

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 25 Lùnastal 2015
Gaelic Implementation Group – 25 August 2015

Agenda Item	6
Report No	GIG 8/15

Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16
Theme 1 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”
Implementation Report

Report by the Director of Care and Learning

Summary

This Report provides Members with further information on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 1; “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”. This updates the Council’s 2014-15 Annual Implementation Report; and outlines further action since 31 January 2015.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Outcomes 4, 5, 11 and 13.
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes – **Home & Early Years; Education: Schools & Teachers; Education: Post-school Education and Communities.**
- 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 Council’s Gaelic Language Plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 The **Home and Communities** Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. This Theme has three Strategic Commitments.
- 1.2 **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.**
- 1.3 **Strategic Commitment 2 - We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.**
- 1.4 **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.**
- 1.5 Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.

2. Pre-school

- 2.1 We are working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to put in place a 3-Year strategic partnership agreement to continue to support the Birth to three sector in collaboration with the Care and Learning Alliance. A strong and thriving Gaelic Birth to three sector is regarded by Highland Council as being of crucial importance in sustaining the numbers coming through into Primary School education. Funding has been agreed to enable the consolidation of this partnership.
- 2.2 A very successful Gaelic Fun and Information Day organised by the Highland Council's Gaelic Team in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig took place in the Fingal Centre Portree High School. Approximately 50 pre-school children and parents attended the event.
- 2.3 We continued to support family learning within Drumnadrochit through the Ceuman Beaga group as well as through the family groups based in **Claggan and Caol in Fort William**. Both groups are doing well with healthy numbers of parent and toddlers attending.
- 2.4 Joint work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig staff is taking place in order to support the continuation and development of **Croileagan Grianach in Fort William**.
- 2.5 A successful Fun Morning took place in **Drumnadrochit** on the 7th February.
- 2.6 As part of awareness-raising in the run up to the opening of **the new Fort William Gaelic School** a number of events have been organised in Fort William throughout the year. As part of this a pre-school Gaelic Fun and information morning took place on the 28th February. Another event was held on the 23rd May called "**Lochaber's Gaelic Landscape –how well do you know it?**" which focussed on the Gaelic meanings behind Lochaber's mountains, rivers and place names.
- 2.7 A new leaflet publicising the new **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** has also been produced.
- 2.8 A successful and well-attended Fun Day took place in **Thurso Cròileagan** in November 2014.
- 2.9 Coffee mornings took place in **BSGI** with a focus on introducing families to the school in the 2014-2015 school session.
- 2.10 The 0-5 GM Parent and child group in **Lochcarron** continued to be supported and we had 11 families registered at the end of the January 2015. In addition, the Gaelic Medium weekly taster session continues to run successfully in the area with 6 pre-school children attending weekly. Visits to the 2 groups were undertaken and information and advice on the benefits of bilingualism/GME were provided to parents and packs with GME literature distributed to parents and the group.

3. Primary and Secondary Schools

- 3.1 We organise a wide programme of activities which provide young people with opportunities to use Gaelic in non-classroom situations. We managed and supported **Homework Clubs** in Fort William, Portree, Plockton, Dingwall, Nairn and Inverness, and these provided further linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes.
- 3.2 Events were also organised to support and encourage GM Primary to Secondary transition. In **Skye**, the annual Gaelic Medium Primary 7 event was organised in June 2015 and 28 GM P.7 pupils participated. This facilitated participation in outdoor activities through Gaelic, to enable the pupils to interact and engage with their Secondary school GM peers.
- 3.3 In June twenty five Gaelic medium Primary 7 pupils from **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** participated in a 4 day trip to **Skye and Raasay** and took part in a variety of outdoor activities, such as canoeing, archery, and mountain boarding through the medium of Gaelic.
- 3.4 Easter and summer programmes of GM activities were organised for pupils to ensure children have access to, and are encouraged to use Gaelic out with the classroom setting.
- 3.5 The Council, in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, organised the annual week long youth residential event - **Seachdain nan Deugairean** - for Gaelic Secondary School pupils. In March 2015 27 fluent and 17 learner pupils had the opportunity to attend the event; which offered the pupils workshops in **Media skills, Drama and Outdoor Education** activities. Pupils attended from **Portree** and **Mallaig** High Schools.
- 3.6 The Inverness young people's Gaelic Drama group continued to take place with healthy numbers of pupils taking part from Culloden **Academy, Dingwall Academy, Fortrose Academy and Inverness Royal Academy.**
- 3.7 Older Secondary pupils, S5 upwards and college students continue to be encouraged to help at after-school activities and clubs. This helps develop them personally and provides them with an opportunity to act as **role models for younger children.** In conjunction with Highlife Highland a Basketball Club takes place at BSGI and is coached by a former pupil.
- 3.8 Following on from the successful "Siuthad" Gaelic Careers Days in 2013 and 2014, a partnership group involving **Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE** intend to run two events this year. One will take place in Skye and the other is planned for **Eden Court, Inverness** on the 29th October. This event will involve second year Gaelic learners as well as Gaelic Medium pupils.
- 3.9 We are examining the structure of the community and schools interface to ensure that we are providing the most effective and efficient service. Over the 2015-16 school session, we will **review the best staffing and**

geographical structure for the Gaelic Team' CLAD officers.

4. Adult Learning and Community Engagement

4.1 A wide range of Gaelic development activity takes place across Highland communities. This is delivered both directly by the Council Gaelic Team and also through the Gaelic Team engaging with local and national partners, organisations and agencies to develop and deliver local community Gaelic Plans with a focus on early years, adult learning, youth and community projects.

4.2 We continued to undertake advisory, support and familiarisation sessions for parents and potential parents of GM pupils. We worked in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** and the **CLAD Gaelic Management Review Group** to deliver the 2015 annual Gaelic Family Week in **Sleat**. 46 parents attended adult learning classes, 14 children under the age of 4 attended local Gaelic childcare facilities and 4 GM pupils attended a week long play scheme. In 2012 there were 111 participants. In 2013 there were 135 participants. In 2014 there were a total of 125 participants.

4.3 The Council organised Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities through the Ùlpan system and other Classes, for **250 people**. These included the parents of children in GME and classes were organised across **Inverness, Newtonmore, Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Nairn, Fort William, Dingwall, Portree, Auchtertyre, Ullapool, Bettyhill, Wick and Thurso**. This work is ongoing and, with support from the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF), is targeted for further expansion.

4.4 Demand for adult Gaelic classes means continual pressure to attract and train new tutors. The Highland Council Gaelic team organised a **Gaelic Tutor Training** Residential Event which took place in Inverness between the 13th and 15th March 2015. This event involved training 10 Gaelic tutors from across Highland. It brought new young tutors together with more experienced tutors and enabled the sharing of knowledge and information as well as introducing new ideas and resources.

4.5 In accordance with the Gaelic Language Plan, a **review of Gaelic Adult Learning in Highland** was undertaken. The Council continued to deliver Ùlpan courses in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Deiseal Ltd as part of our overall progressive language classes programme.

4.6 South Area Adult Gaelic Classes – to end of June 2015

4.7 **Inverness.** In January 2015 nine classes started. Two of these were Ùlpan and 7 classes were using methods other than Ùlpan. A total of 64 students were enrolled. From Easter to June 2015, 48 students enrolled; and 7 students completed the final series of the 144 Units of Ùlpan.

Lochaber. In **Fort William** a Beginners class ran until June 2015. A combined Ùlpan class had 8 students and a Conversation class, focussing

on lower intermediate learners had 5 students.

- 4.8 **Nairn.** A Beginners Class commenced in April 2015 and ran for 7 weeks with 12 students.
- 4.9 Classes in **Balnain** and **Drumnadrochit** continued throughout the year with a total of 15 learners and culminating in a community ceilidh and a short Gaelic learners Drama performance on the 25th April 2015.
- 4.10 In partnership with community group **Sinne**, an Intermediate class continued to run in **Aviemore until April 2015** with 8 students.
- 4.11 **North and West Areas Adult Gaelic Classes – to end of June 2015**
- 4.12 **Auchtertyre.** One Ùlpan class continued with students currently at Unit 128 and has 5 students attending. A monthly Cearcall Còmhraidh conversation group for Gaelic learners commenced in February 2015, with 6 students enrolled.
- 4.13 **Portree.** One new Beginner Conversation class and one new Post Beginners class continued with 17 students registered. One lower intermediate class continued with 6 students attending. A monthly Gaelic Book club continued to run in Portree with 9 students registered, following demand locally for further support from students who have completed the Ùlpan course and also from local Gaelic speakers from the area.
- 4.14 **Assynt.** 1 Gaelic Advanced group to re-start in September with 4 students.
- 4.15 **Lochinver.** 2 Students continued to progress to complete the Ùlpan course in this academic session between August 2014 and July 2015 are at unit 122.
- 4.16 **Stoer.** 6 Students completed the Ùlpan course to Unit 144 in November 2014.
- 4.17 **Ullapool.** A conversational Gaelic class continued in the 2014-2015 session with 5 students enrolled. A range of non-Ùlpan community based classes was offered, where this was the preferred option; or where there was a specific request for parental classes.
- 4.18 **Dingwall.** In Dingwall, three community based classes are ongoing. An advanced conversational class with 6 students attending; a beginner's conversational class with 10 students enrolled and more than 50% of attendees Gaelic Medium parents; and an intermediate post-Standard Grade class has seven students enrolled.
- 4.19 **Caithness.** A new Parents' class continued in **Thurso** in the 2014-2015 session with 7 students attending. The course is specifically aimed for the parents of Gaelic Medium children in both pre-school and primary provision. As part of the class programme the parents and their children participated in

a Gaelic family learning event where they had the opportunity to practice informally and develop their linguistic skills.

- 4.20 We continue to support the Gaelic community based courses which started in **Wick** and in **Thurso** in 2013. Both classes are successful and continued in the 2014-15 sessions with 11 Gaelic learners attending in **Wick** and 21 attending in **Thurso**. A Gaelic drama workshop was organised for the learners in **Wick** to support and develop their language skills in an informal setting.
- 4.21 **Bettyhill.** A new Gaelic community based conversational class commenced at Farr high school in February 2015 with 9 students enrolled. The course was open to Parents of Gaelic medium education and residents of the North Sutherland Community.
- 4.22 This year, Gaelic classes specifically aimed at supporting the parents of Gaelic Medium pupils were ongoing in **Newtonmore, Inverness, and Thurso.**
- 4.23 The Council also worked in partnership with community groups to deliver Gaelic learner opportunities. An **Intermediate class** was organised in Aviemore Community Centre; plus a two day **Craic is Còmhradh** weekend for Intermediate and Advanced Gaelic learners. This was arranged in conjunction with the local *Sinne* community group and took place in Aviemore Community centre on the 21st and 22nd March 2015. Learning took place both within a classroom setting as well as out of doors.
- 4.24 **Adult Literacy Course for Fluent Gaelic Speakers**
- 4.25 An Adult Literacy course for fluent speakers was developed in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to deliver a pilot course for Gaelic Adult fluent speakers in the Inverness and Skye areas. The Inverness course entitled Leugh is Sgrìobh ran for 9 weeks between April and June 2015 with 12 students participating. Feedback from the students has been excellent and the second phase of the pilot will take place in the Skye area in September 2015.
- 4.26 **Adult Achievement Awards**
- 4.27 The Adult Achievement Award is a national award scheme, developed by Newbattle Abbey college in partnership with Education Scotland and SCQF. It is based on the Youth Achievement Award model and is offered at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 6. The Highland Council Gaelic team was invited to participate in piloting the scheme and a tutor in Inverness and one in Skye, have undergone the relevant training. 9 adult Gaelic learners will commence the Award at level 3 in September 2015 and will be presented for the award in December 2015.
- 4.28 **Review of Gaelic Adult Learning Provision in Scotland**

4.29 We have been engaged with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a range of other partners on National Gaelic Adult Learning Working Group. This group was created to review the delivery of, and the demand for, Gaelic Adult Learning across Scotland. A draft National Gaelic Adult Learning Strategy has been prepared and we expect to be discussing this shortly with BnG.

5. Implications

5.1 At this juncture there are no additional implications associated with this Report.

6. 6.1	Recommendations Members are invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment on progress in implementing the Home and Communities Theme in GLP 12-16;• Welcome Officers' collaboration with Newbattle Abbey College on a National Adult Achievement Award Scheme;• Welcome the development of a new resource, the Adult Literacy Course for Fluent Gaelic Speakers, in conjunction with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig;• Agree to work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and other partners to finalise a National Gaelic Adult Learning Strategy; and;• Agree continued cross-agency working, including through the Community Planning Partnership, to encourage and facilitate Gaelic learning and usage opportunities in workplaces, homes, schools and communities.
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Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 21 July 2015

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APPENDIX 1

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.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Deiseal Ltd, Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Community Learning and Development Review Group.

Key Performance Results

- Baseline data established which will show the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain the requirements for learning and support in the home. Following this exercise, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.
- Increase the attendance and participation at Gaelic family events and increase attendance at the Gaelic Family Learning Weeks by 20% from 30 families with 98 participants in 2011-12.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Carry out a survey of the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain their requirements for learning and support in the home.
- (ii) Create a new resource pack, using up to date technology, to encourage and support parents/guardians in using Gaelic in the home.
- (iii) Organise and develop Ùlpan progressive language classes around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (iv) Organise advisory workshops for Gaelic Medium parents; and work with parents alongside other community based partners.
- (v) Work with partners to organise and expand the "Gaelic Family Learning Week" initiative.

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

Strategic Commitment 2

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

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, High Life Highland.

Key Performance Results

- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the numbers participating in Gaelic Medium Education language acquisition support, through extra-curricular activities, by 20% from a baseline of 700 in 2011-12.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of Gaelic Medium options within general activities and sports related programmes by 20% from a baseline of 30 in 2011-12.
- Organise and deliver *Seachdain nan Deugairean* for Secondary pupils each year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- Establish a baseline figure for the number of Gaelic speaking sports coaches/activity leaders in the Council and High Life Highland. Following this, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Create language support activities around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (ii) Support existing homework clubs, after school clubs and activities and expand activities where sustainable.
- (iii) Provide opportunities for inter-generational Gaelic usage between senior citizens and young people.
- (iv) In partnership with High Life Highland, organise coaching events for Gaelic Medium Secondary school pupils to enable them to deliver activities in Gaelic.
- (v) Liaise with High Life Highland to include Gaelic in the Summer Activity Programme.
- (vi) Develop a Gaelic arts, media and leisure programme including drama, film and sporting activities.
- (vii) Secure Individual Learning Account Provider status to enable Council organised Gaelic courses to be eligible for Individual Learning Account support.
- (viii) Support the football competition, Cuach na Cloinne and investigate the possibility of a national schools Shinty competition.

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

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.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant, Deiseal Ltd, Clì Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Key Performance Results

- Three Community Partnership Development Plans to be put in place around Gaelic Education provision in Lochaber, Skye and Inverness.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of children accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education to support the attainment of Scottish Government targets - pupil target and funding support subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number undertaking adult Gaelic learning including Ùlpan by 20%, from a baseline of 200 in 2011-12 – target subject to further consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- A formal evaluation of Gaelic community learning provision, particularly Ùlpan; and a Report on any changes that might be helpful, going forward.
- Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis established as the hub of Gaelic development in and around Inverness.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Develop marketing and awareness events and material; promoting the many benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic, including use in the home.
- (ii) Organise Gaelic Conversation classes.
- (iii) Produce Pre-school enrolment information that promotes the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic education.
- (iv) Organise Ùlpan progressive language classes and less formal learning opportunities for adults; including those with Additional Support Needs.
- (v) Contribute to an independent review of Gaelic adult learning opportunities in communities, including a review of the effectiveness of Ùlpan: involving tutors, learners and course organisers; an examination of the pricing structures, the terms and conditions and an assessment of future needs.
- (vi) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to develop an adult literacy course for fluent Gaelic speakers.
- (vii) Enhance the community liaison role within Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis to support the expansion of community partnership development planning in Inverness.