

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>1 February 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE)</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of progress to date with the validated self evaluation of the effectiveness of the education functions of South Lanarkshire Council which is currently being undertaken in partnership with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE).

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress of the work with HMIE to evaluate the effectiveness of the education functions of South Lanarkshire Council be noted; and
- (2) that a further report is presented to the Committee identifying the outcomes of the Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation activity.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In August 2010 the Committee was informed of the revised approach to the inspection of the education functions of a local authority that was introduced in 2009. Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE) is a proportionate model of inspection based on the view that good information on the performance of education authorities is available; there is a positive, established link between the District Inspector and the authority; and there is a wide range of robust national performance data available.
- 3.2. VSE is intended to reduce unnecessary scrutiny through the development of the shared risk assessment model, ensuring a clear focus on the effective use of self-evaluation to support continuous improvement, ensure a clear focus on improvement and acknowledge the maturing self-evaluation of authorities.
- 3.3. In August 2010 the Committee gave its approval for Education Resources to progress with its participation in the Validated Self Evaluation process in partnership with HMIE. This supports the implementation of the 2010/2011 Resource Plan which includes a commitment to further progress the key theme of self evaluation

#### **4. Progress with VSE**

- 4.1. In preparation for VSE, Education Resources has produced an extensive profile that outlines key strengths and areas for development across the full range of services provided by Education Resources. This was produced taking account of the views of a wide range of staff from within Education Resources and the inspection activity involving schools and establishments, Services to Protect Children, Psychological Services and the Best Value Audit.
- 4.2. The self evaluation activity that was undertaken to produce the profile led to the identification of a number of themes that were then subject to further extensive self evaluation as part of the VSE process. The themes that are being taken forward are:
  - Effectiveness of Educational Transitions;
  - Improvement through Closing the Gap between the highest and lowest attaining pupils;
  - Further development of Stakeholder Engagement;
  - Effectiveness of current Quality Assurance Procedures.
- 4.3. At a challenge meeting in November 2010 involving the District Inspector, the Lead Facilitator from HMle and the Education Management Team, it was agreed that these themes were relevant, substantive and would contribute to the continuing development of the quality of the services provided by Education Resources.
- 4.4. Four groups were established to conduct self evaluation into these areas and to produce recommendations for the future. The groups are chaired by a secondary head teacher, a primary head teacher, a head of education and a senior manager from within Education Resources. The groups have representatives from all parts of Education Resources and partner organisations. Each group was joined by a member of HMle who worked with the group undertaking a range of activities as directed by the group leader.
- 4.5. During an intensive day in December under the leadership of the chair, each group established a position statement and identified a strategy for taking forward its analysis. Over the week of 17 January 2011, group members undertook a range of activities to evaluate more fully the position in relation to their area of focus. This included analysing research information, evaluating local and national data, undertaking surveys and talking to a wide range of stakeholders in order to identify various views.

#### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1. Currently, group chairs and senior staff from within Education Resources are consolidating and finalising information and views that were identified during the week of investigation.
- 5.2. A draft position statement will be prepared for a 'stock taking day' at the end of February involving representatives from HMle and Education Resources. At this meeting there will be a joint evaluation of the progress made during the week of 17 January and a decision will be made about how to use the next block of time available in March 2011. This may involve undertaking further field work to gather more data and views in relation to some or all of the themes or the time may be given over to working on the draft of the final report.

- 5.3. It is anticipated that the final draft report will be available by June 2011. This will include a brief joint statement by the Executive Director and the HMle Lead Facilitator outlining Education Resources' capacity for self evaluation and improvement along with reports from each of the theme groups.
- 5.4. The recommendations of the themed groups will be incorporated into the Resource Plan and will be adopted within establishments and services as appropriate.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. None
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. None
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1. In developing the proposal for Education Resources to undertake a validated assisted self-evaluation consideration has been given to the risks associated with the planning, organisation and outcomes of this new assessment process. These are not considered to be significant.
- 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. Consultation and dialogue has taken place with establishments, services, trade unions and other stakeholders as Education Resources prepared to participate in validated self-evaluation in 2011.

**Larry Forde**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

19 January 2011

**Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Improvement Themes**

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

**Previous References**

- Education Resources Committee - 31 August 2010

**List of Background Papers**

- Validated self-assessment - HMle

**Contact for Further Information**

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

Jim Gilhooly, Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality)

Ext: 4475 (Tel: 01698 454475)

E-mail: [jim.gilhooly@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.gilhooly@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)