

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director – People
to Leadership Panel
of 26 November 2019**

**Subject: Update on Pupil Equity Fund and Scottish Attainment
Challenge**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Panel confirm they are content with the current approach to the use of Pupil Equity Fund and Attainment Challenge Scotland funding and to inform Panel of the progress made by schools during 2018-19 in improving equity in educational outcomes.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

- 2.1.1 confirms that they are content with the current approach taken to the use of Pupil Equity Fund and Attainment Challenge Scotland funding; and**
- 2.1.2 notes the progress made in achieving equity in educational outcomes.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Attainment Challenge was launched by the First Minister in February 2015. This included establishing the £750 million Attainment Scotland Fund. The Scottish Attainment Challenge is about achieving equity in education; specifically by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.
- 3.2 As part of the Attainment Scotland Fund, the Scottish Government has allocated additional funding directly to schools, targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. The Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) was initially made available from April 2017. The Depute First Minister announced in September 2019 that the PEF funding will continue to be made available to schools for one additional year beyond the end of this parliamentary term. In 2018-19, for each child in a publically funded primary, secondary or special school who is eligible and registered for free meals, schools are allocated £1,200. South Ayrshire schools were allocated £2.41 million ranging from £1,200 to £220,800. [Appendix 1](#) provides a summary of the allocation per school.

- 3.3 National guidance has been provided by the Scottish Government to help schools plan how they utilise their PEF allocation. The guidance contains a number of key principles including:
- Head Teachers must have access to the full amount of the allocated PEF.
 - The PEF must enable schools to deliver activities, interventions or resources which are clearly additional to those which are already planned.
 - Head Teachers must work in partnership with each other, and their local authority, to agree the use of funding. Schools must take account of the statutory responsibilities of the authority to deliver educational improvement, secure best value, and the authority's role as an employer.
 - Parents and carers, children and young people and other key stakeholders should be involved in the planning process.
 - Funding must be provided for targeted support for children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. Although PEF is allocated on the basis of free school meal registration, head teachers can use their professional judgement to bring additional children into targeted interventions.
 - Schools must have plans in place at the outset to evaluate the impact of the funding.
- 3.4 Educational Services have provided additional guidance to support schools in their use and reporting of PEF which is specific to our local circumstances. The advice is set in the context of the existing approaches to self-evaluation, highlighting in this case the poverty related attainment gap and which interventions may be used to address the gap.
- 3.5 Head Teachers were asked to develop PEF plans detailing how resources would be used to provide targeted interventions in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing to close the poverty related attainment gap. In developing these plans Head Teachers were asked to set out their rationale for the use of the funding, based on clear analysis which identifies the poverty related attainment gap in their schools and takes account of evidence of what is known to be effective at raising attainment for children affected by poverty. They were also asked to ensure collaboration with pupils, parents and carers, trade union colleagues, community partners and their cluster as they developed their plan.
- 3.6 The Quality Improvement Manager, Quality Improvement Officers and the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor have worked alongside schools to provide support and challenge as Head Teachers formulated their PEF plans.
- 3.7 In addition to Pupil Equity Funding the Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund has provided additional funding to nine Challenge Authorities across Scotland with the highest concentrations of deprivation. South Ayrshire is not among these but four South Ayrshire schools were identified as part of the Attainment Challenge Schools programme. The Schools Programme currently involves Ayr Academy, Braehead Primary School, Dalmilling Primary School and Newton Primary School.

- 3.8 Schools Programme funding is in addition to PEF received by each of the schools involved. Currently the total grant received from Scottish Government is £0.399m and is focussed on providing interventions and strategies to improve literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people. The overall approach continues to focus, as does PEF, on closing the poverty related attainment gap.
- 3.9 In South Ayrshire our Attainment Challenge Schools have worked over the past 4 years to develop supports and interventions alongside Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology, Active Schools and Barnardos to meet the needs of their children and young people and work to close the poverty related attainment gap. The team approach undertaken by the schools involved is leading to improvements in attainment in literacy and numeracy for the target group and enhanced opportunities for wider achievement. The work undertaken as part of this project has been shared nationally and continues to support our local analysis of effective practice in closing the poverty related attainment gap.

Reporting

- 3.10 As part of the conditions associated with the grant for PEF, the Education Authority is required to produce a report summarising the outcomes and performance at an authority level. In order to reduce duplication and bureaucracy this is linked to existing reporting requirements as set in the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000. This report sets out a high level summary of the progress of South Ayrshire schools in improving outcomes through the use of their PEF during 2018-19. Summary performance results are attached in [Appendix 2](#).
- 3.11 In line with the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities the Educational Services Plan includes a number of activities which are intended to bring about improvement in the attainment and experiences for all children and young people. For example, improving reading, writing and mathematics throughout the years of the broad general education and improved attainment at the senior phase. The improvements that establishments have made have realised benefits for all children and young people, including those experiencing deprivation.

Interventions

- 3.12 A range of measures were used to provide evidence of success in terms of improving attainment including standardised tests, Curriculum for Excellence attainment, class and school assessments and data from Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). Effective use of data plays a significant role in selecting, monitoring and targeting interventions.
- 3.13 Head Teachers used the additional funding in a variety of different ways to support learners. Interventions included:
- Additional staff to provide focussed support for individuals or groups of learners in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This included targeted School Assistant or teacher support to address gaps in learning.
 - Supplementary resources to support literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

- Additional promoted posts with staff undertaking remits focused on tracking attainment, family learning and leading CLPL.
- Additional staff, including CLD workers, third sector organisations and community partners to develop engagement opportunities with children and families
- Targeted breakfast clubs, homework clubs and additional study opportunities
- CLPL for teachers and support staff to focus on high quality and research based pedagogy in the classroom
- Support for children and young people to access extra-curricular activities, residential trips and community projects
- Reducing the cost of the school day by providing access to uniforms, study materials and home learning packs

4. Proposals

- 4.1 It is recommended that elected members confirm the current approaches to achieving equity through the use of PEF and Attainment Challenge funding and note the progress made by schools in improving outcomes through Pupil Equity Funding and the Scottish Attainment Challenge during 2018-19.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 This report provides evidence of the improvements made as a consequence of additional funding from the Scottish Government, to support schools in closing the poverty related attainment gap. South Ayrshire schools received £2.8 million in 2018-19 from PEF and Attainment Challenge funding. Robust monitoring arrangements have been put in place for PEF and Attainment Challenge, which ensure that Educational Services and Head Teachers have regular oversight of school level expenditure. PEF expenditure is separated from core school budgets, ensuring that spending is not subsumed within overall school budgets, and can be easily tracked and monitored.
- 6.2 Based on the 2018-19 financial year end the actual expenditure was £1.63 million. Schools were able to carry forward unspent funds into the new 2019-20 financial year; with financial records confirming that 98% of the 2018-19 allocation had been spent by the start of the new school year in August 2019. Head Teachers are aware that other than in exceptional circumstances, PEF monies require to be spent within a school year.
- 6.3 South Ayrshire schools have been allocated £2.36 million for 2019-20. [Appendix 3](#) provides details of the individual school allocations. Head Teachers are aware that the additional funding is limited to the end of this parliamentary term and are asked to consider the sustainability of all approaches being implemented to raise attainment and close the poverty related attainment gap.

6.4 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no associated risks.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 There are no associated risks.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to the Council strategic objective of 'Reduce Poverty and Disadvantage' and within that to the outcome 'Develop learning and care systems that place schools at the heart of communities, targeting children and families in need, especially looked after children'.

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor William Grant, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Depute Chief Executive and Director - People will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to

ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Leadership Panel in the 'Council and Leadership Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Annual update on progress to Panel	24 November 2020	Quality Improvement Manager

Background Papers [Pupil Equity Funding – National Operating Guidance 2019](#)

[Pupil Equity Funding – South Ayrshire Guidance 2019](#)

Person to Contact **Douglas Hutchison, Depute Chief Executive and Director - People**
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612234
E-mail Douglas.Hutchison@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 11 November 2019

Pupil Equity Funding Allocations 2018-19

School	Allocation	Totals	School	Allocation	Totals
Primary Schools			Special Schools		
Alloway Primary School	£21,600		Invergarven School	£12,000	
Annbank Primary School	£62,400		Southcraig Campus	£68,400	£80,400
Ballantrae Primary School	£21,600				
Barassie Primary School	£61,200				
Barr Primary School	£8,400				
Barrhill Primary School	£1,200				
Braehead Primary School	£138,000				
Cairn Primary School	£43,200				
Colmonell Primary School	£4,800				
Coylton Primary School	£18,000				
Crosshill Primary School	£3,600				
Dailly Primary School	£20,400				
Dalmilling Primary School	£220,800				
Doonfoot Primary School	£36,000				
Dundonald Primary School	£40,800				
Fisherton Primary School	£4,320				
Forehill Primary School	£76,800				
Gardenrose Primary School	£39,600				
Girvan Primary School	£117,600				
Glenburn Primary School	£57,240				
Grammar Primary School	£54,000				
Heathfield Primary School	£104,760				
Holmston Primary School	£45,600				
Kincaidston Primary School	£79,920				
Kingcase Primary School	£57,600				
Kirkmichael Primary School	£12,000				
Maidens Primary School	£10,800				
Minishant Primary School	£5,400				
Monkton Primary School	£21,600				
Muirhead Primary School	£24,000				
Newton Primary School	£93,600				
Sacred Heart Primary School	£34,800				
St Cuthbert's Primary School	£4,800				
St John's Primary School	£120,000				
St Ninian's Primary School	£20,400				
St Patrick's Primary School	£17,280				
Straiton Primary School	£0				
Struthers Primary School	£29,160				
Symington Primary School	£15,120				
Tarbolton Primary School	£74,400				
Troon Primary School	£40,800	£1,863,600			
Secondary Schools					
Ayr Academy	£67,200				
Belmont Academy	£104,400				
Carrick Academy	£43,200				
Girvan Academy	£52,800				
Kyle Academy	£42,000				
Marr College	£38,400				
Prestwick Academy	£66,000				
Queen Margaret Academy	£55,200	£469,200			

South Ayrshire Council

Additional Analysis – Outcomes and Impact

1. **Outcomes and Impact**

1.1 2018-19 was the second year that schools were allocated PEF. The guidance issued to schools indicated that Head Teachers should plan to secure improvements for children and young people over a number of years. Current guidance ensures that Head Teachers consider data trends and the use of improvement frameworks to support decision making and continuity of interventions or strategies. At this stage schools have identified improvements in a range of outcomes for individuals and groups of children and young people. These include:

- The gap between children's achievements of developmental milestones in the early years has reduced over the past 5 years.
- The primary numeracy gap has narrowed each year since 2015-16
- Attainment in reading, writing, listening and talking at P1, P4 and P7 combined for the most deprived 20% has increased each year since 2015-16.
- The attainment achieved by the 20% most deprived learners in literacy at Level 4 and 5 has remained above the virtual comparator in each of the last 5 years.
- The attainment achieved by the 20% most deprived learners in numeracy at Level 4 and 5 has been broadly in line or above the virtual comparator in the last 5 years.
- The gap between the total tariff points achieved by the 20% most deprived and least deprived school leavers has reduced over the past 2 years.

1.2 Almost all schools reported that PEF has enabled focused delivery of targeted interventions. In general, schools allocated PEF to widen and increase the range of strategies and interventions to improve outcomes for the identified children and young people. Using existing knowledge of learners, other children also benefited from inclusion in these interventions.

1.3 At an individual school level improvements reported by Head Teachers included reference to the following:

- Attainment in reading and mathematics as measured during participation in a number of specific interventions
- Reading age of children, reading comprehension skills and spelling
- Improvements in attendance
- Learner motivation, engagement, confidence and self-esteem
- Participation in extra-curricular activities

2. Identification of Good Practice and Areas of Challenge

2.1 The highlights and areas of challenge were noted from the plans submitted and evaluated by Head Teachers:

- Develop further opportunities for collaboration between schools and across the local authority in the use of PEF
- Work with Head Teachers to ensure consistency in planning and the use of data to support PEF planning and improvements
- Collaborate across the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative to share best practice
- Continue to implement new planning and reporting arrangements with increased support and challenge provided alongside the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor
- Continue to provide support and challenge to ensure that plans utilise the range of data available to inform planning and decision making
- Support schools in the development of contingency plans where recruitment challenges exist

All information extracted from the Educational Services Standards and Quality Report and National Improvement Framework return.

Table 1. Attendance

Primary

Year	South Ayrshire	National
2014/15	95%	93.9%
2015/16	95%	No Data
2016/17	95%	94.9%
2017/18	95%	No Data
2018/19	95%	TBC Dec 19

Secondary

Year	South Ayrshire	National
2014/15	91%	88.5%
2015/16	91%	No Data
2016/17	91%	91.2%
2017/18	90%	No Data
2018/19	90%	TBC Dec 19

Table 2. Exclusions – Primary and Secondary by SIMD quintile as a % of the total number of children excluded

Sector	Year	20% Most Deprived	2	3	4	20% Least Deprived
Primary	2014-15	60.0%	35.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%
	2015-16	66.7%	29.2%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
	2016-17	47.6%	28.6%	23.8%	0.0%	0.0%
	2017-18	36.8%	26.3%	31.6%	0.0%	5.3%
	2018-19	42.1%	31.6%	15.8%	10.5%	0.0%
Secondary	2014-15	33.3%	39.9%	16.7%	7.2%	2.9%
	2015-16	37.2%	35.9%	12.8%	7.7%	6.4%
	2016-17	40.8%	32.0%	15.6%	5.4%	6.1%
	2017-18	36.6%	28.1%	20.3%	7.2%	7.8%
	2018-19	36.9%	32.6%	19.1%	7.1%	4.3%

Table 3. Percentage of children with no developmental concerns in any domain at the 27-30 month review (by deprivation)

	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
South Ayrshire	2013/14	69.7	76.1	75.9	80.2	87.1
	2014/15	68.4	78.0	80.3	77.2	88.6
	2015/16	67.5	67.0	77.7	85.7	88.3
	2016/17	64.6	68.4	70.2	72.6	73.6
	2017/18	69.6	67.9	75.1	84.9	84.5
Scotland	2013/14	62.3	70.1	72.8	75.5	76.4
	2014/15	62.6	70.5	73.2	76.7	78.0
	2015/16	63.7	69.5	73.8	77.7	80.1
	2016/17	55.2	64.7	69.4	71.8	71.8
	2017/18	41.4	57.7	64.4	64.8	62.2

Source: ISD Child Health 27-30 Month Review Dashboard

Table 4. Primary P1, P4 and P7: Percentage Achievement of Expected Levels by Deprivation (SIMD16 Quintile)

Deprivation	Session	Organiser			
		Reading	Writing	Listening and Talking	Overall Maths
Q1	14-15	60	50	-	63
	15-16	72	63	77	72
	16-17	72	66	78	77
	17-18	79	73	86	81
Q2	14-15	72	-	-	75
	15-16	79	73	84	81
	16-17	79	74	85	84
	17-18	82	76	86	82
Q3	14-15	76	-	-	79
	15-16	85	80	88	83
	16-17	84	79	90	86
	17-18	86	79	89	86
Q4	14-15	86	-	-	83
	15-16	93	89	94	91
	16-17	90	86	93	90
	17-18	92	89	95	92
Q5	14-15	86	-	-	86
	15-16	93	90	95	93
	16-17	91	88	93	91
	17-18	93	91	95	92

2018-19 data will be fully available after December 2019.

Table 5. Percentage Gap in Achievement of Expected Levels: SIMD16 Q1 and Q5

Year Stage	Session	Reading*	Writing	Listening and Talking	Overall Maths
P1, 4 & 7	2014-15	26	-	-	23
	2015-16	21	27	18	21
	2016-17	19	22	15	14
	2017-18	15	18	9	11
	2018-19	18	22	15	14
S3 Level 3 or better	2015-16	3	5	4	19
	2016-17	14	14	12	19
	2017-18	18	16	16	12
	2018-19	11	12	10	17
S4 Level 4	2015-16	12	9	9	41
	2016-17	37	37	41	46
	2017-18	38	36	31	44
	2018-19	36	36	40	45

*Reading results for 2014/15 are overall languages.

Table 6. Percentage Achievement of Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
20% Most Deprived Leavers	76.37	77.84	81.52	87.14	81.60
All Leavers	87.01	89	91.61	92.12	92.04
Attainment Gap 20% Most Deprived and All Leavers	10.64	11.16	10.09	4.98	10.44

2019 data will be available following Insight update in February 2020.

Table 7. Percentage Achievement of Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
20% Most Deprived Leavers	31.32	41.24	52.17	54.76	49.53
All Leavers	57.37	63.03	71.18	71.92	71.48
Attainment Gap	26.05	21.79	19.01	17.16	21.95

2019 data will be available following Insight update in February 2020.

Table 8. Percentage Achievement of Level 6 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
20% Most Deprived Leavers	13.19	9.79	12.5	11.90	15.09
All Leavers	30.04	29.1	30.81	31.43	31.93
Attainment Gap	16.85	19.31	18.31	19.53	16.84

2019 data will be available following Insight update in February 2020.

Table 9. Percentage Achievement of Literacy and Numeracy Qualifications: 20% Most Deprived Leavers

Qualification	Establishment	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Level 4 Literacy	South Ayrshire	86.81	88.66	92.93	95.71	92.45
	SAC VC	83.63	85.82	84.67	88.05	87.31
Level 5 Literacy	South Ayrshire	51.65	63.92	64.67	73.33	72.17
	SAC VC	51.37	54.54	58.32	66.67	66.37
Level 6 Literacy	South Ayrshire	24.73	27.32	33.15	41.43	38.68
	SAC VC	27.47	25.67	32.83	37.95	39.15
Level 4 Numeracy	South Ayrshire	79.67	81.96	84.78	87.62	83.02
	SAC VC	67.86	76.75	77.23	82.1	81.79
Level 5 Numeracy	South Ayrshire	37.36	48.45	57.07	57.14	49.53
	SAC VC	41.26	42.16	43.75	51.57	50.85
Level 6 Numeracy	South Ayrshire	13.19	12.37	12.5	13.33	15.57
	SAC VC	17.14	14.74	14.51	14.62	15.24
No. Leavers	South Ayrshire	182	194	184	210	212
	SAC VC	1820	1940	1840	2100	2120

2019 data will be available following Insight update in February 2020.

Pupil Equity Fund Allocations 2019-20

School	Allocation	Totals	School	Allocation	Totals
Primary Schools			Special Schools		
Alloway Primary School	£21,600		Invergarven School	£10,800	
Annbank Primary School	£70,800		Southcraig Campus	£73,200	£84,000
Ballantrae Primary School	£19,440				
Barassie Primary School	£55,080				
Barr Primary School	£7,560				
Barrhill Primary School	£1,200				
Braehead Primary School	£124,200				
Cairn Primary School	£38,880				
Colmonell Primary School	£6,000				
Coylton Primary School	£19,200				
Crosshill Primary School	£3,600				
Dailly Primary School	£18,360				
Dalmilling Primary School	£217,200				
Doonfoot Primary School	£32,400				
Dundonald Primary School	£46,800				
Fisherton Primary School	£6,000				
Forehill Primary School	£69,600				
Gardenrose Primary School	£42,000				
Girvan Primary School	£111,600				
Glenburn Primary School	£57,600				
Grammar Primary School	£49,200				
Heathfield Primary School	£92,880				
Holmston Primary School	£45,600				
Kincaidston Primary School	£82,800				
Kingcase Primary School	£57,600				
Kirkmichael Primary School	£13,200				
Maidens Primary School	£9,720				
Minishant Primary School	£10,800				
Monkton Primary School	£20,400				
Muirhead Primary School	£21,600				
Newton Primary School	£94,800				
Sacred Heart Primary School	£39,600				
St Cuthbert's Primary School	£4,320				
St John's Primary School	£108,000				
St Ninian's Primary School	£18,360				
St Patrick's Primary School	£14,400				
Straiton Primary School	£0				
Struthers Primary School	£26,400				
Symington Primary School	£19,200				
Tarbolton Primary School	£78,000				
Troon Primary School	£36,720	£1,812,720			
Secondary Schools					
Ayr Academy	£97,200				
Belmont Academy	£93,960				
Carrick Academy	£34,560				
Girvan Academy	£51,600				
Kyle Academy	£39,600				
Marr College	£43,200				
Prestwick Academy	£59,400				
Queen Margaret Academy	£49,680	£469,200			