

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE**  
**6 AUGUST 2009**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Agenda Item |  |
| Report No   |  |

**Curriculum for Excellence - Update**  
**Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport**

**SUMMARY**

This report updates members on progress from the May ECS Committee on the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence. This ongoing development is a major contributor to a number of key commitments in Strengthening the Highlands. It features as a central Strategic Priority in the ECS Service Plan.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The update accompanies the draft Learning and Teaching Policy and the International Education policy which are presented separately.
- 1.2 It gives further information on the implementation strategy, communication to our stakeholders (including Parent Councils), the deployment of 5 teachers for development funded by the Scottish Government, and the plans for the October Learning Festival. Finally there is an update on the next generation of National Qualifications.

**2. Implementation and Communication with Stakeholders**

- 2.1 Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is achieved through a wide range of working Groups with the CfE implementation group taking a strategic overview. The major initiatives are supported by Quality Improvement Officers who take an essential co-ordinating role across the very many aspects of CfE.
- 2.2 Communication and Engagement with our Stakeholders is a major part of the plan. In this context, the Service will organise a series of meetings of parent council members within groups of Integrated Learning Communities across the Authority to explain the CfE developments and update parents on progress.
- 2.3 The service will engage with parent councils in working with nationally produced support material for parents.
- 2.4 The Council's website will be regularly updated to include most recent developments in CfE and will contain links to national sites eg "parent zone".

**3. Deployment of 5 CfE Development Officers**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has continued to support the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence and has allocated funding for 100 teachers across Scotland to Local Authorities to assist in its development and implementation. Highland's share of this valuable additional resource is 5 full – time teachers.

- 3.2 It is proposed that the Service second 5 experienced teachers for one session until 30 June 2010 to add development capacity in the following areas:
- Communications and Continuing Professional Development
  - Curriculum & Assessment: Pre-school, Primary and Special schools
  - Numeracy
  - Curriculum and Assessment: Secondary
  - Curriculum support across subjects (Secondary)
- 3.3 In addition to the above secondments, the Highland Literacy project is continuing to its concluding phase. At the end of this phase all primary schools will have had the opportunity to become involved. The extension of literacy strategies to secondary schools is presently underway. A specific report on the evaluation of the the Highland Literacy project will be submitted at the conclusion of this phase.
- 3.4 The Service has piloted 16+ Learning Choices under the 'More Choices, More Chances' priority of the ECS Service Plan and is in the initial stage of piloting Activity Agreements. This will be reported to the September Committee.

#### **4. Continuous Professional Development and the October Learning Festival**

- 4.1 A wide range of Continuous professional development is happening in schools and communities as local initiatives and joint planning for CfE take place. The Service continues to take this planning forward at a strategic level through its working groups and its regular meetings with Head teacher Groups.
- 4.2 The major Learning and Teaching resources and toolkit arising from the very successful Future Learning and Teaching Project will be supported by on going CPD support and tailored events.
- 4.3 Of particular success has been the growth of co-operative Learning Academies with a high level of participation and further demand and outstanding evaluations. This approach will be extended this session.
- 4.4 The Service has undertaken a number of successful initiatives in developing leadership for learning and this has had a positive impact on CfE developments. This will be strengthened throughout 2009 – 10 through the next generation leadership programme.
- 4.5 The October Learning Festival will take place during the in-service days of Tues 27 and Wed 28 of October in Dingwall Academy. This will recognise the existing good practice in Highland and give staff opportunities to draw on the experiences of colleagues as they plan for CfE. There will be over 60 short seminars and workshops on good Highland practice together with a keynote address by the Director and a national contribution from Learning and Teaching Scotland. The Festival will show case practice and resources from Highland and external organisations in an exhibition area.

## 5. Next generation of National Qualifications

- 5.1 The Service will work to the links between the earlier stages of CfE and the retained national qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher level in order to ensure progression in the areas studied and capacities developed.
- 5.2 The Service will plan for the introduction of the new qualifications in Literacy and Numeracy in 2012 – 13. The qualifications will be available to young people from third year onwards and there will be an expectation that young people will be presented for the qualifications at some point before leaving school. These qualifications will be assessed on a portfolio of work drawn from across the revised curriculum or other aspects of learning, life and work. The Service will work to support this and develop the necessary expertise and confidence.
- 5.3 The service will prepare for the introduction National 4 and National 5 awards in 2013 - 14 as a replacement for Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications through the revised curriculum and increased focus upon skills development.

Training and quality assurance in relation to the assessment of National 4 and National 5 courses by teaching staff will be delivered through the Quality Improvement Team.

- 5.3 Later in the summer the Scottish Government will publish details on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strand of Curriculum for Excellence. This will include a policy statement that will specify national standards and what learners are expected to achieve as they progress through the curriculum together with an assessment framework giving more detailed advice.

Quality Improvement Officers will study the guidance and develop practical ways of implementing it in Highland.

## 6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members are invited to note the above report and comment on the service implementation strategy and seek further reports as appropriate.
- 6.2 Members are invited to agree on the secondment model for the 5 experienced teachers.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Date: 30 June 2009

Author: Tony McCulloch, Quality Assurance & Development Manager

Ref: HF/TMcC

The ongoing work on Curriculum for Excellence in Highland can be accessed at:  
<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/supportforschoolstaff/cfe/default.htm>