

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 4 December 2019**

Subject: Gaelic Development in West Dunbartonshire – 2019 Progress Update**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To update members on progress with Gaelic Development in West Dunbartonshire.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** Members are asked to note the funding aligned to Gaelic education in West Dunbartonshire Council in 2019/20.
- 2.2** Members are asked to note the series of Gaelic development activities which the funding will enable.
- 2.3** Members are asked to note that the draft WDC Gaelic Plan was passed by council in June 2019.
- 2.4** Members are asked to note that WDC Gaelic Plan is currently awaiting approval from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Council has statutory responsibilities to discharge under two pieces of Legislation; the 2005 Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act, and the Gaelic elements of the 2016 Education Act, as determined by the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, published in February 2017.
- 3.2** In both respects, the Council is meeting its requirements and is to be complemented for the range of actions being followed with the use of external funding.
- 3.3** Officials will continue to ensure our obligations are met and also look for opportunities to expand elements of our Gaelic policies. These will be reported to Elected Members at regular intervals.
- 3.4** A WDC Depute Head Teacher has continued to be seconded part time as Gaelic Development Officer. This is funded by GLAIF. A Gaelic Teacher has also been employed on a 0.2 contract to support the expansion of Gaelic language learning across WDC.

3.5 The seconded Gaelic Development Officer will continue to undertake specific tasks and will work alongside Education Officers and colleagues in Libraries to promote Gaelic language.

4. Main Issues

4.1 Members are aware that 18 pupils resident in West Dunbartonshire currently receive Gaelic Medium Education at the Glasgow Gaelic School. The pupils are educated at Glasgow Gaelic School as a result of placing requests and their transport is funded.

4.2 West Dunbartonshire Council like all Councils is required to meet its responsibilities in the 2005 Gaelic Language Act, and the statutory Gaelic elements of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

4.3 West Dunbartonshire Council has continued to support Gaelic Language teaching in Edinbarnet Primary and extended this to support Gaelic language teaching in Gavinburn Primary. Costs provided 0.5FTE teacher post.

4.4 West Dunbartonshire Council currently has two primary schools, Edinbarnet Primary and Gavinburn Primary delivering Gaelic as part of the Languages 1+2 strategy. This session we have one teacher from Braehead Primary School attending Gaelic Language in Primary Schools (GLPS) training.

4.5 All teachers who have completed GLPS training have the opportunity to undertake further professional development in Gaelic. A partnership with e-Sgoil started in 2017 providing Gaelic tuition to Council employees. 22 education employees signed up for Gaelic language online learning in 2018-2019. This year we have expanded the CLPL opportunity in order to ensure progression for the 22 employees and to offer another complete beginners class. One teacher is continuing the An Cùrsa Inntigidh (Distance Learning) in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic College which is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Members are asked to note that this is part funded by the Gaelic Specific Grant.

4.6 West Dunbartonshire Council is continuing to provide Gaelic family learning homework clubs in Edinbarnet and Gavinburn Primaries. This is being delivered by WDC teachers who have been GLPS trained. Peant agus Patter, a Gaelic family learning opportunity began in January 2019. This has been very successful. The arts and crafts family class meet every Saturday morning in St. Peter the Apostle High School.

4.7 Twenty two senior phase students gained their Saltire Award through languages in 2019. Pupils gain work experience in Primary schools and Early Learning and Childcare Centres in partnership with Glasgow City Council. Students assist in delivering languages (Gaelic and Mandarin) in primary school and early years' establishments. Members are asked to note a

significant rise in student numbers from eight in the previous academic year. This year, pupils will also gain an SQA Award in Volunteering as part of the course.

- 4.8** Members should note that Stòrlann - Scotland's National organisation charged with co-ordinating the production and distribution of Gaelic educational resources throughout Scotland – provided new Gaelic secondary Language books for our Saltire course free of charge.
- 4.9** Gaelic Bookbug continues weekly in Dalmuir Library. One member of the Council's Cultural Team is learning Gaelic in order to deliver Gaelic Bookbug. Following on from the continued success of the Gaelic Bookbug, a weekly summer session was offered and well attended. Members are asked to note that in January 2019, further Gaelic provision was offered in WDC by introducing Pàrant is Pàiste - a 0-5 years arts/crafts/song/play and storytelling free parent and child session which is part funded by Gaelic Specific Grant and GLAIF.
- 4.10** West Dunbartonshire Council continues to provide additional support to Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar. Regular correspondence and visits between WDC's Gaelic Development Officer and the Fèis has continued. Members are asked to note that funding from GLAIF 2019-2020 has been secured to enable two of WDC's Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar voluntary tutors to attend Ceòlas in South Uist - a Gaelic language and music cultural week-long event in July 2020. GLAIF Funding has also been secured to enable Adult Learners to undertake Gaelic Language learners SQA in 2020.
- 4.11** Gaelic language promotion featured in Là na Gàidhlig/Gaelic Day at Gavinburn Primary School in May 2019. Members are asked to note that this was a successful collaboration between WDC and many Gaelic agencies, including: Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Stòrlann (Scotland's National Education Resource Provider), Pàrant is Pàiste, Peant agus Patter, Gaelic Bookbug, Gavinburn Primary School's Gaelic Choir, Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar and Mòd Ghlaschu 2019. The success of Là na Gàidhlig/Gaelic Day will become an annual event to showcase Gaelic language in West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.12** The authority webpage for Gaelic has been updated and we will look to build a Gaelic public webpage.
- 4.13** WDC's Gaelic Development Officer is in planning stages to continue Gaelic Language and cultural promotion through Social Media channels, including: Twitter, Facebook and WDC's Inter/Intranet pages.
- 4.14** Members are asked to note that new Gaelic signage in accordance with WDC's National Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024, have been erected at Council Offices, Church Street and plans are in place for dual-signage at any new educational builds, such as Levenvale Early Learning and Childcare Centre.

4.15 Members should note that WDC's Gaelic Development Plan 2019-2024 was passed by Council in June 2019 and has been submitted for approval by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

5. People Implications

5.1 The seconded post includes appropriate backfill arrangements for the school.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 Any costs associated with the Gaelic activities will be covered by the GLAIF award of from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic Specific Fund, the Early Years Grant (Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Scottish Government) and WDC contributions. This is budgeted within Education Development and will not create any overspend.

6.2 Members are asked to note Appendix I.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 West Dunbartonshire Council is required to meet its statutory responsibilities and the plans place us in a better position to do this.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening (EIA) has been carried out with no specific issues in terms of protected characteristics having been identified.

9. Consultation

9.1 Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

9.2 Scottish Government and Bòrd Na Gàidhlig have been consulted and are supportive of these proposals.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 These proposals will place the Council in a position to be able to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

10.2 The proposal supports the Council's strategic priority to improve life chances for children and protect the welfare of vulnerable families.

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Appendices: Appendix 1

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire Council's
National Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024
EIA Screening

Wards Affected: All

