

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 4 March 2014

## Castlebrae Community High School – Progress Report

Item number 7.7  
Report number  
Wards

### Links

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# Executive summary

## Castlebrae Community High School – Progress Report

### Summary

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This report updates elected members of the City of Edinburgh Council's Education, Children and Families Committee on progress towards improving outcomes for pupils attending Castlebrae Community High School.

The Education, Children and Families Committee on 10 December 2013, considered a report on Castlebrae Community High School improvements following the outcomes of the Castlebrae Working Group which included representation from elected members, the community, parents, officers, including the Head Teacher of Castlebrae Community High School, Edinburgh College and EIS.

This report provides a further update on progress within the school and the Castlebrae Learning Community.

### Recommendations

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The Education, Children and Families Committee is requested to:

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Note the progress of strategies within the school to deliver a high quality educational experience for learners
3. Note the progress in management arrangements within the Castlebrae Learning Community.
4. Agree to receive a further progress report in October 2014.

### Measures of success

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The measures of success are as follows:

- Improved attainment and achievement
- Attendance is improved and exclusions are reduced
- The S1 school roll intake increases in session 2014/15

- There is a clear strategic management of the curriculum across the Cluster from P5 – S3
- There is improved learning and teaching evaluated through direct observation, evaluation of key quality indicators and the views of pupils and parents.
- There is an increase in community activity within the school
- The positive promotion of the school in its community results in increased parental and community engagement.
- Improved physical environment.

## Financial impact

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Additional funding has been provided to facilitate the improvement plan including additional staffing, additional funding for physical improvements and additional funding for 1:1 technology for learners.

An additional budget of £204K has been allocated to the school to support school improvement through additional staffing and to allow staff refresh to take place.

An additional budget of £118K was allocated to the school to support physical improvements to the school building and environment. A further £50K was allocated to the school to allow the toilets to be upgraded and smaller physical improvements.

The overspend of £388K from session 2012/13 has been removed from the school budget.

Additional funding of £60K has been provided to deliver 1:1 devices for all pupils at Castlebrae and Cluster primary schools.

These additional resources have been contained within the Children and Families budget.

Officers will continue to work with the Head Teacher to bring the budget back into line over the next few years while ensuring that there is appropriate resources allocated to ensure continuing improvements.

## Equalities impact

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There are considered to be only positive enhancements to the rights of the child in all of the strategies employed to support improving outcomes for learners. Specifically, the right to a good education and the right of young people to have a say in decisions are both enhanced. In Castlebrae, learners most at risk benefit from additional resources through the positive action budget. The full range of learners' needs are met through effective delivery of Getting it Right for Every Child. There is targeted support in place for learners with additional needs. The plan to take account of the diversity of the community within the school ethos and in community engagement activities will

enhance the equalities duty to foster good relations. There are considered to be no infringements or negative impacts. A full equalities impact assessment will be carried out by Dec 2014.

## **Sustainability impact**

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There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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Drafts of this report have been shared with the Working Group which reconvened prior to this committee meeting and with the school management at Castlebrae Community High School.

## **Background reading / external references**

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[HMIE report on Castlebrae Community High School August 2013.](#)

[Follow Through Letter April 2013](#)

[HMIE Follow Through Report August 2013](#)

[Full Council report March 2013](#)

[Education, Children and Families Committee Report May 2013](#)

[Education, Children and Families Committee Report December 2013](#)

## Castlebrae Community High School – Progress Report

### 1. Background

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- 1.1 This report provides an update on the improvements for learners attending Castlebrae High School.
- 1.2 The current school roll at Castlebrae Community High School in December 2013 was 138 pupils. The projected school roll for session 2014/15 is 131 pupils. There is an increase in the projected S1 school roll estimated to be 46, however school leavers from larger year groups in S4, S5 and S6 mean that the overall school roll is projected to be similar to that of session 2013/14.
- 1.3 The report taken to the Education, Children and Families committee in December 2014, outlined proposals for revised management arrangements to support transition from primary to secondary which have been implemented.
- 1.4 The school continue to work closely with the quality improvement team to ensure that improvements for learners continue to be made.

### 2. Main report

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#### **Improvements in Performance 2013/14**

- 2.1 The seconded Head Teacher of Castlebrae Community High School took up post on 4 June 2013. Following the HMIE inspection in June 2013, an action plan was developed by the school and quality improvement officers for session 2013/14.
- 2.2 The school action plan identified the following areas:
  - Improving attainment
  - Improving learning and teaching
  - Improving the curriculum
  - Improving behaviour management and school ethos

- Improving communication with parents and the wider community and improving the school image
- Improving working effectively with Cluster Primary schools
- Improving the physical environment

2.3 The Cluster action plan identified the following areas:

- Develop a programme of collaborative curriculum development across the Cluster
- Develop assessment and moderation activities across the Cluster
- Develop effective transition activities focused on literacy and numeracy
- Develop a range of Cluster events
- Develop a Cluster approach to residential experiences for learners
- Establish a range of out of school clubs and activities based at CCHS
- All cluster primary schools to promote CCHS through parental engagement.

### **Staffing**

- 2.4 There has been a refresh of staff at Castlebrae Community High School. The teaching staffing complement in August 2013 is 25FTE, seven of whom are new members of staff. Refresh opportunities have continued with a number of staff seconded to other schools for a term for their own professional development. A seconded Depute Head Teacher took up post in October 2013.
- 2.5 The Headteacher of Castlevie Primary School will return to the school from secondment from April 2014. She will have additional responsibility to lead Cluster developments ensuring effective transition arrangements are in place. A particular focus will be to work across the P5-S3 stages with more specialist teaching in the upper stages of primary school and a reduction in the number of teachers delivering in early secondary particularly in S1.
- 2.6 From August 2014, the Primary Head Teacher of Castlevie Primary School will work closely with the Head Teacher of Castlebrae Community High School and have additional responsibility for S1-S3 ensuring that the broad, general education is delivered within a nurturing environment, with high quality learning and teaching and raised expectations.

## **Improvements in the quality of education**

- 2.7 The school vision has now been agreed after consultation with pupils, staff and parents.
- 2.8 To improve the quality of learning and teaching, the Cluster will embark on a partnership with Tapestry, a national organisation, to deliver a 2-3 year programme at Masters level for all teaching staff in the wider Castlebrae Learning Community. This will begin in August 2014 and is an exciting development opportunity for the learning community. This programme aims to upskill all teaching staff and provide learners with the highest quality of learning and teaching.
- 2.9 Professional learning communities of teaching staff continue to take place on a regular basis aimed at improving learning and teaching. The school are implementing a robust programme of sharing classroom experience including the senior management team observing the quality of learning and teaching in all classes. This term that program will continue with the involvement of the QIO to provide additional input re Standards.
- 2.10 All pupils in Castlebrae Community High School and each of the three cluster primary schools P7 pupils have been provided with an ipad. These are used to support learning both at school and at home. This has been a very positive experience for pupils, parents and staff and a range of voluntary Continuing Professional Development activities for staff in using ICT continues to be offered, attended by over 90% of staff and work is planned to further support parents.
- 2.11 Behaviour has improved across the school. The senior management team have a strong presence around the school. The introduction of restorative approaches to managing behaviour are being modelled by the senior management team.
- 2.12 The Student Council has been re-established. Pupils have been regularly consulted on the changes being made in the school. The Children's Commissioner for Scotland worked with senior students on 11 November to develop their role as leaders within the school. Teams of students as digital leaders have been created to work with other students in the school and with cluster primaries on using ipads in learning. Pupil voice is now a key area being taken forward by classroom teachers and curriculum leaders. One of the digital leaders groups currently works with the silver surfers in the library.
- 2.13 Positive promotion of the school continues through a range of social media and media coverage. The school had a ministerial visit in December 2013. Promotional materials for the school are now widely distributed in the community with good use being made of community notice boards. A publicity campaign with Lothian buses has been launched to promote the school. The schools posters will be on the back of 15 buses and will be displayed internally on 80% of the fleet.

- 2.14 There is now an increased level of provision for out of school learning opportunities. 'Sounds like Friday', a Youth Music initiative has been introduced and is offered to all pupils in the Cluster on Friday afternoons based at Castlebrae Community High School. Other extra curricular opportunities currently offered include Maths club, Football, Drama club. There is an apprentice sports development worker working in the school 1 day a week to promote rugby and the school has also introduced outdoor education in S1-3. There are further plans to develop increased sporting opportunities.
- 2.15 Within the Cluster, a range of curricular activities have been agreed and a range of events are planned to promote increased collaboration and sense of community across the cluster schools. All Primary 7 pupils have received an ipad which will be managed and supported by the High School. The Head Teacher and senior management team have attended primary parent evenings with regard to the issuing of ipads to those pupils.

### **Parental engagement**

- 2.16 The re-formed Parent Council has a new constitution and an increased number of parent representatives. Currently 4 parents attend the Parent Council. The balance of community representatives will be reduced as parental representation improves as suggested by the community representatives attending the Parent Council. Chairs of Parent Councils in Cluster primary schools have been invited to attend the Castlebrae Parent Council meetings. The school had a very successful Xmas concert last term with the best parental attendance for a number of years. There was also a very successful and well attended event to celebrate the end of the school's construction project, with each child having a parent present, at a ceremony with Kenny Macaskill, MSP and Justice Secretary as the main speaker.

### **Improvements to the physical environment**

- 2.17 Work on the main school building to bring together classrooms to create a sense of a school community for pupils is now complete. The main entrance area has been upgraded and the Family Centre has been relocated back into Castlebrae Community High School following the upgrading of accommodation to meet the Care Inspectorate's recommendations. The garden area at the front of the school has been cleared ready for planting in spring 2014. Further work has been commissioned to upgrade the pupil toilets. Painting to corridors will take place during the February break.
- 2.18 Plans are underway for the additional accommodation, created through the movement of classrooms described above, to be used by community organisations and artists providing greater links between the work of these organisations and the school curriculum. The Friends of the Award (DofE) and the councils Green Team will also locate into these spaces providing opportunities for cross collaboration and support for the establishment of DofE in the school



- 2.19 There has been an increase in the provision of adult education classes with an additional 4 classes offered from October 2013.
- 2.20 A series of planned community engagements are being developed in consultation with community representatives of the working group, led by the Children Services Management Group coordinator and the Senior CLD worker. This work will be carried out in consultation with the Total East Neighbourhood's plans for community engagement activities.

### **Future plans and the new school in 2020**

- 2.21 Work continues as part of the Craigmillar Masterplan to identify the site and size of the new school. A consultation led by Parc on the location of the new high school is due to take place shortly.
- 2.22 An initial meeting has taken place between officers and the Director of the Bio Quarter. Discussions focused on their contribution to the Edinburgh Guarantee to support positive destinations for school leavers and specifically the communication and engagement of the Bio Quarter within the Craigmillar community.
- 2.23 Discussions are continuing with Edinburgh College and Queen Margaret University regarding the school being a Hub school for the delivery of some of the new HNC provision for school pupils which we are currently piloting this session across the city.

### **Conclusions**

- 2.24 Castlebrae Community High School continues to demonstrate initial school improvements and has clear plans in place to continue to make improvements in the quality of educational provision.
- 2.25 The learning environment has improved for pupils through upgrading of accommodation within the school.
- 2.26 Revised management arrangements for the Castlebrae Learning Community are now in place from April 2014 to achieve the recommendations from the Castlebrae Working Group agreed at the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2013.

### 3. Recommendations

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The Education, Children and Families Committee is requested to:

- 3.1 Note the contents of this report
- 3.2 Note the progress of strategies within the school to deliver a high quality educational experience for learners
- 3.3 Note the progress in management arrangements within the Castlebrae Learning Community.
- 3.4 Agree to receive a further progress report in October 2014.

#### **Gillian Tee**

Director of Children and Families

### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P5. Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum
	P7. Further develop the Edinburgh Guarantee to improve work prospects for school leavers
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities
	CO3. Our children and young people in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances
	CO9. Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
<b>Appendices</b>	None