

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 5 March 2014

Subject: Validated Self-Evaluation - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates Members about the work of the themed groups contributing to the Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) of Educational Services.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (a) note the content of this report; and
 - (b) receive a further up-date as to progress at the June 2014 meeting of the Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 Members were informed of the forthcoming VSE at the Committee meeting of May 2013, and received an update at the December 2013 meeting of the Committee
- 3.2 The VSE considers the work of Educational services in relation to improvements in performance, impact on learners and the overall capacity for improvement. This evidence is considered against the Single Outcome Agreement, the Council's priorities and the priorities of Educational Services.
- 3.3 The VSE visiting team from Education Scotland began the first engagement week with Educational Services on 20 January 2014.

4. Main Issues

Thematic Groups

- 4.1 Educational Services identified 4 key areas of work to be explored through the VSE:-

Theme 1	Raising Attainment and Achievement
Theme 2	Transitions with particular reference to P7/S1
Theme 3	Health and Wellbeing within Curriculum for Excellence with particular reference to early stages

Theme 4 Joint working between Community Learning and Development and Education in the Vale of Leven Learning Community.

- 4.2 Each of the themed groups has been gathering information through research, establishment visits and interviews with staff, pupils and parents to examine pertinent elements of each theme.
- 4.3 The information to date has been collated into an overarching summary evaluation report. (Appendix 1)
- 4.4 The initial meeting of Engagement Week with the VSE teams was opened with a presentation from the Executive Director of Educational Services. (Appendix 2) This presentation summarised the work of Educational Services in relation to the self evaluation work to date.
- 4.5 As a result of Educational Services' self-evaluation a number of key strengths and areas for improvement were identified. (Appendix 3)
- 4.6 Engagement Week was organised with timetabled programmes for each themed group. A wide range of activities took place across the authority involving staff, children, young people, partner agencies, parents and elected members.
- 4.7 The group leaders met each evening with the Executive Director and Head of Service to discuss daily progress and to prepare for the end of Engagement Week summary meeting.
- 4.8 The summary meeting at the conclusion of Engagement Week was outstandingly positive. The discussions during this meeting would indicate that our self-evaluation was accurate and therefore validated.
- 4.9 Educational Services will continue to work with Education Scotland on the preparation of the report which should be published by May 2014.
- 4.10 The Lead Facilitator and our Area Lead Officer from Education Scotland will attend a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee to discuss the report.

5. People Implications

- 5.1 This report has no implications for personnel.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 This report has no financial implications.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 Failure to engage in robust and challenging self-evaluation would result in the quality of our service impacting negatively on the people we serve.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out and found that the VSE process will support our duty to secure improvement within the terms of Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000

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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Appendices:	Appendix 1 - VSE Summary Evaluation Report Appendix 2 – Opening Presentation by Executive Director Appendix 3 – Key strengths and areas for improvement
Background Papers:	EIA
Wards Affected:	All Wards