

**Children and Families  
Report for Consultative Committee with Parents  
January 2012**

This report provides a progress update on some of the achievements of the Department in meeting our outcomes for children and families in Edinburgh.

**Investors in People Gold Status**

Earlier this month the Council received confirmation that we were the first Scottish authority to achieve Investor in People gold status which includes all staff. This is a significant result and one that we are very proud of achieving. This builds on the strengths highlighted in our previous accreditation including an impressive level of investment in learning and development, people are motivated to learn and that there is a culture of continuous improvement.

**Improvements in Positive Destinations for our school leavers**

Positive destination figures for leavers from Edinburgh schools are the best they have been in a decade. The percentage unemployed seeking has fallen to its lowest level ever reported and four of our schools have improved their outcomes by more than 10%.

Last year 3029 leavers (87.4%) moved into education, employment or training. Edinburgh is one of the most improved Councils in Scotland.

Numbers in all destinations have increased in spite of the economic down turn: Employment is up by over 2%; Further Education figures are the highest ever recorded and Higher Education is the second highest recorded – last year was the highest.

Across all of our schools there is a strong focus on improving positive destinations. For each school Depute Head Teachers lead 16+ Learning Choices groups bringing together Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning and Development and key voluntary sector partners to put in place additional support and provision for those young people most at risk of not securing a positive destination.

Our vision for Edinburgh is that all young people move into a positive destination on leaving school. The Edinburgh Guarantee, led by the Council, brings together public and private sector partners to generate employment, learning and training opportunities for those 16 – 19 year olds. Under the Guarantee a range of training and employment opportunities have already been secured including 12 paid placements at Standard Life, 50 new modern apprenticeships and 80 training places for 16 – 19 year olds in the Council. The Edinburgh Guarantee is successfully producing real opportunities for young people which will build on current momentum and deliver positive destinations for young people.

## **Budget**

Children and Families is projecting another balanced budget this year. The budget for next year is being finalised but it appears at this stage that there will be no reduction in schools.

## **Budget Youth Summit**

About thirty young people from across Edinburgh came together this month to have their say on future priorities for the city. The Budget Youth Summit was organised by the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum for young people aged 11 to 21.

In an interactive session, around 30 young people were able to make a wide range of suggestions in response to the question *'bearing in mind the financial situation what actions can we take to maintain, develop and improve services in Edinburgh?'*

Over 70 ideas were generated and prioritised. Some key themes were, encouraging more volunteering, keeping promises, developing relationships between old and young, more leisure opportunities for young people, and pay freezes. The process of engagement was the tried and trusted one developed by the Children and Families Department and now used in formal budget consultations in the city.

The suggestions which were generated will feed into budget planning, along with the feedback generated through earlier community and staff consultations.

## **New James Gillespies High School**

Plans to build a state-of-the-art building to accommodate James Gillespie's High School have been approved. The innovative plans for the new high school have been designed around the principles of the Curriculum for Excellence and will form a part of the new £42m campus development which is due to open in 2015.

The high school will include an open, gallery-like entrance that will be used to display the pupils' work and achievements and an auditorium to host talks by staff or visiting speakers. There will also be a number of collaborative research spaces, presentation areas and an 'innovation hub' for teachers and pupils to collaborate and discuss new ideas. The other elements of the new campus, including an increased capacity nursery and improvements to the primary school, are also due to be considered for approval soon.

## **New Seaview Centre**

The planning application to replace Seaview Centre with a new centre in Bingham has been approved. Seaview provides much needed residential care for children with disabilities and gaining planning permission is a major milestone in the project. Seaview's staff has been actively involved in the design of the new centre, providing a specialist insight into the needs of their children, working with the architects and project team to ensure that the new centre is designed to meet their needs. The children have also been actively involved in the process.

## **Opening of Royston / Wardieburn Community Centre**

Recently a very well attended official opening ceremony unveiled the brand new Royston / Wardieburn Community Centre. The original building was hailed as state of the art in its time – 1965 and the new building also boasts state of the art facilities with ICT suite, various meeting rooms, a kitchen / cafeteria and spacious games hall. This centre has been warmly welcomed as an asset for the community.

## **Boroughmuir High School Update**

The Council has purchased a site in Fountainbridge, at the bottom of Viewforth, about 500m from Boroughmuir High School, meaning that the option of relocating Boroughmuir High to a new building becomes possible. A full consultation will begin soon to discuss both the new build option and the alternative option of decanting the school to allow a refurbishment and extension of the existing building to be undertaken. The Scottish Government would provide funding of up to two thirds of the cost under the Scotland's Schools for the Future Programme and additional funds have been identified in CEC budgets to cover the remaining costs.

## **Achievement Report**

A report was taken to the Education, Children and Families Committee providing a comprehensive overview of our significant achievements over the last few years. To meet our objectives these successes include:

### **Best start in life**

- 100% of nursery schools and classes inspected receiving positive inspection reports;
- 750 parents participating in Family Learning opportunities in 2010/11;
- PrePare service supported 89 mothers during 2011 and was awarded the COSLA Silver Award for Excellence;

### **Successful learners, confident individuals**

- Educational attainment has improved on every nationally published measure;
- Reduced levels of exclusions maintained;
- Very high participation levels in Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme with City of Edinburgh Council being the biggest DofE Operating Authority for the last three years;
- 17,000 young people and their families participating in a wide range of activities during summer holidays, a 31% increase since last year;

Life chances for vulnerable and young people

- Significant improvements in performance across child protection services and outcomes for Looked After Children;
- Considerable progress made with implementing Getting it Right for Every Child;

Physically and emotionally healthy

- Considerable progress made with implementing the Growing Confidence programme;
- Improvement in the percentage of schools providing 2 hours of quality curriculum PE;
- High participation in Active Schools;

Safe from harm and fear of harm

- Introduction of pre-referral screening resulting in a reduction of more than 50% in the numbers of young people being referred on offence grounds;

Poverty and inequality

- Improved level of young people leaving school into positive destinations with the highest level recorded since 1997/98 and the gap to the national average reducing from 4.3 percentage points last year to 1.5;
- More than 11,000 adult learners taking part in our Adult Education programme;

Make best use of resources

- Significant and continued investment in the school estate;
- Year-on-year reduction in staff sickness absence levels;
- Successful engagement activities with young people, parents and public.

The full report can be found at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol)

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**26 January 2012**