

# How are we doing?



Renfrewshire  
Council



The Crystal Mark applies to pages 15 to 19.



**Councillor Jim Harkins**  
Leader of the Council

**Tom Scholes**  
Chief Executive



## Welcome to 'How are we doing?'

We are committed to bringing you up to date about how well we have been performing and explaining what we aim to achieve in the future. In this issue of 'How are we doing?' we focus on our education and leisure services.

In the 'What's new?' section, we look at some of the awards our services have received in the last few months.

If you have any comments on how we can improve 'How are we doing?', please phone David McCormick on 0141 840 3505 or e-mail him at [chiefexec@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:chiefexec@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

### What's new?

#### Award for Ferguslie wildlife garden

Ferguslie wildlife garden opened last year and has already received a national award for its local conservation work. A playground in Ferguslie Park that used to be overgrown and not used is now a valuable resource for three local primary schools - Craigielea, Ferguslie and St Fergus.

School pupils, a head teacher, a local parents' group, local councillors and the Ferguslie Park Area Renewal Project all worked together to create the wildlife garden, which opened in June. It now has many trees, hedges and wild flowers, and has new paths and trails.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland award for local conservation in the under-18s category was presented by Wendy Alexander MSP in December. The award is for the most imaginative contribution to a conservation project in a local area.



Ferguslie wildlife garden

#### More success for our schools

Eco-schools involves young people in managing the environment and sustainable development - balancing social, economic and environmental aims. In Renfrewshire our schools have been involved in eco-schools and many more schools are joining in. 78% of our schools are now involved in the eco-schools project.

We have five new registrations - Barsail, Bishopton and St John Ogilvie primary schools, Gleniffer High secondary school and Foxlea Family Centre.

Four schools received bronze accreditations - St James, St John Ogilvie and Shaw nurseries and St Fillan's primary school.

Two more schools received silver accreditation - East Fulton nursery and East Fulton primary school.

Each school will be working towards getting their Green Flag when they complete the eco-schools programme.

#### Investing in our people

Everyone knows that an organisation's greatest strength is its people. More and more of our services are achieving the Investors in People standard. Investors in People encourages us to improve by making sure our employees have the right knowledge, skills and motivation to deliver the best possible services.

Finance and support services in our housing and property services department are our latest service to achieve the Investors in People standard. The standard has given them the opportunity to measure what we do and how we do it against recognised guidelines, and offers a structured approach to improving staff training and developing our employees. Jim McCarron, head of finance and support services, said, "I'm absolutely delighted that we have achieved the Investors in People standard as it highlights the high quality of our employees and how well we work together."

# Charter Mark

Charter Mark is the Government's award that recognises excellence in public services. Four of our services:

- the district court;
- amenity services (who are responsible for parks, street cleaning and collecting rubbish);
- East Nursery; and
- our private-sector housing team;

recently kept their Charter Marks.

Charter Mark lasts for three years, so our services are continuously renewing their Charter Marks. We aim to renew our Charter Marks for nine services this year. Each time we renew, we have to show how we have improved our service and set higher targets and standards.

We also expect to apply for Charter Marks for 17 new services during the year as part of our aim to deliver the best value to our customers. We will keep you up to date with our progress.

## Education and leisure services

Our education and leisure services department provides a wide range of services from early education for three- to five-year-old children, to museums and arts. Our vision is a 'learning Renfrewshire' which helps people to fulfil their potential and contributes to the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of local communities. We are working hard to achieve our vision.

### Our children and young people will be well-qualified, creative and prepared for adult life

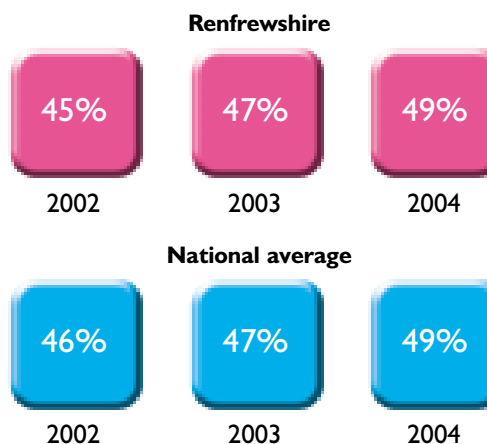
Overall, the achievement of our school pupils has been good and sometimes has been very good. There has been an improvement in the percentage of pupils who achieved three or more higher grades at A to C.

We saw improvements in the percentage of S4 pupils who achieved level 3 standard grade or better in English and maths by the time they left school. Achievement in English went from 93% in 2003 to 95% in 2004. Over the same period, achievement in maths went from 93% to 94%. We compare well with similar councils and Scotland as a whole.

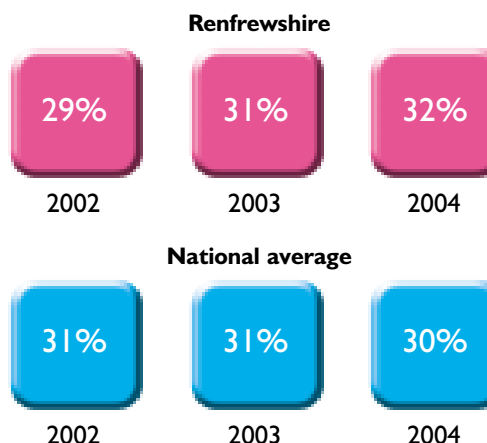
The percentage of S4 pupils who achieved five or more level 1 or 2 standard grades or equivalent qualifications by the time they left school has increased each year between 2002 and 2004, and is better than the national target.

The percentage of S4 pupils who achieved three or more higher grades at A to C by the time they left school also improved each year, and is better than the national target.

**Percentage of S4 pupils who, by the end of S6, have achieved five or more awards at SCQF level 5 (standard grades 1 to 2 or equivalent) or better**



**Percentage of S4 pupils who, by the end of S6, have achieved three or more awards at SCQF level 6 (higher grade A to C or equivalent) or better**



SCQF stands for Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

## Every child will benefit equally from education, and the inequalities between individuals and communities will be reduced

43% of young people in our care achieved SCQF level 3 (standard grade 1 to 6) or above in English and maths in 2003/20004. Our target for 2005 is 50%.

31% of our school leavers went on to higher education, which compares well to the national average of 29%.

We promoted greater choice in subjects at secondary schools to offer vocational education to young people – which helps pupils learn the skills that prepare them for a job. We continued to use Education for Work and Enterprise (a Scottish Executive vocational education initiative) in our schools, which we supported by introducing new ways of working in schools. We plan to use the new Enterprise in Education guidelines to improve vocational education in schools.

The number of pupils excluded from school has continued to fall, although we recognise that the level is still too high and we need to do more to lower it. We have changed our exclusion procedures and we have made progress in how we work with our partners, such as Reid Kerr College.

We have set targets to reduce exclusions by 2006 to:

- 25 days for every 1000 pupils in primary schools; and
- 300 days for every 1000 pupils in secondary schools.

We have already achieved our target in primary schools and will increase our target for 2006.

We have worked hard to improve school attendance and we compare well to similar councils and Scotland as a whole. We have set our 2005 target for attendance in primary schools at 95%, and for secondary schools at 91%. We have already achieved our primary-school target for 2005.

## Our residents will be healthier, more active, and enjoy choice and opportunity

Our sports and physical education programmes allowed us to increase the number of young people taking part in sports activities. Staff tutors and health co-ordinators have helped with initiatives in Paisley secondary schools, targeting the health of pupils and focusing on areas such as physical activity, healthy eating and smoking. We also promoted events aimed at the health of parents and our employees.

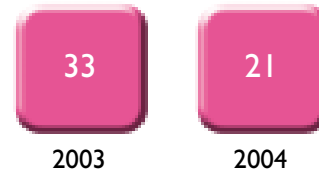
We made progress in our physical education facilities programme. Each primary and special school received playground equipment, 12 schools had their playground improved and 52 schools got new playground line markings.

Our lottery-funded physical education and sports activities team began planning activities such as an athletics development programme, and sports for those who need extra support.

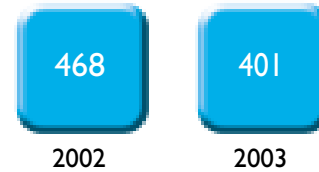
We arranged a tour of the interactive theatre performance 'Body Matters' to primary schools, which had a theme of health choices and how these affect our lives. Over 2000 children took part in these performances and 4000 watched the play and took part in workshops. We also set up workshops for parents in a large number of schools.

### Number of days lost for every 1000 pupils because of exclusions

#### Primary schools

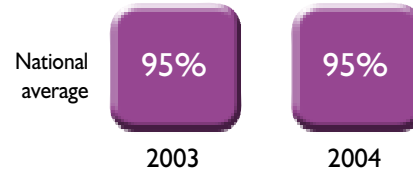
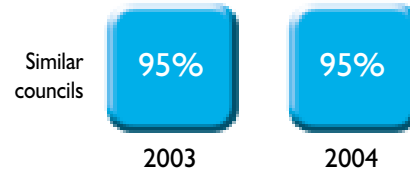
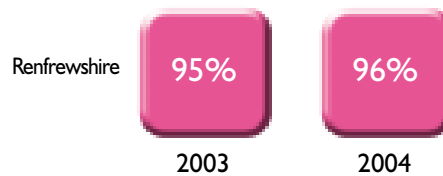


#### Secondary schools

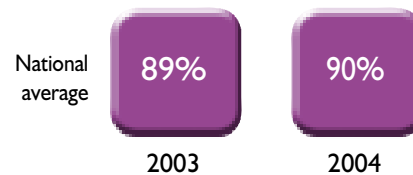
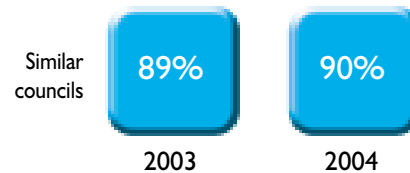
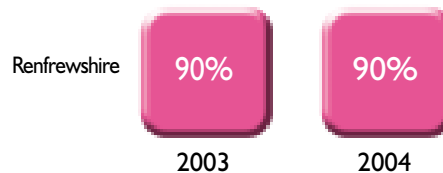


### Average pupil attendance 2003-2004

#### Primary schools



#### Secondary schools



# Did you know?

**O**ver 9000 young people take part in leisure and cultural activities outside school. Another 4000 people aged over 50 take part in leisure and cultural activities. We plan to increase this by 5% each year.

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, our arts service, Renfrewshire Arts, ran a healthy-eating project, 'Eat to the Beat', with Lochwinnoch primary school. Primary 6 and primary 7 classes worked to create their own healthy-eating cookery programme using video and animation over a four-week period. The video was shown at the school and a four-week exhibition took place at the McKillop Institute in Lochwinnoch.

We used the 'Free Fresh Fruit in Schools' initiative to provide a piece of fresh fruit each day to:

- pupils in 24 primary schools in social inclusion partnership (SIP) areas - areas with high levels of poverty;
- primary 1 and primary 2 pupils in the other 28 primary schools, three days a week;
- pupils in Mary Russell School, Kersland School and Hunterhill Tutorial Centre in Paisley, and Clippens Road, Linwood; and
- all children in eight nurseries in north Paisley and west Johnstone.

There are now 435 local people taking part in our GP referral scheme. The scheme works by doctors referring people who would benefit from a healthier lifestyle to our leisure facilities. There is a reduced membership fee of £5 a year for people who take part.

We are developing the Renfrewshire physical activity, sport and health strategy. This will help us to work more closely with our partners like Paisley University, local sports organisations, NHS Argyll and Clyde Health Board, and to involve the community.



'Eat to the Beat'

There were nearly 590,000 visits to Renfrewshire swimming pools in 2003/2004, an increase of 15,000 from the year before. Our target for 2004/2005 is more than 610,000 visits.

## Everyone will have the opportunity to learn for life, and fewer people will be unemployed

We have taken steps to make sure that local people have more opportunities to use our leisure and cultural services. For example, initiatives like 'Out-of-School Learning' for young people, and setting up a team of cultural co-ordinators to work with schools. Young people took part in events like street dance, graphic art, website design and sports activities. There are still many other opportunities for young people to take part in other arts, culture, and sports and leisure events.

We aim to attract 950 new adult learners during 2004/2005 by putting into place the adult literacy and numeracy action plan for Renfrewshire - to increase reading and writing skills.

Our arts service, libraries and museums worked in different parts of Renfrewshire to encourage more people to use their services. Libraries targeted young people and the public by promoting the development of their on-line resources, such as the availability of books and on-line catalogues.

# Did you know?

There were over a million visits to Renfrewshire libraries last year. We aim to improve by over 10,000 visits each year.

During 2003/2004, it took an average of 21 days to provide a library book that someone had asked for. We aim to reduce this to 20 days next year.

There are now 390 learners using on-line learning packages like word-processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software in our libraries. We aim to increase this to 420 by June 2005, and to 500 by June 2006.

## All our services will be value for money, and all customers will be satisfied

We plan to invest millions of pounds in schools. Our school buildings are all different in their age, type and condition. Some have more pupils than we would like, while others have spare places. Some do not provide an environment that supports learning and teaching needs because of the design of the buildings, for example, not enough play areas or space for computers.

Education is a priority for parents, pupils, teachers, the council and others. The school environment is central to this. We have developed a 10-year school estates plan to get the best value from our school buildings. This plan means that our school buildings will be suitable for learning and teaching.

The school estates plan is divided into three phases.

Phase	What we are doing	By when	Investment in buildings (£)
1	Building new schools under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) scheme	2005-2007	110 million
2	Refurbishing 12 schools and a community nursery	2005-2010	61 million
	Reducing class sizes	2005-2007	2 million
	Improvements to two schools as part of the Renfrewshire 'Riverside' development	2005	
3	Refurbishing seven schools and a family centre	2005-2015	11.6 million

For more information about how we are investing in our schools see page 29.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe, which is the Scottish Executive agency responsible for inspecting schools) and the Care Commission (the organisation which inspects Scottish care services) inspected 18 schools and nurseries last year. 97% of our schools were assessed as 'very good' or 'good' in every area, for example, learning and teaching. This was better than our target of 96% by 2006.

HMIe and the Care Commission also inspected how we provide education in general and we achieved 'very good' with only three areas rated as 'good'.

## Our staff will feel valued and supported in their work

We provided over 7000 places on almost 500 different training courses for teachers and support staff (for example, classroom assistants), to support their professional development. The adult-to-pupil ratios in our schools continued to improve by having more classroom assistants.

Our recent inspection highlighted some of our strengths as:

- supporting new teachers; and
- improving management and leadership skills.

We recognise the achievements of colleagues who have achieved awards like Charter Mark and Investors in People. We also have a quality awards ceremony every year where we celebrate how our employees have contributed to the local community. This year we received almost 100 nominations for four different categories of award.

## We will develop our service with our customers and partner organisations

We work with 36 private- and voluntary-sector nursery schools all over Renfrewshire. We always welcome the views of our customers. Here's what some of you think.

**"Very happy with the service and would recommend to others."**

**"It has made me relax, knowing my child is happy and content."**

**"My child has continued to develop and learn through the help and expertise of staff."**

Most of our out-of-school care places are provided by voluntary or private-sector partners. There are currently 1341 out-of-school care places provided and we aim to increase this to 1400 by the end of 2005. We know this service is valuable to you because of what you have told us.

**"I could not work if this service was unavailable."**

**"My children are happy to use the service."**

## Did you know?

We run our adult learners programme with our partners Reid Kerr College. There are 108 classes available, such as:

- introduction to Information Technology (IT);
- promoting positive behaviour in children; and
- English as a second language.

We hope that you will be able to assess our performance from 'How are we doing?' and other articles in this issue of the Renfrewshire magazine. We aim to give you a balanced picture of what's going on in education and leisure services. If you think we have missed anything, or you would like more information, please contact customer services on 0141 842 5663 or e-mail [els@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:els@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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