

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 139/16

SCHEDULE 2

**ANGUS COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 12 APRIL 2016**

SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

BACKGROUND

A new Scottish Attainment Challenge was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on 9 February 2015. The Challenge is backed by an Attainment Scotland Fund of more than £100 million over four years and aims to drive forward improvements in educational outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. This four-year Attainment Scotland Fund is targeted initially at schools in the seven local authorities with the biggest concentrations of households in deprived areas. It focuses 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. The Scottish Attainment Challenge draws on the experience of the London Challenge which helped transform school performance in the city, and other international experiences. The first tranche of funding of £20 million is being made this year to support children and young people in a number of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities to achieve their potential. Angus is **not** one of these local authorities. A second tranche of funding was made available to those schools in the most deprived areas of Scotland which does not include any school in Angus.

However, in addition to the above projects, national and local partners are working together to identify specific work that can be implemented successfully in classrooms which will have a significant impact on the attainment of children from deprived communities. To help with this work, Angus has been allocated an Attainment Advisor from Education Scotland. Louise Glen, Education Development Officer for Literacy and languages will be working with some of our schools for a period of 56 days between February and June 2016. She will be supported by Carol Wood who is an Attainment Development Officer also working at Education Scotland.

Three primary schools have been identified as a focus for their work. These are Friockheim, St Thomas and Warddykes primary schools which are all within the Arbroath North cluster of schools. The Schools and Learning Team has met with Louise and Carol to plan their work in these three schools. The main focus will be on raising attainment in reading with children in primary 2. This will involve direct work with children in classes and staff training on assessment within literacy. Clear measures will also be developed to evaluate the impact of this work on improving the attainment of the children involved and the successful interventions will be shared with all primary schools in the coming months.

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