

**(8) Mr A Jarvie**

**To the Chair of the Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Committee**

**A key reason given to return children from out of authority care placements was on the grounds of the educational attainment, what has the change in attainment been from children returned?**

*Returned children have bespoke, individualised packages developed by Highland Council staff to maximise their opportunities for both attainment and achievement based around subjects and hobbies that they enjoy and/require for future employment and skills. These education packages can be school-based or a mix of school, off-site provisions and third sector providers dependent on the child's needs and preferences.*

*The educational provision is planned to meet needs and aspirations within the child's own community and within (largely) a mainstream setting, as part of the multi service and agency GIRFEC approaches.*

*We cannot disclose individual care placements for Children and Young Peoples' attainment for data protection reasons. However, the education wrap around package provided for Children and Young People within the Highland Council has been highly commended by Education Scotland and partners using the HC Virtual Academy. Overall, statistically the Highland Council have witnessed an improving trend in level 3,4 and 5 literacy and numeracy for returning out of authority care placement Children.*