

REPORT TO:	Education Committee
MEETING DATE:	12 March 2013
BY:	Executive Director (Services for People)
SUBJECT:	Reporting on Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Performance 2012

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform the Committee of the post-appeal trends in Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) performance in East Lothian.

2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
 - i. Note that the East Lothian results represent a continuing good profile in comparison to the national and comparator authorites' averages.
 - ii. Allow me to write to Head Teachers and colleagues in schools to congratulate them on their achievements.
 - iii. Note that there will be an attainment action plan element within the Department's Service Plan which is currently under development.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government Education Department analyse all attainment data through ScotXed (Scottish Exchange of Educational Data) and provide Education Authorities and schools with information about their attainment in relation to the national performance and that of their comparator authorities.
- 3.2 The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is used as the basis for reporting attainment. SCQF Level 6 refers to Higher Grade at A-C; Level 5 to Standard Grade Credit or Intermediate 2 at A-C; Level 4 to General Standard Grade or Intermediate 1 at A-C; and Level 3 to Foundation Standard Grade or Access 3 Pass.

- 3.3 The exam results in this report are taken from the STACs (Standards Tables and Charts) 2012 Post Appeals publication. The Scottish Government will publish the national post-appeal attainment data in June 2013 as per the revised arrangements following changes implemented to the School Handbook legislation in 2012.
- 3.4 The figures reported represent the cumulative attainment by the end of each stage. For example, attainment by the end of S4 will include the results of Standard Grade or Intermediate courses completed by the same pupils when they were in S3.
- 3.5 The figures, which allow us to make a judgement about our progress, are the National Comparison Deciles (NCDs). Each national comparison decile represents one tenth of the local authorities in Scotland, each decile therefore represents approximately 3 Education Authorities. If an Education Authority were in the 10th decile (NCD10) they would be in the lowest three performing Education Authorities in that particular area of attainment. An NCD of 1 would mean that the Education Authority was amongst the top three performing Education Authorities in Scotland.
- 3.6 East Lothian's comparator authorities are Aberdeenshire, Fife, Midlothian, South Lanarkshire and Stirling.
- 3.7 S4 Tariff Scores are used nationally and locally to compare average attainment for different subgroups rather than whole school performance measures and allows easier comparison of different types of qualifications. The tariff score of a pupil is calculated by allocating a score to each level of qualification and award using a Unified Points Score Scale. For example, a Standard Grade at Level 1 = 38 points, Standard Grade at Level 4 = 14 points.
- 3.8 The Looked After status of S4 pupils is as recorded by each secondary school in the Education MIS and submitted for the Pupil Census in September each year (annual ScotXed Pupil Return). Therefore the numbers of S4 Looked After Pupils may not be fully representative of all S4 looked after children each year, either at a Local Authority or National level.
- 3.9 Extreme care must be exercised when interpreting the figures and making any assumptions about the performance of Looked After pupils as the numbers involved in these cohorts are small and are subject to large fluctuations and, therefore not, necessarily reliable as comparable data year on year.

3.10 East Lothian progress in relation to national levels of performance

3.10.1 SQA examination performance in East Lothian has once again been encouraging, continuing to equal or perform above both the national and comparator authorities' average in all measures and key statutory indicators.

3.11 Performance in S6 2012

- 3.11.1 The following tables show the progress made by East Lothian schools and our comparator authorities against the national average in relation to the attainment of S4 pupils who achieve certain levels of performance by the end of S6. The key statutory indicators are the percentage of S4 pupils who gain 5 or more awards at Level 5 (credit or equivalent) by the end of S6, and the percentage of S4 pupils who gain 3 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) by the end of S6.
- 3.11.2 Attainment at the end of S6 reflects more accurately the impact of schools who design the curriculum to give young people the best chance to achieve their full potential.

TABLE 1

	Lev	el 3 or b	etter i	n Englis	h and	Maths I	by the	end of	S6		5+ L	Level 3 c	or bett	er by the	e end	of S6				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	96	1	95	4	95	3	97	1	96	2	95	2	93	4	94	3	96	2	98	1
Comparator Authorities	94	5	93	6	94	5	94	6	95	7	92	5	91	6	92	6	92	7	93	7
National	92		93		93		94		94		91		91		91		92		93	

Commentary: East Lothian is in top 6 performing Education Authorities for students having an award for English and Maths, reflecting the continuing focus on ensuring attainment for all and the importance placed on literacy and numeracy for future employability.

Good progress continues to be made in relation to the % of young people gaining 5 or more awards at Level 3 by the end of S6. We aspire to ensure that every young person reaches this level at least unless they have specific learning needs. This continued progress places East Lothian in the top decile across Scotland.

TABLE 2

	5+ L	Level 4 c	or bett	er by th	e end	of S6					5+ L	Level 5 c	or bett	er by the	e end	of S6				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	84	2	80	5	83	4	86	2	87	2	53	3	52	4	56	2	59	2	58	4
Comparator Authorities	80	5	79	5	80	6	82	7	82	6	49	5	49	6	51	6	52	7	55	6
National	79		78		79		81		82		48		48		50		53		55	

Commentary: East Lothian maintained its progress and placing in the 2nd decile for a second year for the % of young people gaining 5 or more awards at Level 4 by the end of S6. The % of young people achieving % or more at Level

5 dropped by 1% on the previous year and 2 placings to the 4th decile following an exceptionally high result but remains 3% and 2 decile placings above the comparator authorities' average.

TABLE 3

			1+	Level 6	or bet	ter by th	e end	of S6					3+	Level 6	or bet	ter by th	e end	of S6		
	2	800	2	009	2	010	2	011	2	012	2	800	2	009	2	010	2	011	2	012
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	48	3	46	5	51	3	53	3	54	4	33	3	34	4	37	3	39	2	40	3
Comparator Authorities	44	6	44	6	47	6	49	6	52	6	31	5	31	5	33	6	35	7	37	6
National	43		44		47		50		52		30		31		33		35		37	

Commentary: Achievement at Level 6 (Higher Grade) has also improved again in percentage terms although our national placing has dropped by 1, reflecting the continuing improvement also being made nationally and by our comparators although the East Lothian average remains 2% to 3% higher respectively than our comparator authorities' and national averages.

TABLE 4

			5+	Level 6	or bet	ter by th	e end	of S6					1+	Level 7	or bet	ter by th	e end	of S6		
	2	800	2	009	2	010	2	011	2	012	2	800	2	009	2	010	2	011	2	012
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	23	3	24	3	25	3	26	4	28	3	16	2	16	4	19	2	16	4	17	5
Comparator Authorities	21	5	20	6	23	5	23	6	26	5	13	5	14	6	15	6	16	6	17	5
National	20		21		22		24		26		13		14		15		16		16	

Commentary: The % of young people who gained 5 or more Highers (Level 6) has made good progress over the past 5 years in line with but above the national statistics. The % of young people who gained at least one Advanced Higher (Level 7) improved in percentage terms on the previous year in East Lothian but dropped one decile placing in line with our comparator authorities' average.

Summary: Over the last 5 years, East Lothian has made continuous improvement across each of the indicators by the end of S6, with the percentage performance in each measure remaining above the national and comparator authorities' average year on year since 2009. East Lothian currently lies within the top six performing Education Authorities for the Level 3 and 4 measures and the top nine performing for the 3+ Level 6 and 5+ Level 6 measures.

3.12 **Performance in S5 2012**

3.12.1 The tables below show the annual progress made by East Lothian schools and our comparator authorities against the national average in relation to the attainment of pupils by the end of S5. The key statutory

indicator is the percentage of S4 pupils gaining 3 or more awards at Level 6 by the end of S5.

TABLE 5

	1+ L	Level 6 c	or bett	er by th	e end	of S5					3+ L	Level 6 c	or bett	er by the	e end	of S5				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	41	4	45	3	46	3	47	5	48	3	25	3	27	2	26	4	28	3	29	3
Comparator Authorities	39	6	41	6	43	6	45	5	46	6	22	6	24	5	25	5	27	5	27	4
National	39		41		43		45	47			22		23		25		26		27	

<u>TABLE 6</u>

	5+ L	evel 6 c	or bett	er by the	e end	of S5				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	10	4	12	3	12	3	13	4	14	3
Comparator Authorities	10	5	11	5	11	5	12	5	13	5
National	10		11		11		12		13	

- 3.12.2 In 2012 East Lothian improved the previous year's percentage attainment and performed above both the national and comparator authorities' averages across the Level 6 measures.
- 3.12.3 The key statutory indicator for progress by the end of S5 is the percentage of S4 pupils gaining 3 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher). The NCD for this level of performance in East Lothian was maintained in the 3rd decile for a second year. East Lothian currently lies within the top nine performing Education Authorities across Scotland for all three measures.

3.13 **Performance in S4 2012**

3.13.1 The following tables show the progress made by East Lothian schools and our comparator authorities against the national average in relation to the attainment of pupils by the end of S4. The key statutory indicator is the percentage of S4 pupils gaining 5 or more awards at Level 5 (credit or equivalent).

TABLE 7

	Lev	el 3 or b	etter i	n Englis	h by t	he end (of S4				Lev	el 3 or b	etter i	n Maths	by th	e end of	f S4			
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	97	1	97	2	97	2	97	2	98	2	95	4	97	3	95	7	98	2	98	2
Comparator Authorities	95	6	95	6	96	6	96	5	96	7	95	4	95	6	95	7	95	7	96	6
National	94		94		96		96		96		94		95		95		95		96	

TABLE 8

	Lev	el 3 or b	etter i	n Englis	h and	Maths I	by the	end of	S4		5+ l	evel 3 c	or bett	er by the	e end	of S4				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	94	3	96	2	94	4	96	2	96	2	94	3	95	2	96	1	95	2	96	3
Comparator Authorities	93	5	93	6	93	6	94	6	95	6	91	6	91	6	92	6	92	8	93	9
National	92		93		93		93		94		91		92		92		93		94	

TABLE 9

	5+ l	_evel 4 d	or bett	er by th	e end	of S4					5+ l	_evel 5 d	or bett	er by the	e end	of S4				
	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2	200	8	200	9	201	0	201	1	201	2
	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD	%	NCD
East Lothian	81	2	84	2	83	2	82	3	82	5	39	3	38	5	39	4	39	4	38	5
Comparator Authorities	78	6	79	6	79	6	78	6	79	7	36	5	35	6	36	6	36	6	37	6
National	76		78		78		79		80		34		35		36		36		37	

- 3.13.2 In 2012, East Lothian performed above the national and comparator authorities' average across all six measures and locally either maintained or improved on the previous year's performance in 5 out of the 6 measures.
- 3.13.3 East Lothian also maintained its NCD placing in the top 6 performing Education Authorities across Scotland in the Level 3 or better in English, Maths and English & Maths measures, four to five decile placings above our comparator authorities' average.
- 3.13.4 Despite improving a percentage point in the 5+ Level 3 measure, East Lothian dropped an NCD placing in 2012 but is still within the top nine performing Education Authorities in this measure.

- 3.13.5 The percentage of pupils who gained 5+ Level 4 awards dropped 2 NCD placings to the 5th decile for the first time in 5 years despite maintaining its percentage performance, reflecting the continuing improvement that has been made nationally but remains 2% higher than the national and 3% higher than our comparator authorities' average.
- 3.13.6 The percentage of pupils who gained 5+ Level 5 dropped by 1% and one decile placing in East Lothian, again reflective of the continuing improvement nationally, but still remains 1% above the national and comparator authorities' average.

3.14 **Performance in Key Priority Measures 2012**

- 3.14.1 The following table shows the progress made by East Lothian schools in relation to the attainment of S4 pupils who achieve certain levels of performance by the end of S6. The figures take an average of performance over three years to smooth out any anomalies that can occur on a year-to-year basis. These three-year averages are used by HMIe when considering attainment profiles for schools and Education Authorities.
- 3.14.2 The key statutory indicators are the percentage of S4 pupils who gain 5+ Level 5 (credit or equivalent) awards by the end of S6, and the percentage of S4 pupils who gain 3+ Level 6 (Higher) by the end of S6.

	NP 1	.1 C	NP	1.2 A	NP	1.2 B	NP	1.2 C	NP	1.2 D	NP	1.2 E	NP	1.2 F
	Eng	& Maths	5+ I	_evel 3	5+ l	_evel 4	5+ l	_evel 5	1+ l	_evel 6	3+ I	_evel 6	5+ l	_evel 6
	%	NCD												
2010-12	96	2	96	1	85	3	58	3	53	3	39	4	26	3
2009-11	96	3	95	3	83	3	55	3	50	4	37	3	25	4
2008-10	95	3	94	3	82	4	54	3	48	3	35	3	24	3
2007-09	95	3	93	3	81	4	53	3	47	3	34	3	23	3
2006-08	95	2	93	3	81	4	53	3	47	4	34	4	23	3

<u> TABLE 10</u>

- 3.14.3 Across the key priority measures East Lothian has made continuous improvement over the last 6 years and is now in the 2nd decile for English & Maths and the 1st decile as one of the top three performing Education Authorities in Scotland for the 5+ Level 3 measure. Again, this reflects the continuing focus in East Lothian on ensuring attainment for all and the importance placed on literacy and numeracy for future employability.
- 3.14.4 In the key statutory indicators East Lothian has made continuous improvement in percentage terms and remains in the 3rd decile for a further year, placing East Lothian among the top nine performing Education Authorities in Scotland for the 5+ Level 5 measure. This placing is mirrored in all the other remaining indicators with the exception of the percentage of S4 pupils gaining 3+ Level 6 (Higher), which

dropped one place to the 4th decile (between 10th and 12th in Scotland) despite improving by 2% on the previous year and is reflective of the continuing improvement being made nationally across Scotland in this indicator.

3.15 **Performance in Pupils Looked After in East Lothian 2012**

3.15.1 The tables below show the East Lothian and National average tariff score trends of S4 pupils by Looked After status. The averages are calculated from small numbers and are therefore likely to fluctuate year on year and should be treated with caution. The 2011-12 National data will not be available to Local Authorities for reporting until June 2013.

<u>TABLE 11</u>

	East Loth	ian Averag	9		
Pupil Characteristic	2007/08 Average	2008/09 Average	2009/10 Average	2010/11 Average	2011/12 Average
All pupils	186.3	190.5	195.3	196.1	194.9
Not looked after	188.8	191.5	197.9	197.8	196.6
Looked after at home	69.5	113.8	49.5	57.4	119.3
Looked after away from home	89.8	86.0	73.8	103.6	90.8
All Looked After	81.5	95.3	64.5	78.9	95.6
Gap between S4 pupils Looked After & Not Looked					
After	107.3	96.2	133.4	118.9	101.0

TABLE 12

	National Average				
Pupil Characteristic	2009/10 Average	2010/11 Average	2011/12 Average	2010/11 Average	2011/12 Average
All pupils	181.0	183.0	N/A	183.0	N/A
Not looked after	183.0	184.0	N/A	184.0	N/A
Looked after at home	36.0	42.0	N/A	42.0	N/A
Looked after away from					
home	80.0	86.0	N/A	86.0	N/A
All Looked After	Data not published nationally				

- 3.15.2 Tariff scores for S4 pupils looked after in East Lothian have fluctuated over the last 5 years. The data shows an improving trend overall in the tariff scores of all those S4 pupils looked after in East Lothian over the last 3 years from 64.5 to 95.6 with the gap between those looked after and not looked after reducing from 133.4 to 101.
- 3.15.3 Tariff scores for East Lothian S4 pupils who are Looked After at home, while fluctuating over the past 5 years, have exceeded the national average scores each year.

- 3.15.4 Tariff scores for East Lothian S4 pupils who are Looked After away from home also show a fluctuating trend and have been greater than the National average with the exception of 2010.
- 3.15.5 The data shows that over the past 5 years, East Lothian pupils Looked After away from home have generally returned better average tariff scores than pupils Looked After at home with the exception of 2 years. Nationally, pupils Looked After away from home consistently return better average tariff scores than pupils Looked After at home.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial None
- 6.2 Personnel None
- 6.3 Other None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

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