

Item 6.1



Business bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 11 December 2012

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener</p> <p>Councillor Paul Godzik</p>  <p>Vice-Convener</p> <p>Councillor David Key</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Paul Godzik (Convener) • Cllr David Key (Vice-Convener) • Cllr Elaine Aitken • Cllr Norma Austin Hart • Cllr Deidre Brock • Cllr Maureen Child • Cllr Nick Cook • Cllr Gavin Corbett • Cllr Cammy Day • Cllr Denis Dixon • Cllr Cathy Fullerton • Cllr Sandy Howat • Cllr Allan Jackson • Cllr Karen Keil • Cllr Richard Lewis • Cllr Alex Lunn • Cllr Melanie Main • Cllr Vicki Redpath • Cllr Jason Rust • Cllr Alastair Shields • Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) • Cllr Steve Cardownie (ex officio) <p>For education items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Allan (religious representative) 	<p>Morris.Smith Senior Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227</p> <p>John Heywood Departmental Assistant to the Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative)• Allan Crosbie (teacher representative)• Craig Duncan (religious representative)• Teacher representative (vacancy)• Parent representative (vacancy)	
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1. The Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) delivers a licensed preventative programme which aims to improve outcomes for young first-time mothers and their children. It does this through an intensive evidence-based programme of home visits, delivered by specially trained Family Nurses, from early pregnancy until the child is two years old. FNP has operated in Edinburgh for the last two and a half years with 148 mothers aged 19 and under. Evaluation demonstrates that the programme has supported them to:

- Develop skills as competent, confident parents
- Engage in activities to support bonding with their child
- Delay weaning
- Assess their home for safety from the perspective of their child, and access practical home safety equipment
- Become more physically active
- Access contraception when they might not otherwise have pursued this
- Feel better supported in relation to their own mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- Link with appropriate community support to help them feel less isolated
- Resolve or manage relationship conflicts
- Navigate and access housing and benefit services and grants, and
- Broaden the options they consider around education or work, formulate goals and overcome barriers.

Early success endorsed in the formal evaluation of the service has led to expansion of the service in Edinburgh City. The second stage of programme delivery known as 'small scale permanence' is currently underway. This has enabled the first team to commence recruitment of a second cohort of eligible teenagers. From summer 2013, a second team of family nurses will be in place which will enable the service to be offered to all eligible teenagers across Edinburgh City on a sustained basis.

2. Advice and Conciliation Service

Children and Families' Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) Annual Report 2011/2012

The Children and Families Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) works within the protocol of Early Resolution; Stage 1 investigation of complaints and Stage 2, the Director's Review, before possible referral to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

During 2011/12:

- 352 issues were dealt with by the service at the Early Resolution stage using conciliatory approaches. 92% of those were from parents and 88% were resolved on the same day. Significantly, only 4%(14) escalated to Stage 1 formal complaints.
- 27 complaints were investigated at formal Stage 1, a decrease of 40% from 45 the previous year. 3 were upheld, 13 partially upheld and 11 not upheld. The average time taken to investigate and resolve the majority of serious and complex complaints was nine days.
- 5 complaints were investigated at formal Stage 2 (Director's review). One was upheld, two were partially upheld and two were not upheld.
- One exceptional complaint was investigated internally, but also externally over some months, elements of which are still outstanding and may result in a referral to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.
- 3 complaints were referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, of which two were partially upheld.

Children and Families' learns from, and makes improvements, as outcomes of upheld and partially upheld complaints.

New Council arrangements will be introduced from April 2013.

For further information, please see the [Children and Families Advice and Conciliation Service \(Education\) Annual Report 2011/12.](#)

Recent news	Background
<p>3. Education Scotland report / Psychological Services six-monthly Update</p> <p>In the 2012-13 session Psychological Services has continued to focus on early years, literacy, looked after children, health and wellbeing and Getting it right for every child. The service has rolled out the recommendations of its successful Looked After Children Literacy research to schools with high percentages of Looked After Children . It has supported the implementation of Up Up and Away in early years settings and Fresh Start in Positive Action areas. These initiatives support the literacy attainment of vulnerable groups. The service has helped to train a large number of staff as part of the Growing Confidence initiative and has delivered hundreds of parental programme sessions as part of the PEEP and Teen Triple P initiatives. It is working in all schools to support the implementation of the Children’s Services Delivery model (GIRFEC, Team Around the Cluster). The service continues to promote the Voice of the Child in its work for the authority and strives in all that it does to demonstrate that its work makes a positive difference to the lives of its clients.</p> <p>The Principal Educational Psychologist met with the inspector from Education Scotland recently. The inspector indicated that CEC Psychological Services did not constitute any risk in the current assessment of risk process across the authority. She is content with Psychological Services progress and there is no need for any follow through inspection from Education Scotland. The inspector noted that Psychological Services had good awareness of its strengths and areas for development. The service will focus on early years work, literacy work and work aimed at improving the reading skills of looked after children.</p>	<p>Further information available in Psychological Services Briefing Report 2012</p>

Forthcoming activities:

The first meeting of the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee will be on Monday 4 February 2013 at 2.30pm in the European Room. The next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee will be on Tuesday 5 March at 10.00am in the European Room.

Three Children and Families briefings for Elected Members are planned for spring 2013. These will be about: School Admissions; Attendance & Exclusions and Support for Children with Behavioural Difficulties, including Panmure St Annes; and, ICT & Teaching & Learning. Dates will be circulated as soon as confirmed.