

Curriculum for Excellence development in Moray

A number of key developments over the last two years have given Curriculum for Excellence in Moray a clear sense of momentum, direction and coherence. As Head of Service, George Sinclair has worked hard to ensure that he involves and consults widely in order both to understand, support and respond to the views and concerns of practitioners and also to develop a shared vision and direction for CfE across the authority. This chimes in with and supports very well the national approach to CfE development. The authority has worked well and closely with other authorities, most notably Aberdeen City, to share approaches and developments, learn from and disseminate good practice and help to build shared capacity: again very much in keeping with the promotion of collaboration and sharing within the national CfE programme. The role of George Milne as inter-authority CfE co-ordinator has been central to much of this collaborative work.

The CfE Strategy Group has had a significant impact on how CfE has been developed within the authority: providing direction, leadership, advice and support, as well as being an excellent forum for debating key concepts, approaches, CPD requirements, etc which are fundamental to the successful development of Curriculum for Excellence. The membership of this group has been central to its success as it has ensured that the needs, concerns, and views of staff in all sectors, from classroom assistants to head teachers and authority officers are represented and appropriate advice, support and direction given. Members of the Strategy Group are to be commended for their dedication, professionalism and commitment.

As well as devising and reviewing the authority's Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Strategy, the Strategy Group has also overseen the production and dissemination of a number of key documents for schools, including the CfE rubric, advice on prioritising within CfE and the Moray Information Pack. These documents have provided schools and staff with very useful guidance and support, as well as helping to build and maintain momentum in CfE development.

The authority has also developed an effective implementation structure for CfE, with the CfE Strategy Group having a fundamental leadership role, supported by the ASG Representatives Group. This structure aims to ensure a strong link between central advice and support and what is actually happening in schools. The ASG Reps Group has a key role in disseminating information, identifying and sharing emerging practice and supporting the delivery of CfE events in and across the ASG, as well as defining and shaping key CPD activities to support staff. There is also the intention to develop a Partnership Forum to provide strategic advice to partners' outwith schools: a vital aspect of the successful future development of CfE. This will provide an excellent enhancement to, and support for, the work of the Strategy Group.

The authority has done well in ensuring clear links between their specific pedagogical and staff development priorities of Critical Skills and Coaching and Mentoring and the development of Curriculum for Excellence in schools. This emphasis helps to provide coherence for practitioners and an understanding of how the work they have already been doing as an authority is now providing a firm foundation for the further implementation of CfE.

All of the above have helped to ensure that the authority is well placed to take forward curriculum for excellence for the benefit of all learners in Moray.