

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

By Carol McCahon

Local MSP, Stuart McMillan, yesterday promised to give all young people in Inverclyde the same opportunities as he had when he was in school.

It is an increasingly important issue that attainment in schools can be linked directly to pupil's economic and social backgrounds. This is a massive concern and many are working on breaking down these barriers to give each pupil an equal opportunity when it comes to education.

McMillan put educational attainment at the heart of his and the SNP's plans for Scotland in the coming years. He said: "Improving school attainment is arguably the single most important objective in this Programme for Government.

"Improving it overall and closing the gap between children in our most and least deprived areas is fundamental to our aim of making Scotland fairer and more prosperous."

It is clear that McMillan has many concerns about this attainment gap and wants to solve this problem so that young people can have better educational equality.

McMillan also pledged that Inverclyde youngsters should all have the ability to fulfil their own potential.

He said: "Every young person should have the same advantage that I did when I was growing up in Inverclyde. They should know that if they have the talent and work hard enough, they will be able to fulfil their potential. That's a challenge for schools, for local government, indeed for society as a whole."