



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF) 2022-23

Report by Chief Officer, Education 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: [LGBF Scottish Local Government Metadata Indicators](#)
- 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	Children and young people's outcomes and life chances are improved through education and training.
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 2022-23 and the preceding five 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

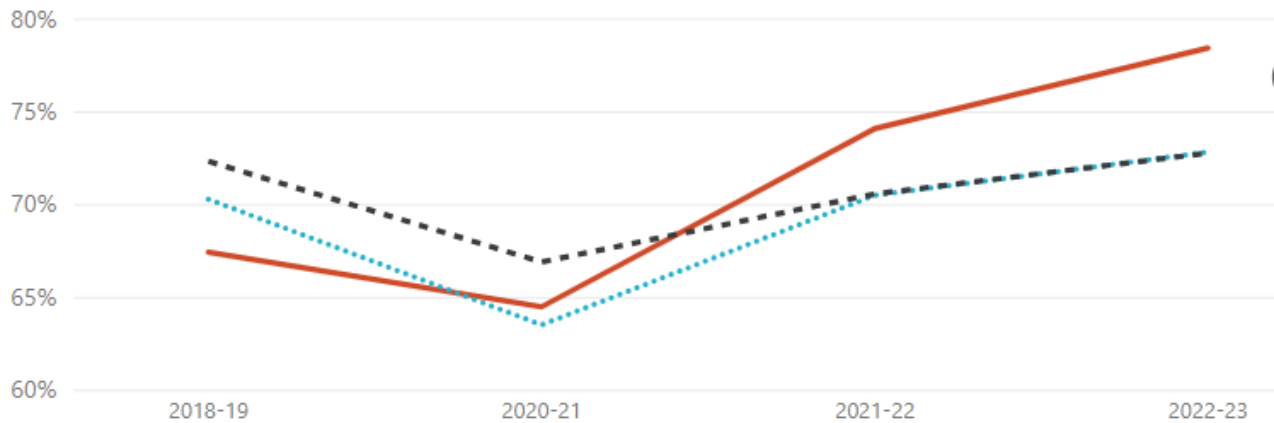
SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

Literacy and Numeracy

6.1 The 2022-23 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 2023 was higher than the Scottish average and the Family Group average. In 2022-23 78.4% achieved the expected level in literacy against a Scottish average of 72.7% and 82.2% achieved the expected level in numeracy against a Scottish average of 79.6%. There has been an improvement in both indicators over the previous year and both are exceeding the milestone targets set.

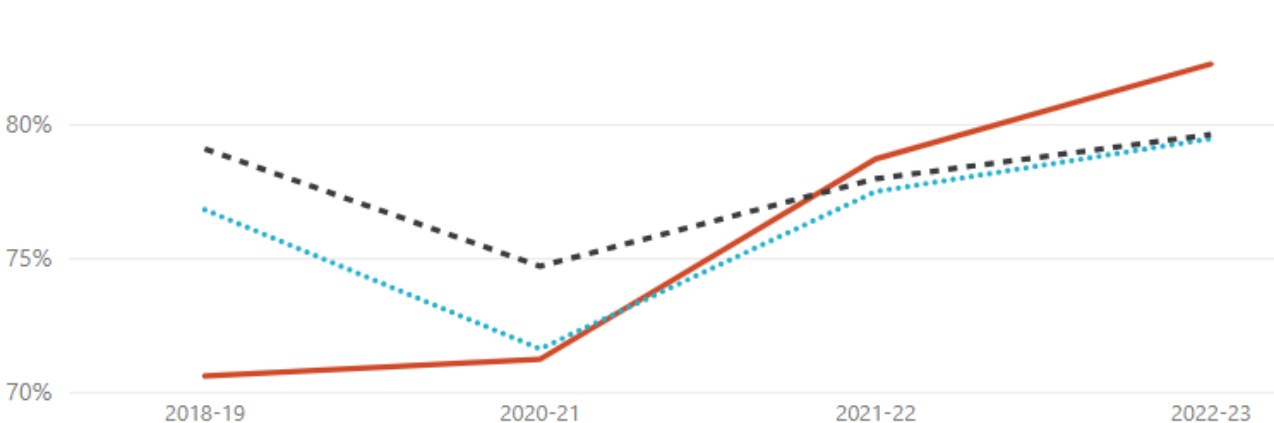
CHN13a - % of P1, P4 and P7 pupils achieving expected CFE level in Literacy

● 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 these included the following.

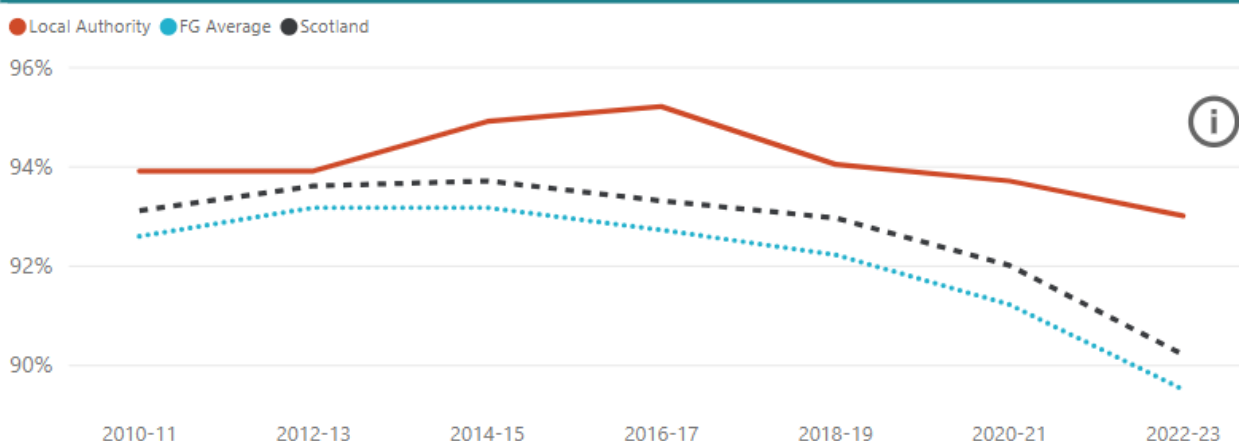
- 12 schools were enrolled in the national writing improvement programme run by the Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC). The programme primarily focuses on improving writing attainment in Gaelic and English at P4 and has reported significant impact on attainment.
- Our Education Scotland Attainment Advisor worked throughout the year visiting schools termly to challenge attainment progress and to use both last year's attainment data and their trend data over time to identify areas for development and improvement.

- A working group led by Executive Headteachers developed a new attainment tracking tool for schools that has been implemented consistently across all schools.
- Mid-year data checks involving all schools in submitting predicted attainment for June that was then analysed, and issues identified with individual schools. Improvement targets were set to address issues in the six months up to final submission.
- Quality assurance work was undertaken on the provisional data intended for submission by schools before it was finally recorded on the system in June to check for errors and to challenge any under-reporting.
- Additional and final checks on the attainment data in August prior to submission to Scottish Government.
- 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

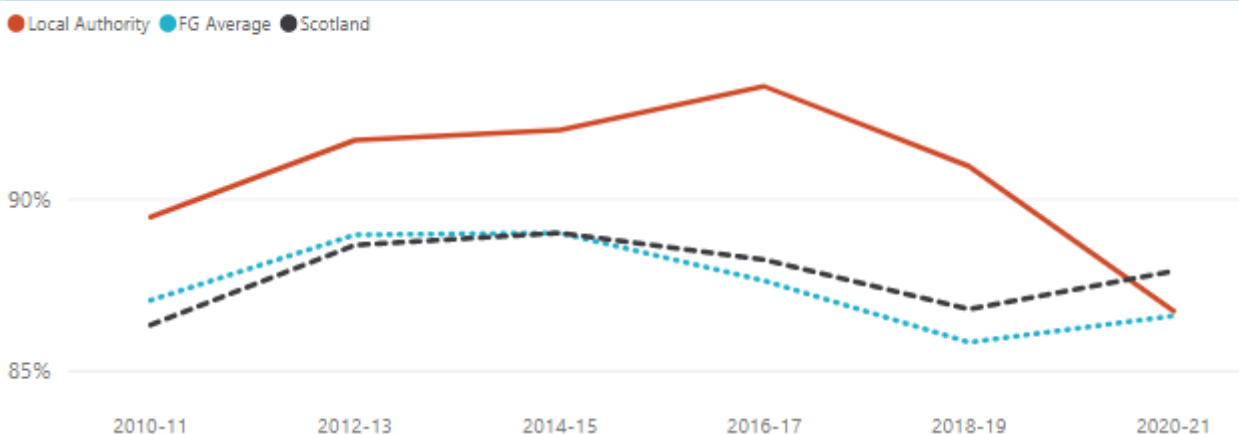
6.3 In 2022-23 the LGBF school attendance rate of 93.0% was above the Scottish average of 90.2% and was the highest in our LGBF Family Group however this was a decrease from the attendance level of 93.7% in 2020-21. The rate is also slightly below the milestone target of 94%.

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. The rate is also slightly below the milestone rate of 88%.

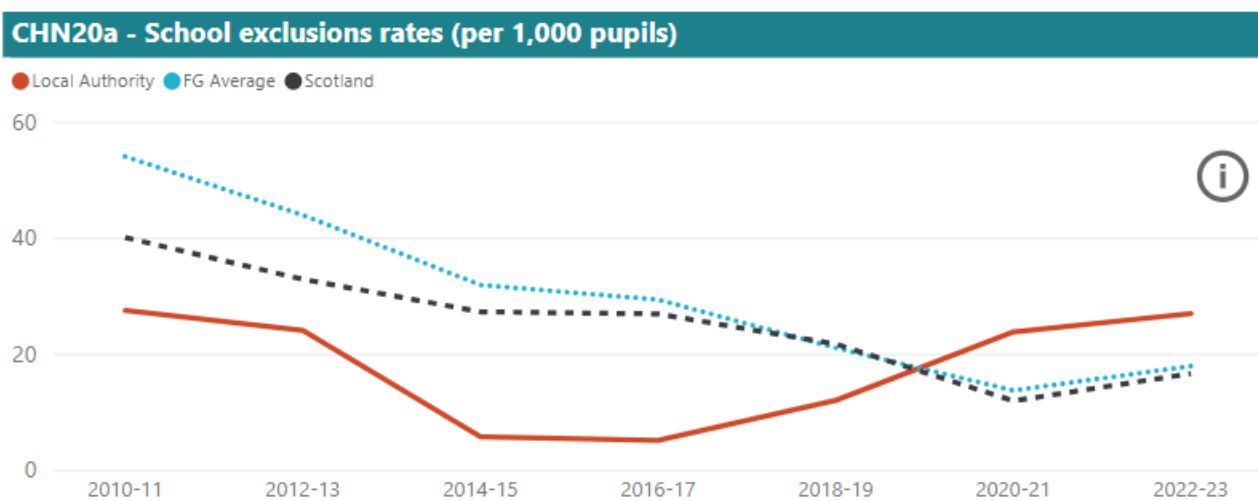
CHN19b - School attendance rates (per 100 'looked after pupils')



6.5 Addressing issues of attendance is a priority for the ECS Department and the following actions have been undertaken.

- Commissioning a new attendance and exclusion policy that is currently under development.
- The issuing of guidance to schools to review monthly attendance monitoring and to investigate all attendance below 90%
- Using Team Around the Child (TATC) mechanisms to support and challenge sustained low attendance and issues of school refusal.
- Collaboration with the Educational Psychology Service to support schools in addressing sustained absences.

6.6 The LGBF School Exclusion Rate per 1,000 pupils for 2022-23 stood at 26.9 against a Scottish average of 16.6 and was also higher than the Family Group average. This indicator is reported every two years, and the rate of exclusions has increased over the previous three reporting periods. The rate is above the milestone target of 20%.



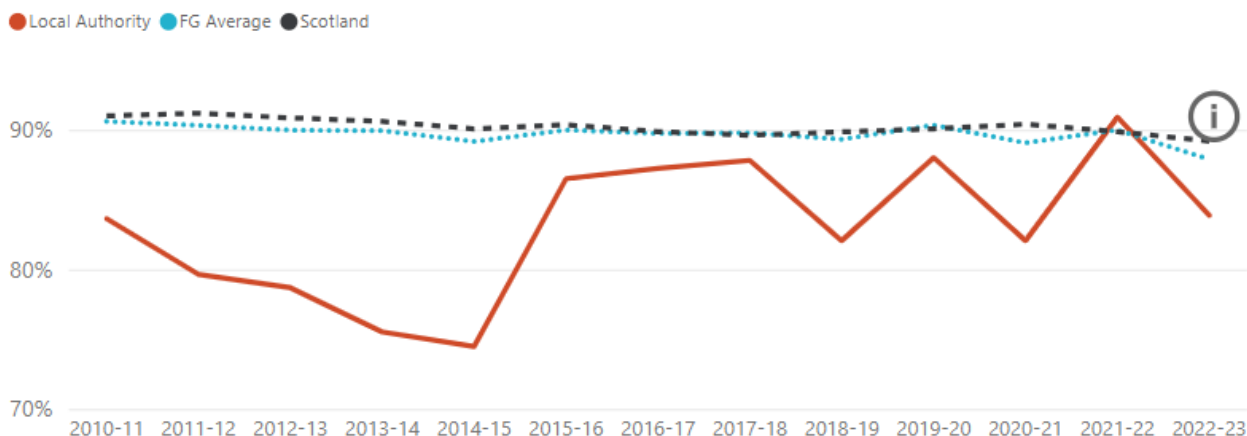
6.7 There has been a two-pronged focus being used to reduce exclusion. The first is to work with schools to develop alternatives to exclusion to address circumstances where exclusions were intended to be used. The second approach involved targeting specific cohorts of pupils that are at increased vulnerability to exclusion or where an exclusion is a detrimental action. A particular focus group for this has care-experienced children and young people.

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 83.9% in 2022-23 against a Scottish average of 89.2%. This is also lower than our Family Group average of 87.9%. The percentage is higher than the milestone target set for 2022-23 of 83%.

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.

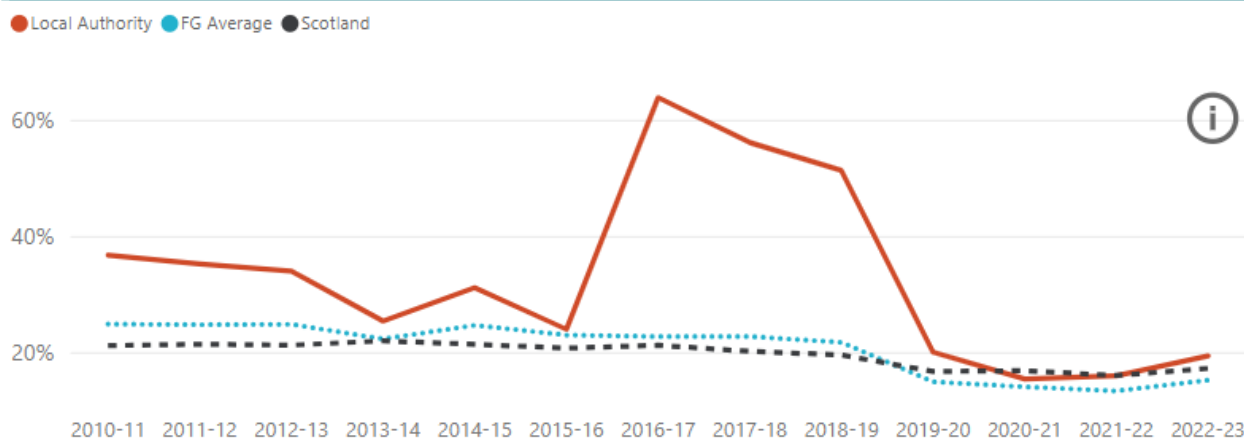
CHN09 - Proportion of children being looked after in the community



6.10 A review of the fee paid fostering scheme is underway as unless foster carers are able and prepared to accept higher tariff children, then we will remain dependent on residential care for too many children.

6.11 The percentage of Looked After Children who had more than one placement in the year stood at 19.4% in 2022-23 against a Scottish average of 17.2%. This was also above the Family Group average of 15.2%.

CHN23 - Proportion of LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year








6.12 Every effort is made to place a child within their own community however 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. The proportion of LAC with more than one placement remains close to the national average.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2022-23 TARGETS

7.1 Performance against the Milestone targets has been incredibly positive with the exceptions of school exclusion rates.

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	Actual 2018-19	Milestone Target 2022-23	Actual 2022-23	RAG
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	82.05%	83%	83.9%	Green
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	67.41%	68%	78.4%	Green

CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	70.60%	73%	82.2%	
CHN19a	School attendance rate	94.03%	94%	93.0%*	
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	78.58%	88%	86.7%**	
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	11.93	20	26.9*	
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	51.28%	20%	19.4%	

* Reported every two years

** 2020-21 figures as 2022-23 figures not yet available

Education Skills and Children's Service Department - Local Government Benchmarking Framework Performance (Real Cost)

Indicator Ref	Indicator Name	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Rank	Trend	Notes
CHN1	Cost Per Primary School Pupil	£10,203.70	£10,454.80	£11,080.15	£10,813.21	£11,023.07	£11,462.11	32	Yellow	4% increase on previous year
CHN2	Cost per Secondary School Pupil	£13,050.01	£12,847.24	£12,803.36	£12,707.52	£13,859.88	£13,412.93	32	Green	3.2% decrease on previous year
CHN3	Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	£7,873.90	£8,790.00	£10,201.21	£13,901.65	£14,920.71	£15,719.21	30	Yellow	5.4% increase on previous year
CHN8a	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	£6,688.35	£5,441.22	£3,744.61	£3,460.34	£4,286.97	£4142.86	18	Green	3.4% decrease on previous year
CHN8b	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	£247.97	£342.53	£202.89	£216.93	£169.09	£245.56	3	Red	45.2% increase on previous year
CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	87.80%	82.05%	88.00%	82.05%	90.91%	83.87%	23	Yellow	7.7% decrease on previous year
CHN10	% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools (3-year aggregate)	74.67%	67.00%	61.67%	67.33%	74.00%	78.67%	11	Green	6.3% increase on previous reporting period
CHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	95.6%	98.4%	97.4%	97.1%	97.6%	98.3%	3	Green	0.7% increase on previous year
CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy		67.41%		64.47%	74.06%	78.4%	4	Green	5.9% increase on previous year
CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy		70.60%		71.22%	78.69%	82.23%	11	Green	4.5% increase on previous year
CHN17	% of children meeting developmental milestones	81.30%	80.35%	81.78%	86.57%	78.70%	74.73%	30	Yellow	5% 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%	72.73%	32	Yellow	1.6% decrease on previous year
CHN19a	School attendance rate (Reported every 2 years)		94.03%		93.70%		93%	1	Yellow	0.7% decrease on previous reporting period
CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children) (Reported every 2 years)		90.94%		86.72%					
CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils) (Reported every 2 years)		11.93		23.74		26.9	30	Red	13.3% increase on previous reporting period
CHN21	Participation rate for 16–19-year-olds (per 100)	97.60%	95.47%	95.51%	95.63%	96.22%	97.58%	2	Green	1.4% increase on previous year
CHN22	% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	20%	32	Red	20% increase on previous year
CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	56.10%	51.28%	20.00%	15.00%	15.90%	19.35%	23	Red	21.7% increase on previous year
C&L1	Cost per attendance at sports facilities	£3.38	£3.72	£4.02	£50.23	£10.67	£6.19	28	Green	42% decrease on previous year
C&L2	Cost per library visit	£5.99	£5.93	£2.75	£0.74	£2.21	£2.13	7	Green	3.6% decrease on previous year
C&L4	Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	£1,038.65	£979.16	£1,002.28	£987.65	£8,401.30	£21,921.92	13	Red	160.9% increase on previous year
C&L5a	% of adults satisfied with libraries (3-year aggregate)	73.7%	61.5%	49.2%	57.9%	67.3%	75%	15	Green	11.4% increase on previous reporting period
C&L5b	% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces (3-year aggregate)	70.3%	54.5%	37.8%	51.1%	70%	84.7%	26	Green	21% increase on previous reporting period
C&L5d	% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities (3-year aggregate)	78%	68.7%	57.7%	63.4%	71%	80.3%	4	Green	13.1% increase on previous reporting period