

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 22 Lùnastal 2013
Gaelic Implementation Group – 22 August 2013**

Agenda Item	9
Report No	GIG 15-13

Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) Projects 2013-14

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

The Report provides Members with an overview of the successful GLAIF projects for 2013-14.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Outcomes 4, 5, 11 and 13.
- The National Gaelic Language Plan
- The Programme of The Highland Council and its cross cutting commitment to 'the principle of equal respect for the Gaelic and English languages, whilst also recognising the diversity of indigenous language and dialects within the Highland area'.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan

1. GLAIF 2013-14

- 1.1 GLAIF funding was instituted to support initiatives which develop the capacity of Public Authorities to deliver existing or potential Gaelic Language Plans, and support the aims of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-17 *'to secure an increase in the number of people learning, speaking and using Gaelic in Scotland'*.
- 1.2 The undernoted four projects were submitted by the Council for consideration by Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF funding support for 2013-14.
- 1.3 Three of the projects were successful and one was not. However, the unsuccessful project (Gaisgich Coimhearsnachd) may be re-appraised, if funding is available, before the end of October.

2. Project 1 - Gaelic Early Years 0 to 3 Support Strategy in Highland Council Area (3 Year Pilot)

2.1 Overview

- 2.2 This project is a 3 year pilot project in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Care & Learning Alliance (CALA) to create a viable structure for the voluntary 0 to 3 sector and to further develop and reinforce the sector as the crucial feeder in to the Gaelic Medium Education sector. Such a structured

approach enables a systematic feed through from 0 to 3, on to 3 to 5 pre-school and thereafter into GM Primary.

- 2.3 This project will help implement the following elements of the Highlands Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16: **Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education; Strategic Commitment 3** - We will create partnerships to establish a professionally organised, well-resourced and sustainable 0-3 Gaelic Early Years sector.

2.4 Project Delivery Partnership

- 2.5 The project is overseen by a small, joint Bòrd na Gàidhlig/HC Steering Group made up of Education Officers as well as the HC Early Years Manager and an HC Community Learning and Development Officer (Gaelic).

- 2.6 Project staff line-management is carried out by the Area Manager of the Care and Learning Alliance on behalf of the Council with regular liaison through the Gaelic Team. The project staff (Gaelic Parent and Toddler Development Workers) are all well qualified Gaelic speakers with a wide range of experience in the Early Years and teaching.

2.7 Aims and Objectives

- 2.8 This next school session, 2013-14, sees work commencing on the third year of this pilot project to create structured provision within the voluntary Birth to Three sector in the Highland Council area.

- 2.9 The aim is to work closely with the Bòrd na Gàidhlig Early Years Workers to:
- a) Ensure best practice through providing regular quality support and structure to 0 to 3 groups.
 - b) To further develop the skills of existing play-leaders.
 - c) Provide information and promote GM Education to parents.
 - d) Support parents with child-centred language learning.
 - e) Advise groups on administrative matters.
 - f) Work with parents and relevant Gaelic agencies to increase the number of Gaelic 0 to 3 groups in areas where there is existing GM Ed provision with capacity.
 - g) Work with GM Primaries to improve transition to GM sgoil àraich.

- 2.10 Training courses have been run by CALA, and made available to all Gaelic Parent and Toddler workers and play-leaders. These courses were Child Development, Pre-birth to Three Government guidelines, Messy Play, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Outdoor Play and Music Play for Early Years. An opportunity to hear a talk on Language Development in the Early Years by Aine Andrews from Belfast was also provided. These training days, in year two of the project, have provided an opportunity for all workers involved in Gaelic 0 to 3 to share experience and grow their skills. All workers also participated in An t-Alltan Beag organised by Stòrlann.

2.11 The second year of the project runs until August 2013. The third year will continue the project up until August 2014.

2.13 The third year will also see a full evaluation of the impact of the project; and this will ensure that valuable pointers and recommendations can be made in order to inform the future development of the sector.

3. Project 2 - Oifigear Choimhearsnachd Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (BSGI)

3.1 Overview

3.2 The post is to further embed and reinforce BSGI as the main focus/hub of the Gaelic community in Inverness and surrounding areas. The post holder will maintain and develop a popular and effective suite of activities and also develop new and extended links between the Primary and Secondary Schools; with the wider community and Gaelic organisations and extend working with Gaelic learners and young people as an identified gap.

3.3 This project will help implement the following elements of the Highlands Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16:

Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities

Strategic Commitment 1 - We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home. Also

Strategic Commitment 2 - We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.

Strategic Commitment 3

We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision; in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations; and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

3.4 Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 4 - We will develop 3-18 Gaelic Education and increase the number of Gaelic Learners in schools.

3.5 Project Delivery Partnership

3.6 The project is delivered by Highland Council Community Gaelic Team's Community Learning and Development Officer (Gaelic) who is highly experienced in working closely with school staff, young people, children, parents and voluntary groups. There is regular collaborative work with other agencies.

3.7 Aims and Objectives

3.8 The project is a continuation and has perceptibly strengthened and developed over the last 2 years with a greater depth and range of activities offered with more cohesive structure. The number of children entering Gaelic medium

education at BSGI has increased yearly at a greater rate than anticipated. Likewise the number of pupils going on to Gaelic Medium education at secondary level is increasing. The project started initially working with the school and parent community and has extended to reaching out to a wider range of people and ages.

- 3.9 There has been continued and close involvement and support given to parent groups such as the Parent Council and Comann Nam Pàrant as well as enhancing close relationships with school and staff.
- 3.10 There have been more social opportunities for families of children in GME as well as an increase in extra-curricular activities for children and young people. New projects and events have taken place this previous year such as the trip to Ireland for secondary pupils. The new drama group for young people which took part in the National Theatre's Connections Drama Festival and showcased their play at Eden Court Theatre. Adult involvement has also included advertising use of BSGI premises availability for hire outwith school hours and as a result of this there is a new private karate after school club with a Gaelic speaking instructor.
- 3.11 New adult involvement has included planning a gardening club for school parents. There is increased interaction with the wider community through open social gatherings and GME awareness raising events. The advantages of having a community officer based in the school is that she is able to work closely with school staff, parents and voluntary groups and information is therefore readily available.
- 3.12 There has been an increase and strengthening in partnership working with Gaelic agencies which will continue to be developed. In addition working with the Gaelic agencies means there is less duplication and a more effective use of resources. There are increasingly more opportunities for children and young people to use Gaelic outwith the classroom and additional projects with young people are in the planning e.g. a Social area/café where young people can meet on a regular basis outside school in a Gaelic Medium environment.
- 3.13 Young people are also engaged on a sessional basis to help with clubs and events held in the school. There are opportunities for young people to train eg. Coaching skills and to be able to use their Gaelic as a viable career option. Parents also have the reassurance of knowing that when they decide to enrol their children into GME there is additional support for them as parents.

4. Project 3 - Provision of Gaelic Adult Learning Classes

4.1 Overview

- 4.2 To deliver a programme of adult language classes across Highland, building on the successful delivery of these over the years. Existing Ùlpan classes will continue across Highland and we will continue with progressive language social groups established in Portree and Inverness to support students who

have completed the Ùlpan course. We are also developing other adult and parental language learning resources in order to broaden the suite of resources available to current and potential students.

- 4.3 The project will help implement the following elements of the Highlands Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16: **Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities; Strategic Commitment 1** - We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home. **Strategic Commitment 3** - We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision; in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations; and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- 4.4 **Theme 4 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Workplace Strategic Commitment 2** - We will identify and provide development opportunities for Members and officers to learn Gaelic or improve their Gaelic skills.
- 4.5 **Project Delivery Partnership**
- 4.6 Highland Council Gaelic Team community learning and development officers will deliver the project. Highland Council CLAD Gaelic officers are qualified, experienced and skilled in the delivery of Adult learning programmes and work in partnership with others to do so.
- 4.7 **Aims and Objectives**
- 4.8 This project aims to ensure that learners have access to a structured and progressive route to Gaelic learning in their own local community. To support learners who have completed the Ùlpan course we offer conversational classes in Inverness and a Gaelic book club in Portree. This year a lower level conversation class will be offered.
- 4.9 The project also aims to increase the numbers of Gaelic learners progressing towards fluency in Highland and to encourage uptake of GM education by providing affordable language classes for parents to support their children's use of Gaelic in the home.
- 4.10 There is currently an extensive range of classes across the Highland area funded through previous GLAIF applications. We propose to enable the existing students to progress further with their learning through the continuation of these established classes.
- 4.11 It should be noted that this application was formulated prior to the **Review of Gaelic Adult Learning Provision in Highland**, explained below.
- 4.12 Given the importance that the Council places on opportunities for Gaelic Adult Learning and the commitments in GLP 12-16, we are undertaking a review of the delivery of, and the demand for, Gaelic classes in Highland. This initiative

also follows on from discussion at the February GIG at which Members “agreed that information be provided to a future meeting of the Group on the range of support provided for parents of children in GME.”

- 4.13 The review will take place between August and December - up to the end of the first term of the 13-14 School Session. Bòrd na Gàidhlig, CLI, Deiseal Ltd and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are likely be involved; in order to ensure that we deliver Gaelic Adult Education opportunities that are appropriate for increasing learner numbers and which suit the needs of our communities and of current and prospective students.
- 4.14 Gaelic speaking parents of GM pupils, and the work fulfils obligations in both the National and Highland Gaelic Language Plans. The review will include a consultation and Student and Tutor Surveys; and the first Review group meeting is scheduled for August.
- 4.15 In light of the foregoing, we have issued Bòrd na Gàidhlig with a revised work plan which will form the basis of our GLAIF contract for 2013-14.

5. Project 4 Gaisgich Coimhearsnachd - Community Heroes

5.1 Gaisgich Coimhearsnachd (GC) aimed to develop and build on the work of the innovative Sgàilean projects and foster increased interest in FilmG within Highland Council’s area. Gaelic-speakers and learners of the language in a number of schools will be supported in the production of short community profiles and documentaries unique to each group. Workshops with professionals will also support their continued involvement in FilmG.

5.2 The Project Application was unsuccessful.

6. Implications

6.1 There are no additional implications associated with this report at present.

<p>Recommendations</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the three successful GLAIF projects for 2013-14;• Agree that officers engage with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to identify all the successful projects in GLAIF 13-14 and the chances of Gaisgich coimhearsnachd being re-evaluated; and• Agree to receive a final Report on GLAIF project implementation in 2014.
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Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 31 July 2013

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