

Inspection of the Learning Community Surrounding Penicuik High School

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 HM Inspectors in February 2014.

2 Background

2.1 Community Learning and Development (CLD) is a distinct **sector** of education alongside schooling and further and higher education and works to enable the development of skills (for example, literacy and numeracy) that people can use in employment, their community, further learning or as parents and family members to support their children in their important early years.

2.2 During an inspection Education Scotland evaluates four quality indicators to help monitor quality and learning communities across Scotland. Noted below are the evaluations for the learning community surrounding Penicuik High School:

Improvements in performance	Weak
Impact on participants	Good
Impact on local community	Good
Improving services	Weak

2.3 The following key strengths were indicated by the inspection team:

- CLD programmes delivered by staff and volunteers committed to improving lives.
- Young people and adult learners achieving success and accessing employment and further learning.
- Partnership and networking in the early years.
- Community organisations and volunteers delivering services and building social capital.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were discussed and agreed with partners:

- Improve sharing and use of community profile information and development.

- Strengthen focus on early intervention and prevention, building on partnership approaches and integration of services.
- Strengthen the role and influence of local people in planning.
- Continue to develop management information system and reporting on overall performance.

3 Conclusion

Education Scotland have indicated that significant improvements are needed and that partners do not yet have a good understanding of their strengths and area for improvement. As a consequence a further visit will be made within one year of the publication of their report to check progress.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

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

4.2 Risk

Education Scotland visit a sample of establishments every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs stakeholders about the key strengths of the service, 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 service by Education Scotland and by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress. A follow-through report on the progress of the service 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, review and evaluation of progress by the Head of Education and the Education Officer for CLD is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the school to demonstrate its capacity to improve.

4.3 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**

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The work of CLD 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;
- ensuring that children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed; and
- ensuring that public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report notes a number of examples of improved learning, increased life chances and promoting and securing wellbeing.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Parents are positive about the impact of early years programmes in raising their children. Parents are also benefiting from contact with other parents thereby reducing feelings of isolation and improving their health and wellbeing.

Adults and young people are benefiting from a range of programmes supported by CLD, Penicuik High School and their partners.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

There are a number of active groups in the Penicuik area and informal networks across community organisations have resulted in the development of some good examples of partnership working.

CLD partners will consider how they can develop a co-ordinated approach to improve information sharing and strengthen links between community groups.

CLD staff involve learners in evaluation and will take on board the comments by Education Scotland in respect of further developing social media in communicating with learners and stakeholders.

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

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

The Service Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

4.9 Supporting Sustainability Development

The Service Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

5 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

6 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 those involved in the learning community surrounding Penicuik High School on the key strengths highlighted in the report;
- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging the positive aspects of this report, the Council will challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance; and
- (v) instruct the Director, Education, Communities and Economy to ensure that the Service Improvement Plan incorporates the recommendations of the inspection team.

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Report Contact: Lorraine Brown
lorraine.brown@midlothian.gov.uk

Tel No: 0131 271 3718

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 Penicuik High School

Meeting Presented to: Cabinet on 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.