

The background of the slide features the Falkirk Council Coat of Arms. It is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a saltire (X-shaped cross) with a castle tower in the center. The top-right quarter depicts a stag's head facing left. The bottom-left quarter shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy lines representing water. The bottom-right quarter features an eagle with spread wings perched on a branch. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. A ribbon scrolls across the bottom of the shield with the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 8

Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2017)

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2017)
Meeting: Education Executive
Date: 7 November 2017
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the initial publication of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2017, presented to the Education Executive in September 2017. It expands upon that report to include pupil attainment gained through college courses and through non-SQA providers. It also provides for comparisons with a 'Virtual Comparator' authority (the 'VC') and with the Scottish national averages in the various measures.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Education Executive is asked to:

- (1) note the SCQF¹ attainment of Falkirk Council secondary schools over time and in relation to the VC and national average in various measures.**
- (2) agree that a future report will be presented to the Education Executive in spring 2018, to take account of updated leavers' data and attainment in relation to areas of deprivation within Falkirk.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At the previous stage (in August 2017), information on SQA results came solely from the SEEMIS management information system and reported on A-C passes at various levels of the National Qualifications. SEEMIS reports were limited at this stage solely to SQA performance and did not take account of other non-SQA accredited courses, or SQA qualifications gained by Falkirk secondary pupils through Forth Valley College.

¹ SCQF refers to the Scottish Qualifications and Certification Framework. This can include non-SQA accreditation that has been recognised, levelled, and included within the framework

- 3.2 Figures have now been updated using the Scottish Government's Insight information system in September of 2017. This takes wider accreditation into account, and allows for comparison with the VC and national averages. This data will be further refreshed in February 2018 to take account of the latest school leavers' data.

4. Considerations

4.1 Attainment in S4

The attainment of pupils in S4 is given in the table below, expressed as a percentage of the total S4 roll. The average attainment of Falkirk pupils is shown alongside that of the virtual comparator and the Scottish national figure.

By the end of S4:		2014	2015	2016	2017
5 or more awards at Level 3 or better	Falkirk	64	82	89	91
	VC	88	88	88	86
	Scotland	86	86	86	84
5 or more awards at Level 4 or better	Falkirk	59	79	83	85
	VC	83	84	84	81
	Scotland	79	81	81	79
5 or more awards at Level 5 or better	Falkirk	24	41	43	43
	VC	43	47	49	50
	Scotland	39	43	45	46

Tariff Scores (points gained through qualifications)

		2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Total Tariff Points – lowest attaining 20%	Falkirk	86	117	132	151
	VC	127	133	135	140
	Scotland	108	112	115	124
Average Total Tariff Points – middle 60%	Falkirk	275	372	369	388
	VC	384	383	395	394
	Scotland	364	373	376	380
Average Total Tariff Points – highest attaining 20%	Falkirk	540	558	581	594
	VC	616	613	602	590
	Scotland	608	601	593	587

The percentage of S4 pupils gaining qualifications at SCQF levels 3,4 and 5 is improving over time. Falkirk compared favourably with the VC and national average in 2017 at levels 3 & 4, with scope for further improvement at level 5.

In terms of tariff points gained through qualifications in S4, Falkirk's lower attaining pupils did well in 2017, as did the highest attaining 20% of pupils, in relation to VC and national averages.

4.2 Attainment in S5

By end of S5:		2014	2015	2016	2017
1 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) or better	Falkirk	52	55	61	62
	VC	56	60	63	64
	Scotland	53	58	59	60
3 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) or better	Falkirk	33	34	37	39
	VC	35	39	43	43
	Scotland	33	37	39	40
5 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) or better	Falkirk	16	16	19	19
	VC	18	20	21	22
	Scotland	17	18	19	19

Tariff Scores (points gained through qualifications)

		2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Total Tariff Points – lowest attaining 20%	Falkirk	165	182	228	245
	VC	235	244	268	261
	Scotland	221	228	235	237
Average Total Tariff Points – middle 60%	Falkirk	610	619	694	715
	VC	703	719	756	758
	Scotland	679	699	715	724
Average Total Tariff Points – highest attaining 20%	Falkirk	1139	1138	1147	1173
	VC	1229	1201	1207	1202
	Scotland	1217	1192	1189	1187

Attainment at level 6 (1+, 3+, 5+ awards) by the end of S5 has improved over time in Falkirk. Performance has broadly matched either the comparator, or the national average across these three measures in 2017, but there is scope for further improvement.

In terms of tariff points gained by the end of S5 (a measure of overall attainment) Falkirk pupils have gained over time. Whilst the lower attaining pupils in S5 were broadly in line with the national average in 2017, they have attained less well over time than the VC. Middle and higher attaining pupils at S5 have also attained less well than those in the VC over time.

4.3 Attainment in S6

By end of S6:		2014	2015	2016	2017
3 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) or better	Falkirk	40	43	45	50
	VC	45	47	49	51
	Scotland	42	44	47	48
5 or more awards at Level 6 (Higher) or better	Falkirk	28	30	31	34
	VC	32	33	35	37
	Scotland	29	31	33	34
1 or more awards at Level 7 (Advanced Higher) or better	Falkirk	19	20	22	24
	VC	20	21	22	23
	Scotland	19	20	12	21

Average Total Tariff Points (points gained through qualifications)

		2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Total Tariff Points – lowest attaining 20%	Falkirk	383	405	454	487
	VC	468	502	515	530
	Scotland	446	464	478	487
Average Total Tariff Points – middle 60%	Falkirk	1045	1103	1140	1169
	VC	1156	1210	1209	1249
	Scotland	1136	1166	1176	1197
Average Total Tariff Points – highest attaining 20%	Falkirk	1911	1875	1907	1917
	VC	1941	1983	1958	1976
	Scotland	1938	1963	1948	1952

4.3.1 Again, attainment by the end of S6 has improved over time. In 2017, the performance of Falkirk pupils (at SCQF levels 6 and 7) was broadly in line with either the national average or the VC average

4.3.2 Given the key role of literacy and numeracy skills in progressing to positive destinations, the attainment of Falkirk pupils in these key areas, by the end of S6 (based upon the S4 roll) is given in the two tables below:

Literacy attainment by end of S6		2014	2015	2016	2017
Level 4 or better in literacy	Falkirk	85	85	91	95
	VC	92	93	94	95
	Scotland	91	91	92	93
Level 5 or better in literacy	Falkirk	66	68	74	81
	VC	68	71	78	80
	Scotland	65	68	75	77
Level 6 or better in Literacy	Falkirk	42	45	50	55
	VC	46	49	55	58
	Scotland	43	46	52	54

Numeracy attainment by end of S6		2014	2015	2016	2017
Level 4 or better in Numeracy	Falkirk	77	77	80	91
	VC	81	82	89	92
	Scotland	78	80	86	89
Level 5 or better in Numeracy	Falkirk	56	59	60	68
	VC	58	59	67	70
	Scotland	55	57	64	66
Level 6 or better in Numeracy	Falkirk	32	32	28	28
	VC	31	33	30	30
	Scotland	30	30	29	28

Standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy by end of S6 in Falkirk (at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6) have risen over 2014-17, except at Level 6 numeracy (Higher mathematics) where the decline across 2016-17 has also been reflected in the national and VC figures.

4.4 School by School Breakdown of Performance

4.4.1 The measures contained in this paper are broken down to school level in **Appendix 1**. It is important to remember that the attainment within a school cannot be taken in isolation, and must be considered within the context of each school's socio-economic profile (the relative deprivation of each school's catchment area). The first table in appendix 1, therefore, shows the percentage of each school's pupils residing in each SIMD² decile.

5. Consultation

5.1 None.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 None.

Resources

6.2 None.

Legal

6.3 None.

Risk

² SIMD = Single Index of Multiple Deprivation. Decile 1 is the most deprived, with decile 10 the least deprived.

6.4 None.

Equalities

6.5 None.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 None.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The information provided in this report will be updated for the Education Executive in spring 2018, when further and more detailed data will be available in relation to school leavers, and in relation to the authority's deprivation profile.

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Director of Children's Services

Date: 16 August 2017

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – School level data

None

List of Background Papers

None

Falkirk Council Children's Services

TABLE 1

Percentage of pupils in each SIMD decile - from ScotXed pupil census data September 2017																
	1 (most deprived)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (least deprived)	SIMD 15%	Rank 15%	SIMD 20%	Rank 20%	SIMD 30%	Rank 30%
Bo'ness Academy	0%	11%	17%	1%	25%	15%	5%	11%	11%	5%	6%	5	11%	5	28%	5
Braes HS	5%	1%	6%	11%	14%	0%	7%	22%	30%	4%	5%	7	6%	8	12%	8
Denny HS	2%	5%	17%	16%	18%	9%	6%	6%	12%	8%	5%	8	7%	6	24%	6
Falkirk HS	14%	15%	21%	8%	9%	0%	11%	3%	14%	5%	19%	2	29%	1	50%	2
Graeme HS	2%	17%	26%	9%	6%	6%	3%	12%	16%	3%	11%	3	19%	3	45%	3
Grangemouth HS	17%	10%	24%	12%	22%	1%	6%	3%	1%	5%	24%	1	27%	2	50%	1
Larbert HS	1%	5%	11%	8%	10%	10%	13%	13%	8%	22%	6%	6	6%	7	17%	7
St Mungo's HS	5%	10%	17%	8%	12%	4%	7%	12%	14%	10%	11%	4	15%	4	32%	4
Authority	5%	9%	17%	9%	13%	6%	8%	11%	13%	9%	10%	-	14%	-	31%	-

Table 1 shows that, overall, Falkirk High School and Grangemouth High School serve the most deprived parts of Falkirk Council area. Overall, Braes High School, Denny High School and Larbert High School serve the least deprived areas in Falkirk.

TABLES 2 & 3: ATTAINMENT BY END OF S4

	5 or more awards ar level 3 or better				5 or more awards ar level 4 or better				5 or more awards ar level 5 or better			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	82	77	94	92	74	70	90	89	22	32	40	29
Braes HS	74	76	81	90	67	75	81	89	26	41	43	39
Denny HS	92	82	80	83	88	77	74	74	36	31	33	37
Falkirk HS	92	85	94	95	81	77	82	83	37	36	40	42
Graeme HS	86	80	85	86	83	78	79	83	46	39	40	42
Grangemouth HS	76	65	99	91	70	54	83	73	27	29	35	35
Larbert HS	18	95	96	99	17	95	92	95	0	55	53	53
St Mungo's HS	25	80	87	93	24	79	84	91	9	49	50	54
Average Complementary Tariff Points												
	Lowest Attaining 20%				Middle 60%				Highest Attaining 20%			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	83	56	130	129	243	266	292	282	396	416	413	406
Braes HS	75	106	124	142	247	298	317	319	406	424	414	415
Denny HS	122	121	82	112	282	304	294	301	445	485	448	438
Falkirk HS	98	68	103	119	280	279	292	300	411	412	416	437
Graeme HS	118	92	107	137	300	294	305	328	417	437	438	439
Grangemouth HS	47	110	136	82	246	268	280	267	399	417	418	411
Larbert HS	74	184	167	202	169	359	343	355	285	457	482	493
St Mungo's HS	108	133	144	159	264	326	332	340	356	415	418	418

Average complementary tariff points measure the 'latest and best' qualifications achieved by young people

TABLES 4 & 5: ATTAINMENT BY END OF S5

	1 or more awards ar level 6 or better				3 or more awards ar level 6 or better				5 or more awards ar level 6 or better			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	48	41	54	56	27	26	34	34	14	7	13	11
Braes HS	56	50	62	70	32	27	40	45	13	14	25	22
Denny HS	48	56	60	59	26	31	31	34	12	13	13	14
Falkirk HS	48	49	52	55	30	30	30	33	13	13	12	17
Graeme HS	47	52	58	56	30	34	36	35	9	17	14	15
Grangemouth HS	35	42	45	47	17	23	26	30	10	10	7	12
Larbert HS	69	69	72	71	51	48	50	46	31	25	35	27
St Mungo's HS	50	61	68	65	32	38	42	44	16	21	17	22
Average Complementary Tariff Points												
	Lowest Attaining 20%				Middle 60%				Highest Attaining 20%			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	159	144	178	208	455	413	505	532	894	847	896	891
Braes HS	144	150	163	256	528	483	590	632	943	921	986	945
Denny HS	156	160	175	195	459	503	529	545	923	919	920	942
Falkirk HS	67	147	172	163	454	477	501	538	892	942	919	938
Graeme HS	128	131	175	161	455	514	547	547	862	950	925	926
Grangemouth HS	98	85	125	166	368	416	426	468	865	863	855	892
Larbert HS	182	224	272	349	642	650	689	659	978	973	992	976
St Mungo's HS	159	197	234	231	473	555	591	619	917	956	947	964

TABLES 6 & 7: ATTAINMENT BY END OF S6

	3 or more awards ar level 6 or better				5 or more awards ar level 6 or better				1 or more awards ar level 7 or better			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	36	36	33	45	23	23	24	32	14	15	12	19
Braes HS	35	45	39	55	22	32	26	41	15	19	18	36
Denny HS	37	41	45	44	27	26	30	26	17	26	25	20
Falkirk HS	44	38	39	39	30	24	26	27	23	16	20	16
Graeme HS	34	38	44	48	23	25	34	30	13	16	19	18
Grangemouth HS	27	28	34	44	18	17	24	28	12	14	14	13
Larbert HS	53	60	57	58	38	48	40	44	29	28	27	32
St Mungo's HS	45	44	55	56	31	33	37	38	20	18	29	32
Average Complementary Tariff Points												
	Lowest Attaining 20%				Middle 60%				Highest Attaining 20%			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	404	277	276	317	805	732	718	735	1285	1225	1212	1255
Braes HS	299	395	354	422	781	862	786	935	1334	1366	1373	1436
Denny HS	252	283	357	331	691	793	835	810	1284	1238	1257	1233
Falkirk HS	289	261	335	293	792	758	844	732	1368	1265	1341	1227
Graeme HS	251	207	332	380	670	703	819	784	1262	1213	1329	1210
Grangemouth HS	293	264	271	253	744	694	705	696	1291	1244	1159	1201
Larbert HS	380	467	443	464	884	949	947	947	1361	1414	1421	1372
St Mungo's HS	274	276	382	406	766	758	859	879	1274	1235	1340	1285

TABLES 8 & 9: LITERACY AND NUMERACY ATTAINMENT BY END OF S6

Literacy	Level 4 or better in Literacy				Level 5 or better in Literacy				Level 6 or better in Literacy			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	93	90	87	89	57	69	63	80	40	40	36	46
Braes HS	87	94	92	96	63	75	75	82	42	57	57	66
Denny HS	96	95	93	96	61	65	75	75	36	40	43	48
Falkirk HS	79	76	90	88	68	63	70	77	44	40	42	48
Graeme HS	96	93	95	98	65	69	77	79	38	41	53	54
Grangemouth HS	59	62	87	95	47	51	55	73	26	25	31	37
Larbert HS	83	84	98	100	79	77	83	88	56	60	63	68
St Mungo's HS	86	87	83	96	70	68	77	89	45	46	60	62
Numeracy	Level 4 or better in Numeracy				Level 5 or better in Numeracy				Level 6 or better in Numeracy			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bo'ness Academy	75	82	82	81	48	56	53	66	28	29	18	21
Braes HS	75	80	92	98	57	63	69	77	34	37	27	40
Denny HS	85	83	82	93	55	60	57	55	29	30	28	20
Falkirk HS	73	66	79	87	65	46	51	63	32	25	26	28
Graeme HS	85	81	87	94	57	58	67	75	30	32	29	32
Grangemouth HS	72	73	78	82	45	49	63	63	31	25	28	25
Larbert HS	78	80	75	96	61	68	61	80	33	38	31	32
St Mungo's HS	68	75	73	92	57	64	57	62	35	34	36	27