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**Report To:** Education and Communities Committee      **Date:** 9 September 2014

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Report No: EDUCOM/66/14/WB

**Contact Officer:** Wilma Bain (Head of Education)      **Contact No:** 01475 712824

**Subject:** Additional In-Service Day for Primary Schools

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee members with information regarding an additional in-service day during session 2014/15 for primary schools (including ASN schools) which was announced by the Scottish Government in June 2014.
- 1.2 The purpose of the additional in-service day is to provide an opportunity for primary teachers to reflect on the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and to further embed CfE approaches.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This extra in-service day for primary teachers follows the announcement by The Scottish Government in February 2014 of an additional in-service day for secondary schools during session 2014/15 to support preparation for the new National Qualifications.
- 2.2 Following consultation with secondary Head Teachers, Tuesday 21 October 2014 was agreed as the date for the extra in-service day for secondary schools. It would make sense to select the same date for primary schools. This date has been approved by the Scottish Government for both primary and secondary schools in Inverclyde.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the additional in-service day on Tuesday 21 October 2014 for primary and secondary schools.
- 3.2 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to approve the extension of the in-service to include early years' establishments where the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence begins for children aged 3 years.

Patricia Cassidy  
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 *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 21<sup>st</sup> century through the development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence continues to be a key priority in the Improvement Plan of each early years' establishment, and primary, secondary and ASN school in Inverclyde.

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It would be beneficial for early years' staff to have the opportunity to reflect on the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence either as a staff group within their early years' establishment, or as a cluster group with colleagues from associated primary schools. It is, therefore, proposed to extend the additional in-service day to include early years' establishments.

## 6.0 ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE DAY

- 6.1 Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975, as amended, requires schools to be open for a minimum of 190 days in a school year. However, section 133 (4) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (the 1980 Act) allows Scottish Ministers, on application, to modify this regulation providing they are satisfied that it would be unreasonable for regulation 5 to apply, or to apply without modification. As a result, local authorities were asked to apply for such dispensation to allow schools to close for the extra in-service day.
- 6.2 An application to firstly close secondary schools on Tuesday 21 October 2014 to provide an additional in-service day to reflect on the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence was approved by the Scottish Government. A subsequent application for an additional in-service day for primary schools on Tuesday 21 October 2014 was also approved.
- 6.3 Head Teachers have been asked to inform their parents/carers about the additional in-service day planned for Tuesday 21 October 2014.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial costs associated with the information provided in this paper.

### 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					

7.2 Legal

There are no legal implications. Dispensation from Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975 has been approved by the Scottish Government.

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.

7.5 Repopulation

N/A

**8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 Secondary Head Teachers were consulted on an appropriate date for the additional in-service day and were asked to inform parents/carers.

8.2 It is appropriate to align the additional in-service day for primary schools with that already approved for secondary schools.

**9.0 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Additional in-service days have implications for pupils, parents/carers and teachers. Aligning the additional in-service day for primary schools with that for secondary schools will minimise disruption for parents/carers. The same rationale will be applied if approval is granted to extend the additional in-service day on 21 October 2014 to include early years' establishments.

**10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A