

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Resources Resource Plan 2011/12: Quarter 2 Progress Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Committee of progress against the Resource Plan over the first two quarters of the year from April to September 2011.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the progress made to date against the actions contained within the Resource Plan, as contained at Appendix 1, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Resource Plan sets out objectives and priorities to be managed and delivered by the Resource for the period 2011/2012. It was endorsed by the Education Resources Committee on 14 June 2011 and approved by the Executive Committee on 6 July 2011.
- 3.2. The Resource Plan 2011/2012 embodies the vision, priorities, objectives and improvement themes of the Council Plan 'Connect', based on the 2009 Mid Term Review.
- 3.3. The Resource Plan links with the priorities set out at a national and local level, as appropriate, and provides the context for the development of services in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.4. This report outlines progress made on the Education Resources' Resource Plan over the period April 2011 to September 2011. Appendix 1 provides an update on key actions and measures for the Resource.

4. Objectives for the Resource for 2011/2012

4.1. The Resource objectives for 2011/2012 are listed below under the relevant improvement theme and objective from the Council Plan:

Council objective: Raise educational attainment for all

Resource objective: Progress approaches in respect of the National Priorities in Education

- progress approaches in respect of the National Priorities in Education

Resource objective: To raise standards of educational attainment for all in schools, especially in the core skills of literacy and numeracy

- improve achievement and attainment outcomes in all establishments
- Implement key aspects of legislative duties as prescribed in revised/new legislation

Resource objective: Take forward the principles, values and purposes of *A Curriculum for Excellence*

- take forward key aspects of Curriculum for Excellence in all schools and establishments as appropriate annually
- take forward the key recommendations of Validated Self-evaluation (VSE) within Education Resources
- continue to develop and offer specialist alternative learning opportunities for young people

Resource objective: Implement the primary schools modernisation programme

- deliver agreed targets within the primary schools modernisation programme

Resource objective: Establish approaches to address the National Inspection Framework for establishments and Services within Education Resources

- progress the key themes of self-evaluation and leadership in all establishments and services
- take forward the key recommendations of Validated Self-evaluation (VSE) within education Resources

Resource objective: Ensure the highest possible quality of educational provision for children, young people, families and communities

- ensure the highest possible quality of educational provision for children, young people, families and communities
- ensure compliance with the Council's Information Governance Strategy to protect and manage more effectively our information
- ensure compliance with enquiry response standards
- implement routes to qualifications in early years settings
- maintain Education Resources' commitment to employees through the development and effective implementation of personnel policies and employee learning and development opportunities

Council objective: Increase involvement in lifelong learning

Resource objective: Deliver services and programmes through the Community Learning Partnership to further improve literacy and numeracy skills among young people and adults

- increase involvement in lifelong learning for young people and adults

Resource objective: Increase levels of achievement through learning for adults

- increase levels of achievement through learning for adults

Resource objective: Increase levels of achievement through community capacity building

- increase levels of achievement through community capacity building
- take forward key aspects of engagement with young people as defined within the *Youth Strategy*
- promote volunteering opportunities for young people and support them to become active within their community

- recognise and celebrate the progress and achievement of young people

Resource objective: Increase levels of achievement through learning for young people

- increase levels of achievement through learning for young people
- take forward key aspects of the community capacity building actions as defined within the *Community Learning and Development Strategy*
- deliver digital media based workshops in film making and animation

Council objective: Improving health and increasing physical activity

Resource objective: Engage all education establishments in the Health Promoting Schools programme

- ensure health promotion is embedded in the ethos and practice of all establishments and services
- continue to work towards accreditation of Youth Learning establishments as Health Promoting establishments
- provide a range of physical, social and cultural activity for all children within schools and establishments
- implement key aspects of the *HALL 4* improvement strategy
- continue to progress health and well-being research
- further develop “Give Us A Break” within Education Resources

Council objective: Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults

Resource objective: Ensure national priorities for vulnerable children and families are addressed

- progress key aspects of Getting It Right for Every Child in all establishments and services
- take forward the key recommendations of Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) within Education Resources
- progress key aspects of the National Early Years Framework
- take forward the 16+ Learning Choices initiative
- provide alternative diversionary activities for young people
- enhance the range of support available to support children within the ASN sector
- contribute to the South Lanarkshire Parenting Strategy
- further develop the effectiveness of Psychological Services

Corporate Improvement Theme: Vision and strategic direction

- develop and implement our Council Plan – *Connect*
- implement a programme of equality and human rights impact assessments
- develop and introduce Council wide equality performance measures and publish results
- take forward equalities of race, disability and gender
- foster responsible citizenship and awareness of sustainable development
- develop and promote sustainable development opportunities with young people

Corporate Improvement Theme: Governance and accountability

- ensure that high standards of governance are being exercised (through the use of scrutiny forums, audit plans and risk management)
- implement the Council’s Governance Strategy Action Plan
- develop the Education Resources’ Business Continuity Plan and procedures for critical incidents/emergencies

Corporate Improvement Theme: Performance management and improvement

- implement effective Best Value management arrangements to ensure continuous improvement and effective and efficient service delivery
- take forward key census activity for Education Resources
- implement a strategic response to the Scottish Government's Efficient Government agenda
- continue to drive forward the performance management and quality improvement agenda to ensure services are focussed on achieving the best possible outcomes for service users

Corporate Improvement Theme: Efficient and effective use of resources

- ensure our commitment to employees through the development and effective implementation of personnel policies and employee learning and development opportunities
- manage land and property assets efficiently

5. Progress to date on Council and Resource priorities

5.1. Of the 121 measures outlined in the Resource Plan, Education Resources have already achieved or are on schedule to achieve 96 (79%), 4 (3%) may experience minor slippage and the remaining 21 (18%) of measures will be reported at a later date. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is noted at Appendix 1.

5.2. Achievements of the year to date concerning Education Resources' priority areas are noted below:

- Good progress continues to be made by establishments and services in taking forward key aspects of Curriculum for Excellence. Courses and programmes are now based on a wide range of experiences and outcomes across most curricular areas;
- The performance of pupils across South Lanarkshire Schools in the 2011 SQA examination; at the pre-appeal stage the results for South Lanarkshire equalled or improved from 2010 in 9 out of 10 nationally recognised performance measures. Performance in 2011 is (or is equal to) the highest level recorded in the last 5 sessions in 8 out of the 10 measures;
- Secondary schools are making good progress in identifying the shape and content of the senior phase for implementation as per agreed timescales;
- Calderglen High School, as part of their continued engagement with the Microsoft Pathfinders in Learning Programme, have been asked to act as a mentor school for this prestigious programme: one of only thirty schools worldwide;
- The revised Adult Literacy Strategy received formal approval from Education Resources Committee at the meeting held on 13 September 2011;
- Over 2,678 adults were supported by Community Learning and Development to engage in a range of literacy and numeracy programmes;
- Increasing numbers of young people have engaged in a range of literacy and numeracy activities through the work of Youth Learning Services;
- An additional 77 young people have taken part in environmental volunteering including Eco Arts and Environmental Science projects. These include: Whitehill Clean up, community garden projects and "Grow it, Cook it" programmes;
- In the 14 published HMIE reports published April till September 2011, all (100%) of the quality indicators were evaluated as satisfactory or above;
- 92% of primary pupils interviewed as part of the HMIE inspection process expressed satisfaction with school;

- Good progress is being made in implementing an electronic (SEEMIS Group) single agency and multi agency chronology. An updated progress report was provided to all heads of establishment at the Getting it Right for Every Child Conference held in September 2011;
- Action Planning Groups have now been formed to take forward the key recommendations of the jointly published HMIE/South Lanarkshire Validated Self Evaluation report;
- The Attendance, Absence and Exclusion Census and the Secondary School Leavers' Census were completed and submitted on schedule. Both the School Pupil Census and the Staff Census are being completed for submission to the Scottish Government as per the required timescale;
- Good progress continues to be made in continuing our use of and improvement in the use of IMPROVe across all services in Education Resources;
- The Community Learning and Home School Partnership Service continues to provide a wide range of opportunities for young people and adults to engage in cultural activities;
- Good progress continues to be made with the piloting and development of the Early Years Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Attachment and Resilience (FAIAR);
- The annual report to the Equal Opportunities Forum on the uptake of service, based on standardised equality reporting categories, was presented to the Equal Opportunities Forum on 7 June 2011 and to the Education Resources Committee on 14 June 2011.

5.3. Areas for improvement – currently, there are no actions or measures categorised as 'not on course to achieve' by the year end.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Resource Plan objectives and more detailed Service Plans inform financial planning within the Resource. There are, however, no specific financial implications arising from this particular report. Priorities will continue to be delivered within existing revenue and capital resources.

7. Employee Implications

7.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report, other than a direct link to the Performance and Development Review (PDR) process.

8. Other Implications

8.1 There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

8.2 There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

9 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1 A Resource wide schedule has been developed for projects and functions requiring equalities impact assessment.

9.2. The Council's Resource planning process is informed by consultation and, where appropriate, more detailed consultation is carried out in relation to specific priorities.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

2 November 2011

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

- ◆ Vision and Strategic Direction – Sustainable Development
- ◆ Efficient and Effective use of Resources
- ◆ Performance Management and Improvement
- ◆ Raise Educational Attainment for All
- ◆ Increase Involvement in Lifelong Learning
- ◆ Improve Health and Increase Physical Activity
- ◆ Improve Lives of Vulnerable Children, Young People and adults
- ◆ Increase Participation in Arts and Culture

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee – 6 July 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Resources' Resource Plan 2011/2012

Contact for Further Information

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

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