



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
25 JANUARY 2017**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND THEMATIC REVIEW OF THE SENIOR
PHASE IN MORAY – UPDATE**

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to scrutinise and note the progress made within Moray Council following the Thematic Review of the Senior Phase provision.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (C) 1 of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising all of the functions of the Council as Education Authority within the terms of relevant legislation with regard to nursery, primary and secondary education.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Education Scotland visited Moray in December 2015 to undertake a "try-out" Thematic Review of Senior Phase Provision and Pathways. The inspection was a partnership approach and included Moray Council, University of the Highlands and Islands (Moray College), Community Learning and Development, Skills Development Scotland, Third Sector organisations and business partners. The findings from this inspection were positive and were presented to this Committee on 22 June 2016 (para 20 of the minute refers), following publication of the final report from Education Scotland.
- 3.2 An action plan was created following the publication of the Record of Inspection findings in order to further progress the positive work being undertaken to ensure the young people in Moray have a variety of pathways within the senior phase to ensure positive and sustained destinations.
- 3.3 The action plan was compiled by a Quality Improvement Officer and the Education Support Officer for Skills. This has been arranged under four main headings and has been shared and the detail populated in conjunction with the range of partners who took part in the original inspection.

3.4 The main drivers within the action plan consist of:

1. Improved development of senior phase pathways
2. Improved quality of young people's attainment and achievement
3. Improved partnership working
4. Improved rationale and design of the curriculum
5. Improved strategic leadership of senior phase pathways

3.5 Review of the action plan is ongoing and is a strategic focus of all the partners who were involved in the original thematic review. **Appendix 1** refers to the progress made within the action plan.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and Moray Corporate Plan 2015 - 17

This report was informed by the 10 Year Plan (Moray 2026) in that it relates to ambitious and confident young people.

(b) Policy and Legal

None arising from this report.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications.

(f) Property

Not applicable.

(g) Equalities

Not applicable.

(h) Consultations

Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), Senior Officers in Education and Social Care, Grant Cruickshank, Senior HR Adviser, Deborah Brands,

Principal Accountant, Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing), Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer, and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the report.

Author of Report: Karen Lees, Quality Improvement Officer
Background Papers:
Ref:

APPENDIX 1

Education Scotland Senior Phase Thematic Review – Progress Update December 2016

The Senior Phase Thematic Review covered 4 high level questions which were underpinned by themes carefully selected from a variety of national quality frameworks.

Question 1 – How well do senior phase pathways meet the needs of young people from all backgrounds and circumstances?

Key strengths - Responsive school programmes and courses, flexible pathways, Advanced Higher programme, positive destinations data.

Aspects for improvement - Moray Council high level curriculum pathway rationale, attainment and provision for pupils with ASN and the middle 60% attaining pupils, Interdisciplinary Learning opportunities in the senior phase, SQA exam leave programme for pupils who have no external exam.

Question 2 – How well do partnerships enhance learning pathways in the senior phase?

Key strengths - Service level agreements in place, school relationships with SDS and college, initiatives including Career Ready and Johnston's of Elgin Schools Interaction Project.

Aspects for improvement - Timetabling of college day to be inclusive of all learners, the use of the range of data available and analysis of key trends, formalising partnership working.

Question 3 – How good is the support for young people in the senior phase and during post-school transitions?

Key strengths - Increasing range of opportunities for young people in Moray, increasing positive aspirations which lead to raised attainment and positive destinations.

Aspects for improvement - Promote all provisions available to our learners in all schools, sharing of data between partners to lead to improvements, schools use of labour market intelligence to support curricular change and range of pathways available.

Question 4 – How effective is the strategic leadership and management of senior phase learning pathways?

Key strengths - Key people have a clear plan and leadership, there is an identified potential of Employability Moray, the range of opportunities available with a revised structure to the secondary school week.

Aspects for improvement - Shared analysis of data and self-evaluation between partners, the use of data to inform curriculum and courses available in schools and in college, clear strategic planning in partnership areas.

As a result, a Senior Phase Thematic Review Action Plan was finalised in July 2016 after consultation with central staff in Education and Social Care, our secondary schools, Moray College, Skills Development Scotland, Third Sector organisations, Community Learning and Development and our business partners.

The production of the action plan built upon the key strengths as noted above and also targeted the areas identified as requiring improvement and strategic direction. Under the 5 main headings, significant progress is being made and aspects of this are highlighted below:

1. Improved development of senior phase pathways

- Development of pathway planning meetings to support increased sustained positive destinations
- Promotion of a range of sector led pathways developed and implemented by partners
- Review of the senior phase provision in schools and with Moray College

2. Improved quality of young people's attainment and achievement

- Use of the senior phase benchmarking tool, Insight, to support improvement planning and data use and analysis
- The use of the Datahub as a national resource to support positive post school destinations
- Embedding the Career Management Skills/Career Education Standards in all DYW work

3. Improved partnership working

- Improved strategic plan for CLD
- Development of more focussed partnership working with tsiMORAY
- Review of the Moray College schools provision to support the context of Moray and our labour market intelligence
- Improved pathway engagement events with our business links, incorporating aspects of DYW

4. Improved rationale and design of the curriculum

- Creation of a high level curriculum rationale in Moray is in the early stages of development, as is the progress with interdisciplinary learning in the senior phase
- Development of a range of work related learning experiences for all is at the early stages
- Consistent and robust curricular structure in our secondary school and flexible timetabling options is being addressed with an authority working group

5. Improved strategic leadership of senior phase pathways

- Development of the Community Planning Partnership
- Engagement with Employability Moray through the DYW (Operational) Group

Many of these actions are yet to be fully realised but will be reported on in the future when the true impact of this can be quantified and analysed. The sustainability of this can be assured through the partnership working to drive forward improvements within the senior phase partnership provision in Moray.

Karen Lees, Quality Improvement Officer
5 December 2016