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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director (Strategy and Change):

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09 November 2023

Dear Councillor

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2023

Please find attached the questions from members of the public, together with the respective responses from the relevant Cabinet Member(s), at the meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 31st October 2023.

Stephanie Cox

Principal Democratic Services Officer

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SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL

People Scrutiny Committee Meeting

31st October 2023

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Question 1. from Mr Webb for Cllr Boyd (Children Services, Education and Learning):

How many secondary children pupils received A*, A, B, C,D in 2022 compared to 2023 between girls and boys and was this higher than National figures. What steps are the council helping schools to raise results?

Response:

Thank you for your questions, Mr Webb.

Following the pandemic and particularly since 2021 some schools experienced significant turmoil in grade changes. A-level results were subject to significant grade changes for example in some cases 25% of grades were changed. This understandably led to reluctance from schools to share their unratified data with others including the Local Authority. This year it would appear that the examinations are settling back to pre-pandemic levels so I have asked officers to speak with Head teachers how unratified data might be able to be shared with the Local Authority prior to the national release. The ratified data for this year is due to be released in November. This does mean regrettably that I am unable to respond to your specific requests on this year's outcomes and any comparisons with results in 2022 as we do not have this information. However, I would like to assure you that we are working with our schools, including our secondary schools, all of which are academies, to raise standards wherever possible.

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