

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 11 Lùnastal 2016  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 11 August 2016

Agenda Item	<b>9</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 14/16</b>

**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 1 August 2015 - June 2016.

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 the strategic commitments.

## 2. Pre-school

- 2.1 Bòrd na Gàidhlig entered into a 3-Year strategic partnership with The Highland Council 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 The Highland Council as being of crucial importance in sustaining the numbers coming through into Gaelic Medium primary school education. Funding has been agreed to enable the partnership to continue.
- 2.2 A very successful Gaelic Fun and Information Day organised by The Highland Council's Gaelic Team in partnership with Croileagan Phòrthigh took place in the Fingal centre in **Portree** in February 2016. Over 40 toddlers and young children attended the event with their parents.
- 2.3 A Gaelic Medium Awareness Information day was held in **Tain** during February 2016. The organisations involved were The Highland Council Gaelic Team and local members of Comann Nam Pàrant. The morning included music from Tain Royal Academy senior secondary pupils, a Book-Bug session, musical games and singing from Craighill Primary pupils. In addition there was representation from the local Gaelic groups including the Gaelic football group, Casan Beaga (0-3 group), Gaelic Saturday conversational group and the Gaelic judo group. A cross-section of the local community including 27 children and toddlers attended the event.
- 2.4 The Highland Council Gaelic Team and CALA officers were involved in an Open day for Croileagan a' Chaolais held at **Bonar Bridge** on March 2016. 17 toddlers attended along with their parent/carer.
- 2.5 Family learning groups continued with Ceuman Beaga in **Drumnadrochit** and two sessions per week taking place in **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar**.
- 2.6 A Fun Day for Gaelic Medium pupils and early year's children took place in **Nairn** in October 2015. This was followed up with a Gaelic Open Afternoon at Millbank School.
- 2.7 Partnership working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig staff is ongoing in order to support the continued development of Croileagan Grianach in **Fort William**. Five sessions per week will be available to 2 to 3 year olds from August 2016.
- 2.8 A training session entitled Using Music in the Early Years was delivered by Arts-play Highland in **Fort William** for play-leaders and other staff.
- 2.9 A community needs assessment for Gaelic Medium Early Learning and Childcare Provision along the **North Coast of Sutherland** was undertaken in November 2015. This follows on from 2 community meetings held in **Bettyhill** in relation to Gaelic Medium Early Learning and Childcare Provision. A Gaelic information and fun event was held in Strathnaver museum in March 2016, this event was organised by The Highland Council in partnership with the Strathnaver Museum committee.

- 2.10 The Highland Council's Gaelic Team supported the Highlife Highland Library Service in **Thurso** who organised a fun Gaelic Book-Bug session which formed part of the National Book Week Scotland event. The Gaelic Team present provided detailed information on the benefits of bilingualism to the many parents who attended the event.
- 2.11 A Gaelic Information Day and Fun Event held in **Sleat** was organised in partnership with Bun-sgoil Shlèite and The Highland Council Gaelic Team. The event was aimed at parents of 0-5 year old children. Representatives from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Gaelic4parents of Stòrlann were present and provided information on the resources available to support Gaelic Medium Education.
- 2.12 The 0-5 GM Parent and child group in **Lochcarron** continued to be supported. In addition, the Gaelic Medium weekly taster session continued 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. In the new academic session, 16-17 we will have 50% P1 entrants go into GME.

### **3. Primary and Secondary Schools**

- 3.1 The Highland Council Gaelic Team organised a varied programme of activities which provided young people with opportunities to use Gaelic in non-classroom situations. We managed and supported **Homework Clubs** in **Portree, Plockton, Gairloch, Dingwall, Nairn and Inverness**, and these provided further linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes. Additional after-school clubs held at **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** included shinty, basketball, and football.
- 3.2 In June 2016 primary 7 pupils from **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** participated in a Gaelic Medium outdoor education trip to Skye where they took part in kayaking and other activities.
- 3.3 25 pupils from **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** took part in Comann Nam Pàrant Nàiseanta's Seachdain Dùn- Eideann held during April. They were able to meet pupils from other Gaelic departments e.g. Staffin and Kilmuir. The children took part in Gaelic medium activities such as visiting Edinburgh Castle, the National Art Gallery and also attended a ceilidh on the final evening.
- 3.4 The Highland Council's Gaelic Team worked closely with Comann nam Pàrant Naiseanta on a pilot project TASC – Teaghlaich agus Sgoiltean Comhla. Two workshops were held in **Dingwall** during May and June 2016; the emphasis was on providing support to parents of children in Gaelic Medium education where Gaelic language taster sessions and information on current resources were made available to parents. The children actively participated in the workshops.

- 3.5 Taigh Dualchais Project – The Highland Council Gaelic Team supported Fèis na h-Òige and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's project which involved some Fèis na h-Òige students visiting local Care Homes in **Inverness**. The children learned Gaelic traditional songs, listened to stories from the residents as well as singing for them in Gaelic. The project took place over a few months and concluded with a final ceilidh held at **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** in June 2016.
- 3.6 With financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a Gaelic Medium Saturday sports club, Club Spòrs, was established at **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** in October 2015 and continued until June 2016. Approximately 40 children signed up to participate in a full range of sporting activities. Football and shinty sessions took place during the week. Two of the Sports Leaders are former GM pupils and the training was provided by the High Life Highland Active Schools Co-ordinator.
- 3.7 Gaelic Drama workshops took place regularly in both **Mallaig** Primary and **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar**. Senior Gaelic fluent speakers from the local communities were invited into the schools to share their life-stories. The inter-generational work culminated in final performances in both schools. The project, with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig also enabled the adult learner class to create a film for FilmG and a radio play.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The Highland Council Gaelic Team in partnership with Urras Baile Fhlòdaigearraidh (Flodigarry Community Trust) and with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig organised a two day family learning event in **Staffin** consisting of Gaelic fun activities and classes for parents of and children in Gaelic Medium Education.
- 3.10 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 2016, 19 fluent and 18 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 **Plockton** High Schools.
- 3.11 With financial assistance from **Bòrd na Gàidhlig** The Highland Council Gaelic Team organised a residential trip (14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March 2016) to Bundoran, Donegal for Gaelic speaking secondary pupils from **Inverness Royal Academy, Tain Royal Academy, Culloden Academy and Fortrose Academy**. The 23 secondary pupils took part in a range of cultural and outdoor events.

- 3.12 The Inverness Young People's Gaelic Drama continued to take place weekly with pupils participating from **Culloden Academy, Dingwall Academy, Fortrose Academy and Inverness Royal Academy**. The group took part in the 4 day National Connections Festival held at Eden Court at the end of March/beginning of April with a play, Blackout, written by Dave MacKay and translated into Gaelic by Eden Court's Gaelic Drama Outreach Worker, (director of the group).
- 3.13 Senior 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 **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis**, coached by a former pupil.
- 3.14 Following on from the successful 'Siuthad' Gaelic Careers Days in 2013 and 2014, a partnership group involving The Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE ran two events this year. One took place at the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in **Skye** on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 and the other at Eden Court, **Inverness** on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The events involved second year Gaelic learners as well as Gaelic Medium pupils. Approximately 200 pupils participated in both events.

#### **4. Adult Learning and Community Engagement**

- 4.1 A wide range of Gaelic development takes place across The Highland communities. This is delivered both directly by The Highland 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 2016 annual Gaelic Family Learning Week in **Sleat**. 40 parents attended adult learning classes, 12 children under the age of 4 attended local Gaelic childcare facilities and 40 GM pupils attended a week long play scheme. In 2013 there were 135 participants. In 2014 there were a total of 125 participants. In 2015 there were a total of 125 participants.
- 4.3 The Highland Council with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig organised an Adult Learners' Residential event to the Western Isles in April 2016. Eight students who currently attend Highland Council classes in **Skye, Drumnadrochit** and **Inverness** took part in a wide variety of language based activities in local communities to enhance and develop their linguistic skills. Feedback from students was excellent.
- 4.4 The Highland Council Gaelic Team with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig is working in Partnership with the Gaelic resource organisation Stòrlann to update and enhance the existing Gaidhlig Dachaigh course for

parents.

#### 4.5 **South Area Adult Gaelic Classes – to end of June 2016**

4.6 **Inverness.** In September 2015 9 classes took place with 67 students enrolled. Classes began again in January 2016 with a total of 61 students enrolled. From Easter to June 2015, 49 students enrolled.

4.7 **Lochaber.** In **Fort William** in September 2015 3 classes ran with 34 students attending. Due to a lack of tutors, only 1 class ran from January 2016.

4.8 A Beginners and Intermediate class ran in **Drumnadrochit** throughout the year with a total of 14 learners .

4.9 A 9 week Post-Beginners class ran in **Kingussie** from January 2016 and involved 5 students.

4.10 In partnership with community group **Sinne**, an Intermediate class continued to run in **Aviemore until June 16** with 8 students.

#### 4.11 **North and West Areas Adult Gaelic Classes – to end of June 2016**

4.12 **Lochalsh.** September 2015 –December 2015 1 Ùlpan class with 5 students completing the Ùlpan course at unit 144.

4.13 **Glenelg.** A Gaelic community based weekly conversational class continued comprising of both 4 fluent students and 7 learner students registered.

4.14 **Portree.** September 2015 – 1 new Beginner Conversation Class with 11 students enrolled. 1 new Post Beginners Class commenced with 9 students registered. 1 Gaelic Book Club running Monthly for post Ùlpan/Fluent Speakers with 9 students attending

4.15 **Assynt.** 1 Gaelic Advanced group to re-start in September with 4 students.

4.16 **Tain.** The Highland Council supported a post beginners/intermediate conversational Gaelic class in the 2015-2016 session with 5 students enrolled.

4.17 **Dingwall.** In Dingwall, 3 community based classes are ongoing. An advanced conversational class with 6 students attending; a beginner's conversational class with 10 students enrolled with in excess of 50% of the attendees being Gaelic Medium parents; and an intermediate post-Standard Grade class has 7 students enrolled.

4.18 **Caithness.** A parents' class continued in **Thurso** in the 2015-16 session with 8 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.

- 4.19 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 2015-16 sessions with 9 Gaelic learners attending in **Wick** and 15 attending in **Thurso**.
- 4.20 **Bettyhill**. A Gaelic community based conversational class continued at Farr High School in the 2015-16 session with 5 students enrolled. The course was open to Parents of Gaelic medium education and residents of the North Sutherland Community.
- 4.21 Gaelic classes specifically aimed at supporting the parents of Gaelic Medium pupils were ongoing in **Fort William, Inverness, and Thurso**.
- 4.22 In **Fort William**, with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig a group of intermediate learners worked on creating a script and performing a short radio play recorded at Nevis Radio.
- 4.23 The Highland Council worked in partnership with Community Groups to deliver Gaelic learning opportunities. An **Intermediate class** was organised in Aviemore Community Centre; and also 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 **Carrbridge** in October 2015. Regular Cofaidh's Crac sessions also took place in **Rothiemurchus** throughout the year.
- 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 commence in the Skye area in September 2016.
- 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 from Inverness and 1 in Skye, underwent the relevant training. 11 adult Gaelic learners completed the Award at level 3 and received their certificates in March 2016.

## **5. Implications**

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

<b>6.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	<p>Members are invited to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment on progress in implementing the Home and Communities Theme in GLP 2012-16;</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

**Designation:** Director of Care and Learning

**Date:** 27 July 2016

**Authors:** Shona Paterson, Dolina Grant and Margaret Mulholland.

## 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.