

Education Performance Report 2021/22



01. Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes

Q1 21/22:

Midlothian Single Plan Priority Reducing the gap in learning outcomes

Priority 1: Attainment and Achievement

1.1 Improve attainment within the broad general education stages:

- . Improvements in planning, tracking and assessment and curriculum design and progression, including STEAM
- . Innovative pedagogical approaches and enhanced use of digital technology to support learning
- . Pedagogy, play and progression across Early Level

CfE data 2020/21 has been collected and is currently being analysed by Schools Group Managers. Discussions will take place with Headteachers to sign off their data prior to forwarding to the Scottish Government. agree the intervention strategies to address learning loss experienced as a result of the pandemic. The additional funding provided by the SG has been allocated to support the delivery of the Building Back Better programme developed by Headteachers.

The Education Strategic Group will take forward the development of the BGE curriculum frameworks and the new monitoring and tracking tool. Work on these priority actions have been delayed due to workload pressures associated with the pandemic.

A project group has been set up to develop work in this area in session 21-22, led by the Early Years QIO.

All settings are using the early level progression pathways this session. A number of pilot projects are underway and Stobhill PS, working with an EYs Equity and Excellence lead has been awarded a SG STEM grant for £10k to link STEM with the development of play pedagogy.

1.2 Improve attainment within the senior phase by maximising opportunities through curriculum planning, consortium arrangements and partnership delivery, including addressing the ASN Senior Phase Gap

1.3 Reduce the attainment gap between the most and least deprived children, including care-experienced children.

Secondary schools successfully delivered the alternative certification model for senior phase qualifications. Schools received positive feedback from SQA's quality assurance of processes and evidence underpinning the judgements.

ASN Strategic group leading on audit of policy, practice, specialist provision. The group will analyse data from early level to senior phase to inform ASN learning estate and specialist provision required now and in the future. Early engagement with Parent Councils to gather feedback on involvement of parents of children who require additional support in the life and work of the school.

GIRFEMC Board established a multi-agency group to provide robust performance management and quality improvement, bringing together partners to share resources, planning and operational delivery of additional support for children and young people enrolled at Midlothian schools. Key targets will include:

- . Reducing exclusions
- . Increasing attendance
- . Ensuring joined up support for pupils with physical / learning disabilities , autism spectrum needs , behavioural needs or other additional support requirements
- . Improving/ speeding up referral processes for additional support services delivered by all partners for pupils
- . Ensuring joint forward planning of such services' working arrangements takes account of all partners systems and structures

Midlothian Single Plan Priority Reducing the gap in health outcomes

Priority 2: Included, Involved and Engaged: Wellbeing & Equity

2.1 Improve Equity and Inclusion

2.2 Develop and improve health and wellbeing of staff and all children and young people from early level through to senior phase

Nurture was a new key priority within the Education Service Plan 2020-2021 and the Equity and Inclusion Plan 2020-2021 and the strategy has been shared with and ratified by the GIRFEC Board. In November 2020, a Nurture Strategy Group was established. This is led by two Educational Psychologists and includes representatives from Education, Children and Families and Community Life Long Learning. Consultation takes place with stakeholder representatives. To date, this has included Secondary Guidance and PTs, Primary, Early Years Team, Parent/Carer, Young People, Staff Well-Being Strategy Group and Children and Families and Community Life Long Learning. A Mission Statement, Aims and Three Year Plan were established and these were shared across the Directorate and with partners in Health, early years and 3rd sector.

Nurture was a focus in Midlothian Children and Young People's Directorate Conferences in February 2021 and May 2021.

A Nurture Lead was established in every school, nursery, Children and Families Service, and Community Life Long Learning Service to enhance a collective approach and develop a peer support network for nurture across Midlothian. There are currently 58 Leads in Midlothian. A series of Nurture Lead focus groups starting in June 2021 are helping establish supports required to develop this community. 8 sessions of Professional Conversations for Learning for Nurture Leads are under development and will be delivered by the Nurture Strategy Group 2021-2022.

Every School, Early Years Centre, Children and Families Team and Community Life Long Learning within the Directorate has had the opportunity to complete a Self-Evaluation Audit to establish strengths in practice and target areas for school and service development planning. Themes will be collated and fed back to the Directorate, EPs, schools and Nurture Leads in August 2021. This will provide information about staff awareness and skills in nurturing practice. It will also give a needs analysis of what is required to bring nurture into practice consistently across all schools and services within the Directorate in Midlothian.

1st and 2nd editions of a nurture newsletter 'A Word about Nurture' were circulated in March 2021 and June 2021. Schools and Services were invited to contribute to this. This shares good practice within Midlothian, information about Midlothian's Nurturing Authority and signposting to training and resources. This newsletter will continue to be circulated across the Directorate termly.

A Resource Hub in GLOW currently enables Education Professionals and School Nurture Leads to share resources and ideas for practice. It is the hope this will become an accessible platform for all schools and services as Midlothian's Digital Strategy evolves.

A Twitter hashtag #nurturemidlothian has been established to promote learning and practice across Midlothian, to signpost to training and professional development opportunities and to enable sharing with families and young people.

A professional learning map has been established which includes central training for those new to nurture re Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed Practice, a series of Professional Learning Conversations with Nurture Leads and the development of Resource Hub/Nurture Library/Research Spotlights to support continued professional development for staff. Schools have been enabled x2 hours minimum protected time to support development of whole school nurture in 2021-22.

Penicuik Mental Health Early Action Project (Jigsaw)

The P7 Headstrong Programme (4 sessions) was delivered in person to both P7 classes at Strathesk PS and to the P7 class at Cornbank PS. This has been positively evaluated by teacher and pupil surveys. In May/June EPS delivered the P7 Headstrong Programme at Cuiken so every P7 pupil in the Penicuik ASG will have participated in these mental health and wellbeing/transition sessions before moving on to high school.

In partnership with Community Lifelong Learning, the EPS delivered a Digital Wellbeing workshop to the P7 classes at Cornbank PS and Cuiken PS. The class teacher at Cornbank highlighted in her evaluation the value of pupils having this opportunity to think *'in more detail about how they are using digital technology and the positive and negative impacts on their lives'*.

Project partners have developed a new relationship with a school that has not previously engaged with the third sector. As a result, 10 Families have been supported: 5 receiving art therapy and/or systemic family support; 4 referred for 1:1 adult therapy/counselling, 3 of which have received support; 1 is undergoing assessment. School Counselling Service – MYPAS awarded the contract to deliver this service from September. MYPAS were already working with Midlothian Council delivering a pilot school counselling service and were awarded this wider project after a competitive procurement process.

Priority 3: Self-improving Systems

3.1 Develop a quality improvement framework to support schools to achieve Good or better in inspection QIs through:

- . Empowerment of leaders at all levels, leading to an empowered system
- . Improving quality of leadership at all levels
- . Deliver a minimum data set and supporting data literacy professional development sessions to improve self-evaluation
- . Developing a Parental Engagement Strategy

The Education Strategic Group is now well placed to take forward our ambition to develop an empowered system with decision-making and improvement being driven by those working closest to our children and young people. The Scottish Government Insight Professional Adviser is assisting the local authority in the delivery of data literacy professional development sessions to improve self-evaluation.

Termly Parent Council member meetings held to listen to parents views on quality of education and provision within Midlothian schools. Parent Council members now sit on strategic working groups to ensure parental voice informs and influences policy development and service improvement. A Parent and Learner Engagement Officer post is currently being recruited to support our partnership working with parents and learners.

Midlothian Single Plan Priority Reducing the gap in economic circumstances

Priority 4: Life-Long Learning and Career-Ready Employability

4.1 Improve senior phase progression pathways to improve positive destinations, including for young people with ASN and who are care experienced.

Meetings with the Senior Leadership Teams in each secondary school are due to take place early September to review young people's performance 2020/21 and how the curriculum is supporting young people to enter sustained positive destinations. Support provided by our CLLE teams to intervene where young people are at risk of a negative destination due to this destination no longer being available and also providing a range of courses and qualifications to encourage young people to remain at school.

Priority 5: Finance & Resources

5.1 Deliver Best Value through:

- . Reviewing and implementing the learning estate strategy taking cognisance of the ASN learning estate
- . Robust workforce planning
- . DSM review

Strategic review of the ASN learning estate is underway. School consultation reports being prepared to establish Easthouses catchment area and proposal to close St Margaret's RC PS. A DSM review group has been established and work is underway to design a new scheme taking into account revised SG guidance. Workforce planning model being developed taking into account SG proposal to reduce teacher:pupil contact time and increase in staffing required as a result of growth.

5.2 Implement the Equipped for Learning Strategy to support transformational change in digital learning and teaching

An ambitious plan to transform the digital learning tools available to young people in Midlothian schools has been articulated, an updated digital strategy agreed and funding for its roll-out approved by council. A Project Manager has been appointed to ensure the programme meets key milestones and targets. A Quality Improvement Manager has also been appointed to lead and manage the appointment of staff to the Digital Inclusion and Learning Team. This project reports into the BTB and has a well-developed programme delivery programme in place to ensure key delivery milestones are met.

Challenges and Risks

Q1 2021/22

- Uncertainty about how SQA qualifications will be assessed academic session 2021/22 and beyond.
- Impact of the pandemic on post-school destinations
- Midlothian Council has a relatively high proportion of funded ELC places delivered by partners in the private and voluntary sectors. As such, any increases in the rate that is paid to funded providers would create additional upward pressure on the early years budget for 2022/23.
- Rate of demographic growth on the learning estate
- Increase in the number of children and young people with additional support requiring more specialist provision will require robust monitoring to ensure staffing and specialist facilities meets level of needs.
- Early Years expansion - the population projections used by Scottish Government differ from the population projections used by the Council. Consequently, the Council will receive less funding from Scottish Government and the delivery model has been amended to reflect this limiting ability to flex the choice for parents.

Education

Successes and Challenges

Corporate Performance Indicators (latest)

● 1 ✓ 11 ? 1 📊 6

Corporate PIs Off Target

PIs ● 1

% of invoices paid within 30 days of invoice receipt (cumulative)

Service Plan PIs (latest)

● 0 ✓ 0 ? 12 📊 4

Service Plan PIs Off Target

PIs ● 0

No data available yet for Education PIs

Service Risks (latest)

⚠ 1

High Risks

Risks ⚠ 1

School Capacities/Catchment Areas/Demand for Pupil Places

Key
PIs ● Off Target
✓ On Target
📊 Data Only
? Data Not Yet Available

Key
PIs ● Off Target
✓ On Target
📊 Data Only
? Data Not Yet Available

Key
Risks ⚠ High Risk/Medium Risk
? Data Not Yet Available