



# Overview and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Review Title  
Chairman  
Lead Officer  
Start date  
Reason for review

## GCSE Attainment and Deprivation

Yvonne Davidson Vice Chair Andy Stewart  
Helen Lee email Helen.lee@nottsccl.gov.uk  
December 2008 Completion date April 2008

13.9% of Nottinghamshire pupils in receipt of free school meals (FSM) achieved 5 A\* to C passes (including English and maths) compared with 45% of children not in receipt of FSM.

Nottinghamshire was ranked 130<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 148 local authorities for GCSE attainment of FSM pupils. (.Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Statistical First Release January 2008).

A league table released by Save the Children August 2008 placed Nottinghamshire bottom for pupils on FSM achieving 5 good GCSE's. Although more recent interim data provided by schools indicates an improvement in GCSE achievement, there is concern about the low levels of attainment for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and whether Nottinghamshire schools are doing enough to improve educational outcomes for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

## Objectives

The committee will seek to make recommendations to inform policy development and will consider why receipt of free school meals appears to have a detrimental affect on attainment at school, particularly at GCSE level.

Data for 2008 attainment will become available during the review and this will be examined to see if:

- improvements have occurred
- why some schools are achieving greater success than others

The committee also will examine:

- at what age does deprivation begin to have a negative affect on achievement and what schools are doing to recognise and meet the needs of these children
- the mechanisms used by schools to identify young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are falling behind their peers
- the interventions used by secondary schools to improve educational outcomes for these young people
- the extent to which education outcomes have 'value added' which is not measurable by examination success results.
- to what extent best practice can be identified and shared with other schools
- what the local authority is doing to assist schools to improve attainment
- Nottinghamshire's attainment against other local authorities who have schools with similar levels of deprivation.





Nottinghamshire  
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## Risks and issues

This review will not consider GCSE attainment for all pupils in Nottinghamshire schools but will focus on schools that have a high proportion of young people attending school who are disadvantaged using the DCSF indicator - those in receipt of free schools meals.

## Background information

The free school meal rates indicator gives a broad indication of levels of deprivation for pupils attending a particular school. Educational attainment is a shared responsibility between schools and Nottinghamshire County Council; schools however are responsible for individual pupil's attainment and welfare.

## Theme

This review falls within the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement 2008 -2011 priority for improving educational attainment and skill levels, specifically within National Indicator 78 a reduction in the number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more GCSE and equivalent including English and maths.

## Witnesses

Departmental officers  
Practitioners from schools?

## Proposed visits

Individual schools may be visited if the committee feels that this will contribute to the findings of the review.

## Public Involvement

The review will feature on the website allowing the public to contact relevant officers and Members.

## Communications

A press release announcing the review and where relevant during the course of the review.

## Equalities issues

There are no SDRs attached to this review

## Service Director comments

The Service Director has no additional comments

## Additional comments

