



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15TH JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT: STANDARDS OF PUPIL ATTAINMENT IN CAERPHILLY – KEY STAGE 4

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is to inform members of pupils' attainment in external examinations at the end of key stage 4.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 This report links to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of education. The strategies for achieving this are described in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14, the Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure Directorate Plan 2012-13 and also the Learning, Education and Inclusion Service Improvement Plan.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Both national and global research shows that there is a significant link between socio-economic background and educational performance. The Welsh Government's statistical bulletin, "Achievement and Entitlement to Free School Meals in Wales", published every March, shows that the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM), which is a measure of socio economic deprivation, is lower than for their non eligible counterparts at all key stages. The Welsh Government therefore uses the percentage of pupils eligible for free schools meals as a proxy indicator of deprivation for both individual schools and local authorities.
- 3.2 According to the latest available figures for the percentage of pupils eligible for FSM, Caerphilly is the 4th most socioeconomically disadvantaged LA in Wales. This contextualisation is not used to reduce ambition, nor to set limiting targets, but to show that if Caerphilly performance is higher than 19th, then performance is better than expected. Our aspiration is still to improve our position in local authority ranking tables in spite of deprivation levels, overcoming the link between deprivation and poor attainment.
- 3.3 Key Indicator Definitions

Indicator	Definition	Abbreviation
Level 1 Threshold	formerly 5 GCSE at A*-G, but including a range of vocational equivalents	L1
Level 2 Threshold	formerly 5 GCSE at A*-C, but including a range of vocational equivalents	L2

Level 2 Threshold including E/W&M	L2, but including English or Welsh and mathematics	L2+
Core Subject Indicator	Language, mathematics and science GCSE or equivalent in combination	CSI
Average Wider Points Score	Measures the quality and volume of qualifications the average learner achieves	AWPS
Capped Points Score	Measures the quality of the best 8 qualifications the average learner achieves	CPS
No Qualifications	The % of pupils that leave with no recognised qualification	NQ

3.4 Key Stage 4 Results Summary

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Indicator	Caer. 2011	Caer. 2012	Wales 2011	Wales 2012	Rank 2011	Rank 2012	Rank Change (+/-)	Caer. 2012 vs Caer. 2011	Caer. 2012 vs Wales 2012
L1	90.0%	91.5%	91.8%	91.8%	16	15	+1	1.5%	-0.3%
L2	62.5%	64.1%	67.3%	72.6%	18	21	-3	1.6%	-8.5%
L2+	43.3%	45.1%	50.1%	51.1%	19	19	0	1.8%	-6.0%
CSI	41.8%	43.9%	48.7%	48.9%	19	17	+2	2.1%	-5.0%
AWPS	404	430	423	465	16	17	-1	26	-35
CPS	302	311	312	323	17	17	0	9	-12
NQ	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	10	16	-6	0.0%	0.0%

3.5 The charts below show Caerphilly / Wales trends over a 5 year period.

Chart 1

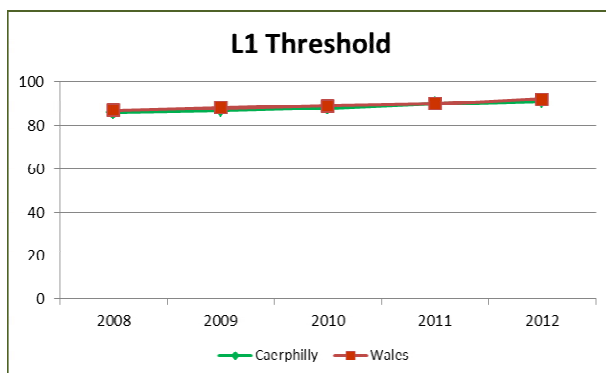


Chart 2

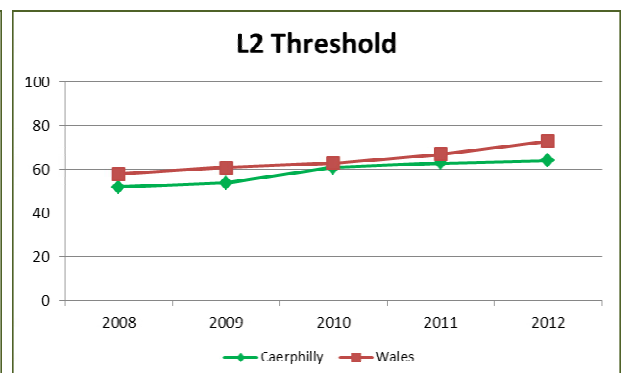


Chart 3

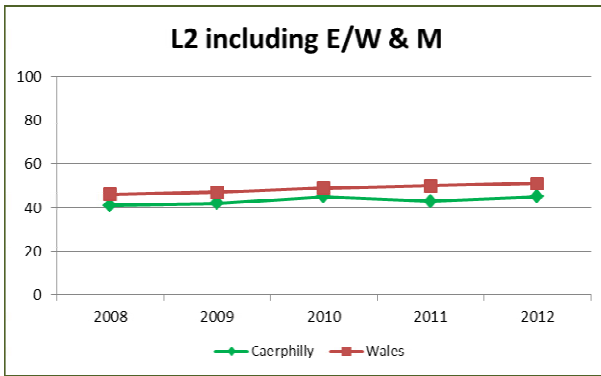


Chart 4

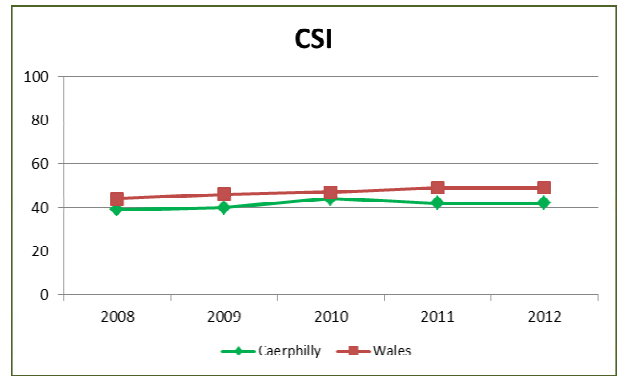


Chart 5

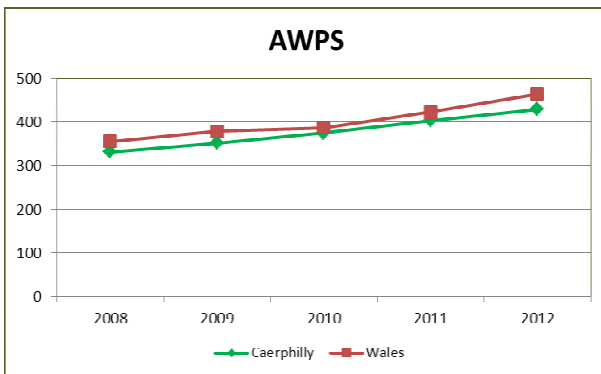


Chart 6

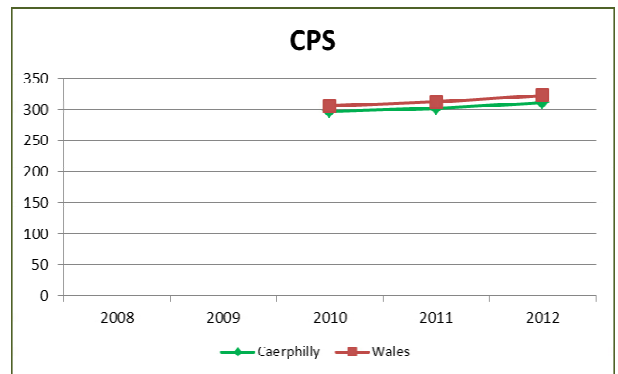
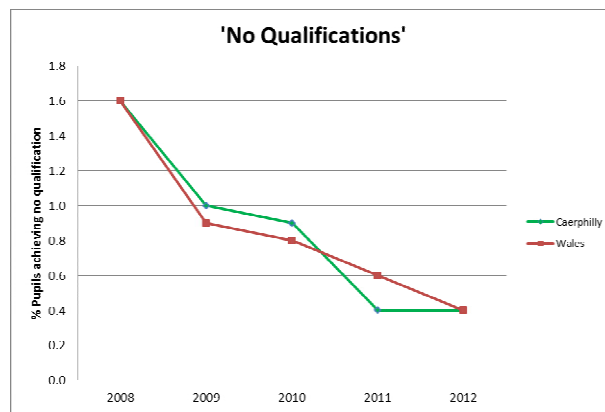


Chart 7



3.6 Summary

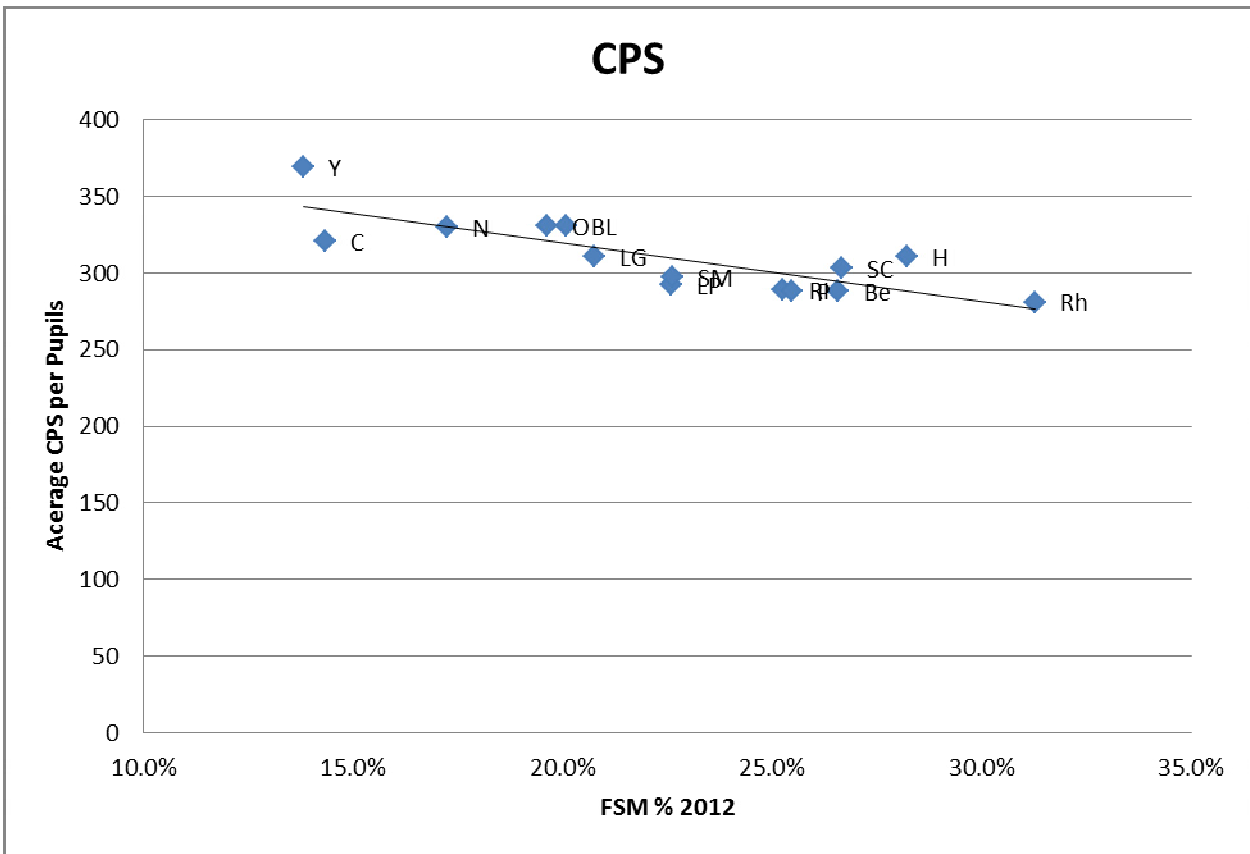
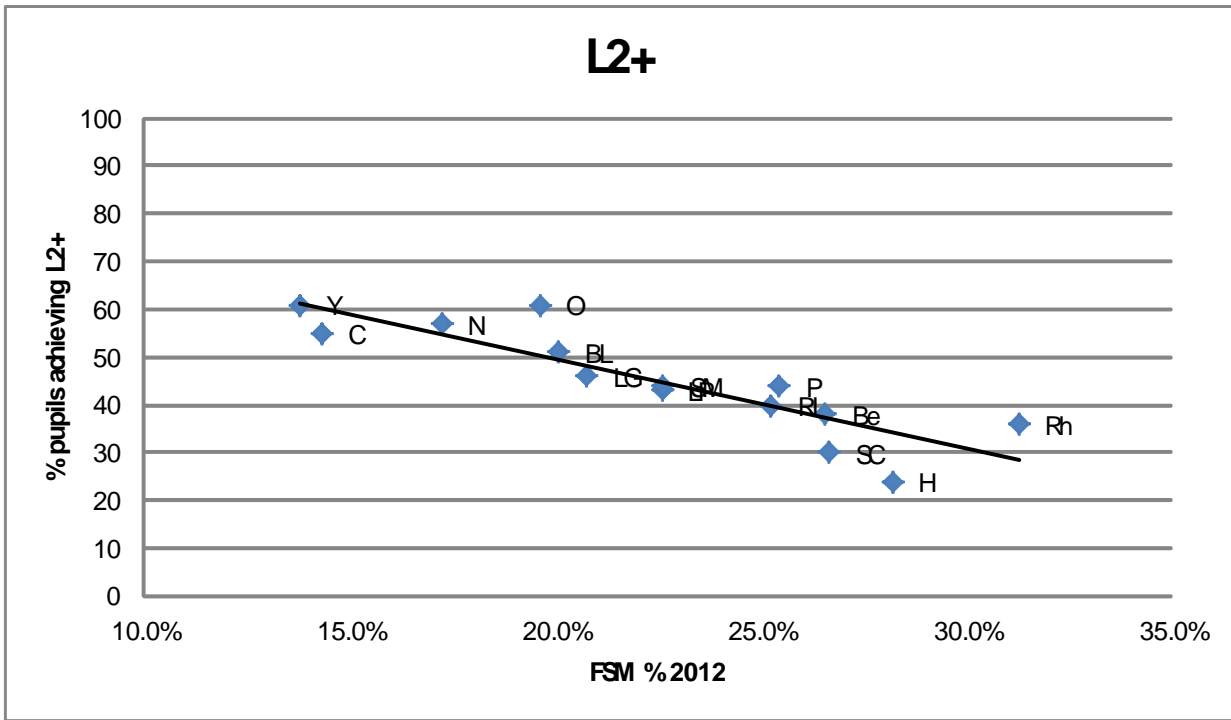
Indicator	Summary
Level 1 Threshold	Performance on this indicator has closed to be slightly below the all Wales average. This indicator is now reaching a plateau nationally, with any improvements over the last 5 years being relatively small. Caerphilly rank position has improved from 16 th to 15 th .
Level 2 Threshold	Performance rose by 1.6%, but there was a 5.3% rise nationally. After almost closing with the national average for the first time in 2010, the gap has widened again in the last 2 years. Over a 5 years periods this indicator has improved by 12% in Caerphilly compared with 15% nationally. Caerphilly rank position has fallen from 18 th to 21 st .

Level 2 Threshold including E/W&M	After a 2% fall last year, there was a 2% rise this year. The key subjects which affect performance in this indicator are mathematics and to a lesser extent English / Welsh. Over a five year period this indicator has risen 4% in Caerphilly, compared with 5% nationally. Caerphilly rank position remains the same at 19 th .
Core Subject Indicator	After a 2% fall last year, the indicator remained the same this year. The key subjects which affect performance in this indicator are again mathematics and to a lesser extent English / Welsh. Over a five year period this indicator has risen 3% in Caerphilly, compared with 6% nationally. Caerphilly's rank position has improved from 19 th to 17 th .
Average Wider Points Score	This indicator rose by 26 points this year, but Wales rose by 32. Over a five year period Caerphilly rose by 98 points and Wales as a whole by 109. Caerphilly's rank position fell from 16 th to 17 th .
Capped Points Score	This indicator was introduced by the Welsh Government in 2010. Since that time Caerphilly has improved by 14 points and Wales by 18 points. Caerphilly's rank position remained the same at 17 th .
No Qualifications	The % of pupils who did not achieve a recognised qualification remains the same at 0.4%. This represents 9 pupils. Wales improved from 0.6% to 0.4% this year. Caerphilly's rank position has fallen from 10 th to 16 th , despite being equal to the Wales mean.

3.7 Individual School Performance on 4 key indicators. Schools ranked by deprivation.

School *1 – Single Sex Schools	FSM % 2012	L1		L2		L2+		CPS	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini	13.8%	95	96	88	89	62	61	353	369
Cwmcarn High School	14.3%	97	97	67	61	55	55	321	321
Newbridge School	17.2%	92	88	74	69	66	57	336	330
Oakdale Comprehensive	19.6%	98	90	83	80	55	61	338	331
Blackwood Comprehensive	20.1%	92	96	61	68	38	51	310	331
Lewis Girls Comprehensive (*1)	20.7%	92	92	61	65	33	46	297	311
Lewis School, Pengam (*1)	22.6%	89	87	67	71	42	43	293	292
St. Martins Comprehensive	22.6%	89	89	67	59	57	44	305	297
Risca Comprehensive	25.3%	90	92	45	54	28	40	282	289
Pontllanfraith Comprehensive	25.5%	82	92	45	51	39	44	250	288
Bedwas High School	26.6%	90	86	44	54	26	38	281	288
St. Cenydd School	26.7%	86	92	56	59	29	30	289	303
Heolddu Comprehensive	28.2%	94	95	66	60	35	24	308	311
Rhydney Comprehensive	31.3%	83	91	48	50	34	36	269	281

3.8 Individual school performance on 2 key indicators – residual charts



3.9 The charts above show the relative performance of schools, when the % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals is taken into consideration. If a school marker 'dot' is above the line this represents better than expected performance. If a school marker 'dot' is below the line then performance is worse than expected. The distance from the line represents the extent of the performance differential.

3.10 Secondary school banding positions 2012

School	FSM % 2012	2011	2012	Rise / Fall
Oakdale Comprehensive	19.6%	1	1	-
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	13.8%	1	1	-
Newbridge School	17.2%	1	2	-1
Blackwood Comprehensive	20.1%	4	2	2
Rhymney Comprehensive	31.3%	3	3	-
Pontllanfraith Comprehensive	25.5%	3	3	-
Risca Community Comprehensive	25.3%	5	3	2
Cwmcarn High School	14.3%	3	4	-1
Heolddu Comprehensive	28.2%	3	4	-1
Lewis School, Pengam	22.6%	4	4	-
Bedwas High School	26.6%	4	4	-
St. Cenydd School	26.7%	5	4	1
Lewis Girls Comprehensive	20.7%	5	4	1
St. Martins Comprehensive	22.6%	2	5	-3

- 3.11 Of the 3 Caerphilly schools that were in Band 5, all three improved by at a least 1 band, and Risca improved by 2 bands. Of the 3 schools in Band 4, two remained the same, whilst the other improved up by 2 bands. All these schools were in receipt of £10,000 funding from WG to support specific groups of pupils in the then Year 10. As these banding positions are determined by the performance of pupils in Year11, the funding will not therefore have any direct impact until next year. Action plans were formulated with and are monitored by the LA.
- 3.12 Of the 3 schools that were in Band 1, two remained in that band and one fell to Band 2. Given that improvement over time contributes to the banding score, sustaining a Band 1 position is particularly challenging.
- 3.13 There are three schools, which have fallen 1 or more banding positions this year St Martin's, Cwmcarn and Heolddu. The LA has worked with these schools to undertake a detailed analysis of performance data, during the autumn term. The main factors that have caused the fall in each case are performance in either English, or mathematics, or both.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific personnel implications

6. EQUALITIES

- 6.1 There is no specific equalities impact in relation to the content of this report. When performance information is discussed with schools as part of the monitoring, challenge, support and intervention programme, equalities issues, such as gender and ethnicity are taken into account. Similarly the Local Authority self-evaluation considers all equalities issues.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 All comments have been reflected in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

9. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To apprise Members of the performance of Caerphilly schools at the end of Key Stage 4 compared with the rest of Wales.

Author: Ed Pryce, Senior Adviser, Performance and ICT
Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Cabinet Member for Education and Leisure
Corporate Management Team

Appendices:
Appendix 1 - Education Performance 2012 - Key Stage 4