

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

**Educational Services Committee: 22 August 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. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Educational Service 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 (now known as the Educational Services Committee) at its November 2012 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 fifth such update.

### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** After discussion with secondary Head Teachers it was decided to continue the investment in seconded teachers for raising attainment for a further academic session. The additional £80,000 will contribute to the secondment costs of 5 FTE. Last session's plans for each secondary school have been closely monitored.
- 4.2** Agendas have been prepared for individual meetings between the raising attainment teacher for each school and the link Quality Improvement Officer. These meetings will take place early in the session. (Appendix 1)

- 4.3 The raising attainment teachers will also meet as a group with the Quality Improvement Service to ensure a shared understanding of expectations for the forthcoming session. (Appendix 2)
- 4.4 Leadership for Learning visits have been organised to take place between September and November. These are key meetings at which the school's Senior Management Team and the Directorate discuss areas of improvement and areas where further improvement is required.
- 4.5 The new format for Leadership for Learning visits which was put in place last session has been reviewed. It was decided that more time should be made available for these meetings to give greater depth to the discussions. The revised agenda will include time to visit classes to see developments in action. (Appendix 3)
- 4.6 The results from last session's exam diet are in the process of being gathered and analysed. A full report regarding SQA results will be presented to the Educational Services Committee in November 2012.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1 The seconded raising attainment teachers will remain in post for the forthcoming academic session. Vale of Leven Academy is currently recruiting a permanent Principal Teacher (Raising Attainment).

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The raising attainment secondees will be funded between the central staffing budget and the schools' devolved budgets. This is further supported by an additional allocation of £80,000 from the Council's budget for 2012/13 which was agreed previously.

## **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 of 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** 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.
- 10.2** 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.

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**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 Meeting with link QIO and Raising Attainment Teacher
- Appendix 2 Meeting of Secondary Raising Attainment Teachers
- Appendix 3 Leadership for Learning

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All wards