

**ARGYLL AND BUTE ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 Scottish Government published revised Statutory Guidance for the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 in March 2017, bringing new statutory duties for Local Authorities into force. Specific duties on three key areas are included within the provisions of the new statutory guidance. These are in relation to:

- Pupils experiencing inequalities of outcome;
- National Improvement Framework, and
- Planning and reporting.

1.2 Papers were presented to the meeting of the Community Services Committee on 9 March 2017 in respect to two out of the three areas. Specifically on the introduction of the new National Improvement framework and the Pupil Equity Fund implementation within Argyll and Bute.

1.3 This paper provides information for Community Services Committee of the new legislative duties for the Council in regard to planning and reporting. It outlines:

- A summary of the new legislative duties in regard to planning and reporting for local authorities;
- The required planning and reporting timescales;
- A summary of planning and reporting processes, and
- Duties the Local Authority must fulfil when preparing and publishing the new Annual Education Plan.

1.4 The Authority is required to publish the plan before the 12 month planning period commences. The planning period dates have been prescribed in regulations brought forward by the Scottish Ministers in 2017 as 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. A specific reporting timeline, setting out the expectations for the Authority provides further guidance to the Authority to support us in complying with the expected timescales.

(Planning timescales: A version of the timescale, set out in tabular format is provided within Appendix 2)

- 1.5 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- Note the implications arising from the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 revised statutory Guidance, March 2017;
  - Note the response of the Authority to the further aspects of the statutory guidance, as noted within Community Services Committee meeting of 9 March 2017;
  - Note the progress made by Education Services in responding to the legislative expectations arising from the statutory guidance;
  - Approve the prepared Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
  - Approve the publishing of the Annual Plan;
  - Approve the submission of the Annual Plan to Scottish Government, and
  - Note that the Executive Director of Community Services (Acting) will make arrangements for a follow up report to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The new statutory guidance prepared under section 13 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 ("the 2000 Act") as amended by section 4 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act"). Section 13 enables the Scottish Ministers to issue guidance to Education Authorities in relation to their functions under section 3 to 8 of the 2000 Act, and Education Authorities are required to have regard to this guidance in discharging these functions.
- 2.2 The guidance focuses in particular on education authority duties which are designed to enhance equity and support improvement within schools and across education authorities as provided for in three specific aspects of the statutory provisions:
- Section 3B of the 2000 Act: imposes duties on education authorities which are designed to promote a reduction in inequalities of educational outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage;
  - Section 3D of the 2000 Act: imposes a duty on Education Authorities, in discharging their duty under section 3(2) of the 2000 Act (to secure improvement in the quality of school education) to do so with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework.
  - Sections 3F, 3H and 6 of the 2000 Act: impose duties on Education Authorities in relation to annual planning and reporting; and annual school improvement planning.
- 2.3 These duties have been introduced by way of a series of amendments to the 2000 Act, delivered through Part 1 of the 2016 Act. They form part of a broad programme of activity focused on improving educational outcomes for all learners and closing the attainment gap experienced by children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is underpinned by section 2(1) of the 2000 Act which states that:

"Where school education is provided to a child or young person by, or by virtue of arrangements made, or entered into, by, an education authority it shall be the duty of the authority to secure that the education is directed to the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the child or young person to their fullest potential."

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- Note the implications arising from the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc., Act 2000 revised statutory Guidance, March 2017;
- Note the response of the Authority to the further aspects of the statutory guidance, as noted within Community Services Committee meetings of 9 March 2017;
- Note the progress made by Education Services in responding to the legislative expectations arising from the statutory guidance;
- Approve the prepared Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
- Approve the publishing of the Annual Plan;
- Approve submission of the Annual Plan to Scottish Government, and
- Note that the Executive Director of Community Services (Acting) will make arrangements for a follow up report to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **4.0 DETAIL**

#### **4.1 Legislative Duties:**

The Education Authority must ensure the delivery of improvement activity within schools which is consistent with the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework (NIF).

The four strategic priorities of the NIF are:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people;
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing, and
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people.

4.2 As an Authority we are required to be able to demonstrate how we have sought, and continue to seek, to deliver against the strategic priorities of the NIF. This is linked to the planning and reporting duties set out at chapter 4 of the statutory guidance. This duty supplements, rather than replaces, an existing duty on Education Authorities in section 3 of the 2000 Act (to deliver improvement in the quality of school education and to raise standards of education).

4.3 The Education Authority, in carrying out their school education functions, must have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of educational outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, where:

- an Education Authority is making a decision of a strategic nature about the carrying out of its functions relating to school education, and
- an Education Authority is considering what steps to take to implement such a decision.

4.4 The duty applies to: all pupils in receipt of early learning and childcare provided under section 47 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and all pupils in receipt of primary or secondary education provided by an education authority, including those placed in an independent or grant aided school by an education authority, and covering education delivered in partnership with colleges, employers and Community Learning Development Partners.

4.5 The Education Authority must seek and have regard to the views of the persons set out at paragraph 2.11 of this statutory guidance document, in fulfilling their “due regard” duty.

4.6 The processes the Education Authority put in place to fulfil their “due regard” duty must support authorities in understanding the impact that their strategic decisions have (or are likely to have) on educational outcomes for those children and young people impacted by socio-economic disadvantage.

4.7 The Education Authority is expected to consider a range of available evidence which is relevant. Evidence should include data on the effectiveness of past improvement activity undertaken within the authority and must take account of learning from individual school improvement planning processes as well as relevant evidence developed in other areas.

## **5.0 EDUCATION AUTHORITY ANNUAL PLANS AND REPORT**

5.1 Similar to other aspects of the statutory guidance there are prescriptive requirements in relation to the updated statutory duties in regard to preparing and publishing the Authority Annual plan and report – NIF and reducing inequalities of outcome.

5.2 The Authority is required to:

Prepare and publish annual plans describing the steps they intend to take, during the planning period:

- with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage;
- to comply with the duties imposed on it by section 3B(3) (to seek and have regard to the views of the persons listed in section 3B(4) and to provide any advice and support the authority thinks appropriate to those persons in relation to its consideration of decisions of a strategic

nature about the carrying out of its functions relating to school education, and;

- in pursuance of the NIF for Scottish education; the plan must also set out any educational benefits the authorities consider will result from taking all of these steps.

5.3 The plan must be published by the Education Authority before the beginning of the planning period each year. Education Authorities must give a copy of the annual plan to Scottish Ministers as soon as reasonably practicable after publishing the plan.

5.4 Where a new NIF has been published by the Scottish Ministers, the Education Authority is required to review and, where necessary, revise their annual plan. Any revised Authority plan must also be published and a copy given to Scottish Ministers as soon as reasonably practicable after publication.

5.5 The Education Authority must prepare and publish annual reports setting out the steps we have taken, over the course of the planning period:

- with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome experienced by as a result of socio-economic disadvantage;
- to comply with the duties imposed on it by section 3B(3) (to seek and have regard to the views of the persons listed in section 3B(4) and to provide any advice and support the authority thinks appropriate to those persons in relation to its consideration of decisions of a strategic nature about the carrying out of its functions relating to school education;
- in pursuance of the NIF for Scottish Education, and
- the report is also required to set out any educational benefits for pupils that the Authority considers have resulted from taking these steps.

5.6 School Improvement Planning – Head Teacher Annual Plans and reports.

School development plans have been replaced with School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and must be produced on an annual basis with the task delegated from the Authority to individual Head Teachers.

When preparing their SIP, Head Teachers are required to ensure the plan is underpinned by consultation with:

- Pupils;
- Any Parent Council or Combined Parent Council established for the school;
- Teachers employed in the school
- Any volunteers working in the school, and

- Local bodies representing teachers, volunteers and parents of pupils in attendance at the school.

5.7 The Education authority is required to prepare annual SIPs and annual SIP reports. Section 8(2)(a) of the 2000 Act requires that the duty to prepare the SIP is delegated to head teachers of individual schools, and section 8(2)(b) allows for the delegation to head teachers of other management functions, which might include the duty to prepare the SIP report.

5.8 The SIP must take account of the Authority annual plan (or revised plan) prepared under section 3F and annual report prepared under section 3H (which detail work in pursuance of the NIF, steps to be taken and taken to reduce inequalities of outcome and likely or demonstrated educational benefits for pupils resulting from such steps), and its strategy for parental involvement prepared under the new section of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.

In addition SIPs have to include an account of the ways in which, and extent to which, the head teacher of the school will consult the pupils in attendance at the school and seek to involve them when decisions require to be made concerning the everyday running of the school. SIP reports must be prepared twelve months after publication of the SIP, without unreasonable delay, and must set out what was done during that period to implement the SIP.

5.9 Education Services in responding to the new statutory duties undertook a revision of SIP processes early in 2017. This included consultation with head teachers, the provision of an outline SIP template which takes account of the expectations of the revised statutory guidance, supporting guidance materials. Following the conclusion and outcome of the consultation a new SIP format was shared for use by all schools for session 2017/2018.

## **6.0 ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN 2017/2018**

6.1 The first Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1) has been prepared in compliance with the new statutory guidance, taking full account of:

- The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 statutory guidance, published March 2017;
- The revised Education Vision and Strategy: Our Children, Their Future;
- Service and Team Plans;
- School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the associated guidance materials;
- A range of performance information, statistical data and trends;
- Additional guidance materials and publications (Section 7 of the Annual Plan provides full details), and
- Looked After Children Guidance.

6.2 The plan is set out in seven distinct sections:

### **6.2.1 Section one: Foreword and introduction**

A forward and introduction to the plan is provide by Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, Policy Lead of Education and Lifelong learning and the Acting Director of Community Services, Ann Marie Knowles.

### **6.2.2 Section two: Purpose and Use of the Annual Plan**

This section provides an overview of the rationale for the reparation of the plan, specifying the statutory nature of its compilation. In addition it reinforces the Education Vison of **ambition, excellence** and **equality** for all Argyll and Bute Learners.

This section provides further information on the use of the plan by schools, services and staff to deliver improved outcomes for learners.

### **6.2.3 Section three: The Policy Context for Education Services**

Sets out the context for the preparation and publication of the plan noting both the legislative and policy contexts for Scottish Education. Information contained within this section focuses on the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education and the further range of legislative and policy frameworks considered when preparing the plan. The final part of section three outlines the key priorities for Education in Argyll and Bute.

### **6.2.4 Section four: The Context of our Plan**

Provides an overview of Our Children, Their Future, the Education Vision and Strategy and its fit with the wider policy priorities. An overview of the demographic profile of Argyll and Bute is provided, alongside an outline of the Education Service, the range and diversity of Education Service support provision, detail on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and an outline of how we will resource delivery of the plan: the Education budget.

### **6.2.5 Section five: Continuity from Previous Education Services Plans**

A range of performance information covering a wide range of Service areas is provided within section five of the plan. These include:

- Senior Phase qualifications and SQA examination outcomes;
- Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy;
- Tariff Scores for Senior pupils;
- The outcome of inspection and scrutiny of the work of the Service;
- Outcomes for Looked After Young People, and
- Attendance, absence and Exclusions.



### **6.2.6 Section six: Addressing the National Improvement Priorities in Argyll and Bute**

Summarises the work of the Authority in responding to the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education specifying the approach being taken to address the four National Priorities. A summary of the initial analysis of the Teacher Professional Judgement for 2016/2017 is included. Further information on the introduction of Pupil Equity Funding, its purpose and use is also included in this section of the plan. The final part of section six provides an overview and summary of the key objectives and areas for development and improvement by Education Services in 2017/2018.

### **6.2.7 Section seven: Bibliography and references**

- 6.3 The Authority is required to publish the plan before the 12 month planning period commences. The planning period dates have been prescribed in regulations brought forward by the Scottish Ministers in 2017 as 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. A specific reporting timeline, setting out the expectations for the Authority provides further guidance to the Authority to support us in complying with the expected timescales.

(Planning timescales: A version of the timescale, set out in tabular format is provided within Appendix 2)

## **7.0 ANNUAL REPORTING**

- 7.1 In addition to the provision of an Annual Plan the Authority must also prepare and publish an Annual report setting out the steps we have taken, over the course of the planning period setting out:
- Steps we have taken to reduce inequalities of outcome for pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage;
  - Steps we have taken to comply with the Authority duty to consult;
  - Steps we have taken to overtake the four priorities contained within the National Improvement Framework and any resulting educational benefits for children and young people, and
  - Any educational benefits the authorities consider will result from the taking of these actions.

The report must be published as soon as is reasonably practicable following the end of the planning period.

The legislation is intentionally silent on the format that annual plans/reports should take.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The planning and reporting processes at school, service and Education Authority levels are designed to produce robust, consistent and transparent data of the work of the Education Authority, to improve our understanding of what works and, ultimately, drive forward improvements that will improve outcomes for the children and young people of Argyll and Bute.

A key requirement of these processes is that the Scottish Ministers must publish a National Improvement Framework setting out the four key priorities which all partners in the education system should be working to address. The first NIF was published in January 2016. The first statutory NIF under the 2000 Act was published on 31 December 2016.

The Education Plan presented to Community Services Committee has been prepared in compliance with the requirements set out in the Statutory Guidance accompanying the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2002 taking full account of the requirement to:

- Implement local plans and priorities for the 2017/2018 school year as set out in *Our Children, Their Future*;
- Responded to the requirements of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education (NIF);
- Introduced revised approaches to School Improvement Planning for school year 2017/2018;
- Publish the Annual Education Plan for 2017/2018 covering the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018;
- Ensure the implementation of the Annual Education Plan during the period September 2017 to June 2018;
- Put in place the necessary arrangements to analyse the outcomes of the 2017/2018 Annual Education Plan and prepare and publish the Annual report of progress as soon as possible after 31 August 2018, and
- In addition takes full account of the main points for action contained within the inspection report on the Education Functions of the Authority, published by Education Scotland in March 2017.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Policy The development of the Annual Education Plan supports the central purpose of the Scottish Government and the delivery on the national outcomes. The framework supports delivery on the SOA Outcomes 1 and 3 and contributes to the aspiration of the revised Education Vision and Strategy, "*Our Children, Their Future*".
- 9.2 Financial None known at this time.
- 9.3 Legal Council is required to prepare and publish the Annual Education Plan as directed within the Standards in Scotland's School etc.

Act 2000, set out within the supporting Statutory Guidance published in March 2017.

- 9.4 HR None.
- 9.5 Equalities The Annual Education Plan sets out the Councils response, delivered by Education Services to Section 3B of the 2000 Act which imposes duties on education authorities which are designed to promote a reduction in inequalities of educational outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.
- 9.6 Risk There are potential reputational risks for the Council should they fail to deliver the legislative requirements set out within the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 statutory guidance of March 2017
- 9.7 Customer Service None.

**Ann Marie Knowles**  
**Acting Executive Director of Community Services**

**Councillor Yvonne McNeilly**  
**Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning**

For further information contact:  
Anne Paterson,  
Head of Education

Email: [anne.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:anne.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Tel: 01546 604333