

**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**MEETING 13**

**30 April 2015**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**QUESTION NO 1**

**By Councillor Aldridge for answer by  
the Convener of the Health, Social  
Care and Housing Committee at a  
meeting of the Council on 30 April  
2015**

**Question**

- (1)** What are the numbers of people on waiting lists for social care assessments throughout the city? Please provide the information broken down by client group and geographical area.

**Answer**

- (1) The number of people on waiting lists for social care assessments (as at 20 April 2015) is 1320. Based on the data recorded on the system, approximately 58% are outwith the departmental target timescale for assessment (Urgent - within 24 hours; A - within 2 weeks; B - within 4 weeks).

This is shown in the following tables, split by client group and geographical area (Council wards).

(Note: Includes people who are within the target timescale for assessment.)

**Number of people on the waiting list as at 20 April 2015 by client group**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
Substance misuse	45
Carers	25
Learning Disability	65
Mental Health Problems	76
Other vulnerable groups	94
Physical Disability	158
Older People	815
Not Known	42
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1320</b>

**Number of people on the waiting list as at 20 April 2015 by ward**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Total</b>
Almond	19
City Centre	77
Colinton/Fairmilehead	134
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	107
Drum Brae/Gyle	105
Forth	48
Leith Walk	121
Liberton/Gilmerton	80
Meadows/Morningside	50
Pentland Hills	149
Portobello/Craigmillar	194
Sighthill/Gorgie	131
Southside/Newington	41
Not Recorded	56
Outwith Edinburgh	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1320</b>

**Question** (2) What is the average waiting time for assessment since 2012? Please provide the information broken down by client group and geographical area.

**Answer** (2) The average waiting time for assessment since April 2012 is 21.7 days.

This is shown in the following tables, split by client group and geographical area (Council wards).

(Note: only includes assessments which have been completed)

**Average number of days on the waiting list since April 2012 by client group**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Average number of days</b>
Substance misuse	21.4
Carers	30.6
Learning Disability	31.8
Mental Health Problems	19.0
Not Known	18.0
Other vulnerable groups	16.5
Physical Disability	28.2
Older People	21.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21.7</b>

**Average number of days on the waiting list since April 2012 by ward (on next page)**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Average number of days</b>
Almond	23.8
City Centre	23.1
Colinton/Fairmilehead	23.1
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	22.4
Drum Brae/Gyle	19.9
Forth	19.6
Leith Walk	17.4
Liberton/Gilmerton	25.0
Meadows/Morningside	20.0
Not Known	16.6
Pentland Hills	26.2
Portobello/Craigmillar	23.6
Sighthill/Gorgie	24.6
Southside/Newington	23.7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21.7</b>

**Question** (3) What has been the longest waiting time for an assessment since April 2012? Please provide the information broken down by client group and geographical area.

**Answer** The longest recorded waiting time for an assessment is 301 days (as at 20 April 2015). The individual is waiting for a social work assessment in the South West sector (geographical area: Sighthill/Gorgie; client group: Other vulnerable groups).

**QUESTION NO 2**

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the  
Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 30 April 2015**

**Question** (1) How many employees have been found under the influence of, or in possession of, illegal drugs during work hours for each of the last three years (up to 31.3.15)?

**Answer** (1) There is no recorded information in relation to these questions. There is however, clear guidance on dealing with employee alcohol and drug misuse contained in the Council's [Policy on Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Misuse](#), which was considered by the former Policy and Strategy Committee on 9 August 2011 (item no 6).

**Question** (2) How many (if any) have been reported to Police Scotland?

**Answer** (2) See above

**Question** (3) What other action has resulted from such cases?

**Answer** (3) See above

**QUESTION NO 3**

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the  
Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 30 April 2015**

**Question** (1) Could the number of employees who have left Edinburgh Council in each of the last three years under Voluntary Early Release Arrangements, voluntary or compulsory redundancy or Voluntary Severance, be updated to the end of March 2015?

**Answer**

(1)

Year	Total number of Exit Packages
2012/13*	223
2013/14*	152
2014/15**	64

\* As per Audited Financial Statements for 2013-14

\*\* To date - accounts not closed so figure may change

Link to Audited Financial Statements for 2013-14:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3527/city\\_of\\_edinburgh\\_council](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3527/city_of_edinburgh_council) (8.4 - page 145)

**Question** (2) How many of these, over the three years, were the subject of disciplinary action or contemplated disciplinary action?

**Answer**

(2)

Year	
2012/13	5
2013/14	1
2014/15	1

**QUESTION NO 4**

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the  
Convener of the Education, Children  
and Families Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 30 April 2015**

**Question** (1) In respect of the various changes to the senior management team at Castlebrae Community High School during the past five years, who appointed the senior management team?

**Answer** (1) In February 2011 Graeme Thomson was appointed as the substantive Head teacher through normal recruitment and selection procedures.

Following the Council's decision to keep the school open in March 2013 a staff and management refresh was identified as a priority for action and there have been regular reports to the Education, Children and Families Committee on Castlebrae Community High School where Committee were informed about management arrangements and endorsed the approach being progressed.

On 21 May 2013 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved a report on Castlebrae Community High School which included the recommendation "to request the Director of Children and Families to proceed with short term improvement actions including a refresh of teaching and senior management staff".

On 10 December 2013 the Education, Children and Families Committee "approved the introduction of a revised management structure to deliver Castlebrae Learning Community by August 2015 and the appointment of a permanent Headteacher by August 2015".

On 9 December 2014 the Education, Children and Families Committee "noted the progress in management arrangements with the Castlebrae Learning Community".

In addition there was also an officer-member working group on Castlebrae, which looked at the future of the school in detail and received regular updates on progress (minutes of working group meetings on 18 June 2013, 28 June 2013,



specifically outlined progress on staffing). This working group was Chaired by Councillor Fullerton and included cross party and community representation.

The appointment of an acting Headteacher in June 2013 was taken forward by the Head of Schools and Community Services. The appointment of acting Deputes was taken forward by the Acting Headteacher. This was in accordance with council policy which allows staff to be transferred, on a temporary basis with their agreement, if required.

The recruitment of a permanent Headteacher is underway and the post will be advertised nationally in May 2015 to start in August 2015.

**Question** (2) Were full recruitment and selection procedures followed?

**Answer** (2) In February 2011 the appointment was made through normal recruitment and selection procedures.

The appointment of an acting Headteacher in June 2013 was in accordance with council policy which allows staff to be transferred, on a temporary basis. Council policy permits the transfer of staff, on a temporary basis with their agreement, if required in exceptional circumstances without following full recruitment and selection procedures. The circumstances here were judged as exceptional.

Following the decision not to close Castlebrae school it was agreed that there should be a refresh of the management of the school and that this needed to happen swiftly. Given the school's low roll and unique circumstances normal recruitment processes were judged unlikely to be successful at that time. The previous national advert for the Headteacher position had attracted very few applicants.

An experienced, serving Headteacher was asked if he would be willing to lead the school on a temporary basis until a permanent successor could be appointed.

At the first officer-member working group the temporary headteacher appointment was welcomed by community representatives and elected members.

**QUESTION NO 5**

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the  
Convener of the Education, Children  
and Families Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 30 April 2015**

**National 5's**

**Question** (1) In respect of the National 5 timetable, which schools cap the number of subjects which may be taken in one session to six subjects?

**Answer**

The Senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence aims to prepare young people for qualifications and develop skills for future learning, life and work. A young person's attainment on leaving school, i.e. the totality of their qualifications and achievements on leaving school, is the key measure of success.

Edinburgh's implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is judged by Education Scotland to be strong.

Education attainment in Edinburgh has improved significantly since 2007 with performance above the national average and comparators on most measures where data is available. Using Average Tariff Score measures, Edinburgh's highest performing 20% of students achieved 38 points above the national average, the middle 60% achieved 23 points above and the lowest achieving 20% achieved 10 points above the national average.

The number of young people leaving school into positive destinations has increased significantly and is now in line with the national average.

Education Scotland note that "The guiding principle is that qualifications, awards and achievements are taken at the right pace and stage for the individual over the Senior Phase which for an increasing number of young people will be for up to three years. A strong pattern is emerging where the majority of schools are offering six or seven subjects at the end of S4".

Fife, West and East and Midlothian have taken the same approach as Edinburgh. Edinburgh schools are offering a core model of either six, seven or eight subjects at the start of S4, alongside a range of other opportunities to take account of wider achievement.

**Schools offering a core model of six National 5s:**

- Castlebrae
- Craigmount
- Craigroyston
- Drummond
- Forrester
- Gracemount
- Leith
- Liberton
- Queensferry
- Trinity
- Tynecastle
- WHEC

**Question** (2) Which of these schools offer the ability to undertake additional courses under extra-curricular arrangements?

**Answer** (2) Schools respond to individual pupil needs. This session (2014/15) the schools below have made the following additional arrangements to their core six Nat 5 model.

Drummond – languages, ESOL

Tynecastle – languages

Craigroyston - languages

Liberton - music

Queensferry - physics

Trinity – geography, biology

**Question** (3) Which schools offer an option of more than six subjects and if so, how many do they offer?

**Answer** (3) **Seven** - Balerno , Broughton, St Augustine's

**Eight** - Boroughmuir, Currie, Holy Rood, JGHS, Portobello, St Thomas's, The Royal High, Firrhill.

**Question** (4) What consultation was undertaken in each school to reach the decision on subject availability?

**Answer** (4) In line with national advice, the rationale and design of each CEC school's curriculum should be based on shared values and learners' entitlements, take account of local circumstances, of local and national advice and reflect the views of parents.

CEC has supported all secondary schools to devise their own rationale and curriculum, through detailed consultation with key partners including parents, to best meet the needs of their learners and local communities. Each school has details of specific consultation undertaken with parents.

All schools are expected to refresh and review their curriculum annually in line with local and national guidance to provide depth of learning for pupils. It is anticipated that Edinburgh schools will move, in line with the national pattern, towards a core model of up to 7 subjects in S4. This will be done in full consultation with parents.

**QUESTION NO 6**

**By Councillor Orr for answer by the  
Convener of the Council Leader at a  
meeting of the Council on 30 April  
2015**

Since May 2012 to the present day, what contact has there been senior Capital Coalition councillors and any current or former employees or representatives of either of the following two political lobbying firms: "Connections International Planning and Development Company" (which is understood to have been run by a former City of Edinburgh councillor) and "Scottish Political Solutions". Specifically:

**Question (1)** How many formal or informal meetings have been held, on what dates and at what locations, and what was being lobbied for at each meeting or what was the business or other purpose of the meeting?

**Answer (1)** See below

**Question (2)** How extensive have exchanges been by email, phone or text message and what was being lobbied for or what were the reasons for the exchanges?

**Answer (1&2)** The information requested is not held centrally. Councillors are bound by the Councillors' Code of Conduct which sets out key principles and a set of rules of good conduct to be observed in all situations where councillors are acting as councillors. In order for the Council to fulfil its commitment to being open, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the public, it needs to encourage appropriate participation by organisations and individuals in the decision-making process. Councillors must observe the rules and standards in the Code in their contacts with those who seek to influence them. There is, however, no requirement to formally record all contacts.

**Question**      (3)      What gifts or hospitality of any value or description (if any) have been received by the senior councillors, and what other councillor colleagues were present or involved on each occasion?

**Answer**        (3)      Section 3 of The Councillors' Code of Conduct gives guidance on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality and on when they should be entered on the Councillors' Register of Interests. The Register of Interests and Expenses is available on the Council's website ([here](#)).

**QUESTION NO 7**

**By Councillor Orr for answer by the  
Convener of the Regulatory  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 30 April 2015**

**Question**

Which individual, organisation or company was the ultimate beneficiary of the license approved by the Licensing Sub-Committee for "Edinburgh 2014" under item 6.1.2 (application for a street trading license for hot food) on 23rd May 2014 and what was the estimated financial value of the license under the improved conditions for this license finally agreed on 20th June 2014?

**Answer**

The Council received an application for a temporary Street Trading Licence from a Company named 'Edinburgh 2014 Ltd' and for which the named day to day manager for the licence is Ms Elaine Douglas. This was to trade from a location in Hunters Square between 1 and 25 August 2014. The application was granted by the Licensing Sub-Committee on 23 May 2014.

Subsequent to that decision an application to vary the licence to allow trading to 3am and a second application to exempt the traders from the requirement to obtain a late hours catering licence was received on 4 June 2014.

These applications were in the same company name and manager's name as the previous application. Both subsequent licence applications were granted by the Licensing Sub-Committee on 20 June 2014.

All the above information, in terms of applicant details, is contained in the Public Register of licences which appears on the Council website.

Businesses licensed by the Council are required to pay the appropriate fee set by the Council.

The Council does not have any role in monitoring the value of any licence and has no legal power to require that information.

**QUESTION NO 8**

**By Councillor Orr for answer by the  
Convener of the Culture and Sport  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 30 April 2015**

**Question**

Can the Festivals and Events Champion summarise the nature of the involvement of any former employees or representatives of lobbying firm Connections International Planning and Development Company in the running of the Tron Kirk as a venue in 2013 and 2014 and the involvement of any of their family members, and (if appropriate) also confirm that any financial interest was disclosed to the Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival Board (and so minuted) when the decision was made to use the Tron Kirk as a main hub for the 2013 and 2014 festivals?

**Answer**

The Tron Kirk property is leased to Mr Kenneth Waugh for the summer festival periods in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The lease is a contractual relationship between the Council and Mr Waugh and the Estates department has had no involvement with Connections International Planning and Development.

The request for confirmation of disclosure of financial interest and minutes is a matter for the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival Board.