

# **1 HMIE REVIEW REPORT - IMPROVING SCOTTISH EDUCATION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITIES, SEPTEMBER 2007 (AN268-2007)**

The Committee is asked to note that the above mentioned report has been published as a website only document on 4th September 2007 and covers a five year review of community learning and development in Scotland post the production of the last inspection framework "How Good is our Community Learning & Development" May 2002.

The report sets out the context against which this activity has progressed over the period of statutory inspection and highlights positive progress of varying degrees across Scotland in the evaluation/monitoring of community learning and development, self assessment, contributions to partnership working and to the broader community planning agenda.

The Committee's attention is drawn to Section 2, the main findings and strengths and to the examples of good practice under Section 4 as follows:-

- The Xplore Partnership provided highly valued support for young people who faced difficulties in their lives, using approaches which were person-centred and non-judgemental.
- The Peer Education Project had recently been awarded the top Stop Bullying award from the Scottish Executive Education Department for its work in reducing school bullying.
- Saved By the Bell promoted financial literacy and a savings scheme for pupils involving the Discovery Credit Unit as a learning source for schools.
- The Dundee City of Discovery Picture Book Award, a peer learning project involving primary pupils of different ages working together on evaluations of children's books, demonstrated a wide range of important learning gains.

Dundee City Council, Leisure and Communities Department has been formally inspected on three occasions during this period and has maintained high quality assessment levels. Section 5 outlines the challenges ahead for this occupational service sector and the specifics of planning drivers which the Council as a corporate body are addressing through Departmental Service Plans and the Dundee Partnership.

Hard copies of the report have been provided to Group Secretaries and web access can be obtained at [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk)