

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	G/08/24

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 29 May 2024

Report Title: Choose to Lead – Gaelic Leadership Programme

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This Report informs Members of

- a) the 'Choose to Lead' programme for Gaelic Secondary pupils in Highland
- b) the key areas of current initiatives with Highlife Highland which support Gaelic medium young people

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to 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 have 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

Secondary Gaelic Medium pupils travelling from the Skye and Lochalsh area were transported to the Choose to Lead course in Nairn by minibus, this reduced the need for multiple vehicles to transport pupils to the destination.

3.5 Risk

Reduced funding for Gaelic development projects will be a risk to future events taking place for Gaelic young people.

- 3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)
Risk assessment procedures were in place for the event.
- 3.7 Gaelic
The Gaelic Choose to Lead, delivered in partnership with High Life Highland, is a key outcome within the current Gaelic Language Plan. The project is important in supporting Gaelic Language within the Community for Gaelic secondary young people and is a positive example of Gaelic youth development work.

4. Choose to Lead project Overview

- 4.1 The High Life Highland Leadership Programme offers a variety of relevant awards and training, including the High Life Highland Choose To Lead programme (SCQF 4 & 5). The Programme helps develop experiences of leadership in both school and community, giving valuable skills and experiences for future education and careers. A mentor supports the young person to take full advantage of leadership opportunities that will enhance the development of the Young Leader. The Leadership Programme is open to young people aged 12-25 years, and although underpinned by leadership in sport and youth work, the awards can be utilised by young people volunteering in clubs, schools, and communities. All members are also encouraged to register with nationally recognised [Saltire Awards](#), designed to formally recognise the commitment and contribution of youth volunteering. A total of 50 young Gaelic pupils have qualified at either level 4 or 5 on the Gaelic Sports Leaders courses.
- 4.2 The High Life Highland Choose to Lead UK resources were translated into Gaelic and made available to High Life Highland staff to deliver the unique High Life Highland Leadership awards to Gaelic medium secondary pupils. In 2016/17 The Highland Council Gaelic Team in partnership with High Life Highland applied to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for funding through their GLAIF scheme (Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund) to secure additional funding to enable the Programme to be offered to Gaelic Medium pupils in Highland secondary schools.

5. Development of the Gaelic Choose to Lead Sport Programme

- 5.1 The first Gaelic Choose to Lead project was delivered in October 2016 as a five-day residential course. To ensure the eight young people were immersed in Gaelic throughout the event it took place at the Gaelic collage Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat. The Gaelic Sports leadership project was the first of its kind and High Life Highland were the first organisation to deliver the Sports Leader UK courses through the medium of Gaelic. The Gaelic Sports Leadership project has to date trained GM young people at Level 4 of the programme and 12 at level 5 of the programme.
- 5.2 The Gaelic Team senior translation officer translated The Choose to Lead SCQF Awards- Level 4 & 5 Student Workbooks to enable Gaelic medium pupils to access the materials in Gaelic.

6. Current initiatives delivered in partnership with Highlife Highland to support Gaelic medium pupils

- 6.1 The Gaelic Team will continue to work in partnership with High Life Highland to secure funding and deliver the Choose to Lead Courses. This will enable the young leaders to continue to deliver activities through the medium of Gaelic. This will support and increase sporting activities where Gaelic medium provision exists in communities across the Highlands. The most recent Course was delivered in April 2024 in Nairn

and a link to the social media post event promotion of the event follows: -

<https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil/posts/852290256938299>

- 6.2 In partnership with High Life Highland the Gaelic team will also develop extra-curricular activities through the medium of Gaelic in the High Life Highland summer programme thus offering GM pupils the opportunity to increase their Gaelic usage out with curriculum time. In July 2023 a Gaelic Sports Festival was organised at Portree High school for Gaelic medium pupils, the event was delivered in partnership with High Life Highland.
- 6.3 We will continue to support transition between GME secondary and GME primary for pupils in Gaelic Medium. To achieve this outcome, The Gaelic Team in collaboration with High Life Highland and Gaelic Education staff will organise a programme of Gaelic activities in schools and communities where there are Gaelic standalone schools and for schools with Gaelic departments. Gaelic Secondary pupils will be supported to lead the Gaelic activities after-school and during Easter and Summer programmes. A Gaelic weekly Club Spors was organised by the Gaelic Team for pupils attending Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar. A Gaelic medium secondary pupil who completed the Gaelic Sports Leadership course was employed as a Gaelic sports leader.

Designation:

Date:

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Background Papers:

Appendices: