

## Appendix B: Education and Children's Services Directorate – Inspections, Achievements and Awards, 2012-2016

### Formal Inspection Frameworks

#### Education and Children's Services Inspections:

Provision and delivery of a substantive part of the Directorate's work is constantly quality assured through national systems of self, peer and statutory evaluation. This framework is supported and supplemented by evidence of awards and recognition of the contributions of the Directorate against other national, regional and local quality schemes, as noted in the body of this document.

Core to this formal inspection regime, the Joint Inspection of Children's Services in Aberdeen and continuous inspection of services by both Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate are benchmarks by which the Directorate measures and evaluates the quality of its service provision and delivery.

#### Joint Inspection of Children's Services, March 2015:

Evaluation against each of the core areas of review, against the Quality Indicators, rated 6 out of the 9 outcomes as Good with the both the outcomes against each of the 9 areas, and the overall inspection being positive.

The outcomes from the above inspection also highlighted various areas of strength and good practice being delivered by the Directorate, and Council, in partnership with other providers:

#### Strengths:

*'In the course of the inspection we identified a number of particular strengths which were making a positive difference for children and young people in the Aberdeen City Community Partnership area. These were:*

- *Supporting pregnant women, including those who were vulnerable, and ensuring that new born and young babies get the best possible start in life.*
- *Empowering children and their families to understand what services were available and would best meet their needs through the provision of easily accessible, up to date, high quality information.*
- *Recognising and responding promptly and electively to immediate concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or abuse.*
- *Ensuring there are sufficient opportunities for children and young people to express their views about service developments and important issues in their lives.*

#### Good Practice Examples:

*In each inspection we ask partners to nominate some examples of good practice which can be shown to have a positive impact on the lives of children, young people and families. During the inspection, we assess these examples to identify those which we consider would be useful to community planning partnerships across Scotland.*

*We commend the following examples:*

*Innovative approach to the implementation of GIRFEC*

*Hanover Street Primary School was a very good example of “GIRFEC in action”. The school was taking a whole school approach to help identify children’s concerns or worries. They used questionnaires, tailored to each age group, to explore well-being indicators with all children.*

*Information was discussed and plotted on a Wellbeing Wheel for individual children, transferred on to a one page, colour coded, summary for the class and then collated for the entire school. The results informed the school development plan and in turn children were part of child led working groups addressing issues they had identified.*

*City of Play*

*The City of Play project was working effectively to ensure that children in Aberdeen City were empowered to play, were encouraged to direct and define their own play spaces and have access to high quality play opportunities and resources.*

*The foundation for this was the implementation of the Aberdeen Play Forum comprehensive play policy launched in 2013 and based around Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 32 recognises that every child has the right to rest and play and to have the chance to join in a wide range of activities. Considerable investment had been made to improve play areas around the city. Innovative approaches to play had been adopted and there was evidence that a joined-up approach from staff, effective community engagement and an understanding of the importance of play was benefitting children. Take up of service had increased significantly.*

*Attachment in Aberdeen City*

*The Integrated Children’s Services Board had invested time and resources to promote and roll out the practice model based on attachment theory across the partnership.*

*The premise adopted was that by improving attachment practice across the authority area and embedding the knowledge and understanding of the theory across services working with children, the quality of work with families would improve, partnership working would improve and as a result the life circumstances of vulnerable children would also subsequently be improved.*

*A significant and comprehensive training programme had been delivered and positively evaluated. Staff were very positive about the changes made to their practice and indications that this approach was beginning to improve outcomes for children and young people were very encouraging.*

Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Continuous Inspection Framework (Education):

The table below captures the four year outcomes to date of the continuous inspection framework of educational provision (Early Years, Primary and Secondary) delivered directly by the Directorate or through partner providers. The expectations, and therefore, outcomes of inspections by Education Scotland changed materially in 2013-14, in part to align with introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence. On this basis, previous year figures are not directly comparable

Table 1.

Performance Measure	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	YTD Value		
Combined positive outcomes from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections of educational provision	86.7%	90.0%	93.5%	100.0%		

At this level of combined positive inspection outcome Aberdeen City's results for 2015-16 have improved on the previous two year's figures and exceed Education Scotland's NPF Baseline + 1 year figure for Scotland (91%) which, in the absence of an official combined statistical measure at national level, acts as a credible proxy benchmark.

Drilling down further into the inspection evaluations against each 'Quality Reference Indicator', 91.7% of the areas assessed were rated as positive which is just short of the national 92% (rounded) figure based on the most recently published Baseline + 1 estimate and, as with the establishment inspection outcome itself, shows improvement against both the 2013-14 and 2014-15 outcomes.

At the most recent snapshot point (30th September 2016), the Directorate, and partner providers, were recording a 100% positive inspection outcome against 2016-17.

Care Inspectorate:

The Care Inspectorate recently completed their annual inspection of the Adoption and Fostering Service. Feedback from the Care Inspectorate indicated their intention to award the Service grades of either Good or Very Good against the Quality Indicators.

Aberdeen City Council Childcare Services has seen a significant improvement in the proportion of positive Care Inspectorate reports (achieving a quality score in each indicator of satisfactory or above) from 35% in 2011-12\* to 100% in 2015-16\*. The greatest improvements have been in the quality of both the Environment and Staffing

- These figures reflect the standard academic year measures rather than fiscal year outcomes reported in the Statutory Performance Indicator Report considered at November 2016 Committee

#### Audit Scotland:

In the context of the Accounts Commission's 2014 report on Scottish Education, the Directorate's 'Keeping in Touch' framework was recognised by Audit Scotland as an area of best practice in terms of how identification of support need and the allocation of resource to schools is being targeted.

#### **Achievements**

This section summarises a proportion of the Directorate's achievements over the course of 2012-16 and is reflective of the on-going work that will be delivered through to year's end and into the future.

#### Attainment and Achievement

- Delivery of improving trends in pupil attainment and achievement, including material signs of a closing of the outcome gap
- Raised standards of inspection outcomes within education establishments over 4 years.
- Development, and introduction of, new and improved services for families in the four 'Attainment Challenge' schools to support parents to support their children's
- Instigation of new quality assurance procedures in schools including evaluation of level of support each school receives over the school session
- Curriculum for Excellence implemented in all schools in 2013-14 with final phase concluded in 2015-16.
- Evaluation of efficacy of Quality Improvement Team's impact upon improving outcomes for learners
- Successful pilots completed for the commissioned work model supporting specific aspects of poor attainment and identified curricular areas.
- Successful introduction of 'Reflective Reading' to support learning and teaching in literacy.
- Scots Language Working Group established in partnership with Education Scotland
- Preparation for and launch of Strategic Community Learning and Development (CLP) Plan in 2015 in partnership with internal and external providers
- Implementing UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award programme teaching children and adults about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Aberdeen Guarantees , launched in September 2014, now has over 450 business supporting young people with placements
- Expansion, and increasing recognition, of the Aberdeen Learning Festival's role in supporting educational learning

### Inclusion:

- Establishment of the Inclusion Service to take forward the recommendations of the 2014 Inclusion Review, providing advice, guidance and professional learning opportunities to schools to support the inclusion and development of children with a wide range of additional support/wellbeing needs, both in mainstream and our specialist provisions.
- Step Change partnership improves outcomes for young people at risk of or involved in offending in Aberdeen
- Appointment of a 'Virtual School Headteacher' provision to materially support and offer oversight of the educational outcomes for disadvantaged children

### Culture:

- Support of delivery against the City's 2012-15 Cultural Strategy, Vibrant Aberdeen, and development of it's replacement.
- Completion of the Root and Branch Review of External Funding and implementation of recommendations
- Big Noise Torry launched in April 2016 and Big Noise Team now embarked on first full academic year programme of work with Torry schools
- Expansion of the City's cultural programming
- Roll-out of digital and technology platforms in support of Library and Museums accessibility

### Engagement- Early Years:

- 'Me 2' - early learning and childcare service for eligible 2 year olds established and embedded within Early Years provision
- Expansion of early learning and childcare places in local authority and partner provider nurseries to meet increased demand
- Delivery of progress in the City against the objectives of the Early Years Collaborative programmes.
- The introduction of a Participation Strategy for Integrated Children's Services, assisting children and young people and families through policy, planning and service developments

### Reclaiming Social Work:

- Progressive implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work Model
- Delivering a review of the care commissioning framework
- Established, and taking forwards, the Review of Residential Childcare
- Introduction of the Permanence And Care Programme (PACE)
- The creation of Internship and Apprenticeship employment opportunities, via Family Firm, reinforcing Aberdeen City Council's commitment to creating and developing training, work experience and employment opportunities for looked after young people and care leavers

### **On- Going Awards:**

The list of awards received by the Directorate, and its education establishments over the period includes:

#### PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark):

Aberdeen City schools have had increasing success in gaining PSQM Awards and more recently, we have gained two Gold Awards, four Silver Awards and three Bronze Awards.

Our new cohort has 18 schools working towards awards – mainly schools who are now working towards a higher level of award. This means that 45 of our 47 schools either hold, or are working towards, one or more awards.

#### UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award:

In Aberdeen City, there are currently 29 schools registered with the RRSa. Collectively our schools have achieved the following awards:

- Recognition of Commitment - 6
- Level 1 Award - 2
- Level 2 Award – 2

#### Eco-Schools Award:

The aim of the Eco-Schools programme is to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school for both pupils and staff and to engage the wider community. There are three levels of award – Bronze, Silver and Green.

61 out of our 64 schools are registered eco-schools (47 Primary; 11 Secondary; 3 Special). A total of 27 Green flags were awarded – 13 schools received their first green flag award, 9 their second, 4 their third and 1 their fourth. 40 Schools have achieved silver status.

#### Fairtrade Schools:

A number of schools have received the Fair Active and Fair Aware Awards for their commitment to Fairtrade. The Fair Aware Award has been received by Ashley Road and Glashieburn Primary. The Fair Active Award has been received by St Joseph's RC Primary School.

## **Project Awards and Accreditations:**

### 2016-17

- In 2016, Aberdeen City Libraries became the first library service in Scotland to gain the Volunteer Friendly Award as part of a combined City cultural submission. The Award recognises organisations who lead best practice in volunteering and we are the first library service in Scotland to receive the award.

### 2015-16

- Hazlehead Academy was awarded the Literacy Across Learning Award at the Scottish Education Awards 2015.
- The Library and Information Service were presented with a Silver Marketing Excellence Award by the Publicity and Public Relations Group (PPRG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).
- Aberdeen Digital Data Observatory received an Outstanding Achievement Award through the national Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Certificate of Excellence
- The SPECTRA Festival of Light event achieved recognition at the 2016 Drum Scottish Event Awards as Scottish Festival of the Year.
- The PACE (Permanence and Care) programme in Aberdeen was recognised on a national level when, along with Aberdeenshire, it won a Herald Society Award in November 2016.

### 2014-15

- Grade A are a peer education group in the City who deliver drugs education sessions to school and community groups in Aberdeen. Grade A were finalists in the 2014 National Young Scot Awards and they were invited to an Awards Ceremony in Glasgow, where they reached the final three, and were selected by STAND (Scotland Tackling Alcohol and Drugs) as a finalist for the National Stand Awards held in Edinburgh in June 2014.

### 2013-14

- Aberdeen Play Forum was awarded the 2014 Playwork in Other Contexts Award at the Annual Playwork Awards for their development work at Clinterty.
- The Walking Group, a joint initiative between NHS Grampian Royal Cornhill Hospital and the Healthy Minds Team were awarded a GRAFTA at the annual awards in October 2013 for 'Partnership in Practice'

### 2012-13

- Aberdeen City's Family Information Service was the first in Scotland to achieve the Families First Award. This is a national quality award from the National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS)

- The Educational Psychology Service was accredited for the purposes of training educational psychologists by the Scottish Division of Educational Psychology Training Committee (SDEPTC) until February 2018. The Service was commended for a range of strengths including the clarity of their induction policy, the inclusion of all members of staff.

**Recognition:**

Children and Young People Awards:

Given the relatively limited national awards framework covering the work of the Directorate, the City introduced the Children and Young People Awards to recognise, at a local level, the achievement of our young people and the professionals who support them. The following captures a sample of projects and school establishments that have been recognised over the past four years through the various awards categories.

**2012-13**

Business Links Award	Oldmachar Academy / Sparrows Energy
City of Culture 2017 Award	The Reading Bus
Enterprising Young People Award	Kincorth Academy - Young Déjà Vu
Global Citizenship Award	Harlaw Academy - Team Rwanda
ICT Award	Hazlehead Academy - 'Energenious' Eco Group
Integrated Working Award	Project Fit
Opportunities for All Award	St Machar Academy in Partnership with the Outward Bound Trust
Positive Ethos Award	Cordyce School
Raising Achievement Award	The CPD's (Cummings Park Drivers)
Sandra Burnett Award for Environmental Awareness	Hanover Street - Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 Classes
The Baillie John Porter Award 2013	Bramble Brae School
The Schools Award	Riverbank School

**2013-14**

Business Links Award	Northfield Academy & Balfour Beatty
Aberdeen A City of Culture Award	The CPD's
Enterprising Young People Award	Riverbank School - The Smoothie Group
Global Citizenship Award	Riverbank School - The Big Knit
Healthy Living Award	The 'Know More' Project
ICT Award	Riverbank School - Primary 1C
Integrated Working Award	Aberdeen Streetwork Project
Positive Ethos Award	St Machar Academy - Secondary 3
Sandra Burnett Award for Environmental Awareness	Hazlewood School Eco Committee
The Baillie John Porter Award 2014	Holy Family Roman Catholic School
The Schools Award	Sunnybank School

**2014-15**

Business Links Award	Girls GetSET Team and GE Oil & Gas
Enterprising Young People Award	Hanover Street School – Primary 1
Global Citizenship Award	Hazlehead Primary School – Primary 5,6 and 7
Healthy Living Award	St Machar Academy - The Alliance Group
ICT Award	Middleton Park School
Integrated Working Award	Aberdeen Guarantees Project Management Team
Physical Achievement Award	Cults Academy - Under 15's Girls Football Team
Raising Achievement Award	Hazlehead Academy - Faculty of English & Literacy
Sandra Burnett Award for Environmental Awareness	Northfield Academy - Eco Group
The Baillie John Porter Award 2015	Bramble Brae School
The Schools Award	Braehead School
The Community Learning Award	The Woodside Juniors Volunteers
Working in the Community Award	Hazlehead Primary School

## 2015-16

Aberdeen Guarantees Award	Positive Transitions Programme - SHMU
Creative Learning Award	Middleton Park School
Developing the Young Workforce Award	Hazlehead Academy / Subsea 7
Health and Wellbeing Award	Stoneywood School
Learning for Sustainability Award	Riverbank School
Learning Through Technology Award	Hazlewood School/Learning Technologies Team
Parental Engagement Award	Clinterty Project
Partnership Working Award	Northfield Academy / Youth Work in Schools Team/Cummings Park Centre
Promoting Inclusion Award	Stoneywood School – Primary 5/6
Sandra Burnett Award for Environmental Awareness	Hanover Street School - Primary 4E
The Schools Award	Middleton Park School

Over the course of 2012-2016, the Directorate has been well represented in nominations for the Aberdeen City Council awards and other internal recognition programmes: Every year there are examples of teams who achieve excellence in what they do. These represent a small number of the highlights:

### 2012-13 Star Awards

- CPD/Schools: Customer focus and outstanding leadership of the team that organised the first ever Aberdeen Learning Festival in February 2013
- Pre-School ASN Services: This team established a new service for children with severe and complex additional support needs. The team have been praised by children's families for providing excellent support
- Lifelong Learning Team and Arts Development: This team became the first Local Authority SQA approved centre to deliver a Volunteering Skills Award in Scotland

### 2013-14 Star Awards

- A Special Award was presented to the team of 150 officers, from a range of services, which helped turn the mothballed Braeside School into a fully functioning school in a matter of days to accommodate children affected by the sudden closure of Hamilton School.

### 2014-15 Star Awards

Three individual Directorate employees, including the Deputy Headteacher at Danestone School, Manager at the Beach Ballroom and School Administrator at St Peters School were in receipt of Star Awards with a number of other employees and teams being short-listed in this year.

### 2015-16 Star Awards

- Library Promotions and Events & Programming Working Groups made it through to the final 3 in the Shaping Aberdeen Culture Award.

### **ALEO Partners:**

#### Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen Sports Village:

QUEST Quality Assessment Scheme:

Both of the Council's main sport and physical activity ALEO partners have now gained recognition under the national QUEST quality assessment scheme for facility based delivery and operations and, related to this, have been in receipt of a variety of additional national awards relating to particular aspects of the services provided to customers (e.g. Aberdeen Sports Village – National Fitness Awards 2014 and 2015) or have been successfully assessed against industry operational benchmark schemes.

#### Aberdeen Performing Arts:

Investing in People Awards attained in 2014 and 2016

