

ITEM No 4

**Children and Families
Report for Consultative Committee with Parents
January 2011**

This report provides a progress update on some of the achievements of the Department recently in meeting our outcomes for children and families in Edinburgh.

Information Update

Sue Bruce, our new Chief Executive took up post on 5th January 2011. She has expressed her commitment to helping us achieve our outcomes. She has already indicated her interest in supporting our responsibilities as corporate parents for children in care. She is also keen to support our work to ensure that all children and young people leave school into positive destinations.

Excellent progress has been made in relation to our Wave 3 new school build programme. Portobello High School and James Gillespie's High School plans are well underway. We are delighted to report that the Scottish Government announced in December that financial support would be available to contribute to a new school building for Boroughmuir High School. Discussions are now underway to progress this work.

A proposal for a new building for Seaview children's home has been supported. The proposal is for this to be on the Lismore Primary School site. Approval was given at Policy and Strategy Committee to begin the next steps of the process.

Our early years estate continues to improve with three nurseries – Clermiston, Gracemount, Granton extended and refurbished. Fort new integrated early years centre is now open.

The consultation on the nursery closures (Princess Elizabeth and High School Yards) has now closed, and a report is currently being prepared for full council in March 2011.

A Social Work Inspection Agency Inspection will take place in February 2011. We are currently gathering the evidence to demonstrate our significant progress since our previous inspection.

A consultation on the expansion of Gaelic Medium Education provision will be taking place over the forthcoming months. In terms of primary provision there are two options for expansion, either to extend the current provision at Tollcross Primary School or to create a stand alone Gaelic school at Bonnington Primary School. Regarding secondary provision a short life working group is being set up to look at the options and in particular the proposal for a transition of the existing provision in James Gillespie's High School to Tynecastle High School.

The National Report on Teacher Education has been published for our consideration. Key points include:

- The professional development of experienced teachers should be guided by a new set of standards
- A greater range of teachers' professional development should be accredited with Masters-level credits

- A network of “hub schools” should be established for teacher training placements

Getting It Right for Every Child:

We have listened to the feedback from schools and amended the paperwork to make it shorter. We want to make it easier for schools to access the support they need. We want to develop local support service teams based around school clusters.

In order to support the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence, we have launched the “Change One Thing” campaign. By asking teachers to reflect on their teaching practice, and change one thing, they can make a big difference to improve the learning experience for our pupils.

We are strengthening our Edinburgh approach to literacy to help improve our outcomes in this area. Currently we are working with schools to strengthen our guidance taking account of Curriculum for Excellence and provide clearer direction and support.

The Community Access to Schools report to be considered by Education, Children and Families Committee proposes to increase community access to schools. The proposal is to open up the excellent facilities in our Secondary schools at evenings, weekends and holidays. By opening up the facilities in our schools and standardising charges the department could make substantial savings of £800,000 which will certainly help in these difficult times.

Finally, we are delighted that, despite the challenging financial climate, we are projecting a balanced budget for the end of the financial year!

Progress in improving outcomes and quality of services for children and young people

We thought you might find it helpful to have an update on how we are doing to improve outcomes for children.

1. Our children have the best start in life

- Standards of care for the very young are being raised through the Birth to 3 Framework (530 staff have participated in training)
- Care Commission Inspection
 - 78 / 79 Local Authority nursery schools/classes were judged to be good or better (20 excellent)
 - 1 / 79 Local Authority nursery schools/classes satisfactory
- HMIE Inspections (average grade across indicators)
 - 10/14 Local Authority nursery schools/classes good or better
 - 3/14 Local Authority nursery schools/classes satisfactory
- The number of children in P1-3 classes of 18 or less has increased from 14.5% to 16.5%
- The number of children in P1-3 classes of 18 or less in positive action schools increased from 16.2% to 55.8%

HMIE have noted the following areas of strength:

- Overall highly motivated and confident children
- Positive relationships amongst staff, parents and children
- Effective team working of staff and the high level of support for children and families

HMIE have highlighted the following areas to strengthen:

- The need for more rigorous monitoring and evaluation
- The need to further develop planning and assessment to include consultation with children

2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals

The percentage of Primary and Secondary schools achieving positive inspections was:

- 88% for improvement in performance
- 94% for learners' experience
- 88% for the curriculum
- 88% for meeting learners needs
- 88% for improvement through self evaluation

HMIE have noted the following areas of strength:

- The learning climate, ethos and positive supportive relationship between staff and pupils
- Quality of learners' achievement
- Partnership with parents and the community
- Leadership

HMIE have highlighted the following areas to strengthen:

- Self evaluation including the use of the pupil voice in informing learning experiences
- Extend active learning
- Improve the quality of individualised educational programmes

Primary Attainment (2008-2010) (P3-7 achieving appropriate levels)

Reading	83.8% to 85.2%
Writing	77.1% to 78.9%
Maths	84.4% to 85.2%

Secondary Attainment 3 year improvement 2008-2010

Level 3 English and Maths	91.3% to 92.4%
5+ SCQF level 3 or better	89.0% to 90.0%
5+ SCQF level 4 or better	76.6% to 78.1%
5+ SCQF level 6 or better	21.8% to 23.5%

Attendance: (2008/09 to 2009/10)

Primary	94.9% to 94.8%
Secondary	90.9% to 91.1%
Special	88.9% to 89.7%

Permanent Exclusions (2007/08 to 2009/10)

Primary	13 to 5
Secondary	37 to 19
Special	4 to 3

Number of schools with 95% + attendance - Primary (34), Secondary (0), Special (1)

Number of schools with 90% + attendance - Primary (44), Secondary (10), Special (6)

Wider achievements

- 616 young people achieved Duke of Edinburgh Awards (compared to 399 last year)
- 81% of all schools participating in Eco-schools Awards (compared to 76% last year)
- Majority of schools now have partner schools in other countries providing a meaningful context for citizenship

3. We will improve life chances for children at risk

- 100% of children on the Child Protection Register now have an allocated social worker
- All Looked After Children have an allocated social worker
- Initial case conferences held within 28 days increased from 10.5% in 2007/08 to 86% in 2009/10

4. Our children are physically and emotionally healthy

For the first 10 months of 2009/10 there have been increases in take up of school meals:

- Nurseries 25.5% to 26.5%
- Primary 31.1% to 33.1%
- Secondary 14.1% to 15.3%
- Special 62.6% to 69.1%

99% of primary, secondary, nursery and special schools are accredited as Health Promoting

5. Our children are protected from harm

- Number of children referred to the reporter on offence grounds has reduced significantly from 732 (2007/08) to 357 (2009/10)
- Extensive survey with S2 pupils have informed the new anti-bullying policy
- Capacity to provide support for parents and carers has increased

6. We will work to overcome the effects of poverty and inequalities

- % of young people – positive destinations 82.3% to 82.5%
- % looked after children in positive destinations 36% to 37%

Staffing issues

- Sickness Absence reduced by almost 10% last year and further reduction this year
- Reduction in surplus staff from 143 to 6
- Blue Arrow – 81% satisfaction/improvement

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families

Cllr Marilynne MacLaren
Convener of Education, Children and Families

20 January 2011