

Report To: Education & Communities Committee **Date:** 12 June 2012

Report By: Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development **Report No:** EDUCOM/09/12/WB

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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.
- 1.2 A regular progress report on Curriculum for Excellence was requested by members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee at their meeting which was held on 11 May 2010.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Curriculum for Excellence aims to transform the Scottish education system to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people aged 3 to18, and prepare them for life in the 21st century.
- 2.2 This report provides an update of the work currently being undertaken at authority level to support Inverclyde schools and early years establishments with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the ongoing progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Curriculum for Excellence aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18.

The curriculum includes the totality of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated.

The purpose of Curriculum for Excellence is encapsulated in the 4 capacities – to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

The Scottish Government provided grant funding of £58,000 to Inverclyde for 2011/12 as part of a funding allocation to local authorities to support quality assurance and moderation of assessment as part of the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. The allocated sum is based on local authority teacher numbers. The Scottish Government has continued this funding for 2012/13.

Additional financial support has been provided by the Scottish Government to support secondary schools with preparations for the new National Qualifications. The amount of funding allocated to Inverclyde secondary schools is anticipated to be in the region of £50,000.

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

6.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications

6.4 Equalities

Curriculum for Excellence aims to improve outcomes for **all** children and young people aged 3-18.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This progress report on Curriculum for Excellence outlines the current progress that is being made across Inverclyde schools and early years' establishments with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

Education and Communities Committee Meeting – 12 June 2012

SCHOOL SESSION 2011/12

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE UPDATE

Curriculum for Excellence aims to transform the Scottish education system to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people aged 3 to 18, and prepare them for life in the 21st century through the development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is a key priority in the 2011/12 Improvement Plan of each early years establishment, and primary, special and secondary school in Inverclyde, and will remain a priority in Improvement Plans for session 2012/13.

CfE Deep Audit

In March 2012, a deep audit of Curriculum for Excellence was undertaken in secondary schools across Scotland to identify where targeted support may be required to assist with the implementation of the Senior Phase. A pro forma was completed by Inverclyde secondary Head Teachers and an authority response was collated and submitted to our HMIE District Inspector.

Scottish Government Support Package

On 21 March 2012, the Scottish Government announced additional support for secondary schools to assist with preparation for the new National Qualifications from session 2013/14 and for the introduction of S3 profiling in session 2012/13.

Included in this support is the provision of 2 additional in-service days for secondary schools. Following discussion with secondary Head Teachers it was agreed that our 2 additional in-service days should be added to the scheduled in-service days in October 2012 and in February 2013. A request was made to the Scottish Government to approve 2 additional in-service days for Inverclyde secondary schools on Tuesday 23 October 2012 and Thursday 14 February 2013. This request has now been approved by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government's support package also includes additional financial support to secondary schools to facilitate, for example, additional supply cover being brought in to release classroom teachers for development activities relating to the new courses, and the purchase of new resources required for National 4 and National 5 qualifications.

In addition, course materials for the new National 4 and National 5 qualifications will be developed and distributed to schools well in advance of the commencement of the new qualifications in 2013/14.

Parent Council Chairs will be informed about the additional in-service days and funding to support secondary schools with preparation for the new National Qualifications at their next meeting on 7 June 2012.

Senior Phase - SQA Update

Documents relating to the new National Qualifications from National 2 to Higher Grade courses were available on the SQA website from the beginning of May 2012. A range of SQA engagement events for nominated secondary school teachers took place during May/June 2012 to look at the documentation associated with each of the new National Qualification courses. These teachers will have an opportunity to share the information gained from these engagement events with colleagues from all Inverclyde secondary schools during the 2nd in-service in August 2012.

As part of a new Quality Assurance model, local authorities have been asked to nominate secondary school teachers from each subject area to become part of a pool of nationally trained experts who will be trained to undertake verification activities in other authorities on behalf of SQA. Both Units and Internally Assessed Course Components will be verified. In addition, these teachers will be able to share/cascade information about national standards and support schools in their own local authority.

Those nominated to be trained as verifiers will require 5 days release from school across 3 dates – November/Mid-December and May. Local authorities will be reimbursed for staff release.

Co-operative Learning Academies

Another successful 3 day co-operative learning academy for secondary Maths and Science teachers took place in May 2012. A further 3 day academy for teachers from all sectors is planned for 18-20 June 2012.

Good Practice Cluster Events for Parents

Inverclyde Academy Cluster

A Curriculum for Excellence Parent/Carer engagement event took place on Saturday 17 March 2012 in Inverclyde Academy from 10 am – 12 noon. The event entitled 'Bring Your Grown Up to School' was open to pupils and their parents from Inverclyde Academy and its associated primary schools. Children and parents/carers attended workshops which were delivered by staff from each of the associated primary schools and Inverclyde Academy. The workshops demonstrated a range of curricular activities which are delivered at particular stages from early years to S2.

Clydeview Academy Cluster

The Clydeview Academy cluster held a successful Curriculum for Excellence Parent/Carer event on 20 March 2012 at 6 pm. This engagement event focused on skills for learning, life and work. Each cluster school took an aspect of skills for learning, life and work and pupils from the school presented examples of their learning which focused on the development of these skills. In addition, there were displays of pupils' work from each cluster school in the foyer for parents/carers to see.

P7 Pupil Profiles

This session, all P7 pupils are working on a P7 profile which contains a range of information about that young person's learning, and which emphasises learners' achievements as they complete their primary education and make the transition to secondary school.

In Inverclyde, we are using a e-portfolio facility on Glow for the P7 profiles. Through Assessment is for Learning techniques, pupils have experience of reflecting on their learning, identifying their strengths and their next steps. Pupils are encouraged to include information about their achievements out of school when “posting” information on their profile.

The P7 profile will an important document for transition to secondary school and staff can use the profile to get to know their new S1 pupils. As they progress through the remainder of their Broad General Education from S1-S3, pupils will be encouraged to continue to add to their profile.

From next session, work will begin to develop profiles with S3 pupils as they complete their Broad General Education and move into the Senior Phase.

Education Scotland Visits to St Columba’s High School and St Stephen’s High School

In June, Education Scotland representatives will visit St Columba’s High School and St Stephen’s High School as part of a national sampling exercise to look in detail at good practice which may be shared across schools and to develop a greater understanding of subject-specific issues and teachers’ needs. Both visits will focus on Maths and look at how prepared staff are for the new National Qualifications.

In addition, colleagues from HMIE will undertake a Good Practice Visit St Columba’s High School and St Andrew’s Primary School to look at how literacy has been used to support P7 transition from primary to secondary school.

Other Information

Curriculum for Excellence continues to be a key focus of Directorate Management Team meetings with M Mallon, HM District Inspector, Education Scotland.

Authority CfE Papers To Date

Listed below are the authority papers that have been produced to date and issued to all Heads of establishment. They are all available via the Inverclyde ‘Curriculum for Excellence’ site (‘share resources’ section):

The main items issued fall into three groups:

Framework Documents: These are major pieces of work, and are available for:

- Maths (including the Maths planners)
- Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing

Advice Papers: These were produced by the five advisory groups. They cover:

- Assessment and Moderation
- Parental Involvement
- CPD
- Communication and Glow
- Tracking, Reporting and Recognising Achievement

- Self-evaluation

Guidance Papers: These are shorter and tend to focus on one issue. The two issued so far are on

- Pace and progression
- Skills for learning, life and work

National Publications

All national publications and associated papers relating to Curriculum for Excellence, along with exemplars and examples of good practice are available from the national Curriculum for Excellence website (www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence).