

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 10th FEBRUARY 2011

REPORT ON: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: REMOVAL OF QUALITY CONTACT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 86-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the removal of the Quality Contact primary-secondary transition project. This will take effect from April 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the proposed savings described in this report be approved.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Quality Contact team comprises one full-time co-ordinator, three full-time support staff and one part-time administrative assistant. The implementation of removing Quality Contact posts and the closure of their base in Dryburgh would result in approximate savings of £165,000 in the full financial year 2011-2012. The Quality Contact team members would be redeployed to relevant positions within the school system or, where appropriate, offered the opportunity to take voluntary early retirement.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Since 2000 there has been a rolling programme of work involving the Quality Contact team and the 9 school clusters (secondary school + associated primaries) in Dundee. The aim of the project has been to support schools in developing and maintaining a good primary-secondary transition programme. Since 2008 Quality Contact has focused on the needs of smaller groups of potentially vulnerable young people and has introduced a range of interventions to support them between P7 and S2. The project has been very well received by teachers, pupils and parents and has facilitated good practice around transition in Dundee.
- 4.2 Although this additional support for schools will be withdrawn under this proposal, it is to be expected that Quality Contact has left a legacy such that schools are able to deliver effective transition using their own resources. In each secondary a member of the mainstream teaching staff and/or a Pupil Support Worker has been linked to the Quality Contact team to ensure longer-term sustainability and to build on the teaching approaches and ideas provided by the team. The implementation of Curriculum for Excellence will result in stronger curricular and pastoral links between primary schools and secondaries.
- 4.3 All secondary schools have procedures and staff in place to identify and support vulnerable young people at the point of transition and through the early years of secondary education.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and will be made available on the Council website: <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

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Director of Education

27 January 2011

JC/MW