

6.1 Business bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 20 May 2014

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 Melanie Main Cllr Eric Milligan Cllr Vicki Redpath Cllr Keith Robson 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>Maria Lloyd Departmental Assistant to the Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>
<p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 		

Ongoing development of the Family Nurse Partnership programme

The Family Nurse Partnership programme continues to expand across NHS Lothian. There are now two teams, comprising of 16 nurses and 3 supervisors delivering the service within Edinburgh City, West Lothian and Midlothian postcodes. This means that the service is currently working with 300 young women. A third team of 8 family nurses and 1 supervisor has just been appointed and they will come into post in June 2014 and commence recruitment to a fourth cohort of clients on the 1st August 2014. This will increase capacity to reach an additional 200 clients. The service will be offered continuously to all clients in Edinburgh City with full expansion of the service across Lothian anticipated by 2018.

Children's eye tests

Committee requested that the Director of Children and Families explore how to increase the uptake of children's eye tests, and to highlight this with NHS Lothian. The orthoptic service have an uptake percentage for Lothian of 83% for 2013/14 which is 7,690 tests. The intention is to break down the figures by local authority but this is not currently available.

All children in nurseries including private nursery are offered a 'full orthoptic screen' and follow up pathways are in place for those who do not attend, as of August 2013. Any children who have not been identified prior to school entry will be picked up as part of the regular Primary 1 School Health screening programme.

Thereafter, if children continue not to attend for vision testing in schools (DNA), or are missed when the scheduled school visit occurs, then the school nurse will follow up using the Community Child Health recall system and/or advise parents to take their child along to an Optician for a check.

If teaching staff are concerned they can refer directly to the school nursing service, using the NHSL school referral form which is freely accessible and available to all schools and has been in use for many years.

As part of the Early Years Collaborative in Edinburgh consideration is being given to how we can improve 'orthoptic uptake' in nurseries working with the orthoptic team and school nursing.

A robust health visiting, school nursing transition pathway

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and effective early intervention activities are crucial to identifying children and young people in need of early support and timely referral to specialist services. The development of a 'pathway of transition' that quickly and reliably identifies vulnerable children (due to start school) and their families is essential.

In order to develop and improve the school nursing approach to early assessment, prior to and at the point of entry to school and thereafter, it is essential that we remain consistent in our method so that we can build on early holistic assessments allowing for a more robust appraisal of children's needs throughout their school career.

Progress on mainstreaming “Getting it right for every child”

The Getting it right approach is now increasingly embedded across all City Edinburgh schools. Multi agency training organised through consultation with the Children Services Management group is being consistently delivered within the cluster areas contributing to the improved partnership working as mentioned in the joint inspection of Children's services in April 2013. Improved consistent and aligned planning processes are now being implemented within Schools, Social Work practice teams, the NHS, Voluntary Sector organisations and the Police and work to support this is ongoing through multi-agency training and on-the-job support.

Edinburgh continues to contribute extensively to the Lothian and Borders Getting it Right Steering Group which also advises and supports the National Implementation Group within the Scottish Government. This work will continue to be important to take forward the requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Edinburgh's approach has been to see Getting it right for every Child as “core business” and we will continue to take this forward through the development of Integrated Children's Services over the coming months.

Corporate Parenting - Policy Development and Review Sub Committee – 3rd April

The Sub-Committee heard presentations from Colin Brough (a Council Foster Carer) on recruitment and retention of foster carers, Dana Lock (Team Leader, Kinship Care Team Support Team) on kinship care and Steve Hart (Team Manager, Young People's Service) on alternatives to secure accommodation. This was a valuable discussion and highlighted actions for each area and to improve our corporate parenting.

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Special Schools and Partnership working

A partnership with Edinburgh University and Education Scotland has developed over the last few years to strengthen self-evaluation in special schools. A recent report praised the work of Edinburgh's special school sector.

“The introduction of this standardised framework across the special school sector represents a radical approach and leads the way for Scotland in terms of responding to the need to provide an overview of learner progress”.

Dr Gillean McCluskey, University of Edinburgh, February 2014

Edinburgh Learning Festival (ELF)

This year's Festival on the 25 April had had a two Keynote Speakers: from Professor Michael Fullan who spoke about 'Leadership; Maximising Impact' and Professor Steve Moyneux, who explored the endless possibilities of 'Inspiring Learners' and the use of technology in Education. There was also an Education Village with nearly 30 stands to demonstrate the good practice across Children and Families.

Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC) Conference

The 65th annual conference in March 2014 entitled 'Parents Working Together' offered both parents and professionals an opportunity to hear first-hand from parents about exciting projects they have led in their schools. Gillian Tee, Director presented "Working in partnership with parents to improve the lives of children in Edinburgh".

Modern Foreign Languages - Edinburgh's "Sector Leading" Model

At a recent Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES) event, the Edinburgh approach to taking forward the national policy for languages was described as "sector leading" with successful pilots that include extensive, high quality on-line resources for teachers across the whole range of languages taught locally - from Mandarin to Gaelic.

Rising Rolls - Parliamentary Briefing

Regular briefings are organised to provide the opportunity for us to update MSPs on key issues. Councillor Andrew Burns, Leader of the Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Sue Bruce, Chief Executive, provided an

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update on developments in Edinburgh. Karen Prophet, Senior Education Manager, provided a comprehensive overview on the New Qualifications in Secondary Schools. This was followed by an informative briefing on Rising School Rolls and Strategic Management of School Places by Crawford McGhie, Asset Planning Manager and Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager. Both of these presentations were appreciated by those attending.

Scottish Government PE target met

The PE audit from February 2014 carried out in schools shows yet further improvement in meeting our targets for the Scottish Government. The target set is for 2 hours of quality PE for all P1 to S4 pupils. Currently 95 Percent of Primary schools are achieving this target and 96% of Secondary schools. Our Special schools are also doing well with 92% meeting the PE target. This has improved from 2010/11 results that were had Primary achieving 62% achieving and Secondary 39% and just over 57% in our Special schools. We are continuing to work with schools to help us move towards increasing the percentage even more.

Achievement Awards

Children and Families Achievement Awards call for applications has been launched. Judging will take place on 15 August. The Award ceremony will take place on 11 September 2014 in the Assembly Rooms hosted by Grant Stott.

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More information is available from Gillian Hunt on 469 3072 or gillian.hunt@edinburgh.gov.uk

Forthcoming activities:

Arrangements for the neighbourhood briefings are being finalised to take place before the end of the summer. Details will be circulated shortly.

Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee on 16 June 2014 will cover the following topics: Estate strategy and rising rolls; Improving community access to schools and Grants to third parties.