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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
EDUCATION

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
25 AUGUST 2022

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## OUR CHILDREN, THEIR NURTURING EDUCATION

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### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Nationally mental health is a priority for all practitioners working with children and young people as outlined in the *Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027*.

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC) places children and young people's wellbeing at the centre of all assessment and planning. These principles are now enshrined in legislation in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014) which reinforces the rights of children and young people. Many of the key components of GIRFEC can be found within a nurturing approach, including the focus on wellbeing, an understanding of resilience and a need to implement thorough assessment to support children and young people's wellbeing needs.
- 2.2 Health and wellbeing are also key components of the ***Curriculum for Excellence*** and ***Building the Ambition*** which emphasise the need to ensure that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.
- 2.3 Education Scotland in their publication ***Applying Nurture as a Whole School Approach*** states:
- excellence and equity, including: closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people and improving children and*
- priorities at the heart of a school and early learning and child care settings improvement agenda and is a key focus for many Local Authorities to support*
- 2.4 The recent review of the implementation of the Education (Scotland) (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2004 highlights that *Framework must be revised to ensure parity for additional support for learning. This framework must be rooted in improvement methodology and assist in*

methodology is rooted within the OCTNE accreditation process.

- 2.5 NSPCC research identified that it is the quality of relationships that support children to overcome adversities. This requires time and resource. There is a clear indication that nurturing approaches should be central to developments in schools at this time, with a focus on identifying the impact of the interventions. Wellbeing is rightly at the heart of the Argyll and Bute Education Service recovery plan, with OCTNE as a central component. Experiences of trauma and their impact contribute to significant barriers to learning. If children and young people are to be supported to reach their potential through education and beyond there requires to be a sustained commitment to meeting their wellbeing needs.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee notes:

- 3.1 The progress of the strategy against initial objectives and support the ongoing commitment that all educational establishments will become communities with nurture and relationships at their c7(t)-34(h)-6( )]TJET5(a)-[w)35(e)-6(l)35(l)3[n-6(p)( )-40

- 4.2 In support of planning for recovery from COVID-19 an updated proposal was prepared for the Education Management Team in June 2020, and agreement for recruitment of a Principal Teacher (PT) for Nurture followed. The PT Nurture was recruited in October 2020 but was unable to be released from school until February 2021.
- 4.3 The OCTNE framework and accreditation model were developed, and the first cohort of schools enrolled in OCTNE in March 2021. A second cohort enrolled in November 2021 and a third cohort, focusing on Early Years establishments is in the initial planning and engagement stage.
- 4.4 There are now 29 (33%) schools engaging with OCTNE, with 23 already having achieved bronze accreditation (nurture commrt21(a)-s



*intervention in Scottish schools*, advocates well embedded nurturing approaches as central to reducing the need for seclusion or restraint of children and young people experiencing high levels of distress.

- 4.12 While significant progress has been made towards the initial objectives, and the addition of Nurture Teachers has allowed enhanced support to be available to schools and pupils, we are still at the early stages of a long and very worthwhile journey. For all of Argyll and Bute's educational establishments to become communities with nurture and relationshi107.37 661.35 TmBT1 0 0333.42.37 646.33 Tm[ )]T

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