

ARGYLL AND BUTE – ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN WITH PROGRESS UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress made by the Education Service in achieving the priorities included in the Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan for 2017-18 presented at COMMUNITY Services Committee in August 2017 and to outline priority actions for 2018-19.
- 1.2** It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
 - Notes the progress made with respect to priority actions within the 2017-18 Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan;
 - Approves the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
 - Approve the publishing of the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan;
 - Approve the submission of the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan to Scottish Government.

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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.
- 2.3** Sections 3F, 3H and 6 of the 2000 Act: impose duties on Education Authorities in relation to annual planning and reporting; namely the publishing of an Annual Education Plan.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- Notes the progress made with respect to priority actions within the 2017-18 Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan;
- Approves the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
- Approve the publishing of the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan;
- Approve the submission of the 2018-19 Annual Education Plan to Scottish Government.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1** The Education Service must prepare and publish an annual plan setting out the steps we have taken, over the course of the planning period:
- to reduce inequalities of outcome experienced by as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, including the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF);
 - 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
 - to set out any educational benefits for pupils that the Authority considers have resulted from taking these steps.
- 4.2** Where a new NIF has been published by Scottish Ministers, local Authorities are required to review and, where necessary, revise their annual education plan. Any revised Authority plan must also be published and a copy given to Scottish Ministers as soon as reasonably practicable after publication. The Education Service produced and published its first Annual Plan in compliance with legislation in August 2017. The legislation is intentionally silent on the format that Annual Plans should take.
- 4.3** The 2018-19 Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan has been prepared in compliance with the statutory guidance and contains the following sections
1. Foreword and Introduction
 2. Our Children, Their Future
 3. The Policy Context for Education Services
 4. Addressing the National Improvement Framework
 5. Strategic Inspection of the Functions of Argyll and Bute Council
 6. Bibliography and References

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1** 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.
- 5.2** The 2018/19 Annual 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:
- 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 and subsequent updates.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	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, " <i>Our Children, Their Future</i> ".
6.2	Financial	None known at this time.
6.3	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.
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	The Annual Education Plan sets out the Council's 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.
6.6	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.

6.7 Customer Service None.

13th August 2018

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