

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In January 2016 the Scottish Government published the National Improvement Framework (NIF) for Scottish Education. The NIF is an integral part of the Scottish Government's Delivery Plan for Scottish education, Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education, published in June 2016 - <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00502222.pdf>. The Delivery Plan aims to raise attainment and close the gap in attainment between our least and most disadvantaged young people.

1.2 The NIF (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework>) sets out the Scottish Government's four current key priorities for Scottish education namely:

- Improvement in attainment, specifically in reading, writing and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in sustained school leaver destinations for all young people

1.3 Within the NIF, six drivers of improvement are highlighted as underpinning progress towards the above priorities. These drivers are:

- School Leadership
- Teacher professionalism
- Parental engagement
- Assessment of children's progress
- School improvement
- Performance information

1.4 The NIF provides more detail for each of these drivers and the measures of progress to be used in relation to each of them. It also sets out a broad timescale for the development and implementation of the Framework. This will include trials of new standardised assessment materials during session 2016/17. From August 2017 new standardised assessments will be used in all schools. The new standardised assessments will not be used in isolation to confirm that children have achieved a Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) level. They will be one source of evidence for teachers to use when reaching a professional judgement about children's progress.

1.5 Under the reporting arrangements described in the NIF from August 2016 each local authority will report annually to the Scottish Government data about the achievement of CFE levels. This will include reporting the percentage of pupils achieving curriculum levels at P1, P4, P7 and S3.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 The key priorities within the NIF link to the commitment to improve within Angus Council's Statement of Ambition for children and learning (Report 435/15).
- 2.2 The Children and Learning Directorate is well placed to take forward the key drivers for improvement set out in the NIF as a result of previous and on-going improvement activity outlined below.
- 2.3 An Angus Educational Leadership Development Framework informed by the Scottish College for Educational Leadership Framework and the General Teaching Council Scotland's Professional Standards was implemented in session 2015/16 to support leadership development at all levels within our schools.
- 2.4 Angus is one of the partner local authorities participating in the Raising Attainment for All (RAFA) programme. This programme has encouraged collaborative working between schools and individual teacher research to identify practice which will further improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.5 Angus has a well-established Parent Council Forum which supports regular engagement between representatives from each school's parent council and the Head of Schools and Learning and Service Managers. Very good consultation with parents is undertaken annually across all schools and contributes to each school's annual self-evaluation.
- 2.6 Angus primary and secondary schools have considerable experience in using standardised assessments. Those currently in use are provided by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) based at Durham University. These CEM assessments are used in Primary 1, Primary 3, Primary 5, Primary 7 and Secondary 1 and 2. The results from these tests are used to plan support for pupils and to inform judgements about their progress. We will continue to purchase and use these standardised assessments in session 2016/17. However, from August 2017 we shall replace them with the new national standardised assessments. Angus schools will be able to draw upon their knowledge and experience of using standardised testing to manage the transition to the use of the new national standardised assessments.
- 2.7 Information relating to achievement of curriculum levels within the Broad General Education with regard to literacy and numeracy has been gathered for primary and secondary pupils in Angus at local authority level for the past three school sessions. This information is based upon teacher's professional judgement and has been reported through the Directorate's Annual Evaluation Reports (Reports 79/15; 368/15; 273/16).
- 2.8 The development of Angus curriculum standards in literacy and numeracy has raised confidence amongst teachers in reaching professional judgements about levels of achievement of CFE levels. This guidance has also supported and informed moderation discussions between teachers within and across schools.
- 2.9 The positive improvement in performance on key measures in the 2016 exam diet was underscored by evidence of schools having developed improved pupil tracking systems to support interventions for individual or groups of pupils. It is anticipated that the commitment in Angus to implementing the Developing Young Workforce programme will support further improvement in the percentage of schools leavers moving in to sustained positive destination

- 3.0 Schools and Learning Service will continue to engage with and support all Angus schools to meet and deliver upon the requirements of the National Improvement Framework.
- 3.1 Further updates will be provided to the Children and Learning Committee with regard to the on-going development of the NIF and the implications of any statutory guidance on reporting duties.

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