

PE1711/F

Argyll and Bute Council submission of 22 March 2019

Part 1

A questionnaire was issued to both primary and secondary schools to ascertain the percentage of schools incorporating basic First Aid as an integral part of their curriculum. There was a response rate of 91% to our questionnaire evidencing that 62% of our schools deliver aspects of First Aid through the curriculum. With respect to primary, 59% of our schools deliver training that varies across stages by school but does incorporate P1-P7 pupils. Those who do not currently deliver First Aid training face challenges relating to releasing staff or accessing partners to support them.

Schools identified the value of integrating basic First Aid into the curriculum and how it enhances the Health and Wellbeing curriculum. They reported that the most effective way to do this was through partnership working with other agencies which they welcomed. The Education Service accepts the views expressed by the majority of schools noting that the partner agencies that currently work with our schools to deliver aspects of First Aid exemplifies this ie

- British Heart Foundation (HeartStart programme)
- NHS (school nurses and local paramedics)
- Red Cross materials
- Live Argyll (Leisure Trust) programmes
- External Trainers
- Scottish Ambulance Service resources
- First Responders materials
- Input from Rotary Club
- Input from Police Scotland
- 'Save a Life Scotland' SCIO materials
- Emergency First Aid "Your Life 5"
- First Aid Manual NARS

Part 2

Schools, in general, felt that responsibility for the incorporation of basic First Aid as an integral part of the curriculum should not be their sole responsibility. A key concern was the around the level of accountability involved in teachers delivering First Aid Education. Further concerns raised included:

- the capacity of teachers to undertake training in First Aid in addition to their current professional development requirements;
- availability of supply staff to release teachers to undertake training and the costs involved;
- burden of frequent refresher training and costs incurred and,
- the challenges facing both one-teacher and rural schools.

The Education Service accepts the views expressed by the majority of schools.

Conclusion

Many schools already incorporate basic First Aid Training as part of their curriculum and will continue to do so. The value of this is recognised in relation to Health and Wellbeing outcomes for pupils. Concerns were raised regarding the accountability of teachers in having sole responsibility for this whilst the status-quo incorporates high quality delivery by partners. The Education Service accepts the views expressed by the majority of schools that this is the preferred model.

Funding would be essential to provide high quality teaching materials but also for supply cover and for refresher training. Recruiting and retaining supply cover is already challenging for schools and local authorities. Increasing the need for this could overburden an already stretched system.

Evidence Sources

Comments on key issues contained within the Petition were collated through meetings or telephone conversations with Head Teachers or other designated staff, 25th February to 1st March, 2019.