
To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 21 January 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: The Scottish Attainment Challenge

1. Summary

- 1.1. Renfrewshire Council is committed to ensuring all our children get the best start in life and are able to achieve and attain to the highest level. The early years strategy and tackling poverty recommendations demonstrate this commitment through the significant investment made in each of these areas. Very good progress is being made as exemplified by the recent publication of the Glasgow University evaluation of Families First.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to highlight the provision of additional resources which will compliment the work already being effectively implemented across all Renfrewshire schools.
- 1.3. The Scottish Attainment Challenge was announced by the Scottish Government on 2 February 2015. The Challenge will be backed by an Attainment Scotland Fund of £100 million over four years to drive forward improvements on educational outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.
- 1.4. The first tranche of funding will see a total of £20 million made available in 2015/16 to support children and young people in a number of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities to achieve their potential. In July 2015 seven local authorities were confirmed to receive this first allocation.
- 1.5. Each of the participating local authorities in the fund are developing a bespoke Improvement Plan and will be provided with the support of educational and improvement experts, including a dedicated Attainment Advisor and access to evidence and research through Education Scotland and academics' work. The fund will allow for substantial financial support for each participating local authority to put in place effective interventions.
- 1.6. Scottish Government announced in August 2015 that a further 57 schools are to receive funding from the £100 million Attainment Scotland Fund to improve literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for primary school pupils. Five of these schools are in Renfrewshire.

- 1.7. The selection of schools to receive attainment funding was based on the number of children living in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 and 2. There were extensive discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the appropriateness of the criteria being used due to the anomalies which transpired. For example, there are more children in Cochrane Castle Primary School who live in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 than there are total number of children in St David's Primary. The two schools share a campus and have similar catchment areas. However St David's was selected to receive additional funding and Cochrane Castle was not.
 - 1.8. The funding allocated to five schools in Renfrewshire is considerably smaller on a proportionate basis to local authorities in the first phase of attainment challenge funding.
 - 1.9. We also know that there are children living in poverty in all our schools and communities across Renfrewshire. On 11 January 2016 the Scottish Government announced the availability of £1.5m to be made available from the fund which other schools can apply for.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is asked to note:
 - the Scottish Government announcement of a new Scottish Attainment Challenge;
 - allocation of funding to five Renfrewshire Council schools; and
 - planned areas of school improvement and focus across the five schools identified in Renfrewshire.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Renfrewshire Council continues to implement strategies and developments which are complemented by the Scottish Attainment Challenge and builds on several existing initiatives aimed at improving educational attainment across Scotland e.g. projects within Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy, Raising Attainment for All programme, School Improvement Partnership Programme, the Access to Education Fund and the implementation of standardised assessments across all primary schools in the council.
- 3.2. The four-year Attainment Scotland Fund will be targeted initially at schools in the local authorities with the biggest concentrations of households in deprived areas. It will focus on improving literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing in primary schools in these areas, with the clear objective being to give all primary-school age pupils – regardless of background - the best start in life.
- 3.3. In an announcement in July 2015 the funding of over £11 million of the total £20 million was allocated to seven councils as the first tranche from the Scottish Government's £100 million Attainment Scotland Fund. Those councils were Glasgow, Dundee, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire and North Lanarkshire. Since February 2015, each council has developed improvement plans focused on raising attainment and identifying areas where specific improvement is needed.

School	Allocation
Glasgow	£3,030,000
North Lanarkshire	£2,241,000
Inverclyde	£592,000
Clackmannanshire	£718,109
West Dunbartonshire	£1,024,000
North Ayrshire	£1,965,000
Dundee	£2,145,000
Total	£11,715,000

- 3.4. It is the intention of the Scottish Government that the schools involved in the Scottish Attainment Challenge will benefit from greater access to expertise and resources – such as additional teachers, materials for classrooms or resource to develop new out of school activities. National and local partners will work together to identify the specific work that can be implemented successfully in classrooms and which will have a significant impact on the attainment of children from deprived communities. A bespoke improvement plan, appropriate to local circumstances, will be agreed for each school or cluster of schools. This will include an agreement to gather, in a proportionate way, the data that will be required to measure the impact of the interventions supported.
- 3.5. In August 2015, it was announced that five primary schools (with children from SIMD 1 and 2 above 70%) in Renfrewshire would receive Scottish Attainment Challenge funding. The schools identified were Glencoats, St Fergus, St Catherine's, St David's and Gallowhill.

School	% Pupils in SIMD 1&2
Glencoats Primary School	91.8%
Gallowhill Primary School	87.1%
St Fergus' Primary School	83.3%
St David's Primary School	79.7%
St Catherine's Primary School	70.9%

- 3.6. Each school will receive between £20K and £80K. This funding is over a 4 year period and planned spend will focus on improving attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in those five primary schools.
- 3.7. Each school has submitted a bespoke improvement plan to the Scottish Government. Within each plan it has been proposed that additional resources would be deployed to enhance literacy and numeracy development and parental engagement aspects of the tackling poverty actions. This includes:
- appointment of additional teachers, nursery officers and classroom assistants to enhance teacher 'time on task' with the specific aim of tailored, short –term, small group teaching in literacy and numeracy across the early level;

- appoint a community learning officer coordinator to enhance parental engagement in language development.
- develop and extend outdoor learning programmes and nurture approaches to learning;
- provide staff development in the use of standardised assessments and analysis of data; and
- provide high quality training and collaborative learning opportunities for early years teachers/ nursery officers in partnership with recognised educational experts and consultants.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The funding to schools aims to have a positive impact on closing the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better off peers. Each school is expected to receive between £20k and £80k over four years.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

Contracts for additional staff will require to be drawn up. Recruitment of additional teachers, nursery officers and classroom assistants.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People	-	All children should be able to achieve their potential and feel healthy, happy and valued, no matter how much money their parents or carers have.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	-	All children will have access to a nurturing approach across the five schools which will support their well being needs. The levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families will improve.
Empowering our Communities	-	Primary teachers, nursery officers and classroom assistants will have access to high quality staff development. Parents and communities will be engaged in activities which will support early language and numeracy development in young children.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

Recruitment of additional staff.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

Not applicable.

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Children's Services

LMcA/LG/GMcK

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The 57 schools to benefit from the Attainment Scotland Fund are:

Aberdeen City

Riverbank School, Manor Park School, Tullos School, Bramble Brae School

Argyll & Bute

Rosneath Primary School

Dumfries & Galloway

Kelloholm School

East Ayrshire

St Xavier's Primary School, Patna Primary School, Logan Primary School, Bellsbank Primary School, Hillhead Primary School, Shortlees Primary School

Edinburgh

Sighthill Primary School, St Catherine's RC Primary School, Clovenstone Primary School, St Francis' RC Primary School, Craigroyston Primary School, Niddrie Mill Primary School, Canal View Primary School, Castleview Primary School

Falkirk

Langlees Primary School

Fife

St Serf's R C Primary School, Inzievar Primary School, St Kenneth's R C Primary School, Southwood Primary School, Warout Primary & Community School, Pathhead Primary School,

Highland

Milton Primary School, Coulhill Primary School, Bishop Eden Primary School, South Primary School (Wick), Merkinch Primary School

Renfrewshire

St Catherine's Primary School, St David's Primary School, St Fergus Primary School, Gallowhill Primary School, Glencoats Primary School,

Scottish Borders

Burnfoot Community School, St Margaret's RC Primary School (Hawick)

South Ayrshire

Dalmilling Primary School, Newton Primary School, Braehead Primary School

South Lanarkshire

St Mark's Primary School (Rutherglen), James Aiton Primary School, Beckford Primary School, Carstairs Junction Primary School, Burgh Primary School, St Paul's Primary School, Auchinraith Primary School, Cathkin Primary School, Loch Primary School, Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School, Hareleeshill Primary School, Rigside Primary School

Stirling

Raploch Primary School

West Lothian

Bridgend Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School