

Committee Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

Edinburgh, 15 November 2011

Present:- Councillors MacLaren (Convener), McIvor (Vice-Convener), Balfour, Blacklock, Brock, Dawe, Day, Dundas, Edie, Godzik, Johnstone, Lang (for items 3, 9-17), G Mackenzie, Milligan, Morris (for items 1-8), Munn (substituting for Councillor Cairns), Rose and Work (substituting for Councillor Morris for items 9-17).

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

1 'Becoming a Foster Carer with The City of Edinburgh Council'

The Committee viewed a DVD on 'Becoming a Foster Carer with The City of Edinburgh Council'.

Decision

To note the DVD.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 13 September 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 Review of Secondary Schools Management Structures

The Council at its meeting of 30 June 2011 had requested that further progress on the Review of Secondary Schools Management Structures be reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee. An update was provided on the progress being made.

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Motion

- 1) To note the progress that was being made with the implementation of changes to the management structures in secondary schools.
- 2) To call for a further report on educational attainment at the end of the current school session.
- 3) That attainment data from other local authorities be circulated to members of the Committee, and that the Director of Children and Families investigate if the local authorities could also be identified.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor McIvor.

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress report on the review of secondary schools management structures.
- 2) The Committee recognises the level of parental and staff concern on this issue, and as such, greatly regrets the unsatisfactory level of detail contained within the report.
- 3) That given the lack of evidence, a compelling case for this change had not yet been made and therefore calls for the Committee to be provided with evidence regarding the educational benefit, along with details on how projected savings would be made.

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Johnstone.

Voting

For the motion - 10 votes
For the amendment - 11 votes

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Godzik.

(References – Act of Council No 20, 30 June 2011; report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

Raymond Simpson declared a financial interest in the foregoing item as a Principal Teacher potentially affected by the proposals and left the meeting room during the debate on the matter.

4 Children and Families Standards and Quality Report 2011

As required by the Standards in Scotland's Schools (2000) Act, an annual report on standards and quality was provided.

Good progress and improvement had been shown across all Children and Families Services over the period April 2010 to March 2011. The report also highlighted the actions that would be taken to address areas that had been identified for further development.

Decision

To note the Children and Families Standards and Quality Report 2011.

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

5 Attainment Report 2011

A summary was provided of the analysis of attainment in City of Edinburgh schools for the year 2010-2011.

Decision

- 1) To note the levels of attainment presented in the report.
- 2) To note that attainment in examinations in authority schools, taking account of the key measures where meaningful comparison could be made, may be described overall as good.
- 3) To note that strategies deployed to raise attainment continued to show success.
- 4) To agree to the actions proposed to raise attainment.
- 5) To agree to receive further reports on attainment.
- 6) To note that separate reports for special schools and looked after children would be produced for Committee in March 2012.
- 7) To agree to include reporting on improvements in performance in special schools and looked after children in the 2012 attainment report.
- 8) To note that Karen Prophet, Senior Education Manager (Quality and Curriculum), would be giving a briefing to the Labour Group on Monday 12 December 2011 on the Principal Component Analysis and how this was used to inform attainment analysis in schools, and that she would be

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happy to extend the briefing to all members of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

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

6 Performance Report, Children and Families – August/September 2011

Performance management information for the Children and Families Department for the period August/September 2011 was presented.

Decision

To note the improved and maintained performance during the reporting period and the areas noted for further improvement.

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

7 Additional Support Needs – Progress Report

An update was provided on the progress in provision for additional support needs within Edinburgh in 2010/11. The following areas were highlighted in the report:

- The continuing growth in the number of children and young people requiring additional support, in particular the number of children who required English as an additional language support.
- Looked After Children attending schools in other authorities who required additional support.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and congratulate the Department on the work done in this area.
- 2) To commend the progress achieved in improving provision within the Council and a range of partners to enable continued progress in implementing the Act and noting the sustained reduction in the reliance on out of authority special school placements.
- 3) To agree that further work be undertaken to develop business models to enable continued collaboration with Barnardo's, Children 1st and Queen Margaret University to ensure sustained progress of the improved programmes outlined in the report.

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- 4) To note progress in integrated budget planning to support sustainable future provision for additional support needs.
- 5) To note the implications of Schedule 13 of the 2010 Equality Act and the steps to ensure that its requirements could be fulfilled through the measures presented in the report.
- 6) To note that steps were being taken to ensure that the requirement for adaptations to school buildings was reflected in the capital budget.
- 7) To request that a further report be presented within 12 months to update progress and report on the outcome of the reviews directed towards ensuring effectiveness of additional support for learning provision with regard to statutory requirements, policy imperatives and overall financial sustainability.

(Reference – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 9 November 2010 (item 6); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

8 Children and Families Department's Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) Annual Report 2010/11

Information was provided on the work of the Children and Families Department's Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) during 2010/11.

Decision

To note:

- 1) the report and to commend the work of the Advice and Conciliation Service;
- 2) that the Public Services Reform Act 2010 required local authorities to report to Elected Members on an annual basis on the organisational learning from upheld and partially upheld education complaints.

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

9 Getting the Best Start Towards Positive Destinations

Details were presented of the steps being taken to ensure pupils benefited from a complete school education, taking into account the entitlement to a pre-school education, the optimum timing of entry to primary school and the opportunity to

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achieve national qualifications by the end of S4 and to progress to positive destinations.

The report outlined the impact of the work being undertaken in this area and took into account historical patterns of school entry and research into the impact of deferred entry to school education against a background of innovations arising from the curriculum for excellence.

Motion

- 1) To commend the research and implementation programme underpinning this initiative.
- 2) To agree that resources released through greater efficiencies arising from the reduction in deferrals be re-invested in early years services to support improved outcomes for children in line with the authority's priorities.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor McIvor.

Amendment

- 1) To call for a further report including broader research into the impact of deferrals and global comparisons with regard to school starting age, and on the costs and savings involved.
- 2) To agree that resources released through greater efficiencies arising from the reduction in deferrals be reinvested in early years services to support improved outcomes for children in line with the authority's priorities.

- moved by Councillor Johnstone, seconded by Councillor Balfour.

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes
For the amendment - 10 votes

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Johnstone.

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

10 Developing an Integrated Approach to Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Education

At its meeting on 18 March 2010, the Committee asked for an update on the work of the Integrated Personal and Social Education programme pilot (Integrated Positive Choices Project) which addressed substance misuse and sexual health education in the context of risk taking behaviours.

An update was provided on the pilot and other related areas of work, and details were presented on how this work would be developed across the city.

Decision

To note the extensive work to date on development of a more consistent approach to sexual health and substance misuse education for children and young people.

(References –minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 18 March 2010 (item 15); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

11 School Catering Management Information Update

Information was provided on the current position of the school catering service, including:

- The Promotion of School Meals
- Future Initiatives
- School Meals Uptake Data
- Entitlement to Free School Meals

Decision

To note the report.

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

12 Consultation on the Rights of Children and Young People Bill

On 7 September 2011, the First Minister announced that the Scottish Government would bring forward a Rights of Children and Young People Bill that would establish in law the responsibilities of the Scottish Government in regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

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In order to develop the Bill, the Scottish Government had launched a consultation paper with responses invited by 1 December 2011.

A copy of the Council's proposed consultation response was tabled at the meeting.

Motion

- 1) To note the consultation process and thank those who had submitted their feedback.
- 2) To approve the collated feedback from across the Council and agree for it to go forward as a Council response to the consultation.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor McIvor.

Amendment

- 1) To note the consultation process and thank those who had submitted their feedback.
- 2) To resolve not to make a Council response to the consultation.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Balfour.

Voting

For the motion - 15 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor MacLaren.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted, and proposed consultation response, tabled)

**13 Children and Families Department – Revenue Budget
Monitoring 2011/12 – Month Five Position to 31 August 2011**

Details were presented of the 2011/12 month five revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department. At month five the Department was projecting a balanced budget position for 2011/12.

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Decision

To note the report and the projected balanced budget position for the Children and Families Department at month five.

(Reference – joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

14 Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 – Update

At its meeting of 21 June 2011, the Committee had considered a report on the main provisions of the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 and had agreed, amongst other things, to support the proposal that Edinburgh should have a stand alone Area Support Team.

A consultation on the proposed establishment of Area Support Teams had commenced in July 2011 with a closing date of 21 October 2011. Following consultation with relevant individuals and groups, a response had been submitted to the Children’s Hearings branch at the Scottish Government.

Decision

To note the consultation response attached to the Director’s report.

(References –minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 21 June 2011 (item 10); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

15 ICT – Service Re-design

The Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2011 had considered a report on ICT Service Re-design and had referred the report to this Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – minute of the Finance and Resources Committee 1 November 2011 (item 2); report by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

16 Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Craigroyston

The Policy and Strategy Committee at its meeting of 6 September 2011 had considered a report on Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Craigroyston and had referred the report to this Committee for information.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To ask that a progress report be submitted by April 2012.
- 3) That local members be involved in this matter.

(References – minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee 6 September 2011 (item 8); report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

17 Fort Shared Service Centre

The Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2011 had considered an amended version of a report on the Fort Shared Service Centre which had been referred from the Education, Children and Families Committee of 13 September 2011. The amended report outlined a revised funding model.

The Finance and Resources Committee had approved the revised funding model and had referred the amended report to this Committee for information.

Decision

To note the amended report.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 13 September 2011 (item 15); minute of Finance and Resources Committee 1 November 2011 (item 19); report by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)