

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Children in Scotland Annual Conference
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Education Resources Committee of the views of the participants who attended the Children in Scotland 2009 Annual Conference hosted by the Council in November 2009.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the very positive evaluation by delegates who attended the Children in Scotland Conference, hosted by the Council in November 2009, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Children in Scotland is a national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland.

3.2. The aims of Children in Scotland are to:

- enable and promote the exchange of information between children, young people and their families, practitioners, policy makers and politicians
- identify and promote the development of child, young person and family centre policies and practice which will improve the quality of life for Scotland's children, young people and their families
- through training, networking and information exchange a development of common understanding and sharing of values and experience between sectors, agencies and professional groups working with children, young people and their families

3.3. Each year, Children in Scotland hold a conference that attracts an international audience with an interest in hearing and seeing, through case studies, visits and workshops, the work going on throughout Scotland to support children, young people and families. In November 2009, South Lanarkshire Council hosted the annual conference.

4. Conference report and evaluation

4.1. The Council worked closely with Children in Scotland in planning and organising the 2009 Annual Conference. The key theme of the conference was on how, working together, we can ensure that we get it right for our children and to showcase how this is happening through our frontline services.

4.2. The conference took place over 2 days on 5 and 6 November at the Crutherland Hotel in East Kilbride. It provided an opportunity to showcase good practice in South Lanarkshire in meeting the needs of children, young people and their families. Conference delegates had the opportunity to see a wide range of examples of good practice through workshops and study visits on, for example:-

- Early Years Services
- Multi-Agency Working
- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Child Protection
- Health and Well-Being
- Supporting Children and Family Programmes

4.3. The workshops and study visits enabled conference delegates to see the difference our approaches are making to the lives of children, young people and families. A significant contribution was made from a range of young people from nursery school aged children through to young adults. Young people demonstrated their musical talents when delegates were entertained at the reception by members of the Artsnet jazz orchestra and this was extremely well received.

4.4. A key learning outcome was the strength of partnership working in South Lanarkshire. The programme was evident through the workshops and study visits that involved a range of partners including Education Resources, Social Work Resources, Community Resources, NHS Lanarkshire, Strathclyde Police and voluntary sector organisations. The learning outcomes from the Conference were reported to a meeting of the Children's Services Steering Group.

4.5. Children in Scotland produced a formal evaluation of the conference based on comments made by conference delegates. The overall response by delegates was very positive.

- 98% of respondents intimated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the conference.
- 100% of respondents were very satisfied with the study visits to either the Forest School, East Kilbride, Glengowan Primary School or Core Connex with an equally high rating for the content and delivery of the workshops.
- 87% of participants who represented the voluntary sector, NHS, local authorities, statutory organisations and training organisations found the mix of speakers, input and participation to be right over the 2 days.

The evaluations show the conference was regarded as a success by delegates who reported they were impressed by the work going on in South Lanarkshire. As a result of the very successful Children in Scotland conference Enquire had agreed to host their conference, designed to share good practice, in South Lanarkshire on 9 March 2010.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

6.1. All financial implications were met from within existing budgets.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. A planning group was established with responsibility for working closely with Children in Scotland in helping to showcase examples of good practice.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There was no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 8.2. Consultation took place with Children in Scotland and there was dialogue with key partners including those in the voluntary sector, Social Work Resources, Education Resources and Integrated Children's Services to help plan the conference.

Larry Forde

Executive Director (Education Resources)

19 February 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 3 March 2009

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Children in Scotland Newsletter
- ◆ Children in Scotland Magazine issue no 101 (Nov 2009)

Contact for Further Information

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

David Bruce, Integrated Children's Services/Community Learning and Development Manager

Ext: 4517 (Tel: 01698 454517)

E-mail: david.bruce@southlanarkshire.gov.uk