

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 August 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Resource Plan - Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019/2020
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- provide the Education Resource Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019/2020, for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Education Resources Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019/2020, summarised at paragraph 4.4. of this report and detailed at Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that the achievements made by the Resource to date, as detailed in paragraph 4.3. of this report, be noted;
- (3) that the areas for improvement and management actions as detailed in paragraph 4.4. of this report, be noted; and
- (4) that the additional scrutiny of changes in Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status of measures between Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 as summarised at paragraph 4.5 and detailed at Appendix 2 of this report, be noted;

3. Background

- 3.1. The Education Resources Plan 2019-20 was approved by Committee on 6 August 2019 and sets out the objectives and actions to be managed and delivered by the Resource for the financial year 2019-20.
- 3.2. The Resource Plan follows the agreed corporate structure and style. The Plan is a key element of the council's performance management arrangements. It provides details of the context within which the Resource operates and establishes actions and measures for the year ahead based on the objectives set out in the Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022.
- 3.3. Performance management is a keystone of Best Value, and ensures that the council can demonstrate sound governance arrangements. The Resource Plan is one part of the council's framework for planning and budgeting, and demonstrates how this leads to effective front line service delivery.
- 3.4. As part of this framework the Resource Plan reflects the aspirations of the Council Plan and the Community Plan as well as being complemented by the details of individual Service, Business and other Plans. Ultimately, these details are included in the key work objectives of individual officers. This demonstrates the 'Golden

Thread' of performance management which ensures a clear understanding of the council's vision, values, ambitions and objectives at all levels.

- 3.5. The current format for performance reporting has been established since 2007 and is used for Executive Directors' reports to the Chief Executive, Resource Management Teams and Resource Committees. The focus has been on reporting progress on council objectives, statutory performance indicators, other key performance measures and high level Resource priorities.
- 3.6. In preparing the Plan, account has also been taken of the need to ensure a robust response to Risk Management and Control. Risks associated with delivery of the actions in this Resource Plan have been identified and evaluated and are listed in the Resource Risk Register. Where necessary, controls or further actions to mitigate these risks have been agreed. Such actions are tracked through the Resource Risk Control Plan which is kept under review by the Risk Sponsor for the Resource.
- 3.7 The latter part of the period covered by this report included the first stages as the Covid-19 epidemic took hold across the United Kingdom. Reference is made to the impact of the disease and the response to it in numerous places throughout the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019-20, which is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.8 As Elected Members are aware, the council was forced to suspend or reduce a number of services that could not be continued in full due to government advice, including adhering to physical distancing requirements for residents and for staff. The council was also obliged to redirect resources so that it could deliver vital new services and supports for individuals, communities and businesses.
- 3.9 As a result, there has been an inevitable impact on performance in some areas, though as this report covers the period to 31 March 2020 this impact is not as great as might be expected in further performance reports that will follow, covering later periods.

4. Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019-20

- 4.1. Progress against all 2019-20 Resource Plan measures is contained in the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019-20, attached as Appendix 1. This report has been produced from the council's performance management reporting system IMPROVe, and uses a traffic light format with the following definitions to give a status report on each measure:

Status	Definition
Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations
Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
Report later	The information is not yet available to allow us to say whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available
Contextual	Included for 'information only', to set performance information in context

- 4.2. Measures which are classified as 'red' are considered in detail at section 4.4. of this report. To ensure adequate scrutiny of performance across all Resources, the council's Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum may consider 'red' and 'amber' measures at a future meeting.

The overall summary of progress to date is as follows:

Status	Measures	
	Number	%
Green	133	79.2%
Amber	4	2.4%
Red	2	1.2%
Report later/Contextual	29	17.2%
Totals	168	100%

(Data correct as at 24 July 2020)

4.3. Key achievements for 2019-20 are noted below:

4.3.1.

Connect Objective:	Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
Resource Objective	Achievement
Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap	To support the delivery of national and local priorities as stated on our 'Strategy on a page' a 'Framework for the Curriculum' resource pack and educational settings was delivered.
	By the end of June 2019, 70 additional primary school staff completed French/Spanish primary training.
	A Pupil Equity Conference was held to share good practice in supporting pupils in poverty to close the attainment gap.
	Publication of guidance to achieve the Scottish Government milestone 'Mapping the Curriculum' for children with additional support needs
	A South Lanarkshire Council 'How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare Toolkit' has been successfully developed and issued to all local authority funded early learning and childcare establishments.
	Over 300 pupils received an Achievement Award at the annual Education Resources Achievement Awards Ceremony in the Town House in June 2019.
	To support the implementation of 1140 hours EL&CC a showcase event was held in June 2019 for managers and practitioners to support them in ensuring consistency of approach and in ensuring high quality service provision for children and families.
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish	The annual report for the Children's Services Plan 2018/19 was published in September and submitted to the Scottish Government.
Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	The MCR Pathways programme has been introduced in 6 Secondary Schools to support young people to achieve positive outcomes in terms of the wellbeing and learning journey.

Connect Objective:	Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational
Resource Objective	Achievement
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to	A highly successful conference on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing took place in May 2019. The keynote speaker was Professor Rory O'Connor from the

Connect Objective:	Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational
Resource Objective	Achievement
flourish	University of Glasgow whose film and evidenced based presentation on 'indicators of suicide' has been made available for future use in schools and establishments in line with our commitment to improve the wellbeing of young people.
Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap	<p>The 128th new primary school opened with the completion of the building of Black Mount Primary School (formerly Walston Primary School) on 20th August. This completes a significant milestone for the Council in terms of modernising the whole of the school estate in South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The new Early Learning Unit in Hamilton which caters for young children 0-5 with special and complex needs opened to children on 1st October 2019. This completes the Nursery establishment modernisation programme.</p>

Connect Objective:	Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
Resource Objective	Achievement
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish	Revised Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviours Guidance published and Launched in January 2020. All establishments have been made aware of the ethos and the strategies to support them in managing distress and forming relationships.

Connect Objective:	Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities
Resource Objective	Achievement
Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	817 people have been involved in volunteering, to become active within their community in supporting Youth Family and Community Learning Service activities, through local youth work, literacy and numeracy provision, delivery of learning opportunities within communities, sports clubs, gala days and celebration events.

Connect Objective:	Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation, and supporting aspiration
Resource Objective	Achievement
Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap	In 2019, 13 Holiday clubs were run in targeted locations with 727 young people accessing the provision. 445 young people achieved nationally recognised awards (Hi5 and Dynamic Youth Award), 70 received additional support to engage in activities which were supported by 7 young volunteers and 1 adult volunteer, trained through the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Volunteer Development Programme and the Burnbank Family Centre.
Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	Nearly 41,000 hours of volunteering were delivered in support of Youth Family and Community Learning Service activities in local communities enhancing social commitment.

4.3.2. Full details of progress against all objectives, actions and measures for 2019-20 are included in the report from the performance management system, attached as Appendix 1.

4.4. Areas for improvement

Measures that have been classified as 'red' (major slippage against timescale or shortfall against target) are noted below, together with the reason why, and the management action now being taken, where required.

Connect Objective: Delivering the plan and achieving best value		
Resource Objective: Deliver and communicate the Council Plan and ensure high standards of governance		
Measure	Comments/Progress	Action by Manager (where applicable)
96% of Freedom of Information (FOISA) requests to be processed within the 20 working day	Data for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests is reported one quarter in arrears. In Quarter 3, 44 requests were received and 40 (90.91%) were responded to within the statutory time period. To date 169 requests were received 92.9% were responded to within the statutory time period not meeting the target. The year to date percentage of requests processed within 20 working days for Education Resources is 92.9% which is slightly below the SLC percentage of 93.34%.	The response rate should be considered in the context of the number and complexity of the requests received. In addition, the time taken to process some requests may take longer due to school holiday periods. Education Resources is reviewing the impact of school holiday dates on response times and have raised this matter with the Commissioner's Office.
90% of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)/Data Protection Act (DPA) requests to be processed within 30 calendar	Data for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)/Data Protection Act (DPA) requests is reported one quarter in arrears. In Quarter 3, 18 requests were received of which 11 (64.7%) were completed within the statutory time period. At Quarter 4 (March) 36 requests were received and 20 (54.29%) were responded to within the statutory time period not meeting the target.	The response rate should be considered in the context of the number and complexity of the requests received. In addition, the time taken to process some requests may take longer due to school holiday periods. Education Resources is reviewing the impact of school holiday dates on response times and have raised this matter with the Commissioner's Office. The time clock still moves during school holidays.

4.5. Scrutiny of change in RAG status

A further analysis introduced to aid scrutiny of performance, is to highlight and explain all measures that have changed RAG (Red Amber Green) status from Quarter 2 to Quarter 4. On analysis of the measures falling into this category, many of the narrative updates input into the system clearly explained the reason for the change in status which illustrates the improved quality of the comments in the quarterly updates. However the scrutiny did identify a number of measures where services were asked to review the RAG status and/or provide additional explanatory narrative or details to assist understanding. Appropriate amendments were made on the IMPROVe system. A summary of the measures falling into this category of further scrutiny is included at Appendix 2.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The objectives noted within the Resource Plan will inform the Service Action Plans, where applicable, and in turn the Performance Appraisal process for individual employees.

6. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The objectives within the Resource Plan are reflected in the respective Resource Revenue and Capital budgets and, longer term, within the framework of the council's approved Financial Strategy.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The Community Plan 2017-27 was agreed at the Community Planning Partnership Board on 11 October 2017. A significant element of the delivery of the outcomes in the Community Plan will come through the achievement of the actions contained within Connect.
 - 8.2. Resource Plan actions are assessed as part of the Resource's risk management arrangements and relevant issues have been added to the Resource Risk Register.
 - 8.3. The Resource Plan takes into account Resource responsibilities in relation to sustainable development.
- ## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. Many of the actions detailed within the Resource Plan reflect ongoing strategies and policies which will be or have been the subject of consultation and equality impact assessment.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

24 July 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- The Resource Plan has been structured upon the Vision, Values, Ambitions and Objectives in the Council Plan Connect 2017-22

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- Council Plan [Connect](#) 2017-22
- [Education](#) Resource Plan 2019-20

Contact for Further Information

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

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