

Regeneration Delivery Group (RDG)

18<sup>th</sup> May 2005

## State of the Neighbourhoods (SON) Education Theme Report

**Organisation:** Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)

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### Purpose

To inform RDG of issues relating to education floortargets raised by analysis of the SON database.

Headlines on the gap and areas of improvement/decline are appended and suggestions are made for groups, organisations and individuals RDG should raise issues with and areas where further research is needed.

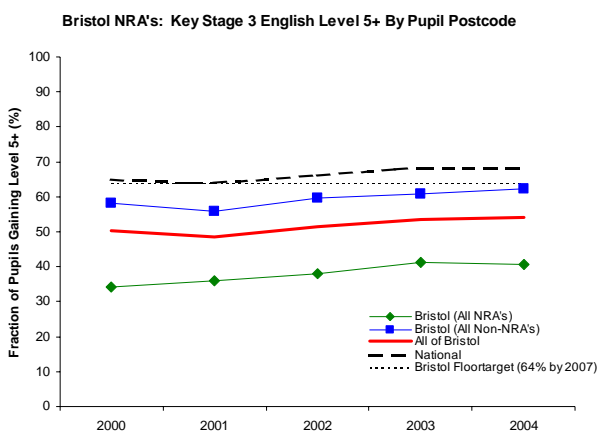
### Recommendations

- 1. Strong evidence suggests that where pupils live influences their educational attainment at key stage 3 and 4 far more than the location of their school. For this reason, efforts need to target pupils living in NR areas and schools need to make greater efforts to target and meet the particular needs of pupils who live in NR areas.*
- 2. Efforts need to target pupils living in a number of areas whose attainment has been consistently low. These areas include: St Pauls; parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood; Southmead; Knowle West and Hillfields (GCSE only).*
- 3. There is a need to understand (and where possible transfer) the relative successes of areas such as St Werburghs and Barton Hill, where attainment has improved considerably.*
- 4. Unauthorised absence needs to be addressed (or explained) for schools in a number of specific areas: St Pauls; Easton & Lawrence Hill; Barton Hill; Hartcliffe & Withywood; Knowle West and Southmead.*
- 5. Further research is needed to understand school-level issues which contribute to low attainment by pupils living in NR areas. These issues include: teacher retention & turnover; bullying; teacher profile (experience); home-school links; and school management (e.g. school governors).*
- 6. Further analysis of SON is required to understand gender and ethnicity differences in attainment, which will enable more effective targeting of NR efforts towards these groups.*

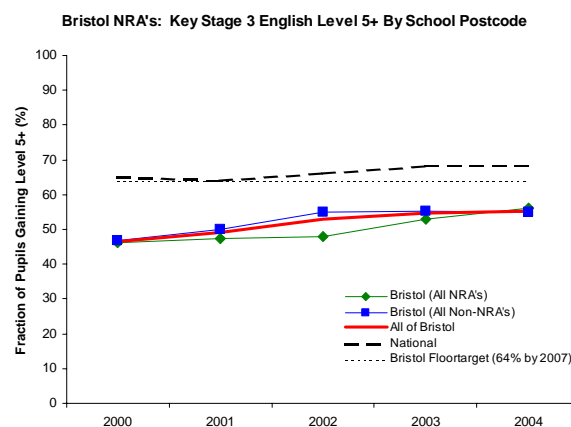
## Evidence

Evidence is summarised and numbered here to correspond with recommendations overleaf.

1. At Key Stages 3 and 4, there is a wide attainment gap between pupils living in NR areas and those living in non-NR areas (Graph 1). This is contrasted with little or no gap between attainment of pupils going to schools in NR areas and those going to schools in non-NR areas (Graph 2).



Graph 1



Graph 2

2. According to recent results (2004), pupils living in the following areas achieve the lowest attainment levels in the city:
  - a) At Key Stage 2, just 40-45% of pupils living in St Pauls and parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood attained level 4+. (*Floortarget: 77% by 2006*)
  - b) At Key Stage 3, just 28-30% of pupils living in St Pauls, parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood and Southmead attained level 5+. (*Floortarget: 64% by 2006*)
  - c) At Key Stage 4, just 11-19% of pupils living in St Pauls, Hillfields, parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood, Knowle West and Southmead attained 5+ A\*-C grade GCSEs. (*Floortarget: 38% by 2004*)
  
3. Various areas have seen significant increases in the attainment of pupils who live there:
  - a) At Key Stage 2, attainment levels of pupils living in Hillfields, parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood and Lawrence Weston have all improved.
  - b) At Key Stage 3, attainment levels of pupils living in Hillfields, parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood, Lockleaze, Knowle West, Easton & Lawrence Hill have all improved.

- c) At Key Stage 4, outstanding numbers of pupils living in St Werburghs (50%) and in Barton Hill (29%) achieved 5+ A\*-C grade GCSEs.<sup>1</sup>
4. Schools in a number of areas record high levels of unauthorised absence. These include: St Pauls (81%); Easton & Lawrence Hill (68%); Barton Hill (60%); parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood (59-65%); Knowle West (56%) and Southmead (50%).
  5. SON does not tell us about specific school-level issues which are considered by ERG to contribute to low attainment.
  6. SON contains gender and ethnicity breakdowns for both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 attainment, which has not yet been analysed.

### **Suggestions of where and with who issues should be raised?**

- BP Education & Learning Delivery Group
- Carrie Pooler & BP Delivery Group Chairs
- Children & Young Peoples Partnership
- Change for Children Board (Helena Thompson)
- BCC Executive Members for Children, Education & SD&SJ
- BCC Party Leaders
- BCC Executive Members for priority areas (see recommendation 2)
- Dave Duggan (GOSW NR lead)
- Regeneration Programme Managers (NR, URBAN, SRB)
- Pauline Marson (LSC – Every Child Matters)
- Keith Harrison (CX Connexions)
- John Palmer (DFES children's services improvement advisor)
- Heather Tomlinson / Paul Taylor / Sally Butler (BCC Education Dir.)
- Chris Stevens (BCC NR Education Lead)
- Ruth Pickersgill (BCC Equalities and Inclusion)
- Pat Gibson (BCC Children's lead)
- Rose Richards / Les Compton (BCC Youth Service)
- Jeanette Veira (BCC Exclusions Officer)
- Paul Patterson (BCC Education Personnel)
- Tony Benjamin / Anne Goymer (Barnardos)
- Kirsty Howie (Children's Fund)
- Voscur & BDA

**Note:** State of the Neighbourhoods (SON) data tables and graphs are now available online at: [www.bristolforward.net/evaluation](http://www.bristolforward.net/evaluation).

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<sup>1</sup> Whilst samples are small (represents between 10-20 pupils in each area) both areas have shown consistent improvement over time.

## Appendix

### SON Education Headlines

The following headlines are based on analysis of the Education data held in the SON<sup>2</sup> database. They include details of the gap, differences between schools and pupil's residency and key priority areas.

#### Key Stage 2

*(Aged 7-11 years 'Juniors')*

- a) Across English & Maths, the average attainment of pupils living in NR areas is 50.2% compared to 71.7% in non-NR areas.
- b) The attainment gap is currently around 21.5%.
- c) Since 2000, whilst widening slightly in both Maths (+3.2%) and English (+2.4%), it has remained fairly constant at around 20%.
- d) The gap between schools in NR areas and schools in non-NR areas is of similar magnitude.
- e) Since 2000, attainment of pupils living in Hillfields, H&W (Teyfant) and Lawrence Weston has improved significantly.
- f) Key priority areas are St Pauls, H&W<sup>3</sup> (Withywood, Whitehouse, Hareclive and Four Acres) where just 40-45% of pupils who live in these areas attained level 4+ at KS2 in 2004.

#### Key Stage 3

*(Aged 11-14 years 'Secondary')*

- a) Across English & Maths, the average attainment of pupils living in NR areas is 43.4% compared to 64.6% in non-NR areas.
- b) The attainment gap is currently around 21.2%.
- c) Since 2000, it has remained constant at around 20%. The gap in Maths is currently slightly narrower (-2.5%) than it was in 2000, whilst the gap in English has remained about the same.
- d) Interestingly, the gap between schools in NR areas and schools in non-NR areas is very small (1.5%).
- e) Since 2000, attainment of pupils living in Hillfields, H&W (Teyfant, Withywood, Four Acres) Lockleaze, Knowle West and Easton & Lawrence Hill has improved significantly.
- f) Key priority areas are St Pauls, H&W (Whitehouse) and Southmead where just 28-30% of pupils who live in these areas attained level 5+ at KS3 in 2004.

<sup>2</sup> SON data can be found online at: [www.bristolforward.net/evaluation](http://www.bristolforward.net/evaluation)

<sup>3</sup> H&W = Hartcliffe & Withywood NR Area

**Key Stage 4 (GCSE)**

*(Aged 14-16 years 'Secondary')*

- a) The average attainment of pupils living in NR areas is 20% compared to 40.5% in non-NR areas.
- b) The attainment gap is currently 20.5%.
- c) Although slightly narrower (-1.2%) than it was in 2000, it has remained fairly constant at around 22% over that period.
- d) Interestingly, the gap between schools in NR areas and non-NR areas has gone from being insignificant (1.7%) in 2000, to being reversed, such that the attainment of schools in NR areas is currently slightly higher (+2.2%) than that of schools in non-NR areas.
- e) Since 2000, attainment of pupils living in St Werburghs and Barton Hill has improved significantly. With a current attainment at 50%, St Werburghs is the only area to have exceeded the floortarget of 38% by 2004.
- f) Key priority areas are St Pauls, Hillfields, H&W (Whitehouse, Hareclive), Knowle West and Southmead where just 11-19% of pupils who live in these areas attained 5+ A-C grade GCSEs in 2004.

**Unauthorised Absence**

*(All age-groups)*

- a) Currently, 44% of pupils attending schools in NR areas have been absent without permission from at least one morning or afternoon session.
- b) Compared with the rate for schools in non-NR areas (13%) the gap currently stands at around 31%. This gap has increased almost 8% since 2000.
- c) Schools where this is a particular problem are located in St Pauls (81%), Easton & Lawrence Hill (68%), Barton Hill (60%), H&W (Four Acres (65%), Hareclive (60%), Teyfant (59%)), Knowle West (56%) and Southmead (50%).