

Welcome and Introductions Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Minutes Agreed by Dr James Cant

First Speaker John Wilson, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire
“ Educational Outcomes in Scotland “

The key themes in Johns presentation were to discuss the educational outcomes in Scotland utilising East Renfrewshire as a point of context.

He discussed the key performance measures in East Renfrewshire and what works and posed the question to the group of what more could be done?

John stated that the problem of social inequity is particularly pronounced in the school systems of the UK . School systems that are more socially equitable generally have higher attainment. Although higher levels of attainment compare favourably with OECD comparators, “pupils in the middle and lower half of the distribution continue to perform particularly poorly relative to students in countries with the best performing education systems” (OECD, 2008) “In Scotland, who you are is far more important than what school you attend... the school system as a whole is not strong enough to make this not matter.” (OECD, 2007)

East Renfrewshire Context

Vision: Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All □□ Education Department Local Improvement Plan: Outcomes and Impacts, e.g.

to continue to be the highest attaining mainland council areas as measured by national examinations

- improved attainment in the senior phase by ensuring that secondary school pupils are presented at the most appropriate level in national examinations
- an improvement in national examinations in curricular areas where performance has been identified as weak
- Improved reading, writing and mathematics attainment throughout the years of a broad general education
- an improvement in the attainment of the lowest-achieving 20% of East Renfrewshire’s school age children.

East Renfrewshire as an educational authority has a : Consistent structure leading to coherence,rigour,tracking methods,believes strongly in developing confidence and wellbeing,keeping everything simple and making sure staff,pupils and parents believe school and the local authority do matter.

East Renfrewshire aims to be the highest mainland council area as determined by the measurement of national examinations. When compared to comparator authorities they achieved this ambition.

East Renfrewshire has achieved excellent educational attainment they believe due to a highly inclusive approach with all partners and ensuring high quality learning experiences for all. Ensuring there is a challenging and appropriate curriculum and tracking pupils achievement. East Renfrewshire also believe in recognizing and celebrating all achievements.

Next Steps and What more could be done, John believes that a continued focus on early

intervention and an investment in preventative measures is key. He also stated that a focused approach and raising attainment for all pupils supporting those most in need is critical to continued success.

Second Speaker: John Donald ; Manager, Jump2it

The Jump2it programme is a health and citizenship initiative, managed by charity Scottish Sports Futures (SSF) and funded primarily through the Scottish Governments Cash Back for Communities scheme. Jump2it targets primary school pupils, aged 10+ and is delivered free of charge to schools by the Glasgow Rocks professional basketball team and qualified SSF coaches.

The aim of the programme is to promote an **active and healthy lifestyle**, encourage **participation** and **good citizenship** whilst highlighting the **dangers of poor diet, smoking and alcohol abuse**. The Rocks professional role models will be used to engage with young people and emphasise the importance of the messages and the potential of a healthy body and mind.

The programme has the following stages;

- **Roadshow** – delivered to each school by the Glasgow Rocks professional basketball team
- **6 hrs Basketball Coaching** – in curricular or after school time delivered by qualified SSF coaches and including key first aid topics and techniques delivered in partnership with St Andrews First Aid
- **Alcohol DVD** - an interactive DVD featuring Rocks players and walk on game board reinforces the important facts relating to alcohol first delivered at the road-show stage
- **Basketball Tournament** – in curricular time at a central location
- **Finals event** – Top 4 teams played semi-finals and final at Rocks Home game (Kelvin Hall)
- **Prize Ceremony** - in curricular time for top 4 teams delivered by Glasgow Rocks players
- **Rocks Clubs** - Community basketball clubs set up as a direct result of the Jump2it programme

In 2010-11 the Jump2it programme was delivered to **148 primary schools** from Inverness right through to East Ayrshire engaging with **11,628 pupils**.

An external evaluation by MP Consultancy was completed during the 2010-11 Jump2it programme. Findings included:

- Pupils showed a **significant increase in knowledge** across 4 topics of diet, alcohol, smoking and exercise (666 pupils)
- Pupils also showed an **increase in levels of physical activity** across a range of different activities
- **Increases in activity after schools** during free time and the evenings were also shown
- **Role of the Rocks players is important** and the use of the players within the programme is a distinct and well liked feature of the sessions
- Staff felt that the programme **fits well within the national curriculum** requirements
- Both pupils and parents were getting **more involved in formal after-school sessions**

Pupils were also found to be mentioning the Jump2it programme without prompt when discussing healthy lifestyles and teachers have noticed pupils using facts and figures from the Rock's visit in 'circle time'. Children who were not usually involved in sports were seen to be

participating in the basketball sessions and were proud to represent their school at the tournament stage.

Teachers were extremely positive about the Jump2it programme, many of them noting in their feedback how valuable the Jump2it programme is to their curriculum.

Third Speaker: Colin Mair, CEO Improvement Scotland.
“ Health and Linked Inequalities”

Key Points

- The gap between the top 20% and bottom 20% widest in Europe
- At age 15: equivalent to 6 years education
- Least segregated schools in Europe: large catchment comprehensives
- ‘In Scotland, it is who you are not the school you attend that matters’

Findings

- With respect to Europe: range and variation around the average is the issue (need to avoid short hand characterisation)
- Within Scotland: high clustering of positive outcomes and negative outcomes (highly interrelated: mutually reinforcing)
- Clustering and low variation at neighbourhood level only (substantial variation at council, ward and area level)
- Localisation and integration: ‘community in the round’

Challenge of Change

- Health outcomes (equity) -v- life outcomes (equity)
- Targeting community outcomes in the round not thematic outcomes
- Localising and integrating partnerships: tilting and focussing
- Duties, accountabilities, and delivering to communities
- Addressing issues of design and competence
- Prevention, reaction and universal services: equal value

AOCB Nothing raised.

Next Meeting : 17th May 2012 – Sir Harry Burns

Attended

MSP's

Malcolm Chisholm
Richard Simpson
Murdo Fraser
Jim Eadie
Drew Smith

Apologies

Brendan Rooney, Grainne Morrison, Prof Watt, Dr Katherine Smith, Diane Thompson, Bill Paton, Dr Alison McCallum.

Non MSP's

Jim Swift	HIA
Jacquie Forde	HIA

Donald Lockhart	ASH Scotland
James Cant	British Lung Foundation
Duncan Thorp	Social Enterprise Scotland
Erin Townhill	Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Margaret Ann Pearson	Scottish Stem Cell Research
Emma Brooks	Bowel cancer Care
Diane Thompson	Pfizer
Dr Alison McCallum	NHS Lothian
Pauline Craig	NHS Health Scotland
Rebecca Middlemiss	RCPS
Gail Grant/Helen Reilly	BMA Scotland
Janice Johnson	SSCC
Melissa Rogers	SSCC
Dr Stewart Douglas	SSCC
John Wislon OBE	Director of Education East Renfrewshire
Colin Mair	Director of Improvement Scotland
Malcolm Clubb	Community Pharmacy Scotland
Paul Donald	Scottish Sports Futures
Michelle Ferguson	Scottish Sports Futures