

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 February 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Literacy Strategy – Catch up Literacy
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide a progress update on the Council's Literacy Strategy and of the actions taken to help improve the literacy skills of young people.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress update on the Council's Literacy Strategy and the actions taken to help improve the literacy skills of young people, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Council's Literacy Strategy was launched at a Conference aimed at education leaders from across South Lanarkshire on 4 October 2012.

3.2 The Literacy Strategy is divided into a number of sections which reflect the different groups that need to be targeted and the roles and responsibilities of various practitioners who are part of Education Resources:-

- Overarching aims
- Roles and responsibilities of Extended Management Team and Local Authority
- Early years and pre-school roles and responsibilities, transitions and partnerships
- School aged children roles and responsibilities, transitions and partnerships
- Children and young people with additional support needs in literacy
- Youth learning service
- Library service
- Adults' roles and responsibilities, transitions and partnerships
- Evaluating the impact of the Strategy
- Research and bibliography
- Appendices

3.3 A Literacy Strategy Implementation Group was established to work on the development of activities, approaches and resources that could be used to support the development of the Strategy.

3.4 A supplement to accompany the Literacy Strategy titled 'Literacy Practice and Approaches' was launched in 25 May 2015.

4. Progress to date

- 4.1. The Literacy Strategy Implementation Group now has a number of sub groups which focus on different key aspects of literacy e.g. Early Years, Literacy Interventions, P1 Literacy Implementation, Secondary Implementation, Primary Implementation
- 4.2. A robust training programme which promotes an active literacy methodology is underway. As a pilot, 18 schools have been selected this session, 2017/2018, to receive intensive training and support. Their progress is being monitored and evaluated to help plan and inform the next steps.

In addition to the targeted support which pilot schools are receiving, there has been a generic training programme offered to all primary schools this session.

- 4.3. Education Resources has worked in partnership with Catch Up Literacy, a widely acclaimed literacy intervention programme to support pupils experiencing difficulties with aspects of literacy. To date, approximately 78 staff have been trained across 26 establishments.
- 4.4. Education Resources are also currently working in partnership with Catch Up Literacy to provide 'train the trainers' for 2 members of staff. This will result in Council staff being the first accredited Catch Up Trainers in Scotland.
- 4.5. The Council was invited by Dyslexia Scotland, as one of 3 Local Authorities, to participate in a pilot programme, 'Dyslexia Ambassadors' Outreach Programme'. 4 schools volunteered to be involved. This will involve awareness raising for staff, parents/carers and pupils and will culminate in the production of a range of interactive resources which will support pupils with persistent literacy difficulties.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The Literacy Strategy Implementation Group and its sub groups will continue to support literacy development across the authority.
- 5.2. Curriculum and Quality Improvement officers will continue to support the existing cohort of 18 schools in Phase 1 of the pilot and invite a new cohort of schools to receive intensive, targeted support beginning session 2018/2019.
- 5.3. In response to the success of the Catch Up Literacy programme, further training is planned for primary staff in February 2018. This training package will be extended to include secondary school staff in February 2018.
- 5.4. Catch Up Training in session 2018/2019 will be co-delivered by our own trained staff and trainers from Catch Up. Further training opportunities will be offered in order to build capacity within South Lanarkshire establishments.
- 5.5. The Dyslexia Scotland programme will be monitored and evaluated in partnership with colleagues from Dyslexia Scotland and the findings used to help provide better outcomes for children.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Costs are being met from within existing budgetary resources.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not present a new strategy, policy or plan and is therefore not subject to equality impact assessment.
- 9.2. Whilst there was no requirement to undertake any formal consultation in terms of the information contained within this report, a range of stakeholders were engaged in the development and roll-out of the strategy.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

12 January 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

- Education Resources Committee – 27 November 2017

List of Background Papers

Literacy Strategy

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Stewart Nicolson, Head of Education (Curriculum and Attainment)

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