

Initial Feedback from Education, Children and Families Committee

Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee

Extracts

What are the current strengths in education in Edinburgh?

Leadership in schools.

The quality of relationships with children and with families.

Edinburgh's commitment to free music tuition.

Parental interest in what was happening in schools was strong in many schools.

The availability of breakfast clubs and after school clubs in many schools.

The sharing of good practice amongst schools.

The transition (from nursery to primary, and primary school to secondary school).

The use of shared campuses (e.g. St Augustine's RC High/Forrester).

The increased use of early intervention.

The introduction of sports hubs.

The level of academic achievement.

Richness of the curriculum.

Edinburgh's commitment to modern foreign language assistants.

Support for sports and the outdoors (e.g. – the Duke of Edinburgh's Award).

The quality of staff in schools, especially young staff and probationers.

What are the areas for development?

More investment was required in the school estate. Maintenance programmes should be proactive rather than reactive.

Increase community access to schools.

Parental engagement levels in some schools.

The profile of parent forums should be raised.

Improving the outcomes for Looked After and Accommodated Children.

Meeting the increased entitlement to 600 hours of early years.

Reducing the number of deferrals to primary schools.

Creating more effective joined-up services (e.g. total neighbourhood).

Reducing the barriers to reaching the most vulnerable and harder to reach sectors of society (e.g. language barriers).

Greater emphasis on the needs/experience of disabled pupils.

Creating better links between local authority schools and the independent sector.

Identify areas of excellence and keep developing them, such as literacy, Edinburgh Guarantee, growing confidence and developing new technologies.

Childcare affordability needed to be looked at – overall childcare costs were significantly higher than other authorities.

Continued focus on lowest achieving twenty percent and those from areas of deprivation.