
Report To:	Education & Communities	Date:	31 October 2017
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Head of Education	Report No:	EDUCOM/84/17/RB
Contact Officer:	Robert Lamb	Contact No:	715548
Subject:	Inverclyde Schools Malawi Partnership		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To raise awareness among elected members of the Inverclyde Schools Malawi Partnership. This partnership is one of the longest running partnerships in Scotland, having been sustained and developed over a 10 year period.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In May of 2007 2 council officers visited the Blantyre region of Malawi with a view to establishing partnerships with Inverclyde Schools and developing an enterprise culture in the Malawian schools visited. The schools visited were in remote locations and some primary schools had a roll upwards of 2500 pupils with as many as 180 pupils in one class. Children sat on the floor and were huddled so closely together you couldn't see the surface. The staff were all really enthusiastic and keen to develop partnerships with our schools. This resulted in 8 partnerships being introduced 2007/2008.
- 2.2 Ten years on and the partnership has gone from strength to strength. There are now 13 active partnerships across Inverclyde: All Saints Primary School, King's Oak Primary School, Gourrock Primary School, Inverkip Primary School, Kilmacolm Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St. Mary's Primary School, St. Michael's Primary School, Whinhill Primary School, Wemyss Bay Primary, Clydeview Academy, Inverclyde Academy, Notre Dame High School, St. Columba's High School and Port Glasgow High School. (see appendix 1)

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Elected members are asked to note the success of the sustained partnership between Inverclyde schools and schools in Malawi.

Ruth Binks
Head of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Over the years a number of Inverclyde teaching staff have visited Malawi on externally funded trips. These trips have resulted in further partner schools, shared curriculum development and have built and strengthened relationships with key education personnel in Malawi.
- 4.2 Approximately 5 years ago a Malawi based communications team was established. This greatly improved the partnership communications and enabled a central point for any goods being sent to Malawi.
- 4.3 Technology has now further enhanced communications and schools in Malawi and Inverclyde are in regular contact via What's App.
- 4.4 Staff from Malawi have visited Inverclyde on a number of occasions.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Local schools contributed to a 10 year celebration event in May of this year kindly hosted by The Beacon Arts Centre. Displays on the partnership were open to the public for 10 days which generated some real interest among visitors.
- 5.2 A development group meeting is scheduled for November 2017 to review the current partnership and to explore whether additional schools wish to join the partnership.
- 5.3 Whilst a Development Officer from Education Services oversees the partnership on behalf of Inverclyde Council, the partnership receives invaluable support from a "voluntary" communication group led by former Inverclyde depute head teacher John McIndoe and his wife Anna, also a retired teacher.
- 5.4 Although the partnership is not a registered charity, the partner schools in Inverclyde have raised thousands of pounds over the years which have brought dreams to reality for their partner Malawi Schools. Some of this financial support has resulted in life changing developments such as fresh water wells, solar powered electricity, a new school roof, new classrooms, toilet facilities, a new library and staff accommodation being built.
- 5.5 The partnerships developed bring many benefits to schools in Inverclyde. They allow schools to support the aims of the Education Scotland International Engagement Strategy. The partnerships act as a vehicle to support the delivery of, and aligns with, a number of national strategies such as Curriculum for Excellence, Learning for Sustainability, International Engagement, Scotland Malawi Partnership, Global Citizenship, Language Learning in Scotland and Rights Respecting Schools.
- 5.6 The partnerships increase the global competences of learners in Inverclyde. For instance, being able to talk about different economies, sustainable issues and cultural differences equips our pupils to confidently enter a diverse, ever changing work place in different parts of the world.
- 5.7 Seeing how different cultures operate and overcome problems encourages our learners to value what they have. Being able to talk knowledgably about how communities overcome barriers in the developing world encourages empathy and develops enterprising skills.
- 5.8 The partnerships provide our schools with the opportunity to bring many areas of the curriculum to life. The Malawi Partnership Programme provides a real context for learning when teaching subjects such as Geography, Maths, Music, History and Languages. In many cases the partnership has resulted in schools engaging in other initiatives such as Fairtrade and UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools using the Malawi partnership as evidence.
- 5.9 All partner primary schools have the SCOTDEC Failte Malawi programme resource, a Global Citizenship resource for primary schools. The activities in this resource pack encourage pupils

to explore the links and commonalities that are shared between Scotland and Malawi, with a focus on children's rights. The pack covers 4 topics: water, food and farming, houses and homes and toys and play. By exploring how these key needs are met in Malawi, pupils will learn more about themselves and their own communities.

- 5.10 The partnership programme offers CPD courses for staff and the chance to share good practice and discuss future developments. Inverclyde Education Services view the ongoing partnerships as a valued part of the curriculum and are grateful for the ongoing support of the volunteer communications team.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

There are no foreseen financial implications.

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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
N/A					

Legal

- 6.2 NA

Human Resources

- 6.3 NA

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 NA

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 NA

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 NA

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Appendix 1 – Partnership Activity Paper from John McIndoe - Malawi Communications Team

Appendix 1

Inverclyde Malawi Schools' Partnership

15 Inverclyde schools (6000 pupils) in partnership with 13 Malawi schools (16000 pupils)

Since 2007, Inverclyde schools have supported and empowered their Malawi partner schools in many, many projects involving schools working together – a hand up, not a hand out.

The following projects have been achieved through joint community working – through empowerment, not charity.

- 1 All Saints PS & King's Oak PS – Chiradzulu PS - new toilets, mains electricity, cups for meals, textbooks.
- 2 Clydeview Academy – Namadidi CDSS - mains electricity, clean drinking water, teachers' houses, textbooks.
- 3 Gourock Primary – Namadidi PS - mains electricity, classroom chairs, teaching resources.
- 4 Inverclyde Academy – Chiradzulu HS - refurbished classrooms & dormitories, curtains, mobile phones for all partner schools to set up WhatsApp communications.
- 5 Inverkip PS – Malawi PS - new classrooms, pupil toilets, library, office, teacher houses, kitchen, feeding programme, mosquito nets, teaching resources, laptops, solar electricity, clean tap water, sports equipment.
- 6 Kilmacolm PS – Phinda PS - feeding programme cups, classroom chairs, clean tap water.
- 7 Notre Dame HS – Limbe CDSS – rebuild school following storm damage, mains electricity, new teaching area, footballs.
- 8 Port Glasgow HS – Nguludi HS - new library, textbooks and teaching resources.
- 9 St Columba's HS – Litchenza CDSS – new classroom desks.
- 10 St Joseph's PS – Chimbumbu PS - new kitchen & Mary's Meals feeding programme, new classroom/office block.
- 11 St Mary's PS – Chikuli PS – solar electricity, clean tap water, toilet repairs, teaching resources.
- 12 St Michael's PS & Whinhill PS – Litchenza PS – mains electricity, chairs and teaching resources.
- 13 Wemyss Bay PS – Malire PS - new kitchen & feeding programme, chickens, sewing machine, laptop, new desks.

The following two projects involved the Inverclyde partner schools working together to support a specific project in Malawi – our motto in Chichewa (Malawi national language) is “pamodzi tingathe” – which translates as “together we can”.

2016 Rebuild Limbe Project

Following the destruction of Limbe CDSS by a storm in November 2015 – all of the Inverclyde partner schools combined together to raise funds to support Limbe CDSS in their time of need – over £1000 was raised and in January 2016, Limbe CDSS was rebuilt and reopened – the HT (Mr Stern) and all teachers and learners were overjoyed by the generous support from Inverclyde and were so thankful that their school had a 'new happy face'.

2017 Clean Drinking Water Project

Two of our partner schools- Chikuli PS & Phinda PS- had no clean drinking water as their school bore holes were broken or had dried up. The Inverclyde partner schools support the UN Sustainable Goals Project – Provision of Clean Water & Sanitation. Our schools helped both schools to open new wells and they both now have clean drinking water.

“Having access to clean water means that children can go to school -clean water changes lives and creates futures – thank you Inverclyde friends” - Jackson (HT Phinda PS)

John McIndoe
October 2017