

Inspection of the Learning Community surrounding Penicuik High School**Report by Peter McNaughton, Head of Education****1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland in February 2015.

2 Background

2.1 HM Inspectorate of Education published a report on the learning community surrounding Penicuik High School in February 2014. That report set out key strengths of the learning community and areas for improvement.

2.2 This follow up report is based on an inspection visit which was carried out in February 2015. It reports on the progress since the original inspections and how the main points for action are being addressed.

3 Progress towards meeting the main points for action

The initial inspection report published in March 2014 identified four main points for action. Inspectors evaluated progress made with each action and the resulting improvements for learners and other stakeholders.

The main points for action were:

- Improve sharing and use of community profile information and develop outcomes focused planning based on priority needs

The inspectors noted that partners are now using a wide range of data and local knowledge to effectively identify areas of need.

- Develop the gathering and use of management information and performance reporting

Partners are increasingly gathering and using management information to effectively inform performance reporting.

- Strengthen focus on early intervention and prevention, building on partnership approaches and integration of services

Inspectors report that good progress had been made in this area for improvement with partners working together to deliver an increasingly effective range of early intervention and prevention initiatives

- Strengthen the role and influence of local people in planning

Most areas for action identified in this respect have been addressed.

2.4 The following strengths were identified by the inspection team:

- Effective partnership working
- Commitment to improving outcomes for learners
- Vibrant, active community organisations

2.5 As there has been progress in all of the improvement areas identified in the previous inspection, Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the initial inspection of 2014.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

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

4.2 Risk

As a result of the improvements outlined in the report there will be no further visits in connection with the inspection of 2014. Managers will continue to engage in a process of self-evaluation and reporting. Monitoring and review by the Head of Education and the Education Manager, Lifelong Learning is in place.

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

As part of Midlothian Council's commitment to excellence, the service will take a robust approach to driving forward improvement and the Council will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to further improving performance.

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Partners are still at the early stages of consistently using information gained from performance monitoring to improve shared targeting and use of resources. However, it was noted that there has been increasing numbers of young people now achieving positive destinations.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

There is an increasing focus by partners on early intervention and prevention at both a strategic and local operational level. This is enabling services to work together to reach targeted families including those with complex needs.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The report noted as a particular strength the wide range of vibrant community groups active within Penicuik and partners enjoy access to shared training opportunities.

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, service users and other interested parties.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

The significant improvements and strengths identified by the inspection team indicate that the service is strengthening its capacity to give effective attention to support those within the protected equality groupings.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Improvement planning allows for sustainable development and improvement.

4.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) note the content of the continuing engagement report;
- (ii) pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- (iii) congratulate all partners involved in making significant progress on the main points for action from the last report of March 2014;
- (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) instruct the Director, Education, Communities and Economy to ensure that future action plans incorporate the recommendations of the inspection team.

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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 the Learning Community surrounding Penicuik High School*

Meeting Presented to: *Cabinet 21 April 2015*

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.