

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 February 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Attachment Strategy for Education Resources – Update Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ seek approval to extend the post of Attachment Development Officer to continue implementation of the Attachment Strategy within the wider context of South Lanarkshire's Attachment-Informed Approach

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that, to support the sustained implementation, application and evaluation of South Lanarkshire's Attachment-Informed approach, the extension of the post of Development Officer (this post is currently a 12-month secondment) for up to 23 months is approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Attachment Strategy was launched in June 2020 and was developed in consultation with partner agencies. The strategy promotes better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people, particularly within early years and education settings.
- 3.2. The Attachment Strategy forms the basis of South Lanarkshire's Attachment-Informed Approach which is central to supporting an attachment-informed, trauma sensitive workforce.
- 3.3. Through universal and targeted relational approaches, the Strategy aims to ensure all establishments provide a secure base and safe haven for children and young people to ensure belonging for all and reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Events for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 3.4. The Education Resources' Attachment Strategy supports the action in the Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire's Children Services Plan 2021-23 and promotes a consistent message about the importance of relationships as outlined by The Promise.
- 3.5. There was an update on the implementation of the Attachment Strategy presented to the Education Resources Committee on 9 November 2021. This noted the progress

on training for early years and education staff as well as the publication of a range of resources aimed at supporting its practical application.

4. Implementation progress

4.1. To ensure consistency of approach and sustainability following training, a range of initiatives have been introduced to support staff with implementation.

- ◆ all education establishments and services have been asked to nominate an attachment lead and ambassador to support implementation within individual settings
- ◆ leads and ambassadors are invited to quarterly networking events that take place in each locality to ensure that practice is shared, and staff are supported
- ◆ locality based Google Classrooms have been established to support staff to share resources and good practice
- ◆ an SLC Twitter account has been created to share practice and resources
- ◆ a quarterly newsletter is distributed to all education and early years staff

4.2. Following a review of nurture practice and provision across South Lanarkshire, a new model of Attachment-Informed Practice was introduced to ensure consistency of approaches with the Attachment Strategy at the centre. This was shared at the Head Teacher's Inclusion Conference in October 2022. (A copy will be made available to members.)

4.3. An Attachment-Informed Steering group was established in August 2022 to support strategic direction and ensure consistency of practice.

4.4. There has been a continued roll out of training to staff to ensure that all establishments share a common understanding about the importance of relationships in promoting good mental health and lifelong resilience.

5. Implementation – Next Steps

5.1. The Attachment-Informed practice Steering Group will continue to oversee and advise on next steps throughout the coming year.

5.2. A 'good practice' guide will be produced to support the application of attachment-informed practice and inform nurturing approaches.

5.3. An accreditation tool will be produced to improve quality outcome, acknowledge good practice, and reinforce staff commitment to attachment-informed practice.

5.4. The findings from the nurture review will be implemented to ensure continued support for children and young people, establishments, and families. These supports will include:-

- ◆ improving nurture for children requiring enhanced social and emotional support
- ◆ youth attachment ambassador training for young people in secondary schools
- ◆ lessons for primary aged children focusing on the importance of relationships
- ◆ attachment-informed workshops for parents and carers.
- ◆ emotion coaching training for attachment leads and ambassadors.

5.5. A review of South Lanarkshire's SEBN provision is underway to ensure practice is consistent with the South Lanarkshire Council attachment-informed agenda.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. It is recognised that there are staffing implications for implementing and co-ordinating the attachment strategy over this next period, in order to achieve sustained implementation.
- 6.2. The proposal is to extend the secondment of the 1 FTE Development Officer. This post is currently a 12-month secondment. It is proposed to extend this post to 23 months.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Costs can be met from within existing resources. The post will be a 23-month seconded post.

8 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no other implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not require an equality impact assessment.
- 10.2. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and multi-agency partners will continue as the strategy is further implemented within educational establishments and services.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

18 January 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships.

Previous References

Education Resources Committee - 9 November 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Children's Services Plan 2021-2023

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Anne Donaldson, Head of Education (Inclusion)
Ext: 4452 (Tel: 01698 454452)
E-mail: anne.donaldson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk