

Inspection of Lasswade High School Centre

Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland in January 2014.

2 Background

2.1 Lasswade High School Centre was inspected in January 2013 and their visit in January 2014 was to assess the extent to which the school was continuing to improve the quality of its work, and to evaluate progress made in responding to the main points for action in the initial report.

2.2 The Inspectors concluded that the school has successfully made improvements in its approaches to self-evaluation and that leadership across the school was improving.

2.3 Education Scotland's Area Lead Officer will discuss with officers in Education, Communities and Economy how best to provide further support to the school and will maintain contact to monitor progress. The Council will provide Education Scotland with a progress report within one year at which point they will decide whether a further inspection is required.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no financial and human resource implications associated with this report.

3.2 Risk

Education Scotland visits a sample of primary and secondary schools every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the school, its capacity for further improvement and sets out the main points for action.

Following the publication of that report further support will be given to the school by Education Scotland and by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress. A follow-through report on the progress of the school will be published by either Education Scotland or by the Education Authority, within 1 year of the date of publication of the original report.

Monitoring/

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by the Schools Group Manager and members of the 3-18 Improvement Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the school to demonstrate its capacity to improve.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The work of the school supports a number of outcomes within the Single Midlothian Plan including ensuring that young people are better educated, more skilled, successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The school is continuing to improve its approaches to recognising young people's broader achievements. As a result, more young people are now receiving formal accreditation for their achievements. The school has introduced a new system for monitoring young people's progress in their learning across all subjects. With these and other measures it is expected that the school will continue to ensure a positive impact on the outcomes of young people.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The school is building on positive initiatives to ensure that the learning needs of all young people are met.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

During their visit, Inspectors talked to young people, the Headteacher and staff and they were able to find out how well young people are now learning and achieving and how the school is continuing to support them to do their best.

The Parent Council has significantly extended its membership and it is more involved with the school.

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of young people currently in the school and other interested parties.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

3.8/

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report;
- (ii) pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- (iii) congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Lasswade High School Centre on the very good progress made since the inspection visit of January 2013;
- (iv) note that officers within the Directorate will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance; and
- (v) note that officers within the Directorate will liaise with Education Scotland's Area Lead Officer to monitor progress and prepare a progress report within one year.

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Declaration Box

Instructions: *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

Title of Report: Inspection of Lasswade High School Centre

Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 22 April 2014

Author of Report: Peter McNaughton

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.