

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
2 DECEMBER 2009**

SUBJECT: OPEN ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee with regard to the implementation of the policy on access to school grounds.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D1 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as Education Authority within the terms of the relevant legislation with regard to nursery, primary, secondary, further, community education and Lifelong Learning.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this paper.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting of 20 August 2008 Committee agreed to place a limit of 10.00 pm on the times when school grounds are open to the public and to review this in 12 months time (para 29 of the Minute refers).
- 3.2 This policy has now been in place and operated successfully since August 2008 resulting in a reduction in complaints about anti-social behaviour and a reduction in vandalism in schools, particularly within Elgin.
- 3.3 Discussions with local representatives of Grampian Police have confirmed the view that this policy has had the desired positive outcomes and discussions with a number of Head Teachers have also reinforced the view that this policy is working. Clearly however, there is no room for complacency and it is essential that all relevant agencies, and indeed members of the public, continue to be vigilant in this regard.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

This policy is having a positive influence of safer communities.

(b) Policy and Legal

None specifically arising from this paper

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The continued implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on property costs and condition.

(d) Consultations

Alistair Stobie, Acting Principal Solicitor, Sgt Adrian Moar, Grampian Police, and the Senior Management Team of Educational Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the proposals. Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this paper.

Author of Report: Alistair C. Farquhar. Head of Educational Resource Services

Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services
Committee/2 December 2009/Open Access to School Grounds