

## **EDUCATION, LEARNING & LEISURE COMMITTEE – 8 DECEMBER 2011**

### **EDUCATION, LEARNING & LEISURE SERVICE PLAN: SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVIEW OF PROJECTS APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2011 (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)**

#### **1 Recommendations**

##### **1.1 The Education, Learning & Leisure Committee is recommended to: -**

- 1 Consider and acknowledge the April to September 2011 service plan monitoring for the Education, Learning & Leisure service as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2 Instruct the Director of Education, Learning & Leisure to continue to report to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives and six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the Service Plan.**

#### **2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee on how the Education, Learning & Leisure Service is performing against key performance measures as set out in the Service Plan 2011/2014, as approved by this committee on 19 May 2011, and to report on progress made in implementing the various projects and actions set out in the plan that has taken place over the past six months which contribute towards achievement of these objectives.
- 2.2 The performance indicators detailed in this report are linked to the Education, Learning & Leisure's strategic objectives, which reflect the Council's strategic priorities. The quarterly performance trends report provides regular opportunity for elected members to maintain scrutiny of the extent to which the service is making progress towards achieving its objectives and delivering positive outcomes for citizens in Aberdeenshire. This report covers the first two quarters of 2011/12.
- 2.3 Since the last performance report to Committee (on Quarter 4 of 2010/11 on 24 March 2010), and the approval of the 2011/14 Service Plan (on 19 May 2011), the Service has taken the opportunity to review a number of the performance indicators. This has resulted in some indicators being updated (to take account of revised calculation methods – where the indicator is based on a national indicator, which has been updated), some indicators being replaced, where data is not available (at least) on an annual basis, and some new indicators have been introduced, in line with Council advice designed to achieve better consistency in reporting performance across services. A summary of the changes in performance indicators is provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 It is important to note that some of the areas of activity are measured and reported annually rather than quarterly. As per Councillors' request, these

have been removed from the detailed performance report in Appendix 2 and will only be included when new annual data becomes available. However, it remains the case that all Education, Learning and Leisure managers will routinely review performance in their own establishments and teams using a wide range of management information and processes including performance data, user feedback, external inspection, leadership for improvement reviews, employee annual review (including Professional Development and Review for teaching staff) and sharing of best practice.

2.5 Noted below is a summary of performance for Education, Learning and Leisure, covering the first two quarters of the year 2011/12, linked to the Service’s strategic objectives:

	<b>Service Objective</b>	<b>Are we getting better*?</b>	<i>Previous Quarter report</i>
1.	To have successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.	Yes	Yes
2.	To ensure that the needs of all learners are met and that they achieve their potential through joint working with other services.	Yes	No
3.	To have more people leading healthy, fulfilling lives through regular involvement in sporting, recreational, cultural and creative activities.	Yes	Yes
4.	To have sufficient facilities of suitable quality to deliver the educational sporting and cultural experiences people deserve	No change	No change
5.	To ensure all aspects of our service are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to people’s needs.	Yes	Yes

\* This is an overall assessment, based on taking a view of the evidence across all of the relevant performance measures.

2.6 Appendix 2 contains details of the performance data in relation to each of the performance indicators. In addition, it provides a summary of progress with the main projects and actions that the Service has been working on which relate to each of the Strategic Objectives. However, it is worth highlighting within the body of this report progress in relation to the following projects:

- Improvements in the important “meeting learners’ needs” quality indicator, as reflected in school inspections in quarter two. Since January 2011, HMIE have been using an amended set of quality indicators, which reflects the requirements of Curriculum for Excellence. The fact that 100% of inspections during quarter 2 found “meeting learners’ needs” to be “good” or better, is evidence of progress in effectively implementing Curriculum for Excellence.
- Active Aberdeenshire continues to have a positive impact on levels of participation in sport and leisure activities. It has been extraordinarily successful in its first year of operation, and has almost recruited 5,000 members. The key factors underlying its success are the fact that it is a very flexible scheme, allowing access to almost all Council leisure

activities and services without any additional cost imposed at the venue. The Council has also priced the scheme at a very low level to ensure that is affordable to all. The leisure team are currently working on a range of additional benefits and services for 2012 which will make the scheme even more attractive to local residents.

- The Health and wellbeing Young Leaders initiative continues to be successful in its aims of providing community based health and wellbeing activities, developing the leadership skills of young people and improving health outcomes for children, young people and communities. Building on its successful introduction last session, a further 110 Young Leaders were trained in June 2011 and are now in place. The initiative is a good example of partnership working under Curriculum for Excellence, involving staff from local businesses and corporate sponsors, sports and fitness coaches, EL&L Catering Service, Community Learning and Development staff and NHS Grampian staff.
- Progress continues to be made in work on developing enhanced, flexible and targeted packages of community based support to maintain vulnerable children and young people in their communities and reduce the demand for external residential school placements. EL&L and Housing & Social Work continue to work together with partner agencies to develop enhanced, flexible and targeted packages of community based support to maintain vulnerable children and young people in their communities and reduce the demand for external residential school placements and related spend. This work will be supported by the outcomes of the joint Kaizen activity that took place in May and June 2011.

2.7 The Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance within Corporate Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have no comments.

### **3 Staffing and Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no staffing and financial implications arising from this report.

**Maria Walker**  
**Director of Education, Learning and Leisure**

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