

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>G/12/23</b>

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee: Gaelic Committee**

**Date: 31 May 2023**

**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 agree to continue the initiatives detailed in the report.

### **3. Implications**

- 3.1 Resource - The resource implications are within the current main budget streams 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 and early learning and childcare provision.

##### **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 within Locality Plans.
- 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 will target schools each academic year in line with the priorities of GLP4 from August 2023.

#### **5. Key Developments for Community learning and Development within Education**

##### **5.1 Birth to Three**

Working in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig the Gaelic Team continue to provide support to the Gaelic Birth to three sector in the Highland Council area.

A Gaelic Toddler support worker is now employed by HC in Lochaber and a new worker has commenced covering the Moray Firth area.

A range of training support is available to all groups from the Care and Learning Alliance and in conjunction with Bord na Gaidhlig, specific online training has been offered in areas such as Risk Assessments, Financial training, and Committee Skills. Gaelic Book bug training from the Scottish Book Trust is now available for the first time since COVID 19.

Some Gaelic toddler groups have struggled to re-start after Covid but with Gaelic Team support, the Gaelic parent and toddler group in Newtonmore has now been re-established with a local playleader. In Inverness the parent and toddler group has now moved into the premises of Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis which enables a better transition into Gaelic ELC. Toddler groups meet regularly in Ullapool, Tain, and Dingwall, however, due to staffing challenges, some gaps in support continue to exist in Thurso, Skye, and wester Ross.

## 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 Easter holidays took place across the Council area including outdoor learning, Gaelic playschemes and a range of fun activities.

- [Cleansan](#)
- To encourage and promote health and wellbeing amongst GM pupils, the Gaelic Team in partnership with FC Sonas organised a three-day [Gaelic Football camp](#) in Portree in the Easter holidays. Up to 50 Gaelic medium pupils from Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh, Broadford, Sleat, and Dunvegan participated in the event.
- A one-day pop up football event in partnership with FC Sonas took place in the Easter holidays in Fort William with over 30 Gaelic medium children from BSGLA, Mallaig and Acharacle participating.
- In partnership with BSGLA, the Saturday morning Club Spòrs started back in January 2023 with over 40 children in attendance weekly.
- Gaelic football after school clubs for pupils at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh started in August 2022 and continue until June 2023.
- The Gaelic team organised mini Spòrs activities for Sgoil Àraich and P1 and P2 pupils at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh, these commenced in November 2022.
- 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.
- The Gaelic team organised a family Fun-Run event which was held in BSGI and invitations were extended to GM families in Drumnadrochit, Nairn, Dingwall and Tain to join Inverness families.

## 5.3 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. (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 Gaelic team are in the planning stages for the 2023 event, which will take place between May the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.

The Gaelic Careers Event Siuthad is due to return as a face-to-face event in November 2023 at Eden Court. This event aims to raise awareness amongst secondary Gaelic pupils of the opportunities which exist in a wide range of sectors including the media, creative industries, and a host of other areas. An online legacy resource is also available to schools.

The Gaelic team are working in partnership with Airm Àite na h-Alba to develop the project Facal is Fearran. The aim of the project is to create a five week etymology course aimed at pupils in P4-7 and S1-2. The course will consist of two structured lessons and three outcomes created in collaboration by Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba and Highland Council and delivered by the a GM teacher through the aid of lesson plans, worksheets and learning resources. The five week course will be completed with the pupils preparing an exhibition of their work in the final week. This may include an optional workshop AÀA to create a large map based on one of the maps created in outcomes one and two.

The course aims to give pupils:

1. the basics of place-name construction and element meanings
2. map reading and drawing skills
3. the importance of preserving place-names and their meanings

### **Gaelic Medium Pupils – Colmcille**

Gaelic Medium Secondary pupils from Inverness, Lochaber, Thurso and Tain have been invited to take part in a residential trip to Ballyshannon, Donegal where they will have the opportunity to try out both cultural and outdoor activities including, Irish-dancing and learning some Gaelige language. The trip takes place during June 2023. This trip is supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig Cholmcille funding.

## **6. Key Developments and Projects for CLD within the Home and Community 2022/23**

### **6.1 Gaelic Adult Learning Classes**

Gaelic Classes for Adults are increasingly popular with strong demand for Beginners face-to-face and online classes.

In the Inverness area, three in person SpeakGaelic classes took place from January to Easter, as well as an on-line SpeakGaelicA2 class and a Cearcall Còmhradh for more advanced students. In addition, a new Beginners class commenced in Drumnadrochit. In April an additional online Beginners class started. In person classes are held in Dingwall, Contin, Thurso and Bettyhill. An online class for intermediate level Learners is also based in Dingwall. In Portree there is one in person SpeakGaelic A1 class, and one online SpeakGaelic A2 class.

### **6.2 Promotion of Gaelic Medium Education and the Benefits of Bilingualism**

A range of events are organised to raise awareness of the benefits of bilingualism and promote and increase the numbers going into Gaelic Medium Education. These events can take the form of Open Days, Fun-Days, or various promotional activities in conjunction with pre-school groups and schools.

An Open afternoon for parents took place in Nairn in January 2023 as well as a promotional open morning in Newtonmore in February.

### **6.3 Family Learning**

The Highland Council in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig secured funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to re-establish the longstanding [National Family learning event](#) in a community setting. The project offers parents whose children attend Gaelic Medium Education in Scotland (primary school or early years) the opportunity to attend Sabhal

Mòr Ostaig's popular language courses while their children take part in a wide range of sports, arts and outdoor education activities through the medium of Gaelic.

A Family Learning event took place at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar on February 25<sup>th</sup> with a full day of Gaelic activities for both primary and pre-school children while parents participated in Gaelic learning at different levels. The event was well attended with over 60 participants and was timed to coincide with the end of Seachdain na Gàidhlig.

#### **6.4 Seachdain na Gàidhlig**

To celebrate the National Gaelic event, Seachdain na Gàidhlig, The Highland Council Gaelic Team organised a series of online Leugh is Seinn le Linda sessions for Highland GM pupils in Sgoil Àraich and Early level classes.

The Gaelic team supported GM schools with their activities in celebrating the week-long event, various initiatives took place including projects which focussed on the Home and Community, Education themes within The Highland Council GLP3.

An open drop-in event was held in Inverness for anyone wishing to speak or sing in Gaelic with an arts & crafts corner for children.

#### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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. The Gaelic team will continue to develop the project in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland in 2023-24.

#### **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.

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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Background Papers: