

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 June 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Resource Plan: Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021
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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 2020-21, for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Education Resource Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021 as summarised in paragraph 5.2. and attached as Appendix 2 of this report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements made by the Resource to date, as detailed in paragraph 5.3. of this report, be noted;
- (3) that the areas for improvement and associated management actions as detailed in paragraph 5.4. of this report, be noted;
- (4) that the additional scrutiny of changes in RAG status between Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 as summarised at paragraph 5.5 and detailed at Appendix 3 of this report, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Education Resource Plan 2020/2021 was approved by Committee 18 August 2020 and sets out the objectives and actions to be managed and delivered by the Resource for the financial year 2020/2021.
- 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 and provides details of the context within which the Resource operates and establishes actions and measures for the year ahead based on the Priorities set out in the Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022.
- 3.3. As Committee is aware, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 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. There has been an inevitable impact on performance in some areas.

4. Resource Objectives 2020/2021

- 4.1. The Resource has established a number of objectives to support the delivery of the Connect Priorities in 2020/2021. These are detailed at Appendix 1.

5. Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021

- 5.1. Progress against all Resource Plan measures is contained in the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 2. 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
Blue	Project complete
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. This will be reported when available
Contextual	Included for 'information only', to set performance information in context

- 5.2. Measures which are classified as 'red' are considered in detail at section 5.4. of this report. To ensure adequate scrutiny of performance across all Resources, the Council's Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum may consider 'red' and/or 'amber' measures at a future meeting.

The overall summary of progress to date is as follows:

Status	Measures	
	Number	%
Blue	11	23.9 %
Green	28	60.9 %
Amber	6	13.0 %
Red	0	0.0%
Report later/Contextual	1	2.2%
Totals	46	100%

(Data correct as at 05 May 2021)

- 5.3. Key achievements for 2020/2021, to date, are noted below:

5.3.1.

Connect Priority	Linked to all the Council Priorities through the Resource Objectives
Resource Objective	Achievement
Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap	68.8% of school leavers achieved 5 or more awards at level 5 and 40.6% achieved 5 or more awards at level 6. Both of these are improvements on previous years and are higher than the national level.
	Over 5,700 Chromebook devices were procured and distributed as part of a successful bid for funds from the

Connect Priority	Linked to all the Council Priorities through the Resource Objectives
Resource Objective	Achievement
	<p>Scottish Government. Over 570 mobile wifi (Mifi) devices were also distributed to families who had little, or no, internet access.</p> <p>85 learners have been engaged in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), primarily through online classes, and 80 learners have improved their language skills, with tutors confirming significant improvement.</p> <p>Schools now have a position statement on the 'cost of the school day' and are taking actions to help limit the negative impact on families.</p>
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish	The Attachment Strategy training continues to be rolled out to staff in schools and Council services to ensure the principles and practice are embedded in day to day operations which support children and young people.
	<p>The Educational Psychology Service has developed guidance to support the promotion of positive health and wellbeing across educational establishments during the period of post COVID recovery- <i>Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing through transition, reconnection and recovery: an attachment informed approach</i>.</p> <p>A short film can be accessed via the link below: https://youtu.be/bhsJHUiRV8k </p>
	The first SLC Winter Clothing Campaign concluded. 1,002 new or nearly new winter jackets were donated over the three-week donation in December 2021 along with other items of clothing.
	85% of breakfast clubs have been reinstated from 19 April with those not being able to open providing food for any child who requires it.

Resource Objective	Achievement
Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning. Life and work,	School Leaver Initial Destination Survey results, show a positive destination for 94.8% of South Lanarkshire's 3,174 school leavers in 2019/2020, which is above the national rate of 93.3%.
	579 participants engaged with the Youth, Family and Community Learning (YFCL) Awards Team and 197 have now completed either a Duke of Edinburgh (including sectional certificates) or John Muir Award, despite the restrictions of the pandemic.
Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do	A Summer Programme was provided to assist in reducing food poverty amongst families in South Lanarkshire.
	4 on-line engagement activity events for Parent Council representatives have taken place reaching out to around 200 parents/carers to discuss issues that 'matter to them' such as, the return of schools, home-learning, cancellation of exams and the move to assessment and moderation.
	A Sustainability Working Group has been established with representation from Education Resources. Proposals for a Young Persons' Sustainability Forum have been established and work is ongoing to engage with young people to invite them to be active participants.
	Hamilton Grammar school received two awards for the work of young people in the Young Enterprise Scotland Awards, namely; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Choice Award • Social Impact Award
	The South Lanarkshire Schools' Percussion Ensemble achieved a 'Gold Plus Award' at the virtual Scottish Concert Band Festival which live-streamed in December 2020. A tremendous accomplishment given the Covid restrictions.

5.3.2. In addition to working towards these Priorities, it is recognised that the Council will continually aim to improve and ensure effective and efficient use of resources, and that business will be conducted with integrity and transparency and will operate to the highest standards. In order to monitor and report progress against these values, Resource objectives have also been identified under the heading Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value.

Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value	
Resource Objective	Achievement
Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do	Woodhill Early Learning and Childcare in Kirkmuirhill opened its doors in September 2020. The nursery offers 63 places and is an important milestone in the expansion of early years capacity (Target SLC wide: 1,658 places).

- 5.4. Areas for improvement
There were no measures that have been classified as 'red' (major slippage against timescale or shortfall against target).
- 5.5. Scrutiny of change in measure status (Blue, Red, Amber Green (BRAG))
A further analysis introduced to aid scrutiny of performance, is to highlight and explain all measures that have changed BRAG 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. A summary of the measures falling into this category of further scrutiny is included at Appendix 3.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. Absence statistics are monitored and reported through the Council-wide Workforce monitoring report which is presented to each Resource Committee and the Employees Issues Forum.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. The objectives within the Resource Plan are reflected in the respective annual Resource Revenue and Capital budgets and, longer term, within the framework of the Council's approved Financial Strategy.
- 8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**
- 8.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications as a result of this report.
- 8.2. The Resource Plan takes into account Resource responsibilities in relation to sustainable development and climate change.
- 9. Other Implications**
- 9.1. The Community Plan 2017 to 2027 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.
- 9.2. 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.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. 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)

1 June 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities

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

Previous References

- Education Resources Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/2020: 10 December 2019

List of Background Papers

- Council Plan Connect 2017-22 –Executive Committee on 8 November 2017, approved by the Council on 6 December 2017: mid-term review of Connect endorsed by Executive Committee 24 June 2020
- Education Resource Plan 2020/2021 –Education Resources Committee 18 August 2020

Contact for Further Information

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

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Appendix 1

Education Resource Objectives 2020/2021

Council Priority	Resource Objective
Ensure communities are safe, strong and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish• Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work• Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do
Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and tackle disadvantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap• Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work
Get it right for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap• Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish• Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do
Improve health, care and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish• Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do