

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 25 January 2017
Scrutiny Committee – 8 February 2017

Standards and Quality Report**Report by Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Education and Children's Services continue to provide services which support better outcomes for people and communities across Perth and Kinross. The Standards and Quality Report reflects on the activities of the Service over the past year and presents an overview of the Service's key strengths and areas for development and/or improvement.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act (2000) places a statutory duty on education authorities to report on standards and quality in schools. In line with this, Perth and Kinross Council have published an annual Standards and Quality Report since 1999 and, since 2003, this has been extended to cover all aspects of Education and Children's Services.
- 1.2 The Standards and Quality Report (Appendix 1) has been collated as part of the Service's approach to self-evaluation, and is a key element of the Council's on-going commitment to public performance reporting.
- 1.3 As the requirements for reporting change nationally in line with the National Improvement Framework for Education and other initiatives, this version of the Standards and Quality Report should be viewed as a transition to new reporting arrangements commencing in 2017.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Education and Children's Services continue to support the delivery of the Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement by raising achievement for all; supporting vulnerable children and families; improving the quality of life for individuals and communities; and enabling the delivery of high quality public services.
- 2.2 The Standards and Quality Report is an account of some of the diverse work which the Service has delivered over the past year, making a difference to outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities.

2.3 The Service uses a range of self-evaluation frameworks including:

- How Good is Our Council?
- How Good is Our Community Learning and Development?
- Quality Management in Education;
- How Good is Our School?
- How Well Are We Improving the Lives of Children and Young People?

2.4 In line with these frameworks, the Standards and Quality Report seeks to address:

- the key outcomes we have achieved;
- how well the needs of stakeholders are met;
- how good is our leadership; and
- what is our capacity to improve?

2.5 In summary the Service's key strengths are:

- a strong culture and ethos of improving outcomes through integrated services and partnership working at all levels;
- well planned, proportionate support and challenge for schools;
- continued focus on getting it right for every child is to ensure that children receive appropriate support to meet their needs.
- continued improvement attainment and achievement, with performance in line with or above our comparator average in almost all key measures;
- a clear strategy for improving equity and closing the attainment gap;
- unswerving focus on prevention and early intervention through enhancing access to universal services and targeted support as appropriate;
- a wide range of opportunities for young people to be recognised for their personal contributions both formally and informally;
- a clear commitment to the development of leadership at all levels; and
- comprehensive provision and use of high quality data sources and tools to inform performance improvement.

2.6 Education and Children's Services recognise the need to review and develop key service areas to ensure continuous improvement and best value. The report will help identify areas for further improvement to inform the development of the Service's forthcoming Business Management and Improvement Plan.

- 2.7 Following approval, the full Standards and Quality Report will be published on the Council's website (www.pkc.gov.uk) as part of Education and Children's Services on-going commitment to report to the public on the performance of the services we provide.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Education and Children's Services has a clear focus on supporting the best possible outcomes for our service users, and will be used to inform the development of the Service's forthcoming Business Management and Improvement Plan.

It is recommended that the Lifelong Learning Committee:

- (i) Considers, comments on and accepts the Education and Children's Services Standards and Quality Report 2015/16 (Appendix 1); and
- (ii) Agrees that it is made available on the Council's website to staff, parents, carers, Parent Councils, external agencies and the wider community in Perth and Kinross.

- 3.2 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Scrutinises and comments as appropriate on the Education and Children's Services Standards and Quality Report 2015/16 (Appendix 1).

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	No
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	N/A
Strategic Environmental Assessment	N/A
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	N/A
Legal and Governance	N/A
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	N/A
External	N/A
Communication	
Communications Plan	N/A

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement through all objectives.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
 - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
 - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
 - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
 - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all objectives

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 None

Workforce

- 2.2 None

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. Proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Sustainability

N/A

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 N/A

Risk

N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 Heads of Service, managers and other staff have contributed to the report appendix.

External

- 4.2 N/A

5. Communication

- 5.1 The Standards and Quality Report will be published on the Council website and publicised thereafter.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Education and Children’s Services Standards And Quality Report 2015/16