

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 11 December 2012

Present

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

Also present for Education items

Marie Allan, Rev Thomas Coupar and Allan Crosbie.

1. Convener's Award for Outstanding Achievement

The Committee congratulated the Career Academies of Liberton, Tynecastle and Forrester High Schools on achieving the Convener's Award for Outstanding Achievement.

2. Sunday Times Award: Scottish State Secondary School of the Year

The Committee congratulated Boroughmuir High School on being named Scottish State Secondary School of the Year by the Sunday Times.

3. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan – March - May 2013

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

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to May 2013.

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

4. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin

The Education, Children and Families Business Bulletin for 11 December 2012 was presented. The Director outlined an amendment to section 2 (Advice and Conciliation Service) of the Bulletin reflecting that one exceptional complaint had been investigated internally, but also externally over some months, elements of which were still outstanding and might result in a referral to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

Decision

- 1) To note the information in the amended Business Bulletin.
- 2) In respect of the exceptional complaint outlined in the Bulletin:
 - To note that Committee could not comment on an ongoing complaint.
 - In the interest of all parties, the exceptional complaint be brought to a speedy conclusion, and referred to the SPSO for external scrutiny, if deemed necessary by the complainant.
 - To request the Director to report on the outcome of the exceptional complaint, including any implications for the complaints procedures.
- 3) That a visit be arranged for Committee members to the Family Nurse Partnership.

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

5. Early Years Provision – Proposal for the Development of Provision in the Tollcross Area – Relocation of Services from Grassmarket Nursery School to Tollcross Primary School

Authority was sought to consult on a proposal to develop and enhance nursery provision in the Tollcross area by relocating the delivery of preschool education from Grassmarket Nursery School to premises based in Tollcross Primary School from August 2013.

Motion

- 1) To approve that a statutory public consultation be carried out on the proposed relocation of services from Grassmarket Nursery School to Tollcross Primary School, continuing with the current management arrangements with Lochrin Nursery School.

- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a detailed consultation paper on the basis of the option outlined in the report.
- 3) To note the intention to return to the May 2013 meeting of the Council with the outcome of the consultation process for a decision on the proposal.
- 4) To replace recommendation 4 in the Director's report with – "To request that future usage of the Grassmarket Nursery building be examined and reported back to Committee."

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Key.

Amendment

- 1) To note the increasing school rolls for nurseries in the next four years, the extreme pressure on nursery places south of Tollcross and the waiting list for nearby Cowgate.
- 2) To note that there was new social housing in Quartermile and new building proposed around Fountainbridge which was likely to impact further on the call for nursery places and accommodation.
- 3) To ask for a further report that:
 - a. includes forecasts for the next three years of expected roll for Tollcross, old town city nurseries, including the Cowgate, and the area directly south of Tollcross.
 - b. includes forecasts for the next three years of local population needs for nursery provision for Tollcross, and the surrounding areas in the old town and south of Tollcross.
 - c. considers the case for the temporary relocation of staff and children to Tollcross until such time as the numbers increase.
 - d. provides a communications plan for the development of the nursery numbers in the Grassmarket.
 - e. considers how best to retain and maintain the current nursery buildings until needed as a nursery or an alternative use can be found.

- moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

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.)

6. Implementation of Revised Secondary School Management Structures

Progress was outlined on the implementation of revised Secondary School Management Structures in all 23 City of Edinburgh Secondary Schools. Clarification was provided on a number of points raised by members.

Motion

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) That Children and Families continue to review the impact of implementation on staff, pupil attainment, and Curriculum for Excellence and in doing so address the issues raised in the surveys of teachers, outlined in the Director's report and in the recent EIS paper, and report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on these matters before the end of June 2013, along with a full financial breakdown of savings delivered.
- 3) That Children and Families continue to work with Trade Union representatives to review the long-term impact of the Revised Secondary School Management Structures and report back before the end of December 2014.

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Allan Crosbie.

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion, with an addendum to include a review of the impact on staff from the Review of Guidance.

- moved by Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Rust.

Voting

For the motion – 17 votes.

For the amendment – 6 votes.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

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

7. Review of Pupil Support in Primary Schools

The process and strategy to review pupil support in Primary Schools was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note and approve the process for carrying out the Review of pupil support in Primary Schools.
- 2) To note and approve the specific areas for consideration within the Review.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 21 June 2012 (minute item 8); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

8. Review of Community Access to Schools (CATS)

Approval was sought to progress work streams identified by the Project Team established to review community access to schools.

Decision

- 1) To note progress to date.
- 2) To note that the approved report remit included an audit of “the costs of operating that sit alongside this activity”. Therefore adds to the scope of the Review:
 - To establish the costs of operating in the Schools and facilities for community access.
 - To consider how the income and expenditure, including costs currently funded by individual school budgets, such as heat and light, might be brought together in the same budget so as to provide clear and realistic costs of community access.
- 3) That the Project Team provide a number of proposals for consideration in March 2013 with timelines for implementation.
- 4) That the report be referred to the Culture and Sport Committee for its interest.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2012 (minute item 11); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9. Additional Support Needs Planning and Performance Update

An update on performance, trends and planning in relation to provision for additional support needs was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the trend in the growth in additional support needs in Edinburgh and the underlying driving factors.
- 2) To note the continuing progress in service improvement.
- 3) To approve the strategic direction for Additional Support Needs provision to address current and future needs and improve performance.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2011 (minute item 7); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

10. Educational Attainment/Improvements in Performance 2012

A summary of the analysis of attainment in the City of Edinburgh's schools for the year 2011-2012 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the levels and evaluations of attainment/improvements in performance.
- 2) To note that the strategies deployed to raise attainment/improvements in performance continued to show success.
- 3) To agree to the priority areas identified to raise attainment/improvements in performance.
- 4) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment/improvements in performance.

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

11. Youth Work Survey, Report and Interactive Map

A recent youth work survey, report and online map of youth work services in Edinburgh showed that young people had access to a wide range of opportunities. The key positive features of the youth work report were presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the diversity of youth work provision across the city, in terms of location, activities, target groups and youth workers.
- 2) To consider the application of the mapping process to other services across the city.
- 3) To recognise the large amount of volunteer hours generated by youth work in the city at a value of at least £444,000 per annum.
- 4) To note work to ensure that youth work agencies, both in house and partners, had access to premises fit for purpose and that access was free or at minimum cost.
- 5) To congratulate all those involved in producing the youth work services report and interactive map.

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

12. Children and Families Department – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 – Month Six Position to 30 September 2012

The month six revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department was presented.

Decision

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

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

13. Education, Children and Families Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee – Work Programme and Proposed Arrangements for Meetings

Decision

- 1) To approve the items set out in Appendix 1 to the report for inclusion in the Work Programme.
- 2) To agree the format for conducting the meetings and the setting up of Working Groups.

- 3) To agree that the composition of each of the four Working Groups on Improving Community Access to Schools, Strengthening Support for Pupils with Behavioural Difficulties, Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls and Early Years should be two Labour, two SNP, one Conservative, one Green and one Liberal Democrat with one religious, teacher or parent representative, and the Committee would decide how to fill any vacancies.
- 4) That the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance seek nominations for the vacancies on the Working Groups.
- 5) To note that the Working Group for Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls would replace the Forum on Children and Families Estate Evaluation set up by Committee on 21 June 2012.
- 6) To agree that recommendations from the Policy Development Sub-Committee be referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for approval.
- 7) To refer the Work Programme to the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee.
- 8) To refer the report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.
- 9) To note that the resources, stakeholder input and time required for development of policy, would vary dependent on the type and extent of any policy initiative.
- 10) To note that the number of sub-groups meeting at any one time would vary according to the policy work being undertaken by Committee members.
- 11) To note that the members of the Committee had wide ranging areas of interests and of expertise across the Directorate.
- 12) To note that the Working Groups would embrace a spirit of cross party working and cooperative ethos.
- 13) To agree a simple mechanism for a member to call for a sub-group to be set up to consider a particular policy area to be considered.
- 14) That a review of the Working Groups be conducted in one year's time.

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

14. Primary School Deferrals

An update was provided on the management of deferral requests for entry to primary school at P1 following revision to the procedure for application. Research had been undertaken to follow up unsuccessful deferral requests to find out how children had managed transition to P1.

Decision

- 1) To commend the research and implementation programme.
- 2) That Group briefings be arranged to provide details of the research undertaken.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2011 (minute item 9); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

15. Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act – Administrative Agreement

A single Area Support Team to oversee the administration of the Children’s Panel in Edinburgh had been established. Detailed discussion on staffing and other support for the new system had taken place with the Scottish Government, Children’s Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC) Co-chairs, and the Children’s Panel Chair. An administrative Agreement which was welcomed by both the CPAC and Panel, had been concluded for a 3-year period commencing 24 June 2013.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2011 (minute item 14); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

16. Appointments to Working Groups

A vacancy had arisen in membership of certain Working Groups following the resignation of Councillor Rose.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Rust to the Consultative Committee with Parents and the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group.
- 2) To note there was no requirement to appoint a replacement to the Forum on Children and Families Estate Evaluation, as this group would be replaced by one of the short-life Working Groups set up in terms of the Work Programme report, as detailed at item 13 above.

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