



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF) 2021/22

Report by Director for Education, Skills and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to provide Members with an update on performance in Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators relevant to Education, Skills and Children's Services and to set out performance against improvement targets.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework provides a comparative benchmarking framework for Scottish Local Government that supports the targeting of improvement activities and resources to areas of greatest impact – in terms of efficiency/ costs, productivity and outcomes. A number of indicators have been identified across council services and metadata definitions for each of the indicators is available through the following link:
<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data/local-government-professionals>
- 2.2 At its meeting on 23 March 2021 the Committee agreed a set of indicators to be reported on an annual basis which are set out in Appendix 1. Library services has since moved to Education, Skills and Children's Services Department and two Library indicators are proposed for inclusion. At its meeting on 15 June 2021 the Committee also agreed that LGBF improvement activity would focus on:
 - Literacy and numeracy;
 - School attendance and exclusion;
 - Children looked after in the community; and
 - Looked after children with more than one placement in a year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve the continuation of improvement activity in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators set out in paragraph 5.3**

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Appendix: 1 Education and Children's Services Department – Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators
Background Papers: None

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	None
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a benchmarking tool that helps Local Authorities to compare their performance using a suite of indicators and also provides data over time for trend analysis. In order to ensure that comparisons are made with similar Authorities they are each placed in a “Family Group”. This groups councils that are similar in terms of the type of population that they serve (e.g. relative deprivation and affluence) and the type of area in which they serve them (e.g. urban, semi-rural, rural). For benchmarking of Children’s Services indicators Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been grouped with; Dundee City, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City.
- 5.2 The Appendix to the Report sets out the LGBF indicators agreed for annual reporting and the Department’s performance in 2021/22 and the preceding four years. This includes Library indicators for cost per visit and satisfaction. The Comhairle continues to be one of the top performing authorities in relation to pupils achieving positive destinations and the percentage of 16-19 year olds positively participating.
- 5.3 In June 2021 a set of LGBF indicators were agreed as priorities for improvement. The following table sets out these indicators with the actual figure for 2018/19.

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	Actual 2018/19
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%
CHN19a	School attendance rate	94.03%
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	78.58%
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	11.93
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%

5.4 A review of the original targets set has taken place with targets for 2029/30 set along with annual milestones targets. These milestones are set out below.

CHN9: % of children being looked after in the community

CHN9 2022/23	CHN9 2023/24	CHN9 2024/25	CHN9 2025/26	CHN9 2026/27	CHN9 2027/28	CHN9 2028/29	CHN9 2029/30
83%	84%	85%	86%	87%	88%	89%	90%

CHN13a: % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy.

CHN13a 2022/23	CHN13a 2023/24	CHN13a 2024/25	CHN13a 2025/26	CHN13a 2026/27	CHN13a 2027/28	CHN13a 2028/29	CHN13a 2029/30
68%	69%	70%	71%	72%	73%	74%	75%

CHN13b: % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy

CHN13b 2022/23	CHN13b 2023/24	CHN13b 2024/25	CHN13b 2025/26	CHN13b 2026/27	CHN13b 2027/28	CHN13b 2028/29	CHN13b 2029/30
73%	74%	75%	76%	77%	78%	79%	80%

CHN19a: School attendance rate

CHN19a 2022/23	CHN19a 2023/24	CHN19a 2024/25	CHN19a 2025/26	CHN19a 2026/27	CHN19a 2027/28	CHN19a 2028/29	CHN19a 2029/30
94%	Same as previous year	95%	Same as previous year	96%	Same as previous year	97%	Same as previous year

CHN19b: School attendance rate (Looked After Children).

CHN19b 2022/23	CHN19b 2023/24	CHN19b 2024/25	CHN19b 2025/26	CHN19b 2026/27	CHN19b 2027/28	CHN19b 2028/29	CHN19b 2029/30
88%	Same as previous year	90%	Same as previous year	92%	Same as previous year	94%	Same as previous year

CHN20a: School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)

CHN20a 2022/23	CHN20a 2023/24	CHN20a 2024/25	CHN20a 2025/26	CHN20a 2026/27	CHN20a 2027/28	CHN20a 2028/29	CHN20a 2029/30
20%	Same as previous year	15%	Same as previous year	10%	Same as previous year	5%	Same as previous year

CHN23: % LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)

CHN23 2022/23	CHN23 2023/24	CHN23 2024/25	CHN23 2025/26	CHN23 2026/27	CHN23 2027/28	CHN23 2028/29	CHN23 2029/30
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13

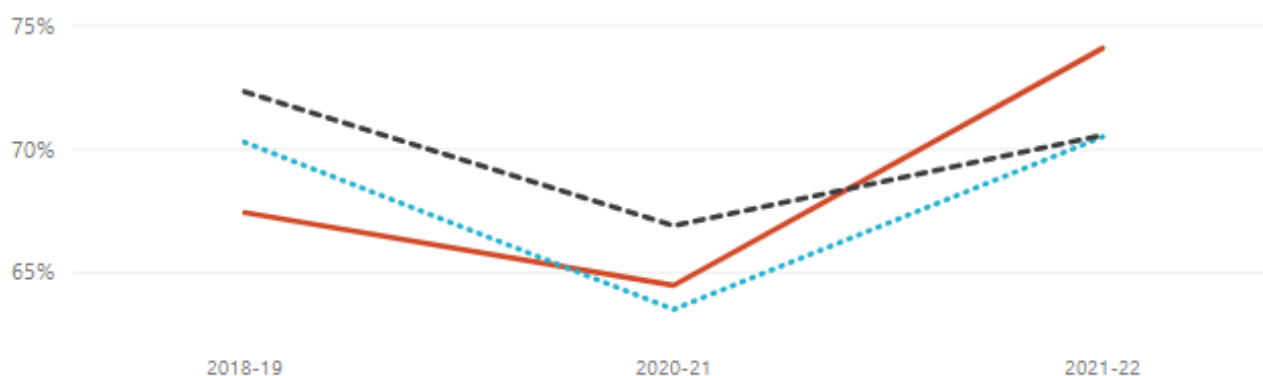
SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

Literacy and Numeracy

6.1 The 2021/22 LGBF data shows that the percentage of Primary one, Primary four and Primary seven pupils achieving the expected level in both literacy and numeracy by June 2022 was higher than the Scottish average. In 2021/22 74.1% achieved the expected level in literacy against a Scottish average of 70.5% and 78.7% achieved the expected level in numeracy against a Scottish average of 77.9%. There has been a significant improvement in both indicators over the previous year..

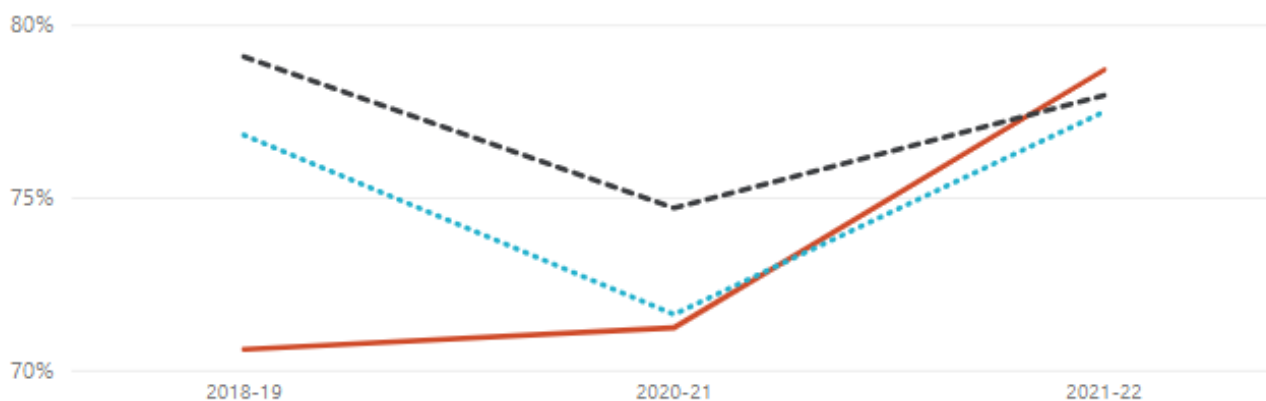
CHN13a - % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy

Local Authority FG Average Scotland



CHN13b - % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy

Local Authority FG Average Scotland



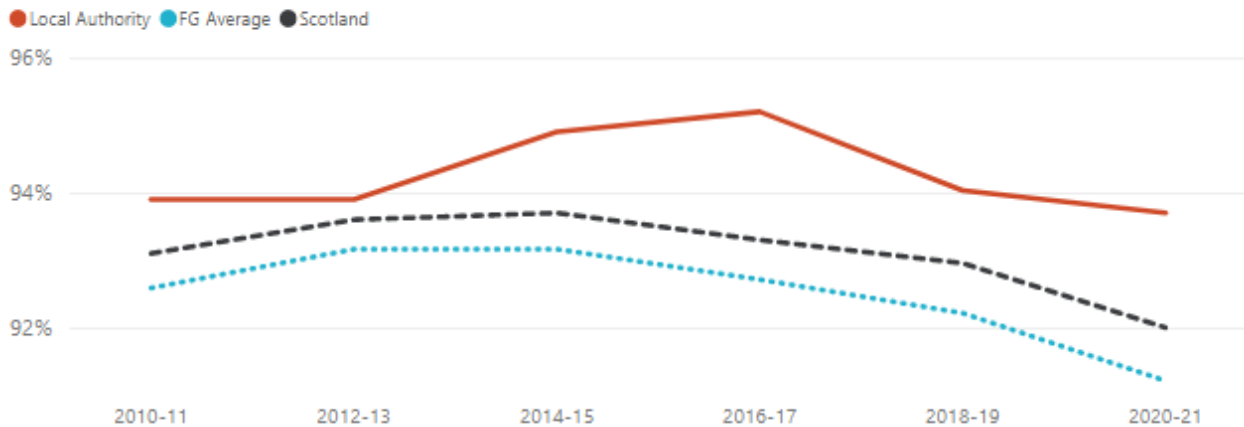
6.2 A number of improvement actions have been implemented during this academic year and are continuing in the final term of the 2022/23 academic. These include:

- There was a strong focus on collaborative assessment and moderation activity within and across schools to strengthen universal interpretation of standards and increase teacher confidence in their assessments and judgements of curricular progress.
- Quality assurances processes were undertaken to ensure that errors in data were identified and addressed prior to finalisation of the levels achieved by learners.
- Heads of Education and Executive Headteachers supported individual schools to make better use of data to drive improvement and track progress.
- Schools reviewed and updated pupil Equity Fund identification and plans to support improvement in attainment for identified pupils.
- Twenty-six bids for the Strategic Equity Fund were received from schools and the funding was distributed in November and December 2022. The fund supports delivery of attainment and service improvement projects.
- Executive HTs completed a round of school evaluation and improvement visits during the third quarter focusing on attainment and delivery of school improvement objectives.

School Attendance and Exclusion

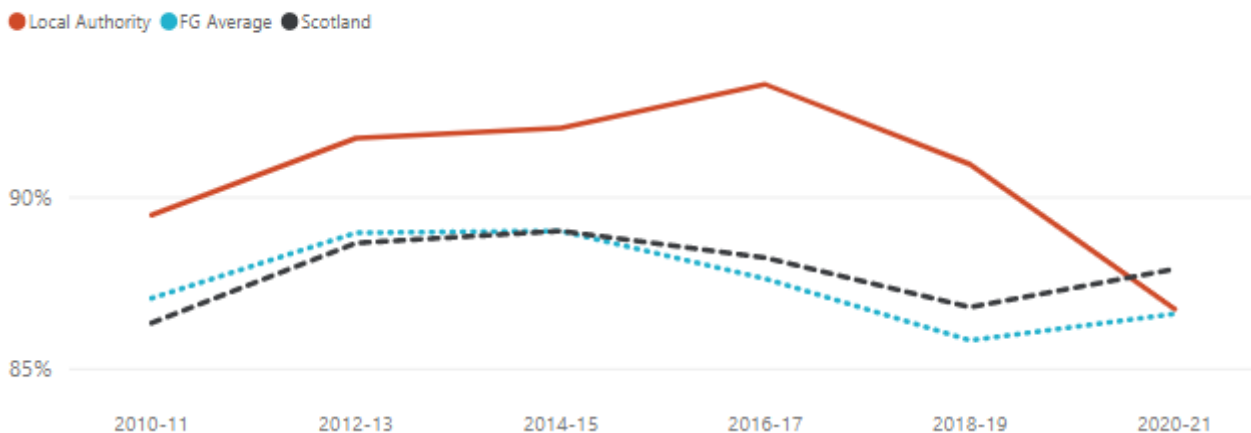
6.3 In 2020/21 the LGBF school attendance rate of 93.7% was above the Scottish average of 92% and was the highest in our LGBF Family Group however this was a decrease from the attendance level of 94% in 2018/19.

CHN19a - School attendance rates (per 100 pupils)



6.4 In 2020/21 the LGBF school attendance rate for Looked After Children of 86.7% was below the Scottish average of 87.9% although it was slightly higher than our LGBF Family Group of 86.6%. However this was a decrease from the attendance level of 90.9% in 2018/19

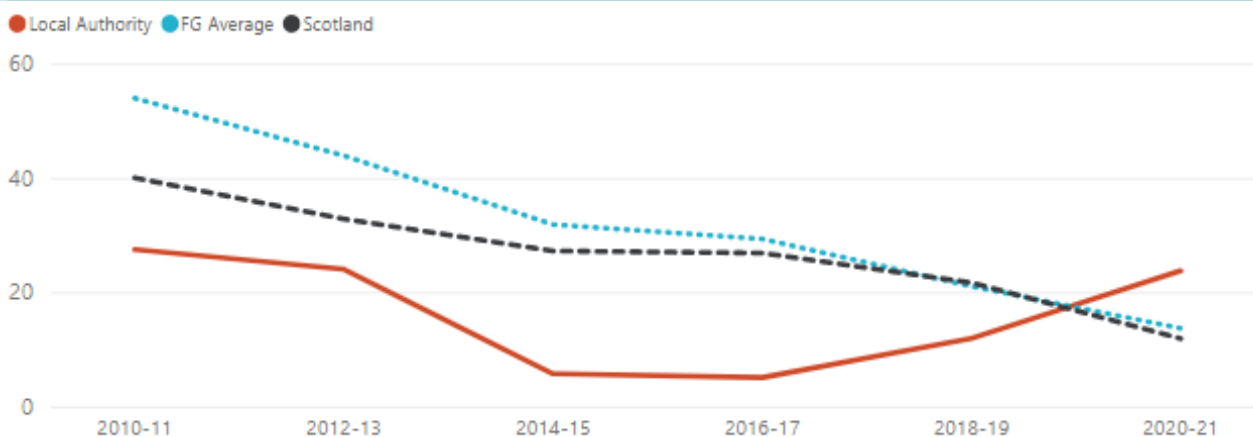
CHN19b - School attendance rates (per 100 'looked after pupils')



6.5 The Department monitors attendance across all schools on a quarterly basis and follows up on instances of poor attendance. For known non-Covid absences, schools do continue to address any cases below 90% via monthly monitoring.

6.6 The LGBF School Exclusion Rate per 1,000 pupils for 2020/21 stood at 23.7 against a Scottish average of 11.9. This indicator is reported every two years and the rate of exclusions has increased over the previous two reporting periods.

CHN20a - School exclusions rates (per 1,000 pupils)



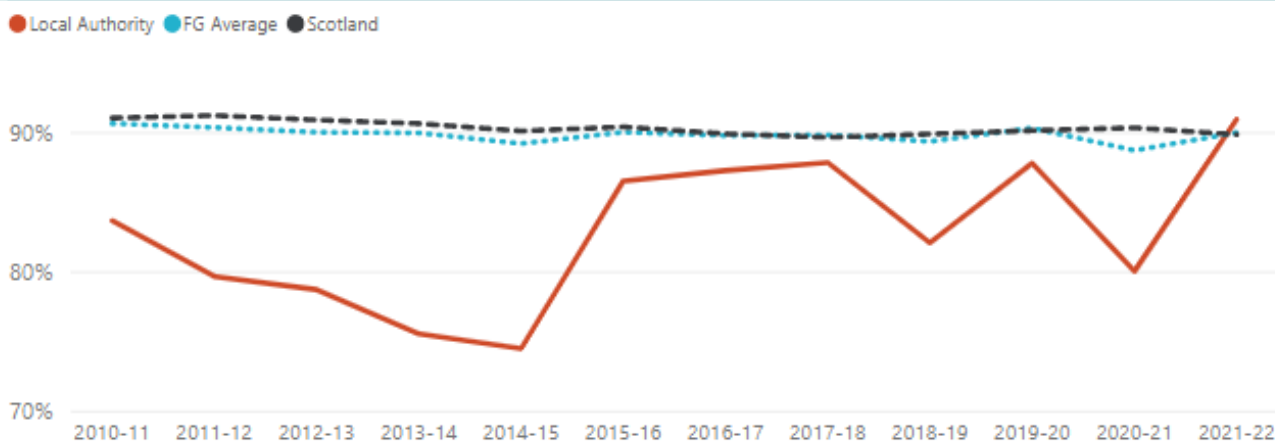
6.7 The service continues to develop alternative approaches to support pupils and reduce exclusions from education.

Looked After Children Cared For In The Community

6.8 The percentage of Looked After Children being cared for in the community rather than in residential accommodation stood at 90.9% in 2021/22 against a Scottish average of 89.8%. This is very slightly higher than our Family Group average of 90%

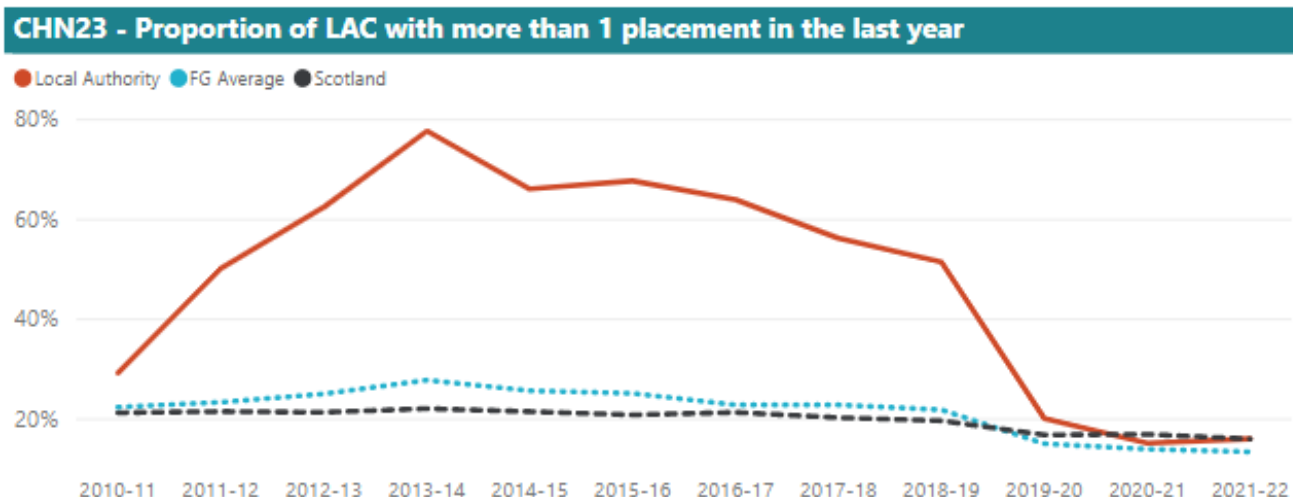
6.9 The number of Looked After Children in the Western Isles is very small therefore a move for one child from residential to community has a disproportionate effect on percentages.

CHN09 - Proportion of children being looked after in the community



6.10 A recruitment drive for Foster Carers in Lewis & Harris was initiated. Children's Services staff received training in the use of the Wellbeing Web which is an outcomes measurement tool.

6.11 The percentage of Looked After Children who had more than one placement in the year stood at 15.9% in 2021/22 against a Scottish average of 15.9%. This was above the Family Group average of 13.3%



6.12 Although every effort is made to place a child within their own community this is not always possible therefore when a more suitable placement does become available i.e. one closer to their school of origin, family and friends, then a placement move can actually be in their best interests and a response to their wishes.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2021/22 TARGETS

7.1 Performance against the initial 2021/22 targets has been very positive with the exceptions of school exclusion rates.

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	Actual 2018/19	Target 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	RAG
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%	89.90%	90.90%	Green
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%	72.30%	74.06%	Green
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%	79.07%	78.69%	Yellow
CHN19a	School attendance rate	94.03%	95.20%	93.70%*	Green
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	78.58%	82.38%	86.72%*	Green
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	11.93	5.06	23.74*	Red
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%	19.65%	15.90*	Green

Education Skills and Children's Service Department - Local Government Benchmarking Framework Performance

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Rank	Trend	Notes
CHN1	Cost Per Primary School Pupil	£9,615.85	£9,867.68	£10,467.07	£10,176.16	£10,334.40	32		1.6% increase on previous year
CHN2	Cost per Secondary School Pupil	£12,298.18	£12,125.78	£12,094.94	£11,958.86	£12,993.98	32		8.7% increase on previous year
CHN3	Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	£7,420.27	£8,296.38	£9,636.77	£13,082.64	£13,988.53	30		6.9% increase on previous year
CHN8a	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	£6,303.00	£5,136.00	£3,537.00	£3,256.00	£6,029.00	26		85.1% increase over previous year
CHN8b	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	£233.68	£323.29	£196.12	£204.15	£159.00	1		22.3% decrease over previous year
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	87.80%	82.05%	87.76%	80.00%	90.90%	11		10.9% increase on previous year
CHN10	% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools (3 year aggregate)	74.67%	67.00%	61.67%	67.33%		30		5.7% increase on previous year
CHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	95.59%	98.41%	97.38%	97.13%	97.64%	4		0.5% increase on previous year
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy		67.41%		64.47%	74.06%	7		9.6% increase in previous year
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy		70.60%		71.22%	78.69%	13		7.5% increase on previous year
CHN17	% of children meeting developmental milestones	81.30%	80.35%	81.78%	86.57%	78.70%	27		7.9% decrease on previous year
CHN18	% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	96.00%	92.00%	76.00%	73.91%	73.91%	32		
CHN19a	School attendance rate (Reported every 2 years)		94.03%		93.70%		7		
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children) (Reported every 2 years)		90.94%		86.72%		23		
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils) (Reported every 2 years)		11.93		23.74		29		
CHN21	Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	97.60%	95.47%	95.51%	95.63%	96.22%	3		0.6% increase on previous year
CHN22	% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	1		
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	56.10%	51.28%	20.00%	15.00%	15.90%	14		0.9% increase on previous year
C&L1	Cost per attendance at sports facilities	£3.19	£3.52	£3.80	£47.27	£10.00	28		78.8% decrease on previous year
C&L2	Cost per library visit	£5.65	£5.59	£2.59	£0.70	£2.06	6		193.7% increase on previous year
C&L4	Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	£978.81	£924.18	£946.82	£929.46	£7,876.42	5		747.4% increase on previous year
C&L5a	% of adults satisfied with libraries (3 year aggregate)	73.67%	61.53%	49.20%	57.87%		32		
C&L5b	% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces (3 year aggregate)	70.33%	54.47%	37.80%	51.13%		32		
C&L5d	% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities (3 year aggregate)	78.00%	68.73%	57.73%	63.40%		29		