

The Highland Council

**Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
20 May 2013**

Agenda Item	6.
Report No	CS-15-13

Thurso High School Associated School Group Overview

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Thurso High School Associated School Group (ASG), and provides useful links to further information in relation to these schools.

1.0 ASG PROFILE

The primary schools in this area serve approximately 1750 pupils, with the secondary school serving 840 young people. This has shown a decline over the past few years, and indicators are that this is likely to continue over the next ten years.

ASG all projections can be found at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/highlandfactsandfigures/schoolrollforecasts.htm>

There are currently acting Head Teachers in Castletown Primary School, Crossroads Primary School, and we have a temporary “cluster” arrangement in Halkirk and Reay Primary Schools. Thurso High School also has an interim Head Teacher, who has been doing a fine job. Arrangements have worked very well this session, but cannot continue. Recruitment has commenced for Thurso High School, Castletown Primary School, Halkirk Primary School and Crossroads clustered with Bower Primary.

As previously advised, Members will be aware that the Head Teacher recruitment is a challenge, particularly for class-committed posts.

1.1 ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

1.1.1 Thurso High School

Thurso High School was inspected in 2012, and had a positive inspection.

Attainment – Performance Summary

- 5+ @ level 3 – slight improvements on the previous year with English and Maths showing a 1% improvement and 5+ @ level 3 overall showing a 3% improvement

Comment

The attainment at level 3 has improved or is concurrent in all measures apart from the decline in Maths attainment of girls at Level 3

- 5+ @ level 4 and 5 showing a decline in grades with a 3% dip at level 4 and a 2% dip at level 5, the 5+ @ level result being the poorest over the past five years

Comment

*Attainment measures for 5+ @level 5 have declined and is the lowest in 5 years. The attainment of girls at this level is a significant concern
The performance of the whole year group in Standard Grade English is also contributing to the reduction in awards at 5+ @Level 5*

- Attainment in S5 has shown a slight decline across all measures
- 1+ @ level 6 is down 1% on the previous year, 3+ @ level 6 is down 4% and 5+ @ level 6 is down 5%, in all these measures the girls performance is the lowest it has been for five years
- Boys performance in 1+ @ level 6 is the best it has been for five years with boys also improving at 5+ @ level 6

Comment

*The attainment of S5 girls in all measures is down from previous years
Boys attainment has remained concurrent with last year or has improved
Three years ago the attainment of boys in the school was a major concern.
A lot of work has been done to promote the importance of education to achieving apprenticeships in the local area via STEM. We now need to look for a similar initiative to promote the achievement agenda for females in the school*

- Attainment by the end of S6 has been maintained at previous levels in all but 3+ @ level 6 where there was a 2% decline
- *Attainment in S6 is similar in all measures to last session. However, there are reductions of between 1 and 4% for boys attainment*
- Whole school issues to focus improvement on;
 1. Decline in attainment in all English courses apart from Advanced Higher
 2. Attainment of girls at all levels except S6
 3. Tracking the performance and targets of S4 and S5/6 pupils

Overall there was a slight decline in performance in most areas. Taking into account the regularly high performance of Thurso High School this is of concern but should be kept in perspective with the decline, in most instances being only 1 or 2%. Action has been put in place to address the decline e.g. rigorous tracking of Senior phase performance.

1.1.2 Wider Achievement and Notable Successes

It is clear from this report that the Thurso ASG demonstrates strengths in developing citizenship opportunities for all pupils.

Secondary – Thurso High School – [Link to 2011/12 S&Q Report](#)

Advanced Higher Maths Weekend

The school annually sends pupils on the Advanced Higher Maths weekend to Laganlia Outdoor Centre where there is a mixture of thought provoking maths related lectures, discussions and outdoor team building activities for any S6 pupils studying AH Maths. This is regularly visited by “Heather the Weather”, Prof. Adam McBride from Strathclyde University Maths Department and is sponsored by the British Actuary Society.

After School Sports Club

There is an after school sports group every Tuesday in the Games Hall, this has been running since September 2012 and is attended by approx 10 - 15 pupils each week. This group is predominantly made up of pupils who have been identified as 'socially isolated' (both in school and the community), but for a few pupils, the session is treated as a reward for a week's good attendance or behaviour as well as a chance to work on their own social skills. The pupils choose each week which sports they'd like to do, but generally they play football, basketball, badminton or rounders.

Athletics

There is a school athletics club which meets on a Monday night. During the winter months (Oct to Apr) they concentrate on general running fitness sessions and in the summer concentrate on Track and Field athletics. This is open to all pupils S1-S6. They use the North Schools and Scottish Schools Championships as a goal for the training and in previous years we have gained success with pupils at regional and national level and at the moment have two International athletes at the school. Two further pupils are volunteering with the Primaries and delivering fun athletic sessions.

Badminton

Earlier on in the year the school entered a group of S1-6 pupils in the Highland Quake competition for badminton. We trained on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime with around 20 pupils coming on each day. We selected a squad of 16 pupils and travelled through to Wick to play against Wick, Orkney and Culloden. Unfortunately we did not progress through to the next round as lost to both Orkney and Culloden 6-2 and narrowly to Wick 5-3.

Cookery Club

The cookery club meet every Monday afternoon in the HE department to prepare and make a variety of foods in an informal setting. The club allows pupils to enhance and develop skills learnt in H.E as well as develop a social community amongst pupils which allows them to share and enjoy food. Pupils have made both sweet and savoury foods including kebabs, burgers and sticky toffee pudding and enjoyed eating them. They were inspired by the Great British Bake Off at Christmas time. Pupils made their own fruit cake and then beautifully decorated their cakes with marzipan and icing. The pupils demonstrated great creativity and precision in their work and were delighted by the results. It was a great success and an enjoyable way to spend a lunchtime putting the whole school in the festive mood.

Drama Club

This runs throughout term time usually after school on Tuesdays. It is run by David Hunter, the Eden Court Outreach Worker. David runs workshops in different drama techniques and encourages members to take on roles like lighting, sound and direction. Over the past few years there have been various productions including Honk (the musical of the Ugly Duckling) and devised pieces thought up by the members. We have also been involved in two nationwide drama festivals; the Shakespeare Schools Festival and NT Connections. For the Shakespeare Festival we produced a version of "the Tempest" in thirty minutes and for NT Connections the club produced a new play called "The Guffin". Both of these productions were very well received at home and were much praised by the people at Eden Court.

Duke of Edinburgh

Achieving D of E Award is a real adventure from beginning to end. It is a reward for committing to a programme of activities over a period of at least 6 months.

There are 4 sections to complete. Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition. Pupils from Thurso High School have found themselves helping in the community, getting fitter and learning new talents. When they get involved in D of E they realise that they have much to offer back to the community and often provide help by coaching and tutoring at clubs they are already involved in. Pupils are currently helping out at the junior fiddle club, gymnastics, golf, swimming, stables, charity shops and local homes for the elderly.

The expedition gives the pupils an opportunity to head out of Thurso on an adventure in the countryside they will never forget. At the first level of the Award, Bronze, they will walk at least 15 miles carrying all of their own equipment to camp out overnight and cook themselves for 2 full days. The expedition is remotely supervised meaning that the pupils are responsible for making their own decisions every step of the way.

We have achieved 3 Bronze awards this year. There are 7 Silver participants aiming to finish by September and there are a fantastic 20 new recruits working on Bronze. D of E is open to any pupil aged 14 or over. The D of E club meets on a Wednesday.

Football

The Under 15's football team train on a Tuesday night up at the Naver Astro-turf. They played 3 matches, beating Wick 7-0, narrowly beating Portree in 2nd round of North of Scotland's Cup 2-1 and unfortunately losing 4-1 to Culloden in the following round. 25 pupils attend. 4 coaches from this team assist with the Miller Academy P6/7. These are boys who are keen to take up a career in either sport or teaching in the future. I have acted as a facilitator the 4 coaches have been doing an excellent job of leading the sessions.

Golf Sessions

During the winter months there are Indoor Golf Sessions. These are also open to all pupils S1-S6. Pupils receive tuition during the winter months and during the summer the school enters the North championships and nationals if they qualify. In recent years a female pupil has been successful at that level. This same pupil has now gained her Level 1 in golfing and helps with the after school sessions also. Some of the other pupils are now in the North Development Squad and this is in no small part due to the sessions they had over previous winters.

Music

The Music Department runs a number of lunchtime and after school activities which enhance and support the work done in the Department.

On Monday evening, the Woodwind/Brass instructor rehearses the Caithness Schools' Windband. This ensemble is open to all woodwind and brass pupils in the Caithness area. They have performed at a number of venues locally and have also participated in Music Festivals locally and nationally too. Every two years the ensemble joins with Ross-shire and Sutherland wind-ensembles to travel abroad for performances and cultural experience.

On Tuesday lunchtime, the Music Department rehearses the School Choir. This choir is open to all pupils from S1 to S6. There is no audition required and pupils are encouraged to choose the pieces they would like to sing during the term. The choir participates in the annual Caithness Music Festival in June and has received many trophies over the years. They are also regularly called upon to perform at local events: Carol singing down the street and at 'Seaview House', coffee mornings, fund-raisers and often to sing at school-based events such as assemblies, retirement/leaving events, often at very short notice. They recorded two Christmas songs for the Chris Evans Breakfast Show.

On Thursday, the Scottish ensemble meets to play through traditional and modern Scottish music. Fiddlers, penny-whistlers, keyboardists, guitarists and keyboard players come along from all year groups to play through a number of pieces chosen and arranged by the group. They are accompanied by S3 pupil. They have also been seen and heard performing in the Caithness Music Festival, at local events and will be performing along with the School Choir in their arrangement of Touch the Sky (from the film, 'Brave'). The Thurso High School String Quartet is a group of dedicated S3 pupils who meet every Wednesday lunchtime to run through their repertoire. They have also performed at a number of local concerts and events and will be entering the Caithness Music Festival this year with their arrangement of the 'Theme from Titanic'.

THS Horrors is a group of pupils who perform a song and dance routine for the Music Festival. They have chosen 'The Timewarp' from the 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'. The pupils have arranged the song, the backing track and the dance routine themselves. This group is also open to all pupils S1 – S6.

'Patchwork' (the Thurso High School Country Band) is the latest addition to the department's groups and follows a long line of Country bands from the school who participate in the Northern Nashville Country Music Festival each Easter Weekend in Halkirk. The group was only formed three weeks, due to the arrival of the new guitar instructor. Five pupils from S4 were chosen for the task and they performed admirably on the day, with very little to indicate that they were inexperienced. The Country Band will be open to any pupil willing to put in the time and effort to perform at the Festival next year.

Caithness Music Festival – Every year, the department is involved in this local festival. Pupils wanting to perform on Instruments or voice, solos, duets or ensembles have regular rehearsals at lunchtimes with the music department staff. They receive valuable advice on practice technique and rehearsal advice, as well as guidance on how to prepare to perform on stage. The department also travels with the pupils to the event to accompany and conduct the pupils in their performances.

Netball

This was the second year of Netball at Thurso High School and competing in the Scottish Schools Cup competition. Last year we started out with only an Open team however this

year entered both an Open team and an S1 team as there were a great number of talented Netball players who arrived at Thurso High in August. Travel commitments caused some disruptions to matches but once the regional stage was complete both teams qualified for the Bronze playoff in their respective age groups. The S1 girls reached the Quarter Finals of the knockout stage where they travelled to Dunfermline to take on Woodmill High School. This was a very competitive match played in good spirits however it was not Thurso's day and the team were beaten 13-3. The Open team, who is open for any girls S2 to S6, also reached the Quarter Finals of the Bronze knockout stage where they played host to a very strong Hermitage team. Facing a team of S6 girls the younger Thurso team put up a brave fight but lost out on the day 45-8.

Rock Challenge

Rock Challenge UK is a series of performing arts events which promotes healthy life choices. THS competed in the Eden Court heat with five other schools. The school team consisted of around 60 individuals including performers, stage and support crew. The school had to decide on a theme, reflecting the personalities, concerns, hopes, dreams and interests of those who created it. They then created the choreography for their five to eight-minute dance-drama performance, selected and recorded the medley of music for their soundtrack, designed and made their sets and costumes. The school's Rock Challenge group meet every Wednesday to rehearse and prepare their routine.

Rotary Interact

S5&6 Pupils combine with members of the Thurso Rotary Club to Form Rotary Interact. This group spend the year raising money for charity, support Well projects in Africa and visiting Care Homes at Christmas.

Rugby

The school contributes to the Caithness RFC and plays as Caithness Schools Rugby as a joint team with Wick High School. Caithness Schools have competed at various levels through-out the year notably getting to the Quarter Final of the National Plate competition at U15 Level. The school also runs a girls rugby team.

Snooker

In a similar vein to the After School , a small group of pupils (maximum of 4) go to the British Legion for snooker every Friday after school. The session runs from 3.45pm - 5pm and is attended by pupils on a rotation basis, approximately 20 pupils currently attend. Behaviour and attendance play a part in determining who gets to come. These sessions have several benefits; provides a social activity, help pupils to unwind at the end of the week and can provide a target for pupils who are on a behaviour agreement. This will hopefully link to the British Legion junior snooker group which meets at weekends.

Speech Making/Debating Club

The Rotary Speechmaking Competition has been a feature of the school calendar since 1977. We are on our second shield! The speakers volunteer from S3/S4. They are trained in the English Department and when necessary run a school competition to narrow the field to between six and eight speakers. Rotary members host the event which includes refreshments. A last rehearsal for the pupils in the venue has been organised in recent years when last minute advice or encouragement is given.

There is also a Debating Competition with a trophy donated in memory of a former APT English at the school. This is aimed at S1/S2 and arises from the Debating Club which takes place each Friday. When distance is not a prohibitive factor we have in the past taken part in debating competitions and hope to again when the Debating Club strengthens.

Swimming

Students swim annually in the Highland Schools Swimming Competition which is held in Inverness. Usually about 30 swimmers from the school attend and winners can then be eligible to attend the Scottish Finals held in the Central Belt. This year 5 swimmers qualified for the finals in East Kilbride, with one swimmer winning a gold and silver medal. The "A squad" train every day either before school or after, "B squad" train 4 times a week, "C squad" train 3 times a week and "D squad" train 2 times a week.

Various Pupil Representative Groups

The good order and running of the school is assisted by various pupil groups, including: The Yearbook Committee, The S6 Social Committee, Common Room Committee and various Pupil Council groupings.

Young Writers Group

The Young Writers group vary in number between 10 and 15 pupils. Meeting weekly they are mentored by a 6th year Pupil, who is a former Pushkin Prize Winner. Yearly they produce an Anthology of their pieces. Another individual in the school this year was one of ten Pushkin Prize winners.

Primary

As it is the practice all P7 pupils took part in the Safe Highlanders event and had an informative and enjoyable day. Pupil behaviour was excellent.

By school:

Castletown – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

- weekly after school clubs for Athletics/Cross-country, football and netball.
- individual and team participation in North of Scotland Primary Schools Cross-country championships in Alness and Thurso ASG Cross-country championships.
- 4 teams participating in the Inter Schools football and netball competition.
- teams participating in the Rural Schools swim gala, rugby festivals and mini Highland games.
- various 4-6 week after-school clubs provided by our Active-Schools Co-ordinator (shinty, Boxercise, badminton and basketball), Wick Academy FC (football training) and Caithness Rugby Club (TAG rugby sessions).
- Thurso Rotary Club Annual Inter-Schools Quiz winners 2013.
- development of GLOW e-portfolios for all Primary 5/6 and Primary 6/7 pupils.
- lunchtime and after-school music clubs (composer workshops, recorder, bell-ringing, Infant music club).
- whole school participation in Drumfun boomwhacker workshops which also involved staff, parents and the local community in an after-school session.
- 2nd year of Music initiative providing Primary 7 class with free weekly music lessons creating a whole class wind band. Last year's band played won their section at the Caithness Music Festival
- our bell ringing team has taken part in National competitions via GLOW and performed at the MFY Music Festival in Culloden Academy. They have also been invited to perform at the National Festival Scotland in Perth in June.
- to celebrate World Book Day we've had various events including dressing up as characters from books, book related competitions and a "Winnie the Witch" themed day.

- our Pupil Council organised and ran a Book Fair, setting up stalls to take orders in school time and at November Parents' Evenings. They took £770 in book orders which gave them £335 to spend on books for the school! They also organised and ran daffodil bulb planting sessions for the whole school and Nursery so they could take part in "Marie Curie mini pots of care", and a Talent Show to raise funds for Red Nose Day.
- a pupil Playgroup Improvement group has been set up in response to pupil and parent questionnaires. They have helped to choose resources to improve our playground, such as a nest swing which can be used by all our pupils.
- our JRSOs organise and run our "Walk to School Week" activities and also various other competitions throughout the year.
- last year's Primary 5 class took part in the Junior Saltire Awards. With help from STEM Ambassadors they designed and built a wave powered generator. They then wrote a presentation on it which they gave by video conference to the Chief Executive of MeyGen!
- all pupils attend the Caithness Science Festival and the Caithness Music Festival. Primary 7 pupils all attend the annual Safe Highlanders event
- participation in Greenpower Goblin event with support of STEM ambassadors, culminating in our team becoming Scottish Champions in the slalom event and finishing 4th overall!
- whole school participation in various recycling initiatives such as old costume jewellery, mobile phones, foreign currency and a "Rag-Bag" textile recycling scheme.
- Castletown Primary supports several of charities. This year we have fundraised for Red Nose Day (£297), "Hats for Headway" (£100), "Denim for Diabetes" (£100), Marie Curie Cancer Care (£113.59) and our local branch of the RNLI (£50). We have also had 2 whole school fundraising events for school funds – a sponsored sing and a sponsored "Spellercise" – both of which were very well supported by our parents.
- we have strong links with the local organisations and businesses: with Castlehill Heritage Centre we have taken part and contributed to some of their exhibitions (Bumble Bees, Victorian school); we link with our local Garden Centre to take part in the "Grow Your Own" potato growing project; we provided ideas, support and opinions to Castletown Community Project regarding their proposed new play park; and we've also taken part in the local "Traill Hall Community Trust" Writing Competition.
- our Primary 5 class organised a ceilidh for our local OAPs. Invitations were made and sent, musicians and food sourced and highland dances were learned!
- participation in "Play in a day" sessions with David Hunter across the school. Upper stage pupils are also involved in an after-school drama club which hopes to perform to the whole school and parents later in the term.
- we've also had visits from Nancy Nicolson (a storyteller, writer and musician), drama students from University of York (they were making a film nearby and came to talk about what was involved) and "Fevered Sleep" (drama group conducting research for "Above me the wide blue sky").
- creation and development of a shared Nursery, Playgroup and NOSCA garden area.
- our Primary 5/6 class contributed "wind horses" (Tibetan style prayer flags) for the Dalai Lama's visit to Inverness.

Crossroads – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

Wider achievement

- Children directly involved in charity fundraising – Red Nose Day, Shoe Box Appeal, Children in Need.
- After school clubs – basketball, rugby and art
- Development of personal profiles
- Attended – Caithness Science Festival, Astronomy Talk with a visiting professor, Safe Highlanders
- Events/visitors to school – drama, Trunk show Gaelic place names workshop, Highland Council Recycling Talk, World Book Day, Countryside Ranger links for tree planting and upkeep of willow bower , Save a Life training for P7, Maureen Miller visiting speaker for Africa topic, rugby links with the Caithness Rugby Association, Feis Rois, Kodaly sessions,
- Playground Lunchtime leaders from P6 and 7 trained by Active Schools Coordinator
- Good links with Active Schools Coordinator
- Opportunities for children to hold lunch time clubs
- Pupil Council, Eco Committee – very active with regular meetings.
- Christmas concert and fayre – children were very active in putting forward enterprising ideas to raise money for the school.
- Drama Workshop – Play in a Day with Out of Eden, David Hunter
- Global Children’s Challenge – children in P4-7 participated in this pedometer challenge to walk around the world. They learnt about each country they ‘visited’ on their walk.
- ‘Let’s Colour’ Dulux project – children and volunteers involved in a painting project to brighten up our play areas and provide opportunities for imaginative play.
- Highland Games activity with Bower School

Halkirk – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

- Pupils elect members to the Pupil Council, SNAG, JRSO and the ECO group. The SNAG, ECO group and the JRSO committee run regular competitions to raise awareness within the school.
- Pupils have the opportunity to participate in inter school sports activities including the annual swimming gala, rugby festival, football and netball tournament ,cross country etc. All Pupils take part in the annual school sports day
- Children take turns to be Playground Leaders and organise playground games.
- We have a Scripture Union lunchtime club once a week.
- We run a range of after school clubs throughout the year including rugby, badminton and relaxed kids.
- P7 go on a residential trip to Fairburn Activity centre along with Reay Primary School. Primary 7 pupils raise money towards their residential trip in a variety of ways, e.g. Easter hamper raffle, making and selling table centres for Christmas.
- P2 -4 participated in a drama workshop with the Eden Court outreach worker.
- Community links are fostered in various ways. We entertained local grandparents at a Burns Ceilidh. Parents and the local community are entertained at our Christmas and end of year concerts. Several classes held themed open afternoons where children shared their work, entertain their visitors with plays, songs, presentations and invited the visitors to participate in activities. Primary 1 / 2 class held a very exciting Wild West afternoon and Primary 2/3 class invited parents and friends to

their Circus. P2/3 visited the Halkirk Art Club and the local Spar Shop to link to topic studies.

- The pupils take part in art work for the local gala, the Halkirk Heritage centre and the Caithness County show.
- We have had visits from the local community police officer to talk to the children about vandalism, road safety and in the upper primary, drug awareness.
- Parents, friends and members of the local community share skills and experiences for example parents helped in several classes with different enterprise projects for our Christmas fayre.
- Pupils visit various places throughout the year to enrich their learning experience. This year these include Causwaymire wind farm to learn about renewable energy, Lyth Arts Centre - for a celebration of Mexican Culture, and the local cinema. P1 – 6 also have an educational day trip in the summer term.
- Pupils take part in various music activities and have regular visits from KODALY for infants and Feis Rois for middle/ upper stages who promote Scottish culture and music.
- P7 pupils attend Safe Highlander and Heart Start events.
- Pupils within walking distance of the school took part in Walk to School Week.
- P6/7 had a session on the origins of place names in Caithness.
- STEM ambassadors visit regularly supporting pupils in engineering workshops and projects.
- All pupils were invited to take part in at least one activity in the Caithness Science Festival.
- Some pupils take part in the Caithness Music Festival and perform various items at a summer concert for the community.
- Class blogs are posted on the school website to share learning activities and achievements with parents and the wider public.
- We hold regular fundraising activities for local and national charities. This year we have focussed our efforts on Children in Need, Macmillan Nursing and Comic Relief.
- Personal Profiles have been developed this session which include target setting, learning logs, records of achievement and snapshots of work. These are shared with parents.

Miller – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

- Pupils are members of the Pupil Council and the ECO group.
- P7 Cycling proficiency sessions and assessments.
- P7 Safe Highlander.
- P2 to P4 Kodali sessions for 4 week blocks throughout year.
- Swimmers and Gymnasts competing in Inverness at National Competitions.
- P4 to P7 attended the November 11th Remembrance Day Service at the request of the British Legion.
- P5 to P6 Feis Rois.
- Class visits to library.
- P1 visit to Fire Station, Vet and Doctors Surgery.
- Football Training P5 to P7 children.
- P7 fitness checks.
- Out of Eden theatre group workshops.
- P7 working with Thurso High School Staff on Maths Skills.
- Christmas Shows with all children taking part from Nursery to P7.
- Upper school Ceilidhs.

- P4 to P7 Rugby Training and taking part in inter schools tag rugby tournament.
- Children took part in celebration events for Miller Academy 150th Celebrations. These included working with local artists to make felt wall hangings and making mosaics.
- Rotary Quiz with Miller Academy children visiting Halkirk (host School).
- Swimming Gala- Inter Schools Thurso swimming pool.
- Cross Country event inter school P5 to P7 at Naver.
- Science Festival Week, all children taking part from P1 to P7.
- P7 at Loch Insh residential trip.
- P7 Choices for Life.
- Football and Netball inter school Competitions.
- Football Tournament Wick/Thurso Final in Wick.
- P6 cycle safety checks and P7 cycle training.
- P4 Dance and Yoga workshops.
- Miller has Talent – Talent Show.
- Sports Day.
- Two Art Exhibitions in Caithness Horizons featuring art work on a range of themes, including Miller's 150th Anniversary and the Olympics.
- P5/6 Enterprise work fundraising £156 for Smile Train which provides free cleft lip and palate surgery for hundreds of thousands of children around the world.
- P6 Enterprise work. Primary 6 worked hard as posties from 3rd to 10th December. They raised money for the Clic Sargent charity. . They delivered 4919 cards and raised £49.19 and received £24 in donations. Grand total £73.19. Many thanks from In January Miss Marshall was presented with the money for Clic Sargent by P6.
- P7 Enterprise work.P7/1 raised £65 for the local branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The money was raised from making Christmas Baubles from recycled Christmas Cards.
- All children took part in fund raising for Children In Need. Miller Academy raised £380.39.
- Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland worked with the children doing dance tuition. Miller Academy raised £1629.93 and all of the money went to support the work of Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.
- Nursery collected and delivered 102 filled boxes to the Blythwood lorry for their Christmas appeal

Class Trips – various dates in May/June, including: P2/3 and P2 to Castle of Mey. P 3 trip to RSPB at Forsinard.P1 to Bettyhill Pool June '12. P4 to Dunbeath Heritage Centre June '12. Nursery Trip to Castle of Mey June '12. Nursery visit to Vets. P6 trip to Orkney, including a visit to Skara Brae June '12.

Mount Pleasant – [Link to 2012-2013 S&Q Report](#)

- All pupils attended the Caithness Science Festival. We had 2 runners up in their annual competition.
- P7 Attended Safe Highlanders and participated in Save a Life Training.
- P7 also took part in the Thurso Charrette by presenting their ideas of how Thurso should improve the community.
- P4-P7 did some carol singing at Tescos to entertain the shoppers and raise some extra school funds.
- Classes throughout the school have visited Caithness Horizons for a variety of activities based on Topics they have been studying in class.

- P6 also took part in the Dark Skies project organised by Pat Kieran. They found the information about light pollution particularly interesting.
- Also are currently undertaking their bikeability training.
- **Music** – This year we have been lucky enough to start our own school orchestra through our Music Club with the help of Katrina Gordon and Susie Dingle.
- P2 and P3 have participated in Kodaly sessions and P6 have been learning the tin whistle through Feis Rois.
- Pupils also take part in the Caithness Music Festival with great success.
- They also have the opportunity to attend strings, piping and woodwind tuition.
- P5 have their own after school recorder club and P3 are also having class lessons.
- **Sport** – We have had a range of activities provided for us by the Active Schools Co-ordinator including football, kickboxing, tennis, basketball, tag rugby and badminton. Parents run our ~Football and Netball clubs for P6/7.
- We participate in all the Interschool events including Cross Country, Shinty, Tag Rugby and the Swim Gala.
- P4/5 have swimming lessons every week.
- **Enterprises** – Most classes take the opportunity to run their own enterprises. This year P2 collected 89 shoeboxes for Blythswood, P3 held a Gift Giving coffee afternoon for the older people in the community, P5 held an Art Exhibition comprising art work from every pupil in the school, P6 have been making and selling notelets as well as growing plants to sell this term and P7 ran a Bring and Buy sale in January to raise funds for their residential trip to Fairburn.
- **Snag** – Took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief. The whole school was in attendance and they raised £541.35. They have also introduced fruit tokens given to pupils at lunchtime for eating fruit. These are then tallied up over the week and the winning class is presented with Head Teacher sized inflatable banana! They have also held a variety of themed lunches including Burns and Christmas.
- **Eco Committee** – Have embedded a regular routine of collecting items for the compost bins, including teachers' teabags. They have participated in the RSPB Big School's Bird Watch and encouraged the whole school to take part in the Council run Wacky Woolly Wednesday. As part of this day there was a Council wide run photo competition which our school won.
- **Pupil Council** - Organised the fundraising for Children in Need involving selling CIN merchandise and holding a Spot Mob which raised £519.02. They sold Red Noses for Red nose day and held a themed dress down day, all participants had to wear glasses and moustaches! We raised £421.40.
- **JRSO** – have organised and held a Beep Beep Day for infant classes which consisted of a variety of road safety activities held over the course of the school day. The infant classes raised a magnificent £899 for the charity Brake. A road safety week was then held later for the whole school to participate in culminating in a Bright day to get the safety message across "Be safe, Be seen". We also took part in a competition to design an International JRSO badge. They also support the Walk to School weeks.

Pennyland – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

Wider Achievement

- We celebrated our 50th anniversary this year
- Weekly after school/lunch clubs include netball, football, dance and craft. Also sporting taster sessions provided by the Active Sports Co-ordinator which have included rugby, tennis, kick boxing, basketball, golf and boxercise among others. Football sessions for P2 and P3 provided by Ross Football Club as part of the Tesco Football Challenge.
- Goblin Car – third year of building a car by P7s and participation in the race competition at Alford in June – supported by Stem Ambassadors from Dounreay.
- Drama group offered on a Monday after school by David Hunter the Eden Court outreach worker and also Play in a Day workshops – generally one a term.
- P3s worked with the Eden Court Hit Squad for a day and then performed their dance routines to the school and also the residents at Bayview – residential residence for senior citizens.
- A group of P6s and P7s travelled to Inverness to take part in the Rock Challenge at Eden Court (dancing). They were one of only six primary age groups from all over Highland and returned with six awards.
- A team of four representing the school won the coveted Gold Medal at the Scottish Schools Gymnastics Association Regional Heats in Inverness. They then went on to take fourth place in the Scottish Finals in Perth.
- All of the children participated in the Caithness Science Festival and P7 enjoyed the Safe Highlander experience and had a representative team at the inter-school Rotary Quiz.
- A group from P7 gave a presentation at the Thurso Charrette explaining to this group of business people, councillors, members of the public etc their vision for Thurso for the future.
- We are one of four Caithness schools asked to participate in the British Science Association Schools Weather Forecasting Project which is a follow up to our participation in Great Caithness Weather Study. Our P7 won the first prize for the most accurate forecast printed in the local paper this term.
- We were delighted to receive the first award of its kind from the Authority for our work with children for whom English is not their main language.
- Our international links include:- Children Connecting Cultures – this is the fourth time we have connected with an American school through this project . The children share information by writing, emailing and finally taking part in a video link from one of the UHI conference suites. Caroline Mzungu Dickson, who is a past student of ours, runs an organisation called Kenyawiki Kids in Malawi. We have raised money to buy chickens and recently raised enough to pay for six toilets going into the new Steka House which is home for forty orphans. Thurso is twinned with Brilon, Germany and we are in the process of resurrecting the educational link with the town at the invitation of the committee. We have raised money for one of our ex-parents for a Book Bus project in Kenya she will be working with and some of the children are writing books which will be taken out to be part of the reading material on the bus. In conjunction with the local Rotary our P5s have raised money to install

a well at the Lubosi Basic School in North West Zambia as part of the Lessons for Life initiative. The class teacher has been invited as a guest to a meeting of the Rotary so the work undertaken by the children and their fundraising can formally be recognised. As with the previous initiative in Kenya follow up visits will be made to Pennyland so the children can follow the progress made and see how the money is being spent and is making a real difference to the communities involved. We have also been involved in the Rotary's bid to raise funds to help eradicate polio from the world.

- We also try to work with as many of the local businesses and services in and around Thurso as possible.
- Comic Relief, Woolly Wacky Wednesday, Sport Your Trainers were among other causes supported by the school.

Reay – [Link to 2011-2012 S&Q Report](#)

- We have achieved our second Eco-schools green flag and are currently working towards our third.
- The P4 -7 pupils grow vegetables in the school garden which are cooked for school lunch.
- Pupils elect members to the Pupil Council, SNAG, JRSO and the ECO schools committee. The SNAG, ECO schools committee and the JRSO committee run regular competitions to raise awareness within the school.
- Pupils have the opportunity to participate in inter school sports activities including the annual swimming gala, rugby festival, The Split Stone Challenges, cross country etc. All pupils take part in the annual school sports day. Middle and senior stage pupils have swimming tuition.
- Children run their own lunch time clubs including dance club and playground games.
- We run a wide range of after school clubs throughout the year including football, rugby, relaxed kids and healthy cooking.
- P7 participate in a residential trip to Fairburn Activity centre along with Halkirk Primary School's P 7 class which improves transition to secondary school.
- P4 – 7 participated in drama workshop "play in a Day" with David Hunter which they performed to the P1-3 pupils
- Community links are fostered in various ways. We entertain local senior citizens, parents and the local community. Reay gardening club help the pupils prepare planters which are placed around the village every summer term. The pupils take part in art work at the local gardening club's annual show.
- The participation of parents and the wider community in passing on knowledge and skills to pupils is actively encouraged and various local residents visit to help enrich the curriculum and regularly support Social Studies topic work.
- Pupils visit various places throughout the year to enrich their learning experience. This year these include Quoybrae -for active learning based on farming, Lyth Arts Centre - for a celebration of Mexican Culture, and Caithness Horizons- for glass artwork.
- P7 pupils attend Safe Highlander and Heart Start events.
- Pupils take part in various music activities and have regular visits from KODALY for infants. Feis Rois, who promote Scottish culture and music, also visit the middle and upper stages. We have weekly visits from a strings tutor.
- Pupils entertain the community with carol singing at the annual Christmas lights switch on celebration. They perform a nativity play for senior citizens in school and at Achvarasdal home for the elderly and also for parents and the local community in church .

- STEM ambassadors visit regularly supporting pupils with engineering workshops.
- All pupils attend the Caithness Science Festival.
- All pupils take part in the Caithness Music Festival and hold a summer concert in the local hall.
- Class blogs are posted on the school website to share learning activities and achievements with parents and the wider public.
- We hold regular fundraising activities for local and national charities. This year we have concentrated on Children in Need, Hats 4 Headway (brain injury charity) and the Heart Foundation.
- Personal Profiles have been developed this session including target setting, learning logs, records of achievement and work snapshots. These are shared with parents.

Appendix 1 gives a statistical summary of the recorded visits by schools within the ASG, illustrating numbers participating and days of off-site visits.

Caithness & Sutherland (North Area) – Thurso ASG		
School	Date of Last Published Report	Link
Castletown Primary	19 January 2010	Castletown Primary
Crossroads Primary ©	20 April 2010	Crossroads Primary
Halkirk Primary ©	8 June 2004	Halkirk Primary
Miller Academy Primary	25 October 2005	Miller Academy Primary
Mount Pleasant Primary	27 February 2007	Mount Pleasant Primary
Pennyland Primary	12 January 2010	Pennyland Primary
Reay Primary ©	18 May 2010	Reay Primary
Thurso High	20 March 2012	Thurso High

Early Years Centre	Date of Last Published Report	Link
Miller Academy (Three Bears Nursery)	20 January 2011	Care Inspectorate Report
Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery	18 January 2011	Care Inspectorate Report
Pennyland Primary Nursery	8 November 2011	HMIE
Castletown Nursery	22 February 2013	Care Inspectorate Report
Castletown Playgroup	29 June 2012	Care Inspectorate Report
Croileagan Inbhir Therosa	22 November 2011	Care Inspectorate Report
Halkirk Playgroup	13 June 2012	Care Inspectorate Report
Playden Playgroup	13 March 2013	Care Inspectorate Report
Rainbow Rascals Playgroup	20 July 2011	HMIE
Reay under 5's	25 Jan 2012	Care Inspectorate Report
Scallywags Playgroup	6 March 2013	Care Inspectorate Report

1.1.3 Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) which is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2012.

No. of Leavers	% Positive Destinations
Thurso High School	91.3%
Highland 2011/12 SLDR	90.7%
Scotland 2011/12SLDR	89.9%

Leaver Destinations for Thurso High School

Number of pupils leaving in school year 2011/12

		THS	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
10/11	TOTAL NO. LEAVERS	184	2,575	54,073
11/12	TOTAL NO. LEAVERS	160	2,495	50,892

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	THS		HIGHLAND		SCOTLAND	
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12
Higher Education	32.6	33.8	33.2	34.6	35.8	37.3
Further Education	31.0	28.1	22.3	21.2	27.1	26.8
Training	1.1	0.0	2.0	2.5	5.6	4.6
Employment	23.4	28.1	29.2	29.7	19.3	19.8
Voluntary	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.4
Activity Agreement	1.6	0.0	2.2	1.8	0.5	0.9
Unemployment Seeking	6.5	3.1	7.7	5.9	9.6	8.4
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.6	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.3
Unknown	2.2	3.1	1.1	1.5	0.3	0.4

Note: National averages have been calculated from the figures for all available local authority and grant-aided schools, whereas the local authority averages are based on local authority schools only.

There are currently 7 open Activity Agreements involving former pupils of Thurso High School. They are being supported through a variety of means, including: Pulteneytown Peoples Project, Barnardos, Dunnet Forrest Trust and Tag Highland. Most of these are managed by Skills Development Scotland.

There are 21 former pupils who have completed agreements, with 75% going on to positive initial destinations.

Thurso ASG

1.2 Pupils

Nursery	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
<i>Highland Primary</i>				16.8%	92.4%
<i>Scotland Primary</i>				22.1%	89.0%
Castletown Primary	110	0	0	11.0%	100.0%
Crossroads Primary	40	0	0	22.0%	100.0%
Halkirk Primary	117	1	0	12.9%	93.3%
Miller Academy Primary	240	2	4	21.2%	87.0%
Mount Pleasant Primary	166	1	0	17.9%	84.4%
Pennyland Primary	184	4	2	17.5%	100.0%
Reay Primary	40	0	0	11.6%	100.0%
<i>Highland Secondary</i>				11.0%	77.3%
<i>Scotland Secondary</i>				15.4%	71.7%
Thurso High	840	10	4	15.0%	65.7%
Castletown Nursery	19				
Miller Academy (Three Bears nursery)	35				
Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery	32				
Pennyland Primary Nursery	69				
Castletown Playgroup	11				
Crileagan Inbhir Therosa	20				
Halkirk Playgroup	34				
Playden Playgroup	15				
Rainbow rascals Playgroup	12				
Reay under 5's	12				
Scallywags Playgroup	9				
Childminders	Approx. 60				
NOSCA	285 children registered, daily average attendance of 32 + 16 for daycare	Currently have a waiting list but moving to the Ormlie Centre so will have increased capacity to meet Thurso demand			

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2012 Free Meals Eligibility is the percentage of the present school roll registered for free meals. Free Meals Uptake is the percentage of those present on census day who were registered and took free meals.

1.2.1 Attendance/Absence/Exclusion Profile 2011/12

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, comparative national information will be next available for academic year 2012-13.

School	Total Number of Possible Attendances (Pupil Half Days) and % Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rate per 1000 pupils	No. Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 pupils
<i>Highland Primary</i>	95.3% (2011-12)	3.9% (2011-12)	0.8% (2011-12)	8/1000 (11-12)	6/1000 (11-12)
<i>Scotland Primary</i>	94.8% (2010-11)	4.0% (2010-11)	1.2% (2010-11)	11/1000 (10-11)	6/1000 (10-11)
Castletown Primary	95.43%	4.2%	0.3%	0	0
Crossroads Primary	96.7%	2.8%	0.5%	0	0
Halkirk Primary	96.1%	3.9%	0.1%	0	0
Miller Academy Primary	95.0%	4.1%	0.9%	4/1000	4/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary	96.0%	3.3%	0.7%	0	0
Pennyland Primary	94.74%	5.0%	0.3%	0	0
Reay Primary	96.4%	3.6%	0.0%	0	0
<i>Highland Secondary</i>	91.0% (2011-12)	6.3% (2011-12)	2.6% (2011-12)	39/1000 (11-12)	27/1000 (11-12)
<i>Scotland Secondary</i>	91.1% (2010-11)	6.0% (2010-11)	2.7% (2010-11)	72/1000 (10-11)	40/1000 (10-11)
Thurso High	91.5%	5.3%	3.1%	24/1000	19/1000

1.3 School

School	ECO School	Travel Plan	Improving through Self-Evaluation and Improving Services	No. of Placing Requests In	No. of Placing Requests In Granted	No. of Placing Requests Out Granted
Thurso High	Bronze	Yes	Very Good (2012)	8	8	3
Castletown Primary	Bronze	No	Good (2010)	6	6	2
Crossroads Primary	Bronze	Yes	Satisfactory (2010)	2	2	4
Halkirk Primary	Silver	Yes	Fair (2004 – older indicators)	1	1	1
Miller Academy Primary	Bronze	In Progress	Unsatisfactory (2005 – older indicators)	10	10	7
Mount Pleasant Primary	Silver	Yes	Adequate (2007)	6	6	6

Pennyland Primary	Silver	No	Weak (2010)	6	6	11
Reay Primary	Green Flag	Yes	Excellent (2010)	1	1	1

ECO School status is reported as at Feb 2013. Placing Request information relates to the last full academic year 2011-12.

1.4 ECS Staffing

School/ Nursery	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching FTE
Thurso High	68.50	26.00
Castletown Primary	6.51	5.93
Crossroads Primary	2.50	1.58
Halkirk Primary	6.89	3.88
Miller Academy Primary	14.37	6.16
Mount Pleasant Primary	10.90	8.09
Pennyland Primary	11.97	5.94
Reay Primary	3.28	1.44
Miller Academy (Three Bears Nursery)		1.86
Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery		2.07
Pennyland Primary Nursery		0.00
Castletown Nursery		1.04
Castletown Playgroup		1.00
Croileagan Inbhir Therosa		0.89
Halkirk Playgroup		2.66
Playden Playgroup		1.11
Rainbow Rascals Playgroup		0.00
Reay under 5's		
Scallywags Playgroup		1.11

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2012. Please note that only certain types of teaching posts are counted here: Normal complement, Long term sick absence replacement, secondment replacement, maternity leave replacement, other replacement, temporary contract, covering a vacancy. Teachers who teach at the school but are centrally employed are excluded.

It should be noted that all placing requests in/out of these schools were able to be accommodated this year. There were therefore no parental appeals lodged for this ASG.

Highland Council Nurseries and Partner centres are to be supported by a Principal Teacher (Early Years) based in Thurso ASG. This ASG has an entitlement to 1.0 FTE Principal Teacher posts, and this position is currently filled.

Core staffing is calculated using the Highland Staffing Model, which takes account of national agreements for P1 to P3 class sizes. As a result, all primaries in this ASG are staffed according to the model.

- [Staffing Table DSM Annex 4 PDF](#)
- [Primary Teacher Staffing Arrangements Admin Circular 9/2010](#)
- [Primary School Rolls as at 17th August 2012 – Appendix 2](#)

It is important to note that, in addition to core staffing for each school, a model will be used to provide an appropriate level of ASN cover to each school within the ASG. This model was approved at Adult and Children’s Services Committee, 26th September 2012. Report [ACS-33-12](#).

This session we are funding additional staffing for the ASG as follows:

- 14.47 FTE ASN teachers
- 42.02 FTE PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

113	Pupils at level 2
38	Pupils at level 3
12	Pupils at level 4

For Members benefit a guide to Levels of Additional Support Need is attached as APPENDIX 3.

Brain Development and Emotional Literacy within the ASG

Members will be aware that the Adult & Children’s Services Committee of 7th November considered a report – “Brain Development, Emotional Literacy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy” – [ACS-40-12](#)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AROUND EMOTIONAL LITERACY – THURSO ASG

<u>Attendance on 10 day or 6 day Action Learning Course – Emotional Literacy</u> (Covers brain development, attachment, building resilience, promoting positive relationships, emotional coaching, leadership etc. and an Action Learning Project)	
2 x Early Years Children’s Services Worker	1 x Quality Assurance Reviewing Officer
2 x Children’s Services Worker	1 x SW Youth Action
1 x Head of Airport House	1 x Area Principal Educational Psychologist
1 x SW Children’s Disability Team	
<u>Emotional Literacy Awareness Raising Training Sessions</u>	
Early Years Multi-Agency training to 15 staff	5 x Residential Children’s Unit Staff
CSWs and EY CSWs	All staff at Airport House
Primary School staff session	Secondary School staff session
Longer term input over several sessions with feedback in one Primary School	
<i>Other staff may have attended other training that has been open to all e.g. Brain Lectures, additional conferences, workshops etc. that have been delivered, but not arranged by the ASN team and therefore we have no data on this.</i>	

COMMENT

Members are reminded from the original report that even with training it requires a significant change of approach for staff to become effective, and it is not yet a feature of the skills and knowledge base of every practitioner working with children in schools or in Early Years settings.

However, it is a start and work is ongoing to adopt a focussed approach and embed these approaches across Highland.

1.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Devolved Budget 2012/13	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2011/12
Thurso High	3,482,647.55	£4146.00	-24,491.07
Castletown	415,093.00	£3773.57	-5,579.51
Crossroads	139,004.12	£3475.10	-2,542.87
Halkirk	343,377.00	£2934.85	9,108.47
Miller Academy	748,171.00	£3908.55	-37,679.65
Mount Pleasant	547,274.98	£3296.84	-16,606.07
Pennyland	599,376.00	£3257.48	-26,116.21
Reay	133,591.42	£3339.79	-7,224.63

Members are asked to note that devolved funding is generally sufficient for school needs.

1.6 Buildings

School/	Pupil Roll (5 years)	Pupil Roll (10 years)	Current Occupancy	Condition	Suitability	Current and future investmen t (last 5 years)
Thurso High	744	726	76%	B ¹	C ¹	£3384828
Castletown Primary	93	82	49%	C	B	£735596
Crossroads Primary	41	37	80%	B	B	0
Halkirk Primary	127	116	52%	C	B	£726600
Miller Academy Primary	225	223	51%	C	B	£56560
Mount Pleasant Primary	161	161	53%	C	B	£2906
Pennyland Primary	197	181	53%	B	B	£263374
Reay Primary	34	35	52%	B	A	0

Primary school occupancy information relates to academic year 2012-13. Secondary school occupancy is uses Operational Capacity adjusted for actual Room Size and relates to academic year 2010-11.

¹ ratings given are 2003, current ratings awaited

Condition A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently; Condition B: Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration; Condition C: Poor – Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately; Condition D: Bad – Economic life expired and/or risk of failure.

Primary school occupancy information relates to academic year 2011-12. Secondary school occupancy uses Operational Capacity adjusted for actual Room Size and relates to academic year 2010-11.

No data held in relation to Capital investment for Crossroads or Bower.

In addition to the planned works detailed in this report, we are aware of the continuing need to address smaller non-capital needs, and these are responded to as they arise.

2.0 SPORTS FACILITIES

2.1 Secondary

Thurso High School - 2 gymnasias; sports hall; football pitch; rugby pitch; athletics throwing area; access to ¼ running track; use of all-weather pitch at Naver Park.

2.2 Primary

Castletown - Large grassed area used for football, sports day
Large tarmac area marked out for netball and used for a variety of activities including cycling proficiency.
Gymnasium used by various after school clubs
School dining hall used for indoor sports and movement.

Crossroads - Some facilities within the school, including the dining hall. Good sized grassed area for football and other sports.

Halkirk - Large grassed and tarred areas
2 football pitches on grass
Netball court on tar
Gymnasium complete with wall bars

Miller Academy - Gymnasium
Playing field
Large tarred playground

Mount Pleasant - Gymnasium & Dining Hall
Netball court on playground
Large playing field marked out for football

Pennyland - School hall doubles as gymnasium
Sports field
Trim Trail
Netball Courts (2) on part of playground
Basketball area

Reay - Grassed area
Tarred area
Football pitch
Mini-football pitch
Basketball court
Climbing wall
Play area including Viking Ship

3.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND IN THURSO ASG

HLH Facilities and Services within the Thurso Associated School Group Area	User Information	2010/11	2011/12
Thurso Swimming Pool	Users	69958	73752
Swanson Gallery	Users	4282	5351
Thurso Library	Issues	77,887	71,813
Mobile Library	Issues	24,118	24,777
Sports Pitches Ormlie Orlig Street Sir George's Gillock Millbank Naver Viewfirth Park Dunnet	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-
Active Schools Coordinator	Unique Participants	Different info collected prior to 2011/12	823
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People Young Scot Card percentage uptake (National average – 72%) Youth Participation Highland Youth Voice Participants	1065 61 3	1111 87 3
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	70	121

Programme Information:

Thurso Swimming Pool: <http://highlifehighland.com/leisure-facilities/thurso-swimming-pool>

Swanson Gallery: <http://highlifehighland.com/arts/swanson-gallery>

Thurso Library: <http://highlifehighland.com/libraries/thurso-library>

Mobile Library: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/mobilelibraryservice/>

3.2 Examples of the youth work presently undertaken within the Thurso ASG

The youth development team for Thurso learning community provides a mix of regular and project based youth work. At Thurso Youth Club there are twice weekly after school drop-ins and a Friday night youth club - all for S1 and above. Group work with girls around self-confidence and life skills happens twice a week.

Project based work over the last year has included - joint work with the Ormlie young mums group including some parenting classes in the high school; and work with non-attenders at the school. Plans for the coming period include activities over the summer holidays and developing the Friday night youth club along the Highland wide popular FUSION diversionary programme (arts, crafts, music, workshops). The Youth Worker also supports local youngsters to participate in the two Highland Youth Parliament conferences in June and November each year.

HLH Youth Services –

- Work directly with young people in NEED
- COORDINATE local provision
- Support PARTNER organisations
- Ensure young people have a VOICE
- Support and develop ACHIEVEMENT frameworks

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Area Committee is invited to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Author: Graham D Nichols

Date: 9th May 2013

Statistical Report

Appendix 1

Statistical Summary 14 August 2012 – 30 April 2013

Total number of visits	826
Total number of participants	37890
Total number of days	851
Total number of participant days	38555

Breakdown by Visit Type	Overseas	Residential	Adventurous (external)	Adventurous (own staff)	Other	Onsite
Total number of visits that included Visit type	1	8	37	3	786	1
Total number of different Establishments	1	3	3	1	8	1
Total number of participants	32	184	228	55	37584	23
Total number of days	9	33	56	15	786	3
Participant Days	32	849	228	55	37584	23

The table provides a statistical summary of all 'Approved' and 'Processed' visits (including repeats) within the specified date period. Participant Data presented is calculated on the "Intended Number of Attendees data".

CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND – (NORTH AREA)

PRIMARY SCHOOL ROLLS AS AT 17 AUGUST 2012 – Appendix Two

CAITHNESS	NURSERY 3s			NURSERY 4s			TOTAL	PRIMARY							
	Aug	Jan	Apr	Aug	Jan	Apr		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
Castletown Primary	0	0	0	17	0	0	17	14	17	10	17	14	16	21	109
Crossroads Primary ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	4	5	9	7	3	42
Halkirk Primary ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	25	20	22	11	10	13	115
Miller Academy Primary	12	4	1	23	0	0	40	36	22	38	30	30	39	46	241
Mount Pleasant Primary	11	2	2	18	0	0	33	16	22	29	24	27	24	20	162
Pennyland Primary	13	7	3	45	0	0	68	35	22	27	29	27	23	20	183
Reay Primary ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	9	5	7	5	7	41
	36	13	6	103	0	0	158	125	120	137	132	125	124	130	893

© Cluster

	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL
Thurso High	156	148	133	164	134	93	850

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
LEVELS OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEED – Appendix Three**

Needs relating to:	Level 1 – Standard Support	Level 2 – Significant Support	Level 3 – Substantial Support	Level 4 – Specialised Support
The physical environment	The ordinary education setting is appropriate (DDA compliant)	Access to a room sometimes required for the delivery of structured programmes etc, which cannot be delivered within the mainstream classroom e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a deaf pupil requiring a low noise environment area for a pupil to engage in outside agency programme 	A base/dedicated area within a mainstream setting is required for a substantial part of the pupil's time in school e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASD friendly environment 	A highly specialised environment all of the time (the pupil will have complex needs).
The curriculum and how it is delivered	Mainstream curriculum with differentiation e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alternative outcomes additional time responding to preferred learning styles 	Significant differentiation is needed in one or more areas of the curriculum, requiring a child's plan/programme with SMART targets, which are reviewed termly e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for learning and/or behaviour independence/social/life skills physical/sensory issues 	Very substantial and individualised planning in a wide area of the mainstream curriculum requiring regular review and consultation with parents, and agencies/services external to the school	Following an alternative/elaborated curriculum from that provided in mainstream, supported by a detailed child's plan.
The level of adult support required (refer to CSP if appropriate)	A flexible and creative use of support normally available, in order to respond to needs	Significant needs which require to be addressed through access to individual and/or small group support for part of the time , monitored and reviewed through the child's plan.	Access to a substantial level of support most of the time to implement agreed protocols/actions, as agreed and recorded in the child's plan.	Access to teacher and/or assistant support all of the time . This support is monitored, reviewed and evaluated through the child planning process.
The level of specialised resources and technology required	Ordinarily available resources. For some pupils this will include mobility aids, wheelchairs and assistive technology support	Resources, required by the pupil individually, on a time limited basis eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> switches hearing aids for glue ear 	Highly specialised resources or technology not normally available and deployed/designed for the pupil's specific use when required e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communication aids radio aids 	Access to highly specialised resources, facilities or technology not normally available and deployed/designed for the pupil's specific use all of the time e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> augmentative aids assistive technology
The level of support agencies / services involved	Needs identified and monitored by Class / Subject Teacher. For some pupils this may include support from therapists. ASN file may be opened at this Level	Agreed and monitored child's plan and/or programmes delivered by school staff which may be supported by outside agencies eg OT / S< e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultation and resources from therapists ASN file opened at this Level	Direct, planned and monitored long term support on a regular basis by specialist agencies/services (including social work). Child's Plan used to coordinate and monitor support and outcomes for the child/young person.	Direct, planned and monitored support on an intensive basis, supported by a detailed child's plan.
Communication (inc EAL)	Ordinary oral/aural and written communication eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visually supported environment using less complex language 	Communication and language needs met by specific approaches eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> symbols visual/verbal cues 	Enhanced support to aid communication and social inclusion. Additional communication methods e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sign/gesture, including Makaton PECS augmentative systems 	Highly specialised methods required all of the time e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sign language Braille