
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date: 10 March 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No: EDUCOM/26/15/WB
Contact Officer:	Wilma Bain (Head of Education)	Contact No: 01475 712824
Subject:	Governance Report for Externally Commissioned Services	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Education and Communities Committee with an annual update in respect of the governance of external organisations with whom we have a significant financial relationship.
- 1.2 The reporting period is November 2013 to November 2014.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Governance arrangements were established to ensure that contracted services maintain quality service provision and meet financial governance requirements.
- 2.2 While across the Council governance reports are presented to the relevant Service Committee, an annual report is presented to the Policy and Resources Committee summarising progress and highlighting any areas of concern.
- 2.3 There are no areas of concern in relation to the externally commissioned services who work in partnership with the Education and Communities service areas.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the content of this Governance Report.

Patricia Cassidy
Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In May 2011, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a framework for monitoring the governance of key external organisations with whom the Council has a significant financial relationship.
- 4.2 The purpose of this framework was to provide a formal mechanism for feeding back to the relevant Committee on each organisation's performance and to highlight any issues in respect of governance, financial stability or overall performance. This approach was recognised by the Council's External Auditors at the time of being an example of good practice.
- 4.3 This report is based on governance activity carried out over the 12 month period from November 2013 to November 2014.
- 4.4 An annual update in respect of governance of external organisations across all Directorates is produced for the Council's Policy and Resources Committee. The most recent annual update was submitted for the Policy and Resources Committee meeting which was held on 18 November 2014.

5.0 SPECIFIC SERVICE UPDATES

5.1 Stepwell Consultancy Ltd

This organisation provides curricular and health and wellbeing support for young people who are significantly disengaged from mainstream education. In addition, the organisation offers services for young people with social and emotional behaviour difficulties. Several positive partnership meetings have taken place to date evaluating the quality and content of service provision.

5.2 Tree Tops Community Nursery

This Nursery is no longer operating.

5.3 Solas Insulation Ltd

This organisation is no longer trading.

5.4 Inverclyde Leisure (IL)

Committee has approved IL's 3 year business plan. The first year (2014/15) operational review of that plan is due early in the next financial year. The Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities meets with Inverclyde Leisure's Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on a monthly basis to review financial and operational performance, and attends Inverclyde Leisure's Board meetings as an observer. Inverclyde Leisure's accounts are forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer for scrutiny on an annual basis.

5.5 The Kilmacolm New Community Centre Company Ltd

The Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities met with a representative of KNCCC Ltd to review the 2013/14 accounts earlier in the year. The Centre has been operating within available funds and without recourse to deficit funding. A written request has been made to the Chair of KNCCC Ltd for a meeting to discuss the preparation of the new

business plan for 2015. A follow-up request has been made for a meeting early in the new year.

5.6 Youth Connections

These services are provided through a Service Level Agreement with a monthly monitoring meeting to track financial and operational performance.

5.7 James Watt College Nursery

This Nursery is now known as West College Scotland as is a partner provider contracted to provide early education and childcare places for children aged 3 and 4 years. There are no concerns about this service being provided by West College Scotland Nursery. In fact, the Nursery has improved its practice with regard to children with additional support needs.

5.8 Ardfern Learning Centre

Ardfern Learning Centre continues to be used as an educational provision for young people from Inverclyde. There are currently two young people attending the provision. A key focus of the governance process is quality of services. This is monitored through various levels of scrutiny including HMIE data (the last HMIE inspection of Ardfern Learning Centre was in February 2012 and was a very positive inspection); Standard and Quality Reporting, as well as regular case reviews for individual children and young people attended by personnel from Inverclyde Education Services.

5.9 Madeira Nursery

Madeira Nursery is a partner provider contracted to provide early education and childcare places for children aged 3 and 4 years. Monitoring procedures are in place as the experienced and skilled Manager has left the organisation. There have been improvements in the grades awarded by the Care Inspectorate this year resulting in 'Very Good' grades being awarded for the quality of care and support, environment, staffing, and management and leadership.

5.10 Glencairn Nursery

This Nursery is no longer operating.

5.11 Wellington Pre-5 Nursery

Wellington Nursery is a partner provider contracted to provide early education and childcare places for children aged 3 and 4 years. There have been improvements in the grades awarded by the Care Inspectorate this year resulting in 'Very Good' grades being awarded for the quality of care and support, environment, staffing, and management and leadership.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 There are no finance implications in connection with this report.

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					

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications in connection with this report.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no HR implications arising from this report.

6.4 Equalities

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6.5 Repopulation

While there are no direct impacts in respect of repopulation, the Council's approach to the governance of external organisations should provide early warning of any concerns that could impact on service provision and job security for the external organisation's staff.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 There are no areas of concern in relation to the externally commissioned services who work in partnership with the Education and Communities service areas.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None