

ARGYLL AND BUTE – ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN

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 2020-21 presented at Community Services Committee in September 2020 and to outline priority actions for 2021-22.

1.2 To note that the Annual Education Plan will focus on recovery, renewal and improvement in light of COVID-19 and the national context

1.3 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- Note the progress made with respect to priority actions within the 2020-21 Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan;
- Approve the 2020-21 Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
- Approve the publishing of the 2020-21 Annual Education Plan; and
- Approve the submission of the 2020-21 Annual Education Plan to Scottish Government.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1** The 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:

- Note the progress made with respect to priority actions within the 2020-21 Argyll and Bute Annual Education Plan;
- Approve the 2021-22 Annual Education Plan (Appendix 1);
- Approve the publishing of the 2021-22 Annual Education Plan; and
- Approve the submission of the 2021-22 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 The 2021-22 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 Continuing Response to Covid-19
3. Our Children, Their Future
4. The Policy Context for Education Services
5. Addressing the National Improvement Framework
6. Self-Evaluation and Improvement Priorities for Session 2020/21
7. Bibliography and References

4.3 In light of the emerging national context for education, our plan takes cognisance of the recommendations from the Audit Scotland Report and will incorporate recommendations from the OECD review of Curriculum for Excellence.

4.4 The 2021-22 Annual Education Plan will focus on recovery, renewal and improvement in light of COVID-19 and the emerging national context for education.

4.5 An independent review of Curriculum for Excellence has been conducted and reported upon by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Scottish Government has initially accepted the report's recommendations and will work with practitioners, learners, parents and other key stakeholders to co-design a detailed implementation plan, to be published by early September. The implementation plan will set out the roles and responsibilities of all involved in delivering improvements, and the indicators to be used to measure progress and undertake systematic reviews of implementation. The report can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.oecd.org/education/scotland-s-curriculum-for-excellence-bf624417-en.htm>

The Service will respond to the implementation plan once published to deliver improvements across our secondary schools.

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 2021/22 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 2020/2021 Annual Education Plan and prepare and publish the Annual report of progress as soon as possible after 31 August 2021;
- Takes full account of the impact of Covid on our children and young people with a strong focus on recovery, renewal and improvement;
- Enables us to monitor the short- and longer-term impacts of Covid-19 (including the impact of remote learning) on our children and young people's learning and wellbeing and take action as required to mitigate the effects and improve outcomes; and
- Enables us to respond to the emerging national context for education and in particular the review of Curriculum for Excellence.

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; OCTF: Key Objectives 1-6; NIF: Priorities 1-4
- 6.2 Financial:** None.
- 6.3 Legal:** Council is required to prepare and publish the Annual Education Plan as directed within the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, set out within the supporting Statutory Guidance published in March 2017.
- 6.4 HR:** None.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:** None.
- 6.5.1 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.
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty** None.
- 6.5.3 Islands** None.
- 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 Services:** This report provides elected members with an overview of service performance for 2020-21 and priorities for 2021-22.

12th August 2021

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Appendix 1 – Annual Education Plan 2021/22 and 2020/21 Progress Report