



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF) 2023-24

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to provide Members with an update on performance in Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators relevant to Education, Skills and Children's Services and to set out performance against improvement targets.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework provides a comparative benchmarking framework for Scottish Local Government that supports the targeting of improvement activities and resources to areas of greatest impact – in terms of efficiency/ costs, productivity and outcomes. A number of indicators have been identified across council services and metadata definitions for each of the indicators is available through the following link: [LGBF Scottish Local Government Metadata Indicators](#).
- 2.2 At its meeting on 23 March 2021 the Committee agreed a set of indicators to be reported on an annual basis which are set out in Appendix 1. Library Services have since moved to Education and Children's Services Department and two Library indicators are now included. At its meeting on 15 June 2021 the Committee also agreed that LGBF improvement activity would focus on:
- Literacy and numeracy;
 - School attendance and exclusion;
 - Children looked after in the community; and
 - Looked after children with more than one placement in a year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve the continuation of improvement activity in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators set out in paragraph 5.3**

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Appendix: Education and Children's Services Department – Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators

Background Papers: None



IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	None
Corporate Strategy	Children and young people's outcomes and life chances are improved through education and training.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a benchmarking tool that helps Local Authorities to compare their performance using a suite of indicators and also provides data over time for trend analysis. In order to ensure that comparisons are made with similar Authorities they are each placed in a "Family Group". This groups councils that are similar in terms of the type of population that they serve (e.g. relative deprivation and affluence) and the type of area in which they serve them (e.g. urban, semi-rural, rural). For benchmarking of Children's Services indicators Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been grouped with; Dundee City, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City.
- 5.2 The Appendix to the Report sets out the LGBF indicators agreed for annual reporting and the Department's performance in 2023-24 and the preceding five years. This includes Library indicators for cost per visit and satisfaction. The Comhairle continues to be one of the top performing authorities in relation to pupils achieving positive destinations and the percentage of 16-19 year olds positively participating.
- 5.3 In June 2021 a set of LGBF indicators were agreed as priorities for improvement. The following table sets out these indicators with the actual figure for 2018-19.

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	Actual 2018-19
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%
CHN19a	School attendance rate	94.03%
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	78.58%
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	11.93
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%



5.4 A review of the original targets set has taken place with targets for 2029-30 set along with annual milestones targets. These milestones are set out below.

CHN9: % of children being looked after in the community

CHN9 2022/23	CHN9 2023/24	CHN9 2024/25	CHN9 2025/26	CHN9 2026/27	CHN9 2027/28	CHN9 2028/29	CHN9 2029/30
83%	84%	85%	86%	87%	88%	89%	90%

CHN13a: % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy.

CHN13a 2022/23	CHN13a 2023/24	CHN13a 2024/25	CHN13a 2025/26	CHN13a 2026/27	CHN13a 2027/28	CHN13a 2028/29	CHN13a 2029/30
68%	69%	70%	71%	72%	73%	74%	75%

CHN13b: % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy

CHN13b 2022/23	CHN13b 2023/24	CHN13b 2024/25	CHN13b 2025/26	CHN13b 2026/27	CHN13b 2027/28	CHN13b 2028/29	CHN13b 2029/30
73%	74%	75%	76%	77%	78%	79%	80%

CHN19a: School attendance rate

CHN19a 2022/23	CHN19a 2023/24	CHN19a 2024/25	CHN19a 2025/26	CHN19a 2026/27	CHN19a 2027/28	CHN19a 2028/29	CHN19a 2029/30
94	Same as previous year	95	Same as previous year	96	Same as previous year	97	Same as previous year

CHN19b: School attendance rate (Looked After Children).

CHN19b 2022/23	CHN19b 2023/24	CHN19b 2024/25	CHN19b 2025/26	CHN19b 2026/27	CHN19b 2027/28	CHN19b 2028/29	CHN19b 2029/30
88	Same as previous year	90	Same as previous year	92	Same as previous year	94	Same as previous year

CHN20a: School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)

CHN20a 2022/23	CHN20a 2023/24	CHN20a 2024/25	CHN20a 2025/26	CHN20a 2026/27	CHN20a 2027/28	CHN20a 2028/29	CHN20a 2029/30
20	Same as previous year	15	Same as previous year	10	Same as previous year	5	Same as previous year

CHN23: % LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)

CHN23 2022/23	CHN23 2023/24	CHN23 2024/25	CHN23 2025/26	CHN23 2026/27	CHN23 2027/28	CHN23 2028/29	CHN23 2029/30
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13

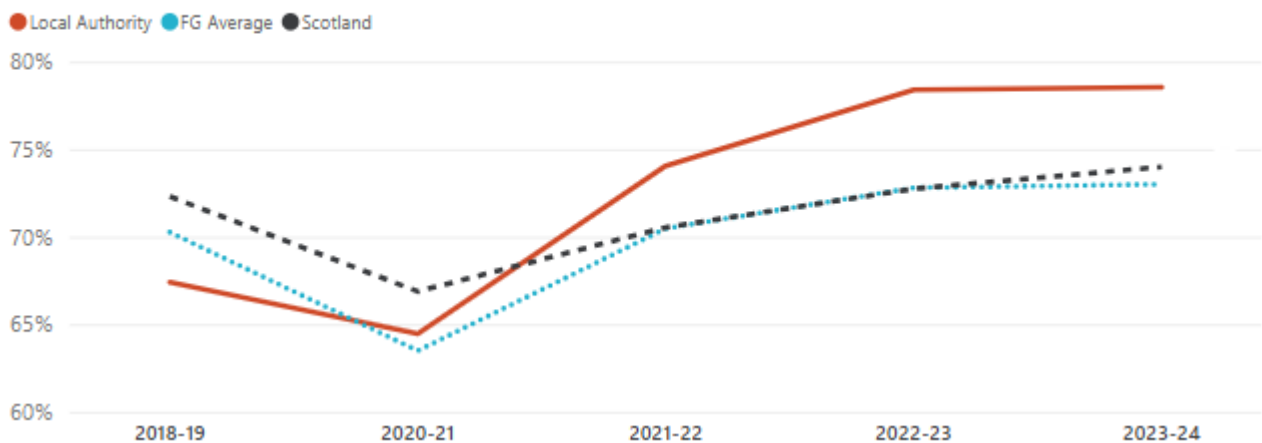


SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

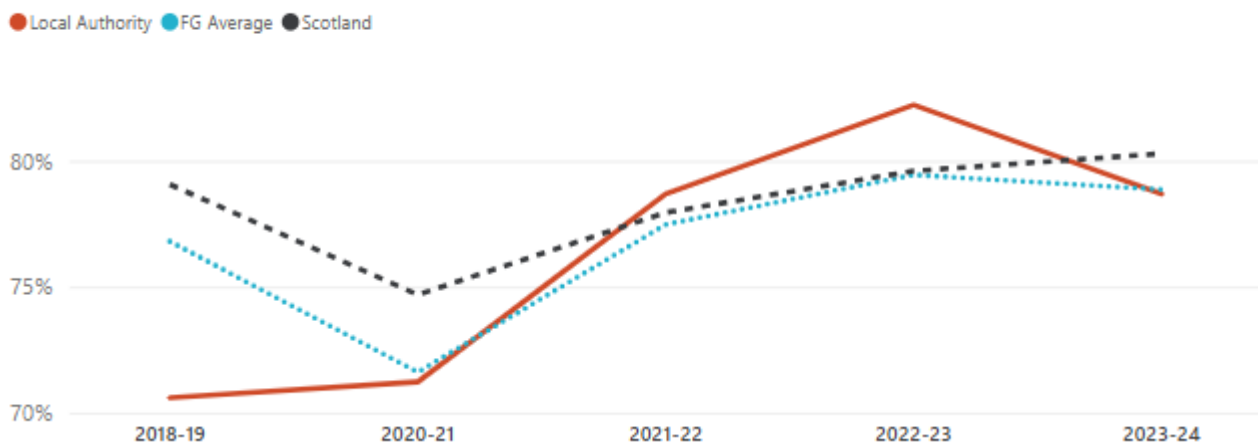
Literacy and Numeracy

6.1 The 2023-24 LGBF data shows that the percentage of Primary one, Primary four and Primary seven pupils achieving the expected level in literacy by June 2024 was higher than the Scottish average and the Family Group average however those achieving in numeracy was lower than both. In 2023-24 78.5% achieved the expected level in literacy against a Scottish average of 74% and 78.7% achieved the expected level in numeracy against a Scottish average of 80.3%. There has been a continuous improvement in Literacy since 2020-21. However, following recent improvements in Numeracy there was a 3.5% decrease in 2023-24. Both are still above the target milestone set.

CHN13a - % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils achieving expected CFE level in Literacy



CHN13b - % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils achieving expected CFE level in Numeracy



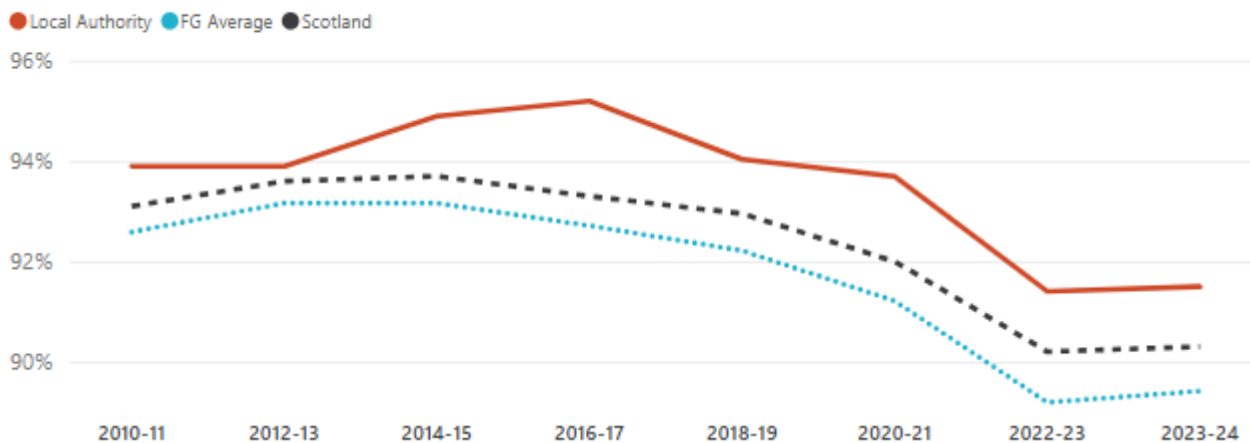
6.2 A number of improvement actions have been implemented during this academic year and these included the following.

- The appointment of a Quality Improvement Officer (Secondary Education), a Quality Improvement Officer (Attainment) and a temporary Quality Improvement Officer (Learning & Teaching)
- School Improvement Plan templates were further improved and a new template issued.
- The Quality Assurance Policy and Framework has been completed and approved.
- Curriculum pathways in literacy and numeracy have been shared and implemented across primary schools.
- Roll out of Primary tracker tool across all primaries.
- Information shared with schools and evaluation of ACEL data for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and Pupil Equity Funding.

School Attendance and Exclusion

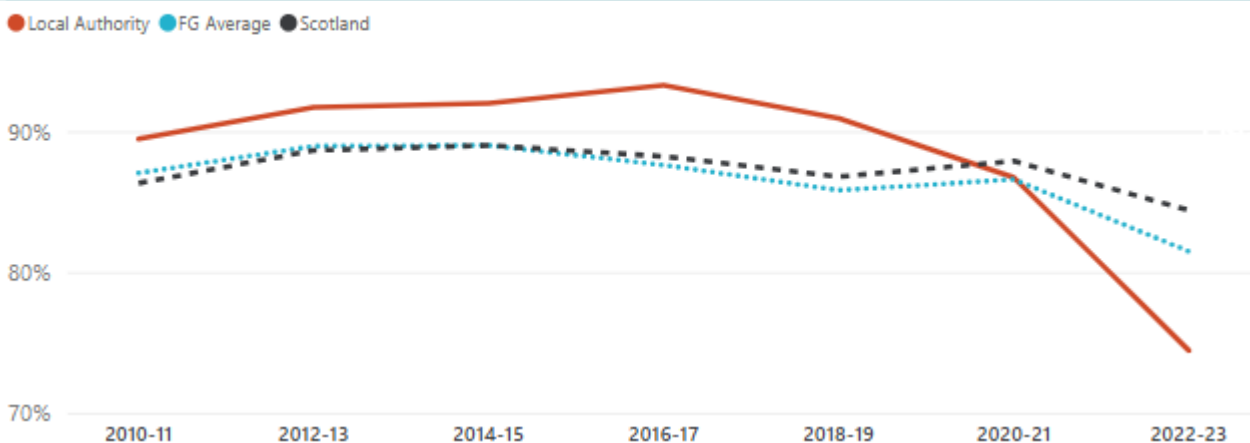
- 6.3 In 2023-24 the LGBF school attendance rate of 91.5% was above the Scottish average of 90.3% and was the highest in our LGBF Family Group. This was slight increase from the attendance level of 91.4% in 2022-23. The rate is below the milestone target of 94%.

CHN19a - School attendance rates (per 100 pupils)



- 6.4 In 2022-23 the LGBF school attendance rate for Looked After Children of 74.4% was below the Scottish average of 84.4% and the LGBF Family Group average of 81.5%. This was a decrease from the attendance level of 86.7% in 2020-21 and is below the milestone rate of 88%

CHN19b - School attendance rates (per 100 'looked after pupils')

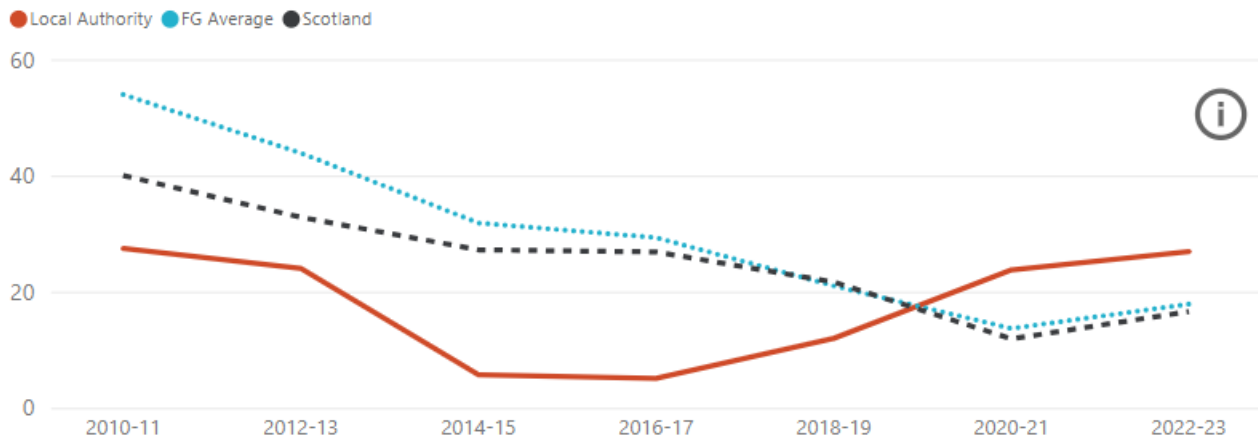


- 6.5 Addressing issues of attendance is a priority for the ECS Department and the following actions have been undertaken.
- Refresh of Comhairle Attendance Policy and planning of Attendance Forums for learners with attendance U50 (Secondary) and U70 (Primary).
 - Introduction of Attendance Challenge (available in Gaelic and English) to target children and young people with attendance below 70%.



- 6.6 The LGBF School Exclusion Rate per 1,000 pupils for 2022-23 stood at 26.9 against a Scottish average of 16.6 and was also higher than the Family Group average. This indicator is reported every two years and the rate of exclusions has increased over the previous three reporting periods. The rate is above the milestone target of 20%.

CHN20a - School exclusions rates (per 1,000 pupils)

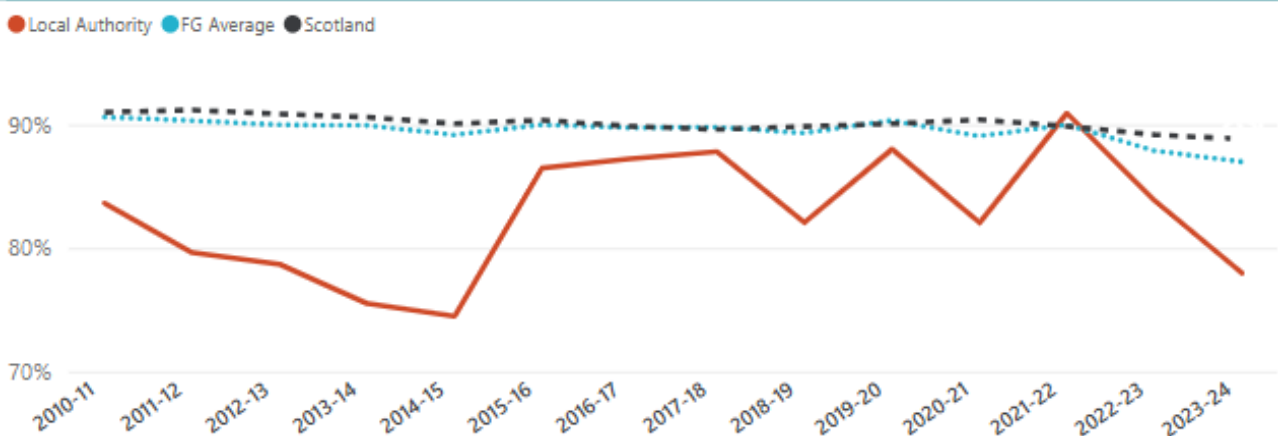


- 6.7 A new Policy on Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour has been developed and approved. Children's, through their Promise initiatives, have supported Education with reducing the number of school exclusions

Looked After Children

- 6.8 The percentage of Looked After Children being cared for in the community rather than in residential accommodation stood at 78% in 2023-24 against a Scottish average of 88.8%. This is also lower than our Family Group average of 87% and the milestone target set for 2023-24 of 84%.
- 6.9 The number of Looked After Children in the Western Isles is very small therefore a move for one child into residential care has a disproportionate effect on percentages.

CHN09 - Proportion of children being looked after in the community



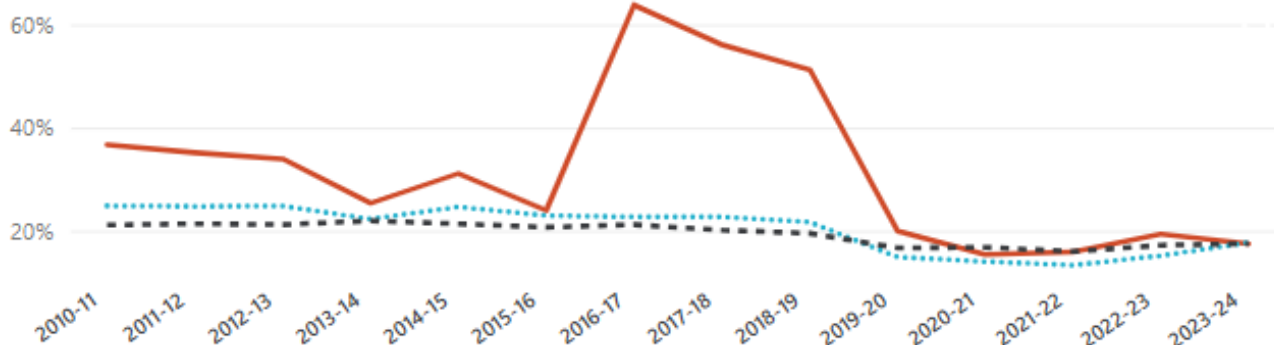
- 6.10 A review of the care estate has expanded to include a review of the wider service delivery model in terms of early intervention and prevention.



6.11 The percentage of Looked After Children who had more than one placement in the year stood at 17.5% in 2023-24 against a Scottish average of 17.5%. This was below the Family Group average of 17.7%.

CHN23 - Proportion of LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year

Local Authority FG Average Scotland



6.12 Every effort is made to place a child within their own community however this is not always possible therefore when a more suitable placement does become available i.e. one closer to their school of origin, family and friends, then a placement move can actually be in their best interests and a response to their wishes. The proportion of LAC with more than one placement remains on a par with the Scottish and Family Group average.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2023-24 TARGETS

7.1 Performance against the Milestone targets for Literacy and Numeracy have been very positive. The school attendance rate is below the target rate however there has been a small improvement over the last year.

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	Actual 2018-19	Milestone Target 2023-24	Actual 2023-24	RAG
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%	84.00%	78.0%	Red
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%	69.00%	78.54%	Green
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%	74.00%	78.69%	Green
CHN19a	School attendance rate	94.03%	94.00%	91.50%	Yellow
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	78.58%	88.00%	74.42%*	Red
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	11.93	20.00	26.90*	Red
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%	19.00%	17.5%	Green

* Reported every two years 2022-23 figures used



Education Skills and Children's Service Department - Local Government Benchmarking Framework Performance (Real Cost)

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Rank	Trend	Notes
CHN1	Cost Per Primary School Pupil	£11,143.26	£11,808.54	£11,523.57	£11,424.19	£12,098.45	£12,268.39	32		1.4% increase on previous year
CHN2	Cost per Secondary School Pupil	£13,693.25	£13,645.03	£13,542.32	£14,364.22	£14,157.58	£14,821.94	32		4.7% increase on previous year
CHN3	Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	£9,368.84	£10,871.83	£14,814.90	£15,463.66	£16,591.90	£17,322.83	32		4.4% increase on previous year
CHN8a	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	£5,799.54	£3,990.77	£4,214.47	£6,664.45	£6,122.00	£5348.90	17		12% decrease on previous year
CHN8b	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	£365.08	£216.22	£231.18	£175.24	£259.20	£185.90	1		28.3%% decrease on previous year
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%	88.00%	82.05%	90.91%	83.87%	77.97%	28		5.9% decrease on previous year
CHN10	% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools (3 year aggregate)	67.00%	61.67%	67.33%	74.00%	78.67%	76.33%	9		2.3% decrease on previous reporting period
CHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	98.40%	97.40%	97.10%	97.60%	98.30%	97.75%	4		0.5% decrease on previous year
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%		64.47%	74.06%	78.4%	78.54%	6		0.1% increase on previous year
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%		71.22%	78.69%	82.23%	78.69%	21		3.5% decrease on previous year
CHN17	% of children meeting developmental milestones	80.35%	81.78%	86.57%	78.70%	74.73%	82.66%	20		7.9% increase on previous year
CHN18	% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	92.00%	76.00%	73.91%	73.91%	72.73%	80.00%	31		7.3% increase on previous year
CHN19a	School attendance rate (per 100 pupils) (Reported every 2 years)	94.0%		93.7%		91.4%	91.5%	9		0.1% increase on previous reporting period
CHN19b	School attendance rate (per 100 "Looked After Pupils") (Reported every 2 years)	90.94%		86.72%		74.42%		32		12.3% decrease on previous reporting period
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils) (Reported every 2 years)	11.93		23.74		26.90		30		13.3% increase on previous reporting period
CHN21	Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	95.47%	95.51%	95.63%	96.22%	97.21%	96.83%	3		0.4% decrease on previous year
CHN22	% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	20%	7.14%	20		12.9% decrease on previous year
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%	20.00%	15.00%	15.90%	19.35%	17.50%	16		1.9% decrease on previous year
C&L1	Cost per attendance at sports facilities	£3.97	£4.28	£53.53	£11.06	£6.53	£4.44	21		32% decrease on previous year
C&L2	Cost per library visit	£6.32	£2.93	£0.79	£2.29	£2.25	£1.60	6		28.8% decrease on previous year
C&L4	Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	£1,056.64	£1,083.58	£1,069.49	£8,863.39	£23,599.62	£7,299.27	1		69.1% decrease on previous year
C&L5a	% of adults satisfied with libraries (3 year aggregate)	61.5%	49.2%	57.9%	67.3%	75%	74.3%	9		0.7% decrease on previous reporting period
C&L5b	% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces (3 year aggregate)	54.5%	37.8%	51.1%	70%	84.7%	83.3%	22		1.4% decrease on previous reporting period
C&L5d	% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities (3 year aggregate)	68.7%	57.7%	63.4%	71%	80.3%	81%	4		0.7% increase on previous reporting period

