

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>13 September 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Champion for Change - Anti-Sectarianism</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the opportunity for schools to take part in the new and innovative project entitled Champion for Change, which is an award scheme for young people in challenging sectarianism organised by Nil by Mouth.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the launch by Nil by Mouth of Champion for Change, a new Anti-Sectarianism award scheme, on 12 October 2011 in Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposal to promote this new scheme within South Lanarkshire schools and services be approved.

## 3. Background

3.1. Nil by Mouth is a charity which exists to combat long-standing issues of sectarianism in Scotland that negatively impact on the lives of many young people and adults. Nil by Mouth seek to create a positive response whereby people will live in harmony, without fear, intimidation, prejudice and discrimination. Nil by Mouth believes that all children and young people living in Scotland are entitled to a quality education based on the principles of equality, irrespective of faith, belief and culture.

3.2. The Nil by Mouth education committee has requested support from South Lanarkshire Council, in recognition of our strong commitment to the equalities agenda, to launch their new and innovative project entitled Champion for Change, which is an award scheme for schools designed to challenge sectarianism. The aim is to recognise the achievements of many schools in Scotland who can demonstrate excellent practice in challenging sectarianism.

3.3. Nil by Mouth aims to launch its anti-sectarian accreditation award in October 2011. To achieve accreditation, employees, parents and young people in denominational and non denominational schools must be seen to work together, to make a difference towards eradicating sectarianism.

## 4. Proposal

4.1. The proposal is to launch the new accreditation scheme and showcase good practice in Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen on Wednesday 12 October 2011. Schools across the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area will be involved in the showcase of

good practice. In addition, there will be representation from the Larkhall Learning Community reflecting their long history of work in this field. Nil by Mouth will invite a speaker from the Scottish Government to launch the event, and invitations will be sent to all local authorities for Officers responsible for equalities to attend, along with representatives from other interested stakeholders and partner organisations.

- 4.2. The launch of this event provides an opportunity to invite young people to showcase good practice in anti-sectarianism education, through drama or performance.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The costs associated with this launch event will be met from within existing budgets.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. The risk assessment associated with the proposals in this report is deemed to be low and will not have an adverse impact on Education Resources.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

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

- 8.1. This report does not present a new strategy, policy or plan and is therefore, not subject an equality impact assessment.
- 8.2. Education Resources has made arrangements to engage with schools within the Stonelaw Learning Community and are in dialogue with other agencies to help plan and organise the launch in partnership with Nil by Mouth.

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

22 August 2011

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

- Raise educational attainment for all
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults

### **Previous References**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

None

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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