

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
17 FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: STRATEGIES FOR RAISING ATTAINMENT IN SECONDARY
SCHOOLS**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the strategies for raising attainment in secondary schools for session 2010-2012.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note and scrutinise the strategies for raising attainment in schools for 2010-2012.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As a result of work carried out on identifying targets for schools, it is possible to set targets for Moray for 2010-2012. The targets are for higher grade in S5.

- 1+ higher - 44%
- 3+ highers - 24%
- 5+ highers - 11%

The aim is that these targets would be achieved or exceeded in, at least, one out of the three years 2010-2012.

- 3.2 In order to work towards achieving these targets a number of strategies are in place, or are being developed, in our secondary schools. The main strategies are given below:-

- Tracking the performance of children and young people.
- Target setting for individual children and young people.
- All schools have a quality improvement calendar.
- Early involvement of parents when issues emerge.
- Challenging children to take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Classroom observation with feedback to support professional dialogue and improvement.
- Staff development to enhance the skills and talents of staff.
- Leadership development to ensure schools are effectively led.
- Partnership working to support children and young people.

- Secondary schools interrogate examination data and plan for improvements.
- In secondary schools, all principal teachers meet with their headteacher/SMT to analyse examination performance and plan for improvement.
- Schools are developing a culture of self-evaluation to support improvement.
- Mentoring and coaching for children and staff.

3.3 Please note that the targets are based on previous attainment and trends and take no account of the present potential budgetary pressures on schools or central capacity to support and challenge schools. Both of these factors would likely impact on attainment although it is impossible to quantify the impact or identify when it would begin to take effect.

Appendix 1 gives the summary of the Service Improvement Plan actions 2009/12. Those marked with an asterisk relate most obviously to raising attainment although it is anticipated that all would impact apart from number 20.

Appendix 2 provides more specific details on Action area 14 – attainment S4, S5, S6.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

This report relates to Key Priority 5 (Attainment and Achievement – Children and Young People) in the Single Outcome Agreement. It links to Action Area 14 (Attainment S4, S5, S6) in the Service Improvement Plan of Educational Services.

(b) Policy and Legal

This report is in accord with the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 where there is a duty placed on Local Authorities to "...endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools managed by them".

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

The activities outlined in this paper are supported by staff in Educational Development Service (EDS) and EDS budgets.

(d) Consultations

The content of this report has been agreed by the Senior Management Team within Educational Services.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee notes the strategies for raising attainment in schools for 2010-2012.

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Background Papers:
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services
Committee/17 February 2010/Strategies for Raising
Attainment in Secondary Schools