### NAME OF SERVICE: EDUCATION 1. DELIVERING OUR OUTCOMES

PERIOD: FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21

#### Our case studies help illustrate the positive contribution the Service has made to our communities and provides examples of good service delivery.

### **Corporate Outcome – Children Have The Best Possible Start**

Business Outcome BO107: The Support And Lifestyle Needs Of Our children, Young People And Their Families Are Met.

#### Success Measure: EDU107\_01 – Phasing in 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) by 2020

The service was delighted to deliver 1140 hours provision for all entitled children by the original deadline of August 2020. We were one of only 11 Local Authorities to be in that position. This was a result of high quality partnership working between Property, Early Years and Catering and led to not only increased child care and education spaces for children but also increased employment opportunities across all localities. Our partnership working with private and third sector nurseries along with our growing relationship with child minders has enabled us to offer parents access to a range of attendance patters and settings to ensure that families and our youngest children are well supported.

#### Success Measure: EDU107\_02 – Early level and childcare learners spend 50% of their funded time outdoors

In response to delivering almost double the hours of Early Learning and Childcare the service developed a vision and strategy to ensure that our children are receiving a minimum of 50% of their ELC time in high quality outdoor learning. An intense package of professional Learning and support for staff, including the development of our own SQA verified quali9fication, has ensured staff have the skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver on this vision. All staff and children have also be supplied with suitable outdoor clothing to ensure they are comfortable in learning and play outdoors. As part of this vision we are delighted to have supported the opening of a new Outdoor Nursery in the walled garden of our Council Headquarters and look forward to opening another in Dunoon which will become a training centre for or own qualification.

#### Success Measure: EDU107\_07 - The percentage of schools that use the progress and achievement module]

100% of schools across the authority are engaging with the Progress and Achievement module at 3 annual junctures - October, February and June. At these 3 points, teachers of pupils from P1 to S3 enter data relating to every child's progress in literacy and numeracy within the Curriculum for Excellence level at which they are currently working. The resulting data sets are being used to develop planning and individualised targets for each pupil and identified groups. Data is analysed at school and authority level to ensure excellence and equity in provision. The authority uses the data to inform improvement planning with schools and clusters.

### Success Measure: EDU107\_09 – Support the increase in the uptake of available Grants, Allowances and Entitlements]

Over the last 12 months there has been a 15% increase in uptake of clothing grants. The full application process for applying for grants is now carried out on-line which has enabled the processing during the pandemic very simple to use.

Free School Meal (FSM) grants have seen an increase in uptake by 33% which is linked to the pandemic and the situation that families found themselves in over the last 12 months. Payments were made to families for FSMs over the holiday periods last year and additional hardship payments of £100 were made to families receiving FSMs in December and March. This also enticed more families to apply for this grant.

Whilst other grant uptake has increased over the last 12 months, the uptake of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) has reduced by 29% despite Education writing directly to students to take advantage of this grant. One reason for this may be the reduced number of school days that students were in school during the Academic Year. During the last year Education have made the application for EMA electronic to simplify the process for applicants and hopefully the uptake will increase in the next Academic year.

### Success Measure: EDU107\_04-A counselling service is available in all secondary schools

A counselling service has now been established with the successful recruitment of a team leader who took up post at the beginning of December 2020 and 7.5fte counsellors in post from 11 January 2021. The Educational Psychology Service and HSCP managers have worked together with the research assistant and counselling service team lead to develop practice guidance, referral procedures and an evaluation framework for this newly developed service.

This well qualified and experienced team of counsellors provides a valuable Tier 1 service with clear routes for escalation of need to CAMHS services where required. From links with other local authorities it appears that Argyll and Bute has been more successful than many in attracting a large number of suitably qualified applicants to deliver this service to our children and young people from the age of 10 years up.

Since February 2021 almost 100 referrals have been received across all ten of our secondary schools and their associated primaries with counselling being delivered remotely to young people where the referral criteria is met and alternative supports provided where more appropriate.

### Corporate Outcome – Education, Skills And Training Maximise Opportunities For All

Business Outcome BO108: All Our Children And Young People Are Supported To Realise Their Potential

### Success Measure: EDU108\_01-Develop a nurture strategy for Argyll and Bute with an associated sustainable training model

Through the wellbeing recovery workstream the nurture strategy, initially developed by a strategic group led by the Educational Psychology Service, was reviewed and endorsed as a robust evidence based approach to enhancing support for children, young people and staff in the coming months and years.

This proposed strategy was identified as being even more important in the context of recovery from the pandemic. The Nurture Strategy sits firmly within the continuum of support for mental health and wellbeing, enhancing prevention and early intervention approaches at a time of greatest need.

Training materials have been developed alongside a framework for self-evaluation.

### Success Measure: EDU108\_08-Implement actions arising from the Nurture Strategy

Following interview, a very well qualified and experience teacher was successful in being appointed to the Principal Teacher of Nurture post to join the Educational Psychology Service in the delivery of Our Children, Their Nurturing Education (OCTNE). Information on training and the coach / consult model was sent to all schools to seek expressions of interest to engage with this initiative. 20 establishments across all sectors have signed up for phase 1 involvement. Training, implementation and evaluation materials have been developed.

Each school has identified a member of staff responsible for leading OCTNE within their own establishment, and this person (or group) attended a 3 day leadership training delivered by the Educational Psychology Service. There were rich large and small group discussions with very positive feedback from this on line training. Needs analysis interviews will take place with each school. A Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum achievement structure has been developed for schools including a framework and accreditation toolkit to support acquisition of each level.

The final strategy *Our Children, Their Nurturing Education* was fully endorsed through the Education Management Team and all aspects progressing as detailed in EDU108\_08 below.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

The significant challenges faced by the Service during 2020/21. These challenges either created specific pressures on the Success Measures or impacted on delivery. Specific additional activity or mitigating actions were carried out to reduce the negative impact on service delivery.

**Corporate Outcome – Children And Young People Have The Best Possible Start** 

Business Outcome BO107: The Support And Lifestyle Needs Of Our children, Young People And Their Families Are Met.

### Success Measure: EDU107\_04-A counselling service is available in all secondary schools

a) Coordinating recruitment and finance processes across Education and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to implement a service that meets needs across the Council and HSCP as specified by Scottish Government.

Mitigating Action: Ongoing liaison across managers and finance departments to ensure shared expectations on delivery.

b) No knowledge of new vulnerability that would emerge as a result of the pandemic

<u>Mitigating Action:</u> New workstream established to devised toolkits and advice for schools on how to identify the newly vulnerable children and young people.

c) Keeping children and young people visible during lockdown periods

<u>Mitigating Action</u>: We reviewed and updated revised child protection and safeguarding procedures and worked on this on a multi-agency basis. A weekly child protection multi agency forum met weekly to alert services to emerging issues and concerns.

d) Ensuring every child and young person in Argyll and Bute has the capability to engage effectively with learning from home through the data-driven distribution of digital devices and connectivity solutions

<u>Mitigating Action</u>: Information was gathered form all schools to ascertain which pupils and families were not equipped to engage effectively with home learning, either through absence or shortage of devices, or through connectivity issues. The Scottish Government's Digital Inclusion funding to the council (£447,035.72) was utilised to purchase 800 Chromebooks, 517 iPads, 254 SIMs and 235 portable routers, all of which have been distributed to individual pupils for whom an aspect of digital poverty had been identified as an obstacle to learning during COVID restrictions. Further spending by the authority on 265 iPads and 365 Chromebooks has been undertaken through the authority's share of £45m announced by the Deputy First Minister in February. These devices will be distributed to a mixture of families and schools, as informed by the further collection of data on remaining digital need across Argyll and Bute.

e) Home Learning

<u>Mitigating Action</u>: From the beginning of the first period of home learning in late March 2020 until the present, weekly webinars have been run by the Digital Learning Team for all teaching staff to develop fundamental skills and confidence in delivering learning via online platforms, and then to develop those skills to allow more sophisticated and innovative approaches. The fact that such training continued throughout the period August – December 2020, when pupils were back in school, meant that teachers were immediately ready and prepared to provide high-quality online learning when the second period of home learning arose in January 2021. In total, there were over 1000 engagements by teachers with the training webinars and teacher feedback was positive.

Introducing support for families during summer holiday period 2020-21 Mitigating Action: Sub group pulled together bespoke solutions in identified locations throughout the Authority. This included working with third sector organisations to deliver this provision on our behalf. Having schools properly prepared to re-open in August. This included ensuring compliance with all Government Guidance and health and safety g) requirements Mitigating Action: A working group was established to work together to produce bespoke guidance for schools. The 'working safely in schools' document was created and updated regularly in line with Scottish Government announcements. A generic risk assessment was circulated to all schools and PPE for all schools was co-ordinated centrally. h) Having the required staffing to facilitate a return to schools Mitigating Action: Virtual Supply Teacher List compiled, close support with COVID staffing budget to cover any associated costs for COVID-related absences. Flow chart to support Head Teachers in the event of significant disruption to staffing. 2020 & 2021 exam diet, gualifications & certification i) Mitigating Action: Sub-group regularly discussed SQA however it was a constantly moving picture which meant a more reactive approach was required. Close support to schools and each SQA co-ordinator. Delivering on our commitment to offer all eligible children an 1140 hours placement with the mitigations that were required under COVID Mitigating j) Action: To ensure we were able to deliver on this commitment we increased staffing in a number of settings to ensure more children could be outdoors with safe ratios. Where possible we extended outdoor freeflow spaces and where not possible we purchased temporary shelters to allow for outdoor play in a non freeflow area. Members of the central Early Years Team also supported settings. **Corporate Outcome - Education, Skills And Training Maximise Opportunities For All** Business Outcome BO108: All Our Children And Young People Are Supported To Realise Their Potential Success Measure: EDU108\_08-Implement actions arising from the Nurture Strategy

a) Release of staff from schools to fulfil secondments as a result of wider issues with availability and recruitment of teachers

<u>Mitigating Action:</u> Timescales delayed slightly however PT now in post and progressing developments.

# 3. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT - WE ASKED, YOU SAID, WE DID....

The following are all the consultations and resulting actions that the Service has carried out during this period.

We asked if parents were happy with the pattern of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) attendance and the quality of provision. Views were collected by locality, collated and analysed and then discussed with individual settings as appropriate, the main outcomes were that parents looked for more flexible timings and were unhappy paying for snacks. As a result Early Years altered some start and end times to support parents with children in other schools. Changed some patterns of attendance to support changing requirements in an area. Ended requests for payments for snack

We asked how to better support Parent Councils via the Parental Advisory Group.

The Group fed back that a Parent Council Toolkit with information and training for parent councils would support this aim.

We have:

- Developed in collaboration with the PAG a Parent Council Toolkit website with information to support the work of Parent Councils.
- Developed a 'Role of Parent Council' training PowerPoint for Parent Councils to use.
- GTCS offered training to Parent Councils on their threshold fitness to teach policy.
- Engagement sessions with the Northern Alliance and Education Scotland were offered to look at capturing learning from lockdown.

Provided newsletters with information for Parent Councils – August newsletter 88 views, March newsletter 147 views

We asked parents what is important to you in the re-opening of schools after Covid lockdown?

### They said (4065 responses):

- Having a safe environment for children and young people was top priority
- How returning will work with a blended approach was the main concern
- Having clear information on arrangements put in place would make them feel more comfortable
- Regular communication with teachers would support families the best

### We did

- Shared information with schools to support their preparations for returning to school
- We ensured clear communication from the centre to schools and parents
- We produced clear guidance for all schools to follow allow with a generic risk assessment template that could be adapted

We asked staff what was important in the re-opening of schools after Covid lockdown?

#### They said (517 responses)

- Focussing on the health and wellbeing of children and young people was the top priority
- The impact the lockdown will have had on pupils wellbeing was the biggest concern
- Having clear information on what is in place in school to make everyone safe would make staff more comfortable returning

#### We did

- Shared information with schools to support their preparations for returning to school
- We ensured clear communication from the centre to schools and parents
- We produced clear guidance for all schools to follow allow with a generic risk assessment template that could be adapted
- We provided schools with support and guidance on mental health and wellbeing for staff and pupils

We asked pupils what was important in the re-opening of schools after Covid lockdown?

### They said (1296 responses)

- Time to play and be with friends was top priority for returning
- Concern that they might not be in school at the same time as friends was the thing they most worried about
- Ensuring that schools made sure that they were on track with their learning would help make them less worried about returning

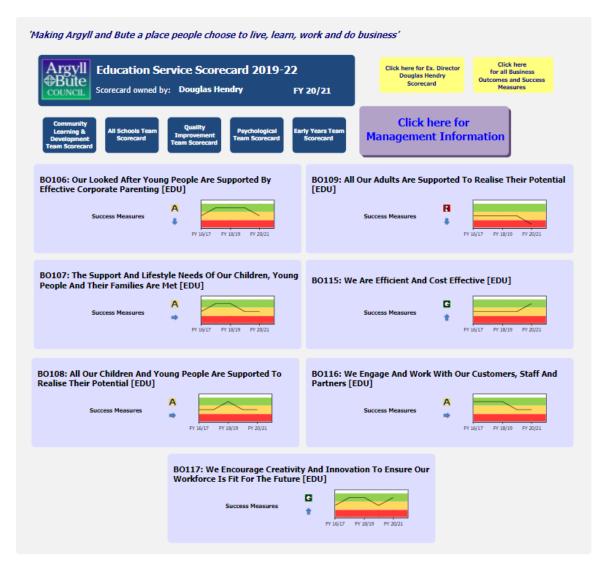
### We did

• Shared information with schools to support their preparations for returning to school

We asked for parental feedback on their experience of learning and teaching for Gaelic Medium (GM) pupils throughout first period of online learning / school closure during lockdown

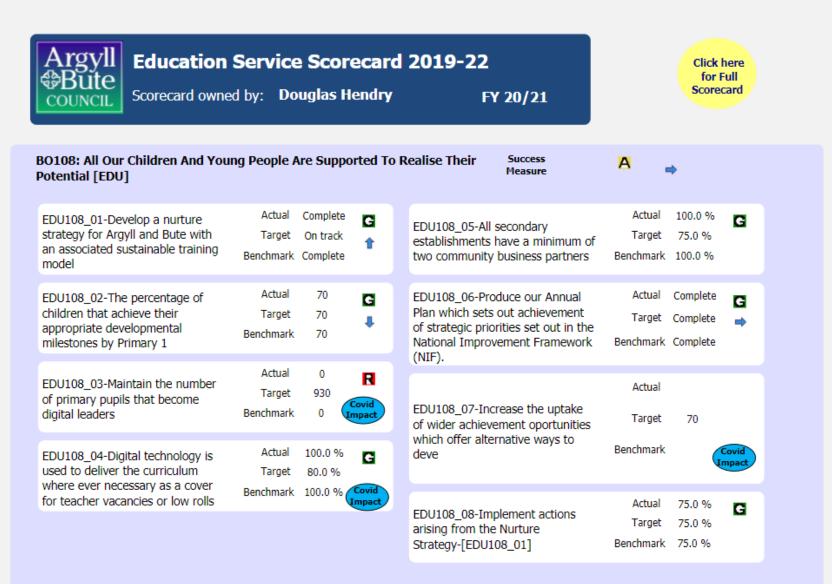
They said that they would like further signposting to Gaelic Medium resources to support home learning and language acquisition. We developed a specific Gaelic Education area on the Council website which now contains a comprehensive list (with links) to available resources to support Gaelic Medium, including adult and community learning

#### **EDUCATION – ANNUAL SCORECARD 2020/21**



Argyll Bute COUNCIL Scorecard							/21
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Manag	jeme	nt I	nfori	natio	on		
RESOURCES People				Target	Actua	d Statu	s Trend
Total LGE Staff Absence [EDU]			2.	07 Days	2.20 D	ays ℝ	t
Total Teacher Staff Absence [EDU]			6.	00 Days			
EDU % of PRDs completed				90 %	76 %	R	1
Financial		Adjus	sted Bud	lget	Actual	Status	Trend
Finance Revenue totals EDU		004.0					
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IMPROVEMENT EDU Service Actions Improvements 2017-21	Total I		ff track	On tra	ick Con	<i>Statu</i> nplete	15
IMPROVEMENT EDU Service Actions Improvements 2017-21	22	No C	ff track	On tra 19	ick Con	Statu nplete	
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'Making Argyll and Bute a place people choose to live, learn, work and do business'



Click here for Full Scorecard

### Argyll Bute Education Service Scorecard 2019-22 FY 20/21

Scorecard owned by: Douglas Hendry

#### 'Making Argyll and Bute a place people choose to live, learn, work and do business'

EDU107_01-Phasing in 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) by 2020_Phase 4       Actual Green	
EDU107_02-Early level and childcare larners spend 50% of their funded time outdoors       Target 100%       EDU107_08-All children and young adapted timetable will have a flexible learning plan put in place       Target 100%         EDU107_03-The percentage of schools using the wellbeing application       Actual 93 %       R       EDU107_09-Support the increase in the uptake of available Grants, Allowances and Entitlements       Actual 2,97         EDU107_04-A counselling service is available in all secondary schools       Actual 100 %       G       EDU107_10-Develop and review the additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual 4       Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual 4       Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual 4       Service         EDU107_05-Carry out bi-annual survey with agency with the Education Psychology Service arising Target 0 no track       G       EDU107_11-Circulate a Actual Complete training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual 4       Service         EDU107_05-Implement actions in Actual 90 %       C <td>%</td>	%
EDU107_03-The percentage of schools using the wellbeing application       Target 100 % Benchmark 93 %       EDU107_09-Support the increase in the uptake of available Grants, Allowances and Entitlements       Target 2,60 Benchmark 2,90 Menchmark 2,9	<b>16</b>
EDU107_04-A counselling service is available in all secondary schools       Target 100 %       EDU107_10-Develop and review with additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Target 0n to additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Target 0n to additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Target 0n to additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Target 0n to additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Target 0n to additional support needs training calendar for teachers and support staff       Actual Complete         EDU107_05-Carry out bi-annual survey with agency stakeholders [Ref EDU107_06-Implement actions in Actual 90 %       Complete       EDU107_12-Maintain the servertal benchmark 90 %       EDU107_01-2-Maintain the servertage of all young people achieving a positive destination       Actual 94         EDU107_06-Implement actions in Actual 90 %       90 %       Complete       EDU107_13-Maintain the servertage of all young people achieving a positive destination       Actual 94         EDU107_06-Implement actions in Actual 90 %       90 %       Complete       EDU107_13-Maintain the servertage of 16-19 year olds in Argel and Bure participating in education, training or employment       Actual 95.2         EDU107_015       Benchmark 95.2       Target 91.0       Target 92.0       Benchmark 95.2         EDU105       We Engage And Work With Our Customers, Staff And Partners [EDU] success       Actual 95.2       Actual 95.2 </td <td>5 <b>4</b></td>	5 <b>4</b>
Survey with ager/cy stakeholders       Target       Complete         to enhance collaborative working       Target       Complete         to enhance collaborative working       Target       Complete         with the Education Psychology       Benchmark       On track         EDU107_06-Implement actions in       Actual       90 %       G         Education Psychology Service arising       Target       90 %       G         EDU107_06-Implement actions in Actual       90 %       G       Benchmark       Complete         Education Psychology Service arising       Target       90 %       G       Benchmark       Percentage of all young people       Actual       91 %         stakeholders [Ref EDU107-05]       Benchmark       90 %       G       Benchmark       Percentage of 16-19 year olds in Argyl and Bute participating in education, training or employment       Actual       95.2         RO116: We Engage And Work With Our Customers, Staff And Partners [EDU] success       A       A	ck 📕
DU107_06-Implement actions in Actual 90 %       C       EDU107_12-Maintain the parcentage of all young people achieving a positive destination       Target 95         irom the bi-annaul survey with agency takeholders [Ref EDU107-05]       Benchmark 90 %       EDU107_13-Maintain the parcentage of all young people achieving a positive destination       Benchmark 94         EDU107_13-Maintain the parcentage of 16-19 year olds in Arget 95.22       Target 95.22       Target 95.22         O116: We Engage And Work With Our Customers, Staff And Partners [EDU] success       A	1
Percentage of 16-19 year olds in Argyll and Bute participating in education, training or employment 20116: We Engage And Work With Our Customers, Staff And Partners [EDU] success	6
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Actual Not on track R DU116_01-Achievement of Target On track B Istomer Service Excellence Benchmark Not on track Not on track On track Benchmark On track On track On track On track On track Benchmark On track On trac	G ⇒

BO106: Our Looked After Young	People Are Supported	By Effective Corporate	Success	A	
Parenting [EDU]		· ·	Measure	A	*
EDU106_01-Increase positive destinations for our looked after children in Argyll and Bute	Actual 71.4 % Target 85.0 % Benchmark 71.4 %	<ul> <li>increase the per looked after chil</li> </ul>	ational placement reentage of our	Actual 100 % Target 100 % anchmark 100 %	6
EDU106_02-Increase the percentage of successful presentations in levels 4 and 5 for Literacy and Numeracy by our senior phase pupils.	Actual 0 % Target 60 % Benchmark 0 %	EDU106_05-Inc percentage of o looked after chil individual tracki plan in place		Actual 100 % Target 100 % anchmark 100 %	6
EDU106_03-Maintain the low level of exclusion incidents experienced by our looked after children.	Actual 2 Target 5 Benchmark 2	E EDU106_06-The our workforce th implenting traum practices	hat are trained in	Actual 75 Target 75 Benchmark 75	%
00109: All Our Adults Are Suppor To Realise Their Potential [EDU]	ted Success Measure R		Encourage Creativ To Ensure Our Wor Future [EDU]		
EDU109_01-Maintain the number of adults engaged in employability programmes B	Actual 35 Target 50 Jenchmark 35	of our early y gained or are	Increase the percent years workers who hi working towards qualifications.	ave Target 65	.0% <b>G</b> .0%
EDU109_02-Increase the number of adults with Individual Learning Plans that identify and address employability barriers such as training needs and skills gaps.	Actual 27 Target 15 enchmark 27		Provide 6 probatione s to our probationer	Actual Co r Target Co Benchmark Co	
EDU109_03-To celebrate adult learner achievements each main town will host at least one event each year	Actual 0 Target 6 kenchmark 0	new head tea	The Percentage of achers who have or towards headship	Target	90 % G 90 % 90 %
	B0115: We Are Effici Effective [EDU]	ient And Cost Succes Measur			
	EDU115_01-Our Grant maximised	spend is Target 29	5.0 % <b>G</b> 5.0 % 5.0 %		

Click here

for Business Outcome 108