

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 10 March 2010

Subject: Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide members with a copy of the Implementation Plan for Curriculum for Excellence which details the actions taken and planned to address the priorities agreed by establishments and staff across Educational Services.

2. Background

- 2.1** The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is planned to begin in August 2010. The programme describes the curriculum and assessment for children and young people from 3-18. The development of this programme has been in discussion and consultation for a number of years but the main documents for planning curriculum changes have been published in the last 18 months.
- 2.2** Building the Curriculum 3 was published late in 2008 and described the curriculum framework and the entitlements for all children and young people.
- 2.3** Building the Curriculum 4 was published early in 2009 and described the development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.
- 2.4** The curriculum outcomes and experiences were published in June 2009 and all teachers received a copy of all of the curriculum descriptors for every level of attainment.
- 2.5** Building the Curriculum 5 was published in January 2010 and described the assessment framework providing advice on aligning curriculum, learning and teaching and assessment.
- 2.6** Two extra in-service days were given to councils in 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to support the publication of Building the Curriculum 3 and the curriculum outcomes and experiences. A third In-service day is planned for 2010/2011.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** All educational services staff took part in similar in-service activities on the two extra days provided and provided feedback on the issues that they felt needed to be addressed.
- 3.2** The five priorities and the subheadings in the Implementation Plan are the result of that feedback.

- 3.3 The plan has been produced in consultation with the Curriculum for Excellence Steering Group and shared with senior officers across Educational Services.
- 3.4 The Curriculum for Excellence Steering Group is the strategic support and challenge forum for directing development. There is no elected member representation on this group at present. However, members are asked to consider whether they wish to be represented on the group.
- 3.5 The actions within the plan are all high level statements. Establishments and services will relate the high level statements to the actions at operational level when developing their own implementation plans.
- 3.6 A number of establishments across the council are involved in developing exemplar materials for the National Assessment Resource (NAR). The materials produced will be part of over 100 examples available from April 2010 and become part of the final NAR in September 2010.
- 3.7 A programme of staff training will be required to enable the moderation of assessment to be delivered in session 2010/2011. A council model for the moderation of assessment will require to be developed to collect council data for the tracking and monitoring of attainment.
- 3.8 A further In-service day for 2009/2010 has been provided to councils for development work in assessment before the end of June 2010.
- 3.9 National guidance has yet to be produced to describe the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence (i.e. S4-S6) and the new national qualifications which will build on the development of the curriculum from August 2010.
- 3.10 The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and amended, if required, when further guidance is made available.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 Establishments involved in the production of NAR materials require to make use of supply cover to enable their staff to be released to undertake the development work. Cover costs are being met by Learning & Teaching Scotland.
- 4.2 Assessment co-ordinators will be required at establishment and council level to contribute to local and national meetings. Cover costs will be met by Learning & Teaching Scotland.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Delegated department and establishment budgets will deliver a large part of the actions within the Implementation Plan.

- 5.2** The newly published Assessment Framework requires a high level of staff training and development. National funding to support these developments has yet to be agreed and may require additional staff to be appointed to meet the initial establishment of the programme. Recurring costs for the maintenance of the programme have yet to be agreed at national level.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The Implementation Plan has been aligned to the national implementation timelines. Development activities across the council will be expected to work to this timeline to ensure that the curriculum for children and young people meets the national outcomes. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) will inspect establishments from August 2010 against the national outcomes.
- 6.2** National financial support will be required to enable the moderation of assessment in all curriculum areas to be delivered.
- 6.3** The release of staff to undertake moderation will have to be carefully managed to prevent disruption to teaching and learning for pupils while ensuring standards are being met.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

8. Conclusions and Officer's Recommendations

- 8.1** The Implementation Plan will be monitored regularly and reviewed when new Curriculum for Excellence guidance is published.
- 8.2** The Committee is invited:
- (a) to note the contents of this report;
 - (b) to agree to elected member representation on the Curriculum for Excellence Steering Group and to nominate the appropriate member(s); and
 - (c) to request a progress report to committee in June 2011.

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Background Paper: Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Plan

Wards Affected: All wards