

Committee Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

Edinburgh, 13 September 2011

Present:- Councillors MacLaren (Convener), Balfour, Blacklock, Brock, Buchan, Cairns, Dundas, Edie, Godzik, Hinds (substituting for Councillor Day), Johnstone, Lowrie (substituting for Councillor Gordon Mackenzie), McIvor, Milligan, Morris, Rose and Snowden (substituting for Councillor Lang).

Present for Education Items:- T Brack, M Bryce-Stafford, A C Duncan, Rev Dr R Gould and R Simpson.

1 Appointment of Vice-Convener 2011-2012

Decision

To appoint Councillor McIvor as Vice-Convener for 2011-2012.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 21 June 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 Motion by Councillor Johnstone – South Morningside Primary School: Save To Spend Proposal to Deliver PE for all Pupils

The following motion by Councillor Johnstone had been remitted from Council in terms of Standing Order 28 (3):

“That this Council warmly welcomes the work of the parent body at South Morningside Parent Council in their efforts to ensure that every pupil at the school receives the national minimum recommendation of two hours physical education each week;

Education, Children and Families Committee
13 September 2011

Notes that a recent consultation of parents at South Morningside Primary School voted overwhelmingly in favour of removing the bus service between the school and the Cluny Annexe, saving approximately £20,000 annually and delivering health, educational and environmental benefits;

Notes that £5,000 of this saving could be used to pay for the rental of hall space at Cluny which would allow all pupils at South Morningside Primary School to receive two hours per week of physical education and that P1 and P2 pupils receive only thirty minutes of gym per week at present;

Notes that a proportion of this saving could be used to improve road safety between the main school building and the Cluny annexe; and

Calls for a detailed report into how the Council can best support the school body in taking forward the work required to transfer funding released by cancellation of this coach service into the delivery of two hours physical education each week for each pupil.”

Decision

To note that the motion had been withdrawn by Councillor Johnstone.

(Reference – Act of Council No 14 of 30 June 2011).

4 Appointments to Sub-Committees, etc – 2011/2012

The Committee was invited to appoint replacement members to various Sub-Committees, etc.

Decision

To approve appointments to Sub-Committees, etc for 2011/12 as detailed in the Appendix to this minute.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

5 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Committee was invited to nominate members to a number of outside bodies.

Education, Children and Families Committee
13 September 2011

Decision

To appoint Councillor McIvor to the Edinburgh City Youth Café Association; the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs; the Merchant Company – Endowment Trust; and the Merchant Company – Education Board.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

6 Children and Families Service Plan 2010-13: Annual Progress Report 2011

Progress towards the aims and objectives laid out in the Children and Families Service Plan 2010-2013 was detailed. A high level summary of progress in each strategic objective was provided to the end of the financial year 2010/11, together with detailed updates on the set of performance indicators used to measure progress.

Decision

To note the improved and maintained performance during the reporting period.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

7 Performance Report – Children and Families – June/July 2011

Performance management information for the Children and Families Department for the reporting period June/July 2011 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the improved and maintained performance during the reporting period.
- 2) To note the areas for further improvement.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

8 Extending Opportunities for Success with Literacy – A Strategic Approach

The Council's strategy towards improving literacy skills within early years establishments and primary and secondary schools was presented. Specific intervention approaches contained within the Integrated Literacy strategy and the work of Community Learning and Development in developing adult literacies was detailed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that attainment in literacy would be included as part of the overall attainment report due in November 2011.
- 3) To agree to receive an annual report on progress in securing improvements in literacy from the Director of Children and Families.
- 4) To note that the Director of Children and Families would provide Councillor Rose with figures for adult literacy and numeracy.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9 Positive Destinations

Progress towards improving school leaver destinations based on the follow-up annual census carried out by Skills Development Scotland in March 2011 was presented. A summary of progress on initiatives for improving positive destinations was detailed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To request a further report on progress in improving positive destinations from the Director of Children and Families at the next school leaver destination census in December 2011.
- 3) To congratulate the officers of Children and Families and Economic Development for the work done in this area.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

10 The City of Edinburgh Education Trust

Approval was sought to consolidate 51 existing education trusts into a single trust, with awards being administered by staff from the Children and Families Department. Responsibility for investment and accounts preparation would be retained by the Pensions and Trusts Committee, with the Education, Children and Families Committee being responsible for all other matters including strategy and decisions on awards.

Decision

- 1) To approve the amalgamation of the smaller education related trusts into a single trust.
- 2) To refer the report to the Pensions and Trusts Committee.

(References – Minute of Pensions and Trusts Committee 21 March 2011 (item 4); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

11 Boyd Anderson Trust

Approval was sought to wind up the current arrangements for the Boyd Anderson Trust and to disburse and utilise the Trust capital to fund appropriate snow sport developments that directly related to the life and legacy of George Boyd Anderson. Midlothian Council had been consulted on the matter, and the proposals had been adjusted following their representations.

It was proposed that the Trust funding be used for three purposes:

- 1) The upgrade of Lagganlia Outdoor Centre in the Cairngorms.
- 2) A capital contribution towards the costs of upgrading Midlothian Snowsports Centre.
- 3) The transfer of an element of the Trust capital to Snowsport Scotland.

Decision

- 1) To approve the report.
- 2) To refer the report to the Pensions and Trusts Committee for a final determination regarding the disbursement of the Trust capital and the consequent closure of the Trust.

Education, Children and Families Committee
13 September 2011

(References – Minute of Pensions and Trusts Committee 21 March 2011 (item 4); report by the Director of Children and Families; and correspondence dated 5 September 2011 from Midlothian Council and 12 September 2011 by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

12 Recruitment and Retention of Primary, Secondary and Special School Head Teachers 2010/11

An update on the recruitment and retention of Head Teachers to primary, secondary and special schools in the City of Edinburgh for the school session 2010/11 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To acknowledge the success of the Head Teacher recruitment process.
- 3) To acknowledge the measures being taken to address recruitment issues in Roman Catholic and Special Schools.
- 4) To recognise the work of the Children and Families Department in promoting leadership development and to approve proposals for future developments in this area.
- 5) To note that an outstanding report on how Head Teachers could be encouraged to move around to other schools during their career was being developed for a future meeting.
- 6) To note the Convener's appreciation for the assistance of the Committee's Religious Representatives in Head Teacher recruitment.
- 7) To encourage members of the Committee to become involved in Head Teacher recruitment, and to ask the Director of Children and Families to contact Committee members to arrange appropriate training.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

13 Arts and Learning Update

An update on the key areas of activity for Arts and Learning since August 2010 was presented.

Education, Children and Families Committee
13 September 2011

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that a progress update would be reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee annually.
- 3) That the status of a previous motion by Councillor Edie on the Paolozzi Prize for Art be investigated.
- 4) That consideration be given to providing a separate report on potential employment opportunities for school leavers within the creative industries.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

14 Annual Review of Service Strategy and Improvement Plan for Children and Young People Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council

A review and update of the service strategy and improvement plan for children and young people looked after and accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council was presented.

Decision

To approve the amended service strategy and improvement plan for looked after and accommodated young people.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

15 Fort Shared Service Centre

Approval was sought to progress with the next stage of the redevelopment of the former Fort Primary School as a shared service centre providing early years, community learning and social work services.

Decision

- 1) To approve, in principle, the redevelopment of the spare capacity in the former Fort Primary School as detailed in the Director's report
- 2) To refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval of the capital and revenue implications.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

16 Commissioning Plan for Children and Families – Consultation Feedback and Council Response

The responses to the consultation on the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families were presented and approval was sought for the Council's response to the consultation comments.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the consultation exercise on the commissioning plan for Children and Families Care and Support Services 2011-16.
- 2) To note and acknowledge the significant scale of the consultation exercise and particularly the time and effort which individuals and groups put into submitting their consultation responses.
- 3) To agree the Council responses to the consultation on the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Director's report.
- 4) To note the intention to report on the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families Support Services 2011-2016 to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 4 October 2011.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

17 Getting it Right for Every Child – Implementation Update

Details were presented of the implementation in Edinburgh of the national framework to co-ordinate children's services across Scotland "Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)".

Decision

To note the progress to date in implementing the systems and processes designed to improve effective early intervention and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

18 Children and Families Department Revenue Budget Monitoring 2011/12 – Month Three Position to 30 June 2011

Details were presented of the 2010/11 final outturn position and 2011/12 month three revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the projected balanced budget position for the Children and Families Department at month three.
- 2) To note the ongoing assessment of the delivery of secondary business support and management savings.
- 3) To note that the Director of Children and Families would provide Margaret Bryce-Stafford with figures on savings budgeted from the change of payment to supply teachers.

(Reference – joint report by the Acting Director of Finance and Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

19 Social Work Complaints Review Committee

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 15 June 2011 on a complaint against the Children and Families Department were presented.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee.

(Reference – report by the Social Work Complaints Review Committee, submitted.)

20 David Robertson

The Committee paid tribute to David Robertson for his service to the City of Edinburgh Council and wished him well in his new post of Chief Finance Officer with Scottish Borders Council.

APPENDIX
(as referred to at item 4 of the foregoing minute)

Appointments to Sub-Committees, etc – 2011/2012

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families (North)

Six members – 1 SLD, 1 SNP, 1 Lab, 1 Con, 1 Green and 1 Religious Representative – Councillors Thomas (Convener), Chapman, Day, Mclvor and Mowat; and Mr Ted Brack (Religious Representative).

Consultative Committee with Parents

One member from each political group and one teacher representative – Councillors MacLaren (Convener), Balfour, Godzik, Johnstone and Mclvor; and Mr R Simpson (Teacher Representative).

Forum on Children and Families Estate Evaluation

Seven members – one member from each political group and one religious representative; and one teacher representative – Councillors MacLaren (Convener), Godzik, Johnstone, Mclvor and Rose; M Bryce-Stafford (Teacher Representative) and Craig Duncan (Religious Representative).

Joint Officer/Member Group on Corporate Parenting of Looked After Children

Fourteen members – Convener and Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee; two members from each political group; one Religious Representative and one Teacher Representative – Councillors MacLaren, Balfour, Blacklock, Cairns, Chapman, Godzik, Johnstone, Lang, Mclvor, G Mackenzie, Morris and Rose; M Bryce-Stafford (Teacher Representative); and Rev Dr Gould (Religious Representative).