

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 21 May 2013

Present

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Brock, Burgess (substituting for Councillor Main), Child, Nick Cook, Chapman (substituting for Councillor Corbett), Day, Dixon, Howat, Jackson, Keil, Key, Lewis, Lunn, and Milligan.

Also present for Education items

Marie Allan, Allan Crosbie, Craig Duncan and Lindsay Law.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 5 March 2013 as a correct record.

2. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan – October-December 2013

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

Decision

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

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

3. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for 21 May 2013 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

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

4. Inspection of Children’s Services in Edinburgh

Details were provided of the outcome of a comprehensive inspection of services for children in Edinburgh. The inspection was led by the Care Inspectorate and included representatives from Education Scotland, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Audit Scotland.

Decision

- 1) To welcome the findings of the inspection of children’s services in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the commitment of the Children’s Partnership to deliver continued improvements in services for children in need and to report progress to the Education, Children and Families Committee through the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee on an annual basis.
- 3) To congratulate all staff involved in the inspection process.
- 4) To note that the Care Inspectorate had highlighted child protection services, the commitment of staff, engagement with children and families, partnership working and leadership as particular strengths.

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

5. Vision for Schools

The main findings from the consultation on the Vision for Schools, including areas of agreement and concern, were presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the vision.
- 2) To ask officers to report back in October 2013 with an implementation plan and an analysis of current strengths and weaknesses.

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

6. Review of Community Access to Schools (CATS)

An update was provided on the work of the Project Team established to undertake a review of community access to schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report.
- 2) To note that a detailed proposal on charging would be included in the next report.
- 3) To approve the continued development of IT systems to support CATS.
- 4) To approve the continued work on proposals for new financial arrangements to support CATS.
- 5) To approve the continued work on proposals for new management arrangements for CATS.
- 6) To note the continued work with partners to test out new collaborative practices across the city.
- 7) To approve the work on creating a communication plan.
- 8) To request a further progress report in December 2013.
- 9) To refer the report to the Culture and Sport Committee for information.

(References – minute of Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 December 2012 (item 8); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

7. Future of Castlebrae Community High School

At its meeting on 14 March 2013, the Council had agreed, amongst other things, to:

- 1) Instruct the Director of Children and Families to report to the Education, Children and Families Committee within three months with future options for Castlebrae Community High School including the potential to retain the High School building as an annexe of Portobello High School until a new secondary school in Craigmillar was delivered.
- 2) Instruct officers to submit a report regarding the potential establishment of a Commission with appropriate external experts to look at viable options for the use of the proposed annexe.

Further discussions with elected members, community representatives and the Head Teacher had led to a consensus that there were no educational advantages to be gained from the establishment of an annexe, and that the focus should be on developing and implementing an improvement programme for the current Castlebrae Community High School.

Proposals were detailed for short term improvements in the performance of the High School and a process for the identification of longer term improvements by a Working Group reporting to the Education, Children & Families Committee.

Councillor Bridgman was heard as a local member.

Decision

- 1) To reject the option of establishing Castlebrae Community High School as an annexe of Portobello High School.
- 2) To request the Director of Children and Families to proceed with short-term improvement action including:
 - the consolidation of the Parent Council;
 - efforts to increase pupil enrolments for session 2013-14 in collaboration with the Parent Council;
 - support the current school cohort to ensure that curricular entitlements are met and that a range of personal and social developments are in place;
 - a refresh of teaching and senior management staff;
 - consideration of the extension of current functions and the introduction of new activity to maximise the use of the school;
 - consideration of how outcomes could be improved for this year's and next year's S1 pupils as they move through year stages, taking into account that numbers may not increase to any significant extent in 2013-14;
 - the establishment of a Working Group, including a panel of external experts, to advise the Council on options for the improvement of the school's performance in relation to attainment, achievement, attendance, positive destinations, and parental and community engagement, for implementation in session 2014-15 and beyond, taking into account the wider educational provision in the Craigmillar area, local regeneration activity and the commitment to a new school;
 - identification of resource implications associated with the improvement programme.
- 3) To note that the EIS would be invited to participate in the proposed Working Group.

(References – Act of Council No 3 of 14 March 2013; report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

8. Implementation of Revised Secondary School Management Structures

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on the implementation of the revised secondary school management structures together with progress made in addressing the issues raised in the survey of teachers and a financial breakdown of the savings delivered.

Decision

- 1) To note the Director's report.
- 2) That the Children and Families Department and Teacher Trade Unions continue their ongoing work to implement the agreed action points from the teacher surveys in session 2013/14.
- 3) That the Children and Families Department and Teacher Trade Unions review the long term impact of the revised secondary management changes on attainment and staff morale, and report back to the Committee before the end of December 2014.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 December 2012 (item 6); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9. Early Years Strategy Progress Report

The Early Years Strategy was launched in January 2010 and set out a vision and long term commitment to improve the life chances for children.

Details were provided of the key achievements in 2012/13 and the future challenges and priorities for the development of the service. Approval was also sought for the establishment of a new nursery in the grounds of Fox Covert Primary School.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the Director's report and the priorities for the next stage of development within early years.
- 2) To approve the proposed establishment of a new nursery in the grounds of Fox Covert Primary School and to note that, on completion of the proposed feasibility study to inform the proposal, approval would be sought from Committee to the necessary statutory consultation process being undertaken.
- 3) To request a further report in six months time on progress with the priorities identified for the future development of the service.
- 4) To refer the report to the Early Years Working Group.

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

10. Early Years Change Fund – Progress Report

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on progress with the Early Years Change Fund.

Decision

- 1) To note progress to date on each workstream detailed in the Director's report.
- 2) To request a further report on progress on Change Fund Objectives in May 2014.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 21 June 2012 (item 6); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

11. Co-operative Childcare and Education

The Capital Coalition had pledged to establish city-wide childcare co-operatives for affordable childcare for working parents.

An update was provided on progress in developing co-operative childcare and co-operative education and learning in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date.
- 2) To request a further progress report in October 2013.
- 3) To note the conference to be organised by the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC), the workshop to be organised by Public Service Mutuals, and the half-day Co-operative Learning and Education Event.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 9 October 2012 (item 12); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

12. Parental Engagement

An update was provided on progress being made towards the completion of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action/Implementation Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the Director's report.
- 2) To request a final report in October 2013 including:
 - Parental Engagement strategy document;
 - Action/implementation plan.

- 3) To particularly note the increased parental participation as outlined in paragraph 2.8 to the Director's report.
- 4) To congratulate officers for their work so far in developing these new structures, and to also thank parents for their continued support and participation.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 9 October 2012 (item 3); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

13. Kirkliston Primary School – Proposed Extension

The Committee had previously approved proposals to extend Kirkliston Primary School which would be funded by way of Section 75 developer contributions arising from a proposed housing development on the north side of the village.

Approval was now sought for the proposed extension to be progressed and for separate works to increase the capacity of Kirkliston Nursery from 50/50 to 70/70.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed extension to Kirkliston Primary School as detailed in the Director's report with £4.9m of the estimated cost being funded directly by Section 75 developer contributions and the remaining £356,785 being funded from the Rising School Rolls capital budget.
- 2) To approve the proposed works to extend the capacity of Kirkliston Nursery as detailed in the Director's report with the estimated cost of £190,000 being funded from the Rising School Rolls capital budget.

(References – minute of the Education, Children & Families Committee of 8 September 2009 (item 14); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

14. Report on Commercial Access to Parents and Children in Schools

In response to a motion by Councillor Main, details were provided of how the Children and Families Department currently deals with requests made to centrally based officers from commercial companies and organisations and how they propose to support individual Head Teachers who receive similar requests.

Motion

To note the contents of the Director's report and approve the measures taken to control and restrict commercial access to parents and children in schools.

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

Amendment

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report and approve the measures taken to control and restrict commercial access to parents and children in schools.
- 2) That the Education, Children and Families Committee be provided with an annual update of companies that have been permitted commercial access to parents and children in schools.

- moved by Councillor Aldridge, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Voting

For the motion – 12 votes

For the amendment – 7 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 5 March 2013 (item 20); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

15. Children and Families Service Plan 2013-16

The Children and Families Service Plan 2013-16 was presented.

Decision

To note the Children and Families Service Plan 2013-16.

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

16. School Session Dates for 2014/15

Approval was sought for the school session dates for 2014/15.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Session Dates for 2014/15 as detailed in the Director's report.
- 2) To note that a further review of polling places was currently underway, and to ask the Director of Children and Families to collate and report any views received from the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) directly into the consultation.

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

17. Achieving Excellence Performance Report to January 2013 - Referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had considered a report on performance against specified targets and outcomes across the Council's performance framework for the period to January 2013. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for further scrutiny and, in particular, to scrutinise the Council's approach to school exclusions, including the legal position.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To refer the report to the Strengthening Support for Pupils with Behavioural Difficulties Working Group to look further at the Council's approach to school exclusions, including the legal position.

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

18. Capital Investment Programme 2013/14 – Children and Families Asset Management Works Budget Update - Referral from Finance and Budget Committee

The Finance and Budget Committee had considered a report on the Capital Investment Programme 2013/14 – Children and Families Asset Management Works. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for noting.

Decision

To note the report.

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

19. Engagement of Children, Young People and Parents/Carers in the Development of Services for Children and Families in Edinburgh

An update was provided on the engagement of children, young people, parents/carers and other stakeholders in the development of services for children and families in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report and the progress made in terms of engagement.
- 2) To agree to receive a further report on progress in engagement in May 2014.

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

20. Community Learning and Development Service – Development of Family Learning

The Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families (South) had asked that a report be submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on the possibilities for the development of the Family Learning, including details of the schools currently benefiting from the service.

An overview was provided of Family Learning provision in Edinburgh delivered by the Children and Families Department's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report and the consistently increasing trends in participation in, and demand for, Family Learning provision across the city by parents and carers.
- 2) To note the impact of Family Learning on children, young people and parents/carers.
- 3) To support the further development of family Learning provision in Edinburgh through the reallocation of the CLD budget, currently allocated to the Edinburgh College, from September 2013.

(Reference – minute of the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families (South) of 1 October 2012 (item 3); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

21. Appointments to Sub-Committees, Etc

The Committee was invited to appoint the membership of its Sub-Committees and working Groups for 2013/14

Decision

- 1) To appoint the members of the Sub-Committees and Working Groups as detailed in the Appendix to this minute.
- 2) To note that the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions specifies that the membership of the Committee's Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee would be the same as the parent Committee, and that the Vice-Convener of the parent Committee would be the Convener of the Sub-Committee.

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

23. Carers' Champion – Progress Report – Referral from the Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee

The Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee had considered a report outlining the progress made by the new Carers' Champion, Councillor Work, since coming into the role in November 2012. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

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

Appendix

Sub-Committees on Standards for Children and Families

East – 5 Members – 2 Labour, 2 SNP and 1 Religious Representative	
Councillor Child (Convener) Councillor Bridgman Councillor Griffiths Councillor Tymkewycz	Rev Thomas Coupar (Religious Representative)
North - 6 Members – 2 Labour, 1 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, and 1 Religious Representative	
Councillor Brock (Convener) Councillor Bagshaw Councillor Gardner Councillor Jackson	Councillor Redpath Marie Allan (Religious Representative)
South – 6 Members – 2 Labour, 1 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Religious Representative	
Councillor Godzik (Convener) Councillor Bill Cook Councillor Howat Councillor Main	Councillor Rose Marie Allan (Religious Representative)
South West – 5 Members – 1 Labour, 1 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Religious Representative	
Councillor Aitken (Convener) Councillor Corbett Councillor Key Councillor Milligan	Craig Duncan (Religious Representative)
West – 5 Members – 1 Labour, 1 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 SLD and 1 Religious Representative	
Councillor Ross (Convener) Councillor Keil Councillor Paterson Councillor Shields	Craig Duncan (Religious Representative)

Working Groups etc

<p>Consultative Committee with Parents – 8 members - Convener and Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee and one member from each political group and 1 Teacher Representative</p>	
<p>Councillor Godzik (Convener) Councillor Aldridge Councillor Corbett Councillor Dixon Councillor Fullerton</p>	<p>Councillor Redpath Councillor Rust John Swinburne (Teacher representative)</p>
<p>Joint Officer/Member Group on Corporate Parenting of Looked After Children – 14 members - Convener and Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee and two members from each political group, 1 Religious Representative and 1 Teacher Representative</p>	
<p>Councillor Fullerton (Convener) Councillor Aldridge Councillor Child Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Corbett Councillor Day Councillor Godzik</p>	<p>Councillor Howat Councillor Key Councillor Main Councillor Rust Councillor Shields Rev Thomas Coupar (Religious Rep) Allan Crosbie (Teacher Representative)</p>
<p>Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum – 7 members - Convener and Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee and one member from each political group.</p>	
<p>Councillor Day (Convener) Councillor Aldridge Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Godzik Councillor Fullerton</p>	<p>Councillor Main Councillor McVey</p>

Working Groups – Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee

Improving Community Access to Schools – 8 Members – 2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 religious, teacher or parent representative	
Councillor Lewis (Convener) Councillor Aldridge Councillor Austin Hart Councillor Brock Councillor Corbett	Councillor Jackson Councillor Lunn John Swinburne (Teacher representative)
Strengthening Support for Pupils with Behavioural Difficulties - 8 Members – 2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 religious, teacher or parent representative	
Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Aldridge Councillor Corbett Councillor Day Councillor Fullerton	Councillor Key Councillor Redpath Lindsay Law (Parent representative)
Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls – 8 Members – 2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 religious, teacher or parent representative	
Councillor Godzik (Convener) Councillor Aldridge Councillor Child Councillor Fullerton Councillor Howat	Councillor Main Councillor Rust Craig Duncan (Religious Representative)
Early Years – 8 Members – 2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 religious, teacher or parent representative	
Councillor Aitken Councillor Aldridge Councillor Dixon Councillor Godzik Councillor Keil	Councillor Key Councillor Main Councillor Milligan Allan Crosbie (Teacher representative)