

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 4 June 2014

Subject: Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report updates Members on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Educational Service Committee is recommended to:
- (a) note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire; and
 - (b) to note that a further update will be submitted to the Committee at its September 2014 meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire was agreed by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee (now known as the Educational Services Committee) in September 2011. A further recommendation was agreed that a report on progress with the implementation of the Strategy should be presented to every Education and Lifelong Learning Committee (now known as the Educational Services Committee) as a standing item. This is the twelfth such update.

4. Main Issues

Raising Attainment Plans

- 4.1** The progress updates for each school are attached as appendices 1 to 5. Members will note in the "next steps" sections that each school continues to review their plans and to build on previous successful strategies.

Underachievement of Boys

- 4.2** It was reported to Committee in March 2014 that we require to explore in more depth the underachievement of boys.

The Service Manager for Education Development has convened a working group to progress this action. A group of 18 staff from 5 secondaries discussed the apparent imbalance in attainment by gender between our denominational and non-denominational schools. A list of possible contributing factors was drawn up. Smaller groups will study some of these factors in more depth and report back to the main group to agree next steps. The groups will consider:

- Boys' motivation
- GL Assessment Data
- Boys' choice of subjects and where subjects appear in option columns
- Setting mechanisms
- Support mechanisms – do they favour girls?
- Pupil time management out of school
- When do boys start to catch up?
- Engagement issues

Raising Attainment Teachers

- 4.3** The Raising Attainment Teachers meet with officers between each meeting of the Educational Services Committee.
- 4.4** At the last meeting of the Raising Attainment Teachers they had a development session to consider the GL Assessment data from their associated primaries. They were each provided with data as a basis for further consideration to prepare for S1 intake.

Raising Attainment Teachers

Masterclasses

- 4.5** The Masterclass Easter programme was based this year in Clydebank High School and Our Lady & St Patrick's High School to enable access at each end of West Dunbartonshire Council. Members will note the evaluations at Appendix 6.

Transition Summer School

- 4.6** Members have asked Educational Services to organise a summer school for pupils transferring to secondary school in the summer. The plans for this year's programme will take account of feedback received from last session. Analysis of local and national assessment data highlights a need to improve attainment in maths. To support raised attainment an opportunity to revise, learn and apply knowledge plus skills in maths will be provided for a group of children whose attainment falls just below the authority average. The programme will consist of small group direct teaching of maths concepts and processes combined with workshops where the young people will apply their knowledge in more challenging problem solving contexts. Programme content will link with the first year maths curriculum and from a survey of the areas in maths the young people find most challenging.

The programme will be delivered by a group of experienced upper primary and first year teachers for four days towards the end of the summer holidays. The sessions will take place in the five secondary schools.

School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP)

- 4.7** The SIPP is a national initiative aimed at raising attainment. The partnership project is being co-ordinated by West Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with Glasgow University and Education Scotland. Eight primaries from West Dunbartonshire have formed partnerships with five primaries from Renfrew. The participating schools from WDC are those with the highest SIMD decile: Edinbarnet, St Joseph's, Linnvale, Whitecrook, Renton, Haldane, Ladyton and St Michael's. Three project teams have been formed. The focus for enquiry is raised attainment in literacy and numeracy. Each team will engage in collaborative enquiry to identify successful strategies to raise attainment at the P3, P4, and P5 stage. The findings from their enquiry will be used to inform national policy and the educational services raising attainment strategy. The project aims to improve standards in teaching and learning, involvement of parents as partners, performance of schools through high quality leadership. Each school has involved the school leaders and one or two class teachers from the P3-P5 stage. In collaboration with the university each team selected an area for improvement and has planned mini research projects to identify effective processes. The projects involve sharing knowledge and expertise between WDC and Renfrew through gathering baseline attainment information, professional dialogue, learning observations, professional reading, questionnaires and surveys. Interventions identified as successful at raising attainment will be trialled and evaluated. Staff have attended a number of training events to support them in the planning and delivery of their projects. The WDC staff have jointly planned and delivered lessons in our 8 participating schools to build the confidence of staff to work in classes and schools apart from their own. Joint visits between staff from Renfrew and WDC are being conducted between April and June.

GL Assessment

- 4.8** The standardised assessments in reading and numeracy have now been completed for P3, P5, P7 and S2 pupils. The results have been returned for this session and analysis is underway. The findings will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The seconded Raising Attainment teachers will remain in post for the academic session 2014/2015. Opportunities for professional development will continue for this team to reflect particular issues as we go forward.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The costs of activities relating to the Raising Attainment Strategy are met from existing Service budgets.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Failure to implement an authority-wide strategy to raise attainment will disadvantage our young people and may become a reputational risk to the Council.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** Educational services has carried out a screening in equality for this report. The report was found not to be relevant to the specified equality duty because the content provides an update on service delivery rather than stating a change in policy.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** This report reflects the Council's aspiration to improve life chances for children and young people which is one of the strategic priorities for 2012 - 2017.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1	Update from Clydebank High
Appendix 2	Update from Dumbarton Academy
Appendix 3	Update from Our Lady and St Patrick's High
Appendix 4	Update from St Peter the Apostle High
Appendix 5	Update from Vale of Leven Academy
Appendix 6	Masterclass Evaluation

Background Papers: EIA Screening

Wards Affected: All wards