

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 NOVEMBER 2002

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2002

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members of the overall performance in the 2002 diet of examinations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each year the Scottish Executive publish the results obtained in the SQA examinations to schools and education authorities. It is no longer the practice, nationally, to publish figures on performance on a school-by-school basis in the format that became known as "League Tables". There is, however, still a requirement for authorities to make available to parents the results for individual schools. This is done principally through school handbooks and in the compilation of information for parents of P7 pupils moving to secondary school.

3. INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

- 3.1 The summary table of results provided by the Scottish Executive is presented at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Figures are presented as a percentage of the relevant S4 roll. This is to enable some level of comparison to be made. Use of the S4 roll means that the effects of differing staying on rates is removed.
- 3.3 In the past, figures were presented on a straightforward basis of performance in Standard Grades and Highers. Now, the introduction of new levels of courses under Higher Still has meant that a different approach has to be taken. This approach suggests that different types of examination are equivalent known as the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF):
- | | |
|----------|--|
| Level 7: | Advanced Higher at A-C; CSYS at A-C |
| Level 6: | Higher at A-C |
| Level 5: | Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2 (credit) |
| Level 4: | Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard Grade at 3-4 (general) |
| Level 3: | Access 3 Cluster; Standard Grade at 5-6 (foundation) |
- 3.4 The figures in the appendix are pre-appeal. Success in appeals will further improve the results.

4. THE RESULTS

- 4.1** When comparison is made to previous years, East Ayrshire has shown improvement in 7 out of the 9 possible areas of the Scottish Executive's analysis
- 4.2** In relation to the national figures, East Ayrshire a performance better than or equal to that for Scotland as a whole in 15 out of the 18 possible areas.
- 4.3** In more detailed areas of the analysis, some significant features are:

At S4 (mainly Standard Grades)

Improvement in 5+ passes at Level 5 (2% up compared to 2000*, 5% up compared to 2001*).

Improvement in 5+ passes at Level 4 (2% up compared to 2000*, 2% up compared to 2001*).

Improvement in 5+ passes at Level 3 (2% up compared to 2000*).

At S5 (Highers)

1+ passes (3% up compared to 2000*, 3% down compared to 2001*).

3+ passes (2% up compared to 2000*, 2% down compared to 2001).

Improvement in 5+ passes (2% up compared to 2000*, 1% up compared to 2001*).

At S6 (Higher, Advanced Higher and Certificate of Sixth Year Studies)

Improvement in 3+ passes at Higher (4% up compared to 2001*).

Improvement in 5+ passes at Higher (2% up compared to 2000*, 4% up compared to 2001*).

Improvement in 1+ passes at level 7 (1% up compared to 2000,* 1% up compared to 2001*).

* = performance change as good or better than the national picture

- 4.4** In addition, the Scottish Executive provide figures in relation to "families" of authorities. These are groups of about 5 or so Council areas that are held to be similar in characteristics. East Ayrshire's family includes Clackmannan, Falkirk, North Ayrshire, Inverclyde and North Lanarkshire. In all areas of performance this year East Ayrshire's performance was "best in family" or "equal best in family".

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** There is some justification this year for recognising that the performance of East Ayrshire's young people in public examinations has shown significant improvement compared to previous years, the national picture as a whole and in other similar authorities.

5.2 This information, detailed breakdown of figures by individual schools and other information will be used by the Quality Improvement Team to support headteachers and subject departments to further improve performance for next year.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members :

- (i) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to write to schools informing them of this analysis and congratulating them on the areas of improved attainment highlighted by this report; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS
28 October 2002

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, (01563-576089).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Nil

Implementation Officer: Graham Short

Appendix: Scottish Executive Analysis.

AGENDA