

Report To: Education and Communities Committee **Date:** 06 May 2014

Report By: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development **Report No:** EDUCOM/40/14/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 to 18, 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.

Patricia Cassidy
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.

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 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.

The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is a key priority in the 2013/14 Improvement Plan of each early years' establishment, and primary, secondary and ASN school in Inverclyde.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE UPDATE

6.1 Senior Phase

Further Scottish Government support is being provided to all secondary schools to assist and progress the implementation of the new National Qualifications including the new Highers. The support includes the following:

- One additional in-service day for secondary schools for the academic year 2014/15
- Funding to provide development time for teachers to support them with the delivery of the new National Qualifications including the new Highers
- Funding to deliver school level events to improve parents/carers understanding of the new qualifications

Discussions with secondary Head Teachers will be taking place to agree how best to use this support.

6.2 Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Enterprise Showcase

All schools and 3 early years' establishments participated in the 2 day Annual Education Showcase at Greenock Town Hall in March 2014. This year's theme was Curriculum for Excellence in Action with a focus on Skills for Learning, Life and Work (Employability), GIRFEC, Inter Disciplinary Learning and Modern Languages. The event enabled all local schools to showcase the wide variety of projects, initiatives and teaching and learning approaches that are underway across the authority. Schools showcased projects on science, technology, languages, recycling, partnership working as well as literacy, international education and more. Over 600 children attended the event over the 2 days

with around a further 300 visitors including parents, business representatives, and elected members.

Young Enterprise Finals

Inverclyde schools enjoyed great success at this year's inter-authority Young Enterprise Finals at the University of the West of Scotland:

St Stephen's High School - won Best Business Presentation

St Columba's High School - won Best Trade Fair Stand

Notre Dame High School - won Best Company in Inverclyde, Best Business Report and was crowned Best Overall Company (pan Renfrewshire)!

Notre Dame High School will now represent the Renfrewshire Area Board at the Scottish Finals.

The Recruit 2014

65 applications were received for The Recruit Programme 2014 which kicked off at Auchengillan International Outdoor Centre on Tues 15 April 2014. The standard of application was extremely good this year giving the panel a hard task to select 35 senior pupils. All secondary schools are represented with a good mix of S5 and S6 students.

Already a number of employers have been in touch pledging to support the 2014 programme with some expressing an interest in offering employment opportunities. New companies are also keen to support challenges. Inverclyde Council will offer one placement opportunity via the Modern Apprenticeship Programme.

6.3 Health and Wellbeing Update

Two local primary schools have applied for up to £5,000 funding from Education Scotland through their Food for Thought initiative. This supports schools to look at innovative approaches to working with food, growing food and learning about food in their own context. Both schools have worked with local business partners in developing their applications – we await the results of the application phase.

Scottish Government have released the Better Eating, Better Learning document which looks at the past 10 years of Hungry for Success, noting that there **has** been considerable success in nutritional education and the implementation of guidelines across Scotland's schools. This new document builds on the successes of the last decade and outlines a way forward in terms of curricular direction for food education.

The Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinators in Inverclyde's schools have identified Mental Health as the foremost priority for Health and Wellbeing in planning ahead for session 2014/15. Partners and schools are working together to ensure that opportunities continue to be available to support practitioners in this area. This work is being linked closely to the local response to the Director of Public Health's previous report highlighting the mental health of children and young people as a public health priority.

83% of S1-S6 pupils in Inverclyde secondary schools have completed a health and wellbeing survey in partnership with CHCP. The Health and Wellbeing Development Officer is currently planning for school summits to actively engage with young people in each school community regarding their responses to the survey. It is anticipated that the overall results from the survey will inform curricular and school improvement planning, as well as informing wider strategies and plans across the Community Planning Partnership.

6.4 Example of Good Practice

The Notre Dame High School Cluster held a second successful Cluster Science Roadshow for parents/carers in Notre Dame High School on 25 March 2014. The event allowed cluster schools to showcase the work that has been undertaken across the Cluster to moderate experiences and outcomes for Science, and to share the good practice in the delivery of the Science curriculum.

St Columba's High School Cluster organised a Children and Young People's Conference on 2 April 2014. This very successful event, which was led entirely by pupils from each of the cluster schools, was attended by pupils, parents/carers, elected members, and stakeholders from a variety of agencies. Pupils from each of the cluster schools ran a series of workshops to allow participants to discuss children's rights within their own communities.

Parents/carers from the Inverclyde Academy cluster had an opportunity to attend workshops on *Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)*. The event was well-attended and feedback from parents and pupils was excellent.

St Stephen's High School is working in conjunction with the Green Charter Unit and Lower Clyde Greenspace on a Glasgow Commonwealth Games Green Legacy project called 'Plan Bee'. The project aims to educate pupils about the loss of honey bees and the effect this is having on the environment. The project will involve an interdisciplinary approach involving art, life sciences, and health and wellbeing. The project will also involve the setting up of bee hives in a suitable location adjacent to the school. Science classes will take an active part in the management of the bee hives allowing the school to produce its own supply of honey.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Finance

The Scottish Government provided grant funding of £58,000 to Inverclyde for 2011/12 and 2012/13 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 2013/14.

7.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

7.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications

7.4 Equalities

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

Repopulation

7.5 N/A

8.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 Local decisions relating to the operational aspects of implementing Curriculum for

Excellence are discussed and agreed with Heads of establishment either through working group arrangements or through Heads of establishment meetings.

8.2 Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is discussed and agreed at establishment level through staff meetings and in-service day activities.

8.3 Parents /carers have been consulted on aspects of Curriculum for Excellence, such as the Senior Phase Model.

9.0 CONCLUSION

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.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 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:

- Pace and progression
- Skills for learning, life and work
- New Flexible Work Experience Model

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.educationscotland.gov.uk