

Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 09 December 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 Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>
<p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 		

Pride In Our People

Congratulations to all the individuals and teams from Children and Families who were shortlisted for this year's Pride in our People staff awards. The competition was very tough so it is good to see so many of our staff recognised in this way.

Our winners were:

- Team of the year - Active Schools team
- Forward thinking - Scott Dunbar and the team who developed the new Parent Contact guidelines
- Apprentice of the year - Cameron Wood
- Leader of the year - Sheila Paton, Headteacher at Westerhailes Education Centre

and congratulations to all those who were shortlisted:

- Customer first - Parental Engagement group
- Honest and transparent - Asset Planning team
- Improving value - Balance of Care Team
- Team of the year - Portobello Park Private Bill team

Scottish Learning Festival

Various areas of Children and Families were key contributors demonstrating good practice at this year's Scottish Learning Festival.

- **Greg Dimeck, Head teacher at Gracemount Primary**, presented a seminar on "*The School at the Heart of the Community*".
- **The Children and Families' Mental Health and Wellbeing Team** presented a seminar on: '*Supporting the Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools*'.
- **Pauline Walker, Head teacher at The Royal High School** presented a seminar '*Making the most of*

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the Senior Phase'.

- **Sandra Milne, Depute Head teacher Additional Support for Learning Service**, presented a seminar on '*The Fresh Start Literacy Project for Upper Primary Pupils in Edinburgh*'.
- **Portobello High staff and pupils** presented on the year-long inter-disciplinary project we have been engaged in, entitled '*The School that went to War*'. They presented alongside colleagues from Radio Scotland who have shadowed their work and have developed and broadcast a five part radio documentary on the project.
- Two very interesting initiatives were also promoted at the Edinburgh stand. These were Craigour Park's Electronic Learning Journals and Currie Community High School's Learner Led Learning Rounds.

[Scottish Learning Festival 2014](#)

Child Protection

In the recent national report which includes Child Services Inspections. Edinburgh is third in the league table and has three areas identified as good practice including the Speak Up Speak Out campaign to raise public awareness, the Keeping it safe booklets designed by children in Edinburgh with experience of child protection process and also the E-IRD a tripartite process for responding to, and managing all child and adult protection concerns.

[Child Protection](#)

Improving school websites

We are supporting our schools to improve their websites. We have audited our schools websites and are providing them with feedback. We have also provided an easy-to-follow, comprehensive school website guide and template.

Throughcare/Aftercare Young People's Conference

This was the 2nd Annual conference for care leavers. The focus was to recognise young people's

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achievements and was an opportunity to network with agencies across Edinburgh.

The conference attracted around 150 people including over 50 care leavers.

The Drop In

'The Drop In' is a new city-wide fun packed activity for families with a child/young person aged 0 - 18 years old with a disability and their siblings. It takes place in 4 local community centres across Edinburgh every Saturday for 2 hours from the 18th October 2014. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet each other and to chat over a cup of tea or coffee whilst their children take part in activities run by experienced youth workers from FABB Scotland and CEC. Venues: Jack Kane; Northfield and Willowbrae; Carrickvale; Royston Wardieburn. This will be a huge support to families.

Update on Online School Payments Pilot

The focus of the project is to put in place an on line payments system for an extensive range of activities including meals, milk, trips, events, fundraisers, sports coaching; an integrated communications system; and an integrated back office school fund management system.

The initial pilot in 5 of our schools – Sciennes, Currie, and Craigoyston Primaries and Firhill and Balerno High schools has been evaluated. The pilot suggested wide support for online payments, together with valuable feedback on how the system could be improved.

During 2014 Edinburgh has been closely involved in a national procurement process for online school payments, led by the Improvement Service/Scotland Excel. This work is now complete and a national framework agreement has been set up with three suppliers.

The initial next step (on the assumption that the Council framework is adopted) will be to evaluate each supplier and determine which supplier best meets Edinburgh's user needs. Price and affordability will also be critical in this assessment. Subject to this it

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would be anticipated that the roll out would take place in 2015/16.

Parent Contact Guidance Launch

On 26 August 2014 Edinburgh launched its Parent Contact Guidance. It explores the range of issues that need to be considered when making decisions about contact with children separated from their birth family; and emphasises the child's best interest as paramount, not only their short term safety and security, but also their long term well-being and identity. It encourages children and young people to be as involved in these discussions as possible and provides tools to enable them to inform and influence decisions about contact as they are growing up.

Psychology of Parenting Project

We are delighted that Edinburgh has been selected as a site for the national rollout of the Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP).

PoPP is aimed at improving the availability of high-quality evidence-based parenting programmes for families with young children (3/4 year olds) who have elevated levels of behaviour problems.

Effective interventions are needed for these children because nationally approximately 10% of preschool children display atypical and persisting high levels of behaviour problems (aggression, noncompliance and poor temper control) that are strongly predictive of a host of poor outcomes such as school exclusion, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse and mental health difficulties later in life.

Every Family's Right Conference

This conference took place here in Edinburgh last month with over 100 people in attendance. The programme was introduced by the Council Leader Andrew Burns and Aileen Campbell the Minister for Children and Young People. The event promoted Family Group Conferencing as a way of building on families' strengths when making decisions about care arrangements for children. The conference attracted

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national and international interest and was attended by colleagues working with adults as well as children. Feedback from the conference has been very positive.

October In-service Training in Secondary Schools

For the third year running Children and Families Quality Improvement Officers delivered training in all the curricular areas. This is in response to the needs of teachers in helping implement the new qualifications.

Vision for Schools

The Vision for Schools was approved in October 2013. A review of our progress in implementing the vision is underway and will be reported back to Committee in March 2015.

[Vision for schools report](#)

Long Service Award

This award is given to recognise colleagues from a range of services who have 25 years continuous service with the Council. This year 67 members of staff received 25 year long service awards and, for the first time, 108 staff were recognised for 35 years service!

Development of Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plans – Community Engagement

- 1.1 On 23 September 2014 the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered a report providing details of engagement activity involving the communities of Edinburgh to inform development of new local community plans for 2014-2017.
- 1.2 The local community plans set out the ambitions for each neighbourhood, identifying outcomes, measures and multi-agency action needed to make change happen.
- 1.3 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed:

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[Development of neighbourhood partnership local community plans](#)

- 1.3.1 To note the engagement activity of Neighbourhood Partnerships in developing new local community plans for 2014-2017.
- 1.3.2 To agree to receive further reports on the Neighbourhood Partnership local community plans and the new public performance framework at the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 25 November 2014.
- 1.3.3 To refer the report to other Executive Committees of the Council for information.