
To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 21 January 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Modern Language Provision in Renfrewshire Schools

1. Summary

- 1.1. In May 2012 the Scottish Government published the "Language Learning in Scotland a 1+2 Approach" document, which set out 35 recommendations in relation to Language Learning across Scotland. The Scottish Government's aspiration is that all young people will learn two languages, in addition to their mother tongue.
 - 1.2. This aspiration has a significant impact on education and the model used for language acquisition in Scotland. To support this Local Authorities have developed a strategy for the delivery of 1+2 in their schools.
 - 1.3. Renfrewshire Council has been allocated £243,000 for session 2015/16 to facilitate the strategy and therefore assist the development of this new model of language acquisition.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is asked to note:
 - Renfrewshire Council's Children's Services' significant progress to date in response to the Government's commitment to introduce a 1+2 approach to modern language teaching.
 - The allocation of £243,000 provided by the Scottish Government (from the £7.2 million across Scotland) to support the development of the 1+2 approach across Renfrewshire's schools.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Government published, “Language Learning in Scotland a 1+2 approach” in May 2012. It set out its intention to, ‘...introduce a norm for language learning in schools based on the European Union 1+ 2 model and to create the conditions in which every child will learn two languages in addition to their own mother tongue.’ The Scottish Government aims to implement this approach across the lifetime of two parliaments.
- 3.2. Schools will be required to offer pupils access to an additional language from primary one and a second additional language will be offered to pupils no later than primary five. In Renfrewshire, opportunities to offer a modern foreign language in pre-school are also available.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government has committed £7.2m for financial year 2015/16, to support local authorities to start developing new approaches to delivering this enhanced language provision. Renfrewshire Council was informed by letter that the funding would be £243,000. This allocation is based on the number of pupils aged 4-14, within each local authority.
- 3.4. Renfrewshire Council has fully embraced the guidelines and recommendations as set out in Language Learning: A 1+2 Approach paper published in May 2012. A primary development officer was appointed in 2012 to drive forward the recommendations and ensure all young people have an effective and progressive modern language experience by the end of the broad general education. The development officer was a member of the Education Scotland working group that produced advice on delivering Modern Languages in the primary school, curriculum maps and assessment exemplification.
- 3.5. As part of the Renfrewshire Strategy, all primary schools were encouraged to deliver L2 (first modern language) to at least four stages this session as part of the phased approach. The bespoke training course devised in partnership with Strathclyde University continues to be extremely popular and uptake is high. Phase 1, 2 and 3 of training offered to primary (including NQT) and Pre-5 staff has been undertaken by over 600 delegates. Phase 3 is underway already this session in French, Spanish and German. Within phase 3 of the training and following evaluations of phases 1 and 2, the University of the West of Scotland delivered an additional, bespoke course to delegates from native speakers in order to build confidence with pronunciation.
- 3.6. The cross sector working parties set up since 2013 have created a framework to ensure progression and continuity across schools and this appears on the Education Scotland website as an example of planning. The working party this session is looking more closely at L3 and ASN provision. This group also monitor progress and address new developments within the recommendations.
- 3.7. A GLOW site was created to support staff in the delivery of languages following training where there is opportunity to share ideas, resources and experiences for teachers deliver modern languages.

- 3.8. The original six pilot schools have continued to implement languages from Primary 1-7. One school opting to begin delivering the L3. One of the pilot schools (Houston PS) was used by SCILT for a case study and implementation of L3. This session an additional ten schools have become pilot schools and delivering their L2 language from Primary 1-7. Two pilot projects are underway to deliver L3. One project is where a teacher delivers as a peripatetic teacher rotating around establishments. The second pilot is where blocks of language are being delivered to Primary 5, 6 and 7 over the course of a year. Pilot schools and learning conversations informed practice for this session.
- 3.9. The Lyon partnership and use of German Educational Trainees increases access to native speakers and opportunities for young people to communicate with counterparts in France and Germany. Renfrewshire has continued partnership with Lyon in France. This has now been successful for three years, with Lyon delegates visiting Renfrewshire in December 2015.
- 3.10. The cross-sector Modern Language Co-ordinator meetings have been held regularly in order to ensure all establishments have access to the most current national and local authority information.
- 3.11. A primary and secondary head teacher conference was held in September 2015 whereby head teachers worked in clusters to discuss and agree on L3 and a strategy for moving forward. Louise Glen, Senior Education Officer, Education Scotland was in attendance and offered advice and guidance. All head teachers were asked to consult with parents through the use of a presentation at the Parent Council meetings and an information leaflet.
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4. Highlights for Renfrewshire

- 4.1. Renfrewshire Council has a high profile nationally with regards to the implementation of Language Learning in Scotland a 1+2 Approach:
- Houston Primary School appeared in the SCILT magazine showcasing an Interdisciplinary approach to learning with Primary 2 children;
 - Renfrewshire Council presented at the Scottish Learning Festival in September 2014 sharing an Enterprise project with French. Janice Neilson, Louise Dunn and Primary 7 pupils represented the authority.
 - Our primary development officer presented Renfrewshire Council's progress at the National Development Officers meeting in May 2014 held in Stirling and at the National COALA meeting in June 2014.
 - A presentation evening was held in April 2015 where phase 2 of delegates all received certificates and interactive resources on completion of their course. Four schools and one Pre-5 establishment entertained with musical and dramatic performances in French and Spanish.
 - Over 600 delegates have undertaken training.

5. Next Steps for Renfrewshire

- 5.1. A working party has been established this session in order to provide planning support for L3, assessment, curriculum mapping and ASN.
 - 5.2. A third level framework planning is underway and will be led by a newly appointed secondary development officer. This will increase opportunities to include L3 within S1-3.
 - 5.3. All schools were encouraged to submit a bid for funding to enhance the modern language provision and experiences within the school. £53,000 has been allocated from the budget to facilitate this.
 - 5.4. Planned parent consultation in relation to Gaelic Medium provision across Renfrewshire in light of the Education (Scotland) Bill 2015.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The Scottish Government has committed £7.2 million to the development of 1+2 this session. Renfrewshire' allocation of this for session 2015/16 is £243,000.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers will be involved in discussion about the implementation of the 1+2 languages policy.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People

- All young people in Renfrewshire will be entitled to learn a modern language within their BGE.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

Use of GLOW site to support implementation.

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**
None.
- 11. Privacy Impact**
None.
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List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Language Learning in Scotland a 1+2 Approach
(Scottish Government, May 2012)
- (b) L3 clarification paper (Education Scotland 2014)

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is (Laura McAllister, Education Manager (Curriculum and Early Years), 01416187301, laura.mcallister@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Children's Services

LMcA/LGJ

19 November 2015

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