
Report to **Attainment and Improvement Sub-Committee**

Date of Meeting: **20 April 2016**

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 Attainment and Improvement Sub-Committee on the Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire.

The paper provides an overview of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and outlines how this is being taken forward in Clackmannanshire.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Attainment and Improvement Sub-Committee agree:-

- 2.1. To note and comment on the Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The 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 Scottish Attainment Challenge aims to raise the attainment of children and young people living in disadvantaged communities in order to close the equity gap. The focus is on primary schools and targets improvements in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

At this time, there are three aspects within the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Seven local authority areas have been identified as 'Challenge Authorities' and were the first beneficiaries of the Attainment Scotland Fund. The authorities are Clackmannanshire, Dundee, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. These areas were selected as the local authorities with the largest concentrations of primary-aged pupils living in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) deciles 1 and 2.

The second element of the Scottish Attainment Challenge is the 'Schools Programme' and fifty-seven primary schools across Scotland that have significant proportions of their pupils living in SIMD deciles 1 and 2 have been selected. These 57 schools are out with the Challenge Authorities.

The third aspect is a universal offer to all schools across Scotland. This includes access to an Attainment Advisor in each local authority and the development of a national hub as a virtual centre of educational expertise. Recently, the Innovation Fund was launched and schools can apply for funding to run projects. The Innovation Fund is open to all publicly funded primary, secondary and special schools in Scotland which are not already benefitting from the Attainment Scotland Fund.

3.2 Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire

A Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire Improvement Plan was developed in May 2015 (Appendix 1). This involved close analysis of data and context and consultation and working with headteachers and officers. The plan was submitted to Scottish Government and was received very positively with an allocation of £718,109 awarded for Year 1 (financial year).

The plan identifies the aims of the Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire. These are 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.
- Close the gap in attainment and achievement between children from the most and least advantaged backgrounds.

Three key areas for improvement were established as crucial to achieving the aims of the Challenge in Clackmannanshire. These are:

- **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.

3.3 Progress and Impact

From August 2015 an Attainment Challenge Team (ACTeam) was established to lead and support the Challenge across Clackmannanshire. The ACTeam is working closely with headteachers and schools to implement universal and targeted interventions. The focus is on primary schools, however, nurseries, secondaries and ASN are involved. The ACTeam and schools are also working with a range of officers and teams within Clackmannanshire to implement the Challenge. This includes Educational Psychology, Community Learning & Development and Sports' Development. Work is currently underway to see how this partnership working can be extended to other agencies such as Social Work and Forth Valley College. Meetings have been held with health professionals and Third Sector and this will be progressed for Year 2 as part of our Flourishing Communities' plan.

The approach to implementation of the Clackmannanshire Attainment Challenge Improvement Plan has been thorough and rigorous and there is evidence of clear progress and early impact. Examples of progress and impact are provided in Appendix 2.

The aims, intended outcomes and progress of the Attainment Challenge have been communicated with headteachers, teachers, pupils and parents through a range of methods such as meetings, leaflets, newsletters, Twitter and Glow groups. Presentations have been provided for teams and partners and this includes teams such as Community Learning and Development, Parent Councils and community groups. Appendix 3 provides an overview of communication with stakeholders. A Communication Strategy has been produced, recognising the importance of ensuring all across Clackmannanshire understand and are committed to the Challenge.

A Management Group oversees the progress and impact of the Challenge in Clackmannanshire. The group is chaired by a Senior Manager from the Education Service. The Group meets quarterly and a written progress report is provided. This is then shared with all Learning Communities and headteachers. There are also regular meetings with the Finance Team and procedures have been established for the management of funding.

A progress report is provided to Scottish Government at a quarterly meeting and there is extensive discussion around implementation of the plan and next steps. These meetings have been helpful and positive. The written reports to Scottish Government are provided in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.

Initial connections with other Challenge Authorities are being developed with a view to sharing success and learning.

3.4 Expenditure of Grant

A total agreed grant for 2015/ 16 is £718,109.

The grant claimed in in Quarter 2 (July - September 2015) was £21,974. This claim was small as spending did not begin until the new school session in August 2015. The grant claimed for Quarter 3 (October - December 2015) was £243,460 and the projected spend for Quarter 4 (January – March 2016) is £205,985.

Therefore, the projected grant claim for 2015/16 is £471,419. An underspend of £246,690 is projected and discussions with Scottish Government have indicated that we will be able to carry this forward. The underspend relates to various aspects of the Challenge, however, difficulties recruiting staff is a significant factor.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. The paper has no sustainability implications.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. The paper has no 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 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

10.1 Appendix 1: Scottish Attainment Challenge in Clackmannanshire 2015, Improvement Plan

10.2 Appendix 2: Examples of Progress and Impact, February 2016

10.3 Appendix 3: Overview of Communication, February 2016

10.4 Appendix 4: Progress Report, July – September 2015

10.5 Appendix 5: Progress Report, October – December 2015

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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