

## **APPENDIX B - INSIGHT National Benchmark Measures Summary**

### Introduction

Formally benchmarked educational attainment and achievement data are released at various points throughout the course of each subsequent academic year with an emphasis on the provision, and use of two main sets of comparable INSIGHT data releases, for the purpose of detailed analysis by education authorities and schools.

The second of these releases, the **National Benchmark Measures**, which are reflected in the summary below, offer a post-review (i.e. after completion of the appeals process) evaluation of outcomes from examination diet and end of year achievement assessments of all school leavers undertaking evaluated work aligning with the Scottish Qualifications Framework

This latter release encompasses the attainment and achievement of all school leavers from the prior academic year, referred to as National Benchmarking Measures, subsequent to the December leaving date for those pupils who had not passed the age which enabled them to leave statutory education in the Summer of that year.

### Benchmark Comparability

In the context of data comparisons between year cohorts and education authorities, including the Virtual and National Comparators, there are multiple influences at each level of achievement.

Of these, the profiles and characteristics of each pupil cohort e.g. SIMD status, language skills etc. are amongst the most important determinants of comparative achievement but course availability, presentation policies and course grading changes are also influential.

### Summary

What follows are highlights of key measures and analysis from the March 2025 INSIGHT release, based on three core aspects of the National Improvement Framework themes for Senior Phase: Literacy and Numeracy, Improvement for All and post school Destinations

### **Literacy and Numeracy**

Key Measure: Percentage of leavers who achieve both literacy and numeracy at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

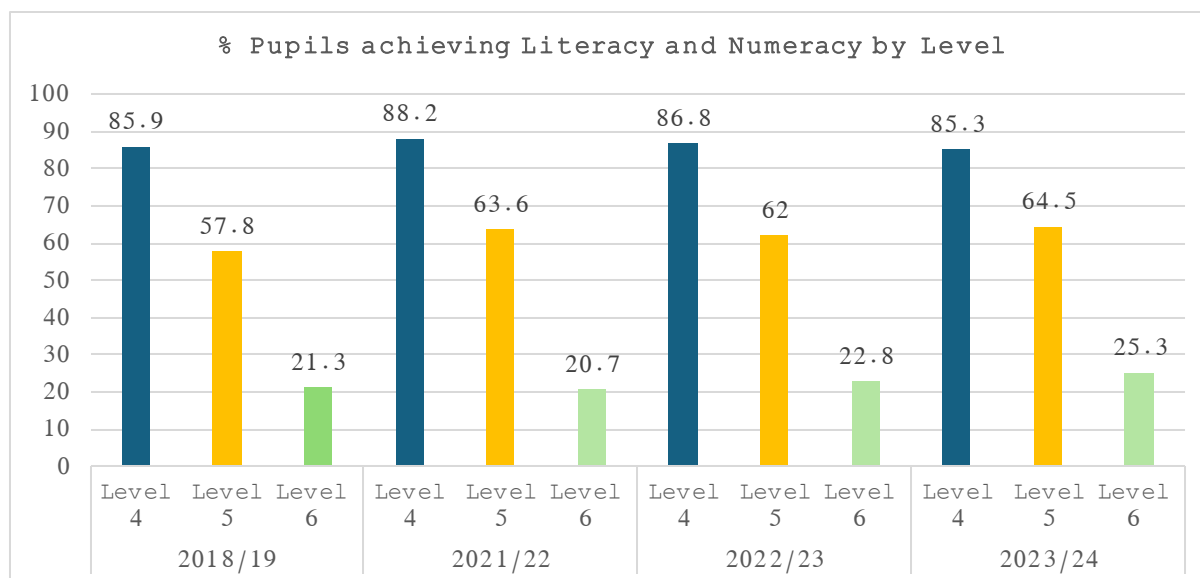
#### Trend Analysis

- 2023/2024 results show an increasing trend in the % of pupils achieving SCQF Levels 5 and 6 with a small reduction in attainment at Level 4.
- The outcomes for Level 6 are the highest recorded over the course of the current qualifications framework, with Level 5 outcomes only being exceeded in

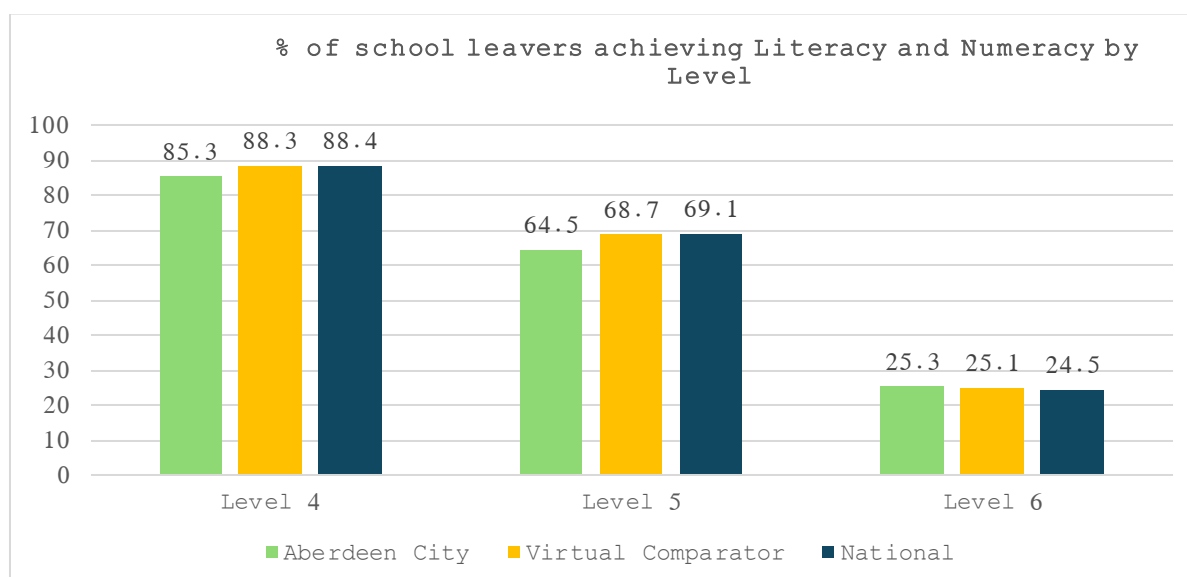
2020/21 where substantive revisions to the assessment framework were in place.

- There is a narrowing of the gap to both the Virtual Comparator (-4.2 p.p) and the National figure (-4.6 p.p) at Level 5 and the City is performing above both comparators at Level 6.
- At Level 4, the distances to both comparators have extended marginally in 2023/24 to -3.1 p.p from -2.4 p.p. (VC) and -2.2 p.p (National) in 2022/23.

**Table 1. Literacy and Numeracy – Aberdeen City**



**Table 2. Literacy and Numeracy – Benchmark Comparators**



## Attainment For All

Key Measure: Average Complementary Tariff Points

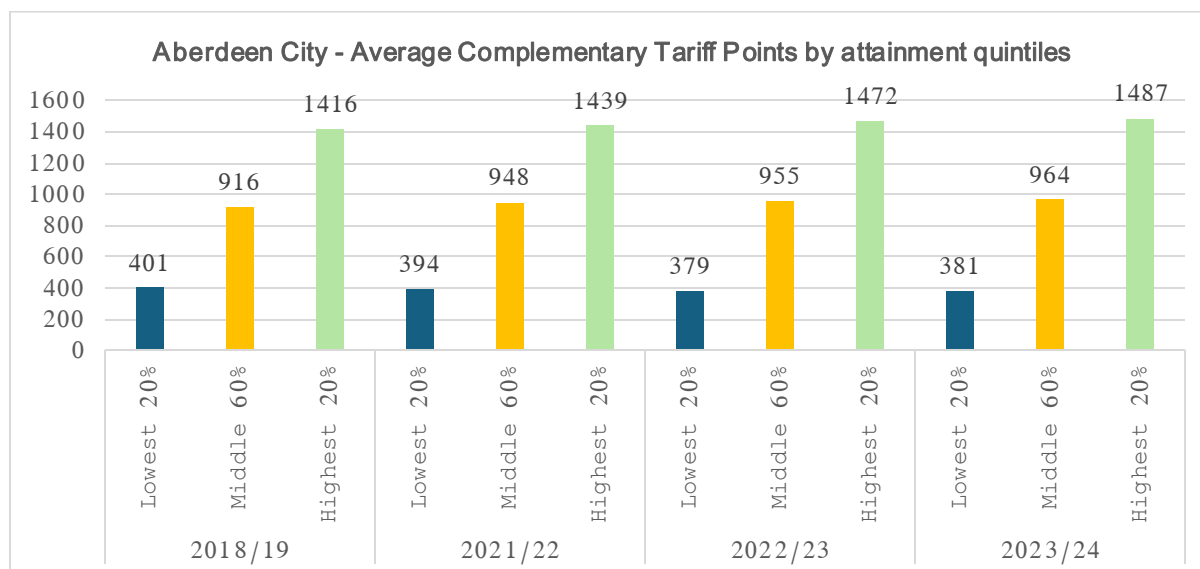
### Trend Analysis:

- The tariff point scoring of both the Middle 60% of candidate attainment and the Highest 20% of attainment among school leavers is higher than in previous comparable years and on a sustained upwards trend.
- Outcomes for candidates in the Lowest 20% of attainment is lower than in most comparable years which is consistent with the National and Virtual Comparator trend.
- Across the percentile quintiles in 2023/24, Aberdeen was generally performing as well as, or better than, its benchmark comparators, with each of the upper quintiles ( M60 and H20) exceeding both comparators for the first time since 2019/20, when the model of assessment was heavily influenced by COVID-19.

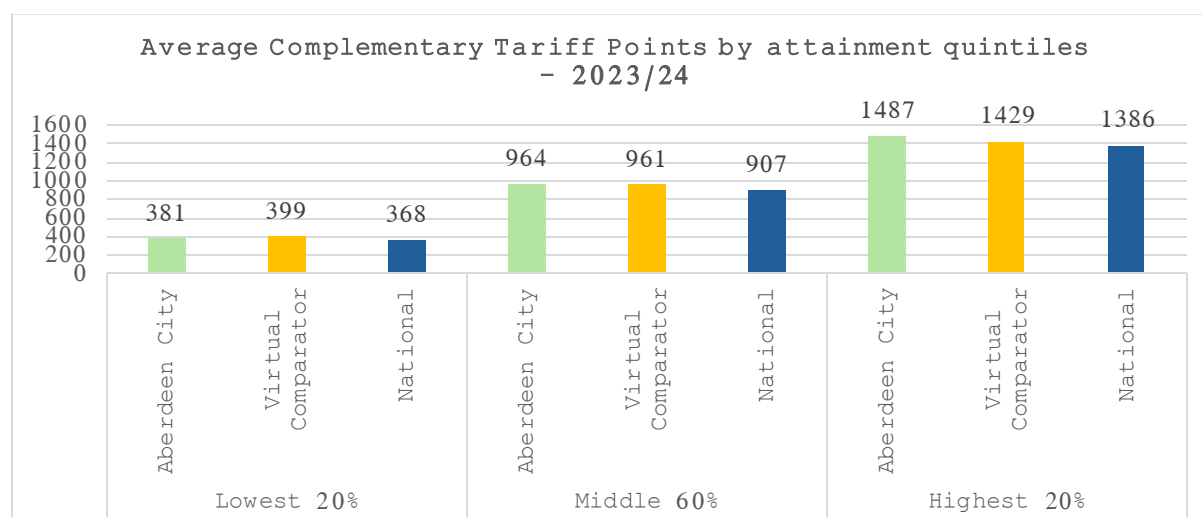
Attainment for All converts learner success in qualifications into *tariff points*, which numerically represents the cumulative attainment of our pupils across the Senior Phase stages. This is presented within INSIGHT by percentile quintiles of candidate attainment that enables comparative analysis of trends across the spectrum of abilities.

The graphs below shows the performance of learners split into the Lower 20 percentile (L20), Middle 60 percentile (M60) and Highest 20 percentile (H20) quintiles of candidate attainment. The charts below outline outcomes for leavers from across all Senior Phase stages.

**Table 3. Average Complementary Tariff Points - Aberdeen City**



**Table 4. Average Complementary Tariff Points – Benchmark Comparators 2023/24**



## Destinations

Key Measure: Percentage of school leavers in a positive destination

Trend Analysis:

- The percentage of Aberdeen City school leavers in a positive destination has remained stable over the course of the timeseries but is lower than that of its benchmark comparators in 2023/24.
- The distance between Aberdeen City and the National comparator has narrowed slightly (-0.5 p.p) in 2023/24 although the gap to the Virtual Comparator has remained unchanged at around -2 p.p since 2021/22.

Table 5. Percentage of school leavers in an Initial Positive Destination - Aberdeen City

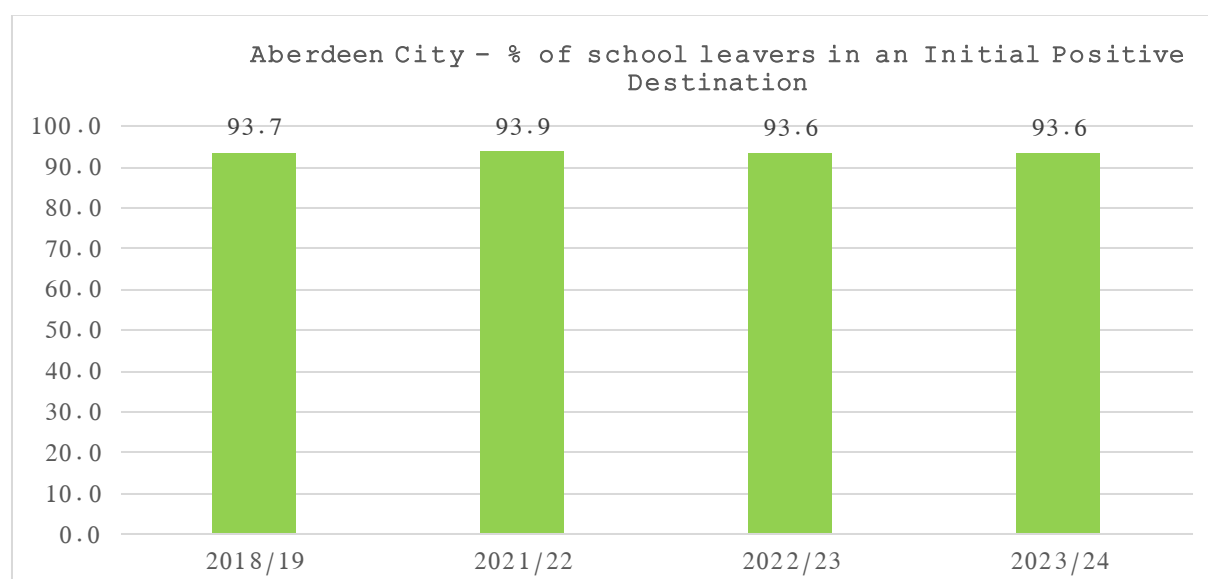


Table 6. Percentage of school leavers in an Initial Positive Destination – Benchmark Comparators 2023/34

