

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**  
Date: **9 September 2005**  
Title of report: **Progress towards BVPIs 38 and 39**  
By: **Director of Children's Services**  
Purpose of report: **Following the request from the CSA Scrutiny Committee to the Education Standards Panel to review progress being made towards BPVIs 38 and 39: to (a) report on the Standards Panel's review of progress; and (b) provide early indications of the continuing trend towards these BPVIs from unvalidated 2005 GCSE results received to date.**

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**RECOMMENDATION – the Scrutiny Committee is advised to:**

- 1. note the progress being made towards these challenging BPVI targets; and**
  - 2. request an up-date on this report for its next meeting when 2005 examination results should be available in full and analysis completed.**
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**1. Progress against BPVIs 38 and 39 to 2004 reviewed by the Standards Panel**

1.1 In response to a request from the Scrutiny Panel, the Standards Panel reviewed progress towards the targets for BVPI 38 (the percentage of 15 year olds in schools maintained by the LEA achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\* - C) and BVPI 39 (the percentage of 15 year olds in schools maintained by the LEA achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A\* - G (including English and mathematics) at its meeting on 15.6.05.

1.2 The Panel noted, in respect of BVPI 38, that whilst the 2004 target was not met, East Sussex figures have improved significantly in terms of the percentage of Year 11 students gaining 5 or more grades A\*-C over the four years to 2004. In 2004 the percentage of pupils succeeding against this measure exceeded the national average (54.3% in East Sussex against the national average of 53.7%) and was close to the average for the county's statistical neighbours (54.9%). While the overall trend is encouraging, results fell short of the BPVI target for 2004 of 56% and it should be noted that there are increasing levels of challenge in targets against this measure set for future years. Page 13 from the evaluation of progress in 2004 – 2005 from the most recent update of the Education Development Plan 2002-2007 (see Appendix 1) sets out relevant performance data. Provisional results for 2005 indicate a continuation of this trend of improvement of 0.7%.

1.3 Members of the Standards Panel were advised that progress towards BVPI 39 was not as encouraging as the progress towards BPVI 38, although 2004 results were in line with the somewhat static national picture. In 2004, 85.8% of East Sussex pupils achieved 5 or more A\* - G grades including English and mathematics, which remains some way short of the BPVI target for 2004 of 92% and slightly below the East Sussex figure for 2003 (86.1%). The national average was 86.7%. Results for 2005 for this indicator are not yet available.

1.4 In relation to BPVI 39, East Sussex schools generally have been slow in reviewing curriculum design at Key Stage 4 and, in particular, those schools in challenging circumstances should be giving greater emphasis to the inclusion of an increased range of vocational courses. Progress therefore has not been as good as it should be in relation to the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A\*-G grades, but there will be curriculum changes in 2005 and a real push towards meeting targets in 2006.

1.5 The school improvement programmes 2005 –2006 within the most recent up-date of the Education Development Plan 2002-2007 set out a range of activities in section 4.3 aimed at developing the 14-19 curriculum. Section 4.3 of the EDP is appended to this report as Appendix 2.

1.6 The Standards Panel will continue to monitor progress towards these BPVIs.

## **2. Early indications of trend from unvalidated GCSE results for 2005**

2.1 GCSE results for 2005 arrived in schools on 25 August 2005. The CSA has been able to collect headline results from nearly all schools but as yet has no independent verification of figures. Additionally, these figures will not be validated for some months as schools have yet to challenge results where they feel they are inaccurate. Detailed breakdown of results against some measures is not yet possible. Additionally it should be noted that final percentages will be calculated on all pupils in the Year 11 cohort, including pupils in special schools, whereas current available figures are based on mainstream secondary school results only.

2.2 Given all the caveats above, the East Sussex figures available so far give rise to optimism that there is a continuing trend of improvement in relation to the number of pupils gaining 5 or more A\*-C grades in East Sussex (BPVI 38). Figures collected from East Sussex secondary schools, excluding special schools, suggest that 56.1% of pupils achieved on this measure. As yet, it is not known with any accuracy what the national average will be.

2.3 Figures are not yet available for the percentage of pupils in 2005 gaining 5A\*-G grades including English and mathematics (BPVI 39). However there is a provisional rise in the percentage of pupils gaining 5 A\*-G grades overall (ie not necessarily including English and/or mathematics) with 91.82% of pupils achieving on this measure in East Sussex secondary schools, excluding special schools. It is likely therefore that there will be an equivalent rise in the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A\*-G including English and mathematics. However the result will fall some way short of the challenging BPVI target. Actions that promote and encourage curriculum development in schools (see 1.4 above) should enable an acceleration of progress towards targets on this important and inclusive measure of achievement.

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Education Development Plan 2002 – 2007 – Evaluation of 2004-2005 and School Improvement Programmes 2005-2006.

Early data on 2005 examination results provided by the Performance Improvement Team.

Relevant extracts from the Education Development Plan 2002- 2007 Evaluation of 2004-2005 and School Improvement Programmes 2005-6 (attached).

## Standards at Key Stage 4

Percentage achieving 5+ A* - C (BVPI 38)		GCSE/GNVQ	
		2003	2004
All pupils	East Sussex	52.8	54.2
	Statistical neighbours	54.4	54.9
	National	52.9	53.7
Boys	East Sussex	47.2	48.5
	National	47.9	48.8
Girls	East Sussex	58.6	60.0
	National	58.2	58.8

Percentage achieving 5+ A* - G		GCSE/GNVQ	
		2003	2004
All pupils	East Sussex	88.4	88.9
	Statistical neighbours	90.6	91.0
	National	88.8	88.8
Boys	East Sussex	86.6	86.5
	National	86.6	86.4
Girls	East Sussex	90.3	91.4
	National	91.0	91.2

Percentage achieving 5+ A* - G (including English and mathematics) (BVPI 39)		GCSE/GNVQ	
		2003	2004
All pupils	East Sussex	86.1	85.8
	Statistical neighbours	88	89
	National	86.6	86.7
Boys	East Sussex	84.2	83.2
	National	84.2	84.1
Girls	East Sussex	88.1	88.3
	National	89.1	89.3

Percentage achieving 1+ A* - G		GCSE/GNVQ	
		2003	2004
All pupils	East Sussex	95.1	96.3
	Statistical neighbours	95.8	96.8
	National	94.8	95.9
Boys	East Sussex	94.1	95.6
	National	93.7	95.0
Girls	East Sussex	96.1	97.1
	National	95.9	96.7

East Sussex figures have improved significantly in terms of the percentage of Year 11 students gaining 5 or more grades A\*-C and the percentage of Year 11 students gaining at least one grade A\*-G or the equivalent. The CSA figure is now ahead of the national average on both those measures. The CSA figure for the percentage gaining 5 or more grades A\*-G including English and mathematics has slipped back a little and remains below the national average.

<b>ACTIVITY 4.3 Real Choices 14-19</b>		
<b>Purpose of the Activity</b>	To develop curriculum models which provide a range of 14-19 learning opportunities to increase the engagement of learners and raise their levels of achievement.	
<b>Target Group for the Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools, post-16 colleges, including both sixth form and further education colleges, and other identified education and training providers in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hastings and Rother (Area F);</li> <li>- the Eastbourne Federation of schools;</li> <li>- the Heathfield, Uckfield, Uplands and Beacon (HUUB) collaborative of community colleges;</li> <li>- the Lewes area group of schools and community Colleges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Precise tasks to be carried out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of funding source to enable the appointment of three 'curriculum collaboration partners' to lead research of current models and engage schools in discussion securing collaborative provision.</li> <li>• Recruitment and appointment of four 'curriculum collaboration partners' (FTE) for the academic year 2005-06.</li> <li>• Strategic plan, detailing actions to be undertaken, produced and agreed in September 2005 to include expanding vocational courses offered at Key Stage 4.</li> <li>• Encouraging partners to work together to increase the capacity to provide appropriate out of school learning opportunities for all Key Stage 4 students.</li> <li>• Implementation of plan during academic year 2005-06, including monitoring of progress with implementation and evaluation of the impact made.</li> <li>• Plans made for the evaluation of the improvements resulting from the introduction of the collaborative curriculum model in terms of learner engagement and improvements in achievement and attainment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2005</li> <li>• Summer term 2005</li> <li>• September 2005</li> <li>• Throughout 2005-06</li> <li>• March 2006</li> <li>• July 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Who is responsible for this activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philip Halstead, Director of Excellence Cluster; Debra Shandley, 14-19 SIS Adviser/consultant; Sussex LSC managers.</li> <li>• Headteacher representative from each of the three partnership consortia.</li> </ul>	

<b>Success Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5+ A-G target met by September 2006.</li> <li>• A collaborative timetable will be offered by at least 3 schools in Hastings and Rother by September 2006.</li> <li>• Increased collaborative activity in other 3 travel to learn areas by September 2006.</li> <li>• Improvements in staying on rates in September 2006 and increased uptake of post-16 learning opportunities means that target of 88% of 16-19 year-olds are in education or training has been met;</li> <li>• Reduction of 16-19 year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEETs)</li> <li>• Good progress evident with planning, identifying and establishing an area-wide curriculum for 14-19 learners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philip Halstead, Director of Excellence Cluster; Debra Shandley, 14-19 CSA Adviser/consultant; Sussex LSC managers.</li> <li>• Headteacher representative from each of the three partnership consortia.</li> <li>• By regular review and evaluation of progress against the milestones in the action plans during termly meetings which involve all representatives of all parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly throughout 2005-06</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary contact advisers through moderation of post-16 self-assessment/review and school self-evaluation forms (SEFs), including the use of 2006/07 summer attainment and achievement data and information on recruitment, course enrolments and retention rates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing throughout 2006</li> </ul>