

Key Messages

Summary: Overall risk relating to education continues to be low

Positive

- Clear vision and priorities
- Effective political and managerial leadership which sets a clear vision and a focus on improving outcomes
- Open and positive relationship with Education Scotland
- A restructured and strengthened quality improvement team is in place and making a difference schools are receiving more consistent support and challenge
- The self-improving schools work shows promise
- Welcome decision to protect education budgets from cuts
- Significant investment in school estate over the last decade
- Strong corporate approach to improve positive destinations. (10% increase over last 4 years)
- Strong commitment to Looked After children
- Promotion of wider achievement continues to be strong
- Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is well led
- The Council has a well developed Literacy strategy and is one of four National Literacy Hubs
- The Council is well ahead with its preparations for 1+2 policy for modern foreign languages
- Overall the social work service provides effective help and support
- The implementation of GIRFEC is assisting staff to provide help and support
- The authority provides a good range of CPD
- Positive learning community inspections
- Strong scrutiny of budgets and service performance
- Strong strategic drive to strengthen partnership work
- Very effective structures for engaging parents
- Health promotion in schools continues to be successfully implemented
- Elected representatives and officers promote the voice of young people

- The service has sound capacity for continuing improvement

Areas for Development

- Moving from 'good' to 'great'
- Continuing and sustaining improvements in attainment
- Performance across schools, particularly in the primary sector, continues to be variable though improved management arrangements mean schools are receiving more consistent support and challenge
- Need to embed culture of self-evaluation across all schools
- The Council is developing a similar approach to numeracy as it did with literacy
- The authority wants to strengthen leadership training for Curriculum Leaders
- In some cases children who need extra help are missing out or do not get help quickly enough
- Plans for children need to be more outcome focussed