

Agenda Item	5
Report No	G/18/23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 8 December 2023

Report Title: Siuthad! Go On! – Gaelic Careers Event 2023

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Gaelic Careers event Siuthad! which translates to Go On! And took place in person at Eden Court, Inverness on 9 November 2023 for the first time since 2019.
- 1.2 The event was opened by Ms Lana Beaton from the Isle of Skye who is a successful Gaelic writer, actress and singer. The event is organised jointly by Skills Development Scotland and the Highland Council Gaelic Team. Mr Derek Mackenzie, Gaelic Development Officer, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) will give a presentation to the Gaelic Committee on the Siuthad! event.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and support the Siuthad! event; and
 - ii. Continue to encourage and promote all secondary schools in Highland who deliver Gaelic curriculum pathways to attend the event.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource
Financial support is provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, HIE, SDS and the Highland Council.
- 3.2 Legal
There are no legal implications.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)
The event was equitable and open to all pupils within a specific age range.

- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever
Coaches were the main form of transport for pupils and teachers.
- 3.5 Risk
Reduced funding will affect the number of schools participating.
- 3.6 Gaelic
Extremely positive event for Gaelic as Siuthad! provides a forum for high school pupils across the Highlands to see at first hand and understand the value of using and progressing with their Gaelic language skills as this will enhance their educational pathway towards their world of work. The event contributes to the achievement of a key outcome within the current Gaelic Language Plan.

4. The Aim

- 4.1 The aim of Siuthad! is to encourage secondary aged Gaelic pupils to continue with Gaelic as a subject by raising awareness of the wide range of careers and opportunities which are available to them if they continue with a Gaelic pathway.

5. Siuthad! Programme

- 5.1 The Siuthad! programme follows a successful model which includes delivering four participative workshops.

This year the workshops included:

- Media workshop run by BBC Alba
- Creative Industries run by Fèisean nan Gàidheal
- Young Ambassadors workshop involved a session which was delivered by FC Sonas (Football/Sports)
- Young Apprentice Careers Officers from SDS on skills for work
- Social Enterprise Academy

All the sessions took place through the medium of Gaelic.

6. Exhibitors and High Schools

- 6.1 In addition to the workshops, an exhibitor's area included stands from the University of Edinburgh, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, University of the Highlands and Islands, the Crofting Commission, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Historic Environment Scotland, Spòrs Gàidhlig, Young Scot, Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

- 6.2 The following high schools both attended and participated:

Lochaber High, Mallaig High School, Ardnamurchan High School, Ullapool High School, Inverness Royal Academy, Glenurquhart High School, Thurso High School and Dingwall Academy.

7 Partnerships

- 7.1 Siuthad! is a collaborative project which takes place through the support and engagement of stakeholders and partners. The Highland Council and SDS recognise the dedication and effort of all the various organisations, agencies and companies

which operate through the medium of Gaelic, include Gaelic related content and who commit to attending and participating in the Siuthad! event annually.

8 Schools

- 8.1 It is important to recognise the commitment from teachers in all the participating high schools, as well as highlighting the important networking opportunity for teachers to engage with organisations and the world of work sector.

9 Feedback – Evaluation

- 9.1 An evaluation of Siuthad! will take place in consultation with participating organisations and schools. Gaelic Teacher at Inverness Royal Academy, Catriona Macphee, said: "Our pupils were very much looking forward to attending this event. Gaelic speakers are very much needed in the workforce, and this will be an excellent opportunity for the young people to see where their skills may be needed as well as encouraging them to think about their future career pathways.

"They got a glimpse of a wide variety of professions and options as well as getting a valuable opportunity to ask any questions they may have. It is also a golden opportunity for the pupils to meet young Gaels from other schools and areas. A great event in every way!".

Further information from Skills Development Scotland can be found [here](#).

Designation:

Date: 16 November 2023

Author: Margaret Mulholland, Community Learning and Development Officer

Background Papers:

Appendices: