

Inverclyde

Please see the response from Inverclyde Council. It should be noted that this reply was written when the email was received and prior to the First Minister's announcement on 2nd March.

What plans, measures and strategy are in place to help pupils "catch up" following the impact of the pandemic on school education, particularly for those moving from Primary 7 into high school

- plans already in place from August 2020 with the employment of additional teaching staff through government grants
- working with Head teachers and our attainment challenge team to ensure accurate assessment linked to the development of provision to support pupils with addressing areas of lost learning
- significant development in the quality of remote learning across all schools to ensure greater engagement and process in learning
- on return to school support is being offered to once again assess where pupils are and subsequently address and lost learning
- working to create additional teaching posts for 2021/22 to ensure that the recovery process outcomes
- using the planning from for the SAC plan for 2021/22 to ensure a clear focus on recovery
- updated our transitions policy to ensure that a clear focus on the P7 – S1 transition ensuring this is as smooth as possible, with enhanced transitions for pupils with ASN

Confirmation of how blended learning is being delivered in your local authority area,

- Where the majority of pupils are in class e.g. P1-3 however some pupils are required to self-isolate, plans are in place to provide educational provision through continuation of the remote learning offer supported by class and recovery teachers
- In the senior phase a timetable is currently in place for pupils to access school if required for practical subjects. This is based on Scottish Government guidance and we are using columns to structure the timetable
- Where children of key workers or the most vulnerable are accessing hubs then they have access to a teacher but follow the same timetable as their classmates
- We are awaiting Scottish Government guidance on the parameters for the return to school for secondary pupils.

whether any school building capital projects have been delayed as a result of the pandemic.

- The Council's entire capital programme has been impacted by the pandemic including a number of Education projects. Following the initial March 2020 lockdown and restart of non-essential construction activity in June 2020, all suspended projects and pre-construction activity has resumed. One major capital project completed in October 2020 with another on site to complete

summer 2021 and one project at tender return stage having also been impacted by the insolvency of the main contractor just ahead of the March 2020 lockdown. The 1140 Hours expansion programme has also been delayed, however, given the progress already made within Inverclyde in the implementation of 1140 hours it has been possible to develop contingency plans to ensure that 1140 hours could still be implemented as of August 2020. The associated capital projects position as of 1st Quarter 2021 is that eleven of the fifteen 1140 hours expansion projects have been completed with the remaining projects at various stages of construction and programmed to complete by August 2021.

More generally, the Committee would also welcome any other comments you have to make on the impact of Covid-19 on school education, including the following:

- What will be the immediate priorities as pupils again return to in-school learning?
- A clear focus on health and well-being and reconnection with pupils and staff, alongside a focus on assessment to ascertain where pupils are with their learning

How and when does the local authority plan to assess impacts of the pandemic on learning and wellbeing?

- This is an ongoing process and was already in place over the autumn term. Teaching staff are being supported by colleagues from both the attainment challenge and educational psychology teams, to gather assessment data to ensure a full picture on every child's attainment and progress is developed. By the end of the autumn term this was in place. Teachers have further developed their ability to assess learning of remote learning and will then recommence assessment processes on the return of pupils over the end of the spring term.
- School leaders are then working to review their planning for the remainder of this term and provision for next year e.g. reviewing the use of PEF funding / strategies based on the data and assessments they have gathered

Does the local authority anticipate providing additional activities, learning opportunities or wellbeing support to pupils? If so, please provide examples?

- Many offers are already in place e.g. pupils' access to the Inverclyde Well-being service run by Action for Children, secondary schools offering Easter schools and the development of an enhanced version of our summer programmes including a focus on creative learning activities for more pupils

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