

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education Operational Delivery Committee
DATE	25 November 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Academies of Nashville Study Visit
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/21/299
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Eleanor Sheppard
REPORT AUTHOR	Eleanor Sheppard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	General Delegation 5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks permission for education staff to participate in an all-expenses paid Academies of Nashville Study Visit.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 2.1 note the content of this report; and
- 2.2 approve the involvement of 13 members of staff in the Academies of Nashville Study Visit subject to Public Health guidance in place as of March 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As reported to Committee on 23rd September 2021, Excelerate is an investment in empowering transformational system change in education, drawing upon international systems of innovative learning and teaching.
- 3.2 The programme places partnerships at the heart of education, creating a collective sense of responsibility to prepare our young people for the world of work and is fully funded by The Wood Foundation.
- 3.3 Excelerate aims to better realise the potential of Curriculum for Excellence, improving young people's preparedness for work through skills-focussed, contextualised learning approaches.
- 3.4 Professional learning and collaboration are key tenets of the Excelerate network and underpin its foundations and informs ongoing success.
- 3.5 The Wood Foundation invests in teachers to empower them to develop and deliver a curriculum that is fit for now and the future; to nurture young people, build their skills, and provide them with experiences that will motivate and engage.
- 3.6 Four secondary schools are currently engaging in the Excelerate Programme:
- St Machar Academy

- Oldmachar Academy
- Bucksburn Academy
- Harlaw Academy

The programme formally began in September 2021 with an initial focus on oracy across the curriculum.

- 3.7 A key element of the programme is an Academies of Nashville Study Visit which is offered to three members of each Excelerate School and a member of the central education team. The Visit is designed to help staff explore the different delivery models in operation in Nashville to inform planning at Local Authority and school level.
- 3.8 The Wood Foundation propose to lead the Academies of Nashville Study Visit for a week from 7th March 2022. Permission is sought for 13 members of staff (12 from secondary schools and one member of the central team) to participate in the Study Visit subject to Public Health Guidance.
- 3.9 Elected Member approval will enable the Wood Foundation to progress planning.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications from this report. The cost of travel and accommodation and costs associating with organising the Study Visit will be covered by The Wood Foundation. All cover costs will be met from existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Standards In Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000 places an obligation on Local Authorities to secure improvement in all schools.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Risk of the senior phase in secondary schools not innovatively meeting the needs of young people	L	The finding of the Study Visit will be shared with all secondary leadership teams and used to inform service planning.
Compliance	Failure to comply with Public Health guidance could present a risk to staff	L	The Chief Education Officer will review Public Health guidance prior to 7 th March 2022.
Operational	Potential for the 4 schools to experience staffing shortages during the Study Visit.	L	Arrangements will be put in place to mitigate this risk in each school.

Financial	NA		
Reputational	NA		
Environment / Climate	NA		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>			
			Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement			
Commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners in the city.			The provision of high quality education can help to close the attainment gap and outcome gap for those living in poverty.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan			
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes			Ensuring a high quality curriculum and provision of flexible pathways will contribute towards an increase in employment.
Prosperous Outcomes	People	Stretch	Working with partners to develop a senior phase offer that meets the needs of all learners will help to support our young people into positive sustainable destinations
Prosperous Outcomes	Place	Stretch	Underpinning the work of all schools in Aberdeen City is achieving excellence and equity for all.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes			<p>The Education (Scotland) Act 1980</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Duty to provide adequate and efficient education for our area. <p>The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Duties with regard to meeting the needs of children and young people with additional support needs. <p>The Equality Act 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Duty to ensure we are not discriminating disabled learners <p>The Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Raising standards · Requirement that education be provided in mainstream schools The National Improvement Framework · Education Authorities are under a duty to endeavour to secure improvement in the

	quality of education of school education which is provided in the schools managed by them and to carry out the duty with a view to achieving the strategic priorities set out in the National Improvement Framework
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8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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