

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Attachment Strategy for Education Resources – Update report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ seek approval for additional resources, for a post of Development Officer, to support the sustained and effective implementation of the Attachment Strategy and inform members of next steps to embed attachment-informed practice across the authority

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the requirement of a post of Development Officer as detailed in section 7.0 to support sustained implementation of the Attachment Strategy and improve outcomes for children and young people, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. A Children's Services Attachment Strategy Group was established in 2015 to explore current understandings of attachment theory in the Children's Services workforce and the level of skills in 'Attachment Informed Practice'.
- 3.2. There was an agreement reached in 2017 by the Children's Services Attachment Strategy Group that a key action would be engagement with staff and partners on the development of an Education Attachment Strategy as a first step, with multi-agency colleagues acting as critical friends to the process.
- 3.3. The Education Resources Attachment Strategy supports the action in the Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire's Children Services Plan 2021-2023, following the launch of the Attachment Strategy in 2020, to provide staff training in Attachment and Trauma based practice. Although the focus is on Education practitioners, the Strategy has been developed in consultation with partner agencies. The Strategy promotes better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people.
- 3.4. There was a substantial update of the Attachment Strategy for Education Resources at the Education Resources Committee on 31 August 2021. This noted its centrality to supporting trauma informed practice and providing an approach that buffers the

impact of Adverse Childhood Events for the most vulnerable children and young people.

- 3.5. The Attachment Strategy provides a relational, preventative approach to meeting the needs of all children and young people.

4. Aims of the Attachment Strategy

- 4.1. The aim of this Strategy is to promote an understanding of attachment theory and support the implementation of attachment-informed practice within education services and establishments across South Lanarkshire by:-

- developing a range of information resources to be used within education establishments and services
- providing training to all education resources staff
- establishing a network of support for education resources staff, with opportunities for further training, discussion and sharing of good practice
- working with Education Resources leadership team to embed attachment-informed practice within practice

5. Implementation

- 5.1. The Education Resources Committee on 31 August 2021 considered and noted the roll-out plan and progress made from June 2020 to present in terms of the implementation of the attachment strategy. The Attachment Strategy was launched in June 2020 at a series of Learning Community Meetings and awareness raising events.
- 5.2. All facilities staff were shown a 30-minute recorded awareness training in August 2020. Part 1 of the Attachment Strategy training was delivered remotely to education resources staff at 17 Learning Community events on 16 November 2020. Part 2 of the Attachment Strategy training was delivered remotely to education resources staff at 17 additional learning community events on 6 May 2021. Additional Part 2 Attachment Strategy training was delivered remotely on 13 and 14 August 2021 to Secondary Schools and those who were unable to attend during the course of 2020-2021. The training resources were recorded and placed on the Learn on Line platform.
- 5.3. An evaluation report for the Attachment Strategy Training was produced and circulated following the training. This has previously been provided as an attachment.
- 5.4. Attachment Strategy pledge cards were distributed to all facilities staff in August 2021.
- 5.5. An update on the progress of the implementation of the Attachment Strategy will be provided to staff at the Inclusion Conference on 10 September 2021.

6. Implementation – Next Steps

- 6.1. The Attachment Strategy Implementation group will continue to oversee and advise on next steps throughout 2021-2022.
- 6.2. All education establishments and services have been asked to nominate attachment leads and ambassadors within their organisations.
- 6.3. Attachment leads and ambassadors will be invited to locality networking events from October 2021.

- 6.4. An Attachment Strategy Glow tile will be developed to provide a shared platform for learning materials and communication.
- 6.5. It is recognised that the next stage of the Attachment Strategy implementation is crucial in terms of embedding the longer term changes that will promote the best outcomes for children and young people within the Education Resources estate.

Proposal

- 6.6. The proposal is to for a Development Officer role, on a secondment basis for a period of 12 months. This post will strengthen the development of nurturing approaches within the Council to ensure long term positive change for children, young people and families.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. It is recognised that there are staffing implications for implementing and co-ordinating the Attachment Strategy over this next period, in order to achieve sustained implementation.
- 7.2. The proposal in para 6.6 for a Development Officer, on a fixed term basis for 12 months. This post would be offered to existing Depute Head Teachers, Educational Psychologists and Principal Teachers on a secondment basis.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The post will be funded from Education recovery funding across 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 supporting and strengthening nurture and attachment for young people during the recovery period.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no other implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. This report does not require an equality impact assessment.
- 11.2. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and multi-agency partners will continue as the strategy is further implemented within educational establishments and services.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

21 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- Education Resources Committee – 31 August 2021

List of Background Papers

- Children's Services Plan 2021-2023
- Evaluation of Attachment Strategy Training

Contact for Further Information

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

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