

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 5 March 2014

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 June 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 eleventh 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..

Leadership for Learning Visits

- 4.2 The Directorate Team, accompanied by a peer Head Teacher, visited the five secondary schools during November and December.

We had decided to have the Leadership for Learning process evaluated and a former WDC Head Teacher joined the visit to Dumbarton Academy to undertake this task.

- 4.3 Issues emerging from the 2013 process indicate that we require to a) explore in more depth the underachievement of boys and b) to revise the format of the Leadership for Learning visits to introduce further rigour.
- 4.4 A report on each Leadership for Learning visit is available as Appendices 6-10.

Raising Attainment Teachers

- 4.5 The Raising Attainment Teachers meet with officers between each meeting of the Educational Services Committee.
 - 4.5.1 The Raising Attainment Teachers have been considering where interventions could take place further down the school into the Broad General Education (BGE). This could relate to Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and GL Assessment data and be targeted to improve specific areas of learning.
 - 4.5.2 A short life working group will be convened to examine the emerging issue of boys' underachievement. The Raising Attainment Teachers will be involved in this work.

Masterclasses

- 4.6 Planning for the Easter programme is well underway. This year the subjects on offer are English, maths, history, geography, modern studies, chemistry, biology, human biology and physics. The authority run masterclasses will be situated in Clydebank High School and Our Lady & St Patrick's High School to enable access at each end of West Dunbartonshire.

Raising Attainment/Improving Learning

- 4.7 Three primary Head Teachers continue to develop a framework to raise attainment and improve learning across the BGE. They are liaising closely with secondary colleagues who were involved in evaluating the current work to raise attainment as part of the Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE). This will result in a framework which applies across sectors and which will detail specific actions for leaders to take in order to secure improvement.

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.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The costs of activities relating to the Raising Attainment Strategy are met from existing Service budgets.

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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Appendices:

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
Appendix 6	Leadership for Learning - Clydebank High
Appendix 7	Leadership for Learning - Dumbarton Academy

- Appendix 8 Leadership for Learning - Our Lady and St Patrick's High
- Appendix 9 Leadership for Learning - St Peter the Apostle High
- Appendix 10 Leadership for Learning - Vale of Leven Academy

Background Papers: EIA Screening

Wards Affected: All wards