

Key Stage 4, 2018/19

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

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1 Background information

Key Stage 4 (KS4) is the legal term for the two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs, in maintained schools, normally known as Year 10 and Year 11 when pupils are aged between 14 and 16.

A new secondary school GCSE accountability system had been implemented in 2016. Some of the headline accountability measures for KS4 are as follows:

- Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English (double weighted), maths (double weighted), three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the Department for Education (DfE) approved list.
- Progress 8 aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. It compares pupils' achievement – their Attainment 8 score – with the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), calculated using assessment results from the end of primary school. A Progress 8 score of above 0 means a school is making above average progress.

2 Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

Finalised data for GCSE's suggests during 2018/19, the average Attainment 8 score per pupil for Lancashire (46.7) was higher than the England (44.7), North West (45.5), Blackburn with Darwen (46.4) and Blackpool (37.8%) scores. Lancashire-12 performance was the same as for the previous year (46.7).

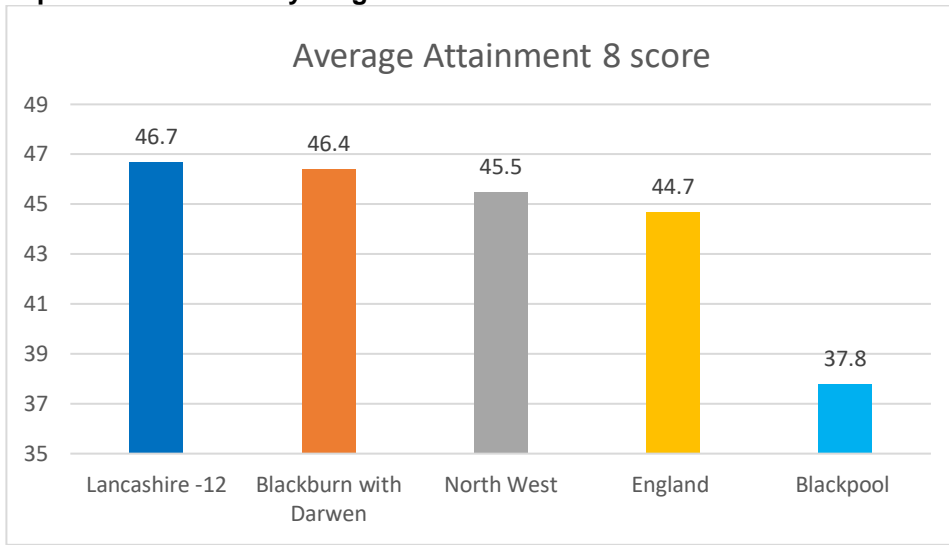
The average Progress 8 score per pupil for Lancashire-12 (-0.09) was higher than the Blackpool (-0.62) and North West (-0.18) scores but lower than those of Blackburn with Darwen (0.13%) and England (0.24). Lancashire-12 pupils and most of the comparator areas are all making below average progress. Blackburn with Darwen (0.13) and nationwide (0.24) pupils are making above average progress. Progress 8 is a relative measure, therefore the England average Progress 8 score for mainstream schools is zero.

Table 1: Pupil Attainment at Key Stage 4, 2018/19

Area	Attainment 8	Progress 8
Lancashire-12	46.7	-0.11
Blackburn with Darwen	46.4	0.13
Blackpool	37.8	-0.62
North West	45.5	-0.18
England	44.7	0.24

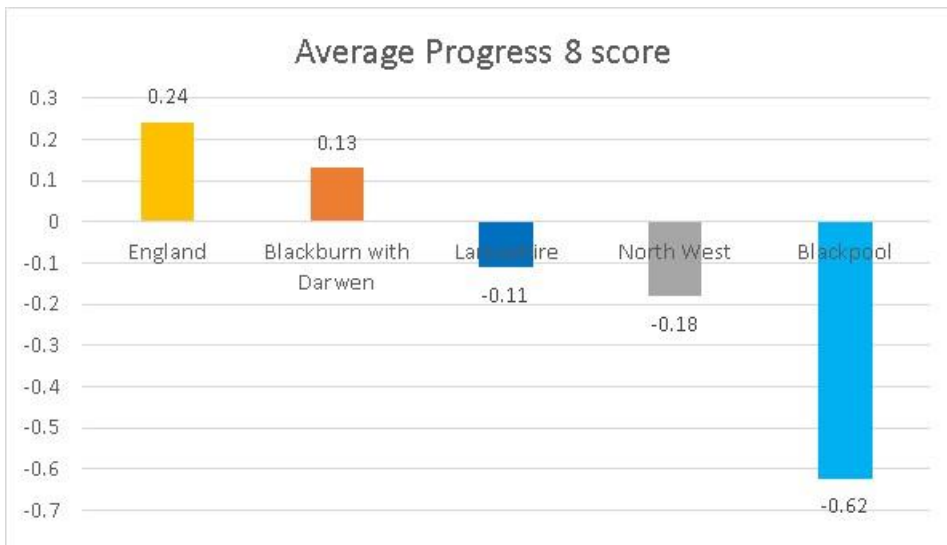
Source: DfE

Figure 1: Pupil Attainment at Key Stage 4 2018/19



Source: DfE

Figure 2: Pupil Progress at Key Stage 4 2018/19



Source: DfE

Analysis of the results by Lancashire-12 districts shows that the attainment of pupils at the end of key stage 4 was mainly higher in areas with low levels of deprivation. The average Attainment 8 scores for pupils in Ribble Valley (53.4), Chorley (50.4), Preston (48.7) South Ribble (48.5) and Fylde (46.8) were higher than Lancashire-12, the North West and the neighbouring unitary authorities. Attainment in areas with higher levels of deprivation was lower and was particularly low in Burnley (42.2), Hyndburn (42.4) and Pendle (43.3),

Table 2: Average attainment 8 scores of pupils at the end of key stage 4 by local authority district and region of pupil residence 2018/19

District	Score
Burnley	42.2
Chorley	50.4
Fylde	46.8
Hyndburn	42.4
Lancaster	46.4
Pendle	43.3
Preston	48.7
Ribble Valley	53.4
Rossendale	46.0
South Ribble	48.5
West Lancashire	45.1
Wyre	46.4
Lancashire-12	46.7
Blackburn with Darwen	46.4
Blackpool	39.2
North West	45.6
England	46.9

Source: DfE

2.1 Attainment and free school meals

It has been noted previously that educational attainment at district level is linked to deprivation. However, deprivation isn't limited by district council boundaries. Many pupils will encounter deprivation despite living in districts with low levels of deprivation overall and this can impact on their prospects. Historically the results at KS4 reveals a significant difference in attainment levels between those pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those who are not.

During 2018/19, the average attainment 8 scores of FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4 Lancashire-12 (34.0) was lower than that of non-FSM pupils (48.6). In fact the Lancashire-12 FSM pupil's average score was lower when compared with the England (35.0) figure and this has been the case since 2007 with the previous KS4 headline indicators. The average score of Lancashire -12 was higher than Blackpool (27.8), Blackburn with Darwen (30.1) and the North West (33.6).

The percentage gap between FSM and non-FSM was wider for Lancashire-12 (+14.6) than each of the other comparator groups except Blackburn with Darwen (+17.9). The Lancashire-12 non-FSM pupil performance (48.6) was higher than each of the comparator groups except England (48.8).

Table 3: Performance of pupils eligible for FSM and non-eligible pupils, average attainment 8 scores 2018/19

District	FSM pupils	Non FSM pupils	Average Score Gap
Lancashire-12	34.0	48.6	+14.6
Blackburn with Darwen	30.1	48.0	+17.9
Blackpool	27.8	41.0	+13.2
North West	33.6	47.9	+14.3
England	35.0	48.8	+13.8

Source: DfE

2.2 Attainment and gender

As at other key stages, girls tend to perform better than boys in GCSE examinations. The average attainment 8 scores of girls at the end of key stage 4 in Lancashire-12 (49.9) was higher than that of boys (43.8). The performance of Lancashire-12 boys was similar to the comparators and above Blackpool (35.0).

Table 4: Performance of boys and girls average attainment 8 scores 2018/19

District	Girls	Boys	Gap
Lancashire-12	49.8	43.8	6.0
Blackburn with Darwen	50.0	43.0	7.0
Blackpool	41.1	35.0	6.1
North West	48.4	42.8	5.6
England	49.6	44.2	5.4

Source: DfE

2.3 Attainment and special educational needs

There is a large gap between the attainment of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care plan (EHC) and non-SEND (Special Educational Need and Disability) pupils. In 2018/19 at KS4, the attainment gap remained large within Lancashire-12 with the average attainment 8 score of SEND pupils (11.4) significantly lower than non-SEND pupils (49.2), with an average score gap of 37.8. The performance of Lancashire-12 SEND pupils is however above the neighbouring unitary comparators as highlighted in the table below.

Table 5: GCSE attainment of SEN pupils and non-SEN pupils, average attainment 8 scores 2018/19

Area	SEN with a statement or EHC plan	Non-SEN	Gap
Lancashire-12	11.4	49.2	37.8
Blackburn with Darwen	9.0	49.6	39.6
Blackpool	8.6	41.9	33.3
North West	12.7	48.6	35.9
England	13.7	50.1	36.4

Source: DfE

2.4 Attainment and children looked after

The educational attainment of children looked after is much lower than that of their peers. There are a number of factors that contribute to this. For example, there tends to be a higher prevalence of children with statements of special educational needs in the looked after population (around 28% in the looked after population nationally compared to around 3% in the general school age population). Another factor is that many of these children may have come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and as shown previously, attainment has strong links to deprivation. In 2018/19, at KS4 the average attainment 8 score of Lancashire-12 CLA pupils was 16.6. This was lower than each of the comparator group's performance except Blackpool.

Table 6: GCSE attainment of CLA pupils, average attainment 8 scores 2018/19

Area	2018/19
Lancashire-12	16.6
Blackburn with Darwen	24.8
Blackpool	12.7
North West	18.8
England	19.2

Source: DfE

3 Summary

Although Lancashire-12 has consistently improved over the past few years at the end of KS4, there are some groups of pupils that are still under performing due to deprivation, circumstances and needs (highlighted above).

The children and young people dashboard created as part of the Neighbourhood JSNA, includes district and ward level data on key stage 4 attainment. This resource can be accessed [here](#).