

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 1 Gearran 2017
Gaelic Implementation Group – 1st February 2017**

Agenda Item	9
Report No	GIG 3/17

1+2 Languages Development (Gaelic)

Report by the Director of Care and Learning

Summary

The report informs Members of the current status of the Gaelic 1+2 Languages training and development programme, namely through:

- a)** the rollout of Gaelic Language training courses for teachers with very little Gaelic knowledge
- b)** the rollout of Gaelic 1+ 2 pedagogy courses for teachers with existing Gaelic knowledge
- c)** the development of high quality resources to equip both groups of teachers with the necessary tools to deliver their teaching and
- d)** the development of clear Gaelic language learning pathways for teachers' own personal development.

The Report contributes to the delivery of :

- The National Performance Indicator Outcome – 3,4,5 and 16
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16, Theme 2 – What will we do for Gaelic in Education
- The Highland Council Corporate Plan 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'.

1. Background

1.1 The Scottish Government's policy, Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach, is aimed at ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn a modern language from P1 onwards (L2 language). Additionally, each child should have the right to learn a second modern language from P5 onwards (L3 language).

1.2 This policy should be fully implemented across Scotland by 2020.

1.3 The Gaelic Development Officer post for 1+2 Languages was established to ensure that teachers in Highland have the necessary Gaelic language skills, the confidence and the appropriate resources, to deliver the teaching of Gaelic to their classes. To achieve this, the following objectives have been established;

2. Gaelic Language Learning Training Courses

2.1 The established Go! Gaelic course, developed by Stòrlann, the Gaelic

Education Resource Centre, will be delivered firstly to teachers, from schools that have opted for Gaelic as their L2 language and then to teachers in schools that have chosen Gaelic as their L3 language. The Go!Gaelic course is designed for those that have very little prior Gaelic experience.

- 2.2 This course is recognised as an updated version of the original Gaelic Language in Primary Schools course (GLPS), with online video clips and sound files to accompany the course, including all written resources available to download on-line.
- 2.3 Highland Council's Gaelic 1+2 Languages Development Officer, is currently undertaking a 'Train the Trainer' course, that will enable him to deliver the Go!Gaelic training course to teachers, school session 17/18 and beyond.
- 2.4 For session 16/17, the National Go!Gaelic Development Officer will deliver the Go!Gaelic training, to the L2 schools within the Highland Council area.
- 2.5 It is expected that all teachers, working within L2 primary schools (25 schools) will have received training on the use of Go!Gaelic by July 2018.
- 2.6 It is expected that all teachers within L3 primary schools (69 schools) will have received training on the use of Go!Gaelic by July 2019.

3. 1+2 Pedagogy Workshop/Training Course

- 3.1 This course is aimed at teachers who have prior knowledge of Gaelic, having undertaken the GLPS course or other similar Gaelic courses.
- 3.2 This course focuses on how teachers can use their Gaelic knowledge, in other areas of the school life, in line with the 1+2 philosophy.
- 3.3 This approach takes the focus away from 'stand alone' Gaelic lessons and ensures Gaelic is a frequently used classroom language, as part of the daily routine. Integrating it in this way allows the children to absorb the new language through different contexts and experiences and retain and use in a more productive manner.

4. Resources

- 4.1 One of the training day tasks, for the 1+2 group, is to expand on the learning activities for each of the Go!Gaelic modules. They will develop a progressive approach to teaching Gaelic to the class and explore ways in which the Gaelic learnt can then be taken forward and used in other curricular areas.
- 4.2 Highland Council planning sheets will be produced to provide teachers with a comprehensive progressive programme of study that will enable them to deliver Gaelic to pupils, in order to learn the language and to make use of Gaelic within other school contexts. These planners will link lessons with the appropriate online and hard copy resources, supporting accessibility, under a one stop shop approach.

4.3 A series of short video clips will be developed, showing current good practice, of 1+2 pedagogy, to assist teachers with the delivery of Gaelic lessons within their own class. This will help with pronunciation and confidence.

5. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

5.1 To encourage teachers to use Gaelic within other curricular areas, it is vital that clear pathways, which enable them to continue to learn Gaelic, on a personal level, are established. It is also important that any course attended is specific to teachers and teaching to support good practice.

5.2 This development of a 'pathway' will establish links with existing Gaelic language course providers and thus help create a single access point for teachers who wish to further their own Gaelic learning.

5.3 To support teachers, it will be necessary to provide details on current Community based Gaelic Conversation classes and details of suitable distance learning courses, which are currently available.

5.4 To improve fluency, the Highland Council will look into offering a residential Gaelic language learning course which would allow teachers to participate in an immersion style course.

5.5 Promoting further personal Gaelic learning may also have additional benefits in sourcing teachers who may wish to transfer into Gaelic medium education and incorporating these courses into future career pathways will also be an important part of the development.

6. Implications

6.1 There are no rural, legal, equality, risk, climate change/ carbon clever implications associated with this report at present.

6.2 Regarding Gaelic implications, 1+2 Languages Development (Gaelic) will generate a hugely positive ethos within Gaelic development.

Recommendation

Members are asked;

a) to discuss, and comment on the Gaelic 1+2 development to date, and its outcomes

Designation: Norma A Young Area Care & Learning Manager.

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