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| Report To: | Education and Communities Committee | Date: | 5 September 2017 |
| Report By: | Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development | Report No: | EDUCOM/62/17/GMcG |
| Contact Officer: | Grant McGovern | Contact No: | 01475 712828 |
| Subject: | Craigmarloch School – Change to School Day | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Education and Communities Committee agree with proposed changes to Craigmarloch School's current opening times for secondary aged pupils to align the school day with all other Inverclyde secondary schools.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Craigmarloch School is a purpose-built ASN specialist educational provision which has a catchment area that covers the whole of Inverclyde geographic boundaries. The children and young people attending the school have a wide range of additional support needs that vary from mild/moderate to severe and complex.

- 2.2 The school's current opening hours are:

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Secondary: | Monday – Friday: | 9.00am – 3.30pm |
| Primary: | Monday – Friday: | 9.00am – 3.00pm |
| Lunch: | Monday – Friday: | 12.35pm – 1.20pm |

- 2.3 Subject to consultation with stakeholders, it is proposed that the school's opening times for pupils in the Secondary provision will align with Inverclyde secondary schools which are:

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Monday/Tuesday: | 8.50am – 3.45pm |
| Wednesday – Friday: | 8.50am – 2.55pm |
| Lunch: Monday – Friday: | 12.35pm – 1.15pm |

- 2.4 The two main drivers behind this proposal are:

- The recommendation from Education Scotland's inspection in March 2016 that the school should look to extend curriculum choice and qualifications through partnership working across the shared campus; and
- A request for the change from the Student Council to provide increased access to mainstream educational provision and to further develop social interaction and equity of opportunity – students expressed their view that they wanted to get the same opportunities as other students and that they are "seen to be the same as everyone else"

- 2.5 The current school day prevents pupils being able to fully access mainstream provision for those classes timetabled for the first period of the day and for the end of the day due to secondary schools' asymmetric week.

- 2.6 The current provision has a small number of buses that are mixed primary/secondary from the morning run. This is not the situation in the afternoon as Primary and Secondary pupils currently finish at different times – 3.00pm and 3.30pm.
- 2.7 The implementation of this proposal will provide opportunities for better social integration for all young people and their families across the Port Glasgow Campus.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that members of the Education and Communities Committee agree to the proposed changes to Craigmarloch School's day for secondary aged pupils.

Grant McGovern
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Craigmarloch School is a purpose built ASN specialist educational establishment providing access to high quality facilities for the children and young people attending the school who have a wide range of additional support needs that range from moderate to severe and complex with a significant number of children attending the school having a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) or Asperger's. The school's catchment area covers the whole of Inverclyde geographic boundaries.
- 4.2 The school opened in December 2013 and merged Inverclyde's then existing ASN schools, Lilybank and Glenburn schools. Facilities include early years' provision available at the school and when utilised this will establish Craigmarloch School as an all-through 3–18 educational establishment. The incorporation of the school into a shared campus with two secondary schools, one denominational, and the design of the building were intended to facilitate access to mainstream provision for secondary aged pupils in Craigmarloch School.
- 4.3 The Head Teacher has consulted with the wider school community on these proposals through Craigmarloch's Parent Council and through written communication to the wider Parent Forum to gather their views. The subsequent high number of responses in favour of the proposed change resulted in a formal request for consideration being submitted to Education Services by the Head Teacher. Staff in Craigmarloch School have also had the opportunity to consider and discuss the proposed changes and have indicated a high degree of support for the change.

It is evident through the consultation process that the recommendation from the Education Scotland inspection to increase opportunities for mainstream educational provision for Craigmarloch pupils aligns with the view the students, parents and staff that the children and young people are entitled to equity of educational provision and the increased social interaction that would arise from this change.

- 4.4 The improvements in curriculum choices through improved integration to mainstream provision and re-alignment of the school day will also help to improve sustained post-school positive destinations, an issue that was also highlighted in the school inspection report and also remains an acknowledged national concern.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Craigmarloch's roll for session 2017/18 will be 160 pupils. Over the course of the past year an entirely new Senior Management Team has been put in place. This consists of the Head Teacher, two Depute Head Teachers, one Principal Teacher and an additional Principal Teacher funded through Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for session 2017/18.
- 5.2 The school's current curriculum options are limited by several factors particularly in practical based subjects such as Technology, Science and ICT. There is no other option but access to the mainstream establishments should pupils wish to access those subject areas. It is not therefore surprising that the staff profile in Craigmarloch reflects the available school resources with subject specialists able to present above SCQF Level 3 limited to English, Mathematics, History and Physical Education.
- 5.3 The Scottish Government are currently in the process of consulting with education services and parent/carers as part of their review of guidelines and advice to parents on the presumption of mainstream education. The recent report from Enable Scotland, #Included in the Main, has been a major influence in that process. The main conclusion from that report was that outcomes for young people with additional support needs are enhanced in schools with an attached base or specifically designed for providing direct support. This proposal would provide pupils with the strengths of both preferred structures.

- 5.4 There is continuing demand from Inverclyde parents for access to mainstream curriculum provision. It is potentially the case that this change may reduce demand from parents who would look to access mainstream provision for some children and young people with severe and complex needs who require access to significant ASN resources and trained support staff. By increasing opportunities for access to mainstream schools in the Port Glasgow Campus young people in all schools in the Campus will benefit from being supported by staff with higher levels of experience in ASN. This would also provide opportunities for cross-over of staff CPD beneficial from both sides, moderation sharing of good practice.
- 5.5 One of the significant strengths of Inverclyde school over recent years has been the increasing emphasis on the rights of individuals in a school environment that exemplifies equality and equity of opportunity for all and the dignity of the individual. The embedding of Rights Respecting School status in the majority of Inverclyde schools has been at centre of our “Better Relationships, Better Behaviour” policy. In that context, the advantages for all young people across the campus in a more fully integrated social and educational basis should be viewed as an additional benefit of the implementation of this proposal.
- 5.6 The Scottish Government are currently in the process of consulting with education services and parent/carers as part of their review of guidelines and advice to parents on the presumption of mainstream education. The recent report from Enable Scotland: #Included in the Main, has been a major influence in that process. The main conclusion from that report was that outcomes for young people with additional support needs are enhanced in schools with an attached base or specifically designed for specialist provision.
- 5.7 Craigmarnock’s current opening hours require that young people accessing classes in either St Stephen’s High School or Port Glasgow High School result in the following issues:
- School buses arrive at a different time from mainstream transport reinforcing the perception of “difference”;
 - Lunchtimes are not synchronised causing pupils to be late for period 5 classes as support staff need to remain with primary aged pupils;
 - Unable to attend classes period 7 on Mondays and Tuesday as buses leave Craigmarnock at 3.30pm;
 - Mainstream schools close at 2.55pm Wednesday to Friday, resulting in the last 30 minutes of the Craigmarnock school day being viewed as “Dead Time”.

Feedback from the student Council has expressed the view that the above issues consistently reinforce the “difference” between the schools, and importantly, the young people sharing the Campus.

- 5.8 The school’s current opening hours are:

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Secondary: | Monday – Friday: | 9.00am – 3.30pm |
| Primary: | Monday – Friday: | 9.00am – 3.00pm |
| Lunch: | Monday – Friday: | 12.35pm – 1.20pm |

It is proposed that the school’s opening hours will align with Inverclyde secondary school hours which are:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Monday/Tuesday: | 8.50am – 3.45pm |
| Wednesday – Friday: | 8.50am – 2.55pm |
| Lunch time: | 12.35pm – 1.20pm |

- 5.9 Over the course of session 2016/17 the partnership working across the Port Glasgow Campus has allowed pupils to successfully access a wider range of SQA qualifications in subject areas such as Science, Modern Languages, Art & Design and Technology. This has resulted in a number of young people gaining qualifications in both course and individual unit awards ranging from National 2 to National 5 level. Inverclyde's annual staffing exercise has provided an opportunity to better balance the school's staffing structure and thereby ensure appropriate provision of qualified subject specialist to support SQA presentation, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy, and accreditation of wider achievement for young people in the Senior Phase.
- 5.10 Current transport provision for Craigmarloch allows for all students to arrive in time for the start of the school day at 9.00am. There are a small number of buses that has both primary and secondary children travelling together. This is not the situation at the end of the school day as primary pupils leave at 3.00pm while secondaries finish 30 minute later.

It is potentially the case that one additional 16-seat bus will be needed to accommodate the changes to morning start times however Education Services Transport Team will look to the rationalisation of current provision and appropriate adjustment of existing transport contracts to take account of the above and minimise any additional financial impact.

While this proposal to align the school day will result in school buses arriving and leaving the Campus at the same time, consultation across the other schools in the campus has indicated that there is not likely to be any significant increase in traffic congestion following the implementation of this proposed change.

- 5.11 Date of implementation – to ensure that the children and young people are effectively prepared and supported through this transition, it is proposed that these changes take place as of January 2018. This timeline for implementation will also provide Craigmarloch staff with the opportunity to make appropriate changes to individual family and childcare and arrangements.

6.0 Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

Potential cost of one additional 16-seat bus, mornings only

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report £000 | Virement From | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| N/A | | | | | |

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact £000 | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Inclusive education | ASN Transport | January | £6 | | |

Legal

- 6.2 N/A

Human Resources

- 6.3 N/A

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No

This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 While there is no statutory requirement to undertake a full public consultation prior to implementing these changes, pupils, parents/carers and staff have been consulted on the proposed changes – see Section 4.4.

8.0 OTHER PAPERS

- 8.1
1. Included in the Main – Enable Scotland 2016:
<http://www.enable.org.uk/includedinthemain/Pages/22-steps-on-the-journey-to-inclusion.aspx>
 2. Education Scotland: report on the Inspection of Craigmarloch School (March 2016):
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/inverclyde/1004182>