

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>1 June 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Education Resources' Gender Equality Statement of Commitment 2010 to 2013</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the consultation on the new Gender Equality Statement of Commitment for 2010/2013; and
- ◆ advise of the arrangements made to publish the Statement of Commitment.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation process for the new Gender Equality Statement of Commitment for 2010 to 2013 and the arrangements to publish the Gender Equality Statement of Commitment be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. A written statement of Gender Equality Policy is required of each education authority under the Equality Act 2006. The first Education Resources' Gender Equality Statement of Commitment was agreed by the Education Resources' Committee on 3 July 2007 for the period 2007/2010, following a period of wide consultation.
- 3.2. The Statement of Commitment is intended to assist the education authority to meet the general duty which requires that every public authority shall, in carrying out its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful sex discrimination and harassment
  - promote equality of opportunity between women and men
- 3.3. South Lanarkshire Council has also published a Single Equality Scheme with which Education Resources complies.
- 3.4. The Gender Equality Duty Code of Practice for Scotland requires that an annual report be published detailing progress made on the steps taken to fulfil the Gender Equality Duty. The first annual report was agreed by the Education Resources Committee on 1 July 2008, and the second annual report was agreed on 19 May 2009.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1. Consultees were offered the opportunity to comment and give their views on progress made in implementing the first Statement for 2007-2010. A draft of a new Gender Statement of Commitment was widely circulated and was also available on the Council's website during April and May 2010, to enable consultees to give their views. A range of replies were received from educational establishments and from other interested parties and these were very positive. A number of constructive suggestions for amendments were made which have been incorporated into the revised Statement.
- 4.2. Some comments made by respondents were:
- The nature of the subject is wide-ranging and the document is very full and therefore lengthy.
  - There is a vast amount of information and it is well detailed.
  - Clearly set out and easy to access a specific paragraph.
  - Time to have training/reflection on these issues and impact assess is a challenge, particularly with all the changes ongoing at present. Have built this into Improvement Planning and Collegiate Activity Time sessions for 2010/11.
  - Comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the legislation.
  - It was important to see Curriculum for Excellence featured in this statement.
  - These commitments and responsibilities are reflected in our school's Statement of Commitment.
  - Provision of effective Continuing Professional Development in this area, should continue to be a priority.
  - The clarity of roles and responsibilities is very useful.
  - It is very positive to see the Additional Support for Learning Act and the new 2009 Act referenced to consider the needs of male and female students.
- 4.3. The revised Statement of Commitment will be made available in the members' group rooms and published on the Council's website to meet the statutory date of 28 May 2010. Copies will be available in text and electronic versions and will be issued widely to all stakeholders.
- 4.4. The Single Equality Scheme and the Gender Statement of Commitment will be taken into account in planning, delivering and monitoring the effectiveness of education services.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. The statutory duties include the Council in its role as employer. The Corporate Scheme and the Statement of Commitment take account of this.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the recommendations contained in this report. The proposals will have differential impact as the recommendations are intended to target specific sector(s) of the community. However, it is considered that this impact is justifiable and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council website.

8.2. Consultation took place as described in paragraph 4.1 above.

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

10 May 2010

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

- Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Raise educational attainment for all
- Fair and open
- Working with and respecting others

**Previous References**

- Education Resources Committee – 1 July 2008

**List of Background Papers**

- Gender Equality Statement of Commitment 2010/2013 (available on the Council's website)
- Single Equality Scheme
- Gender Equality Statement of Commitment 2007/2010

**Contact for Further Information**

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

Andrea Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion)

Ext: 4452 (Tel: 01698 454452)

E-mail: [andrea.batchelor@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.batchelor@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)