

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the Education Resources' Standards and Quality Report for session 2019/2020.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Education Resources' Standards and Quality Report for session 2019/2020 highlighted in Appendix 1 be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Education Resources sets out how it takes forward the progress priorities within CONNECT, the South Lanarkshire Council plan. The vehicle for reporting on service delivery is through Improve and on progress reports presented to the Committee which align to the measures and actions in the Education Resources plan.

3.2. Education Resources has a clear purpose which is the "golden thread" that informs annual planning and reporting. This purpose is to "raise achievement and attainment, inspire learners, transform learning and work in partnership to strengthen our communities. This is badged under the shorter heading "inspire, transform, strengthen."

3.3. The priorities of Education Resources commonly referred to as our 'strategy on a page' are:-

- ♦ raise standards in literacy and numeracy and close the poverty-related attainment gap
- ♦ improve health and wellbeing and 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 all we do

4. National reporting requirements

4.1. The publication, in 2016, of the update to the 'Statutory Guidance Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000', places a statutory duty on schools and local authorities to report on progress towards achieving the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities, including raising attainment for all and closing the poverty-related achievement gap.

4.2. In addition to Council planning and reporting formats, Education Resources are also required to submit additional reports on progress to the Scottish Government. This includes an annual report on progress towards meeting the NIF priorities and a report on the impact of Pupil Equity Funding.

4.3. The production of an annual published Standards and Quality Report forms part of this requirement.

5. South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources' Standards and Quality Report

5.1. The purpose of the Standards and Quality Report is to provide high-level information about the successes and achievements of Education Resources. It has been written to provide information about how Education Resources is performing as a Service, the kind of activities being delivered and examples of the impact that these are having on children, young people, and families. Its key purpose is to provide information and assurance about the educational experiences offered to learners.

5.2. The report for session 2019/2020 is shorter than in previous years as the COVID-19 situation and the subsequent response of Education Resources meant that priorities were realigned in light of the pandemic and the full opening of schools and educational settings from August 2020.

5.3. In addition, the data available for Session 2019/2020 was limited as CFE data was not gathered due to the impact of COVID-19 and arrangements for National Qualifications were based on teacher professional judgment rather than the usual exam diet. Some data i.e. attendance and exclusions takes in the period of school closure from March to June 2020. The report provides a broad overview of the data landscape at this time and in light of national guidance.

5.4. The report makes specific links to both the Council's priorities as an Education Resource and the National Improvement Framework Priorities.

5.5. The report gives details about the key work of Education Resources including information about Leadership Development and how schools are supported within the areas of Teaching and Learning and Assessment and Moderation. It also describes developments and achievements within the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and in achieving success in Post-16 destinations. A summary of school inspection activity and how schools are supported to be self-improving establishments is also included.

5.6. The report also makes specific reference to the response of Education Resources to the COVID-19 situation and details support for schools. Priorities for 2020/2021 are also contained within the report. These link directly to the annual Education Resources plan.

6. Next Steps

6.1. The report has been sent to the Scottish Government and will be published on the South Lanarkshire Council website, so it is accessible to all stakeholders.

6.2. A similar report will be published in the autumn term of each year, reflecting the work of the previous school session. The format and content will continue to meet national requirements for reporting and give information to stakeholders.

- 6.3. The Committee is also asked through this report to acknowledge the work and commitment of all staff in our schools and educational settings to the way they had to adapt to changing circumstance and for the way they have continued to support children and families.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. None.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Financial implications are within existing budgetary resources.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. There are no climate change, sustainability and environmental implications arising from this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. This report does not present a new strategy, policy or plan and is, therefore, not subject to equality impact assessment.
- 11.2. There was no requirement to undertake any formal consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

17 December 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – October 2019

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Resources Resource Plan
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council Leadership Framework
- ◆ Council Plan

Contact for Further Information

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

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