

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**11 MARCH 2010**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**Curriculum for Excellence Assessment**

**Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service**

**Summary**

The report sets out the background to changes in Assessment needed following the publication of the final Curriculum for Excellence Framework documents. In particular it is recommended that we cease using 5-14 assessment data in August 2010.

Recording attainment and achievement in accordance with the principles and practises of the national Assessment Framework will contribute to the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement National Outcome 3 “We are better educated, more skilled and more successful”

We would also be working towards delivering our commitment in Strengthening the Highlands to “Continue to raise levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy for pupils in pre-school, primary and secondary provision and maintain high levels of achievement in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework and achieve the outcomes in a Curriculum for Excellence.”

**1. Background**

- 1.1 In November 2009 a report ECS/52/09 detailed the Key Principles for Assessment in Curriculum for Excellence. This paper builds on the key principles following the publication of Building the Curriculum 5. It proposes that 5 – 14 data be collected for the last time in June and assessment practice aligns itself with Curriculum for Excellence principles.
- 1.2 The final framework document for Curriculum for Excellence ‘Building the Curriculum 5, Framework for Assessment’ was published at the end of January. The document describes how we will achieve the standards and expectations set out in the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence. This will include a coherent system of quality assurance, moderation and sharing of standards. Councils are required to devise systems to deliver quality assurance and moderation. Scottish Government Ministers have indicated that additional funding will be made available to enable this and discussions with COSLA are underway.
- 1.3 Standards and expectations are set out for the whole curriculum in terms of experiences and outcomes which are defined for each level. The expectations for progression through the levels are shown below.

<b>Curriculum Level</b>	<b>Stage</b>
<b>Early</b>	<i>The pre-school years and P1</i>
<b>First</b>	<i>To the end of P4</i>
<b>Second</b>	<i>To the end of P7</i>
<b>Third, Fourth</b>	<i>S1 to S3 (Fourth level broadly aligns to SCQF level 4)</i>
<b>Senior phase</b>	<i>S4 to S6 and college or other means of study</i>

- 1.4 With the new structure, 5 – 14 levels which schools have used in the past will no longer be the assessment measures and consequently it is proposed that The Highland Council from August 2010 onwards will not require schools to base their assessment practice on 5-14 Levels. Consequently, June 2010 would be the last time that all schools would submit 5-14 attainment data in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Thereafter, attainment and achievement will be recorded in accordance with the principles and practice described in the national Assessment Framework. Further guidance will be provided by the Local Authority later this session.
- 1.5 All schools will continue to develop provision in accordance with the Highland Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy. Assessment should focus on:
- embedding high quality formative assessment to ensure that all learners understand what to do next to improve
  - involving learners in building a portfolio of evidence to show how they are progressing in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing as well as recording achievements outwith the classroom
  - developing systematic approaches to sharing standards so that all teachers understand what achievement looks like in Curriculum for Excellence levels.

## **2. Support**

- 2.1 During the Spring and Summer terms, the Scottish Government and the Local Authority will provide in-service to support school developments. Considerable support for individual and collective CPD is already available on The Highland Council, HMle and Learning and Teaching Scotland websites. The Scottish Government has commissioned Learning and Teaching Scotland to develop a National Assessment Resource which will exemplify standards and assessment items for teachers. A number of ECS staff are involved in this work. The Council's Assessment and Reporting Group are producing a CPD pack for use with all teachers on the additional Inservice day which the Scottish Government granted in June 2010. Each Associated School Group will agree a suitable date for that closure and communicate it to parents.

### 3. Reporting to parents

- 3.1 Current reporting arrangements will remain in force this session for all Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools.
- 3.2 The Local Authority is currently exploring the possibility of adopting a system which will incorporate profiling, personal learning planning and reporting. Further guidance information about this and related issues will be provided later this session.

### 4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Education Culture and Sport Committee agrees that 5 – 14 attainment data ceases to be submitted from August 2010, to be replaced by a system based on Curriculum for Excellence principles.
- 4.2 Members note the need for a system that will assure standards throughout our schools, and note that discussions on additional funding to manage the introduction and maintenance of that system are currently underway at national level.
- 4.3 Members note the shift in emphasis in assessment which will involve children and young people in the assessment process and in the recognition of their wider achievement.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 19 February 2010

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Ref:

Background Papers