

INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (INEA)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The main purpose of this report is to advise Community Services Committee of the further planned inspection of the Education functions of Argyll and Bute Council and to confirm the detail of the inspection programme which will evaluate the progress being made by the Authority in addressing the main points for action contained within the initial inspection report of 21 March 2017.
- 1.2 Education Scotland verbally notified the Executive Director, Community Services that HM Inspectors, as outlined in the further inspection report published on 7 December 2017, will undertake a further strategic level inspection of the Education functions of Argyll and Bute Council during the period Monday 14th to Tuesday 15th May 2018.
- 1.3 This further inspection visit was indicated within the formal inspection report published by Education Scotland on 7 December 2017. Specifically the report noted that *“Education Scotland will carry out further inspection activity by the end of 2018 to monitor and report on the continued progress made by the council in addressing the main points for action contained in this report”*.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- I. Note the further inspection visit which is planned by Education Scotland to commence on 14 May 2018;
- II. Note the timetable associated with the inspection;
- III. Agree that Education Services will submit a further summary self-evaluation summary detailing the further progress of the Council in addressing the main points for action contained within the initial published inspection report of 21 March 2017, and the subsequent report published on 7 December 2017, and
- IV. Request the Executive Director of Community Service brings a report confirming the outcome of the inspection to a future meeting of the Community Services Committee.

INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (INEA)

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The main purpose of this report is to advise Community Services Committee of the further inspection of the Education functions of the Council.
- 3.2 Education Scotland verbally notified the Executive Director of Community Services that HM Inspectors will undertake a further strategic level inspection of the Education functions of Argyll and Bute Council during the period Monday 14th to Tuesday 15th May 2018.
- 3.3 The further inspection was indicated at the conclusion of the inspection visit by Education Scotland, conducted in September 2017 and outlined within the further inspection report published by Education Scotland on 7 December 2018. Specifically the report noted that *“Education Scotland will carry out further inspection activity by the end of 2018 to monitor and report on the continued progress made by the council in addressing the main points for action contained in this report”*.
- 3.4 The further inspection will focus on the progress that has been made in addressing the four of the five main points for action identified in the further inspection report of 7 December 2017. A further visit to assess progress against the remaining action point is anticipated to be undertaken in September 2018. Reports presented by Education Scotland following these visits will not include evaluations based on the six-point scale.

The main points for action were:

1. Significantly improve young people’s attainment across the authority;
2. Improve the use of data, ensuring greater rigour;
3. Continue to improve the quality of educational provision with consistently higher levels of support and challenge from central officers and elected members;
4. Improve relationships and communication, promoting a more positive ethos amongst all stakeholders; and
5. Improve the quality of strategic leadership and direction at all levels within the Education Authority.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- I. Note the further inspection visit which is planned by Education Scotland to commence on 14 May 2018;
- II. Note the timetable associated with the inspection;
- III. Agree that Education Services will submit a further summary self-evaluation detailing the further progress of the Council in addressing the main points for action contained within the initial published inspection report of 21 March 2017, and the subsequent report published on 7 December 2018, and
- IV. Request the Executive Director of Community Service brings a report confirming the outcome of the inspection to a future meeting of the Community Services Committee.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 Education Scotland have allocated a team of two Inspectors to undertake the further inspection. The team will be led by a Managing Inspector, Mr. Alastair Brown.

5.2 The planned inspection footprint will take place over the course of two days: 14 – 15th May, during the course of the inspection week the inspectors will engage in a range of inspection activities. The timetable for the inspection is currently being finalised and agreed with the Managing Inspector and at this stage the full detail of the inspection programme is still unknown..

5.3 A range of preparatory work is currently being undertaken by Education Services to support the impending inspection. These include:

- The preparation of an updated self-evaluation position statement for submission to Education Scotland by 4th May 2018;
- Identification of relevant supporting evidence;
- Preparation of the inspection timetable, including co-ordination of meetings, focus groups, visits, and
- Scheduling diary arrangements for Chief Officers and Elected Members, as appropriate.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 Education Scotland will carry out a further inspection of the Education functions of the Council commencing 14th May 2018. Education Services are currently preparing an updated self-evaluation summary of progress against the main points for action for submission to Education Scotland on 4th May 2018.

6.2 A further report will be published by Education Scotland of the progress made by

the Authority in addressing the main points for action published in the further inspection report of 7 December 2017. At this stage the publication date is unknown.

- 6.3 An update on the outcome of the further inspection will be provided at a future Community Services Committee meeting.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Policy The *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000* places a duty on education authorities to provide children and young people with school education and (in terms of raising standards) requires authorities to endeavor to secure improvement in the quality of that school education.
- 7.2 Financial None.
- 7.3 Legal None.
- 7.4 HR Resourcing of the planned inspection presents additional, short term resource implications for the Council.
- 7.5 Equalities None.
- 7.6 Risk The outcome of the further inspection of the education provision by Argyll and Bute may significantly enhance or detract from the Council's reputation and attractiveness as an area to work and live in.
- 7.7 Customer Service This report provides elected members with an overview of the planned evaluation of Service performance.

Ann Marie Knowles
Acting Executive Director of Community Services

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning

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For further information contact:

Anne Paterson
Acting Head of Services: Education
Tel: 01546 604333
Email: anne.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk