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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Strategy, Change & Governance

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29 November 2022

Dear Councillor

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2022

Please find enclosed, for consideration at the next meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee taking place on Tuesday, 29th November, 2022, the following report(s) that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

3. Questions from Members of the Public (Pages 1 - 2)

Stephen Tautz

Principal Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services

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PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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QUESTIONS FROM DAVID WEBB TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, LEARNING AND INCLUSION

- (1) In secondary schools including comprehensive and grammar schools in Southend how many pupils achieved A star, A, B, C in G.C.S.E in 2022, 2021, 2022?**

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. In Summer 2020 the grading for all GCSEs moved from A* to G to a new grading system that assessed on a 9 to 1 scale, with 9 being the highest possible grade. In your question you have asked for information for 2022, 2021 and 2022 so I have assumed for the purpose of this response that you are seeking information for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a breakdown for each grade for 2020 and 2021 as the process for assessing and allocating grades were changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot provide this data for 2022 yet as we only have access to provisional data for the previous academic year. So the information for 2022 is based on the provisional data currently available. However, I can provide the following information from the DfE website in relation to pupils achieving any pass at GCSE or equivalent in Southend:

- 2019/2020 - 96.4%
- 2020/2021 – 97.7%
- 2021/2022 – 97.1%

It should be noted that results for 2020 and 2021 are not comparable with earlier years due to the cancellation of exams (due to COVID-19) and the changes to the way GCSE grades were awarded and results for 2022 are not comparable with previous years due to the changes relating to grading assessments. The Department for Education website advises that:

“In 2020 and 2021, all GCSEs in England have been reformed and use the new 9 to 1 grading system (rather than A*-G). Year on year comparisons will be limited until these qualifications are consistently included from 2020 onwards. However, results for 2020 and 2021 are not comparable with earlier years due to the cancellation of exams (due to COVID-19) and the changes to the way GCSE grades were awarded and results for 2022 are not comparable with previous years due to the changes relating to grading assessments.”

- (2) What activities have been put in place for February half Term, Easter, Summer holiday for children and what ages attended for each activity and how much did it cost per activity and where did the funds come from to pay for the activities?**

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. As well as the services funded by the Council, the Department for Education provides funding to run a Holiday Activities Programme (HAF). The budget for Southend for 2022-23 is £621,711. The programme is delivered during the school holidays but not half term breaks. This equates to 4 days in Easter, 16 days in the summer and 4 days at Christmas. Working with schools, eligible children receive an e-voucher from their schools to book their free place on the programme. The following activities were offered:

February Half-Term

- 53 Young People attended the Targeted Youth Service offer

Easter 2022

- The HAF programme offered 834 primary and 124 secondary aged children and young people attended the HAF programme across 16 schemes
- The Targeted Youth Service ran for 4 days working with 73 young people. HAF funding ensured all attendees received a hot meal and one for the 4 days was specifically for young carers.

Summer 2022

- During Summer 2022, 996 primary and 190 secondary aged children and young people attended the HAF programme across 17 schemes. This included the Targeted Youth Service which provided a 4-week programme across 3 sites which 237 young people attended. All received a hot meal or packed lunch and one day per week was for young carers only.

As well as the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, out of school childcare clubs in Southend provide places for school aged children in the school holidays. These clubs are run by schools, private or voluntary organisations and private providers.