

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Education 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:-

- ♦ provide an update on the progress of implementation of the Attachment Strategy for Education Resources and of the next steps to embed attachment-informed practice across the authority

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) to note that that progress on the implementation of the Attachment Strategy for Education Resources is in line with expectations despite challenges of delivering during the period of the pandemic; and
- (2) that next steps to further embed attachment-informed practice across the authority, be noted.

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. An agreement was 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. It aims to promote the key understandings from attachment theory and how this can inform the ways in which we support our children and young people. This document will, therefore, promote attachment-informed practice from early years to secondary

aged children and young people and will also inform training plans for the Education workforce.

- 3.5. Attachment theory supports both the understanding of early childhood trauma and the impact of loss, and it also provides the theoretical underpinning needed to fully understand and respond to the dialogue around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and trauma informed practice.
- 3.6. Attachment-informed practice is supported by the Scottish Government vision of transformational change required to improve outcomes for children and young people by creating emotionally supportive learning experiences which optimise learning environments, described in more detail in the Attachment Strategy paper.
- 3.7. The Education Resources Attachment Strategy supports the Scottish Government ambition of a trauma informed and responsive workforce, where staff understand the impact of trauma on people's lives and how they can respond appropriately.

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

5. Implementation – Update on Progress

- 5.1. The Attachment Strategy was launched in June 2020 at a series of Learning Community Meetings and awareness raising events.
- 5.2. A short Attachment Strategy film was produced and shared at the launch and via social media in June 2020.
- 5.3. All facilities staff were shown a 30-minute recorded awareness training in August 2020.
- 5.4. Leaflets and posters entitled 'A to Z of Attachment-Informed practice' were produced and disseminated to education services and establishments from August 2020.
- 5.5. Part 1 of the Attachment Strategy training was delivered remotely to education resources staff at 17 Learning Community events on 16 November 2020.
- 5.6. Part 2 of the Attachment Strategy training was delivered remotely to education resources staff at 17 additional learning community events on 6 May 2021.
- 5.7. Attachment Strategy pledge cards were distributed to establishments and services from May 2021.
- 5.8. Attachment Strategy Learn Online training was developed and launched in June 2021.

- 5.9. An evaluation report for the Attachment Strategy Training was produced and circulated following the training. This is provided as Appendix 1.

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. Additional Part 2 Attachment Strategy training has now been delivered to secondary schools and to those who were unable to attend during the course of 2020-2021. This will take place remotely on 12 and 13 August.
- 6.3. Attachment Strategy pledge cards will be distributed to all facilities staff in August 2021.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. All education establishments and services will be asked to nominate attachment leads and ambassadors within their organisations.
- 6.6. Attachment leads and ambassadors will be invited to locality networking events from October 2021.
- 6.7. An Attachment Strategy Glow tile will be developed to provide a shared platform for learning materials and communication.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. The implications for employees are positive opportunities to undertake Professional Learning on attachment and the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Costs can be met from within existing budget resources.

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. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and multi-agency partners will continue as the strategy is further implemented within educational establishments and services.
- 11.2. Inclusion and equality are at the heart of the strategy and arrangements are in place to undertake a formal equality impact assessment.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

6 August 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

None

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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