



Scrutiny

28th June 2012

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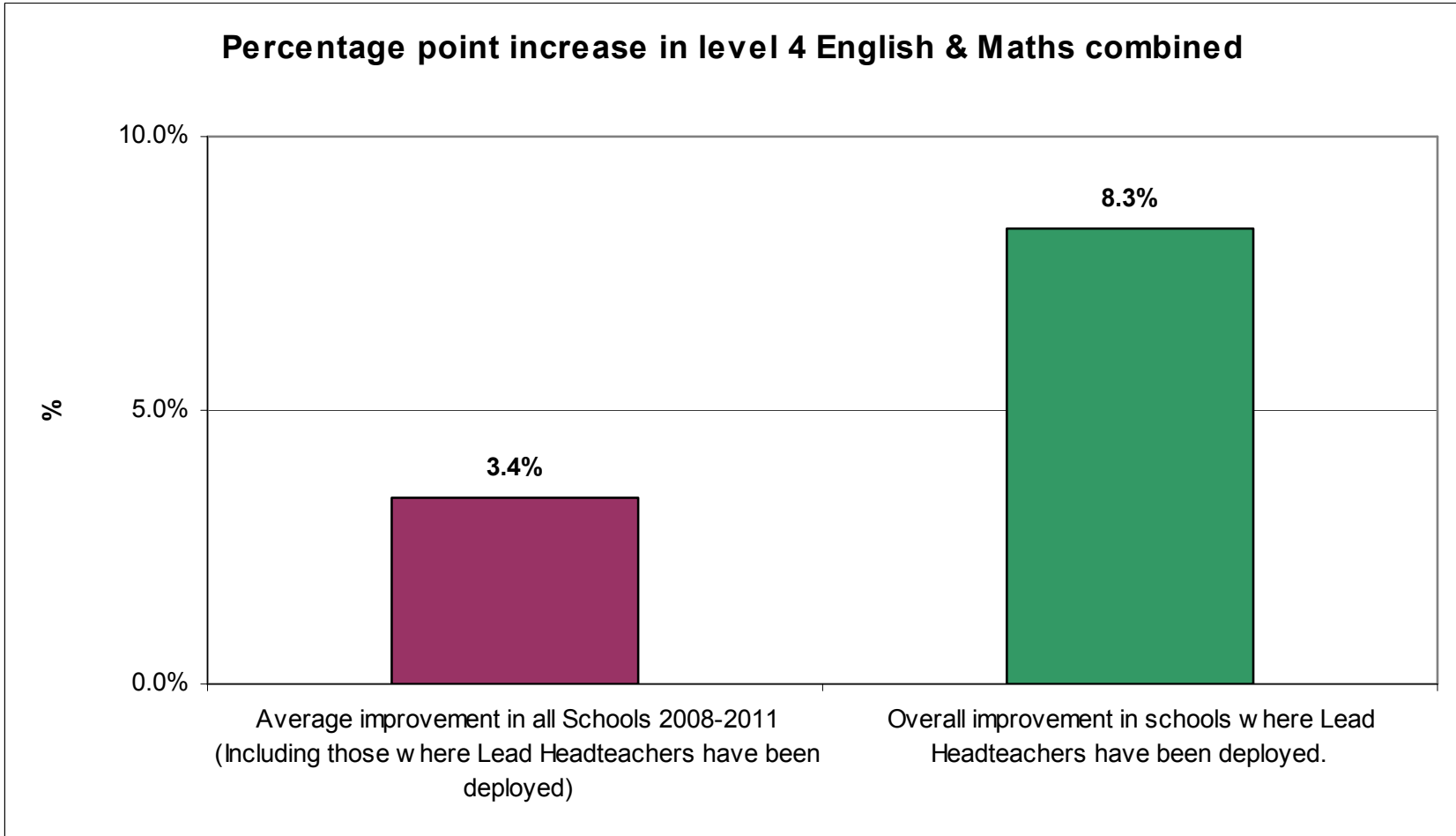


What do we want to achieve in the year ahead

- Improving the quality of learning and skills
- Enabling safe, healthy and strong families
- Ensuring they are active and engaged

Improving the quality of learning and skills for all:

- The quality of education being provided in Sheffield's schools is improving as a result of key strategies like the lead headteacher programme created under the previous Labour led council and the *nationally acclaimed* Every Child Articulate and Literate (ESCAL)
- Attendance in schools is getting better with persistent absence reducing
- Headway is being made on attainment gaps for FSM and SEN pupils, particularly 5-11 year olds
- More children are reaching the expected standard of development in their early years
- The "skills profile" of adults has improved significantly



more children are safe and happy

- Vulnerable children are being supported earlier and better, leading to fewer cases being dealt with by the statutory social care service and low numbers of Looked After Children
- Our children's services are seen as good and improving – fostering and adoption are good with outstanding features - as is the quality of our support for children in our care
- Our children's homes are rated as some of the best in the country



more young people are being supported to succeed in life and avoid risky behaviours

- Real progress on youth crime - the number of teenagers entering the youth justice system is reducing rapidly
- More are engaging with education, employment and training and NEET rates at historic low despite downturn
- Our approach to supporting vulnerable teenagers is attracting national recognition
- We are driving hard on funded apprenticeship places for the NEET group



What are the challenges

- An urgent need to accelerate and improve the overall standards of attainment in the city, particularly at secondary level.
- Action to be taken to address the under achievement of children from some BME groups, children with additional needs, Looked After Children and children from deprived families. This needs to happen in all phases of education.
- We need to redouble our efforts on improving health outcomes for children and young people to ensure progress on key areas like teenage pregnancy and mental health doesn't stall.
- Young people and parents don't think there are enough affordable and accessible high quality things to do and places to go.
- Managing the increased pressure on services for families in challenging circumstances and children at risk of harm.
- Securing improved progression for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

We have to deliver this within the context of national reform.

- Impact of raising floor standards, continued pace of school conversion to academies, and growth of free schools
- The impact of Coalition policy changes on benefits on families and levels of child poverty
- reorganisation of the NHS around GP practices; greater role for local government in public health; and assumption of major efficiency savings and impact of marketisation on vulnerable families
- pressure to speed up and increase adoption of vulnerable children
- expectations that social action and volunteering will fill the gaps in public service delivery
- intensive, centralised focus on troubled families and payment by results, and further overhaul of the youth justice system