

Committee Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

Edinburgh, 31 January 2012

Present:- Councillors MacLaren (Convener), McIvor (Vice-Convener), Balfour, Blacklock, Brock, Buchan, Cairns, Child (substituting for Councillor Milligan), Dawe, Day, Dundas, Edie, Godzik, Johnstone, Lang, G Mackenzie, Morris and Rose.

Present for Education Items:- A C Duncan and R Simpson.

1 'Music and Learning in Edinburgh' DVD Presentation

The Committee viewed a DVD presentation on 'Music and Learning in Edinburgh'.

Decision

To note the DVD presentation and thank the officers involved in Music and Learning for their work.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 15 November 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 Children and Families Achievement Report 2011

The Children and Families Achievements Report 2011 formed part of the wider performance reporting framework for the Children and Families Department. The major successes achieved since the last report in December 2009 were outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note the successes achieved as detailed in the Director's report.

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- 2) To congratulate staff for their hard work.

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 7 December 2009 (item 2); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

4 Positive Destinations

Details were provided of progress towards improving school leaver destinations based on the annual census by Skills Development Scotland. Positive destinations had improved for the third consecutive year and the gap between the City of Edinburgh Council and the national average had narrowed to 1.5%. The percentage of leavers entering a positive destination was at the highest level since 1997/1998.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To commend the commitment of school staff and partners in delivering the improvements detailed in the Director's report.
- 3) That the Director of Children and Families report in June 2012 on positive destinations as recorded at the follow up census carried out by Skills Development Scotland nationally and taken as a measure of sustainability.

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 September 2011 (item 9); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

5 Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in City of Edinburgh Schools

An outline of developments in dealing with bullying in City of Edinburgh schools since September 2010 was presented. The Council and its schools had a wide range of effective strategies and activities to tackle bullying and discrimination in schools. Departmental policy, procedures and plans were robust and up-to-date and schools would have revised policies and plans in place during 2012.

Decision

To note the report.

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

6 Performance Report, Children and Families – October/November 2011

Performance management information for the Children and Families Department for the period October/November 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 Commissioning Plan for Children and Families

Details were provided of progress on the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families. The Plan covered services provided by the Council and those purchased from the voluntary and private sectors, and identified service specific plans across 11 areas to be developed.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing development of the service specific Commissioning Plans for Children and Families.
- 2) To note that Children and Families were in the process of developing detailed service specific plans in each of the areas agreed by Committee in September 2011 to be ready to embark on a three month consultation process on draft plans within each area between 1 April and 30 June 2012.

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 September 2011 (item 16); Minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee 4 October 2011 (item 8); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

8 Review of Residential Care of Children and Young People in Edinburgh

Details were provided of a review of progress in implementing the recommendations of the Review of Residential Services for Children and Young People in Edinburgh.

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The Committee viewed a short DVD presentation on recruitment of social work staff which had been compiled as part of a recruitment drive to attract social work staff to Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the review of residential services.
- 2) To congratulate staff for their hard work.
- 3) To note the DVD presentation on recruitment of Social Work staff.

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 7 September 2010 (item 11); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9 Redevelopment of Riddle's Court - Update

Details were provided of progress made on the development of Riddle's Court and the leasing arrangements with the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT). An agreement for shared use of the building by Children and Families, the Workers Education Association (WEA) and the City of Edinburgh Youth Café Association (6VT) was being progressed.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress highlighted in the Director's report and to agree that a further progress report be provided as and when leasing arrangements required to be changed or amended, and on conclusion of discussions on management arrangements.
- 2) To note that arrangements could be made for members of the Committee to visit the premises, if requested.
- 3) To agree that paragraph 3.17 of the Director's report be amended to indicate that 6VT would continue to be based in Victoria Terrace (rather than Riddle's Court).

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 15 March 2011 (item 14); Minute of the Finance and Resources Committee 7 June 2011 (item 24); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**10 Children and Families Department: Revenue Budget Monitoring
2011/12 - Month Eight Position to 30 November 2011**

Details were provided of the revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department for the period to 30 November 2011.

Decision

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

(Reference – joint report by the Directors of Corporate Governance and Children and Families, submitted.)