

### **CONCORDAT COMMITMENTS REPORTED ON AT A LOCAL LEVEL**

#### **Commitment 4 – School Estate**

The Council is continuing to address school estate issues via its School Estate Management Plan. Specifically, the Public Private Partnership project to replace 2 schools – Elgin Academy and Keith Primary School – is on schedule for completion by late 2011.

#### **Commitment 4 – Curriculum for Excellence**

In Moray we see Curriculum for Excellence as being about cultural, methodological and structural change aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people. Cultural change includes our work on vision and values, distributive leadership and collegiality. A key aim of CfE is to develop a culture of empowerment so that staff working with children and young people are better placed to respond to needs. Methodological change includes assessment is for learning, Critical Skills, reciprocal teaching, developments in writing and in mental maths, approaches to enterprise and the use of ICT as a learning tool. Structural aspects include the organisation of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, forward planning in primary schools, assessment and reporting.

A great deal of very good work has been undertaken by officers, in our schools and across wider partners to support the implementation of CfE. A far from exhaustive list would include:-

- Work on vision, aims and values centrally and in schools and pre-school centres.
- Developments in leadership as high quality leadership will be required at all levels to support implementation.
- Improvements in learning and teaching through a clear focus on staff development with initiatives such as assessment is for learning, Critical Skills and work on the enterprise agenda.
- Work on literacy & numeracy and health & well being which, under CfE, are the responsibility of all teaching staff.
- Developments in self-evaluation through a series of events for head teachers and quality improvement officers (QIOs).
- A move towards peer support for teachers and teachers supporting the development of their colleagues.
- Very good and nationally recognised work in, for example, International Education, Homecoming and partnership with parents.

As a result of the developments undertaken in Moray the Area Adviser for Learning & Teaching Scotland is positive and complimentary about the stage reached by the Authority in implementing Curriculum for Excellence. However, there are risks in moving forward given, for example, the complexity of this development.

#### **Commitment 4 – Class Sizes**

After a steady increase in the % of pupils in P1 – P3 in classes of 18 or less from 2006 (7.4%) through 2007 (11.5%), and onto 2008 (16%), there has been a reduction to 8% in 2009. This is due in part to the move to limit the maximum class size in P1 – P3 to 25 in all schools. This has been achieved. The Council is now committed to at least a 7% increase in the number of pupils in P1 – P3 in classes of 18 or less from August 2010. Further progress will be dependent upon a number of factors, not least available budget and the continuing impact of falling rolls.

#### **Commitment 4 – Teacher Provision for Pre-School Children**

At present, all Council-run pre-school establishments within schools have access to teachers, but partner providers have peripatetic services only and this is not as yet structured to provide regular access to teachers. Planning is underway to increase access and this will be considered as part of the budgetary process.

#### **Commitment 5 – Expanding Pre-School Provision and Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds**

The Council aims to increase pre-school provision and entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds as a result of earlier entry post 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. No further expansion will be implemented meantime in line with the Council's agreement with COSLA in terms of free school meals and P1 – P3 class sizes.

#### **Commitment 7 – Free School Meals**

Entitlement for free school meals has now been extended to all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit from August 2009. No figures are as yet available as to uptake.

#### **Commitment 8 – Vocational Education/Skills**

All 8 secondary schools utilise the vocational opportunities offered by both Moray College and Banff and Buchan College. Moray College has a central operation in Elgin as well as several outreach centres in Keith, Buckie and Forres. Banff and Buchan have a main outreach facility in Keith.

The main provider is Moray College, and as well as Skills for Work courses and other Vocational certification, it runs courses for S2 pupils which assists in core skill delivery as part of awareness raising and supporting transition.

The main vocational delivery is focussed on S3/4 and is delivered as Skills for Work SQA courses. Topics covered include Construction, Uniformed Services, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Childcare, Engineering, NPA Cosmetology, SVQ Business Administration and Horticulture.

ECDL and Higher Psychology are also offered to S6 pupils.

All schools except Keith Grammar use Moray College. Buckie High School uses both. Banff and Buchan College services Keith Grammar School and Buckie High. Buckie High courses are delivered in the main workshop at Isla Bank, and for Keith Grammar they are delivered both in Isla Bank and in Keith Grammar itself.

The Buckie High courses are Skills for Work based at various levels and include Construction and Engineering.

Keith Grammar has a Hairdressing salon in the school campus and the courses are delivered there.

Construction, Engineering and Automotive Engineering take place in Isla Bank.

### **Commitment 9 – Kinship Care**

A Kinship Care Social Worker was appointed in September 2009 to develop a Moray Kinship Care Scheme. A report was submitted to the Children and Young People's Services Committee on 9 June 2010 detailing the Kinship Care Scheme for Moray. Draft Kinship Care Procedures have been developed and the full set is available on the Elected Members' Information Site (Portal). Also available are a consultation document, and the outcome of a questionnaire to kinship carers.

### **Commitment 10 – Care Home Quality**

All 15 care home providers are compliant with the National Care Home Quality Award.

There have been 13 Quality Audit returns where care homes have been identified as compliant; this is an improvement on last year where 8 care homes were identified as compliant. Although 2 care homes have been identified as being non-compliant, their status has been agreed on a discretionary basis; based upon their action plan for improvement.

### **Commitment 11 – Free Personal Care**

The standard payment levels have increased in line with inflation since 2008. They have risen from £210 per week in 2007/08 to £216 in 2008/09, £222 in 2009/10, and £227 in 2010/11. These levels are set by CoSLA and the National Care Home Standards, and adhere to The Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2002.

### **Commitment 12 – Carers' Support (respite hours)**

Information provided by CoSLA advises that Local Authorities will need to provide the following additional respite weeks above the current baseline for provision:

Financial Year	Number of Additional Respite Weeks
2008/09	2,000
2009/10	6,000
2010/11	10,000

For these purposes a respite week is deemed to be either a full week of respite or 52.5 daytime respite hours, therefore the financial cost of a respite week either at home or in a residential setting should be the same.

Using the Treasury GDP Deflator Table the financial cost for each additional week for the above years is shown in the table below:

Financial Year	Cost per Respite Week
2008/09	£649
2009/10	£687
2010/11	£706

In 2007/08 the Council provided 1824 weeks of respite care, 1869 weeks in 2008/09, and 1948 weeks in 2009/10. This is an increase of 124 weeks, 28 weeks above the concordat commitment of an additional 96 weeks above the baseline.