



Closing the  
Gap

Commitment 2  
Reduce poverty and  
disadvantage

# Educational Services Recovery and Improvement Plan 2021-24

# INTRODUCTION



South Ayrshire Council's plan for education reflects the important recovery, and improvement period 2021-2024. The plan takes account of our evaluation work in taking forward School as Learning Organisation and links to the National Improvement Framework and drivers.

Our vision and ambition remains to achieve excellence and equity and support each learner to achieve their potential. Over the course of the next school session we will revisit our vision to ensure it reflects our focus on high quality learning and teaching, and our ambitions for all our children and young people.

The priorities in the plan are based on our evaluation of a range of data, information and views as well as our recent collaborative improvement work with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) and Education Scotland.

We are mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on children, families and staff and in particular our most vulnerable. At the start of the school session we will gather additional information to support staff in targeting resources to mitigate the impact of loss of learning and inequalities that exist for groups of children and young people.

This service plan builds on the very strong teamwork demonstrated by staff across the service both in schools and in the central team. It highlights our collective commitment to ongoing improvement and getting the best outcomes for all learners.

**Douglas Hutchison, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education**



# PRIORITY 1

## Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

*Linked to Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 – Outstanding universal support*



### What do we want to achieve?

Agree a refreshed vision for learning and teaching

Increase the number of children achieving developmental milestones across all 3 domains in early years

Increase the percentage of children and young people achieving expected Curriculum for Excellence levels

Quality of learning and teaching is *good* or better in all schools

Leadership of change is good or better in all schools

Raising attainment and achievement is good or better in all schools

Improve analysis and use of data at all levels

Identify gaps in learning through a consistent approach to assessment and tracking of pupil progress

Improve engagement and involvement of young people and parents in learning and the wider life of the school community

Maintain high levels of attainment for young people in the senior phase

Improve the accuracy and confidence of teacher and practitioner professional judgement of progress in the Broad General Education (BGE)

### How we will make these improvements

Collaborate with head teachers, staff and stakeholders to refresh our vision and take forward School as Learning Organisation

Continue to support high quality play-based pedagogy and transitions across the early level

Continue to review and develop approaches to delivery of 1140 hours (including Devolved Management of Resources (DMR) and additional capacity in key areas)

Develop and implement a literacy action plan.

Develop and implement a numeracy and mathematics action plan

Develop and implement improved and consistent approaches to monitoring and tracking progress in the BGE

Implement standardised assessments at key stages as part of the recovery approach to support staff in identifying gaps in the children's learning

Continue to improve teacher professional judgement through assessment and moderation activities

Continue to implement the 4 stages of progress model within the BGE

Continue to evaluate and review the way we report children's progress

Develop high quality outdoor learning opportunities in collaboration with partners across the local authority

Develop a parental involvement and engagement strategy involving parents, partners and the wider school community

Through the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC), collaborate to enhance the curriculum offer in the senior phase

Undertake a review of the unified senior phase model to ensure that it is meeting the needs of young people

Work collaboratively with stakeholders to implement changes in national qualifications

Implement Making Thinking Visible Stage 2 programme

Develop an Education Digital Strategy to support digital literacy and training for staff, children and young people across all sectors

# PRIORITY 2

## Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children

*Linked to Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 - Love and support for our care experienced young people and young carers and tackling inequalities*



### What do we want to achieve?

Improve attendance of all children and young people including those who are care experienced and those residing in the lowest 20% Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Reduce exclusions (rate per 1000) of children and young people in the lowest 20% SIMD and care experienced children and young people

Improve tracking and monitoring of targeted groups (including those children and young people in Quintile 1, care experienced and young carers)

Improve the percentage of children and young people in the lowest 20% SIMD and those care experienced achieving expected Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels

Improve the average complementary tariff points of young people (leavers) in the lowest 20% SIMD and looked after young people

Improve the percentage of leavers in the lowest 20% SIMD achieving levels 4 and 5 in literacy and numeracy

Increase the percentage of young people in the lowest 20% SIMD and looked after young people who stay on at school (S4 staying on to S5)

### How we will make these improvements

Implement a programme of activities for our youngest children and their parents to support recovery

Implement robust and consistent tracking and monitoring of targeted groups (including those children and young people in Quintile 1, care experienced and young carers) through the development of tracking systems

Implement the recommendations of the Additional Support for Learning Implementation report (2020 – Morgan Review)

Implement The Promise (Corporate Parenting Action Plan)

Implement refreshed national Child Protection guidance

Implement refreshed national GIRFEC practice model guidance

Implement the Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funding revised models to support closing the poverty related attainment and opportunity gap

Continue to develop school and authority-based nurture programmes and provision to provide enhanced health and wellbeing support to children and young people

Develop the new Autism Outreach service to promote and support the inclusion of learners in mainstream settings

Rigorous monitoring and promotion of improved attendance particularly for targeted groups

Deliver training and ongoing coaching in context on the Compassionate and Connected Community

Pilot a new assessment, intervention and evaluation process with the Autism Spectrum Disorder outreach team

Promote the use of and development research to increase the use of evidence-based practice to improve learning and teaching, and outcomes

# PRIORITY 3

## Improvement in children's and young people's health and wellbeing

*Linked to Children's Services Plan 2020-2023  
- Good physical and mental health and wellbeing and promoting Children's Rights*



### What improvements do we want to achieve?

Improve pupil and staff health and wellbeing

Children's Rights are realised across all sectors

Evaluations of good or better in Q.I 3.1. Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion self-evaluation

Children and young people are offered options in all of our establishments in line with the Food and Drink(Scotland) Regulations and including The Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2021

### How we will make these improvements

Implement PATHS programme to support social skills and wellbeing in early years centres

Continue to implement and evaluate the key actions in the co-produced mental health strategy

Implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Continue to revise planning and assessment within the Health and Wellbeing BGE in primary schools and early years centres

Continue to support schools to implement the nutritional requirements

Implement the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme across all local authority early years centres and daycare of children's services registered for the scheme

Implement and evaluate the impact and outcome of the counselling service

# PRIORITY 4

Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leaver destinations for all young people



## What improvements do we want to achieve?

Maintain high level of positive school leaver destination and continue to improve:

- The percentage of care experienced young people entering a positive post-school destination
- The percentage of young people from our most deprived areas entering a positive post-school destination
- The percentage of young people with additional support needs entering a positive post-school destination
- Children and young people can recognise their own strengths and areas for development in relation to employability skills

## How we will make these improvements

Embed the new More Choices More Chances guidance, ensuring a focus on school leavers and in particular our most vulnerable young people

Embed the Developing our Young Workforce co-ordinator role in relation to employer engagement and work-based learning

Continue to develop effective partnership working between schools, South Ayrshire Council's Employability & Skills team and Skills Development Scotland

Continue to develop partnerships that increase the number and range of opportunities for young people to develop a variety of skills and vocational based learning

Continue to develop and embed the Careers Education Standard within learning experiences and work with partners to develop a curriculum that supports children and young people to develop skills for learning, life and work



This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے اُبھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਾਹ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵੱਲੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

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