

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE21 January 2021Report by Director of EducationDRAFT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021 - 2024**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to seek elected member approval for the Education Department's draft local improvement plan 2021 - 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Elected members are asked to approve the attached draft local improvement plan 2021 – 2024.

BACKGROUND

3. Members will be aware of the previous Local Improvement Plan 2020 – 2023. The Standards and Quality Report 2019 – 2020, provides an indication of the next steps the department, its services and schools will take to improve continuously over the next few years.

4. The draft local improvement plan takes full account of the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Community Plan, the Fairer East Ren Plan and Locality Plans, the department's contributions to the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan 2020 – 2023 and the department's strategy Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education in East Renfrewshire. Links to the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities and drivers have been incorporated into the plan. Cognisance has been taken of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the West Partnership Improvement Plan which sets out the areas that the eight Local Authorities will collaborate on regionally to offer schools opportunities to improve.

REPORT

5. The draft local improvement plan is designed to give an indication of the department's key areas for improvement over the next three years and is updated annually to take account of changing priorities. The draft plan is included as Appendix 1.

6. The expected outcomes and impact are organised under the department's vision statement of *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences* and have been reviewed and amended to reflect the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and the results of the department's ongoing self-evaluation.

7. The plan has a clear focus on improving outcomes for all our learners and the impact we expect to have on the experiences of the children, young people and adults who attend our schools and use our centres and services. In line with the Standards in Scotland's Schools

etc. Act 2000 the plan also sets out how we will address the inequalities of outcomes that exist for different equity groups and how we will achieve the priorities associated with the NIF.

8. High level areas for improvement are outlined and give an indication of the priorities for development and the activities the department, schools and services will take to make the necessary improvements in the quality of their provision. This includes addressing the specific challenges brought about by COVID-19. It is expected that the authority will negotiate and work with managers and head teachers to use the service's / school's own self-evaluation, the information gathered through external evaluations and the local improvement plan to identify priorities for inclusion in their own improvement plans.

9. The department evaluates its progress annually to identify strengths in current provision and areas where further improvement is required. The self-evaluation and evaluations of services and schools by the department's Quality Improvement team, Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate and Customer Service Excellence help to identify steps which need to be taken to secure continuous improvement.

10. The timescale for the implementation of the plan is school sessions 2021 – 2022 to 2023 – 2024. The department will continue to report on the progress it has made with its local improvement plan and the progress made in implementing the department's strategy, *Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education in East Renfrewshire* through the annual standards and quality report.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

11. The department will direct funding from its delegated budget to support the improvement agenda as outlined in the draft local improvement plan.

CONSULTATION

12. Under the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 education authorities are required to consult with pupils, staff, parents and all other interested parties on their priorities for improvement for the ensuing year. To this end, and following approval by elected members, the department will issue the appended draft plan to all schools, parent councils, service managers and partners to gather the views of all stakeholders. Thereafter, the plan will be amended as appropriate, finalised and issued to schools, services and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Elected members are asked to approve the attached draft local improvement plan 2021 – 2024.

Mark Ratter
Director of Education
21 January 2021

Convener Contact Details
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Appendix

1. Local Improvement Plan 2021-2024

Background papers

1. East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Fairer East Ren and Locality Plans
2. Standards and Quality Report 2019 - 2020

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East Renfrewshire Council

Education Department

Local Improvement Plan

2021 – 2024

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A message from Councillor Paul O’Kane

As the convener for education and equalities, I am very pleased to introduce the Education Department’s Local Improvement Plan for 2021 – 2024. East Renfrewshire Council is committed to delivering the highest quality services for its residents and throughout my tenure as convener, I will continue to do my utmost to ensure this continues to be the case for Education Services.

The department’s vision statement *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences* captures our aspirations and expectations for all learners and customers. It outlines our commitment to supporting everyone including staff, to realise their potential whether they work in or go to one of our schools, nurseries or centres and to achieving the National Improvement Framework priorities.

This Local Improvement Plan outlines the key outcomes we will be working to achieve in the next three years and the activities we will continue to undertake as we respond to the specific challenges brought about by Covid-19. This outcome focused approach will help us ensure that the services we provide have a positive impact on the children, young people and adults who use our centres, schools and services. It will also ensure we deliver the outcomes in East Renfrewshire’s Community Plan in partnership with all our users and those with an interest and stake in education.

I commend the improvement plan to you and invite parents, carers and all our other partners to work with the staff in our schools and services in securing the outcomes and impacts identified in the plan.

Councillor Paul O’Kane
Convener for Education and Equalities

Introduction to Local Improvement Plan for 2021 - 2024

On a yearly basis the Education Department’s Quality Improvement Team and service managers carry out an extensive audit to identify strengths in our current provision and areas where further improvement is required. The department’s progress with the impact and outcomes listed in the Local Improvement Plan 2019 – 2022 is detailed in the Department’s Standards and Quality Report 2019 – 2020 which is available on the Council’s website¹ or from libraries, Council offices and schools. This revised Local Improvement Plan reflects the areas for improvement identified through this annual process, and will reflect the timescale of an academic year i.e. will guide improvements for the next three school sessions 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The outcomes and impact, together with the high level areas for improvement, have been updated and are organised under the department’s vision statement *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*. They clearly link to the National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan 2021, the department’s contributions to the Council’s Outcome Delivery Plan 2020 – 2023 and the department’s *Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education in East Renfrewshire*. Cognisance has been taken of teacher workload with a further reduction in the number of activities planned over the three year period. The Local Improvement Plan 2021 - 2024 provides schools and services with a framework for improvement.

The plan has a clear focus on improving outcomes for all our learners and the impact we expect to have on the experiences of the children, young people and adults who attend our schools and use our centres and services. The plan also sets out how we will address the loss of learning associated with Covid-19 and inequalities of outcomes that exist for different equity groups. Collaboration within schools, across schools and with colleagues from the West Partnership will be vital in delivering the priorities set out in this plan. Threaded throughout the plan is a clear commitment towards support and recovery.

I am confident that this Local Improvement Plan reaffirms our commitment to continuous improvement to ensure we maintain our provision of the highest quality learning and services and continue to achieve outstanding performances.

Mark Ratter
Director of Education

¹ <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/department-performance-information>

Using this Local Improvement Plan

The Local Improvement Plan outlines the high level areas for improvement for all services and schools and is informed by the Department's Outcome Delivery Plan which details the targets and indicators that will be used to measure the impact of our work. This is illustrated in the diagram on page 4, included in which is the Council's Corporate Vision Statement, the Strategic Outcomes that relate directly to the services the Education Department provides and the connection between national and local plans. Links between the National Improvement Framework priorities and drivers have been incorporated into the plan. The West Partnership Improvement Plan 2020/23 sets out the areas that the eight Local Authorities will collaborate on regionally to support and challenge establishments to improve.

The plan lists the expected outcomes and impact under the headings of the departmental vision statement. It contains a list of high level areas for improvement and outlines the actions we will take over the next three years to achieve the expected impact and outcomes. The list is extensive but it is not intended that each school or service should include every strand, or even every Key Area, in its improvement plan for the next three years. In 2021-22 we know that the focus for all establishments will continue to be on recovery and renewal. The purpose of this Local Improvement Plan is to help and guide individual centres, schools and services in planning for improvement, not to prescribe what those improvements should be or how they should be taken forward.

There are a number of steps which each centre, school, cluster of schools or service should take in planning for improvement:

- Engage in an ongoing process of self-evaluation for improvement using the relevant Quality Framework e.g. How good is our school? or How good is our early learning and childcare? Account should be taken of recent evaluations resulting from an inspection by Education Scotland or a review by the Education Department's Quality Improvement Team.
- Schools and services should prepare a Standards and Quality Report, which reflects the Education Department's guidance on reporting and summarises the results of the self-evaluation and progress with implementation of the School Improvement Plan.

- Identify aspects of performance in which improvement is necessary. Give due weight to major strategic initiatives, local and national, for example the National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education and Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education in East Renfrewshire.
- Collaborate with all stakeholders to identify priorities for the improvement plan and the expected impact and outcomes.
- Manage teacher workload by focusing on a small number of key priorities which can be implemented and take account of working time agreements.
- Draw up a list of the action points to be taken to bring about the desired improvements. This list should also give an indication of the likely timescale and the member(s) of staff who will be responsible for leading on each area where a need for improvement has been identified.
- The impact made in bringing about the desired improvements should inform the self-evaluation process and be reported in the annual Standards and Quality Report.
- Involve the authority's Quality Improvement Team at each stage in planning for improvement.

The authority has an important role to play in planning for improvement:

- Working with individual centres, schools and services in their evaluation of performance and provision.
- Assisting the school or service to identify the areas for improvement in the next cycle.
- Ensuring that the school's or service's improvement plan reflects local and national priorities.
- Supporting the improvement agenda through appropriate continuing professional development activities including learning partnerships.
- Monitoring progress through Transition Reviews and other aspect and thematic reviews.

East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership – Community Plan

The Community Planning Partnership’s vision for East Renfrewshire is:
An attractive and thriving place to grow up, work, visit, raise a family and enjoy later life

- Key Strategic Outcomes** (as related to the services delivered by the Education Department)
- All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed.
 - East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.

Fairer East Ren Plan

- Focus on closing the gap:**
- Child poverty is reduced
 - Improved employability
 - Moving around (transport)
 - Improving positive mental health and wellbeing
 - Reducing social isolation and loneliness and increasing safety

Locality Plans

- Community led approach, developed for:**
- Arthurlie, Dunterlie & Dovecothall
 - Auchenback
- Locality Plans in development:**
- Neilston
 - Thornliebank

Education Department Outcome Delivery Plan

Intermediate Outcomes, Indicators and Targets
An indication of how we will measure our contributions to the delivery of the Community Plan, Fairer East Ren and Locality Plans

Education Department Local Improvement Plan

Outcomes and Impact: Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences
Activities which will improve the quality of service delivery and the experiences of our children, young people and adults.

National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan 2021

Vision

- **Excellence through raising attainment:** ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, set out within Curriculum for Excellence levels, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and
- **Achieving equity:** ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Four Priorities

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in children and young people’s health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people

Six Drivers of Improvement

- School Leadership
- Teacher Professionalism
- Parental Engagement
- Assessment of children’s progress
- School Improvement
- Performance Information

West Partnership Regional Improvement Plan

Vision: Equity, Excellence and Empowerment

Workstreams: Leadership, Empowerment & Improvement; Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment; Collaborative Learning Networks

Our vision is one of *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*. We believe that this vision can and will be realised through the commitments signalled in this plan and reinforced by the actions taken in our early years centres, schools and services to improve the quality of the experiences we provide for the children, young people, adults and families of East Renfrewshire. Our target outcomes and expected impacts in the next three-year cycle will be:

Everyone Attaining

National Priorities		
Improvement in attainment, particularly literacy and numeracy Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children		
NIF Drivers	Expected Outcome / Impact (what we will measure and report on)	Activities (what we will do to bring about improvement)
<p>Assessment of Children's Progress</p> <p>Teacher Professionalism</p> <p>School Improvement</p> <p>Parental Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to be the highest performing mainland council area as measured by national examinations for school leavers • Improved attainment in the senior phase • Be the highest performing mainland council area as measured by Curriculum for Excellence levels • Improved literacy and numeracy attainment throughout the years of the broad general education • An improvement in the attainment of disadvantaged children and young people • An increase in the percentage of schools evaluated as 'good' or better for raising attainment and achievement • An increase in activities which support prevention and early intervention, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities • An improvement in the percentage of young children reaching all of the expected developmental outcomes on entry to primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and challenge establishments to raise attainment, reduce the poverty related attainment gap and address learning loss, through analysis of data, improved professional judgements, target setting and improved learning and teaching; particularly for key equity groups • Support and challenge schools to improve outcomes for identified groups and address learning loss and recovery through their use of additional resources e.g. Pupil Equity Fund and additional Covid-19 resources • Enhance capacity of senior staff and teachers in schools in using tracking and monitoring tools including Insight, SNSA, Focus, the BGE Improvement Tool and the Early Years Tracking Tool • Support schools to respond to local and national recommendations, building on good practice in assessment and moderation, to deliver the National Qualifications and maximise outcomes for all • Develop and implement updated Numeracy and Mathematics and Literacy Strategies • Develop a strategy for high quality Early Level experiences for 2021-2024 Deliver the full entitlement of 1140 hours of high quality, flexible, accessible and affordable Early Learning and Childcare

Everyone Achieving

National Priorities		
Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people		
NIF Drivers	Expected Outcome / Impact (what we will measure and report on)	Activities (what we will do to bring about improvement)
<p>Assessment of Children's Progress</p> <p>Teacher Professionalism</p> <p>School Leadership</p> <p>Parental Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ethos of high expectations and achievement in every school and service • A culture of self-evaluation and continuous improvement in all schools and services • A skilled and confident workforce • A culture of professional enquiry in all establishments • An increase in the percentage of schools evaluated as 'good' or better for leadership of change • A further improvement in school leaver destinations • An increase in the number of pupils, school leavers and adults with well-developed employability skills • An increase in the percentage of pupils agreeing they have opportunities to celebrate personal achievements • A consistently high satisfaction level of residents engaging with our services • Higher levels of parental engagement in their children's learning and in the life of the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer challenge and support to all schools and services to achieve consistently high standards through internal and external review • Implement the leadership strategy, deliver the leadership programme and work with schools to provide high quality CLPL which supports the continued improvement in learners' experiences and outcomes • Implement and evaluate the impact of the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy and STEM Strategy • Continue to support schools and work with partners to build the curriculum and develop the young workforce • Develop and deliver relevant SQA accredited courses to engage adult learners • Facilitate the sharing of best practice in the use of tracking and monitoring pupil achievements, and support schools to evaluate levels of participation in order to increase achievement, involvement and engagement with the community • Implement the Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy

Excellent Experiences

National Priorities		
Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing		
NIF Drivers	Expected Outcome / Impact (what we will measure and report on)	Activities (what we will do to bring about improvement)
<p>Assessment of Children's Progress</p> <p>Teacher Professionalism</p> <p>Parental Engagement</p> <p>School Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A curriculum which enables all children, young people and adults to be successful, confident, responsible and effective in school, their work, their community and internationally • An increase in the percentage of schools evaluated as 'very good' or better for learning, teaching and assessment • Learners' experiences support them to develop their personalities, talents, mental, spiritual and physical abilities to their potential • An increase in opportunities for young people to develop knowledge, understanding and the skills for life and active participation in a global multicultural society and Scotland's place in it • A culture based on Getting It Right For Every Child • Partnership arrangements which ensure that all pupils experience a smooth transition from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and from secondary school to a positive and sustained destination • Practices and experiences which ensure that the needs of children, young people and adults are identified and addressed • Maintain and where possible improve upon the already low exclusions and high attendance rates in our schools, especially for looked after children • Maintain and where possible reduce the number of children and young people reporting they experience bullying and/or racist behaviour • A positive culture in health and wellbeing in every school and service • Resources which lead to improvements for learners and service users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide high quality professional learning opportunities for all staff in learning, teaching and assessment, inclusion and nurture • Support settings to implement recovery curricula which are tailored to address learning loss and are focused on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing • Implement the recommendations of the Review of the 1+2 Languages Strategy • Support schools and the Instrumental Music Service to develop flexible approaches to delivery of instrumental music tuition. • Implement the Learning for Sustainability Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Action Plan • Implement the Diversity Action Plan • Implement the recommendations of the National ASL review • Implement the new Integrated Children's Services Plan • Continue to implement aspects of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 that apply to Young Carers • Embed best practice established by Healthier Minds Wellbeing Service • Continue to analyse and learn from a range of evidence including the Customer Service Excellence process, questionnaires and complaints, to ensure continual improvement to the experiences of service users and learners • Implement the LNCT Workload and Bureaucracy Plan • Target available resources in line with the Education Department vision recognising the focus on recovery and renewal • Progress the Capital Plan as appropriate for the Education Department • Develop our digital capacity and modernise services for all learners and residents • Continue maximising efficiency opportunities and planning ahead for further budget reductions