

Agenda Item	7
Report No	G/11/24

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 4 September 2024

Report Title: Gaelic Education Update

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report informs Members of the recent key areas of improvement within the development of Gaelic Education, including:

- developments in the progress of Professional Learning for Gaelic Education.
- data and targets towards delivering Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) Strategic Priority 4.1 for 1 plus 2 Gaelic Learner Education.

The report also updates Members on actions towards a Gaelic Education Collaborative. This actions plans to:

- provide a strategic plan for GME (Gaelic Medium Education) Professional Learning support for 2024/25.
- ensure access to relevant career-long professional learning (CLPL) which is specific to the linguistic and professional needs of staff involved in the provision of both GME and GLE.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Note the areas of development and progress in GLP Strategic Priority 4.1
- ii. Consider and note the actions to support the Professional Learning of Gaelic Teachers that support the Statutory Requirements for Gaelic Education.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource – the funding provided by the Scottish Government through the Gaelic Specific Grant (GSG) provides invaluable support for a wide range of projects that

assist the Council in delivering its commitments under the Gaelic Language Plan with the majority dedicated to the delivery of Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner Education.

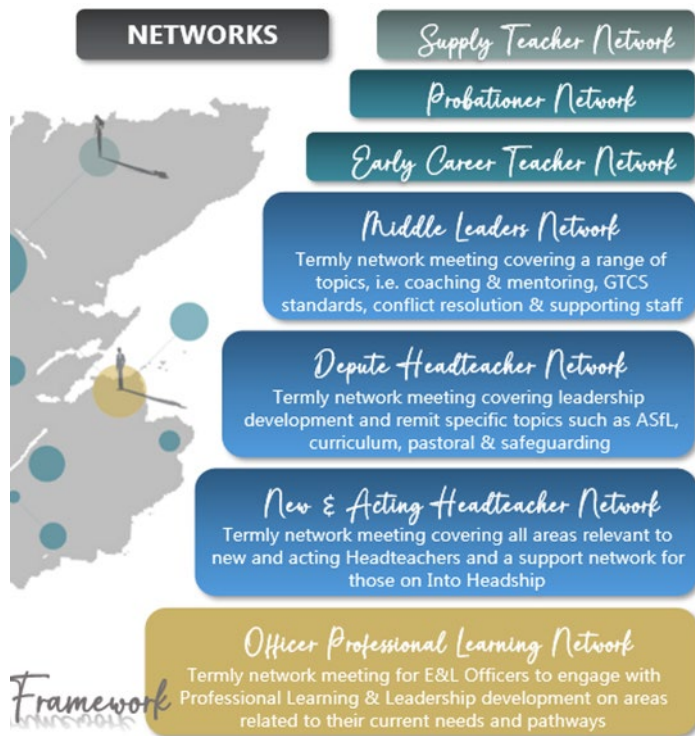
For the financial year 2024/25 the Council submitted a GSG application for £1.3M against total projected expenditure of £8M and was awarded £915,000.

In addition to core Council funding and the Gaelic Specific Grant, the Gaelic budget also secures additional funding through project-specific bids to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and the Strategic Gaelic Plan Fund (GPF).

- 3.2 Legal - The Highland Council has a statutory duty to implement its Gaelic Language Plan in terms of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005. Section 15 Education (Scotland) Act 2016 imposes a statutory duty on The Highland Council as Education Authority to promote and support Gaelic Education.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) – there are no specific risks arising because of this report.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – Where possible, meetings take place online.
- 3.5 Risk – Gaelic Education outcomes within the Gaelic Language Plan and Statutory Advice on Gaelic education requirements are not met.
- 3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people). None.
- 3.7 Gaelic - The report enhances Gaelic Education development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of The Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan and the National Plan.

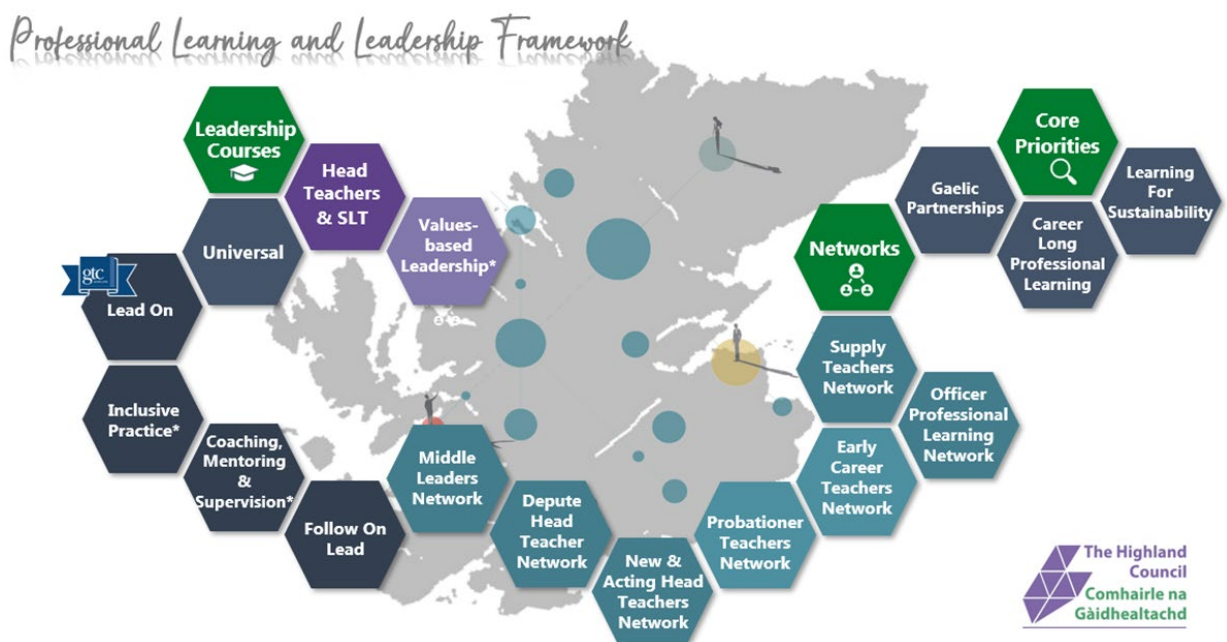
4. Key developments in Professional Learning for Gaelic Education teachers

- 4.1 The Senior Lead Manager for Professional Learning has been working in close partnership with the Gaelic Development Manager and the Gaelic Support Officer on implementing Gaelic into the Professional Learning and Leadership Framework. Initial work involved ensuring that the newly established professional learning and leadership networks included a focus on Gaelic Medium Education and that the [Plana Gàidhlig - Gaelic Language Plan 2024–2029 | Gaelic | The Highland Council](#) is incorporated. The networks which form part of the Leadership Framework are the vehicle for developing our educational leaders and will facilitate the delivery of strategic priorities 4.1 and 4.2 in the Gaelic Language Plan.



4.2 Our New and Acting Headteachers, and our aspiring leaders who have secured a place on the Into Headship national professional learning programme, complete an online module with Education Scotland on the various components of policy and legislation for Gaelic Education. From August 2024, the online learning is complemented by Highland Council workshops on Gaelic Education, which are delivered in parallel with the online learning module. The Senior Lead Manager for Professional Learning, Gaelic Development Manager and the Gaelic Support Officer deliver the sessions for new and acting headteachers.

Our probationer induction day now includes a workshop on Gaelic Education and is included as a core priority on the newly developed [Professional Learning and Leadership Academy](#). Over the next three years, GME and GLE will be implemented across all networks as a key part of the Leadership Framework.



* to be developed by 2025

The termly Professional Learning and Leadership Newsletter includes a dedicated section on Gaelic, and this further promotes the professional learning led by the Gaelic Support Officer. The Gaelic Support Officer works closely with the Education Programme Officer to ensure that all schools and settings are aware of materials and events. Examples of resources are included in the infographic below.



5. Strategic Priority 1 plus 2

5.1 Strategic Priority 4.1 - Deliver continued promotion and growth GME and GLE at all levels including delivery of Gaelic as a modern language, with 70% of primary schools providing Gaelic as an L2 and L3 to increase the provision of Gaelic across the authority.

At present, the following table shows the number of schools delivering Gaelic as an L2 or L3 language in 2023/24.

5.2

Area	L2	L3	Schools not delivering Gaelic	Total number of schools	Provision of L2/L3 as a percentage within the area
Mid	1	9	23	33	30%
North	2	7	21	30	30%
South	0	24	26	50	48%
West	2	23	7	54	87%

To work towards the target of 70% of schools delivering Gaelic as an L2 or L3 language, we have implemented the following:

- Enhanced downloadable resources and learning activities to support the Go!Gaelic programme.
- Sustainable self-study “anytime” modules with video and audio support for getting to grips with vocabulary and structures. Extension links to support those who have a good grasp of basic Gaelic to develop this further.
- Robust training programme via twilight sessions to help support teachers with Gaelic language learning, providing them with an opportunity to practice saying the phrases through trying out the learning activities.
- Live Lessons Programme – Online team-teaching delivery, with a Gaelic speaker teaching live vocabulary/structures direct to pupils, and the class

teacher taking over to play interactive games with them. This builds teacher and pupil confidence while demonstrating good practice for language teaching.

- 5.3 We have delivered 3 Live Lesson courses, including the pilot, to many schools across Scotland, averaging around 20 schools in each course, and most with more than one teacher/class taking part. The last course had on average 30 teachers/classes attending each session.

Since the pilot in May 2023, and within Highland only, we have reached 52 new teachers (those that have not taken part in any Gaelic 1+2 training before) and reached 7 new schools (those that do not have Gaelic down as an L2 or L3 choice).

- 5.4 This coming session, we will run a 6-week Language Learning course beginning in September 2024, covering the first 8 topics of Go!Gaelic and then we will run a follow-up 6-week Language Learning course, covering the remaining topics, beginning in January 2025.

These courses take teachers through all the Go!Gaelic programme of study, looking at vocabulary and structures for all the topics covered. This training is open to teachers from across the Northern Alliance.

- 5.5 We will also be running a split-level Live Lesson course beginning in November 2024 for 6 weeks and followed by a repeat course again beginning in April 2025. Teachers can choose between a complete beginner's level or an intermediate level.

The intermediate level is aimed at teachers and classes that have either attended the beginner's course or have been working on the basic Gaelic topics already. This has been requested previously to help support those that have attended previous Gaelic training and are wishing to extend their knowledge.

These courses will run concurrently with the Beginner's course led by the 1+2 Officer in Argyll & Bute and the intermediate course led by the Gaelic Education Support Officer in Highland.

- 5.6 Session 2024/25 will focus on offering Gaelic Language twilights and Live Lessons to those Primary schools that do not currently offer Gaelic as either an L2 or an L3, even though Gaelic is on offer within their attached Secondary School. Currently there are 37 schools that fall within this category, although 3 have already taken part in the Live Lesson sessions. The schools will be contacted directly with an invitation to participate in both the twilights and the live lessons.

6.0 **Gaelic Medium Professional Learning Collaborative 2024/25**

- 6.1 The Gaelic Development Manager has worked in close partnership with the Collaborative Team and our Highland Literacy Officer for GME to develop a Gaelic Collaborative Improvement programme for 2024/25 for teachers and senior managers in schools with a remit for Gaelic Education.

The Gaelic Medium Collaborative will support the Education service towards the following requirements:

- The General Teaching Council's Standard for full Registration. 2.1.1. Professional Knowledge and Understanding. A requirement to have a depth of knowledge and understanding pedagogical and learning theories, and to draw

on these appropriately to inform curriculum design and content where appropriate taking account of Gaelic medium.

- The Statutory Advice on Gaelic Education section, Career-long Professional Learning in Gaelic Education. 'Education authorities and other relevant public authorities should ensure that all staff involved in Gaelic education have access to relevant career-long professional learning (CLPL) which is specific to the linguistic and professional needs of staff involved in the provision of both GME and GLE'.

6.2 During session 2024/2025, the following Gaelic collaborative activities are planned;

- Head Teacher Gaelic Medium collaborative session with a key focus on recording and raising attainment, Term 1.
- Gaelic Literacy support sessions organised in partnership with Gaelic Education Scotland Team, Term 1 and 2.
- Gaelic Medium Teacher Collaborative In-service – Promoting Improvement in Gaelic Literacy, February 2025.
- Gaelic Highland literacy collaborative in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, ongoing throughout the session:

Start Date	Sector(s)	Title
20/08/2024	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Literacy Resources available in GME through Highland Literacy
26/11/2024	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Literacy Interventions in GME
25/02/2025	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Teaching Phonics in Gaelic Medium (repeat)
25/03/2025	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Developing Writing in Gaelic Medium (repeat)
06/05/2025	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Reading in Gaelic Medium
03/06/2025	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Literacy Resources available in GME through Highland Literacy
24/06/2025	Primary Class Teachers Pupil Support Assistants	Literacy Interventions available in GME (repeat)

7.0 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, University of Highlands and Islands

7.1 The Gaelic Team actively promotes professional learning partnerships with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's teacher education programme.

7.2 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's teacher education staff are actively involved in professional learning for teachers and students in Gaelic Medium Education through Club Irise (Journal Club) and Oideas. Club Irise provides opportunity to engage with presentations and discussions with other professionals online, with a focus on immersion and bilingual education. Oideas, in partnership with The Highland Council provides podcasts where professionals working in Gaelic Medium Education have a space to share reflections about their work.



[Oideas - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig \(uhi.ac.uk\)](http://uhi.ac.uk)

7.3 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig also provide and support a Master of Education (MEd) Gaelic Education pathway for all teachers. This focuses on Immersion pedagogy and best practice in international immersion education, research, policy and practice in Gaelic Medium Education, leading learning in Gaelic education and practitioner enquiry to inform and improve practice. There is positive feedback from the Med, teachers from across Highland are currently undertaking and benefiting from this programme to build upon their prior learning.

8.0 Designation:

Date: 20 August 2024

Author: Tina Stones, Ruairidh MacKay, Lena Walker

Background Papers:

Appendices: