

Notice of meeting and agenda

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 8 October 2013

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

Contact

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1. Order of business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

- 3.1 If any

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Education, Children and Families Committee 21 May 2013 (circulated) – submitted for approval as a correct record

5. Key decisions forward plan

- 5.1 Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan - December 2013 to March 2014 (circulated)

6. Business bulletin

- 6.1 Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin (circulated)

7. Executive decisions

- 7.1 Vision for Schools – report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.2 Primary School Estate Rising Rolls – report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.3 Improving Support for Children and Young People in Need in Edinburgh – Consultation on a Proposal to Close Wellington Special School in Midlothian – report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.4 Parental Engagement - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.5 Outdoor Play and Active Learning - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.6 Co-operative Childcare and Education - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)

- 7.7 Integrated Literacy Strategy Early Years - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.8 Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in City of Edinburgh Council Schools - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.9 Special Schools - Proposals for the Future Development of Panmure St Ann's - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.10 Annual Review of Services for Children and Young People who are Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.11 Social Work Services for Children with Disabilities – Annual Progress Report - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.12 Improving Positive Destinations – Follow Up 2011/12 - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.13 Schools Energy Report – report by the Director of Services for Communities (circulated)
- 7.14 Children and Families Standards and Quality report 2013 - report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 7.15 Children and Families Department Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013-14 - Month Two Position to 31 May 2013 – report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)

8. Routine decisions

- 8.1 Response to Consultation – Amending the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 – report by the Director of Children and Families (circulated)
- 8.2 Religious Observance in Non-Denominational Schools - referral report from the Petitions Committee - report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance (circulated)
- 8.3 Summer Schools Maintenance Report - Update – referral report from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee - report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance (circulated)
- 8.4 Looked After Children: Transformation Programme – referral report from the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee - report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance (circulated)
- 8.5 Social Work Complaints Review Committee:

- 8.5.1 27 June 2013 – (a) report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee, and (b) report by the Chief Social Worker (both circulated)
- 8.5.2 7 August 2013 – report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (circulated)
- 8.5.3 14 August 2013 – report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (circulated)

9. Motions

9.1 2015 Examination Diet – Motion by Allan Crosbie

“The Committee notes that, for the 2015 examination diet, the Scottish Qualifications Authority will set examination papers for both the ‘old’ Highers and the New Qualification Highers, and instructs officers to investigate and report, at the meeting in December 2013 of the Education, Children and Families Committee, on:

1. concerns, if any, that different Secondary School subject departments may have regarding the implementation of the new Higher courses which are due to start in June 2014;
2. a full range of possible solutions to meet those concerns;
3. recommendations to ensure S5 and S6 pupils in Edinburgh have the best range of options across all subjects in session 2014-15.”

9.2 Sciennes Primary School Playground – Motion by Councillor Burgess

“Committee;

Welcomes the work by Sciennes Primary Playground Group, including parents and teachers, to improve the school playground;

Notes that the existing playground provides 2.9 square metres for each child, compared to education guidelines recommending 7 square metres;

Notes that the Sciennes Playground Group have explored a range of options and have concluded that extending the playground into the roadway in front of the school is likely to be the most achievable option;

Notes that CEC Transport have advised: that in principle they could consider this use of the roadway subject to approval of a design, that traffic surveys would have to be undertaken and a Stopping Up or Redetermination Order for the road would need to be secured;

Therefore calls for a report on increasing the size of the school playground, and in particular using the road space in front of the school, and what steps would be necessary to achieve this.”

(Note: Councillor Burgess is invited for the above motion)

9.3 Childrens Eye Tests – Motion by Councillor Main

“This committee notes that:

The Scottish Government’s Working Group on Childrens’ Services stated ‘Vision is required to access information, to interact socially and to move around. Impaired vision in childhood can limit development in each of these areas, and can lead to long term educational and social disadvantage unless appropriate provisions are made from an early age.’

Children’s eyes should be tested at various points in their development, including before they start school.

Although the NHS recommends that adults and children should have their eyes tested every 2 years, parents and carers are often unaware that their children should have full eye tests.

Children very often learn to compensate for and disguise sight problems from their peers and adults, which can make detection of easily corrected problems difficult.. Problems with sight are often not picked up until and unless a child becomes disruptive in class, and other agencies are involved.

The NHS 27 month check of all children, which included an eye test, was abolished in 2005 and a new test 30 Month child test was reinstated earlier in 2013 but does not include a full eye test.

Notes that Early Years Department and the NHS work together to ensure that preschool children across are invited for a test prior to starting school.

And agrees that a report be brought to the committee, within 2 cycles;

outlining the current situation for Edinburgh’s school children, including when children have had and will receive eye tests and whether there are any children who have not had full eye tests prior to starting school

making recommendations necessary to ensure that parents are aware what eye tests a child should have and that they are free at the point of delivery and to ensure that all Edinburgh’s children receive preschool and bi-annual eye tests.”

Carol Campbell

Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance

Committee Members

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Austin Hart, Brock, Child, Nick Cook, Corbett, Day, Dixon, Howat, Jackson, Key, Lewis, Lunn, Main, Milligan, Redpath, Rust, Burns (ex-officio) and Cardownie (ex-officio).

For Education items – Marie Allan, Rev Thomas Coupar, Allan Crosbie and Craig Duncan, Lindsay Law and John Swinburne.

Information about the Education, Children and Families Committee

The Education, Children and Families Committee consists of 22 Councillors, 3 religious representatives, 2 teacher representatives and 1 parent representative and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Education, Children and Families Committee usually meets every eight weeks.

The Education, Children and Families Committee usually meets in the European Room in the City Chambers on the High Street in Edinburgh. There is a seated public gallery and the meeting is open to all members of the public.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Morris Smith or Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ, Tel 0131 529 4227/ 0131 529 4283, e-mail morris.smith@edinburgh.gov.uk / veronica.macmillan@edinburgh.gov.uk

A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol.