

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 1/16

SCHEDULE 5

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 JANUARY 2016

ANGUS LEARNING FESTIVAL

BACKGROUND

Around 400 Angus teachers came together at Carnoustie High School during the in-service day on the 26th November for Angus' first Learning Festival. The purpose of the event was to share practice and learn from each other. It was a great opportunity to think about how we are improving the life choices and chances for the young people of Angus. The national key drivers for education were summarised as well as how we are responding to these locally.

Nicky Murray, Head Teacher at Burnside School in Carnoustie discussed the work of the school in embedding a language of learning. Nicky was joined by Sarah Philp, Principal Psychologist from Midlothian Council. Sarah has been leading on work related to John Hattie's Visible Learning and also shared information about the use of the "Learning Pit" to engage learners in a language of learning.

Leila Martin, Angus Quality Improvement Officer was joined by Lesley Duguid, Angus Schools and Learning Officer to support teachers to think carefully about the differences between and within schools. Leila and Lesley considered the different ways that we try to improve our teaching to ensure that it impacts on the quality of learning. Jim Hammond and John Paul Cassidy, Angus Quality Improvement Officers outlined the features of quality planning and assessment of learning in both primary and secondary schools taking account of the four contexts for learning, principles of curriculum design, assessment is for learning and tackling bureaucracy.

Jill Davie, Head Teacher at Ladyloan School in Arbroath and Kerry Perry, Fergus Maclean, Lisa Herbert and Derek Farrell from Monifieth High were joined by John Paul Fitzpatrick from the Winning Scotland Foundation. John Paul shared the national focus on developing Growth Mindset approaches whilst Jill, Kerry, Fergus, Lisa and Derek shared some practical examples of how some of our schools are taking forward this approach.

Teachers were asked to consider what their 'pledge' was following the event. Was there anything that they would go away and try? We will be getting in touch with participants to find out about any changes in practice as a result of attending the event. Ultimately the event highlighted that improving outcomes for our children and young people means making sure that the culture and ethos of each of our schools is rooted in a focus on relationships and collaboration and by using our data effectively. Both of these aspects help the one thing that will make the biggest difference - the quality of learning and teaching in every single Angus classroom.

Contact for further information:

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