

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

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| Agenda Item | 6 |
| Report No | G/11/22 |

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 2 November 2022

Report Title: Community Learning and Development Key Developments

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of
- a) the current key priorities for Community Learning and Development within the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP3) with a specific focus on the following themes:
 - Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare
 - Gaelic in the Community
 - b) the key areas of current and future development which will support the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP3)

Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Discuss and note the report.
- 3. Implications**
- 3.1 Resource - The resource implications are within the current main budget stream which include Gaelic Specific Grant, Taic Freumhan(Bòrd na Gàidhlig) and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig)
- 3.2 Legal - The Highland Council has a requirement to implement its Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The Report complies with The Highland Council policies on Equality.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - The Gaelic Team currently attend online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 Risk – There are no risk implications arising from this report..

3.6 Gaelic - The report enhances Gaelic Development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

4. Key priorities for Community Learning and Development within the Gaelic Language plan (GLP3)

4.1 The following 2 priority areas are outlined in the current Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Priority Area 1. Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare

- Continue to support Highland partnerships to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.

Priority Area 2. Gaelic in the Community

- Provide opportunities to encourage and increase the use of Gaelic in the community.
- Contribute to and support Community Partnership Development Plans and link with existing groups to promote and support an inclusive approach to Gaelic.
- Continue to support and advise community groups in relation to Gaelic development and usage.

4.2 The Gaelic Team CLD officers provide joint working on Gaelic language project development around GME primaries and secondaries. To formalise the partnership working with GME schools the CLD officers have developed a Gaelic Development Plan document to link in with the schools. The Gaelic community development plan will support GM parents, pupils, and the wider Gaelic school community. CLD officers target schools each academic year in line with the priorities of GLP3.

5. Key Developments for Community learning and Development within Education

5.1 Birth to Three

The partnership with the Care and Learning Alliance and Bòrd na Gàidhlig continues to provide support to the Gaelic birth to three sectors in Highland. Most Gaelic toddler groups have re-started but others have struggled in the aftermath of the COVID lockdowns due to the impact on their local organisation. Recently the CLD team have supported -

- A group of parents seeking to establish a new Croileagan group (2- to 3-year-olds) at BSGI, is being supported with the aim of commencing after the October holidays.
- A GME community awareness and open day event in Tain in collaboration with the Local CALA Gaelic officer and school staff; the event was aimed at 0-3 parents and provided information and advice to new parents.

5.2 Supporting Gaelic Medium Education in Primary

To promote and increase Gaelic usage for GM pupils out-with the formal education setting the CLD officers organise a programme of after school clubs and activities. The activities are all delivered through the medium of Gaelic and the CLD officers work in partnership with Highland GM schools to deliver these during term time. A range of opportunities to encourage Gaelic usage during the summer holidays took place across the Council area including outdoor learning, Gaelic playschemes and a range of fun activities.

- [Stramash BSGLA](#)
- [Cleansan](#)
- <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil/status/1559193467217133569>
- <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil/posts/434282842072378>
- To encourage and promote health and wellbeing amongst GM pupils, the Gaelic Team in partnership with FC Sonas organised Gaelic Football camps to take place in Portree and Inverness.
- Sailing taster sessions were offered to pupils in BSGPR and Dunvegan in September 2022, the sessions were delivered at the Skye Sailing club.
- Outdoor education opportunities were also provided to three schools that offer EM pupils Gaelic learning in primary (1+2) in Skye.
- The Gaelic team in partnership with Staffin and Kilmuir primaries were successful in securing four thousand pounds in external funding through Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Taic Freumhan Grant funding scheme. The funding will support a programme of events and after-school activities for both schools, including a Film G club, club Gàidhlig and Gaelic Football. The project will run between August 2022 until June 2023.

5.3 CLD Education Scotland and Highland Community Development

Education Scotland have highlighted the work carried out by FC Sonas by using it as a case study in their publication – “Responsive, supportive and resilient communities. A review of community development during the pandemic”. This report is included in a series of national thematic reviews by HM Inspectors highlighting exemplary practice through the pandemic. The reviews helped HM Inspectors to illustrate both what is working well in community development and also what needs to improve.

Partnership working continues to have considerable effect on communities and individuals most in need and FC Sonas's work was chosen to illustrate this. FC Sonas received charitable status during the pandemic, with support from The Highland Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding. The dual aim of FC Sonas was to increase equity and reduce fluency gaps for learners in Gaelic Medium Education (GME), using football as a context. FC Sonas worked initially online during the pandemic which helped promote the project and enhance the Gaelic profile.

Education Scotland are hosting a webinar for the purpose of sharing and discussing the key findings of the national thematic report which focusses on community development approaches during the pandemic. FC Sonas and The Gaelic Team have been invited to participate in one of the planned themed webinars. The session will take place on 2nd November 2022.

<https://education.gov.scot/media/jhve2u2i/responsive-supportive-resilient-communities-national-thematic-report-september-22.pdf>

5.4 Supporting Gaelic Medium Education in Secondary

The Gaelic Team in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig organise the annual week-long youth residential event Seachdain nan Deugairean. The event took place in February and March 2022. (Youth Gaelic Learning Week) Seachdain na Deugairean is offered to both fluent and learner Gaelic Secondary School pupils attending Portree, and Plockton High Schools.

The Highland Council Gaelic team also support Fèis Rois with the Highland Culture Collective Drama project within Highland Schools. Gaelic CLD officers liaise with GM

schools in their area to promote and encourage participation in the drama project delivered by Fèis Rois staff. The project has successfully delivered drama workshops throughout Highland GM schools.

In partnership with Skills Development Scotland the Gaelic Team organise the annual Siuthad Gaelic Careers event which aims to raise awareness amongst young people of the opportunities which exist for young Gaelic speakers in a wide range of sectors including the creative industries, the media, and a host of other areas. The legacy resource is available to schools online. Following a survey conducted with teachers a face-to-face event will take place in 2023.

6. Key Developments and Projects for CLD within the Home and Community 2021/22

6.1 Gaelic Adult Learning Classes

A range of Gaelic classes for adults have re-started with a mixture of online and face-to-face classes taking place. Most classes now use the SpeakGaelic resource developed by SMO and MG Alba although there are also conversation classes and specific classes for Gaelic Medium parents taking place in some areas. Four face-to-face Gaelic classes are taking place in Inverness plus two online classes. A face to face class and online class are currently running in Dingwall.

6.2 Promotion of Gaelic Medium Education and the Benefits of Bilingualism

To raise the awareness of the benefits of bilingualism and promote and increase the numbers going into Gaelic Medium Education, CLD officers organise online and face to face events in targeted areas in Highland where there is an identified need to support schools and GM early years. Promotional and awareness events are planned to take place in early 2023, prior to the Early Years' enrolments.

6.3 Leugh is Seinn le Linda Highland Tour

This tour, in partnership with the Gaelic Books Council, was originally planned to take place in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. The Gaelic Team were delighted to be able to deliver the tour in September this year bringing Linda Macleod's story and song sessions to all Gaelic ELC settings across Highland. Community sessions for parents and toddlers in village halls and community centres were also included in the tour.

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14819/cuairt-leugh-is-seinn-le-linda-sa-gh-aidhealtachd>

6.4 Gairloch Gaelic Language and Culture Event

The Highland Council Gaelic Team in partnership with Gairloch Primary organised a Gaelic and culture community project. The event was open to families in the Gairloch and surrounding areas. Gaelic Medium Education and the benefits of bilingualism were promoted on the day. Gaelic and cultural organisations delivered taster sessions including Fèis Rois and Gaelic Drama for the young people.

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14828/latha-c%C3%A0nan-is-cultar-g%C3%A0idhlig-coimhearsnachd-gh%C3%A0rrloch>

6.5 Alzheimer Scotland Gaelic project

The Gaelic Team support a Gaelic community project led by Alzheimer Scotland West Highland. The Gaelic initiative “Gaelic Conversations” was established to provide essential support to people living with dementia whose first language is Gaelic and their carer/s and families. The project engages with young GM pupils at Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh and BSGLA regularly. BSGPR support the project through attending the project’s online groups and singing Gaelic songs, and pupils also come along to the monthly gatherings at the Cuillin Hills, most recently at the Gaelic Gathering on Friday 30th September 2022. BSGPR pupils supported the project by recording Gaelic songs in the school for the Gaelic project that Alzheimer Scotland West are working on for their Virtual Dementia Resource Centre.

6.6 Fort Augustus – Glen of the Bards

The Gaelic Team supported the Glen of the Bards series of events organised by the Fort Augustus Gaelic Group. This project involved researching, recording, and performing songs from the area in conjunction with a Gaelic class for adults.

6.7 Fringe Activity Support – National Mòd 2021

The Gaelic Team worked in collaboration with An Comunn Gaidhealach, Feis na h-Oige, CnaG and CnaP Nàiseanta to organise an extensive week-long programme of Fringe Events for the Mòd which included a Pop Up Cèilidh, A Family Cèilidh, a Story and Music Session in Culloden, a 3 day Mini Fèis Event held in BSGI and a Family Picnic at Abriachan.

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance

Date: 18 October 2022

Author: Gaelic Team CLD Officers

Background Papers: