

## 6.1 Business bulletin

### **Education, Children and Families Committee**

**10am, Tuesday, 10 December 2013**

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

# Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Paul Godzik</p> 	<p>Cllr Paul Godzik (Convener) Cllr Cathy Fullerton (Vice-Convener) Cllr Elaine Aitken Cllr Robert Aldridge Cllr Norma Austin Hart Cllr Deidre Brock Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Nick Cook Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Cammy Day Cllr Denis Dixon Cllr Sandy Howat Cllr Allan Jackson Cllr David Key Cllr Richard Lewis Cllr Alex Lunn Cllr Melanie Main Cllr Eric Milligan Cllr Vicki Redpath Cllr Jason Rust Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) Cllr Steve Cardownie (ex officio) For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative) Allan Crosbie (teacher representative) Craig Duncan (religious representative) Lindsay Law (parent representative) John Swinburne (teacher representative)</p>	<p>Morris.Smith Senior Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227</p> <p>John Heywood Departmental Assistant to the Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>
<p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 		

## Recent news

### [Local authority is Scotland's best public sector employer](#)

The City of Edinburgh Council has been named Scotland's first Public Sector Employer of the Year.

The Council's determination to provide positive outcomes for the capital's young people has resulted in the Edinburgh Guarantee, a city wide initiative, which offers the opportunity of a positive workplace destination to the city's school leavers and young people.

The Modern Apprenticeship model allows the Council and partners to recruit school leavers and offers strong vocational training with industry recognised qualifications.

The Council's apprenticeship programme is also about developing a workforce for the future to ensure the citizens of Edinburgh receive the services they need. A further benefit is that Modern Apprentices bring with them energy and new ways of thinking.

Council apprentices work in business administration, construction, customer services, horticulture, engineering, arboriculture, creative industries and youth work.

### **Staff Award success for Children and Families**

Well done to all the finalists of the Staff Awards ceremony at the Assembly Rooms. We were proud to see a range of Children and Families staff, establishments and projects represented.

Congratulations to:

- The Customer First individual winner Douglas Bishop, a CLD worker supporting students of English for speakers of other languages.
- Our Disabilities Consultation Team, who won Customer First Team award for their work consulting children with disabilities and their families. Read more about this in the previous blog post "[From teleporters to tenders](#)".
- Oaklands School, who scooped the Leader's

## Background

More information is available at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/newsblog/post/743/local-authority-is-scotland's-best-public-sector-employer>

More information is available from Gillian Hunt on 469 3072 or [gillian.hunt@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.hunt@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Award for their work supporting children with complex disabilities to become more independent.

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### **Gold Award for Portobello Park consultation**

Our Portobello Project Team has won a Gold Award at the [Chartered Institute of Public Relations Scottish Awards](#) for its work on the Portobello Park Private Bill Consultation programme. The same project also won Gold at the LG Comms Awards earlier this year.

The [consultation programme](#), which took place in December 2012 and January 2013, was developed to establish the extent to which there was community support for the proposal to change the use of Portobello Park to being the site for a new Portobello High School. Private Bills can only proceed in the Scottish Parliament if the promoter (in this case the Council) can demonstrate that they have listened to the views of the local community.

The consultation programme, which included public meetings and roadshows at venues across Portobello, saw one of the highest responses ever received for a Council consultation. Over 12,000 people responded – either through an online or printed questionnaire, by e-mail or in writing – and 70% of the valid responses received supported the proposed Private Bill. This figure rose to 76% within the Portobello area. In achieving these figures the Council was able to demonstrate that there was clear public support for the Private Bill.

The consultation programme was developed by Joyce Nisbet and Tina Sutherland in Communications. Design support came from David Walker and wider project support from colleagues across the Council led by Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources in Children and Families).

### **Images of new primary school accommodation revealed**

We unveiled designs for new build accommodation which may be needed at five primary schools across the city as it responds to the issue of rising primary school rolls.

More information is available from Tina Sutherland on 529 4214 or [tina.sutherland@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:tina.sutherland@edinburgh.gov.uk) or Joyce Nisbet on 469 3134 or [joyce.nisbet@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:joyce.nisbet@edinburgh.gov.uk)

More information is available from Billy MacIntyre on 469 3366 or [billy.macintyre@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:billy.macintyre@edinburgh.gov.uk)

In total 17 new classrooms and an extra five general purpose spaces are being considered for a number of primary schools across the capital at which additional accommodation may be required for the start of the 2014/15 school year. This is in addition to the 23 new classrooms that were opened in August.

The schools that are in line for the new build accommodation are: Broughton Primary School, Craighour Park Primary School, Liberton Primary School, St David's RC Primary School and Victoria Primary School. In addition, plans are being developed to create extra space at Balgreen Primary School, Flora Stevenson's Primary School, Fox Covert Primary School and Stockbridge Primary School in either August 2014 or future years should that be required.

The plans for both Craighour Park Primary School and St David's RC Primary School also include provision for further additional accommodation to be delivered in future years should that be required.

### **Inspectorate visits Residential Units**

The Care Inspectorate recently visited and inspected Moredun Young People's Centre, Northfield Young People's Centre and Edinburgh Families Project and assessed each as improving the level of care and support to some of the most vulnerable young people within our society.

These inspections are unannounced so it is a credit to the staff teams and managers that the grades and positive comments received are of an improving and high standard. Northfield Young People's Centre achieved grades of Excellent and Very Good across all themes inspected.

These services work with young people with high levels of need so it is pleasing to know all the hard work, planning and multi agency working to improve the lives of these young people is recognised. Keeping young people safe and allowing young people to participate in how each service is run were positive statements in each report.

### **Official opening of Seaview**

More information is available from Alistair Gaw on 469 3388 or [alistair.gaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.gaw@edinburgh.gov.uk)

The new £2.4m Seaview Centre was officially opened on 10 October. This facility can accommodate up to 60 children and young people aged between five and seventeen with a range of disabilities and additional support needs to provide regular short breaks full of activities. Also based at Seaview is Family Focus which provides outreach support and respite to children and young people from birth to 16 years who have disabilities and complex care needs in their own home and in the community.

We adopted a unique approach to designing the new centre by involving staff and young people from the very start of the process, inviting them to take part in consultations where they were asked what they would like to see in their new centre. The children's ideas ranged from floating lights in the dining room to a wheelchair swing and tree house in the garden, all of which have been included in the final building. Features requested by staff, such as improved access and plenty of space for wheelchairs and hoists have also been incorporated. All built on one level, the new centre boasts colourful, fun decor, living and sleeping areas as well as a sunny, safe, fun outdoor space with something for all ages and abilities.

### **Children and Families' Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) Annual Report 2012/2013**

During 2012/2013, the Children and Families Advice and Conciliation Service (Education) worked within the protocol of Early Resolution; Stage 1 investigation of complaints, Stage 2, the Director's Review and then Stage 3, possible referral to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

During 2012/13:

- 324 issues were dealt with by the service at the Early Resolution stage using conciliatory approaches.
- 30 complaints were investigated at formal Stage 1.
- 4 complaints were investigated at Stage 2. Two were partially upheld, one was not upheld and one is ongoing.
- From these 4 complaints, 3 were referred to the

More information about the Seaview service is available from Alistair Gaw (details above). More information about the design process is available from Billy MacIntyre (details also above).

More information is available from [Education: Advice and Complaints](#)

## Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

From 25 March 2013, the complaint procedure across the Council will be simplified as follows:

- 'On the spot' issues addressed- not recorded.
- Informal – Stage 1: Frontline Resolution: (in schools, department teams, Early Years and Community Learning and Development (CLD) Centres, and the Advice and Conciliation Helpline); to be recorded.
- Formal - Stage 2: Formal Investigation of complaints and management action to be taken from the recommendations from the outcomes of upheld and partially upheld formal complaints by Investigating Officers, nominated by the Head of Service; to be recorded.
- Formal - Stage 3: Referral to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The 2013 Children and Families Achievement Awards ceremony was held at the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday 27 November, hosted jointly by Councillor Paul Godzik, Education Convener and TV presenter Grant Lauchlan.

Awards were made under the following categories: Working Effectively with Others; Improving Literacy Outcomes; Participation and Engagement; Getting it Right for Every Child; Making the Difference (Team); Making the Difference (Individual); Innovating, Creating, Inspiring; The Director's Award for Outstanding Achievement; The Convener's Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Cllr Godzik said: "I am incredibly impressed by the high standard of entries to this year's awards and it was a privilege to be able to reward projects making such an impact on their local community.

"It is particularly important to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of those helping improve the lives of young people in Edinburgh – all those nominated deserve a huge well done for their commitment to

Further information about all the winners and nominees is available at

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/newsblog/post/757/education-convener-congratulates-children-and-families-award-winners>

making the city a better place for everyone."  
Among the winners was Andy Jeffries, Service Manager for Children's Practice Teams, who received the Director's Award for Outstanding Achievement, and CLD West Edinburgh for their Rwanda Youth Exchange project, which won the Convener's Award for Outstanding Achievement.

### **Forthcoming activities:**

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2013 saw a total of 16 Children and Families briefings and visits for elected members. All of these were well attended, and the feedback has invariably been that they were informative and worthwhile. A new programme will be prepared for 2014 and could include:

- Social Work Services for Children with Disabilities
- Children with Additional Support Needs/Getting It Right for Every Child
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Schools Performance and Improvement
- ICT and Teaching and Learning
- Schools Building programme
- Attendance and Exclusion Support for Children with Behavioural Needs
- Community Services/CLD, Arts, Music
- Looked After and Accommodated Children
- Special Schools
- Social Media