

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee – 21 May 2015

Agenda Item	4
Report No	LA 14/15

Education Scotland Report – Ardnamurchan High School

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

This report provides details of Education Scotland's report on Ardnamurchan High School dated 10th March 2015.

1. Introduction to Inspections

- 1.1 Education Scotland aims to provide assurance on the quality of Scottish education and promote improvement and innovation to enhance learners' experiences and lead to better outcomes. Their inspections also contribute to National Performance Framework reporting.
- 1.2 Each year, they inspect and report on the quality of education in a sample of pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, community learning and development services, colleges and residential educational provision. They also inspect the education functions of local authorities.
- 1.3 To support improvement, inspectors focus on the quality of children and young people's learning and achievement. They have a particular interest in the development of children and young people's skills and understanding in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing which enables access to the highest possible learning within a broad general education and beyond.
- 1.4 Details of all aspects of the work of Education Scotland along with all the reference documentation can be found on the [Education Scotland](#) website.

2. Inspections Conducted

School	Area	Inspection Date	Nature of Inspection	Publication Date	Action
Ardnamurchan High School	Lochaber	January 2013	Continued Engagement	10 th March 2015	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the report of 2013.

- 2.2 Members are advised that as reports are published following inspection, they will be referred directly to Members and may be discussed at Ward Business Meetings.
- 2.3 In this way relevant Members will see each published report as they arrive in the relevant area, with the required degree of immediacy.
- 2.4 Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication "*How good is our school?*" Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality

indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

- 2.5 As the report of the 10th March was a continued engagement visit, there were no evaluations given.
- 2.6 Following the visit, Education Scotland is now confident the school has the capacity to continue to improve. Education Scotland recognised that the school improved in a number of important ways. Staff have improved the quality of the curriculum and now plan young peoples' learning activities more effectively. Approaches for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the school's work are improving. Education Scotland will make no further visits to the school in connection with the inspection letter of January 2013.
- 2.7 As part of ongoing engagement with the Highland Council, Education Scotland may visit schools on a support basis.

2.8

Quality Indicator	Ardnamurchan High School
Improvements in performance	n/a
Learners' experiences	n/a
Meeting learning needs	n/a
The curriculum	n/a
Improvement through self-evaluation	n/a

3. Actions as a Result of Inspection

- 3.1 The Authority and Head Teacher are provided with both the report and a 'record of inspection findings' (RIF).
- 3.2 These documents evidence both good practice and areas for improvement and using this, the school will adapt its school 'Improvement Plan' and report annually the impact on learners through the Standards and Quality Report.

4. Comparison

- 4.1 Members are advised that it is not possible to use Education Scotland reports to compare across schools, as the curriculum is now tailored by schools to their individual circumstances, within the overall quality indicators.
- 4.2 Furthermore, it is not possible to compare previous reports for a school with more recent reports. This is due to changes in the inspection focus from year to year. The link below provides the advice note from Education Scotland for the session 2013-14:
Link: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf
- 4.3 The latest advice note in respect of session 2014-15 is provided through the link below, and Members will note the increased emphasis on "self-evaluation" by schools, and the targeted approach on issues for this session.
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote201415_tcm4-832523.pdf
- 4.4 Consequently, reports have to be viewed as a single snap-shot of a schools performance, against a suite of national quality indicators as laid down in "How Good Is Our School 3".

5. Implications

- 5.1 There are no resources, legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever, risk, Gaelic or rural implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to continue to note the Education Scotland report on Ardnamurchan High School of 10th March 2015.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 11 May 2015

Author: Norma Young, Area Care and Learning Manager, West