

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 13 June 2012

Subject: Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy 2011 (Numeracy)

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of the results of the Numeracy Survey undertaken in Scottish Schools and published in March 2012. The full publication is attached as appendix 1.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN) will take place annually across Scotland's schools.
- 2.2** It is designed to give a detailed picture of performance which is Scotland wide. The numeracy survey was undertaken in 2011 and the literacy survey will be conducted in 2012.
- 2.3** The results of the SSLN are not detailed at authority level; nevertheless we can learn lessons for continuous improvement for West Dunbartonshire's numeracy strategy.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The following points detail the key findings of the SSLN report.
- About 76 per cent of P4 pupils were performing well or very well in numeracy at first level; at P7 about 72 per cent of pupils were performing well or very well at second level; and at S2 about 42 percent of pupils were performing well or very well at third level.
 - The percentage of pupils not yet working within their respective levels in numeracy was less than one per cent in P4, about two per cent in P7 and about 32 per cent in S2.
 - Boys tended to outperform girls in numeracy at P4 and P7, with the difference negligible in S2.
 - Deprivation appeared to affect performance most in S2. S2 pupils living in areas with lower levels of deprivation were twice as likely to be performing well or very well as pupils living in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

- Pupils were generally more successful with tasks assessing data and analysis and time. Tasks assessing measurement and fractions, decimal fractions and percentages were found to be more challenging for learners.
- The vast majority of pupils said they enjoyed learning, although the strength of agreement reduced among older pupils. Over 90 percent of pupils agreed that what they were learning would be useful to them outside school.
- Pupils were less likely to receive feedback on performance and improvement in S2 than in P4 and P7.
- Teachers reported high levels of confidence in delivering the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) numeracy experiences and outcomes, with generally over 95 per cent of primary and secondary maths teachers very or fairly confident. The one exception was the area of ideas of chance and uncertainty, where primary school teachers reported the least confidence. This was also the area of least confidence amongst secondary non-maths teachers.
- Over 90 per cent of primary school teachers and over 80 per cent of secondary school teachers reported they were very or fairly confident that they can improve learning using the CfE experiences and outcomes for their area.

3.2 In West Dunbartonshire we have recently conducted standard assessment in literacy and numeracy at stages P3, P7 and S2.

3.3 The results of these assessments will be collated and presented to a future meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. This will give members a picture of performance in literacy and numeracy at authority level. It will also enable the Service to focus in on the aspects most in need of improvement.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial consequences associated with this report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The Quality Improvement Service will continue to develop the strategy for numeracy to ensure successful outcomes are achieved for children and young people.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 There are no equalities input issues raised as a consequence of this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 This report will feed into the Service priorities to raise attainment and achievement and to implement Curriculum for Excellence.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning committee is recommended to:

- (1) note the contents of this report; and
- (2) receive further information regarding West Dunbartonshire's progress in literacy and numeracy.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy 2011 (Numeracy)

Background Papers:

Wards Affected: All