
Report to Education, Sport and Leisure Committee

Date: 22 November 2012

Subject: Educational Outcomes for Looked After Children

Report by: Head of Education

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This paper provides an overview of the educational outcomes for Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children in 2010/11. Information on the educational outcomes for session 2011/12 will be available in June 2013.

2.0 Recommendations

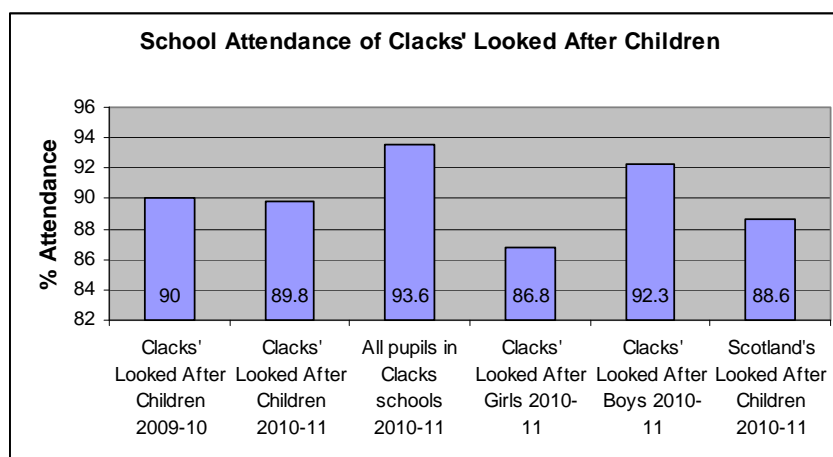
- 2.1. It is recommended that Committee:
- a) note the background and current position outlined in points 3.1 to 3.9;
 - b) as corporate parents, acknowledges the achievements of our Looked After Children;
 - c) approve the Education Service's actions outlined in point 3.10.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. "Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children" refers to children and young people looked after by Clackmannanshire Council continuously from 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011. It includes those looked after at home as well as looked after away from home. Most attended schools in Clackmannanshire Council.
- 3.2. "Looked After Children in Clackmannanshire schools" refers to the 269 Looked After Children attending Clackmannanshire Council schools in 2010/11. This includes children who were looked after by Clackmannanshire Council, including those looked after for only part of the reporting period, and children who were looked after by other local authorities but attended Clackmannanshire Council schools. It excludes those of Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children who attended educational establishments outwith Clackmannanshire Council.

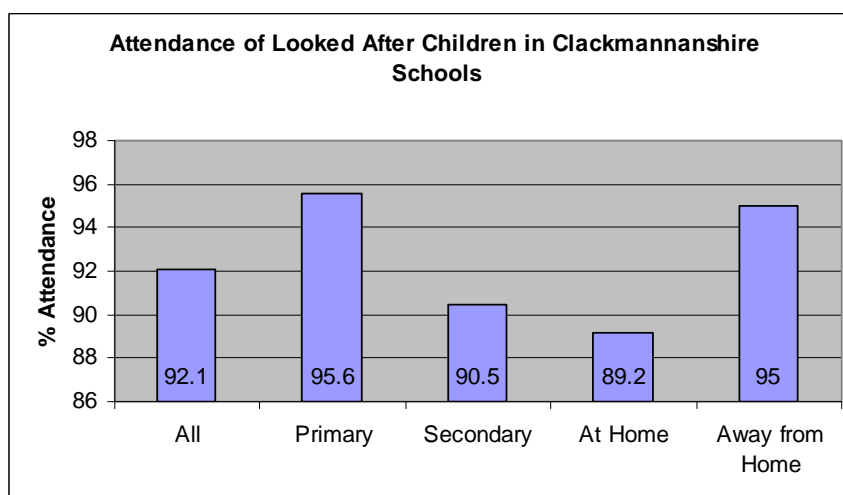
The Clackmannanshire Looked After Children Position 2010/11

- 3.3. Information on the educational outcomes of Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children was published by Scottish Government in June 2012 as *Statistical Bulletin: Educational Outcomes for Scotland's Looked After Children 2010/11*.
- 3.4. The school **attendance** of Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children was similar to the previous year. It was lower than the average for all children in Clackmannanshire schools, but higher than the Scottish average for Looked After Children. The school attendance of Clackmannanshire's looked after boys was much higher than girls.

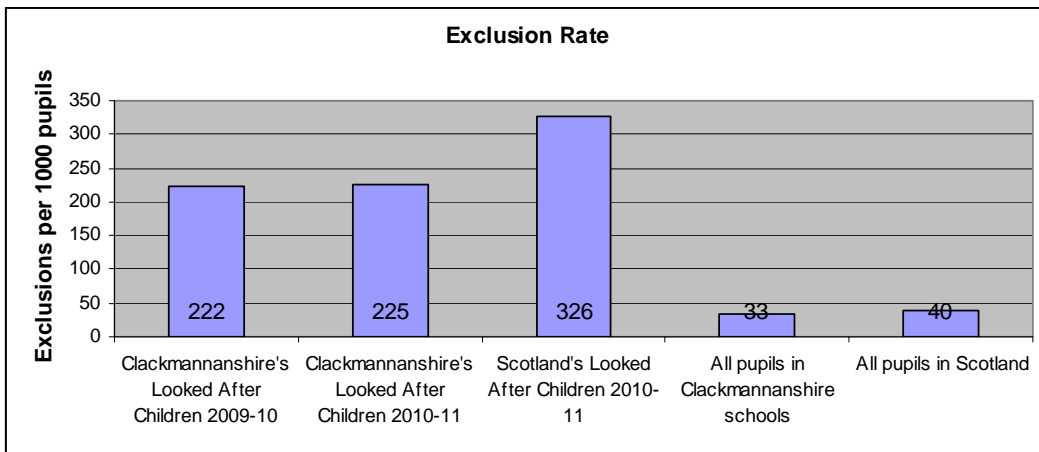


Looked After Children in Clackmannanshire Schools

- 3.5. The attendance of Looked After Children in Clackmannanshire primary schools was higher than in Clackmannanshire secondary schools. Children in Clackmannanshire schools who were looked after away from home had a higher attendance rate than children looked after at home.

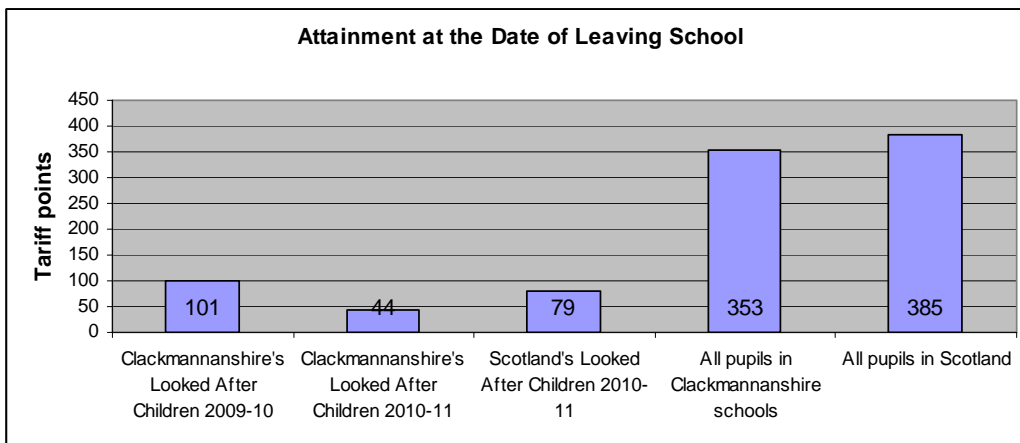


- 3.6. The rate 2010/11 **exclusion** from school for Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children was similar to that in 2009/10, and much lower than the Scottish average. The exclusion rate for all pupils in Clackmannanshire schools was slightly lower than the Scottish average. The exclusion rate for Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children was much higher than for all pupils in Clackmannanshire schools.

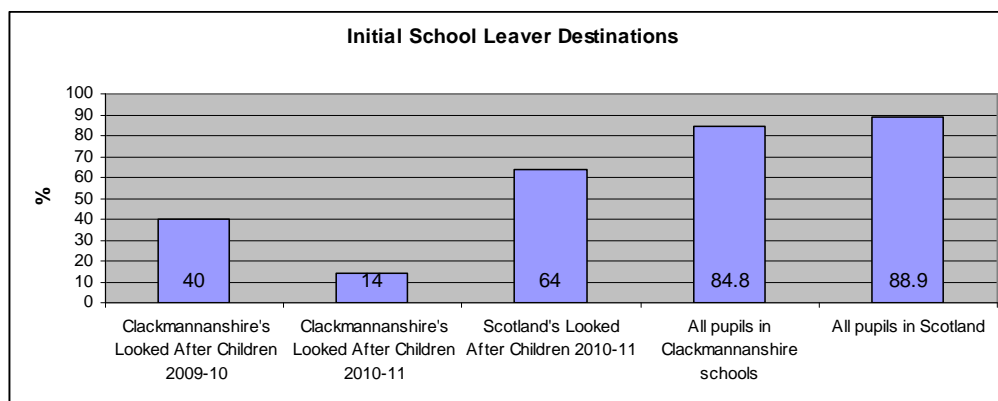


3.7. Seven of Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children left school in 2011. School **attainment**, as measured by their average tariff score on leaving school, was lower in 2010/11 than in the previous year and lower than the Scottish average. However, the very small number of individuals means it is difficult to draw conclusions from this change.

3.8. This average tariff score was very low compared to the average attainment of all Clackmannanshire pupils on leaving school. One reason is that the tariff score is cumulative while a pupil is eligible for SQA exams (usually S4-S6). This makes it difficult to compare the attainment of Looked After Children with that of all pupils, the majority of whom remain in school for S5 and S6.



3.9. A smaller proportion of Clackmannanshire's Looked After Children went into positive **school leaver destinations** in 2010/11 than in the previous year. However, the very small number of individuals (7, compared to 5 the previous year) means it is difficult to draw conclusions from this decrease.



Actions

3.10. The Education Service recognises that educational outcomes for Looked After Children must continue to improve and is committed to the following actions.

- Looked after pupils and the lowest attaining 20% of pupils will be a particular focus for schools visits by Assistant Heads of Education and Link Officers in Autumn 2012-13. Link Officers will review with Head Teachers the progress of this cohort at key stages in both primary and secondary schools and challenge and support staff to deliver improved educational outcomes for these groups.
- A Service Manager in education with strategic responsibility for improving outcomes for Looked After Children has been appointed. She has taken up post October 2012.
- Attendance and Welfare Officers now report on attendance and exclusion for Looked After Children on a monthly basis via the Getting It Right For Every Child group. The group is responsible for monitoring this data and analysing themes and trends. This information is then shared with the Service Manager with responsibility for Looked After Children and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs Support (SEBN).
- Information on attendance and exclusion will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board on a quarterly basis. The attainment levels for Looked After Children will be reported annually.
- The Corporate Parenting Strategy Group are reconvening in November 2012 to review their membership, remit and strategy for 2012-15.
- A programme of staff development using 'We Can and Must Do Better' training materials will continue. The Education Service aims to ensure at least one member of staff from every educational establishment attends the training and can support colleagues to further support the attainment and wider achievement of those children who are looked after.
- The Psychological Service is to pilot the use of Viewpoint (Computer Assisted Self Interviewing Programme) to obtain a measure of Looked After Children's emotional well being. The intention being to focus discussion with schools to monitor and target support so as to improve educational outcomes for Looked After Children.

- The Psychological Service provides a drop in consultation facility on a monthly basis. This can be accessed by individual workers, foster carers and kinship carers.
- Secondary schools are now using the Risk Matrix module in SEEMIS which makes it easier for them to monitor and support their children and young people who are looked after.
- The Education Service Manager will present the 2011-12 School Leaver Destination Report on looked after young people, due in early December 2012, to the Corporate Parenting Board for their consideration and advice.
- The post-school destinations of individual looked after young people and care leavers will be monitored. Support will be offered to individuals who require it. The Clackmannanshire Family Firm Programme, approved by the Council's Housing, Health and Care Committee on 23rd August 2012, will provide additional support through a tailored programme aimed at improving the employability of young people through a phased programme of confidence building, training, work based activity and ongoing support. For young people who progress through the early phases successfully, this would culminate in a full-time work placement within the Council of at least 3 months.
- Youth Services will continue to work closely with colleagues in the Education Service to support individuals who are looked after especially through the period of transition from secondary education.
- Work is currently being undertaken to formulate processes to ensure information between the Education Service and Social Services on Looked After Children is accurate and timely. The Council will continue to look at innovative ways to improve outcomes.
- The Access to Education Officer, headteacher of the Support Service and the Educational Psychologist with lead responsibility for Looked After Children are devising a monitoring process to measure attainment and wider achievement for young people in residential schools.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. There are no sustainability implications.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. There are no resource implications.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No
N/A

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please tick)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Corporate Priorities - Better Opportunities – Priority Actions

- Continue to embed a policy of Early Intervention and Raising Attainment within Clackmannanshire's Schools
- Ensuring the best attainable start in life by implementation of the Getting it Right for Every Child principles and practices
- Continue to support the Scottish Government's promise of a job, training or education place for every 16 to 19 year old within Clackmannanshire
- Implement policies and initiatives to encourage local employers to take on local 19 to 24 year olds
- Implement an employability initiative for care leavers, in which Looked After Children leaving school are offered employment/training for one year at Clackmannanshire Council
- Introduce additional educational attainment staff in each of the three secondary schools, to give extra support, mentoring and coaching to pupils

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers


- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

- Scottish Government's Statistical Bulletin: Educational Outcomes for Scotland's Looked After Children 2010/11. (Published June 2012).

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