

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Thursday, 11 September 2014

International Unit - Annual Update Report

Item number	7.8
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

Executive summary

The International Unit supports the delivery of Curriculum of Excellence and the development of global citizens. In partnership with schools the unit enables and encourages people to understand the links between their lives and the lives of others across the world through a child's rights lens. This report provides an annual update of the Children and Families International Unit giving an overview of its key areas of activity.

Links

Coalition pledges	P5
Council outcomes	CO1, CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

International Unit – Annual Update Report

Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress of the International Unit.
- 1.2 Agree to receive a further progress report of the International Unit in August 2015.
- 1.3 To note the dissolution of the Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust in 2012 and request that this item is removed from the Rolling Actions Log.

Background

- 2.1 The Committee receives an annual report on the International Unit each year.

Main report

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the International Unit and includes the progress made over the past year and key areas of development for this year.

Study Visits to Edinburgh

- 3.2 Between August 2013 and June 2014 the Unit organised professional development visits for 15 groups in Edinburgh, comprising 465 educationalists. These groups bring considerable income into the city economy as well as bringing the global dimension into schools that host. However, the number of visitors presents a challenge for schools to host and we do turn some away and suggest other parts of Scotland.

Euroquiz

- 3.3 14 primary schools took part in the annual Euroquiz event. Euroquiz is an annual competition for P5 pupils in partnership with the Scottish European Educational Trust.

UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

- 3.4 RRSA recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. The universality of the UNCRC provides a link for pupils between building up their rights-respecting school, understanding their rights and the need for children's rights to be realised everywhere. Children and young

- people in rights-respecting schools develop a stronger sense of the need to act for global justice. UNICEF shows that the main areas of impact provided by RRSA include
- 3.4.1 Improved self-esteem and well-being
 - 3.4.2 Improved relationships and behaviour (reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance)
 - 3.4.3 Improved engagement in learning
 - 3.4.4 Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
 - 3.4.5 Children and young people's enhanced moral understanding
 - 3.4.6 Children and young people's support for global justice
 - 3.4.7 Children and young people become more involved in decision-making in schools
- 3.5 An increasing number of schools are taking part in RRSA. 28 schools are registered to become Rights Respecting Schools. There are 2 schools with Level 2 accreditation, 5 schools at Level 1, and 10 schools have received their Recognition of Commitment (ROC) Award.
- 3.6 Two Secondary schools have now registered for RRSA and we also have a Special Needs School which has received the level 1 Award.
- 3.7 Cluster primary schools in North Edinburgh have recently signed up to start the RRSA journey as part of Total Craigroyston. This will have a key focus on involvement with the local community, parental involvement and community safety.
- 3.8 There are now 3 additional staff from level 2 schools (Dean Park and Juniper Green) that can carry out Level 1 assessments. An additional staff member has recently completed their assessor training and will become a fully trained assessor in the autumn following the completion of two shadow assessments. Training in 'How to become A Rights Respecting School' is delivered by International Unit jointly with staff from accredited schools.
- 3.9 The new Children and Young People's Act now places a Statutory requirement on Local Authorities to evidence their work around Children's Rights. Local Authorities are currently waiting on information from the Scottish Government as to what this will entail. However, the increasing numbers of schools taking part in Edinburgh in RRSA will put Children and Families in a strong position to evidence this work.
- 3.10 The accreditation for each level of RRSA needs to be renewed every two years. Supporting schools to renew their accreditation or move to the next level of accreditation will need to be a key focus this year to maintain the strength of RRSA in Edinburgh.

Global Partnerships

- 3.11 Around 70 schools have partnerships with developing countries. Many more do one off project work linked with particular charities or development agencies. Edinburgh is recognised nationally for its work with Africa.
- 3.12 In June over 1000 pupils took part in Global Vision workshops and attended the Makutano Performances at the Queen's Hall. This was part of the Twende Pamoja project which is a partnership with Edinburgh and Tanzanian schools.
- 3.13 There are now three schools in Edinburgh which have achieved the International School Award. These are Juniper Green Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School Edinburgh and WHEC. This award supports schools to form a partnership with schools overseas to teach pupils about life in other countries and develop them as global citizens.

Fair Trade Schools

- 3.14 The total number of schools involved in Fair Trade Schools in Edinburgh has increased to 62.
 - 3.14.1 43 schools have registered to take part
 - 3.14.2 2 schools have achieved the Fair Aware Award (level 1)
 - 3.14.3 1 school has achieved the Fair Active Award (level 2)
 - 3.14.4 16 schools have achieved the Fair Achiever Award (level 3)
- 3.15 Staff from the International Unit have been invited to join the city wide steering group for Edinburgh Fair Trade City. Twilight sessions for schools planning to take part in Fair Trade Schools or move to the next level of accreditation will take place in the new academic year.
- 3.16 Plans are also underway to enable schools to take part in Fair Trade Christmas in partnership with Scotdec, the Global Education Centre.

Learning for Sustainability

- 3.17 A Learning for Sustainability Conference on the topics of Global Citizenship, Outdoor Learning and Sustainability is planned for around 200 teachers in May 2015. This is being organised by officers from the International Unit, Sports and Outdoors Unit and Eco-Schools.

Youth Mobility - Scotland Goes Global

- 3.18 NUS Scotland will provide schools with the opportunity to invite a Youth Ambassador speaker to talk to their senior students and school leavers about opportunities for studying and working abroad.

3.19 NUS have also invited Edinburgh to take part in a pilot working group to develop Local Mobility Partnerships. This will involve a university, local school, local authority and college partners to develop an agreement regarding student progression into mobility opportunities in order to:

- 3.19.1 Share information on mobility at each level
- 3.19.2 Develop joint mobility projects
- 3.19.3 Develop links regarding modern language provision
- 3.19.4 Ensure a cohesive student mobility journey
- 3.19.5 Close the 'ambition loop' often faced by students who miss out on mobility due to various planning and personal related circumstance

Volunteer Language Assistants

3.20 The International unit recruits volunteers from abroad and from the overseas student community in Edinburgh to support schools with native speaker input for the learning and teaching of French, German, Spanish and Mandarin. 16 assistants worked in schools through the International unit in school year 2013/14.

Centenary of WW1

3.21 Plans are underway to develop a Global Citizenship project to recognise the centenary of WW1 in partnership with CLD and the Arts and Learning team.

Support for Funding

3.22 The International Unit has a role to play in supporting schools and colleagues to access funds as part of Global Citizenship. Information and support will be available for staff to access funds such as Erasmus+ and the British Council's Connecting Classrooms.

Continuing and Professional Development

3.23 Continued support will be available for school staff to access training about Global Citizenship. Information about courses from outside providers will be promoted in the quarterly International Unit Newsletter. Information and training about Global Citizenship; RRSA; Children's Rights; Fair Trade Schools; Connecting Classrooms and Erasmus+ will be provided in twilight training sessions or online.

Staff Changes

3.24 The International Unit has experienced a number of staff changes in the last year particularly as the Unit Manager has been on secondment to the Mortonhall Enquiry and now to the Scottish Government. Temporary arrangements have been put in place to cover the areas of work.

Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust

- 3.25 A report on the Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust was requested at the last Committee meeting on 20 May 2014. However this trust was dissolved in 2012 (see Appendix1) and this report requests that this item is removed from the Rolling Actions Log.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Measures of success would include
- 4.1.1 An increased number of schools starting their journey/renewing their accreditation/or moving forward to the next level of award for RRSA, Fair Trade Schools and the International schools award within the context of strengthening the recognition and realisation of Children's Rights.
 - 4.1.2 Continued support for International study visits to Edinburgh and Language Support Assistants in Edinburgh schools.
 - 4.1.3 Learning for Sustainability Conference for teachers hosted in May 2015
 - 4.1.4 More schools and young people's groups accessing external funding such as Erasmus+ and Connecting classrooms.
 - 4.1.5 Scotland Goes Global pilot on youth mobility completed
 - 4.1.6 WW1 Centenary schools project delivered
 - 4.1.7 Global Partnership schools audit carried out

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There is no risk, policy, compliance and governance impact arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The work of the International Unit has a positive equalities impact in terms of building good race and faith relations. Our work with Rights Respecting Schools contributes significantly to our public sector duty to eliminate all forms of unlawful discrimination and has a significant role to play in understanding and promoting Children's Rights.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Whilst the International Unit provides opportunities in global citizenship which do not require travel some schools undertake long haul air travel as part of their linking programmes with other countries. However these provide a positive social impact as these immersive experiences enhance learning opportunities and promote values of social justice and inclusion.
- 8.2 The International Unit's work on Fair Trade Schools and the Learning for Sustainability Conference is a positive contribution and enhancement of the City of Edinburgh Councils work towards sustainability.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Schools receive a quarterly newsletter and bulletins about information, support and training from the International Unit.

Background reading/external references

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

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Links

Coalition pledges	P5 – Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum.
Council outcomes	CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	Appendix 1. Letter about the dissolution of the Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust.

Claire Soper
Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust
City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

Your ref:
Our ref: RS/C&N/12-3864

05 February 2013

Dear Ms Soper

Confirmation of removal from Register of Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust (SC041664)

I am writing to let you know our decision about your request of 28 November 2012 for consent to wind up/dissolve the charity named above. This decision has been made under section 16(2)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.


The charity has no assets and from the information received it appeared never to have had any assets. A Trust with no assets ceases to exist therefore wind up / dissolution is required.

I can confirm that the change is in order and that we have removed the body from the Scottish Charity Register.

Please note that, as a result of this removal, the body named above must not refer to itself as a charity and should take steps immediately to remove such references from its documents and website.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,


William Stevens
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