

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

25 August 2021

PERTH AND KINROSS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021/22

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(Report No. 21/133)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against the Education Improvement Plan 2020-2021, and to provide detail on the priorities set within the Education Improvement Plan 2021-2022. The new Plan covers the academic year from August 2021 to June 2022 and requires to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 September 2021.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The statutory guidance '[Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000](#)' (as amended 2016), states that education authorities must prepare and publish annual plans describing the steps they intend to take to enhance equity and support school improvement, with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the [National Improvement Framework](#).
- 1.2 It is a duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to submit this plan to Scottish Ministers each year. The plan for 2021-2022 must be submitted by 30 September 2021.
- 1.3 Guidance from the Scottish Government and Education Scotland, issued to Directors of Education in May 2021, identified that schools and local authorities should:
 - Complete annual reporting as a record of progress towards meeting improvement priorities;
 - Collaborate with stakeholders – learners, parents, carers, communities and partners including local learning communities, to inform self-evaluation and identify priorities;
 - Focus planning on recovery, renewal and improvement priorities that are manageable, measurable and linked clearly to achievable outcomes for learners;
 - Consider local context and circumstances when identifying priorities, these might include:
 - Supporting pupil and staff health and wellbeing;
 - Transitions at all levels;
 - The impact of trauma in communities;
 - Identifying potential gaps in learning;

- A renewed focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap and addressing any widening of inequalities of outcome experienced by children and young people;
- How Pupil Equity Funding will be used to provide targeted approaches in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing to close poverty related attainment and other gaps; and
- Any steps taken to make the provision of education more resilient and quickly adaptable to future crises.

1.4 Education leaders are also encouraged to consider the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) and wider insights and evidence provided by a number of recent publications when determining the annual plan:

- [Equity Audit](#)
- [Closing the poverty-related attainment gap Report on progress 2016-2021](#)
- [Audit Scotland Improving Outcomes for Young People](#)
- [Transition from Primary to Secondary School: findings from the GUS Survey](#)
- [Due regard for learner wellbeing and safeguarding](#)
- [National overview of practice: reports | National overviews | Supporting remote learning | National Improvement Hub \(education.gov.scot\)](#)
- [The second formal report of the International Council of Education Advisers 2018-2020](#)

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 The Education Improvement Plan 2021-2022 (Appendix 1) outlines the high-level areas for improvement for all Education services. Scottish Government guidance on development of plans for this year is clear that planning for session 2021-2022 should focus on recovery, renewal and improvement, taking account of what schools and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings need based on self-evaluation and the views of stakeholders. It is recognised that reporting on progress should address how schools, ELC settings and the local authority have supported children, families and communities throughout the pandemic, and include planning for beyond the current crisis.

2.2 It also aligns with the Perth and Kinross Community and Corporate plans and the Tayside Regional Improvement Plan.

2.3 The improvement actions in the Education Improvement Plan support the higher-level commitments contained in the Education and Children's Service (ECS) Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP).

2.4 The Education Improvement Plan reflects our vision for our children and young people, 'Improving Lives Together' and will be delivered in alignment with Education and Children's Services core values of Ambition, Compassion and Integrity. It sets out the ambition of Perth and Kinross Council's (PKC) Education Service to improving attainment and achievement and reducing inequity by prioritising improvement in:

- Inclusive practice;
 - Learner participation/parental engagement/strengthening partnerships; and
 - Professional Learning and Leadership development.
- 2.5 The Education Improvement Plan articulates how the local authority will deliver national legislation, policy, strategic objectives and priorities for education. Improvement actions have been organised under the key priorities of the National Improvement Framework.
- 2.6 Key achievements and performance against the commitments in the Education Improvement Plan 2020-2021 are outlined below. This includes:
- Continued delivery of education whilst maintaining the health and safety of pupils and staff, including implementation of remote learning arrangements from January to March 2021;
 - All ELC settings delivering funded 1140 hours from February 2021 in advance of the required timescale of 1 August 2021;
 - Creation and implementation of the SQA Alternative Certification Model (ACM);
 - Counselling in Schools providers commissioned and delivering in all secondary schools and for eligible primary-aged children;
 - A wide range of support for children, young people and families to support wellbeing;
 - Resources to equip parents to manage their own or their child's anxiety were developed and shared;
 - A local mental health pathway has been drafted and is currently undergoing consultation with young people;
 - Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) partnerships built around the Young Person's Guarantee have been strengthened and partners are more involved;
 - Improved use of digital technology and enhanced access for all learners has been made available through national and local funding; and
 - Career-long Professional Learning (CLPL) delivered to all staff, including adaptation of this, where possible, to an online offer to continue accessibility.
- 2.7 Priorities for improvement for the academic year 2021-2022 were developed following analysis of attainment performance and achievement, data on equity gaps, information from parents, pupils and staff and self-evaluation, and evidence of impact against the actions set out in the 2020-2021 Plan. Prioritised outcomes and planned actions are organised under the National Improvement Framework priorities and drivers.
- 2.8 The overarching priority is to raise attainment and achievement and close the equity gap as set out in the Perth and Kinross [Raising Attainment Strategy 2020-2023](#). Some of the actions required to achieve this are:
- Improving inclusive practice in all schools and ELC settings;
 - Focus interventions on communication and language in the early years;

- Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people;
- Further develop approaches to enhance Learner Participation in accordance with UNCRC;
- Further develop support for families in their own locality;
- Further develop play in early years classrooms and school playgrounds;
- Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy through a combination of universal and targeted interventions including deployment of COVID-19 staffing;
- Continue development of Secondary Curriculum;
- Enhance support to schools in further developments of Broad General Education (BGE) and SQA Assessment and Moderation models;
- Further enhance Digital Learning and Infrastructure;
- Improve post-school transitions and positive destination outcomes for all young people;
- Implement identified actions to contribute to delivery of the [Promise Plan 2021-2024](#); and
- Ensure practitioners at all levels are aware of their responsibilities to deliver the UNCRC.

2.9 Development of a highly skilled, knowledgeable and confident workforce is recognised as critical to improving attainment and achievement for all. Therefore, to underpin all improvement, there is a commitment to delivery of a professional learning system that will improve leadership, teacher professionalism and skills and confidence of support staff to better support all children and young people.

2.10 Progress in delivery of the Education Improvement Plan 2021/22 will be monitored quarterly by the Raising Attainment Board and by ECS Senior Management Team.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Education Improvement Plan 2021/2022 provides a clear summary of the priority actions that Education, including its services, ELC settings and schools, will take forward over the next academic year to improve attainment and achievement.

3.2 It is recommended that the Lifelong Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the Education Improvement Plan 2021/2022; and
- (ii) Requests the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) submit the Plan to the Scottish Government by 30 September 2021.

Author

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Fiona Mackay	Service Manager (Inclusion and Additional Support)	ECSCcommittee@pkc.gov.uk 01738 475000

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	12 August 2021

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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	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	Yes
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (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 Objective No. (i) and (ii).

Corporate Plan

1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan 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 Objective No. (i) and (ii).

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority area:

- Learning and Achievement

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 Any financial implications in taking forward the actions within the Education Improvement Plan will be met from the Education and Children's Services revenue budget.

Workforce

2.2 The Head of Human Resources has been consulted, and HR colleagues work with the service to deliver on the ambitions contained within the plan.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 The Head of Head of Corporate IT and Revenues/Chief Digital Officer has been consulted on any relevant IT Asset Management requirements.

3. Assessments

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. This Equality Impact Statement is currently being finalised.

This section has been considered under the Corporate Equalities and Fairness Impact Assessment process (eGFI) with the following outcome:

- (iii) Assessed as **relevant** and the following positive outcomes expected following implementation:
- Raise attainment and reduce equity gap
 - Improve health and wellbeing
 - Improve inclusion
 - Improve positive destinations

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.

The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.3 N/A

Legal and Governance

3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted.

3.5 N/A

Risk

3.6 A risk register is being compiled to support this plan.

4. Consultation

Internal:

4.1 Consultation and engagement has taken place with Headteachers, trade unions and professional associations, parents and carers, over the course of the year. Their views have been sought on main aspects of the plan. The full plan will be shared with key stakeholders at the beginning of the next academic session in August 2021.

External

4.2 This report will be shared with the Scottish Government for review.

This report will be shared with the Senior Regional Advisor from Education Scotland and the Tayside Regional Collaborative for peer review.

5. Communication

5.1 A communication plan has been developed to support the engagement of key stakeholders, and to communicate key messages to the wider public. This plan includes a mix of consultation, surveys, network and parent forums, and the use of social media.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [National Improvement Framework 2021](#)
- [OECD Report](#)
- [Equity Audit](#)
- [Audit Scotland Report: Improving outcomes for young people through school education](#)
- [Closing the Poverty Related attainment gap: A report on progress 2016-2021](#)

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix A: Perth and Kinross Education Improvement Plan 2021-2022