

## 6.4 Parent Pathway Support

<b>Improvement Project Title:</b> Supporting the development of pathways with Parents and Carers
<b>Executive Sponsor:</b> Rob Polkinghorne (ICS Board Chair)
<b>Project Lead:</b> Alex Duncan (QIM) ( <a href="mailto:AlexDuncan@aberdeencity.gov.uk">AlexDuncan@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a> )
<b>Aim statement:</b> Increase the number of opportunities for parents and carers to gain an insight into how to meaningfully contribute to the educational progress of their children and young people by 30% by 2021
<b>Link to Local Outcome Improvement Plan:</b> Stretch Outcome 6: 95% of children living in our priority localities will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026;  Driver 6.3: Ensuring children, young people and families understand the pathways available to them and skills required for the future.
<b>Why is this important:</b>  Aberdeen has been below the Scottish average in gaining positive destinations (for their school leavers for several years. This year sustained destinations are at 92.5% (for the 16/17 leaver cohort).  In this context the majority of young people most likely not to end up in a positive destination are those young people in our most deprived communities. Our data shows that only 83.5% of our young people in those communities gained a positive destination at the time of the last School Leaver Destination Report.  A thorough review of local data has helped determine that our current curriculum offering is an overly traditional one. The current model works reasonably well for children who plan to go on to further education but has a limited number of pathways for others and doesn't provide a wide enough range of pathways through the senior phase to support sustained positive destinations. This results in staying on rates being low for some groups as young people do not believe that the curricular offering will support the development of skills for life, learning and work.  It is therefore important to broaden the curriculum offering to ensure adequate provision of learning pathways for all resulting in a wider range of qualifications and approaches being available to young people.  The selection of appropriate learning pathways can be heavily influenced by parent and carers and it is crucial that we invest time to share and co-design curriculum offerings to address current vulnerabilities.  This project will focus on one of our schools serving one of our most deprived communities namely St Machar Academy and will focus in the first instance on engaging with the parents and carers in S3. This initial focus on a year group will help to determine the most impactful means of engaging with families to realise the selection of more bespoke curriculum pathways better able to meet individual needs.  This project will coordinate resource from across the school and wider partnership to support families to help design more appropriate learning pathways for those who are keen to explore routes outwith further education. The project will test a range of approaches to empowering families to select the new pathways most likely to enable each young person to enter their positive destination of choice.

**Measures:****Outcome**

- Increased confidence reported by parents and carers as they support their young person to design a suitable learning pathway
- Number of young people achieving a positive sustained destination of their choosing

**Process**

- Number of parents/pupils using the online resources (website usage)
- Number of attendees at pathway events
- Increased understanding of the virtues of new pathways being offered (how they will support entering a positive and sustained destination) evidenced by individual parental satisfaction evaluation
- Number of Pathways provided by partners

**Change ideas**

- Recruitment of partners to provide alternative learner pathways (e.g. Work Experience/Third Sector/ College)
- Develop Pathway Promotions/Resources:
  - School staff promoting learner pathways in school
  - Learner Pathway events for parent and pupils
  - Online digital website portal/choice sheet
  - Case studies/promotion of pupil experiences
- Young people & families one to one learner pathway discussions
- Develop social media network/forum of learner experiences

**Potential risks and/or barriers to success & actions to address these:**

- Buy in from families – work with school staff and community-based staff to gain support
- Increased range of offerings – work across secondary estate and wider partnership to maximise the offer

**Project Team:**

- Eleanor Sheppard (Aberdeen City Council Chief Education Officer) [Sponsor]
- Alex Duncan (Quality Improvement Manager) [Expertise]
- Nicola Graham (Skills Development Scotland) [Expertise]
- Mary Holland (DYW Board) [Subject matter expert]
- St Machar Head Teacher [Subject Matter Expert/Process Owner]
- Paul Tytler [Community link]
- Guidance teachers [process owners]

**Outline Project Plan - Set out your initial plan about the timeline for your project.  
(This should be reviewed regularly)**

Project Stage	Actions	Timescale
Getting Started (Project Score 1-3)	<p>Initial Discussions with SDS, DYW Board and college have taken place</p> <p>All secondary schools have mapped their current offer to determine how best to find the commonality required to broaden the city-wide offer.</p> <p>All schools, including St Machar, are offering a slightly broader curriculum from August 2019 with greater change due in August 2020.</p> <p>Team to map the uptake of current opportunities for families to co-design pathways</p>	<p>June 2019</p> <p>June 2019</p> <p>August 2019</p> <p>August 2019</p>
Designing and Testing Changes (Project Score 4-7)	<p>What activities are required to start testing changes?</p> <p>Focus group of parents and carers to be convened to consider the most appropriate means of building confidence in families (engagement from P6)</p> <p>Recruit some young people (ex-pupils?) to share the impact on their decision on long term outcomes</p> <p>Recruitment of Partner providers (e.g. third sector, college, employers) to establish new pathway opportunities</p> <p>Develop Pathway promotion events</p> <p>Website/social media platform development</p> <p>Plan programme for parents and carers</p>	<p>August 2019</p> <p>August 2019</p> <p>August/September 2019</p> <p>September/October 2019</p> <p>October 2019</p> <p>October 2019</p>
Implementing and sustaining changes	What actions would be required to implement and sustain the changes that	

<p>that demonstrate improvement (Project Score 7-10)</p>	<p>have resulted in improvement?</p> <p>Test/Implement Changes:</p> <p>Promotional events/ interventions /presentations</p> <p>Case Studies/ Online Forum</p> <p>Guidance/Parent/Family 1 to 1s</p> <p>Online choice sheet/portal</p>	<p>September 2019 – January 2020</p> <p>October 2019 – January 2020</p> <p>January 2020</p> <p>January – March 2020</p>
<p>Spreading Changes (Project Score 9-10)</p>	<p>What actions are required to reach the full scale of the project?</p> <p>Feedback/ Evaluation of programme by staff, pupils and parents</p> <p>Expand to more, either across three secondary's or cover more pupils within the same school(i.e. other year groups)</p>	<p>April-May 2020</p> <p>June- August 2020</p>