

CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The main purpose of this report is to provide the Community Services Committee with an update on actions being taken within the Education Service to support Care Experienced Children and Young People to achieve the best possible educational

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Corporate Parenting is the responsibility that all local authority bodies in Scotland have for children and young people who are Care experienced under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and this cohort are known as Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP).
- 2.2 The establishment of Argyll and Bute's Corporate Parenting Board was central to the Council response to improving outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People and care leavers. It was also a key element of the Getting it Right for our Care experienced Children's Improvement Plan alongside our Education Strategic Plan 2022-2024.
- 2.3 As employees of the local authority, education staff are Corporate Parents and have a clearly defined role to play alongside the other 23 Corporate Parents defined in Schedule 4 of the Act. Staff working in education require to be aware of the unique role which they play in ensuring that care experienced children and young people experience a positive learning environment, strong, nurturing relationships and are supported to achieve positive destinations as they move into adulthood. Senior leaders require to ensure support and ongoing professional learning opportunities for education staff to allow them to fulfil this crucial role. This is clearly stated in the Framework on Supporting Care Experienced Children in Education settings in Argyll and Bute that which launched in January 2017.
- 2.4 During session 2022/23 we have continued to build on the significant developments during the previous sessions to further support the educational experiences and outcomes for our children and young people in Argyll and Bute. A Virtual Head Teacher for CECYP was appointed on 17th April 2023, replacing the post of Principal Teacher for CECYP, demonstrating the ongoing commitment from Education Services to 'Keep the Promise.' ([_____](#))

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- a) Continues to endorse the work undertaken by Argyll and Bute Education Services as part of the Corporate Parenting Board to improve the educational attainment and life chances of Care Experienced Children and Young People.

Travel and Subsistence	£6,184
Cool2Talk Contribution	£2,000
Staff Training	0
Total projected expenditure	£161,793
Funded by:	
2022/23 Scottish Government grant	£127,400
Earmarked Reserves	£34,393

Staff Training shows '0.' However, it should be noted that the Care Experienced Education Team continue to access a variety of training including Argyll and Bute online learning, school based training and from external providers such as Each and Every Child, The Promise and Who Cares Scotland.

4.4 Data on attendance, exclusions and attainment has been provided throughout the last session to the Corporate Parenting Board and to the Community Services Committee and a summary outline is found below:

4.4.1 EXCLUSIONS

In December 2022 the Education Service updated the management circular in relation to Managing Exclusions in Schools. This updated guidance includes a comprehensive checklist which considers individual circumstances and additional considerations for care experienced children if a school exclusion is being considered for them. When an exclusion is being considered for a care experienced pupil, the Head Teacher/Campus Principal must discuss the reasons for this consideration with the Head of Service for Education and outline clearly how an exclusion will support improvements in their agreed education targets.

- * 40% on cusp
- ** 47% on cusp
- *** 47% on cusp

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATION AUTHORITY ATTAINMENT DATA 2022-23

ALL COURSES

Please note this attainment data is prior to the appeals process and to full attainment data being published by Insight.

	A	B	C	Pass	D

Authority National 4 results for all learners are above the national average by 12% and we have maintained a 100% pass rate for this session. Scottish wide provisional attainment statistics available here: [_____](#)

5.8% of pupils between S4-S6 were not presented for exams, this is less than 4 learners. There are specific reasons for this which include obtaining qualifications at an appropriate level and following a personalised curriculum.

LITERACY

Level 4	100% pass rate	
Level 5	A – C pass rate	85.7%
	A – D pass rate	100%

Combined Level 4 and 5 (A-C) pass rate = 91.7%. Our target was 65%.

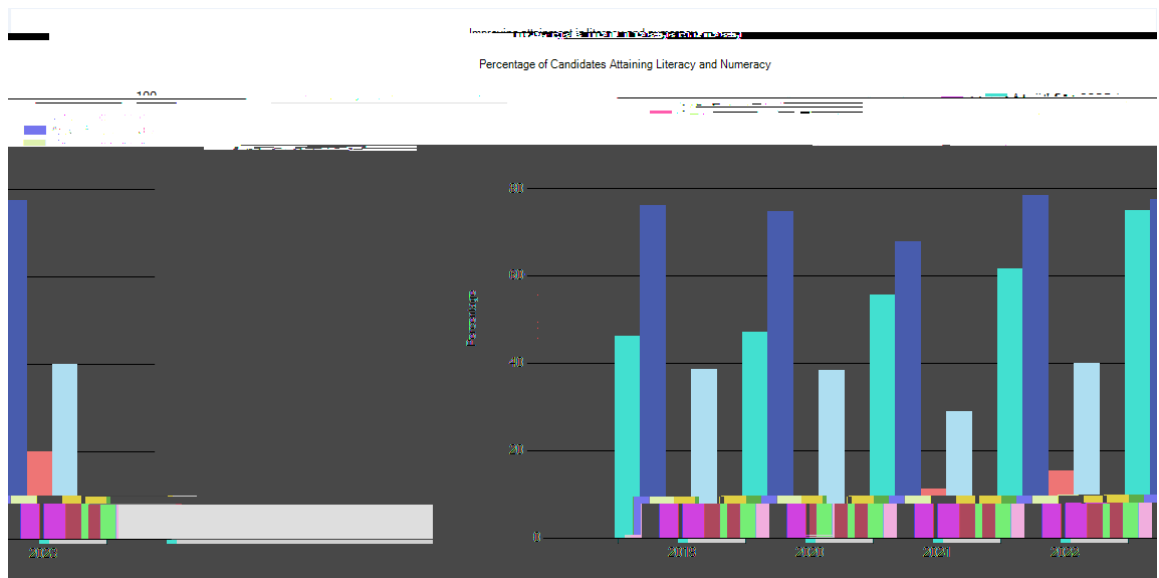
NUMERACY

Level 4	Application of Mathematics	100%
	Mathematics	100%
Level 5	Application of Mathematics	50% B – C pass rate
	Mathematics	66% C – D pass rate

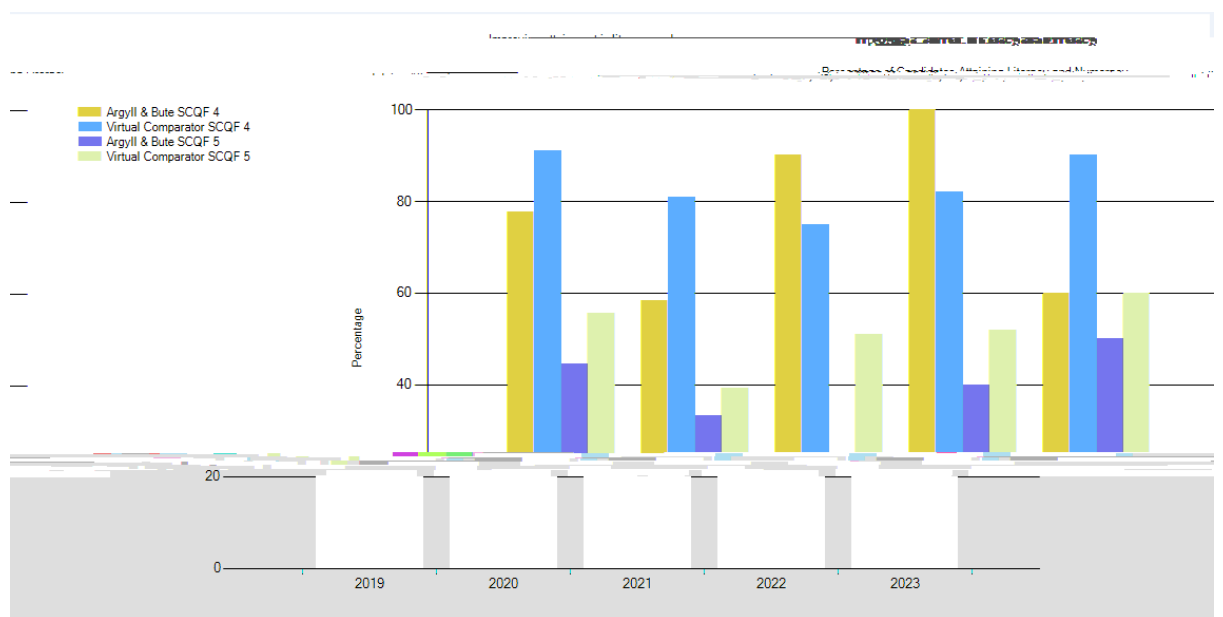
Combined Level 4 and 5 (B

For the following graphs, it should be noted that 2019 is the most comparable year due to the pandemic and the way in which examinations were undertaken and coursework delivered. SCQF levels 4 and 5 Literacy and Numeracy are achieved via the passing of National 4 or 5 English or Mathematics, or through the completion of separate Literacy and Numeracy units at levels 4 and 5 which do not require an examination.

CECYP in S4 who have attained literacy and numeracy qualifications at SCQF level 4/5.



CECYP in S5 who have attained literacy and numeracy qualifications at SCQF level 4/5. (Cumulative attainment by the end of S5 based on original S4 roll).





60% continued in school education, 11.5% went on to Further Education and Higher Education. 13.5% are in employment (paid and voluntary) with 9% undertaking formal training.

This is an extremely positive outcome with 94% of CECYP going on to achieve positive destinations. Our Year 2 target in the Corporate Parenting Plan was for 88% of leavers to move on to a positive destination.

Scottish wide education outcome data for care experienced young people 2021 – 22 notes that 84.8% of care experienced young people went on to a positive initial destination, compared to 95.7% of all children. 70.4% were in a positive follow-up destination, compared to 93.5% of all children. Our authority data for CECYP achieving a positive follow up destination exceeds the national percentage for both care experienced and non-care experienced learners.

We note that when working with such small numbers, a change in circumstance for one or two young people can negatively impact the percentage figures. The VHT for Care Experienced Children and Young People has detailed information in relation to the small percentage of individuals who continue to be supported to achieve a positive destination. For some, this is directly related to health issues and partner agencies are making every effort to offer tailored support.

The VHT works alongside school colleagues and partners from Skills Development Scotland to ensure that each and every care experienced young person is aware of their options for further education and employment and is supported to access the required information through this transition period.

Positive destination data for 2022 – 23 is currently being compiled and will be reported on in 2024.

4.5 Inter-agency links continue to be developed and strengthened between Social

actioned as a direct result of CECYP sharing their views at the Corporate Parenting Board in May 2023.

Through attendance at nationwide conferences –in person and online – the VHT is highlighting the importance of CECYP and our aspirations for them within Argyll and Bute.

- 4.6 The Care Experienced Education Team currently consists of the VHT and four Health and Wellbeing Liaison Officers. This was complemented by three Lead Additional Support Needs Assistants posts from January – October 2023. The team supports operationally across Argyll and Bute, working directly with our CECYP. Interventions are personalised to each child and their context. Interventions include maintaining communication links between home and school, supporting attendance, wellbeing and emotional regulation and targeted learning support. The VHT has committed to additional training and will share this with the Care Experienced Education Team as appropriate to ensure consistency of approach.

