

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 December 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Resource Plan - Quarter 2 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 2 Progress Report 2019/2020, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Education Resource Plan Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/2020 as summarised at 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; and
- (4) that the additional scrutiny of reporting the updated status of those measures identified as 'report later' at Quarter 4 2018/2019, as summarised in paragraph 5.5. and detailed at Appendix 3 of this report, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Education Resource Plan 2019/2020 was endorsed by Education Resources Committee on 6 August 2019 and approved by the Executive Committee and sets out the objectives and actions to be managed and delivered by the Resource for the financial year 2019/2020.
- 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.

4. Resource Objectives 2019/2020

- 4.1. The Resource has established a number of objectives to support the delivery of the Connect objectives in 2019/2020. These are detailed at Appendix 1.

5. Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/2020

- 5.1. Progress against all Resource Plan 2019/2020 measures is contained in the Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/2020, 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
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

- 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' or 'amber' measures at a future meeting.

The overall summary of progress to date is as follows:

Status	Measures	
	Number	%
Green	120	71.4%
Amber	5	2.6%
Red	2	1%
Report later/Contextual	41	25.0%
Totals	168	100 %

(Data correct as at 14 November 2019)

5.3. Key achievements for 2019/2020 are noted below:

5.3.1.

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	Active Literacy Training for primary class teachers and senior leaders on effective practice around the teaching of phonics, spelling and reading which is research-informed, has taken place throughout August and September over nine days. Approximately two hundred staff attended and feedback was extremely positive.
	Numeracy Co-ordinators have been trained on how to use the refreshed SLC Numeracy Strategy to support planning and assessment. Schools have also received individual support to help develop the numeracy skills of learners.
	By the end of June 2019, 70 additional primary school staff completed French/Spanish primary training.
	A South Lanarkshire Teachers' Reading Group, consisting of twenty five practitioners, has been established with the aim of fostering children's reading for pleasure through supporting adults own reading for pleasure and research informed practice
	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 delivering high quality service provision for children and families.
	Over 300 pupils received an Achievement Award at the annual Education Resources Achievement Awards Ceremony in the Town House in June 2019.
	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.
	An Early Learning and Childcare information bulletin 'Sway' has been issued monthly to all early learning and childcare establishments. This is part of the agreed communication strategy with providers to keep them informed on current national and local advice and guidance to ensure consistency of approach and in ensuring high quality service

	provision for children and families.
	A progress report and presentation on building capacity and capability within the children's services workforce were provided to the Community Planning Partnership Board in September 2019, on behalf of the Children's Services Partnership, as evidence of actions in support of Getting it Right for Every Child.
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish	The annual report for the Children's Services Plan 2018/2019 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
Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap	The 128 th new primary school opened with the completion of the building of Black Mount Primary School (formerly Walston Primary School) on 20 August 2019. This completes a significant milestone for the Council in terms of modernising the whole of the school estate in South Lanarkshire.
	The new Early Learning Unit in Hamilton which caters for young children 0-5 with special and complex needs opened to children on 1 October 2019. This completes the Nursery establishment modernisation programme.
Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish	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 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.

5.3.2. Resources have established their own Resource objectives to support the delivery of Connect Objectives. In addition to working towards these objectives, 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.

5.3.3.

Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value	
Resource Objective	Achievement
Progress the Council's Digital Strategy within the Resource	ParentPay online school payments system continues to go live, in phases, across the Resource, with 12 learning communities now up and running. More than 20,000 parental accounts are registered and more than 10,000 payments are made every month.

5.4. Areas for improvement

Measures that have been classified as 'red' (major slippage against timescale or shortfall against target).

There are 2 measures classified as 'red' at Quarter 2

96% of Freedom of Information (FOISA) requests to be processed within the 20 working day period	<p>There was a 20% increase in the number of FOI requests received in Education in 2018/2019. The response rate should be considered in the context of the number and complexity of the requests received. The target rate is 96% and we achieved 95.1%</p> <p>Action point: Education Resources will continue to review its process for handling FOI requests and has put in place enhanced monitoring and review processes to ensure improvements in 2019/2020. It is worth noting that the 'clock' in terms of the 20 days does not stop for FOI requests received during the summer holiday period.</p>
90% of Data Protection Act (DPA) requests to be processed within 30 calendar days	<p>In 2018/19, 51 requests were received and 31 (60.8%) 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 and that the 30 day response time still continues during school holiday periods.</p> <p>Action point Education Resources continues to review its process for handling GDPR/DPA requests and has put in place enhanced monitoring and review processes to ensure improvements in 2019/2020. It is worth noting that the 'clock' in terms of the 30 days does not stop for GDPR requests received during the summer holiday period.</p>

5.5. Report Later

Measures included in the quarterly progress reports can be assigned the 'report later' status. In order to report on the final status of these measures an update is now included in this report. Of the 26 measures identified as 'report later' as at Quarter 4

2018/2019, 21 of these are Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, for which the 2018/2019 results will not be published until January 2020. The revised status and narrative relating to the 'report later' measures is detailed 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.

7 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.

8. Other Implications (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)

- 8.1. 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.
- 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 and climate change.

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)

18 November 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ The Resource Plan has been structured upon the Vision, Values, Ambitions and Objectives in the Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022

Previous References

- ♦ Education Resources Quarter 4 Progress Report 2018/2019 – 6 August 2019
- ♦ Education Resources Quarter 2 Progress Report 2018-19: 19 February 2019

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Council Plan Connect 2017-22 – endorsed by the Executive Committee on 8 November 2017 and approved by the full Council on 6 December 2017
- ♦ Education Resources Plan 2019/2020 – approved by Education Resources Committee on 6 August 2019

Contact for Further Information

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

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Education Resource Objectives 2019/2020**Connect Objective: Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning****Resource Objectives:**

Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap;
 Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish; and
 Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

Connect Objective: Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational**Resource Objectives:**

Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap;
 Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish; and
 Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do.

Connect Objective: Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults**Resource Objectives:**

Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap;
 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; and
 Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do.

Connect Objective: Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation, and supporting aspiration**Resource Objectives:**

Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap;
 Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish; and
 Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do.

Connect Objective: Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities**Resource Objectives:**

Raise standards in literacy, numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap;
 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; and
 Ensure inclusion and equality are at the heart of what we do.

Connect Objective: Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities**Resource Objective:**

Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish.

Connect Objective: Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value**Resource Objective:**

Deliver and communicate the Council Plan and ensure high standards of governance;
 Promote equality and the wellbeing of staff;
 Develop improvement activity and promote scrutiny; and
 Improve the skills, flexibility and capacity of the workforce.