

Progress update on Raising the Bar's 2015-17 priorities

1 Effective and timely school improvement

Suffolk County Council's monitoring system and its **Declaration of Concern** process has ensured that all schools vulnerable to not being judged good or better at their next inspection have support to improve at a rapid pace. **Locality Plans** identify issues and agree actions for headteachers to jointly tackle locally. A robust **school leader peer challenge system** is being developed in collaboration with the School to School Support Partnership and the Headteacher Associations. A new **SEND Strategy** has been developed to improve education, health and care for children and young people with SEND, following the recent Ofsted inspection of SEND in Suffolk.

2 Strong School to School support

The **School to School Support Partnership** (STSSP) has been further embedded, and its work has been recognised by the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education as a model for developing and sharing best practice. The use of the best practice database at www.stssp.co.uk has continued to increase.

Samuel Ward Academy has been designated as Suffolk's first **Research School** to be launched in September 2017, funded through the strategic partnership of the **Education Endowment Foundation** (EEF) and Raising the Bar. Raising the Bar has also established a collaboration with the reputed organisation **Evidence Based Education** (EBE), to establish a research evidence based culture in Suffolk schools to improve attainment, reduce costs, and support teacher development.

3 Excellence in leadership and governance

The **Teach Suffolk** brand, web pages and social media channels are now well established, and its initiatives engage a wide range of schools.

A new **governance strategy** is in place and has been communicated to governors through the newly created Governor Headlines. The **governor recruitment** strand has gained strength and has seen the launch of the Associate Business Governor role. The training programme for governors to develop key pathways for new, experienced and Chairs of Governors has been rationalised. Statutory challenge and support for governing bodies has strengthened.

4 Developing aspirations

The **New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network** (careers and enterprise programme) will have achieved 90% coverage of secondary schools by the summer. The Suffolk **ICanBeA...** platform, which shows local career opportunities to young people in Suffolk, has successfully engaged with schools and business engagement, having resulted in more than 200 employer profiles and more than 1000 users.

Raising the Bar has launched Suffolk pilot of "**Easy Peasy**", an app to support early years parenting, co-funded by Esmee Fairburn Foundation

5 Strategy and communication

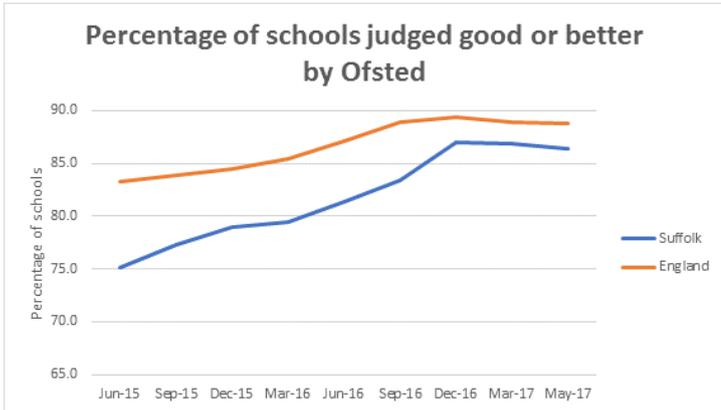
The **Raising the Bar Awards 2017** has celebrated excellence across education in Suffolk.

We are continuing to develop the **future Raising the Bar education strategy** for Suffolk.

(enabling priority)

The tables below update on key measures of success for Raising the Bar 2015-17. The ambition of Raising the Bar is to move in all measures to “better than national” by 2017. For the 2016/17 academic year, only provisional attainment data for Key Stage 2 is available at the time of publication of this progress report.

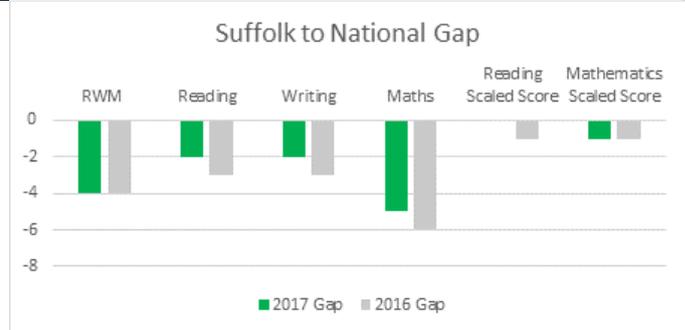
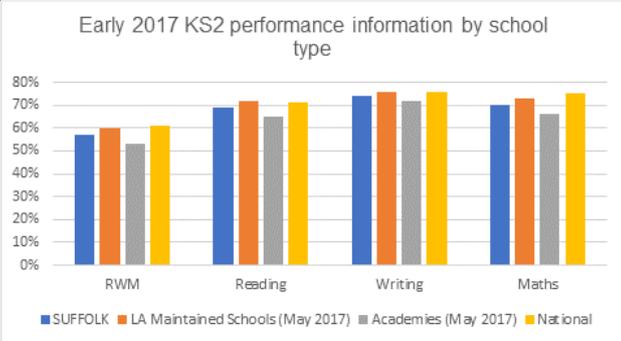
Percentage of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted / Research schools



The percentage of schools in Suffolk judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted has recently levelled and is now at 86%, 3% lower than the national figure.

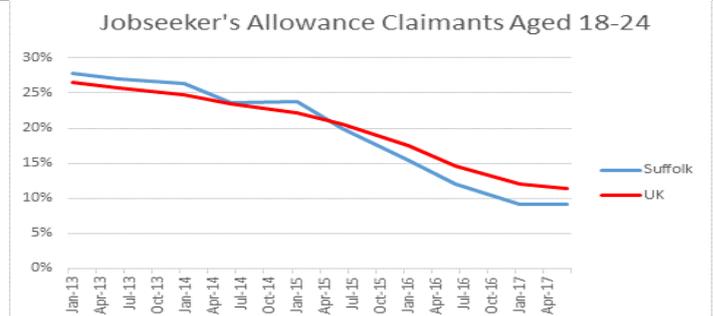
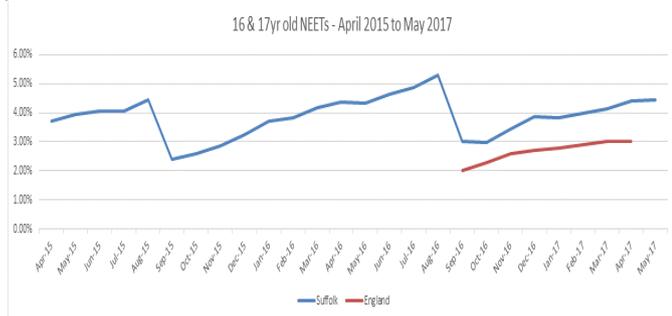
The map shows Suffolk's research school at Samuel Ward Academy as part of a prestigious network of research schools throughout England.

Increased achievement: Attainment at age 11 (provisional 2016/17 results)



Age 11: Provisional key stage 2 results in Reading/Writing/Maths are slightly below national figures. LA maintained schools' results are at or near national level, academies are lower. The gap of Suffolk's results to national results has narrowed in the last year.

Reduced unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds



The percentage of 16-17 year old NEETs has slightly increased since summer 2016, and remain higher than national figures.

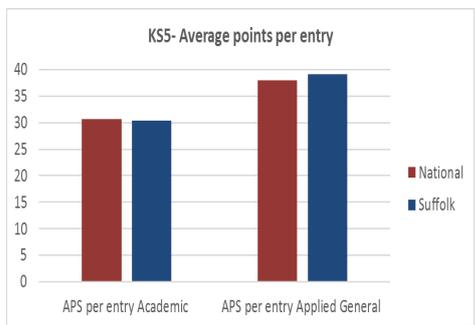
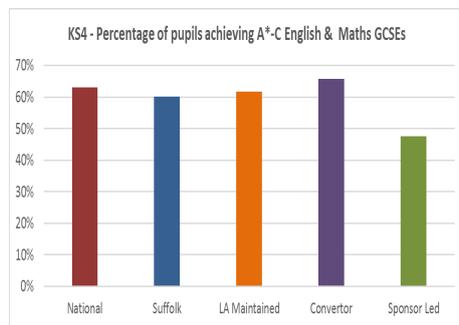
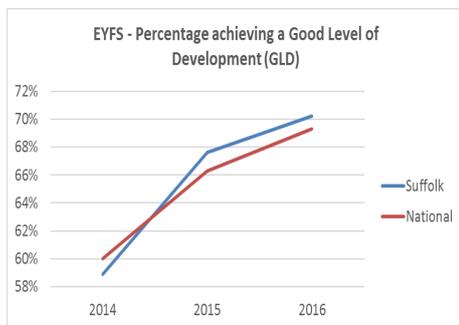
The percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance has remained at a similar level this year, remaining lower than the UK average.

Ensuring every child in Suffolk can achieve their full potential

At the time of publication of this report, only provisional results for key stage 2 (age 11) have been published for the academic year 16/17. Below are some of the headline statistics for the other year groups from the *previous* academic year, 15/16. Further 15/16 statistics can be found in the February 2017 progress report (on www.suffolk.gov.uk/rtb).

Increased achievement: Attainment at ages 5, 16 and 18 (2015/16 results)

Please note: 2015/16 is the first year that the new national curriculum has been assessed and new assessment measures have been used (this has not affected Early Years Foundation Stage). No comparison can be made with previous years. Charts of years until 2015 can be found in last year's report.

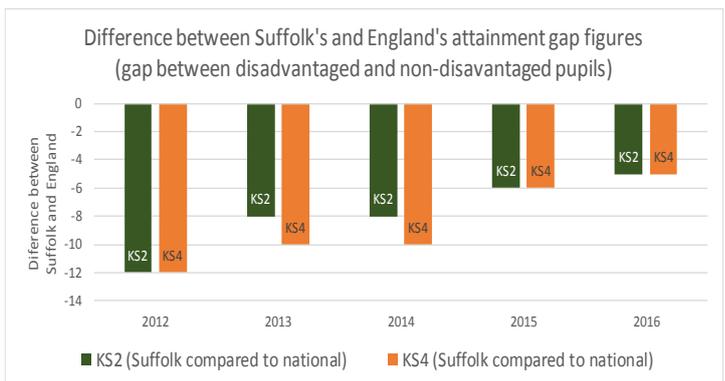
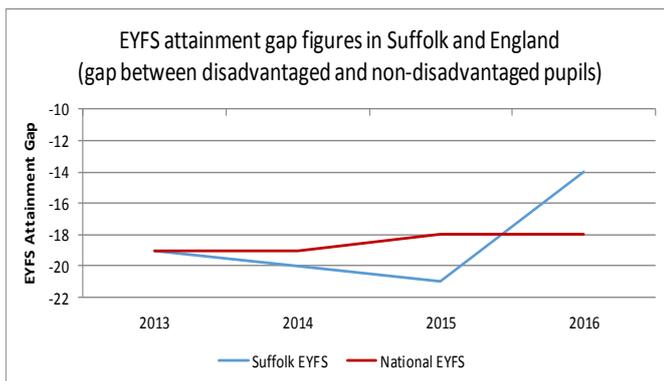


Age 5: Suffolk's Early Years Foundation Stage attainment remains above national level.

Age 16: Key stage 4/GCSE attainment in English/Maths is slightly below national average.

Age 18: At key stage 5, the 2016 academic results are close to national, and the results of applied subjects exceed national figures.

Attainment gap disadvantaged pupils, at ages 5, 11 and 16 (2015/16 results)



At the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (age 5), the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils in Suffolk has narrowed. The difference is now significantly less than the national attainment gap.

At key stages 2 and 4 (age 11 and 16) the difference between Suffolk's and England's attainment gap figures (the gap between disadvantaged and other pupils) has continued to reduce and Suffolk is closing in on the national level.

Facts and figures in this report are current on 18 July 2017. Progress reports for Raising the Bar 2015-17 are published bi-annually; the next report is due in early 2018. For further information on Raising the Bar, see www.suffolk.gov.uk/rtb