

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 5 September 2018**

Subject: Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Educational Services Committee on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Educational Services Committee is recommended to note:
- (a) the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire.

3. Background

- 3.1** In line with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement the Committee receives a regular report outlining progress against this strategic priority.
- 3.2** The Scottish Attainment Challenge was launched in February 2015. It aims to accelerate the pace in which Scotland closes the poverty related attainment gap in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing through leadership, families and communities and learning and teaching. West Dunbartonshire became a Challenge Authority in 2015 receiving additional funding to deliver projects in primary and secondary schools. By the end of the current financial year it is estimated that West Dunbartonshire will have secured **£4.480m** for primary and **£2.030m** for secondary Attainment Challenge projects.
- 3.3** In December 2017 HM Inspectors and professional associates, working in partnership with Audit Scotland evaluated the education service strategies to improve learning, raise attainment and narrow the poverty-related attainment gap. It was reported that West Dunbartonshire is making very good progress with improving learning, raising attainment and narrowing the poverty related attainment gap.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Project implementation needs to be on track to ensure outcomes for young people and families are delivered. The Attainment Challenge features as a strategic risk in the local delivery plan.

4.2 The Scottish Attainment Challenge project for primary and secondary will conclude in 2020-21 exit strategies are being developed to make the appropriate adjustments for a reduced available budget.

4.3 Primary / Secondary School Attainment Challenge Projects

Due to the school summer break updates on individual challenge projects will be provided at December Committee.

4.4 Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing

A conference is planned for September for all education leaders. Our education officers, schools and ELCCs have worked together to present and share good practice, curriculum packages, guides to teaching, learning and assessment. The materials and good practice have been produced to support delivery of learner experiences that meet the needs of pupils, assess pupil achievement and set high expectations for all pupils. Workshops will be delivered on:

- Relationships, Sexual health, Parenthood National Curriculum
- Closing the attainment gap through languages learning
- Transition using STEM at early years and primary into secondary
- Substance misuse
- The Lost Words using John Muir Outdoor Learning Resources

4.5 Literacy

At present we are in year two of our three year moderation cycle. Moderation of achievement of levels in writing was conducted in a third of primary and secondary schools. The moderation is conducted by a team of WDC teachers who are lead moderators trained in assessing and moderating writing. The moderators assessed pieces of pupil writing using the national benchmarks to moderate the assessment of writing and teacher judgement of CfE levels. Most samples of writing showed evidence of learners working and progressing within a level. There is scope for improvement in the technical accuracy in some writing and work to improve the use of capital letters and full stops is advised. Development work is planned to support improvement in the quality of feedback given to ensure comments written by teachers are written using 'pupil friendly' language.

4.6 Numeracy

The maths steering group established a Maths Challenge Network. The majority of schools are represented in the network by maths challenge teachers. The area of focus this session is to increase parental engagement through family learning. An Early Years Challenge Network has been established.

The Local Learning Communities (LLCs) are improving the quality of collaborative work to improve progression from early to third level:

- Our Lady and St Patrick's LLC plan to launch a parent guide on maths and numeracy in the schools and ELCC's within the Learning Community

- St Peter the Apostle LLC is developing assessment and moderation across the curriculum and tracking and monitoring at key points of transition
 - Clydebank LLC is developing parental engagement sessions for their first year pupils in September
 - Dumbarton LLC is working to deliver Maths Mastery as an approach that promotes the importance of embedding knowledge and understanding of concepts in maths
 - Vale of Leven LLC is developing a programme to ensure a consistent approach to problem based learning in maths
- 4.7** To promote Maths Week Scotland a challenge morning is being delivered by the maths steering group on Wednesday 12 September. This follows on from the very successful event in Clydebank Town Hall in 2017 involving groups of P7 pupils from every primary school.
- 4.8** As members of the West Partnership Maths Steering Group the team will present at an inter-authority conference in September to launch Maths Week Scotland. The conference will take place in Renfrewshire. There are 30 places available for staff to attend. In the first year the steering group developed workstreams in response to the Making Maths Count report from Scottish Government. In the next phase of work the group will align workstreams to the West Partnership improvement objectives.
- 4.9** Assessment and Moderation
Further training has been arranged this session on the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs). Training will be provided for senior staff unable to access Phase A training in session 2017-2018. The training will be extended this session to include classroom teachers who are using the SNSA for the first time. There will be an expectation that delegates will disseminate training within their own school.
- 4.10** Health and Wellbeing
A variety of resources and projects have been delivered in schools supporting health and wellbeing outcomes. Additional swimming lessons were delivered for children identified through schools swimming programme as unable to swim 25 metres. This was a jointly funded project from Glasgow 2018 European Championships, WD Leisure Trust and WD Education. A menu of oral health activities have been developed in partnership with NHS Oral Health. A poster competition for primary schools was designed to promote a reduction in the volume of single use of plastics used by local businesses.
- 4.11** In partnership with Alzheimer's Scotland a group of teachers developed a suite of lessons to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and Dementia. These will be piloted in St Stephen's, St Michael's and St Peter's Primary Schools, with a view to launching in all schools later in the session

4.12 Summer Programmes **Summer Sports Camps**

In partnership with Active Schools we provided 420 places at 14 Summer Sports Camps for children in P1 to P7. The camps focus on improving our children's health and wellbeing. This followed on from the successful pilot in 2017. The camps took place in Faifley, Castlehill, Balloch, Whitecrock, North Kilbowie/Radnor Park area, Bonhill and Renton. The camps were open to children who attended the schools within these catchment areas, with particular encouragement for children living in areas of deprivation. The camps delivered a variety of out of school sports activities, including volleyball, football and dodgeball. This year we included a free packed lunch to every child who attended the camps.

4.13 St Ronan's Learn and Grow Summer Gardening Programme

In partnership with the Leamy Foundation a summer Learn and Grow pilot project was delivered for the children and families in St Ronan's Primary School. The programme ran for 2 days per week for the whole of the summer holidays. This project introduced parents and children to a structured gardening based programme of activities and family orientated activities including arts and crafts, family cooking and pottery. The attendance averaged at 11 families, with a total of 26 participants.

4.14 Food, Families, Future

The programme was delivered for a second year in Vale of Leven Academy, Dumbarton Academy and Clydebank High School. 111 adults and 162 children attended the sessions. The programme was delivered by our Pupil and Family Support Workers and included sporting activities, cookery demonstrations, crafts and eating together. The project is led by Children in Scotland and aims to address a major social issue: food poverty and its links with well being and education.

4.15 Survival Language Adventure Camp

On 11 July 2018 15 pupils from West Dunbartonshire from P3-S1 took part in a fully funded one day Languages Survival Adventure Camp at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. The camp was available to all children, with particular encouragement for children in SIMD 1 and 2. Pupils were collected from Dumbarton Academy and St Peter the Apostle High School. Learners developed their knowledge of a foreign language, vocabulary and grammar while completing challenges which developed skills in literacy, team-building, problem-solving and technologies. Essential survival skills such as fire-making and outdoor cooking were taught through the foreign language and learners were challenged to create a 'Bear Grylls' style video-documentary in the foreign language to share their learning. As highlighted by the Scottish Attainment Challenge, the camps aimed to close the poverty-related attainment gap and tackle the 'summer learning gap' for the most deprived families.

4.16 Attainment Programme

As part of the local strategy to raise attainment and improve learning through high quality leadership and in response to the national strategy for headteacher empowerment we have established an enhanced school improvement team of ten headteachers. The team will work one day per week as part of the local authority central team working directly with schools to:

- Provide support and challenge to their link establishments to raise attainment, improve learning and narrow the poverty related attainment gap
- Support continuous improvement, performance monitoring and self-evaluation
- Analyse and use performance information to support and challenge establishments to improve
- Participate, and in some cases, lead improvement visits and thematic reviews within the programme for early years, primary and secondary schools

5. **People Implications**

- 5.1 The additional funding from Scottish Government has supported the secondment of officers and teachers assigned to raise attainment and narrow the poverty related attainment gap. Exit strategies are being developed prior to funding streams ending in 2020.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implication**

- 6.1 For primary challenge projects we have claimed part year costs of £0.321m to July 2018. For secondary challenge projects we have claimed part year costs of £0.233m from April to July 2018. As indicated in the table below it is anticipated that the full award of £2.043m 2018/19 will be spent.

| | <u>Primary actual exp</u> | <u>Secondary actual exp</u> | <u>Total actual exp</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 2015/16 | £778,595 | n/a | £778,595 | £1,024,856 |
| 2016/17 | £1,322,450 | £353,019 | £1,675,469 | £1,895,410 |
| 2017/18 | £1,189,844 | £823,264 | £2,013,108 | £2,013,108 |
| 2018/19 | £1,190,492 | £853,323 | £2,043,815 est | £2,043,815 |

- 6.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Failure to implement an authority-wide strategy to raise attainment and secure improvement will disadvantage our young people and may become a reputational risk to the Council
- 7.2** The Committee will be provided with regular update reports advising of progress.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** There was no requirement to undertake an EIA for the purposes of this report as it is providing an update to Committee.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** West Dunbartonshire attainment plans have been shared with Education Scotland and headteachers.
- 9.2** A meeting has taken place with Corporate Communications to alert them to the national project and to discuss how we promote this good news for West Dunbartonshire. Subsequently, there has been positive coverage of the project in the local media.
- 9.3** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.
- 9.4** In developing these plans there has been consultation with Education Scotland, the Scottish Government and parent councils.

10 Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** This report reflects the Council's 2017-2022 overarching priority to reduce inequalities for the people of West Dunbartonshire which supports improved outcomes for all learners in our community.

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All wards

