

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	27th March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Education, Culture and Sport Standards and Quality Improvement Plan
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/14/021
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Elected Members of the Education, Culture and Sport Standards and Quality Improvement Plan 2012/13 & 2013/14-15/16

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended the Committee:

- Note the impact of the work of the Education, Culture and Sport Service in 2012/13
- Approve the Education, Culture and Sport Standards and Quality Improvement Plan 2013/14-15/16

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct revenue or capital implications arising specifically from the report. Financial risk is assessed and mitigated as part of our service and budget planning risk assessment processes.

4 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal

The Council is required to act within the legislative frameworks as laid down by the Scottish and UK Governments. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report, the purpose of reporting on standards and quality reporting is to maintain compliance with legislative frameworks such as the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 and to show how improvements to the quality of education, culture and sports services are secured.

4.2 Resources

No additional resources are required as a direct result of this report.

4.3 Other

There are no property, equipment or Health and Safety implications arising directly from this report. The development, review and implementation of policies is a core responsibility of managers.

5 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The requirement for all education authorities to produce a standards and quality report is set out in the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000.
- 5.2 In addition to meeting this requirement, the production of this report is an established part of the Service's performance reporting framework and provides Elected Members with an annual report of the impact of the work of the Education, Culture and Sport Service.
- 5.3 The Standards and Quality Improvement Plan is based on the performance indicators and reports which are regularly reviewed by the Education, Culture and Sport Service as well as Education Scotland inspection reports, attainment in national assessments and examples of good practice identified through robust approaches to self evaluation.
- 5.4 The Standards and Quality Improvement Plan shows good progress and improvement across Education, Culture and Sport Services over the period August 2012 to July 2013. Key outcomes have included:
- Career academies, science and engineering champions and a sustained focus on health and wellbeing are all contributing to significant success in schools including a high success rate in inspections for schools, increased performance in national examinations, low levels of absence and a reduction in exclusions
 - Increased cultural awareness as shown by significant increases to virtual admissions to Museums and Galleries and a hugely successful exhibitions programme, combined with the Heritage Lottery Fund support of £10m which will see Aberdeen Art Gallery and Cowdray Hall transformed into a world class cultural centre
 - Increased levels of participation in sports and physical activity with over 120,000 participants in Active Schools programmes and over 2 million attendances at sports facilities and pools
 - The launch of our Play Policy to ensure that children get the best possible start in life and that we get it right for every child
 - Partnerships such as World Book Day, Google Nexus and World Maths Day helping to improve our outcomes in literacy and numeracy
 - The Roots of Empathy programme is continuing in partnership with Action for Children. The programme underlines our commitment to early intervention and the importance of positive relationships. By encouraging empathy and respect in children we are giving them the foundations to be positive, successful adults who will pass those skills onto their own children

5.5 It also highlights what we will do next to address priority areas for future development for 2013/14 – 2015/16. The key priority areas of the Service which will improve outcomes for all our learners are:

1. Accelerate progress to improve learning outcomes for specific underperforming groups in particular Children and Young People with Additional Support Needs, Literacy and Adults

2. Improve health and wellbeing outcomes through more people being more active, more often and improved mental health and resilience

3. Improve and increase positive and sustained destinations for 14-25 year olds

4. Extend quality cultural opportunities

5.6 Our priorities reflect the national priorities set by the Scottish Government and are helping us to focus on achieving meaningful improvements for our children and young people, learners, service participants and users and communities. As part of our performance reporting framework moving forward, Elected Members can expect to receive regular reports of progress against the high level actions which the Service will undertake in order to ensure that it delivers against the four key priority areas, regular and measurable reports on our impact against outcomes, how we are responding to the needs of our service users, how we are mitigating risks and how we are delivering on our required savings.

6. IMPACT

6.1 Corporate

The measures ensure linkage to the Single Outcome Agreement, the Administration's Policy Statement – Smarter Aberdeen and the Council's Business Plan.

6.2 Public

The purpose of our Standards and Quality reporting is ultimately to secure improvements to services. Improvements in the services provided by Education, Culture and Sport impact positively on all communities across the whole of the City.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risk assessment and project management are key components of performance reporting throughout the Education, Culture and Sport Service. The identification, management and mitigation of risks is developed as part of our service planning and performance reporting and Elected Members can expect to receive regular reports against the Education, Culture and Sport Service's Risk Matrix.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1: Education, Culture and Sport Standards and Quality Improvement Plan 2012/13 & 2013/14-15/16


9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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