

Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 03 March 2015

Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Paul Godzik</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</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>

Recent news

Food for Life Catering Mark Bronze award in ALL Edinburgh Schools

The Soil Association's Food for Life Catering Mark Bronze award offers an independent guarantee of fresher, more seasonal menus which are free from trans-fats and better for animal welfare. The standards underpinning the award relate to some of Scotland's most pressing food issues including health and wellbeing, the economy and the environment.

School catering services across all of Edinburgh's council-run schools have been working to achieve the Food for Life Bronze Catering Mark award. This achievement is imminent in which will be a Scottish first – no other Local Authority in Scotland has achieved the Catering Mark across all primary and secondary schools. Edinburgh is also achieving the award in special schools.

In addition to the Catering Mark award, a growing number of Edinburgh schools are involved in the [Food for Life Scotland education framework](#) helping to promote a whole-school approach, connecting the food served in schools with food-related learning in classrooms. This will help Edinburgh's young people better understand the impact food has on our health, economy and environment.

Education Scotland recent reports

Three recent inspections have been published. They are [Sighthill Primary School](#), [Kirkliston Primary School](#) and [Craigroyston Community High School](#). These were all positive reports with Kirkliston receiving an excellent grade in '*Improvements through Self-Evaluation*'. The nursery also received an excellent grade for '*meeting learners' needs*'. Craigroyston Community High School received a 'very good' for *Curriculum* with very positive comments about the way the school has developed a curriculum which meets the needs of all young people and prepares them well for leaving school. The school was recently visited by Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary because of the nationally recognised good practice in the school.

These reports will all be scrutinised at the next Sub

Background

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Committee for Standards on 3 March 2015.

Education Scotland Feedback about Education Services in Edinburgh

Education Scotland's Annual Report on Education Services in Edinburgh was very positive.

It commended:

- Effective political and managerial leadership
- The clear vision and priorities for education services
- Effective leadership and implementation of Curriculum for Excellence
- Improvements in attainment and positive destinations
- The welcome decision to protect education from budget cuts
- Significant investment in the school estate
- Well developed literacy strategy
- Commitment to wider achievement

Areas for development were:

- Moving schools from 'good' to 'great'
- Continuing and sustaining improvements in attainment
- Performance across primary schools is still variable though there is effective support and challenge from the authority

Third Party Grants Working Group

There have been three meetings of this working group to date. The main focus so far has been on understanding the existing citywide grants and contracts and exploring ways of engaging with current and potential providers to develop the new programme. A citywide engagement event was held in December when 80 people attended a session in Nelson Hall and a further meeting is planned for 23 February 2015. The next Working Group meeting will hear about work being developed in Leith using the principles of coproduction and an online survey. We will consider themes for the new grants approach based on engagement and feedback so far and with reference to the existing agreed Commissioning Plan priorities. The event on the 23 February 2015, which will be run collaboratively by officers, third sector

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partners and elected members will provide further rich information on which to base recommendations and proposals for grant funding in 2016/17 onwards.

Community Access to Schools (CATS)

Community Access to Schools is now being managed on a neighbourhood basis through five community hubs created in Leith Academy, Forrester, Liberton, Currie and Drummond High Schools. A new online booking system has been introduced for adult education classes and this will be extended to all school lets in the future. A new consistent citywide charging structure is also being introduced.

Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

The CCwP on 4 December 2014 considered developments in Edinburgh in relation to Curriculum for Excellence and the Senior Phase. The focus is on a Senior Phase Curriculum which prepares young people for the world of work. A recent development has been the offer of HNC courses in schools in partnership with Edinburgh College. A key measure of success will be continuing to increase the number of young people who leave school into positive destinations.

Consortium arrangements across secondary schools enable young people to access the wider curriculum across the city in other schools. This is now extending beyond Higher and Advanced Higher to those pupils accessing the new qualifications including National 5.

Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager (Secondary) led a [presentation on Modern Foreign Languages](#) outlining how Edinburgh is delivering the Government Policy on 1+2 Modern Foreign Languages including a highly valued training model. This is now being rolled out across the city. The aim is to increase the number of pupils taking qualifications.

The next CCwP is scheduled for 26 February 2015 and will focus on property issues and school meals. There will be feedback from this meeting in the next Business Bulletin.

Duncan Place

Following on from Committee Report in December 2014, Officers have been continuing to engage with users and the Committee management group. A full

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report on the outcome of this engagement will come back to Committee.

Self- Directed Support

In May 2014 a report was presented to this Committee on [Progress on the Implementation of Self-directed Support in Children and Families](#).

A short video explaining the new way of delivering social support in Edinburgh can now be viewed on the City of Edinburgh Council's You Tube channel. The lively two-minute animation spells out key information on [Self-Directed Support \(SDS\)](#) - the new way for Scotland's councils to help people of all ages to live independently at home and become more involved in the community. You can [view the Council SDS video here](#). English language subtitles are in place to help people with impaired hearing. SDS gives people much more choice and control about the way they are supported than ever before. The new measures – which came into effect in April 2014 – have been described as the biggest change in local authority social care provision since the introduction of community care in the early 1990s.

Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group

The last meeting focussed on how we are going to improve the attainment of our Looked After Children and young people. This was presented by Grace Vickers (Quality Improvement Manager) who outlined the three main drivers for improvement including; high expectation that all children achieve their potential; working in partnership and effective monitoring and tracking.

The presentation concentrated on the importance of a senior phase curriculum which meets the needs of all learners in all schools and gives them opportunities and skills for work. This closely links to the Edinburgh Guarantee to ensure that all young people leave school into positive destinations.

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. This is aimed at improving the availability of high-quality evidence-based parenting

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programmes for families with young children (3/4 year olds) who have behavioural problems. Practitioners from a range of services have been identified and facilitator training for the two programmes, 'Incredible Years' and 'Triple P' is underway. You can read about this on the [Brightfutures Blog](#).

There are also specific groups planned for kinship carers and dads/ stepdads. Details of upcoming groups can be found on www.joininedinburgh.org by [following this link](#)

Making a Difference – Special Schools Joint Conference

All Special Schools in Edinburgh came together to share good practice and learn from each other at the '2015 Making a Difference' Conference on 23 January 2014. This annual conference continues to receive positive feedback from staff.

Every school offered a workshop on an area of particular expertise that they felt would benefit staff from other schools. These included:

- Redhall School – How to become a 'Rights Respecting' school.
- Rowanfield School – Relax Kids workshop to give young people strategies to better manage their emotions and behaviour.
- Gorgie Mills School – Restorative Practice – an introduction.
- Braidburn School – Confident Parenting – empowering parents of youngsters with additional support needs to confidently manage their child's needs (in collaboration with CAMHS).
- Full analysis of workshop evaluations will be available shortly but initial feedback from staff has been positive:
 - 'Great opportunity to meet and network with other staff in different schools'
 - 'Very informative and useful'
 - 'Lots of opportunities to share practice and excellent introduction into being reflective'

Good Practice in ICT shared at the Scottish Parliament

We were asked by the Scottish Government to select a school that was making excellent use of ICT. The school chosen was Tynecastle High School and pupils presented to Angela Constance (Cabinet Secretary for

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Education and Lifelong Learning) and Dr Alistair Allan (Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages) describing their use of ICT in the classroom and in a one to one situation. They attended the Scottish Parliament on 10 December 2014. This was well received and I would encourage those who can to visit Tynecastle to see the excellent practice.

Defibrillators

We are pleased to announce that in consultation with the Scottish Ambulance Service, and as part of a Council wide approach, we will now install defibrillators in all of our secondary schools. Some of these have already been provided through the generosity and fundraising efforts of parents and the wider public. The rest will be provided by the Council.

Eye Tests

Most recent figures show that for children born in Edinburgh between 1 March 2009 and 28 February 2010 – a cohort of 4760 – a total of 3750 had eye tests (78.7%). As yet the breakdown is not available to tell us which areas of the city have the lowest uptake of vision screening but we hope to have that information in relation to the results of the next cohort of testing.

The uptake for Lothian as a whole is 86.5%, with a 15% referral rate (that is the national average for orthoptic pre-school screening) and a DNA (Did Not Attend) rate of 17%. Any children not tested in pre-school would be picked up by the school nursing team and therefore we would expect the majority of children across Lothian to be seen by end of P1.

Work is to be undertaken with Child Health to explore how we can obtain uptake figures for the children seen by school nursing team in P1 and this information will be shared with us as soon as it is available.

A poster has been displayed in nurseries and a parent/carer information letter sent to heads of establishment to raise awareness of pre-school orthoptic vision tests throughout nurseries across Edinburgh. We have been asked to give extra support

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to this to maximise engagement and uptake.

Pride in our People

Congratulations to all the individuals and teams from Children and Families who were shortlisted for this year Pride in our People staff awards.

Our winners were:

- Team of the year: Active Schools team
- Forward Thinking: Scott Dunbar and the team who developed the Contact Guidelines for parents
- Apprentice of the Year: Cameron Wood
- Leader of the Year: Sheila Paton, Head Teacher Wester Hailes 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

Budget Proposals: Overview of Feedback and Engagement

The Finance and Resources Committee (03/02/15) considered a report on [Budget Proposals: Overview of Feedback and Engagement](#)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report by the Director of Corporate Governance and referred the report to all Executive Committees for information.

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