

**ACE Strategy Group**  
**Summary Minute of Meeting**  
**January 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 - Strathpeffer PS**

**Present:** D.MacDonald, T. McCulloch, D. McCartney, J. Port, C MacSween, M. Shearer, M. Robertson, R. English, E. Broadley, G. Watson, L. Schubert, A. Cryans, T. Kerr

**Apologies:** G. Mackenzie, P. Finlayson

### **Agenda**

Following an update on *Building the Curriculum* and *Teachers for Excellence* from Donnie MacDonald, it was generally agreed that awareness of ACE and its implications varied across the authority. Almost all schools were now well engaged with Learning and teaching (via AifL). However, relatively few had engaged with the curricular implications of ACE, especially in secondary schools where the impact in S1-3 was likely to be profound.

Publication of the eight curricular area guidelines between March and July, provided the authority and schools with opportunities to engage all staff in reflection and development.

### **Implications**

The main implications were agreed as follows:

- ACE is a genuinely ‘bottom-up- development – within national and local guidelines, schools are being given real autonomy to develop learning opportunities to meet pupil needs without being restricted by overly rigid assessment requirements
- ACE places the four capacities and the needs of the pupil at the centre of the learning process – current models of curricular delivery, especially in S1-3, are not tenable
- ACE is a genuine 3-15 programme – the aim is to ensure continuity and progression for the learner with a particular focus on ensuring ‘seamless’ transitions from pre-school to primary and primary to secondary
- ACE is building on current developments in L&T – affording pupils more choice at all stages in their learning, encouraging pupils to be more aware of their own learning needs, supporting them to take greater responsibility for what and how they learn
- ACE is about recognizing and celebrating learning in all its forms – not just because it happens in the classroom and/or leads to an SQA award - so reflection and development must include communities and families.

### **Actions**

The following actions were agreed:

- that the QD Team should extend its series of short stimulus Papers for use in schools \*  
**action: D McCartney/P Finlayson**
- that a sub-group be formed to update The Highland Council *Flexibility in the Curriculum* policy taking account of *Curriculum for Excellence* \***action: T McCulloch**
- that a sub-group be formed and meet at least twice in February to develop CPD strategy including the role of school CPD Coordinators \***action: R English, T Kerr, K Logan**
- that a series of three ASG meetings for headteachers be organized for May 2007 \***action: P Finlayson, E Broadley, D McCartney**

### **Future meetings**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>.