

Agenda Item	4
Report No	GIG 14/14

Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16
Theme 1 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”
Implementation Report

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report provides Members with further information on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 1; “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”. This updates the Council’s 2012-13 Annual Implementation Report; and also outlines further action since 31 December 2013.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Outcomes 4, 5, 11 and 13.
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes – **Home & Early Years; Education: Schools & Teachers; Education: Post-school Education** and **Communities**.
- The Programme of The Highland Council and its cross cutting commitment to ‘the principle of equal respect for the Gaelic and English languages, whilst also recognising the diversity of indigenous language and dialects within the Highland area’
- The Council’s Gaelic Language Plan.

1. Background

1.1 The **Home and Communities** Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. This Theme has three Strategic Commitments and outlined below is an overview of the work commenced across these:

1.2 **Strategic Commitment 1** - We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.

1.3 **Strategic Commitment 2** - We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.

1.4 **Strategic Commitment 3** - We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

2. Report on Action - What we are doing for Gaelic in Homes and in Communities

2.1 Pre-school

2.1.1 We organised a variety of Gaelic Days for parents and toddlers in **Fort William, Portree, Plockton, Dunvegan, Nairn, Sleat, Newtonmore** and **Tain**.

- 2.1.2 We continued to support family learning within Ceuman Beaga groups based in **Aviemore** and **Drumnadrochit** and the family group recently established in **Fort William** has continued to develop and is well attended.
- 2.1.3 A variety of Fun Days for parents and toddlers in **Inverness** were organised and at **Gairloch Primary School**, a Gaelic medium information and family fun day for parents and for pre-school and primary children, was organised.
- 2.1.4 We also organised an Open day for pre-school parents and children at the **Craigmonie Centre** in Drumnadrochit. A Gaelic Fun Morning in **Inverness** was held in January 2014, and all the foregoing promoted bilingualism and GME to families with pre-school children.
- 2.1.5 The 0-5 GM Parent and child group in **Lochcarron** continued to be supported and we had 15 families registered at the end of the 2013-14 school session. In addition, the Gaelic Medium weekly taster session ran successfully in the 2013-14 school Session with 6 pre-school children attending weekly. Three specific Gaelic activity days will be organised for families in the Lochcarron area to encourage local support.
- 2.1.6 We also supported and organised Gaelic drama workshops in **Thurso** for early years and GM P1 pupils attending **Mount Pleasant** Primary school.
- 2.1.7 The Council's popular **Family Learning Flashcards** were reprinted once again.

2.2 Primary and Secondary Schools

- 2.2.1 **Twenty four Parental Workshops were organised across the Highland Council area** between January and April 2014. A workshop took place in each area where there is presently Gaelic Medium Education, and in some places two workshops.
- 2.2.2 The workshops were targeted at early primary and nursery parents, with the focus being on encouraging parents to play a greater role in their children's Gaelic medium Education by nurturing the use of Gaelic in the home as well as showcasing the range of resources and opportunities which are available. The workshops were well received and we hope to repeat them in targeted areas in the 2014-15 school session. A **Parents Information Handbook** was produced and distributed to all parents who attended.
- 2.2.3 We organised a wide programme of activities which provided young people with opportunities to use Gaelic in non-classroom situations. We managed and supported **Homework Clubs** in **Acharacle**, **Portree**, **Dingwall**, and **Inverness**, and these provided further linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes.
- 2.2.4 Events were also organised to support and encourage GM Primary to Secondary transition. In **Skye**, the annual Gaelic medium Primary 7 event was organised in June 2014 and was offered to all 37 GM P7 pupils on the island. This facilitated participation in outdoor activities through Gaelic, to enable the pupils to interact and engage with their Secondary school GM peers.
- 2.2.5 Gaelic medium Primary 7 pupils from **Fort William**, **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** and **Newtonmore Primary** school stayed at **Badaguish Outdoor Centre** for 3

days in May 2014 and took part in a variety of outdoor activities, maximising their Gaelic.

- 2.2.6 Class 6 pupils from **BSGI and Millbank Primary** linked in with Comann nam Pàrant's primary schools event and **visited Dynamic Earth, the Botanical Gardens and the National Museum in Edinburgh**. During the school year the BSGI class 6 pupils had been corresponding with their peers from **Bun-sgoil Taobh Na Pàirce in Edinburgh**; and this learning visit enabled them to meet other pupils at Taobh Na Pàirce.
- 2.2.7 Easter and summer programmes of GM activities were organised for pupils to ensure children have access to, and are encouraged to use Gaelic outwith the classroom setting. In summer 2014, **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Drama Artist in Residence Artair Donald**, has been commissioned to do a week of Drama workshops for Primary age GM pupils, consisting of a day in **Fort William, Acharacle, Inverness, Newtonmore and Nairn**. These activities included drama, sports, arts and a comprehensive programme of outdoor education pursuits. Pupils from BSGI Gaelic choir took part in the Royal National Mod in **Paisley**.
- 2.2.8 The Council, in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, organised the annual week long youth residential event - **Seachdain nan Deugairean** - for Gaelic Secondary School pupils. In March 2014 26 fluent and 18 learner pupils had the opportunity to attend the event; which offered the pupils workshops in **Media skills, Drama and Outdoor Education** activities. Pupils attended from **Portree and Mallaig High Schools**.
- 2.2.9 Young people in **Inverness Gaelic Drama** group again took part in the National Theatre Connections Festival, culminating in a performance held in **Eden Court**, Inverness in April 2014. The drama group has increased membership with 10 young people now taking part from **Culloden Academy, Dingwall Academy and Inverness Royal Academy**.
- 2.2.10 As a follow up to the previous year's Gaelic residential trip to **Donegal and Belfast** for secondary pupils, a funding application was successfully made for a return trip in October 2014. This will further develop links made with Gaelscoil na bhFál in Belfast and links with Donegal.
- 2.2.11 Older Secondary pupils, S5 upwards and college students were encouraged to help at after-school activities and clubs. This helped develop them personally and provided them with an opportunity to act as role models for younger children.
- 2.2.12 Following on from the successful Gaelic Careers Day in 2013, a partnership group involving the **Council, Skills Development Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE** is in the process of organising a follow up event for Secondary School pupils, due to take place on **31 October 2014 in Eden Court**.
- 2.2.13 The Council, with some funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, continued to develop a post that builds community and parental links around Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. This project also linked through to Inverness Royal Academy, in order to support pupils and parents at the crucial Primary to Secondary educational transition phase

2.3 Adult Learning and Community Engagement

- 2.3.1 The Council engaged in a wide range of Gaelic development activity across Highland communities. This is delivered both directly by the Council Gaelic Team and also through the Gaelic Team engaging with local and national partners, organisations and agencies to develop and deliver local community Gaelic Plans with a focus on early years, adult learning, youth and community projects.
- 2.3.2 We continued to undertake advisory, support and familiarisation sessions for parents and potential parents of GM pupils. We worked in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** and the **CLAD Gaelic Management Review Group** to deliver the 2014 annual Gaelic Family Week in **Sleat**. 59 parents attended adult learning classes, 20 children under the age of 4 attended local Gaelic childcare facilities and 46 GM pupils attended a week long play scheme. In 2012 there were 111 participants. In 2013 there were 135 participants. In 2014 there were a total of 125 participants.
- 2.3.3 The Council organised Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities through the Ùlpan system and other Classes, for **286 people**. These included the parents of children in GME and classes were organised across **Inverness, Nairn, Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Fort William, Dingwall, Portree, Auchtertyre, Ullapool, Dunvegan and Thurso**. This work is ongoing and, with support from the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF), is targeted for further expansion.
- 2.3.4 Demand for classes means continual pressure to attract and train new tutors. **A Tutor Training course run by Ruairidh Maclean took place in Inverness in November 2013.**
- 2.3.5 In accordance with the Gaelic Language Plan, a review of Gaelic Adult Learning in Highland is underway. In the meantime, the Council continued to deliver Ùlpan courses in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Deiseal Ltd and discussions will continue concerning the future delivery and sustainability of Ùlpan classes across Highland; in particular concerning the frequency of lessons and the number of students on courses.
- 2.3.6 **The Council also worked with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, North Highland College and Lews Castle College** to develop a learning resource for parents and pre-school children. The new web-site www.guthanbeaga.co.uk is due to go live after the summer. It has been developed in order to help parents learn some useful language to use with their pre-school child. There is a wealth of phrases, words, songs and rhymes as well as a pronunciation guide to assist parents in supporting their child's language development.
- 2.3.7 Audio for the recent **Bookbug** books can be downloaded and for smartphone users a Guthan Beaga app is available on Android.
- 2.3.8 It is hoped that the resource will be used both in Parental Gaelic classes, pre-school groups as well as by parents in the home.
- 2.3.9 **South Area Gaelic Classes – to end June 2014**
- i) **Inverness**
In September 2013, ten Gaelic classes started. Four of these were Ùlpan classes and the remainder were Gaelic Conversation and Beginners Classes. A total of 78 students enrolled.

In January 2014 twelve classes started. Four of these were Ùlpan and 8 were non-Ùlpan. A total of 87 students were enrolled. From Easter to June 2014 61 students enrolled; and 8 students completed the final series of the 144 Units of Ùlpan.

- ii) **Lochaber** – In **Fort William** in September 2013, 26 students enrolled in the five classes. In January 2014, two Ùlpan Classes merged and only occasional classes took place due to a tutor shortage - 28 students were enrolled in total. From Easter to June 2014 17 students enrolled. In addition a specific Gaelic Parents Class has run in Fort William throughout the year.
- iii) **Nairn** - A new Beginners Class commenced in January 2014 with 16 students.
- iv) **Grantown on Spey** - A Beginner Class also ran from September to December with 11 students enrolled.
- v) Classes in **Balnain** and **Drumnadrochit** continued with a total of 15.
- vi) In partnership with community group **Sinne**, an Intermediate class ran in **Aviemore** with 9 students.

2.3.10 North Area Gaelic Classes – to end June 2014

- i) **Auchtertyre** - One Ùlpan class completed up to Unit 93 at the end of June 2014.
- ii) **Portree** - One Ùlpan course completed up to Unit 63 at the end of June 2014. A monthly Gaelic book club was run by the Council, following demand locally for further support for students who have completed the final Ùlpan Unit 144.
- iii) **Assynt** - Classes continue to be provided with financial support to enable the continuation of the existing two classes.
- iv) **Lochinver** - Students are at Unit 90 and will progress to complete the Ùlpan course in the next academic session between August 2014 and July 2015.
- v) **Stoer** - Students have now completed the Ùlpan course to Unit 144.
- vi) **Ullapool** - Two Ùlpan classes were running; one class completed up to Unit 90 and the second class finished at Unit 93, at the end of the 13-14 academic session.
- vii) A range of non-Ùlpan community based classes was offered, where this was the preferred option; or where there was a specific request for parental classes. For example, the annual **Gaelic Family Learning Week on Skye** was open to all Gaelic Medium parents in Highland and was held week beginning the 7 July 2014.
- viii) **Dingwall**: In Dingwall, three community based classes were run. An advanced conversational class; a beginner's conversational class with more than 50% of attendees Gaelic Medium parents; and an intermediate post-Standard Grade class had seven students enrolled. The three community based conversation classes will commence again in September 2014.

- ix) **Caithness:** A new Parents' class commenced in **Thurso** in May 2014 and is specifically aimed for the parents of Gaelic Medium children in both pre-school and primary provision. As part of the class programme the parents and their children participated in a Gaelic family learning event where they had the opportunity to practice informally and develop their linguistic skills.
- x) We continue to support the Gaelic community based courses which started in **Wick** and in **Thurso** in 2013. Both classes are successful and continuing into the 2014-15 session with 15 Gaelic learners attending in **Wick** and 28 attending in **Thurso**. A Gaelic drama workshop was organised for the learners in **Wick** to support and develop their language skills in an informal setting.
- xi) A course for **Dunvegan** pre-school parents was again continued in January 2014.

2.3.11 This year, Gaelic classes specifically aimed at supporting the parents of Gaelic medium pupils were also organised in **Mallaig, Newtonmore, Drumnadrochit, Inverness, Dunvegan** and **Thurso**.

2.3.12 The Council also worked in partnership with community groups to deliver Gaelic taster days and other learner opportunities such as the **Aviemore Gaelic Taster Day** held in June 2013. In partnership with Comunn Gaidhlig Asainte the Council will run a weekend long adult learner event in November 2014 at **Glencanisp Lodge** similar to the successful event that took place in 2013. Gaelic tuition will be offered at 3 levels and the event will be closed with a ceilidh.

2.4 **Review of Gaelic Adult Learning Provision in Scotland**

2.4.1 Given the importance that the Council places on opportunities for Gaelic Adult Learning and the commitments in GLP 12-16, we are engaging with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a range of other partners in a National Working Group which is reviewing the delivery of, and the demand for, Gaelic Adult Learning across Scotland.

2.4.2 This is linked to the recent survey carried out in Highland which was undertaken to ensure that we deliver Gaelic Adult Education opportunities that are appropriate for increasing learner numbers and which suit the needs of our communities and of current and prospective students.

2.4.3 This National Working Group on Gaelic Adult Learning is particularly important with regard to non-Gaelic speaking parents of GM pupils, and the work fulfils obligations in both the National and Highland Gaelic Language Plans.

3. **Implications**

3.1 At this juncture there are no additional resource, legal, equalities, risk, climate change/carbon clever, Gaelic or rural implications associated with this Report.

4. Recommendations

Members are invited to:

4.1

- Comment on progress in implementing the Home and Communities Theme in GLP 12-16;
- Agree to feed into the National review of Gaelic Adult Learning; working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and other partners to assess the range of Gaelic Adult Learning resources, including online and other materials to support parents of GM pupils and other adult learners; and;
- Agree continued cross-agency working to encourage Gaelic learning and usage opportunities in workplaces, homes, schools and communities.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 29 July 2014

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Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities

Strategic Commitment 1

We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Deiseal Ltd, Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Community Learning and Development Review Group.

Key Performance Results

- Baseline data established which will show the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain the requirements for learning and support in the home. Following this exercise, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.
- Increase the attendance and participation at Gaelic family events and increase attendance at the Gaelic Family Learning Weeks by 20% from 30 families with 98 participants in 2011-12.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Carry out a survey of the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain their requirements for learning and support in the home.
- (ii) Create a new resource pack, using up to date technology, to encourage and support parents/guardians in using Gaelic in the home.
- (iii) Organise and develop Ulpan progressive language classes around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (iv) Organise advisory workshops for Gaelic Medium parents; and work with parents alongside other community based partners.
- (v) Work with partners to organise and expand the "Gaelic Family Learning Week" initiative.

Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities

Strategic Commitment 2

We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, High Life Highland.

Key Performance Results

- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the numbers participating in Gaelic Medium Education language acquisition support, through extra-curricular activities, by 20% from a baseline of 700 in 2011-12.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of Gaelic Medium options within general activities and sports related programmes by 20% from a baseline of 30 in 2011-12.
- Organise and deliver *Seachdain nan Deugairean* for Secondary pupils each year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- Establish a baseline figure for the number of Gaelic speaking sports coaches/activity leaders in the Council and High Life Highland. Following this, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Create language support activities around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (ii) Support existing homework clubs, after school clubs and activities and expand activities where sustainable.
- (iii) Provide opportunities for inter generational Gaelic usage between senior citizens and young people.
- (iv) In partnership with High Life Highland, organise coaching events for Gaelic Medium Secondary school pupils to enable them to deliver activities in Gaelic.
- (v) Liaise with High Life Highland to include Gaelic in the Summer Activity Programme.
- (vi) Develop a Gaelic arts, media and leisure programme including drama, film and sporting activities.
- (vii) Secure Individual Learning Account Provider status to enable Council organised Gaelic courses to be eligible for Individual Learning Account support.
- (viii) Support the football competition, Cuach na Cloinne and investigate the possibility of a national schools Shinty competition.

Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities

Strategic Commitment 3

We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision; in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations; and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant, Deiseal Ltd, Clì Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Key Performance Results

- Three Community Partnership Development Plans to be put in place around Gaelic Education provision in Lochaber, Skye and Inverness.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of children accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education to support the attainment of Scottish Government targets - pupil target and funding support subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number undertaking adult Gaelic learning including Ùlpan by 20%, from a baseline of 200 in 2011-12 – target subject to further consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- A formal evaluation of Gaelic community learning provision, particularly Ùlpan; and a Report on any changes that might be helpful, going forward.
- Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis established as the hub of Gaelic development in and around Inverness.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Develop marketing and awareness events and material; promoting the many benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic, including use in the home.
- (ii) Organise Gaelic Conversation classes.
- (iii) Produce Pre-school enrolment information that promotes the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic education.
- (iv) Organise Ùlpan progressive language classes and less formal learning opportunities for adults; including those with Additional Support Needs.
- (v) Contribute to an independent review of Gaelic adult learning opportunities in communities, including a review of the effectiveness of Ùlpan: involving tutors, learners and course organisers; an examination of the pricing structures, the terms and conditions and an assessment of future needs.
- (vi) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to develop an adult literacy course for fluent Gaelic speakers.
- (vii) Enhance the community liaison role within Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis to support the expansion of community partnership development planning in Inverness.