

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 11 November 2009

Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on The Learning Community Surrounding Dumbarton Academy

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of The Learning Community Surrounding Dumbarton Academy by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 27 October 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** The learning community surrounding Dumbarton Academy was inspected in September 2009 during the same week as the school inspection. This new type of inspection covered key aspects of the work of community learning and development and the impact of community and voluntary groups.
- 2.2** Her Majesty's Inspectors joined activities involving young people, adults and community groups. Members of the inspection team gathered the views of learners, active community members and staff. The inspection report is available at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/> and a copy is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspectors identified key strengths within the school, in particular:
- very positive relationships between staff, learners and volunteers;
 - transitions between community-based adult learning and further education are managed with sensitivity;
 - very positive outcomes for learners;
 - effective use of data to target some services; and
 - good range of accredited programmes for all learners.
- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality used in this inspection procedure, three were evaluated as very good and two were evaluated as satisfactory. These evaluations are recognised as a positive report in relation to the target on school inspections in the Single Outcome Agreement.

3.3 Members should also note that the inspectors identified five areas of good practice which will appear on the HMIE national website. These were:

- Youth Build Project – an employment and training programme to provide young people (16-24) with apprenticeships in the building industry.
- Mobile Information and Cyber Station – drop-in information and advice service.
- Work Connect – project supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health issues into employment.
- Phoenix Environmental Garden Project – young peoples' project to develop a piece of wasteland into a community garden.
- Alternative Dawn/Rise & Calm Programmes – support to adults to reduce and recover from addictions.

3.4 The Inspectors have agreed the following areas for improvement with the education authority and its partners:

- wider partner involvement in the planning and evaluation of local learning strategies, priorities and programmes;
- more effective sharing of data across the learning community; and
- broaden the range of methods used to report to stakeholders.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 This report has no implications for personnel.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The delegated community learning and development budget will finance the action plan.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 HMIE will make no further visits to the learning community surrounding Dumbarton Academy in relation to this report.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.1 The Council will report on progress as part of its regular contact with the HMIE District Inspector and the Community Learning and Development Area Inspector.

7.2 The Committee is invited:

- (a) to note the contents of this report;
- (b) to congratulate the Community Learning and Development staff and partners, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 27 October 2009; and

- (c) to invite Community Learning and Development staff to present on the range of their activities to a future meeting.

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Appendix: Appendix 1: Copy of HMIE report on The Learning Community Surrounding Dumbarton Academy

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Ward 3