CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
27 October 2020

Report sponsor: Pauline Anderson, Service Director, Education and Skills
Report author: Graeme Ferguson, Virtual School Head teacher

ITEM 08

Derby City Council

Report on the academic outcomes of Looked After Children (LAC) 2019/20

Purpose

1.1 **Children in Care Academic Outcomes Summary**

The exams and assessments in 2019/20 were cancelled due to Covid 19 and no data is to be published nationally or used as an accountability measure by Ofsted. Therefore, the outcomes in this report are for internal use only.

In Primary schools all assessments at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 did not take place and no data is available.

In Secondary Schools teacher assessments were used to award pupils GCSE grades.

1.2 Outlined in this report are the GCSE maths and English grades which were awarded to Derby City LAC pupils for grade 4 and above (the equivalent of the old GCSE Grade C and above)

1.3 When more data becomes available the full Annual Report from the Headteacher of the Virtual School will be presented in 2021.

Recommendations

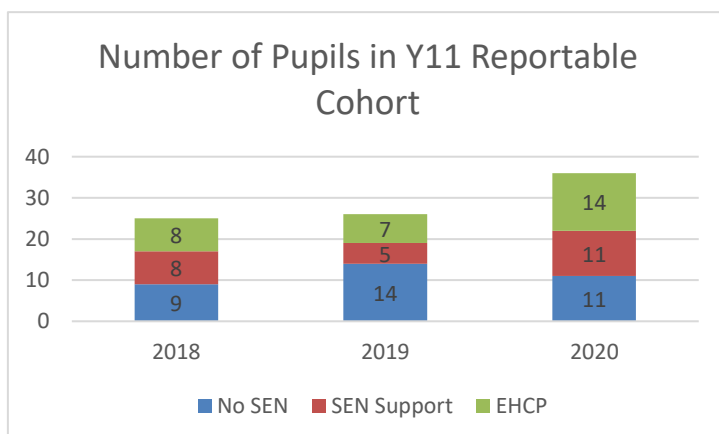2.1 To recognise the achievement of Derby's children who are looked after.

Reason

3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty under 22 (3A) of the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of looked after children. As corporate parents, maximising educational opportunities and outcomes is important for Derby's Looked After Children.
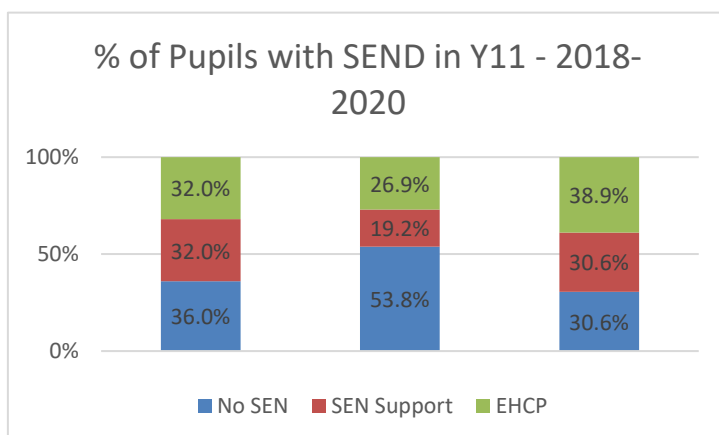
Supporting information

4.1   Y11 Cohort Numbers

From the graph below you will see that the number of Y11 pupils in the reportable cohort has increased from 25 in 2018 to 36 in 2020.
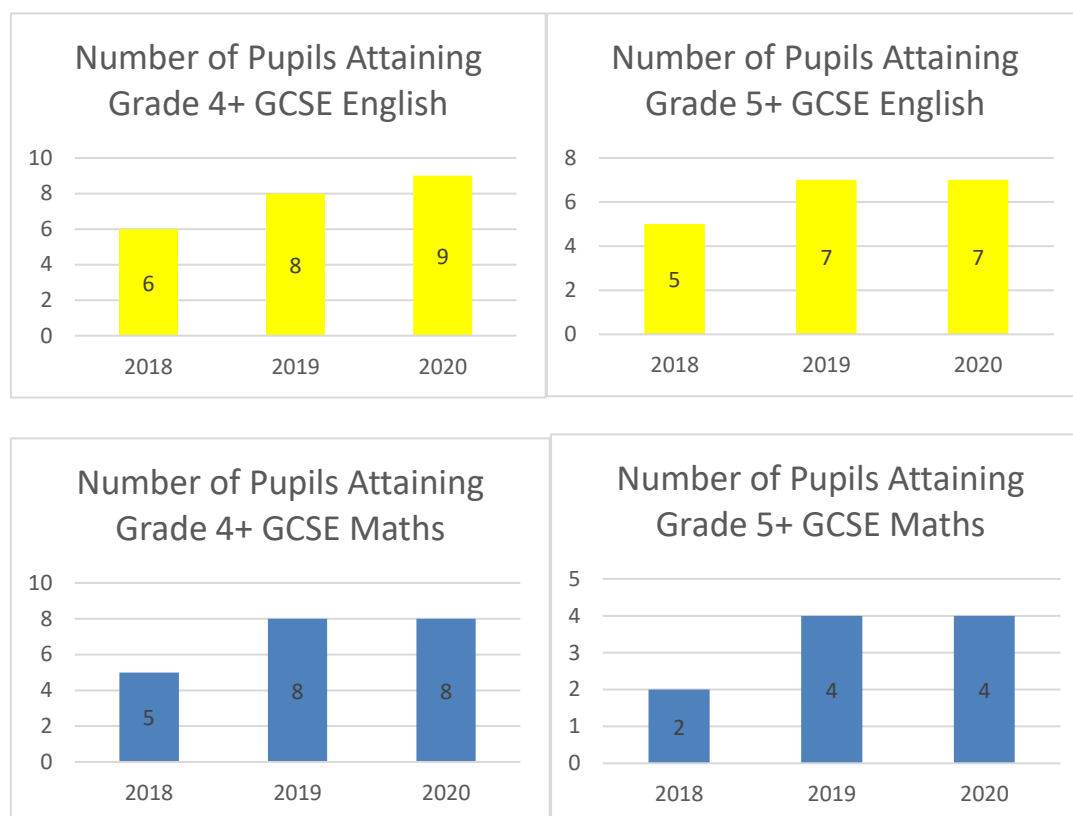

4.2   Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Cohort

More significant than the increased cohort numbers is the increase in the number of SEND pupils in the 2020 cohort. Both the number of SEN Support and those with EHCPs have doubled while those with no SEND have decreased. The graph below shows the percentages of SEND pupils to no SEND. In 2019, 46.1% of pupils had identified SEND needs compared to 69.5% in 2020.

4.3 Maths and English GCSE results

In the new GCSE grading system the old Grade "C" is equivalent to either a Grade 4 (a standard pass) or a Grade 5 (a good pass). Nationally, the performance tables report on pupils gaining Grade 5 or above in maths and English. However, with the SEND profile of the 2020 cohort it is useful to report on pupils gaining Grade 4 or above. Below are a series of graphs which show the number of pupils gaining a Grade 4 or above and Grade 5 and above in English and maths

Number of Pupils Attaining Grade 4+ GCSE English

Year	Number
2018	6
2019	8
2020	9

Number of Pupils Attaining Grade 5+ GCSE English

Year	Number
2018	5
2019	7
2020	7

Number of Pupils Attaining Grade 4+ GCSE Maths

Year	Number
2018	5
2019	8
2020	8

Number of Pupils Attaining Grade 5+ GCSE Maths

Year	Number
2018	2
2019	4
2020	4

The graphs show that despite the increasing number of SEND pupils and less pupils with no SEND the number of pupils gaining these grades has held up this year. The table below shows the percentage of the reportable cohort achieving these grades. The percentages have decreased from last year as it is a bigger cohort.

	2018	2019	2020
English GCSE 5+	20.0%	26.9%	19.4%
Maths GCSE 5+	8.0%	15.4%	11.1%
English GCSE 4+	24.0%	30.8%	25.0%
Maths GCSE 4+	20.0%	30.8%	22.2%

4.4 Attainment 8 (A8) and Progress 8 (P8)

A8 and P8 are measures which measure the attainment and progress made by pupils over their best 8 subjects. This data will not be available until national data sets have been released early next year.

4.5   **Targeted Support**

A key focus for the Virtual School in 2019/20 was to improve the A8 and P8 scores. Part of our strategy to do this was to offer one to one online learning by using trainee teachers from Nottingham University. This support started in November 2019 and was targeted at pupils who were on the 3 / 4 grade borderline.. At the time this was a very innovative approach to learning using technology. Little did we know what was to come in 2020 with the use of online learning for the vast majority of pupils!

Looking at the GCSE results of the pupils who had this support in a wide range of subjects – maths, English, science and history – all the pupils achieved at least a grade 4 in the subjects they received support in.

4.6   **Some exceptional results**

This year we have had two pupils who did exceptionally well in achieving a suite of higher grade GCSE passes. Both pupils attended Derby City secondary schools.

	English Lang	English Lit	Maths	Science	History/ Geography	RS	Language	Technology
Pupil A	6	7	8	789	7	8	6	
Pupil B	7	7	6	88	7/7			Merit L2*

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1   None

Other options

6.1   N/A

Financial and value for money issues

7.1   None

Legal implications

8.1   None

Other significant implications

9.1   None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Service, Legal	
Finance	Alison Parkin, Head of Finance Children & Young People	09.10.20
Service Director(s)	Pauline Anderson, Service Director - Learning, Inclusion and Skills	09.10.20
Report sponsor	Pauline Anderson, Service Director - Learning, Inclusion and Skills	09/10.20
Other(s)		

Background papers:	
List of appendices:	