

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Children and Family Services
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	03/07/24
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Scottish Languages Bill
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### **UPDATE:**

Members will be aware that the Scots Language Bill is currently at stage one in the parliamentary process.

### **Why was the Bill created?**

The Bill gives the Gaelic and Scots languages official status in Scotland in order to improve support for Scotland's indigenous languages, Gaelic and Scots.

### **Gaelic**

Scottish ministers will be required to provide a Gaelic Language strategy to replace the Gaelic Language plan currently produced by Bòrd na Gàidhlig  
Other measures to support the use of Gaelic include:

- giving Scottish Ministers the power to set standards and give guidance for public authorities on promoting the use of Gaelic
- requiring Bòrd na Gàidhlig to report on progress in relation to the Gaelic language strategy
- requiring Bòrd na Gàidhlig to report on whether public authorities are complying with their duties to promote the use of Gaelic
- giving local authorities the power to make an area an "area of linguistic significance". An area could be given this status if:
  - at least 20% of the area's population has Gaelic language skills
  - the area has a historical connection with the use of Gaelic

- the area provides Gaelic education or hosts other significant Gaelic activity.

The Bill also makes changes to Gaelic language education. This includes:

- requiring Scottish Ministers to promote Gaelic education
- giving Scottish Ministers the power to set standards and give guidance on Gaelic education
- making clear that a local authority's duty to provide education includes Gaelic education.

### **Implications for Aberdeen City Council**

The duty to provide Gaelic Education will continue and there could be an increased need to promote the language and report on progress towards the Gaelic Language Strategy

### **Scots**

Measures in the Bill to support the use of the Scots language include:

- requiring Scottish Ministers to produce a Scots language strategy and to report on progress in relation to that strategy
- giving Scottish Ministers the power to give guidance to public authorities on promoting the use of Scots
- requiring Scottish Ministers to promote Scots language education in schools
- giving Scottish Ministers the power to set standards and give guidance on Scots language education in schools.

### **Implications for Aberdeen City Council**

We currently work in an adhoc way with the Doric Makar but don't directly promote the use of Scots language. The Bill will mean there will be an increased focus on the promotion of Scots language in schools and may result in a requirement to offer the chance to learn to all pupils.