

# **Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin**

**Education, Children and Families Committee**

**10am, Tuesday, 19 May 2015**

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener</p> <p>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 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 Sandy Howat (ex officio)</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</p> <p>Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 	<p>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>	

## Business Bulletin May 2015

### Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

The last meeting was on 26 February 2015. The first presentation was on [Educational Attainment](#) which has improved year on year since 2007 and is now better than national and comparators on most measures. The presentation also described the new way of monitoring educational attainment nationally through a tool called Insight. Parents asked if they could have a copy of this helpful presentation including data on their own school's performance and this was agreed.

The second presentation related to Facilities Management. Peter Watton, Acting Head of Corporate Property gave a helpful presentation and responded to parents questions. He clarified that condition surveys had been completed for the whole school estate and extra capital and revenue funding has been allocated to take this forward. He explained the financial challenge but emphasised that the budget would always be there to ensure that health and safety issues are addressed as a priority.

### Sub Committee on Standards

The recent Sub Committee on Standards chaired by the Convener Paul Godzik was able to celebrate two very positive School Inspection reports from [Kirkliston Primary School](#) and [Craigroyston Community High School](#). There was also a positive report on the Craigroyston Learning Community. A report on the ongoing work of [Total Craigroyston](#) also went to Committee on 3 March 2015 and was highly praised for its innovative work which is already improving outcomes for children and families.

### Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group

At the recent meeting on 18 March 2015 we discussed a number of areas of work being taken forward to improve outcomes for looked after children including:

- A presentation from health colleagues on the implication of the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) for Health Services.

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[CCwP minutes of meeting on 26 February 2015](#)



For more information contact Andy Gray on 529 2217 or [Andy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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- An update on the action plan to improve educational attainment.
- An update from Economic Development on a mentoring pilot in partnership with local businesses to support young people going through a transition period in their life.
- An overview from colleagues in Commercial and Procurement Services who are taking forward Community Benefits which will specifically target improving outcomes for looked after children.



## Corporate Parenting Action Plan – Refresh

### Edinburgh Youth Participation work

Following a [report](#) to Committee on 3 March 2015 an event was organised for young people to tell officers and Elected Members about the work they have been involved in. They described their own participation mentors training programme where they had learned about facilitation skills, event planning, democracy and group decision making. They had also been involved in action research groups on particular topics for example mental health, bullying and equalities. You can read more on the [brightfutures blog](#).

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### Schools Energy – Update on Small Steps Awareness Campaign

The second phase of the Small Steps Energy Awareness Campaign was launched in the Autumn term 2014 and will run until Summer 2015. A key element of the campaign has been to provide schools with support whilst encouraging them to develop their own tailored campaigns within their buildings. Further information on Small Steps is available on the campaign's [orb page](#).

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Interest in signing up to the second phase of the campaign was high and the target of 20 participating schools was easily met. Feedback from participating schools will be collected at the end of this phase to further develop campaign activities. A [report](#) detailing the outcomes from the pilot campaign was submitted to Education, Children and Families Committee in May 2014.



### Teacher Numbers

The Scottish Government has asked local authorities to commit to maintaining teacher numbers for 2015 at the same level as last year. We have confirmed our

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commitment to maintain teacher numbers and pupil teacher ratios at, at least, 2014 levels.

### **Leith Primary School**

As members are aware a working group was established involving representatives of all key stakeholders affected by the closure of the Duncan Place building. This group has met three times with one of the key tasks being to determine the scope of what replacement nursery, gym and community accommodation should be provided in the future.

As of 9 March 2015 a temporary nursery unit was opened in the Leith Primary School playground and the children who had been relocated to Stanwell nursery returned to this new facility. This temporary unit already has an increased capacity of 30:30 places.

Provision has been made for PE, assemblies, school events and active school clubs for the children and, since January 2015, Leith Primary School has met the Scottish Government target of delivering two hours of quality PE to all pupils.

The temporary lease arrangement with the nearby United Free Church which was established in September 2014 and is being used for indoor PE space for P2-P7 pupils has now been formally extended over a longer period to ensure continuity of provision. In addition, a disused classroom in the existing school building has been converted into an area for PE.

Discussions are still ongoing with both the community and the Planning Department. A feasibility study is underway and a full report will be presented to Committee in October 2015.

### **Sports Hubs**

At the Committee in March a report on the success of the school-based community sports hubs was shared. We currently have sports hubs in Forrester's/St Augustine's, Broughton and The Royal High School. They are supported financially by SportsScotland who acknowledge Edinburgh's good practice and want to invest further a further £90,000 over the next four years in a bid to expand the successful approach to

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other high schools and neighbourhoods in the city. Currently these are hoped to include Liberton High School and Leith Academy. There is also a proposal to develop an area-based sports hub in Kirkliston and South Queensferry, through a joint partnership approach with Edinburgh Leisure, which may involve Queensferry High School and the local feeder primaries.

Our active schools programme is also hugely successful. Over 13,000 young people are accessing 57 different sports involving 1071 volunteers associated with 211 local community sports clubs.

### **Placing in Schools**

All letters of acceptance or refusal for out with catchment were sent out to Parents/Carers on Friday 13 March 2015 which is almost a month ahead of last year and 7 weeks ahead of our statutory deadline. Placing in school appeals will begin at the start of May this year rather than the end of May.

### **Towerbank Catchment Review**

The informal consultation has been completed and the formal consultation started on 8 May 2015 will close on 22 June 2015. The final report will be published by 1 October 2015 for consideration at City of Edinburgh Council on 22 October 2015.

There will be no impact on children currently at Towerbank. We want to reassure all their parents and those at neighbouring schools that we will listen to their views and take them on board when it comes to making a decision on the final proposals. The dates for the Public meetings have been arranged as follows:

Towerbank Primary - Thursday 21 May 6.30-8.30  
Bruntsbane Primary - Monday 25 May 6-8  
Duddingston Primary - Monday 1 June 6.30-8.30  
Royal High Primary - Wednesday 3 June 6.30-8.30

### **James Gillespie's High School teaching block unveiled on time!**

The new teaching block at James Gillespie's High School has just opened and the staff, pupils and parents are delighted at the outcome. There have been

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For more information contact Billy MacIntyre 469 3366 or

very positive messages on the Council Facebook account.

### **Work Starts On New Primary School Buildings**

Construction work has started on the next wave of additional classrooms as the City of Edinburgh Council continues to tackle the issue of rising rolls in primary schools. The Council will provide 24 new class spaces, being delivered in conjunction with partners Hub South East Scotland Ltd and Morrison Construction, for the start of the 2015/16 school session.

The primary schools where the new class spaces will be provided through Hub South East Scotland are: Clermiston (4 classes), Flora Stevenson (3), Gilmerton (4), James Gillespie's (4), Pentland (3), Ratho (4) and Wardie (2).

In addition South Morningside Primary School will have a temporary annexe created for P1 and P2 pupils at the former Deanbank Resource Centre and extra internal space will be provided at both Bruntsfield and Liberton Primary Schools.

### **Co-operative Council – Briefing to staff from Children and Families – 1 April 2015**

The Council Leader Andrew Burns briefed staff from across Children and Families about the aspirations and the progress to date as the Council takes forward its work as a Co-operative Council. A number of projects were identified as good practice including:

- After -School Care Co-operative Charter;
- Schools of Co-operation;
- Co-operative Commissioning of our disabilities Play scheme Services;
- Young People's Dragons Den;
- Building and Service Design in Wardie.

All of these demonstrated how staff are using the principles of co-operative working and co-production to improve the service.

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See photos of the teaching block here:<http://www.hubsoutheastscotland.co.uk/assets/i/g/jg-teaching-block.pdf>

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## Market Event Success

The Disability team held a Market Event on Sunday 8 March 2015, at The Yard. The day was organised to give parents and carers more information about Self-directed Support and for them to chat to service providers and find out more about what they can offer.

There were:

- 13 provider stalls
- 4 information workshops run by The City of Edinburgh Council staff and Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living
- 6 Fast Talkers giving a brief insight to their service
- Disability Practice team on hand to answer your questions

65 parents, carers, children and young people attended on the day and, although it rained, the children played outside in the amazing space on offer at The Yard.

Self-directed support is not a service; it is about people being in control of the support they need to live the life they choose.

## Early Years Conference : Building the Ambition - Vision into Practice

This was a conference to continue the focus on ensuring that children have the best start in life. Over 300 early years practitioners attended over two days. This allowed opportunities for networking across the sector and with other agencies and professionals, with keynote speeches and a range of seminars available.

The introduction of additional hours for children has been welcomed by families across Edinburgh. Further engagement with parents will take place this session to ensure more flexible approaches can be considered as we move forward.

## Castlebrae Community High School

The Edinburgh International Festival is working with Castlebrae Community High School to create a three year arts residency in the school from 2015 until the end of 2017. The residency will give pupils and staff the opportunity to take part in a programme of activities with artists in the school as well as offering access to a programme of workshops at The Hub.

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Full press release [scotsman.com](http://scotsman.com)



## Citysmart Cards for Looked After Children

Lothian Buses are working in partnership with the Council to provide Citysmart bus/tram cards at a reduced rate. Care Leavers eligible for Throughcare Aftercare services and young people who are looked after in residential units will soon be able to travel safely knowing they are carrying a pre-paid card. This Corporate Parenting initiative will be a six month pilot from 23 February 2015.

## Schools which have been recognised nationally

It is always good to see the work of Edinburgh's schools recognised nationally.

In the Times Educational Supplement Scotland on the 6 March 2015 we had two significant features. The first relates to the partnership work between with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council and **Sciennes Primary school**. The aim of this [pilot project](#) is to strengthen the involvement of parents in the curriculum aspects of the school.

The second feature is the sector-leading work on our **Modern Languages 1+2** strategy. There was a particular focus on our success in German teaching in Edinburgh. You can read more about this [here](#).

## Craigroyston Community High School

The Times Educational Supplement Scotland on 6 April 2015 ran a three page article on Craigroyston Community High School which highlighted as demonstrating national best practice for the way it has improved its senior phase and its vocational courses to encourage as many pupils as possible to stay on and learn at school. This exemplifies the Wood Commission report which was trying to ensure that all pupils get opportunities to develop skills to be ready for work. You can read the article [here](#).

## Family Nurse Partnership

Edinburgh has become the first city in the world to offer the Family Nurse Partnership programme to all young mothers aged 19 and under. A named Family Nurse will work with the mother during their pregnancy and until their child is 2. This is already making a life changing difference and these young mothers and their children. You can read more about this [here](#).

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[theedinburghreporter.co.uk](http://theedinburghreporter.co.uk)

Publication from TESS:

[Why parents will soon be showing who's boss](#)

Publication from TESS:

[How pupils are saying nein, danke to German](#)

Publications from TESS:

[Editorial: A vocational sea change needs a committed crew](#)

[Running a tight ship to ensure skills success](#)



[Edinburgh offer family nurse partnership to all eligible mums](#)

## Paralympics Event at Forrester and St Augustine's High school

Children and young people from our schools were invited to attend a Paralympics Experience Event in March 2015. The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games had the largest Para sport element in Commonwealth Games history.

The Paralympics Experience Event is designed to allow young people to experience a range of Para sports delivered by some of the best clubs and coaches available in Scotland.



You can read more about this event on the [Brightfutures blog](#)