

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead – Education, Learning and Attainment

Educational Services: 7 March 2018

Subject: Education, Learning and Attainment Standards and Quality Report 2016/17

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2016/17 which can be found online at: <https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr16-17/home>.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the contents of this report;
- b) Approve changes to the cycle of publishing Standards and Quality Reports to bring them close into line with the academic year; and
- c) Approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality Report.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 requires Education Authorities to secure improvement in the quality of school education and to report annually on progress made to secure improvement.
- 3.2** To meet this requirement, and also in line with the Council's policy on Public Performance Reporting, the annual Standards and Quality Report, summarising the performance of Education, Learning and Attainment, has been produced and will be distributed widely.
- 3.3** In 2016, the Scottish Government published its Education Delivery Plan, outlining how Scottish Education would be improved under six drivers. These drivers have been used to define the objectives of Education, Learning and Attainment, and form the context for the Standards and Quality report.
- 3.4** Each year, Education Learning and Attainment bring a Standards and Quality Report to the March committee that covers the academic year from the pervious financial year reporting cycle. As such, the report presented here

covers the academic session 2016/17. It is proposed that for next year, this reporting cycle is brought forward so that the annual Standards and Quality Report for the previous academic year is brought to the September committee, rather than the following March committee. This will bring the publication of the report much closer to the end of that academic year, rather than occurring six months after the end of the academic year.

4. Main Issues

Standards and Quality Report 2016/17

- 4.1** This Standards and Quality Report is a comprehensive, evidence based evaluation of the performance of the service against the Local Improvement Objectives which were set for the relevant period.
- 4.2** The report will be distributed widely both within and out with the Authority to a wide audience including Elected Members, educational establishments, Parent Councils, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe), Scottish Education Authorities, as well as parents, staff and a number of partner agencies. The Standards and Quality report will be published electronically and made available via a publicly accessible website.

Priorities 2016/17

- 4.3** The priorities for session 2016/17 have been presented to Members previously. They are to:
 - a. Implement broad-ranging school improvement to raise attainment and achievement.
 - b. Develop effective leadership to drive improvement.
 - c. Focus staff development in the core areas of literacy, numeracy and aspects of Health & Wellbeing.
 - d. Design and implement West Dunbartonshire Council's strategy for assessment in schools.
 - e. Develop the Parental Involvement Strategy in all sectors.
 - f. Develop the use of performance information to support school improvement.

Areas of 'excellent' or 'very good' practice

- 4.4** It is interesting to note the following areas of excellent or very good practice within the report:
 - 4.4.1** Maintaining our success record of 100% positive external inspections of our educational establishments by HMIe.
 - 4.4.2** Increase in attainment in the Senior Phase:

- 99% of our young people attaining 1 or more unit award at SCQF level 1 or above
- 90% of our young people attaining a level 4 literacy award
- 76.2% of our young people attaining a level 4 numeracy award
- 66.7% of our young people attaining 3 or more National 5 awards
- 58.2% of our young people attaining 1 or more Higher awards
- 39.5% of our young people attaining 3 or more Higher awards
- 6.9% of our young people attaining 4 or more Higher awards at Grade A

4.4.3 Revised leadership framework in line with National Improvement Framework expectations

4.4.4 Implementation of revised literacy and numeracy strategies

4.4.5 Develop and implement revised approaches to assessment in schools

4.4.6 Development of the Parental Involvement Strategy in all sectors

4.4.7 Revise our Improvement Framework to ensure the use of performance information supports school improvement.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel issues as a consequence of this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 The production of a comprehensive Standards and Quality Report enables the department to set clear targets. Failure to produce a report on Standards and Quality would result in a reputational risk to the Council impacting on the Local Area Network.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report because the content provides an update on service delivery rather than stating a change in policy.

9. Consultation

9.1 Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report reflects the Council's aspiration to improve life chances for children and young people which is one of the strategic priorities for 2012-17.

Laura Mason
Chief Education Officer
7 March 2018

Person to Contact: Andrew Brown
andrew.brown@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All