
To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 31 October 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Examinations Results 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises attainment in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations in 2019, based on the key measures contained within the Insight benchmarking tool.
 - 1.2. The data contained in this report will be subject to minor changes as the SQA process value-added units and will also account for any re-marking through their post-results service. In addition, Skills Development Scotland is also currently tracking school leavers. Insight will be updated in February 2020 and a further report providing data on our school leavers' attainment will be submitted to the Education and Children's Policy Board in spring 2020. This report will provide data on the attainment of all pupils in the senior phase by stage.
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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;
 - note the efforts of pupils and the school communities in bringing about these results; and
 - agree that a further report will be brought to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in spring 2020.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Insight is a performance evaluation tool provided by the Scottish Government to schools and education authorities as a way of benchmarking performance in four key measures:
- attainment in literacy and numeracy;
 - improving attainment for all;
 - attainment versus deprivation; and
 - leavers' destinations.
- 3.2. This report provides data and commentary on the performance of each of our senior phase cohorts: S4, S5 and S6 over the last three years and against our comparators for three of the measures detailed above. Leavers' destinations will become available in February 2020 and will form part of the report to this board in spring 2020.
- 3.3. In addition to these local benchmarking measures, this report will provide data in relation to the number and quality of passes at each qualifications level.
- 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.
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4. Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (S4, S5 and S6)

- 4.1. Raising attainment in literacy and numeracy remains a key priority of Renfrewshire Council children's services and this is reflected in one of the key priorities of the National Improvement Framework.
- 4.2. Attainment in literacy and numeracy includes passes at National 4 and 5 in English and maths and passes in some other awards at Scottish Certificate and Qualification Framework (SCQF) levels 4 and 5 which contain certain core elements of literacy and numeracy. The tables which follow, provide data on our performance in literacy and numeracy, compared to our virtual comparator and national figures, for each of our senior phase cohorts.

S4

- 4.3. Table 1 below provides data on attainment in literacy and numeracy in S4 at SCQF Level 4 and SCQF Level 5. Renfrewshire continues to perform well in literacy, remaining above the virtual comparator and national figures.

Table 1 - % S4 Pupils Achieving Literacy & Numeracy					
	Year	% Achieved Level 4 Literacy	% Achieved Level 4 Numeracy	% Achieved Level 5 Literacy	% Achieved Level 5 Numeracy
Renfrewshire	2017	96%	89%	75%	60%
Virtual Comparator	2017	93%	89%	72%	57%
National	2017	92%	88%	70%	56%
Renfrewshire	2018	93%	88%	78%	54%
Virtual Comparator	2018	91%	86%	72%	54%
National	2018	91%	86%	70%	53%
Renfrewshire	2019	95%	87%	80%	64%
Virtual Comparator	2019	91%	86%	73%	59%
National	2019	91%	86%	72%	57%

- 4.4. The percentage of pupils achieving SCQF Level 4 and SCQF Level 5 in literacy was above both the virtual comparator and the national figure in 2019. Attainment in literacy at SCQF Level 4 has increased by 2 percentage points to 95% and at SCQF 5 has increased by 2 percentage points to 80% since 2018. The increase in SCQF Level 5 literacy has been consistent over 5 years and this year's figure represents a 19 percentage point increase since 2015.
- 4.5. In numeracy, the percentage of pupils in S4 achieving SCQF level 4 has decreased by 1 percentage point to 87% and increased by 10 percentage points at SCQF Level 5 to 64%. Both figures are above the virtual comparator and above the national figure. Numeracy attainment at SCQF level 4 has remained consistent over 5 years and Renfrewshire has remained in line with the virtual comparator. At SCQF level 5, there is an increasing trend over 3 and 5 years with Renfrewshire remaining in line with or above the virtual comparator in all years.

S5 (based on S4 roll)

- 4.6. Table 2 below provides data on attainment in literacy and numeracy in S5 at SCQF Level 4 and Level 5.

Table 2 - % S5 Pupils Achieving Literacy and Numeracy					
	Year	% Achieved Level 4 Literacy	% Achieved Level 4 Numeracy	% Achieved Level 5 Literacy	% Achieved Level 5 Numeracy
Renfrewshire	2017	94%	89%	83%	72%
Virtual Comparator	2017	94%	91%	80%	67%
National	2017	93%	89%	79%	66%
Renfrewshire	2018	97%	93%	86%	73%
Virtual Comparator	2018	95%	91%	82%	67%
National	2018	94%	90%	80%	66%
Renfrewshire	2019	94%	91%	84%	72%
Virtual Comparator	2019	94%	91%	81%	66%
National	2019	93%	90%	79%	65%

- 4.7. Attainment in literacy has been consistent over 5 years at SCQF Level 4 and has increased at SCQF Level 5. There have been some decreases since 2018 but Renfrewshire remains in line with 2017 figures and in line with or above its comparators. The percentage of S5 pupils achieving SCQF Level 4 literacy has decreased by 3 percentage points to 94% since 2018 but remained in line with the virtual comparator and above the national figures. The percentage achieving SCQF Level 5 has decreased by 2 percentage points to 84% and remained above the virtual comparator and national figures.
- 4.8. A similar pattern exists in numeracy figures with some decreases since 2018 but an upward trend over 5 years. The percentage of S5 pupils achieving SCQF Level 4 numeracy has decreased by 2 percentage points to 91% and the percentage achieving SCQF Level 5 has decreased by 1 percentage point to 72% since 2018. However, these figures are consistent with previous years and remain in line with the virtual comparator at SCQF Level 4 and above the virtual comparator at SCQF Level 5. Renfrewshire is above the national figures at both levels.

S6 (based on the S4 roll)

- 4.9. Table 3 below provides data on attainment in literacy and numeracy in S6 at SCQF Level 4 and Level 5.

4.10.

Table 3 -% S6 Pupils Achieving Literacy & Numeracy					
	Year	% Level 4 Literacy	% Level 4 Numeracy	% Level 5 Literacy	% Level 5 Numeracy
Renfrewshire	2017	95%	92%	81%	72%
Virtual Comparator	2017	94%	90%	79%	68%
National	2017	93%	89%	77%	66%
Renfrewshire	2018	94%	90%	84%	74%
Virtual Comparator	2018	95%	91%	81%	69%
National	2018	93%	89%	79%	68%
Renfrewshire	2019	97%	93%	87%	76%
Virtual Comparator	2019	95%	92%	82%	69%
National	2019	94%	90%	81%	68%

- 4.11. In S6, attainment in literacy has increased at both SCQF Level 4 and SCQF Level 5. The percentage of pupils achieving SCQF Level 5 literacy has increased to 87%, up by 3 percentage points since 2018 and 15 percentage points since 2015. In 2019, Renfrewshire was above both the virtual comparator and national figures. The percentage achieving SCQF Level 4 has increased to 97% and is also above the national figure and the virtual comparator.

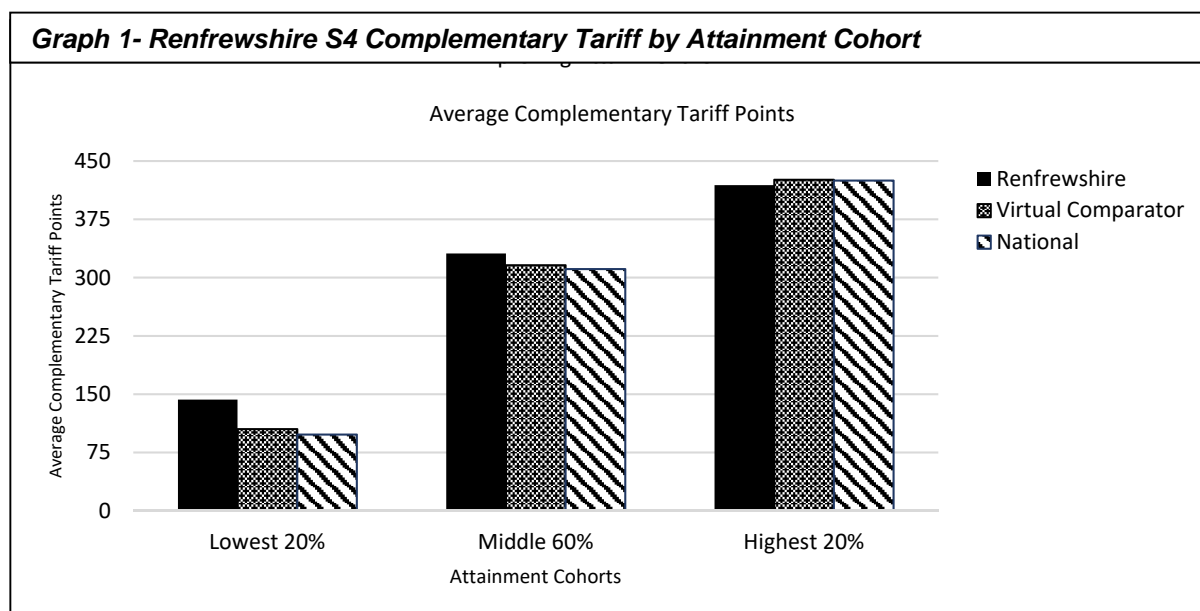
- 4.12. In numeracy, a similar pattern exists with increases in attainment at both levels. The percentage of pupils achieving SCQF Level 5 in numeracy has increased to 76%. This is an increase from 74% in 2018 and 61% in 2015. This is above both the virtual comparator and national figures, which were 69% and 68% respectively. The percentage of pupils achieving SCQF Level 4 has increased to 93%. This is in line with the 2017 figure but represents an increasing trend over 5 years. The 2019 figure is above both national and virtual comparator figures.
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5. Improving Attainment for All

- 5.1. 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. Each pupil gains a number of points that represents the number and level of qualifications they have gained. This report uses complementary tariff points, which measures a fixed volume of learning. Complementary tariff points allow for fair comparison across Scotland, regardless of differences in curricular models.
- 5.2. Within this measure, Insight breaks the data down into three groups: the average complementary tariff points for the lowest attaining 20%, the middle attaining 60% and the highest attaining 20% and compares these with the virtual comparator and the national figure.

S4

- 5.3. Graph 1 below shows the average complementary tariff points of S4 pupils by attainment cohort in the 2019 exam diet.



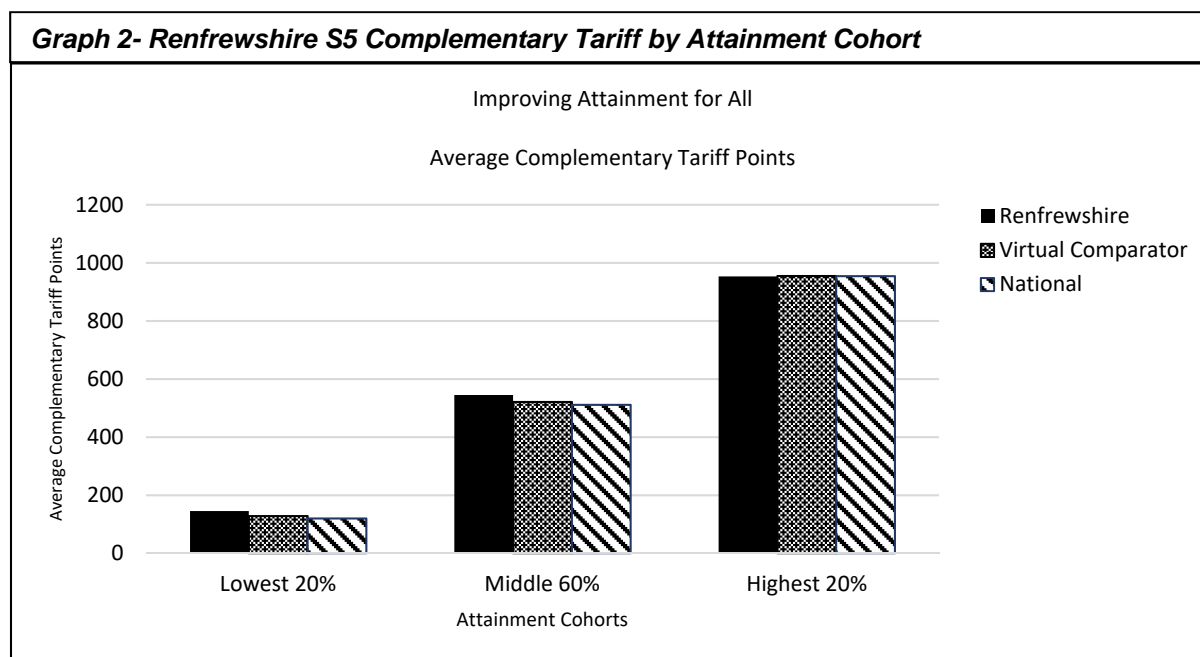
- 5.4. In S4, the average complementary tariff is above both the virtual comparator and national figure for the lowest 20% and middle 60% attainment cohorts. The lowest 20% attainment cohort figure was 142 which is considerably above its comparators, which were 105 for the virtual comparator and 98 for the national figure. The highest 20% attainment cohort is marginally behind both comparators, which were 426 and 425 respectively.
- 5.5. Table 4 shows the average complementary tariff of Renfrewshire S4 pupils over time.

Table 4 - Renfrewshire S4 Complementary Tariff by Attainment Cohort					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Highest 20% Attainment Cohort	419	423	423	420	419
Middle 60% Attainment Cohort	323	328	329	325	331
Lowest 20% Attainment Cohort	123	124	145	125	143

- 5.6. The average complementary tariff remains in line with previous years in all attainment cohorts. The lowest attainment cohort has increased over 5 years but remains in line with the 2017 figure. The middle 60% attainment cohort increased gradually over 5 years and reached 331 in 2019.

S5

- 5.7. The graph below shows the average complementary tariff points of S5 pupils by attainment cohort in the 2019 exam diet.



- 5.8. Graph 2 demonstrates that Renfrewshire is in line with the virtual comparator and national figures across all attainment cohorts. Renfrewshire has a higher average complementary tariff than both the virtual comparator and national figures for the lowest 20% and middle 60% attainment cohorts. The highest 20% attainment cohort figure is consistent with both comparators.

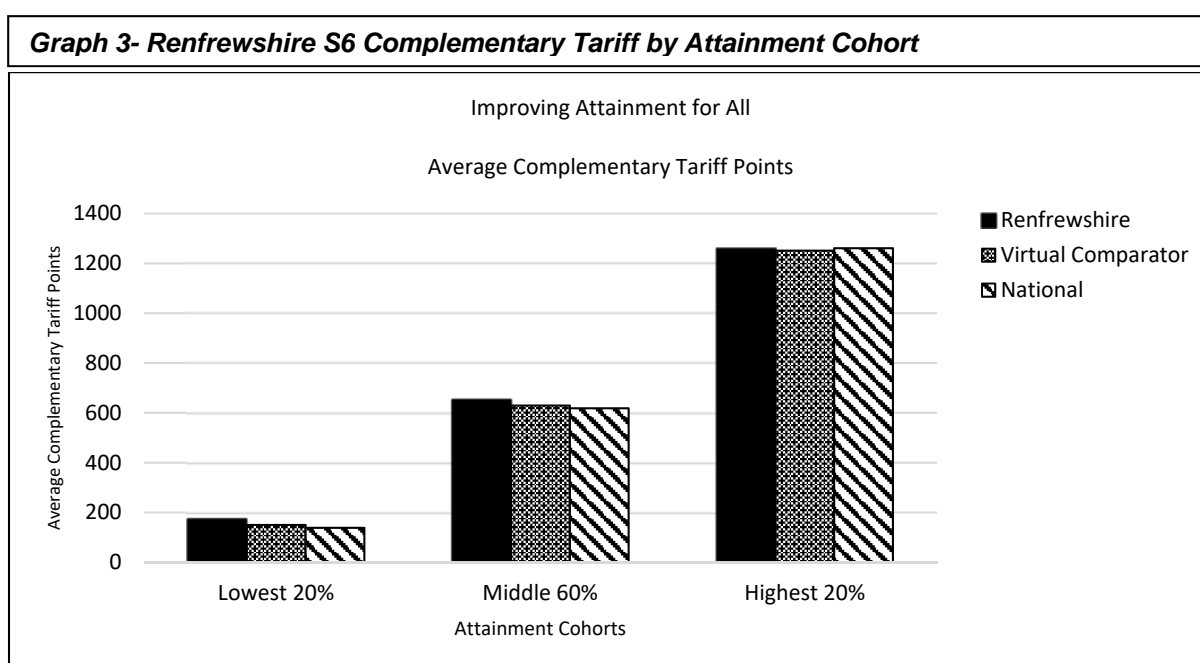
- 5.9. Table 5 shows the average complementary tariff of Renfrewshire S5 pupils since 2015.

Table 5- Renfrewshire S5 Complementary Tariff by Attainment Cohort					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Highest 20% Attainment Cohort	931	952	956	960	953
Middle 60% Attainment Cohort	502	549	554	560	545
Lowest 20% Attainment Cohort	142	147	147	170	145

- 5.10. Table 5 shows that all attainment cohorts have been consistent over 5 years. All cohorts have increased since 2015, with the largest increases in the middle 60% and highest 20% attainment cohorts. All 3 attainment cohorts have remained at a similar level since 2016.

S6

- 5.11. Graph 3 shows the average complementary tariff points of S6 pupils by attainment cohort in the 2019 exam diet.



- 5.12. In graph 3, we can see that the average complementary tariff for the lowest 20% attainment cohort is above both the virtual comparator and national, which were 150 and 138 respectively. Pupils in the middle 60% attainment cohort are also ahead of both comparators. The highest 20% attainment cohort is in line with both the virtual comparator and national figures.
- 5.13. Table 6 shows the average complementary tariff of Renfrewshire S6 pupils over 5 years.

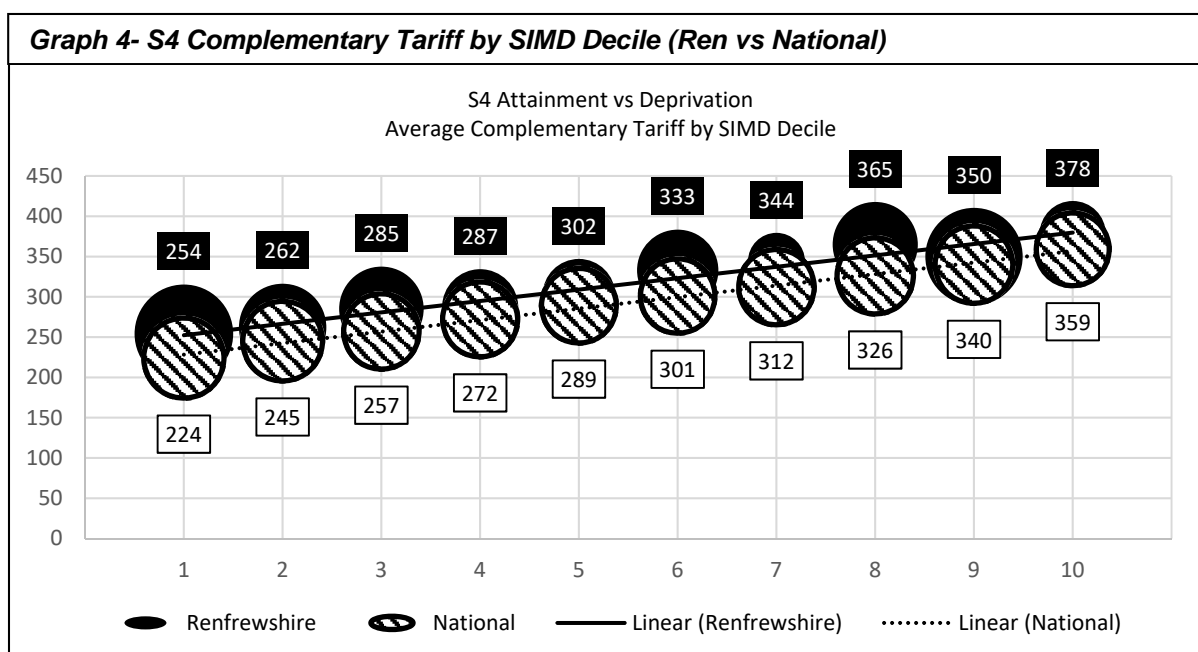
Table 6- Renfrewshire S6 Complementary Tariff by Attainment Cohort					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Highest 20% Attainment Cohort	1235	1195	1237	1248	1258
Middle 60% Attainment Cohort	600	608	655	656	651
Lowest 20% Attainment Cohort	134	144	150	152	175

- 5.14. All attainment cohorts have increased their average complementary tariff over 5 years. The middle 60% cohort has decreased marginally since 2018 but the average complementary tariff has increased by over 50 points since 2015. The largest increase since 2018 is in the highest 20% attainment cohort, which has increased by 10 points and has consistently increased each year over the past 4 years.

6. Attainment Versus Deprivation

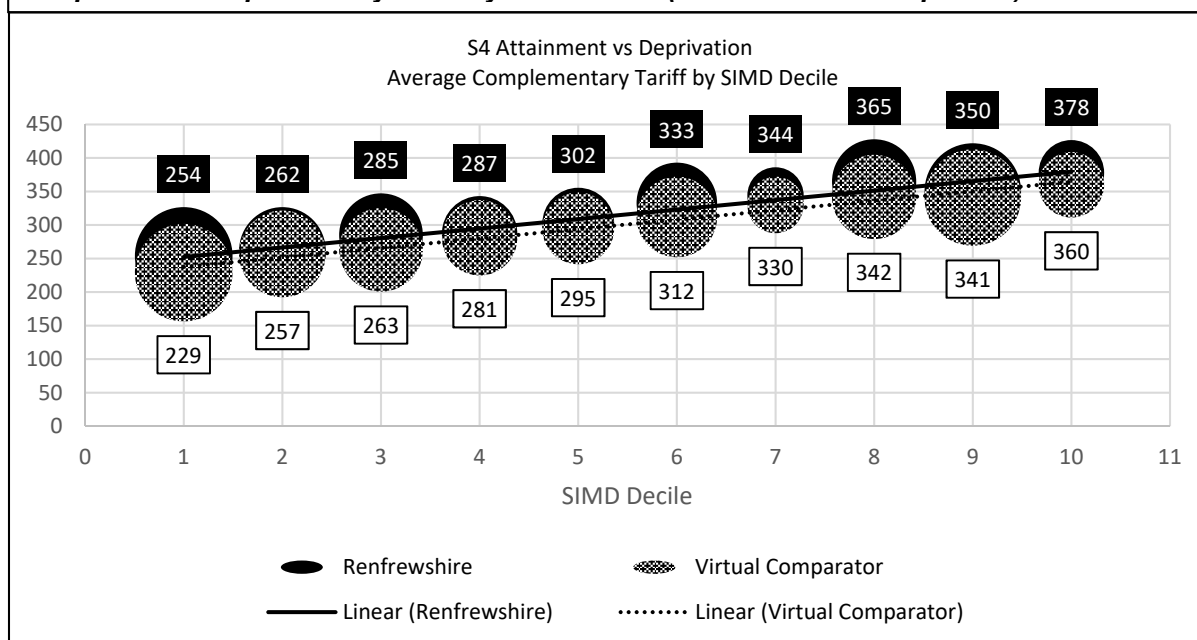
- 6.1. The attainment versus deprivation measure provides the average complementary tariff of pupils by SIMD decile. This allows us to identify the attainment gap in Renfrewshire and compare it to both our virtual comparator and national data.
- 6.2. The following charts show SIMD deciles 1 -10 (most deprived to least deprived) plotted along the horizontal axis with the average complementary tariff points plotted on the vertical axis. The size of the circles represent the percentage of pupils who live in each decile. The trend line which runs through the circles represents the difference in attainment between pupils living in the most deprived and the least deprived areas. The steeper the angle, the more pronounced the disparity between the most and least deprived deciles.

S4



- 6.3. In all deciles, Renfrewshire's S4 average complementary tariff is higher than national. The trendlines show that while the attainment gap is similar to the national figures, pupils in Renfrewshire are consistently achieving higher levels of attainment.

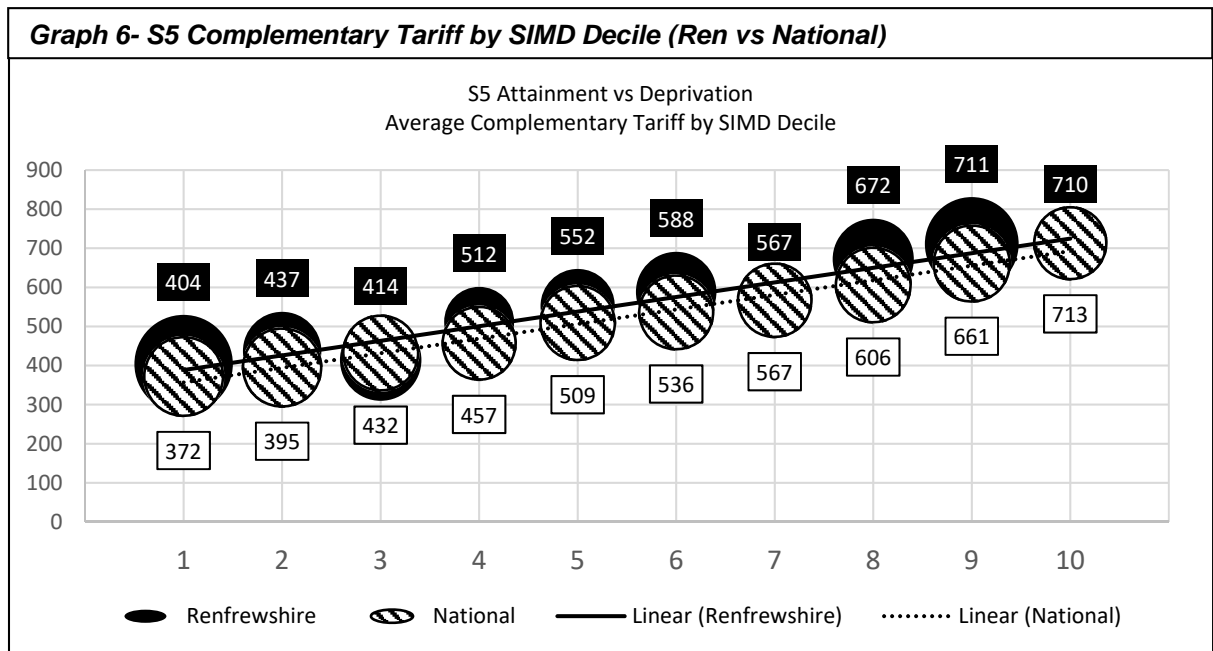
Graph 5- S4 Complementary Tariff by SIMD Decile (Ren vs Virtual Comparator)



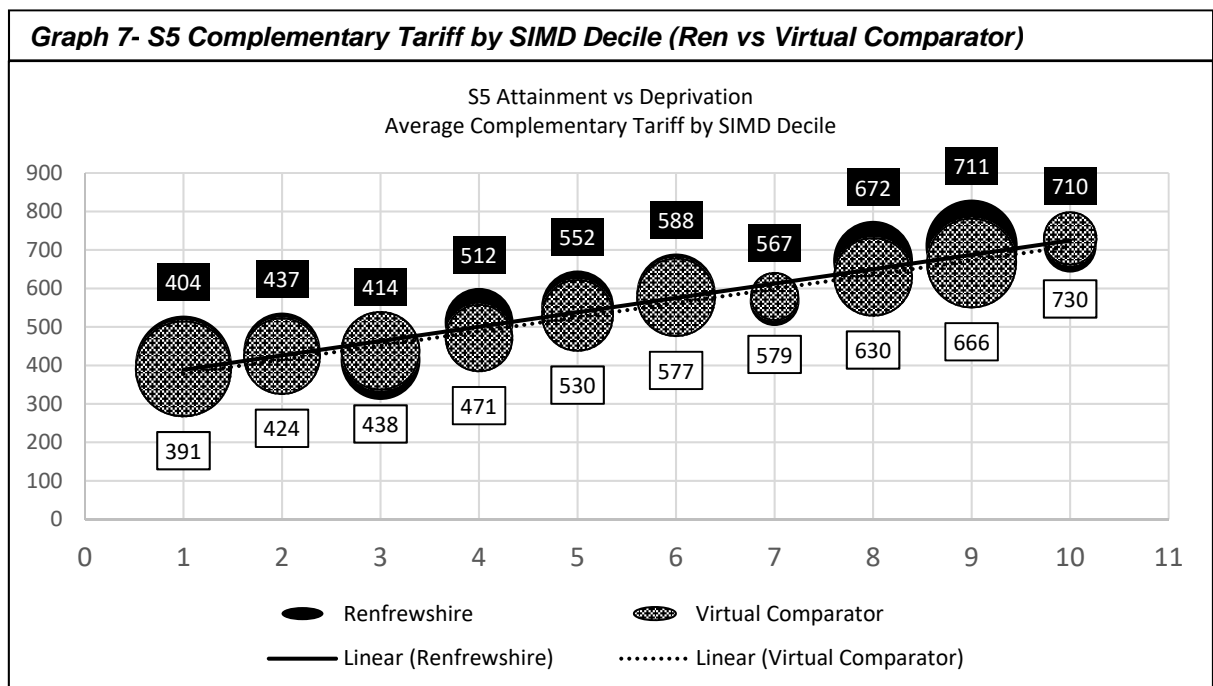
- 6.4. Renfrewshire's S4 average complementary tariff is also higher than the virtual comparator in all deciles. The trendlines in graph 5 are more closely aligned than in graph 4, indicating that Renfrewshire is further ahead of the national figures than the virtual comparator.
- 6.5. Table 7 shows the S4 average complementary tariff of pupils living in SIMD 1-3 (30% most deprived areas) and of pupils living in SIMD 4-10 (70% least deprived areas) over 5 years. It also shows the percentage gap between these two figures.

Table 7- S4 Average Complementary Tariff by SIMD Groupings					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pupils Living in 30% Most Deprived Areas	251	251	266	258	266
Pupils Living in 70% Least Deprived Areas	330	339	338	331	338
Percentage Gap	24%	26%	21%	22%	21%

- 6.6. The average complementary tariff of pupils living in 30% most and 70% least deprived areas have both increased since 2018 and over 5 years. The attainment gap between pupils living in 30% most and 70% least deprived pupils has decreased slightly over 5 years but remains in line with 2017 figures.



- 6.7. The S5 average complementary tariff for Renfrewshire is above or in line with national in all SIMD deciles, except for decile 3, 7 and 10. This indicates that while attainment is higher overall this is not a consistent picture. The proportion of pupils in deciles 7 and 10 is small therefore we frequently see a high degree of variation in these figures.



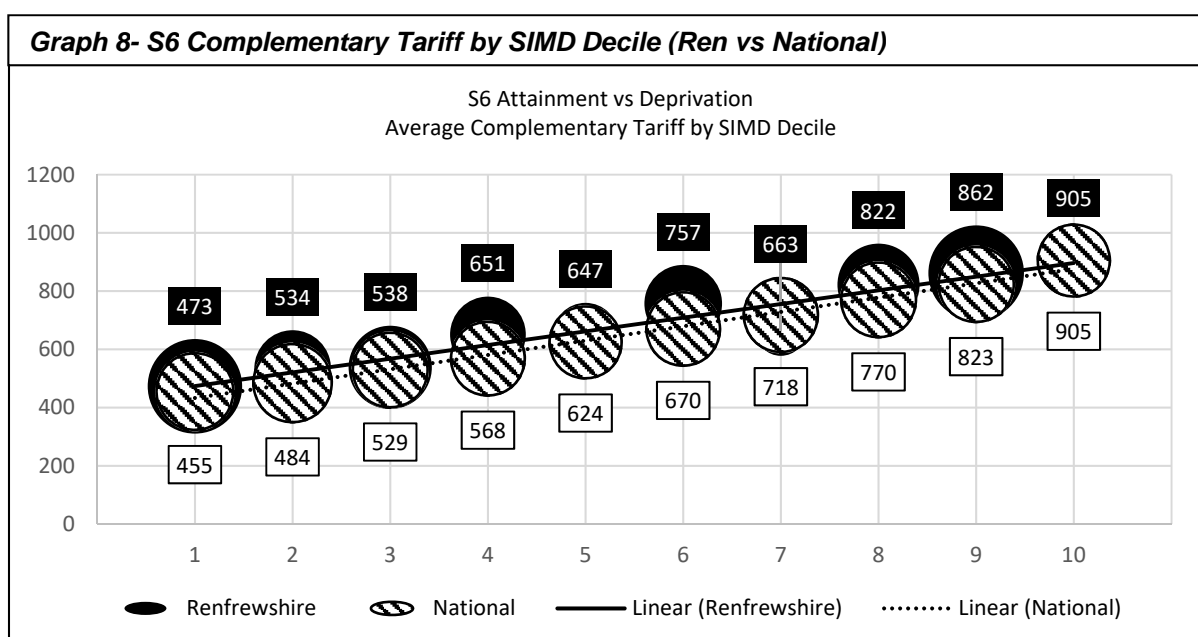
- 6.8. Graph 7 shows a similar pattern exists when comparing Renfrewshire to the virtual comparator. The Renfrewshire trend line is above the virtual comparator trend, although this difference is narrower than in graph 6.

- 6.9. Table 8 shows the S5 average complementary tariff of pupils living in SIMD 1-3 (30% most deprived areas) and of pupils living in SIMD 4-10 (70% least deprived areas) over 5 years. It also shows the percentage gap between these two figures.

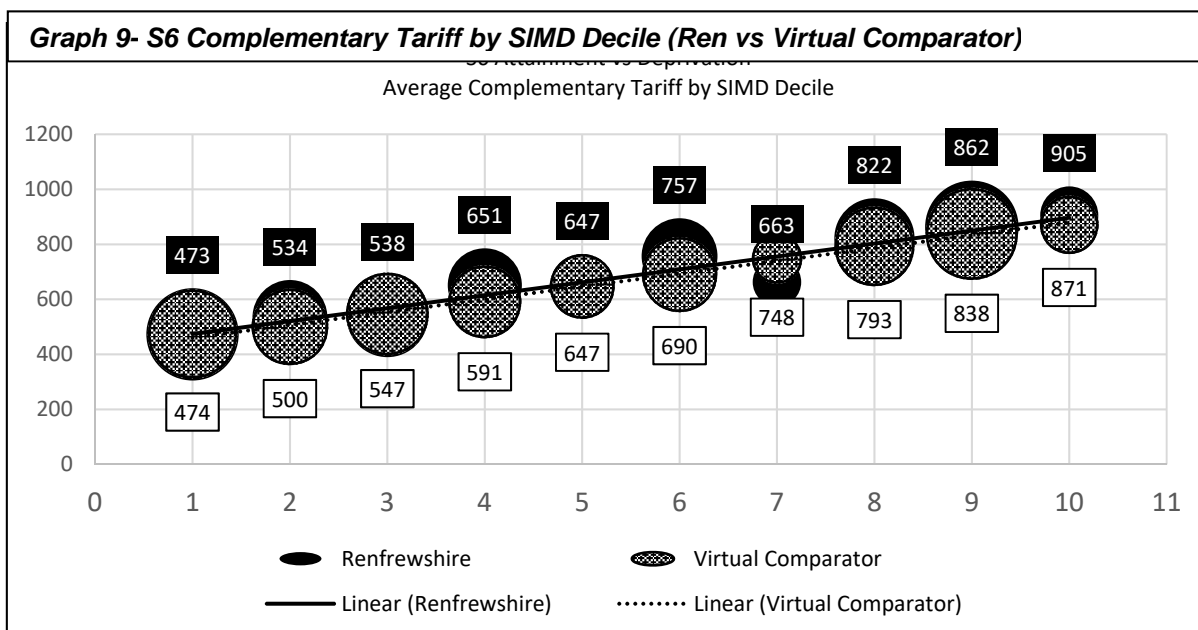
Table 8- S5 Average Complementary Tariff by SIMD Groupings					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pupils Living in 30% Most Deprived Areas	382	411	401	433	416
Pupils Living in 70% Least Deprived Areas	602	626	642	636	624
Percentage Gap	37%	34%	38%	32%	33%

- 6.10. The average complementary tariff for pupils living in the 30% most deprived areas has decreased slightly since 2018 but remains up over 5 years. Renfrewshire remains above the virtual comparator, which in 2019 was 414, as well as the national figure. The average complementary tariff of pupils living in the 70% least deprived areas has also decreased slightly, from 636 in 2018 to 624 in 2019. Renfrewshire is still above both the virtual comparator and national, as both figures also declined. The attainment gap has reduced over 3 and 5 years although it remains in line with the 2018 figure.

S6



- 6.11. The S6 average complementary tariff is higher than national in all SIMD deciles except for decile 7. The Renfrewshire trend is above the national trend, although the gap is slightly narrower than in other stages.



- 6.12. A similar pattern exists when comparing to the virtual comparator. Renfrewshire is above the virtual comparator in all deciles except decile 7. In 2019, only 4% of the S6 cohort lived in decile 7 which may account for this variation. In graph 9 above, we can see that Renfrewshire figures are very closely aligned with the virtual comparator across all deciles.

Table 9 - S6 Average Complementary Tariff by SIMD Groupings					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pupils Living in 30% Most Deprived Areas	450	455	499	488	510
Pupils Living in 70% Least Deprived Areas	738	746	768	785	783
Percentage Gap	39%	39%	35%	38%	35%

- 6.13. The average complementary tariff for pupils living in the 30% most deprived areas has increased since last year and is up over 5 years. Renfrewshire is above both national and the virtual comparator in this measure. The average complementary tariff of pupils living in 70% least deprived areas is in line with 2018 and has increased over 5 years. It is above both national and the virtual comparator. The attainment gap in this measure has decreased over 5 years but remains in line with 2017.

7. Breadth and Depth

- 7.1. In addition to the key measures available in Insight, the service also looks at the percentage of the cohort who achieved any number of awards at various SCQF levels. These are known as 'breadth and depth' measures. We look at this data in conjunction with the Insight measures to allow us to gain a broader understanding of attainment across Renfrewshire and between schools.

- 7.2. The tables on the following pages show performance over time of some of the key breadth and depth measures and how we compare to the virtual comparator. SCQF 5 is National 4 or its equivalent, SCQF Level 5 is National 5 or its equivalent, SCQF Level 6 is Higher or its equivalent; and SCQF Level 7 is Advanced Higher or its equivalent.

S4

- 7.3. Table 10 includes data on the number of awards achieved for S4 pupils at SCQF Level 4 and Level 5 for Renfrewshire and the virtual comparator.

Table 10- S4 Breadth & Depth								
S4 A-C	3 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better		3 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better	
	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC
2017	93%	91%	85%	83%	62%	61%	45%	42%
2018	91%	89%	82%	79%	63%	58%	45%	40%
2019	92%	89%	83%	77%	64%	60%	47%	41%

- 7.4. In S4, Renfrewshire remains above the virtual comparator at SCQF Level 4, with an increase in the percentage achieving 3 or more and 5 or more awards since 2018. At SCQF Level 5, Renfrewshire has increased the percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more and 5 or more awards. Renfrewshire remains above the virtual comparator in both measures.

S5

- 7.5. Table 11 includes data on the number of awards achieved for S5 pupils at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 for Renfrewshire and the virtual comparator.

Table 11- S5 Breadth & Depth (% of S4 Roll)												
S5 A-C	1 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		3 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better		3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better	
	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC
2017	86%	86%	72%	70%	56%	53%	59%	57%	38%	35%	17%	16%
2018	88%	86%	72%	71%	54%	52%	60%	57%	37%	36%	19%	16%
2019	86%	84%	70%	68%	53%	50%	59%	56%	36%	34%	18%	17%

- 7.6. At SCQF Level 5, Renfrewshire is above the virtual comparator at 1 or more, 3 or more and 5 or more awards. This pattern is replicated at SCQF Level 6 as Renfrewshire's results are consistently above the virtual comparator over 3 years.

S6

- 7.7. Table 12 includes data on the number of awards achieved for S6 pupils at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 for Renfrewshire and the virtual comparator.

Table 12- S6 Breadth & Depth (% of S4 Roll)												
S6 A-C	3 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better		1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better		3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better		5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better		1 or more awards at SCQF level 7 or better	
	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC	Ren	VC
2017	74%	71%	59%	56%	63%	60%	47%	44%	31%	30%	18%	19%
2018	74%	72%	61%	57%	64%	62%	46%	44%	32%	30%	19%	20%
2019	74%	72%	59%	57%	63%	61%	44%	43%	30%	28%	20%	18%

- 7.8. In S6, Renfrewshire has performed above the virtual comparator in all key measures. In previous years Renfrewshire has been below the virtual comparator at SCQF Level 7. However, this figure has consistently increased over the last 3 years and in 2019 was 20%, 2 percentage points above the virtual comparator.

8. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 8.1. The data from the 2019 exam diet demonstrates improvement across a range of key measures. Nevertheless, several challenges remain, not least, to ensure we continue to alleviate the impact of poverty on attainment across all levels; to improve levels of attainment our highest attainment cohorts; and to ensure our senior phase meets the needs and aspirations of all our young people.
- 8.2. Benchmarking meetings are taking place with each of our secondary schools where head teachers, their leadership teams, and officers from children's services discuss school and subject performance and agree next steps for improvement. These meetings also include conversations with focus groups of middle managers and young people. These meetings are focusing on the measures contained in this report along with course performance; presentation policies; the attainment of looked after children; the option choice process; and attendance. Areas for improvement are being agreed with head teachers and monitored by Children's Services as part of the service's quality improvement framework.
- 8.3. A further report on finalised leavers' data and the attainment of our looked after children will be presented to this board in spring 2020.

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial Implications**
None.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Working together to improve outcomes

- High levels of attainment and achievement provide our children and young people with the best start in life

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

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 for example 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 and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. COSLA Policy Position

None.

13. Climate Risk

None.

List of Background Papers

None.

Children's Services
24/9/19

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