

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	16 th November 2017
TITLE OF REPORT	Education and Children's Services Directorate Performance Improvement Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/059
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with:

- (a) A briefing paper in respect of the first release Insight data relating to the 2017 SQA examination diet, and:
- (b) A summary of the Education and Children's Services (E&CS) Directorate performance improvement measures and outcome data from 1st April up to and including 30th June 2017

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- (a) Acknowledge the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff which has resulted in continued progress and successes in 2017, as reflected in the report content; and otherwise
- (b) Note the content of the report.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The performance report draws an effective reporting line under the 2016-17 ECS Directorate Business Plan and reflects forwards, through continuing core and strategic metrics, to the improvement outcomes captured in the 2017-18 Directorate Improvement Plan which was presented to this Committee in June.
- 3.2 Appendix A captures first release data, benchmarked through the national Insight comparator tool, against senior phase attainment and achievement outcomes from the 2017 SQA examination diet.

- 3.3 N.B. Members may wish to note that, in September, the Directorate provided a Service Update in regards to wider SQA data from this diet, which is available in the Committee Library. [2017 SQA Data Service Update](#)
- 3.4 The detail contained within Appendix B relates to a core selection of Improvement Indicators, reflecting outcomes aligned with the Education and Children's Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18, along with Directorate performance measures linking to Shaping Aberdeen themes.
- 3.5 Appendix C provides drill-down narrative and comparative tables relating to the above improvement indicators and measures (where identified in Appendix B)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Consistency and transparency of performance reporting to Elected Members, and in the public domain, forms part of the Directorate's approach to risk mitigation through enhancing scrutiny of, and accountability against, the delivery of services to the community.
- 6.2 The report identifies areas of performance improvement which are aligned to the delivery of Directorate priorities. This delivery is subject to the assessment and management of risk identified below:

Risk Mitigation Assessment

6.2.1 Financial Resources

Proper reporting of performance information provides assurance to Elected Members, and the public, that the Directorate is managing its resources efficiently in order to deliver its commitments and service improvements as effectively as possible.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.2 Employees

The report contains information relating to the Directorate commitment to improving the staff experience.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.3 Customers / Citizens / Stakeholders

The report contains information to support our commitment to improving customer experience, as well as delivering outcome improvement in accordance with our strategic priorities. The report also provides our other stakeholders, including partners and Government agencies, with evidence on the rate of progress.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.4 Environment

Risk Level: No risks have been identified against this theme

Reputation

The Council's reputation could be at risk of damage if timely, relevant information on the management of resources and the delivery of service improvement is not adequately reported. This report mitigates that risk.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.5 Legal

(i) Public Performance Reporting

Public performance reporting is a statutory duty placed on local authorities. This report therefore serves to mitigate the risk that this duty is not met.

Risk Level: Low

(ii) Duty of Due Regard

From August 1st 2017, all Education Authorities must consider and evidence how strategic decisions will help to reduce the poverty related attainment gap.

This legal duty is demonstrated through consultation, and the analysis of available evidence. In effect, the duty requires that education authorities continually consider whether they can do more to help those pupils impacted by socio-economic disadvantage to achieve equality of outcome and to give due weight to the outcome of those considerations when delivering school education.

Through the provision, analysis and reporting of comparative detail of the current, and historical, attainment outcomes of children and young people across all SIMD deciles, the report supports the 'arrangements for monitoring the standards and quality of school education in a given area'.

This information also assists the Directorate in ‘the identification of improvement activity designed to raise standards and address known challenges across an education authority area’, such as those priorities set out in the National Improvement Framework, and Directorate Improvement Plan.

Risk Level: Low

7. IMPACT SECTION

- 7.1 The outcomes and measures contained within this Report are materially aligned, through the ECS Directorate Improvement Plan, with the strategic improvement themes from the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026, and Aberdeen City Council Strategic Business Plan, 2017-18 Refresh.

This latter document, was reviewed to encapsulate the Council’s policy statement for 2017-2022, ‘Stronger Together - Prosperity for Aberdeen, and presented at the Council meeting of 11th October 2017.

Performance measures relating to the Directorate’s delivery of Service are linked directly to the respective ‘Shaping Aberdeen’ impacts.

- Improving Customer Experience
- Improving Staff Experience
- Improving our Use of Resources

7.2 Economy

The Directorate takes cognisance of the positive impact that effective delivery of its services can impart to the Council and the Community in terms of transforming its provision and facilitating greater access to the benefits of economic stability and employment for those the Directorate supports.

7.3 People

The Directorate is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen, with a specific focus on our children and young people, taking cognisance of the importance of promoting equality and diversity as a foundation for improvement.

Within the report, this is recognised in terms of the Directorate’s focus on:

- increased access to, and quality within, childcare and education settings, providing our children with the best start in life.
- enhancing the employment outcomes for our young people.

- providing enhanced and sustained support of children, young people and families from communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage through improving educational outcomes and experiences
- offering encouragement, support and protection for our most vulnerable children and young people.

The report is designed for information purposes only and no Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been prepared.

7.4 Place

The report identifies outcomes which contribute to an enhanced sense of place by improving personal resilience, protecting individuals and the community from harm, and enabling citizens to both understand and contribute to their communities.

Alongside the direct 'intervention and education' role that the Directorate delivers, the report content evidences that the Directorate is improving the experience of the City's residents and visitors through enhanced recreational and cultural provision.

7.5 Technology

The Directorate, through its Improvement Plan, recognises that technology is central to innovative, integrated and transformed public services.

In this context, the Directorate has a direct role to play in the application of technology and also in terms of developing the future skills infrastructure necessary to engage with, and support use of, technology both in the workplace, and as a means of increasing public access to services

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026

ACC Strategic Business Plan Update, 11th October 2017

Education and Children's Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18

Education and Children's Services Directorate Health and Safety Improvement Plan 2017-18

Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as amended by Part 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016

9. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Aberdeen City 2017 Insight Briefing

Appendix B: Directorate Improvement Report Scorecard, Quarter 1, 2017

Appendix C: Directorate Improvement Report Trendcharts, Quarter 1, 2017

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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