



Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 8 December 2015

Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

| Convener: | Members: | Contact: |
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| <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 Stefan Tymkewycz Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Nick Cook Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Cammy Day Cllr Alex Lunn Cllr Michael Bridgman 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 Howatt (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 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) Alexander Ramage (parent representative) John Swinburne (teacher representative)</p> | |

Business Bulletin 2015

James Gillespie's High School: Sunday Times Scottish State Secondary School of the Year

A huge congratulations to the staff, pupils and parents at James Gillespie's High School on being recognised as the Sunday Times Scottish State Secondary School of the Year 2015. This is an impressive and well deserved achievement. Boroughmuir was the Sunday Times Scottish State Secondary School of the Year in 2012.

Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group

At a recent [meeting of this group](#) a short 8 minute clip was shown outlining how to improve outcomes for Looked After Children and Young people. The Group also received an update on Employment, Training and Positive Destinations. There are significant increases in the areas of training and employment which both rose from just under 12% to nearly 20%. There are a number of projects being run to encourage all young people into the workplace or on to further education. In addition more young people are staying on at school.

Michelle Gordon (Pupil Support Leader in WHEC) presented to the group about the excellent practice at WHEC supporting Looked After young people. The school have worked very hard at improving communication with social work, including sharing attendance and attainment results with them. This has been a key focus of the Wester Hailes Total Place approach.

Scottish Attainment challenge

The eight Edinburgh schools involved in Scottish Attainment Challenge met at the end of October 2015 to discuss their proposals for funding which were submitted to the Government in November 2015. Jacqueline Scott, (Headteacher Trinity Primary School) has been seconded to the Scottish Government, as Attainment Adviser for the City of Edinburgh. She will work with us supporting the eight schools.

Mandarin

As part of the 1+2 modern languages programme, Edinburgh has again been commended for its work in supporting young people to learn Mandarin. We now have over 2000 pupils studying Mandarin across Edinburgh.

Physical activity

Craigour Park Primary is one of the first schools in Scotland to offer pupils a high intensity workout during class time, with almost all pupils engaging in 30 second bursts of

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intense physical exercise on a daily basis. This is having a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing with a notable increase in fitness levels. Prestonfield Primary is on board with the project starting with P1 and P2 classes in November 2015.

Defibrillator Project

Councillor Cathy Fullerton recently launched our defibrillators in schools project at Forrester High School and St Augustine's High School. It is expected that defibrillators will be in all secondary schools and special schools over the next few months.

Health and wellbeing team

Congratulations to our Health and Wellbeing team who have just won the Education Initiative of the Year at the [Herald Society Awards](#) for the 'Growing Confidence Secondary School Programme'. These awards attracted over 450 submissions with over 125 organisations taking part from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Gathered Together

The programme is hosting free workshops for parents who are new to Scotland and people working with these parents. The workshops will help parents to understand what happens in schools and how they can get more involved with their child's learning.

Children and Families Achievement Awards

I was delighted at the number of applications for Children and Families awards. The ceremony was an excellent occasion and took place on Monday 28 September 2015 at the Assembly Rooms in George Street. It was attended by over 400 people, including children, young people, staff and partners. We have posted the winners and those highly commended in each of the seven categories on the [Brightfutures blog](#). Please sign up for brightfutures as a follower to keep updated on all of these and other good news stories from across Children and Families.

CATS working group

A meeting of the Community Access to Schools (CATS) Member/Officer Group was held in November 2015. At that meeting Mike Fraser, Children and Families, Principal Officer presented a paper which detailed the significant progress that has been made including:

- A new management arrangement across the city.
- A revised scheme of charges is in place for lets for secondary schools and a consistency of charging is

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Each workshop will be held from 10.30am-12.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, EH1 2JL. To book places contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk or call 0131 548 8041.



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now being applied.

- Online booking for adult education classes

A further meeting to look at progress of CATS and the work of Edinburgh Leisure will take place before the next Education, Children and Families Committee.

Young Edinburgh Action (YEA)

As part of the overall review of committee structures, it was agreed that a new approach was required to ensure young people's active citizenship and engagement in the development of services for young people in Edinburgh. The new structure would be less formal and bureaucratic than the former Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum.

In December 2013, the [Education, Children and Families Committee agreed the Young People's Strategy](#).

Committee received a further report in March 2015 that recommended rebranding a range of initiatives under the banner "Young Edinburgh Action". Councillor Day convenes the Young Edinburgh Action Forum.

The aim of the Young Edinburgh Action in Edinburgh is to facilitate young people's meaningful participation in partnership working and decision making , leading to:

- Improvements for services for young people
- Learning and development for young people involved

Young people's participation takes place in many council and partner agencies services and across the city. There are a range of options for young people, from dedicated youth forums to joining an open campaign groups or political organisation alongside adults.

Young people's participation supports young people to influence changes in relation to local, citywide, national and global issues. This includes, but is not limited to, engaging with Councillors, officers and other decision makers at a range of levels. The work supports colleagues across Children and Families, and other council departments and partner agencies to hear young people's thoughts and concerns on a wide range of issues.

An update report on this work will be presented to Committee in May 2016.

1+2 Nationally recognised

Edinburgh is leading the way in implementing the Government's Strategy for modern languages. By the start of 2017 pupils will receive lessons in at least two languages by the time they leave primary school. Please see below for links:

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- [BBC](#)
- [Edinburgh Evening News](#)
- [Edinburgh Evening News - Early learning delivers great many benefits](#)

Early Years

Tynecastle nursery which is one of the City of Edinburgh Council's oldest nurseries received six 'Excellent' and three 'Very Good' from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate. Inspectors described the nursery as 'an exceptional environment for children to play, grow and learn' where the 'child is clearly at the heart of the setting' in a 'relaxed, calm and purposeful oasis within the city'.

The report came just weeks after the Council was singled out for praise in an independent workforce review of early learning commissioned by the Scottish Government. Professor Iram Siraj identified the approaches used by the Council as an example of best practice, saying: 'The City of Edinburgh Council is one example of the best early learning focuses within Scotland. This is based on the professional development provided for early years' staff, much of which follows the Froebel model. 'This model is child-centred with a play-based pedagogy, and is underpinned by a knowledge and understanding of child development which supports assessment, evaluation and planning'.

Gracemount Primary School Headteacher recognition

My warmest congratulations to Greg Dimeck, Headteacher at Gracemount received an award from Princess Anne on behalf of Save the Children as an Individual Champion supporting their involvement in schools. Gracemount is currently piloting and evaluating a Save the Children programme called Families Connect.

Castleview Primary School follow through report

Following the school very successful HMIE inspection in 2013 were they were awarded a Very Good rating for:

- Improvements in Performance
- Learners Experiences
- Improvements through Self Evaluation

It was also awarded two Excellent ratings for:

- Meeting Learners Needs
- Curriculum

Children and Families quality improvement team recently visited the school to assess the extent to which the school was continuing to develop the quality of its education. Their findings were that the school had made excellent progress since the 2013 report and had improved on performance in all areas. [Read more of this post.](#)

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