

21 February 2017

Briefing Note: Education Standards & Quality Report 2015-2016

This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome Education, Skills and Training Maximises Opportunities for All: Outcome 3.

The activities are on – going.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Area CPG Committee on the major achievements made within Education in Argyll and Bute across the session 2015/16 and includes the SQA qualification results for pupils who sat examinations in May/June 2016.

The Education Service reports on its standards and quality on an annual basis. The Report appended to this document details progress made across the service in relation to the actions outlined in the Education Action Plan for 2015/16 and includes the SQA qualification results for pupils who sat examinations in May/June 2016.

Details of this report are based on the Standards and Quality Report for 2015/16. The full report will be available to view on Argyll & Bute Council website: <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/education-performance-and-standards>

Key Points for Consideration

Particular successes highlighted within the appended report include:

- All fifty four local authority and twenty two partner providers of Early Learning and Childcare have achieved the delivery of six hundred hours of Early Learning and Childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- The Early Years team has targeted all settings which are graded below good, providing more regular support and challenge. As a result, Care Inspectorate grades have increased to 93% of settings reaching “good” or above as of the end of June 2016.
- Improved attendance and reduced exclusions across primary and secondary schools.

- Improved results overall in National 4 and Higher qualification awards:
 - Increase of 2.97% for National 4 to 96.17% compared with a national figure of 93.20% and
 - Increase of 1.09% for Higher to 78.29% compared with a national figure of 77.20%.
- Continued implementation of the development of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum including curriculum design days focusing on raising attainment.
- The 56 skills for work courses delivered in partnership with Argyll College UHI, West College Scotland, local employers and local secondary schools. A total of 535 young people accessed the 56 courses which included amongst others Automotive Engineering, Health and Social Care, Sport and Recreation and Rural Skills.
- Delivery of a greater range of wider achievement qualifications accessed by 1,535 pupils across our schools including:
 - Award Scheme Development Accreditation Network;
 - British Safety Council Basic Food Hygiene Certificate;
 - Duke of Edinburgh;
 - John Muir Award, and
 - The Saltire Award scheme and
 - Sports Leader Awards.
- 92.7% of young people entered a positive destination (education, employment or training) post school. Looked after Young People who leave school are increasingly entering positive destinations ie 88.24% in 2015 compared with 77.8% in 2014.
- Youth Service Events were attended by 9,311 young people.
- A successful technology and showcase event was hosted in Helensburgh and Lomond attended by 300 pupils and their parents.
- Professional Development awards (PDA) were presented to 22 ASN Assistants.
- Helen Baynham of “Cottage Kindergarten” in Helensburgh was appointed an MBE in the Queen’s New Year Honours list for services to preschool education.
- Every child and young person in Argyll and Bute has a Named Person to ensure that Argyll and Bute Council are legislatively compliant with the Children and

Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

- The Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Practice model continues to be further developed including the development of the national wellbeing application for use in Argyll and Bute.
- The range of Health and Wellbeing initiatives supporting our children and young people including twenty-six schools obtaining National School Sports Awards.
- Use of the Sharing Argyll Learning Initiatives, online resource, to promote quality Professional Learning Opportunities for all staff including our valued supply teachers.
- A framework model for leadership development at all stages of a teacher's career is established.
- The increasing partnerships that contribute and enhance the learning and development of our children and young people.
- The number of establishments receiving recognition and awards at local and national level eg
 - Six young people achieved their "Gold" Duke of Edinburgh award.
 - Ulva Primary school was presented with a social Enterprise Academy award from John Swinney MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills in June 2016.
 - Port Ellen Primary School won both the Primary Junior Saltire Award and the Primary STEM Challenge and subsequently put their invention to the test at the University of Edinburgh's Flo Wave Ocean Energy Facility.
 - Luss Primary School were crowned Scottish Champions in the Total Green Awards for 2015-16, sponsored by the Total Oil Co and the Young People's Trust for the Environment winning £1,000.
 - Pupils from Rockfield Primary School Chess Club qualified for the UK School's Chess Megafinal held in Airdrie.
 - Dalintober, Southend and Drumlemble Primary Schools maintained their eco-schools green flag status with Rosneath Primary School achieving theirs for the first time.
 - Five Lochgilphead High School pupils were awarded third place in the Besson 2016 Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships.

- Little Learners Nursery in Oban won “Best Individual Nursery” as part of the “Nursery Management Today (NMT) awards in September 2015.

What are we going to do next?

As part of the Authority approach to securing improvement for all learners the Education Service will:

- Ensure Our Children, Their Future guides the overall strategy for Education and effectively implement it across all services, establishments and partners to secure improved outcomes for all learners;
- Further develop approaches to engaging children and young people in shaping the quality of their learning experiences, at school and Authority level, through the progression of Our Children, Their Future.
- Strengthen work with establishments, including formal Reviews and self-evaluation activity (HGIOS4/HGIOELC), to ensure effective support and challenge to deliver continuous improvement across all educational establishments.
- Evaluate the impact of the work on Curriculum Design and develop a rigorous approach to targeting further support where required.
- Further develop approaches to moderating and gathering achievement and attainment data to ensure this is robust and provides accurate information upon which to inform and target interventions to improve outcomes for learners and to close the attainment gap.
- Continue to work with schools to further develop and enhance their use of SIMD and other information to assist the identification of children and young people who may be at risk of missing out.
- Further review and update literacy and numeracy strategies to improve outcomes for learners, including adult learning, reflecting national and local policy changes.
- Evaluate the overall impact of achievement approaches to ensure positive outcomes for learners, including sustained destinations.
- Further develop approaches to leadership of improvement and change with a specific focus on the role of Strategic Leadership and Staff Empowerment;

- Take forward the key actions arising from the revised Parental Involvement Strategy with a particular focus on enhancing the impact of parental voice on improving Education Services.
- Continue to work effectively with a range of partners, businesses and other departments in the Council to ensure positive outcomes for all children, young people and adult learners across the authority.

Continue to develop and refine policies in line with national and local priorities in particular the education Scotland Act 2016 and the National Improvement Framework.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Area CPG:

- a. Note the continuing progress made in relation to Education within Argyll and Bute.
- b. Note the ongoing commitment of staff and the success and achievements of our children and young people.

Key Points for Discussion

The next Standards & Quality Report will be due at Community Services Committee December 2017 reporting on progress in session 2016/17 and will be presented at subsequent Area CPG Committees thereafter.

For further information please contact:

Anne Paterson

Head of Service: Education

Tel: 01546 604443

Email: anne.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Louise Connor

Education Manager: Performance & Improvement

Tel: 01631 569196

Email: louise.connor@argyll-bute.gov.uk