

## **EDUCATION, LEARNING AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 19 MAY 2011**

### **ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS: QUARTERLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE TRENDS QUARTER FOUR (JANUARY – MARCH) AND 2010/11 SERVICE PLAN UPDATE**

#### **1 Recommendations**

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

- 1 Discuss the key performance data at appendix 1.**
- 2 Acknowledge progress on projects and actions set out in the Service Plan 2010/11 (appendix 2)**
- 3 Request further reports on 2011/12 performance (quarterly) and the 2011-14 Service Plan during 2011/12.**

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

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to review performance against the objectives set out in the Education, Learning & Leisure (EL&L) Service Plan 2010-2011 at the end of this period 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 year which contribute towards achievement of these objectives.
- 2.2 The strategic objectives, performance measures, projects and activities detailed in the Service Plan, are linked to the Council's strategic priorities and single outcome agreement and demonstrate how the EL&L service contributes to the achievement of these objectives.
- 2.3 The Service Plan outlines 5 strategic objectives to improve education, learning and leisure outcomes for citizens across Aberdeenshire. A number of performance measures are identified to allow progress towards achievement of these objectives to be monitored. It should be noted that a number of these measures do not lend themselves to quarterly reporting because of the nature of the data and how it is collected.
- 2.4 Whilst, as noted in paragraphs 2.3, a number of measures give rise to annual rather than quarterly data, 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 PDRS for teaching staff) and sharing of best practice.
- 2.5 Noted below is a summary of performance for Education, Learning and Leisure at the end of the fourth quarter of 2010/11, linked to the Service's strategic objectives:

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

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

In relation to Objective 2:

- The measures relating to “Meeting learners’ needs” indicates that the target for 2010/11 has not been achieved (although in pre-school inspections, the 2009/10 level of performance was maintained). It should be noted that this measure is based on a rather smaller sample of schools than would be normal, given that there was virtually no inspection activity from August-December 2010, when HMle were involved in support activities relating to Curriculum for Excellence.
- The level of truancy amongst Looked after children has remained at a level above the 2009/10 level and well above the target level, which is based on seeing a reduction in the level of absence amongst Looked After and Accommodated Children (LAAC) towards the level of absence for all pupils. The Service has highlighted this trend in the data with Head Teachers and the issue is being addressed at school level by Head Teachers, Guidance staff and other support staff working together with pupils, parents and carers to ensure that any unnecessary barriers to LAAC attending school are minimized or eliminated.  
To ensure that LAAC achieve a sustainable improvement in their education, and ultimately their life chances, the Service is developing a more comprehensive and robust framework for collecting, monitoring and reporting accurate and useful information on LAAC, in order to fully meet their needs. This will build on existing practice, based on an effective partnership working model (across the EL&L Services, Council services and with other agencies and partners). This will support and be in line with the national reporting framework for LAAC.

2.6 Further details and notes in relation to each performance measure are set out within Appendix 1. Where the data is available at this level, a break down by administrative area is also provided.

- 2.7 As the Service moves into a period where budgets are subject to limited growth or reductions, it is important that measures of performance and associated target levels of expected performance reflect what is realistic within the available level of resourcing. The set of measures and targets, relating to each of the strategic objectives is being reviewed to ensure that this is reflected within the Service Plan for 2011/12.
- 2.8 Appendix 2 of this report summarises progress made in implementing the range of projects and actions that have been undertaken during this Service Plan, which are linked to each of the 5 strategic objectives. This shows that almost all plans are “on track”, although inevitably, there is some delay before projects and actions work through to have an impact on performance measures.
- 2.9 Progress with these various projects and actions has been one of the factors informing the development of the EL&L Service Plan for 2011-14.
- 2.10 Policy and Area Committees will receive the same performance reports on a quarterly basis.
- 2.11 The Head of Finance, the Monitoring Officer within Corporate Services and the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development have been consulted on the contents of this report, and have offered no adverse comments.

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

- 3.1 There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising directly from this report, although it will inform subsequent Service Plans and financial and staffing allocations to support projects and activities within that plan.

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

Report prepared by:- G Lennon, Quality Improvement Officer

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References: Aberdeenshire Performs Quarterly Service Performance Trends and Service plan updatev3.doc