

Agenda Item	6.
Report No	EDU 13/20

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Education

Date: 6 August 2020

Report Title: Education Committee Seminars / Workshops

Report By: Head of Education

1. Purpose / Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposed outline programme of Education Committee seminars and workshops, which would be timetabled to align with future Education Committee cycles. This would be in order to provide opportunity for the briefing of Members, in enhancing the role of scrutiny and deepening understanding of the Education improvement actions and milestones of progress.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree the first phase of workshops set out from August to December 2020

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource –Short term the expectation is that these sessions would be hosted virtually, and therefore no material resource implications are expected. However, should follow up training be required then the resource implications are likely to be minimum and encapsulated within the broader Education Improvement budget.
- 3.2 Legal –These would be informal briefing/training sessions, which will support Member scrutiny and understanding of education policy development.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – it is anticipated that links will be made with the Communities and Place Strategic priorities, to ensure that families and communities are at the heart of all educational policy development and are included within the scrutiny framework. This will enhance outcomes for children and young people as the ambition for a holistic approach and acceptance, that ‘it takes a village/community to raise a young person’ is embedded in all the Committee takes forward.

- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – No identified key implications.
- 3.5 Risk –To ensure robust scrutiny by Members and the public, then it is vital that time is built in for learning, training and development linked to the extensive educational improvement ambitions set out in the Council Programme.
- 3.6 Gaelic – Strong links with the Gaelic Committee will be necessary and there may be opportunities for joint learning and development sessions e.g. ICT home learning programme enhancement and strategies for raising attainment in Gaelic.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Improving the learning experience for all children and young people is a key priority for all Highland schools and learning provisions. This is alongside the ambition to raise attainment for all, enhance health and wellbeing and ensure an inclusive approach for all families and communities. Vital to this ambition is the role the Education Committee has in ensuring scrutiny and progress as set out in the Council's Programme, the Corporate plan, the Directorate Service Plan and individual learning establishment plans. The programme of member seminars or workshops will provide an opportunity for Member briefings, training etc outwith the Education Committee cycle to support the scrutiny process and the development of policy.
- 4.2 A series of engagement opportunities such as workshops, training sessions and seminars are outlined for consideration in **appendix 1** which are aimed at the Committee Members and Local Area Committees.

Designation: Head of Education

Date: 31 July 2020

Author: Nicky Grant, Head of Education

Appendix 1 – Education Committee Development Programme

Context:

- Aligned with programme of Committee dates
- Will develop learning and scrutiny links for Education between the Education Committee Members and Area Committee Members
- Subject or themed structure for each session
- Will provide a platform for sharing of education thinking, innovation and emerging best practice which will enhance policy making whilst developing a culture of support for education practitioners to be bold and ambitious
- Will enable Members of the Committee and the Area Committees to take ‘a closer and more in-depth look’ at education practice, priorities and data to better inform Member scrutiny and future policy making
- A forward planned approach, but with scope for flexibility to accommodate emerging topics and any issues arising

Autumn Period Programme:

Workshop/Seminar Date	Committee Date	Workshop/Seminar outline theme
Wed 26 August: 10-12.30pm TBC	3 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attainment: SQA Senior Phase and preparation for area attainment meetings • Improvement: area teams and school teams – approach to improvement
Wed 28 October 10-12.30pm TBC	18 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASN: best practice in ASGs • ASN: framework for improvement

Future dates subject to agreement of 2021 Committee cycle and an evaluation of the two sessions as set out above will inform content and approach in 2021 programme.