

- 2019 Performance Presentation (updated)
- Sheffield Data Summary (February 2020)
- Learn Sheffield Outcomes Report (February 2020)
- 2019 Phonics Screening Check

Category of Report: OPEN

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the city performance now that the local and national data for 2019 has been validated. The background papers for this report have been updated since the 4th November visit to the committee and form appendices to this report. In each of the three sections below the overall summary (school outcomes, primary performance & secondary performance) the strengths and areas for improvement have been identified.
- 1.2 In relation to school outcomes the position at the end of 2018/19 remains the same (the national data was already known) but we now have data for the first half of the current school year. In relation to pupil outcomes there are no significant changes in the data from the original presentations, including those measures that were provisional predictions when presented in November.

2. Context & Background

- 2.1 Sheffield's education performance has improved significantly in recent years. As the November report noted Sheffield (pre-2014) had seen a third of our schools less than good in Ofsted terms and LA rankings which were routinely in the bottom ten percent and almost exclusively in the bottom quartile. This has not been the case for some time.
- 2.2 Pupil outcomes improved consistently through to 2017 which was the strongest performance we have seen and saw Sheffield's outcomes broadly in line with national across the twenty measures covered by the data summary. 2018 and 2019 have seen a slight decline in performance albeit against a backdrop of worsening deprivation. In both years, however, 75% of the twenty measures are in the third quartile or better for LA rankings which remains a complete reversal of the previous position.
- 2.3 School outcomes (the proportion of schools judged to be good or better by Ofsted) have also improved significantly but has taken longer to come through and our current position is the best that Sheffield has seen, as outlined in the next section.

3. School (Ofsted) Outcomes

Strengths

- 3.1 The proportion of Sheffield schools judged to be good or better has improved significantly and the gap to national has reduced. In September 2016 76.3% of Sheffield schools were good or better and Sheffield was 9.9% points below national. By September 2019 this had increased to 81.7% (improved by 5.4% points in three years) and this had reduced the gap to national to 4.4% points.
- 3.2 This improvement meant that Sheffield's LA rankings for Ofsted Inspections (102 Primary / 108 Secondary / 102 Special) outperformed deprivation in all sectors for the first time in 2019.
- 3.3 In the first half of the current school year (which has also seen the introduction of a new Ofsted Framework) this has improved by a further 2.3% points so that the current position is that 84% of Sheffield schools judged to be good or better, which is 2.2% points below national. Both of these figures are the strongest position that Sheffield has seen.
- 3.4 The primary sector has been the key element in this improvement and currently (February 2020) 87.2% of Sheffield primary schools are judged to be good or better, which is only 0.6% points below national.

Areas for Improvement

- 3.5 In the secondary sector the proportion of schools judged to be good or better has remained at 67.9% which is 8% points below national (in both September 2019 and February 2020). The current school year has also seen Sheffield's first Inadequate inspection judgement in three years (although this didn't reduce the earlier figure as the school was previously judged to Require Improvement).
- 3.6 The special sector saw one inspection in 2018/19 result in a Requires Improvement judgement. This reduced the proportion of good or better schools to 90.9% which is in line with national.

4. Primary Performance

Strengths

- 4.1 The Foundation Stage Inequality Gap measure has been above national, in the top quartile of LA rankings and the top core city in both 2018 and 2019. The headline Foundation Stage Measure (the proportion of pupils who have achieved the Good Level of Development) remains above deprivation, in the top three core cities and the third quartile of LA rankings.
- 4.2 The gap to national closed by 1% point in 2019 in the headline measure at the end of Key Stage Two (Y6 – Combined Reading, Writing and Maths). Sheffield continues to rank third amongst core cities (for the last three years) and in the third quartile of LA rankings.
- 4.3 Sheffield LA rankings in the primary measures outperform deprivation in 12 of the 14 measures in 2019 (having done so in 10 of 14 in 2018 and 11 of 14 in 2017).

Areas for Improvement

- 4.4 The Year 1 Phonics outcomes remain the weakest aspect of the city data profile. Sheffield ranks 148 out of 151 LAs on this measure (lowest core city and almost 5% points below national) which is based on the outcomes of the Y1 Phonics Screening Check. The 2019 assessment has been included as a background paper for information.
- 4.5 Although Key Stage 1 outcomes are stable with each in the top three core cities in each of the last three years, each has declined in LA rankings and is in the third quartile in 2019. The gap to national is consistently 2-3%points across the subjects.
- 4.6 The Key Stage 2 progress measures have all declined across the last three years. Each one is in the bottom two core cities in 2019 although they are all in the third quartile of LA rankings (i.e. not in the bottom quartile).
- 4.7 The Key Stage 2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar outcome improved and closed the gap to national by 1% point in 2019. It remains, however, in the bottom quartile of LA rankings and the lowest core city.

5. Secondary Performance

Strengths

- 5.1 The key Progress 8 measure at Key stage 4 (GCSE) has been in line with national, in the second quartile of LAs and the top three core cities in each of the last three years.

- 5.2 The Attainment 8 measure at Key stage 4 (GCSE) has closed the gap to national whilst remaining in the third quartile of LA rankings. Sheffield is currently the third ranked core city for both attainment and progress.
- 5.3 Key Stage 5 (A level) performance is strong in both measures which are both above national, have LA rankings in the first or second quartile and are in the top two core cities.
- 5.4 Sheffield LA rankings in the secondary measures outperform deprivation in all six measures in 2019 (having done so in 5 of the 6 measures in both 2017 and 2018).

Areas for Improvement

- 5.5 There has been a slight drop in the proportion of pupils achieving 4+ and 5+ in English and Maths in 2019 which has seen the gap to national widen in both measures. These measures have slightly lower LA rankings and core city rankings, albeit marginally.
- 5.6 The relative performance of vulnerable pupils in Key Stage 4, including those who are disadvantaged and/or have SEND, remains weaker and of concern.

6. Summary

- 6.1 The overall picture is a positive one with the relative position of the city averaging out to the middle of the third quartile of LA rankings across the twenty headline measures (approximately 30 places better than the deprivation ranking) and seventy percent of the measures being in the top three core cities. This is now also reflected in Ofsted outcomes which have seen more recent significant improvements.
- 6.2 The pupil outcomes are stronger in the secondary sector although this hasn't been reflected in the proportion of good or better Ofsted judgements, where the primary sector is performing more strongly.
- 6.3 Whilst there is much to be positive about there is clearly a need, as outlined in the November paper, for a further step change in performance. All of the school and pupil outcomes objectives in the Learn Sheffield Outcomes Report are RAG rated as amber to reflect that Sheffield would aspire to be at and above national in all measures.