

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and Director of the Community Health & Care Partnership**

**Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 September 2011**

---

**Subject: West Dunbartonshire Council - Relationships, Sexual Health and  
Parenthood Education Policy (May 2011)**

#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to outline the purpose of the attached Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHPE) policy for West Dunbartonshire, and to ask the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee to endorse the implementation of that policy.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** In terms of sexual health outcomes the picture across Scotland demonstrates that the number of people who experience sexual ill-health and poor relationships is increasing. Over a number of years, the Scottish Government has developed policy and guidance with the purpose of challenging this trend. The McCabe Report (2000) was a key document in that it set sex and relationship education in the context of 'respectful stable relationships' and 'healthy lifestyles'. The subsequent sexual health strategy - Respect and Responsibility (2005) built on the principles of the McCabe Report, aiming to further support everyone in Scotland to acquire and maintain the knowledge, skills and values necessary for good sexual health and wellbeing.
- 2.2** The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007, states that health and wellbeing should have a central and continuing focus within education. This was reinforced with the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence, where health and wellbeing experiences and outcomes feature across the curriculum as part of a holistic approach to education in Scotland.
- 2.3** In relation to the promotion of positive and properly informed sexual health, both of the above encourage the development and implementation of a correspondingly evidence-based 'whole school approach' to RSHPE. Specifically, schools are expected to work with parents/guardians to provide children and young people with appropriate opportunities to develop skills and knowledge that in turn can enable healthy decisions to be made on all issues in relation to sexual health.
- 2.4** The West Dunbartonshire Sexual Health Strategy Group is responsible for leading and overseeing the local implementation of the national Respect and Responsibility agenda. This Strategy Group is jointly-chaired by the Community Health & Care Partnership (CHCP) and West Dunbartonshire Council's Educational Services Department, reporting to the Scottish

Government through NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's (NHSGGC) Sexual Health Planning and Implementation Group.

- 2.5** The Council's existing Sexual Health Policy was published in early 2005, and required to be updated in order to reflect national policy developments and recent legislation. A key workstream taken forward by the Sexual Health Strategy Group over the past 12 months has been to devise and consult upon a local RSPHE policy (attached as Appendix 1). The completion of this policy is an action within the approved CHCP Strategic Plan 2011/12, and it is being presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee for endorsement. The policy is also being presented in parallel to the WDC CHCP Committee for approval.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The policy outlines the key principles for effective learning and teaching in this area in order to support all children and young people in the acquisition of appropriate knowledge, skills and values necessary for sexual wellbeing. It aims to improve communication on relationships and sexual health between schools, young people and parents/carers.
- 3.2** The new policy provides a framework for the delivery of high quality programmes for RSHPE within West Dunbartonshire. In addition the policy provides clear guidance and responsibilities around RSHPE for head teachers, schools, children and young people, parents and carers, CHCP and West Dunbartonshire Council staff as well as the role of external agencies.
- 3.3** The revised RSHPE policy has been subject to comprehensive local consultation, including engagement with the Parent Council Steering Group. The overall comments from the consultation have been positive with the clear guidance within the policy being explicitly welcomed.

### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** There are no specific personnel issues associated with this report.
- 4.2** In addition to developing the new policy, the Sexual Health Strategy Group recognised the need to develop and deliver a parallel and reinforcing RSHPE training programme for staff across both primary and secondary schools. Consequently, a training needs analysis of local schools was completed and a RSHPE training programme was developed to meet any identified needs. NHSGGC Sexual Health Team was then tasked with delivering a two day training programme to secondary school staff and a one day training programme to primary school staff.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1 Failure to develop a comprehensive policy on school health, relationships and parenthood education could have a negative impact on the sexual health of young people in West Dunbartonshire.

## **7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report. A more comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) undertaken on the policy provided reassurance that the positive aim of the policy explicitly supported and reflected the CHCP's responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010.

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

- 8.1 The provision of effective, high quality education on relationships, sexual health and parenthood is an important aspect of the delivery of a high quality, fit for purpose education service. A well educated population will also contribute to future social and economic wellbeing.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee endorse the policy; approve implementation planned for the new school year autumn 2011; and commend the CHCP, WDC and NHSGGC staff who have both devised this policy and continue to progress this important agenda.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee notes the contents of this report and Appendix 1.

---

Keith Redpath  
Director of the Community Health  
& Care Partnership  
Date:

---

Terry Lanagan  
Executive Director of Educational  
Services  
Date:

**Person to Contact:** Mr Soumen Sengupta  
Head of Strategy, Planning and Health Improvement  
West Dunbartonshire Community Health & Care  
Partnership, West Dunbartonshire Council HQ, Garshake  
Road, Dumbarton.  
E-mail: [soumen.sengupta@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:soumen.sengupta@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 01389 737321

Jacqui McGinn  
Interim Health Improvement & Inequalities Manager  
West Dunbartonshire Community Health & Care  
Partnership, Leven Valley Enterprise Centre  
Castlehill Road, Dumbarton.  
E-mail: [jacqui.mcgin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:jacqui.mcgin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)  
Telephone: 01389 744668

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 West Dunbartonshire Council –  
Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education  
Policy (May 2011)

**Background Papers:** Scottish Government (2000) McCabe – Report of the  
Working Group on Sex Education in Scottish Schools.  
Available at:  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/158180/0042808.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/158180/0042808.pdf)

Scottish Executive (2005) Respect and Responsibility:  
Strategy and Action Plan for Improving Sexual Health  
Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications>

Scottish Government (2009) Curriculum for Excellence  
Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications>

**Wards Affected:** All