

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 August 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Curriculum for Excellence Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update:-

- ◆ on the national position in relation to the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence; and
- ◆ on the progress being made in South Lanarkshire in implementing Curriculum for Excellence.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress towards implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in South Lanarkshire be noted; and
- (2) that the actions taken to further support the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Curriculum for Excellence is a programme of change that sets out the values, purposes and principles that underpin the new curriculum in schools for pupils aged 3 to 18 years. The aim is to put in place a curriculum that meets the challenges of the 21st century, will improve standards of learning and teaching and raise achievement for all learners.
- 3.2. There has been significant progress both nationally and locally over the last 3 years towards full implementation. New experiences and outcomes are shaping learning and teaching; interdisciplinary learning is being introduced; there is an increasing focus on achievement as well as attainment; new assessment and certification arrangements have been published.
- 3.3. During this period of preparation, schools have been reviewing their programmes of work and making changes to approaches to learning. Formal implementation of Curriculum for Excellence began in August 2010 and will roll out to all stages of the secondary sector by 2015.

4. Progress to date

- 4.1. Education Resources has developed a range of guidance and advice to support implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. Establishments have been provided with an implementation timeline and a position statement. A new reporting format for primary schools has been developed and all establishments have been provided with detailed improvement planning guidance to support areas of development. Head

Teachers have the opportunity to discuss this advice and plans for their establishment with the designated quality link officer.

- 4.2. In March 2010, following discussions with quality link officers, all head teachers provided an update on actions that had been taken to ensure that the establishment was prepared to introduce Curriculum for Excellence from August 2010. The responses to this audit were generally positive, with almost all establishments indicating that they had made progress in addressing key aspects of the programme. This view is supported by recent inspections which comment positively on the progress made in establishments.
- 4.3. New National Qualifications will be introduced for pupils in S4 from 2013. Currently, the Scottish Qualifications Authority is working with members of the teaching profession to develop a range of qualifications which reflect the learning aims and teaching approaches of the programme. These include plans to provide certification of literacy and numeracy through the provision of appropriate Learning Units.
- 4.4. A new reporting format for parents is being introduced in primary schools which reflect the purposes of Curriculum for Excellence. A series of consultation events with parents/carers on the new reporting format have taken place. Parents and schools have helped to develop the new reporting format and this will be used this session and reviewed and adapted further if required. Currently work is being done to develop a reporting format to be used in the secondary sector.
- 4.5. In May 2010, in response to a national survey of teachers that indicated a lack of confidence, the Scottish Government announced that HMIE would be deployed to support schools in the early stages of implementation. As a result, there will be no inspections of secondary schools between August 2010 and January 2011 and HMIE officers will be deployed to provide specific support to schools and local authorities. In South Lanarkshire, this will involve HMIE providing 20 days of support that will include input to two conferences on aspects of assessment.

5. Future Developments

- 5.1. An important element of Curriculum for Excellence is the recognition of achievement as well as attainment. The Scottish Government will issue guidance by September 2010 on a national approach to the recognition of pupil achievement. This will be included in a pupil profile by the end of S3. Education Resources will use this guidance to support schools to develop the work they are currently doing in recognising the full range of a pupil's achievements both within and beyond the classroom.
- 5.2. A major component of the new approach to assessment involves the introduction of a quality assurance system that uses moderation as the means of developing an understanding of national standards and ensuring that these are applied in all schools. To support this activity, Learning Teaching Scotland is finalising a National Assessment Resource that will illustrate examples of a wide range of approaches to assessing what pupils learn as well as providing exemplification of standards at various stages. In order to contribute to the development of a shared understanding of assessment standards, Education Resources is developing a programme of moderation that will involve staff working with colleagues within schools and learning communities to discuss the local application of national standards. The Government has allocated £187,500 in 2010/2011 to support the development of moderation networks and training for designated staff. Education Resources is currently considering the most effective use of this finance to develop the skills of all those involved in moderation.

- 5.3. There is currently a review of teacher education being led by Graham Donaldson, former Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, to evaluate how new and existing teachers are prepared to meet the challenges of teaching in the 21st century and implementing the aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence. This review will result in a report into pre and in-service training for teachers.
- 5.4. Curriculum for Excellence features as an improvement planning priority for all establishments in 2010/2011. It is worth noting that HMle evaluated the effectiveness of the curriculum as being good or very good in over 75% of the inspections of South Lanarkshire's establishments.
- 5.5. Education Resources will continue to monitor the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in all establishments through the interactions of Quality Link Officers and will provide support to establishments where this is required. Curriculum for Excellence features as a priority in establishments' improvement plans.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence requires the provision of opportunities for staff to undertake training activities that support their development.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. £187,500 has been provided by the Scottish Government to support assessment and moderation.
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1. There is a significant risk that if progress in terms of the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence does not proceed within the timelines set that this will impact on the introduction of new qualifications for pupils in S4 from 2013.
- 8.2. To mitigate against this risk Education Resources produced a position statement and timeline to support establishments take forward Curriculum for Excellence (August 2009) and undertook an audit in March 2010 to assess the progress made by establishments in preparing to introduce Curriculum for Excellence. In May 2010 the Scottish Government announced that there would be no inspection of secondary schools in the period between August 2010 and January 2011 and that HMle will work with local authorities to support schools. Education Resources will continue to monitor closely the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the South Lanarkshire Council, Curriculum for Excellence – position statement and timeline referred to in paragraph 4.1 of this report. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any part of the community covered by the equalities legislation or on community relations.
- 9.2. Consultation has taken place with schools, parent/carers during various development stages and will continue to take place as part of the on-going commitment to engage with stakeholders on the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

6 August 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Raise education attainment for all
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Increase involvement in lifelong learning

Previous References

- Education Resources Committee – 16 March 2010

List of Background Papers

- Curriculum for Excellence: Building the Curriculum 5 a framework for assessment
- Curriculum for Excellence – SLC Position Statement (August 2009)
- Curriculum for Excellence – Implementation Timeline (SLC January 2010)

Contact for Further Information

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

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