

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer

Educational Services: 10 March 2020

Subject: Education, Learning and Attainment Standards and Quality Report 2019/20

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Members of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2019/20 which can be found online at: <https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr19-20/home>.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) Note the contents of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 requires Education Authorities to secure improvement in the quality of school education and to report annually on progress made to secure improvement.
- 3.2 To meet this requirement, and also in line with the Council's policy on Public Performance Reporting, the annual Standards and Quality Report, summarising the performance of Education, Learning and Attainment, has been produced and will be distributed widely.

4. Main Issues

Standards and Quality Report 2019/20

- 4.1 This Standards and Quality Report is a comprehensive, evidence based evaluation of the performance of the service against the Local Improvement Objectives which were set for the relevant period.
- 4.2 For ease of reading, the report has been divided into 4 sections:
- 4.2.1 **Setting the Scene** – the context within which we operate, looking at our vision, priorities and strategy, our actions to deliver improvement, the work of the West Partnership, and the Eleven Measures viewed by the Scottish Government.

4.2.2 CfE: The Learner Journey – the progress our children and young people are making in Early Years, the Broad General Education, the Senior Phase and their participation beyond school.

4.2.3 Supporting the System – our work collectively to improve, focusing on self-evaluation, the Scottish Attainment Challenge, Pupil Equity Fund, Pupil Support, Professional Learning, ourcloud.buzz and Partnership Working.

4.2.4 Next Steps – our priorities for the session 2020 – 2021.

4.3 The Standards and Quality report will be published electronically and made available via a publicly accessible website.

Priorities for 2019/20

4.4 The priorities for session 2019/20 had been presented to Members previously. They were to:

- Deliver the Raising Attainment Agenda
- Develop and Deliver Educational Improvement Across West Dunbartonshire
- Narrow the Poverty Related Attainment Gap
- Deliver the Scotland's Young Workforce Programme
- Develop, Review and Improve GIRFEC Processes
- Deliver Improvement in Young People's Health and Wellbeing
- Development of Parental Engagement Strategy
- Develop and Promote Approaches to Sustainability
- Ensure Equitable Access To Educational Opportunities
- Publication of Performance Information
- Deliver the Early Years Strategy
- Develop the Schools Estate in Line with Local Regeneration
- Deliver Service-Wide Self-Evaluation and Improvement
- Deliver Professional Development for the Service
- Deliver Service Modernisation Programme

Areas of 'excellent' or 'very good' practice

4.5 It is interesting to note the following areas of excellent or very good practice within the report:

4.5.1 Maintaining our success record of 100% positive external inspections of our educational establishments by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education (HMIe), with the inspection of Gartocharn and St. Stephen's Primary Schools.

4.5.2 Raising Attainment:

Broad General Education – 'achievement of a level' data - the national data collection was not conducted during session 2019/20 due to the pandemic.

Scottish Government conduct an annual analysis using data submitted in June each year with a national report produced in December. This was cancelled for session 2019/20.

- Increase in attainment in the Senior Phase:
 - 99.1% of our young people attaining 1 or more unit award at SCQF level 1 or above
 - 91.2% of our young people attaining a level 4 literacy award
 - 78.2% of our young people attaining a level 4 numeracy award
 - 88.1% of our young people attaining 3 or more National 4 awards
 - 65.6% of our young people attaining 3 or more National 5 awards
 - 57.9% of our young people attaining 1 or more Higher awards
 - 40.0% of our young people attaining 3 or more Higher awards
 - 20.8% of our young people attaining 4 or more Higher awards at Grade A or B

(Note - results in 2020 were based on teacher estimates, and not on completion of coursework or final examinations.)

4.5.3 Implementation of broad-ranging school improvement to raise attainment and achievement, evidenced in the publication of our establishment standards and quality reports in the summer of 2020.

4.5.4 Delivery of 'Year 5' of the Scottish Raising Attainment Challenge, reporting progress with Raising Attainment projects to both Education Services committee and Scottish Government.

4.5.5 Delivery of 'Year 3' of Pupil Equity Funding, with the range of projects mitigating against the impact of poverty – Interventions varied according to the specific needs of pupils in establishments. These broadly encompassed plans to support literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing , family engagement and developing the young workforce/employability. Our interventions are helping us work towards our target of narrowing the poverty related attainment gap by 2021.

4.5.6 Delivery of the Authority's Duties in Relation to GIRFEC, with the review of a range of policies ensuring the rights of the child are explicitly reflected.

4.5.7 Delivery of the Early Learning and Childcare Agenda, with significant progress made with the expansion to offer 1140 hours; 88% of eligible children access 1140 hours.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel issues as a consequence of this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** The production of a comprehensive Standards and Quality Report enables the department to set clear targets. Failure to produce a report on Standards and Quality would result in a reputational risk to the Council impacting on the Local Area Network.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report 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 have open, accountable and accessible local government which is one of the strategic priorities for 2017-2022.

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10 March 2020

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Appendices: None
Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All