

## West Dunbartonshire Council

### Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 13 December 2006

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**Subject:** “*Write to the Top – A Teacher Resource Pack for Improving Standards in Writing*”

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** To provide information to Members of the Committee on the Improving Standards in Writing Initiative within primary and secondary schools across West Dunbartonshire.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** In line with A Curriculum for Excellence the department aims to improve pupil performance in core literacy skills whilst simultaneously developing our young people as confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and responsible citizens. The Improving Standards in Writing Initiative supports the development of these capacities and contributes to West Dunbartonshire's young people having opportunities to develop sophisticated and transferable communication skills.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Young People within all West Dunbartonshire Primary and Secondary schools are participating in a new approach to developing writing. The approach promotes interactive learning, encouraging young people to take ownership of writing targets and to develop reading, talking and listening skills as a route to effective writing.
- 3.2** To support the implementation of the new approach, the Write to the Top resource pack provides teachers with planning tools, classroom resources and approaches to assessment. A DVD exemplifying good practice within West Dunbartonshire schools complements the pack.
- 3.3** Every primary and secondary school in West Dunbartonshire is implementing the new approach to writing during session 2006 – 2007. Plans are underway to extend the approach into Early Education and Childcare Centres.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** This is delivered as part of the Primary and Secondary curriculum and as such there are no personnel implications

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** Funding from A Curriculum for Excellence supported the development, production and distribution of this resource. There are no financial implications for the Education Service.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1** The Improving Standards in Writing initiative makes a positive contribution to developing the core literacy skills of young people in West Dunbartonshire Council. The resource is presented in an age appropriate way from primary one through to secondary and provides exciting and interactive opportunities for young people to learn about language.
- 6.2** The new approach to developing writing will be extended into Early Education and Childcare Centres.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1** Members are asked to note the content of this report and the supporting presentation which will be given at the Children's Services Committee.

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**Person to Contact:** Ms Sandra Love, Head of Service, Education and Cultural Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU.

**Background Papers:** No background papers

**Wards Affected:** All wards