

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
25 September 2013

Agenda Item	10.
Report No	ACS/90/13

'Being A Part, Not Apart': Highland Children's Forum Inclusion Report
Report by Directors of Education, Culture & Sport and Health & Social Care

Summary

This report introduces a presentation by the Highland Children's Forum on their Inclusion report: 'Being A Part, Not Apart'.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Highland Children's Forum is contracted by Highland Council, to represent the views of young people and families with additional needs.
- 1.2 Highland Children's Forum (HCF) has provided the Council with a series of reports on the issue of Inclusion. 'What Difference Would There Be If Children's Experience Framed Policy?' was published in 2005. Inclusion was also part of the 'Are We There Yet?' study in 2008.
- 1.3 The term 'inclusion', reflects what should be regarded as a universal human right, which aims at embracing all people irrespective of race, gender, disability or other need. It involves equal access and opportunities, and the elimination of discrimination and intolerance.
- 1.4 For young people growing up, inclusion is about enjoying and learning how to become a full and responsible member of society, to be 'included' in all aspects of that society.
- 1.5 This latest HCF report 'Being A Part, Not Apart', revisits some of the issues of the previous reports, to consider if there have been changes or improvements to the level of inclusion for Highland's children and young people.
- 1.6 The consultation ran from June 2012 to May 2013 across urban, rural and remote communities, involving 515 children and young people, 27 parents and 23 service providers.
- 1.7 The report is provided separately to this meeting of the Committee. There will be a presentation, by Celia Baxter, the Children's Consultation Lead for Highland Children's Forum

2 Implications arising from Report

- 2.1 The report highlights a range of issues across public sector services, which could have resource implications for public agencies.
- 2.2 The Highland Council has legal responsibilities with regard to the education of children with additional needs, largely set out in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004. The Act places duties on education authorities - and in certain circumstances health, social work and Skills Development Scotland - to work collaboratively to plan and make provision for children. The Act is structured around the concept of support being determined by the individual learning needs of the child or young person. The key duties on education authorities are to identify, make provision for, and review provision for the additional support needs of children and young people for whose education they are responsible.
- 2.3 The report highlights key equality issues for children and families with additional needs.
- 2.4 There are no climate change implications.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and comment on the issues raised in this report.

Bill Alexander
Director of Health & Social Care

Hugh Fraser
Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Date: 17 September 2013