
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	12 May 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Social Care	Report No:	EDUC/42/09/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Update on the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award (DFSA) and Provision for Pupils suffering from Mearles Irlen Syndrome		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for members on progress made within the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award and related work on Mearles Irlen Syndrome.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 St Gabriel's Primary School has already received the DFSA and been congratulated at the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.
- 2.2 A further three schools have since been given the same award – King's Oak Primary School, Overton Primary School and Earnhill Primary School. One other school, St John's Primary School, is very close to achieving the award.
- 2.3 Eight other schools are still working towards the award and three additional primary schools will become involved in August 2009. The process to complete the involvement of all schools will require at least two more sessions on the basis of the funding available – it is hoped, thereafter, to involve secondary schools.
- 2.4 Diagnostic screening is ongoing with pupils suspected of suffering from Mearles Irlen Syndrome. Helen Irlen, a psychologist from California, patented a set of coloured overlays and tinted spectacle filters which ease the symptoms. Inverclyde is one of few education authorities which are providing overlays and/or lenses to certain pupils. Coloured paper jotters are also purchased in bulk and provided to assist pupils affected by Mearles Irlen Syndrome. Helen Irlen visited Inverclyde in October 2008 and delivered a training session for professionals from Education and Health, as well as local opticians and parents.
- 2.5 The work of related professionals in the field of dyslexia continues as before. These include an outreach teacher, Support for Learning teachers and dyslexia advisers in DFSA – involved schools. An audit of training in dyslexia professionals is being undertaken in May/June 2009.
- 2.6 A member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate will deliver a presentation at their publication 'Education for Learners with Dyslexia' at the Additional Support Needs Forum on 14 May 2009. Relevant school staff are also invited to attend.
- 2.7 The Adult Learning Service has been closely involved in work relative to both dyslexia and Mearles Irlen Syndrome

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that members:

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- (i) Note the information provided in the update
 - (ii) Approve the continued involvement of Education Services in DFSA and palliative work in Mearles Irlen Syndrome

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Corporate Director: Education and Social Care