

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 10 December 2013

## Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families - Appointments

Item number	7.13
Report number	
Wards	City Wide

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P5</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO1, CO2, CO4</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO3</a>

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# Executive summary

## Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families - Appointments

### Summary

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The Council on 24 October 2013 considered a number of options to revise the Council's current political management arrangements.

The Council agreed, amongst other things, to reduce the number of Sub-Committees on Standards for Children and Families from the five at present to one, which would meet four times a year.

This report invites the Committee to appoint the Convener and members of the Sub-Committee and approve the Sub-Committee's remit.

### Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

1. Appoints the eight members of the Sub-Committee on a political balance of 3 Labour, 2 SNP, 2 Conservative, 1 Green
2. Appoints one of the Committee's religious representatives to the Sub-Committee.
3. Appoints a Convener of the Sub-Committee.
4. Approves the remit for the Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
5. Notes that the Sub-Committee will meet four times a year.

### Measures of success

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The work of the Sub-Committee will help support the achievement of Children and Families' strategic outcomes and the Capital Coalition pledges.

### Financial impact

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There are no direct financial impacts as a result of this report.

### Equalities impact

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There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of this report.

## **Sustainability impact**

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There are no direct sustainability impacts as a result of this report.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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Research was undertaken as part of the review of the political management arrangements, with feedback from public focus groups, individual interviews and an online survey for elected members.

## **Background reading / external references**

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[Item 8.3 - Review of Political Management Arrangements - City of Edinburgh Council  
24 October 2013](#)

## Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families - Appointments

### 1. Background

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- 1.1 On 24 October 2013, the Council considered a report on an overview of the research and consultation outcomes along with options to revise the current political management arrangements.
- 1.2 The agreed approach involved consultation with the public, elected members and senior officers and focused on the following areas:
  - 1.2.1 effectiveness of the political management arrangements with particular emphasis on committee structures, remits, policy, scrutiny, public engagement and business processes;
  - 1.2.2 public awareness and understanding of the Council's decision making processes; and
  - 1.2.3 developments in the public sector environment.

### 2. Main report

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- 2.1 There are currently five Sub-Committees on Standards for Children and Families covering a range of geographical areas across the city (East, North, South, South West and West).
- 2.2 The Sub-Committees provide oversight of the quality of education and experiences for young people through the scrutiny of reports and follow up actions. Heads of establishments and parent representatives are invited to attend the meetings to discuss quality improvement and assurance, attainment and achievement, and to celebrate success.
- 2.3 Since the appointment of the current five Sub-Committees in 2007, the volume of business considered has greatly reduced. As a result, meetings of the current Sub-Committees are often cancelled due to a lack of business.
- 2.4 The Council on 24 October 2013, agreed to reduce the number of Sub-Committees from the present five to one, which would meet four times a year.

- 2.5 The Council agreed that the Sub-Committee would be made up of:
- 2.5.1 eight elected members with the following political balance:
- a) 3 Labour;
  - b) 2 SNP;
  - c) 2 Conservative; and
  - d) 1 Green; and
- 2.5.2 1 religious representative.
- 2.6 To ensure local knowledge is not lost, ward councillors will be invited to attend when reports on schools in their constituency are considered.
- 2.7 The draft remit of the Sub-Committee, as detailed at Appendix1, has been amended to take account of the cessation of local authority reviews of voluntary organisations and to streamline reporting of Care Commission information.

### 3. Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- 3.1 Appoints the eight members of the Sub-Committee on a political balance of 3 Labour, 2 SNP, 2 Conservative, 1 Green
- 3.2 Appoints one of the Committee's religious representatives to the Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 Appoints a Convener of the Sub-Committee.
- 3.4 Approves the remit for the Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.5 Notes that the Sub-Committee will meet four times a year.

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### 4. Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P5 – Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum.
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed.

CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities.

CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy.

**Single Outcome Agreement Appendices**

SO3 – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.

Appendix 1 – Remit of the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families.

**Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families**

**Remit**

Power is delegated to the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families to:

- 1 Provide oversight of the quality of education and care experiences for young people in the City of Edinburgh by scrutinising the reports and follow up actions of Education Scotland inspections in schools.
- 2 Consider an annual report on Care Inspectorate inspections in early years provision.
- 3 Consider individual reports on Care Inspectorate inspections in residential schools, care services for children and local authority reviews of service areas, establishments and units.
- 4 Monitor the implementation of initiatives relating to quality improvement and assurance, and attainment and achievement.
- 5 Maintain an overview of the implementation of national and local policies specifically related to quality standards by officers, establishments and services.
- 6 Contribute to the support and challenge agenda within the context of establishment plans.
- 7 Celebrate the success of establishments, units, teams and the service including recognising items of good practice.