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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 9 MARCH 2022**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND PROGRESS VISIT TO EAST END PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the key findings and outcomes following Education Scotland progress visit to East End Primary School in November 2021.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 When a school is inspected by Education Scotland or where continuing engagement visits are subsequently undertaken by Education Scotland, a report is published which gives commentary on the school's performance. Education Scotland provide such reports in the form of a parent/carer letter published on their website. Reports on Education Scotland activities are reported regularly to Committee, where possible at the first available opportunity following publication.
- 2.2 East End Primary School and Nursery was first inspected by Education Scotland HMIE in December 2014 using How Good Is Our School? version 3 Quality Indicator framework, with letter to parents published in February 2015. At that time, the school received evaluations of 'weak' across the key quality indicators forming the basis for inspection.
- 2.3 During this visit and in the parent letter following, a number of key strengths were highlighted:
  - The welcoming and caring staff and their strong ambition to improve the school
  - How well staff know children and the high quality of pastoral care they provide

- Remodelling of areas of the school building, including the library, which have supported improvements in learning and the school's ethos
- 2.4 Following discussion with staff and The Moray Council, the following areas for improvement were also agreed at that time:
- Improve the quality of teaching and learning across the school to better meet children's learning needs
  - Develop staff and parent's understanding of Curriculum for Excellence and draw up a clear plan for its implementation
  - Introduce rigorous systems for self-evaluation to ensure improvements in children's achievements
- 2.5 Continuing engagement visits followed in February 2016 (parent letter published: June 2016) and September 2017 (parent letter published: November 2017), highlighting strengths and progress made against areas outlined in section 2.4 above as well as areas for further development. A local authority "Schools for the Future" audit followed in 2018, where due to past immediacy of the Education Scotland HMIE visit, findings were closely aligned.
- 2.6 Changes in link officers for scrutiny at Education Scotland and Moray Council in 2019 and 2020 coupled with the impact of Covid-19 resulting in severe disruption to our Education system and two separate periods of National lockdown in March 2020 and January 2021, meant that further scrutiny activity did not take place.
- 2.7 In October 2021, notification was received from Education Scotland HMIE that scrutiny activities and visits would recommence to some schools and early learning and childcare setting across Scotland. Those schools and settings identified by Education Scotland HMIE were those where previous visits as outlined above required further engagement, pre-pandemic.
- 2.8 Planning and discussion between Education Scotland HMIE, the school and local authority followed in October 2021 and led to Education Scotland HMIE working in partnership with Moray Education.
- 2.9 Due to the time lapse between initial inspection and continuing engagement visits to the October 2021 announcement by Education Scotland HMIE, using How Good Is Our School? version 3 as a legacy quality indicator framework was no longer appropriate. The November 2021 local authority report undertaken and a December 2021 Education Scotland HMIE virtual visit were centred on key quality indicators from How Good is Our School? version 4 (HGIOS?4). Linked to strengths and areas for improvement identified by the previous Education Scotland HMI teams, visit and scrutiny activities centred on the following:
- School Context
  - Covid-19 disruption and school response
  - QI 1.3 Leadership of Change
  - QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
  - QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, equality and inclusion

## **QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement**

- 2.10 Education Scotland HMIE worked closely with the Quality Improvement Manager (QIM) who supported the Education Scotland team in pre-visit scrutiny activities supported by a Quality Improvement Officer and the Primary Advisor from the Moray Education central team. Pre-visit activities included virtual and face-to-face discussions with key staff, lesson visits, discussions with a range of stakeholders, review of school evidence and attainment data analysis.
- 2.11 The Education Scotland HMIE virtual engagement visit that followed and associated activities also supported Education Scotland HMIE to learn more about how young people and their families have been supported through the Covid-19 pandemic by the school. Approaches that have worked well to support young people's health and wellbeing, learning and progress were further shared.
- 2.12 Following December 2021 Education Scotland HMIE visit and associated activities, Education Scotland HMIE highlight that East End Primary School has been responding to the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These have had a significant impact on the work of the school.
- 2.13 Staff are implementing plans to support recovery and have addressed the areas for improvement from the original inspection successfully as outlined in section 2.4 above.
- 2.14 As a result, Education Scotland HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection. Moray Education will continue to inform parents about the school's progress as part of its normal arrangements for reporting on the quality of its education service.
- 2.15 The Education Scotland HMIE visit letter published in March 2022 following visit in December 2021 is contained within **Appendix 1**.

### **3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**  
Reflective of priorities within the Corporate Plan with particular regard to (3) provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence and (4) day to day service delivery in line with council values of ambitious, improving and responsive. With regards to the 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan LOIP), (2) building a better future for our children and young people in Moray through equity of learning experience offered across our schools.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**  
It is the duty of the Council to secure improvement and the quality of school education which is provided in schools managed by Head Teachers and to raise standards of education (Section 8 of Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000).

This report relates to Section 66 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, which concerns the inspection of educational establishments.

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee on school performance following external scrutiny/validation activity.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

No climate change or biodiversity implications have been determined due to the scrutiny based nature of activities reported and no findings related to such implications contained herein.

**(i) Consultations**

Senior Officers in Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Human Resources Manager, the Head Teacher (East End Primary School) and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report and;**
- 4.2 That Committee acknowledges the work undertaken by the school during the Covid-19 pandemic to support young people's wellbeing and learning while also progressing key recommendations from legacy inspection and ongoing scrutiny activities.**

Author of Report: Stewart McLauchlan, Quality Improvement Manager

Background Papers:

Education Scotland HMIE Visit Letter – March 2022 (see Appendix 1)

[Education Scotland HMIE Continuing Engagement Report \(November 2017\)](#)

[Education Scotland HMIE Continuing Engagement Report \(June 2016\)](#)

[Education Scotland HMIE Inspection Report \(February 2015\)](#)

[How Good Is Our School? 4<sup>th</sup> edition](#)

[Education Scotland six-point scale](#)

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