

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 11 January 2012**

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**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. Background**

- 2.1** The Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire was agreed by the Education and Lifelong Learning 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 as a standing item. This is the second such update.

### **3. Main Issues**

#### **3.1 Standard Tables and Charts Meetings (STACS)**

Each September, meetings are held between the Senior Management Teams in each of our 5 secondary schools and senior managers within Educational Services including the Director to discuss each school's performance in that years SQA examinations.

The November 2011 report updated Members about the revised format for STACs meetings in each of the five secondary schools. As a result of the meetings between the Directorate and the Senior Management Team in each school, a set of draft action plans has been drawn up. (Appendix 1) The draft action plans are each targeted to the improvement priorities pertinent to the individual schools. A joint approach has been taken which includes the school's Quality Improvement Officer, the teachers seconded to support the Strategy and the head teacher. A note of progress of each of the five action plans will be included in future updates for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

#### Seconded Teachers

- 3.2** The first team meeting has taken place with the seconded teachers and the Quality Improvement Service. The support plan for this team is detailed at

Appendix 2. It is essential that the teachers from each of the schools come together as a professional learning community to share good practice.

### Parental Involvement

- 3.3** The first Parents' Conference took place on Saturday 19 November 2011. This provided an ideal showcase for the work going on across our services and establishments. Carol Craig, the Chief Executive of the Centre for Confidence and Well-being spoke to parents about the vital part they play in encouraging our young people to develop confidence in their own unique abilities and to apply themselves in this way.

### Communication of the Strategy

- 3.4** A series of meetings has taken place with Corporate colleagues to plan an imaginative approach which will share the message about our Strategy across West Dunbartonshire. We are awaiting draft designs of posters which will appear on the rear of buses for a set period of time. This will be launched with press in attendance. The posters will also feature in each school and across our establishments. A "Study Tips" leaflet will be prepared by our seconded team which will be issued to all students following the launch.

## **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues emerging as a result of this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The costs of the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement have been agreed by Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in September 2011 and will be met from within existing budgets.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

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

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

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

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

- 8.1** The Council has identified four main strategic priorities for 2011/2012, namely Social & Economic Regeneration, Financial Strategy, Asset Management Strategy, and Fit for Purpose Services.

- 8.2** Raising expectation and aspirations with our young people will ultimately lead to regeneration. Investing in their future is fundamental to the values of our Council. Our staff are our most valuable resource and they have the skills to improve outcomes for young people.  
Success in improving attainment and achievement will impact positively on Educational Services and West Dunbartonshire Council.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1** The Education Service and Lifelong Learning Committee is recommended to:
- (a) note the progress made in the past two months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire; and
  - (b) seek a further update for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee at its March 2012 meeting.

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 - School Action Plans  
Appendix 2 - Support Plan

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All wards