

From: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform**

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

To: **Cabinet – 16 September 2013**

Subject: **2013 GCSE Results Update**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: **All**

Summary: This paper provides Cabinet with an update on the unvalidated 2013 GCSE results in Kent.

Recommendation(s): Cabinet Members are asked to

- (i) Note the GCSE results for 2013 and
- (ii) Express their thanks and appreciation to all staff, governors and pupils for achieving exceptional exam results in 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper is for early information for Members regarding the 2013 GCSE results in Kent. The figures contained in this report are self-reported by schools and will be liable to change and validation through the Department for Education. The timescales for confirmed figures are as follows:

- First release of, unvalidated, GCSE results through Educational Performance Analysis System (EPAS) produced for Local Authorities at the end of September.
- Second release of, validated, GCSE results published by the Department for Education in late January 2014 (for secondary schools and colleges) in the 2013 Performance Tables.

2. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

2.1 The initial self-reported results indicate that we have made significant progress towards achieving the 2016 target of 70% 5+ A*-C including English and Mathematics at Key Stage 4 with results improving by 4% to 65%.

2.2 The number of schools below the Government Standard of 40% achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Mathematics at Key Stage 4 has also reduced significantly from 19 self report last August to 11 this August.

3. GCSE Update

- 3.1 At Key Stage 4 there has been very good improvement in GCSE results this year. 75% of schools have maintained or improved their GCSE performance, which is excellent. The Kent performance for 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths is 65%. This exceeds our Bold Steps target for 2013 of 64% and is the best ever performance for Kent against an anticipated national drop in results. It represents an improvement of 4% on the 2012 outcome of 61%.
- 3.2 61 Secondary schools improved or maintained their performance, some with very impressive gains compared to previous results. Twenty schools improved their GCSE performance on this measure by 10% or more. A further 14 schools declined by only 1% or less. Many schools have 'closed the gap' on overlap performance between those pupils who achieve a C grade or above in Maths and English rather than in just one of these core subjects.
- 3.3 Eleven Secondary schools are now below the floor target of 40% compared to 19 schools at this time in 2012.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The initial school self-reported figures show a significant step increase in performance against a national picture for 2013 which early indications show an overall drop in performance across the country.

6. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet Members are asked to:

Note the GCSE results for 2013 and

- (ii) Express their thanks and appreciation to all staff, governors and pupils for achieving exceptional exam results in 2013

7. Background Documents

None

8. Contact details

Report Author

- Sue Rogers, Director of Education, Qualities and Standards
- 01622 694983
- Sue.rogers@kent.gov.uk