

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 4 December 2013

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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 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 March 2014 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 tenth such update.

#### **4. Main Issues**

##### Raising Attainment Plans

- 4.1 The progress updates for each school are attached as appendices 1 to 5. Members will note in the "next steps" sections that each school continues to review their plans and to build on previous successful strategies..

##### Raising Attainment Teachers

- 4.2 The Raising Attainment Teachers have a very good supportive network. Regular meetings are held to share practice and to discuss emerging issues.

At the November meeting of the group there was discussion around the need to put in strategies to raise attainment prior to Senior Phase at Broad General Education.

#### Strategic Leadership Development Programme (SLDP)

- 4.3** Three primary Head Teachers are taking part in phase 3 of the SLDP. Their major task is to explore strategies to raise attainment across the Broad General Education and to prepare advice and guidance for Educational Services. They will work closely with colleagues in the central team and discuss with Head Teacher colleagues. This work will be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.

#### School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP)

- 4.4** In March 2013 the Cabinet Secretary announced a range of approaches to tackle the link between socio-economic deprivation and low educational attainment. The School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP) is an aspect of this approach which has a focus on innovating to tackle educational inequality.
- 4.5** Educational Services submitted a bid to Educational Scotland to take part in this programme and was successful. This bid involves working with Renfrewshire Council and the process is underway.
- 4.6** Through careful analysis of our standardised assessments and teachers' professional judgement we have identified that the decline in attainment is beginning at around the P4/5 stage. The 8 primary schools with the highest deprivation factors will take part in this project. Some schools are performing better than others and we will explore this further. Teachers from our 8 schools will work in partnership from Renfrewshire as their schools have similar characteristics to schools in West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.7** The specific areas for improvement include learners' attainment in numeracy/maths and literacy, pedagogical skills of practitioners and leadership of the agenda to raise attainment. Our partnership project will have support from Marion Burns our Area Lead Officer from Education Scotland and from Professor Chris Chapman from University of Glasgow.

### **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** The seconded Raising Attainment teachers will remain in post for the academic session 2013/2014. Opportunities for professional development will continue for this team to reflect particular issues as we go forward.
- 5.2** Significant opportunities for professional learning will result from the SLDP and the SIPP.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** The School Improvement Partnership Programme will be implemented with financial support from Educational Scotland. This will be in the region of £70,000.

## **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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<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 Update from Clydebank High Appendix 2 Update from Dumbarton Academy Appendix 3 Update from Our Lady and St Patrick's High Appendix 4 Update from St Peter the Apostle High Appendix 5 Update from Vale of Leven Academy
<b>Background Papers:</b>	EIA Screening
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All wards