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**EDUCATION STRATEGY**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of the paper is to advise Elected Members of the introduction of a formal Education Vision and Strategy. This document has been prepared by Education Services to allow the Service to effectively respond to the changing National and local policy contexts and, in doing so, ensure the future delivery of an Education Service which supports our children, young people and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The strategy sets out:

- The policy context;
- The key ambitions for our children, young people and communities;
- The Education vision;
- An overview of the Education Services Strategy;
- Cross cutting themes;
- Our 6 Key objectives;
- How we will report on outcomes, and
- The proposed approach to monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Education Strategy.

This initial document has been prepared by members of Education Services, supported by an initial reference group.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- 2.1 Note the preparation of a draft Education Vision and Strategy;
- 2.2 Note the proposed timescales for taking forward the consultation, review and revision of this important document, and
- 2.3 Agree that a further report is presented to the September meeting of the Committee following consultation.

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**EDUCATION STRATEGY**

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**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

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**4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- 4.1 Note the preparation of a draft Education Vision and Strategy;
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## 5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 The period 2016-19 is an exciting time for Scottish Education with our children and young people's futures at the forefront of national and local policy. Nationally, the key building blocks for a truly excellent education system are being assembled to reach the national ambition of making Scotland the best place in the world for a child to grow up. In Argyll and Bute, the message is even clearer. These are *Our Children, Our Future* and **we want Argyll and Bute to be the best place in Scotland to grow up** and for young people and families to remain in this area.

To realise that ambition we need to take these important national building blocks and stitch them together within Argyll and Bute to produce a coherent set of policies that work effectively as a single system that delivers an equality of educational opportunity and improves attainment for all. This starts from work we do with families before a child is born all the way through to securing positive destinations for our young people at the end of their school career.

This Strategy will clearly identify the Education Service vision embedded throughout *Our Children, Our Future*, along with the high level objectives to deliver this vision, with associated priority actions.

The strategy includes objectives and priorities and will be supported by a plan that sets out the specific actions we will take to deliver our vision. We will report on our progress annually.

- 5.2 Policy Context:

This is a time of significant change for Education and Children's Services. The pace of change, the drive to improve services and the financial context combine to place increasing demands on the delivery of education. Despite these challenges, it is important that we remain ambitious to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people.

The National Outcomes for Scotland include:

- Our children have the **best start in life** and are ready to succeed
- Young people are equipped through their education to become **successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens**
- We have tackled the **significant inequalities** in Scottish society
- We have **improved the life chances** for children, young people and families at risk

The **National Improvement Framework (NIF)** for Scottish Education and the underpinning Education (Scotland) Act 2016 seek to draw a number of these areas together at a national level and helpfully clarifies the vision as delivering **excellence through attainment** and **achieving equity**.

The national vision and key priorities supports us in improving outcomes for children in Argyll and Bute and help us deliver on the Argyll and Bute Single

Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government through our Community Planning Partnership.

5.3 Local context:

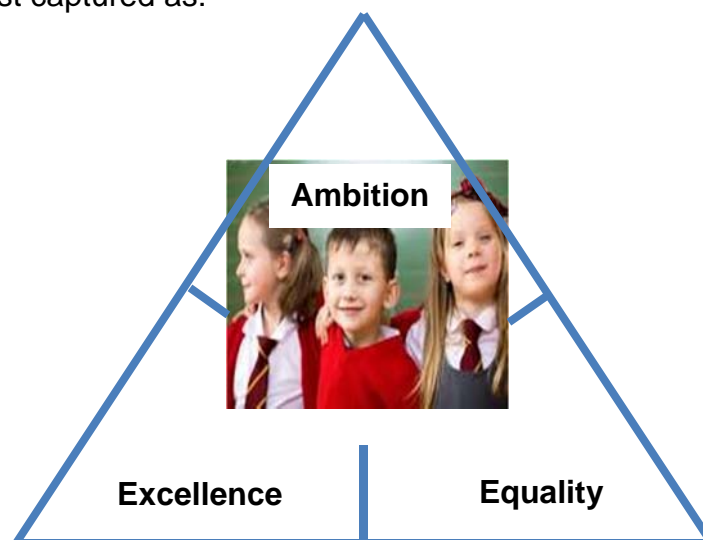
Education is delivered in a range of settings, including

- Child minding;
- Early Learning and Child Care;
- Primary and secondary schools including the delivery of Gaelic Medium Education;
- One special school;
- Youth learning services, and
- Partnerships with local colleges.

5.4 The Education Vision, Values and Key Objectives:

The strategy sets out how Education will deliver the aspiration to ensure that Argyll and Bute is the best place in Scotland for our children to grow up. With a vision that sends a signal about the importance we attach to education is simple in message and is recognised by everyone.

This is best captured as:



Our vision is underpinned by a core set of values: **respect**, **openness** and **fairness**. This vision will be delivered for all of our children, young people and communities through 6 key objectives. We will:

- **Raise educational attainment and achievement for all;**
- **Use performance information to secure improvement for children and young people;**
- **Ensure children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;**
- **Equip young people to sustain positive destinations and achieve**

**success in life;**

- **Strengthen partnership working and community engagement, and**
- **Strengthen leadership at all levels.**

Each of the key objectives has a range of priority actions to assist us in delivering the Key objectives are illustrated in the strategy (Pgs. 10 through 15).

- 5.5 In the initial stage of preparation the Executive Director, Community Services issued a letter to all education stakeholders advising them of the preparation of the Education Strategy, noting that appropriate opportunities would be provided to ensure that their views, comments and suggestions were taken into consideration when compiling the finalised document. To support this commitment a full consultation is planned on the draft Education Strategy with staff, parents, education partners and communities.

An initial reference group has been asked to consider the document, utilising a number of key questions to ascertain their views of the strategy, as well as presenting suggested changes or alteration, with a full consultation scheduled to take place during May to August.

Following the conclusion of the consultation a final version of the strategy will be presented to Community Services Committee for consideration and approval.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This Strategy presents an opportunity for Education Services to effectively respond to the changing National and local policy contexts to ensure the future delivery of an Education Service which supports our children, young people and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Policy: This strategy presents an opportunity for the Education Service to effectively respond to the changing policy context at both National and Local levels.
- The strategy makes an effective contribution to SOA outcomes 3 and 4
- 7.2 Financial: None

- 7.3 Legal: None
- 7.4 HR: None
- 7.5 Equalities: The strategy takes account of the statutory duties on local authorities to plan for reducing educational inequalities of outcome
- 7.6 Risk: None
- 7.7 Customer Service: None

**Executive Director of Community Services**  
**2 June 2016**

**Councillor Rory Colville**  
**Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning**

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**APPENDICES**  
Appendix 1: Draft Education Strategy