

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 5 March 2013

Present

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Key (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Austin Hart, Brock, Child, Nick Cook, Corbett, Fullerton, Howat, Jackson, Keil, Lewis, Lunn, Main, McVey (substituting for Councillor Dixon), Redpath, Rust and Shields.

Also present for Education items

Marie Allan, Rev Thomas Coupar, Allan Crosbie, Lindsay Law and John Swinburne.

1. Welcome by Convener

The Convener welcomed new members of the Committee, Lindsay Law, Parent Representative and John Swinburne, Teacher Representative, to the meeting.

2 Deputation: James Gillespie's Primary School (JGPS) Council – Rising Rolls in the Primary Sector and Impact on James Gillespie's Primary School

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from John Beattie, Melany Jackson and Tully Treslove, James Gillespie's Primary School Parent Council, on rising rolls in the Primary School sector and the impact of temporary accommodation provision on learning and teaching in James Gillespie's Primary School.

The deputation outlined their main concerns and asked the Committee to consider the following requests:

1. Communication

- To include James Gillespie's Primary School within the 'Strategic Management of School Places: P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2013' report (item 3 below), increasing the visibility of James Gillespie's Primary School's needs.
- To ensure that consultation and planning activities are conducted in a timely fashion so that a range of options for addressing the increase of pupil numbers can be considered before decisions are made, avoiding any sense of a *fait*

accompli. Support for regular meetings between City Council representatives and JGPS Council was sought to ensure this was achieved.

2. Short Term Solution

- To conduct an impact assessment of the proposed introduction of additional classes to the school, to be completed by May 2013 with recommendations to be implemented by August 2013. The terms of reference of this assessment would include consideration of the JGPS open-plan environment, impact on General Purpose space, size of school hall and dining areas, playground space, education resources and the impact of composite classes. Consideration should also be given to multiple different P1 intake scenarios within these plans.
- To confirm the minimum standard for classroom accommodation, and the cost/benefit case for refurbishing or replacing the existing JGPS temporary classroom units.

3. Long Term Solution

- To conduct an immediate study on the options and plans for establishing a new school within South Edinburgh, working in partnership with parents in affected schools.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Convener had written to NHS Lothian to enquire about the release of NHS land in the south of the city.
- 2) To note that the Council had made the Scottish Government aware of the possible requirement for a new primary school in the south of the city.
- 3) To thank the deputation for their presentation and to invite them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Director of Children and Families at item 3 below.

(Reference – paper by James Gillespie's Primary School Council, tabled)

3 Strategic Management of School Places – P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2013

School placement and accommodation issues for the anticipated P1 and S1 intakes for August 2013 were presented, together with details of a series of strategies to manage intakes, including setting intake limits for some schools.

Motion

- 1) To prioritise placing requests out of the following schools:-
 - East Craigs Primary School

- Liberton Primary School
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to prioritise baptised Roman Catholics into the following schools:-
- Fox Covert RC Primary School
 - Holy Cross RC Primary School
 - St Catherine's RC Primary School
 - St Cuthbert's RC Primary School
 - St David's RC Primary School
 - St Francis' RC Primary School
 - St John's RC Primary School
 - St Mark's RC Primary School
 - St Mary's RC (Edinburgh) Primary School
 - St Mary's RC (Leith) Primary School
 - St Ninian's RC Primary School
 - St Peter's RC Primary School
 - St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School
- 3) To refer the Director's report to the first meeting of the Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls Working Group of the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee, and ask that the Working Group meet at the earliest opportunity.
- 4) To note the recent decision of the Development Management Sub-Committee on the proposed extension of four primary schools.
- 5) To note the deputation from James Gillespie's Primary School Parent Council and the issues raised.
- 6) To note that Council officers would work closely with James Gillespie's Primary School to address these issues.
- 7) To note that the working Group on Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls would look specifically at rising rolls and school capacity in the south of the city.

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Key

Amendment

- 1) To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 in the Director's report.
- 2) To refer the Director's report to the first meeting of the Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls Working Group of the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee, and ask that the Working Group meet at the earliest opportunity.
- 3) To note the recent Planning Committee's comments on proposed school extensions regarding daylight issues, temporary accommodation options and investigation of a more sensitive permanent means of extending Victoria Primary School. Therefore requests the Working Group to consider the suitability of the design of extension units and make recommendations for future years from 2014/15.

- moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Voting

For the motion – 20 votes

For the amendment – 3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

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

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McVey declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Development Management Sub-Committee.

4. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 December 2012 as a correct record.

5. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan – May-October 2013

The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period May-October 2013 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for May-October 2013.

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

6. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for 5 March 2013 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To request a further report on the school meals service, including information on what measures were being put in place to improve school meals uptake.

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

7. School Holiday Respite/Playschemes for Disabled Children and Young People

An update was provided on the current position within the respite playscheme service, together with details of the planned changes to the service for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Decision

- 1) To agree that all disabled children and young people be entitled to receive up to six weeks of service per year by 2014/15.
- 2) That children attending St Crispin's and Braidburn schools receive an entitlement of six weeks service from April 2013.
- 3) That, from August 2013, new pupils at Oaklands School receive a six week allocation to ensure equity with other children and families.
- 4) That Council officers begin preparations to undertake a tendering process in 2013/14 for respite playschemes to ensure compliance with new European Union legislation.
- 5) To request a further report following the implementation of the planned service changes.
- 6) To congratulate staff for the work done in this area.

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

8. Integrated Literacy Strategy 2012/13

Details were provided of progress with priorities in the Integrated Literacy Strategy 2012/13 action plan.

The Council was one of five local authorities invited by the Scottish Government to support improvements in literacy at a national level by becoming a literacy hub for other

authorities. An inter-authority partnership with Mid, East and West Lothian and Scottish Borders Council had been established to take this forward.

Decision

- 1) To note the continued progress with priorities within the Edinburgh Integrated Literacy Strategy Action Plan 2012/13.
- 2) To note where successful strategies were in place.
- 3) To thank all staff in all sectors involved in the continued successful implementation of the Integrated Literacy Strategy for their hard work and dedication.
- 4) To note the key findings in the recent Education Scotland document “Making the difference: the impact of staff qualifications on children’s learning in early years” and to recognise the implications of those findings for the effective delivery of Early Years programmes such as *Up, Up and Away* along with the positive impact of high quality local authority Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- 5) To investigate and consider *The M Factor*, an inter-disciplinary learning project developed by Alan Wait, School Group Manager, Midlothian Council, with a view to considering the viability of a similar project in Edinburgh.
- 6) To note points 4 and 5 above, and instruct officers to investigate further and report back to Committee with recommendations in the next annual Integrated Literacy Strategy report.
- 7) To request a further report on literacy in nursery and early years establishments.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 March 2012 (item 7); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9. Inspection of Children’s Services in Edinburgh

Scottish Ministers had asked the Care Inspectorate to develop a new model for the scrutiny and improvement of services for children and young people.

Details were provided of an inspection carried out by the Care Inspectorate of services for children in Edinburgh between November 2012 and January 2013. The Care Inspectorate had chosen Edinburgh and Orkney as pilot sites and planned to inspect services across all 32 local authority areas by the end of March 2017.

Decision

- 1) To note that a major inspection had been completed and that the findings would be presented in full to the Committee in May 2013.

- 2) To thank the officers for their hard work in preparing for the inspection.

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

10. Schools Energy Report

Details were provided of works that had been undertaken, together with further planned works, to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's school estate.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) That a further report be submitted to the Committee on progress made and future plans on energy management within schools through the Integrated Property and Facilities Management (iPFM) programme.
- 3) To request that the further report give a clear profile of current energy consumption and use: that clear targets are set and that an action plan is prepared showing how targets will be met.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 21 June 2011 (item 9); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

11. Improving Positive Destinations

Details were given of progress towards improving school leaver destinations, based on the annual census carried out by Skills Development Scotland.

Positive destinations had steadily improved from 82.5% in 2009/10 to 88.3% in 2011/12.

The Committee viewed a short video presentation of a young person's experience of working as a modern apprentice under the Edinburgh Guarantee programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the improvement and trends in positive destinations.
- 2) To note the progress of strategies in school and post school.
- 3) To agree to receive a further report in June 2013 after the follow-up census which gives an indication of sustained destinations.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2012 (item 4); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

12. Chair

Councillor Key (Vice-Convener) took the chair for items 13 and 14 below. Councillor Godzik resumed the Chair for the remaining items of business thereafter.

13. Children and Families Department – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012-13 – Month 9 Position to 31 December 2012

The nine month revenue monitoring position to 31 December 2012 was presented for the Children and Families Department.

Decision

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

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

14. Achieving Excellence Performance Report to October 2012

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had considered a report providing an update on performance against specific targets and outcomes across the Council's performance framework for the period to October 2012. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for further scrutiny.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted.)

15. Paolozzi Prize for Art

An update was provided on progress towards awarding the Paolozzi Prize for Art. The prize was for pupils studying art and design in the senior phase and was designed to acknowledge artistic ability and to celebrate achievement, inclusion, innovation and creativity.

An award ceremony would take place at the National Gallery of Scotland on the Mound on Tuesday 16 April 2013.

The overall prize winner would receive £500 with three category winners each receiving £250.

Decision

- 1) To note progress to date.
- 2) To note that an update would be reported annually.

- 2) To note that Councillor Edie would be approached to take part in the judging panel.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 March 2012 (item 12); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

16. Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing

Progress was detailed towards achieving the commitments within the Integrated Plan for Children and Young People and the Children and Families Service Plan to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing.

Priority actions had been developed to improve outcomes in the following key areas: emotional and mental health, sexual health, child healthy weight and drugs and alcohol misuse.

Decision

- 1) To note the work to date to address the priority actions.
- 2) To note the Plan to address areas for improvement.

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

17. Sports and Outdoor Education Unit

An update was provided on the work of the Sports and Outdoor Education Unit. The unit consisted of sports coaches, outdoor instructors, swimming teachers, modern apprentices and other staff members who were involved in planning aspects of getting children and young people more active.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the impact on key Council outcomes.
- 2) To refer the report to the Community Access to Schools (CATS) Working Group and the Culture and Sport Committee for information.
- 3) To request a further report on the participation levels of girls in sport.
- 4) To note that a briefing would be arranged for Committee members on the activities of the Sports and Outdoor Education Unit, and would be followed by a visit to Lagganlia Outdoor Centre in June 2013.

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

18. Appointments to Working Groups

A vacancy had arisen for a teacher representative on the Consultative Committee for Parents and the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group.

Decision

- 1) To appoint John Swinburne to the Consultative Committee for Parents.
- 2) To appoint Allan Crosbie to the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group.

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

19. Social Work Complaints Review Committee

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 23 January 2013 on a complaint against the Children and Families Department were detailed.

Decision

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

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

20. Commercial Access to Parents and Children in Schools – Motion by Councillor Main

The following motion by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett, was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1:

“This Committee notes that:

1. commercial companies offering curriculum subject tutoring have been invited into primary schools to do ‘taster sessions’ in curriculum time classes.
2. some commercial tutoring companies offer financial incentives to Parent Councils and schools to encourage access to children and parents and to encourage parents to buy products and services.
3. schoolbag letters home to parents can give the impression that companies are endorsed by the Council. Information from some companies gives the impression that they are approved providers of services.
4. parents have expressed concerns that the commercial companies are being allowed direct access to them and their children by Edinburgh schools.

Committee therefore requests that a report is prepared within one cycle setting out a clear policy for schools with regard to direct access to children and to providing

information to parents on offers of commercial services, with the presumption that such service offers should be restricted.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Main.