
To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 15 March 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: The attainment of school leavers in 2017, including looked after children

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 2 November 2017 a report was approved by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board regarding the attainment of our young people in 2017.
- 1.2 In the report of 2 November 2017 it was advised that a further report be considered by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board when school leavers' data became available. This report concerns the attainment of our school leavers in 2017 in the four key measures contained in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Education and Children's services policy board are asked to:
- note the content of this report; and
 - note the efforts of our young people and the school communities in bringing about these results.
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3. Background

- 3.1 A report on attainment was noted by the education and children services policy board in November 2017. It detailed the attainment of our young people

in S4, S5 and S6 (the senior phase) in 2017. Included in the November 2017 report was a recommendation that a further report be submitted to the board with the attainment of Renfrewshire school leavers when this became available in February 2018.

3.2 Since 2014, schools have been engaging with a performance evaluation tool known as INSIGHT. This tool is provided by the Scottish Government to schools and education authorities as a way of benchmarking performance in four key measures:

- Literacy and numeracy;
- Improving attainment for the lowest achieving 20%, middle 60% and top 20% of achievers;
- Attainment versus deprivation; and
- Leavers' destinations.

3.3 This report provides data and commentary on the performance of the 2016/17 leavers' cohort in these four key measures. It should be noted that a leavers' cohort includes all pupils that have left school, regardless of the age and stage they were at.

3.4 The INSIGHT tool uses a 'virtual comparator' (VC) to allow authorities and schools to make statistically valid comparisons between how young people have performed against young people nationally, who share four similar characteristics. These characteristics are: gender, year group, percentage of time spent in mainstream classes, and live within an area with the same Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) decile. INSIGHT also allows us to compare our performance with the national picture.

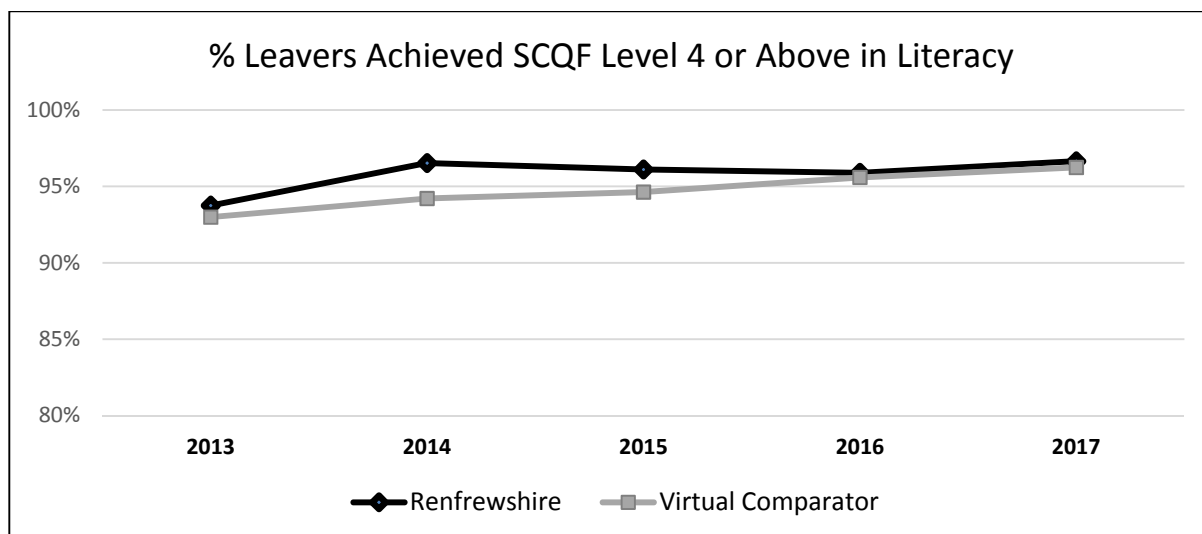
3.5 **Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy**

Raising attainment in literacy and numeracy remains a key priority of Renfrewshire Council children's services. This is also one of the Scottish Government's key priorities as detailed in its national improvement framework.

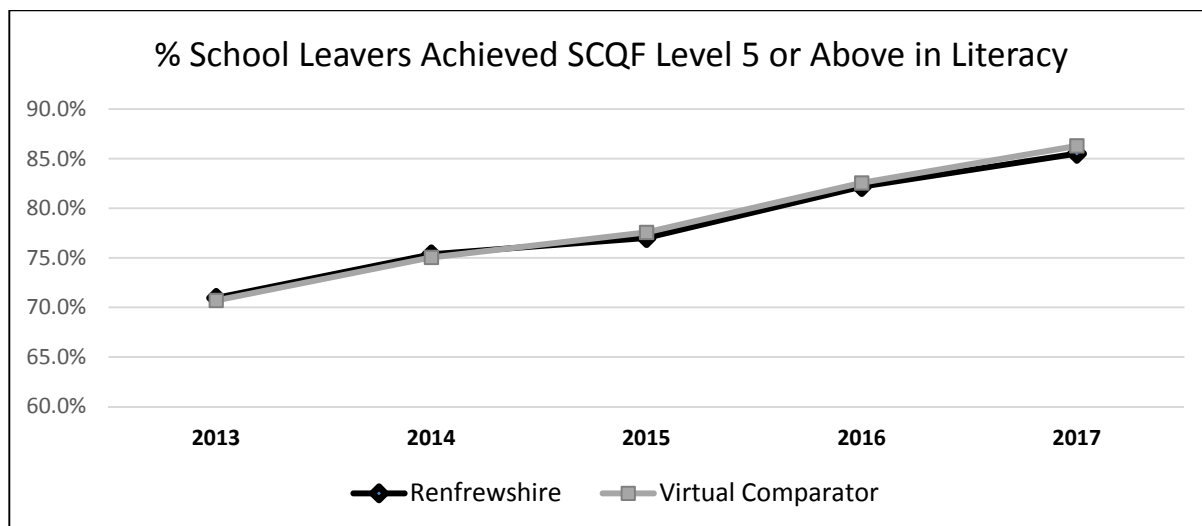
Attainment in literacy and numeracy includes passes at National 4 and 5 in English and Maths. It also includes passes in certain other awards at SCQF levels 4 and 5 which contain certain core elements of literacy and numeracy. The charts which follow, provide details of our performance in literacy and numeracy, compared to our virtual comparator.

Literacy

The charts below show the percentage of leavers achieving SCQF level 4 or 5 or above in literacy in 2016/2017.



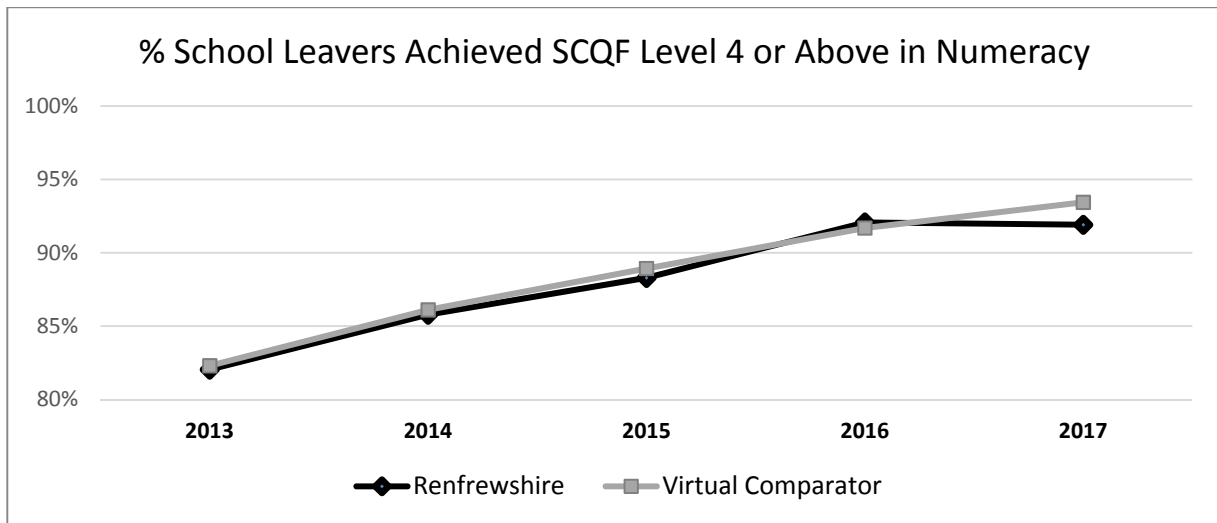
The percentage of leavers in Renfrewshire achieving literacy at SCQF level 4 has remained relatively constant over the past 4 years at approximately 96%. This year's figure has slightly increased to 97%. This is in line with our virtual comparator, which is marginally below Renfrewshire at 96% in 2017.



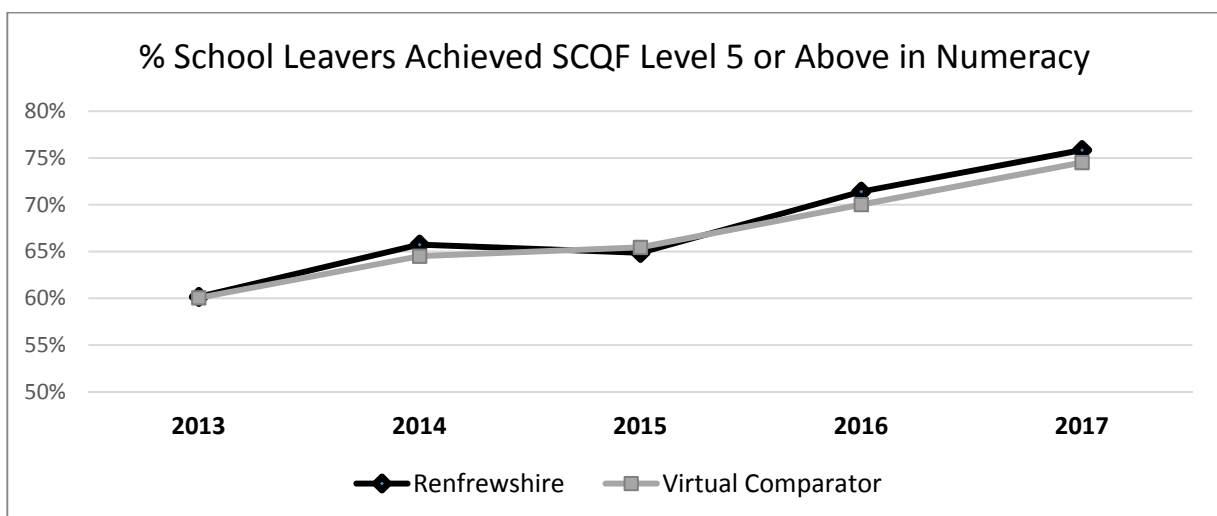
Attainment in literacy at SCQF level 5 has continued to improve in 2017. The percentage of leavers achieving SCQF level 5 or above in literacy increased from 82% in 2015/16 to 86% in 2016/17. Over 5 years, Renfrewshire has increased the percentage of pupils achieving literacy at SCQF level 5 by 15 percentage points, this is in line with our virtual comparator.

Numeracy

The charts below show the percentage of Renfrewshire leavers who have achieved SCQF level 4 or 5 or above in numeracy.



The performance of Renfrewshire school leavers in numeracy at SCQF improved from 2013 – 2016 but in 2017 remained the same as the previous year at 92% and just below our virtual comparator.



Performance continues to improve at SCQF level 5 with 76% of school leavers achieving this level in 2017. Renfrewshire is in line with our virtual comparator. The percentage of pupils achieving SCQF level 5 or above in numeracy has increased by 16 percentage points over 5 years.

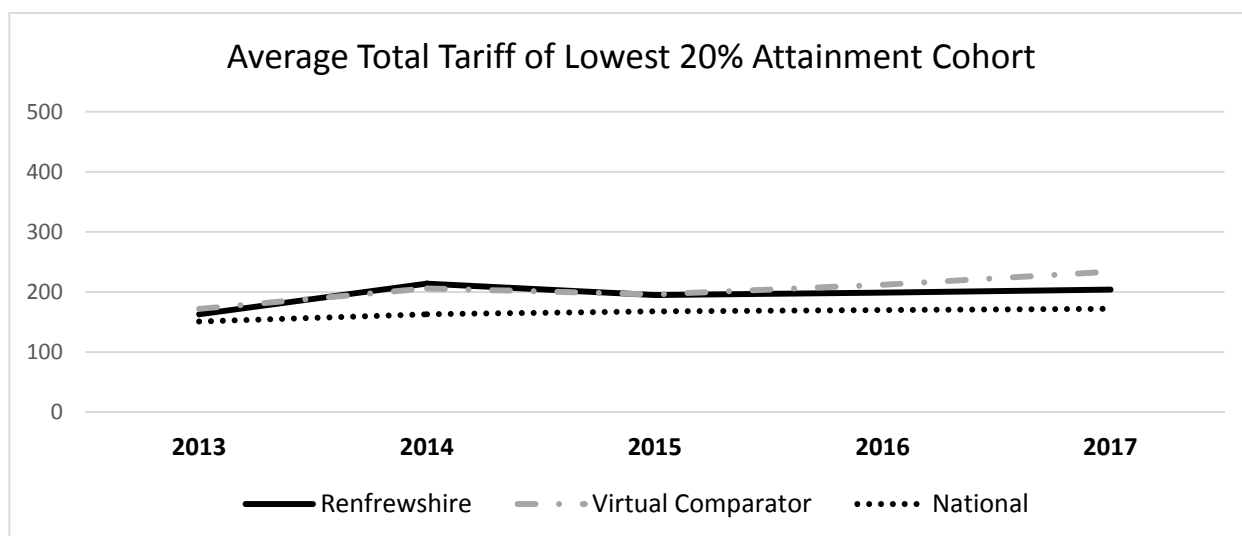
3.6 Improving attainment for all

Each qualification on the Scottish Certificate and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is attributed a number of tariff points. The higher level of qualification, the more tariff points are attributed. On leaving school, pupils will have a total

cumulative tariff score which incorporates their latest and best achievements in the senior phase.

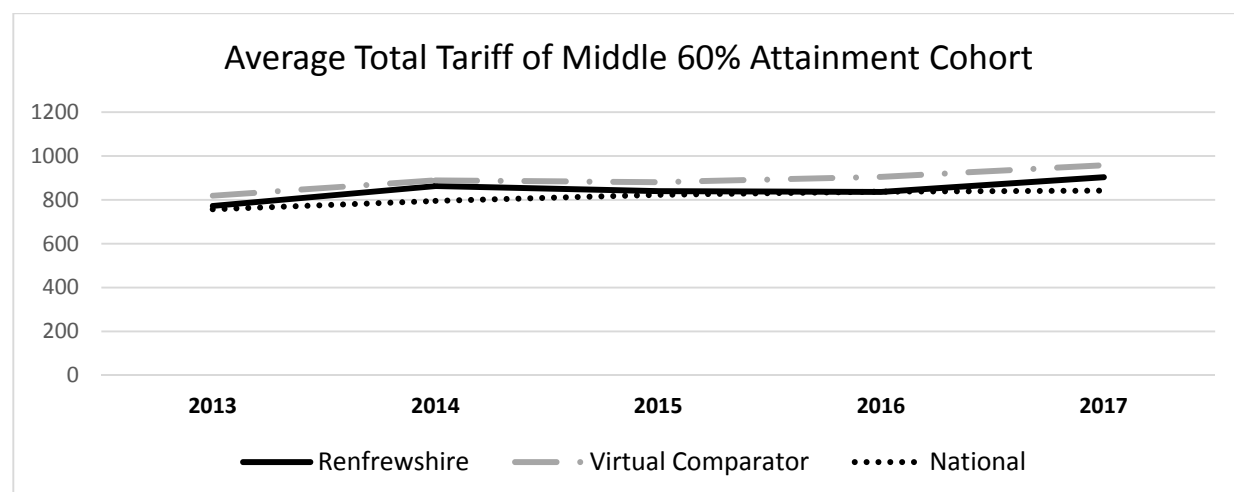
Within this measure, INSIGHT breaks the data down into three groups of leavers: the lowest attaining 20%, the middle attaining 60% and the highest attaining 20%. It then calculates the total average tariff points for the lowest each of these groups and compares their attainment with the virtual comparator and the national figure. The charts showing each of these groups are shown below:

Tariff points for the lowest attaining 20% of leavers



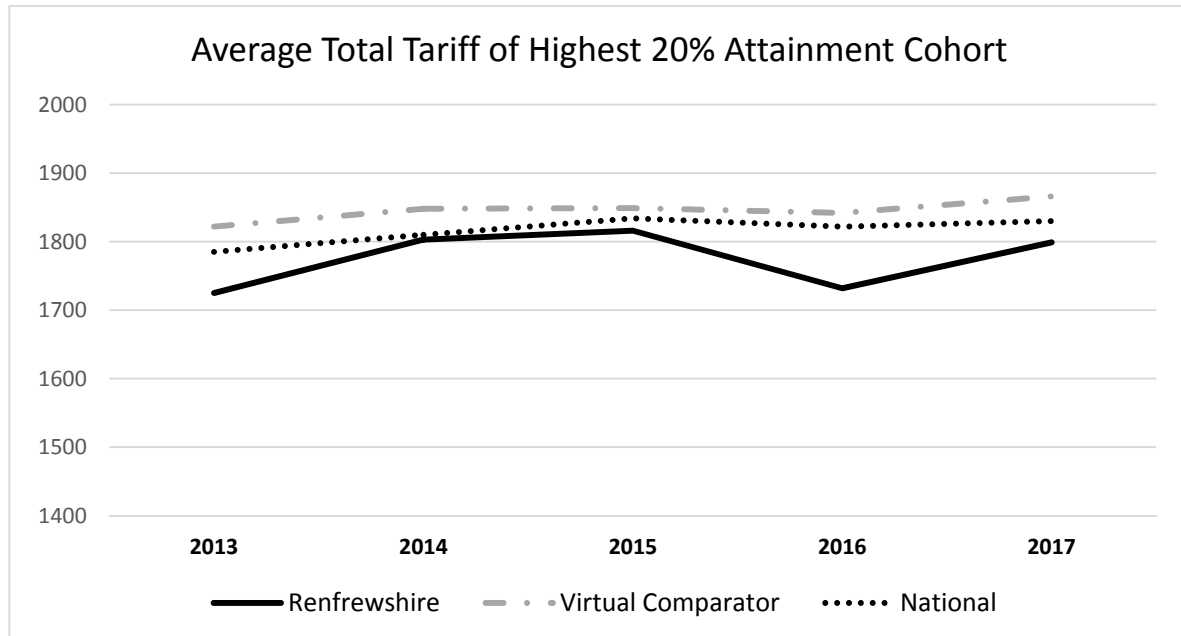
The average total tariff of the lowest attaining 20% of leavers has increased marginally in 2016/17. Renfrewshire continues to perform above the national average, however, is below our virtual comparator in this measure. Although there was a dip in performance in this attainment cohort, the trend has been positive over the past five years.

Average Total Tariff points for the middle attaining 60% of leavers



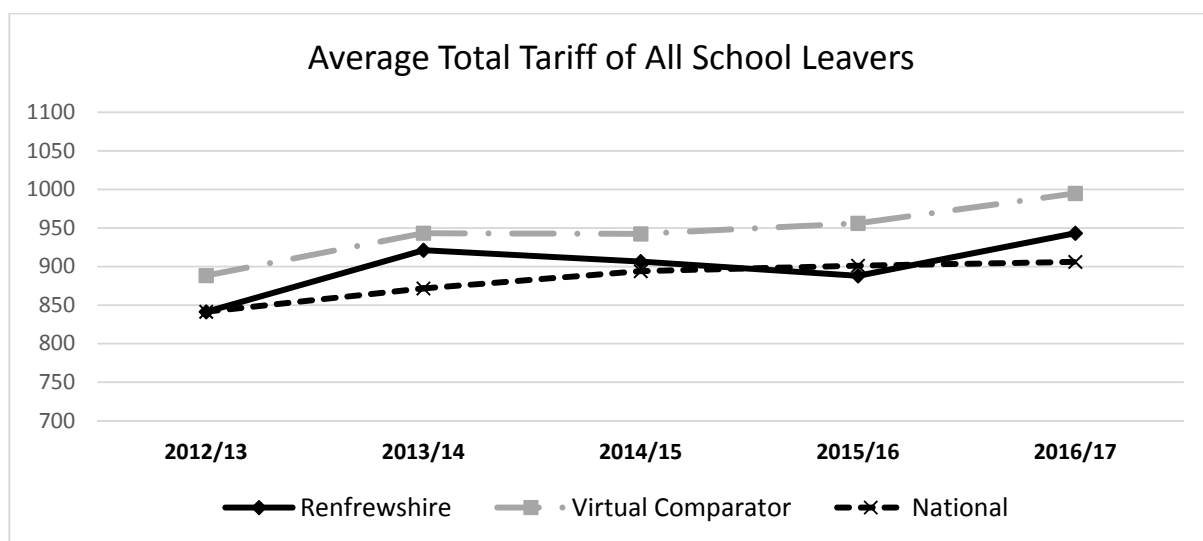
The performance of the middle 60% attainment cohort improved in 2016/17 and the average total tariff score is now above the national figure. While there is an upward trend over 5 years for this cohort, there was a dip in performance in 2014/15 and 2015/16. This, however, was reversed in 2016/17.

Average Total Tariff points for the highest 20% attainment of leavers



School leavers in the highest 20% attainment cohort have a higher average total tariff than last year. Despite this success, this figure remains below the virtual comparator and national figure, but the gap between Renfrewshire and our virtual comparator has narrowed.

Average Total tariff points of all leavers



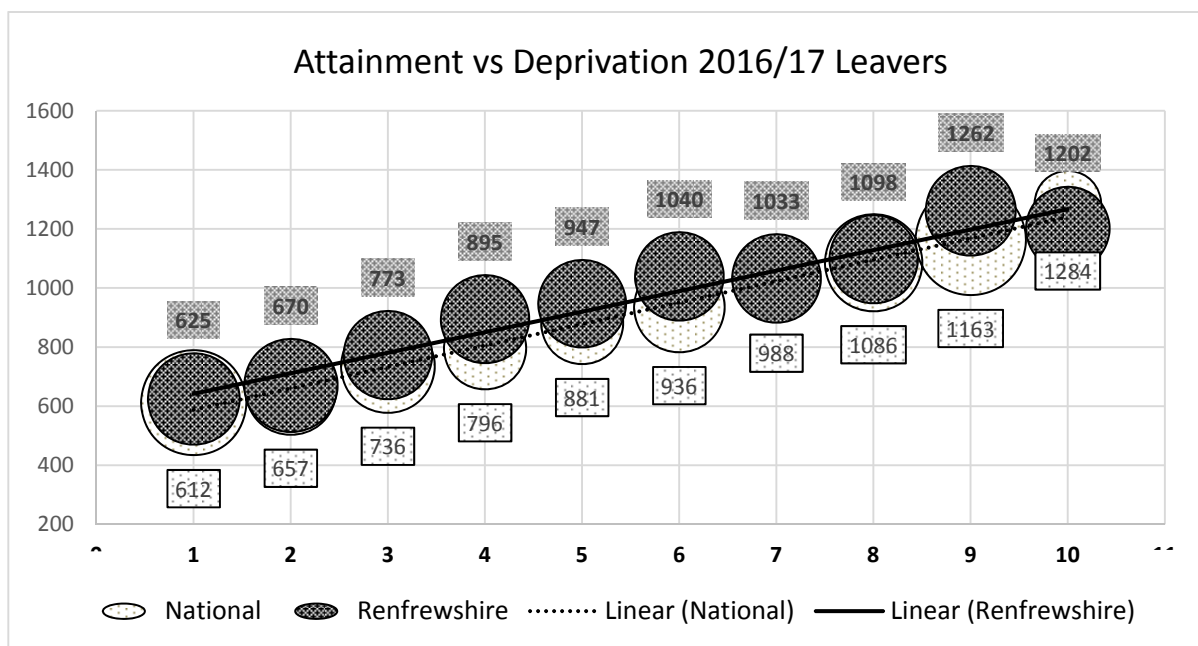
The average total tariff of all leavers, regardless of attainment cohort, has increased in 2016/17 to 943. This is an improving trend over 5 years and is above the national average of 906.

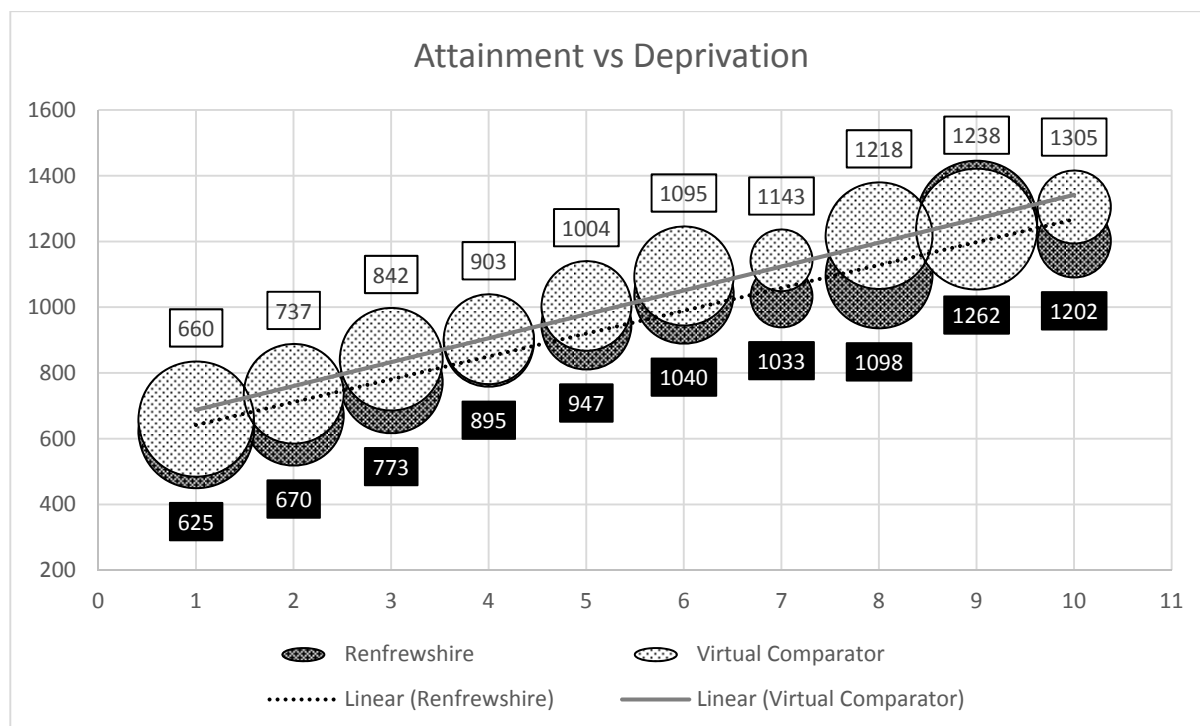
- 3.8 Although there are positive trends in the majority of the measures above, Children's Services recognises there is scope for further improvement and is already reviewing its approach to attainment in S6 by looking at the range of courses available to our young people at this stage. We will also continue to focus our discussions with head teachers on improving attainment through our quality improvement framework visits.

3.9 Attainment versus deprivation

Over the past few years, an overarching priority of Children's Services has been to reduce the poverty related attainment gap in our schools. Schools in all sectors are getting increasingly better at identifying their most vulnerable pupils and using strategies to try and mitigate the impact of poverty on their attainment. INSIGHT allows secondary schools and the service to see the impact of some of these strategies by looking at pupil tariff scores in the senior phase in the context of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles.

The following charts show SIMD deciles 1 -10 (most deprived to least deprived) plotted along the horizontal axis with the average total tariff points plotted on the vertical axis. The white circles represent the national average for this cohort and the black circles, Renfrewshire's average across the cohort. The size of the circle is proportionate to the number of pupils who reside within each decile. The angled line which runs through the circles represents the difference in attainment between pupils from the most deprived and the least deprived areas. The steeper the angle, the more pronounced the disparity between the most and least deprived deciles.



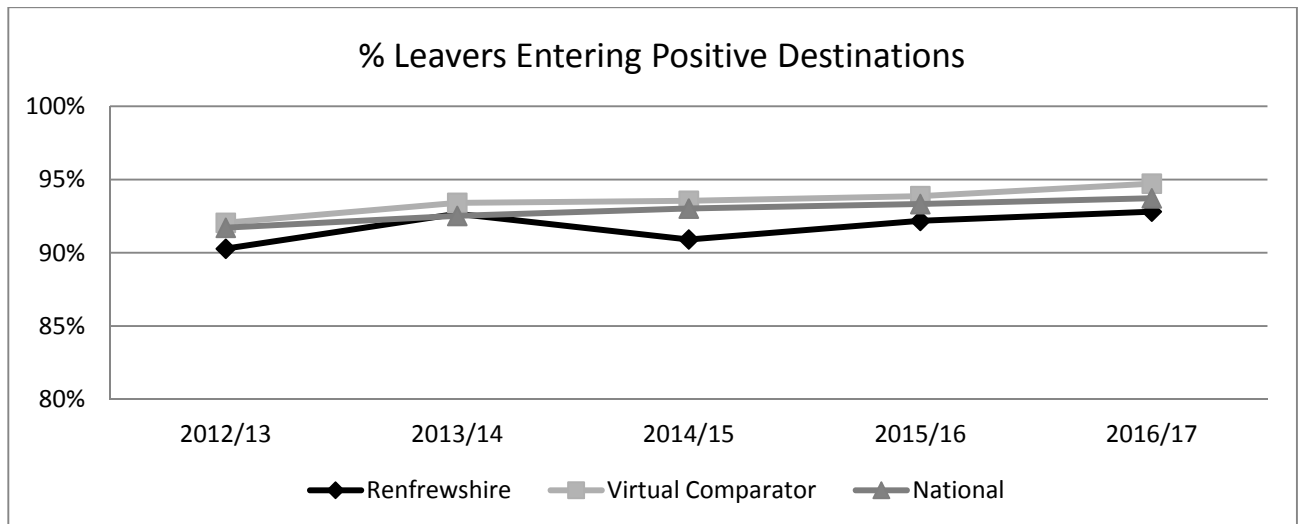


In all SIMD deciles, except for 10, the average total tariff for Renfrewshire leavers is above the national average. Therefore, while the trend line is similar, overall attainment for leavers in Renfrewshire is higher than national in deciles 1 to 9. The largest difference between Renfrewshire and national in average tariff scores is within deciles 4 to 7. Over 5 years, the average total tariff has increased in all deciles except for decile 10. Approximately 6% of Renfrewshire pupils live within decile 10 which may account for the higher level of variation in this decile.

3.10 The service and schools continue to support the Council's and the Scottish Government's priority of closing the poverty attainment gap through improving and targeting our provision, utilising the Scottish Attainment Challenge and pupil equity funding.

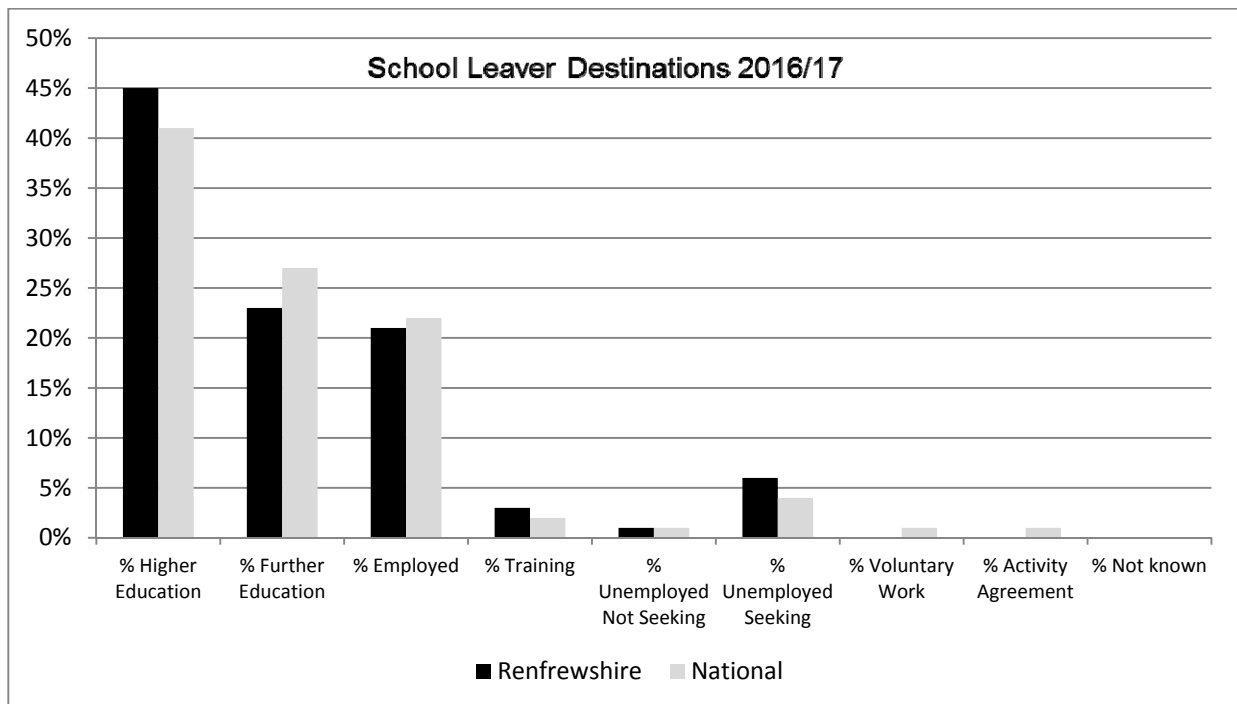
3.11 **Leaver destinations**

This measure identifies the percentage of school leavers that have entered a positive destination. Positive destinations include higher education, further education, employment, activity agreements and voluntary work.



The percentage of 2016/17 Renfrewshire school leavers in a positive destination is 92.8%. This is an increase on previous years but is marginally lower than the national figure and virtual comparator, which are 93.7% and 94.7% respectively.

The graph below shows the breakdown of the destinations of our leavers.



As the chart shows, 45% of Renfrewshire's leavers entered higher education, which is above the national figure. The proportion of Renfrewshire leavers entering higher education has been consistently above the national figure, which in 2016/17 was 41%. A further 23% of our leavers entered further education and 21% went into employment.

- 3.12 Children's Services has recognised that we still perform lower than the national and VC average in this measure. As a result we have, this session, had an increased focus with schools on improving leaver destinations. This has included asking schools to make a return to Children's Services detailing the actions they are taking for all individual young people in S4-S6 at risk of not moving into a positive destination post school. We have also provided additional training for school staff, in partnership with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), regarding the expectation of appropriate data gathering throughout the year.

We are working closely with SDS to review the support they offer to schools to ensure that all young people are able to achieve with positive outcomes, particularly the most vulnerable. In addition, the destination of our leavers will remain a focus of our attainment visits to schools.

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 The INSIGHT data has shown that across the four measures, the percentage of our young people achieving qualifications in literacy and numeracy by the time they leave school, is increasing. Furthermore, more of our young people are using their successes to move on to positive destinations. However, we recognise the scope for further improvement, particularly in relation to the total tariff points our young people are achieving by the time they leave school. As a result, we will continue, through our quality improvement framework, to support and challenge our schools to improve further, particularly for our children and young people who live in a more deprived area.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial - none**
2. **HR & Organisational Development - none**
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
 - *Our Renfrewshire is thriving – looking at attainment in this way provides schools and Children's Services with a robust way to evaluate the quality of education provision.*
 - *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all – attainment data is examined in the context of deprivation to ensure that we are working towards equity and excellence*
4. **Legal – none**
5. **Property/Assets – none**

6. **Information Technology - none**

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety - none**

9. **Procurement - none**

10. **Risk - none**

11. **Privacy Impact - none**

12. **Cosla Policy Position - none**

List of Background Papers

(a) Background Paper 1

Examination Results 2017 – a report to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board (November 2017)

The foregoing background papers will be retained Children's Service for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Tony McEwan, Education Manager, tony.mcewan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

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