
**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership**

**Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning
Group**

Date: 11th August 2015



Education Quality and Standards Report

1. Purpose

The Community Services Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2015 endorsed the Education Services Standards & Quality Report for session 2013/2014.

The purpose of this report is to provide Community Planning Group on the progress being made within Education in Argyll and Bute. The report is presented in a revised format based around the principle high level questions as outlined within Quality Management in Education (QMIE), the self- evaluation framework used by the Education function of the Local Authority.

The report presents the major achievements made within Education in Argyll and Bute across the session 2013/14 and includes the SQA examination results for pupils who sat examinations in May/June 2014.

The full report will be available to view on Argyll & Bute Council website <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/education-performance-and-standards>

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community Planning Group:

- note the continuing progress made in relation to Education within Argyll and Bute, and
- note the commitment of staff and the success and achievements of our children and young people.

3. Background

The Education Service reports on its quality and standards on an annual basis. The report appended to this document details progress made across the service in relation to the actions outlined in the Education Action Plan for 2013/14.

4. Detail

4.1 Particular successes highlighted within the appended report include:

- Positive results overall in the new National 4 and National 5 awards;
- Delivery of a greater range of wider achievement qualifications across our schools including:
 - Award Scheme Development Accreditation Network;
 - British Safety Council Basic Food Hygiene Certificate;
 - Duke of Edinburgh;
 - John Muir Award, and
 - The Saltire Award scheme.
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- An overall increase of 2.4% in young people entering a positive and sustained destination post school;
- Finalists in the Scottish Education Awards. One in the category of Education Supporter of the Year and two in Enterprise and Employability Across Learning;
- Every child and young person in Argyll and Bute has a Named Person;
- Successful partnership working with Education Scotland to train 43 Local Area Assessment and Moderation facilitators to support schools with developments in this area;
- A highly successful and well received Raising Attainment Conference held in Oban in March;
- Use of the Sharing Argyll Learning Initiatives, online resource, to promote quality Professional Learning Opportunities for all staff including our valued supply teachers;
- Very well received Curriculum Design days delivered to support primary establishments to implement their revised curriculum plans;

- The literacy practitioners forum has created a Literacy Action Plan;
- In Kintyre there has been a successful pilot of “Numeracy Bags”;
- An increase in the number of Teacher Learning Community Coordinators which has led to an increase in the number of Teacher Learning Communities which have been highly successful in supporting teachers to develop formative assessment approaches;
- The development of a new Health and Wellbeing Implementation guide for schools to support with Health and Wellbeing, Responsibility of all;
- Development and launch of a new Authority Anti-Bullying Policy based on the Scottish Government endorsed “Respect Me” approach;
- Increased training in Learning Technologies and in particular the use of i-pads leading to increased use of the technology to transform learning and teaching approaches;
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of children placed in establishments out-with the authority;
- Introduction of a new Teacher Professional Development and Review policy meeting the requirements of the General Teaching Council for Scotland Professional Update scheme, and
- A very successful conference for Newly Appointed Head Teachers.

4.2 What are we going to do next?

- As part of the Authority approach to securing improvement for all learners the Education Service will continue to work with individual schools through a comprehensive programme of support and challenge. Key approaches include:
 - an expectation that all Head Teachers will submit their initial analysis of their school’s results to the Education Service following the initial release of results by the SQA in August;
 - members of the Education Team undertake a comprehensive review of the attainment sets for schools, including discreet subject areas, identification of key trends: positive and negative, three year averages and subject trends, and
 - meaningful discussion of the outcome of statistical analysis of school reports between the Authority and individual schools.

- Central staff and schools will further develop and promote *Skills for Work* and Partner Achievement Qualification opportunities thereby extending partnership working and wider achievement qualifications;
- Continue to work with young people and partner stakeholders to further increase the percentage of young people achieving sustained positive destinations;
- Support and positively promote engagement with national education awards in order that the work of pupils, schools and staff is celebrated, acknowledged and recognised;
- Further develop the work of the Authority Assessment, Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing, ICT and Probationer Forums;
- Develop a programme in partnership with Stramash in PE Outdoors to continue to meet the needs of schools with restricted indoor facilities;
- Seek opportunities to work in partnership with colleagues from other authorities, Education Scotland, HMLe, SQA;
- Support staff and schools to build capacity to meet the needs of our most vulnerable young people within our own establishments, further reducing the number of children placed in educational establishments outside the Authority;
- Support schools to further develop their understanding of the increased expectations from Education Scotland quality indicators 5.1, The Curriculum and 5.9, Improvement through self-evaluation;
- Work with colleagues in all schools and establishments to develop leadership at all levels, and
- We will continue to work with schools to focus on raising attainment and achievement for all pupils.

5. Conclusions

The next Standards & Quality Report will be reported to Community Services Committee in December 2015 reporting on progress in session 2014/15.

6. SOA Outcomes 3 and 4

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