

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 15 May 2013

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 August 2013 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 eighth such update.

4. Main Issues

4.1 Standardised Assessments

The standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy have been administered at P3, P5, P7 and S2 across West Dunbartonshire's schools.

The assessment at P5 has been put in place at the request of Head Teachers following the evaluation of Year 1 Standardised Assessments.

Upon completion of the marking and analysis the information will be used to support children and young people in the session's final term.

Particular attention will be paid to P7 children who are scoring a reading age of more than a year below their chronological age. Receiving secondary schools will be informed to ensure that plans are in place to support these pupils in their learning.

- 4.2** The cost and organisation of a "Literacy Summer School" for P7s is currently being explored as part of transition to raise attainment.

4.3 Leadership for Learning Visits

Following on from the revised STACs/Leadership for Learning visits to our secondary schools we have trialled a version for primary schools. This will be further developed next session.

All Primary Head Teachers have visited another school and have had a return visit from another Head Teacher. Each Head Teacher made a presentation to the visiting Head Teacher in relation to the core quality indicators. A key area within each presentation dealt with the key question, "How good is attainment and achievement?"

4.4 Masterclasses

There are 10 subjects being offered this year at Higher grade in authority organised Masterclasses. These are English, maths, chemistry, physics, biology, human biology, history, geography, modern studies and physical education. To date there are 21 staff involved covering 48 sessions over the 3 days. The programme will be evaluated and this will be shared with Committee at the August 2013 meeting.

4.5 Raising Attainment Teachers

The Raising Attainment Teachers continue to work with QIS to maintain the focus on areas identified within each school's plan to raise attainment.

Appendices 1 to 5 give Members an update in relation to each school.

It has been agreed that the Raising Attainment Team will continue in session 2013/14.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The seconded Raising Attainment teachers will remain in post for the current academic session and session 2013/2014. Opportunities for professional development will continue for this team to reflect particular issues as we go forward.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this progress report.

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 School
Appendix 2	Update from Dumbarton Academy School
Appendix 3	Update from Our Lady and St Patrick's High School
Appendix 4	Update from St Peter the Apostle High School
Appendix 5	Update from Vale of Leven Academy School

Background Papers: EIA Screening

Wards Affected: All wards