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**To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

**On: 23 May 2019**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Attainment of 2017/18 School Leavers**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1. On 1 November 2018 a report was approved by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board regarding the attainment of our young people in 2018.
- 1.2. In the report of 1 November 2018 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 2017/18 school leavers 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's Services Policy Board in November 2018. It detailed the attainment of all our young people in S4, S5 and S6 in 2018. Included in the November 2018 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 spring 2019.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. This report will provide data and commentary on the performance of the 2017/18 leavers cohort in these four key measures. A leavers cohort includes all pupils, regardless of the stage they were at when they left school.
- 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.

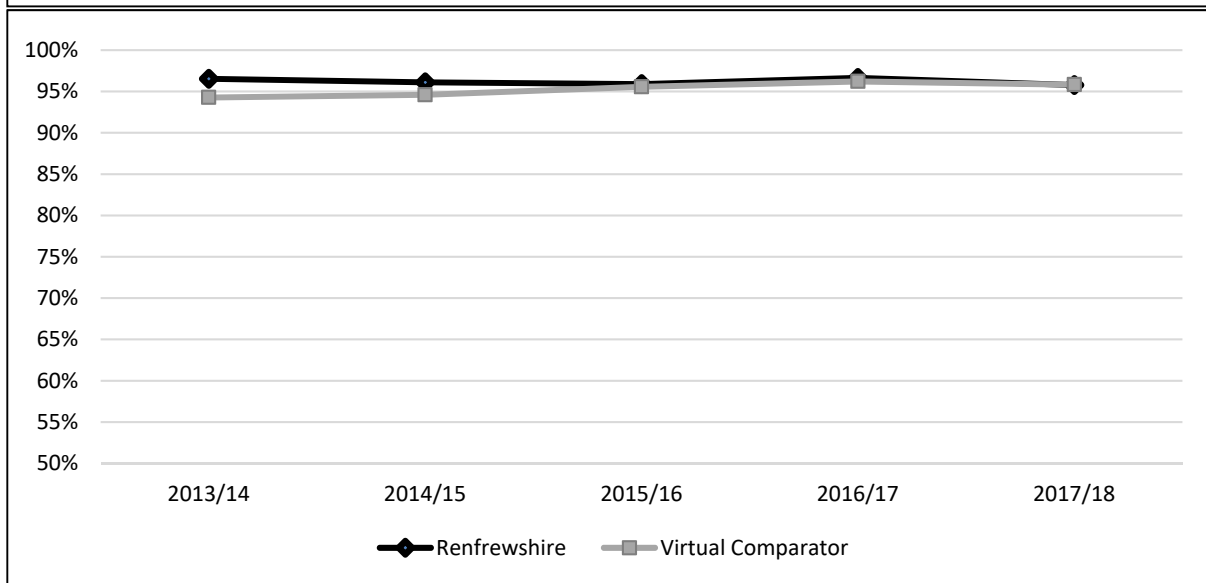
#### **Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy**

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. Attainment in literacy and numeracy includes passes at National 4 and 5 in English and Maths. It also includes passes in some other awards at 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.

#### **Attainment in Literacy**

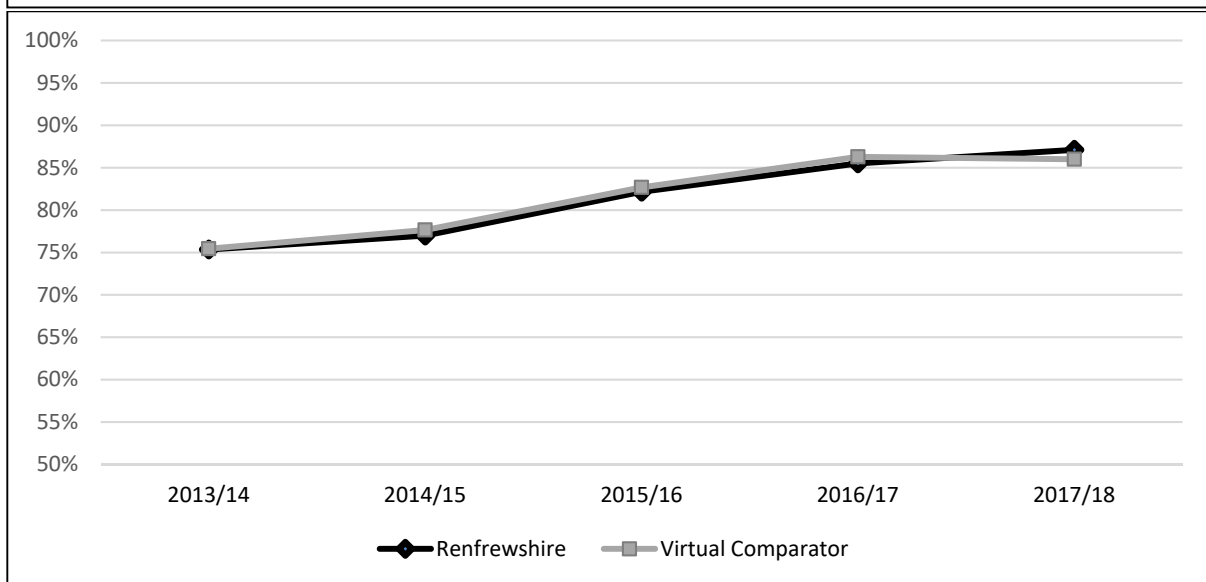
- 3.7. The graphs below show the percentage of leavers achieving SCQF level 4 or 5 or above in literacy over 5 years.

**Graph 1: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 4 or Above in Literacy.**



- 3.8. The percentage of leavers in Renfrewshire achieving literacy at SCQF level 4 or above has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years. These figures are in line with our virtual comparator, which in 2018 was also 96%.

**Graph 2: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 5 or Above in Literacy.**

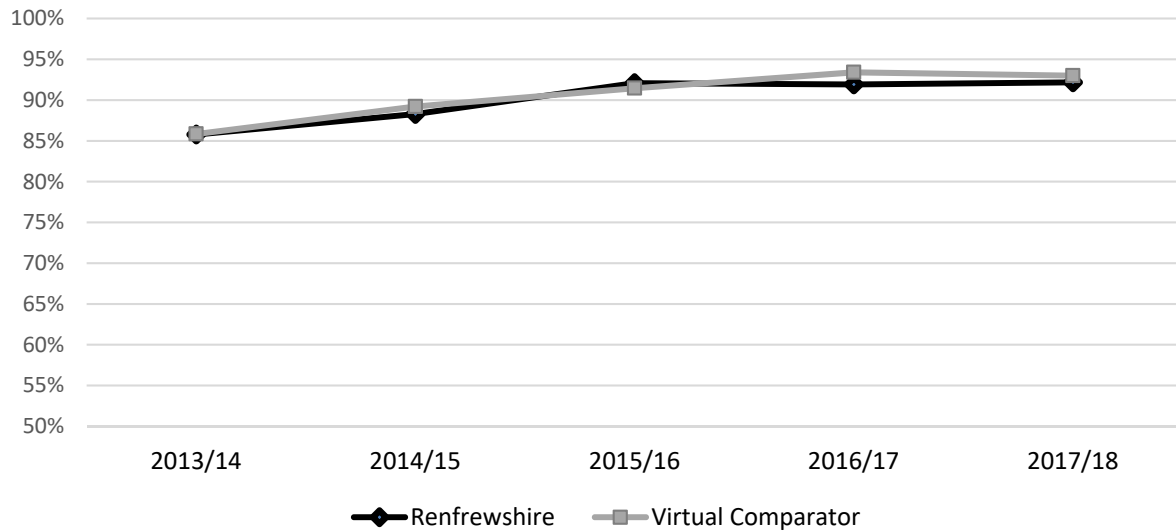


- 3.9. Attainment in literacy at SCQF level 5 or above has increased to 87% in 2017/18. This increase has brought Renfrewshire marginally ahead of its virtual comparator. Over 5 years, Renfrewshire has increased the percentage of pupils achieving literacy at SCQF level 5 by 12 percentage points.

## Attainment in Numeracy

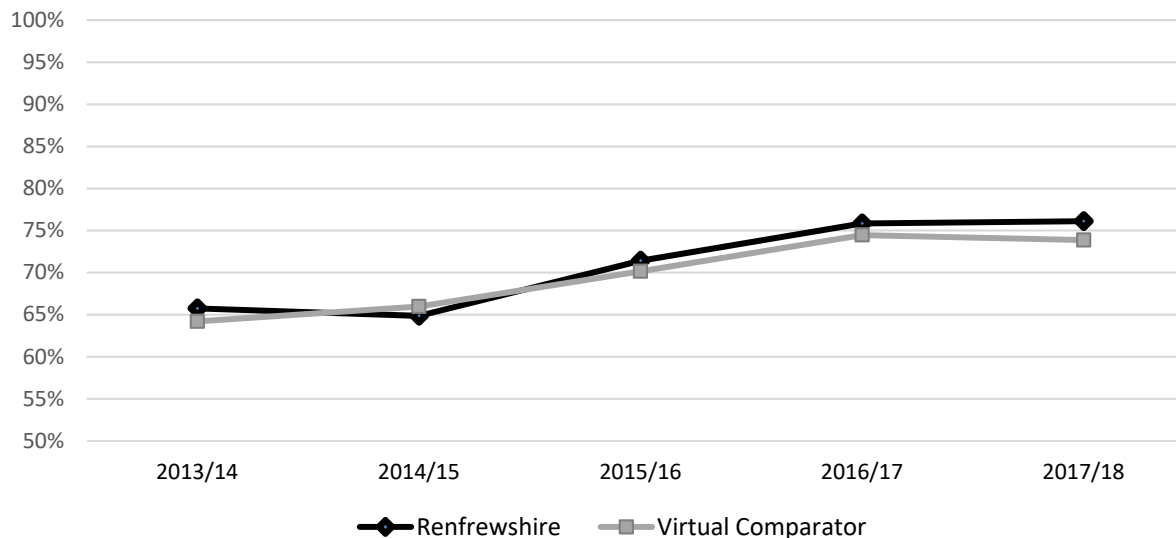
3.10. The graphs below show the percentage of Renfrewshire leavers who have achieved SCQF level 4 or 5 or above in numeracy over 5 years.

**Graph 3: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 4 or Above in Numeracy.**



3.11. The performance of Renfrewshire school leavers in numeracy at SCQF level 4 or above has remained consistent over the past 3 years, at 92%. This is marginally behind the virtual comparator which is 93%. Over 5 years, the percentage achieving SCQF Level 4 numeracy or above has increased by 6 percentage points.

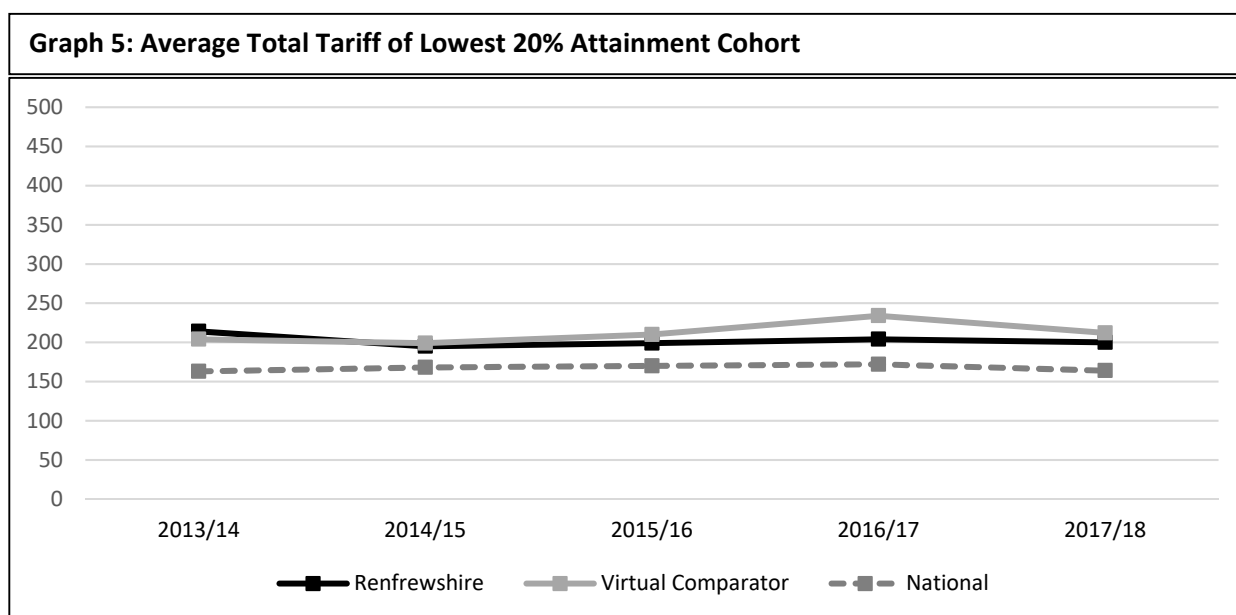
**Graph 4: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 5 or Above in Numeracy.**



- 3.12. The percentage of school leavers achieving SCQF Level 5 or above in numeracy is unchanged at 76%. Renfrewshire is above the virtual comparator, which also remained constant at 74%. Over 5 years, the percentage achieving level 5 numeracy or above has increased by 10 percentage points.

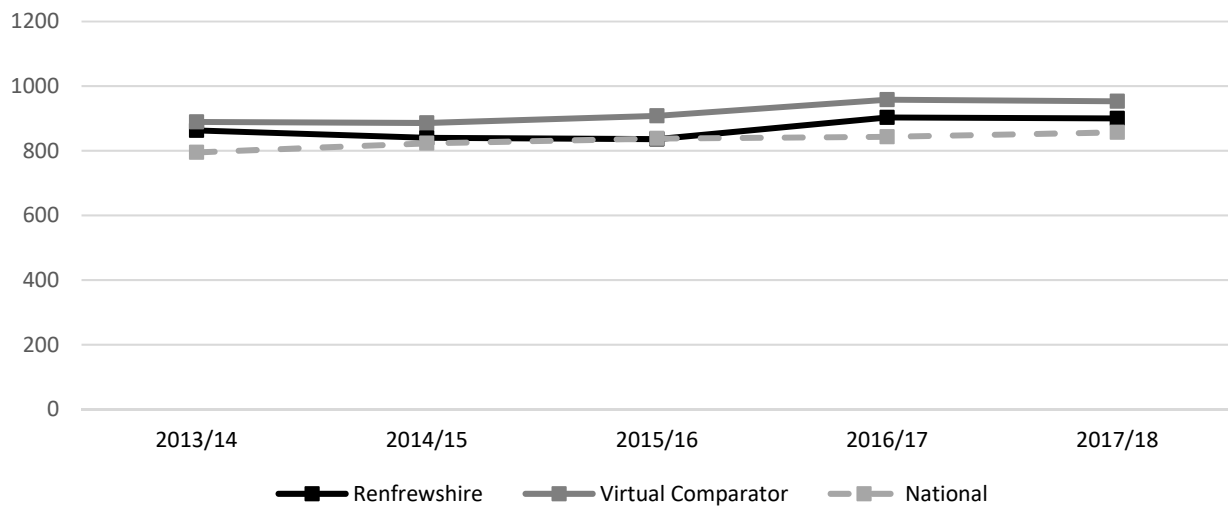
### Improving Attainment for All

- 3.13. Each qualification on the Scottish Certificate and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is attributed a number of tariff points. The higher the level of qualification, the more tariff points are attributed. On leaving school, pupils will have a total tariff score which incorporates their latest and best achievements in the senior phase.
- 3.14. 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 average total tariff points for each of these groups and compares their attainment with the virtual comparator and the national figure. Graphs showing each of these groups are shown below:



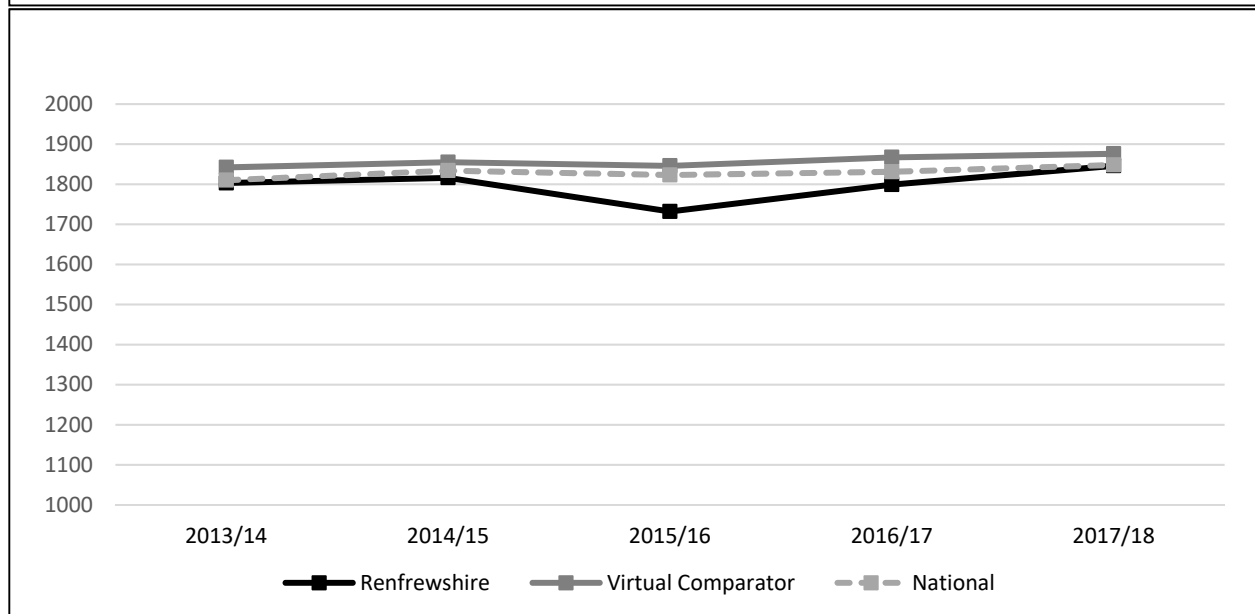
- 3.15. The average total tariff of the lowest attaining 20% of leavers is in line with previous years at 200 points. Renfrewshire is consistently above the national average in this measure but remains marginally behind the virtual comparator.

**Graph 6: Average Total Tariff of Middle 60% Attainment Cohort**



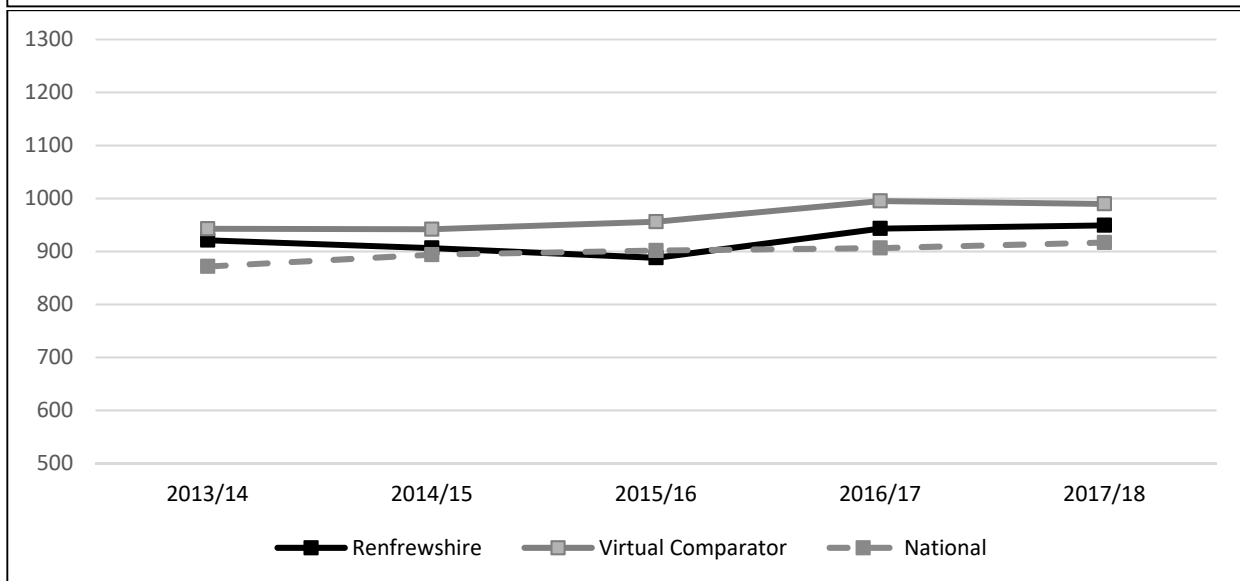
3.16. The performance of the middle 60% attainment cohort is largely unchanged since 2016/17. The average total tariff of leavers in this cohort in 2017/18 is 900 points. Renfrewshire remains above the national average and marginally behind its virtual comparator in this measure.

**Graph 7: Average Total Tariff of Highest 20% Attainment Cohort**



3.17. The average total tariff of school leavers in the highest 20% attainment cohort has increased by 47 points to 1846. This increase has brought Renfrewshire in line with the national average and has reduced the gap between Renfrewshire and the virtual comparator.

**Graph 8: Average Total Tariff of All School Leavers**

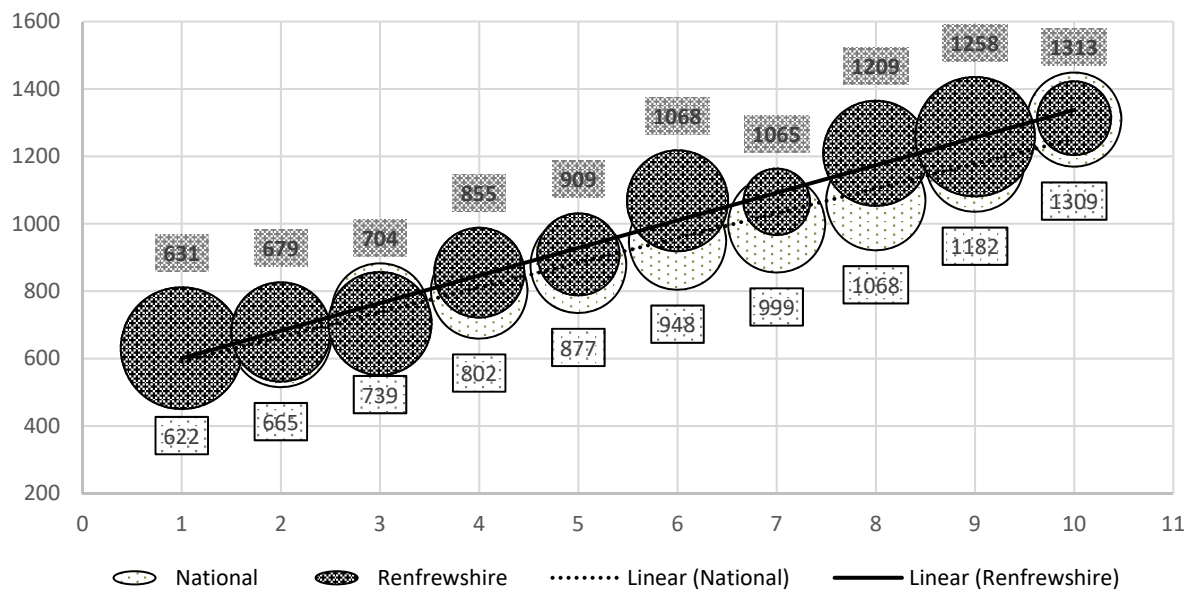


- 3.18. The average total tariff of all leavers, regardless of attainment cohort, has increased in 2017/18 to 949. This is an improving trend over 5 years and is above the national average of 917. However, Renfrewshire remains below the virtual comparator.

### **Attainment Versus Deprivation**

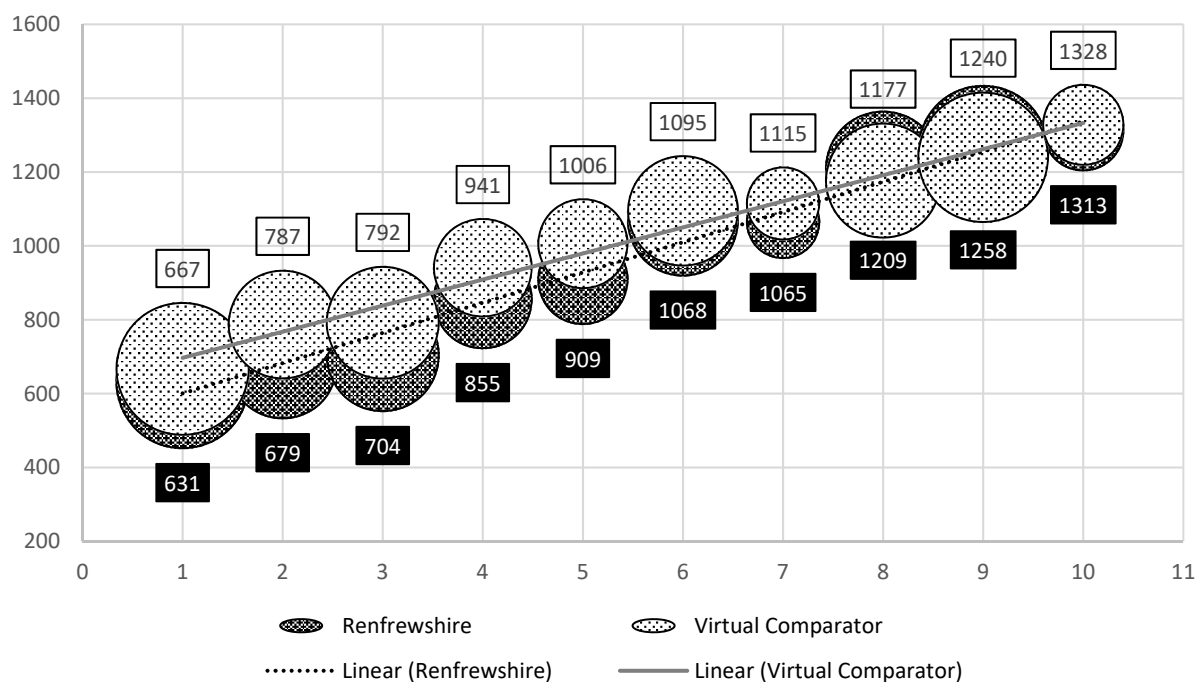
- 3.19. Closing the poverty related attainment gap is an overarching priority of Children's Services. Schools in all sectors are getting increasingly better at identifying their most vulnerable pupils and using strategies to try and mitigate the impact of poverty on their attainment. INSIGHT allows secondary schools and the service to see the impact of some of these strategies by looking at average tariff scores of leavers cohorts by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles.
- 3.20. 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 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.

**Graph 9: Average Total Tariff of 2017/18 Leavers by SIMD Decile (Renfrewshire/National)**



3.21. In graph 9, the white circles represent the national average and the black circles represent Renfrewshire's average tariff. In the 2017/18 leavers cohort, the average total tariff is ahead of the national average in all deciles except for decile 3. The trend lines indicate that the gap between Renfrewshire and national is greater in the higher SIMD deciles.

**Graph 10: Average Total Tariff of 2017/18 Leavers by SIMD Decile (Renfrewshire/Virtual Comparator)**



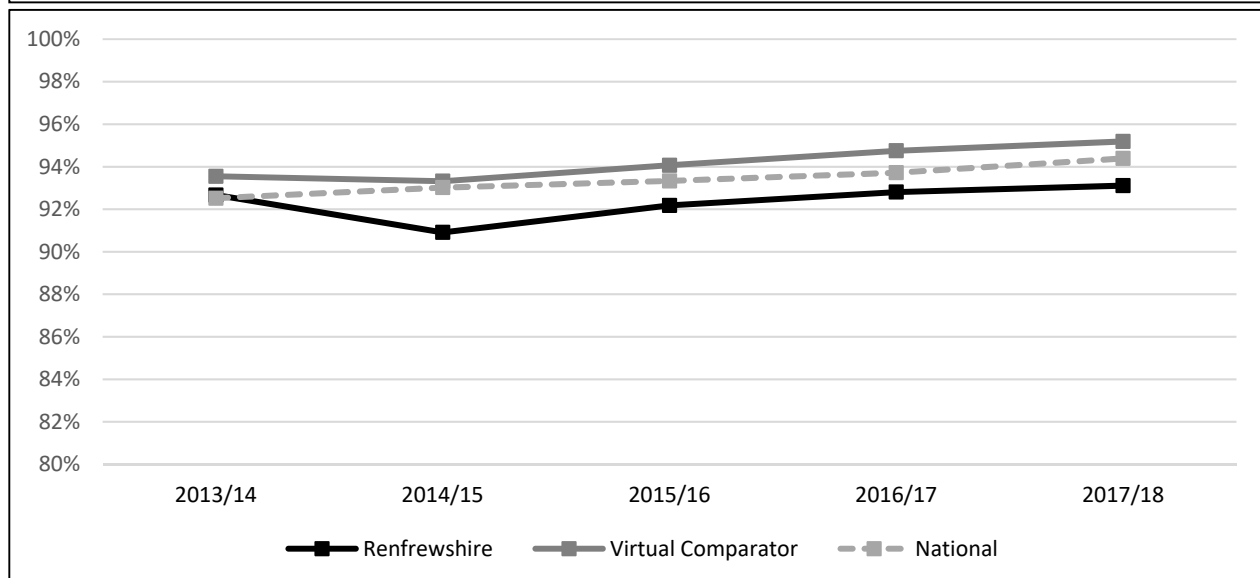


- 3.22. In graph 10, the white circles represent the virtual comparator and the black circles represent Renfrewshire's average tariff. Renfrewshire is behind its virtual comparator in all deciles except 8 and 9. The trendline shows that the gap between Renfrewshire and the virtual comparator is greater within the lower SIMD deciles.
- 3.23. 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.

### Leaver Destinations

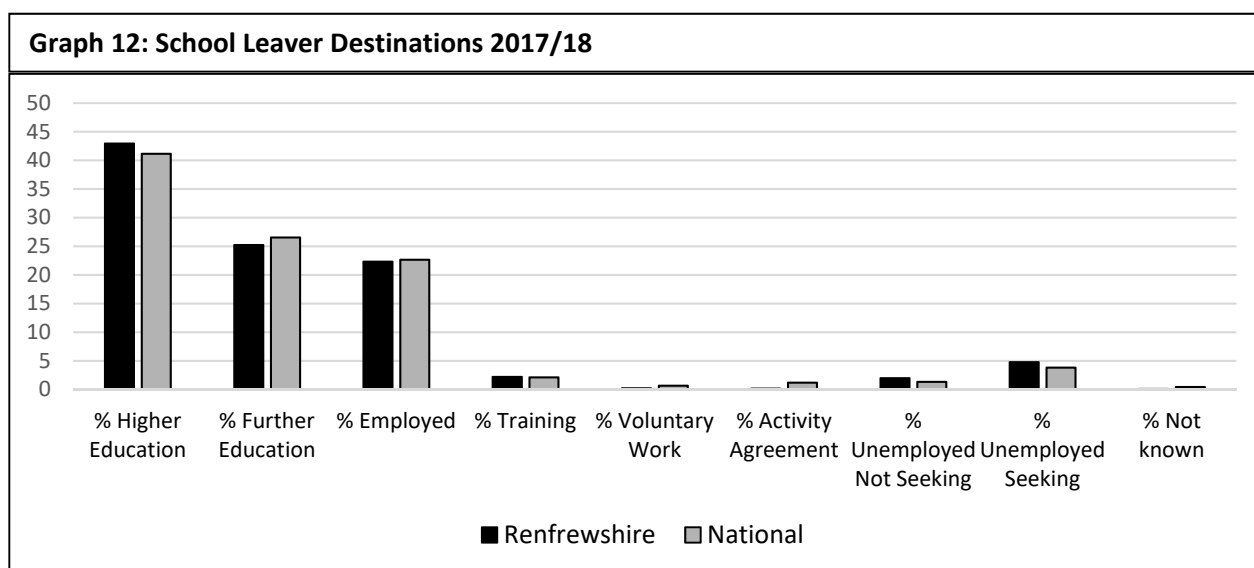
- 3.24. This measure identifies the percentage of school leavers that have entered a positive destination. Positive destinations include higher education, further education, employment, activity agreements and voluntary work.

**Graph 11: Percentage of School Leavers entering Positive Destinations.**



- 3.25. The percentage of 2017/18 Renfrewshire school leavers in a positive destination is 93.1%. This is an increase on previous years but remains lower than the national figure and virtual comparator, which are 95.2% and 94.4% respectively.

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



3.27. In the 2017/18 leavers cohort, 43% of Renfrewshire's leavers entered higher education. This is above the national figure of 41%. The proportion of Renfrewshire leavers entering higher education has been consistently above the national figure over 5 years. A further 25% of our leavers entered further education and 22% went into employment.

## 4. Next Steps

4.1 The 2017/18 school leavers data demonstrates continued improvement in attainment in literacy and numeracy, particularly at SCQF level 5. Increases in the average total tariff of our highest 20% attainment cohort indicates that leavers in Renfrewshire in this cohort are now performing as well as their peers nationally. However, we recognise the scope for further improvement, particularly in relation to the total tariff points our young people living in the most deprived areas are achieving by the time they leave school. We will continue, through our quality improvement framework, to support and challenge our schools.

## 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**

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 – not applicable**
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