

# Item 4.2 - Minutes

## Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 11 September 2014

### Present

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Brock, Child, Bill Cook (substituting for Councillor Day), Nick Cook, Corbett, Dixon, Howat, Jackson, Keil (substituting for Councillor Austin Hart), Lewis, Lunn (substituting for Councillor Key), Main, Milligan, Redpath, Robson and Rust.

### Added members for Education items

Marie Allan, Allan Crosbie, Craig Duncan, Lindsay Law and John Swinburne.

## 1. Minute

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 20 May 2014 as a correct record.

## 2. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan –December to March 2015 2014

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The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period December 2014 to March 2015 was presented.

### Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2014 to March 2015.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## 3. Rolling Actions Log

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As part of a review of the Council's political management arrangements, the Council had approved a number of revisions to committee business processes including that Executive Committees introduce a rolling actions log to track committee business.

The Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log for 11 September 2014 was presented.

## **Decision**

To note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Rolling Actions Log – 11 September 2014, submitted.)

## **4. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin**

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The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for 11 September 2014 was presented.

### **Decision**

To note the Business Bulletin.

(References – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **5. Improving Positive Destinations**

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An update was provided on strategies and progress towards improving school leaver destinations based on the follow up census data undertaken by Skills Development Scotland in March 2014. The follow up data showed 91% of young people were in a positive destination compared with 89.8% the previous year; an increase of 1.2%. Edinburgh's figures were 1% above the national average.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report, the improvement and trends in positive destinations.
- 2) To note progress of strategies in school and post school.
- 3) To agree to receive a further report in September 2015 after the follow up census which provides an indication of sustained destinations.
- 4) To congratulate officers across the council for their hard work and success in significantly improving Edinburgh's performance in this area.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **6. Early Years Capital Investment**

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The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the requirement to expand free nursery provision from 475 to 600 hour a years for all three and four year olds and for certain two year olds.

Approval was sought to utilise part of the additional capital funding allocated by the Scottish Government to progress priority projects involving the replacement and/or expansion of early years provision at five key locations across the city.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the content of the Director's report.
- 2) To approve the proposed projects identified in the Director's report to replace and/or expand early years facilities at the following locations with the costs being met from the additional capital funding provided by the Scottish Government:
  - Longstone Primary School
  - Granton Early Years Centre
  - Davidson's Mains Primary School
  - Corstorphine Primary School
  - St John's RC Primary School
- 3) To note that proposals regarding the use of the remaining available additional capital funding, together with any further funding which may be provided, will be reported to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee for consideration.
- 4) To note that further discussions would take place with the Stepping Stones voluntary support project and local ward members on the most appropriate location for the service to be based.

(Reference –report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **7. Annual Review of Services for Children and Young People who are Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council**

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An overview was provided of service provision for children and young people looked after and accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council, including service area improvement plans for the financial year 2014/15.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the positive progress made on services for looked after and accommodated children.
- 2) To note the service strategy and improvement plans for looked after and accommodated children and young people.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Keil declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as a board member of the Dean and Cauvin Trust.

## **8. Support to Children and Young People with Disabilities: Annual Progress Report**

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In October 2013, the annual report on Social Work Services for Children with Disabilities provided an overview on performance and planning in relation to support to families who have a child with a disability. An update was provided on progress over the previous 12 months.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress made within social work services for children with disabilities.
- 2) To request a further report on progress in September 2015.
- 3) To note the progress on the expansion of School Holiday Respite Playschemes following implementation of service changes.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 October 2013 (item 14); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **9. Energy in Schools Report**

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As previously requested by the Committee an update was provided on progress against the Schools Energy Action Plan, including a high level analysis of consumption trends.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the contents of the Acting Director's report
- 2) To note progress against the agreed action plan as detailed in appendix 2 to the report and the changes/amendments to the plan.
- 3) To note that an annual report would be submitted to the committee on progress made against the agreed action plan.
- 4) To note the factors contributing to the poor operation of school heating including the current condition of school building management systems (BMS) and existing revenue strategy.
- 5) To refer the report to Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

- 6) To note that the Acting Director of Services for Communities would highlight progress against the Council's energy reduction targets in future reports.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 October 2013 (item 16); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

## 10. Free School Meals

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Details were provided of a number of practical and financial issues which had arisen as a consequence of the Scottish Government's commitment to give all primary 1 to 3 children the option of a free school meal from January 2015.

There was an immediate requirement for capital expenditure of £1,414,944 to address capacity and production issues in the school estate. While there was no capital funding available to meet these costs, it was the expectation that the Scottish Government would fully fund this expenditure.

### Motion

- 1) To note the progress made towards the implementation of the extended entitlement to free school meals which would apply from January 2015.
- 2) To note the immediate requirement for capital expenditure of £1,414,944 to address issues of capacity and production in the school estate to allow the extended free school meal policy to be implemented with effect from January 2015, and to remit this requirement to Council for approval on 25 September 2014.
- 3) To note that the detailed assessment of costs, and sources of funding, relating to the more substantive works identified as being necessary at Cramond, East Craigs, Sciennes and Towerbank Primary Schools (for which the total further capital expenditure required was estimated to be £3,257,243) would be clarified and taken to the Education, Children and Families Committee for consideration on 9 December 2014.
- 4) To note that the further report to the committee on 9 December 2014 would fully outline the interim measures for the four schools requiring substantive works.
- 5) To request an annual progress report on the School Meals service including:
  - Details of accommodation for pupils;
  - A quality assessment of the provision of school meals, including those from remote kitchens;
  - Uptake levels by year group;
  - Customer feedback (school, parent and pupil) on the school meals service and lunchtime environment; and
  - An update on the food for life project.

- Moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

### **Amendment**

- 1) Regrets that the Council has been placed in this invidious position, given meetings between Council and the Scottish Government since May 2014 and the potential significant impact on other services if funding from Scottish Government is not forthcoming. Request precise details of where within Council budgets this financial support would be coming from, in the event that Scottish Government funding does not materialise.
- 2) Given the unbudgeted capital commitment request an accurate time scale from the Scottish Government and detail of funding to meet this is requested in advance of September Full Council.
- 3) Calls for a report to be brought before the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 detailing the impact on all schools, including (a) concerns about delivering physical education requirements due to pressures, (b) impact on requirement for additional supervisory staff, (c) any staggering of school lunch breaks and (d) the displacement of those not partaking in free school meals.

- Moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Aitken

### **Voting**

For the motion – 16 votes

For the amendment – 9 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **11. Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit**

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As previously requested by the Committee an update was provided on work of the Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit, including a breakdown of participation levels of girls in sport.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the scope of work and the impact on key outcomes
- 2) To note the high level of external funding secured by the Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit.

- 3) To congratulate officers for their ongoing work and success in this area.
- 4) To note that future reports would include active Physical Education participation statistics at all school levels, including S5 and S6, and an assessment against comparator authorities.

(References –minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 5 March 2013 (item 17); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **12. International Unit – Annual Update Report**

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An update was provided on the work of the International Unit and its support in the delivery of the Curriculum of Excellence and the development of global citizens.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress of the International Unit.
- 2) To agree to receive a further progress report of the International Unit in August 2015.
- 3) To note the dissolution of the Edinburgh-Africa Educational Trust in 2012 and request that this item is removed from the Committee's Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **13. Parental Engagement**

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An update was provided on progress with the implementation of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

An overview was also provided of the Neighbourhood and City Wide Special Schools parent groups and the revamped Consultative Committee with Parents.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report.
- 2) To request a progress report on implementation in December 2015.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **14. Commissioning Plan for Children and Families 2015-2020**

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An update was provided on the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families including information on the consultation process and the development of commissioning intentions for the next 5 years.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report and the progress made in terms of the Commissioning Plan.
- 2) To agree to the ongoing commitment of the commissioning priorities identified in the Plan.
- 3) To agree to receive update reports where appropriate in terms of further commissioning developments during the period covered by the plan (2015 – 2020) e.g. Integration with Health, Self Directed Support etc.
- 4) To acknowledge the collaborative approach in the development of the plan through the extensive consultation process and the scrutiny of the Checkpoint Group made up of representatives from the Children's Partnership.
- 5) To refer the report to the Payments to Third Parties Elected Member's Working Group.

(Reference –report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **15. Integrated Children's Services**

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As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on the consultation process regarding the further development of Integrated Children's Facilities.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the feedback from the consultation process which demonstrates staff support for further integration of services.
- 2) To request that a further report be submitted to the December Committee detailing the proposal to be submitted to the Scottish Government along with details of Health and Social Care Integration within the city.
- 3) To refer the Director's report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for information.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 4 March 2014 (item 15); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **16. Children and Families Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014/15 – Month Two Position.**

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The month two revenue budget monitoring position was outlined for the Children and Families Directorate. A balanced position was projected, however, this was subject to continued ongoing management of budget pressures.



## **Decision**

- 1) To note that at month two the projected residual budget pressures to be managed for Children and Families totalled £2.0m
- 2) To note that further management action was being implemented to address the residual pressures to enable to delivery of a balanced budget.

(Reference - report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **17. Professional Review and Development Policy Statement and Guidance for Staff Registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland**

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Details were provided of the development of a scheme of professional update for teachers including a policy statement and guidance validated by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC Scotland). Professional update was based on effective, consistent professional review and development (PRD) and high quality professional learning focused on outcomes for a teacher's own development, as well as aiming to improve outcomes for children and young people.

## **Decision**

To note the revised policy statement and guidance in respect of Professional Review and Development.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **18. Carers' Champion Update – referral report from the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee**

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The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee had considered an update report on progress made by the Carers' Champion, Councillor Work. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for information.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

(Reference – minute of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 17 June 2014 (item 26); report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted.)

## **19. Social Work Complaints Review Committee – 27 August 2014**

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The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 27 August on a complaint against the Children and Families Directorate were detailed,

together with the actions taken by the Chief Social Worker in response to the decision taken by the Review Committee.

### **Decision**

To approve the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 27 August 2014 and to note the actions taken by the Chief Social Worker in response to the Review Committee's decision

(Reference – reports by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee and the Chief Social Worker, submitted)