

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead – Education, Learning and Attainment

Educational Services: 6 March 2019

Subject: Education, Learning and Attainment Standards and Quality Report 2017/18

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Members of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2017/18 which can be found online at: <https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr17-18/home>.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) note the contents of this report; and
- b) note the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality 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.
- 3.3 In 2016, the Scottish Government published its Education Delivery Plan, outlining how Scottish Education would be improved under six drivers. These drivers have been used to define the objectives of Education, Learning and Attainment, and form the context for the Standards and Quality report.

4. Main Issues

Standards and Quality Report 2017/18

- 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** The report will be distributed widely both within and out with the Authority to a wide audience including Elected Members, educational establishments, Parent Councils, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Scottish Education Authorities, as well as parents, staff and a number of partner agencies. The Standards and Quality report will be published electronically and made available via a publicly accessible website.

Priorities for 2017/18

- 4.3** The priorities for session 2017/18 had been presented to Members previously. They were to:
- Design and implement West Dunbartonshire Council's strategy for assessment in schools;
 - Deliver the Scotland's Young Workforce programme;
 - Deliver the Early Years' agenda;
 - Develop the Parental Involvement Strategy in all sectors;
 - Deliver year one of Pupil Equity Funding;
 - Develop the use of performance information to support school improvement;
 - Deliver Year 3 of the Scottish Raising Attainment Challenge;
 - Implement broad-ranging school improvement to raise attainment and achievement;
 - Deliver our 'Regenerating Learning' programme;
 - Deliver the authorities duties in relation to GIRFEC;
 - Implement proposed changes to school governance arrangements;
 - Develop literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing within the curriculum;
 - Develop effective leadership to drive improvement;
 - Design and deliver strategies for succession planning and recruitment; and
 - Develop the learning workforce capacity across all sectors.

Areas of 'excellent' or 'very good' practice

- 4.4** It is interesting to note the following areas of excellent or very good practice within the report:
- 4.4.1** 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 Bright Beginnings, St Peter's Primary, St. Patrick's Primary, Dalreoch Primary, St. Joseph's Primary, Cunard School and Renton Primary school.

4.4.2 West Dunbartonshire were the national pilot for the new 'Inspection of the Progress of Local Authorities' (INPLA) model of inspection by HMIE, addressing the question of 'How well is West Dunbartonshire Council improving learning, raising attainment and narrowing the poverty related attainment gap?'. The inspection found West Dunbartonshire Council to be making very good progress with improving learning, raising attainment and narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap.

4.4.3 Raising Attainment:

- Literacy
 - 82% of children achieved early level by the end of P1
 - 75% of children achieved first level by the end of P4
 - 75% of children achieved second level by the end of P7
 - 87% of young people achieved third level by the end of S3
- Numeracy
 - 84% of children achieved early level by the end of P1
 - 71% of children achieved first level by the end of P4
 - 66% of children achieved second level by the end of P7
 - 82% of young people achieved third level by the end of S3

4.4.4 Increase in attainment in the Senior Phase:

- 99.8% of our young people attaining 1 or more unit award at SCQF level 1 or above
- 90.9% of our young people attaining a level 4 literacy award
- 74.3% of our young people attaining a level 4 numeracy award
- 68.6% of our young people attaining 3 or more National 5 awards
- 59.1% of our young people attaining 1 or more Higher awards
- 38.5% of our young people attaining 3 or more Higher awards
- 19.9% of our young people attaining 4 or more Higher awards at Grade A or B

4.4.5 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 2018.

4.4.6 Delivery of 'Year 3' of the Scottish Raising Attainment Challenge, reporting progress with Raising Attainment projects to both Educational Services committee and Scottish Government.

4.4.7 Delivery of 'Year 1' of Pupil Equity Funding, with a total of 117 projects running across our establishments, helping us work towards our target of narrowing the poverty related attainment gap by 2021.

4.4.8 Delivery of the Authority's Duties in Relation to GIRFEC, with the implementation of the Lead Professional role, Latest Pastoral Notes and Chronologies in all establishments.

4.4.9 Deliver the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) agenda, with the ELC Plan for Implementation being developed, reviewed and submitted to Scottish Government.

4.4.10 Design and implement WDC's strategy for assessment in schools, evidenced through a 3 year cycle of school moderation in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, and the associated toolkit to track progress.

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 how we are regarded as an education authority.

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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6 March 2019

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All

