
SENIOR PHASE STRATEGY

Report by Service Director, Children & Young People's Services

Executive Committee

15 September 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report describes the work taking place in Scottish Borders Secondary Schools to progress the ambitions set out within Curriculum for Excellence in relation to the Senior Phase learning experience for all our pupils in their 4th, 5th and 6th year at school.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:

- a) Notes and approves the Senior Phase Strategy, April 2015 for our Secondary Schools.**
- b) Request an update of the progress of the Senior Phase Strategy in September 2016.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Senior Phase spans from 4th to 6th year in our schools. "The senior phase of a child's education is one of the most important, and potentially one of the most challenging. Schools are tasked with creating a curriculum that not only provides a meaningful learning experience which supports pupils in obtaining qualifications, but also enables them to develop emotionally, physically and socially as young adults. In short, the senior phase prepares pupils to make their own way in the world."

(Education Scotland, 2012)

3.2 Our schools have been working together to develop the curriculum, providing a much more diverse and ambitious Senior Phase experience for all our 4th to 6th pupils across the Scottish Borders. This expansion of the curriculum presents challenges and opportunities. The "Senior Phase Strategy, April 2015" (Appendix 1) builds upon good practice in our schools and sets out key recommendations of actions to be taken to ensure our children obtain the highest level of qualifications and the highest quality skills for learning, life and work; resulting in a positive and sustained destination for all young people.

3.3 It is evident in the development of the strategy for the Senior Phase that schools must build and develop partnerships with a range of further education providers and businesses, both within and beyond Scottish Borders. The ambitious agenda set out in the Senior Phase Strategy recommendations clearly demands high quality partnerships moving forward.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no financial implications associated with the direction of travel set out within the strategy

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

The principles set out within the Strategy will ensure that the Senior Phase is planned to result in the best outcomes for senior phase students and the new structure will continue the improved trend in delivering positive destinations.

4.3 Equalities

The development of the Senior Phase will deliver an increased range of learning pathways and achievement routes for individuals which should result in increased levels of achievements for all senior phase students irrespective of their backgrounds.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

The Senior Phase will be developed to take account of the needs of local communities across the Scottish Borders.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1** The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council will be consulted and their comments will be reported at the meeting.
- 5.2** Staff at all levels in our schools have been consulted in devising the "Senior Phase Strategy, April 2015".

Approved by

Donna Manson

Service Director Children & Young People

Signature

Author(s)

| Name | Designation and Contact Number |
|--------------|--|
| Donna Manson | Service Director Children & Young People |

Background Papers: Developing Scotland's Young Workforce – page 13 sets out the key themes and milestones for schools which will inform the further development of the Senior Phase in Scottish Borders.

Previous Minute Reference: A Report on developing 'Developing Scotland's Young Workforce' was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on 1 September 2015.

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Donna Manson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD0 6SA.