
Report to **Education, Sport and Leisure Committee**

Date of Meeting: **Thursday 11th June 2015**

Subject: **Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire**

Report by: **Head of Education**

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a briefing to the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee on the Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire.
- 1.2. The paper provides an overview of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and outlines how this will be taken forward in Clackmannanshire.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee agree to note and comment on the Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 Scottish Attainment Challenge

The Scottish Attainment Challenge, supported by the Attainment Scotland Fund, provides £100 million over 4 years from 2015/16 to drive forward improvements in educational outcomes.

The Challenge will focus on primary schools and target improvements in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. It will build on, and complement, existing activity to address the gap in educational attainment between our most and least advantaged communities.

Seven local authority areas, which includes Clackmannanshire, are the first beneficiaries of the Attainment Fund. These areas were selected as the local authorities with the highest concentrations of primary pupils in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) deciles 1 and 2.

3.2 Aims of the Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire

The Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire aims to improve educational outcomes for all our children and young people. It seeks to:

- Raise attainment for each child to enable them to make excellent progress in their learning and develop the skills and ambitions to improve their life chances. It

aims to promote a breadth of attainment and achievement, consistently for all our children and young people.

- Close the gap in attainment and achievement between children from the most and least advantaged backgrounds. The Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire will target support to pupils and schools in deprived communities.

3.3 Approach of the Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire

The Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire will be ambitious for every child and young person. It will build on the success of our schools in raising attainment and adopt approaches to enable our schools to be continuously self-improving. It will:

- Encourage collaboration where our schools work in partnerships to drive forward improvement and where Clackmannanshire works with other local authorities to share information and ideas and develop best practice.
- Build and strengthen effective partnership working between teachers, schools, pupils, parents, communities, employers and a range of other partners within Clackmannanshire and further afield.
- Support innovation with a clear focus on raising attainment, drawing on national and international research, literature and practice and utilising specialist advisors and wide professional expertise.
- Build capacity in our schools to ensure that improvements are sustainable for the future.

3.4 Key Areas for Improvement

The Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire will focus on improving literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in our primary schools and will have firm foundations within Curriculum for Excellence. Key areas for improvement have been identified that will be crucial to achieving the aims of the Challenge:

- **Enabled Leadership**
We aim to create a culture of strong collaborative leadership in all Clackmannanshire schools to raise attainment, reduce inequity and ensure continuous school improvement.
- **Literacy and Numeracy Rich Learning**
We aim to create literacy and numeracy rich learning through transformational learning and teaching for all children in Clackmannanshire, embedded within Curriculum for Excellence.
- **Flourishing communities**
We aim to embed a strong nurturing ethos for all our children, families, schools and communities across Clackmannanshire.
- **Innovation Hub**
We aim to inspire, challenge and engage children in Clackmannanshire in rich and rewarding learning experiences that will equip them with skills for learning, life and work.

Across these key areas for improvement, the Attainment Challenge aims to develop and use a range of data to enable effective planning for interventions and critical

analysis of impact and success. It aims to ensure children and young people have a strong voice and are central to decisions which affect their education.

More information will be provided on the key areas for improvement in a presentation at the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee.

3.4.1 Next Steps

An Improvement Plan has been submitted to Scottish Government who will meet with the Education Service to discuss plans, resources and ongoing monitoring. Teams from the Education Service are drawing up detailed action plans to guide key interventions in Year 1. Schools are identifying how they will work together to take forward the Challenge.

Once funding has been finalised, further steps will be taken to implement the Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire. Scottish Government and Education Scotland will take a key role in supporting the Attainment Challenge. A team of Attainment Advisors is being appointed to work collaboratively alongside local authority staff to support the Attainment Challenge across Scotland.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. The paper has no sustainability implications.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. The paper has potential resource implications.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Not applicable

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations? Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes No

10.0 Appendices


11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)
Yes (please list the documents below) No

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