

Report To: Education & Lifelong Learning Committee **Date:** 3 November 2009

Report By: Acting Director of Education **Report No:** EDUC/94/09/AH

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Subject: Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee members with information about the progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Curriculum for Excellence aims to transform the Scottish education system to achieve better outcomes for children and young people aged 3-18, and prepare them for life in the 21st century.
- 2.2 Education Services has a Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Strategy covering the period 2008/10 which was approved by the Education and Lifelong Learning members in January 2009.
- 2.3 This report provides a summary of the work undertaken at authority level to support Inverclyde schools and early years establishments with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence during session 2008/09, and outlines some of the key tasks to be undertaken during session 2009/10.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is asked to note the very good progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

PROGRESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

OCTOBER 2009

Prioritised by service and schools

- *Curriculum for Excellence*, which aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3-18 continues to be a key priority for the service and all our schools and early years establishments.

Authority policies on teaching and learning, and transitions

- The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is being driven locally by an authority Steering Group consisting of Head Teacher representatives and members of the Quality Improvement Team. Two key authority policies have been produced to date which focus on improving outcomes for children and young people:

Learning and Teaching Policy

- The child is at the heart of the 3-18 curriculum and that means it is as much about *how* we teach as to *what* we teach. Since effective learning and teaching is at the heart of Curriculum for Excellence, the Steering Group's main task last session was to revise the authority's learning and teaching policy. The revised policy, entitled *Learning in Inverclyde*, was launched in December 2008 with a copy of the policy being given to every classroom practitioner in Inverclyde.

Transitions Policy

- Curriculum for excellence is about creating a single, coherent, and seamless 3-18 curriculum where children will experience a smooth transition as they move from pre-5 to primary 1 and primary 7 to S1 and indeed as they progress on their journey through all stages of schooling.
- As a result, an authority working group has produced a transitions policy entitled *Moving from early years to primary 1*. This policy has been in operation this session, and the working group is now tasked with producing a transitions policy that will support primary 7 pupils as they move to secondary school.

Newsletters for staff

- To support classroom practitioners with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence the CfE Steering Group produced the first of a series of planned Newsletters in November 2008 for all Inverclyde teachers and early years practitioners. A second newsletter is scheduled to be issued in November 2009.

Training of leaders

- Curriculum for Excellence has been the focus of Head Teacher conferences and is now a standing item on the agenda of all Head Teachers' meetings.

October 2009

Training of leaders cont'd

- As leaders of learning, a range of national and local CPD activities took place last session, and an ongoing programme is underway this session, for classroom practitioners. One of the big impact CPD events has been our inter-authority seminars delivered in partnership with colleagues from Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils.

Concerns about secondary assessment

- In 2008, a national consultation exercise on National Qualifications was undertaken with the aims of ensuring that future qualifications reflect and support Curriculum for Excellence. We submitted an authority response to this national exercise (shared with elected members at the time). On 11 June 2009, information on the next generation of national qualifications was published by the Scottish Government with decisions on 3 main areas being announced:
 - The consultation exercise showed that National Qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher levels are a key strength of our existing system and will be retained.
 - Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications will be replaced by 2 new qualifications – National 4 (internally assessed and not graded) and National 5 (some course assessment, and external exam or other external assessment by SQA). These new NQs will be available from 2013/14 onwards (ie current P7 pupils will be first cohort for the new NQs).
 - New National Literacy and National Numeracy awards will be available to young people from S3 onwards from 2012/13 onwards.

Working Groups on literacy, numeracy, and health and well-being

- Within Curriculum for Excellence, all classroom practitioners have a responsibility for the development of literacy and numeracy skills, and for the health and well-being of children and young people. This session, authority working groups have been set up for each of these key curricular areas tasked with producing guidance to support all classroom practitioners.

Working Groups on Sustainable Development and S1-S3 Curriculum

- A Working Group for Sustainable Development has been in place during session 2008/09 and will continue this session. The work of this group will focus on supporting schools with the environmental aspects of sustainable development which will provide many opportunities for pupil participation and decision-making. One task is to support schools with the development of a Green Charter as part of a Council-wide initiative.
- A Working Group for the new S1-S3 Curriculum has been in place during session 2008/09 and will continue this session. The group membership comprises all secondary Head Teachers, a Quality Improvement Manager and a Head of Service.

Extra Teachers

- The Scottish Government has provided funding for 2 Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) in Inverclyde this session as part of a national support programme for local authorities. This funding has enabled 2 experienced teachers to be released from school this session as seconded Curriculum for Excellence Development Officers to support implementation of Curriculum for Excellence across Inverclyde establishments. One secondee will support early years establishments and primary schools, the other secondee will support secondary schools.

Extra INSET Day

- An additional INSET day was provided last session to support Curriculum for Excellence. Another additional INSET day will take place in February 2010 and again the focus will be on Curriculum for Excellence.

Co-operative Learning

- A pilot programme of training for teachers in the techniques and strategies of Co-operative Learning is planned for this session. Co-operative Learning will build on our recently revised authority Learning and Teaching Policy, and will equip teachers with teaching skills that will ensure a learning environment that promotes and supports children and young people to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens. Some of our Co-operative Learning training will be undertaken in partnership with colleagues from Renfrewshire Council.

Inter-authority Seminars

- Inter-authority seminars with colleagues from Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils will continue during session 2009/10. Follow-up seminars for secondary teachers of English, Mathematics, and Science have taken place and there will be a rolling programme for other subject areas throughout this session. The focus of these seminars is to allow colleagues to share ideas, practice and resolve any issues relating to the curriculum outcomes and experiences, as well as looking at responsibilities for literacy, numeracy, and health and well-being.
- Through our inter-authority working with Renfrewshire Council, consideration is being given to implementing a programme of joint Principal Teachers meetings this session, and allowing secondary Head Teachers to meet to discuss their approach to the new S1-S3 curriculum. The possibility of a joint INSET day programme is also being considered.

GLOW

- Glow, the world's first national intranet for education and a core element of support for Curriculum for Excellence, has been introduced to all of Inverclyde's primary and secondary schools over the past session. All school staff are now live on the system, and plans are underway to have all pupils logging on this session and using the range of learning and teaching tools available. The next priority is to establish Glow within Pre 5 establishments.