

The Highland Council
Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
23rd September 2014

Agenda Item	19(a)
Report No	CS/ 38/14

Farr 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 Farr 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 70 pupils, with the secondary school serving 71 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

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

There are currently two acting Head Teachers, in Tongue Primary School, and also in Farr/Melvich cluster, that are in receipt of support through the Quality Improvement Officer and the Area Office.

1.1 Attainment and Achievement

1.1.1 FARR HIGH SCHOOL

Attainment – Performance Summary

Level 7 = Advanced Higher

Level 6 = Higher

Level 5 = Standard Grade Credit Award

Level 4 - Standard Grade General Award

Level 3 – Standard Grade Foundation Award

Attainment in S4

By the end of S4, almost all [90% and above] students achieved high levels of basic literacy and numeracy. The school is well aware of the couple of pupils who failed to attain at this level, these being students with significant additional support needs and one pupil with significant attendance issues. These students' needs are now being met through a combination of in-school / unit [Thurso High] or college support.

5+ Level 5

64% of pupils achieved 5 + credits which is well above national [38%] and authority [41%] averages in this measure. The school is now operating in the top 10% nationally. However, these figures are exaggerated as they include presentations in SG in S3 as this cohort of pupils were presented for national examinations a year early to promote better attainment by

providing more time for study at Higher by S5. All boys attained 5 credit passes but only half of the girls achieved at this level.

5+ Level 3 and 4

93% of the S4 cohort was successful in the measure 5 + L3. This was a slight drop on levels of the previous two years. The school is currently operating slightly below national [95%] and authority [94%] averages but low numbers negate any true comparison. There was a drop in the 5+ L4 measure this year with 86% of pupils achieving at this level. Although a drop on previous attainment, the school is operating very slightly above authority [85%] and national [82%] averages. Boys performed significantly better than girls. The fact that the bulk of these pupils were presented for Standard grades in S3 may well account for the drop in attainment in these measures.

Attainment in S5

3+ and 5 + Level 6

Attainment in S5 was disappointing with no awards at Higher. This was a very small cohort and half of them have now left school but have done so with very few qualifications to support them in finding future work. The school did recognise the difficulty in motivating this year group to progress from less than impressive attainment in S4 [although some pupils did achieve 5+ L5] to success in S5 as strong social and behaviour factors came into play. Some pupils had very poor records of attendance due to social and emotional factors / home circumstances.

The HT has introduced a new monitoring system which ensures that the HT / PT Guidance meet with each student in S4 – 6 to discuss and plan appropriate progressional pathways which will lead to students gaining appropriate qualifications for future life and work. Each student [S4 – 6] will now be tracked on two occasions per session based on the results from standardised assessments in S2 and from predicted grades for Highers supplied by the Performance Management Unit. The HT will engage directly with parents if evidence shows a dip in progress to discuss clear next steps for the pupil concerned. Personal support time will now be more focused on discussions about learning and individual next steps, focusing on identified learning intentions and success criteria.

Attainment in S6

1+ Level 7

Only 20% of S6 students achieved 1 + Advanced Highers, this being the worst performance of the last three years.

3+ and 5+ Level 6

35% of students attained 3+ L6, this being the lowest attainment of the last 3 years. Projections of pupils being able to 'catch up' from poor levels of attainment in S5 were not realised. 25% of students attained 5 + Highers. Neither the school's policy for all senior pupils to take five courses to raise expectations / promote a study ethos or the school's approach for students to sit national qualifications over a two year period has impacted positively on attainment.

Whole school issues

There was variable departmental success in securing high attainment last session. No departments showed outstanding performance. This is partly due to the school's decision to enter all S3 pupils for Standard Grade a year early. This resulted in a few pupils achieving at credit level but the bulk performed at general level.

The Graphic Communication department continued to fare better than other departments with 60% of students in S3 gaining credit awards. As a result, students will be presented for Higher in S4 this session. There was also strong performance in Psychology with 2 pupils gaining A

awards in Higher. A combined cohort of S4 – 6 were presented for the Rural Skills for Work award and all achieved an award.

Attainment across a broad range of Biology courses continues to be disappointing. Pupils within the department are presented at a range of courses and the school now has to consider the viability of some classes for the future given the very low numbers. The department will only be offering at Higher and Int 2 this session although two pupils will also need support to attain at Int 1. The HT has recently observed learning and teaching in this department as part of more rigorous quality assurance measures and is confident that the quality of experience for pupils is appropriately high. There is a need for continuous monitoring to ensure these standards are maintained across the session.

Having had a successful year in 2011-12, the English department fared significantly less well last year. At Higher, only 5 pupils were presented and 4 out of the 5 failed to achieve an award. This department is currently being led by a supply teacher and will require substantial support to secure stronger attainment.

Presentation across various measures in French last session was very low with a pupil being presented at Advanced Higher only. The presentation rate for this session is much improved with 5 students will be studying Higher this year and over half of S3 are now choosing the subject. Presentation in Gaelic was also very low last year. The Head Teacher is keen to extend the number of subjects available through the medium of Gaelic in the future and has been exploring the potential of recruiting additional staff to broaden learning opportunities.

Attainment in Mathematics was not particularly strongly last session. Of the 12 pupils presented for SG in S3, only 1 pupil gained a credit award. There is therefore a need to closely scrutinise the progressional pathways and the differentiation in learning for all students in the future to ensure they leave school with the appropriate maths or numeracy qualification.

1.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes

Secondary – [Farr High webpage](#)

Primary by School:

School	Link to School Webpage
Altnaharra Primary School	Altnaharra Primary webpage
Farr Primary School (Suth)	Farr Primary (Suth) webpage
Melvich Primary School	Melvich Primary webpage
Tongue Primary School	Tongue Primary webpage

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Farr High School	Nov-09	Farr High Inspection
Altnaharra Primary School ©	Mar-08	Altnaharra Primary Inspection
Farr Primary School (Suth) ©	Dec 2010 (Follow Up)	Farr Primary Inspection
Melvich Primary School ©	Dec 2008 (Follow Up)	Melvich Primary Inspection
Tongue Primary School	Dec-06	Tongue Primary Inspection

© Denotes school part of a "cluster" management arrangement

Early Year Centre	Date of Latest Published Report	Link To Inspectorate Pages
Altnaharra Primary Nursery	Nov-10	Altnaharra Primary Nursery Inspection
Farr Primary (Suth) Nursery	Feb-12	Farr Primary (Suth) Nursery Inspection
Melvich Primary Nursery	May-13	Melvich Primary Nursery Inspection
Tongue Primary Nursery - GM		closed
Tongue Pre-school Centre	Nov-13	Tongue Pre-school Centre Inspection
No of Childminders: One		

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
Farr High School	95.8%	94.4%	85.0%
Highland	89.4%	90.7%	93.1%
Scotland	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%

Leaver Destinations for Farr High School

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Farr High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2010/11	24	2575	54073
2011/12	18	2495	50892
2012/13	20	2580	52801

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Farr High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13
Higher Education	29.2%	38.9%	45.0%	33.2%	34.6%	33.7%	35.8%	37.3%	36.5%
Further Education	33.3%	38.9%	40.0%	22.3%	21.2%	23.7%	27.1%	26.8%	27.8%
Training	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.5%	1.9%	5.6%	4.6%	5.0%
Employment	33.3%	16.7%	0.0%	29.2%	29.7%	31.2%	19.3%	19.8%	20.4%
Voluntary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Activity Agreements	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%
Unemployed Seeking	4.2%	0.0%	15.0%	7.7%	5.9%	5.6%	9.6%	8.4%	7.1%
Unemployed Not Seeking	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Unknown	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	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 no open Activity Agreements involving Former Pupils of Farr High School.

1.2 Pupils

Roll and Looked After pupil number have been taken from the Pupil Census extracted in September 2013.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Primary				15.1%	91.6%
Scotland Primary				20.6%	88.4%
Altnaharra Primary School	5	0	0	no meals provided	no meals provided
Farr Primary School (Suth)	18	0	0	small school/number	small school/number
Melvich Primary School	29	<5	0	small school/number	small school/number
Tongue Primary School	22	0	0	small school/number	small school/number
School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary				10.9%	84.7%
Scotland Secondary				15.5%	76.6%
Farr High School	71	0	0	small school/number	small school/number
Nursery	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Altnaharra Primary Nursery	0				
Farr Primary (Suth) Nursery	11				
Melvich Primary Nursery	3				
Tongue Primary Nursery - GM	0				
Tongue Pre-school Centre	3				

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2014 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 2012-13.

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
Altnaharra Primary School	94.0%	6.0%	0.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Farr Primary School	94.9%	4.4%	0.7%	0/1000	0/1000
Melvich Primary School	96.9%	2.4%	0.7%	0/1000	0/1000
Tongue Primary School	95.7%	3.5%	0.8%	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
Farr High School	92.4%	3.9%	3.6%	24/1000	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
Altnaharra Primary School	silver	Yes	Adequate (2008)	0	0	0
Farr Primary School (Suth)	green flag	Yes	Weak (2008)	4	4	0
Melvich Primary School	silver	Yes	Weak (2006)	0	0	1
Tongue Primary School	green flag	Yes	Adequate (2006)	0	0	1
Farr High School	bronze	Yes	Weak (2009)	4	3	0

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)
Farr High School	13.10	4.78
Altnaharra Primary School	1.50	0.56
Farr Primary School (Suth)	2.50	0.71
Melvich Primary School	3.70	1.59
Tongue Primary School	3.21	0.91
Nursery	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Altnaharra Primary Nursery		mothballed
Farr Primary (Suth) Nursery		0.99
Melvich Primary Nursery		0.56
Tongue Primary Nursery - GM		mothballed
Tongue Pre-school Centre		1.17

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:

- 1.45 FTE ASN teachers
- 3.5 FTE PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

17	Pupils at level 2
5	Pupils at level 3
2	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
Farr High	809,925	9,758	-21,587	753,520	10,613	-18,950
Altnaharra Primary	93,439	15,573	-4,397	97,783	19,557	-2,500
Farr Primary	123,675	6,871	-6,190	101,726	5,651	-3,934
Melvich Primary	161,179	6,199	-7,542	147,160	5,074	-4,606
Tongue Primary	167,459	7,281	-7,797	163,161	7,416	-7,130
Altnaharra Nursery	34	34	0	0	0	-17
Farr Nursery	16,648	4,162	-465	12,903	3,226	-430
Melvich Nursery	15,331	15,331	144	19,153	19,153	46

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

School	Suitability	Condition	Occupancy (2012)	Current/Future Investment (last 5 yrs)
Farr High School	C	C	40%	£180000 including roof and roof coverings
Altnaharra Primary School	C	C	24%	£10530 boiler installation
Farr Primary School (Suth)	C	C	35%	
Melvich Primary School	B	C	52%	£40000 replacement heating
Tongue Primary School	B	C	32%	-

3.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND IN FARR ASG

HLH Facilities and Services within the Farr Associated School Group Area	User Information	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Bettyhill Library and Service Point	Issues	994	1,224	1,268
Mobile Library	Issues	24,777	25,825	25,183

Sports Pitches Portskerra Playing Field	Available for let by sports clubs			
Active Schools Coordinator	Distinct Participants	104 (63%)	111 (71%)	113 (78%)
	Participant sessions	1,735	1,659	1,526
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People	838	903	395 (vacancy)
	Young Scot Card percentage uptake (National average – 72%)	100%	99%	100%
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	81	106	55

Programme Information

Bettyhill Library & Service Point:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/yourlocallibrary/bettyhilllib.htm>

Mobile Library:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/mobilelibraryservice/farnorthmobilelibrary.htm>

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: 27th August 2014

**SCHOOL AND NURSERY
ROLLS**

Farr High ASG

Session 2013-14

SEED Code	School Name	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
5110025	Altnaharra Primary School	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	5
5110220	Farr Primary School (Suth)	1	2	5	1	5	1	3	18
5110122	Melvich Primary School	1	4	5	4	7	2	6	29
5110327	Tongue Primary School (English Medium)	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	17
5110327	Tongue Primary School (Gaelic Medium)	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	5

Nursery	N4 (Jan)	N3 (Jan)	N3 (Apr)	No Sessions
Altnaharra Primary Nursery	0	0	0	0
Farr Primary Nursery (Suth)	6	5	0	5
Melvich Primary Nursery	1	2	0	5
Tongue Primary Nursery - GM	0	0	0	0
Tongue Pre-school Centre	0	2	1	5

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Farr High	5	14	15	18	15	4	71