

Item 4.1 - Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee

2.00 pm, Monday, 16 June 2014

Present

Councillors Fullerton (Convener), Aitken, Austin Hart, Brock, Child, Dixon, Godzik, Howat, Jackson, Key, Lewis, Main and Redpath.

Added Members for Education items

Craig Duncan.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of 3 April 2014 as a correct record.

2. Payments to Third Parties

Ricky Dover (Principal Officer, Commissioned Services) and Lynne Porteous (Acting Head of Planning and Performance) provided a presentation outlining changes to the remit of the Education, Children and Families Committee with regard to the awarding of third party grants. The following was highlighted:

- Responsibility for developing future grant programmes and making grant awards had been transferred to Executive Committees.
- This would allow for closer scrutiny and oversight by elected members and better alignment with Council priorities and pledges.
- There was a desire to move to three year funding agreements.
- The existing arrangements would end in 2015/16 and a new grants programme would be established and operational by April 2016.

In order to move things forward, it was recommended that the Sub-Committee establish an elected member working group.

Decision

- 1) To thank the officers for the presentation
- 2) To agree to appoint a Short Life Working Group to look at Payments to Third Parties in more detail, and to appoint Councillor Fullerton as Convener
- 3) To agree that the political balance of the Working Group should be 8 Members (2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 Religious, Teacher or Parent Representative), and that substitutes would be permitted.
- 4) To request the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance to make appropriate arrangements to seek nominations for the remaining vacancies from the political groups and religious, teacher and parent representatives.
- 5) To ask the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, in consultation with the Convener and lead officer, to arrange a programme of meeting dates and to notify the members accordingly.
- 6) To agree that a remit for the Working Group be submitted to the first meeting for approval.

(Reference – presentation by the Director of Children and Families.)

3. Neighbourhood Working

The Sub-Committee heard a presentation from Sean Bell (Children and Families Practice Team Manager) outlining examples of good practice in developing joined up services at local neighbourhood level, including the innovative practices developed in the Total Craigroyston Neighbourhood Model.

Sheila Paton (Headteacher, Wester Hailes Education Centre) addressed the Sub-Committee on a partnership working pilot in Wester Hailes which was based on a local initiative.

Following the presentations, the Sub-Committee split into discussion groups and considered the following questions:

Q1. What are the advantages and disadvantages from your point of view of developing a local approach?

Q2. How could building a more local approach as described strengthen the neighbourhood partnerships and vice-versa?

Feedback from the discussion groups

Question 1 (What are the advantages and disadvantages from your point of view of developing a local approach?)

Advantages

- The neighbourhood delivery model encourages a more consistent approach.
- Local approaches are person centred and make use of local intelligence.
- A local approach allows for better joined up services and a more direct method of communicating.
- Local approaches to services focus on outcomes and respond to local need.
- A neighbourhood approach helps build good relationships with communities.
- Local services are often quicker to respond than centralised ones.

Disadvantages

- A neighbourhood focus may lead to a loss of consistency across the city with different levels and quality of resources provided.
- It can make the process of sharing good practice across the city more difficult.
- Once individuals pass 16 years of age, it's not clear who provides support. So this would need to be taken into account.
- If a family moves to another area, it can be difficult to maintain the same level of support that they had before. It is therefore necessary to also have a strategic approach to support the neighbourhood model.

Question 2 (How could building a more local approach as described strengthen the neighbourhood partnerships and vice-versa?)

- By ensuring that the correct people can meet to share ideas and best practice.
- By enabling the provision of the correct data and information for the area.
- By ensuring that the partnership groups meet local needs and the membership of those groups are truly representative of the community.
- By ensuring that youth services and the voices of young people are represented across the partnerships.

- By providing an opportunity to link learning communities to the partnerships that include recent positive inspections.

Decision

To thank Sean Bell and Sheila Paton for their presentation and the officers and members for their input into the discussions.

(Reference – presentation by the Director of Children and Families.)