

Education & Lifelong Learning

Scottish Attainment Challenge - Senior Phase Performance Dashboard

Strategic Planning Context

As outlined in the Angus Education Plan 2022-27 (AEP), a key driver of work for Education and Lifelong Learning (ELL) is the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC). The mission of the SAC is:

"to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty related attainment gap."

Approximately 6,500 young people attend the 8 secondary schools in Angus. Our information systems allow us to analyse attainment and achievement data against a range of demographic markers, including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and free school meal eligibility. We use this information to build a broad picture of how all our learners achieve and participate in school, including those potentially impacted by poverty. SIMD provides a postcode-based analysis of deprivation levels across all Scottish local authorities. SIMD has been adopted by the Scottish Government as the main demographic marker for tracking national progress towards closing the poverty related attainment gap, focusing on attainment in SIMD Quintile 1 (Q1, most deprived) and Quintile 5 (Q5, least deprived). In Angus, most children and young people live in SIMD quintiles 2-4, neither our most or least deprived areas. There are varying levels of poverty experienced by people living within all quintiles. Therefore, we also analyse data against free school meal and school clothing grant eligibility, to give a more complete picture of which learners may be most impacted by poverty.

Another important national driver is The Promise. We know that our care-experienced children and young people achieve fewer positive outcomes overall. We are committed to supporting our care-experienced learners to achieve the best outcomes for their individual circumstances. Where possible, we present attainment data in this dashboard for those with care-experience although would note that this group represents less than 2% of our overall school population.

At a local level, the work of ELL is closely aligned to priorities in the Angus Community Plan 2022-30 and the Angus Council Plan 2023-28.

Dashboard Content

The measures reported in the following charts set out our performance against:

- The national core measures set by Scottish Government as part of the 2022-23 Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress.
- Locally agreed "core plus" measures, which have been identified to give a broad picture of attainment across Angus.

Some caution is needed when interpreting data for young people in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5, those with care-experience, and those entitled to free school meals due to the relatively small numbers in each cohort.

In addition, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic should be considered when considering performance across the time period covered in this report. Data for 2019/20 and 2020/21 is affected due to the cancellation of exams and the use of an Alternative Certification Model. Without further evidence, any changes between the attainment levels of the 2020/21 cohort, the 2019/20 cohort and those of previous years should not be seen as an indication that performance has improved or worsened. Data is included for 2018-19 as a point of comparison to pre-pandemic procedures.

The following standard Education Scotland terms of quantity are used in this dashboard:

All - 100%

Almost all - 91%-99%

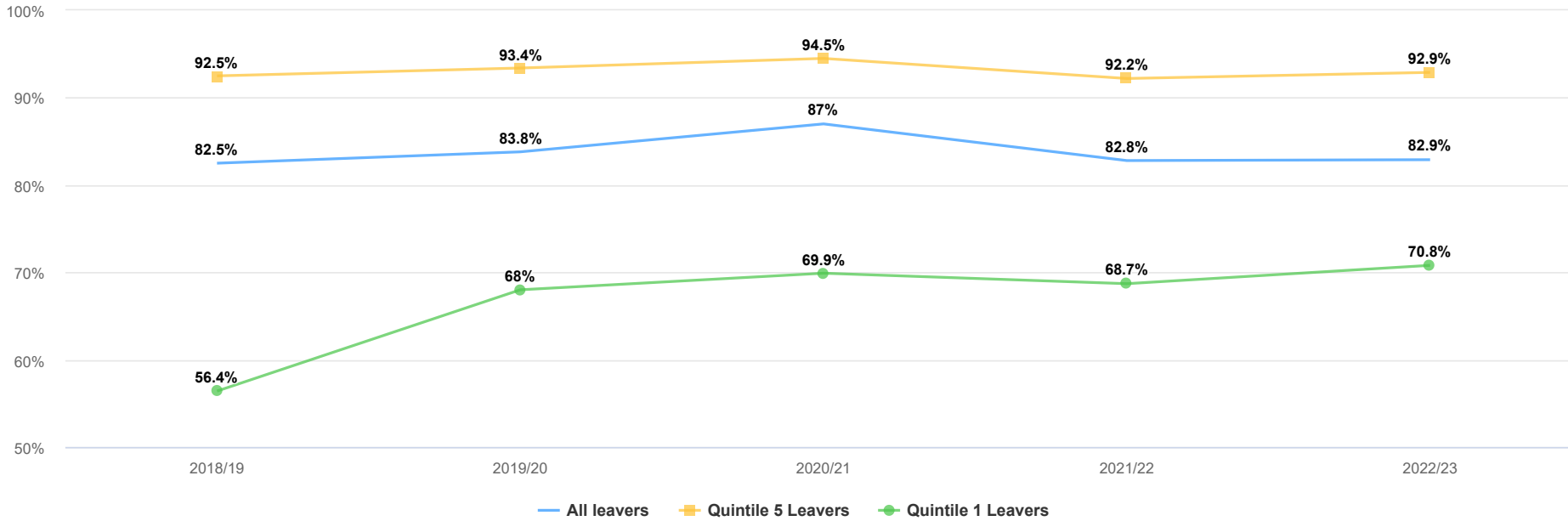
Most - 75%-90%

Majority - 50%-74%

Minority/less than half - 15%-49%

A few - less than 15%

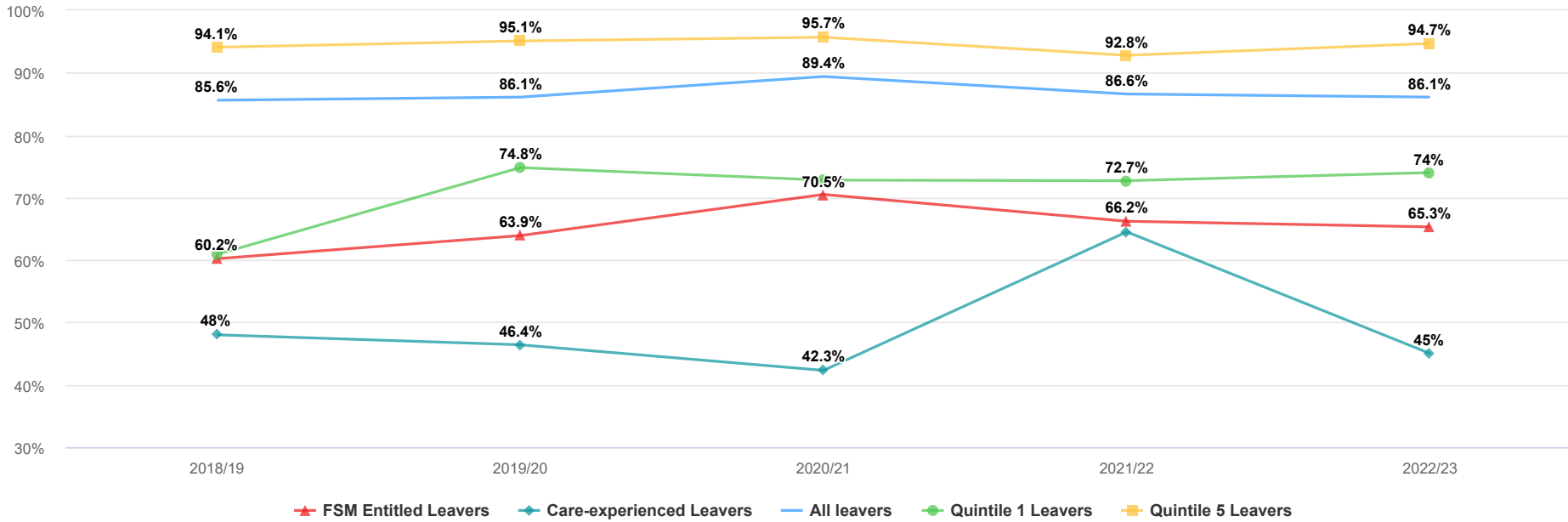
1+ Award at SQA National Level 5 (A-C) (Core Measure 2022-23)



In 2022-23 all Scottish local authorities were asked to identify their 'stretch aim' target for the percentage of school leavers achieving one or more awards at SQA Level 5 (Grades A-C). The data reported for this measure is taken from the 2023 Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations publication. A breakdown for care-experienced school leavers and those entitled to free school meals is not available for this measure.

In 2022-23 most school leavers achieved 1 or more award at Level 5 (SQA National). There was an improvement of 0.1 percentage points (pp) compared to the previous year, but Angus Council did not achieve its stretch aim of 88.0%. It should be noted that the stretch aims were required to be set against 2020-21 baseline data, which was the second year of the Alternative Certification Model. In 2022-23 the attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 reduced to 22.1pp. In 2021-22 the gap was 23.5pp. Achievement was better than the stretch aim target of 24.1pp, which was set based on 2020-21 performance. When compared over a five-year period, achievement in 2022-23 is broadly in line with pre-pandemic attainment.

1+ Award at SCQF Level 5 (Core Measure from 2023-24)



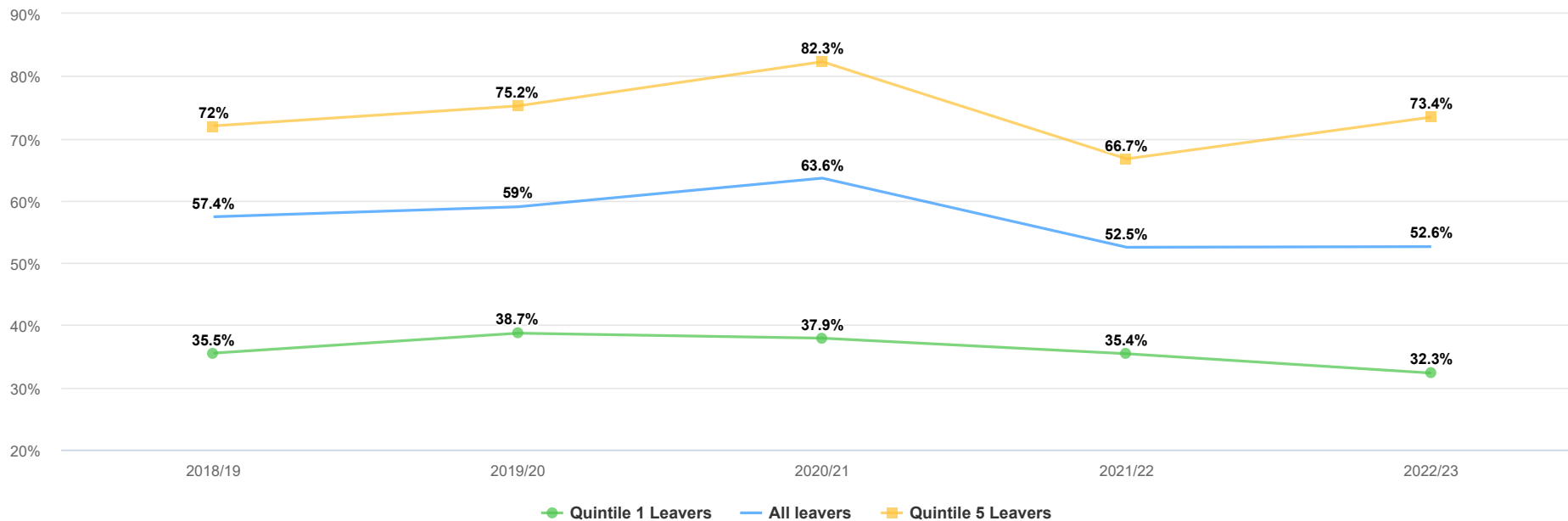
In 2023 the Scottish Government confirmed that the stretch aim measure for Level 5 attainment would change from recording SQA National (as published in the Summary Statistics) to all awards on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF, as published in Insight). This change is an acknowledgement of the importance of including all accredited qualifications and learning pathways when making an overall assessment of achievement. Angus Council's stretch aims for 2023-24 onward reflect the updated measure.

The latest Insight update was published in February 2024. In 2022-23 most school leavers achieved one or more awards at Level 5 (all SCQF). There was a decrease of 0.5pp compared to the previous year, ensuring that performance is within the range of the stretch aim target for 2023-24. In 2022-23 the attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased by 0.6pp, again within the stretch aim target for 2023-24.

The majority of school leavers entitled to free school meals achieved one or more award at Level 5 in 2022-23. Although a decrease of 0.9pp compared to the previous year, performance for this measure is a 5.1pp improvement compared to pre-pandemic achievement in 2018-19. Less than half of our 20 care-experienced school leavers achieved this measure in 2022-23. This is a decrease of 19.5pp compared to the previous year, however consideration should be made of the small cohort size.

Insight allows all data to be compared to a Virtual Comparator (VC) cohort of statistically similar learners to those in Angus. For this measure, attainment for all leavers, those in SIMD Q1 and in SIMD Q5 was better than the VC. Attainment for care-experienced school leavers and those entitled to free school meals was below the VC.

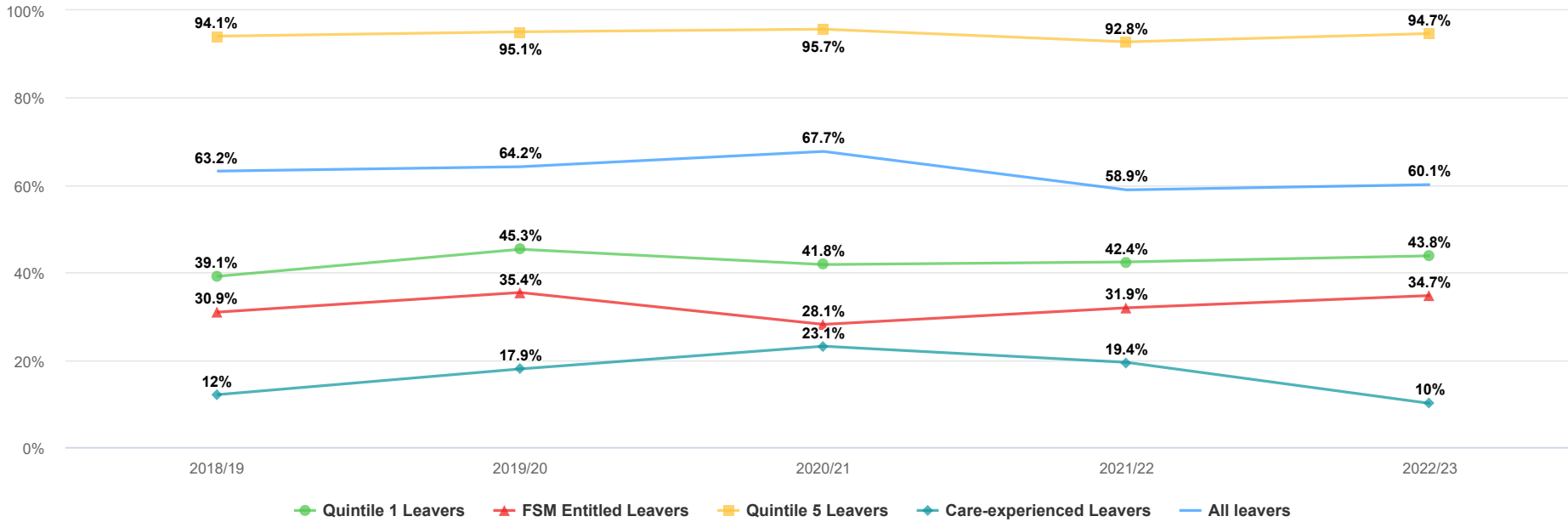
1+ Award at SQA National Level 6 (A-C) (Core Measure 2022-23)



In 2022-23 all Scottish local authorities were asked to identify their 'stretch aim' target for the percentage of school leavers achieving one or more awards at SQA Level 6 (Grades A-C). The data reported for this measure is taken from the 2023 Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations publication. A breakdown for care-experienced leavers and those entitled to free school meals is not available for this measure.

In 2022-23 the majority of school leavers achieved 1 or more awards at Level 6 (SQA National). There was an improvement of 0.1 percentage points (pp) compared to the previous year. Angus Council did not achieve its stretch aim of 65.0%. As above, it should be noted that the stretch aims were required to be set against 2020-21 baseline data, which was the second year of the Alternative Certification Model. In 2022-23 the attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased from 31.3pp in 2021-22 to 41.1pp. Although not an improvement, performance was better than the stretch aim target of 43.5pp. When compared over a five-year period, achievement for all leavers and those in Q1 in 2022-23 remains below pre-pandemic levels.

1+ Award at SCQF Level 6 (Core Measure from 2023-24)



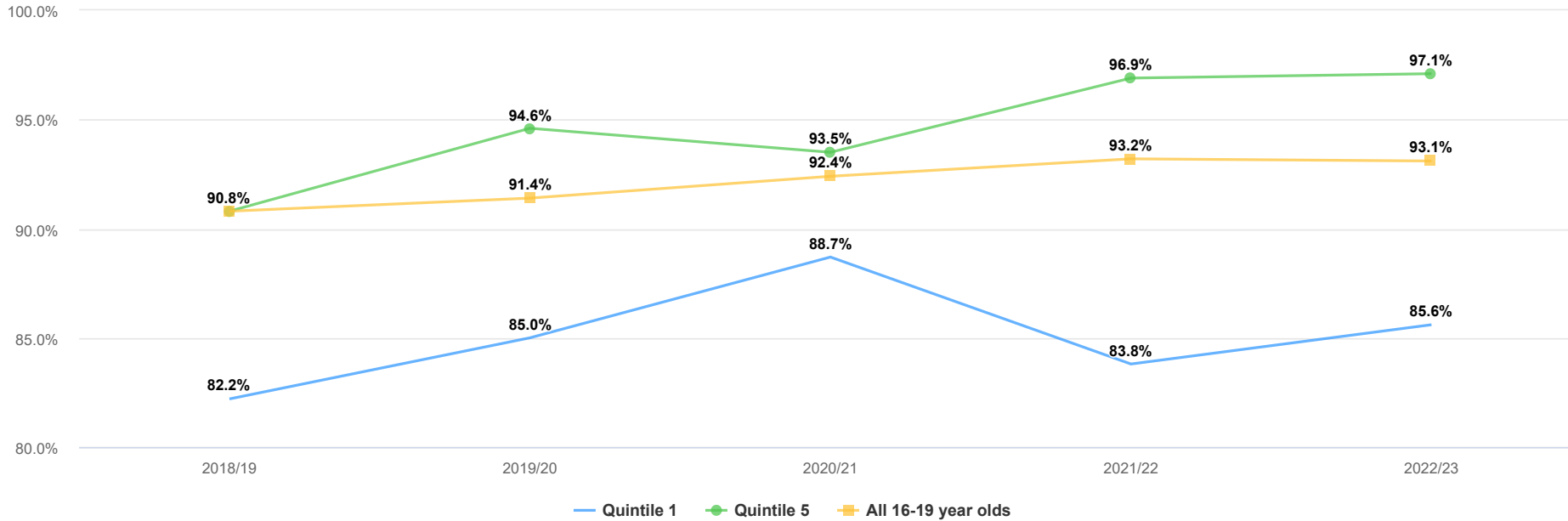
In 2023 the Scottish Government confirmed that the stretch aim measure for Level 6 attainment would also change from recording SQA National (as published in the Summary Statistics) to all SCQF (as published in Insight). Angus Council's stretch aims for 2023-24 onward reflect the updated measure.

The latest Insight update was published in February 2024. In 2022-23 the majority of school leavers achieved one or more awards at Level 6 (all SCQF). There was a decrease of 0.5pp compared to the previous year, performance is within the range of the stretch aim target for 2023-24. In 2022-23 the attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased by 0.6pp, but also remains slightly ahead of the stretch aim target for 2023-24.

A minority of leavers entitled to free school meals achieved this measure in 2022-23, an improvement of 2.8pp compared to the previous year. Achievement for this cohort improved on pre-pandemic levels by 3.8pp. A few of our care-experienced school leavers achieved this measure in 2022-23. This is a decrease of 9.4pp compared to the previous year. Half of our care-experienced cohort left school in S4 in 2022-23. Level 6 qualifications are typically achieved in S5 or S6.

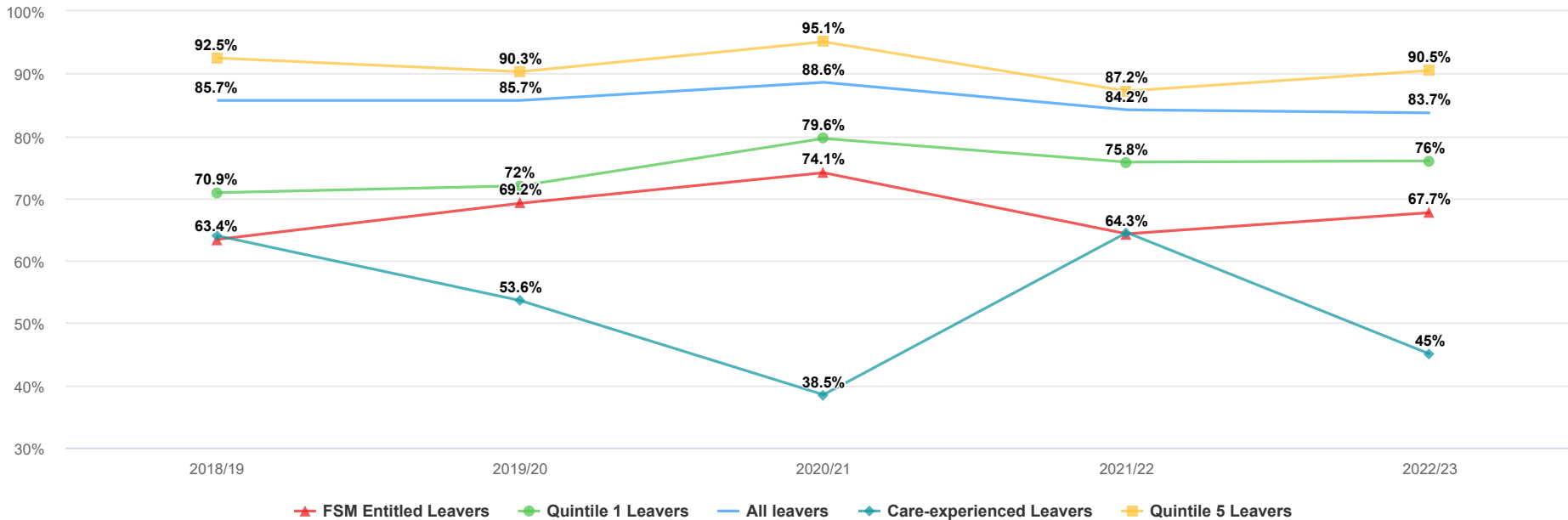
For this measure, attainment for all leavers, those in SIMD Q1 and in SIMD Q5 was better than the VC. Attainment for care-experienced school leavers and those entitled to free school meals was below the VC.

Annual Participation Measure 16-19 Year Olds (Core Measure)



2022-23 performance for this measure was reported to Children and Learning Committee in September 2023. The 2023-24 data for this measure will be reported to Family, Education and Justice Committee in September 2024.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 3 (Core Plus Measure)

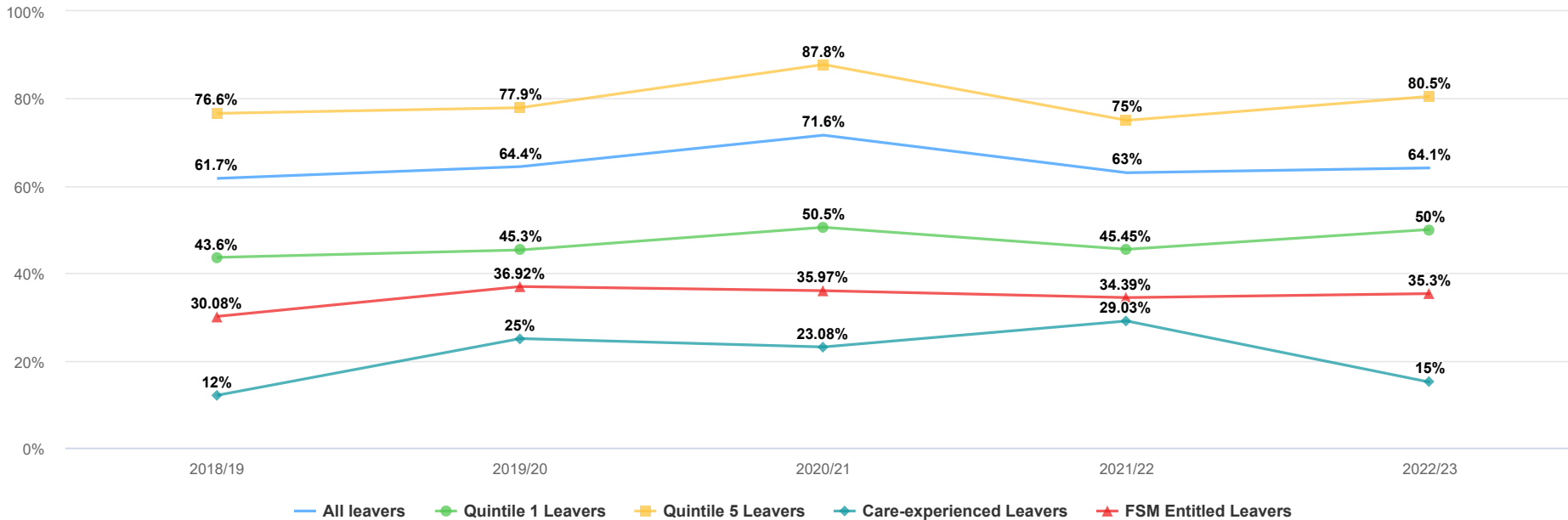


The February 2024 update to Insight shows that most school leavers achieved five or more awards at Level 3 (all SCQF) in 2022-23. This was a decrease of 0.5pp compared to the previous year. The attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased by 3.1pp in 2022-23 but is narrower than in the last pre-pandemic year.

A majority of leavers entitled to free school meals achieved this measure in 2022-23, an improvement of 3.4pp compared to the previous year. Performance is also currently exceeding pre-pandemic achievement for this cohort of leavers. A minority of care-experienced school leavers achieved this measure in 2022-23, a decrease of 19.5pp. The small number of young people in this cohort partially accounts for the jagged profile seen on the chart.

For this measure, attainment for leavers living in SIMD Q1 was better than the VC. Attainment for all leavers, those living in SIMD Q5, care-experienced school leavers and those entitled to free school meals was below the VC.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 5 (Core Plus Measure)

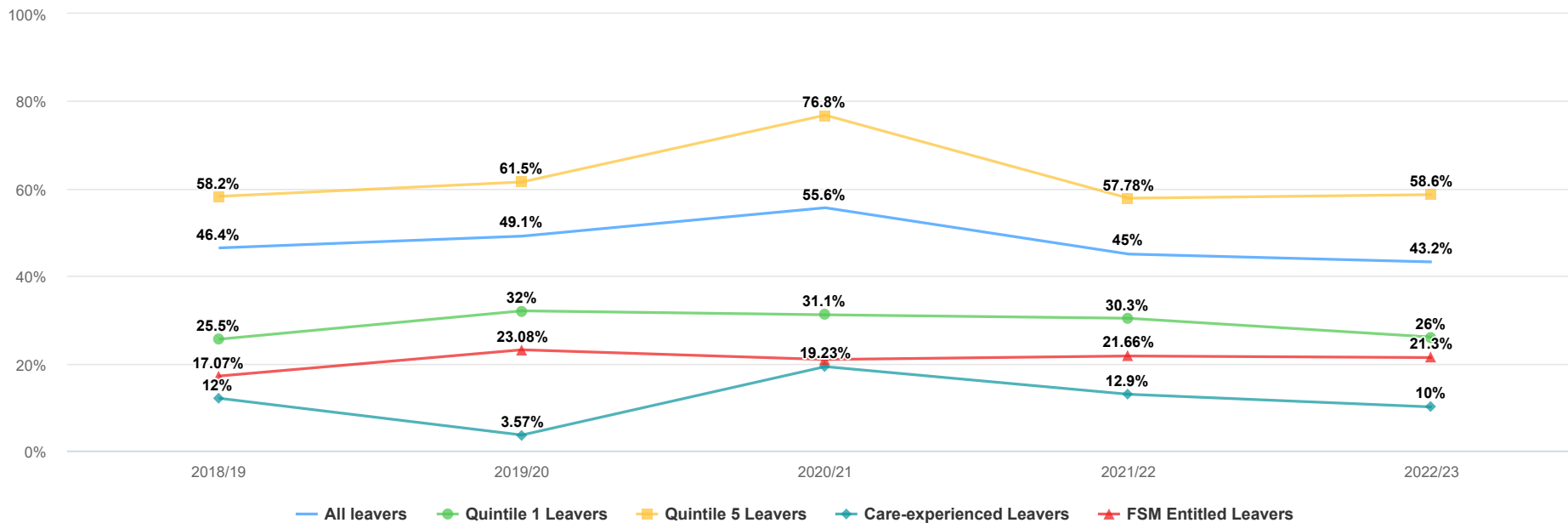


The February 2024 update to Insight shows that a majority of school leavers achieved five or more awards at Level 5 (all SCQF) in 2022-23. This was an increase of 1.1pp compared to the previous year. The attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased by 0.9pp in 2022-23 but is narrower than in the last pre-pandemic year.

A minority of leavers entitled to free school meals achieved this measure in 2022-23, an improvement of 0.9pp compared to the previous year. Performance is also currently exceeding pre-pandemic achievement for this cohort of leavers. A minority of care-experienced school leavers achieved this measure in 2022-23, a decrease of 14pp.

For this measure, attainment for all leavers, those living in SIMD Q1 and those living in SIMD Q5 was better than the VC. Attainment for care-experienced school leavers and those entitled to free school meals was below the VC.

3+ Awards at SCQF Level 6 (Core Plus Measure)

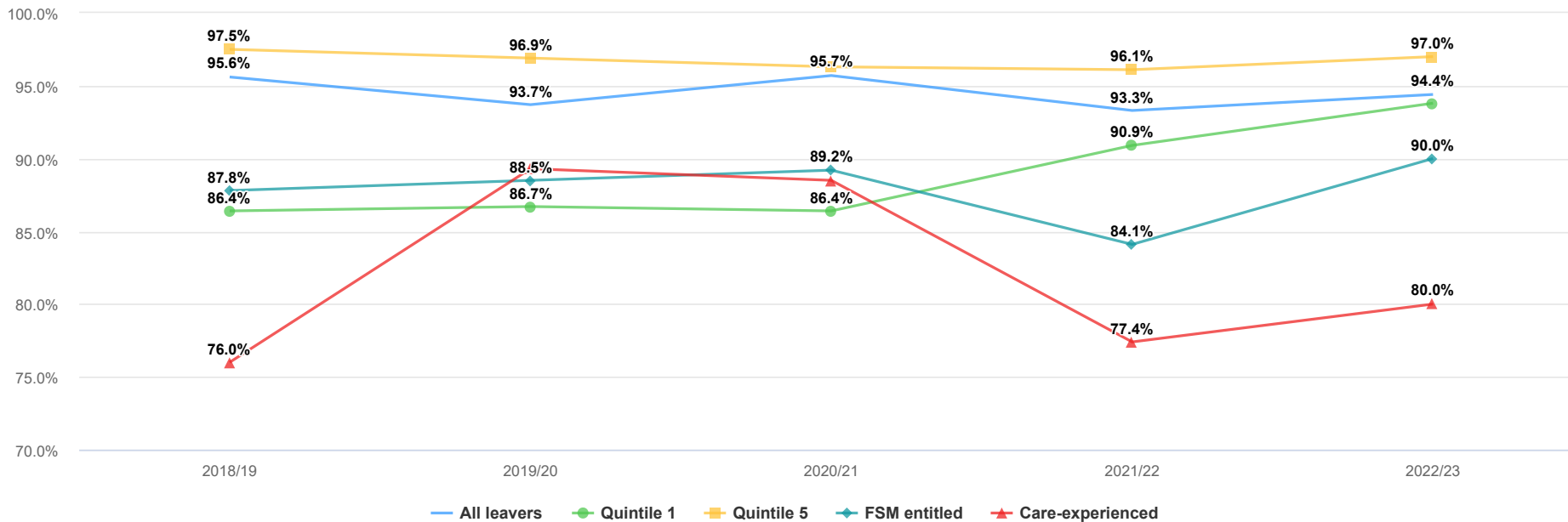


The February 2024 update to Insight shows that a minority of school leavers achieved three or more awards at Level 6 (all SCQF) in 2022-23. This was a decrease of 1.8pp compared to the previous year. The attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 increased by 5.1pp in 2022-23 and is 0.1pp narrower than in the last pre-pandemic year.

A minority of leavers entitled to free school meals achieved this measure in 2022-23, a decrease of 0.3pp compared to the previous year. Performance is also currently exceeding pre-pandemic achievement for this cohort of leavers. A few care-experienced school leavers achieved this measure in 2022-23, a decrease of 2.9pp. As noted above, half of care-experienced leavers left school after S4, limiting the likelihood of achieving this measure.

For this measure, attainment for all cohorts of school leavers was below the VC.

Initial School Leaver Positive Destinations (Core Plus Measure)



The February 2024 update to Insight shows that almost all school leavers were in an initial positive destination three months after leaving school. This was an improvement of 1.1pp compared to the previous year. The attainment gap between SIMD Q1 and Q5 decreased by 2.0pp in 2022-23 and is 7.9pp narrower than in the last pre-pandemic year.

Most leavers entitled to free school meals were in an initial positive destination in 2022-23, an increase of 5.9pp compared to the previous year. Performance is also currently exceeding pre-pandemic achievement for this cohort of leavers. Most care-experienced school leavers were in an initial positive destination in 2022-23, an increase of 2.6pp compared to the previous year, and exceeding pre-pandemic levels of achievement.

For this measure, achievement for school leavers in SIMD Q1 was better than the VC. All other cohorts were below the VC.