

The Highland Council
Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee

27 May 2014

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CS/16/14

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 updated links to further information in relation to these schools.

1.0 ASG PROFILE

The primary schools in this area serve over 870 pupils, with the secondary school serving 802 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

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

There are currently three acting Head Teachers in the ASG, in receipt of support through the Quality Improvement Officer and the Area Office.

1.1 Attainment and Achievement

1.1.1 THURSO HIGH SCHOOL

Attainment – Performance Summary

Significant trends in S4 attainment

The attainment at level 3 is significantly down on last year taking the school to NCD 10 in English and 9 in Maths, with Boys 9% down for both subjects. There are twenty pupils identified who did not attain 5+@level 3. These included ASN/SEU pupils (7), three school refusers and three pupils at Airport House. The remaining 7 pupils did not turn up for all of their exams.

More positively attainment measures for 5+@level 5 have increased significantly from 31% to 39% (NCD 7 to NCD 5) having been the lowest in five years the previous year. Boys' attainment improved one NCD point from the previous year (NCD 4 from NCD 5). Girls' attainment improved from an NCD 8 in the previous two years to 6 this year.

Performance in Standard Grade English has improved this year. For all candidates relative position against comparator school is 6. This is an improvement from the previous year's 8.

All Skills for Work courses have satisfactory passes.

Significant trends in S5 attainment

The attainment of S5 pupils is up for all measures. The tracking of pupil progress has helped here.

The attainment of S5 girls is up in all measures compared to previous years. The attainment of S5 boys is up in all measures with the exception of 5+ @ level 5 and 5+ @ level 6 which are concurrent with last year (NCD 6 for both). These are both pleasing and significant improvements.

Significant trends in S6 attainment

Attainment in S6 is down in all measures except Boys 5+ @ level 6 (1%). This is a concern especially the drop in attainment for girls.

Suggested Actions

- ✚ The school plans to bring renewed rigour and transparency to whole school, systematic tracking and target setting based on all available data, including Assessment for Excellence (AfE) and SOSCA.
- ✚ The school presentation policy is being reviewed to avoid the level of incompletes and no awards in almost all presentations
- ✚ Presentation must be based on tracking, involve pupils and parents when appropriate and be flexible to move pupils both up and down award levels.

1.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes

Secondary – Thurso High School – [Link to Thurso High webpage](#)

Primary by School:

School	Link to School Webpage
Castletown Primary School ©	Castletown Primary webpage
Crossroads Primary School ©	Crossroads Primary webpage
Halkirk Primary School	Halkirk Primary webpage
Miller Academy Primary School	Miller Academy Primary webpage
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Mount Pleasant Primary School
Pennyland Primary School	Pennyland Primary School
Reay Primary School	Reay Primary School

© Denotes school part of a “cluster” management arrangement

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Castletown Primary School	Jan-10	Castletown Primary Inspection
Crossroads Primary School	Apr-10	Crossroads Primary Inspection
Halkirk Primary School	Sep-13	Halkirk Primary Inspection
Miller Academy Primary School	Nov 2008 (Follow Up)	Miller Academy Primary Inspection
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Feb-07	Mount Pleasant Primary Inspection
Pennyland Primary School	Nov 2011 (Follow Up)	Pennyland Primary Inspection
Reay Primary School	May-10	Reay Primary Inspection
Thurso High School	Mar-12	Thurso High Inspection

Early Year Centre	Date of Latest Published Report	Link To Inspectorate Pages
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	Jan-12	Reay Under 5's Playgroup Nursery Inspection
Castletown Primary Nursery	Feb-13	Castletown Primary Nursery Inspection
Castletown Playgroup	Sep-13	Castletown Playgroup Nursery Inspection
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	Nov-13	Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa Nursery Inspection
Halkirk Playgroup	Sep-13	Halkirk Playgroup Nursery Inspection
Miller Academy Nursery	Jan-14	Miller Academy Primary Nursery Inspection
Mount Pleasant Nursery	Sep-13	Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery Inspection
Pennyland Nursery	Nov-11	Pennyland Primary Nursery Inspection
Playden Nursery	Mar-13	Playden Nursery Inspection
Scallywags Nursery	Mar-13	Scallywags Nursery Inspection
Child-minders no of: 34		

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 2012 and 31 July 2013. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2013.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Thurso High School	89.7%	91.3%	90.1%
Highland	89.4%	90.7%	93.1%
Scotland	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%

Leaver Destinations for Thurso High School

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2010/11	184	2575	54073
2011/12	160	2495	50892
2012/13	162	2580	52801

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13
Higher Education	32.6%	33.8%	29.6%	33.2%	34.6%	33.7%	35.8%	37.3%	36.5%
Further Education	31.0%	28.1%	35.8%	22.3%	21.2%	23.7%	27.1%	26.8%	27.8%
Training	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	2.0%	2.5%	1.9%	5.6%	4.6%	5.0%
Employment	23.4%	28.1%	22.2%	29.2%	29.7%	31.2%	19.3%	19.8%	20.4%
Voluntary	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Activity Agreements	1.6%	0.0%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%
Unemployed Seeking	6.5%	3.1%	8.0%	7.7%	5.9%	5.6%	9.6%	8.4%	7.1%
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.6%	2.5%	1.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Unknown	2.2%	3.1%	0.6%	1.1%	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%

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 11 open Activity Agreements involving Former Pupils of Thurso High School.

1.2 Pupils

School roll and Looked After pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census extracted in September 2013. Pre-school roll figures have been taken from Pre-School census taken January 2014.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Primary				16.4%	87.9%
Scotland Primary				22.0%	88.4%
Castletown Primary School	110	0	0	15.0%	93.3%
Crossroads Primary School	31	<5	0	20.6%	100.0%
Halkirk Primary School	117	0	<5	14.3%	92.9%
Miller Academy Primary School	204	<5	<5	14.9%	100.0%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	179	<5	<5	18.0%	96.8%
Pennyland Primary School	199	<5	<5	19.4%	100.0%
Reay Primary School	39	0	<5	small school/number	small school/number
School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary				11.4%	78.8%
Scotland Secondary				15.5%	74.7%
Thurso High School	802	9	7	12.5%	60.2%
Nursery Name	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake

Reay Under 5's Playgroup	10				
Castletown Primary Nursery	18				
Castletown Playgroup	16				
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	17				
Halkirk Playgroup	27				
Miller Academy Nursery	57				
Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery	36				
Pennyland Primary Nursery	58				
Playden Nursery	20				
Scallywags Nursery	8				

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 2012/13

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, comparative national information will be next available for academic year 2014-15.

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Primary (2012-13)	94.8%	4.3%	0.9%	8/1000	5/1000
Scotland Primary (2012-13)	94.9%	3.8%	1.3%	10/1000	6/1000
Castletown Primary School	96.2%	3.5%	0.3%	0/1000	0/1000
Crossroads Primary School	96.6%	2.7%	0.6%	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	95.2%	4.7%	0.0%	9/1000	9/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	94.0%	5.0%	0.9%	4/1000	4/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	95.2%	3.9%	0.9%	6/1000	6/1000
Pennyland Primary School	94.4%	5.3%	0.3%	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	95.7%	4.3%	0.0%	0/1000	0/1000
SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No Of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Secondary (2012-13)	90.9%	6.4%	2.6%	39/1000	28/1000
Scotland Secondary (2012-13)	91.9%	5.4%	2.5%	58/1000	33/1000
Thurso High School	91.4%	5.5%	2.9%	32/1000	24/1000

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
Castletown Primary School	bronze	Yes	Satisfactory (2010)	5	5	0
Crossroads Primary School	bronze	No	Satisfactory (2010)	0	0	7
Halkirk Primary School	silver	Yes	Good (2013)	2	2	3

Miller Academy Primary School	bronze	No	Unsatisfactory (2005)	10	10	7
Mount Pleasant Primary School	silver	Yes	Adequate (2007)	10	10	3
Pennyland Primary School	silver	No	Weak (2010)	6	6	9
Reay Primary School	green flag	No	Excellent (2010)	3	3	1
Thurso High School	bronze	No	Very Good (2012)	5	5	2

ECO schools and Travel Plan information is reported as at end March 2014. Placing requests are those received for a school place starting in academic year 2012-13.

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.

1.4 ECS Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	61.40	23.36
Castletown Primary School	6.83	3.29
Crossroads Primary School	2.50	2.51
Halkirk Primary School	7.50	3.50
Miller Academy Primary School	11.00	6.91
Mount Pleasant Primary School	12.00	7.15
Pennyland Primary School	11.67	6.24
Reay Primary School	2.42	1.16
Nursery	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Reay Under 5's Playgroup		1.03
Castletown Primary Nursery		0.97
Castletown Playgroup		1.00
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa		0.97
Halkirk Playgroup		2.71
Miller Academy Nursery		1.86
Mount Pleasant Nursery		1.86
Pennyland Nursery		2.72
Playden Nursery		1.47
Scallywags Nursery		1.11

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2013. 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.

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 2013 – Appendix 2](#)

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:

- 13.2 FTE ASN teachers
- 41.0 FTE PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

60	Pupils at level 2
47	Pupils at level 3
10	Pupils at level 4

1.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Devolved Budget 2012/13	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2011/12	Devolved Budget 2013/14	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2012/13
Thurso High School	3,456,790	4,115	-24,491	3,296,405	4,110	61,698
Castletown Primary School	395,746	3,598	-5,580	380,813	3,462	-5,231
Crossroads Primary School	155,769	3,894	-2,543	126,971	4,096	-3,630
Halkirk Primary School	368,759	3,152	9,108	350,548	2,996	11,035
Miller Academy Primary School	714,249	2,976	-35,997	662,878	3,249	-27,219
Mount Pleasant Primary School	509,922	3,072	-15,947	521,924	3,034	-8,896
Pennyland Primary School	541,150	2,941	-24,559	580,449	2,917	-19,591
Reay Primary School	136,353	3,409	-7,225	144,717	3,711	-4,489
Castletown Primary Nursery	15,209	895	0	34,080	2,005	-57
Miller Academy Nursery	39,081	1,261	-1,683	40,907	1,320	-1,955
Mount Pleasant Nursery	44,923	1,604	-660	40,646	1,452	-548
Pennyland Nursery	64,918	1,014	-1,557	61,816	966	-23

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

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	2012/13
Thurso Swimming Pool	Users	69958	73752	73,067
Swanson Gallery	Users	4282	5351	3995*
Thurso Library	Issues	77,887	71,813	58,802
Mobile Library	Issues	24,118	24,777	25,138
Sports Pitches Ormlie Olig Street	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-	-

Sir George's Gillock Millbank Naver Viewfirth Park Dunnet				
Active Schools Coordinator	Unique Participants	Different info collected prior to 2011/12	823	634
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	799 87 3
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	70	121	120

**Gallery closed for refurbishment from 1 January 2013*

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 asked to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Author: Graham D Nichols

Date: 8th May 2014

SCHOOL AND NURSERY ROLLS

Session 2013-14

SEED Code	School Name	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
5100321	Castletown Primary School	18	14	18	9	17	16	18	110
5100429	Crossroads Primary School	3	3	5	4	4	8	4	31
5100623	Halkirk Primary School	19	13	24	19	20	12	10	117
5101328	Miller Academy Primary School	18	34	20	35	29	31	37	204
5101425	Mount Pleasant Primary School (English Medium)	19	17	24	28	27	29	28	172
5101425	Mount Pleasant Primary School (Gaelic Medium)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
5101026	Pennyland Primary School	47	26	25	26	28	23	24	199
5101123	Reay Primary School	4	4	6	9	4	7	5	39

Nursery	N3 (Jan)	N4 (Jan)	N3 (Apr)	No Sessions
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	3	7	1	5
Castletown Primary Nursery	0	18	0	5
Castletown Playgroup	15	1	0	5
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	9	8	0	5
Halkirk Playgroup	10	17	0	9
Miller Academy Primary Nursery	24	33	3	10
Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery	13	23	2	10
Pennyland Primary Nursery	23	35	2	10
Playden Nursery	14	6	0	5
Scallywags Nursery	1	7	0	5

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Thurso High School	132	154	149	152	132	83	802