
Report to Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 10 July 2020

Subject: Chief Education Officer Update: Local Phasing Plan

Report by: Lorraine Sanda, Chief Education Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The following report presents the updated information on the Education Service Local Phasing Plan as required by the Scottish Government Advice note of 28 May 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Clackmannanshire Council
1. Notes the preparations which have been undertaken to date on the Education Service Local Phasing Plan (“the Plan”) for the return of schools in August;
 2. Provides comment on the approach to developing the Plan as set out in this report;
 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Education Officer to finalise the Plan and notes that this will require the Education Service to continue to respond quickly to emerging health and safety advice, and Scottish Government directives in relation to the safe opening of schools in August.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 Following the Advice from the Scottish Government on 28 May, the Education Service worked alongside schools, early learning establishments, parents, young people, unions and staff to develop plans for safe opening of schools in August. In order to meet the social distancing requirements, and health and safety advice, risk assessments and capacity assessments were carried out in all schools. Individual school plans were developed which allow for children and young people to return to school on 12 August with a mix of blended learning and face to face teaching. It was expected that for the vast majority of children, this would involve 50% of time back in school. The use of outdoors, and other additional spaces to support contingency arrangements are being considered.
- 3.2 On Tuesday 23 June, the Deputy First Minister announced that the Government’s ambition was for a full return (100%) for all children in August providing this was supported by up to date health advice. All Clackmannanshire parents were informed of this change by letter on 24

June. They were also provided with more detailed advice from their own school about arrangements for their children.

- 3.3 Scottish Government continues to review the health situation carefully and has indicated that it will provide further advice for the education system on 30 July. This is likely to include measures to mitigate the risk of spreading infection, including advice for staff on social distancing in schools, hygiene and cleaning, the use of face masks, track and trace, and testing for staff.
- 3.4 The Education Service is continuing to plan for a 100% return from 12 August. The final arrangements will be informed by Scottish Government guidance and are likely to include a phasing in over the first few days to ensure a smooth and safe return for staff and pupils. Contingency plans will be put in place at short notice as required.
- 3.5 A separate paper will be brought forward on Early Learning and Childcare, reflecting the latest Scottish Government guidance, and any subsequent update on 30 July.
- 3.6 Up to date risk assessments will be carried out in all establishments. Review of staff availability is underway, with additional staffing being sought from Education Scotland, GTCS, Supply Lists and probationary teachers who may not yet have employment.
- 3.7 Transport plans are being developed and further guidance on social distancing of young people on transport is expected from Scottish Government. Active Travel Plans are being explored, along with Park and Stride facilities around the most congested schools.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1 Additional funding from Scottish Government has been requested, including for staffing, digital inclusion, outdoor learning and attainment catch up arrangements.
- 5.2 Any additional budget provision above that already approved or funded via Scottish Government will be brought to Council for approval.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes No

7.0 Declarations

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

(1) Our Priorities

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all



- Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life
- Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential
- Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(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 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes No

10.0 Appendices

None

11.0 Background Papers

Scottish Government Advice and Guidance, Coronavirus (COVID-19): re-opening schools guide, 28 May 2020.

Author(s)

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Approved by

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