

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2001

REPORTS BY HM INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS:
STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS 1995-1999: HISTORY AND MODERN STUDIES
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to seek the Education Committee's approval of proposals to take forward in Angus schools the recommendations made in the History and Modern Studies HMI Standards and Quality reports.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- (a) notes the terms of this report
- (b) notes and approves the detailed proposals for action outlined in the attached report which has been produced in consultation with Angus History and Modern Studies Curriculum Advisory Groups.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Standards and Quality in Secondary Schools 1995-1999: History and Standards and Quality in Secondary Schools 1995-999: Modern Studies were published in May 2000. These reports are the fourth and fifth in a series of Standards and Quality reports produced by HM Inspectors, dealing with individual subjects in the Secondary School.

2.2 The forewords to both reports make clear that there is considerable effective History and Modern Studies teaching in Scottish Secondary Schools.

2.3 Notwithstanding the many examples of good practice identified in the course of school inspections of both subjects, in the view of HM Inspectors there are areas where improvements are required if pupils are to achieve their full potential especially in S1/S2. A major recommendation relates to the need for improved course planning and assessment in S1/S2.

2.4 In Modern Studies it is the view of HM Inspectors that improvements are required in planning for progression and in managing self-evaluation. In both History and Modern Studies, it is recommended that improvements occur in respect of departmental development plans which need to focus more directly on strategies for improving attainment.

2.5 The attached report prepared by Officers of the Education Department in consultation with the History and Modern Studies Curriculum Advisory Groups provides a series of proposals which it is believed will assist Angus Secondary Schools to respond effectively to the main recommendations for improvement in both History and Modern Studies made by HM Inspectors. In taking forward the proposals for action, teachers of History and Modern Studies will be encouraged to take into account:

- the new national guidelines for 5-14 Social Subjects and the associated practical guide
- Angus Council advice in relation to "Achieving Success in S1/S2"
- Angus guidelines for Secondary Schools in relation to "Understanding People in Society" issued in 1999

- further guidelines which will be issued later this school term in relation to “Understanding People in Society”
- relevant recommendations within “Developing a Framework for Effective Learning and Teaching in S1/S2 in Angus schools” (the Boyd/Simpson report)
- methodological approaches and professional skills which teachers of Social Subjects have in common
- the importance of using school libraries to enhance investigative approaches to learning and teaching in Social Subjects

3 CONCLUSION

The Education Committee is asked to approve the action proposals in the attached report and to note that these are likely to support Angus Secondary Schools in responding positively and purposefully to the recommendations for improvement in the teaching and learning of History and Modern Studies made by HM Inspectors.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any additional costs arising from the action proposals will be contained within the Department's revenue budget.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The Angus History and Modern Studies Curriculum Advisory Groups have been consulted in the preparation of the action proposals attached to this Committee Report.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

NL/AR