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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>01 November 2016</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/67/16/RB</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712824</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Secondary Attainment Challenge</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education and Communities Committee with the progress of the secondary plan for the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In June, the authorities which were identified as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge were asked to submit bids to decrease the attainment gap linked to deprivation in secondary schools. The bids had to be submitted by 31 August 2016.
- 2.2 The bid for Inverclyde prioritised the same work streams and approaches as the primary bid. The aim is to build upon the very strong foundations already started through the primary bid.
- 2.3 The Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development received notification on 30 September 2016 that the bid had been very positively received and that Inverclyde Council would receive the total amount bid for, with the condition that the plan continues to be refined in discussion with the Attainment Advisor.
- 2.4 The full bid is attached to this paper as Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Barnardo's were named as a partner in the bid to the Scottish Government as they provide a unique service and experience in relation to a wide range of parenting programmes and relationship based interventions, such as Video Interactive Guidance, Seasons for Growth and Life story work. These types of services fall below the thresholds for the application of the European and National Procurement Rules and on this basis it is considered that on the application of Best Value principles that a contract can be directly awarded without competition.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the contents of the bid and the identified spending plan.
- 3.2 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to agree to the appointment of Barnardo's in terms of Contract Standing Order 19.2.

**Ruth Binks**  
**Head of Education**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Attainment Challenge started in August 2015 as a national initiative aimed at giving all primary-age children, regardless of background, the best start in life. Its aim is to drive forward improvements in educational outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities, therefore reducing inequity.
- 4.2 Inverclyde was named as one of the original seven local authorities to receive money for the Attainment Challenge. The rationale behind the choice of authorities was the highest proportion of pupils in SIMD 1 and 2 in primary schools. The aim of the Attainment Challenge is to close the attainment gap linked to deprivation. Two further authorities have now been added to the original seven.
- 4.3 In June 2016 the Scottish government announced that they were extending the Attainment Challenge funding to secondary schools in all of the challenge authorities. Challenge authorities were invited to bid for funding.

## 5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Inverclyde's vision for the attainment challenge is to develop practice which is both effective and sustainable through upskilling our permanent workforce as a result of training, coaching and modelling. We will also measure the impact of current and new approaches to ensure effectiveness and then share this across the authority.
- 5.2 The secondary bid aims to build upon the strong foundations laid down in the primary sector. It will follow the same three workstreams of Families and Communities, Leadership and Workforce and Meeting Learning Needs. The proposal in its entirety is attached as an appendix to this paper. The inclusion of Barnardo's was a key factor in being successful with this bid and the aims will continue the strong partnership between Inverclyde Council and Barnardo's. Officers will secure a separate contract with Barnardo's, depending on the outcome of recommendation 3.2, to coincide with the length of the overall agreement.
- 5.3 On Friday 30 September 2016 officers were advised that an allocation of £540,894 has been approved for Inverclyde Council for financial year 2016/17 (up to 31 March 2017) with the condition that the plan continues to be refined in discussion with the Attainment Advisor.
- 5.4 Barnardo's were named as a partner in the bid to the Scottish Government as they provide a unique service and experience in relation to a wide range of parenting programmes and relationship based interventions, such as Video Interactive Guidance, Seasons for Growth and Life story work. These types of services fall below the thresholds for the application of the European and National Procurement Rules and on this basis it is considered that on the application of Best Value principles that a contract can be directly awarded without competition. The contract to be agreed with Barnardo's will cover the duration of the funding agreement and will be based on Inverclyde Council terms and conditions.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

#### 6.1 Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A			£540,894		Fully funded by Scottish Government

## Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications to this paper.

### Human Resources

6.3 This funding will result in the employment of extra staff.

### Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### Repopulation

6.5 This paper takes into account Inverclyde Council's priority for repopulation.

## 7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The funding for the Secondary Attainment Challenge is welcomed by Inverclyde.

## 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 N/A